

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

November 3, 2014

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

State of Louisiana
Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Water Quality Certification Sec.
Post Office Box 4313
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4313

Project Manager: Bobby Quebedeaux
(504) 862-2224 / fax: (504) 862-2574
bobby.d.quebedeaux@usace.army.mil
Permit Application Number:
MVN-2013-1328-WJJ

Project Manager:
Elizabeth Johnson
(225) 219-3225 / fax: (225) 325-8125
WQC Application Number:
WQC-131029-01

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).

The application has also been mailed to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, for a Water Quality Certification (WQC) in accordance with statutory authority contained in Louisiana Revised Statute 30:2074 A(3), and provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (P.L. 95-17).

BELFIELD DITCH IMPROVEMENTS IN CALCASIEU PARISH

NAME OF APPLICANT: Gravity Drainage District No. 8, c/o: Arabie Environmental Solutions, Attn: Blaine Johnson, P.O. Box 928, Lake Charles, Louisiana 70602

LOCATION OF WORK: Belfield Ditch in Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana (Western: 30.32289, -93.23275; Eastern: 30.32683, -93.20994, Hydrologic Unit Code 08080203, Upper Calcasieu River Watershed), as shown in the attached drawings (4) dated September 3, 2014.

CHARACTER OF WORK: Clear, grub and grade an approximate 53-acre area & excavate approximately 340,000 cubic yards of earthen material. The excavated material will be placed adjacent to the work area. The area of fill is approximately 34 acres; within these 34 acres of fill, approximately 20 acres of wetlands are present and will be permanently impacted. Approximately 17 acres of this site will be excavated and graded to create additional stormwater storage area. Approximately 10 acres of the area will result in wetland creation. The remaining 7 acres will consist of a sloped area (permanent non-wetlands upon project completion) and will result in a permanent wetland loss of approximately 2 acres. As a result, wetlands permanently impacted minus wetlands created equals a 12 acre net loss of wetlands. In addition, an existing culvert will be removed and replaced. Project implementation would permanently impact 12 acres of wetlands, to be compensated for through the purchase of credits from an approved mitigation bank in the same hydrologic basin. Note: The subject project was previously placed on Public Notice on December 9, 2013. However, due to the lack of available options to the applicant for removal of dredged material from the project site, they have modified their plans.

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 submitted 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 forwarded to the Corps of Engineers at the address above, **ATTENTION: REGULATORY BRANCH**. Individuals or parties may request an extension of time in which to comment on the proposed work by writing, faxing, 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. 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.

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

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 may result in the destruction or alteration of N/A 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, 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.

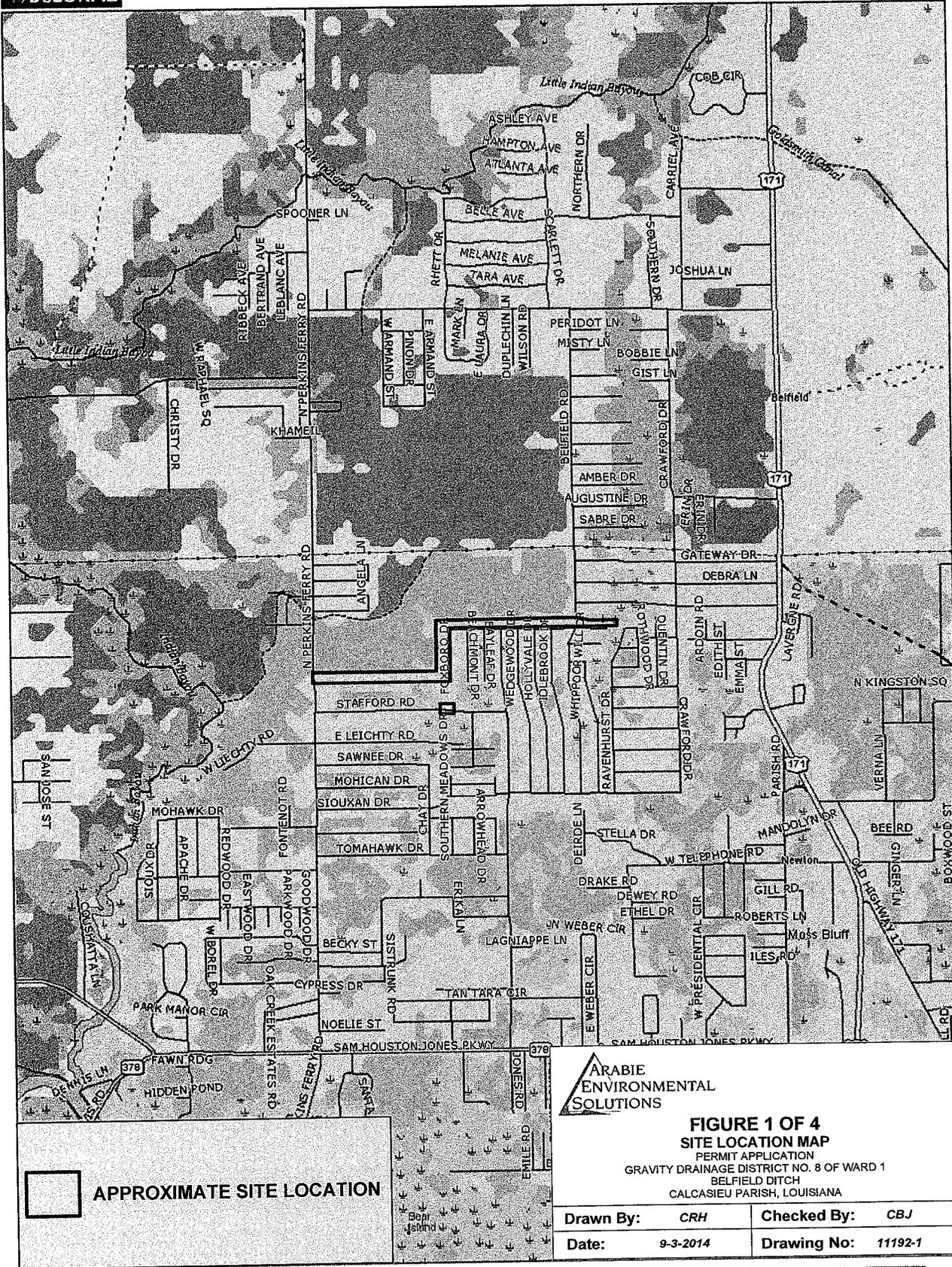
You are requested to communicate the information contained in this notice to any other parties whom you deem likely to have interest in the matter.

