

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT 7400 LEAKE AVE NEW ORLEANS, LA 70118-3651

PUBLIC NOTICE

July 18, 2022

United States Army Corps of Engineers New Orleans District Attn: Regulatory Division, RGW 7400 Leake Ave. New Orleans, Louisiana 70118-3651

Project Manager: Sara Fortuna (504) 862-2284 <u>sara.b.fortuna@usace.army.mil</u> Application #: MVN-2014-02603-WKK

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: [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).

DREDGING, BYPASS DRAINAGE STRUCTURE, AND DEWATERING OF EXISTING CONTROL STRUCTURE IN IBERIA PARISH

NAME OF APPLICANT: Teche-Vermilion Freshwater District, c/o: Sellers and Associates, Inc., 148-B Easy Street, Lafayette, Louisiana 70506.

LOCATION OF WORK: Located in Iberia Parish, located in Loreauville Canal, near 475 Parish Road 304, located in the community of New Iberia, Louisiana, (Latitude North: 30.01933°N, Longitude West: -91.68070°W), as shown within the enclosed drawings. (Hydrologic Unit Code 08080102, Vermilion-Teche Basin).

CHARACTER OF WORK: Work consists of dredging approximately 9,000 cubic yards of fill material from the Loreauville Canal Bypass Channel, excavating approximately 3,500 cubic yards of earthen fill material to construct an 80-foot wide by 100-foot long cofferdam and overflow weir, placing 2,225 cubic yards of earthen fill material and 175 cubic yards of riprap around the cofferdam, placing approximately 94 cubic yards of stone to install a 14-foot wide by 544-foot long road within a permanent Right-of-Way to access the cofferdam, dewatering and maintenance of an existing navigable control structure, placing approximately 5,724 cubic yards of dredged fill material at a non-wetland spoil disposal site. All remaining spoil would be hauled off to a non-wetland disposal site. Approximately 0.18 of an acre of non-wetland waters would be permanently impacted via access road construction, 1.4 acres of non-wetland waters would be temporarily impacted via project implementation. The purpose of dewatering

and maintenance of the existing navigable control structure is to comport with the procedures related to the USACE DAC29-81-C-0106 project issued in August 1982. The purpose of dredging the bypass channel is to provide adequate flow through the new bypass drainage structure in order to maintain and control drainage during the dewatering period. No wetland impacts are anticipated therefore no compensatory mitigation would be required.

The comment period on the requested Department of the Army Permit will close **20 days** from the date of this 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 request, and must be submitted so as to be received before or by the last day of the comment period. Letters and/or comments concerning the subject permit application must reference the Applicant's Name and the Permit Application Number and can be preferably emailed to the Corps of Engineer's project manager listed above or forwarded to the Corps of Engineers at the address above, ATTENTION: REGULATORY DIVISION, RGW, "Sara Fortuna". Individuals or parties may also request an extension of time in which to comment on the proposed work by mail or preferably by emailing the specified project manager listed above. Any request for an extension of time to comment 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 Branch Chief will review the request and the requester will be promptly notified of the decision to grant or deny the request. If granted, the time extension will be continuous and inclusive of the initial comment period and will not exceed a total of 30 calendar days.

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. As deemed necessary, copies of this public notice will be sent to the State Archeologist, State Historic Preservation Officer, and federally listed tribes regarding potential impacts to cultural resources.

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. Based on the Information Planning and Consultation (IPaC) tool for Endangered Species in Louisiana, as signed on January 27, 2020, between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, it has been determined that the project is located in waters known to be utilized by the West Indian Manatee (*Trichechus manatus*) and determined that the activity is not likely to adversely affect this species. If this permit modification/time extension is issued, the permittee will be required to the follow the IPaC conditions for the manatee.

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, alteration, and/or disturbance of **1.58 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.

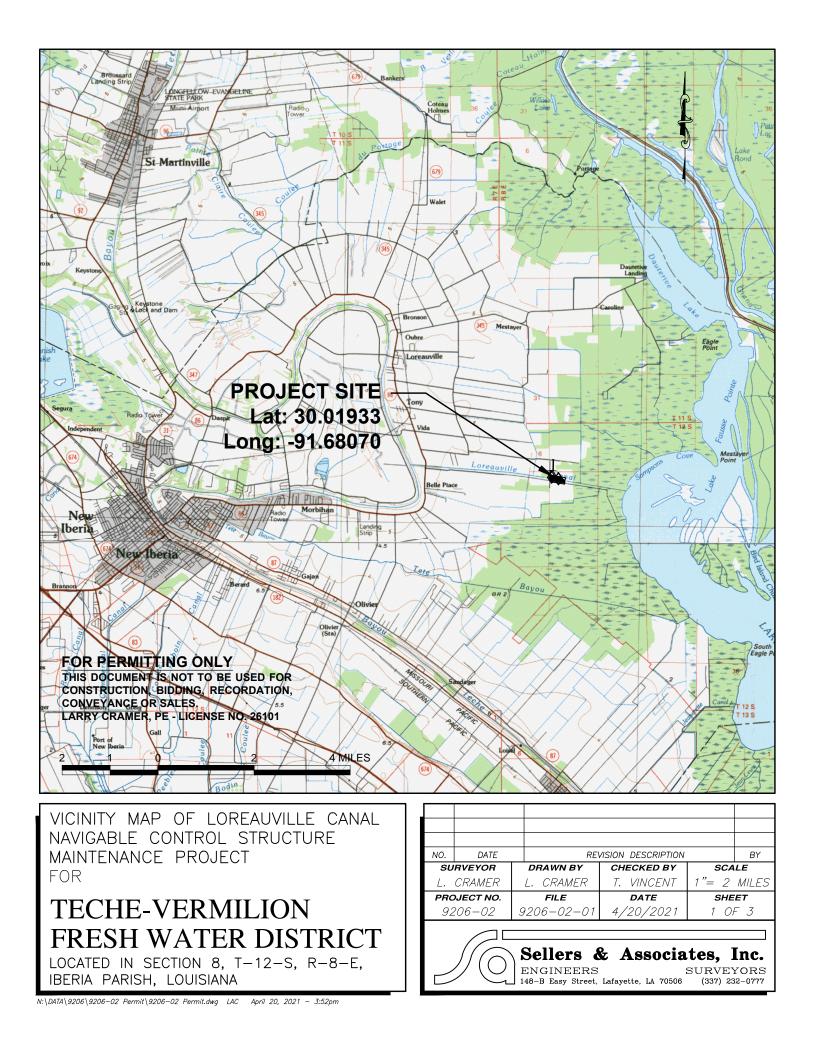
If the proposed work involves deposits of dredged or fill material into navigable waters, the evaluation of the probable impacts will include the application of guidelines established by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. *Also, a certification that the proposed activity will not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

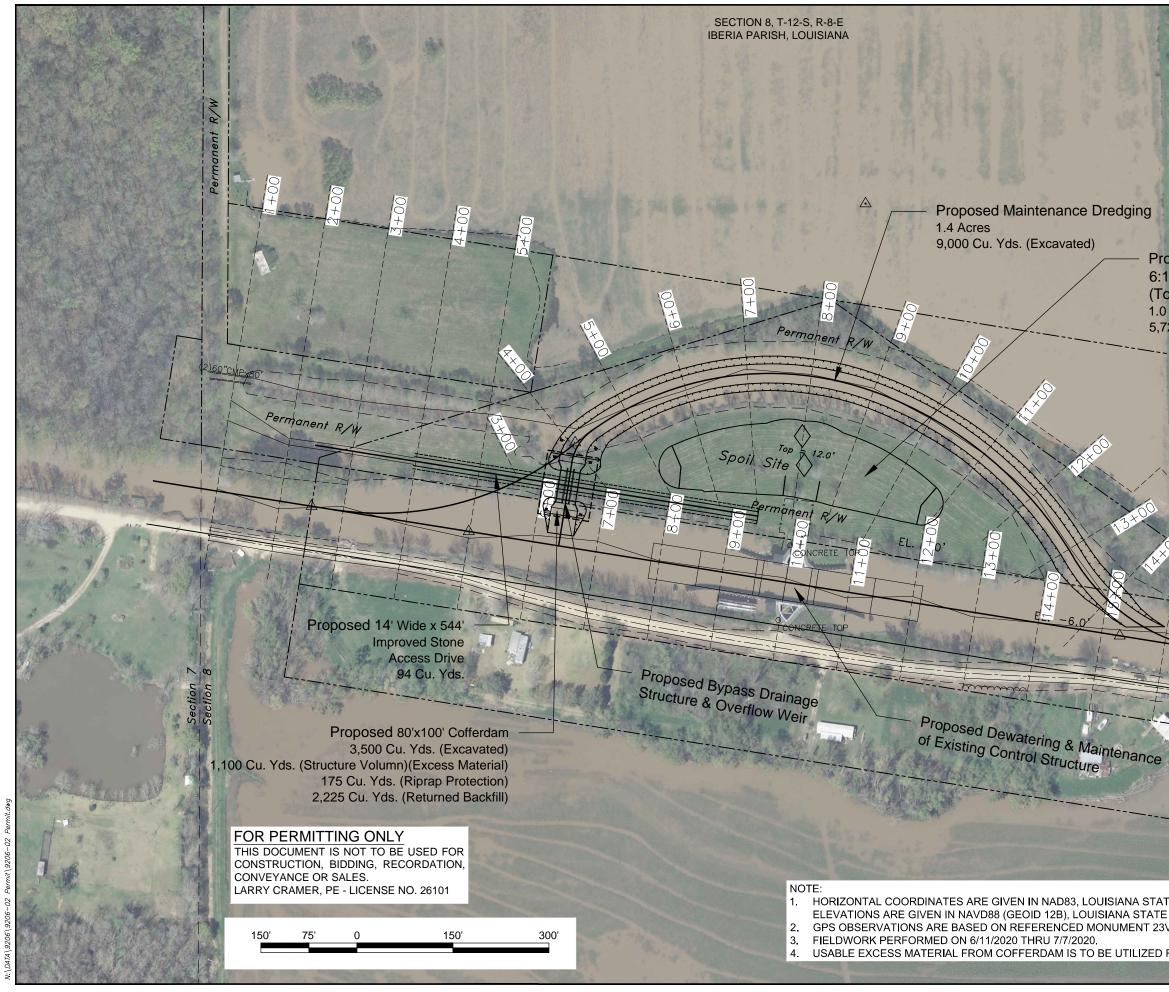
Any person may request, (preferably by email to the project manager, or in writing), within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

