

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

March 11, 2019

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) 862-2675
Project Manager
Jamie Crowe
Jamie.M.Crowe@usace.army.mil
Permit Application Number
MVN 2012-01106 CO

(225) 219-3225
Project Manager
Elizabeth Hill
WQC Application Number
WQC 190228-01

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

HEAVY HAUL RAMP AND EXPANSION OF METHANOL PLANT IN THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER IN ASCENSION PARISH

NAME OF APPLICANT: Methanex USA, LLC, c/o CK Associates, 17170 Perkins Road, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70810.

LOCATION OF WORK: Within the Mississippi River Basin, in the Lower Mississippi River – Baton Rouge hydrologic unit (HUC 08070100) and within the Lake Pontchartrain Basin – Lake Maurepas hydrologic unit (HUC 08070204); within the Mississippi River, right descending bank, mile 185; and at 4279 Highway 73, Geismar, Louisiana, in Ascension Parish.

CHARACTER OF WORK: The applicant has requested to modify their existing authorization to include expansion of their existing facility to allow for new process units that will increase methanol production. To install these units, temporary fill will be placed in the Mississippi River batture to construct a temporary barge off-loading area, heavy haul road, and temporary bridge footings. The heavy haul ramp was authorized by the original authorization. After construction of the original facility, the ramp was removed in accordance with permit conditions. The heavy haul ramp will be re-

constructed in accordance with the specifications of the original authorization and removed after all equipment is offloaded from the barges.

For the expansion of the existing facility, the applicant proposes to clear, grade, and fill an area to provide a suitable substrate for the new process units. Approximately 4,018 linear feet of New River will be filled and relocated to 4,685 linear feet of new channel bordering the property. Approximately 30,664 cubic yards of fill material will be placed in jurisdictional wetlands and/or waters. Approximately 1 acre of waters of the US and 1 acre of wetlands will be temporarily impacted by the proposed heavy haul ramp. Approximately 4.1 acres of waters of the US and 5.32 acres of wetlands will be permanently impacted by the proposed plant expansion.

The applicant has stated that avoidance of wetlands was impracticable because the G3 expansion will rely on the existing units that have already been constructed. Impacts to wetlands and waters have been minimized by using unique processes to produce methanol that require a smaller footprint than traditional equipment. Additionally, all fill will be removed from the batture once all equipment has been offloaded. To compensate for unavoidable wetland impacts, the application proposes to purchase wetland credits from a Corps approved mitigation bank located in the watershed.

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. 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 not affect any species, nor affect any habitat designated as critical to the survival and recovery of such species, listed as endangered by the U.S. Department of Commerce.

The New Orleans District has determined that the proposed project is located in waters known to be utilized by the pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*) and the inflated heelsplitter mussel (*Potamilus inflatus*). Our initial determination is that the proposed activity is not likely to adversely affect the pallid sturgeon and will have no effect on the inflated heelsplitter or on any other known species. These determinations are based on the Standard Local Operating Procedure for Endangered Species of Louisiana (SLOPES), dated October 22, 2014, between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Office.

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

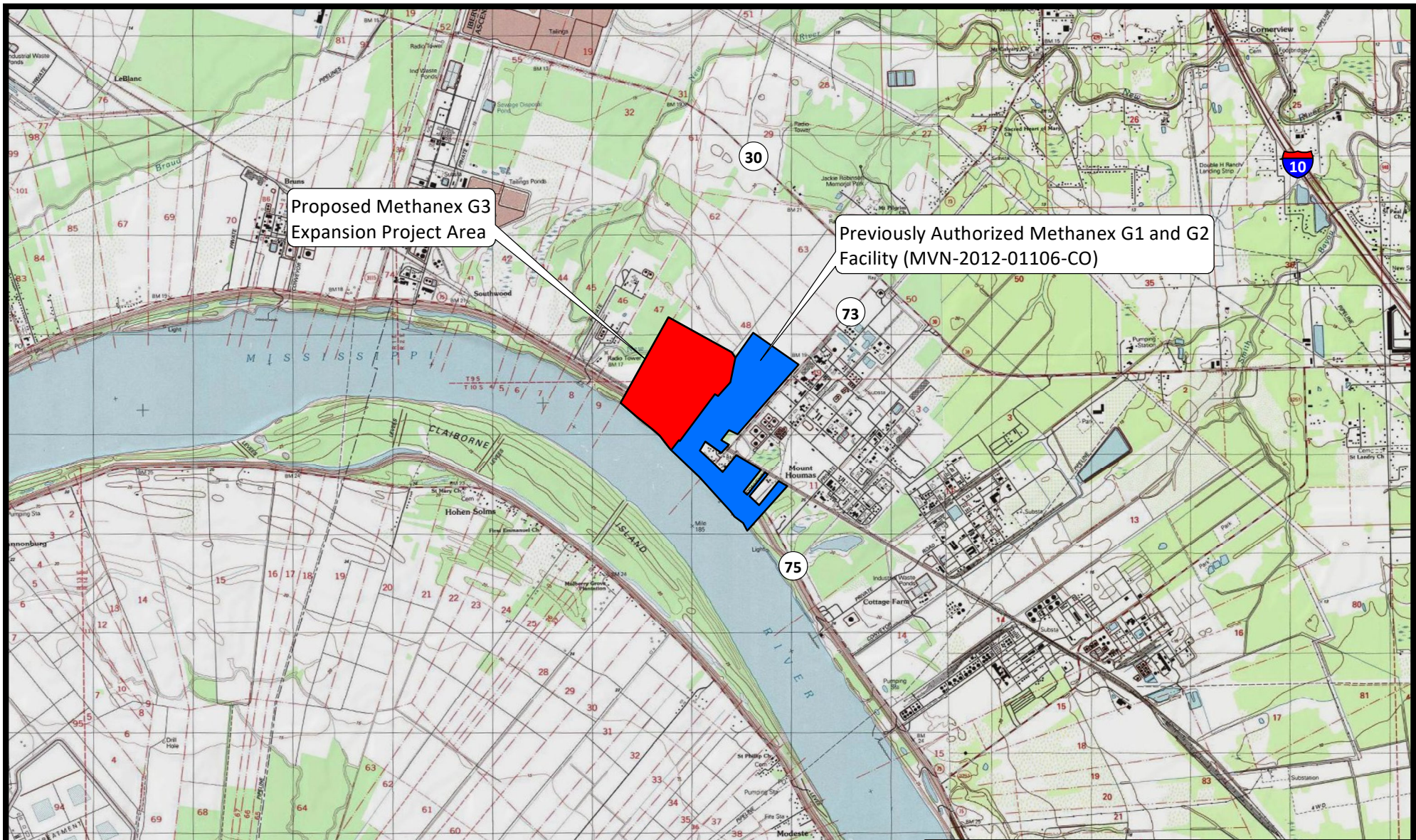
waters, the evaluation of the probable impacts will include the application of guidelines established by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Also, a certification that the proposed activity will not violate applicable water quality standards will be required from the Department 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.

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.

For: John M. Herman
Chief, Central Evaluation Section
Regulatory Branch

Enclosure



Ascension Parish



0 4,000
Feet

USGS 24K Series Topo Map, Carville, LA.



Methanex USA, LLC

Geismar, Louisiana

Methanex G3 Expansion

Site Location Map

Ascension Parish



Drawn: BLN

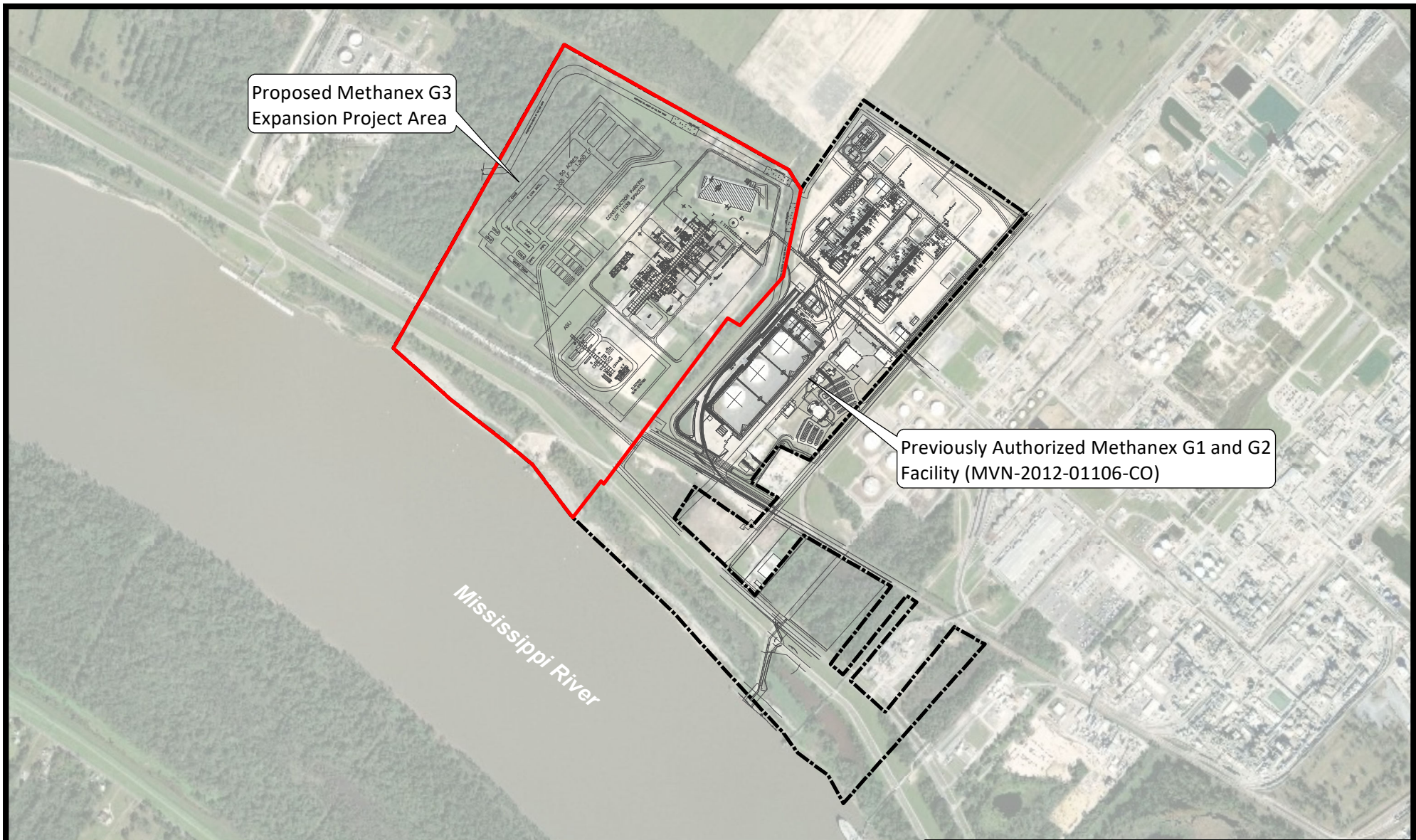
Checked: CAL

Date: 11/27/18

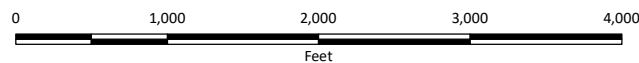
Approved: TEW

Dwg. No.: A16022-01

Figure 1



Ascension Parish



Basemap from ESRI World Imagery, Available on ArcGISOnline



Methanex USA, LLC

Geismar, Louisiana

Methanex G3 Expansion

Plan View Aerial

Ascension Parish



Drawn: BLN

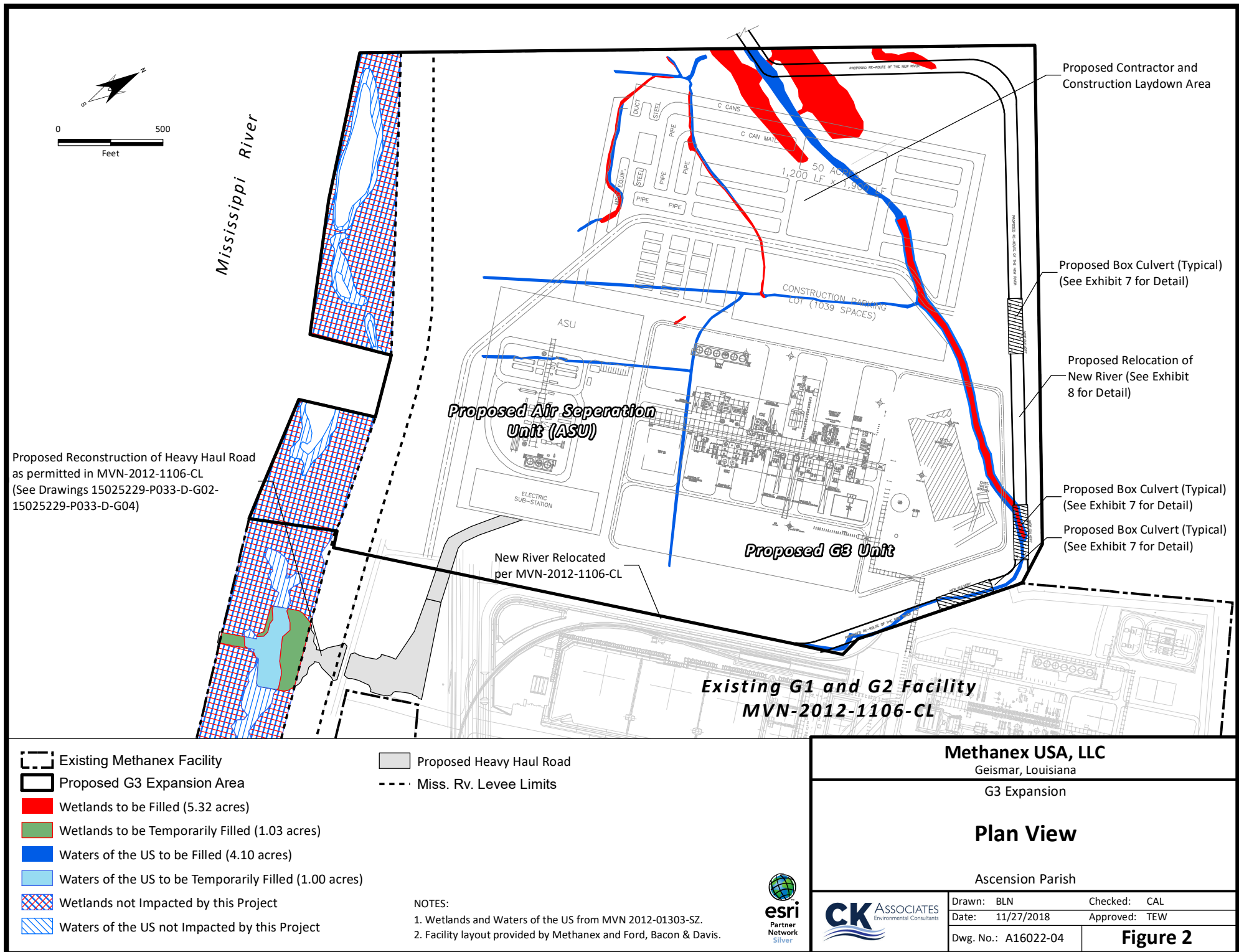
Checked: CAL

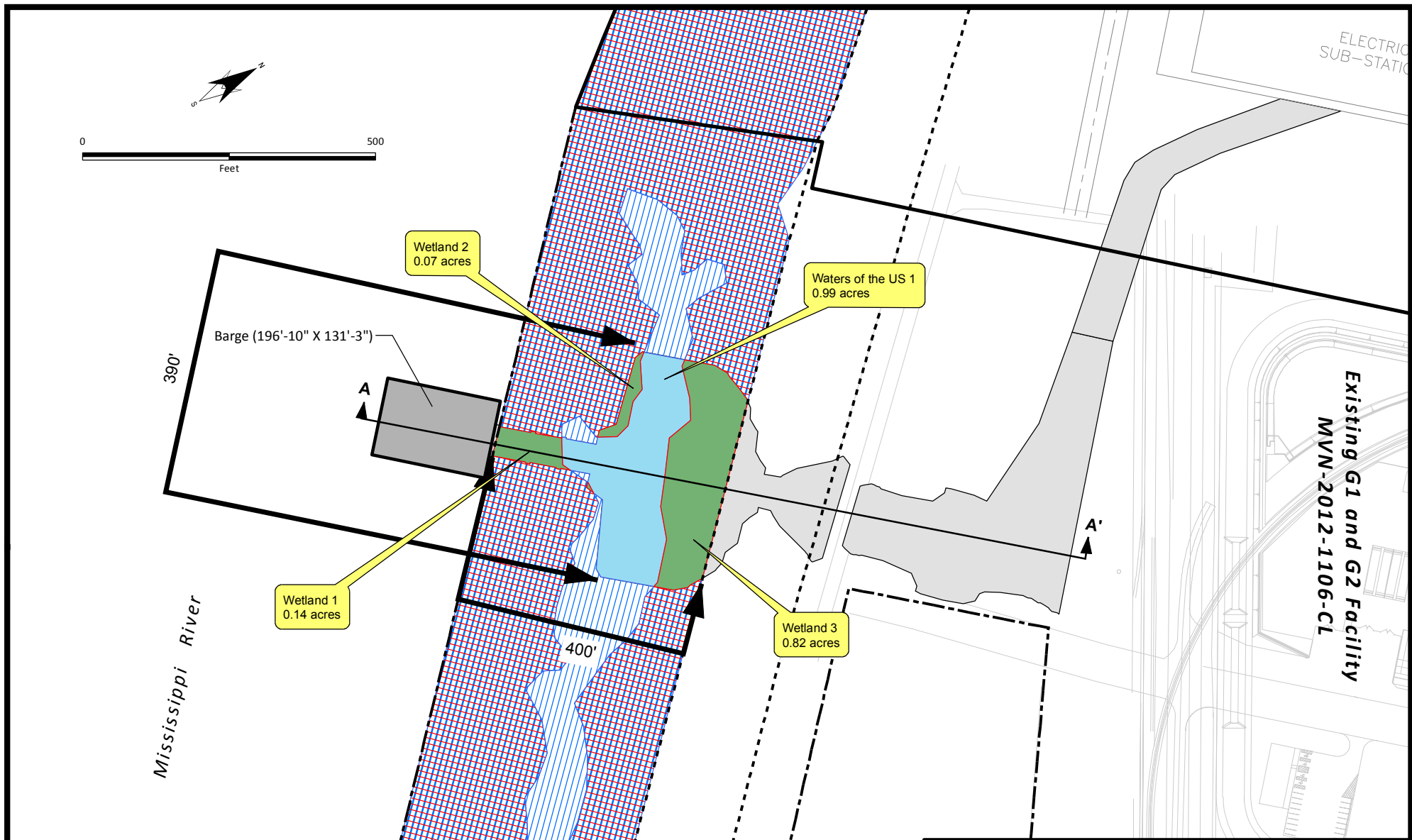
Date: 11/27/18

Approved: TEW

Dwg. No.: A16022-03

Figure 2





Legend

- Existing Methanex Facility
- Proposed G3 Expansion Area
- Wetlands to be Filled (5.32 acres)
- Wetlands to be Temporarily Filled (1.03 acres)
- Waters of the US to be Filled (4.10 acres)
- Waters of the US to be Temporarily Filled (1.00 acres)
- Wetlands not Impacted by this Project
- Waters of the US not Impacted by this Project

- Proposed Heavy Haul Road
- Miss. Rv. Levee Limits

NOTES:

- Proposed heavy haul road to be reconstructed in accordance with previous authorization per MVN-2012-1106-CL.
- Wetlands and Waters of the US from MVN 2012-01303-SZ.
- Facility layout provided by Methanex and Ford, Bacon & Davis.



