

# JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

July 6, 2015

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  
Water Quality Certifications Section  
Post Office Box 4313  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4313

(504) 862-1217  
Project Manager  
Kenny Blanke  
[Kenneth.G.Blanke@usace.army.mil](mailto:Kenneth.G.Blanke@usace.army.mil)  
MVN 2011-0949-CQ

(225) 219-3225  
Project Manager  
Ms. Elizabeth Hill  
WQC Application Number  
WQC 150625-01

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: [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 LRS30:2074 A(3), and provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (P.L.95-17).

## **FLOOD PROTECTION BERM TO PROTECT SOUTH VACHERIE IN SAINT JAMES PARISH**

**NAME OF APPLICANT:** St. James Parish Government, c/o T. Baker Smith, LLC, Attn: Michael Trahan, Post Office Box 2266, Houma, Louisiana 70361.

**LOCATION OF WORK:** Located in Sections 13 & 18, Township 13 South, Ranges 17 & 18 East, near South Vacherie, Louisiana, in SAINT JAMES Parish, as shown on the enclosed drawings (Latitude 29.952416 N Longitude -90.6917167 W). This project is located in USGS Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 08090301- East Central Louisiana Coastal HUC.

**CHARACTER OF WORK:** Clear, grade, excavate, place and maintain fill material for the construction of an approximate 1.4-mile long flood protection berm to protect South Vacherie from backwater flooding during high water events. Approximately 3.4 acres of the 6.8-acre project area are subject to the Corps of Engineers' jurisdiction. Approximately 3.3 acres of jurisdictional forested wetlands would be directly impacted by fill placement and approximately 0.04 acre of jurisdictional Other Waters of the United States would be directly avoided by the proposed project. Approximately 2,998 cubic yards of earthen fill material would be excavated onsite and approximately 21,350 cubic yards of hauled in earthen fill material are to be utilized during project construction and placed as fill in jurisdictional areas. The application has indicated that gated culverts will be installed along all existing water crossings of the proposed levee footprint. The applicant has claimed that the project has been designed to avoid and minimize impacts as much as possible. The applicant is proposing to compensate for the unavoidable impact by purchasing mitigation credits from an approved mitigation bank.

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**. Individuals or parties may request an extension of time in which to comment on the proposed work by writing to the project manager or clicking on the project manager's name on the public notice grid on the web page. 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 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. Utilizing

Standard Local Operating Procedure for Endangered Species in Louisiana (SLOPES), dated October 22, 2014, between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Office, the Corps has determined that the proposed activity would have no effect on any listed 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 NA 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.

