JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

16 September 2019

United States Army Corps of Engineers New Orleans District Regulatory Branch (ODR-E) 7400 Leake Avenue New Orleans, Louisiana 70118 State of Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality ATTN: Water Quality Certifications Post Office Box 4313 Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4313

(504) 862-2279 angelle.v.greer@usace.army.mil Project Manager Angelle Greer Permit Application Number MVN-2019-00711-EG

(225) 219-3225 Project Manager Elizabeth Hill WQC Application Number WQC 190913-02

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 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).

BRIDGE REPLACEMENT IN ST. TAMMANY PARISH

NAME OF APPLICANT: St. Tammany Parish Government c/o ELOS Environmental, LLC., Attention: Brian Fortson, 43177 E. Pleasant Ridge Rd., Hammond, LA 70403

LOCATION OF WORK: On Third Avenue at Ponchitowala Creek, in Covington, in St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana, as shown on the enclosed drawings. Location: Latitude: 30.429387, Longitude: -90.064476 Hydrologic Unit Code: 08090201 (Liberty Bayou- Tchefuncte River)

<u>CHARACTER OF WORK</u>: Placement of approximately 562 cubic yards of clay, 401 cubic yards of gravel, and 401 cubic yards of asphalt to facilitate the construction of a new concrete bridge on Third

Avenue over Ponchitowala Creek. The existing Third Avenue bridge and appurtenant structures would be removed, and the existing road and ditch would be realigned and reconstructed. Approximately 0.60 acre of jurisdictional wetlands would be impacted due to the bridge/road replacement. The applicant proposes to compensate for unavoidable project-related impacts to 0.60 acre of jurisdictional wetlands though the purchase of wetland credits from a Corps' approved mitigation bank within the appropriate watershed.

The comment period for the Department of the Army Permit and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality WQC will close <u>20 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, <u>ATTENTION: REGULATORY BRANCH</u>. 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 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 activity may effect, but is not likely to adversely affect the Gopher Tortoise based on the 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. A Gopher Tortoise survey and report will be submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for concurrence.

Our initial finding is that the proposed work is not likely to adversely affect any species listed as endangered, nor affect any habitat designated as critical to the survival and recovery of those species listed 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 not result in the destruction or alteration 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.

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











