JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

May 30, 2016

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 MVN 2016-0051-CQ (225) 219-3225
Project Manager
Ms. Elizabeth Johnson
WQC Application Number
WQC 160321-03

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).

PERFORM LEVEE IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING LOWER DULARGE EAST LEVEE SYSTEM NEAR THERIOT, LOUISIANA IN TERREBONNE PARISH

NAME OF APPLICANT: Terrebonne Levee and Conservation District, c/o CB&I, Attn: Ms. Charlotte Liner, 197 Elysian Drive, Houma, Louisiana 70363.

LOCATION OF WORK: Located along an existing approximate 38,700-linear foot levee along LA Highway 315, proceeding southerly from its intersection with Falgout Canal Road, in Sections 24, 25, 35, 36, Township 19 South, Range 16 East, and in Sections 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, Township 20 South, Range 16 East, within the West Central Louisiana Coastal hydrologic unit (HUC 08090302), located south of Falgout Canal, near Theriot, Louisiana, in TERREBONNE Parish, as shown on the enclosed drawings (Latitude 29.40917 N Longitude -90.77943 W).

CHARACTER OF WORK: Perform levee improvements to the existing Lower Dularge East Levee System. The proposed project will recontour the existing levee system by raising the elevation from a +6.0 foot elevation to a +12 foot elevation with a +10 foot settlement. Approximately 1,085,000 cubic yards of native material are proposed to be placed on site as fill during construction activities. Approximately 970,000 cubic yards of native fill material is to be hauled in and 115,000 cubic yards of native material is to be excavated from the existing levee and placed as fill for the proposed levee improvements. Approximately 28 acres of potentially jurisdictional non-vegetated waterbottoms, and 44 acres of potentially jurisdictional wetlands would be directly impacted as a result of project implementation. A jurisdictional determination request is currently pending. The applicant has designed the project to avoid and minimize direct and secondary adverse impacts to the maximum extent practicable and is proposing to utilize the existing levee to the maximum extent practicable. The applicant has proposing to

mitigate for project impacts by purchasing credits at a Corps approved bank or by submitting a permittee responsible mitigation plan (PRMP). If the applicant submits a PRMP to offset project related impacts, an addendum Public Notice will be issued for review.

The comment period for the Department of Army Permit and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality 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 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. Copies of this notice are being sent to the State Archeologist and State Historic Preservation Officer.

Our initial finding is that the proposed work would not affect any species, nor affect any habitat designated as critical to the survival and recovery of such species, listed as endangered by the U.S. Department of Commerce.

The proposed activity is located in areas known to be utilized by the West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*). 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 is not likely to adversely affect this 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 <u>72</u> 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.

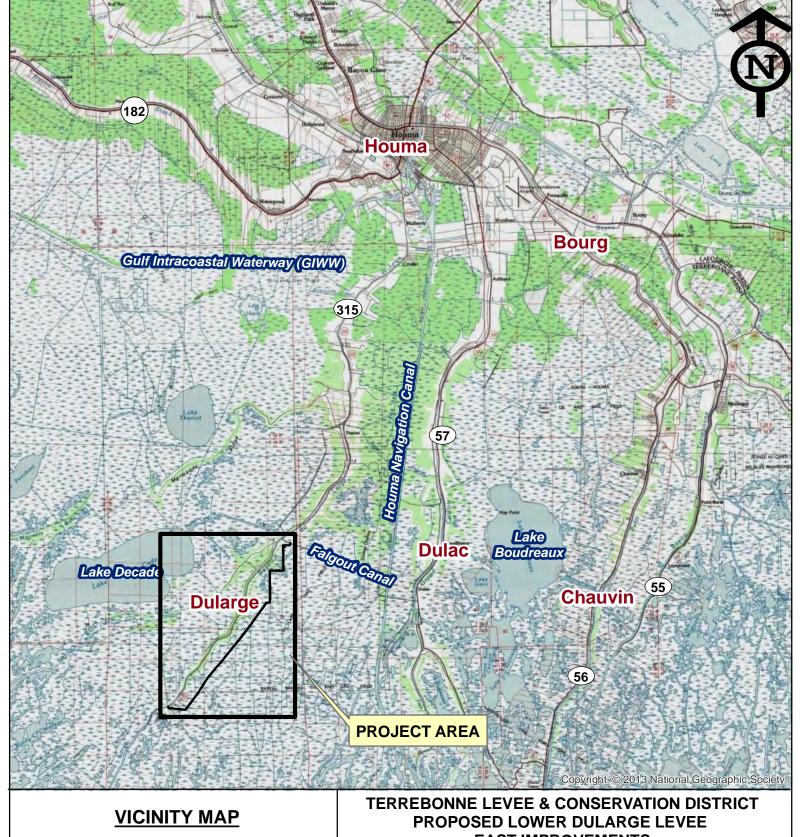
If the proposed work involves deposits of dredged or fill material into navigable waters, the evaluation of the probable impacts will include the application of guidelines established by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Also, a certification that the proposed activity will not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