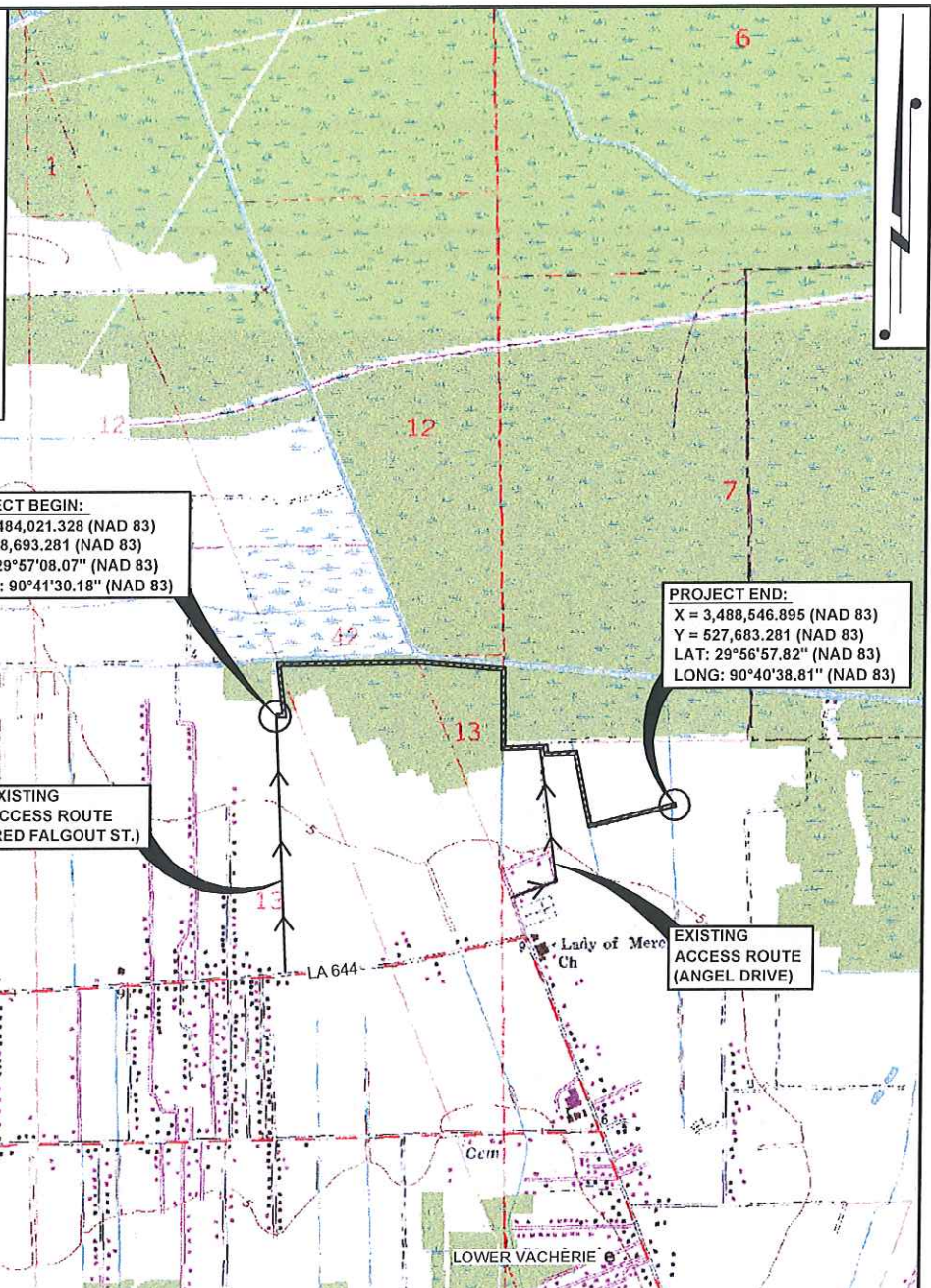
If the proposed work involves deposits of dredged or fill material into navigable waters, the evaluation of the probable impacts will include the application of guidelines established by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Also, a certification that the proposed activity will not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

JOHN M. HERMAN  
Chief, Central Evaluation Section  
Regulatory Branch

Enclosure



**PROJECT BEGIN:**  
 X = 3,484,021.328 (NAD 83)  
 Y = 528,693.281 (NAD 83)  
 LAT: 29°57'08.07" (NAD 83)  
 LONG: 90°41'30.18" (NAD 83)

**PROJECT END:**  
 X = 3,488,546.895 (NAD 83)  
 Y = 527,683.281 (NAD 83)  
 LAT: 29°56'57.82" (NAD 83)  
 LONG: 90°40'38.81" (NAD 83)

EXISTING  
 ACCESS ROUTE  
 (RED FALGOUT ST.)

EXISTING  
 ACCESS ROUTE  
 (ANGEL DRIVE)

THESE PLATS ARE TO BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR  
 THE ACQUISITION OF REGULATORY PERMITS.

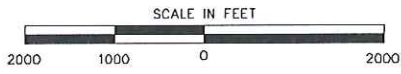
NO.	DATE	REVISION

### VICINITY MAP

## SOUTH VACHERIE BACKWATER FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT

PROPOSED BACKWATER BERM  
 FOR  
 ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT  
 SEC13 T13S-17E, SEC18 T13S-R18E  
 ST. JAMES PARISH, LOUISIANA

**T. BAKER SMITH**  
 SOLUTIONS START HERE  
 17634 Old Jefferson Hwy, Suite D-1,  
 Prairieville, LA 70769  
 (225)744-2100 - tbsmillh.com

