



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT
7400 LEAKE AVE
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70118-3651

May 8, 2023

Regulatory Division
Central Evaluation Branch

Project Manager
S. Gail Gainey
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Sandra.G.Gainey@usace.army.mil
Application Number: MVN-2022-00848-CG

PUBLIC NOTICE

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), [X] Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (86 Stat. 816; 33 USC 1344).

PROPOSED ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION CENTER IN IBERVILLE PARISH

NAME OF APPLICANT: Spanish Lake Ecological Education Center (SLEEC), 8115 Louisiana Highway 74, St. Gabriel, LA 70776.

LOCATION OF WORK: On and north of LA Highway 74 in Section 18, Township 9 South, Range 2 East, just east of St. Gabriel, Louisiana, in Iberville Parish, within the Pontchartrain Basin in hydrologic unit (HUC 08070202), as shown on the attached drawings (Latitude 30.255656 N, Longitude -91.051444 W).

CHARACTER OF WORK: The applicant has requested Department of the Army authorization to clear, grade, and deposit fill and/or aggregate material to construct and maintain an environmental education facility (Spanish Lake Ecological Education Center) to include appurtenant classrooms, offices, and buildings, board walks, parking lots, access roadways, greenspace, utilities and drainage infrastructure including a water control device to maintain water in the ponded area at a depth of approx. 2.5 feet. Approximately 650 cubic yards of earthen material will be hauled in to construct berms along with 500 cubic yards of crushed shell and 3,200 cubic yards of road base for parking lots, access, road reinforcement, and to achieve required grade elevation requirements. The proposed project is situated on an approximately 21.1-acre tract that has been historically utilized in conjunction with the St. Gabriel Oil Field. A Preliminary analysis has determined that the proposed project would directly impact approx. 2.75 acres of wetlands.

MITIGATION: The applicant proposes to avoid additional direct impacts and minimize secondary impacts (to wetlands) to the maximum extent practicable by avoiding 7.8 acres of wetlands, utilizing existing decommissioned oil and gas roads for access, limiting the construction activity to the designated project areas and corridors, disposing of all removed fill

and vegetation not approved as fill material by burning on-site, and utilizing best management practices for erosion and siltation control during and after the construction phase of the project. If authorized, the project will receive approval from all appropriate local drainage authorities and sewerage agencies. As compensation for unavoidable wetland impacts, the applicant proposes to use a Corps approved mitigation bank within the watershed of impact.

The comment period for the Department of Army will close in **20 days** 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 submitted so as to be received before or by the last day of the comment period. Letters and/or comments concerning the subject permit application must reference the applicant's name and the Permit Application Number and preferably emailed to the Corps of Engineers project manager listed above or forwarded to the Corps of Engineers at the address above, **ATTENTION: REGULATORY DIVISION, RGC, S. Gail Gainey**. 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. This public notice is also available for review online at <https://go.usa.gov/xennJ>.

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. Further, all factors that may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the potential cumulative effects associated with the proposed project.

The New Orleans District utilizes the National Register of Historic Places to identify properties listed on or near the proposed work. The possibility exists that the proposed work may damage or destroy presently unknown archeological, scientific, prehistorical, historical sites, or data. However, extent of coverage and impacts is undetermined at this time pending a National Historic Preservation Act compliance determination. Copies of this notice are made available to the State Archeologist and the State Historic Preservation Officer.

Our initial finding is that the proposed work would have no effect on any species listed as endangered by the U.S. Department of Commerce, nor affect any habitat designated as critical to the survival and recovery of any endangered species under their jurisdiction.

Utilizing the Information & Planning Consultation for Endangered Species in Louisiana protocol, 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 the proposed work 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 NA 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.