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

Enclosure



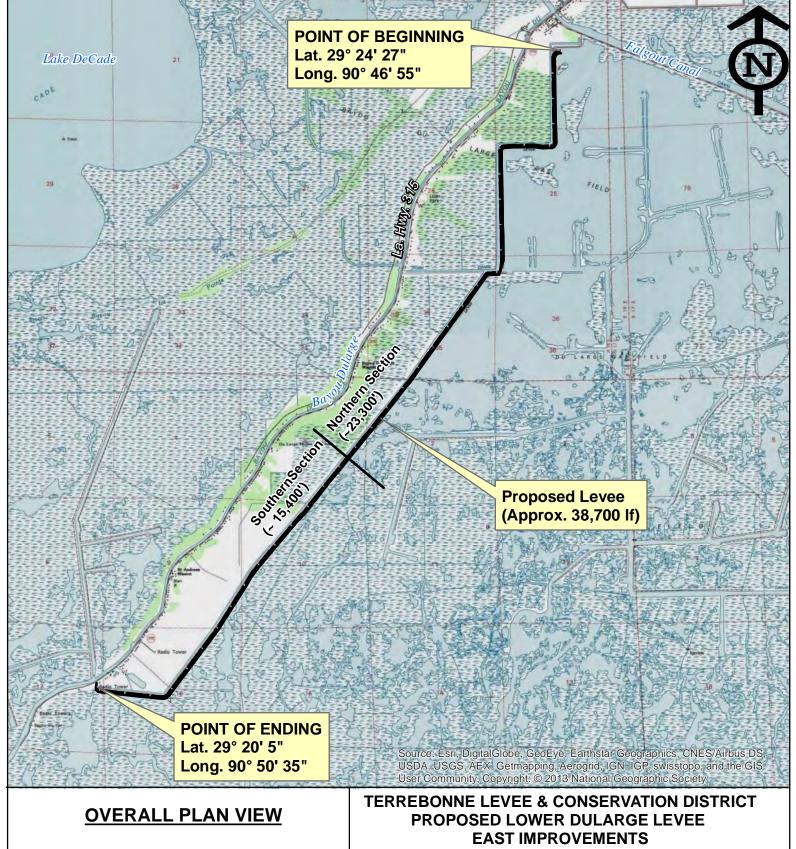
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SECTIONS 3, 4, 9, 16, & 17, T20S - R16E TERREBONNE PARISH, LOUISIANA

