

# JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

May 4, 2015

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

(504) 862-1588  
Project Manager: Doris Terrell  
[Doris.Terrell@usace.army.mil](mailto:Doris.Terrell@usace.army.mil)  
Permit Application Number: MVN-2014-2041-CU

(225) 219-3225  
Project Manager: Elizabeth Hill  
WQC Application Number: WQC 150416-01

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: [ ] 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 for a Water Quality Certification (WQC) in accordance with statutory authority contained in Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, Title 30, Chapter 11, Part IV, Section 2074 A(3) and provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (P.L.95-17).

## **DOCK AND APPURTENANCES ON THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER**

**NAME OF APPLICANT:** WATER CAMPUS, L.L.C., c/o Conestoga-Rovers and Associates, ATTN: Charles Jones, 5551 Corporate Boulevard, Suite 200, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808

**LOCATION OF WORK:** On the Mississippi River and bature, left descending bank, at a point about 229 miles above the Head of Passes, within the Lower Mississippi River-Baton Rouge Basin (HUC 08070100), in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH, as shown on the attached drawings.

**CHARACTER OF WORK:** Remove an existing dock, install and maintain a pile-supported dock and deposit fill in an area to construct the Water Institute of the Gulf Research and Interpretive Center, including parking lots, appurtenances, etc. Approximately 724 cubic yards of concrete and 1,006 cubic yards of hauled-in fill will be deposited on the site, as shown on the drawings. Preliminary review of the information furnished by the applicant indicates that approximately 2.62 acres of jurisdictional wetlands will be directly impacted by project implementation.

The applicant has stated that the proposed project has been designed to avoid and minimize direct and secondary adverse impacts to the maximum extent practicable.

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**. Individuals or parties may request an extension of time in which to comment on the proposed work by writing or emailing the project manager listed above. Any requests 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. 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.

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 5:00 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 proposed project is located in waters known to be utilized by the pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*) and determined that the proposed activity is not likely to adversely affect the species 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.

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.

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 acre(s) 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 Section, 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.