Darrell S. Barbara
Chief, Western Evaluation Section
Regulatory Branch

Enclosure

RESTORATION PLAN
BELFIELD DITCH PROJECT (MVN-2013-1328)
CALCASIEU PARISH, LOUISIANA

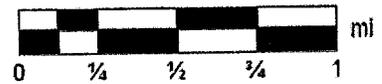
- 1) The restoration area will be contoured to exhibit undulating topography which will include areas of inundation. This will also increase species diversity within the restoration area.
- 2) Plantings will be completed during the non-growing season (December 15, 2013 through March 15, 2014).
- 3) Vegetative plant material consisting of Baldcypress (*Taxodium distichum*) and Tupelo Gum (*Nyssa aquatic*) species will be planted at a maximum spacing of 15 feet by 15 feet. Approximately 194 trees per acre.
- 4) A survival rate of at least 70 percent at the end of the first complete growing season. If this survival rate is not achieved, subsequent plantings to replace dead and/or missing plant material shall be performed in accordance with the above guidelines until the required 70 percent survival rate is attained.
- 5) A monitoring report shall be submitted to the Corps of Engineers documenting seedling survival and species composition. This report shall be submitted after the first complete growing season once the required 70 percent survival rate is attained and at five years from this same time.



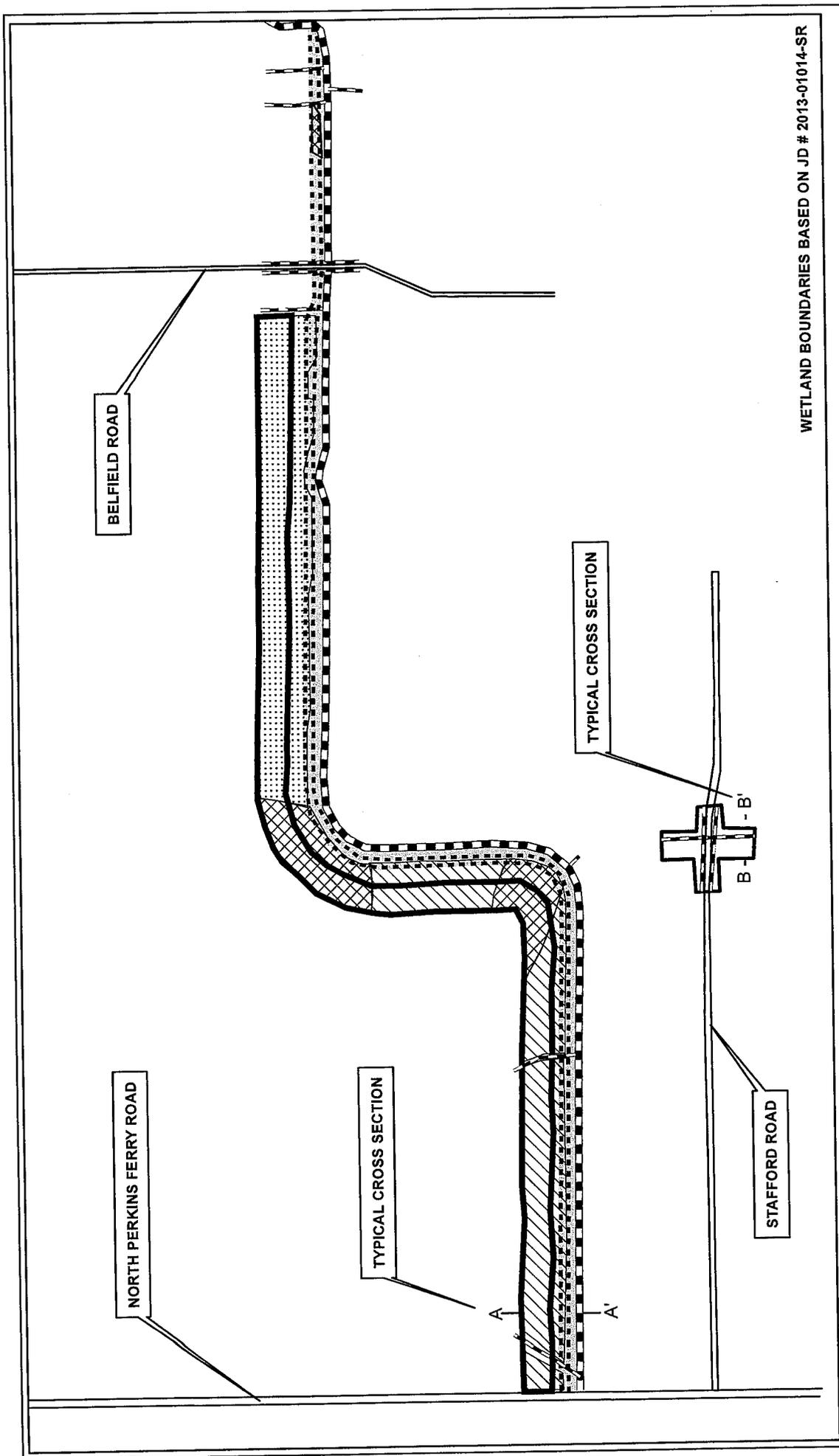
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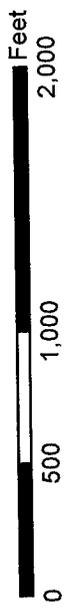
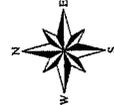


