

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

December 8, 2014

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District
Regulatory Branch
Post Office Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

State of Louisiana
Department of Environmental Quality
Water Quality Certification Section
Post Office Box 4313
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4313

Project Manager: Michael H. Herrmann
(504) 862-1954
Michael.h.herrmann@usace.army.mil
DA Permit Number: MVN-2014-02406-WLL

Project Manager: Elizabeth Johnson
(225) 219-3225
WQC Number: WQC 141110-02

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: Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of March 3, 1899 (30 Stat. 1151; 33 U.S.C. 403); and/or 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).

HABITAT RESTORATION IN GUEYDAN LOUISIANA

Name of Applicant: USDA-NRCS, 3737 Government Street, Alexandria, LA 71302

Location of Work: Off of Highway 14 in Gueydan Louisiana, VERMILION PARISH, Lat 30.010902, Long. -92.468734, as shown on the attached drawings.

Character of Work: Excavate 40,862 cubic yards of herbaceous wetlands to refurbish existing marsh management levees, build earthen mounds to provide songbird habitat and provide water management all for the purpose of enhancing a 110.9 acre wetland tract.

Project will impact approximately 24.5 acres of herbaceous wetlands due to the excavation of borrow areas and placement of fill. The applicant proposes to provide enhancement benefits to the 110.9 acre project area through a marsh management regime, which may offset project related impacts to jurisdictional wetlands.

The comment period for the Department of the Army (DA) permit application and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality WQC will close **20 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 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.

No properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places are known to be near the proposed work. The possibility exists that the proposed work may damage or destroy presently unknown archeological, scientific, prehistoric, or 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 would neither affect any species listed as endangered by the U.S. Departments of Interior or Commerce, nor affect any habitat designated as critical to the survival and recovery of any endangered species.

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 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.

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 receives approval or a waiver of the Coastal Use Permit by the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources.

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.

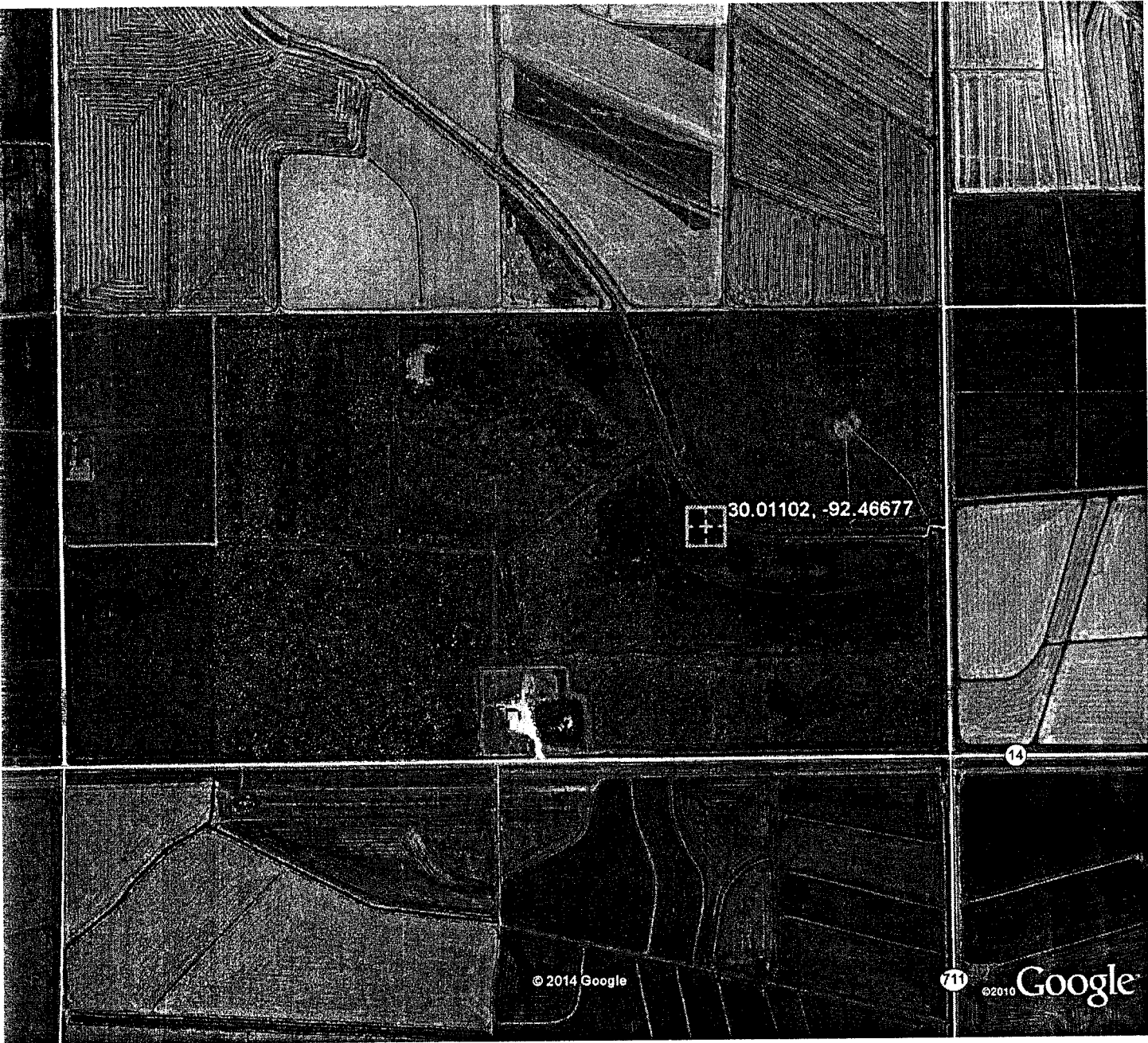
You are requested to communicate the information contained in this notice to any other parties whom you deem likely to have interest in the matter.

Darrell S. Barbara
Chief, Western Evaluation Section
Regulatory Branch

Enclosure



2.7 mi S.E. of Gueydan, LA

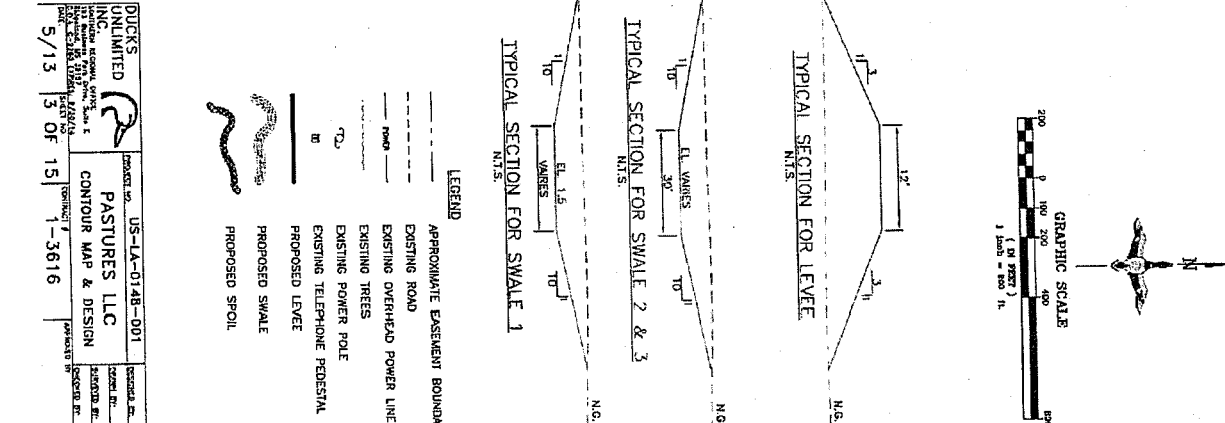
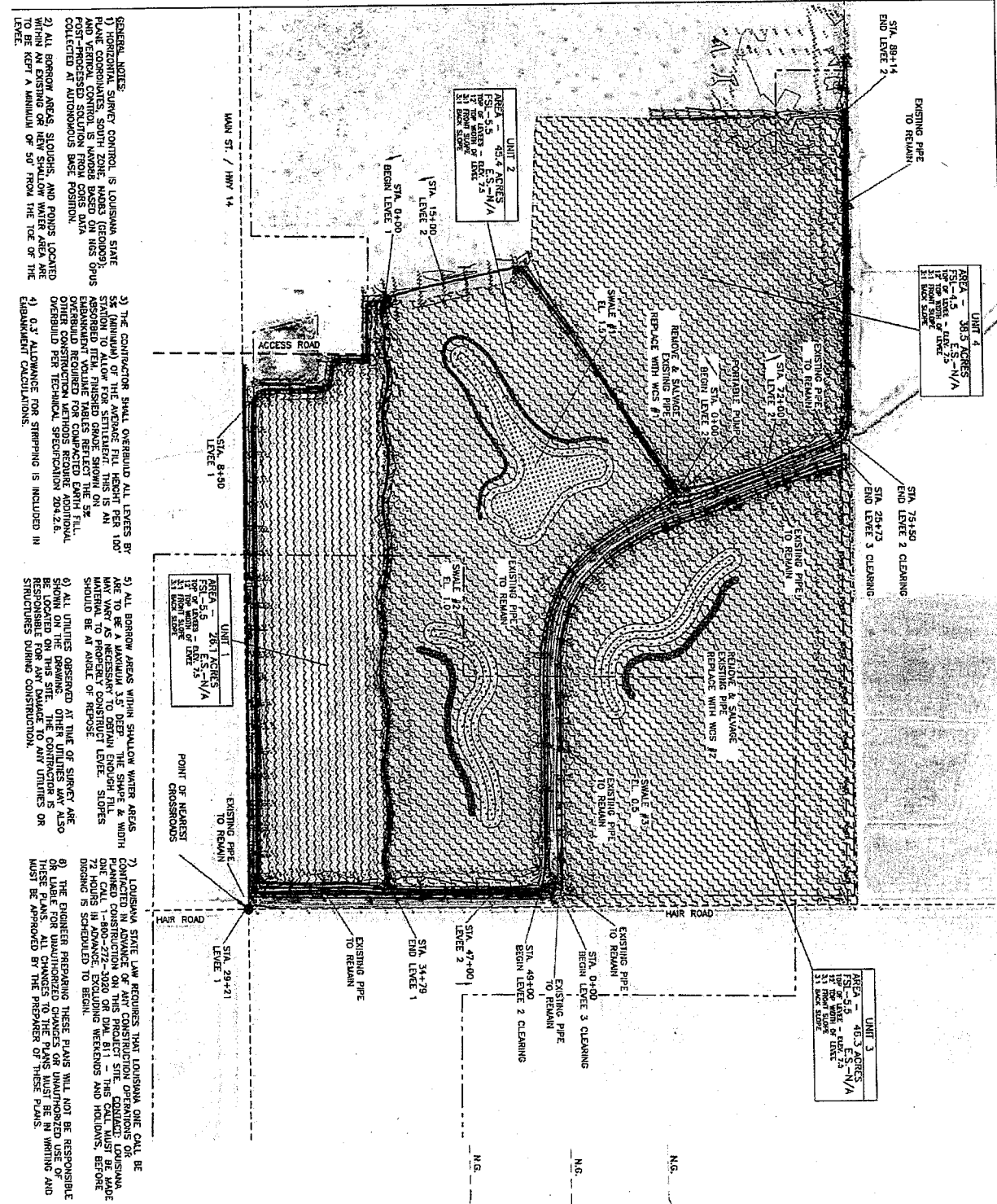


30.01102, -92.46677

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GRAPHIC SCALE
 0 100 200 300 400 500
 (1" = 50' / 1" = 100')

LEGEND

- APPROXIMATE EASEMENT BOUNDARY
- EXISTING ROAD
- EXISTING OVERHEAD POWER LINE
- EXISTING TREES
- EXISTING POWER POLE
- EXISTING TELEPHONE PEDESTAL
- PROPOSED LEVEE
- PROPOSED SWALE
- PROPOSED STYOL

UNLIMITED CONTRACT NO. US-LA-0148-001
 PASTURES LLC
 CONTOUR MAP & DESIGN
 5/13 3 OF 15 1-3616

GENERAL NOTES:

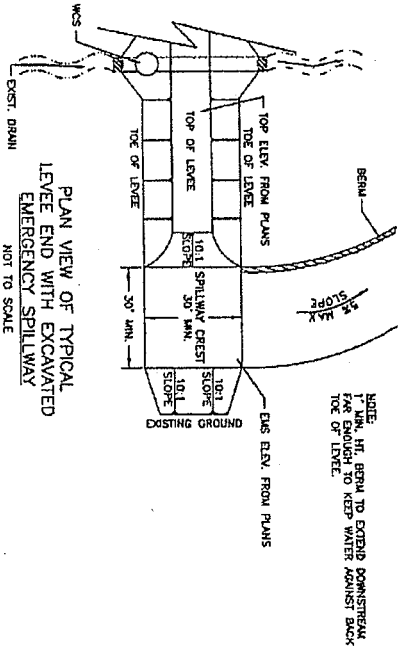
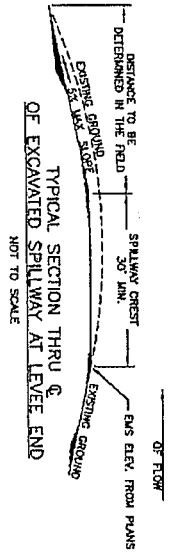
- 1) HORIZONTAL SURVEY CONTROL IS LOUISIANA STATE PLANT CORNER, SOUTH ZONE, BASED ON THE 1983 POST-PROCESSED SOLUTION FROM CORS DATA COLLECTED AT AUTONOMOUS BASE POSITION.
- 2) ALL BORROW AREAS, SLOPES, AND POND LOCATED ON THIS PLAN ARE TO BE KEPT A MINIMUM OF 50' FROM THE TOE OF THE LEVEE.
- 3) THE CONTRACTOR SHALL OVERBUID ALL LEVEES BY 5% MINIMUM UP THE SETTLED LEVEE. THIS IS AN ASSIGNED ITEM, FINISHED GRADE SHOWN ON EMBANKMENT VOLUME TABLES REFLECT THE 5% OVERBUID REQUIRED. ALL LEVEES REQUIRE ADDITIONAL OVERBUID PER TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION 204.2.6.
- 4) 0.3' ALLOWANCE FOR STRIPPING IS INCLUDED IN EMBANKMENT CALCULATIONS.

5) ALL BORROW AREAS WITHIN SHALLOW WATER AREAS ARE TO BE A MINIMUM 3.5' DEEP. THE SHAPE & WIDTH MAY VARY AS NECESSARY TO OBTAIN ENOUGH FILL MATERIAL TO PROPERLY CONSTRUCT LEVEE. SLOPES SHOULD BE AT ANGLE OF REPOSE.

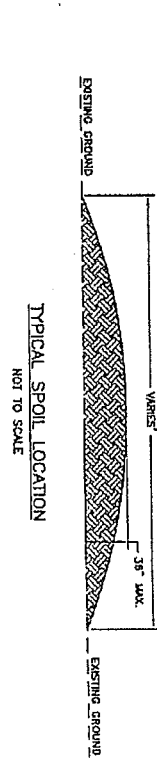
6) ALL UTILITIES OBSERVED AT TIME OF SURVEY ARE SHOWN ON THIS SITE. ALL UTILITIES NOT SHOWN OR LOCATED ON THIS SITE ARE TO BE KEPT AS SHOWN OR STRUCTURES DURING CONSTRUCTION.

7) LOUISIANA STATE LAW REQUIRES THAT LOUISIANA ONE CALL BE CONTACTED IN ADVANCE OF ANY CONSTRUCTION OPERATIONS IN LOUISIANA. PLANNED CONSTRUCTION FROM 0600 ON DIAL 811 - THIS CALL MUST BE MADE 72 HOURS IN ADVANCE, EXCLUDING WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS, BEFORE DIGGING IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN.

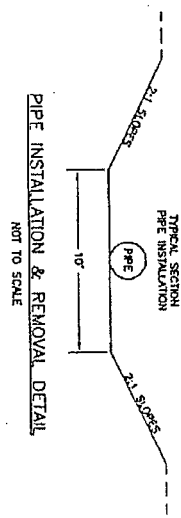
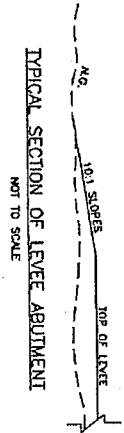
8) THE ENGINEER PREPARING THESE PLANS WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE OR LIABLE FOR UNAUTHORIZED CHANGES OR UNAUTHORIZED USE OF THESE PLANS. ALL CHANGES TO THE PLANS MUST BE IN WRITING AND MUST BE APPROVED BY THE PREPARED OF THESE PLANS.



NOTE: LINE AT BEGIN TO EXIST POINTS FOR SPILLWAY TO BE KEPT WATER AGAINST BACK TOE OF LEVEE.



- GENERAL NOTES FOR SPOIL AREA
- 1) NO SPECIFIED COMPACTION REQUIRED.
 - 2) SPOIL SHOULD BE FREE FROM WEEDS, BRUSH, AND OTHER DEBRIS.
 - 3) SPOIL SHOULD BE PLACED WITH SHOULDER 50' AS TO BE APPROPRIATELY PLACING.
 - 4) SPOILS OCCURRING WITHIN SWMS WILL BE EXPOSED 2' ABOVE DAMAGED OR PERMANENT WATERLINE, WHICHEVER IS HIGHER.
 - 5) SLOPES OF SPOIL SHOULD BE AT ANGLE OF REPOSE.
 - 6) LOCATION OF SPOILS AS SHOWN ARE APPROXIMATE. ACTUAL LOCATION WILL BE DETERMINED DURING CONSTRUCTION.
 - 7) SPOIL SHALL BE PLACED A MINIMUM OF 10' FROM EDGE OF POND OR SLOUGH.



DUCKS UNLIMITED INC.	PROJECT NO. US-LA-148-	CONTRACT NO. 2013 LA WRP CONTRACT #5
1501 Poydras Street, Suite 1800 New Orleans, LA 70112 504.586.8800		MISCELLANEOUS DETAILS
5/13 15 OF 15		

Need to clarify amounts of excavation (cu yd) (acreage) and what is being excavated (scrub shrub, marsh, waterbottoms, etc.)

- Total excavation is 40,862 cu yds. A borrow area will be located 50 feet from the toe of the refurbished levee along the inside of the shallow water area (SWA). The borrow area will be 3 ft deep, with a Top Width of 11 feet and a Bottom Width of 23 feet, 2:1 side slopes. Approximately 27,197 C.Y. will be removed from the Borrow Area to create 7.92 acres of permanent/semi-permanent water within the SWA to diversify habitat. The remaining 13,668 C.Y. will be removed from the 3 swales create 8.3 acres of swale habitat.

Clarify amounts of fill/spoil placement

The fill removed from the borrow area along the existing levees (27,197 C.Y.) will be placed on the side slopes of the existing levees. Refurbished side slopes will be at least 3:1. All spoil excavated from the borrow area (27,197 C.Y.) will be placed on the existing levees labeled as non-wetlands (existing levees) on the COE jurisdictional wetland map. The fill excavated from the swales will be placed adjacent to the swales and stacked no more than 3 feet height to create approximately 8.3 acres of shrub habitat (mounds) for songbirds.

Elevations of spoil/fill Settled heights

Existing levees will be maintained at 3.5 feet
Mounds between 2.5ft and 3ft.

What will compensate for impacts?

110.9 acres of enhanced SWA habitat, including enhanced emergent wetland plant communities. Water management will result in enhanced hydro-period, duration and shallow water for wintering waterfowl and water birds.

16.22 acres of permanent/semi-permanent water for aquatic and wetland-dependent species, especially amphibians and reptiles.

8.3 acres of mounds to provide shrub habitat for songbirds, both native and migratory.

Need cleaner or bigger drawings for PN.

Already emailed

Break down impacts by acreage and habitat type: fill, excavated, habitat type etc.

27,197 C.Y. will be excavated 50 from the toe of the constructed levee along the entire length of the existing levees and placed on existing levees covering 21.4 acres. The borrow area currently consists of low quality herbaceous habitat. Low quality habitat is due to lack of habitat management caused by failing levees and inadequate water control structures. The WRP enhancement project will result in high quality herbaceous habitat in 2 to 3 years. Total footprint of the existing levees will be increased only by 1.7 acres in order to construct the 3:1 side slopes. So, the current levee toe will be extended about 2 feet further out in order to obtain the 3:1 side slopes. During the fall, winter, and spring months this part of the levee will wet due to the water management. It will be colonized by FACW and FAC herbaceous vegetation enhancing wetland habitat diversity.

13,668 C.Y. will be excavated to create 3 swales. The swales are located in existing low quality herbaceous habitat. Low quality habitat is due to lack of habitat management caused by failing levees and inadequate water control structures. The swales will provide 8.3 acres of high-quality aquatic habitat. Many species of amphibians and reptiles will be able to meet their life requirements within these swales.

The 13,668 C.Y. of fill from the swales will be placed on adjacent low-quality herbaceous habitat to create 8.3 acres of high-quality shrub habitat for native songbirds and Neotropical migrants. The shrub mounds will also increase macro and micro-topography landscape components and increase habitat diversity.