

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

March 14, 2016

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
Neil.T.Gauthier@usace.army.mil
MVN 2015-0606-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
WQC 160309-01

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: [] 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.

EXCAVATION AND PLACEMENT OF FILL FOR LEVEE REPAIRS IN LAFOURCHE PARISH

NAME OF APPLICANT: North Lafourche Conservation Levee & Drainage District, c/o Joseph C. Picciola, II, P.O. Box 687, Cut Off, Louisiana 70345.

LOCATION OF WORK: Near Bayou Lafourche, the Forty Arpent Canal, and the Intracoastal Waterway, Section 102, T17S-R20E, in Larose, Louisiana, in Lafourche Parish, within the East Central Louisiana Coastal Basin in hydrologic unit (HUC 08090301), as shown on the attached drawings.

CHARACTER OF WORK: The applicant requested an emergency authorization to complete levee repairs and reduce potential flood hazards for residences associated with backwater flooding from high Mississippi River levels. An emergency authorization was granted on March 24, 2015 allowing the repairs and requiring a follow up application to permit the activities which took place during the levee repair. The applicant is now requesting Department of the Army authorization for work done to excavate jurisdictional wetlands and deposit the material on the existing degraded levee to restore flood protection on the east side of Bayou Lafourche in Larose, Louisiana above the Intracoastal Waterway. Approximately 33,440 cubic yards of material was excavated from a jurisdictional herbaceous wetland adjacent to the levee and was deposited on the existing levee for refurbishment and repair.

A Preliminary analysis has determined that the proposed project directly impacted 1.0 acre of jurisdictional herbaceous wetlands.

The applicant has designed the project to avoid and minimize direct and secondary adverse impacts to the maximum extent practicable. Any further reduction in the levee repair would not meet engineering construction standards at the project site. As compensation for unavoidable wetland impacts, the applicant proposes to mitigate in-kind wetland credits from a Corps approved mitigation bank 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.

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, pre-historical, 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 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.

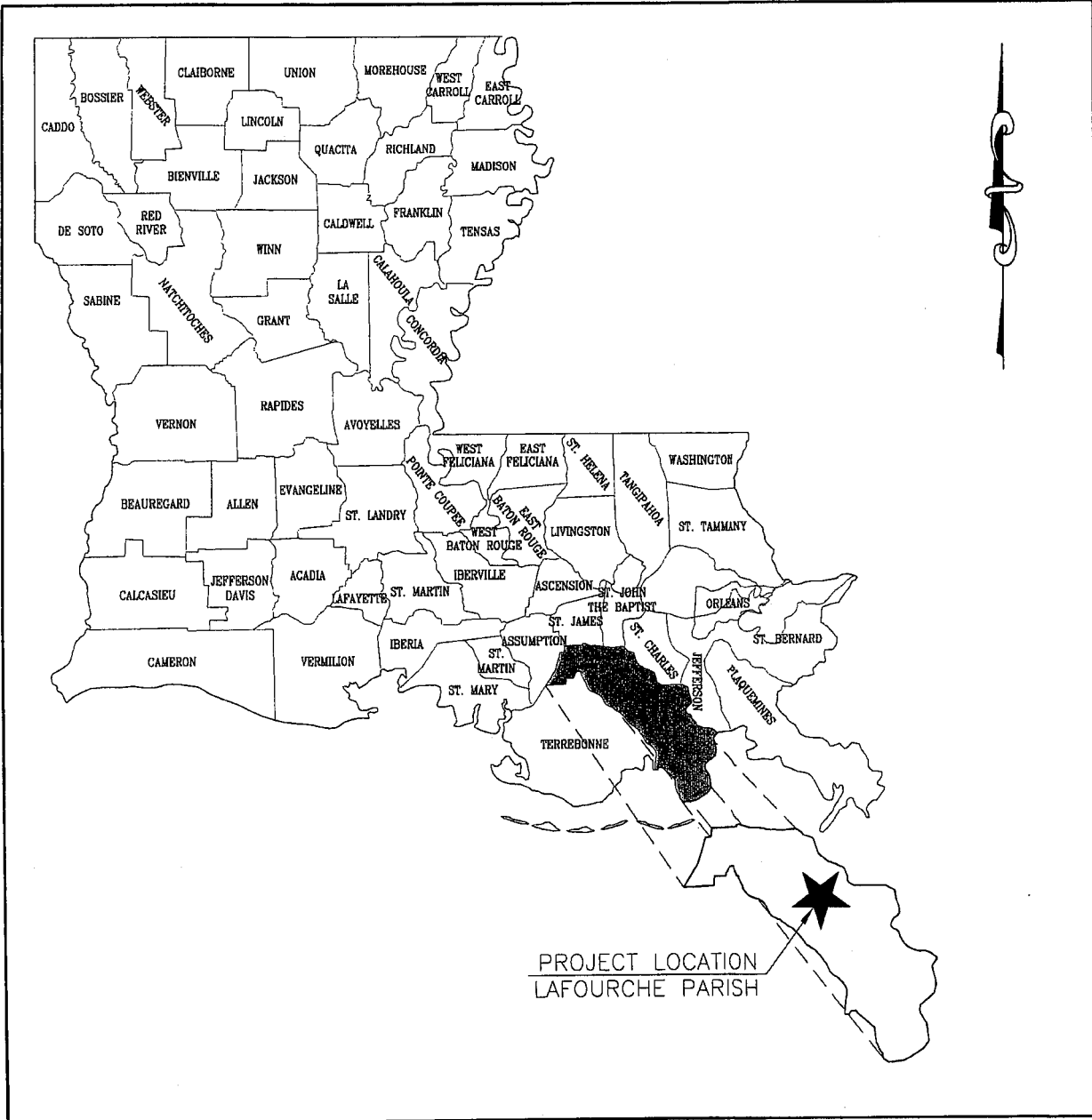
If the proposed work involves deposits of dredged or fill material into navigable waters, the evaluation of the probable impacts will include the application of guidelines established by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Also, a certification that the proposed activity will not 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



