

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

May 19, 2014

United States Army
Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District
Regulatory Branch
Post Office Box 60267
New Orleans, Louisiana 70160-0267

State of Louisiana
Department of Environmental Quality
ATTN: Water Quality Certifications
Post Office Box 4313
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4313

(504) 862-2046/FAX(504) 862-2574
Brenda.A.Archer@usace.army.mil
Project Manager
Brenda Archer
Permit Application Number
MVN-2005-00037-MA

(225) 219-3225
FAX (225)325-8250
Project Manager
Elizabeth Johnson
WQC Application Number
WQC 140515-02

Interested parties are hereby notified that a permit application has been received by the New Orleans District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers pursuant to: [] Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of March 3, 1899 (30 Stat. 1151; 33 USC 403); and/or [X] Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (86 Stat. 816; 33 USC 1344).

Application has also been made to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Certifications, for a Water Quality Certification (WQC) in accordance with statutory authority contained in LRS30:2047 A(3), and provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (P.L.95-17).

MODIFICATION TO ALTERNATIVE Q FOR THE I-12 TO BUSH HIGHWAY IN ST. TAMMANY PARISH

NAME OF APPLICANT: Louisiana Department Of Transportation And Development

LOCATION OF WORK: From Bush, Louisiana following the abandoned railroad corridor to a point approximately 1.7 miles north of Ia 36 and from this point the proposed route would leave the railroad corridor and connect to LA 434, which ties into I-12 at an existing interchange in St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana, as shown on the enclosed drawings.

Location: From Latitude: 30.609167/Longitude: -89.899722 to Latitude: 30.354444/Longitude: -89.919167. The bulk of the project area is within the Hydrologic Unit Code 08090201 but, a small portion of the project area to the north is within the Hydrologic Unit Code 03180004.

CHARACTER OF WORK: Modification to the Alternative Q alignment determined to be the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative (LEDPA) in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed project to construct a high-speed, 4-lane arterial highway from Bush, Louisiana to I-12 in St. Tammany Parish. This modification will result in a change to the amount of wetland

impacts to bayhead/hardwood flat habitat located along stream channels from 7.8 acres to 11.5 acres and to intensively managed pine flatwood habitat from 198.5 acres to 219.7 acres. This results in a total increase of wetland impacts from 305 acres to 330 acres. As stated in the record of decision published on June 7, 2012, the applicant will utilize a combination of options to mitigate for the unavoidable wetland impacts associated with this project. The applicant is currently developing a mitigation plan to submit for agency review and USACE approval.

The comment period for the Department of the Army Permit and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality WQC will close **20 days** from the date of this joint public notice. Written comments, including suggestions for modifications or objections to the proposed work, stating reasons thereof, are being solicited from anyone having interest in this permit and/or this WQC request and must be mailed so as to be received before or by the last day of the comment period. Letters concerning the Corps of Engineers permit application must reference the applicant's name and the Permit Application Number, and be mailed to the Corps of Engineers at the address above, **ATTENTION: REGULATORY BRANCH. Similar letters concerning the Water Quality Certification must reference the applicant's name and the WQC Application number and be mailed to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality at the address above.** Individuals or parties may request an extension of time in which to comment on the proposed work by writing or e-mailing the Corps of Engineers Project Manager listed above. Any request must be specific and substantively supportive of the requested extension, and received by this office prior to the end of the initial comment period. The Section Chief will review the request and the requestor will be promptly notified of the decision to grant or deny the request. If granted, the time extension will be continuous to the initial comment period and, inclusive of the initial comment period, will not exceed a total of 30 calendar days.

The application for this proposed project is on file with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and may be examined during weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Copies may be obtained upon payment of costs of reproduction.

Corps of Engineers Permit Criteria

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public, federal, state, and local agencies and officials, Indian Tribes, and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine whether to make, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an

Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

The New Orleans District is unaware of properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places near the proposed work. The possibility exists that the proposed work may damage or destroy presently unknown archeological, scientific, prehistorical, historical sites, or data. Issuance of this public notice solicits input from the State Archeologist and State Historic Preservation Officer regarding potential impacts to cultural resources.

Our initial finding is that the proposed work is Not Likely to Adversely Affect any species listed as endangered by the U.S. Departments of Interior or Commerce, nor affect any habitat designated as critical to the survival and recovery of any endangered species.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The applicant's proposal would result in the destruction or alteration of 0 acres of EFH utilized by various life stages of red drum and penaeid shrimp. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial adverse impact on EFH or federally managed fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

If the proposed work involves deposits of dredged or fill material into navigable waters, the evaluation of the probable impacts will include the application of guidelines established by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Also, a certification that the proposed activity will not violate applicable water quality standards will be required from the Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Certifications, before a permit is issued.