Methanex USA, LLC

Geismar, Louisiana

G3 Expansion

Temporary Heavy Haul Road Plan View

Ascension Parish



Drawn: CAL

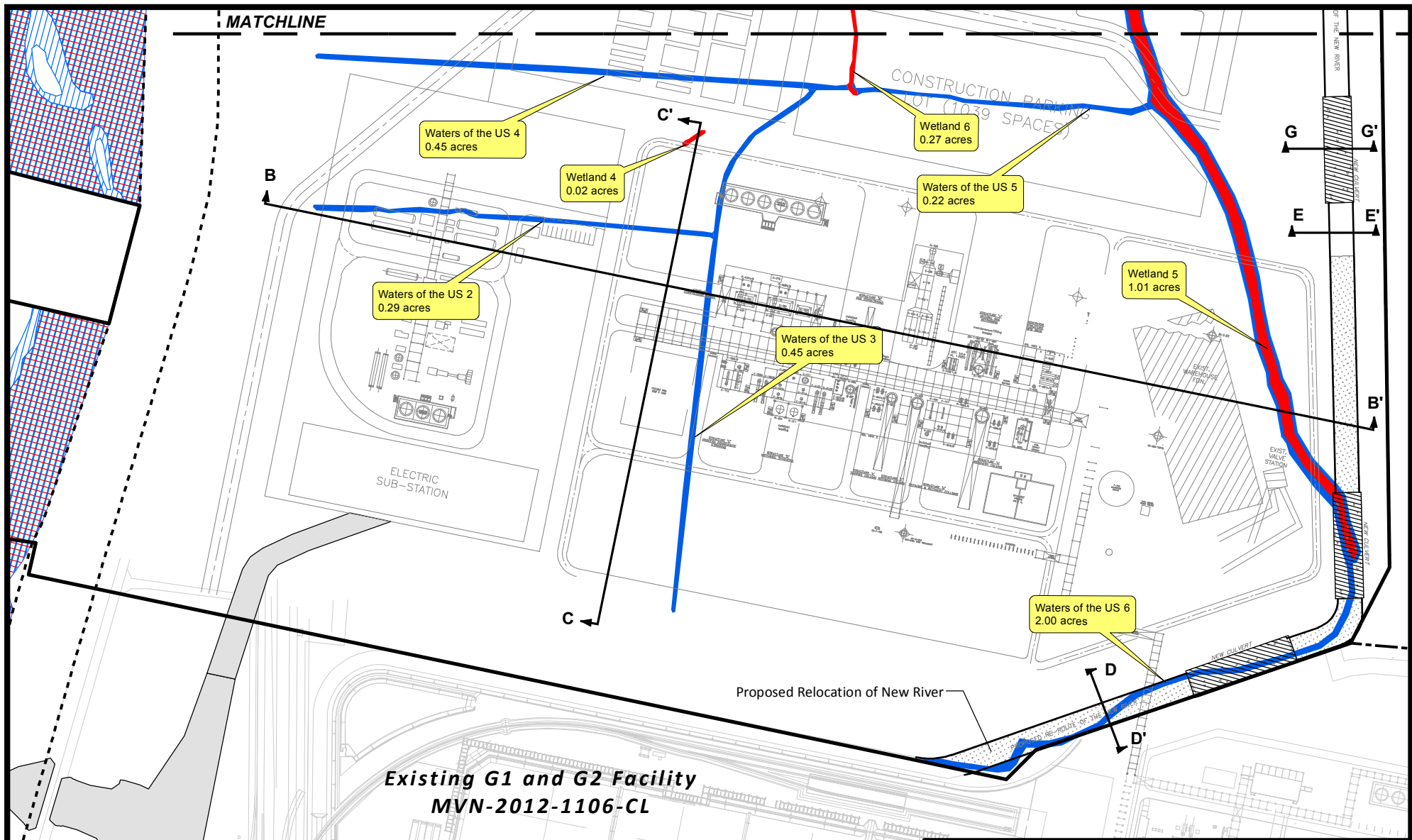
Checked: BLN

Date: 12/10/2018

Approved: TEW

Dwg. No.: A16022-05

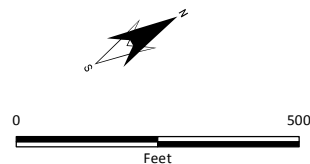
Figure 3



Legend

- Existing Methanex Facility
- Proposed G3 Expansion Area
- Wetlands to be Filled (5.32 acres)
- Wetlands to be Temporarily Filled (1.03 acres)
- Waters of the US to be Filled (4.10 acres)
- Waters of the US to be Temporarily Filled (1.00 acres)
- Wetlands not Impacted by this Project
- Waters of the US not Impacted by this Project

- Proposed Heavy Haul Road
- Miss. Rv. Levee Limits



NOTES:

1. Proposed heavy haul road to be reconstructed in accordance with previous authorization per MVN-2012-1106-CL.
2. Wetlands and Waters of the US from MVN 2012-01303-SZ.
3. Facility layout provided by Methanex and Ford, Bacon & Davis.



Methanex USA, LLC

Geismar, Louisiana

G3 Expansion

Plan View
Sheet 1 of 2

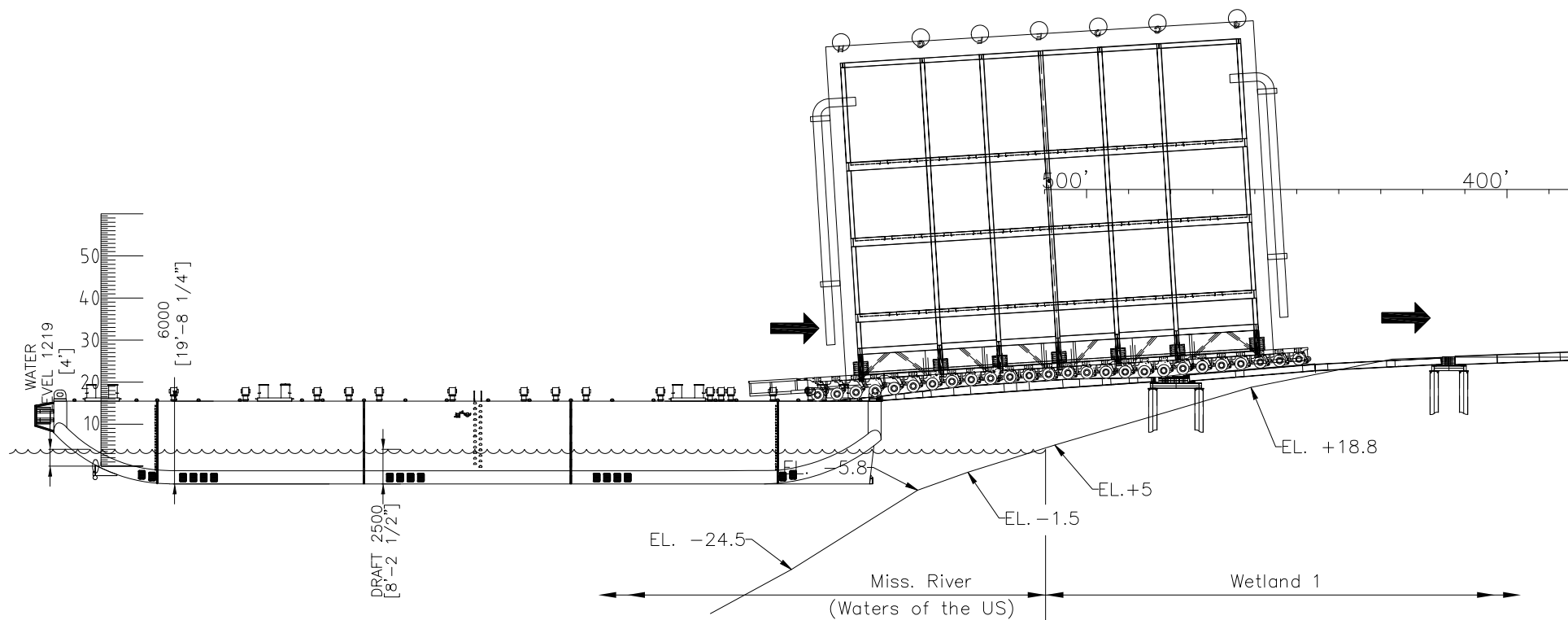
Ascension Parish



Drawn: CAL
Date: 12/10/2018
Dwg. No.: A16022-06a


Checked: BLN
Approved: TEW

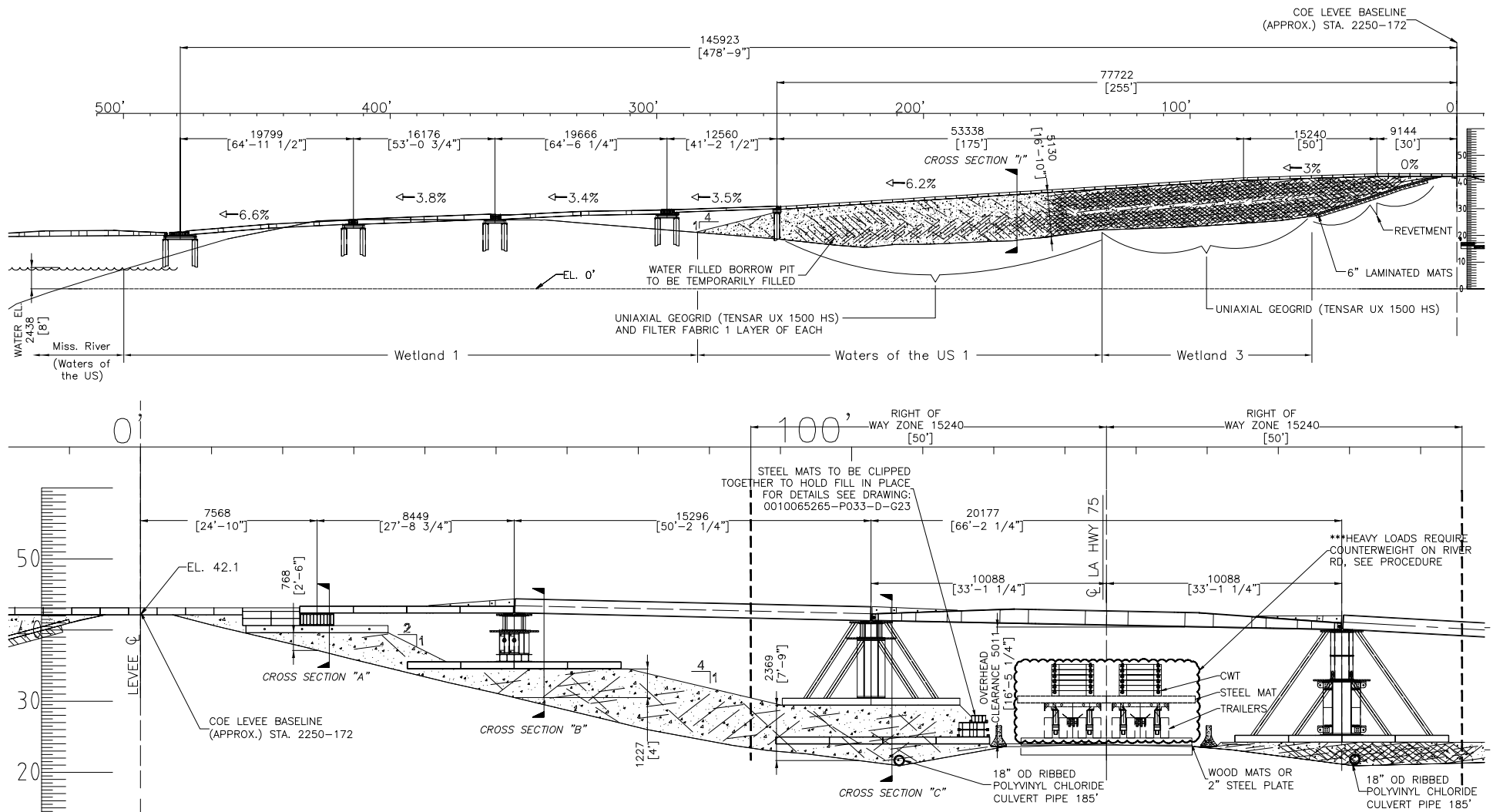
Figure 4



Horizontal and Vertical Scale as Shown

Drawing from MAMMOET, Drawing Number 15025229-P033-D-G03-9/12-01.

Methanex USA, LLC Geismar, Louisiana			
G3 Expansion			
Cross-Sections A-A' Sheet 1 of 3			
Ascension Parish			
	Drawn: CAL	Checked: BLN	
	Date: 12/10/2018	Approved: TEW	
	Dwg. No.: A16022-07a		Figure 5



Methanex USA, LLC

Geismar, Louisiana

G3 Expansion

Cross-Sections A-A'

Sheet 2 of 3

Ascension Parish



Drawn: CAL

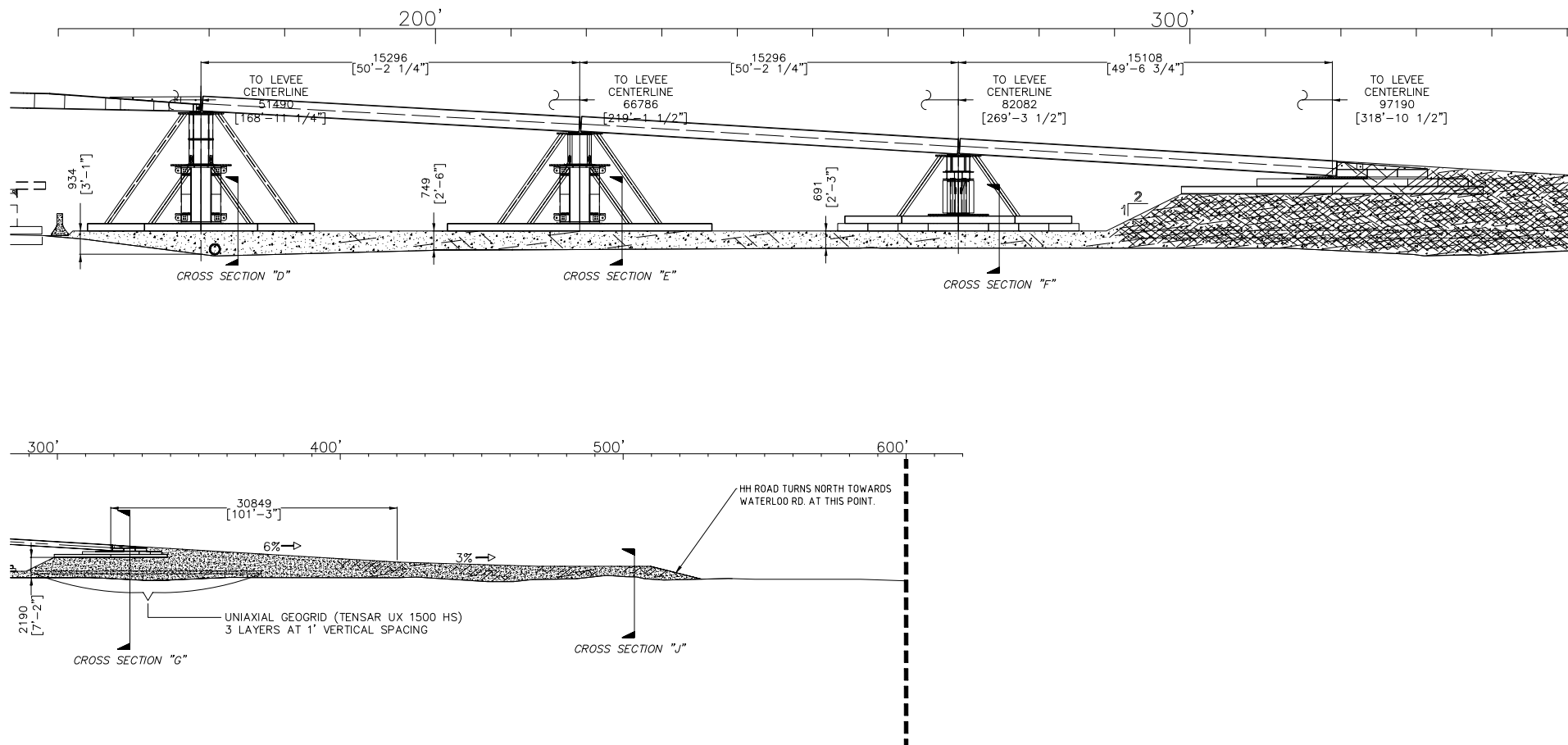
Checked: BLN

Date: 12/10/2018

Approved: TEW

Dwg. No.: A16022-07b

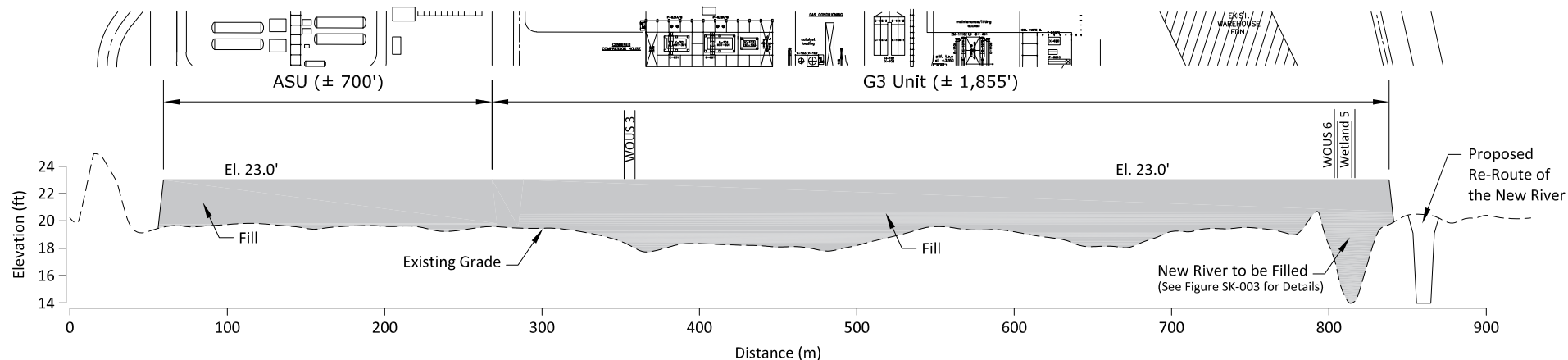
Figure 5



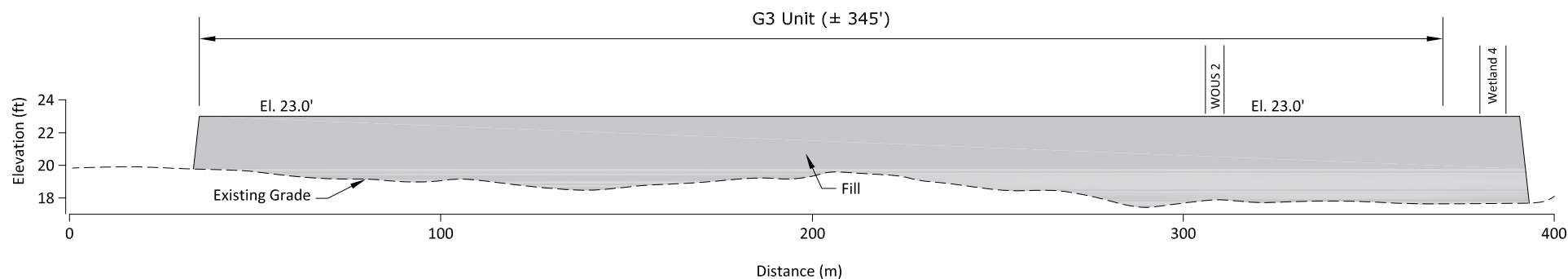
Horizontal and Vertical Scale as Shown

Drawing from MAMMOET, Drawing Number 15025229-P033-D-G03-9/12-01.

Methanex USA, LLC Geismar, Louisiana			
G3 Expansion			
Cross-Sections A-A' Sheet 3 of 3			
Ascension Parish			
	Drawn: CAL	Checked: BLN	
	Date: 12/10/2018	Approved: TEW	
	Dwg. No.: A16022-07c		Figure 5




Cross-Section B-B'

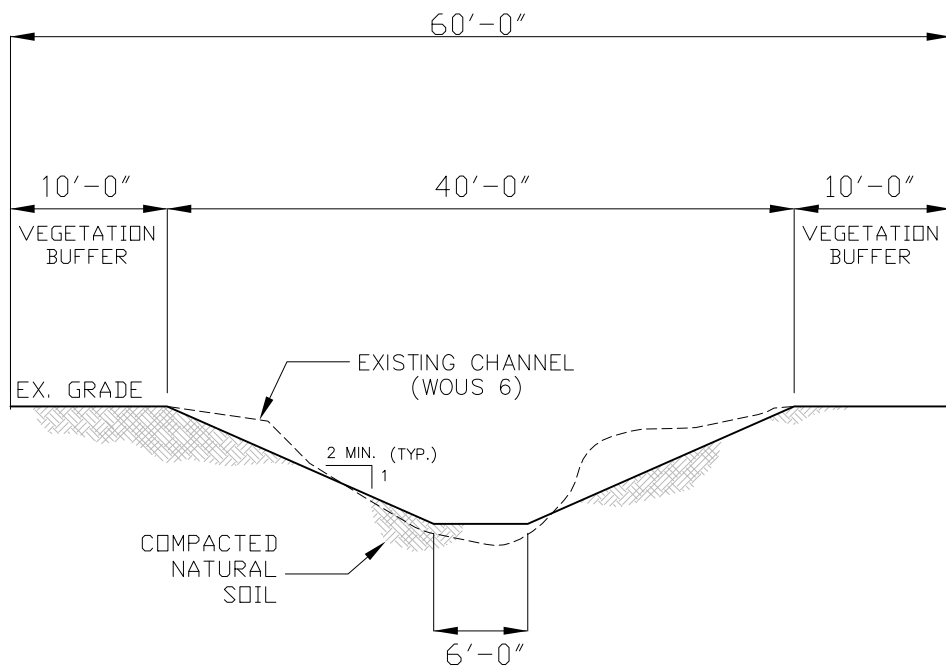


Cross-Section C-C'

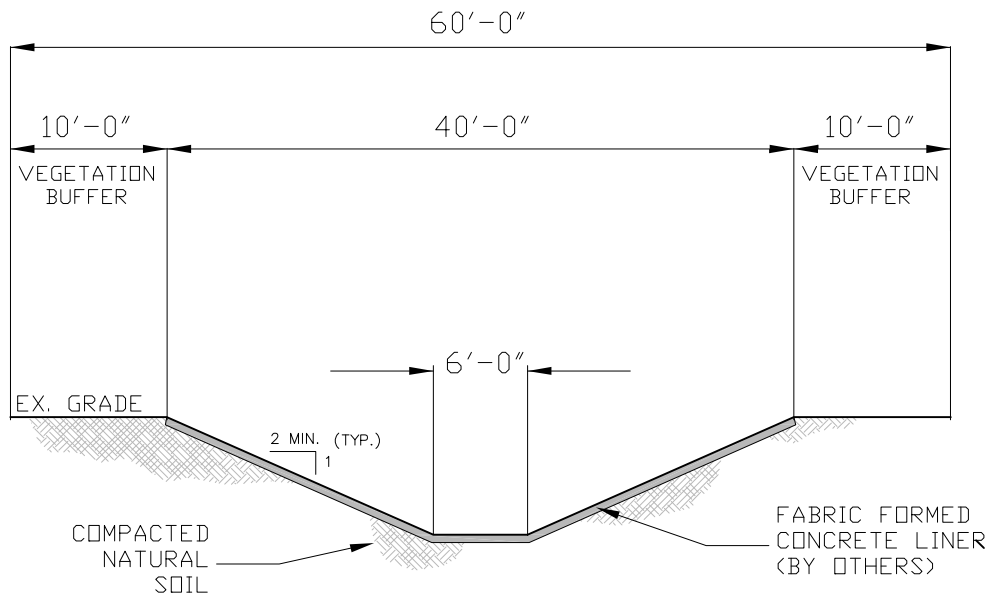
Horizontal and Vertical Scale as Shown

- NOTES: 1) Existing grade based on LIDAR contours.
2) Final fill elevations provided by Methanex.

Methanex USA, LLC Geismar, Louisiana			
G3 Expansion			
Cross-Sections B-B' and C-C'			
Ascension Parish			
	Drawn: CAL	Checked: BLN	
	Date: 12/10/2018	Approved: TEW	
	Dwg. No.: A16022-08	Figure 6	



Cross-Section D-D' - Proposed New River Re-Channel



Cross-Section E-E' - Proposed New River Relocation (Non-Wetland)

NEW RIVER RESTORATION PLAN

-GRASS WILL BE PLANTED 10' ON EITHER SIDES OF THE RIVER BANKS
-NATIVE TREES OR SHRUBS WILL BE PLANTED ON THE BANKS WHERE
FEASIBLE AND SPACED BETWEEN 9' AND 13'

NOT TO SCALE

From Ford, Bacon & Davis, Drawing Number F5545-S-SK-003, Rev D, Dated 04/30/18.

Methanex USA, LLC
Geismar, Louisiana

G3 Expansion

Cross-Sections D-D' and E-E'

Ascension Parish



Drawn: CAL

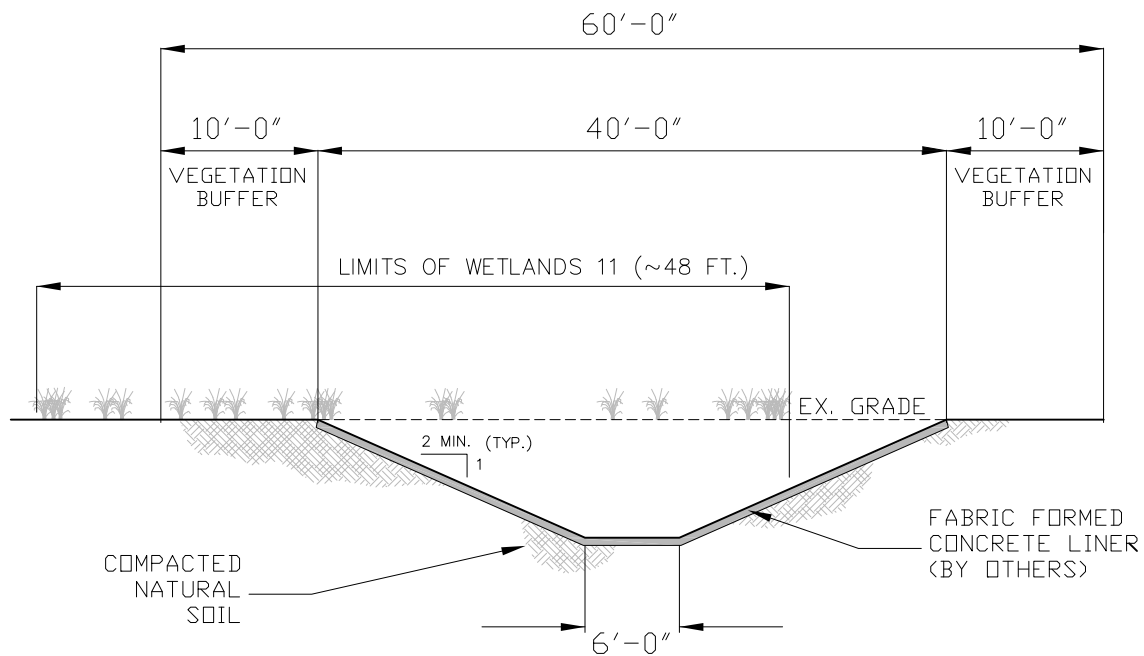
Checked: BLN

Date: 12/10/2018

Approved: TEW

Dwg. No.: A16022-09

Figure 7



Cross-Section F-F' - Proposed New River Relocation (In Wetland)

NEW RIVER RESTORATION PLAN

-GRASS WILL BE PLANTED 10' ON EITHER SIDES OF THE RIVER BANKS
 -NATIVE TREES OR SHRUBS WILL BE PLANTED ON THE BANKS WHERE
 FEASIBLE AND SPACED BETWEEN 9' AND 13'

NOT TO SCALE

From Ford, Bacon & Davis, Drawing Number F5545-S-SK-003, Rev D, Dated 04/30/18.

Methanex USA, LLC
 Geismar, Louisiana

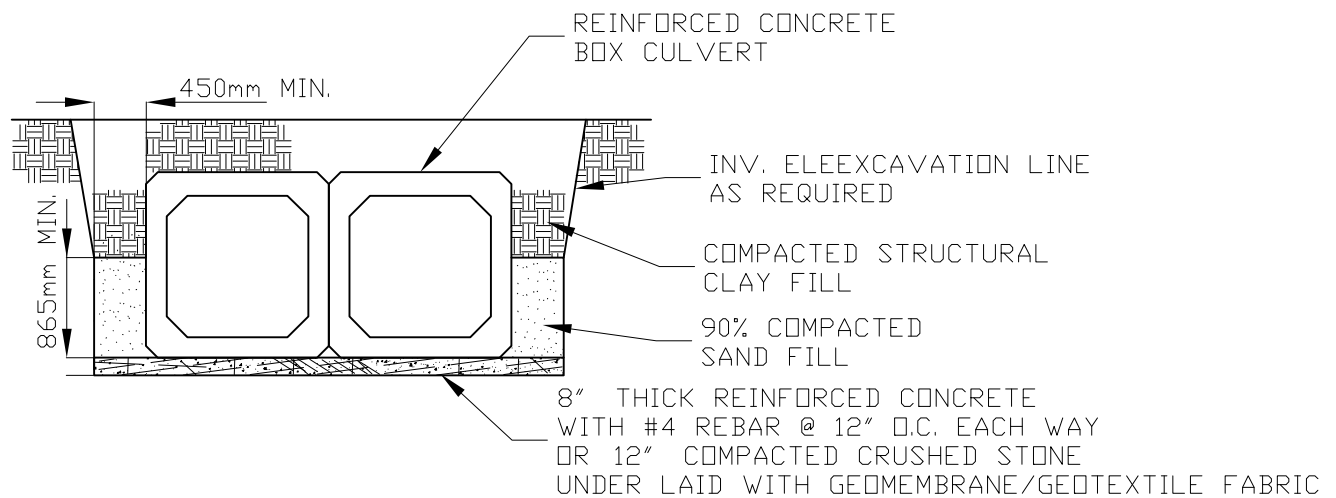
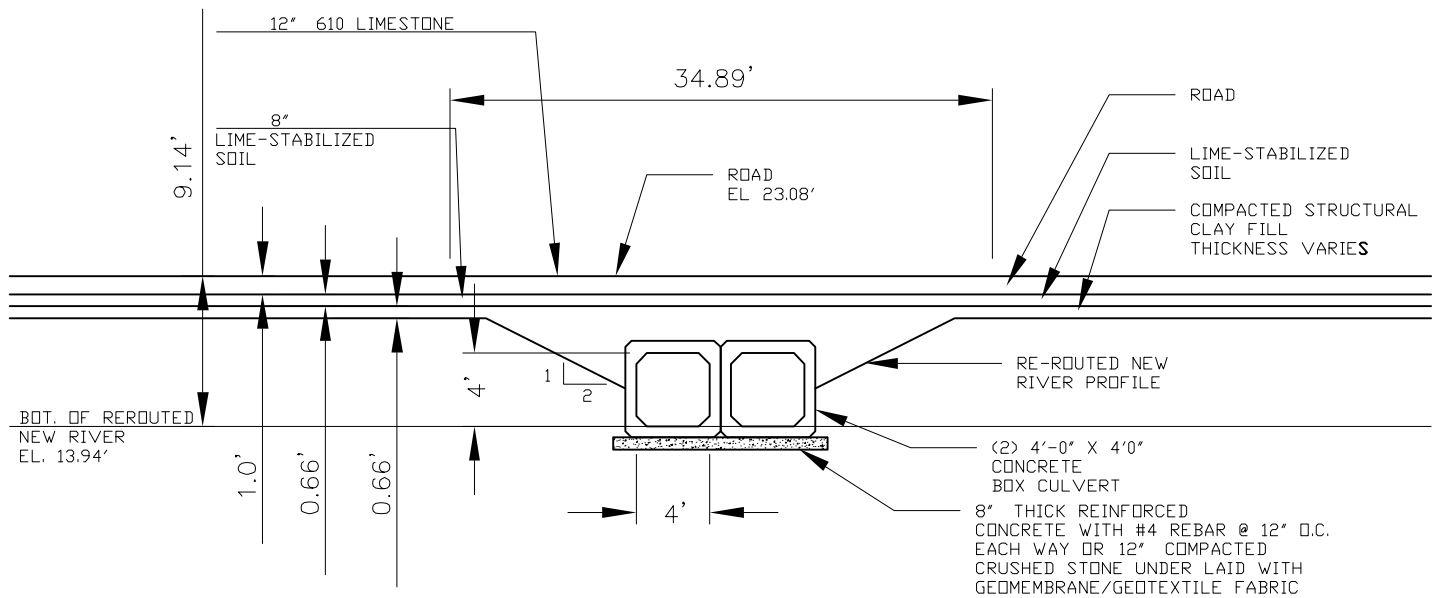
G3 Expansion

Cross-Section F-F'

Ascension Parish



Drawn: CAL	Checked: BLN
Date: 12/10/2018	Approved: TEW
Dwg. No.: A16022-10	Figure 8



NOT TO SCALE

From drawings by Ford, Bacon & Davis. Number Exhibit 7, Rev B, Dated 06/28/18 and
Drawing Number F5545-S-SK-003, Rev D, Dated 04/30/18.

Methanex USA, LLC
Geismar, Louisiana

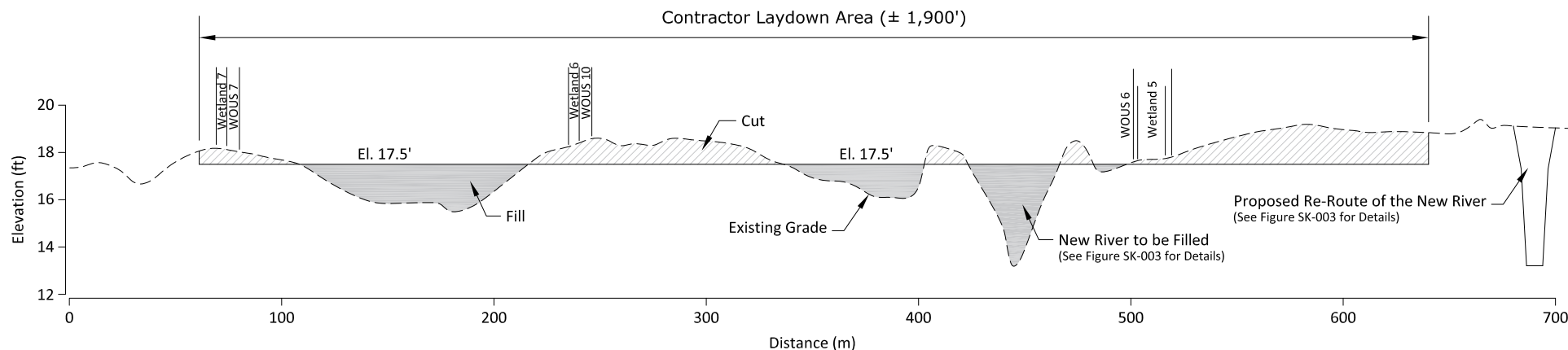
G3 Expansion

Cross-Section G-G' Typical Box Culvert

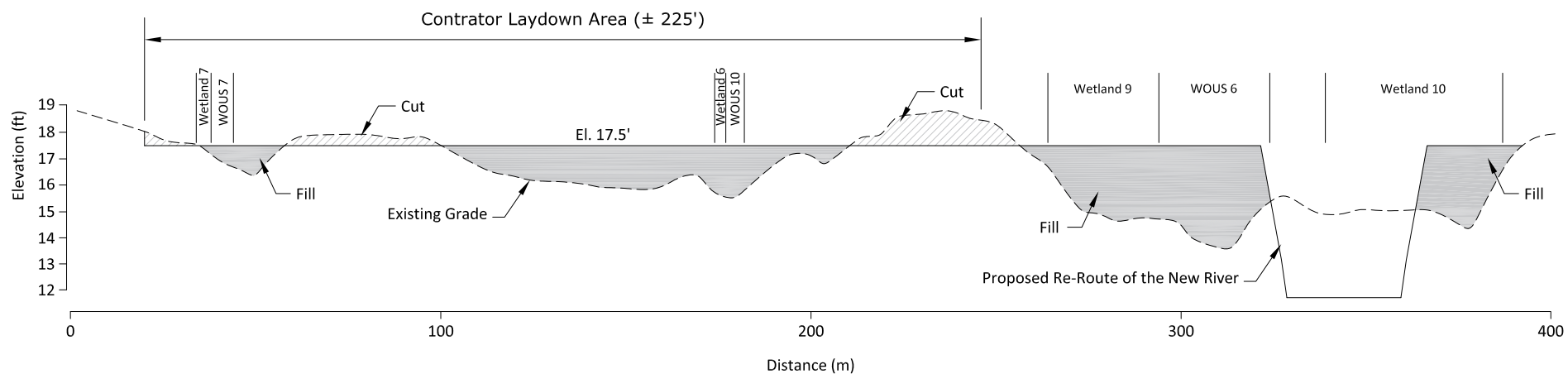
Ascension Parish



Drawn: CAL	Checked: BLN
Date: 12/10/2018	Approved: TEW
Dwg. No.: A16022-12	Figure 9




Cross-Section H-H'



Cross-Section I-I'

Horizontal and Vertical Scale as Shown

- NOTES: 1) Existing grade based on LIDAR contours.
2) Final fill elevations provided by Methanex.

Methanex USA, LLC			
Geismar, Louisiana			
G3 Expansion			
Cross-Sections H-H' and I-I'			
Ascension Parish			
	Drawn: CAL	Checked: BLN	
	Date: 12/10/2018	Approved: TEW	
	Dwg. No.: A16022-13		Figure 10