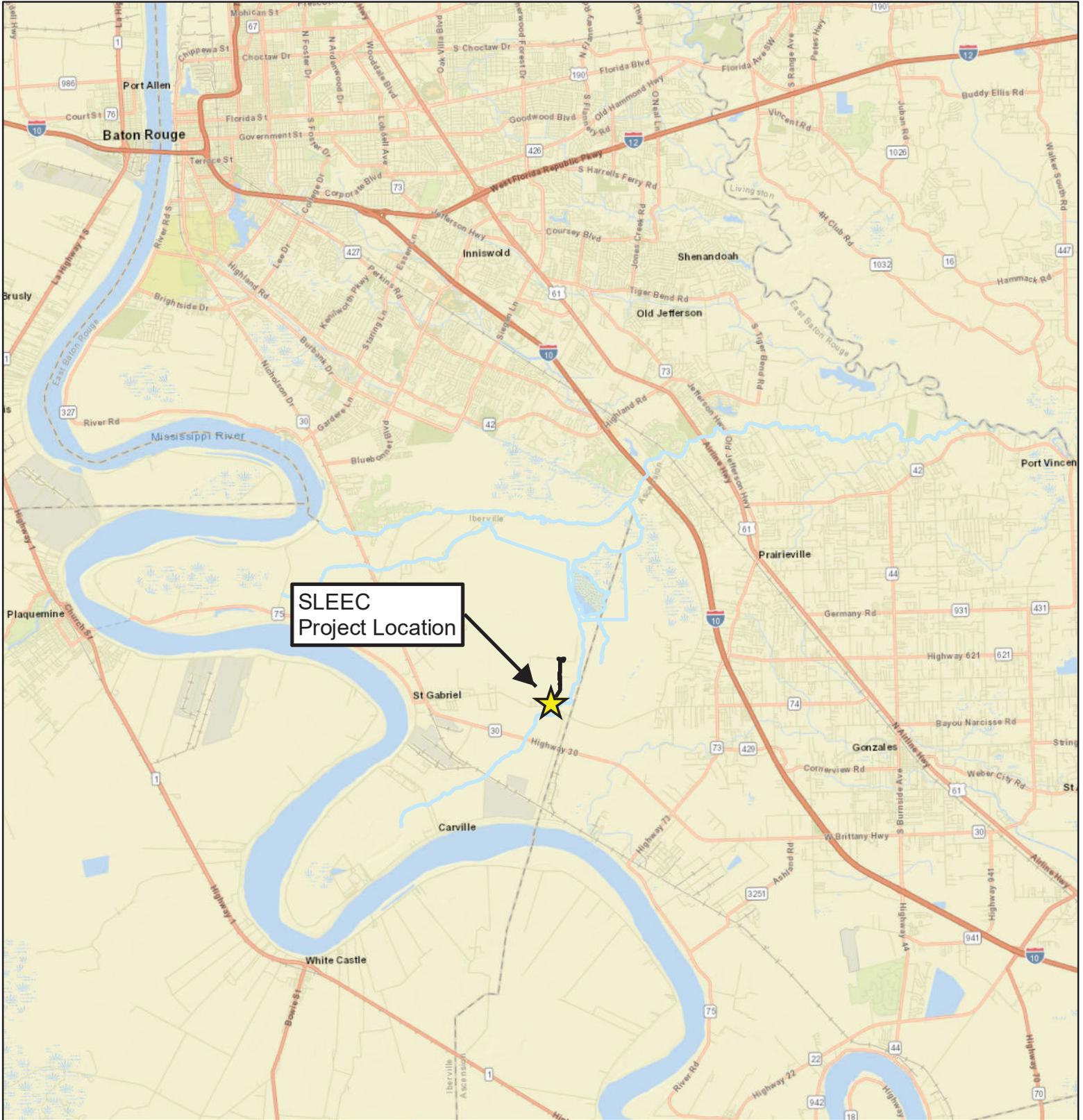
If the proposed work involves deposits of dredged or fill material into navigable waters, the evaluation of the probable impacts will include the application of guidelines established by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Also, a certification that the proposed activity will not 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, (preferably by email to the project manager, or 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 invited 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 Branch
Regulatory Division

Enclosures



Legend

 Project Area (21.1 acres)

Map Notes:

1. The boundary shown is based on the boundary survey provided by the client.
2. Map projected to NAD83 UTM Zone 15.

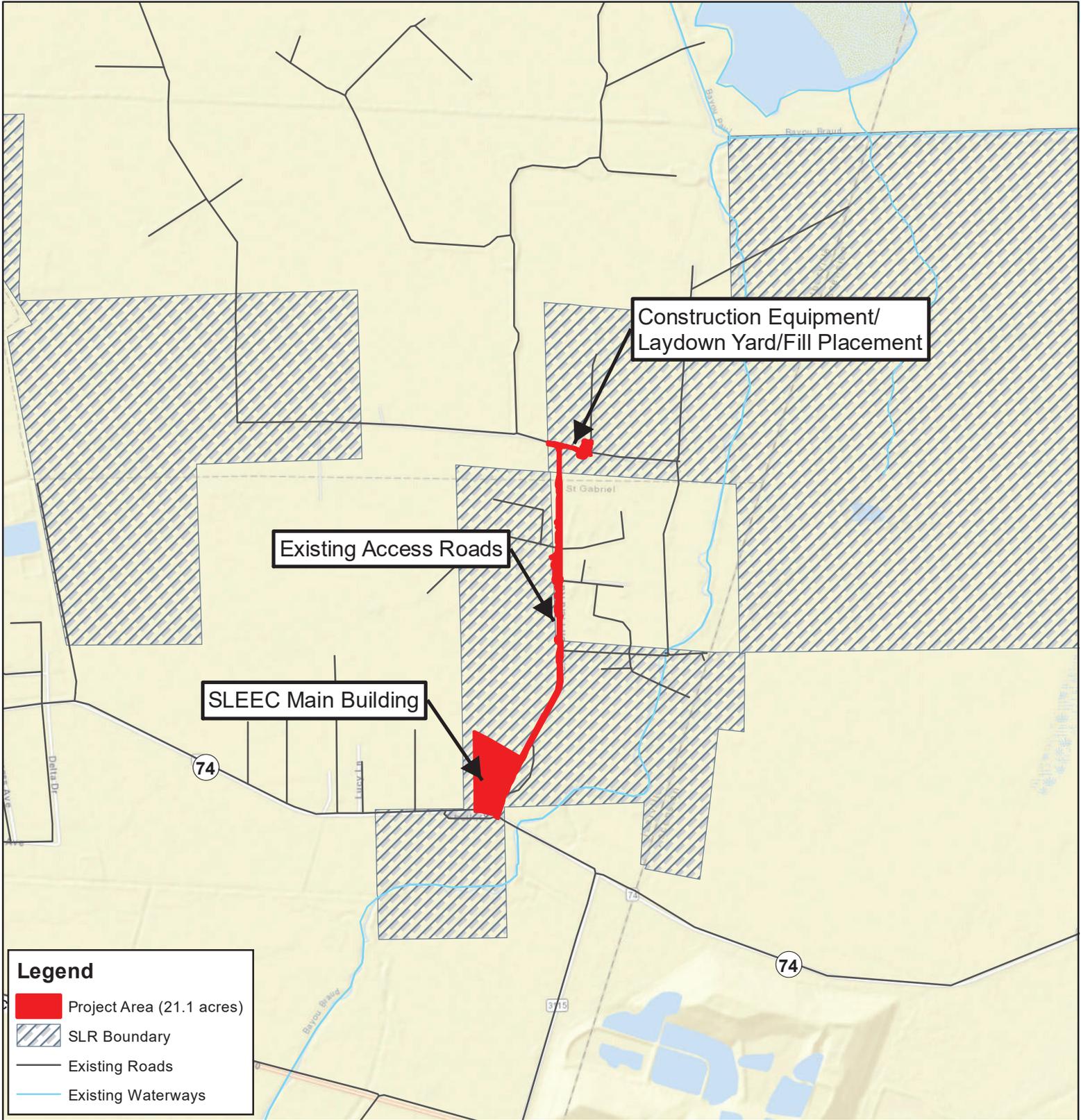


SLEEC
St. Gabriel, LA
VICINITY MAP
IBERVILLE PARISH, LA

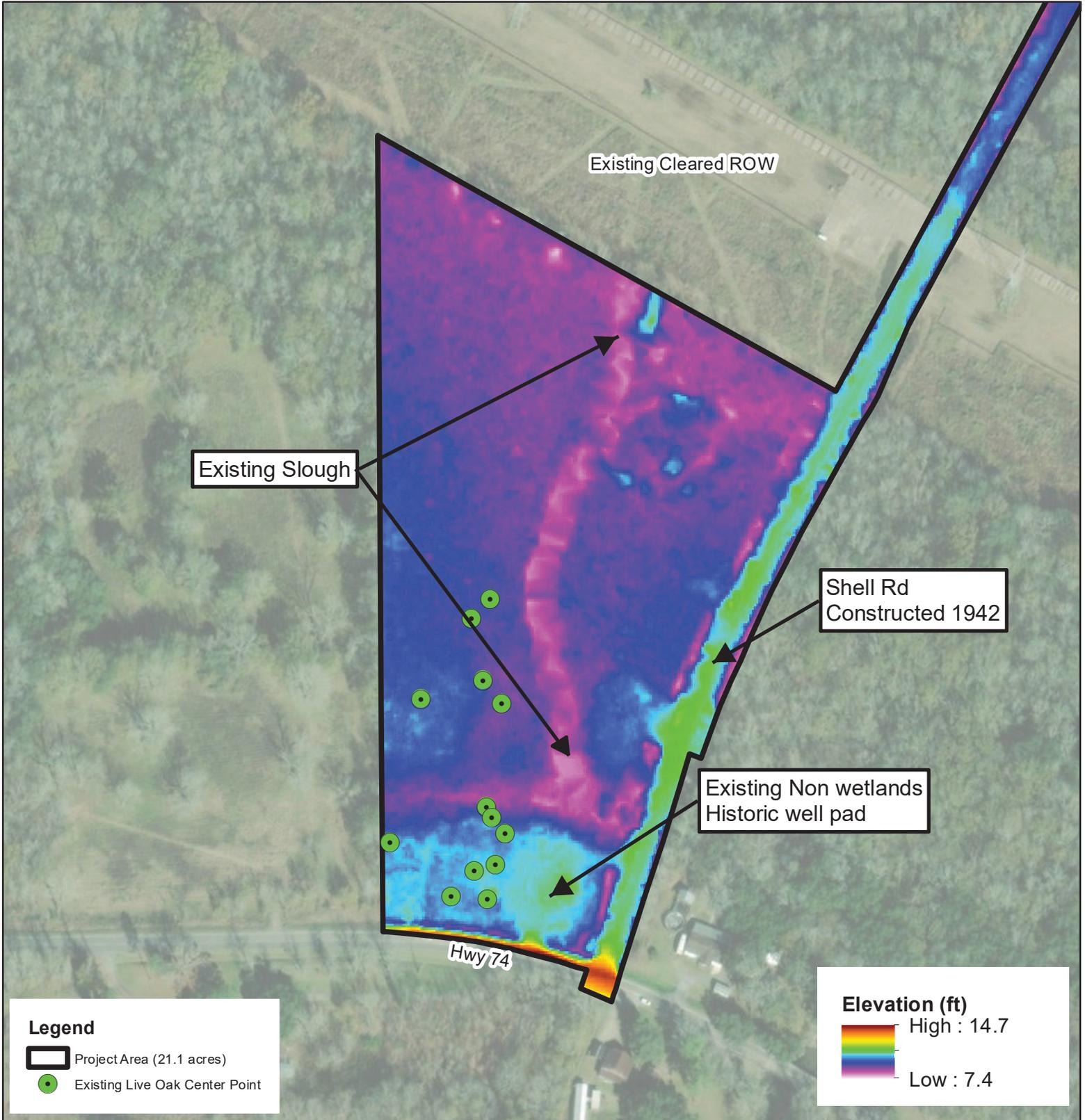
Created : AGB/ArcView

Date : 09/14/2022

FIGURE 1



SLEEC St. Gabriel, LA	
AERIAL MAP IBERVILLE PARISH, LA	
Created :	AGB/ArcView
Date :	09/14/2022
FIGURE 2	



