

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

September 4, 2018

United States Army
Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District
Regulatory Branch
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70118

State of Louisiana
Department of Environmental Quality
Water Permits Division
Post Office Box 4313
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4313

(504) 862-1217
Project Manager
Kenny Blanke
Kenneth.G.Blanke@usace.army.mil
MVN 2018-0135-CQ

(225) 219-3225
Project Manager
Ms. Elizabeth Hill
WQC Application Number
WQC 180815-01

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).

BOX CULVERT INSTALLATION TO CONSTRUCT FISH BAYOU HYDROLOGIC DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT NEAR PRAIRIEVILLE, LOUISIANA IN ASCENSION PARISH

NAME OF APPLICANT: Ascension Parish, c/o ELOS Environmental, LLC, Attn: Brian Fortson, 43177 East Pleasant Ridge Road, Hammond, Louisiana 70403.

LOCATION OF WORK: Located along at approximate address of 36000 Alligator Bayou Road, in Section 28, Township 8 South, Range 2 East, near the confluence of Fish Bayou and Bayou Manchac, near Prairieville, Louisiana, located in Ascension Parish, as shown on the enclosed drawings (Latitude 30.3237 N Longitude -91.0179 W). This project is located in the Pontchartrain Basin (Amite River HUC 08070202).

CHARACTER OF WORK: The applicant is requesting a Department of the Army permit authorization for the installation and maintenance of a drainage control structure comprised of two (2) (12-foot x 12-foot) box culverts with sluice gates and rock armoring on either side. The proposed structure is proposing to connect Bluff Swamp to Bayou Manchac and is located along Alligator Road. The project proposes to help improve drainage of the Bluff Swamp through restoring the conveyance of Fish Bayou into Bayou Manchac through the box culverts. Sluice gates would be installed on the box culverts to help control the flow from Bluff Swamp into Bayou Manchac events during flood events when water elevations within Bayou Manchac are low enough to open the structure and to prevent backwater flooding from Bayou Manchac into Bluff Swamp during high water events. Approximately 0.08 acre of jurisdictional forested wetlands and 0.1 acre of jurisdictional Other Waters of the United States would be directly impacted as a result of project implementation. Approximately 586 cubic yards of rip rap material, 400 cubic yards of clay material, and 256 cubic yards of gravel/asphalt material would be placed as fill material during project implementation. The applicant has claimed that the

project has been designed to avoid and minimize direct and secondary adverse wetland impacts to the maximum extent practicable. The applicant is proposing to utilize best management practices during and after the construction phase of the project. The applicant has stated that all impacts to jurisdictional wetlands would be mitigated through the purchase of mitigation bank credits at a Corps approved mitigation bank.

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 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, 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 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 with the proposed activity will have no effect on any listed species.

