



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT
7400 LEAKE AVE
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70118-3651

May 23, 2022

Regulatory Division
Central Evaluation Branch

Project Manager
Neil Gauthier
(504) 862-1301
Neil.T.Gauthier@usace.army.mil

SUBJECT: MVN-1997-05409-CM

PUBLIC NOTICE

Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received by the District engineer for a Department of the Army permit to authorize the following 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).

EXCAVATION FOR A SAND AND GRAVEL MINING OPERATION ON THE AMITE RIVER IN ST. HELENA PARISH

NAME OF APPLICANT: Tri-Parish Sand & Gravel. LLC, c/o Pangea Conservation & Compliances, LLC, Attn: Erin Colborn, P.O. Box 40345, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70835.

LOCATION OF WORK: On the left descending bank of the Amite River (30.693016, -90.863598), approximately 6.4 miles west of Pine Grove, Louisiana in St. Helena Parish, within the Lake Pontchartrain Basin in Amite hydrologic unit (HUC 08070202), as shown on the attached drawings.

CHARACTER OF WORK: The applicant has requested Department of the Army authorization for a time extension and modification to an existing sand and gravel mining operation. The applicant proposes to excavate sand and gravel which will be transferred on an established road within the site to then be deposited into an existing process plant area to be sorted and washed then moved to an existing stockpile area. From the stockpile area, the material will be loaded on trucks for transport and sale. The tailings will be directed and pumped through 4 recirculation areas located within the project area. Approximately 410,000 cubic yards of sand and gravel would be excavated, washed, dredged, and re-deposited. The proposed excavation area is approximately 15.9 acres of jurisdictional non-wetland waters of the U.S. A 75-foot no work zone will be included between the river and a 100-foot no excavation buffer located adjacent to the excavation area.

A Preliminary analysis has determined that the proposed project would temporarily impact approximately 15.9 acres of jurisdictional non-wetland waters of the U.S. within the excavation area.

The applicant stated that they have designed the project to avoid and minimize direct and secondary adverse impacts to the maximum extent practicable. The 175-foot buffer to the river has been included to reduce impacts to the Amite River and all wetlands within and near the project site have been avoided by project design.

The comment period for the Department of Army will close in **20 days** from the date of this public notice, which is available for review online at <https://go.usa.gov/xennJ>. 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 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 preferably emailed to the Corps of Engineers project manager listed above or mailed to the Corps of Engineers at the address above, **ATTENTION: REGULATORY DIVISION, RG-C, Neil Gauthier**. 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 Branch 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.

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 made available to the State Archeologist and the State Historic Preservation Officer regarding potential impacts to cultural resources.