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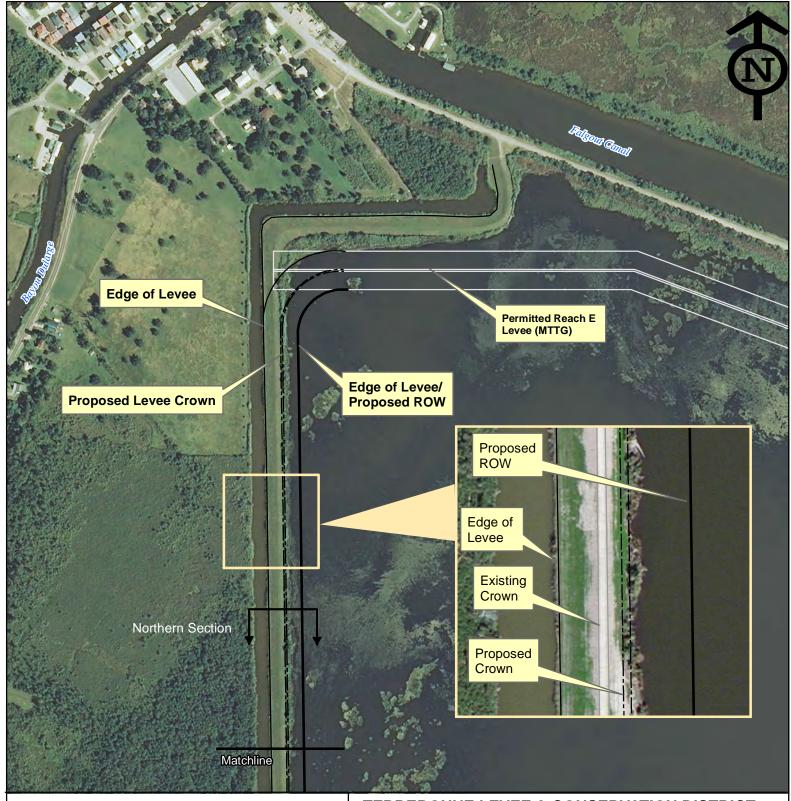
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SECTIONS 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, & 17, T20S - R16E
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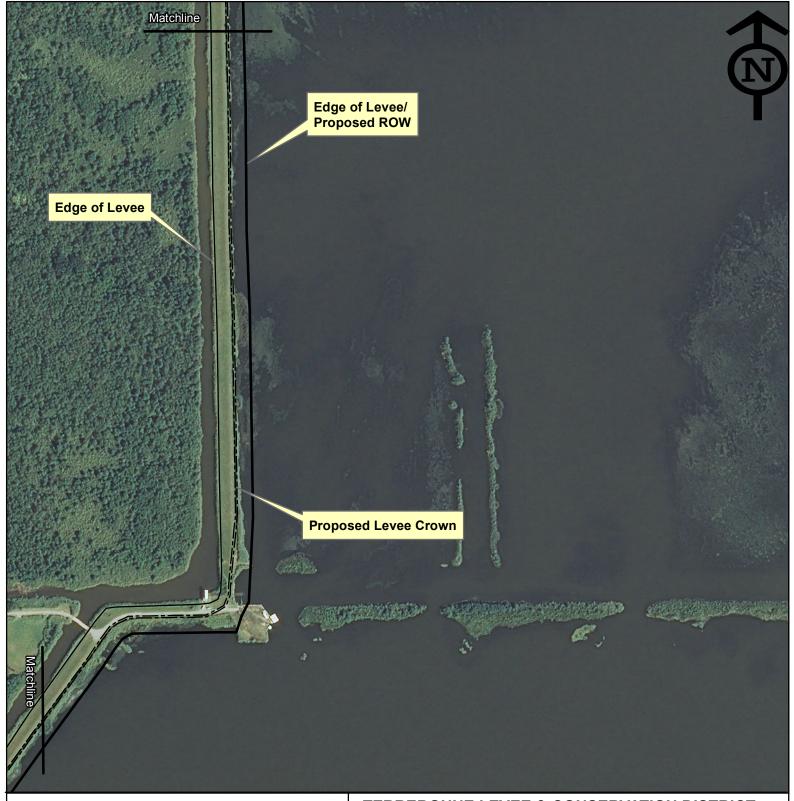




