# JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

January 17, 2022

United States Army Corps of Engineers New Orleans District Regulatory Division 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

(504) 862-1217 Project Manager Kenny Blanke <u>Kenneth.G.Blanke@usace.army.mil</u> MVN 2021-00232-CQ (225) 219-3225 Project Manager Ms. Elizabeth Hill WQC Application Number WQC 220113-02

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 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, Office of Environmental Services, for a Water Quality Certification (WQC) in accordance with statutory authority contained in LRS30:2074 A(3), and provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (P.L.95-17).

## BAYOU PAUL STREAM RESTORATION PROJECT IN IBERVILLE PARISH

**NAME OF APPLICANT**: Manchac Consulting Group, c/o ELOS Environmental, LLC, Attn: Flynn Daigle, 607 West Morris Avenue, Hammond, LA 70403.

**LOCATION OF WORK**: In an approximate 96.07-acre site located along an approximate 8,500linear foot reach of Bayou Paul ending at its confluence with Alligator Bayou, in Sections 31-33, Township 8 South, Range 2 East, east of Saint Gabriel, Louisiana, in Iberville Parish, within the Pontchartrain Basin in hydrologic unit (HUC 08070202), as shown on the attached drawings (Latitude 30.3020 N, Longitude -91.04412 W).

**CHARACTER OF WORK**: The applicant has requested Department of the Army authorization to excavate, place and deposit fill material to restore the water flow and capacity of Bayou Paul within the waterway. The project would involve the excavation and dredging of approximately 17.6 acres of waterbottoms and channel slopes of an approximate 8,500-linear foot reach of Bayou Paul. The proposed project would create a channel with a targeted width of 70 feet. Approximately 67,200 cubic yards of waterbottoms would be excavated and placed as fill material in targeted wetland enhancement areas at depths not to exceed 6 inches in overall thickness and will not be placed in areas that may hinder or affect natural existing drainage. The fill placement areas would be located within 200-foot wide areas on both sides of the Bayou Paul channel. All work is proposed to be performed via barge within the channel. According to the applicant, the proposed restoration by the deepening and widening of Bayou Paul to its

original width and depth would allow storm water from rainfall and high-water events to flow directly into Alligator Bayou and would potentially help mitigate flooding in the area. Approximately 78.5 acres of jurisdictional wetlands would be temporarily impacted as a result of the proposed project as a result of the targeted fill placement depth of 6-inches or less at the proposed wetland enhancement areas. The applicant is claiming that no forested wetlands would be cleared and that all appropriate best management practices would be implemented to avoid any unnecessary impacts to avoided wetland areas. The applicant proposes to avoid additional direct impacts and minimize secondary impacts (to wetlands) to the maximum extent practicable by performing all work from within the channel, and utilization of an existing boat launch for staging and access. As compensation for unavoidable wetland impacts, the applicant is proposing that no permanent impacts to the wetland enhancement areas would occur and is requesting a one year growing season prior to performing any assessment for potential project related impacts to wetland areas.

The comment period for the Department of Army will close in <u>20 days</u> from the date of this 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 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 DIVISION, RGC, Kenny Blanke</u>. 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 Branch 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, prehistorical, historical sites, or data. Copies of this notice are being sent to the State Archeologist and State Historic Preservation Officer.

Our initial finding is that the proposed work would neither affect any species listed as endangered by the U.S. Departments of Interior or Commerce, nor affect any habitat designated as critical to the survival and recovery of any endangered species. Utilizing the Information & Planning Consultation for Endangered Species in Louisiana (IPaC), dated January 27, 2020, 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 with the proposed activity will have no effect on any listed species.

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 <u>NA</u> 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, 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.

for

JOHN M. HERMAN Chief, Central Evaluation Branch Regulatory Division

Enclosure



#### Proposed Impacts







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- 1. DREDGED MATERIAL TO BE DISPERSED ON TOP OF BANK OF CHANNEL NO MORE THAN 6 INCHES THICK, WHEN WET.
- 2. START OF PROJECT AT TIE-IN WITH BAYOU PAUL TO BE VERIFIED BY THE PRE-CONSTRUCTION SURVEY BEFORE CONSTRUCTION TIE-IN.
- 3. END OF PROJECT TIE-IN WITH ALLIGATOR BAYOU TO BE VERIFIED BY THE PRE-CONSTRUCTION SURVEY BEFORE CONSTRUCTION TIE-IN.
- 4. SECTIONS BASED ON BATHYMETRIC SURVEY PERFORMED BY GOTECH, INC. DATED APRIL 2020.
- 5. DREDGED MATERIAL QUANTITY = 67,200 C.Y.





















