JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

March 18, 2019

United States Army Corps of Engineers New Orleans District Regulatory Branch, ODR-E 7400 Leake Avenue New Orleans, Louisiana 70118

Project Manager Brad LaBorde (504) 862-2225 Brad.LaBorde@usace.army.mil Permit Application Number MVN 2018-1120 EOO State of Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality Water Permits Division Post Office Box 4313 Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4313

Project Manager Elizabeth Hill (225) 219-3225

WQC Application Number WQC 190227-01

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).

Mid-Breton Sediment Diversion (Mid-Breton SD) Project, Mississippi River, in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana

<u>Name of Applicant:</u> Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana (CPRA), 150 Terrace Avenue, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802.

<u>Location of Work</u>: On the left descending bank of the Mississippi River, near River Mile 68 (Wills Point) and extending into the Mid-Breton Sound Basin, in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, as shown on the enclosed drawings.

Latitude: 29.751531, Longitude: -90.011947

Hydrologic Unit Code: 08090100 – Lower Mississippi – New Orleans

08090203 - Eastern Louisiana Coastal

<u>Character of Work</u>: CPRA is proposing to construct, operate, and maintain a multi-component river diversion system intended to convey sediment, fresh water, and nutrients from the Mississippi River into the mid-Breton Basin in an attempt to reduce coastal land loss and sustain surrounding wetlands.

Operation: The proposed Mid-Breton SD is considered to be a large scale, complex ecosystem restoration project that would operate at a base flow of 5,000 cubic feet per second (CFS); when the Mississippi River gage at Belle Chasse exceeds 450,000 cfs the diversion structure would "open" and

operate at varying cfs voulmes based on water levels in the Mississippi River channel. Maximum discharge would be 75,000 cfs when the Belle Chasse gage is at 1,000,000 cfs. The proposed Mid-Breton SD would be designed in a manner that would allow the peak discharge to be 75,000 cfs for the 50-year project life.

Direct Impacts: Construction of the proposed Mid-Breton SD would result in direct impacts to jurisdictional wetlands and waters located within the Mississippi River batture, areas protected by levee (Mississippi River Levee and non-federal "back" levee), and the Breton Basin (or outfall area). The preliminary construction schedule is approx. 6.5 years. Over the span of the proposed construction, approximately 6.7 million cubic yards (CY) of material is estimated to be excavated within approximately 122 acres of the project footprint; of which, approx. 111,000 CY would be placed on-site for other uses and approx. 6.6 million CY would be temporarily stockpiled on-site and hauled-off to other approved areas or upland sites. The construction laydown, staging, and temporary stockpile area would be approximately 25 acres. Excavated material stored within this location would not exceed and elevation of 12.5 feet. Mid-Breton SD project components would require concrete, crushed stone or gravel, rock, sand, and hauled-in dirt to be placed within 96 acres of the project footprint, totaling 5.1 million CY.

Outfall Area: If constructed and operated, the Mid-Breton SD structure would convey Mississippi River sediment, water, and nutrients into the Mid-Breton Basin resulting in both positive and negative impacts (impacts are expected to vary by species resource) to an estimated 5,300 acres of jurisdictional wetlands and 2,300 acres of jurisdictional waters of the U.S. The Mid-Breton SD outfall feature terminates in jurisdictional wetlands, thus it is expected that channeling and dredging would be required to stimulate distributary development and delta formation in the Breton Sound Basin.

Highway Detour: A portion of Louisiana Highway 39 (LA39) intersects with the proposed Mid-Breton SD. If constructed, LA39 would need to be detoured around the proposed Mid-Breton SD intake structure. LA39 would remain operational during construction and operation of the proposed project.

Figures:

Impacts Chart	Jurisdictional Wetlands (acres)*	Jurisdictional Waters (acres)*			
Mississippi River Batture	18	10			
Areas Protected by Levee	63	11			
Breton Basin/Outfall Area	79	1			
Direct Impacts Total	160	22			
Breton Basin/Outfall Area of Transition	5300	2230			
*overall project impact totals are not expected to be equal to wetland totals					

Fill Materials Chart	Cubic Yards		
Concrete	67,800		
Rock	409,500		
Crushed Stone/Gravel	13,600		
Sand	1,900		
Hauled in dirt	80,700		
Total	573,500		
*cubic yardages are estimates based off <5% design			

The comment period for the Department of the Army Permit and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality WQC will close <u>30 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, **ATTENTION: REGULATORY BRANCH**. 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 4:30 p.m. Copies may be obtained upon payment of costs of reproduction.