WETLAND BOUNDARIES BASED ON JD # 2013-01014-SR

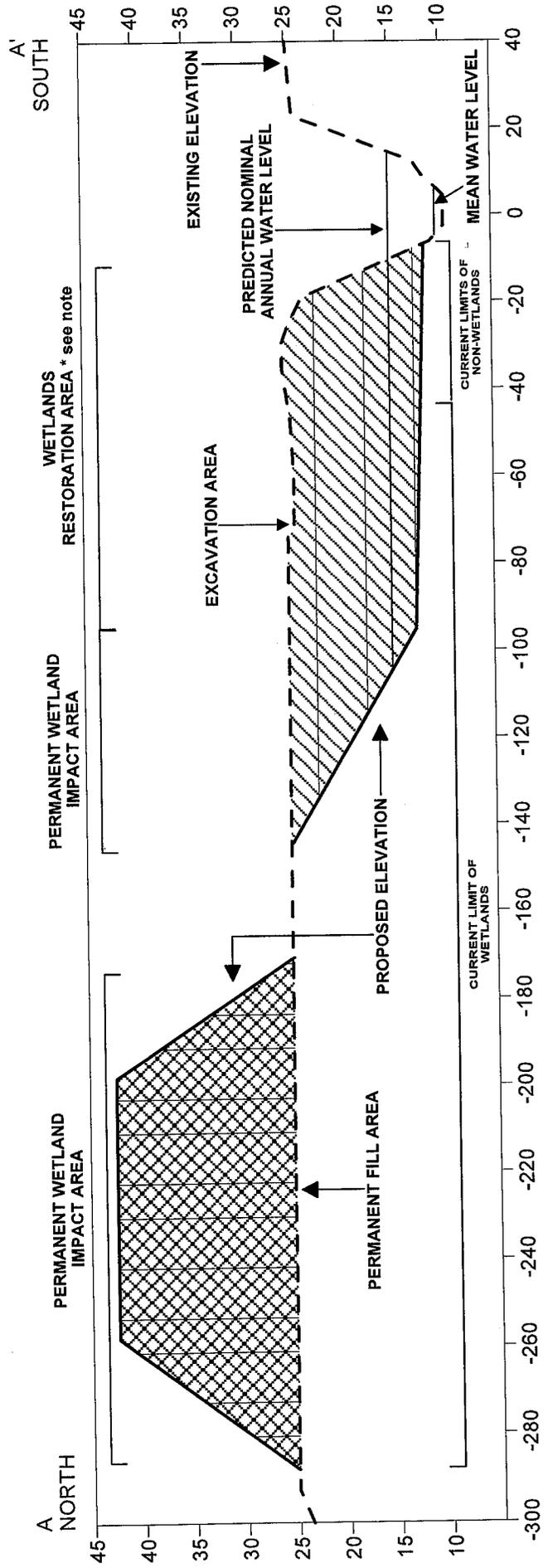


**FIGURE 2 OF 4
PLAN VIEW
BELFIELD DITCH
MOSS BLUFF, LOUISIANA**

Drawn By: JRK Date: 9-3-2014 AES Project #11192
Checked By: CBJ Date: Revised:



	DRAINAGE DITCHES
	BELFIELD DRAINAGE DITCH
	WETLAND RESTORATION AREA (10 ACRES)
	PERMANENTLY IMPACTED AREA (2 ACRES WET)
	PERMANENT FILL AREA (34 ACRES)
	46% WETLANDS (7 ACRES WET)
	54% WETLANDS (8.3 ACRES WET)
	100% WETLANDS (6.85 ACRES)



* Area of wetland restoration will consist of undulating topography resulting in inundated and not inundated areas, all of which will be considered wetlands.



PERMANENT CUT

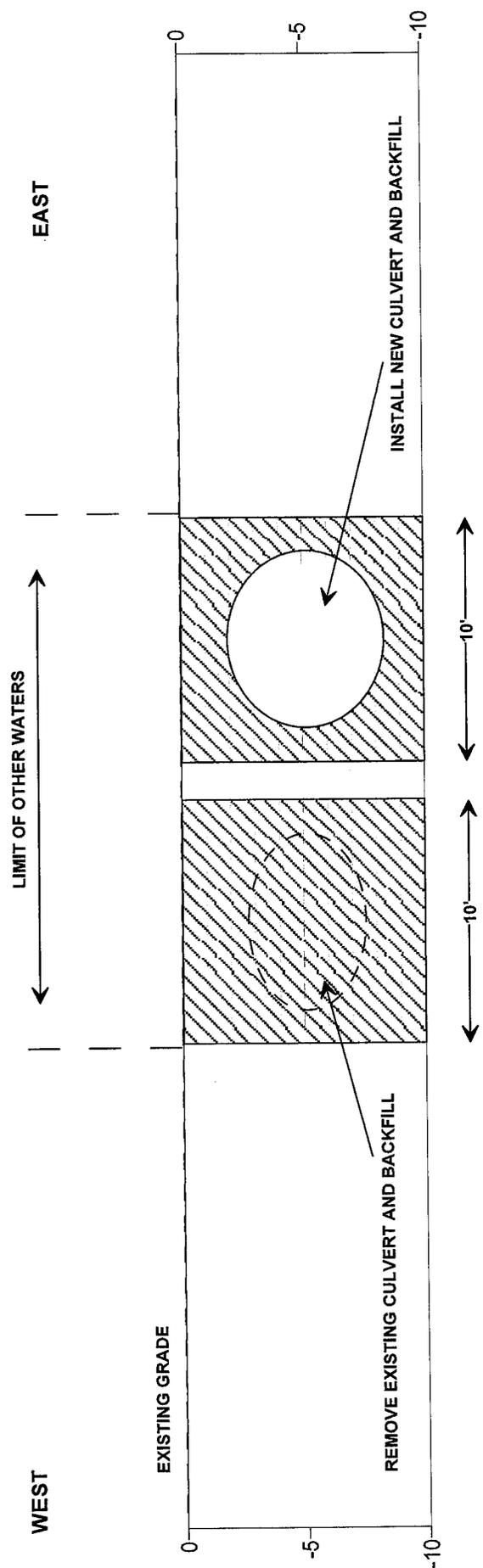


PERMANENT FILL

FIGURE 3 OF 4
TYPICAL CROSS SECTION

GRAVITY DRAINAGE
 DISTRICT No. 8 OF WARD 1
 BELFIELD DITCH
 MOSS BLUFF, LOUISIANA
 Drawn By: JRK Date: 9/2/2014
 Checked By: CBJ Date: 9/2/2014





TYPICAL SECTION

NOTE: NOT TO SCALE DIMENSIONS AS NOTED.

	FIGURE 4 OF 4 TYPICAL SECTION B-B' PERMIT APPLICATION GRAVITY DRAINAGE DISTRICT NO. 8 OF WARD 1 BELFIELD DITCH CALCASIEU PARISH, LOUISIANA	
	Drawn By: CRH	Checked By: CBJ
Date: 9-3-14	Drawing No: 11165	