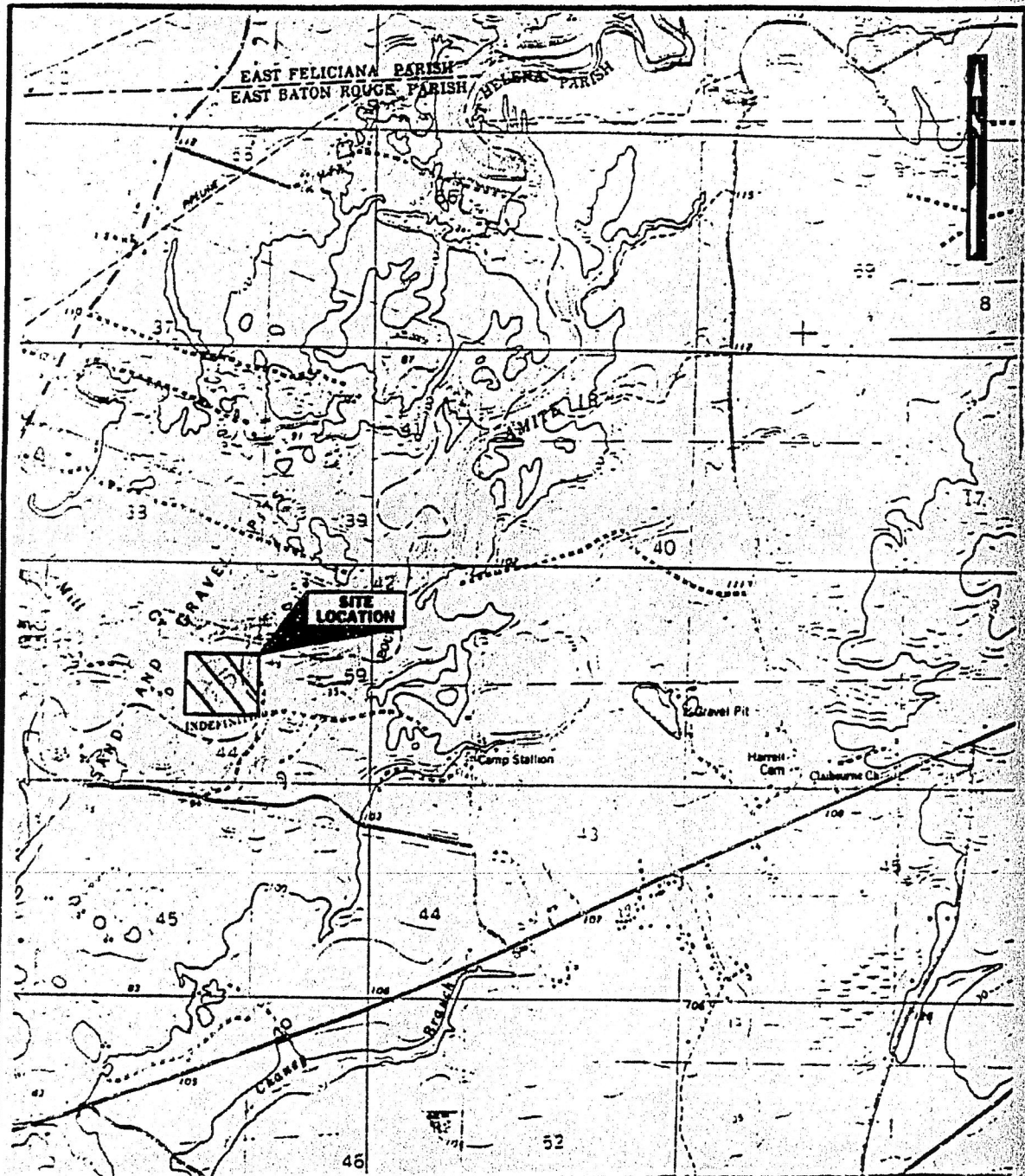
The New Orleans District has determined that the proposed project is located in waters known to be utilized by the inflated heelsplitter mussel (*Potamilus inflatus*) and concluded that the proposed activity is not likely to adversely affect the species using the Information & Planning Consultation for Endangered Species (IPaC) procedure, as signed on January 27, 2020, between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Office. Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was also conducted. The USFWS acknowledged that the inflated heelsplitter habitat is several miles away from the project site and the applicants proposed use of a 175-foot buffer to the river with stockpiling material above the Ordinary High Water Mark would allow a determination of Not Likely to Adversely Affect for the inflated heelsplitter.

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 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 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 Branch
Regulatory Division