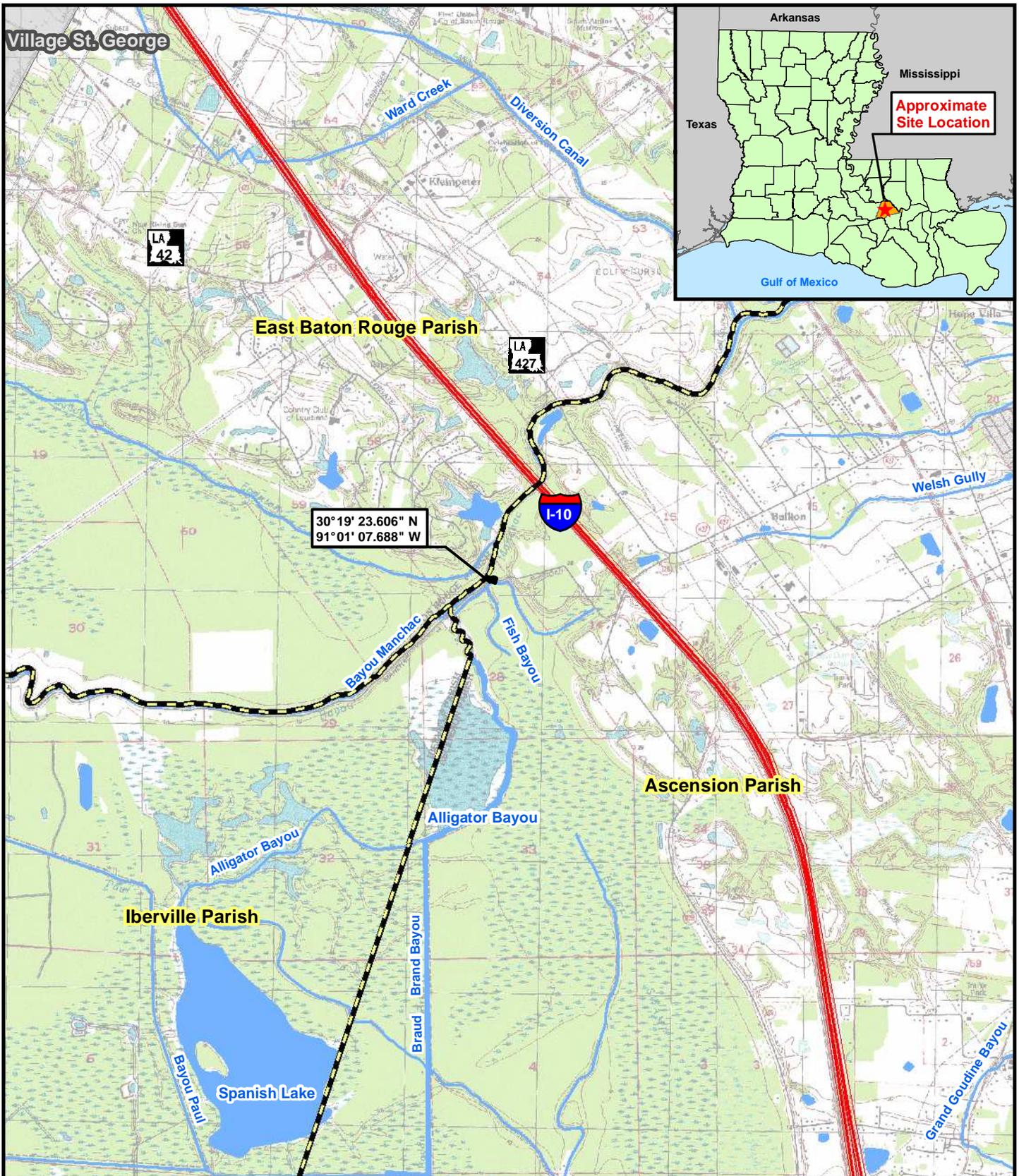
This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The applicant's proposal would result in the destruction or alteration of NA acres of EFH utilized by various life stages of red drum and penaeid shrimp. Our 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



ELOS
environmental
43177 East Pleasant Ridge Road
Hammond, Louisiana 70403
P. 985-662-5501, F. 985-662-5504

