

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

July 28, 2014

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 Certification Section
Post Office Box 4313
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4313

(504) 862-2675
Project Manager
Jamie Crowe
Jamie.M.Crowe@usace.army.mil
Permit Application Number
MVN 2009-2751 CO

(225) 219-3225
Project Manager
Elizabeth Johnson
WQC Application Number
WQC 100324-03

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 LRS30:2047 A(3), and provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (P.L.95-17).

MODIFICATION AND TIME EXTENSION OF SAND DREDGING PERMIT TO INCLUDE DOLPHINS, BULKHEAD, AND FILL IN MISSISSIPPI RIVER IN ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

NAME OF APPLICANT: Willow Bend Ventures, LLC, c/o Evans Graves Engineers, 1 Galleria Blvd, Suite 1520, Metairie, Louisiana 70001.

LOCATION OF WORK: Within the Mississippi River Basin, in the Lower Mississippi River – Baton Rouge hydrologic unit (HUC 08070100), in the Mississippi River, right descending bank, approximately 142.2 miles above the Head of Passes, near Edgard, Louisiana, in St. John the Baptist Parish, as shown on the enclosed drawings.

CHARACTER OF WORK: The applicant has requested a modification/time extension of their existing permit to continue sand dredging in the Mississippi River. The applicant proposes to modify the permit to include a dredge area measuring 100'x200' and the installation and maintenance of a 600-foot bulkhead, two additional dolphins, and fill to construct a 1,000-foot haul road, work platform, and material handling area to provide a stabilized work surface for loading barges. Using a bucket dredge, approximately

10,000 cubic yards of sand will be removed from the Mississippi River to allow barge access to the loading platform. The dredged material will be loaded on barges for sale. An additional 1,700 cubic yards of clay material will be hauled-in and used as backfill behind the bulkhead. An existing levee crossing and access road are used to access the Mississippi River batture. The proposed haul road will allow vehicles and equipment easier access to the site by allowing them to pull-through the loading facility. Approximately 4.6 acres of non-vegetated waterbottoms and 4.1 acres of maintained batture will be impacted by the proposed activity. All impacts will occur within the footprint of the previously authorized activity. Thus, no additional mitigation is proposed.

The comment period for the Department of the Army Permit and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality WQC will close **30 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** 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 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.

The proposed activity is located in waters known to be utilized by the pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*). Approximately 4.6 acres of foraging habitat will be directly impacted by the proposed activity. Because the applicant will use a bucket dredge, the Corps has determined that the impact to foraging habitat is minimal. Thus, this activity is not likely to adversely affect the pallid sturgeon.

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 **N/A 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.

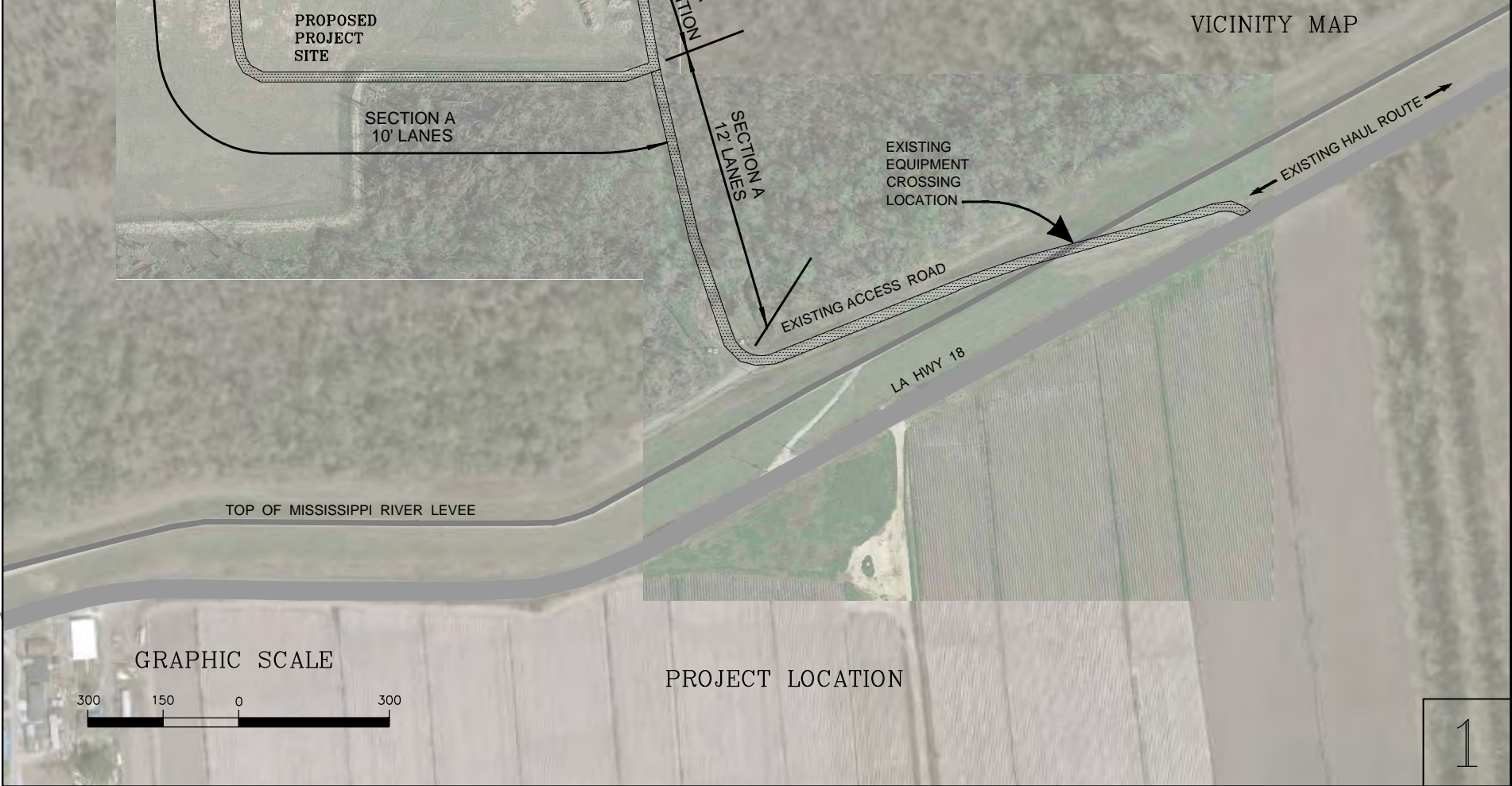
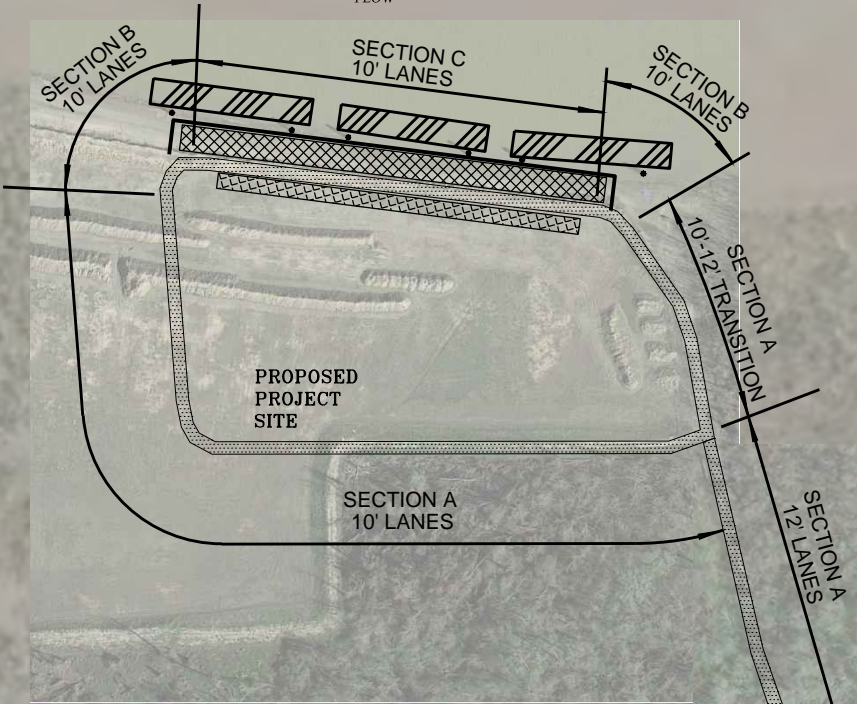
The applicant has certified that the proposed activity described in the application complies with and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the Louisiana Coastal Resources Program. The Department of the Army permit will not be issued unless the applicant received approval or a waiver of the Coastal Use Permit by the Department of Natural Resources.

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.

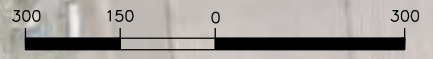
John M. Herman
Chief, Central Evaluation Section
Regulatory Branch

Enclosure

MISSISSIPPI RIVER
FLOW



GRAPHIC SCALE



PROJECT LOCATION

MISSISSIPPI RIVER

FLOW

PROPOSED DREDGE AREA
1000' X 200' X 10' DEEP

PROPOSED 600' BULKHEAD

BARGES

PROPOSED WORK PLATFORM

PROPOSED 700' HAUL ROAD
PROPOSED MATERIAL HANDLING
(SEE TYPICAL SECTIONS)

EXISTING DOLPHINS
(6 TYP.)

EXISTING 400' ACCESS ROAD
AND PROPOSED HAUL ROAD

NOTE: MATERIAL IS TRUCKED IN FROM
OFFSITE PITS TO BE LOADED ON BARGES.

PROPOSED 450' HAUL ROAD

PROPOSED 850' HAUL ROAD

EXISTING 600' TWO-LANE WIDE
ACCESS ROAD AND PROPOSED HAUL
ROAD (SEE TYPICAL SECTIONS)

1140'

EXISTING
ACCESS
ROAD

1400'

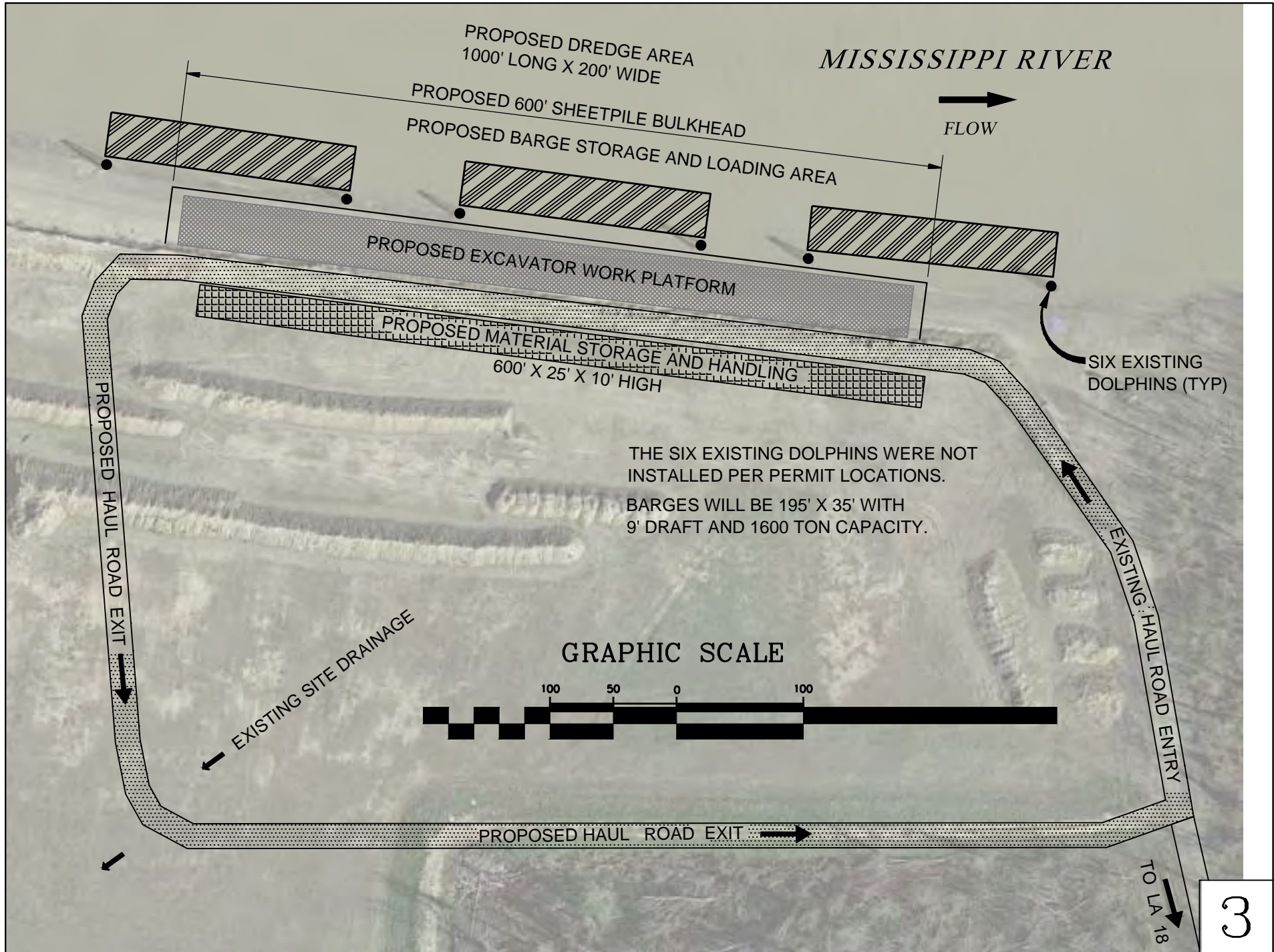
885'

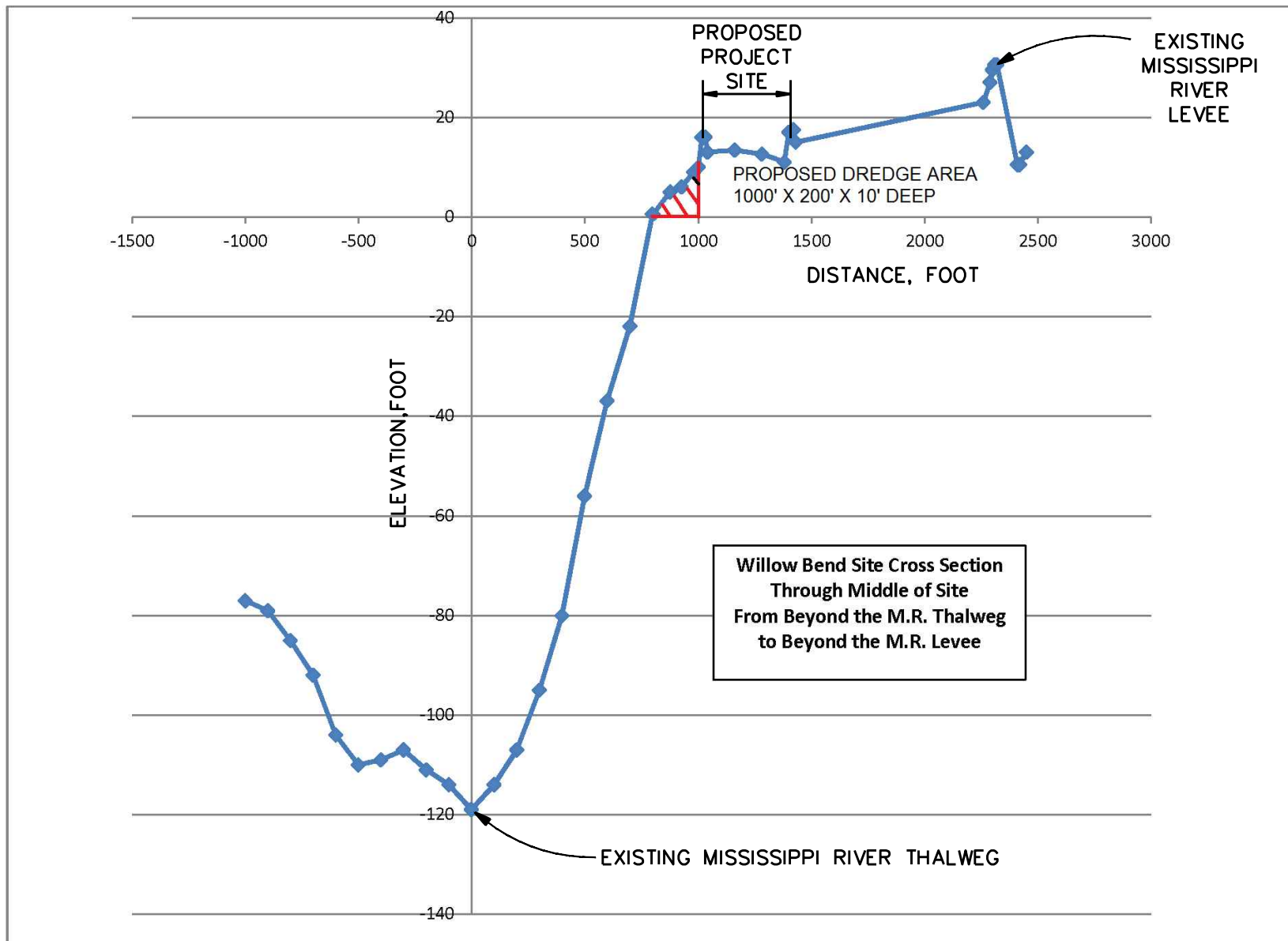
TOP OF EXISTING MISSISSIPPI RIVER LEVEE

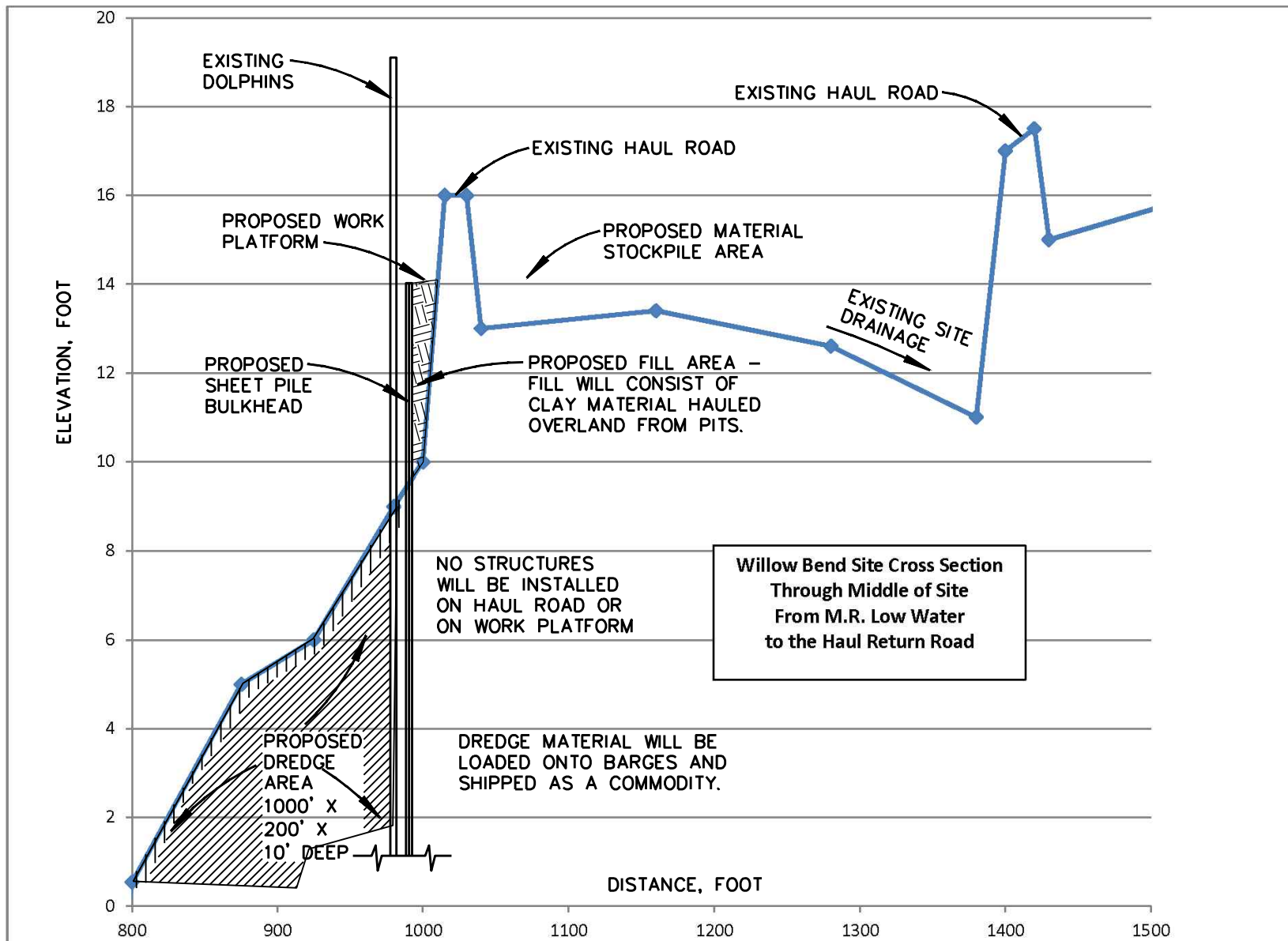
LA HWY 18

GRAPHIC SCALE

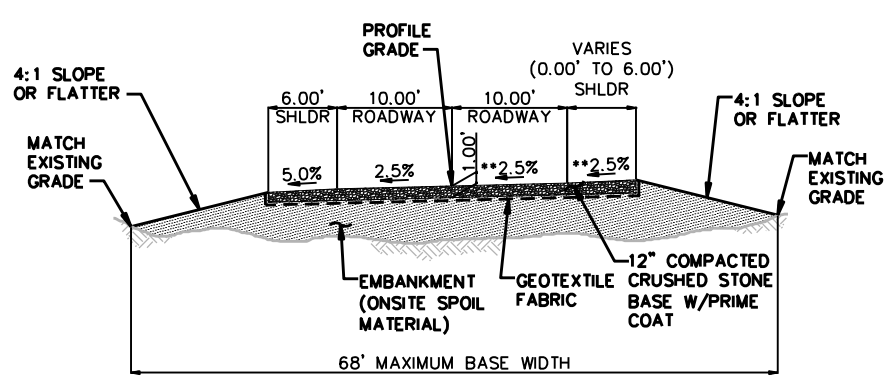




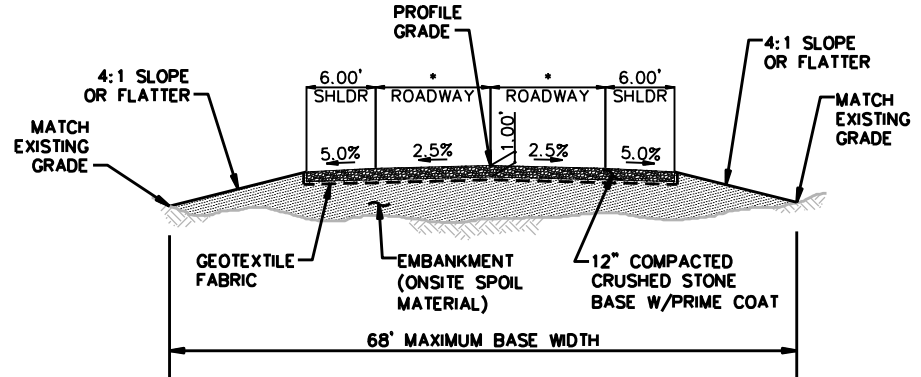




*
 STA. 10+00.00 TO STA. 17+01.30 = 12.00'
 STA. 17+01.30 TO STA. 18+35.85 = VARIES (10' TO 12')
 STA. 27+56.96 TO STA. 39+66.22 = 10'