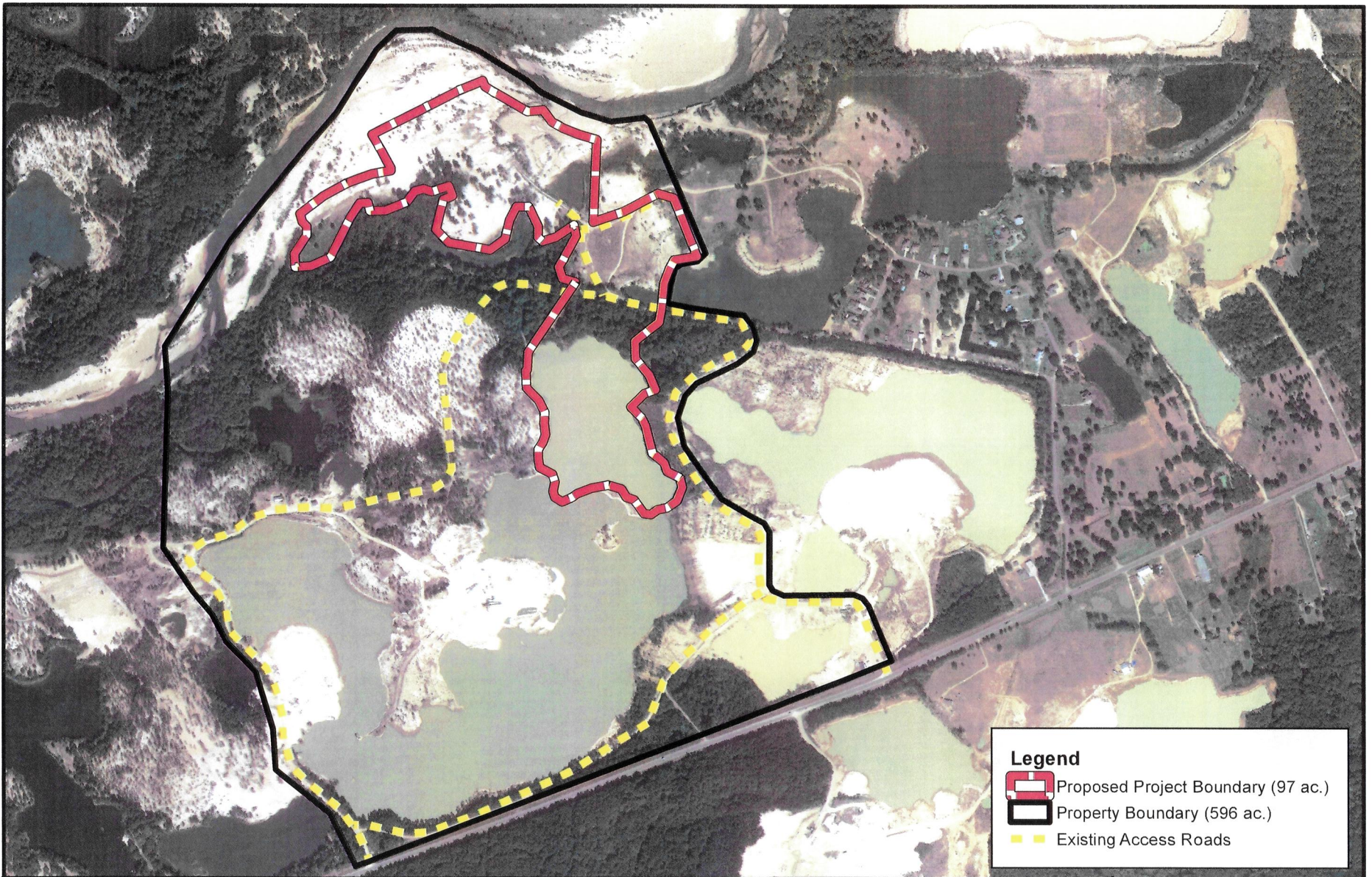


PROJECT LOCATION MAP




Tranquility Lakes Gravel Mine
 Section 44, T-4-S, R-3-E
 Pine Grove Quadrangle
 St. Helena Parish, Louisiana



Figure No: 1
 Date: August 14, 1997
 Scale: 1:24,000
 Source: USGS

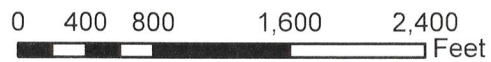


Legend

-  Proposed Project Boundary (97 ac.)
-  Property Boundary (596 ac.)
-  Existing Access Roads



Tri-Parish Sand & Gravel, LLC - PROPERTY/PROJECT BOUNDARY







Tranquility Sand & Gravel Pit
St. Helena Parish, LA

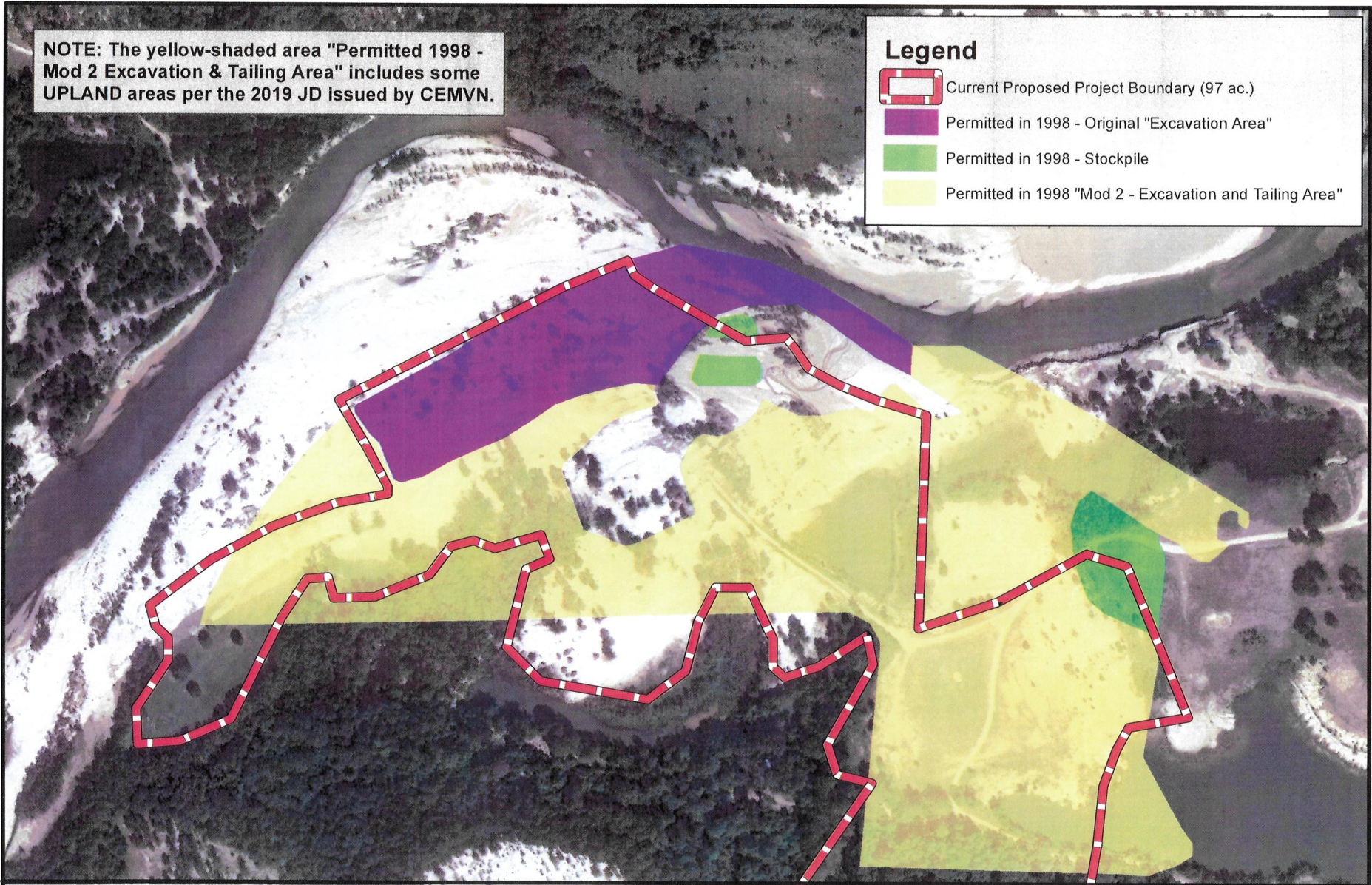


Figure: 1
Date: August 2021
Scale: 1:13,000

NOTE: The yellow-shaded area "Permitted 1998 - Mod 2 Excavation & Tailing Area" includes some UPLAND areas per the 2019 JD issued by CEMVN.

Legend

-  Current Proposed Project Boundary (97 ac.)
-  Permitted in 1998 - Original "Excavation Area"
-  Permitted in 1998 - Stockpile
-  Permitted in 1998 "Mod 2 - Excavation and Tailing Area"



N



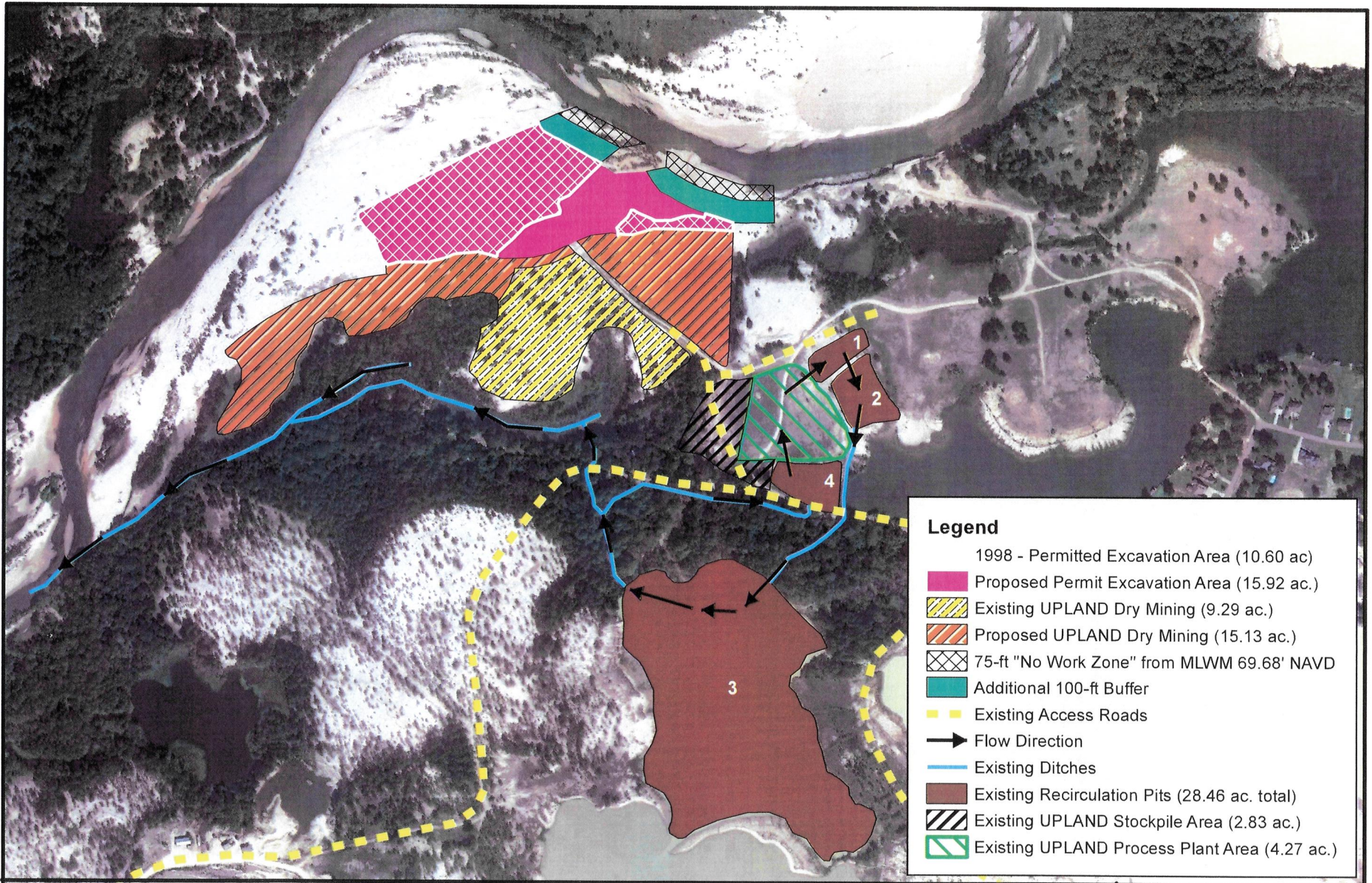
0 125 250 500 750
Feet

Ott Gravel Mine - 1998 Permitted Activities

Tranquility Sand & Gravel Pit
St. Helena Parish, LA



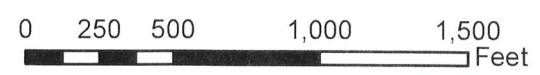
Figure: 2
Date: August 2021
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Legend

- 1998 - Permitted Excavation Area (10.60 ac)
- Proposed Permit Excavation Area (15.92 ac.)
- Existing UPLAND Dry Mining (9.29 ac.)
- Proposed UPLAND Dry Mining (15.13 ac.)
- 75-ft "No Work Zone" from MLWM 69.68' NAVD
- Additional 100-ft Buffer
- Existing Access Roads
- Flow Direction
- Existing Ditches
- Existing Recirculation Pits (28.46 ac. total)
- Existing UPLAND Stockpile Area (2.83 ac.)
- Existing UPLAND Process Plant Area (4.27 ac.)