John M. Herman  
Chief, Central Evaluation Section

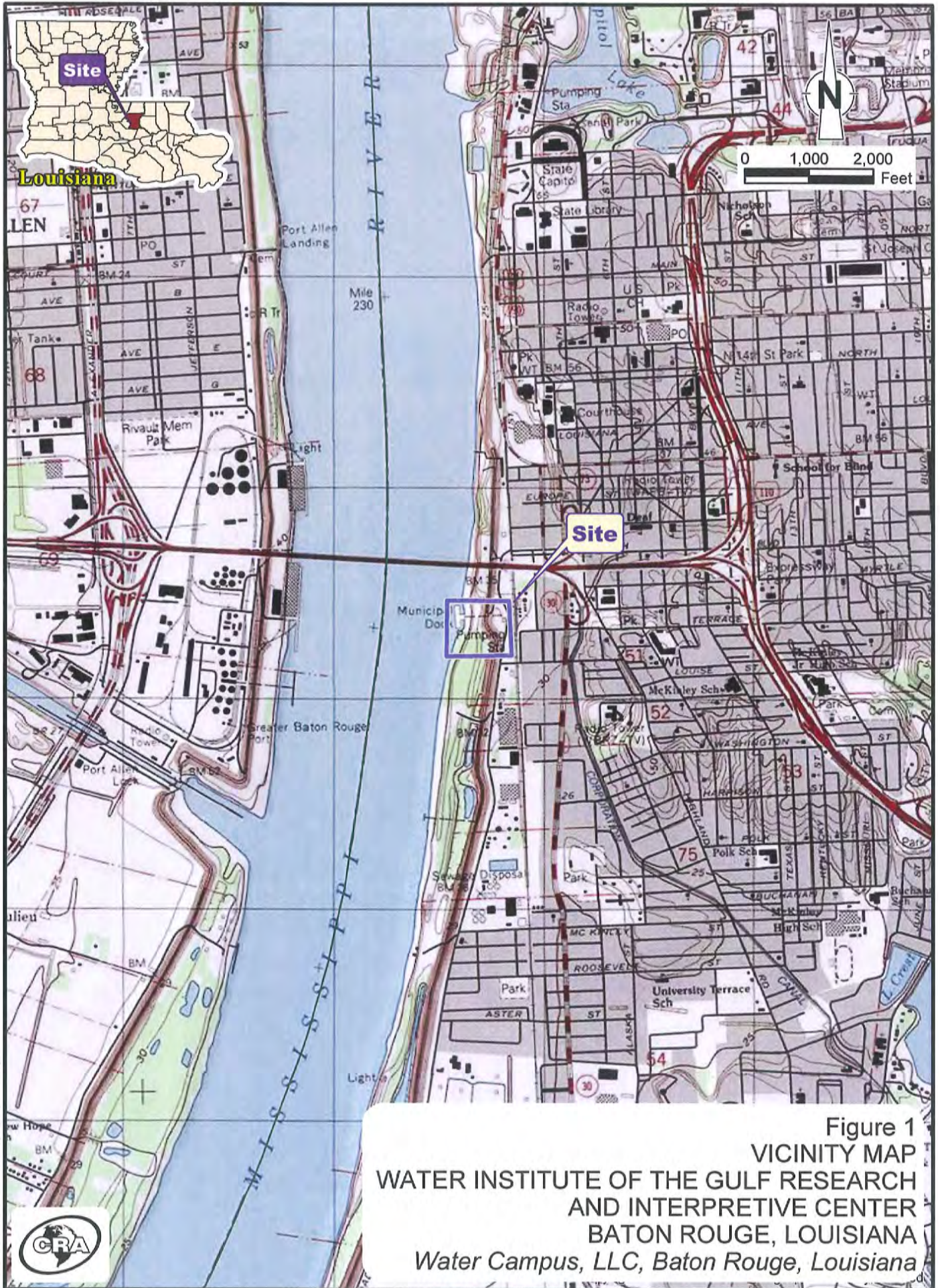


Figure 1  
 VICINITY MAP  
 WATER INSTITUTE OF THE GULF RESEARCH  
 AND INTERPRETIVE CENTER  
 BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA  
*Water Campus, LLC, Baton Rouge, Louisiana*

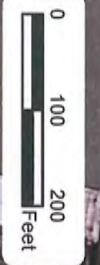
RE: USGS 7.5 Minute Topographic Maps.





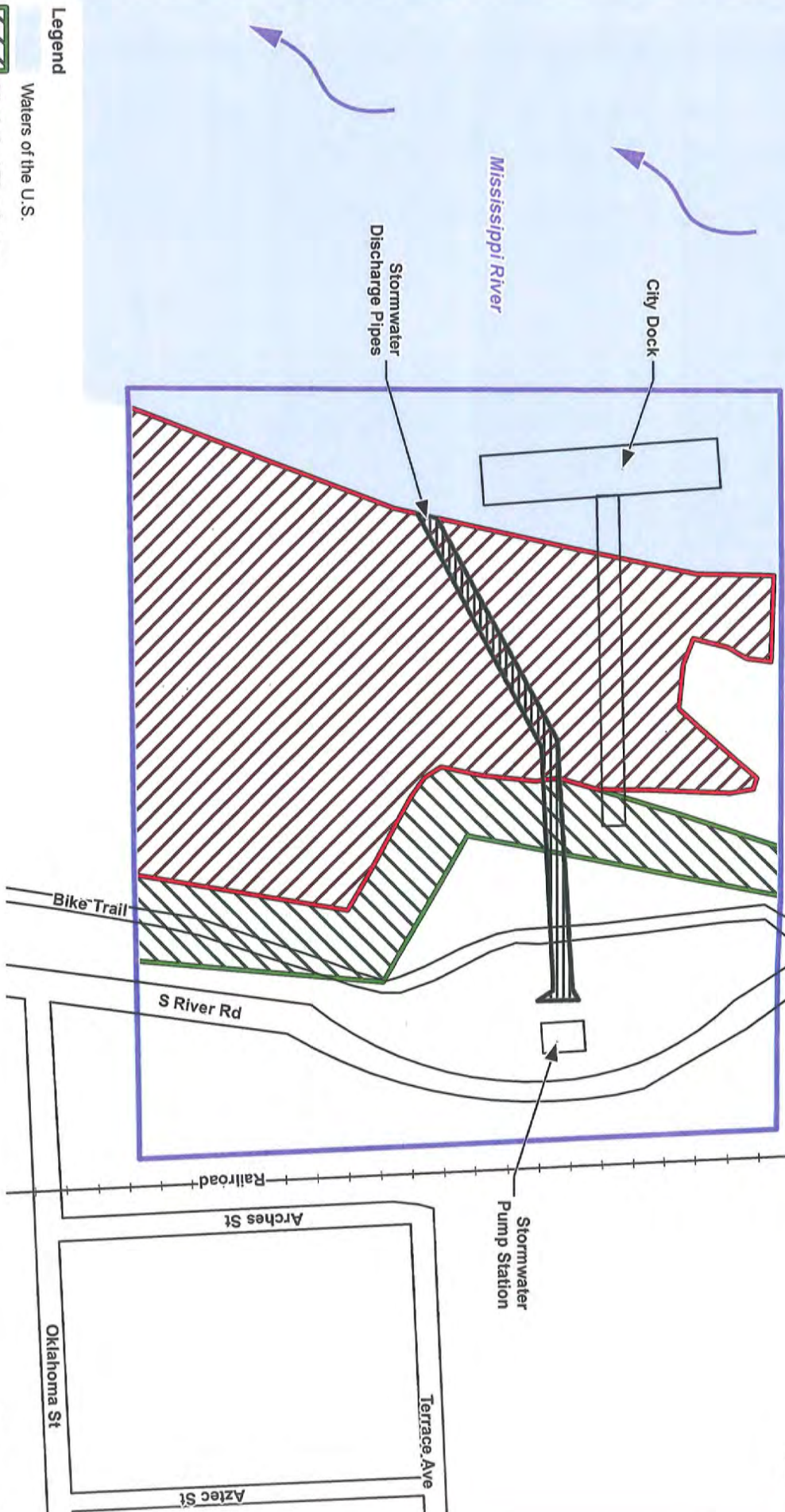
**Legend**

- Mississippi River Levee
- Jurisdictional Wetland (7.72 Acres) (MVVN2014-02367-SQ)
- Site Boundary (19.46 Acres)







Source: E  
Galmappa

**Figure 2**  
**EXISTING SITE PLAN**  
**WATER INSTITUTE OF THE GULF RESEARCH**  
**AND INTERPRETIVE CENTER**  
**BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA**  
**Water Campus, LLC, Baton Rouge, Louisiana**