STATE VICINITY MAP

NOT TO SCALE

NORTH LAFOURCHE LEVEE DISTRICT
EMERGENCY LEVEE PERMIT

PROPOSED: EMERGENCY AUTHORIZATION FOR IMMEDIATE REPAIRS TO ±1,470 FEET OF FAILED LEVEE SECTION

APPLIED BY: NORTH LAFOURCHE CONSERVATION LEVEE & DRAINAGE DISTRICT

AREA: LAROSE, LOUISIANA



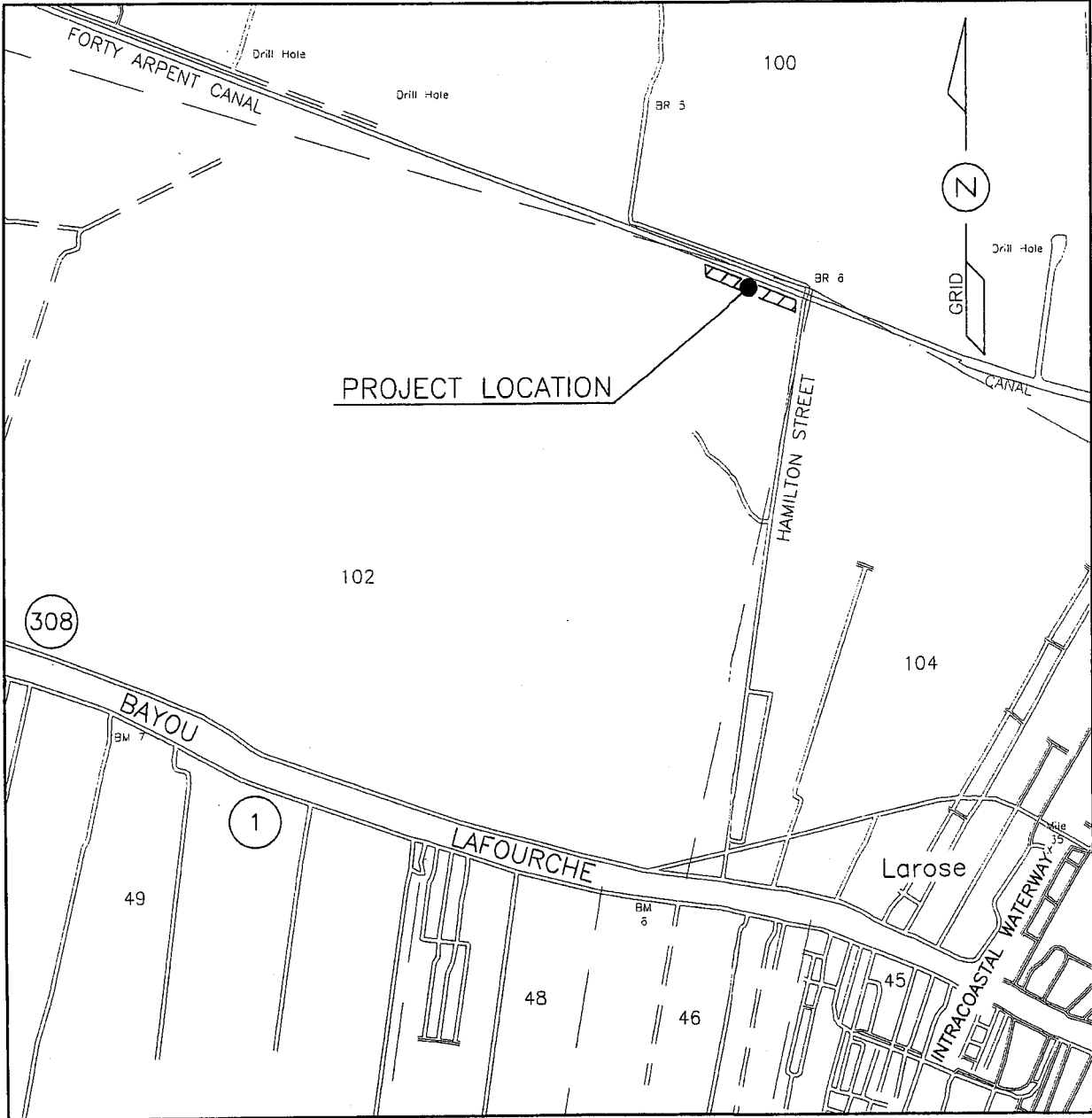
PICCIOLA & ASSOCIATES, INC.
CIVIL ENGINEERS NAVAL ARCHITECTS
LAND SURVEYORS MARINE ENGINEERS

