

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

January 18, 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 2014-0363-CQ

(225) 219-3225
Project Manager
Ms. Elizabeth Hill
WQC Application Number
WQC 151223-01

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 FOR DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS IN ASCENSION PARISH

NAME OF APPLICANT: East Ascension Consolidated Drainage District #1, c/o Natural Resource Professionals, LLC, Attn: Gregg Fell, 7478 Highland Road, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808.

LOCATION OF WORK: Located along the intersection of Frog Bayou and Bayou Manchac, in Section 33, Township 9 South, Range 3 East, located along Bayou Manchac/Alligator Bayou Road, near Prairieville, Louisiana, in ASCENSION Parish, as shown on the enclosed drawings (Latitude 30.323369 N Longitude -91.018111 W). This project is located in USGS Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 08070202- Amite River HUC.

CHARACTER OF WORK: Install two (2) 10' x 10' x 75' box culverts and appurtenant structures adjacent to an existing 6' x 6' x 75' box culvert beneath the existing Alligator Bayou/ Bayou Manchac Road. The drainage improvement project proposes to improve the conveyance of Frog Bayou into Bayou Manchac during flood events when Bayou Manchac is low enough to open the Frog Bayou box culverts and associated floodgates/sluice gates. Approximately 0.054 acre of the 0.9 acre project site are located below the Ordinary High Water Mark of Bayou Manchac. Approximately 900 cubic yards of native water bottoms would be excavated and ten (10) 20-inch x 20' timber pilings would be installed for the two new box culverts. Approximately 30 cubic yards of aggregate base, 80 cubic yards of concrete/asphalt, 300 cubic yards of native fill material, and 185 cubic yards of rip rap material would be placed as fill material for the project. Sluice gate structures are proposed to remain open at all times except when the USGS Bayou Manchac gage is ≥ 5.0 feet NAVD 88. The applicant has claimed that the project has been designed to avoid and minimize impacts as much as possible. The project currently

proposes impacts to Other Waters of the U.S. and, therefore, compensatory mitigation is not anticipated.

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.

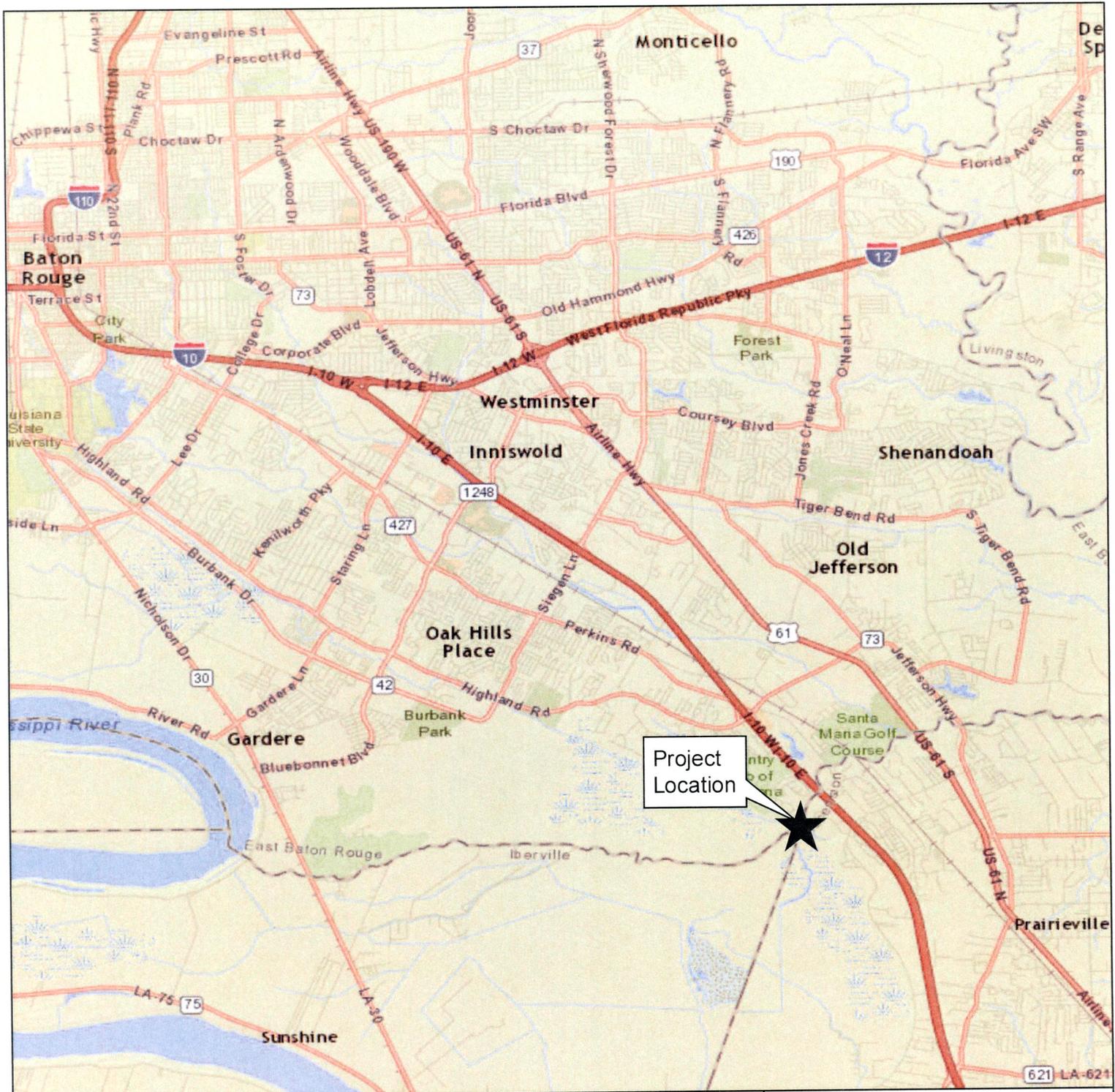
If the proposed work involves deposits of dredged or fill material into navigable waters, the evaluation of the probable impacts will include the application of guidelines established by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Also, a certification that the proposed activity will not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