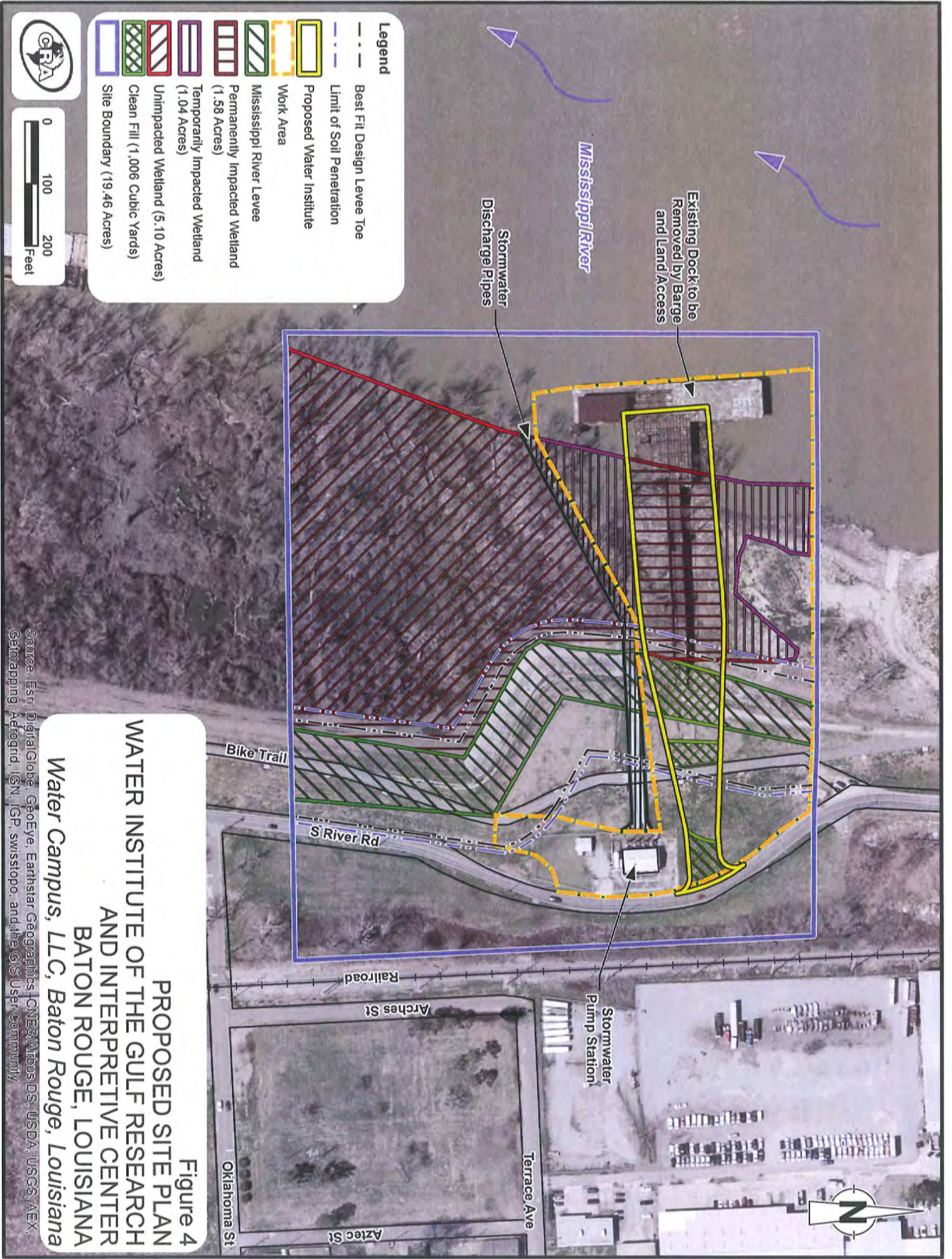


**Legend**

-  Waters of the U.S.
-  Mississippi River Levee
-  Jurisdictional Wetland (7.72 Acres) (MVVN2014-02367-SQ)
-  Site Boundary (19.46 Acres)



**Figure 3**  
**EXISTING SITE PLAN**  
**WATER INSTITUTE OF THE GULF RESEARCH**  
**AND INTERPRETIVE CENTER**  
**BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA**  
*Water Campus, LLC, Baton Rouge, Louisiana*

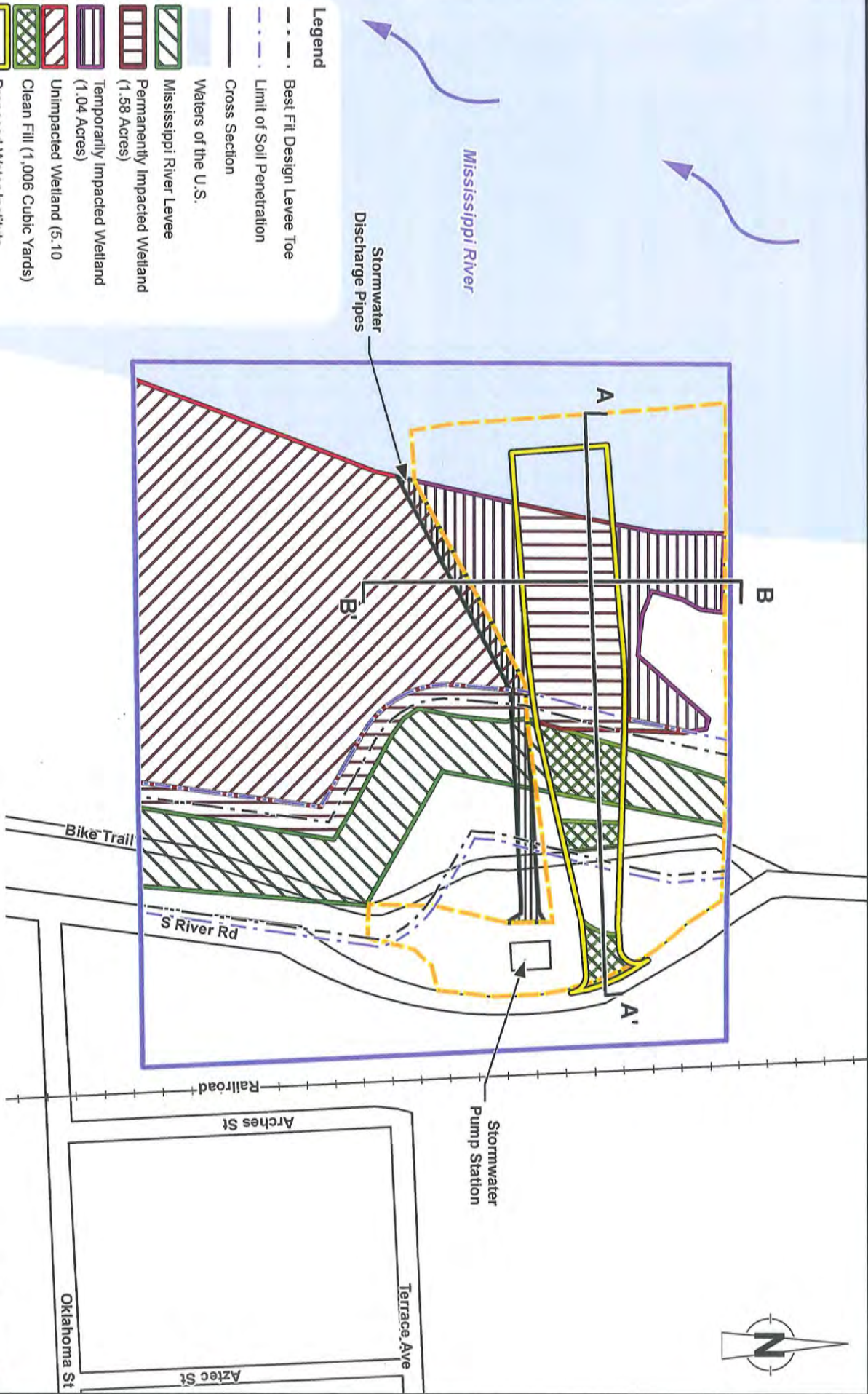


**Figure 4**  
**PROPOSED SITE PLAN**  
**WATER INSTITUTE OF THE GULF RESEARCH**  
**AND INTERPRETIVE CENTER**  
**BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA**  
**Water Campus, LLC, Baton Rouge, Louisiana**

Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

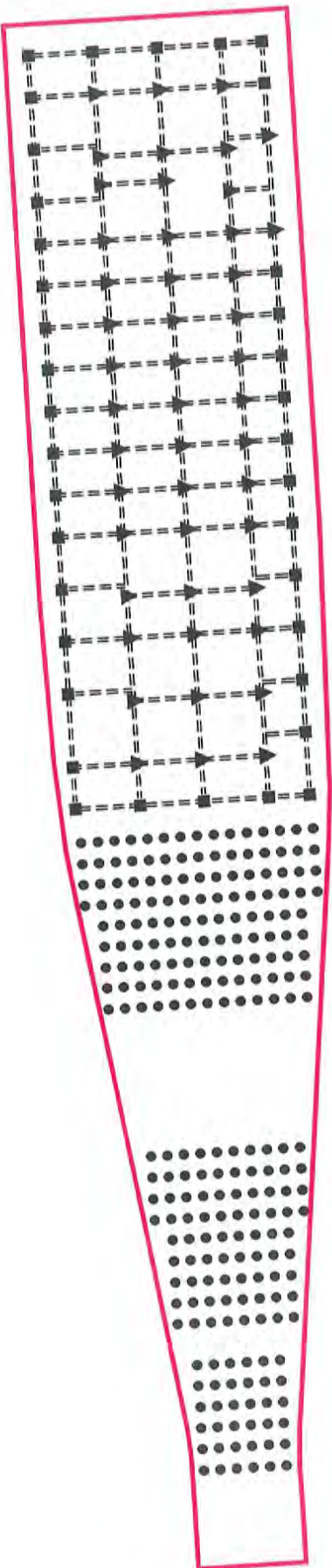
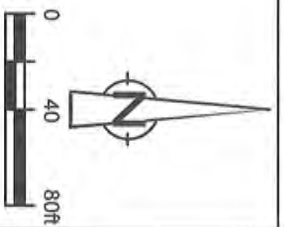


- Legend**
- Best Fit Design Levee Toe
  - - - Limit of Soil Penetration
  - Cross Section
  - Waters of the U.S.
  - Mississippi River Levee
  - Permanently Impacted Wetland (1.58 Acres)
  - Temporarily Impacted Wetland (1.04 Acres)
  - Unimpacted Wetland (5.10)
  - Clean Fill (1,006 Cubic Yards)
  - Proposed Water Institute
  - Work Area
  - Site Boundary (19.46 Acres)



**Figure 5**  
**PROPOSED SITE PLAN**  
**WATER INSTITUTE OF THE GULF RESEARCH**  
**AND INTERPRETIVE CENTER**  
**BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA**  
 Water Campus, LLC, Baton Rouge, Louisiana





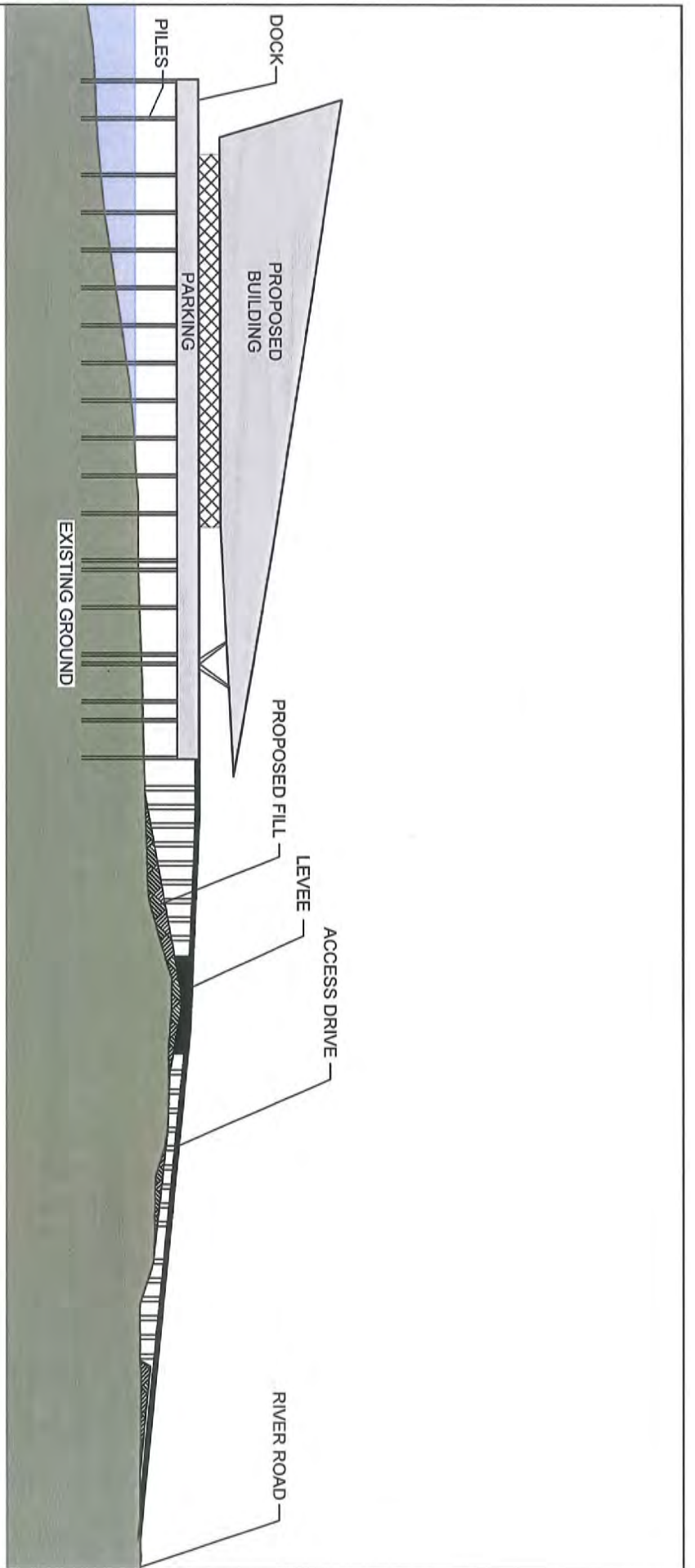
**LEGEND:**

- DOCK OUTLINE
- - - - CONCRETE TIE BEAM  
(18-INCH X 24-INCH)
- 2-PILE CLUSTER \*
- ▲ 3-PILE CLUSTER \*
- 2.5" CONCRETE COLUMN