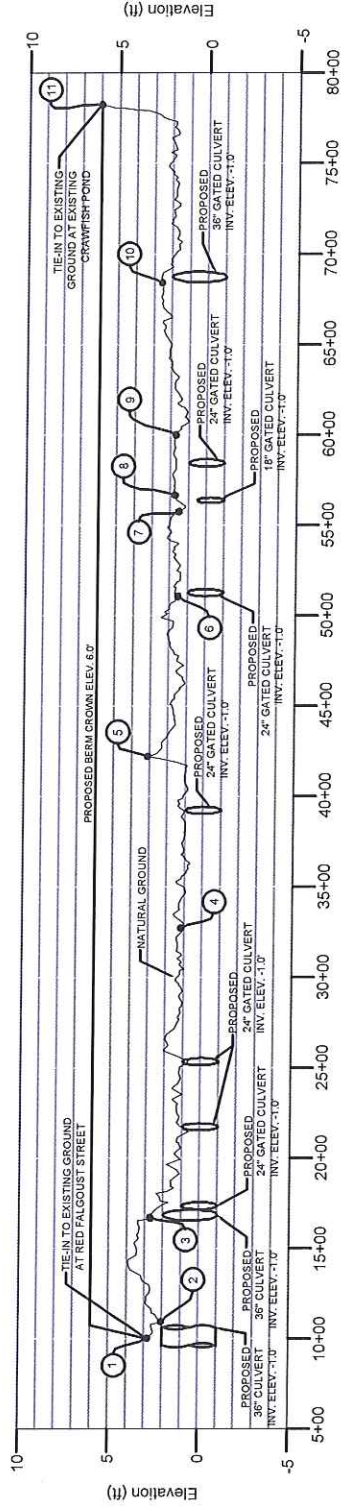
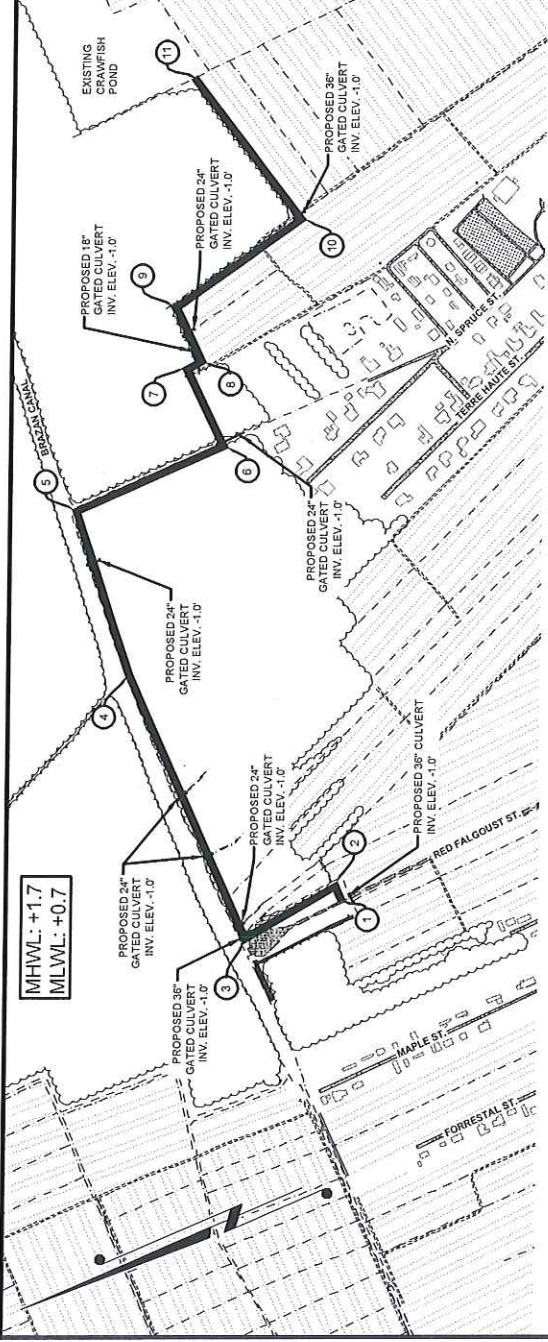


SHEET	1	OF	8
DRAWN BY:	ADS		
APPROVED BY:	KCO		
SCALE:	1" = 2,000'		
DATE:	NOVEMBER 18, 2014		
JOB NUMBER:	2010.0889		

FILE: Vicinity Map.dwg

LEGEND	
PROJECT CORRIDOR	
PAVED ROAD	
AGGREGATE ROAD	
FIELD ROAD	
TREELINE	
AGRICULTURAL FIELDS	
DITCH	
WATER FEATURE	
PROPOSED CULVERT	
BUILDING	

SCALE  
H: 1" = 1000'  
V: 1" = 10'



**T. BAKER SMITH**  
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17534 Old Jefferson Hwy, Suite D-1,  
Prairieville, LA 70789  
(225)744-2100 - tbsmith.com