N



Tri-Parish Sand & Gravel, LLC - PROPOSED PERMIT

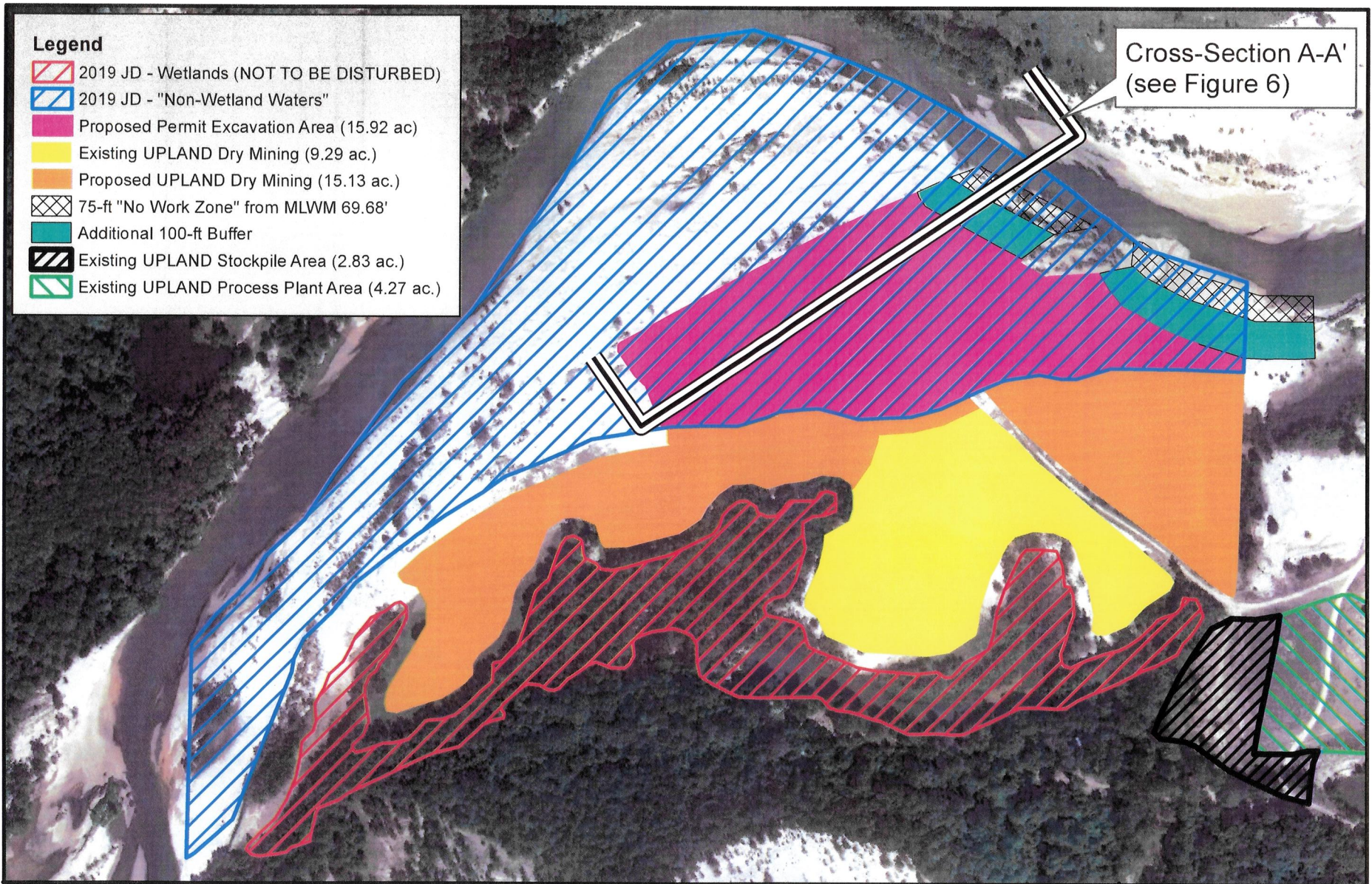
Tranquility Sand & Gravel Pit
St. Helena Parish, LA