Map Notes:

1. The boundary shown is based on the boundary survey provided by the client.
2. Map projected to NAD83 UTM Zone 15.

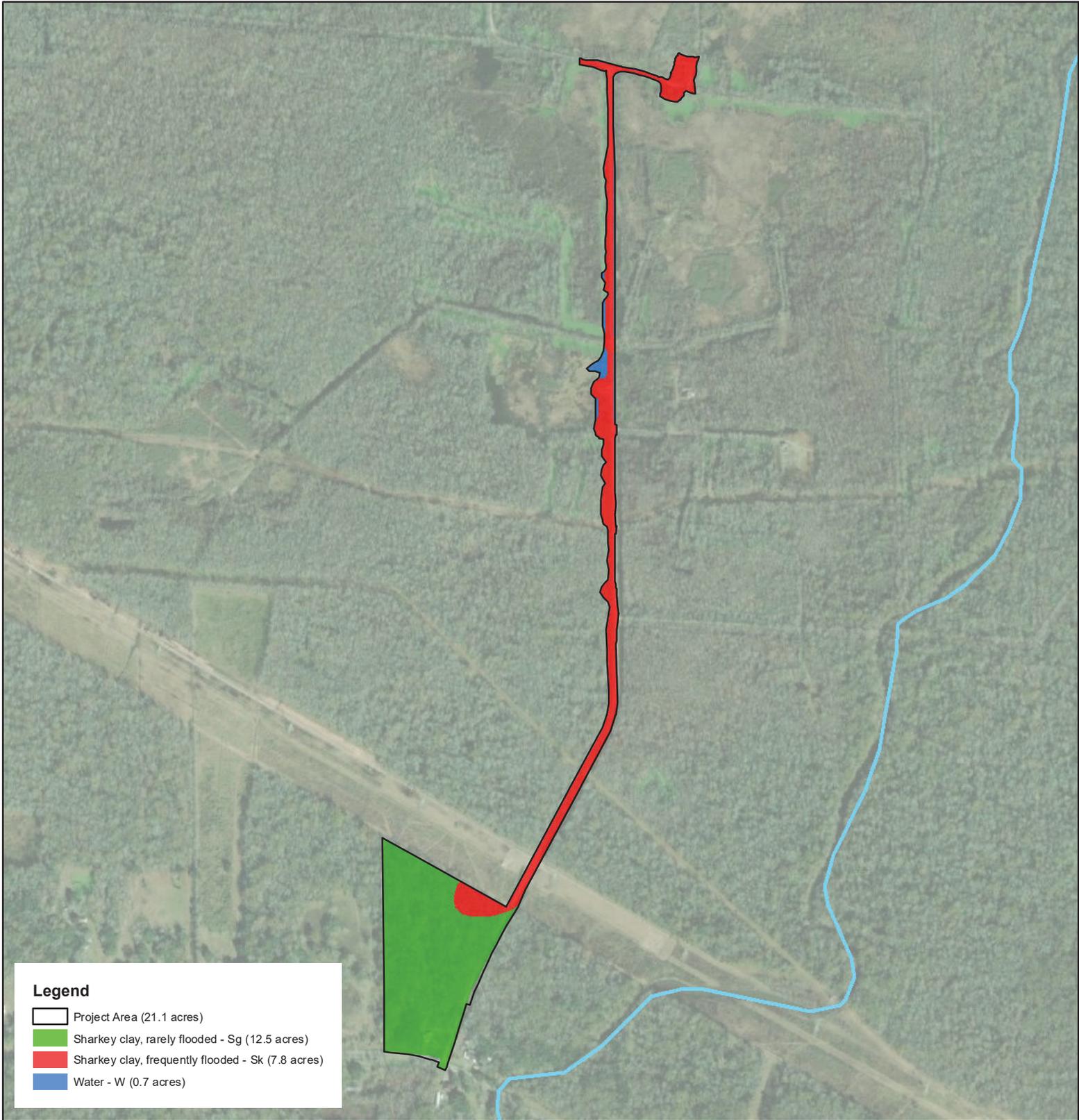


SLEEC
St. Gabriel, LA
LIDAR MAP
IBERVILLE PARISH, LA

Created : AGB/ArcView

Date : 09/14/2022

FIGURE 3



Legend

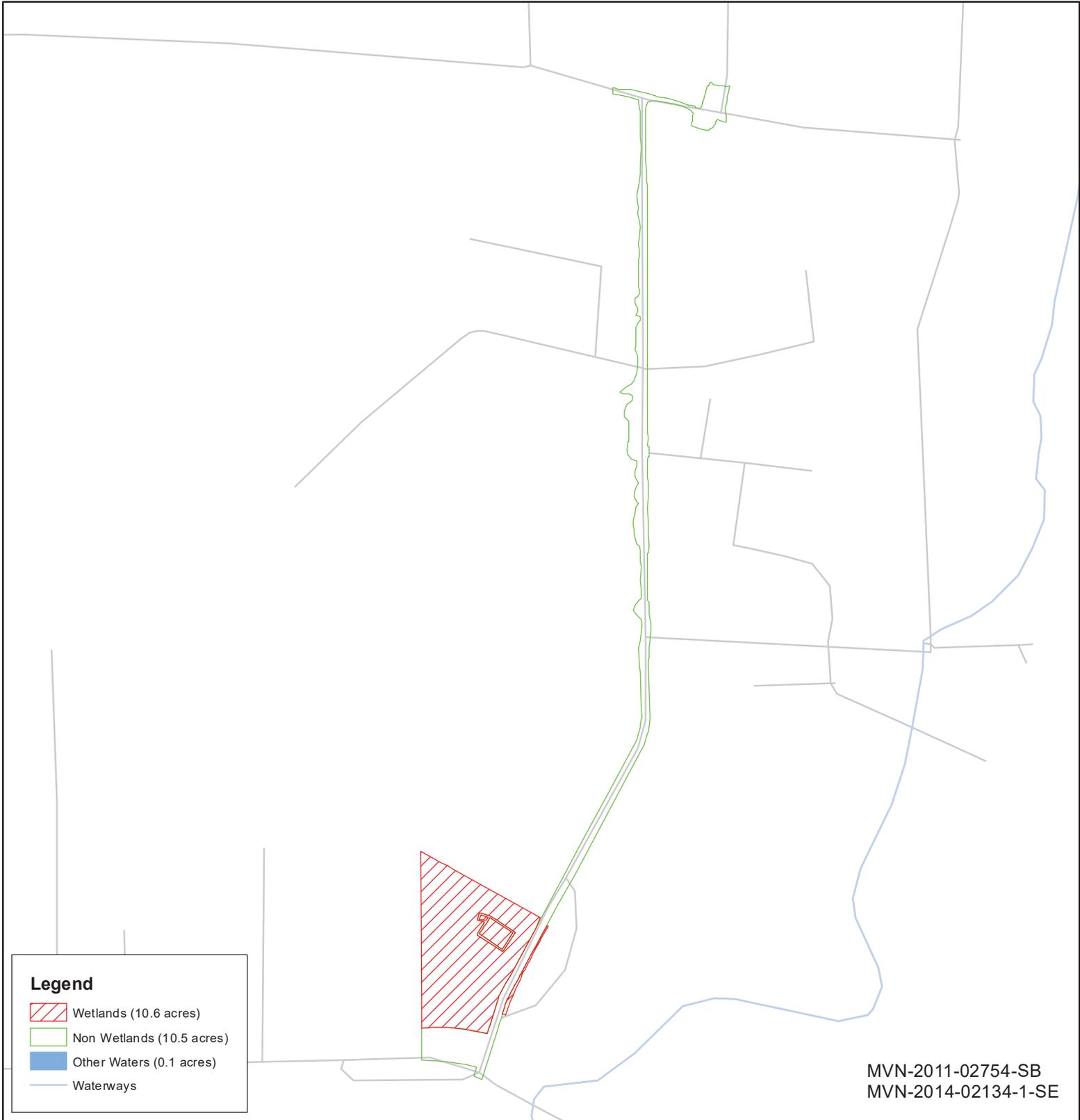
- Project Area (21.1 acres)
- Sharkey clay, rarely flooded - Sg (12.5 acres)
- Sharkey clay, frequently flooded - Sk (7.8 acres)
- Water - W (0.7 acres)

Map Notes:

1. The boundary shown is based on the boundary survey provided by the client.
2. Map projected to NAD83 UTM Zone 15.



SLEEC
St. Gabriel, LA
SOILS MAP
IBERVILLE PARISH, LA
Created : AGB/ArcView
Date : 09/14/2022
FIGURE 4



MVN-2011-02754-SB
 MVN-2014-02134-1-SE

Legend

- Wetlands (10.6 acres)
- Non Wetlands (10.5 acres)
- Other Waters (0.1 acres)
- Waterways

Map Notes:

1. The boundary shown is based on the boundary survey provided by the client.
2. Map projected to NAD83 UTM Zone 15.



**SLEEC
 St. Gabriel, LA**

**JD MAP
 IBERVILLE PARISH, LA**

Created : AGB/ArcView

Date : 09/14/2022

FIGURE 5

**Staging Area/
Construction Laydown/
Fill Placement**

*Location the organic material will be placed, dried and burned.

*All work, access, & staging will remain within the footprint of the proposed activity, non-jurisdictional areas or from existing/previously permitted ROWs and roads

650 cu yds of fill for berm

2.1 acres to be cleared of dead/decaying/rotting trees only. No living trees will be removed. Organic material to be placed in the onsite staging area, dried and burned (See Figures 6b, 7a & 7b for detail)

Legend

- Project Area (21.1 acres)
- Earthen berm
- Water feature
- Fill storage
- Non Wetlands
- Proposed Access/Existing Roadways

Map Notes:

1. The boundary shown is based on the boundary survey provided by the client.
2. Map projected to NAD83 UTM Zone 15.



**SLEEC
St. Gabriel, LA**

**ACCESS AND FILL PLACEMENT
IBERVILLE PARISH, LA**

Created : AGB/ArcView

Date : 09/14/2022

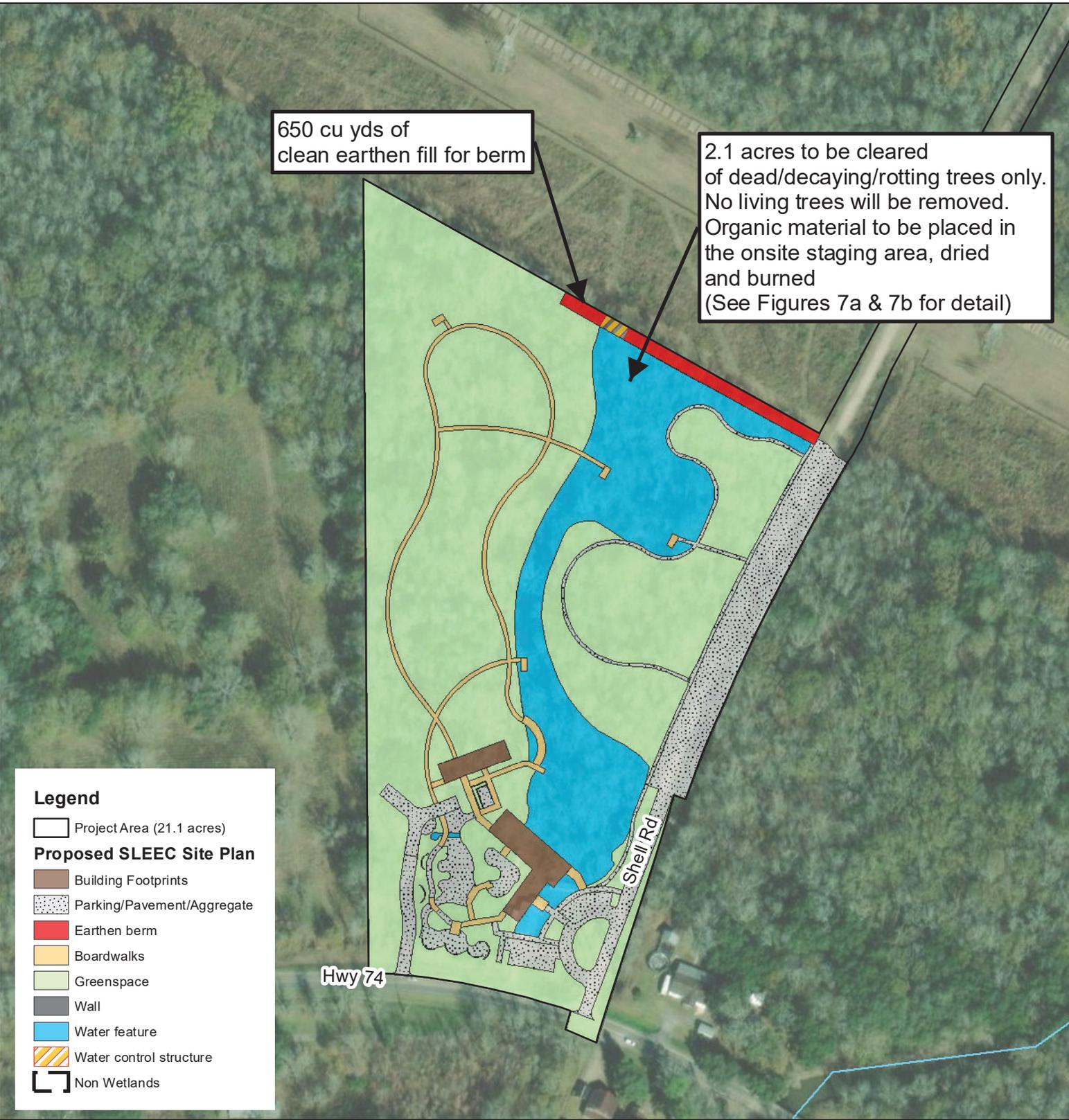
FIGURE 6a

650 cu yds of clean earthen fill for berm

2.1 acres to be cleared of dead/decaying/rotting trees only. No living trees will be removed. Organic material to be placed in the onsite staging area, dried and burned (See Figures 7a & 7b for detail)

Legend

- Project Area (21.1 acres)
- Proposed SLEEC Site Plan**
- Building Footprints
- Parking/Pavement/Aggregate
- Earthen berm
- Boardwalks
- Greenspace
- Wall
- Water feature
- Water control structure
- Non Wetlands

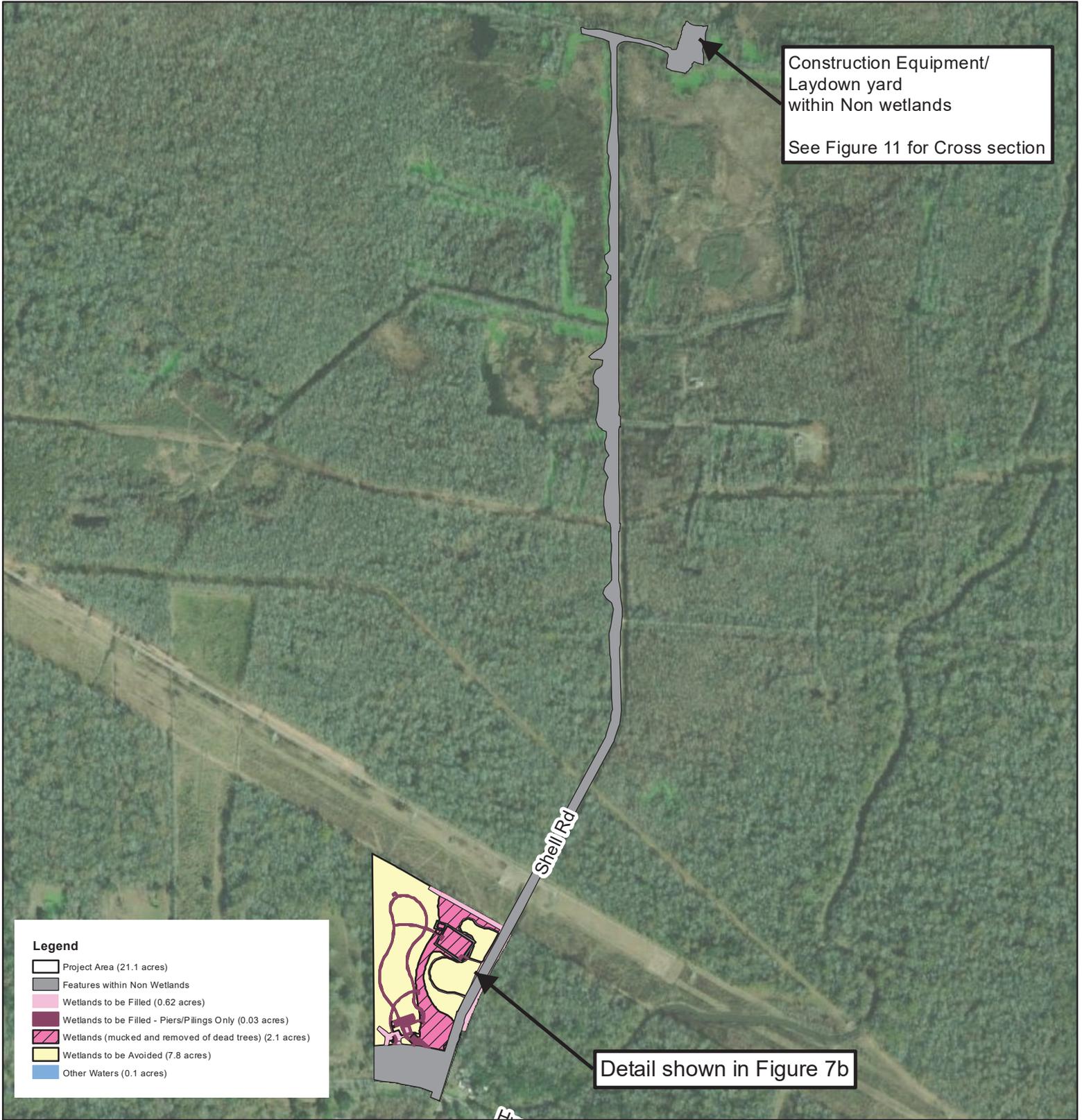


Map Notes:

1. The boundary shown is based on the boundary survey provided by the client.
2. Map projected to NAD83 UTM Zone 15.



<p>SLEEC St. Gabriel, LA DETAIL PLAN IBERVILLE PARISH, LA</p>
<p>Created : AGB/ArcView</p>
<p>Date : 09/14/2022</p>
<p>FIGURE 6b</p>



Construction Equipment/
Laydown yard
within Non wetlands

See Figure 11 for Cross section

Legend

- Project Area (21.1 acres)
- Features within Non Wetlands
- Wetlands to be Filled (0.62 acres)
- Wetlands to be Filled - Piers/Pilings Only (0.03 acres)
- Wetlands (mucked and removed of dead trees) (2.1 acres)
- Wetlands to be Avoided (7.8 acres)
- Other Waters (0.1 acres)

Detail shown in Figure 7b

Map Notes:

1. The boundary shown is based on the boundary survey provided by the client.
2. Map projected to NAD83 UTM Zone 15.



SLEEC
St. Gabriel, LA
WETLAND IMPACTS
IBERVILLE PARISH, LA
Created : AGB/ArcView
Date : 09/01/2022
FIGURE 7a



Map Notes:

1. The boundary shown is based on the boundary survey provided by the client.
2. Map projected to NAD83 UTM Zone 15.



SLEEC	
St. Gabriel, LA	
WETLAND IMPACTS	
IBERVILLE PARISH, LA	
Created :	AGB/ArcView
Date :	07/05/2022
FIGURE 7b	