SHEET	2	OF	8
DRAWN BY:	ADS		
APPROVED BY:	KCO		
SCALE:	1" = 1000'		
DATE:	NOV. 18, 2014		
JOB NUMBER:	2010.0889		

REVISION

NO. DATE

## PLAN AND PROFILE

### SOUTH VACHERIE BACKWATER FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT

PROPOSED BACKWATER BERM

FOR

ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT  
SEC13 T13S-17E, SEC18 T13S-R18E  
ST. JAMES PARISH, LOUISIANA

FILE: Plan and Profile.dwg

TREES

PROPOSED 40 LF  
24" GATED CULVERT

EXISTING BOAT LAUNCH

MHWL: +1.7  
MLWL: +0.7

~BRAZAN CANAL ~

EXISTING  
PARKING  
AREA

PROPOSED 40 LF  
24" GATED CULVERT

PROPOSED 40 LF  
24" GATED CULVERT

PROPOSED 40 LF  
24" GATED CULVERT

TREES

RED FALGOUST ST.

TREES

LIMITS OF WETLAND  
DELINEATION

40' REQUIRED  
RIGHT-OF-WAY / LIMITS  
OF CONSTRUCTION

PROPOSED 40 LF  
36" CULVERT

EXISTING BERM

MATCHLINE SHEET 3  
MATCHLINE SHEET 4

LEGEND	
PROPOSED RIGHT-OF-WAY/LIMITS OF CONSTRUCTION	---
CENTERLINE PROPOSED RIGHT-OF-WAY	---
OTHER WATERS	---
PAVED ROAD	---
AGGREGATE ROAD	---
FIELD ROAD	---
WETLANDS	---
TREELINE	---
AGRICULTURAL FIELDS	---
DITCH	---
WATER FEATURE	---
PROPOSED CULVERT	---
BUILDING	---

PROJECT COORDINATES (NAD 83)		
PNT	LONG	LAT
1	90° 41' 30.18"	29° 57' 08.07"
2	90° 41' 29.15"	29° 57' 08.09"
3	90° 41' 29.87"	29° 57' 13.77"

**TBS**  
**T. BAKER SMITH**  
 SOLUTIONS START HERE  
 17534 Old Jefferson Hwy, Suite D-1,  
 Prairieville, LA, 70769  
 (225) 744-2100 - tbsmith.com

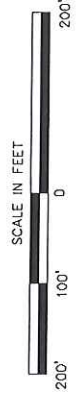
REVISION

NO. DATE

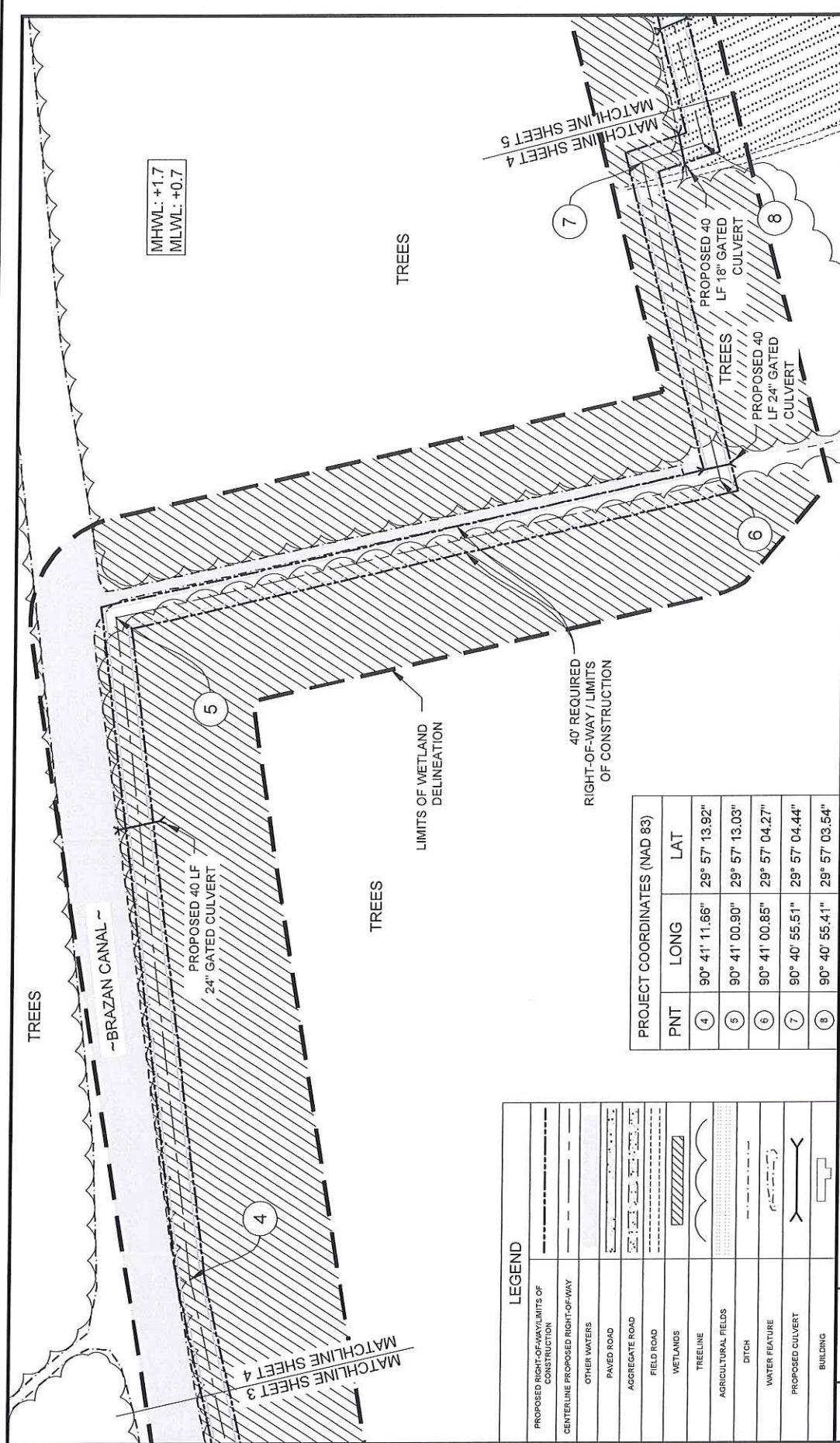
### PLAN VIEW

**SOUTH VACHERIE BACKWATER FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT**  
 FOR  
 PROPOSED BACKWATER BERM  
 ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT  
 SEC13 T13S-17E, SEC18 T13S-R18E  
 ST. JAMES PARISH, LOUISIANA

SHEET	3	OF	8
DRAWN BY:	ADS		
APPROVED BY:	KCO		
SCALE:	1" = 200'		
DATE:	NOV. 18, 2014		
JOB NUMBER:	2010.0899		



FILE: Plan View.dwg



MHWL: +1.7  
MLWL: +0.7

TRES

TRES

LIMITS OF WETLAND  
DELINEATION

40' REQUIRED  
RIGHT-OF-WAY / LIMITS  
OF CONSTRUCTION

MATCHLINE SHEET 4  
MATCHLINE SHEET 5

MATCHLINE SHEET 3  
MATCHLINE SHEET 4

PROPOSED 40  
LF 18" GATED  
CULVERT

PROPOSED 40  
LF 24" GATED  
CULVERT

6

7

8

5

4

PROJECT COORDINATES (NAD 83)			
PNT	LONG	LAT	
④	90° 41' 11.66"	29° 57' 13.92"	
⑤	90° 41' 00.90"	29° 57' 13.03"	
⑥	90° 41' 00.85"	29° 57' 04.27"	
⑦	90° 40' 55.51"	29° 57' 04.44"	
⑧	90° 40' 55.41"	29° 57' 03.54"	

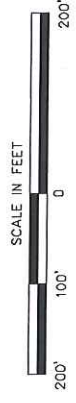
LEGEND	
PROPOSED RIGHT-OF-WAY/LIMITS OF CONSTRUCTION	---
CENTERLINE PROPOSED RIGHT-OF-WAY	---
OTHER WATERS	---
PAVED ROAD	---
AGGREGATE ROAD	---
FIELD ROAD	---
WETLANDS	---
TREELINE	---
AGRICULTURAL FIELDS	---
DITCH	---
WATER FEATURE	---
PROPOSED CULVERT	---
BUILDING	---

REVISION

**PLAN VIEW**

**SOUTH VACHERIE BACKWATER FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT**  
FOR  
PROPOSED BACKWATER BERM  
ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT  
SEC13 T13S-17E, SEC18 T13S-R18E  
ST. JAMES PARISH, LOUISIANA

**TBS**  
**T. BAKER SMITH**  
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(225)744-2100 - tbsmith.com



SHEET	4	OF	8
DRAWN BY:	ADS		
APPROVED BY:	KCO		
SCALE:	1" = 200'		
DATE:	NOV. 18, 2014		
JOB NUMBER:	2010.0889		

FILE: Plan View.dwg

MATCHLINE SHEET 4  
MATCHLINE SHEET 5

TREES

PROPOSED 40 LF  
24" GATED CULVERT

9

40' REQUIRED  
RIGHT-OF-WAY / LIMITS  
OF CONSTRUCTION

LIMITS OF WETLANDS  
DELINEATION

TREES

PROPOSED 40 LF  
36" GATED CULVERT

10

11

EXISTING CRAWFISH POND

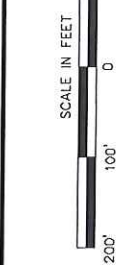
PROJECT COORDINATES (NAD 83)		
PNT	LONG	LAT
9	90° 40' 51.64"	29° 57' 03.65"
10	90° 40' 49.69"	29° 56' 55.48"
11	90° 40' 38.80"	29° 56' 57.82"

LEGEND

PROPOSED RIGHT-OF-WAY/LIMITS OF CONSTRUCTION	---
CENTERLINE PROPOSED RIGHT-OF-WAY	---
OTHER WATERWAYS	---
PAVED ROAD	---
AGGREGATE ROAD	---
FIELD ROAD	---
WETLANDS	---
TREELINE	---
AGRICULTURAL FIELDS	---
DITCH	---
WATER FEATURE	---
PROPOSED CULVERT	---
BUILDING	---



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SHEET	5	OF	8
DRAWN BY:	ADS		
APPROVED BY:	KCO		
SCALE:	1" = 200'		
DATE:	NOV. 18, 2014		
JOB NUMBER:	2010.0889		

REVISION

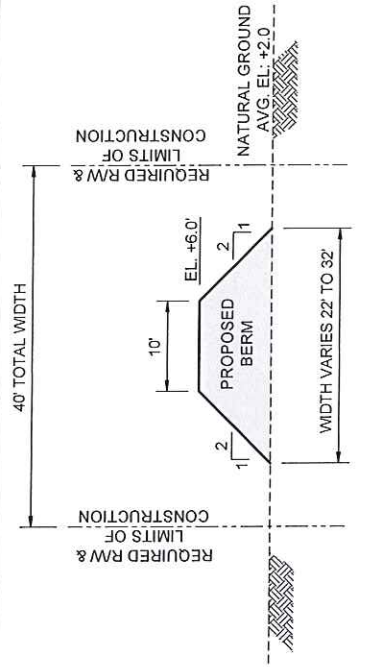
NO. DATE

PLAN VIEW

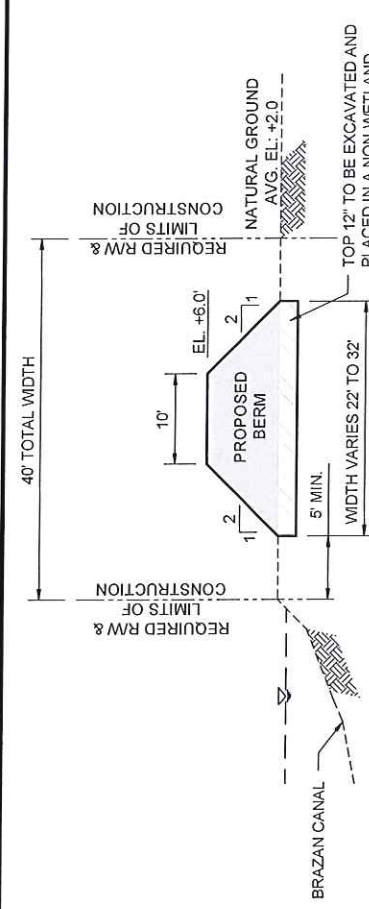
**SOUTH VACHERIE BACKWATER FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT**  
PROPOSED BACKWATER BERM  
FOR  
ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT  
SEC13 T13S-17E, SEC18 T13S-R18E  
ST. JAMES PARISH, LOUISIANA