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

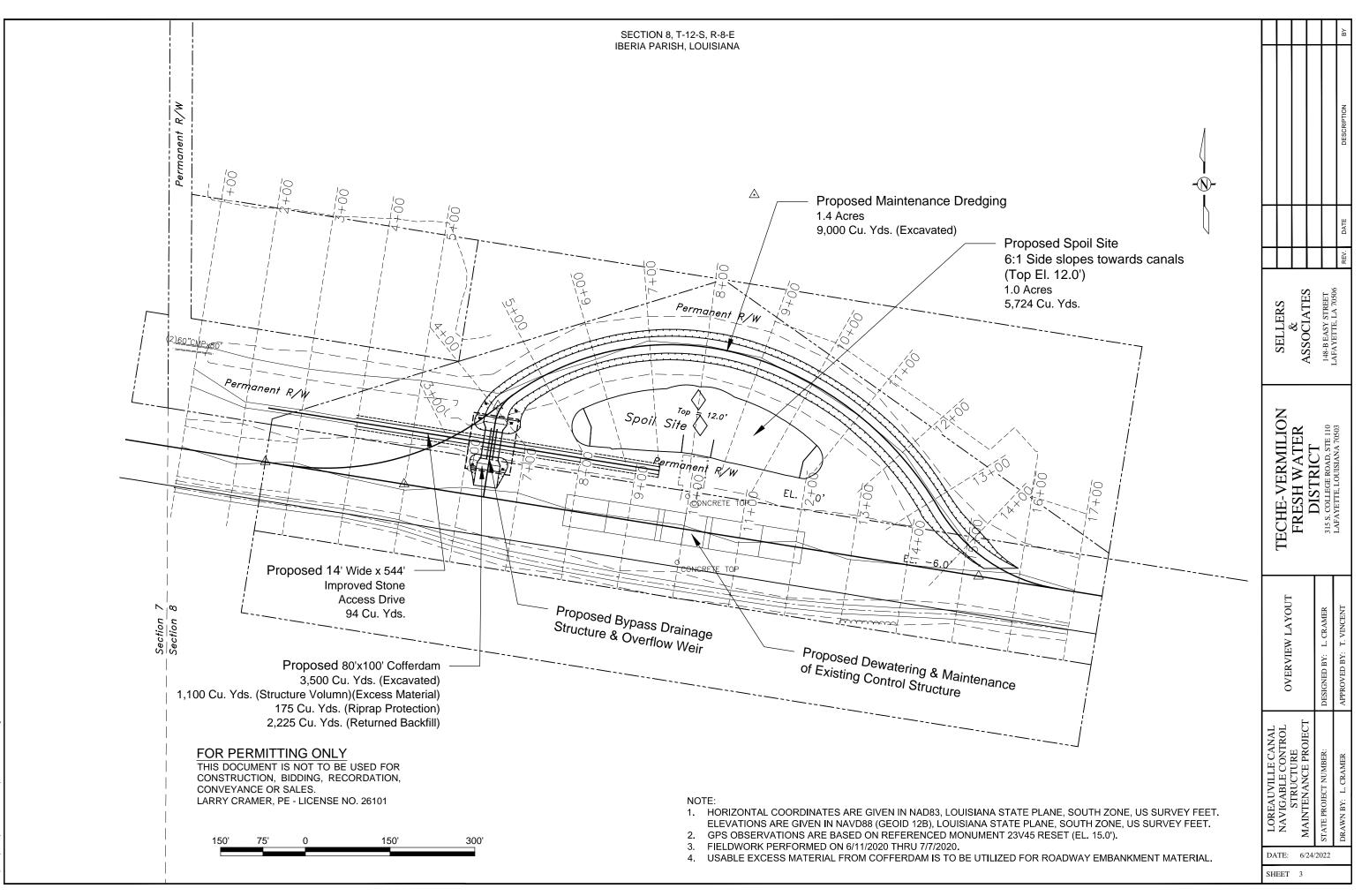
> Darrell S. Barbara Chief, Western Evaluation Branch Regulatory Division

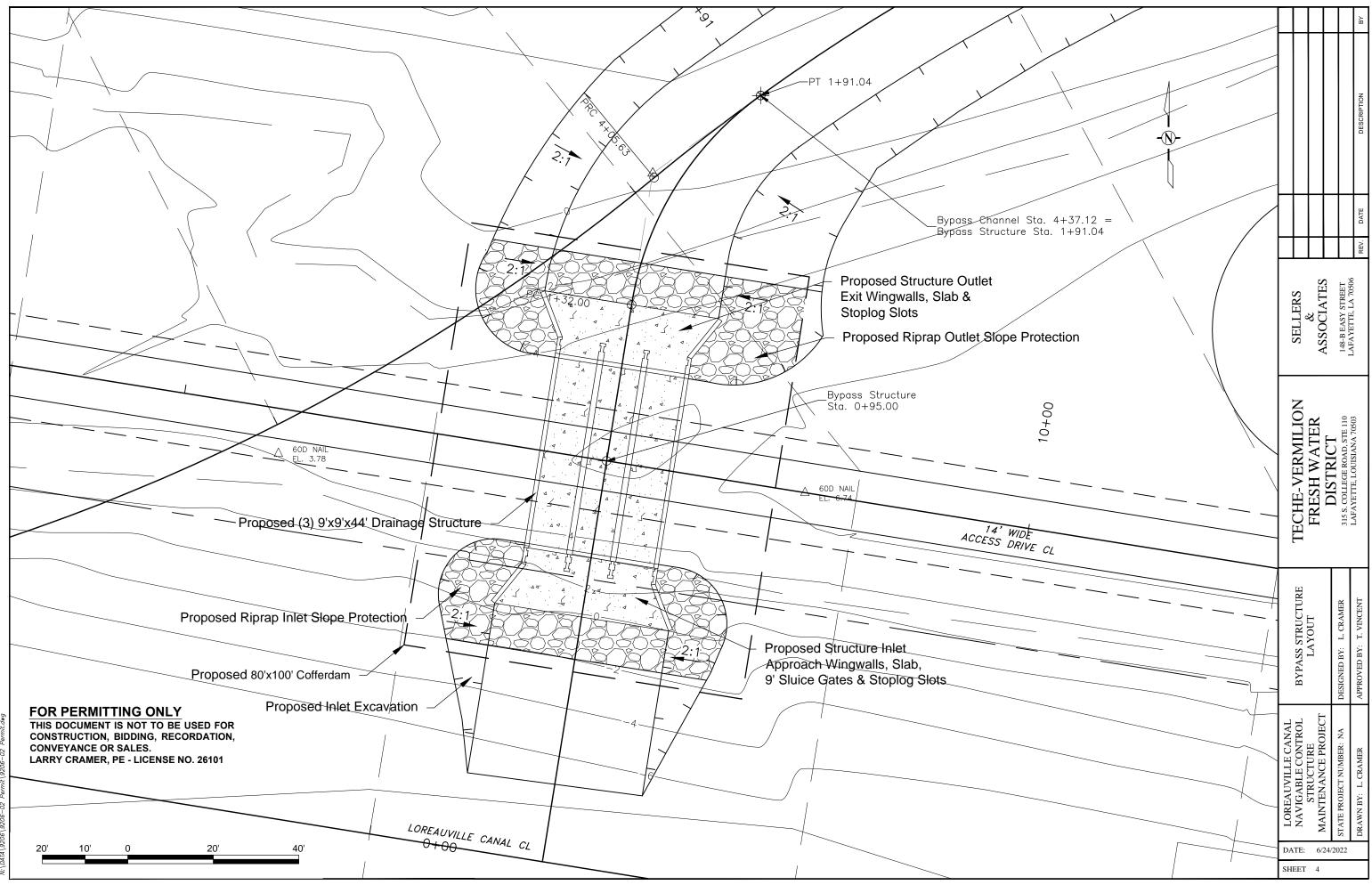
Enclosure



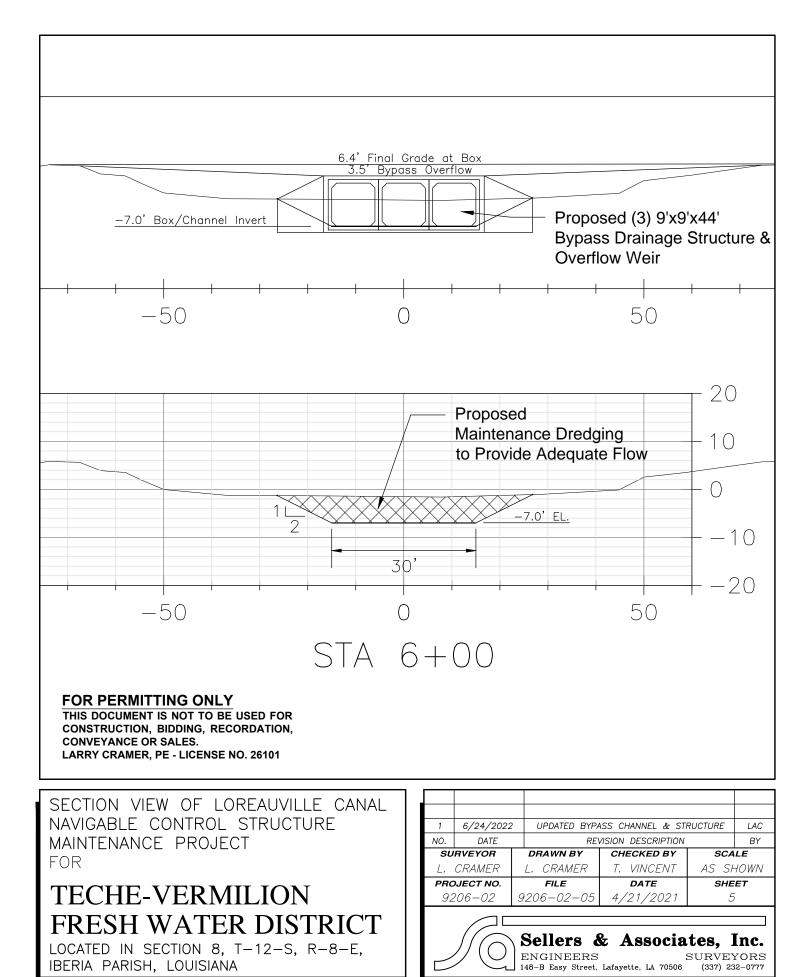


			BY
			DESCRIPTION
0			DATE
roposed Spoil Site :1 Side slopes towards canals			REV.
Top El. 12.0') .0 Acres ,724 Cu. Yds.	SELLERS & ASSOCIATES	148-B EASY STREET	LAFA 151 15, EA 70200
	TECHE-VERMILION FRESH WATER DISTRICT 315 S. COLLEGE ROAD, STE 110 LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA 70503		
	OVERVIEW AERIAL LAYOUT	DESIGNED BY: L. CRAMER	APPROVED BY: T. VINCENT
ATE PLANE, SOUTH ZONE, US SURVEY FEET. TE PLANE, SOUTH ZONE, US SURVEY FEET. 23V45 RESET (EL. 15.0').	LOREAUVILLE CANAL NAVIGABLE CONTROL STRUCTURE MAINTENANCE PROJECT	STATE PROJECT NUMBER:	DRAWN BY: L. CRAMER
D FOR ROADWAY EMBANKMENT MATERIAL.	DATE: 6/24/2022		
	SHEET 2		





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