\* 18-INCH SQUARE X 95-FOOT DEEP  
DRIVEN PRECAST CONCRETE PILES

**Figure 6**  
**FOUNDATION PLAN**  
**OF THE GULF RESEARCH**  
**AND INTERPRETIVE CENTER**  
**BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA**  
*Water Campus, LLC, Baton Rouge, Louisiana*



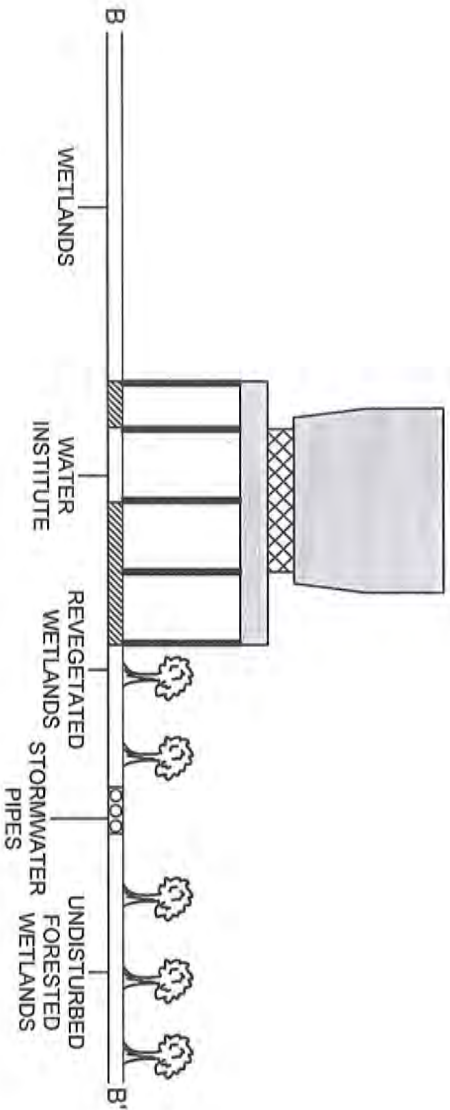
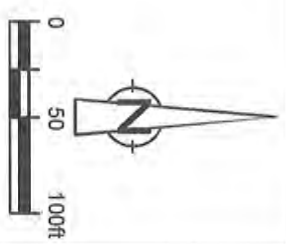
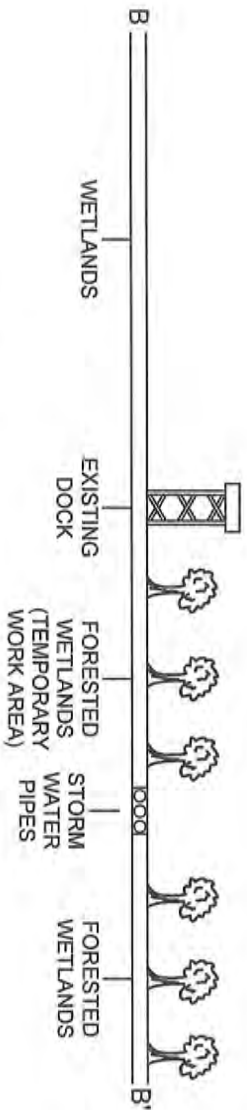


LEGEND:  
 FILL (1,006 YD CLEAN SOIL)



Figure 7  
 PROFILE A-A'  
 WATER INSTITUTE OF THE GULF RESEARCH  
 AND INTERPRETIVE CENTER  
 BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA  
*Water Campus, LLC, Baton Rouge, Louisiana*





LEGEND:

 PERMANENTLY IMPACTED WETLANDS

CROSS SECTION B-B'  
 WATER INSTITUTE OF THE GULF RESEARCH  
 AND INTERPRETIVE CENTER  
 BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA  
*Water Campus, LLC, Baton Rouge, Louisiana*

Figure 8