FILE: Plan View.dwg

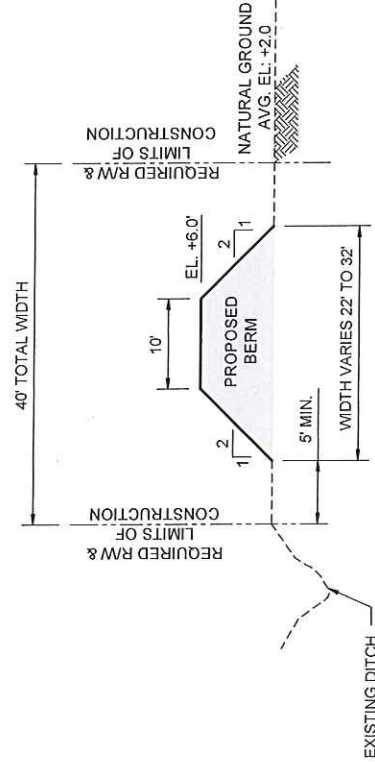




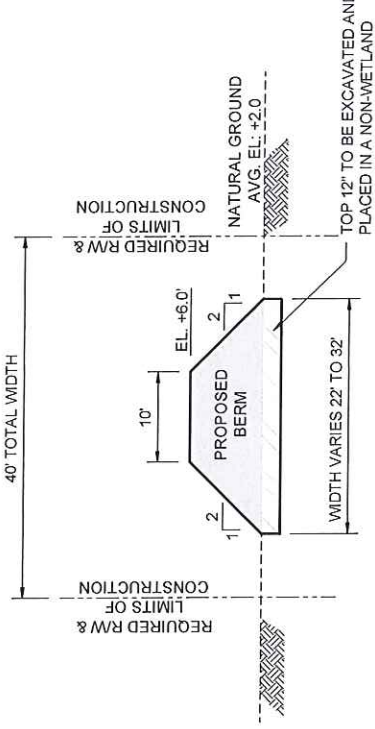
**BERM TYPICAL SECTION**  
**APPLIES: POINTS 1-3, 8-11**  
**2,829 LF TOTAL**



**BERM TYPICAL SECTION**  
**APPLIES: POINTS 3-5**  
**2,552 LF TOTAL**



**BERM TYPICAL SECTION**  
**APPLIES: POINTS 5-6**  
**886 LF TOTAL**



**BERM TYPICAL SECTION**  
**APPLIES: POINTS 6-8**  
**561 LF TOTAL**

- NOTES:**
1. NATURAL GROUND ELEVATIONS VARY FROM +0.5' TO +3.0
  2. AVG. NATURAL GROUND ELEVATION +2.0 USED TO DETERMINE EXCAVATION AND FILL QUANTITIES
  3. TOP OF BERM FINISHED GRADE ELEVATION = +6.0'

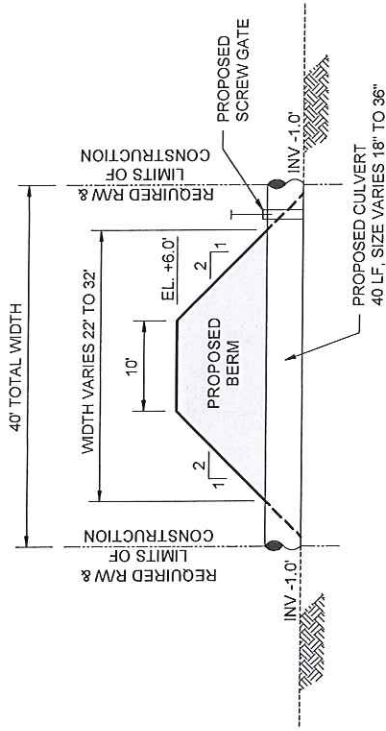
NO.	DATE	REVISION
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**TYPICAL SECTIONS**

**SOUTH VACHERIE BACKWATER FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT**  
 PROPOSED BACKWATER BERM  
 FOR  
 ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT  
 SEC13 T13S-17E, SEC18 T13S-R18E  
 ST. JAMES PARISH, LOUISIANA

**T. BAKER SMITH**  
**SOLUTIONS START HERE**  
 17534 Old Jefferson Hwy, Suite D-1,  
 Prairieville, LA, 70769  
 (225)744-2100 - tbsmith.com

SHEET	6	OF	8
DRAWN BY:	ADS		
APPROVED BY:	KCO		
SCALE:	N.T.S.		
DATE:	DEC. 28, 2014		
JOB NUMBER:	2010.0889		



TYPICAL CULVERT CROSS SECTION

NO.	DATE	REVISION

**TYPICAL SECTIONS**

**SOUTH VACHERIE BACKWATER FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT**  
 PROPOSED BACKWATER BERM  
 FOR  
 ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT  
 SEC13 T13S-17E, SEC18 T13S-R18E  
 ST. JAMES PARISH, LOUISIANA



