## JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

October 29, 2018

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New Orleans District Attn: Regulatory Branch 7400 Leake Avenue New Orleans, LA 70118

Project Manager: Michael H. Herrmann (504) 862-1954/ (504) 862-2574 fax michael.h.herrmann@usace.army.mil Application # MVN-2018-1009-WLL State of Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality Attn: Water Quality Certifications Post Office Box 4313 Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4313

Project Manager: Elizabeth Hill (225) 219-3225 WQC Application Number: WQC 181015-02

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

## COLONIAL BIRD ROOKERY HABITAT ENHANCEMENT IN CAMERON PARISH, LOUISIANA

**Name of Applicant**: Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA), 150 Terrace Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70802.

**Location of Work**: The project is located in the southwest portion of Calcasieu Lake in Cameron Parish, Louisiana, as shown on the attached drawings. (Lat 29 50"58.47", Long -93 22' 58.72") within the Calcasieu Watershed.

**Character of Work**: Enhance colonial bird rookery habitat by creating wetland habitat in open water areas and by increasing elevations of the existing Rabbit Island. Dredge and fill operations will include the anticipated need for hydraulic dredging of 673,400 cubic yards; however, to ensure that adequate material is on hand to reach goal elevations, authorization is requested for up to 1,443,240 cubic yards of waterbottom sediments from a 24 acre borrow site in Calcasieu Ship Channel and depositing those sediments to the proposed elevations at rabbit Island to construct the project.

Approximately 128.12 acres will be filled to a proposed 3-foot and 3.5-foot. Of this, 19.94 acres of fill (72,349 cubic yards) will occur in open water and 108 acres of fill will occur in tidal marsh, which is expected to convert existing tidal marsh habitat to supertidal marsh.

The applicant proposes that all unavoidable project-related wetland impacts will be offset through the development of on-site new marsh habitat within open water and enhancement to existing degraded marsh.

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.

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. Copies of this public notice are being sent to the State Archeologist and State Historic Preservation Officer regarding potential impacts to cultural resources.

Our initial finding is that the proposed work may have the potential to affect protected Species. And species listed as endangered by the U.S. Department of Commerce. However, all Endangered Species Act and Essential Fish Habitat consultations under the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act regarding the CS-0080- Rabbit Island Restoration Project are currently being coordinated through the U.S. Department of the Interior on behalf of the Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group. Based on the South Louisiana Standard Local Operating Procedure for Endangered Species (SLOPES), as signed on October 22, 2014, between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, it has been determined that approximately 150 acres of fill is located in waters known to be utilized by the Western Indian Manatee and determined that the activity is not likely to adversely affect this species. If this permit modification/time extension is issued, the permittee will be required to the follow the Standard Manatee Conditions for In-Water Activities. It has also been determined that hydraulic dredging will occur within the Calcasieu Ship Channel which is known to be utilized by the West Indian manatee, Loggerhead sea turtle and the Atlantic (Gulf) sturgeon. At the conclusion of the Endangered Species Act consultation, appropriate measures will be implemented according to recommendations provided by the USFWS.

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 potential destruction or alteration of approximately <u>152</u> acres of possible EFH utilized by various life stages of red drum and penaeid shrimp. Our initial determination is that the proposed action may have an 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.

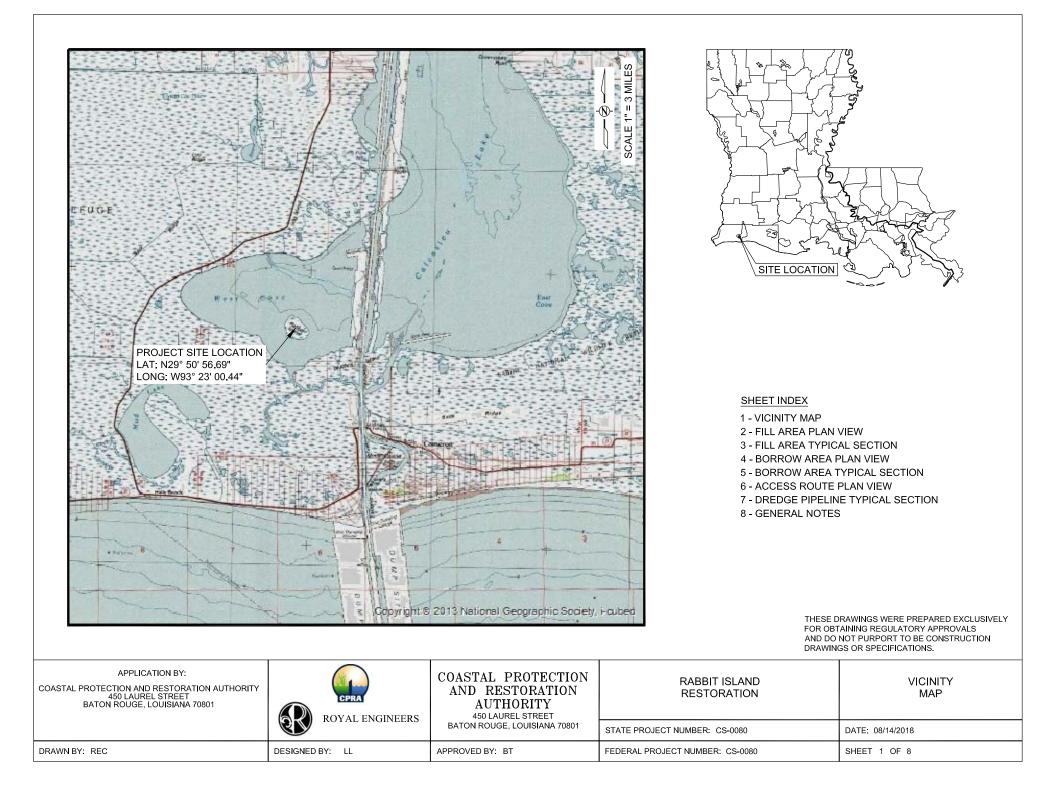
Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

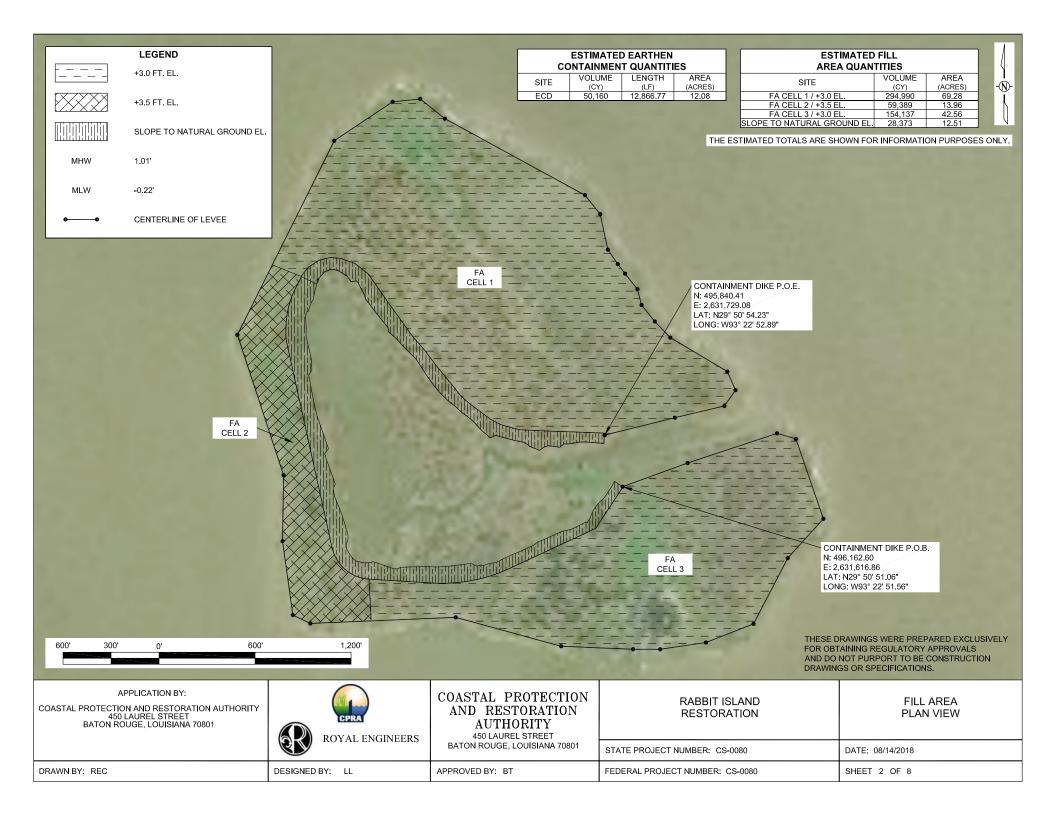
The applicant has certified that the proposed activity described in the application complies with and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the Louisiana Coastal Resources Program. The Department of the Army permit will not be issued unless the applicant received approval or a waiver of the Coastal Use Permit by the Department of Natural Resources.

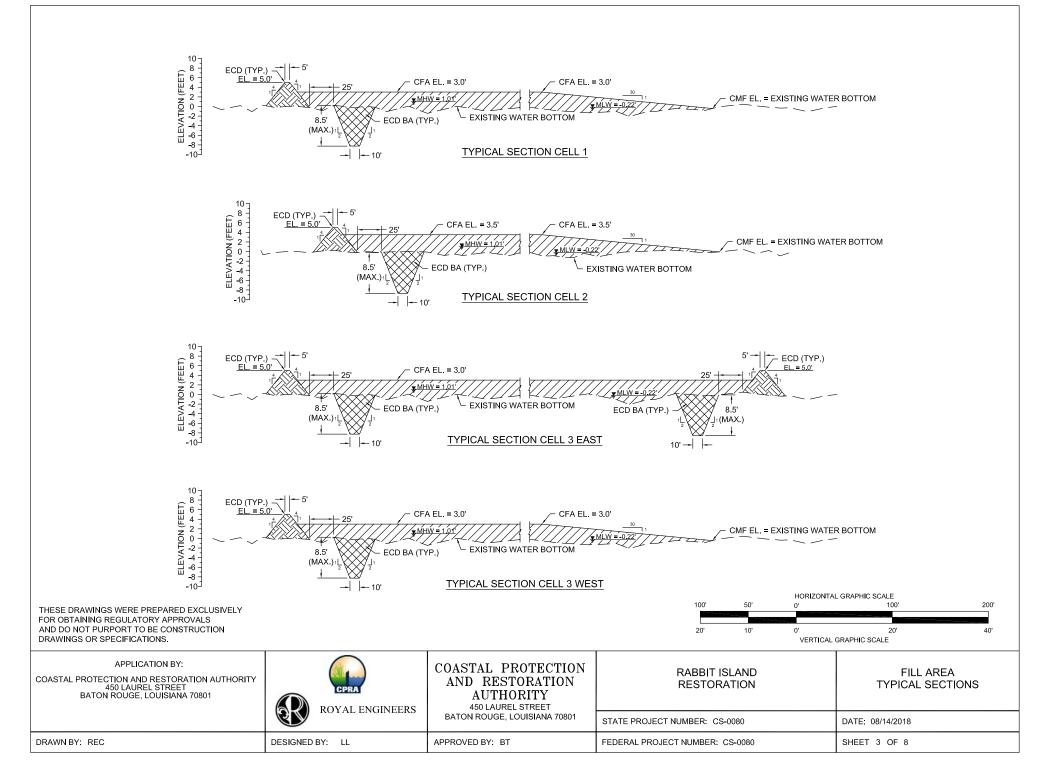
You are invited to communicate the information contained in this notice to any other parties whom you deem likely to have interest in the matter.

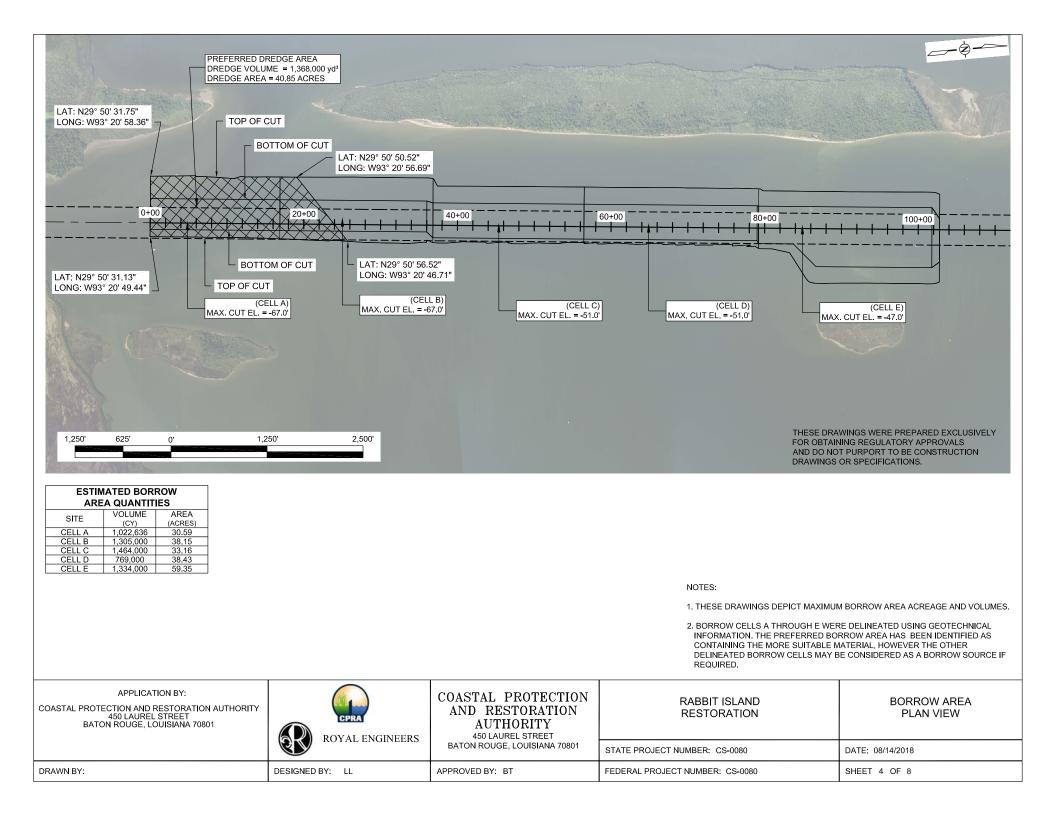
Enclosure

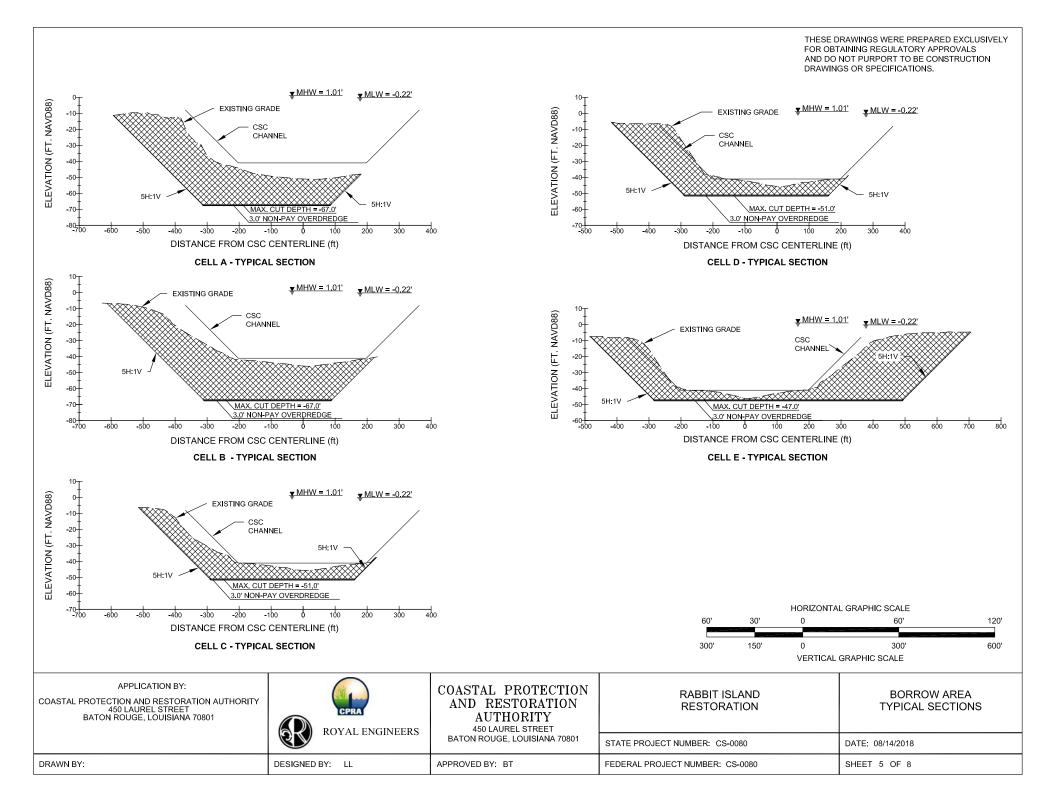
Darrell S. Barbara Chief, Western Evaluation Section Regulatory Branch

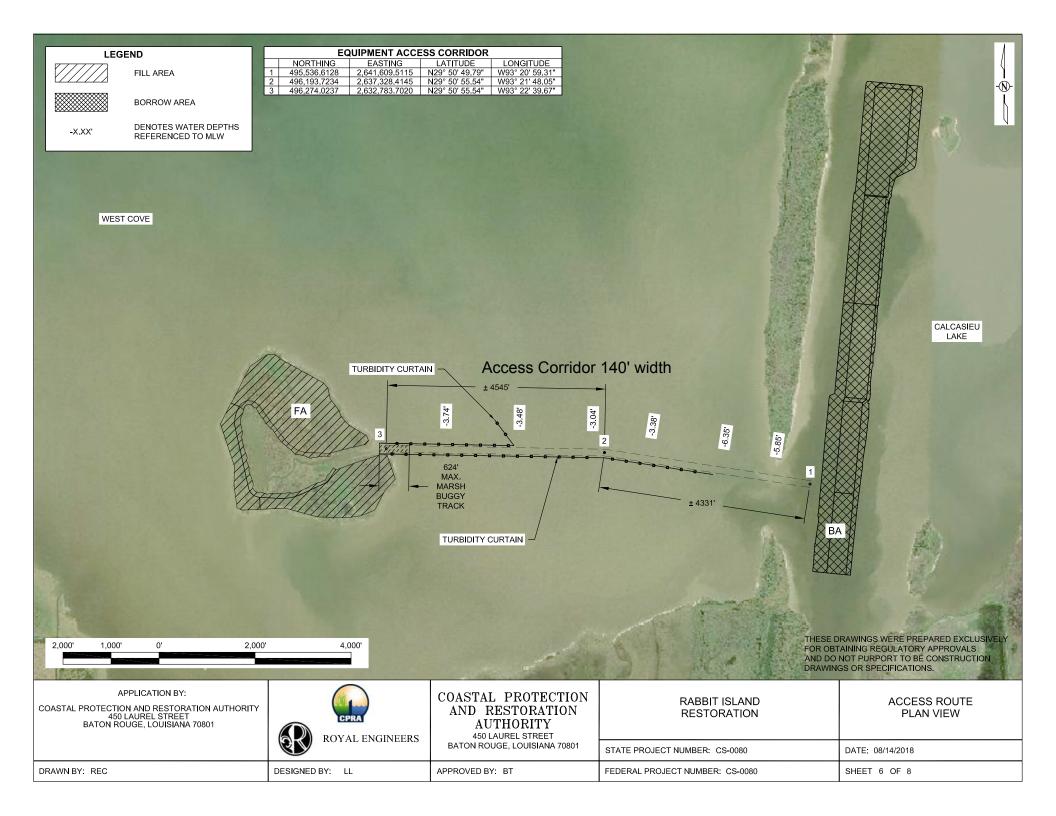


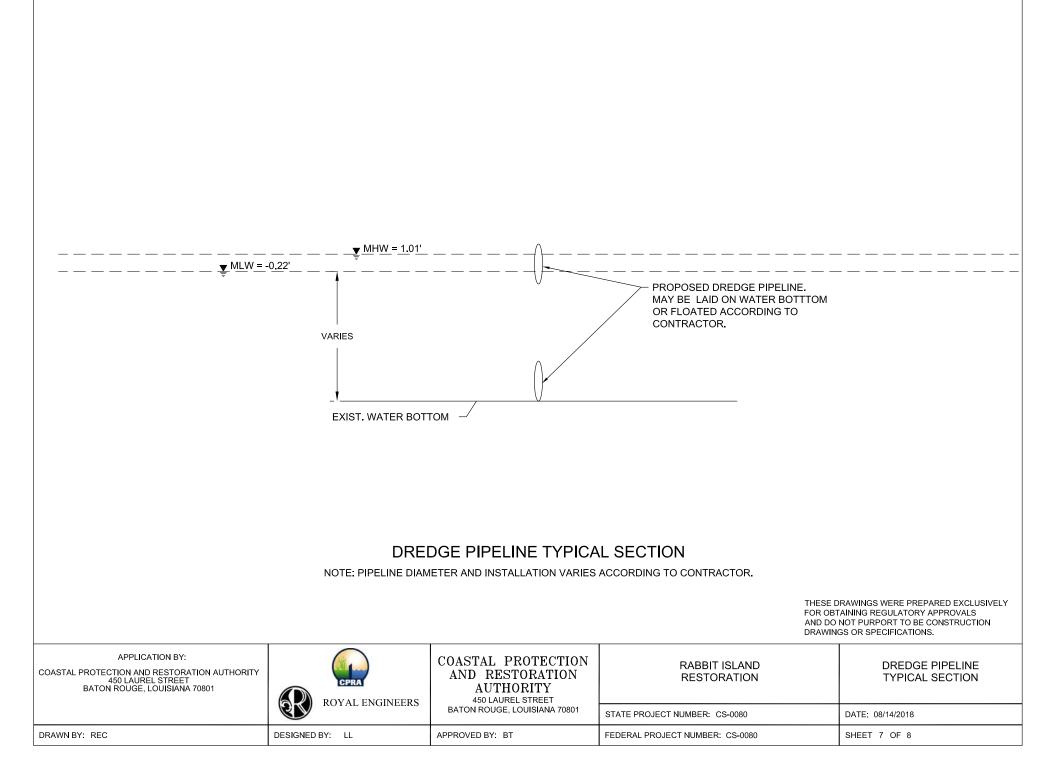












## GENERAL NOTES

- 1. THE PERMITTEE WILL COMPLY WITH ALL APPLICABLE LAWS REGARDING THE NEED TO CONTACT THE LOUISIANA ONE CALL SYSTEM (811) OR ONLINE AT http://www.laonecall.com/how\_to\_use\_us.htm TO LOCATE ANY EXISTING UTILITIES.
- 2. EQUIPMENT TO BE USED: MARSH BUGGY EXCAVATOR, HYDRAULIC DREDGE, BARGE, AND WORK BOAT.
- 3. EQUIPMENT DRAFT:
  - MARSH BUGGY: 5.0'
  - DREDGE: 4.0'
  - BARGE: 3.0'
  - JOHN/WORK BOAT: 1.5'

THESE DRAWINGS WERE PREPARED EXCLUSIVELY FOR OBTAINING REGULATORY APPROVALS AND DO NOT PURPORT TO BE CONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS OR SPECIFICATIONS.

APPLICATION BY: COASTAL PROTECTION AND RESTORATION AUTHORITY 450 LAUREL STREET BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70801	ROYAL ENGINEERS	COASTAL PROTECTION AND RESTORATION AUTHORITY 450 LAUREL STREET BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70801	RABBIT ISLAND RESTORATION	GENERAL NOTES
			STATE PROJECT NUMBER: CS-0080	DATE: 08/14/2018
DRAWN BY: REC	DESIGNED BY: LL	APPROVED BY: BT	FEDERAL PROJECT NUMBER: CS-0080	SHEET 8 OF 8