Figure: 3

Date: August 2021

Scale: 1:7,500



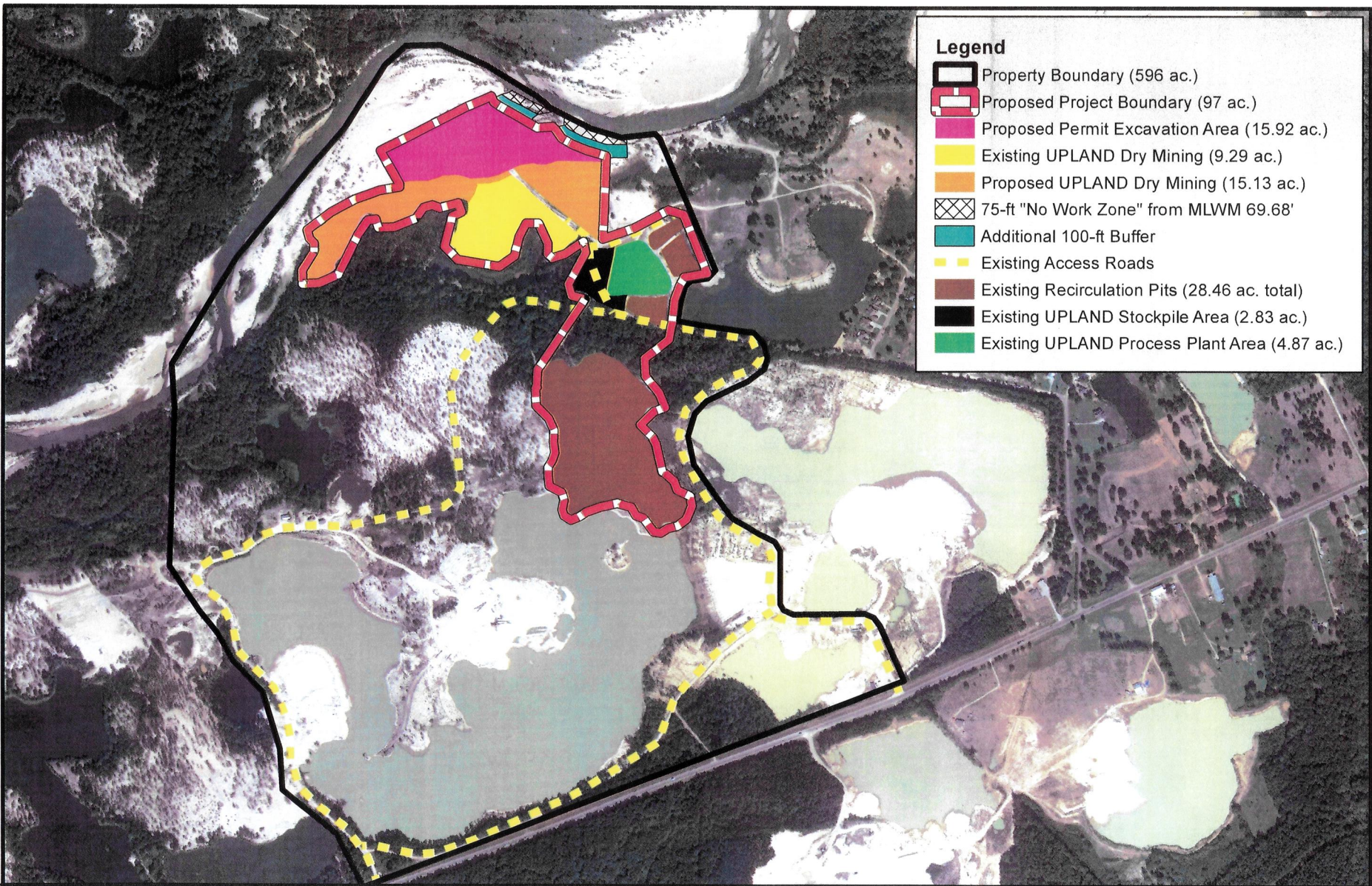
Tri-Parish Sand & Gravel, LLC - PROPOSED PERMIT w/ 2019 JD



Tranquility Sand & Gravel Pit
St. Helena Parish, LA



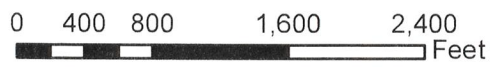
Figure: 4
Date: August 2021
Scale: 1:4,500



- Legend**
- Property Boundary (596 ac.)
 - Proposed Project Boundary (97 ac.)
 - Proposed Permit Excavation Area (15.92 ac.)
 - Existing UPLAND Dry Mining (9.29 ac.)
 - Proposed UPLAND Dry Mining (15.13 ac.)
 - 75-ft "No Work Zone" from MLWM 69.68'
 - Additional 100-ft Buffer
 - Existing Access Roads
 - Existing Recirculation Pits (28.46 ac. total)
 - Existing UPLAND Stockpile Area (2.83 ac.)
 - Existing UPLAND Process Plant Area (4.87 ac.)