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 17534 Old Jefferson Hwy, Suite D-1,  
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 (225)744-2100 - tbsm@tbs.com

SHEET	7	OF	8
DRAWN BY:	ADS		
APPROVED BY:	KCO		
SCALE:	N.T.S.		
DATE:	NOV. 18, 2014		
JOB NUMBER:	2010.0889		

FILE: Typical Section.dwg

**COASTAL NOTES:**

IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF ALL PARTIES, THE PERMITEE SHALL CONTACT THE LOUISIANA ONE CALL SYSTEM (1-800-272-3020) A MINIMUM OF 48 HOURS PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF ANY EXCAVATION (DIGGING, DREDGING, JETTING, ETC.) OR DEMOLITION ACTIVITY.

THE PERMITEE SHALL ALSO CONTACT OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES THAT MAY HAVE OPTED OUT OF THE ONE CALL PROGRAM . THESE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES MAY HAVE OPERATIONS LOCATED IN THE AREA OF THIS PROJECT.

ALL STRUCTURES WILL BE MARKED AND LIGHTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH U.S. COAST GUARD REGULATIONS.

**NOTES:**

1. IMPACTED TREES TO BE CHIPPED AND HAULED OFF TO AN APPROVED DISPOSAL SITE.
2. EQUIPMENT TO BE USED: BULLDOZER, BACKHOE, DUMP TRUCKS, AND EXCAVATOR.

**GATE OPERATIONAL PLAN:**

ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR OPERATING AND MAINTAINING CULVERT GATES. CLOSING THE GATES SHALL BE DETERMINED BY MONITORING THE COASTWIDE REFERENCE MONITORING SYSTEM (CRMS) STATION 3136-H01 (WWW.LACOAST.GOV/CRMS) AT THE EASTERN END OF BRAZAN CANAL WHERE IT ENTERS LAC DES ALLEMANDS. ONCE THE WATER LEVEL READING EXCEEDS THE 90% WATER LEVEL (APPROXIMATELY EL +2.0' NAVD88) THE PARISH SHALL EVALUATE THE NEED TO CLOSE THE GATES BASED ON CURRENT WEATHER FORECAST AND EXPECTED IMPACTS ON WATER LEVELS IN LAC DES ALLEMANDS. IF CONDITIONS INDICATE THE WATER LEVELS WILL CONTINUE TO RISE, THE GATES WILL BE CLOSED. GATES WILL REMAIN CLOSED UNTIL WATER LEVELS IN BRAZAN CANAL ARE TRENDING DOWN AND HAVE RECEDED BELOW EL +2.0' NAVD88 OR UNTIL WATER FROM THE PROTECTED SIDE OF THE BERM CAN BE DRAINED BY GRAVITY INTO THE CANAL, WHICH EVER CONDITION COMES FIRST.

**SUMMARY OF IMPACTS**

	AREA OF EXCAVATION (AC)	VOLUME OF EXCAVATION (CY)	AREA OF FILL (AC)	VOLUME OF FILL (CY)
WETLANDS	3.17	2,998	2.08	11,299
OTHER WATERS	0	0	0.04	144
NON-WETLANDS	0	0	1.95	9,907
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3.17</b>	<b>2,998</b>	<b>4.07</b>	<b>21,350</b>

**SUMMARY OF IMPACTS:**

1. A TOTAL OF 2,998 CUBIC YARDS OF NATIVE MATERIAL WILL BE EXCAVATED AND HAULED OFF TO AN APPROVED DISPOSAL SITE.
2. APPROXIMATELY 3.17 ACRES OF WETLANDS WILL BE PERMANENTLY IMPACTED BY THIS PROJECT.
3. APPROXIMATELY 0.04 ACRES OF OTHER WATERS WILL BE PERMANENTLY IMPACTED BY THIS PROJECT.

NO. DATE

REVISION

**QUANTITIES & NOTES**

**SOUTH VACHERIE BACKWATER FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT**

PROPOSED BACKWATER BERM  
FOR

ST. JAMES PARISH GOVERNMENT  
SEC13 T13S-17E, SEC18 T13S-R18E  
ST. JAMES PARISH, LOUISIANA



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(225)744-2100 - tbsmith.com

SHEET	8	OF	8
DRAWN BY:	ADS		
APPROVED BY:	KCO		
SCALE:	N.T.S.		
DATE:	DEC. 29, 2014		
JOB NUMBER:	2010.0689		

FILE: Notes.dwg