This project is subject to Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST-41) and Executive Order 13807 which allows added transparency to the permit decision timetable. Interested parties can monitor the Mid-Breton SD project status on the FAST-41 "Permitting Dashboard" found here: https://www.permits.performance.gov/permitting-projects/mid-breton-sediment-diversion

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 (MVN) is unaware of properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places near the proposed work. MVN anticipates that, at minimum, a Phase I survey would be conducted for the Mid-Breton SD project footprint and portions of the outfall area. MVN intends to meet the Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and 33 CFR Part 325, Appendix C. Issuance of this public notice solicits input from the State Archeologist and State Historic Preservation Officer regarding potential impacts to cultural resources.

MVN has determined that the proposed project is located within waters known to be utilized by the West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*) and pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*). 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, New Orleans and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Office (USFWS), it's been determined that the proposed activity "is not likely to adversely affect" the West Indian manatee. Further coordination with USFWS is required for an effects determination concerning the pallid sturgeon.

Our initial finding is that the proposed project could impact the following Federally listed threatened and endangered species: Gulf sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi*) and five species of sea turtles, the green (*Chelonia mydas*), hawksbill (*Eretmochelys impricata*), Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*), leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*), and loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*). Each of the listed species is susceptible to the dredging, changes in water quality, and water quantity expected if this project is constructed and operated as proposed. Consultation with NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is required for this action.

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 **7,530** 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.

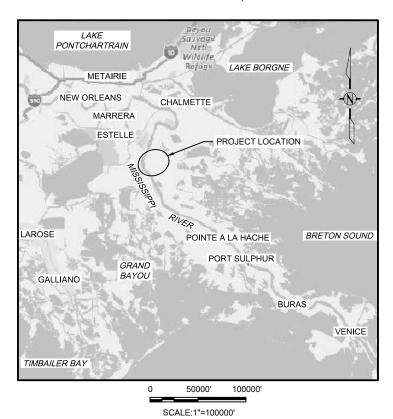
Michael V. Farabee Chief, Eastern Evaluation Section