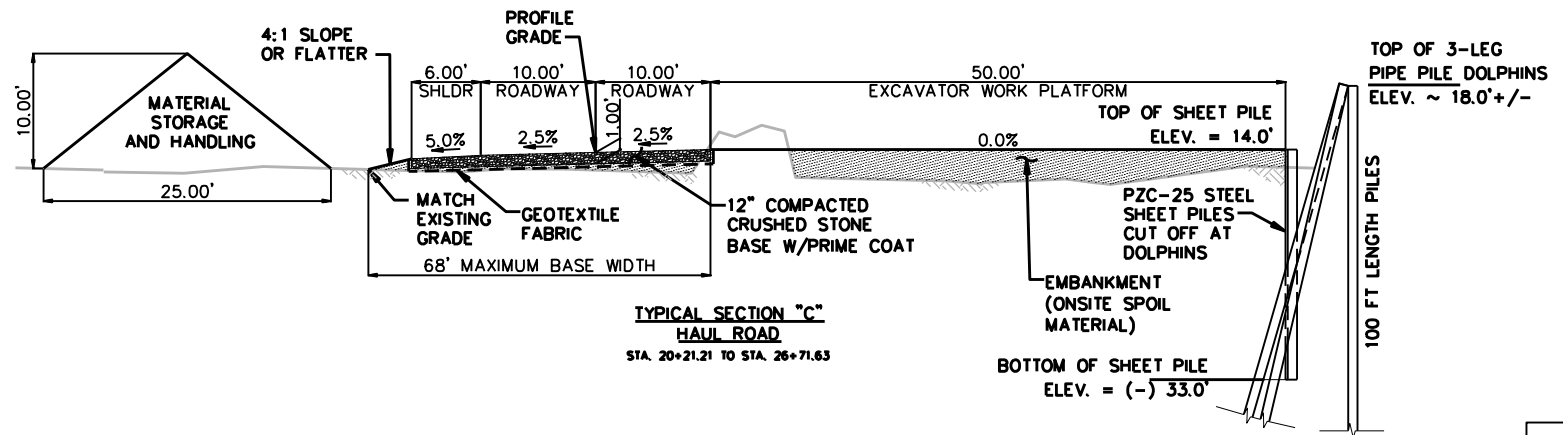


TYPICAL SECTION "B"
HAUL ROAD
 STA. 18+35.85 TO STA. 20+21.21
 STA. 26+71.63 TO STA. 27+56.96



TYPICAL SECTION "A"
HAUL ROAD
 STA. 10+00.00 TO STA. 18+35.85
 STA. 27+56.96 TO STA. 39+66.22

** SLOPE OF ROADWAY TO TRANSITION FROM NORMAL CROWN BY ROTATING THE OUTSIDE LANE ABOUT THE CENTERLINE UNTIL THE ROADWAY'S CROSS SLOPE EQUALS 2.5% (TANGENT CROWN) TRANSITION TO SUPERELEVATION WILL BEGIN 75' BEFORE POINT OF CURVATURE (P.C.) OF CURVE AND BECOME FULL TRANSITION AT P.C. TRANSITION TO NORMAL CROWN WILL BEGIN AT THE POINT OF TANGENCY (P.T.) OF CURVE AND BECOME NORMAL CROWN 75' AFTER P.T.



TYPICAL SECTION "C"
HAUL ROAD
 STA. 20+21.21 TO STA. 26+71.63

TOP OF 3-LEG PIPE PILE DOLPHINS
 ELEV. ~ 18.0' +/-

BOTTOM OF SHEET PILE
 ELEV. = (-) 33.0'

100 FT LENGTH PILES

