

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

March 25, 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) 862-1301
Project Manager
Neil T. Gauthier
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MVN 2018-01560-CM

(225) 219-3225
Project Manager
Elizabeth Hill
WQC Application Number
WQC 190318-04

Interested parties are hereby notified that a permit application has been received by the New Orleans District of the US 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, Water Quality Certifications Section, for a Water Quality Certification (WQC) in accordance with statutory authority contained in LRS 30:2074 A(3) and provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A TRUCK STOP AND HOTEL IN EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH

NAME OF APPLICANT: Gurkirpa, LLC, c/o Gulf South Research Corporation, Attn: Howard Nass, 8081 Innovation Park Drive, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70820.

LOCATION OF WORK: On U.S. Highway 61, approximately 2.5 miles east of the Mississippi River, and approximately 5.3 miles west of Zachary, Louisiana, near Port Hudson, Louisiana, in East Baton Rouge Parish, within the Mississippi River Basin in hydrologic unit (HUC 08070201), as shown on the attached drawings.

CHARACTER OF WORK: The applicant has requested Department of the Army authorization to clear, grade, excavate, and place fill for the construction of a 10-acre truck stop and hotel to include driveways and parking areas, a food service area, car wash, fuel island, two storm water detention ponds, and utilities. Approximately 623 cubic yards of onsite material will be excavated and redeposited. Additionally, approximately 3,227 cubic yards of hauled-in fill will be deposited and approximately 3,227 cubic yards of concrete will be deposited to create a construction foundation for the project. The proposed project is situated on an approximately 95-acre tract that has been determined to contain approximately 9.7 acres of non-wetlands and approximately 86 acres of forested wetlands. It is anticipated that the proposed action would have little or no impact on remaining adjacent wetlands.

A Preliminary analysis has determined that the proposed project would directly impact approximately 4 acres of forested wetlands.

The applicant claims that the proposed project has been designed to avoid and minimize direct and secondary adverse impacts to the maximum extent practicable. Any further reduction would limit usage of the property deeming the project impracticable. As compensation for unavoidable wetland impacts, the applicant proposes to mitigate in-kind wetland credits from a Corps approved mitigation bank located in the watershed.

The comment period for the Department of Army will close in **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 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. 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 US 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 US 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, pre-historical, historical sites, or data. Copies of this notice are being sent to the State Archeologist and the 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.

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 Interior. Utilizing 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, the Corps has determined that there are no endangered species in the project area.

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 up to 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 Environmental Protection Agency. Also, a certification that the proposed activity will not violate 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.

JOHN M. HERMAN
Chief, Central Evaluation Section
Regulatory Branch

Enclosures

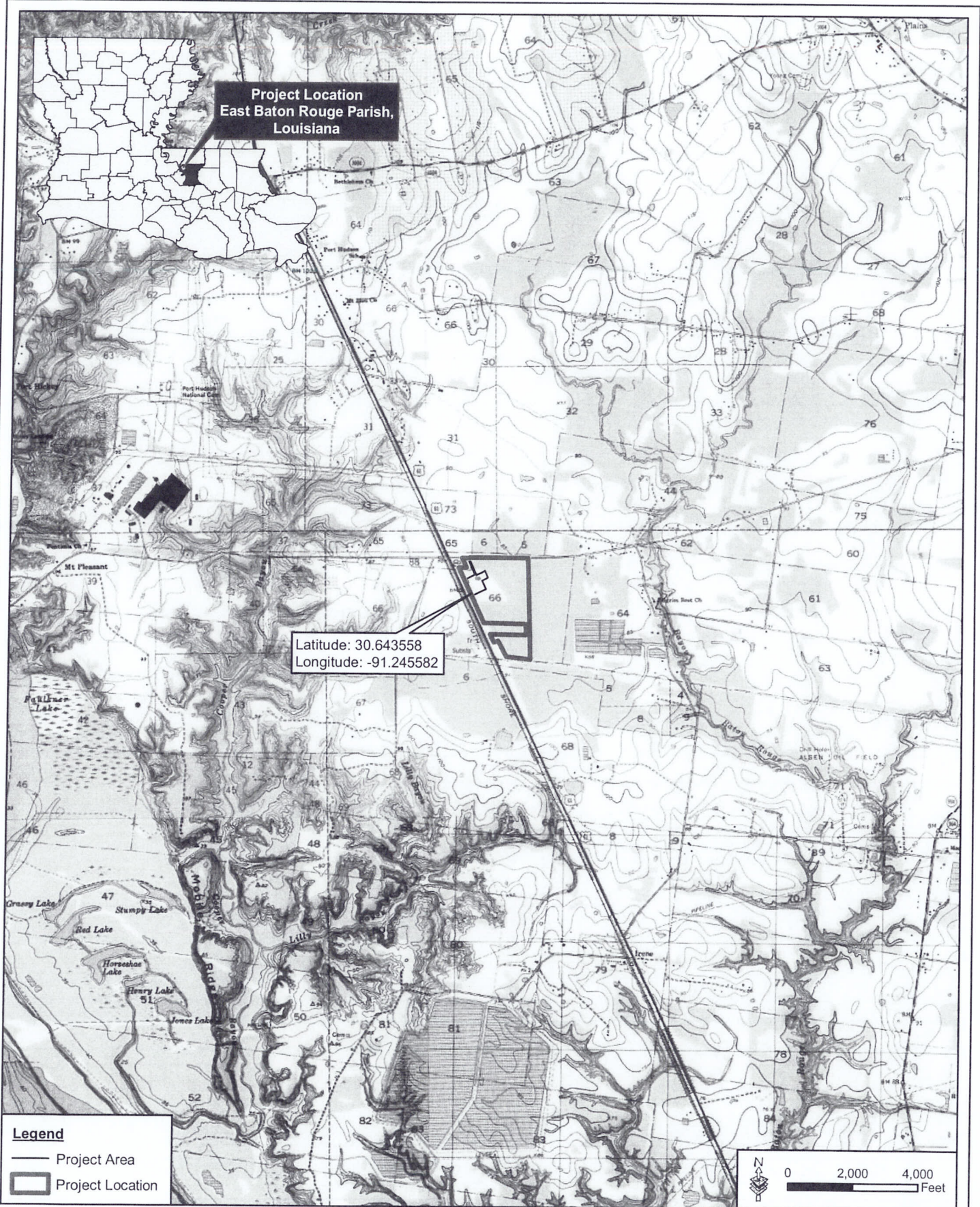
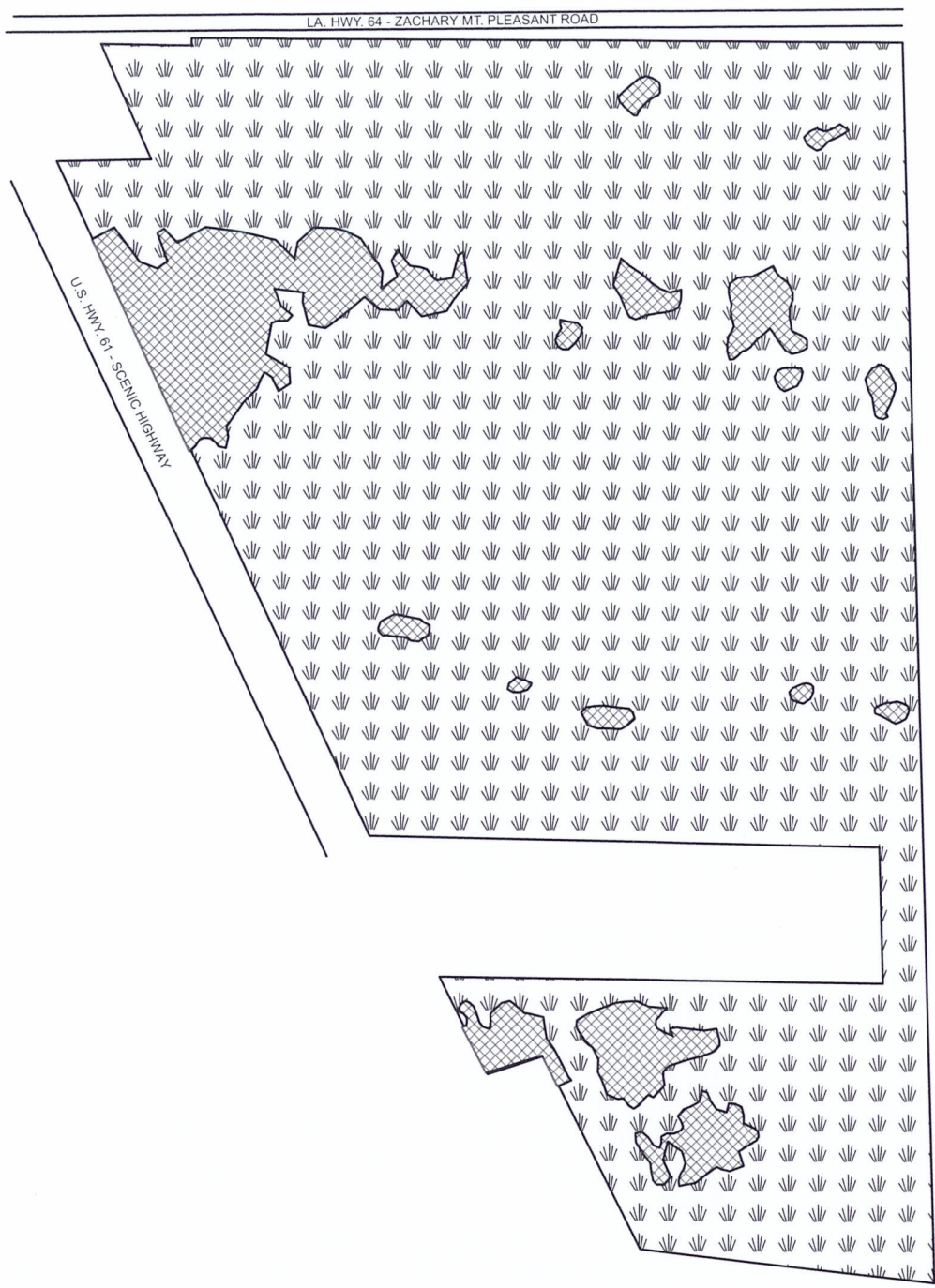