Enclosure

STATE OF LOUISIANA COASTAL PROTECTION AND RESTORATION AUTHORITY

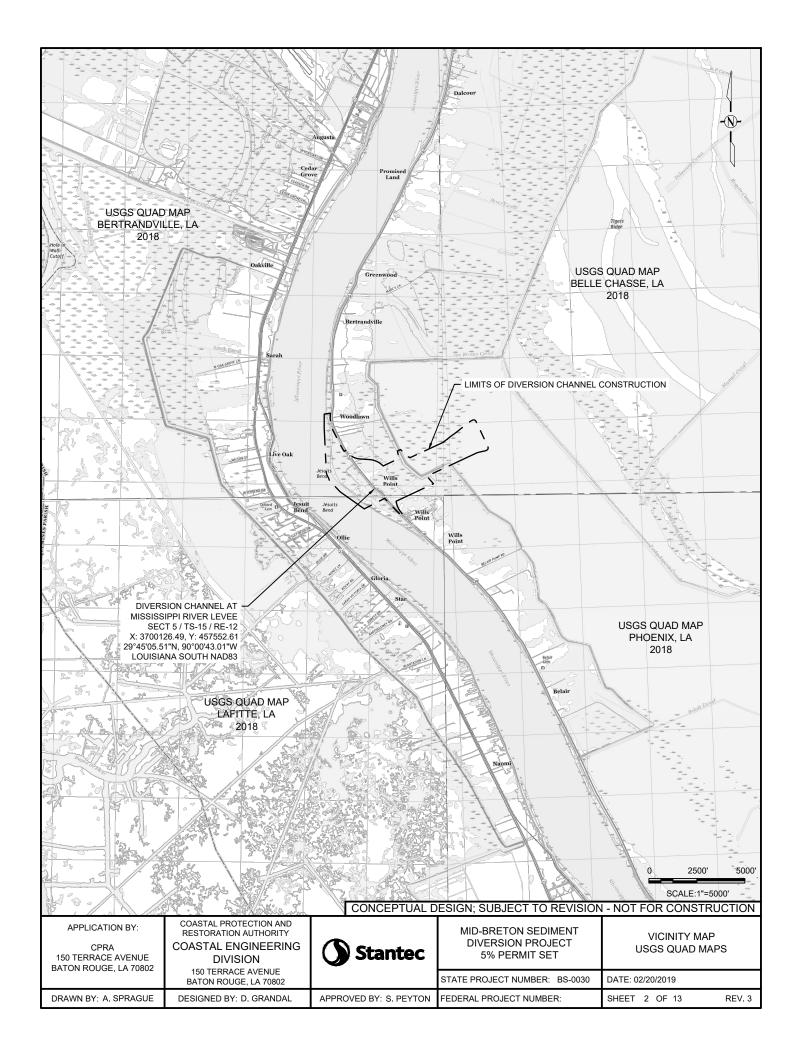
MID-BRETON SEDIMENT DIVERSION PROJECT

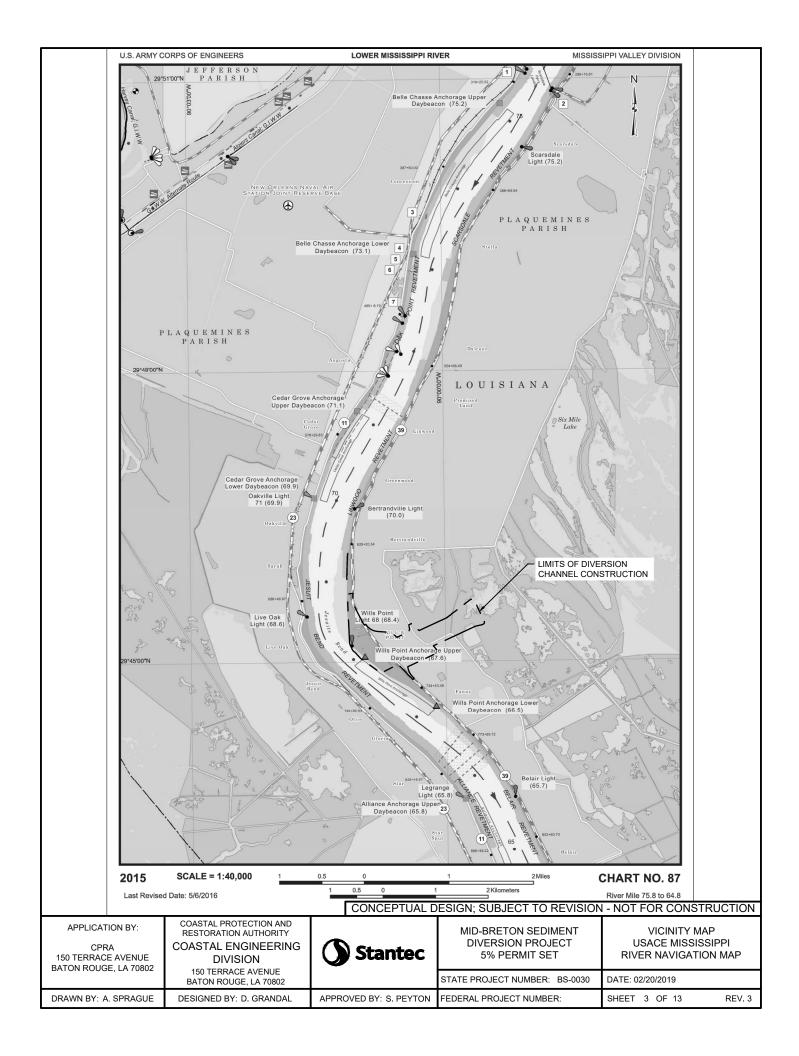
BS-0030 PLAQUEMINES PARISH, LOUISIANA

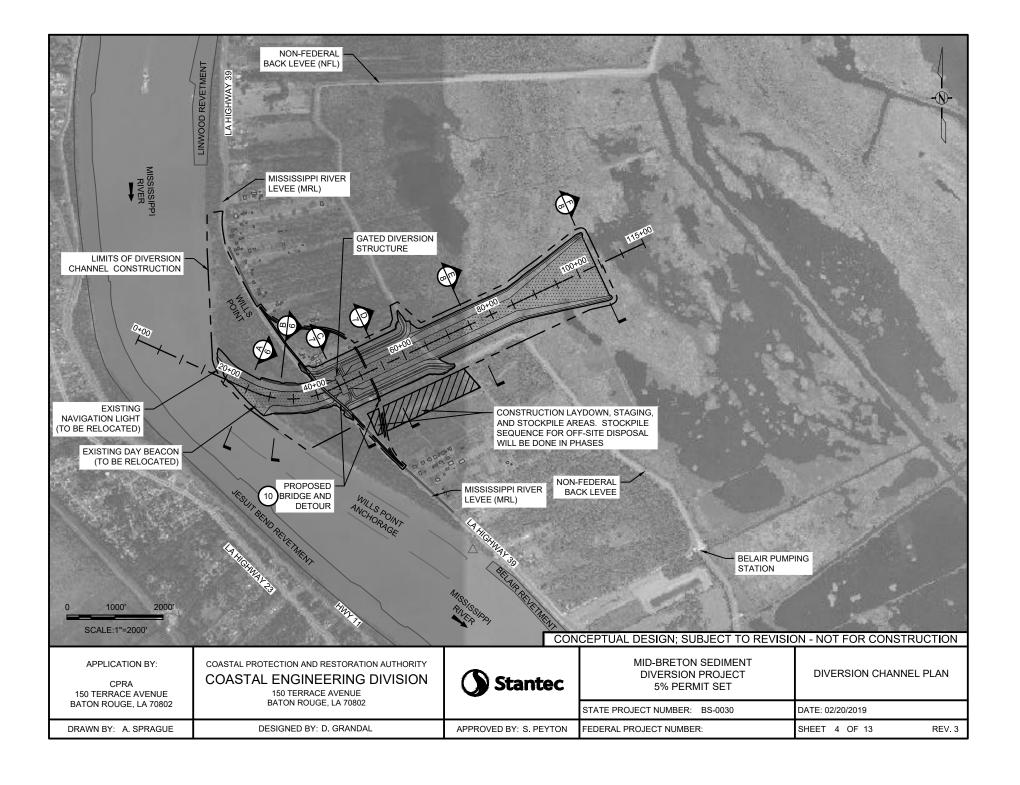


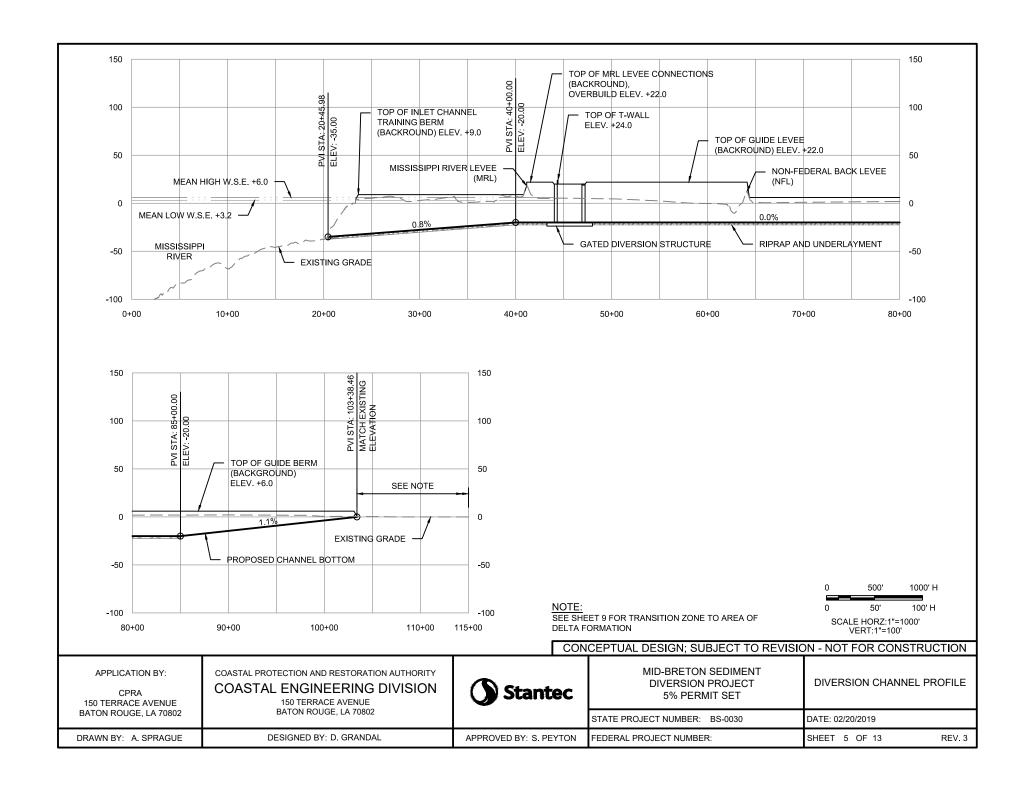
INDEX TO SHEETS:

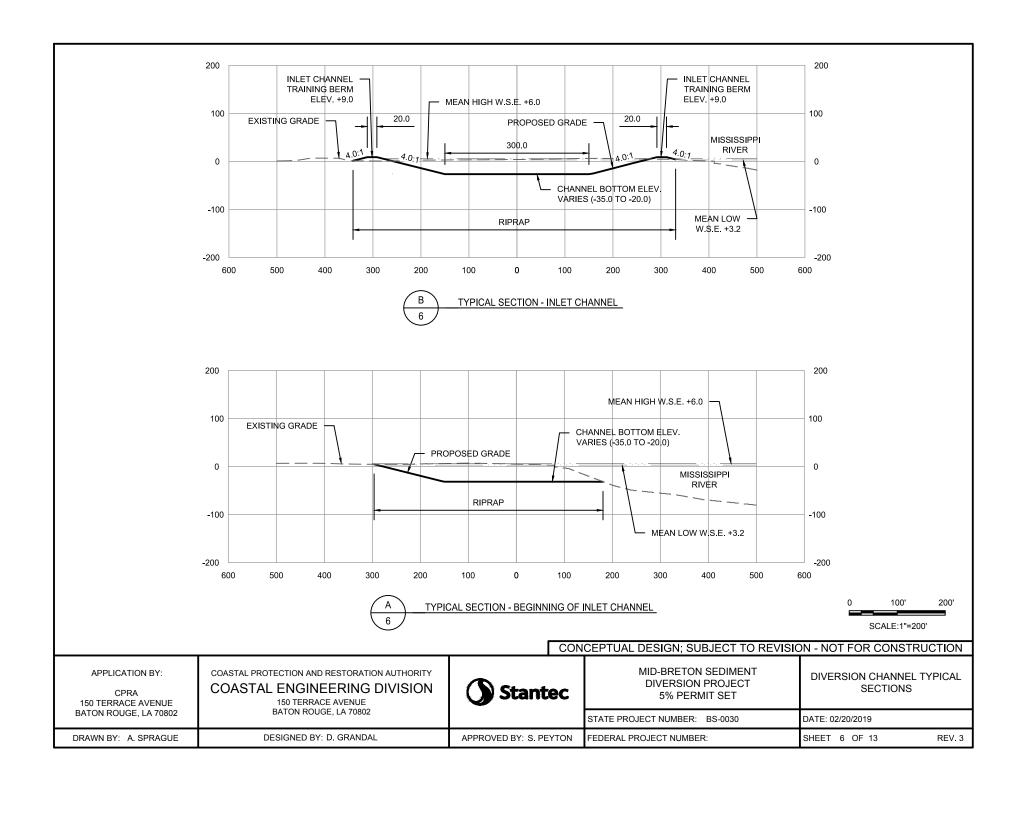
SHEET NO.	DESCRIPTION						
1	TITLE S	ITLE SHEET					
2	VICINIT	/ICINITY MAP (USGS QUAD MAP)					
3	VICINIT	VICINITY MAP (USACE NAVIGATION MAP)					
4	DIVERS	DIVERSION CHANNEL PLAN					
5	DIVERS	DIVERSION CHANNEL PROFILE					
6	DIVERSION CHANNEL TYPICAL SECTIONS						
7	DIVERSION CHANNEL TYPICAL SECTIONS						
8	DIVERSION CHANNEL TYPICAL SECTIONS						
9	AREA C	AREA OF DELTA FORMATION					
10	ROADW	ROADWAY PLAN					
11	TYPICAL ROADWAY SECTIONS						
12	TYPICAL BRIDGE SECTION						
13	AREAS	OF EXCAVATION AND FILL	CONCEPTUAL D	ESIGN; SUBJECT TO REVISION	I - NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION		
APPLICATION BY: CPRA 150 TERRACE AVENUE BATON ROUGE, LA 70802		COASTAL PROTECTION AND RESTORATION AUTHORITY COASTAL ENGINEERING DIVISION	Stantec	MID-BRETON SEDIMENT DIVERSION PROJECT 5% PERMIT SET	COVER SHEET		
2 311 11 000E, EA 7000	. 0002	150 TERRACE AVENUE BATON ROUGE, LA 70802		STATE PROJECT NUMBER: BS-0030	DATE: 02/20/2019		
DRAWN BY: A. SPR	AGUE	DESIGNED BY: D. GRANDAL	APPROVED BY: S. PEYTON	FEDERAL PROJECT NUMBER:	SHEET 1 OF 13 REV. 3		

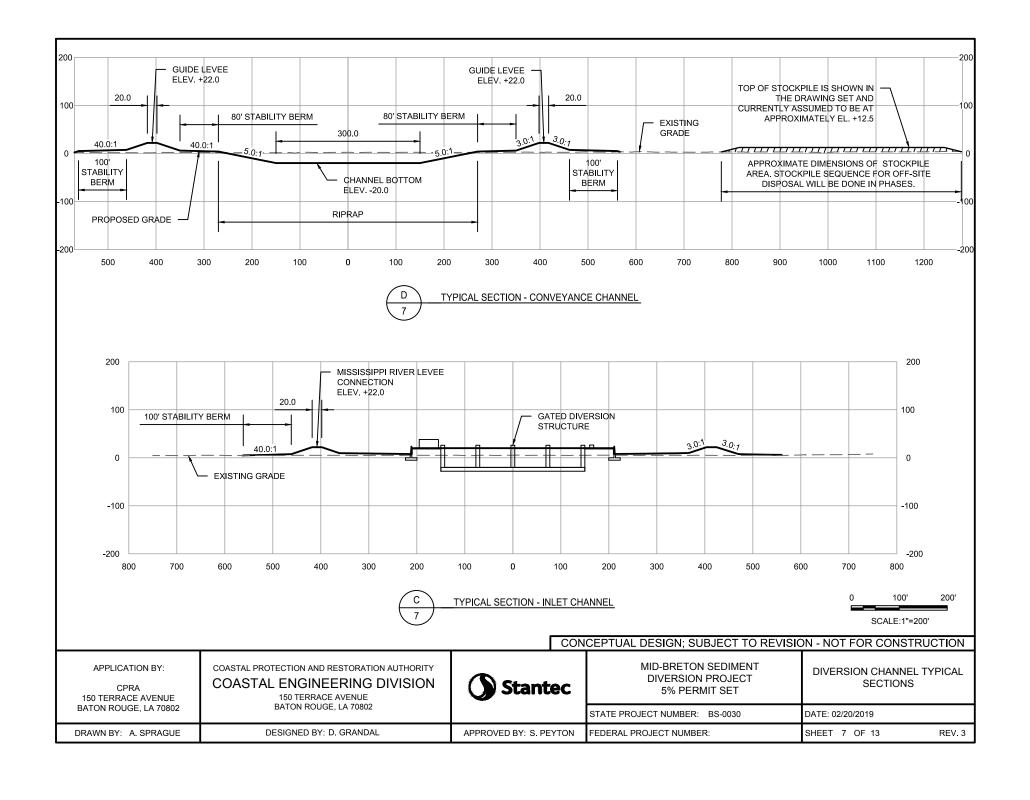


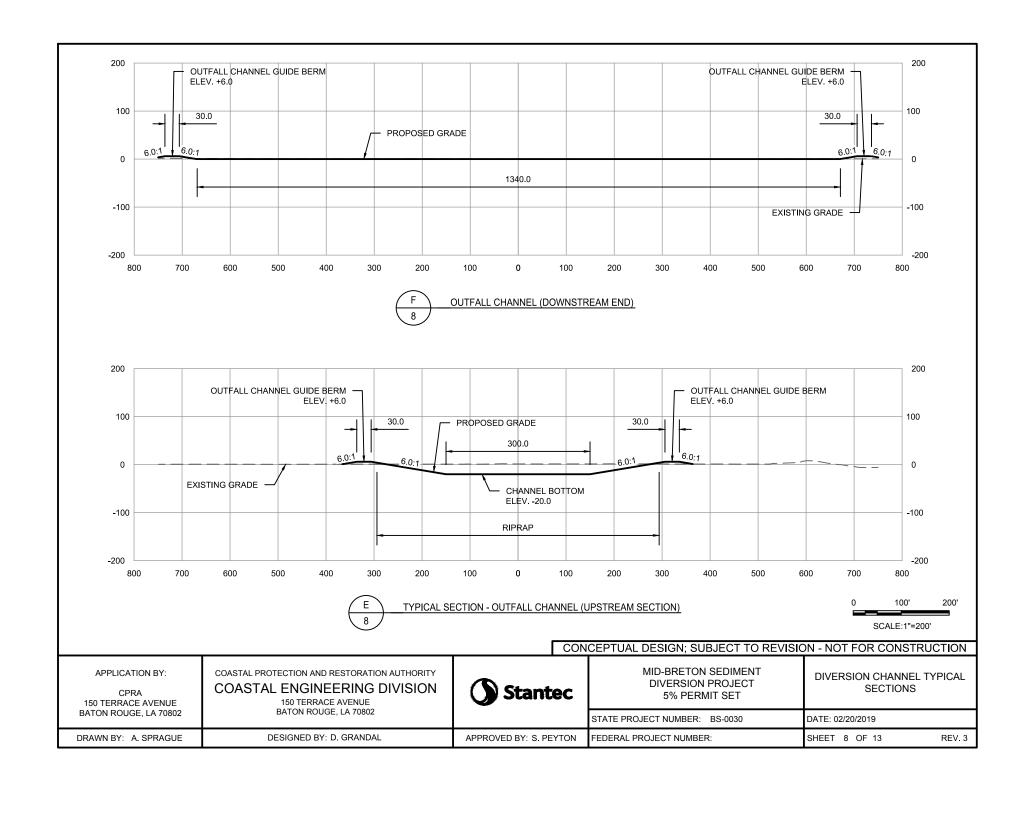


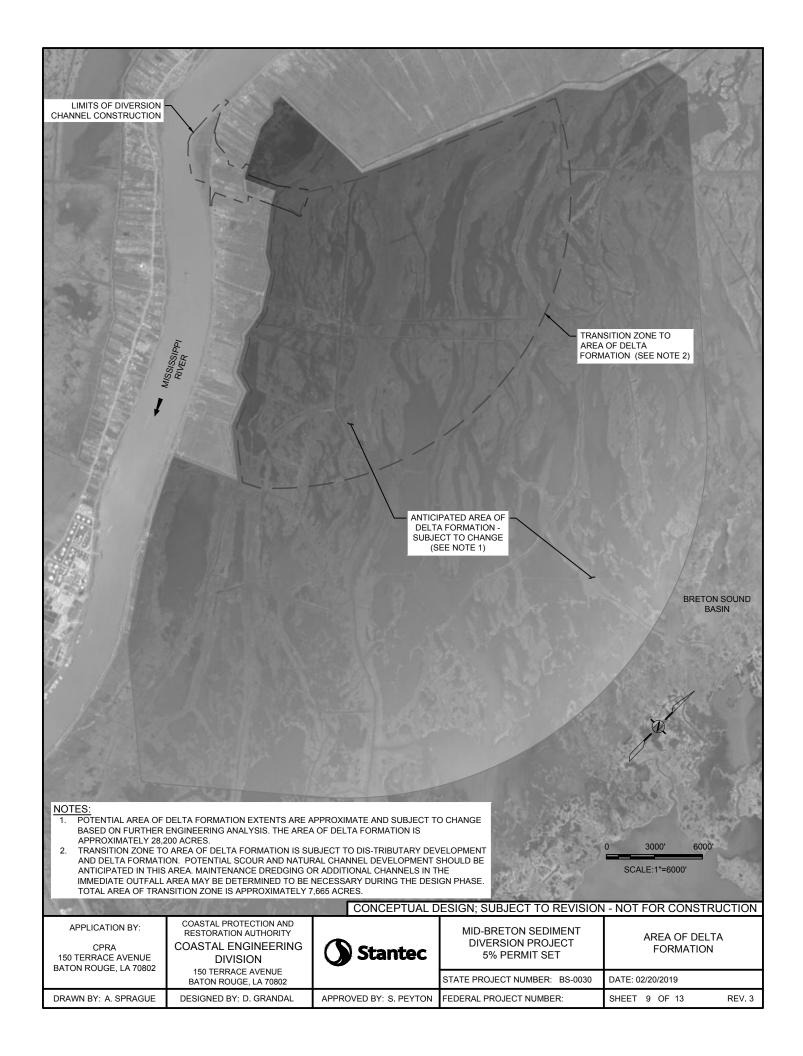


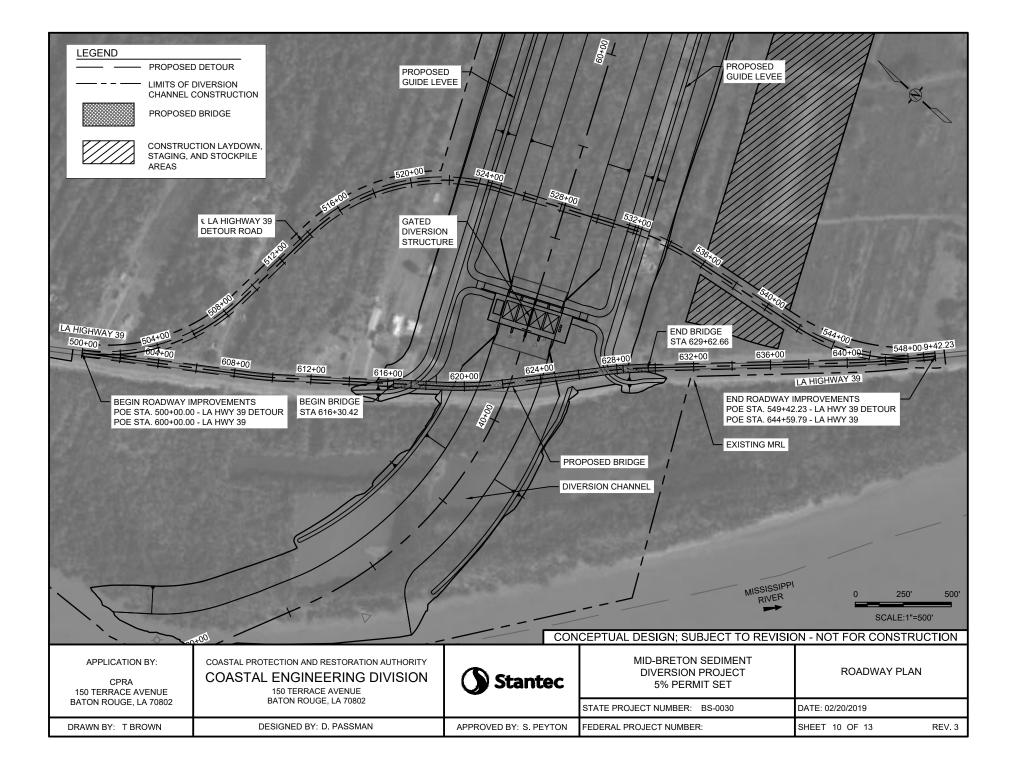


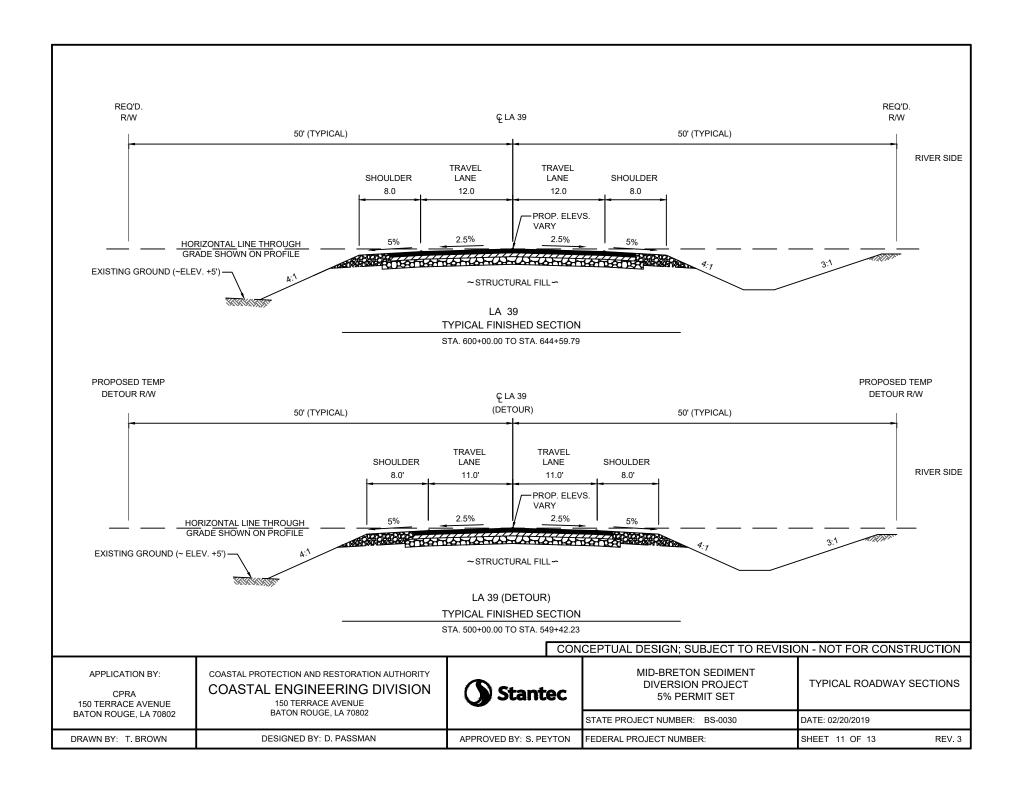


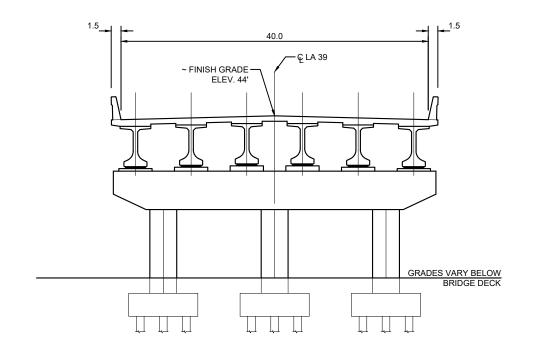












LA 39 BRIDGE TYPICAL FINISHED SECTION

STA. 616+30.42 TO STA. 629+62.66

CONCEPTUAL DESIGN; SUBJECT TO REVISION - NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION					
APPLICATION BY: CPRA 150 TERRACE AVENUE	COASTAL ENGINEERING DIVISION Stantec	♦ Stantec	MID-BRETON SEDIMENT DIVERSION PROJECT 5% PERMIT SET	TYPICAL BRIDGE SECTION	
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802 BATON ROUGE, LA 70802		STATE PROJECT NUMBER: BS-0030	DATE: 02/20/2019		
DRAWN BY: T. BROWN	DESIGNED BY: D. PASSMAN	APPROVED BY: S. PEYTON	FEDERAL PROJECT NUMBER:	SHEET 12 OF 13 REV. 3	