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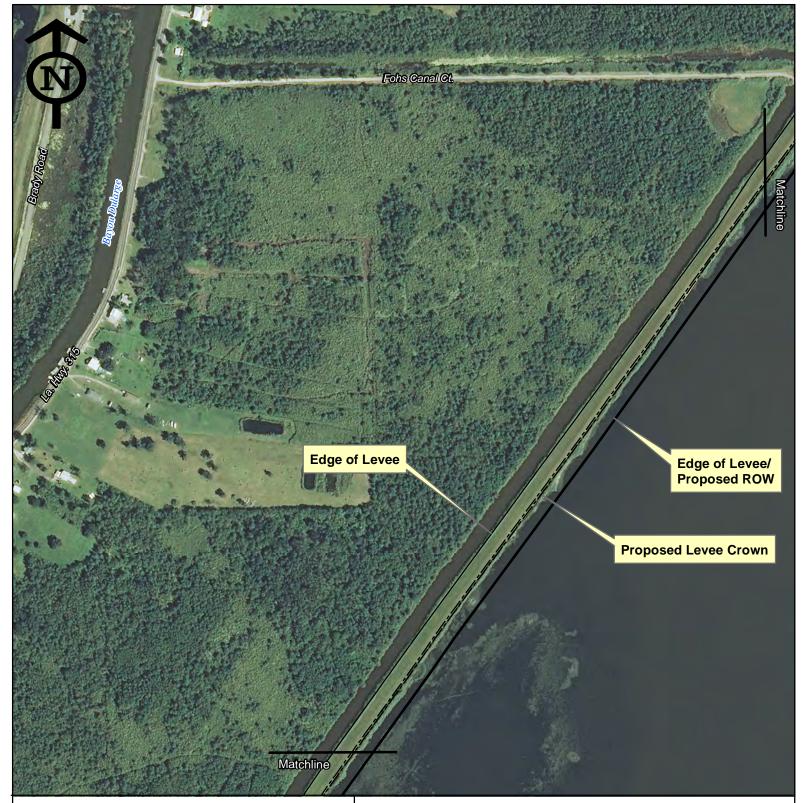


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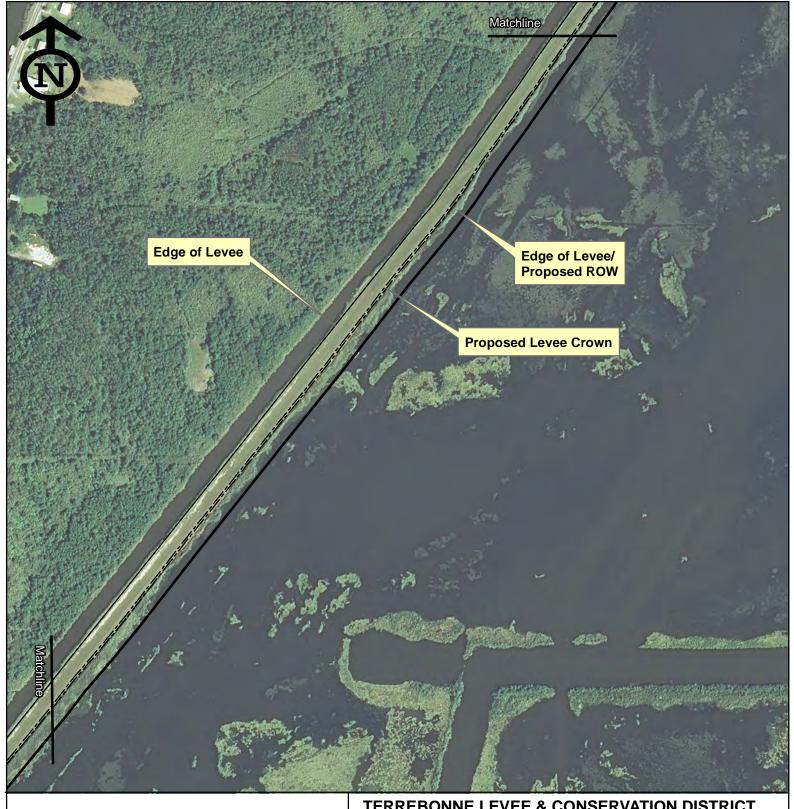


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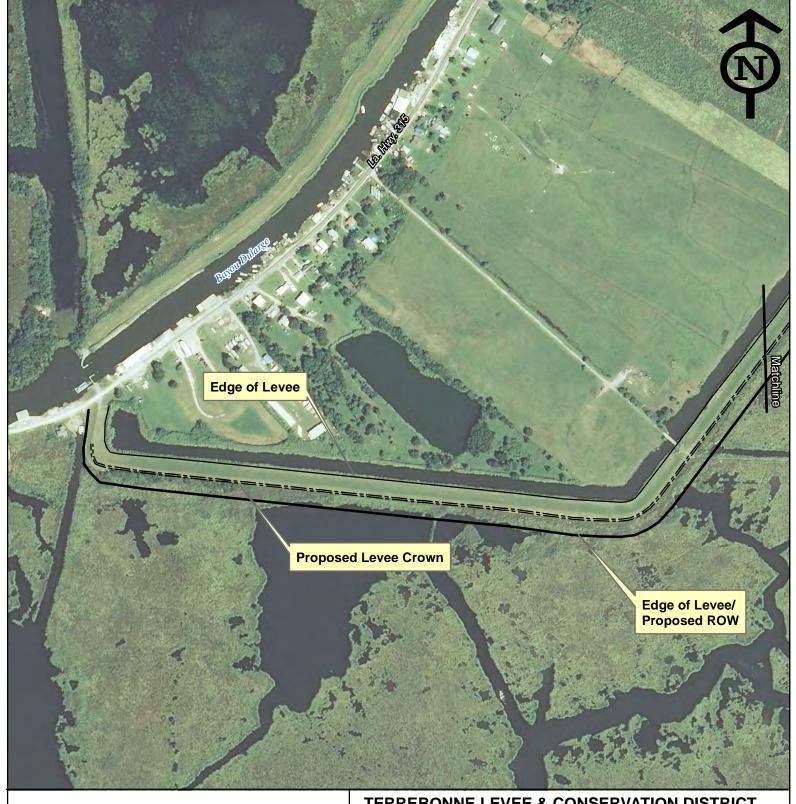


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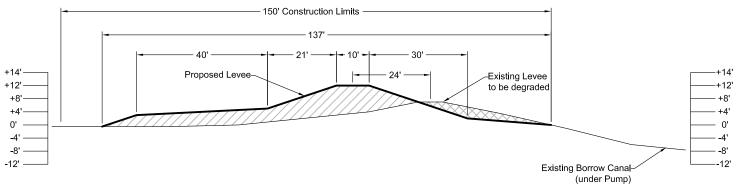


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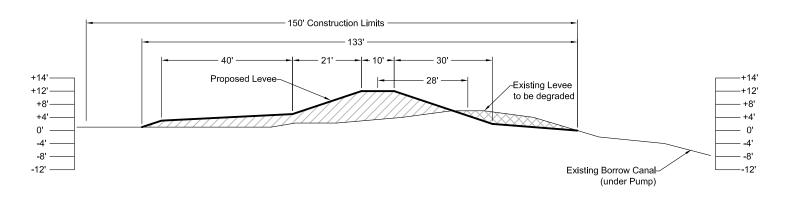
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NORTHERN SECTION



SOUTHERN SECTION

TYPICAL CROSS SECTIONS

TERREBONNE LEVEE & CONSERVATION DISTRICT
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SECTIONS 24, 25, 35 & 36, T19S - 16E
SECTIONS 2, 3, 9, 10, 16 & 17, T20S - R16E
TERREBONNE PARISH, LOUISIANA

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NOTES:

APPROXIMATELY 42 ACRES OF WETLANDS WILL BE IMPACTED BY THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE LEVEE IMPROVEMENTS.

NO WORK WILL BE DONE OUTSIDE OF THE RIGHT OF WAY SHOWN ON THE PLAN VIEW SHEETS.

APPROXIMATELY 970,000 CUBIC YARDS OF MATERIAL WILL BE HAULED IN TO CONSTRUCT THE IMPROVEMENTS. APPROXIMATELY 115,000 CUBIC YARDS WILL BE DREGRADED FROM THE EXISTING LEVEE AND USED FOR THE IMPROVEMENTS.

NOTES

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