Figure 1. Vicinity Map
 Proposed Truck Stop and Hotel
 U.S. Highway 61 and State Highway 64
 Sections 66 and 88, Township 5 South, Range 1 West
 East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana



December 2018



Legend	
	Non-Wetland (9.71 Ac.)
	Wetlands (JD 2017-01087-SG -86.03 Ac.)

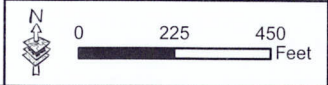


Figure 2. Wetland Map
 Proposed Truck Stop and Hotel
 U.S. Highway 61 and State Highway 64
 Sections 66 and 88, Township 5 South, Range 1 West
 East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana

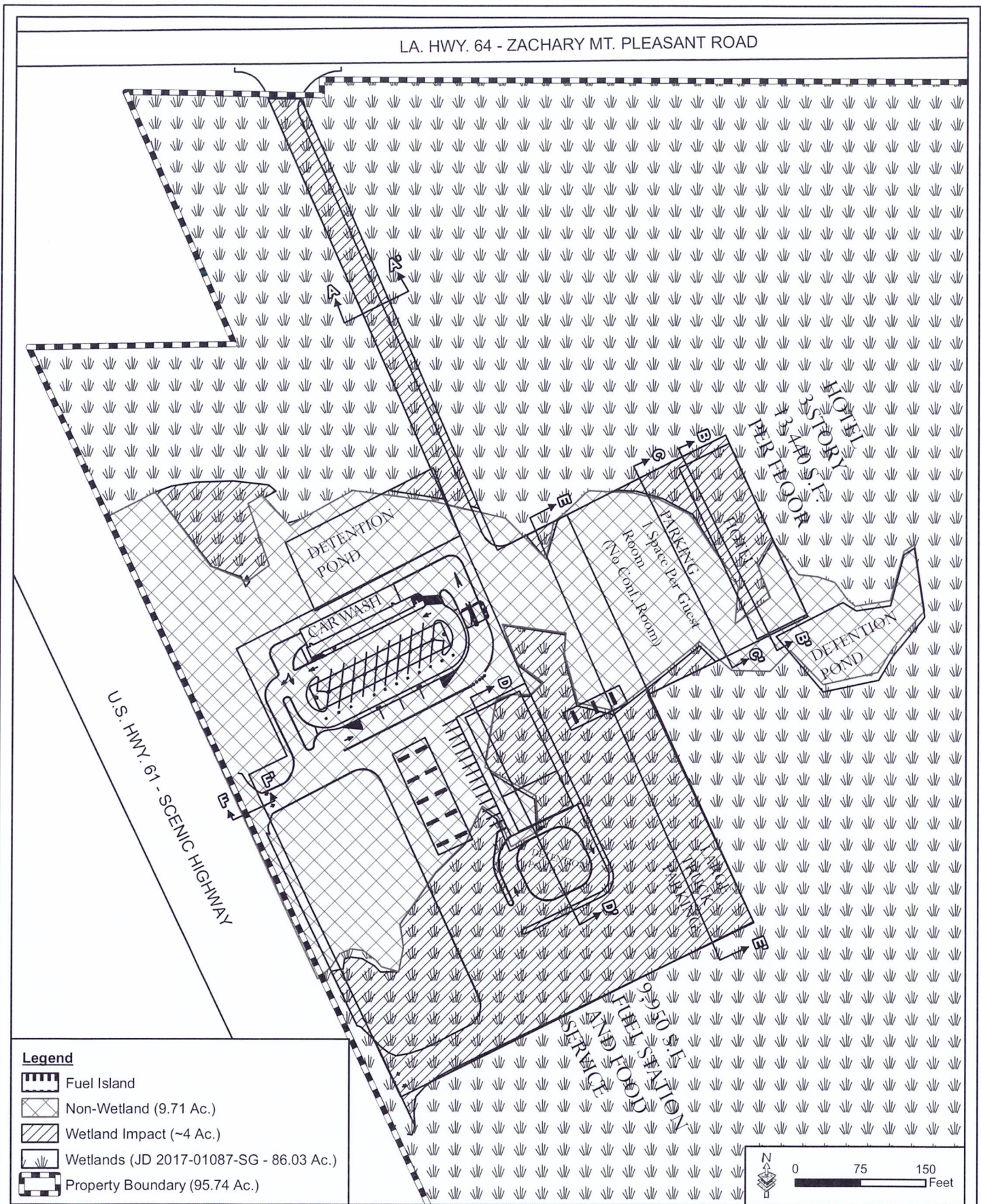
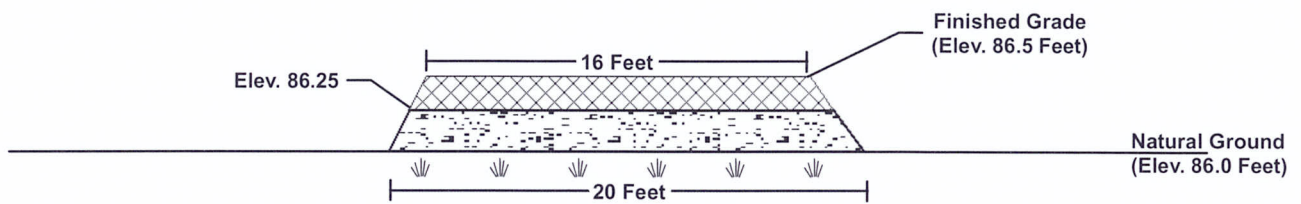





