# JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

## February 26, 2018

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New Orleans District Attn: Regulatory Branch 7400 Leake Avenue New Orleans, LA 70118

Project Manager: Michael H. Herrmann (504) 862-1954/ (504) 862-2574 fax michael.h.herrmann@usace.army.mil Application # MVN-2010-01779-WLL State of Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality Attn: Water Quality Certifications Post Office Box 4313 Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4313

Project Manager: Elizabeth Hill (225) 219-3225 WQC Application Number: WQC 180208-02

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 U.S.C. 403); and/or [X] Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (86 Stat. 816; 33 U.S.C. 1344).

Application has also been made to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality for a Water Quality Certification (WQC) in accordance with statutory authority contained in La. R.S. 30:2074(A)(3) and provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (P.L. 95-217; 33 U.S.C. 1341).

# INSTALLATION OF A WATERCONTROL STRUCTURE AND AN EARTHEN PLUG IN CAMERON PARISH, LOUISIANA

**<u>Name of Applicant</u>**: Pine Pasture LLC, C/O: Ducks Unlimited, 125 Southpark Road, Lafayette, LA 70508. ATTN: John Heatherwick.

**Location of Work**: The project is located in Sections 15, 22, & 27 in T12S, R06W, near the Town of Bell City within Cameron Parish, Louisiana, as shown on the attached drawings. (Lat. 29 59 39.10, Long. -92 57 46.65) within the Mermentau Watershed.

**Character of Work**: Excavate 80 cubic yards of earthen water-bottom material and deposit for the purpose of installing an earthen canal plug; and install a sheet pile structure with four (4) 48-inch flap-gates, all to function as part of an existing marsh management area, consisting of 2,479 acres of tidal marshland. As proposed, the project is anticipated to impact .04 acre of water bottoms and 0.02 of an acre of existing scrub shrub wetlands associated with the construction of the earthen plug and the sheetpile structure. The applicant would utilize acquisition of appropriate credits from an approved mitigation bank within the project area watershed, should issuance of a permit be in the public interest and mitigation found to be required.

The comment period for the Department of the Army (DA) permit application and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality WQC will close <u>20 days</u> 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 DA permit and WQC request and must be mailed, so as to be received before or by the

last day of the comment period. Letters concerning the DA permit application must reference the applicant's name and the DA Permit Number, and be mailed to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at the address above. Similar letters concerning the WQC must reference the applicant's name and the WQC 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 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 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 these being: 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 is unlikely to adversely affect species listed as endangered, and may effect habitat designated as critical to the survival and recovery of endangered species listed by the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Based on the South Louisiana Standard Local Operating Procedure for Endangered Species (SLOPES), as signed on October 22, 2014, between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, it has been determined that the proposed activity is not likely to adversely affect the West Indian Manatee.

It has been assessed that the dredge footprint is located in waters known to be utilized by the West Indian Manatee (Trichecus manatus) and determined that the activity is not likely to adversely affect this species. If this permit is issued, the permittee will be required to the follow the SLOPES Manatee Conditions for In-Water Use.

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>.06</u> of an acre of possible 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 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Also, a certification that the proposed activity will not violate applicable water quality standards will be required from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality 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.

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 invited to communicate the information contained in this notice to any other parties whom you deem likely to have interest in the matter.

Darrell S. Barbara Chief, Western Evaluation Section Regulatory Branch

Enclosure











### GENERAL NOTES

- As-built drawings and/or plats shall have written on them the date of completion of said activities and shall be submitted to the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, Office of Coastal Management, P. O. Box 44487, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4487 within 30 days following project completion.
- 2. All structures, facilities, well and pipelines/flowlines occurring in open water areas or in oilfield canals or slips shall be removed within 120 days of abandonment or the facilities for the herein permitted use unless prior written approval to leave such structures in place is received from the Office of Coastal Management. This condition does not preclude the necessity for revising the current permit or obtaining a separate Coastal Use Permit, should one be required.
- 3. Structures must also be marked/lighted in accordance with U. S. Coast Guard regulations.
- 4. In order to ensure the safety of all parties, the permittee shall contact the Louisiana One Call System (1-800-272-3020) a minimum of 48 hours prior to the commencement of any excavation (digging, dredging, jetting, etc.) or demolition activity.

### STRUCTURE OPERATION & SITE HYDROLOGY

- 1. The vinyl sheet pile structure across the existing canal will include four 48" flap gates to maintain existing drainage flow patterns to the Bell City Drainage Canal. The flap gates will will close automatically when the water level in the Bell City Drainage Canal exceeds the water level behind the sheet pile wall structure.
- 2. This structure and the associated levees will provide flood protection to the interior wetlands and agricultural areas during times of high tail water conditions in the Bell City Drainage Canal.
- 3. The drainage area associated with the vinyl sheet pile structure is 2479 acres as shown as area 2 on sheet 8 of the permit drawings. The surrounding drainage areas are either pump off areas or drain through water control structures to the Bell City Drainage Canal on the east side or to the North Drainage Canal on the west side. Both canals drain south to the GIWW.
- 4. The existing drainage patterns on Pine Pasture or adjoining properties will not be altered by the installation of this structure. The volume of storm water flowing into the existing canal from area 2 to the proposed water control structure will not increase with the proposed levee maintenance and structure installation.
- 5. Water quality and quantity will be the same both pre and post project construction.



THIS DRAWING TO BE UTILIZED FOR PERMITTING PURPOSES ONLY.