0 2,500 5,000 Feet

Figure 1: TopoVicinity Map

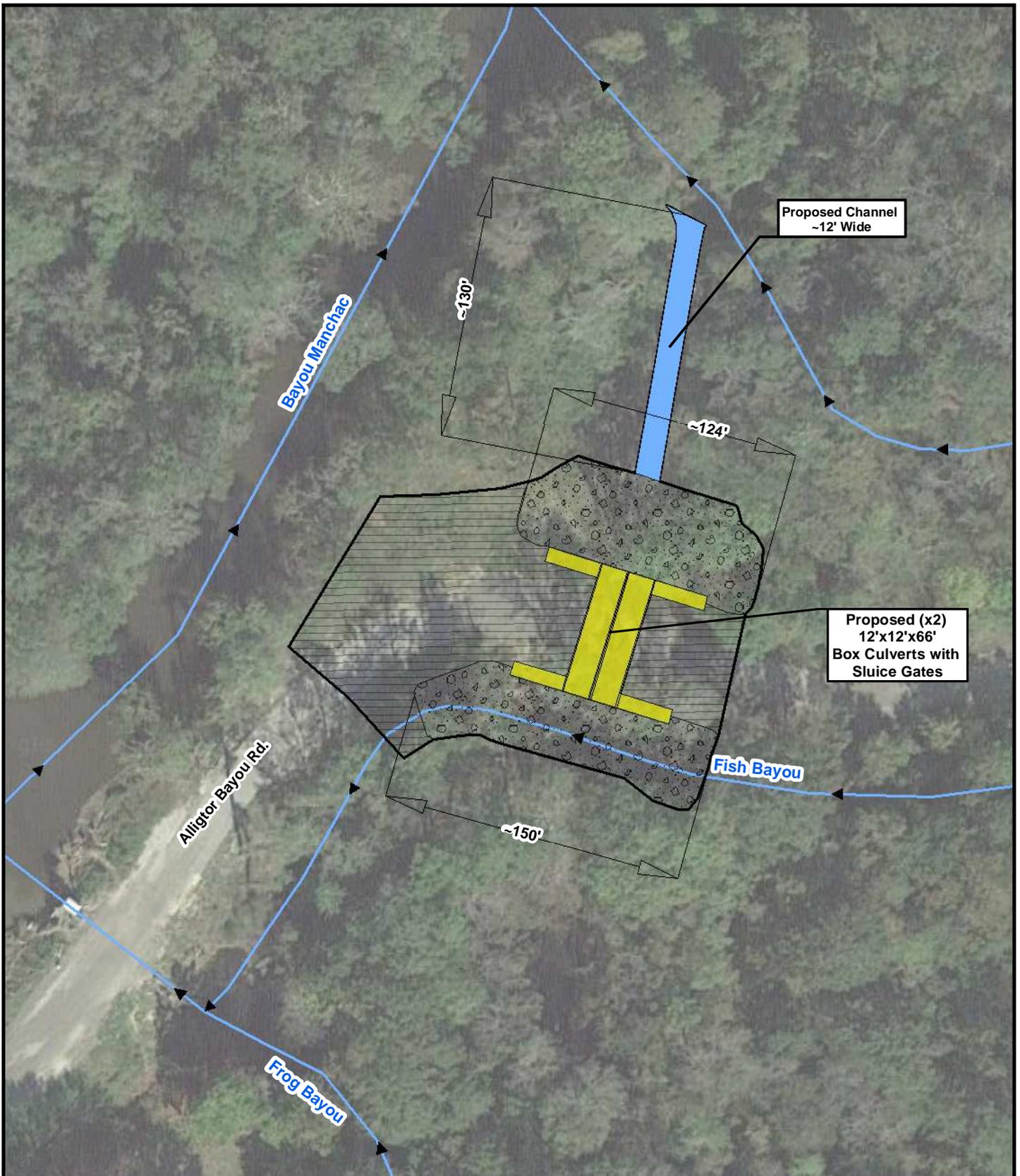
Fish Bayou

Legend:

- Site Outline
- Parish Boundary
- City/Town
- Interstate
- Roadway
- Stream/River
- Waterbody

Section: 28
Township: 08 South
Range: 02 East

This figure was prepared utilizing public and proprietary data. It should not be used to establish any legal boundaries or specific locations. ELOS Environmental, L.L.C., is not responsible for any usage of this figure contrary to its original, intended purpose.




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0 40 80 Feet



Figure 2: Plan View

Fish Bayou

Legend:

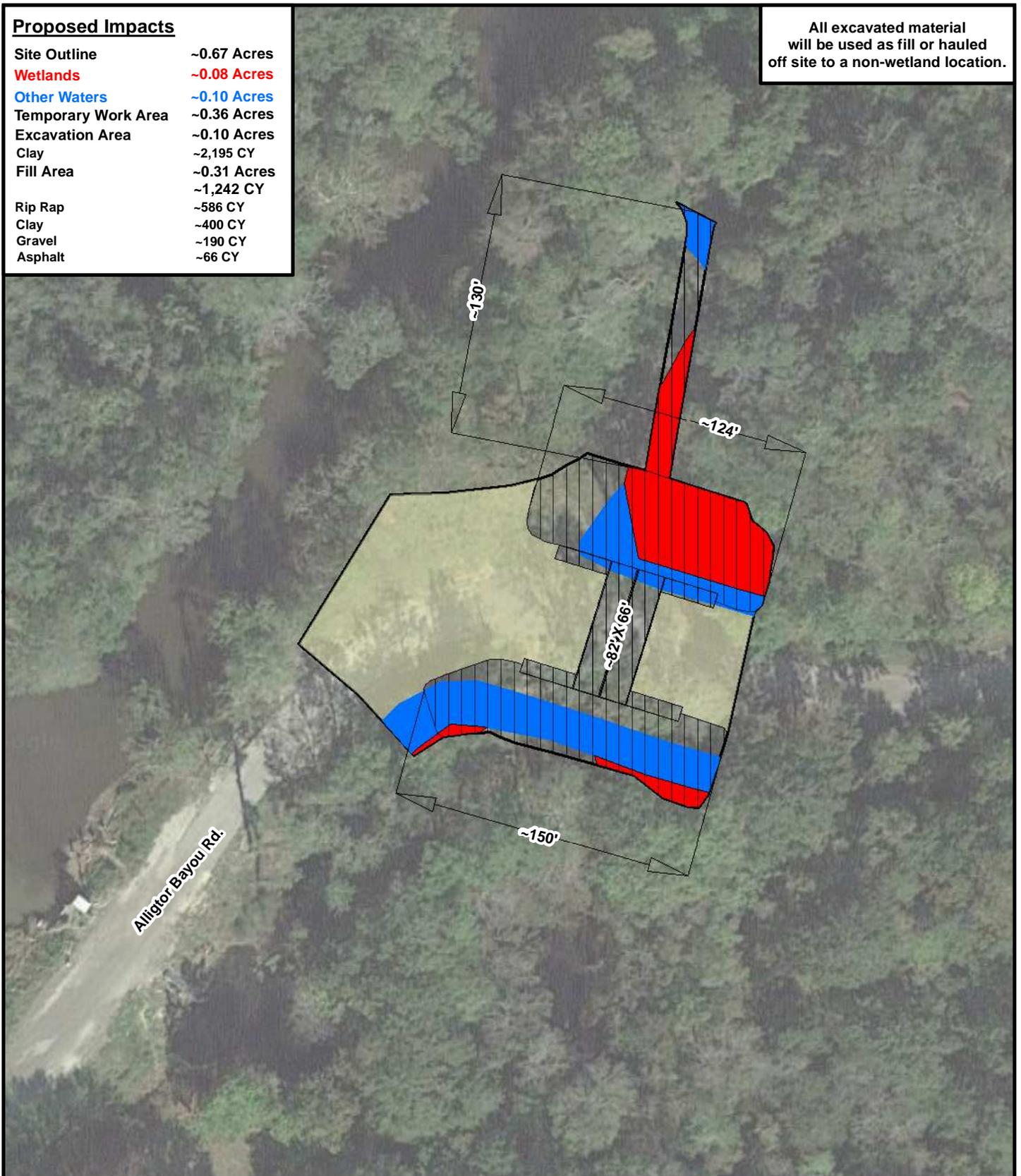
-  Site Outline
-  Proposed Rock Armoring
-  Proposed Drainage Control Structure
-  Proposed_Channel
-  Temporary Work Area
-  Existing Drainage Flow

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Proposed Impacts

Site Outline	~0.67 Acres
Wetlands	~0.08 Acres
Other Waters	~0.10 Acres
Temporary Work Area	~0.36 Acres
Excavation Area	~0.10 Acres
Clay	~2,195 CY
Fill Area	~0.31 Acres
	~1,242 CY
Rip Rap	~586 CY
Clay	~400 CY
Gravel	~190 CY
Asphalt	~66 CY

All excavated material will be used as fill or hauled off site to a non-wetland location.