P.O. BOX 687
CUT OFF, LOUISIANA 70345
(985) 632-5786

MVN 2015-00606
J.N.: 0401-1501

REV: 10-27-15
DATE: 10-13-15

SHEET 1 OF 6



LAROSE QUAD. MAP

SCALE: 1" = 2000'

LOCAL VICINITY MAP

PROPOSED: EMERGENCY AUTHORIZATION FOR IMMEDIATE REPAIRS TO ±1,470 FEET
OF FAILED LEVEE SECTION
APPLIED BY: NORTH LAFOURCHE CONSERVATION LEVEE & DRAINAGE DISTRICT
AREA: LAFOURCHE, LOUISIANA
 PROPERTY IS LOCATED IN SECTION 102, T-17-S, R-20-E

LATITUDE = 29° 35' 47.07"
 LONGITUDE = 90° 23' 33.97"
 (LAT. & LON. IS LOCATED APPROXIMATELY IN THE CENTER OF THE PROJECT AREA.)



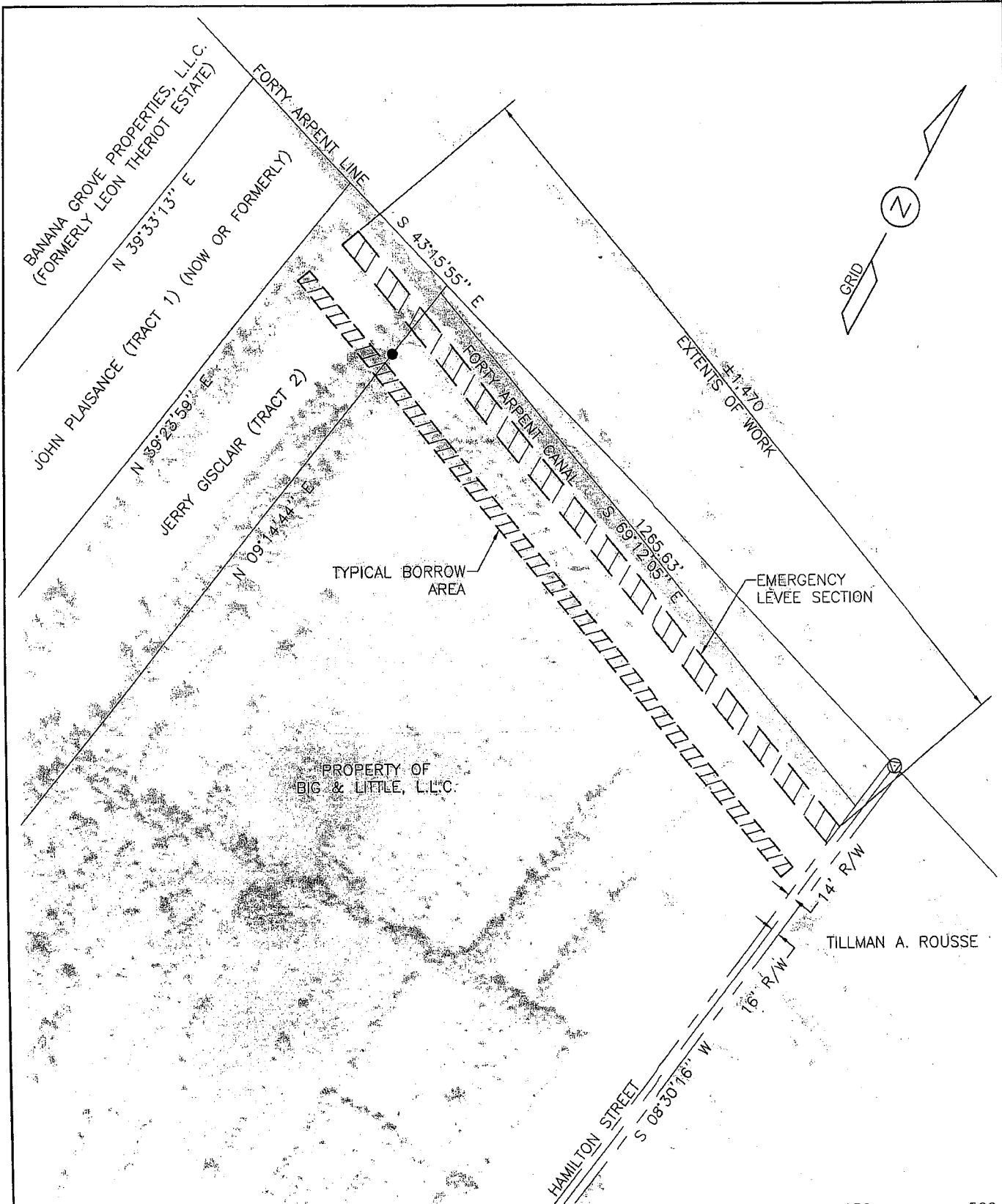
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SHEET 2 OF 6



OVERALL SITE PLAN



SCALE: 1" = 250'

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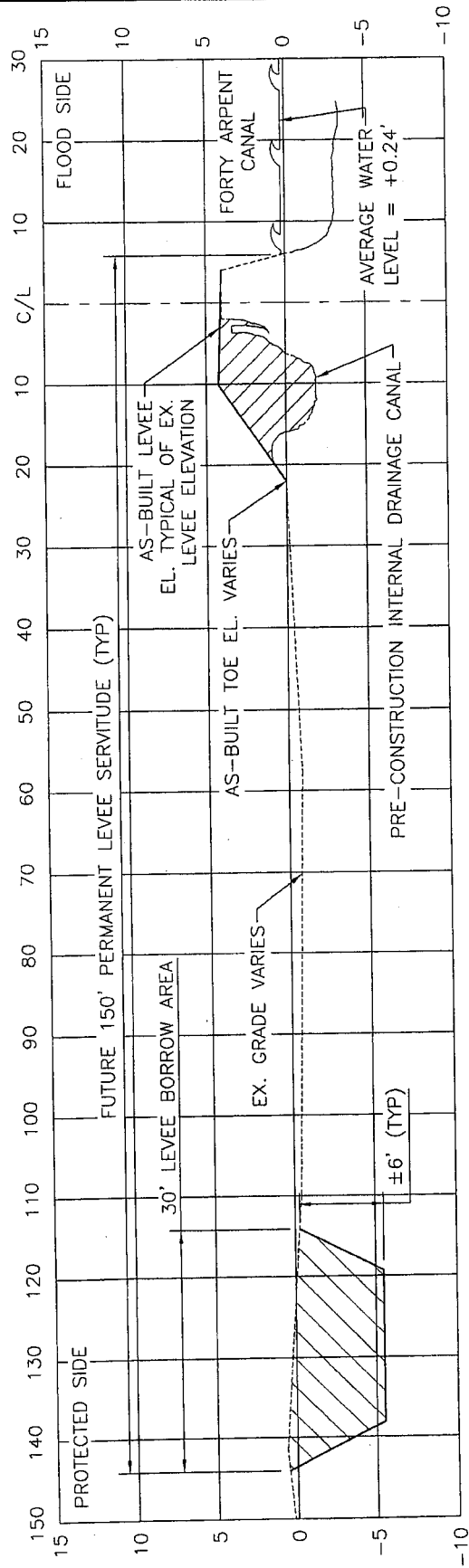


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SHEET 3 OF 6



T-BOIS LEVEE EMERGENCY LEVEE SECTION

HORZ. SCALE: 1"=20'
 VERT. SCALE: 1"=10'

LEVEE FILL VOLUME REQUIRED: ±3,440 CUBIC YARDS

BORROW AREA SPOIL ±3,440 CUBIC YARDS



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