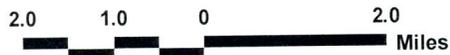


Legend

 Project Area

Map Notes:

1. Topographic map provided by ArcGIS.
2. The boundary shown is based on the boundary survey provided by the client.



East Ascension
Consolidated Gravity Drainage District #1
Gonzales, LA

VICINITY MAP

ASCENSION PARISH, LOUISIANA

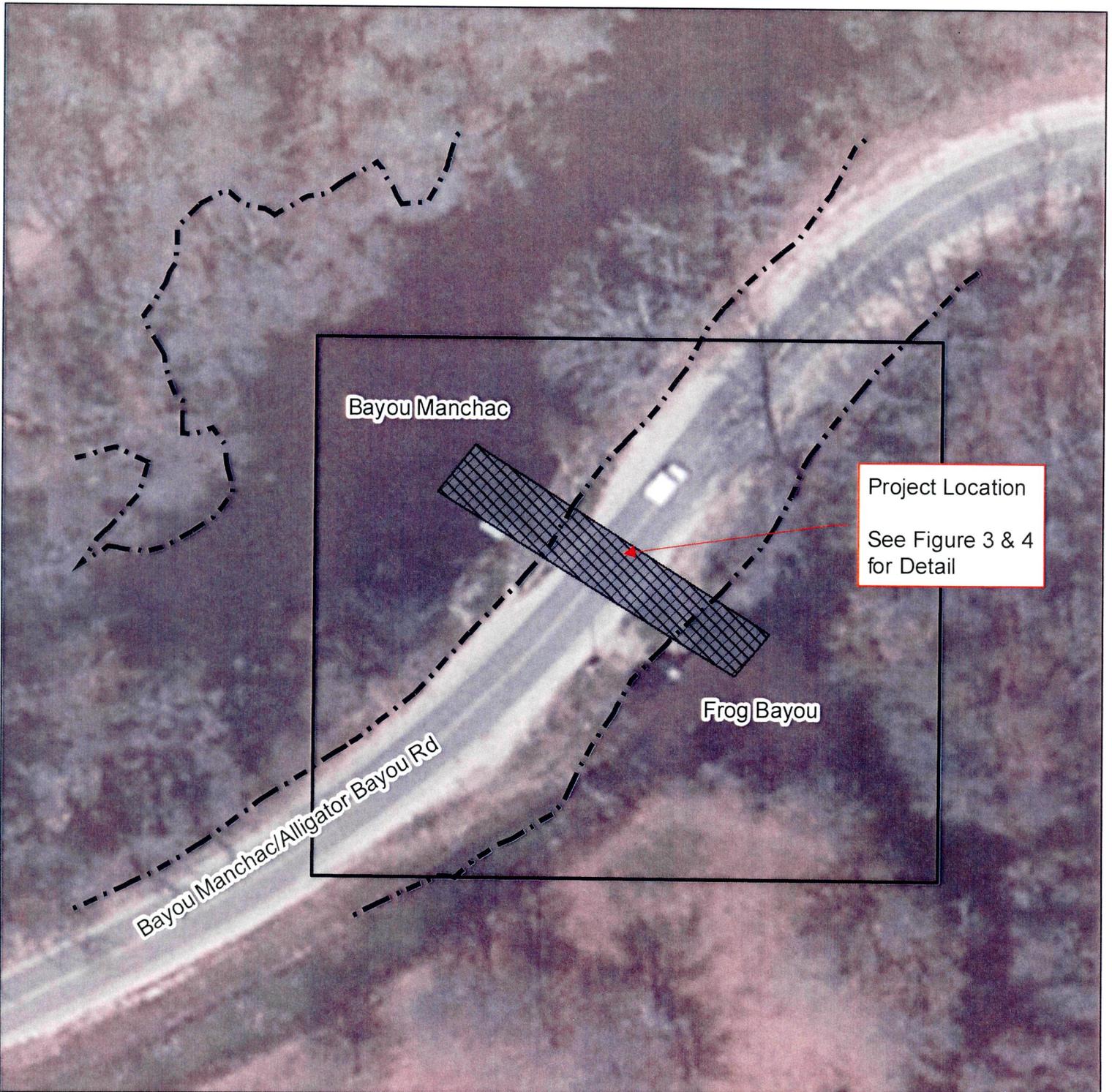
Created : AGB/ArcView

Approved : GLF

Date : 09/14/2015

Map No. :

FIGURE 1



Legend

-  Project Area (0.9 Acres)
-  Impacts below 9.5 ft contour (0.054 Acres)
-  9.5 ft Contour Line (OHWM)

Map Notes:

1. Topographic map provided by ArcGIS.
2. The boundary shown is based on the boundary survey provided by the client.
3. OHWM determined by USACE on 2/19/2014



NRP

East Ascension
Consolidated Gravity Drainage District #1
Gonzales, LA

SITE MAP

ASCENSION PARISH, LOUISIANA

Created : AGB/ArcView

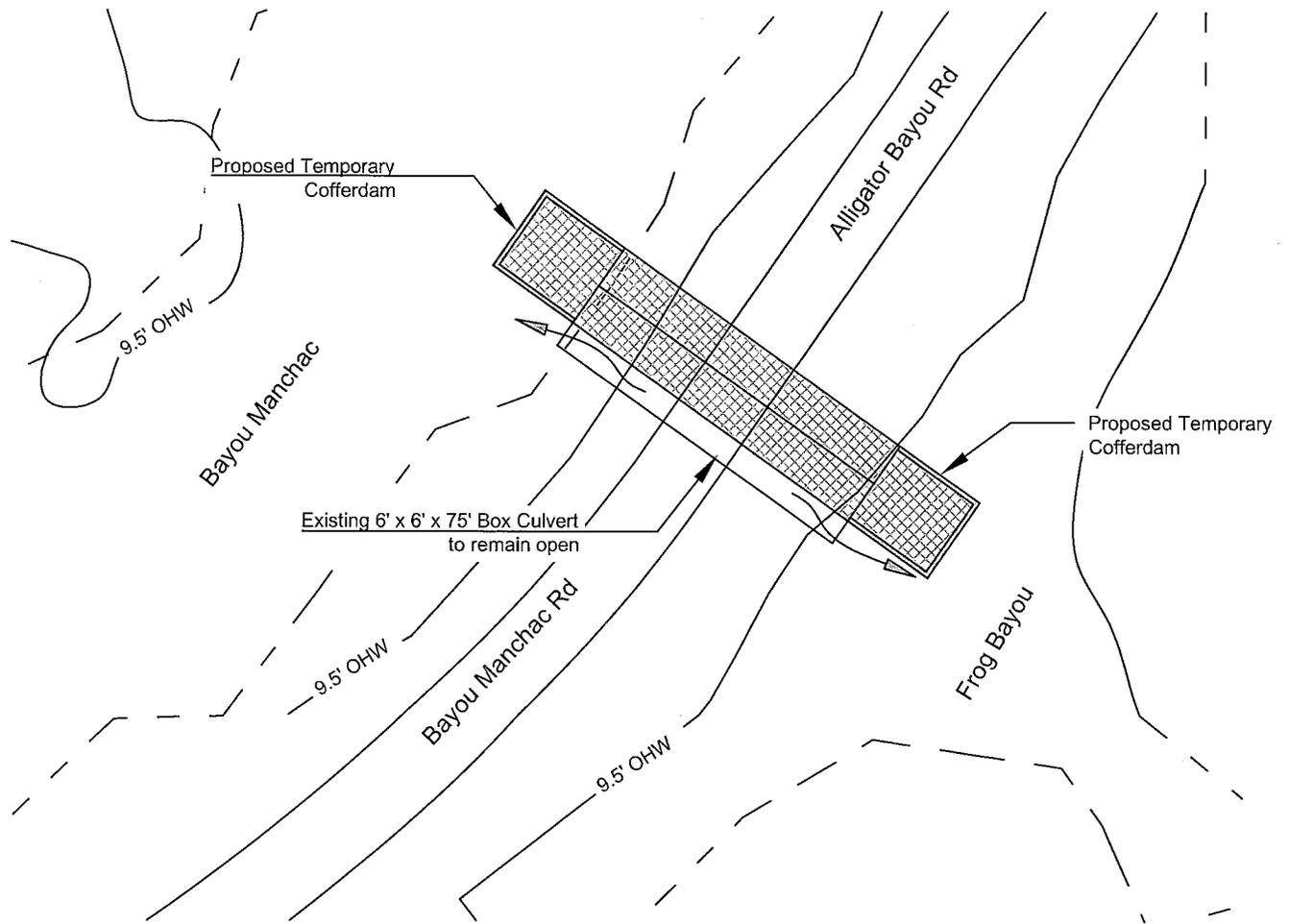
Approved : GLF

Date : 09/14/2015

Map No. :



FIGURE 2



Note:
 All heavy equipment to be operated within / on existing roadway limits.
 All excavated material will be hauled off-site and disposed of at an approved location (see figure 8)

-  Dredge Area (Excavation - 900 cu yards)
-  Temporary Cofferdam (Fill - 20 cu yards)
-  Flow Arrow



East Ascension
 Consolidated Gravity Drainage District #1
 Gonzales, LA

**PLAN VIEW CONSTRUCTION
 (EXCAVATION)
 ASCENSION PARISH, LA**

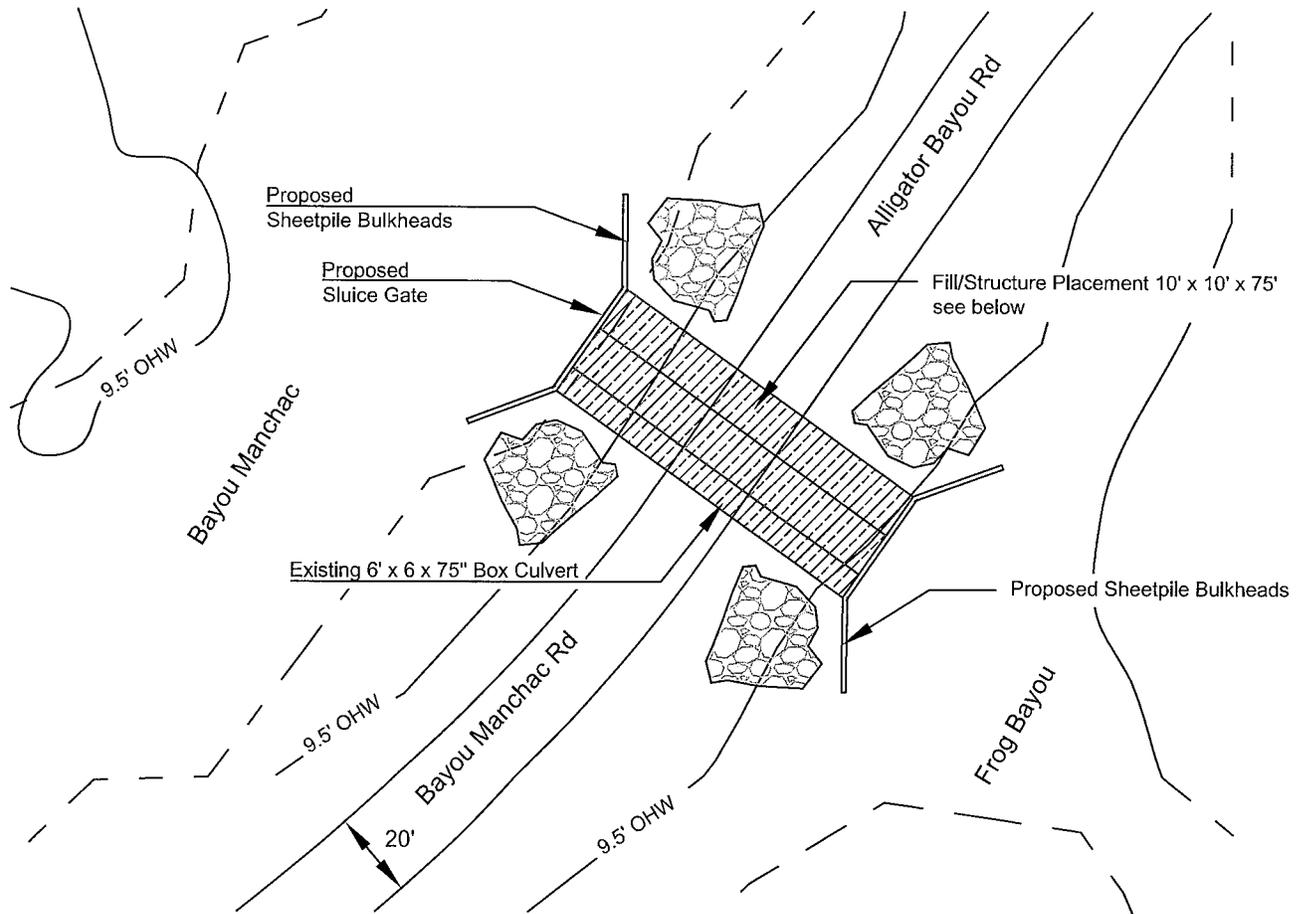
Created: AGB

Approved: GLF

Date: 09/14/2015

Map No.:

FIGURE 3



Sequence of Fill / Structure Placement:

1. Install 10 - 20" Timber Pilings to a depth of approximately 20' (20 cu yds)
2. Install 6" aggregate base (30 cu yds) & 12" concrete base (60 cu yds)
3. Install 2 - 10' x 10' x 75' box culverts (600 cu yds)
4. Backfill with clean earthen fill (300 cu yds) & concrete asphalt road (20 cu yds)
5. Place rip rap for shoreline stabilization (185 cu yds)
6. Install sheet pile bulkhead and sluice gate



East Ascension
 Consolidated Gravity Drainage District #1
 Gonzales, LA

PLAN VIEW CONSTRUCTION
 (FILL & STRUCTURE)
 ASCENSION PARISH, LA

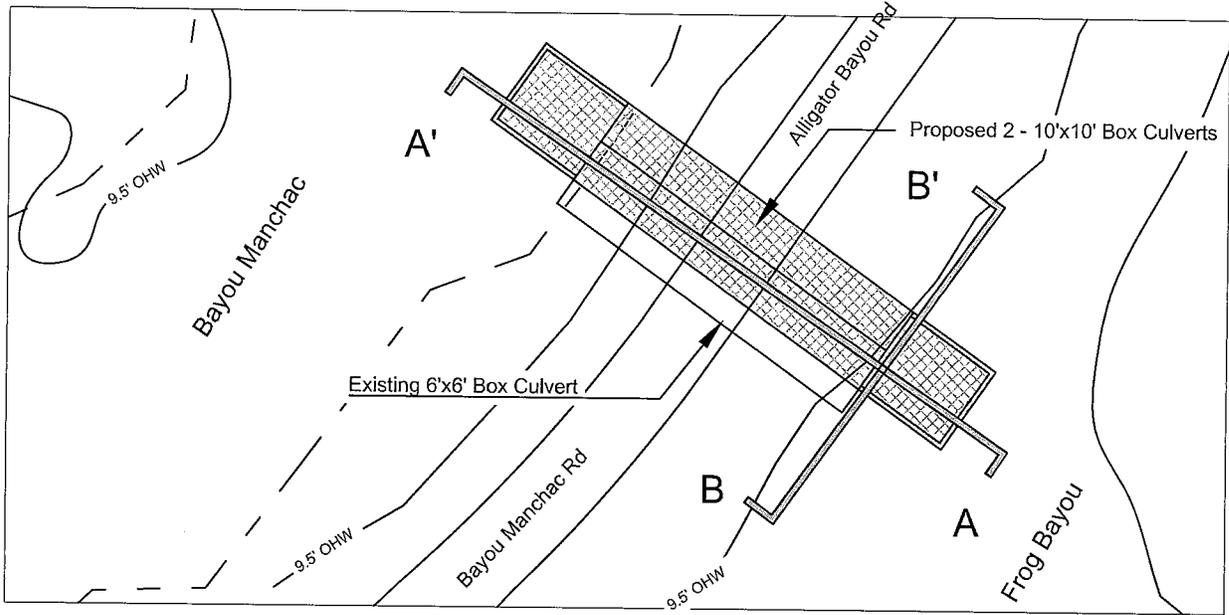
Created: AGB

Approved: GLF

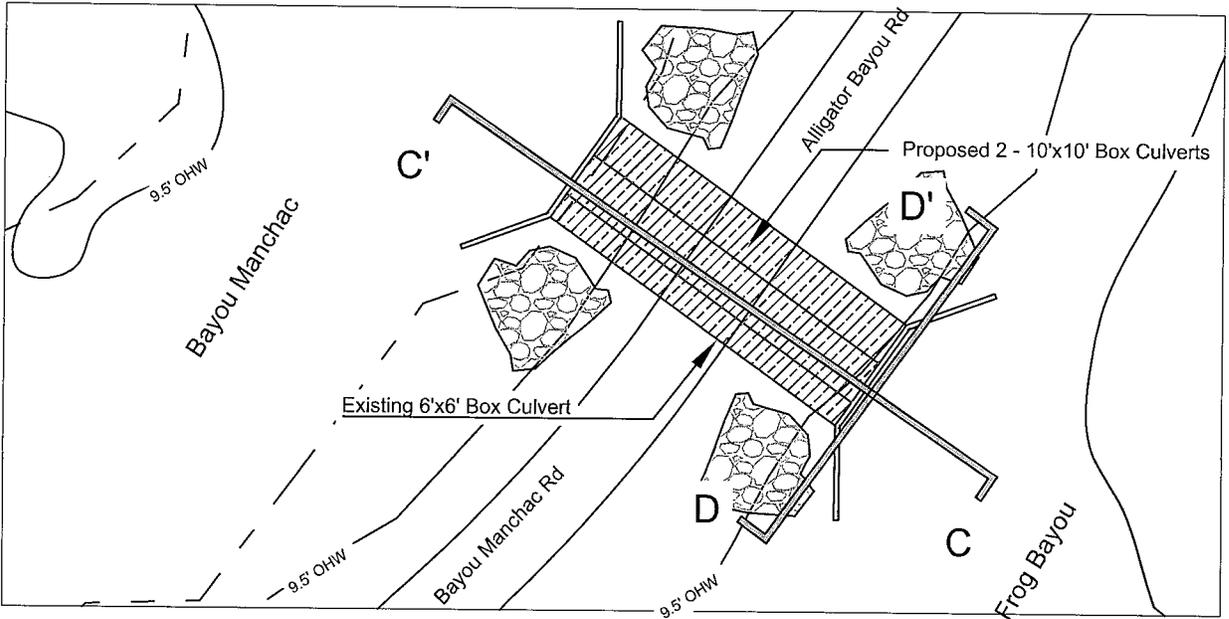
Date: 09/14/2015

Map No.:

FIGURE 4



Construction (Excavation) Cross Section Map

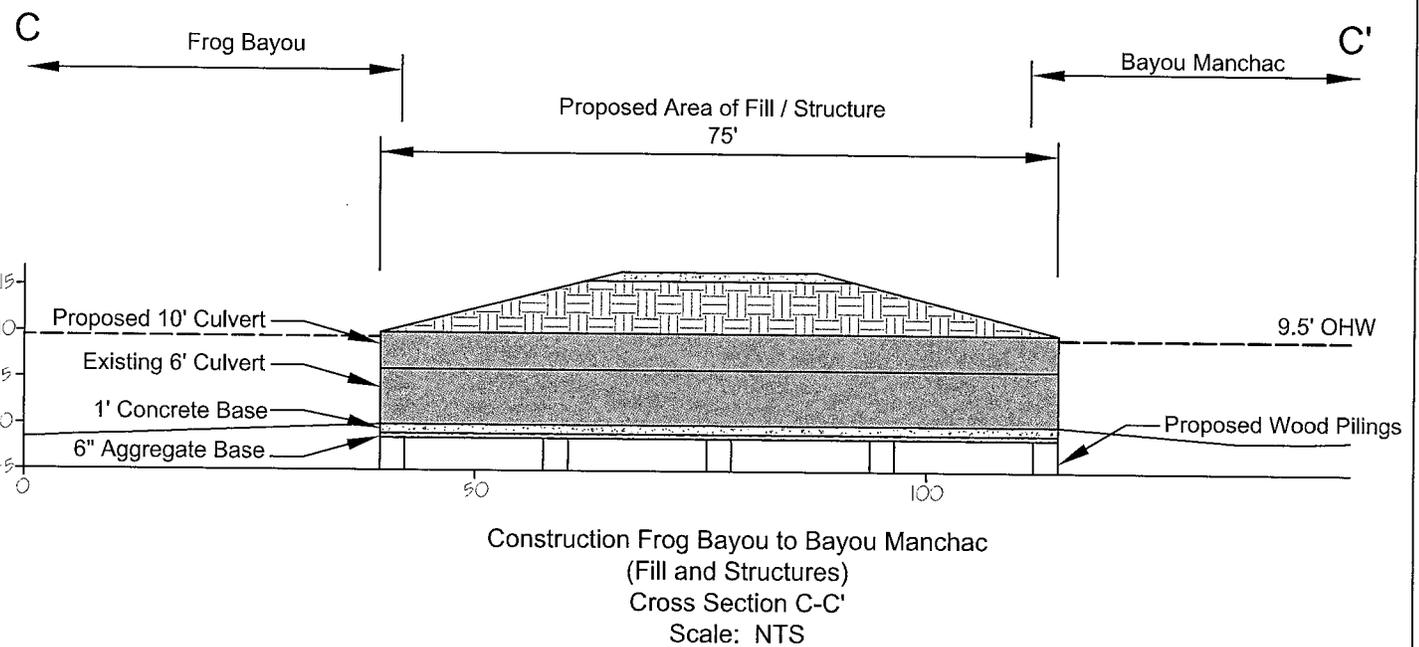
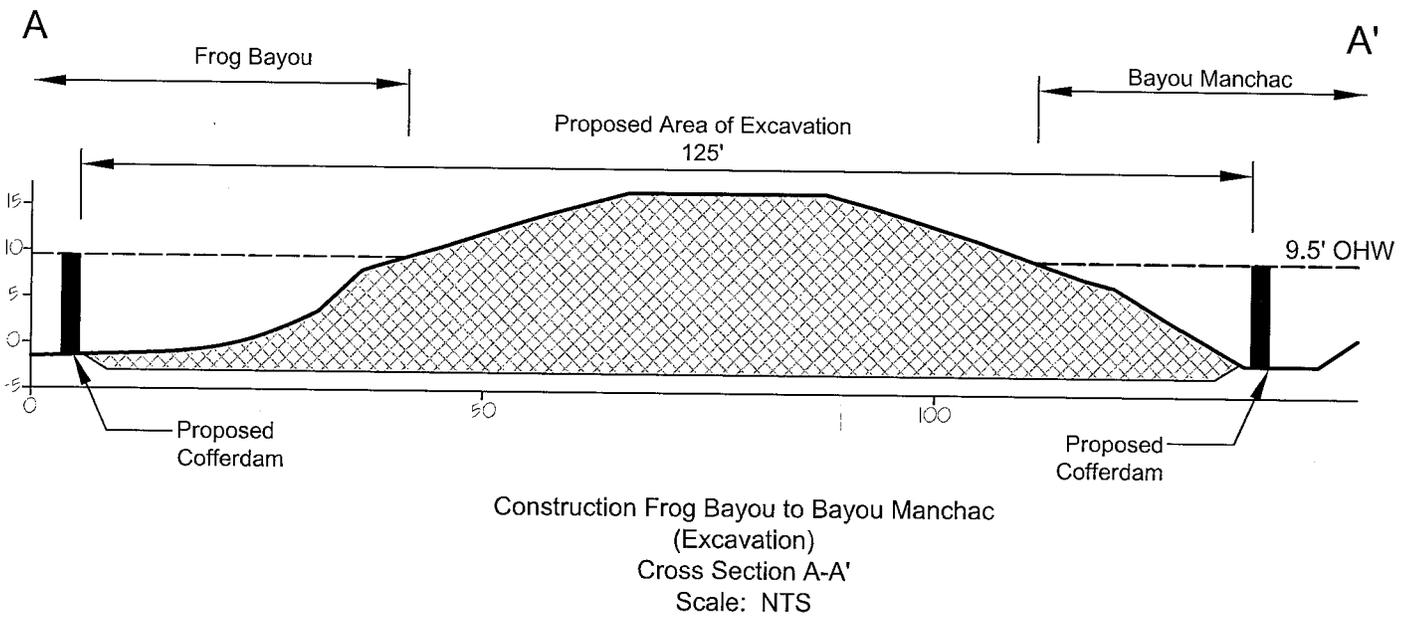


Construction (Fill and Structures) Cross Section Map



East Ascension
 Consolidated Gravity Drainage District #1
 Gonzales, LA
CROSS SECTION MAP
 ASCENSION PARISH, LA
 Created: AGB
 Approved: GLF
 Date: 09/14/2015
 Map No.:

FIGURE 5



East Ascension
 Consolidated Gravity Drainage District #1
 Gonzales, LA

CROSS SECTION

ASCENSION PARISH, LA

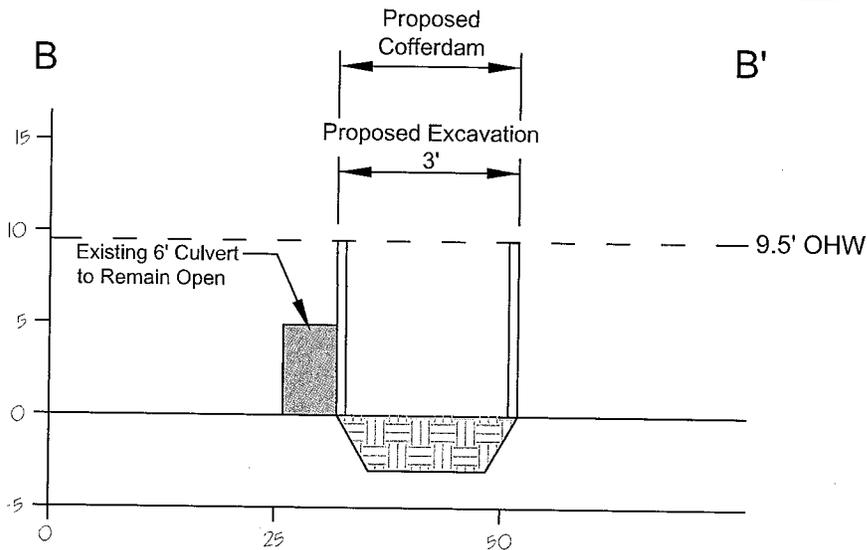
Created: AGB

Approved: SPN

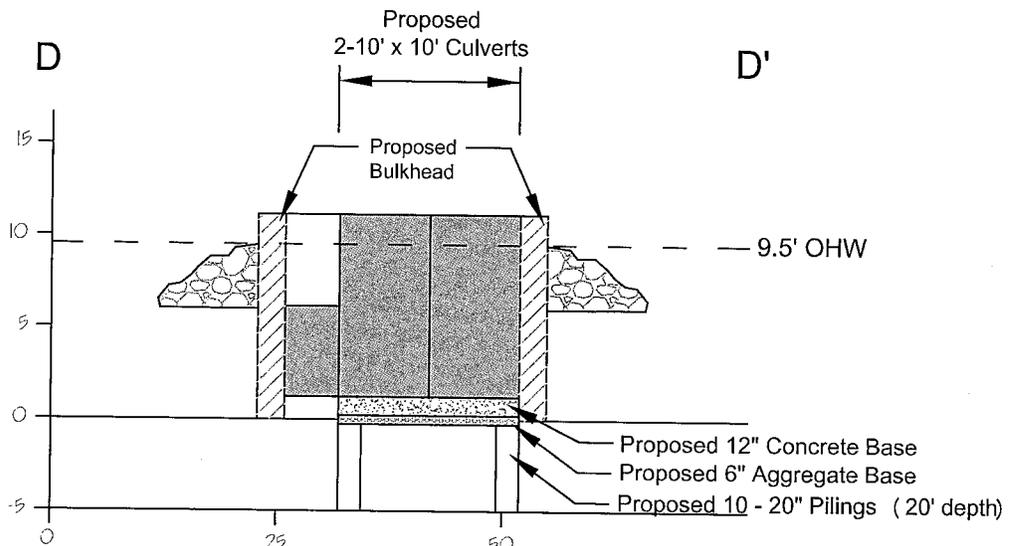
Date: 09/14/2015

Map No.:

FIGURE 6



Typical Construction Cofferdam
(Excavation)
Cross Section B-B'
Scale: NTS



Typical Construction Bulkhead
(Fill and Structures)
Cross Section D-D'
Scale: NTS

 Proposed Rip Rap Locations



East Ascension
Consolidated Gravity Drainage District #1
Gonzales, LA

CROSS SECTION

ASCENSION PARISH, LA

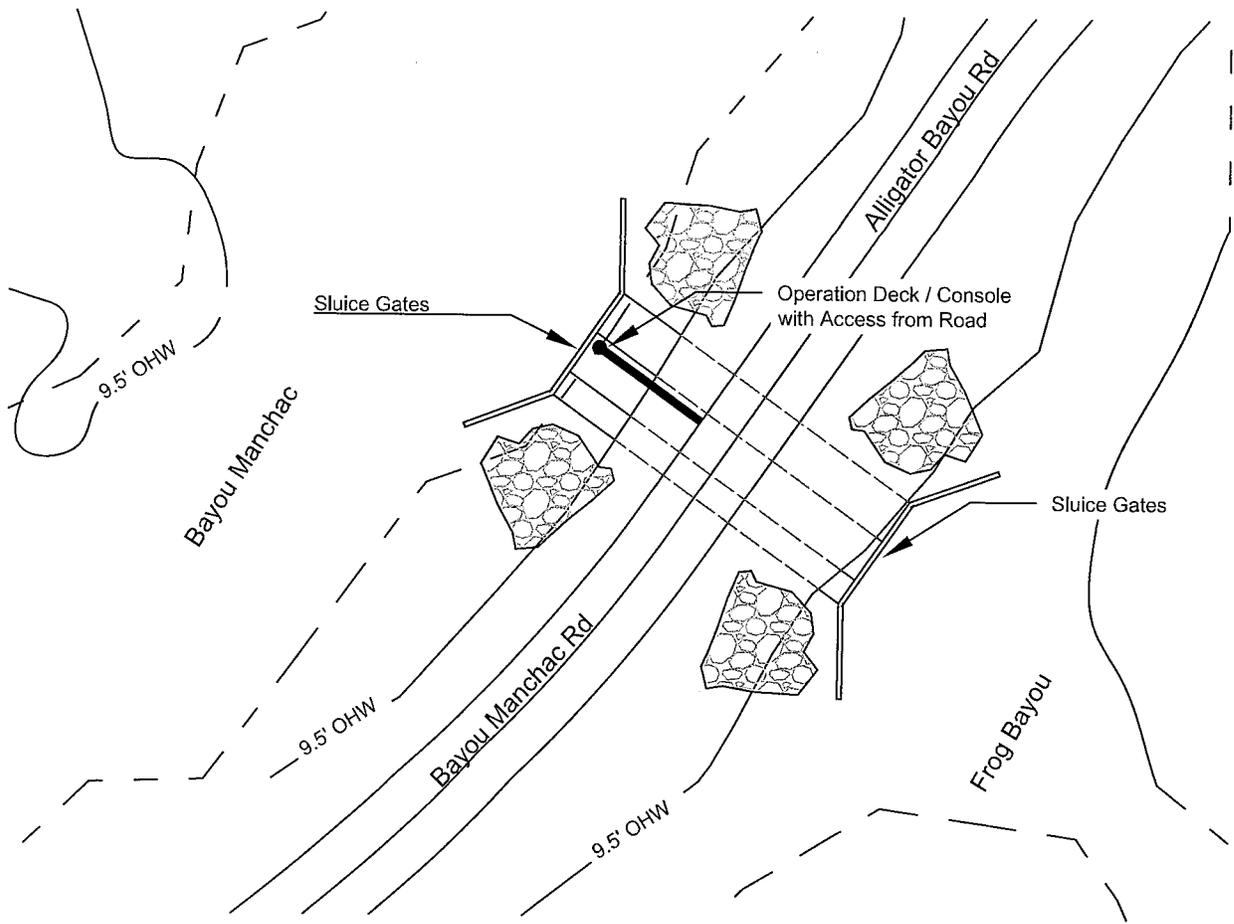
Created: AGB

Approved: SPN

Date: 09/14/2015

Map No.:

FIGURE 7



Operational Plan:

Structures will remain open at all times except when the USGS Bayou Manchac gage (07378746) is \geq to 5' NAVD 88



East Ascension
Consolidated Gravity Drainage District #1
Gonzales, LA

OPERATIONAL PLAN

ASCENSION PARISH, LA

Created: AGB

Approved: GLF

Date: 09/14/2015

Map No.:

FIGURE 9

Frog Bayou Box Culvert Improvements
Ascension Parish Government – USACE Permit Application – Supplemental Document
September 14, 2015

Purpose and Need

The purpose of the proposed project is to improve the conveyance of Frog Bayou into Bayou Manchac during flood events when Manchac is low enough to open the Frog Bayou Box Culverts (Floodgates). The need for this project is to improve drainage for Ascension Parish residents that live in and around the Bluff Swamp/Spanish Lake Basin.

Nature of the Proposed Activity

The nature of the proposed project involves the installation of two (2) 10'x 10' x 75' Box Culverts and supporting features adjacent to an existing 6' x 6' x 75' box culvert beneath the existing Alligator Bayou Manchac Road. The project will be constructed in the following manner:

- 1) Install sheet pile coffer dam
- 2) Close regular vehicular traffic for alligator bayou/bayou Manchac road
- 3) Excavate beneath alligator bayou/bayou Manchac road and portions of the Frog Bayou and Bayou Manchac and remove material to an approved disposal site
- 4) Install 10 timber pilings, 6" aggregate base, and 12" concrete base
- 5) Install 2-10'x75' box culverts
- 6) Back fill with fill and concrete/asphalt
- 7) Reopen regular vehicular traffic Alligator Bayou/Bayou Manchac Road
- 8) Install rip rap and sheetpile bulkhead.
- 9) Remove coffer dam
- 10) Excavate remaining portions of the Frog Bayou/Bayou Manchac Channel
- 11) Install floodgates/slucice gates

The project will take approximately 60-90 days to complete, and will require road closure for up to 30 days during the installment of the culverts and support structures beneath the roadway. However, partial road closure may be necessary at times thereafter. All heavy equipment (bulldozers, excavators, dump trucks, pile drivers) will be stationed on the existing Alligator Bayou/Bayou Manchac Road, and any excavated material will be hauled away to an approved disposal site.

Dimensions/Quantities

General Project Area: 0.9 acres	Aggregate Base: 30cy
Impacts below OHWM: 0.054 acres	Concrete/asphalt: 80cy
Excavation: 900 cubic yards	Box Culverts: 10'x10'x75' (20 cy)
Timber Pilings: (10) 20" x 20'	Clean Fill: 300 cy
	Rip Rap: 185 cy

Jurisdictional Information

On August 10, 2013, the USACE determined that “Bayou Manchac is tidal and subject to Corps’ Jurisdiction under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act...a Department of Army Section 10 permit will be required in the future prior to any work in, over, under or through Bayou Manchac and the Lower reach of Frog Bayou.” (see attached)

On February 19, 2014, the USACE determined that 9.5’ NAVD 88 was the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) for Bayou Manchac and Frog Bayou at this location. (see attached)

Operational plan

The operational plan for the 2 10’ box culverts will remain the same as the current operational plan for the existing 6’ box culvert. The structures will remain open at all times except when Manchac is $\geq 5'$ NAVD 88.