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Legend:

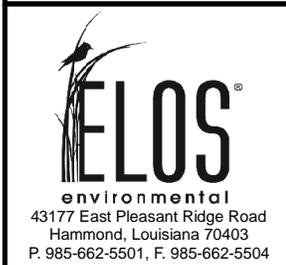
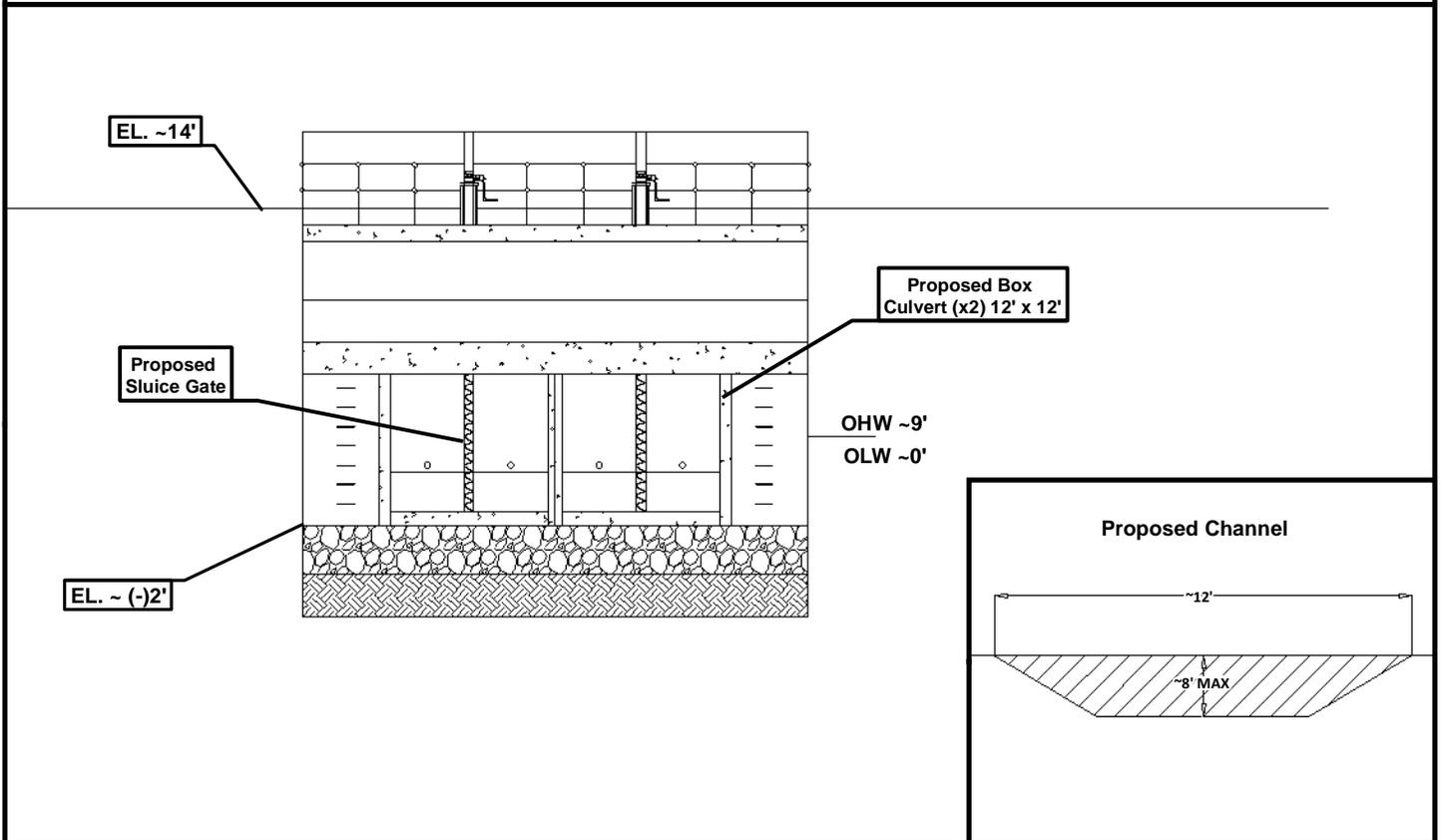
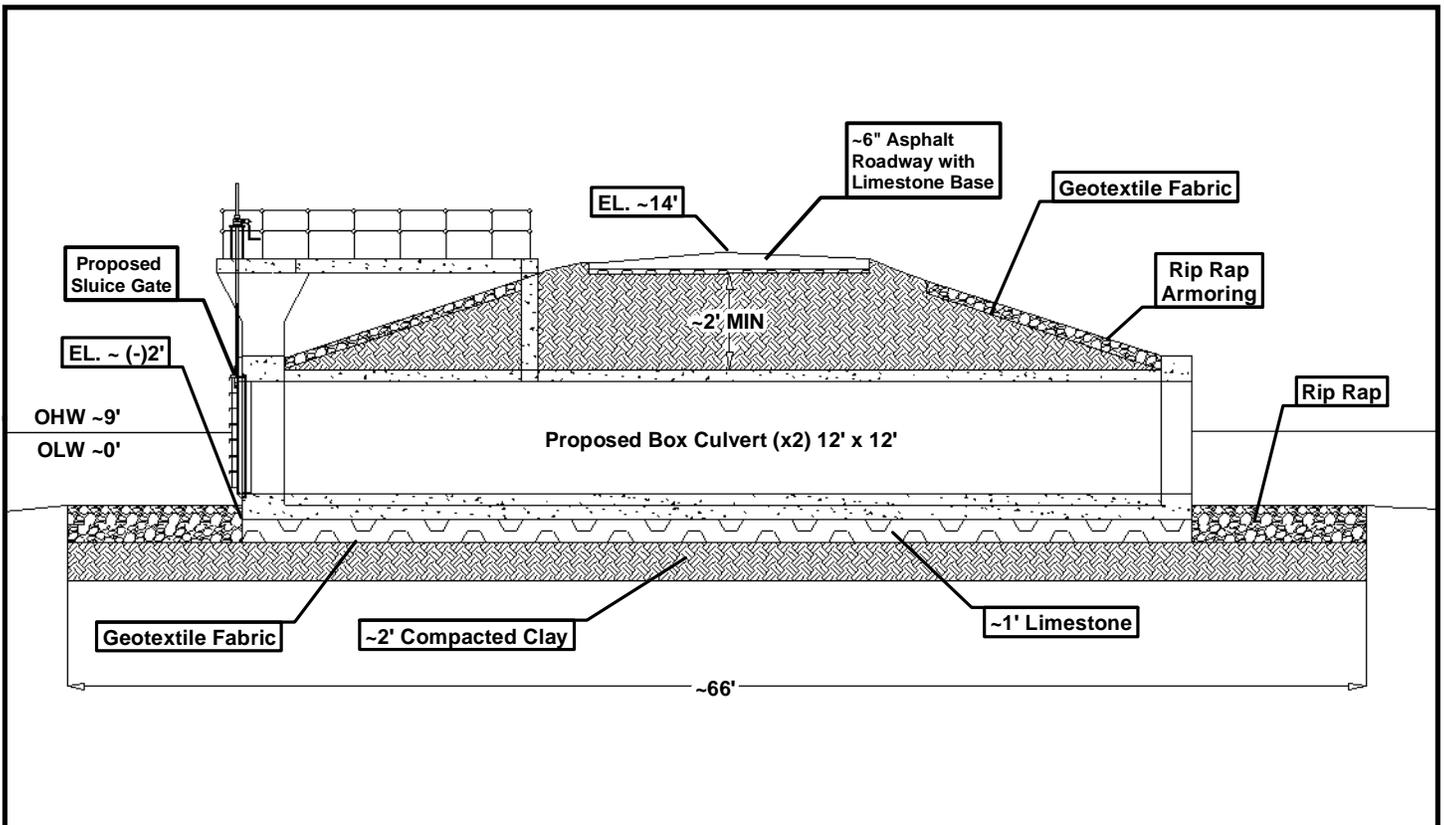
- Site Outline
- Other Water Impacts
- Proposed Excavation/Fill Area
- Wetland Impacts
- Temporary Work Area

Figure 3: Proposed Impacts

Refer to MVN-2018-00135-SK

Fish Bayou

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Scale = Not to Scale

Figure 4: Typical Section

Fish Bayou

Proposed Impacts		Fill Area	~0.31 Acres
Site Outline	~0.67 Acres	Rip Rap	~1,242 CY
Wetlands	~0.08 Acres	Clay	~400 CY
Other Waters	~0.10 Acres	Gravel	~190 CY
Temporary Work Area	~0.32 Acres	Asphalt	~66 CY
Excavation Area	~0.10 Acres		
Clay	~2,195 CY		

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