Figure 3. Planview Map - Project Area
 Proposed Truck Stop and Hotel
 U.S. Highway 61 and State Highway 64
 Sections 66 and 88, Township 5 South, Range 1 West
 East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana



Legend

-  Grass
-  Concrete
-  Earthen Fill

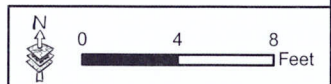
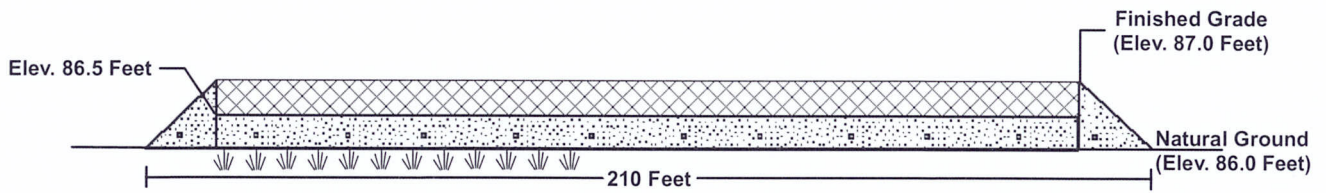





Figure 4. Driveway Cross Section (A-A')
 Proposed Truck Stop and Hotel
 U.S. Highway 61 and State Highway 64
 Sections 66 and 88, Township 5 South, Range 1 West
 East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana



December 2018



Legend

-  Wetlands
-  Concrete
-  Earthen Fill

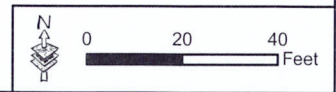
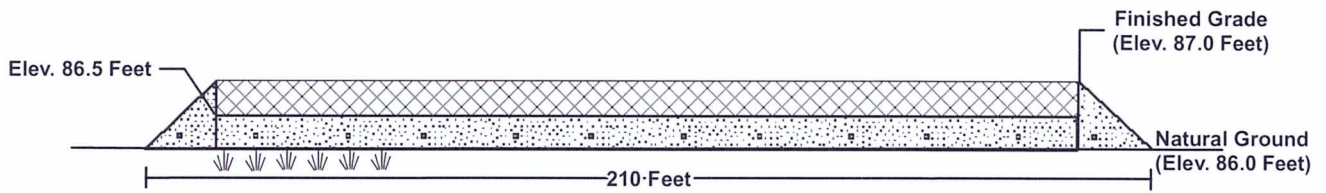





Figure 5. Hotel Cross Section (B-B')
 Proposed Truck Stop and Hotel
 U.S. Highway 61 and State Highway 64
 Sections 66 and 88, Township 5 South, Range 1 West
 East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana



December 2018



Legend

-  Wetlands
-  Concrete
-  Earthen Fill

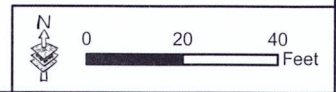
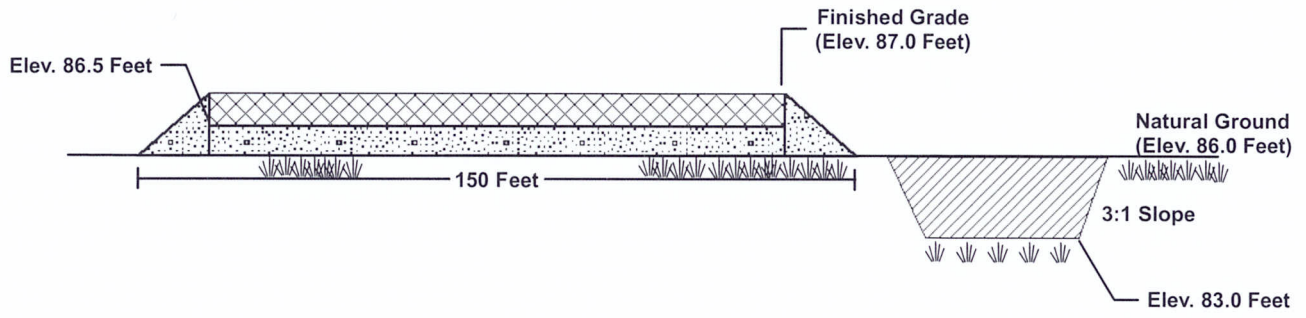


Figure 6. Hotel Parking Lot Cross Section (C-C')
 Proposed Truck Stop and Hotel
 U.S. Highway 61 and State Highway 64
 Sections 66 and 88, Township 5 South, Range 1 West
 East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana



December 2018



Legend

-  Wetlands
-  Concrete
-  Earthen Fill
-  Excavated Material

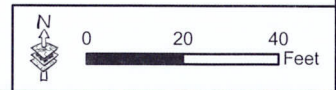
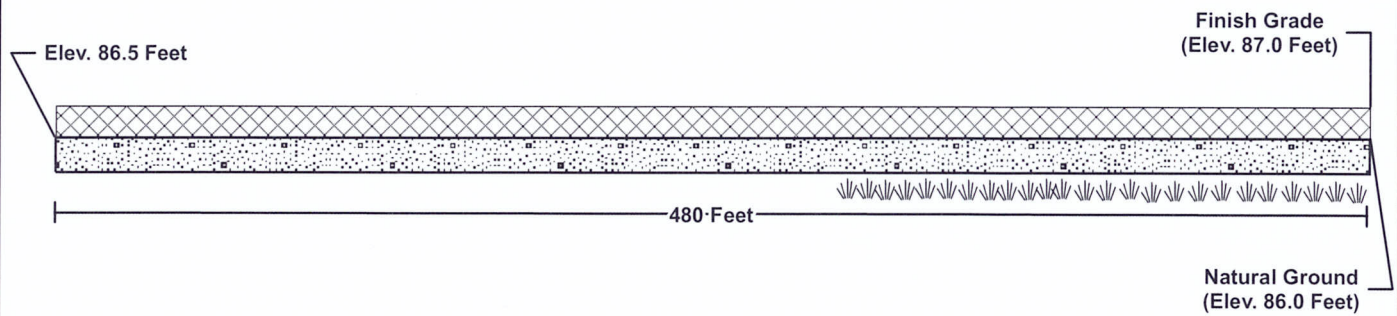


Figure 7. Gas Station and Detention Pond Cross Section (D-D')
 Proposed Truck Stop and Hotel
 U.S. Highway 61 and State Highway 64
 Sections 66 and 88, Township 5 South, Range 1 West
 East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana



December 2018



Legend

	Wetlands
	Concrete
	Earthen Fill

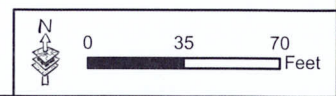


Figure 8. Truck Parking Cross Section (E-E')
 Proposed Truck Stop and Hotel
 U.S. Highway 61 and State Highway 64
 Sections 66 and 88, Township 5 South, Range 1 West
 East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana

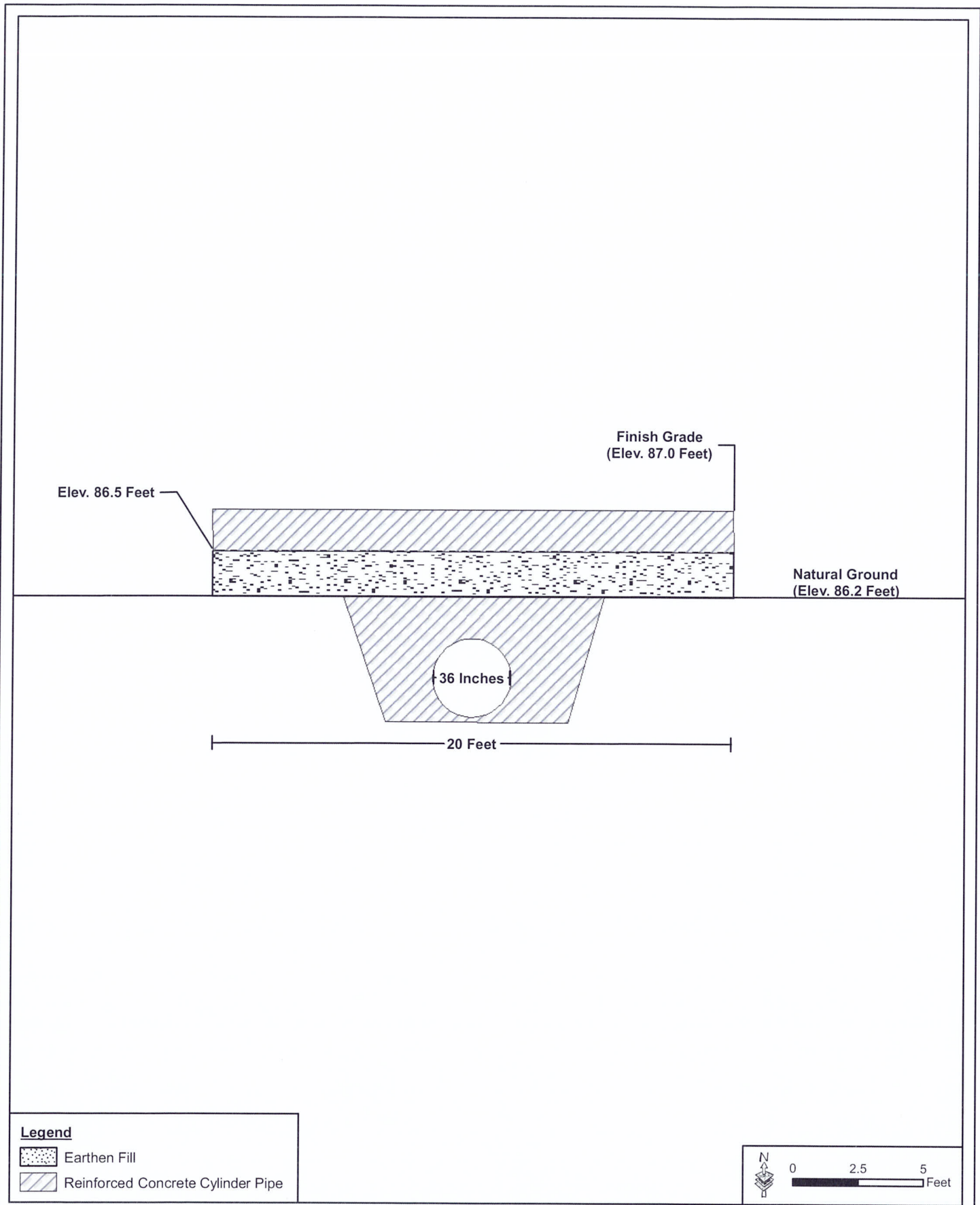


Figure 9. Highway 61 Entrance Cross Section (E-E')
 Proposed Truck Stop and Hotel
 U.S. Highway 61 and State Highway 64
 Sections 66 and 88, Township 5 South, Range 1 West
 East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana