JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

20 May 2019

United States Army Corps of Engineers New Orleans District Regulatory Branch (ODR-E) 7400 Leake Avenue New Orleans, Louisiana 70118 State of Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality ATTN: Water Quality Certifications Post Office Box 4313 Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4313

(504) 862-2279 <u>angelle.v.greer@usace.army.mil</u> Project Manager Angelle Greer Permit Application Number MVN-2013-02406-EG

(225) 219-3225 Project Manager Elizabeth Hill WQC Application Number WQC 190513-01

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, Water Quality Certifications, 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).

BULKHEAD AND MAINTENANCE DREDGING in PLAQUEMINES PARISH

NAME OF APPLICANT: Louisiana Fruit Company dba Venice Port Complex c/o Newell Engineering, LLC, Attention: Frank Newell, 700 Papworth Avenue, Suite 202, Metairie, LA 70005

LOCATION OF WORK: Off of Chevron Rd., in Venice, in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, as shown on the enclosed drawings.

Location: Latitude: 29.2625, Longitude: -89.353333 and Latitude: 29.26416, Longitude: -89.35305 Hydrologic Unit Code: 08090100 (Lower Mississippi-New Orleans)

<u>CHARACTER OF WORK</u>: To construct approximately 350 linear feet of new bulkhead, replace approximately 450 linear feet of existing bulkhead, and excavate approximately 90,298 yd³ of material

for slip maintenance. There are 2 slips located at the facility. Work on the west slip will include the replacement of approximately 450 linear feet of existing bulkhead, the construction of approximately 175 linear feet of new bulkhead, and maintenance dredging to -18.0 (NAVD). Work on the east slip will include the construction of approximately 175 linear feet of new bulkhead, placing fill material within the existing boundaries of the slip, and maintenance dredging outside of the bulkhead (Grand Pass) to -22.0 (NAVD). All work described above is shown on the enclosed drawings. No wetland impacts are anticipated as a result of the project, therefore, no compensatory mitigation is proposed.

The comment period for the Department of the Army Permit 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 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, <u>ATTENTION: REGULATORY BRANCH</u>. Similar 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.

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 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 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.

The New Orleans District has determined that the activity is not likely to adversely affect the West Indian Manatee based on the 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. Standard Manatee Conditions for In-Water Activities will be added to Corps' authorization, if approved.

Our initial finding is that the proposed work is not likely to adversely affect any species listed as endangered, nor affect any habitat designated as critical to the survival and recovery of those species listed by the U.S. Department of Commerce.

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 approximately 5.35 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, Water Quality Certifications, 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 requested to communicate the information contained in this notice to any other parties whom you deem likely to have interest in the matter.

Michael V. Farabee Chief, Eastern Evaluation Section

Enclosure











Beneficial Use of Dredge Material (BUDM) Plan Site 6 West Slip Improvements Project - Venice Port Complex Venice, Louisiana

The Site 6 West Slip Improvements Project (the Project) includes the replacement of approximately 450 linear feet of existing bulkhead and construction of approximately 175 linear feet of new bulkhead located at the west slip of Site 6 of the Venice Port Complex in Venice, Louisiana. The west slip will also be dredged to an elevation of -18.0 (NAVD) as part of the Project. This amounts to the excavation of an estimated 72,744 cubic yards of dredge material from a privately-owned slip.

Title 43, Section 1 §723 stipulates that activities involving 25,000 cubic yards or more of dredging performed to facilitate the movement or mooring of vessels require a BUDM Plan which sets forth a plan for the beneficial use of dredge material which can include one or more of the following options:

- i. implementing a project for the beneficial use of the dredged material;
- ii. providing for beneficial use of the dredged material on an existing coastal restoration project;
- iii. conducting an alternative dredging activity whereby an equivalent volume of material is dredged at another location and put to a beneficial use; and/or
- iv. making a contribution to the Coastal Resources Trust Fund.

Option i. was selected for this BUDM Plan. The Venice Port Complex is comprised of developed industrial sites that are continuously subsiding. Dredge material will placed on-site within the Venice Port Complex to increase elevation lost due to continued subsidence. The proposed placement area is shown in the image below:















