

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

May 11, 2015

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

(504) 862-1301
Project Manager
Neil T. Gauthier
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MVN 2009-02330-CM

State of Louisiana
Department of Environmental Quality
Office of Environmental Services
Post Office Box 4313
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4313

(225) 219-3225
Project Manager
Elizabeth Hill
WQC Application Number
150505-01

Interested parties are hereby notified that a permit application has been received by the New Orleans District of the US Army Corps of Engineers pursuant to: [X] 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, Office of Environmental Services, for a Water Quality Certification (WQC) in accordance with statutory authority contained in LRS 30:2074 A(3) and provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

LAUREL RIDGE LEVEE EXTENSION PROJECT IN ASCENCION PARISH

NAME OF APPLICANT: Pontchartrain Levee District, c/o GSA Consulting Engineers, Attn: Jake Lambert, P.O. Box 298, Gonzales, Louisiana 70707.

LOCATION OF WORK: Approximately 1.3 miles west of the Amite River Diversion Canal and adjacent to Lake Martin beginning on the north end at Walls Cemetery Road and extending south to meet with the existing Laurel Ridge Levee at Gold Place Road in Prairieville, Louisiana, in Ascension Parish, within the Amite River and the Lake Maurepas Basins, in hydrologic units (HUC 08070202) and (HUC 08070204), as shown on the attached drawings.

CHARACTER OF WORK: The applicant has requested Department of the Army authorization to clear, grade, excavate, and deposit fill for the construction of a 4.5 mile extension of the Laurel Ridge Levee. Approximately 430,000 cubic yards of fill will be placed to construct the levee that will vary in height from 12 and 16 feet and will be approximately 100 feet wide at the base. There will be a 15-foot maintenance strip on both sides of the levee and in some areas a drainage swale will be created on the protected side that is approximately 35-feet in width. Additionally 7 sluice gate outfall structures will be installed in the levee at strategic points to allow for the natural movement of water with reference to wetlands located on both sides of the levee and two ramps will be installed for access to the unprotected side of the levee. These sluice gates will remain

in the normally open position until the threat of back water flooding occurs from a rise in the Amite River leading to the closure of those gates. The threshold indicator for the closure would be a flood stage of the Amite River at or above 6-foot NAVD88. A stage frequency analysis of the Amite River at the proposed outlet structures indicates that the gates would be closed for a flood event on average once every three years. The gates will then be opened when the water recedes and the threat has passed. An emergency overflow structure will also be installed at the southern end of the proposed levee. The levee foot print will impact approximately 98 acres of property. Of the 98 acres, 50.9 acres of forested wetlands will be permanently impacted as a result of this project, and 673 acres of wetlands will remain in the protected side of the levee.

The applicant stated that the proposed levee project has been designed to avoid and minimize direct and secondary adverse impacts to the maximum extent practicable.

As compensation for unavoidable wetland impacts, the applicant proposes to mitigate in-kind wetland credits from Corps approved mitigation banks located in the watershed.

The comment period for the Department of Army will close in **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 US 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 US 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.

No properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places are near the proposed work. The possibility exists that the proposed work may damage or destroy presently unknown archeological, scientific, pre-historical, historical sites, or data. Copies of this notice are being sent to the State Archeologist and the State Historic Preservation Officer.

Our initial finding is that the proposed work would neither 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 up to 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 water quality standards will be required from the Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services 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.

The applicant has certified that the proposed activity described in the application complies with and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the Louisiana Coastal Resources Program. The Department of the Army permit will not be issued unless the applicant received approval or a waiver of the Coastal Use Permit by the Department of Natural Resources.

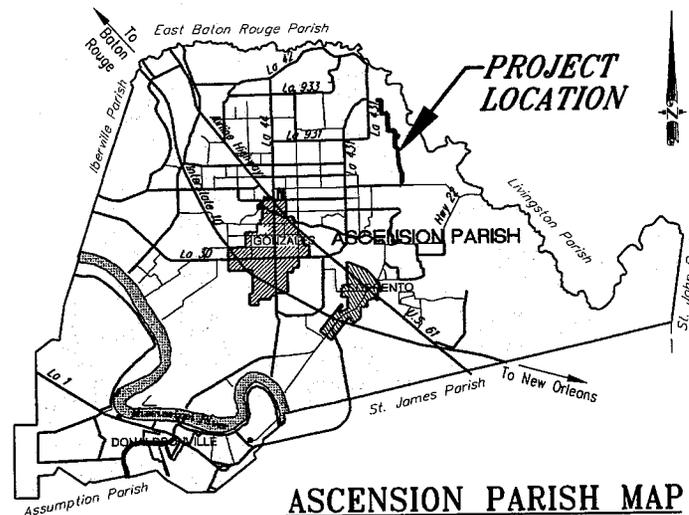
JOHN M. HERMAN
Chief, Central Evaluation Section
Regulatory Branch

Enclosures

JOINT PERMIT APPLICATION
 FOR
 THE CONSTRUCTION OF
 LAUREL RIDGE LEVEE EXTENSION
 FOR
 PONTCHARTRAIN LEVEE DISTRICT
 ASCENSION PARISH, LOUISIANA
 GSA Project No. 28018

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FIGURE 12	LAYOUT 3 (Sta. 159+00 to Sta. 257+00)
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ASCENSION PARISH MAP

Not to Scale

DRAWN BY: DBT JOB No. 28018
 CHECKED BY: JDL SCALE: AS SHOWN
 DATE: APRIL 9, 2015 SHEET No. FIGURE 1

LAUREL RIDGE LEVEE EXTENSION
PONTCHARTRAIN LEVEE DISTRICT
 ASCENSION PARISH, LOUISIANA
 TITLE SHEET

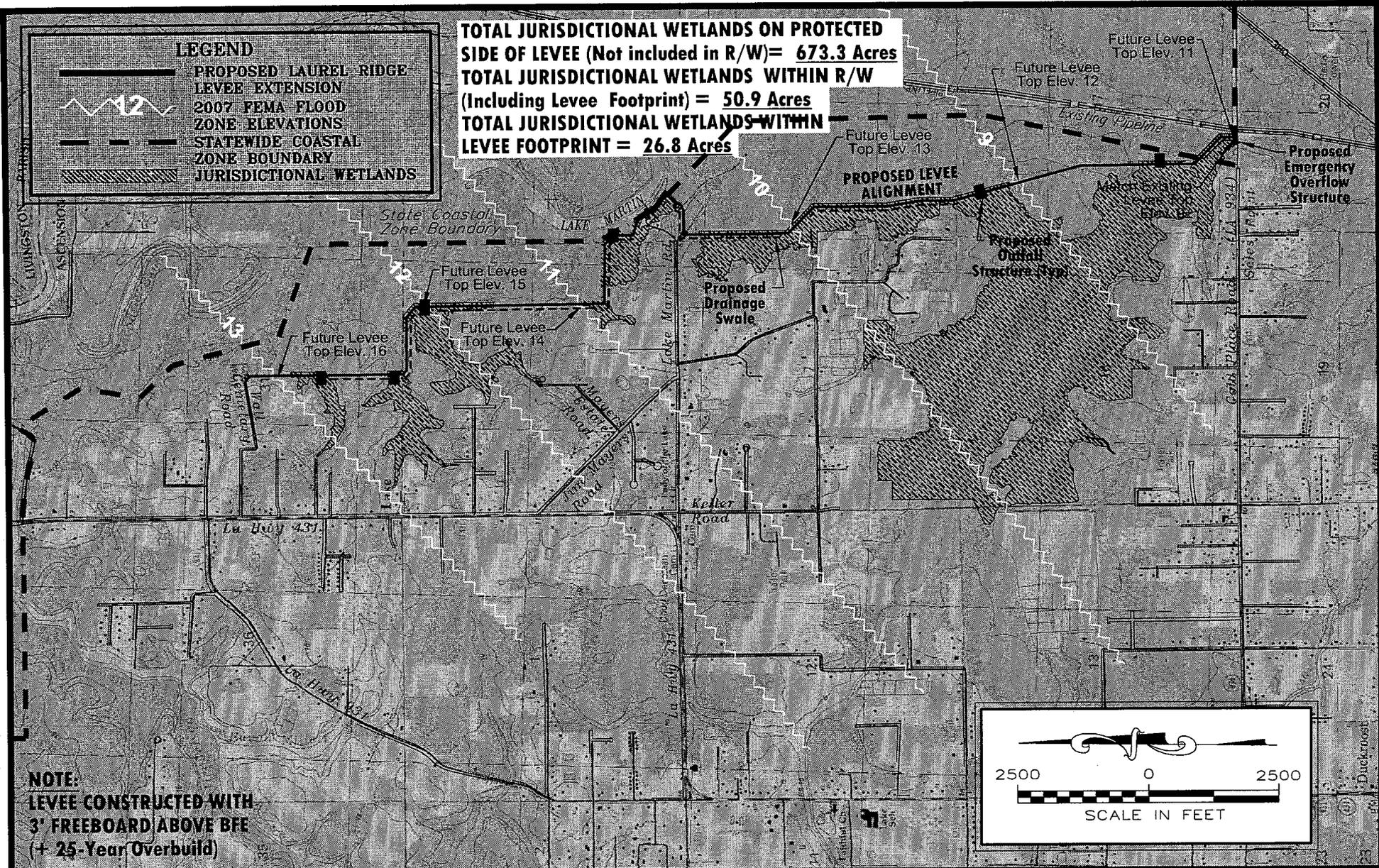


P.O. BOX 298
 CONZALES, LA 70707-0298
 PH: (225) 644-5523

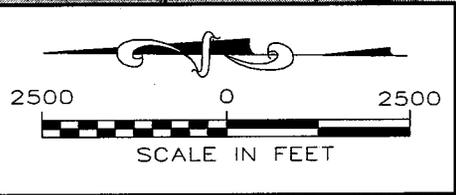
LEGEND

-  PROPOSED LAUREL RIDGE LEVEE EXTENSION
-  2007 FEMA FLOOD ZONE ELEVATIONS
-  STATEWIDE COASTAL ZONE BOUNDARY
-  JURISDICTIONAL WETLANDS

TOTAL JURISDICTIONAL WETLANDS ON PROTECTED SIDE OF LEVEE (Not included in R/W)= 673.3 Acres
TOTAL JURISDICTIONAL WETLANDS WITHIN R/W (Including Levee Footprint) = 50.9 Acres
TOTAL JURISDICTIONAL WETLANDS WITHIN LEVEE FOOTPRINT = 26.8 Acres



NOTE:
LEVEE CONSTRUCTED WITH 3' FREEBOARD ABOVE BFE (+ 25-Year Overbuild)

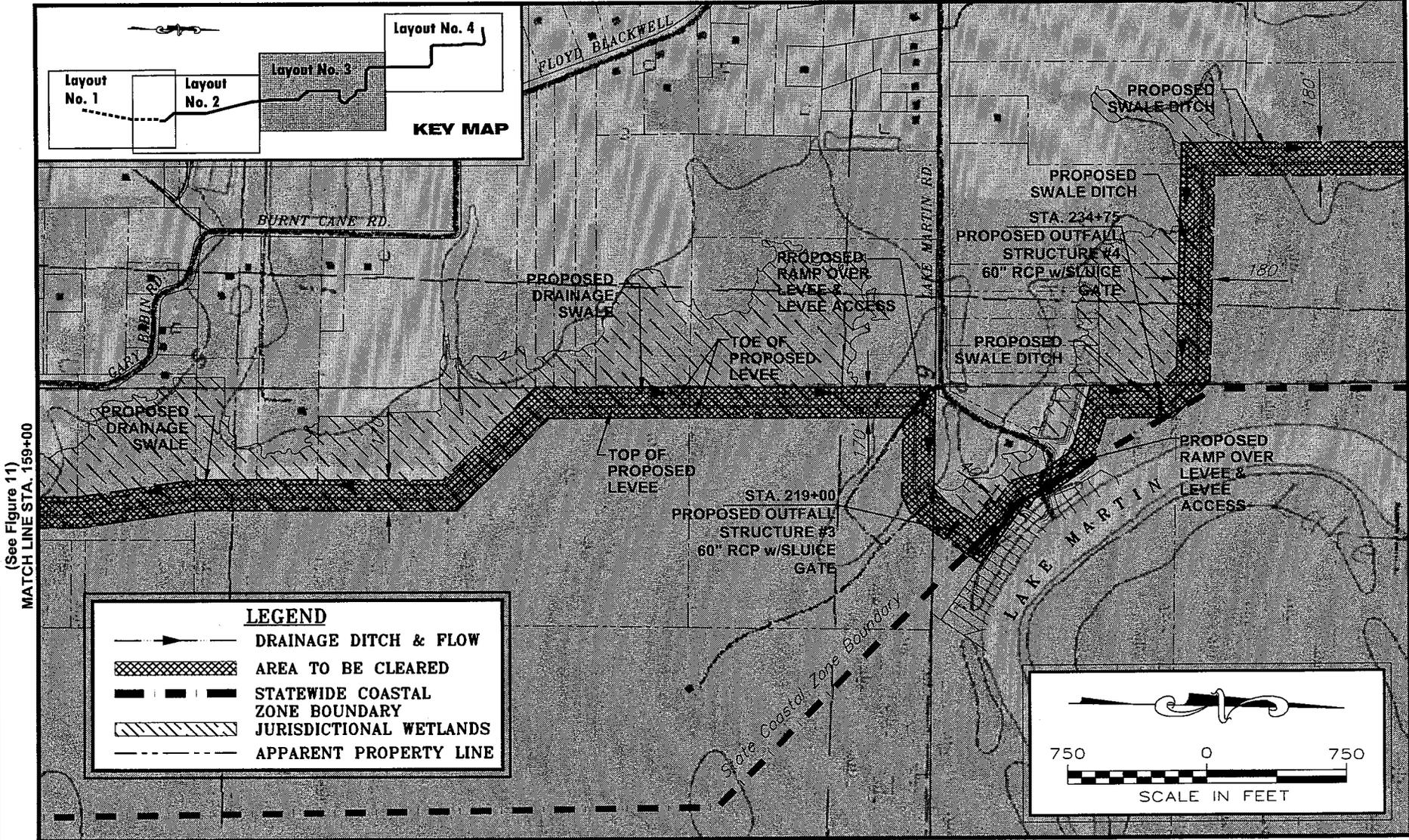


DRAWN BY: DBT JOB No. 28018
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LAUREL RIDGE LEVEE EXTENSION
PONTCHARTRAIN LEVEE DISTRICT
 ASCENSION PARISH, LOUISIANA
 DRAINAGE BASIN MAP

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 CONSULTING ENGINEERS, INC.
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(See Figure 11)
MATCH LINE STA. 159+00

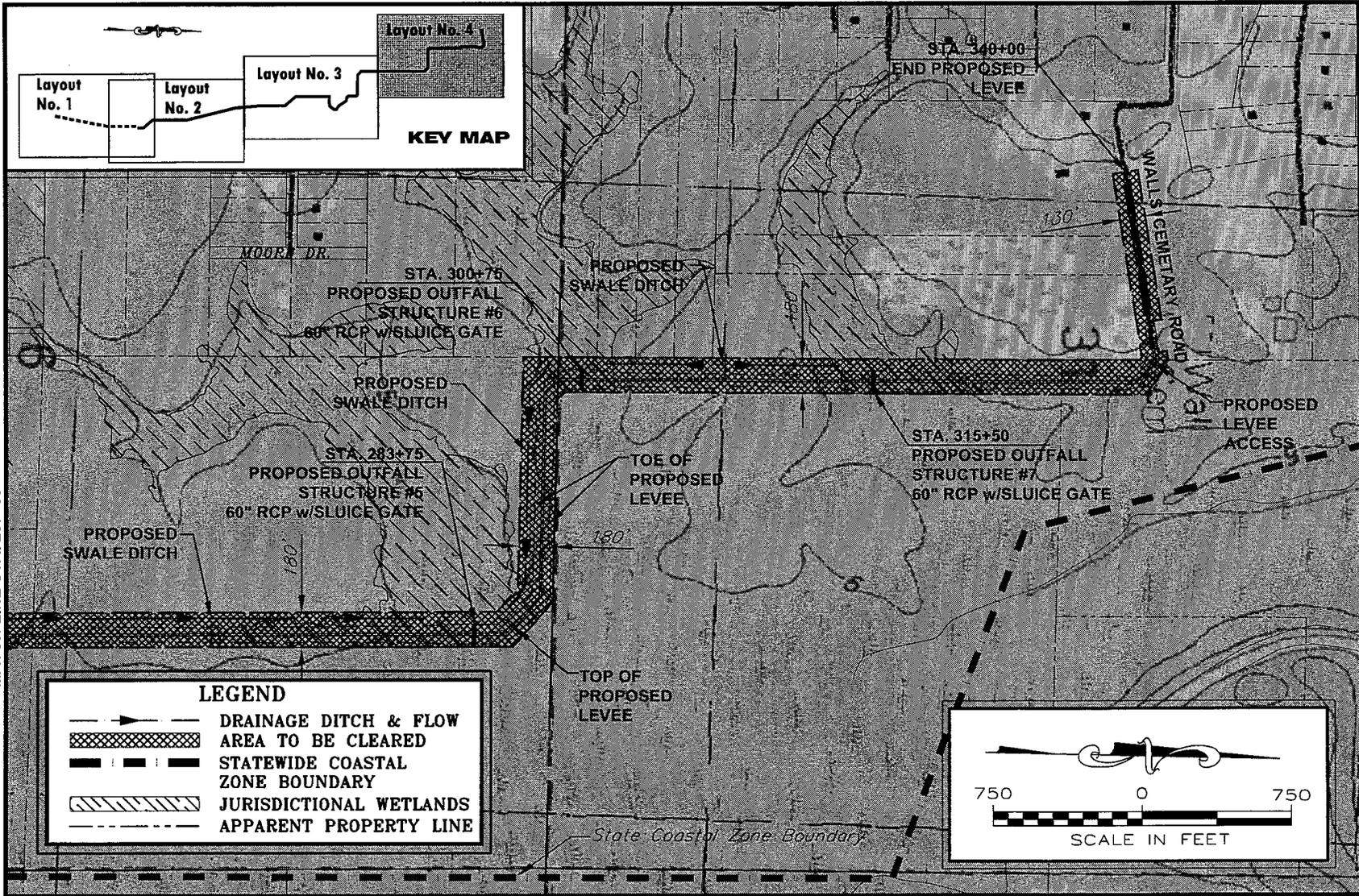
MATCH LINE STA. 257+00
(See Figure 13)

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LAUREL RIDGE LEVEE EXTENSION
PONTCHARTRAIN LEVEE DISTRICT
 ASCENSION PARISH, LOUISIANA
 LAYOUT NO. 3 (Sta. 159+00 to Sta. 257+00)



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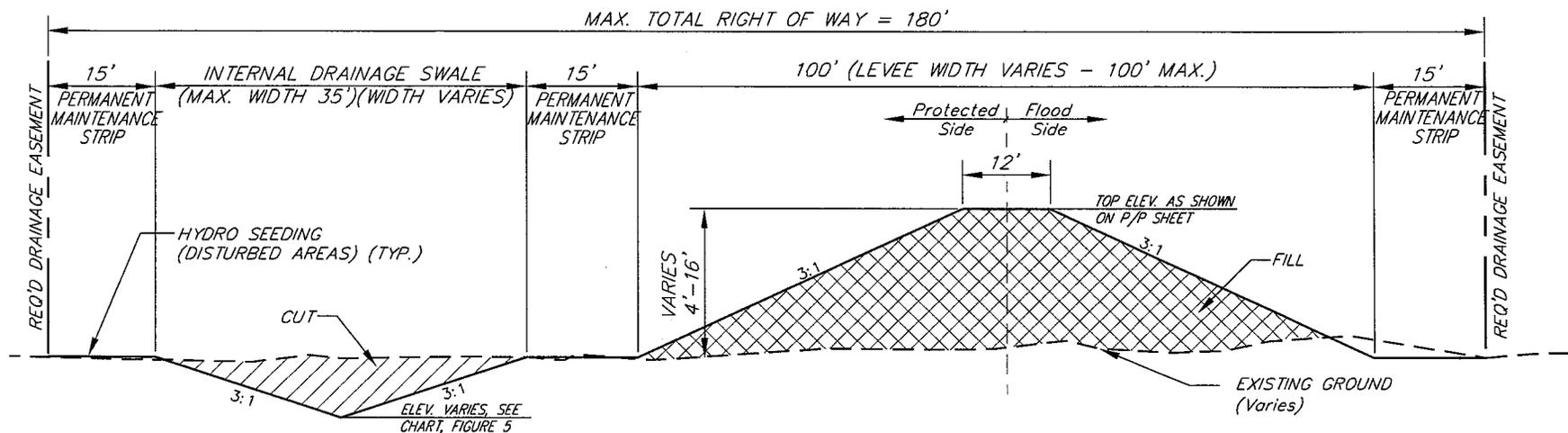


(See Figure 12)
MATCH LINE STA. 257+00

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LAUREL RIDGE LEVEE EXTENSION
PONTCHARTRAIN LEVEE DISTRICT
 ASCENSION PARISH, LOUISIANA
 LAYOUT NO. 4 (Sta. 257+00 to Sta. 351+00)

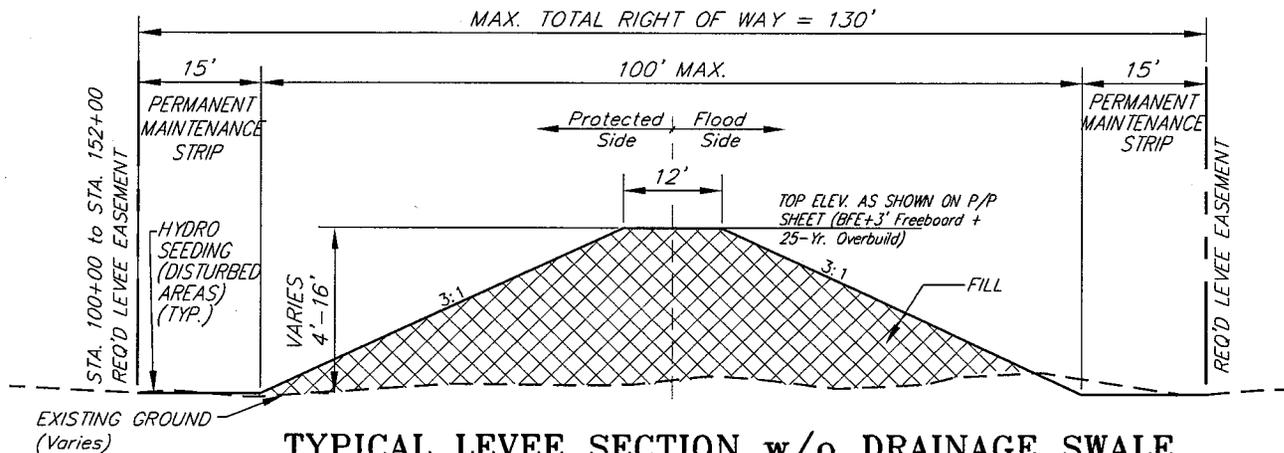
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TYPICAL LEVEE SECTION w/DRAINAGE SWALE

N.T.S. STA. 152+75 to STA. 223+00
 STA. 231+50 to STA. 313+75

** Mean High Water = 1.16 NAVD88
 Mean Water = 0.94 NAVD88
 Mean Low Water = 0.72 NAVD88



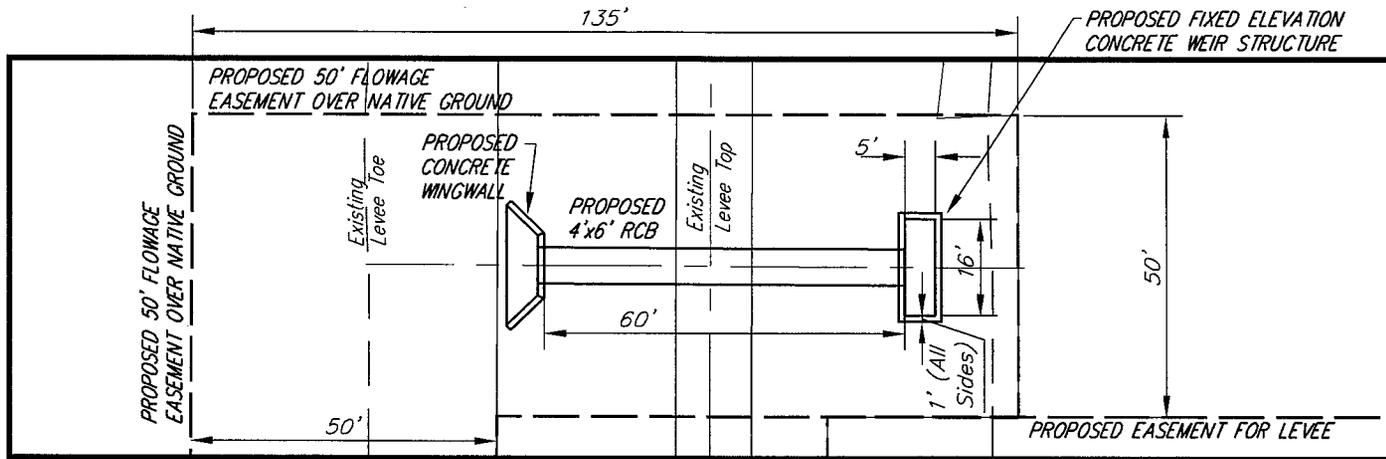
TYPICAL LEVEE SECTION w/o DRAINAGE SWALE

N.T.S. STA. 100+00 to STA. 152+75
 STA. 223+00 to STA. 231+50
 STA. 313+75 to STA. 340+00

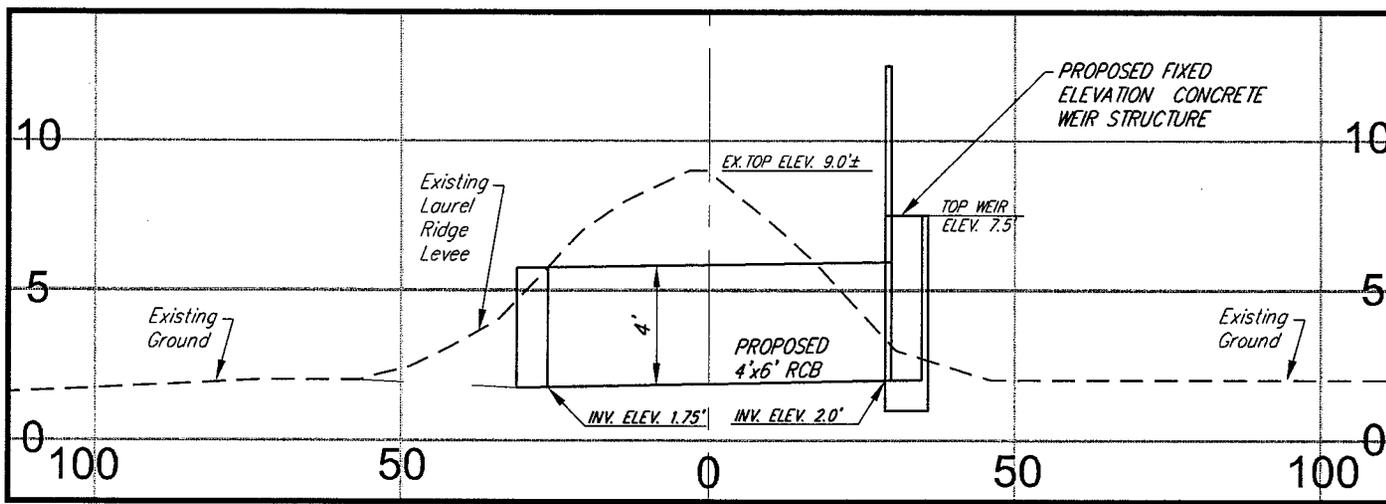
DRAWN BY: DBT JOB No. 28018
 CHECKED BY: JDL SCALE: AS SHOWN
 DATE: APRIL 9, 2015 SHEET No. FIGURE 4

LAUREL RIDGE LEVEE EXTENSION
PONTCHARTRAIN LEVEE DISTRICT
 ASCENSION PARISH, LOUISIANA
 TYPICAL SECTION

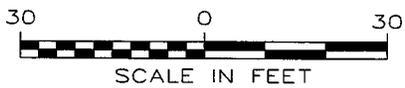
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PLAN



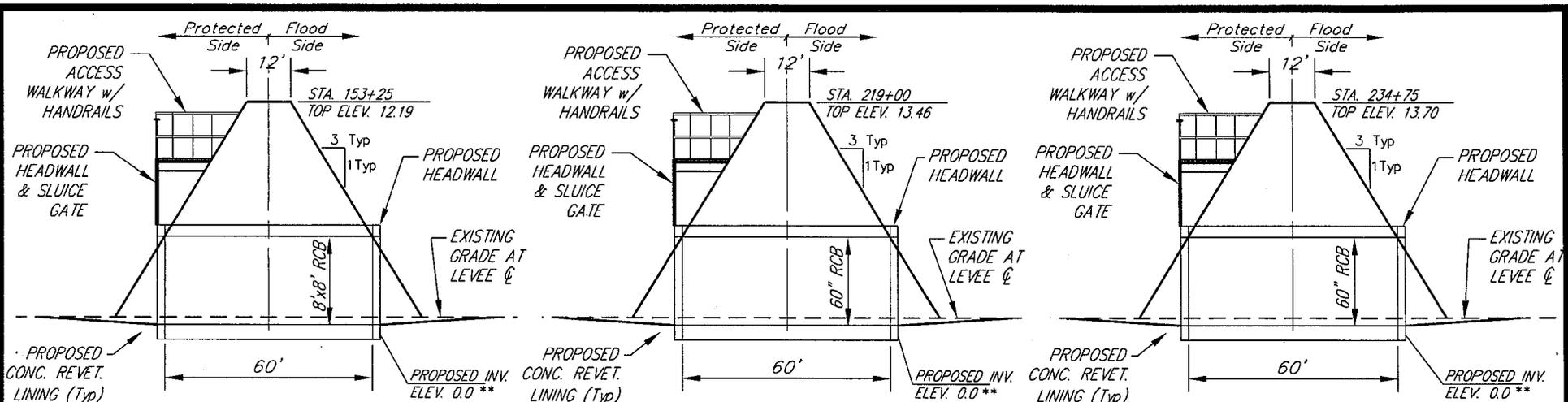
ELEVATION



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LAUREL RIDGE LEVEE EXTENSION
PONTCHARTRAIN LEVEE DISTRICT
 ASCENSION PARISH, LOUISIANA
 EMERGENCY OVERFLOW STRUCTURE

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OUTFALL STRUCTURE NO. 2 SECTION*

OUTFALL STRUCTURE NO. 3 SECTION*

OUTFALL STRUCTURE NO. 4 SECTION*

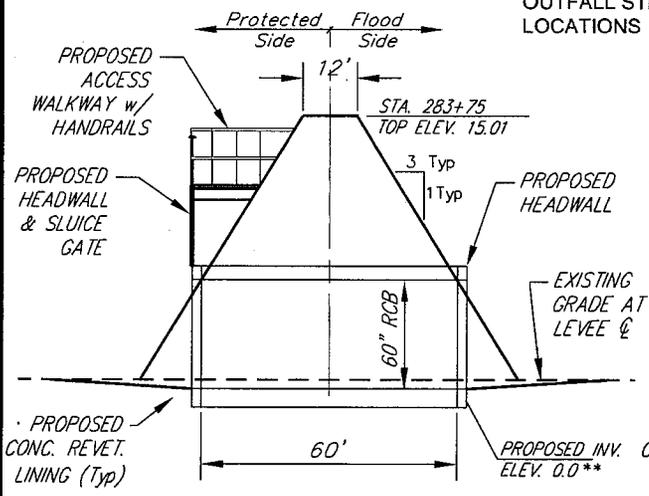
N.T.S.

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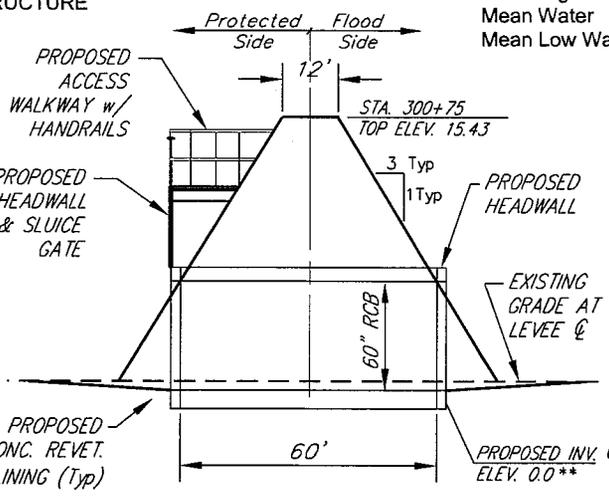
N.T.S.

* SEE FIGURES 3 & 5 FOR OUTFALL STRUCTURE LOCATIONS

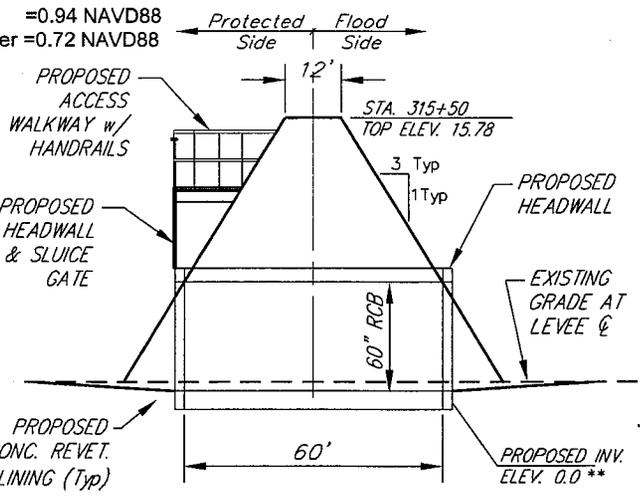
** Mean High Water = 1.16 NAVD88
 Mean Water = 0.94 NAVD88
 Mean Low Water = 0.72 NAVD88



OUTFALL STRUCTURE NO. 5 SECTION*



OUTFALL STRUCTURE NO. 6 SECTION*



OUTFALL STRUCTURE NO. 7 SECTION*

N.T.S.

N.T.S.

N.T.S.

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LAUREL RIDGE LEVEE EXTENSION
PONTCHARTRAIN LEVEE DISTRICT
 ASCENSION PARISH, LOUISIANA
 TYPICAL SECTION



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11/11/2015 11:47:42 AM W:\PROJECTS\LAUREL RIDGE LEVEE EXTENSION\FIGURE 7.dwg