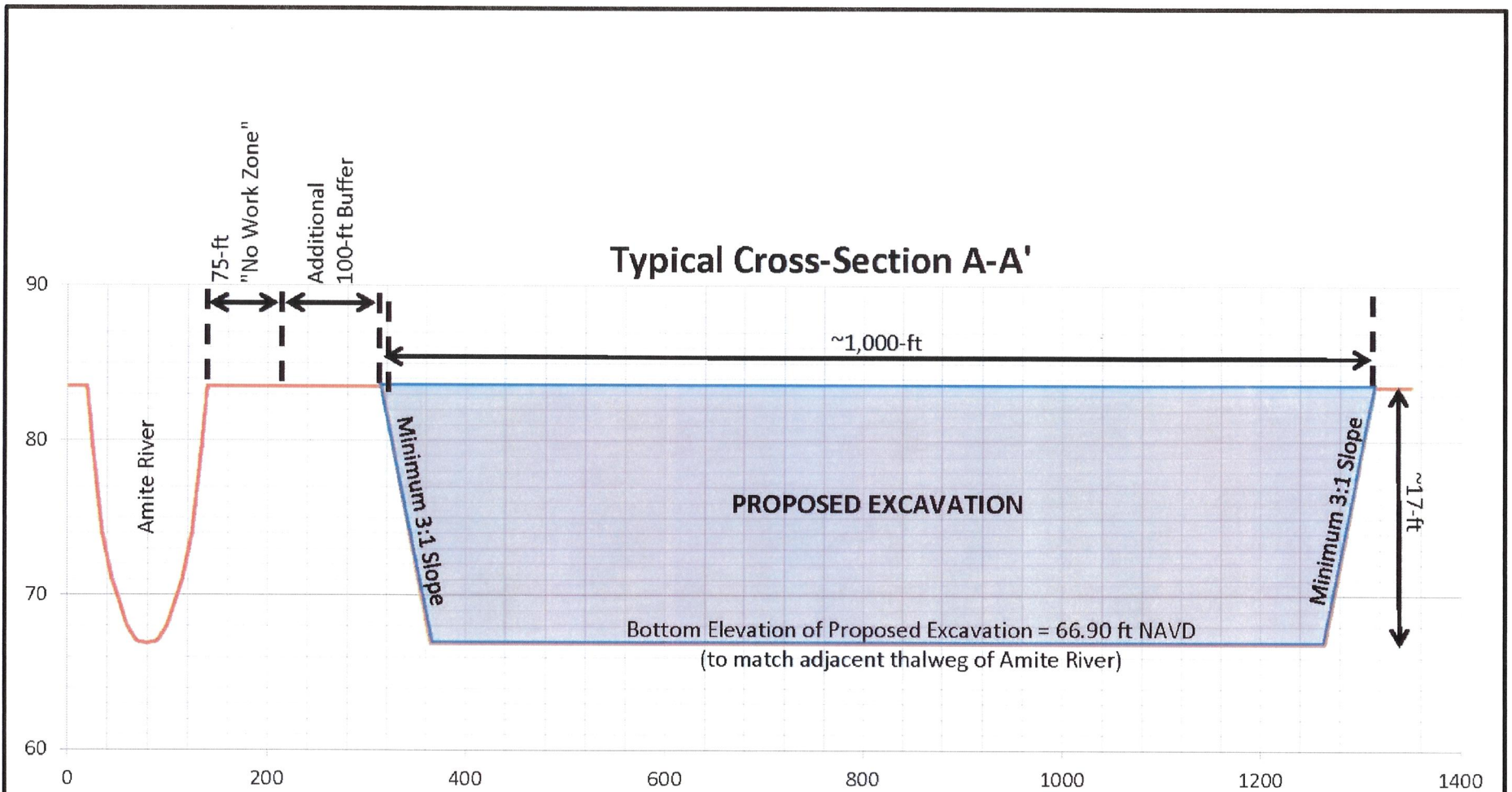
Tri-Parish Sand & Gravel, LLC - Overall Property / Permit Features



Tranquility Sand & Gravel Pit
St. Helena Parish, LA



Figure: 5
Date: August 2021
Scale: 1:13,000



Note:
 Elevations are in ft NAVD (y-axis).
 Distances shown are in linear ft (x-axis).

TYPICAL CROSS-SECTION A-A'

Tri-Parish Sand & Gravel, LLC
 Tranquility Sand & Gravel Pit
 St. Helena Parish, LA



Figure: 6

Date: August 2021

Scale: N/A