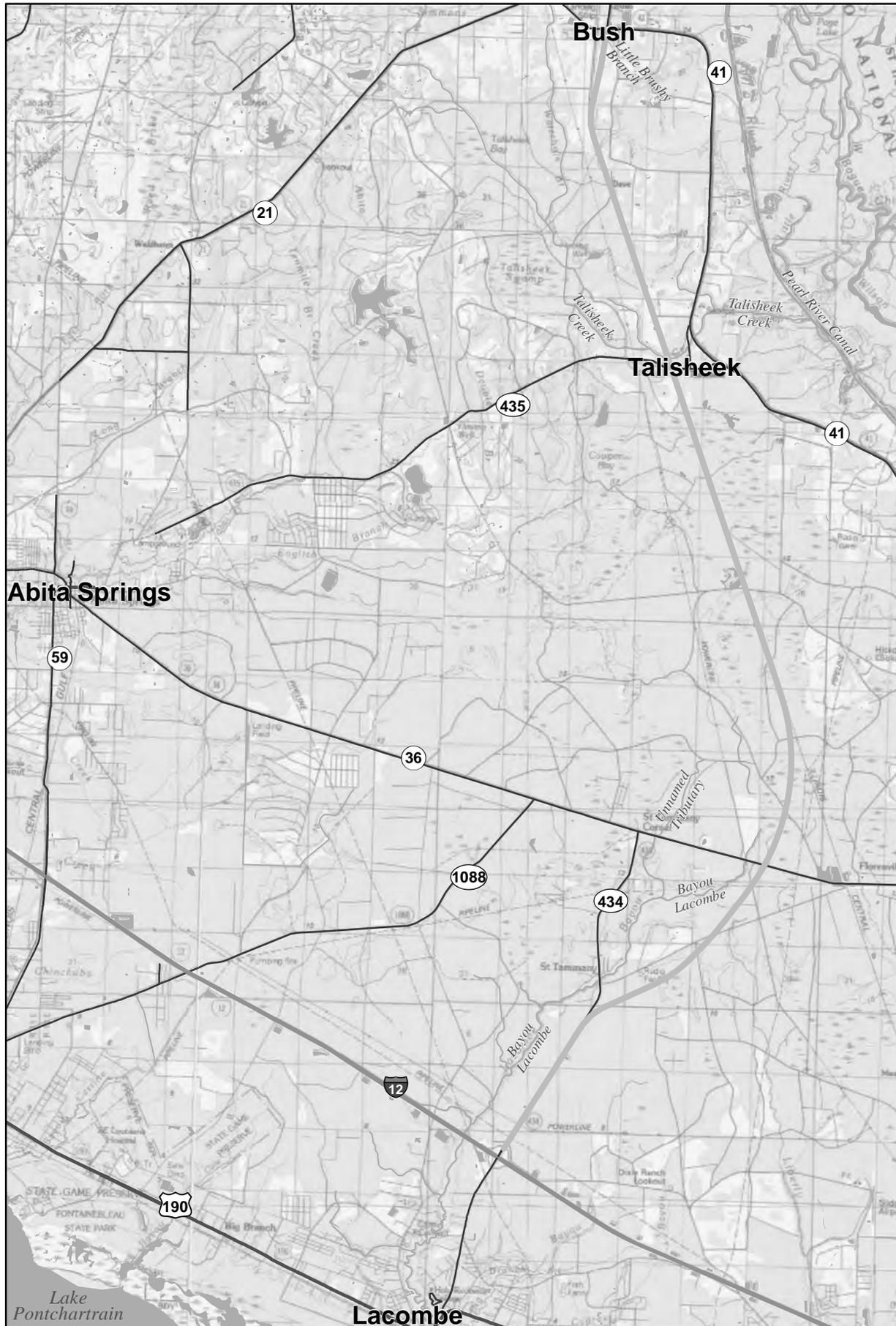
Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

You are requested to communicate the information contained in this notice to any other parties whom you deem likely to have interest in the matter.

Mike Farabee
Chief, Eastern Evaluation Section

Enclosure

FIGURE 1 - VICINITY MAP



LEGEND

- Alternative Q
- Interstate
- US Highway
- Highway
- Local Street
- Bayou / Stream
- Waterbody

N

0 0.5 1 2
Miles

**LOCATION
ST. TAMMANY PARISH**

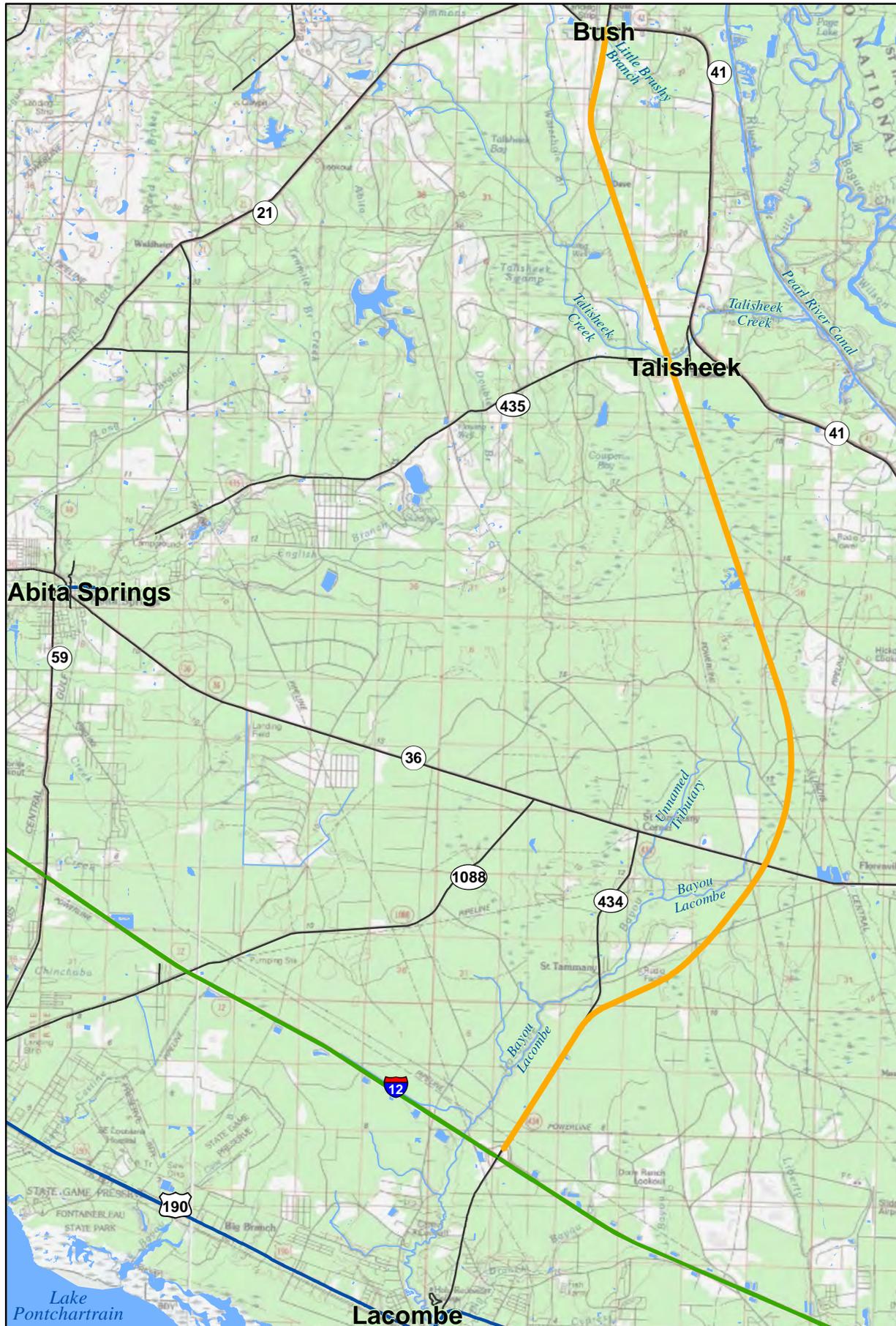
Location	Distance from Alt Q
Bush, LA	0 miles
Talisheek, LA	0.3 miles
Lacombe, LA	3 miles

Source: © 2013 National Geographic Society, i-cubed

US Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District

DOTD
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & DEVELOPMENT

FIGURE 1 - VICINITY MAP



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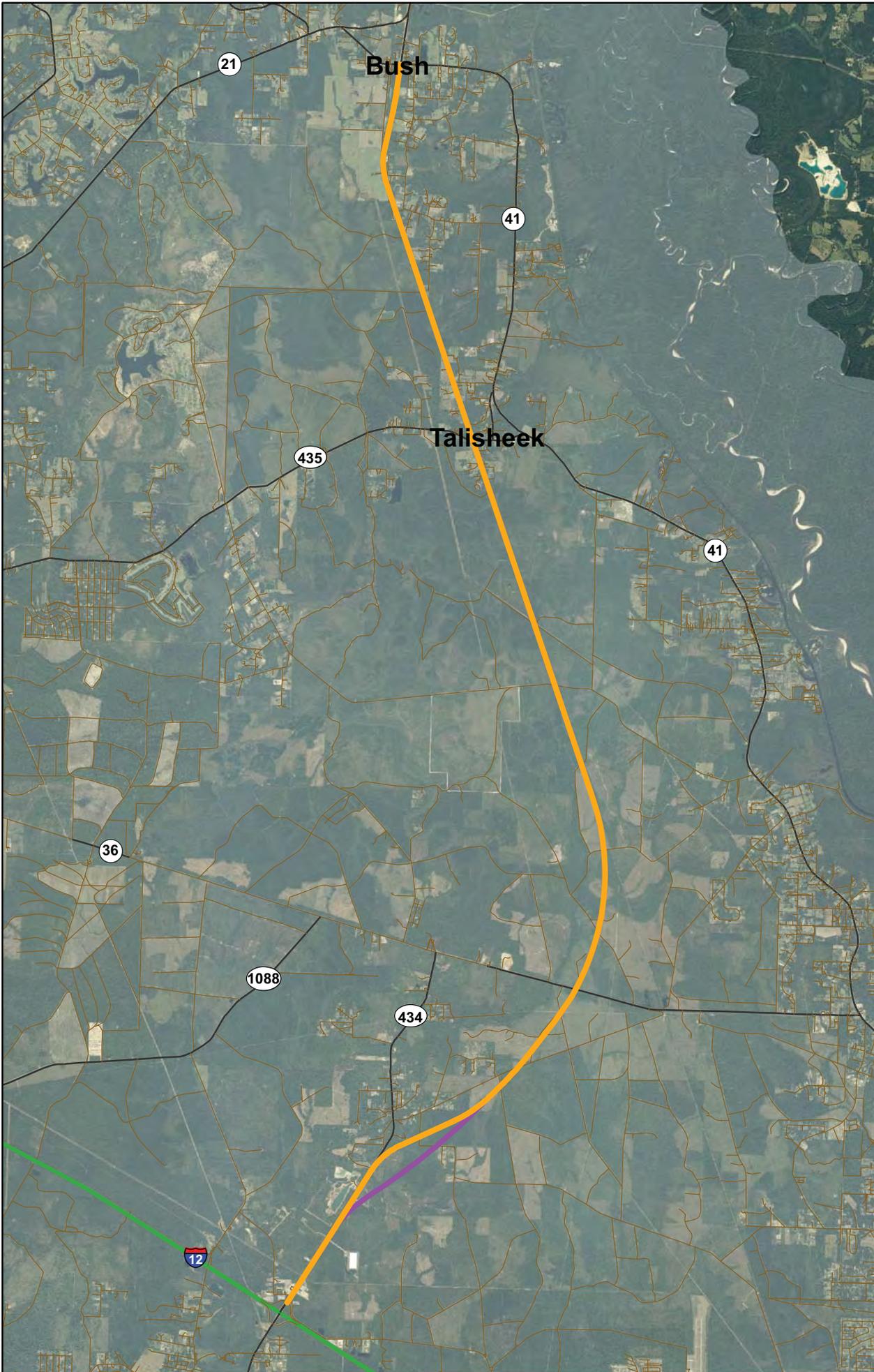
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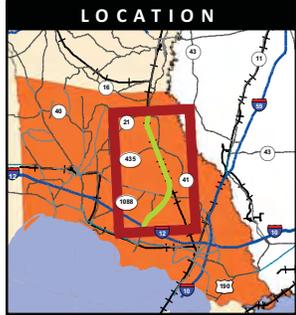
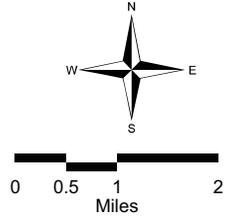
US Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District

DOTD
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & DEVELOPMENT



LEGEND

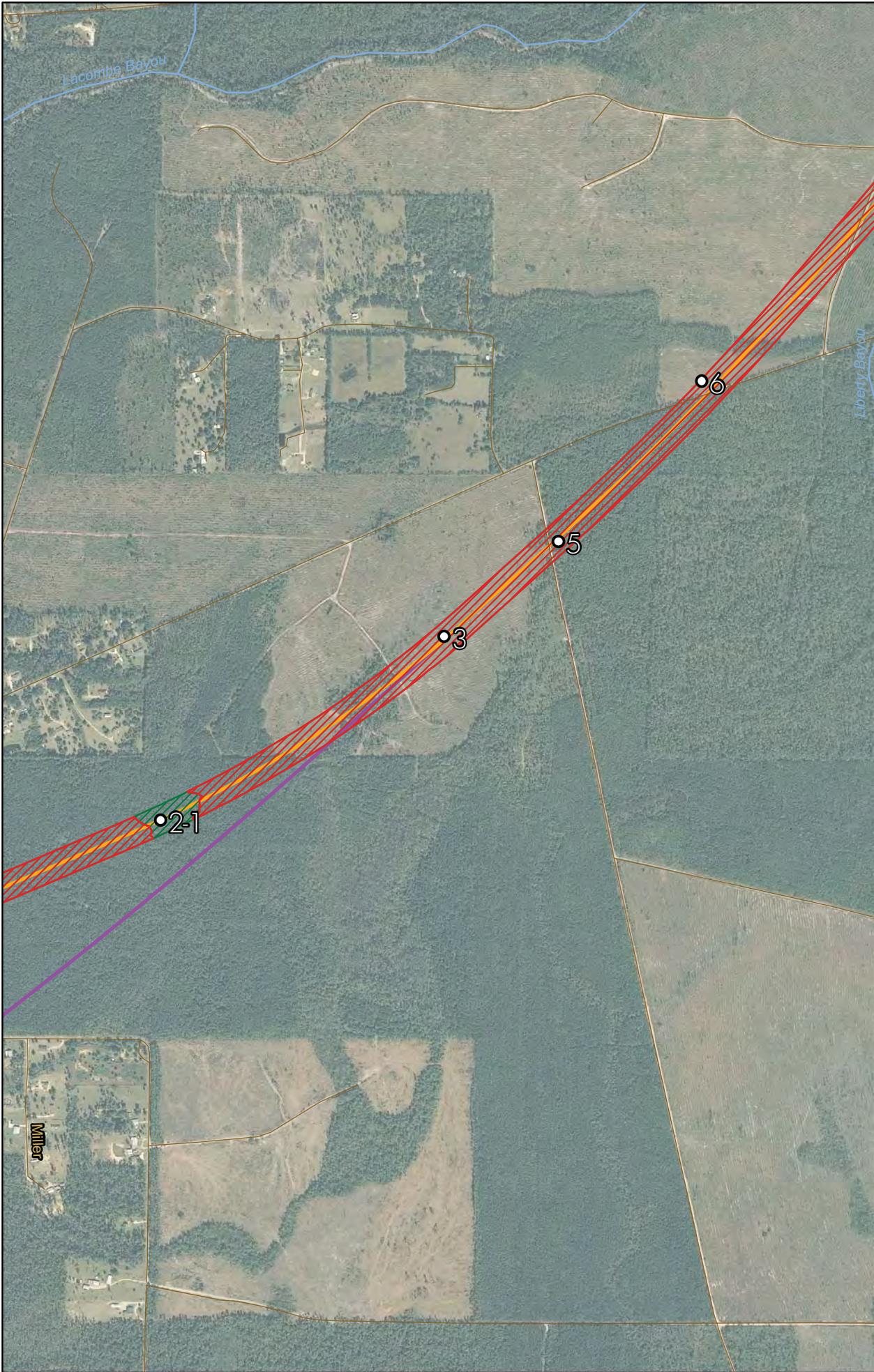
- Alternative Q
- Alternative Q (Old Alignment)
- Interstate
- Highway
- Local Street



Source: 2008 DOQQ



Modification to Alternative Q Alignment



LEGEND

- Data Point
- Alternative Q
- Alternative Q (Old Alignment)
- ▨ Wetlands / Waters of the US
- ▨ Non Wetland
- ⓪ 434 Highway
- Local Street
- Stream

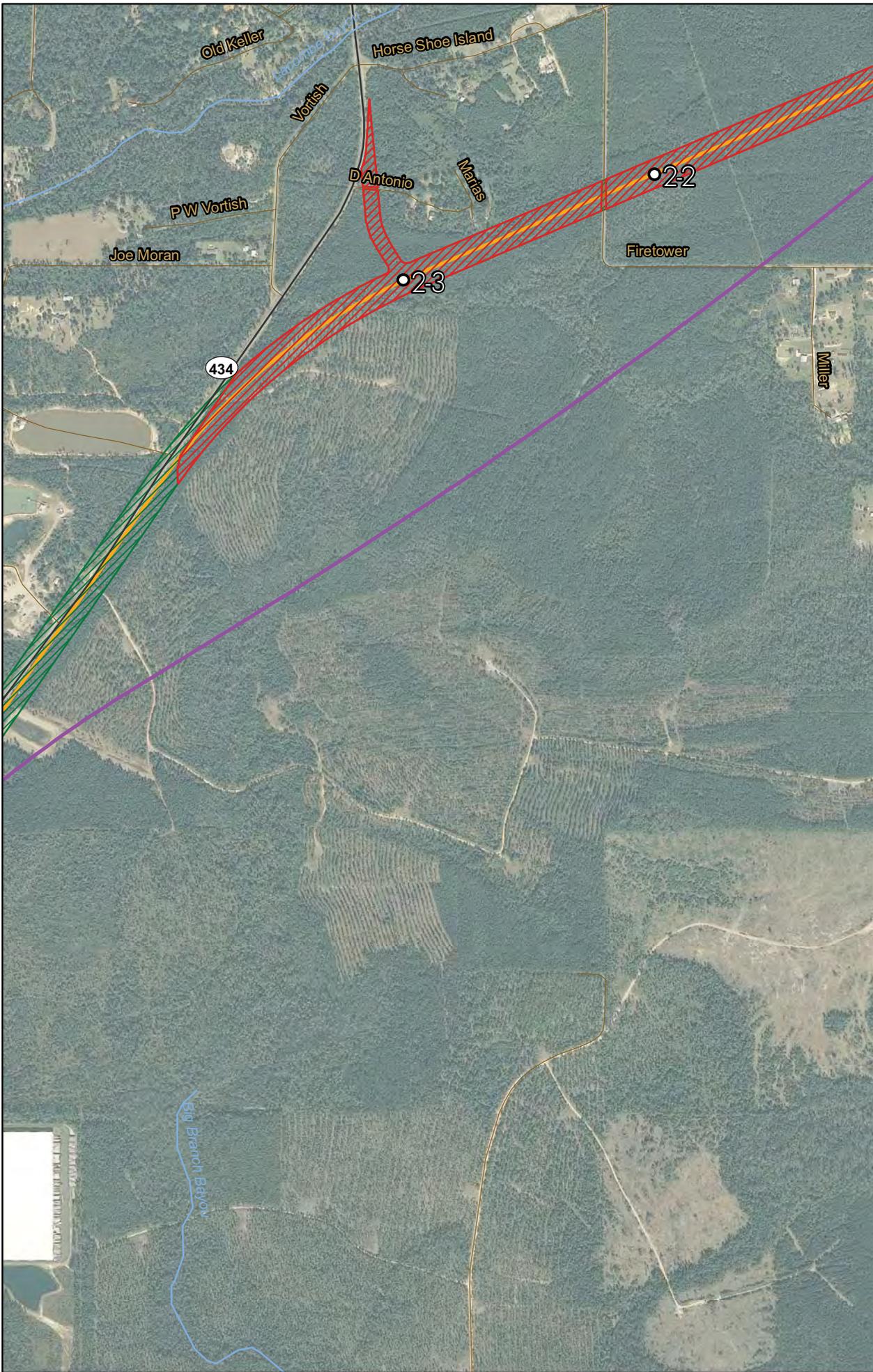
0 450 900 1,800
Feet

LOCATION

Source: 2008 DOQQ, USGS 2004



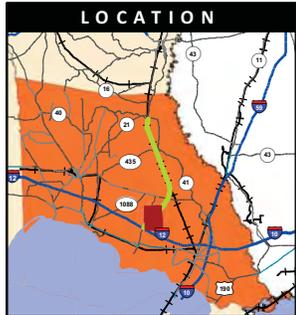
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LOCATION



Source: 2008 DOQQ, USGS 2004



Modification to Alternative Q Alignment



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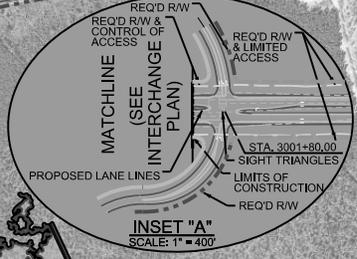
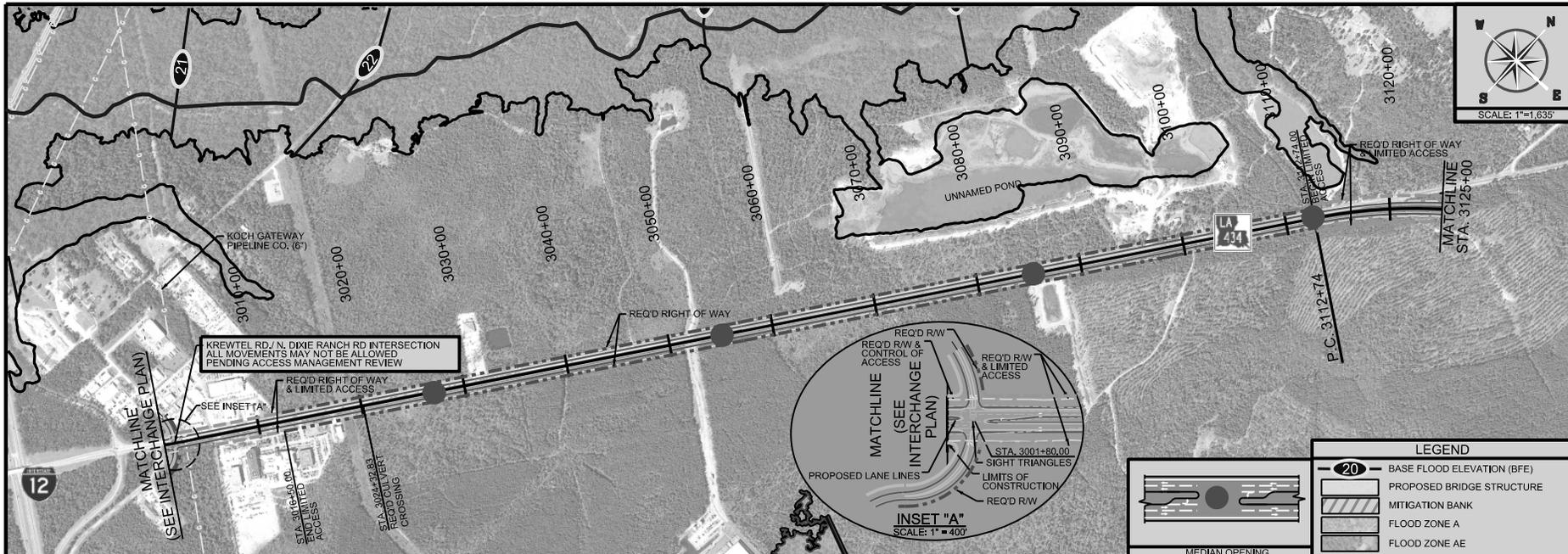
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Feet

LOCATION

Source: 2008 DOQQ, USGS 2004



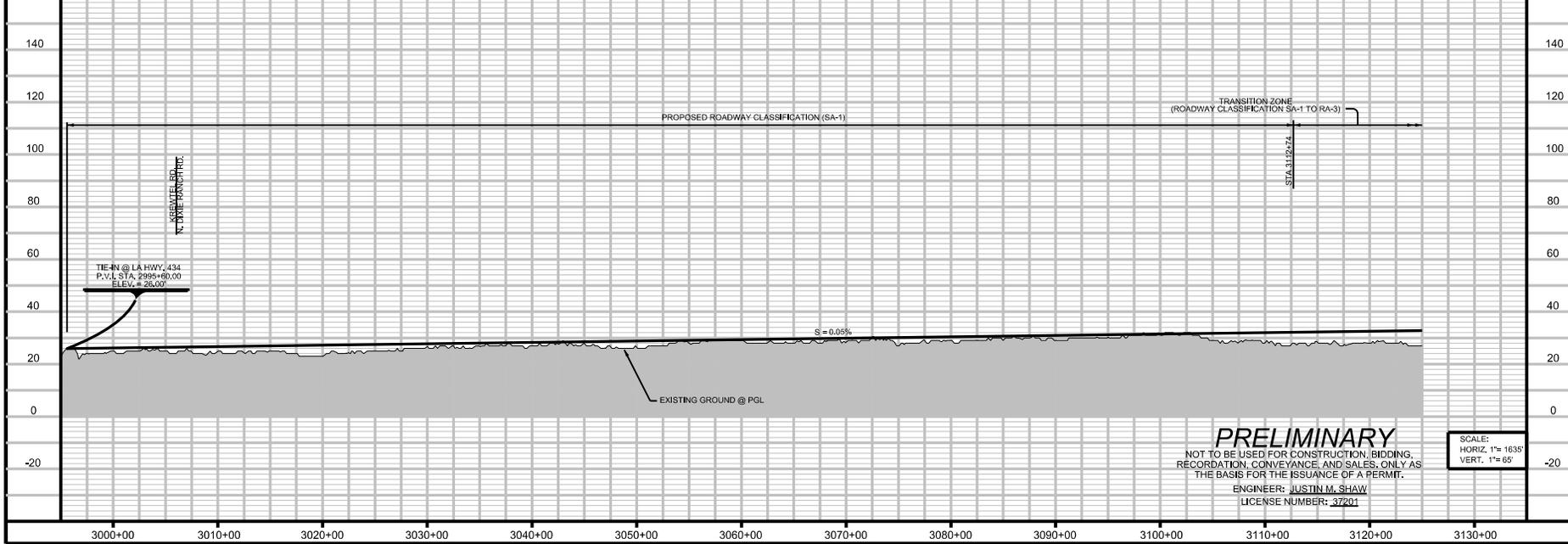


LEGEND

- 20 BASE FLOOD ELEVATION (BFE)
- PROPOSED BRIDGE STRUCTURE
- MITIGATION BANK
- FLOOD ZONE A
- FLOOD ZONE AE

INSET "A"
SCALE: 1" = 400'

MEDIAN OPENING



PRELIMINARY
NOT TO BE USED FOR CONSTRUCTION, BIDDING, RECORDATION, CONVEYANCE, AND SALES, ONLY AS THE BASIS FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A PERMIT.
ENGINEER: JUSTIN M. SHAW
LICENSE NUMBER: 37201

SCALE:
HORIZ. 1"= 1635'
VERT. 1"= 65'

SHEET NUMBER	6
PARISH	ST. TAMMANY
ROUTE	LA 3241
STATE PROJECT	700-52-019B
DATE	APRIL 2014
REVISION DESCRIPTION	
DATE	
BY	

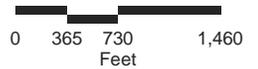
1-12 TO BUSH E1S
PLATE 1

Alternative Q Wetland Delineation Plate 1

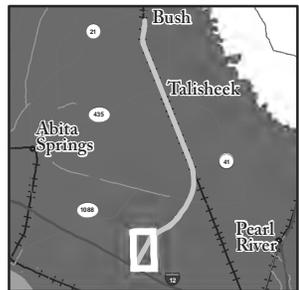


LEGEND

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LOCATION

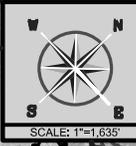
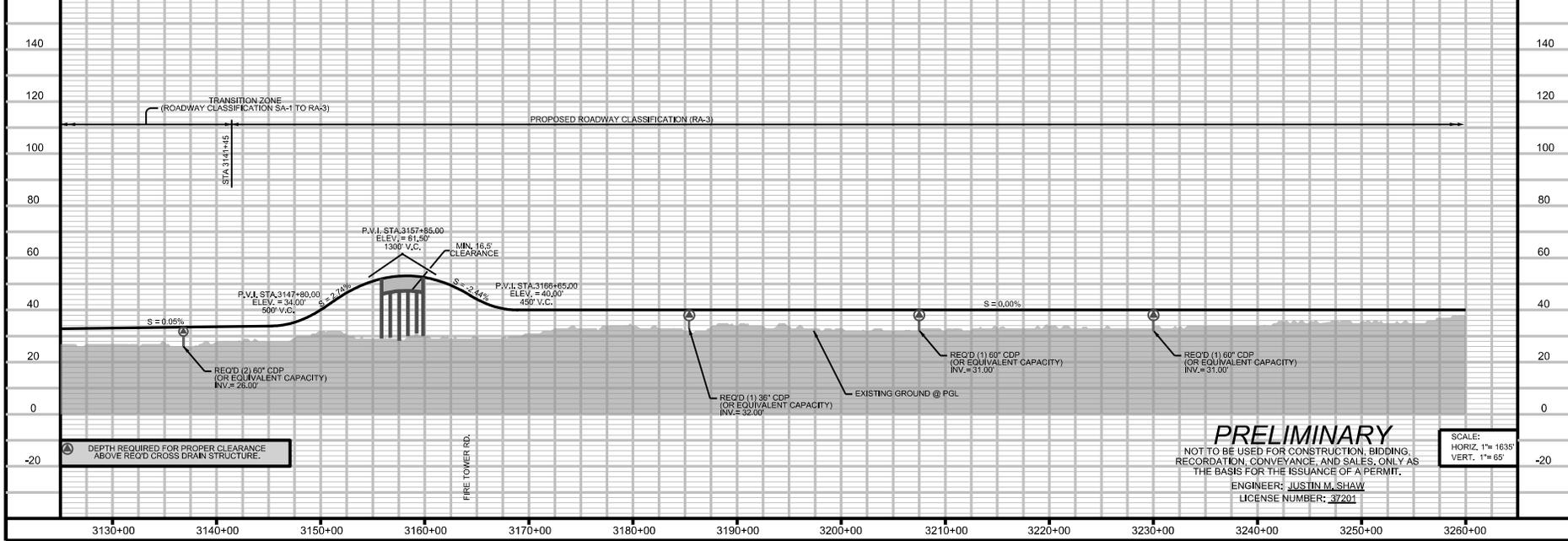
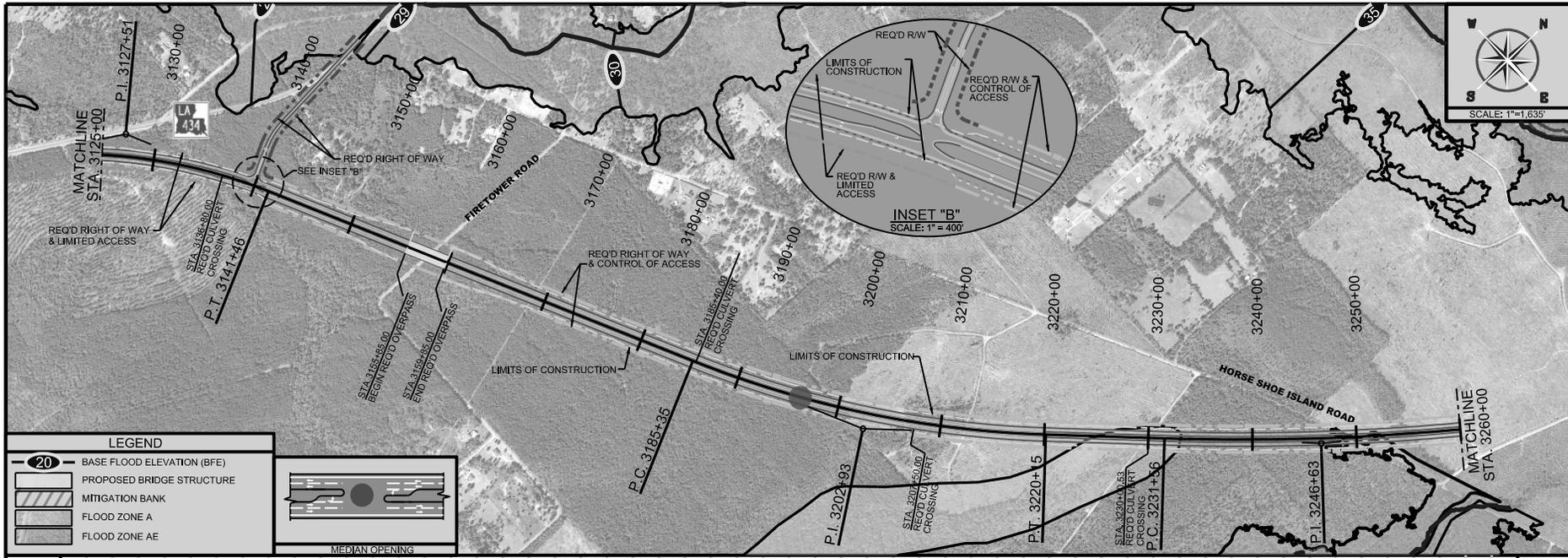


Source: 2008 DOQQ, USGS 2004



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
New Orleans District





DESIGNED BY	ST. TAMMANY
CHECKED BY	LA 3241
DATE	APRIL 2014
PROJECT	700-52-019B
SHEET	7

REVISION DESCRIPTION

DATE

BY

1-12 TO BUSH E1S

PLATE 2

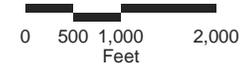
ENGINEER: JUSTIN M. SHAW
LICENSE NUMBER: 37281

Alternative Q Wetland Delineation Plate 2

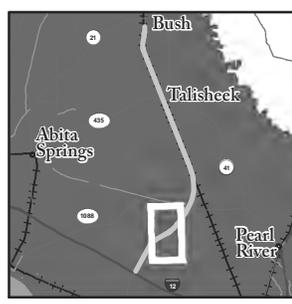


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LOCATION



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