Legend

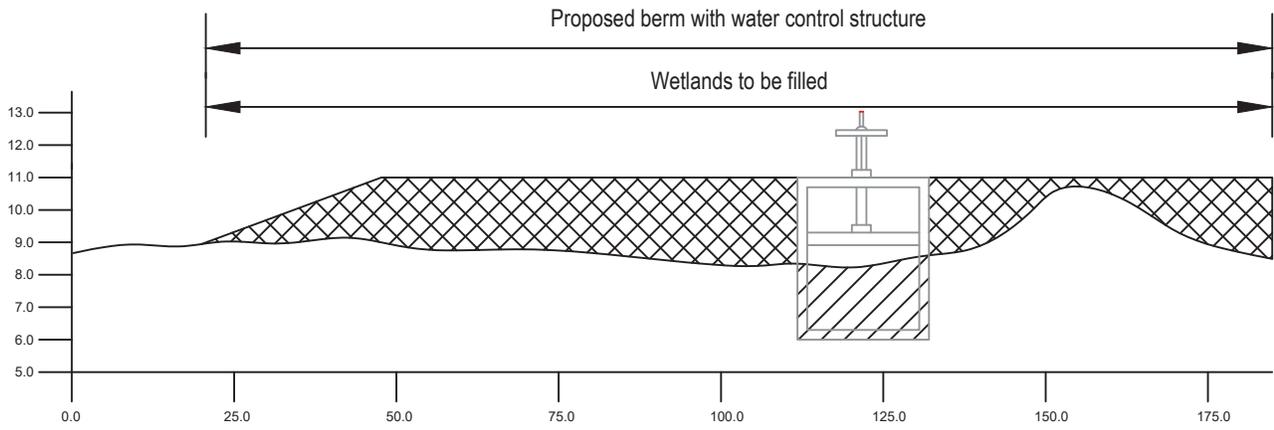
- Building Footprints
- Parking/Pavement/Aggregate
- Earthen berm
- Boardwalks
- Greenspace
- Wall
- Water feature
- Water control structure
- Existing Roadway
- Cross sections
- Culverts to remain
- Proposed 36" Culvert Locations

Map Notes:

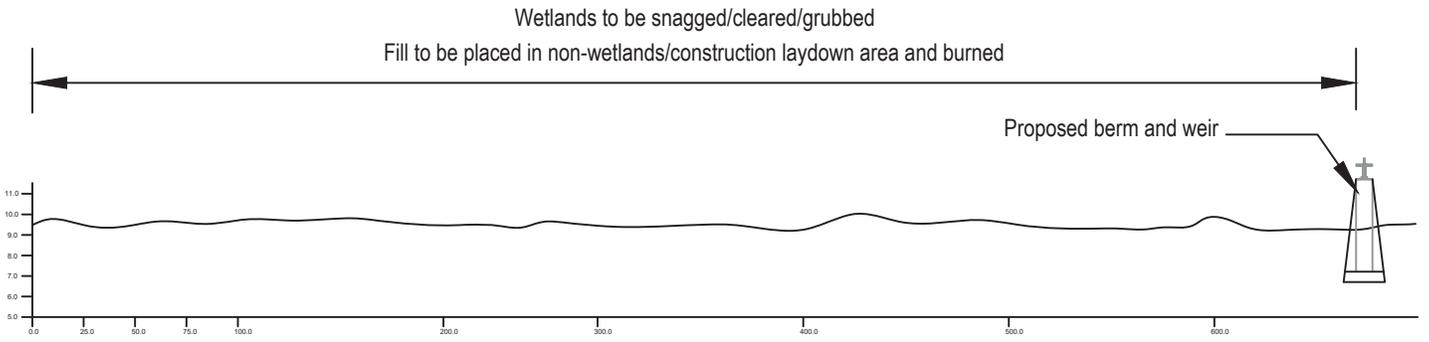
1. The boundary shown is based on the boundary survey provided by the client.
2. Map projected to NAD83 UTM Zone 15.



SLEEC St. Gabriel, LA CROSS SECTION IBERVILLE PARISH, LA	
Created :	AGB/ArcView
Date :	05/13/2022
FIGURE 8	



Section A-A': Proposed berm and weir
5:1 Vertical Exaggeration

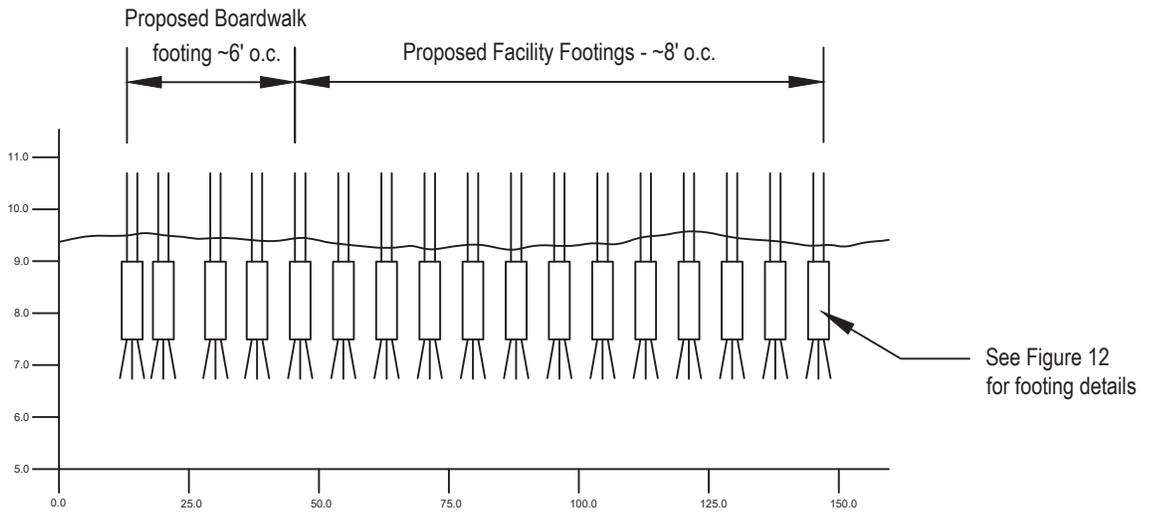


Section B-B': Proposed clearing/grubbing of existing slough
10:1 Vertical Exaggeration

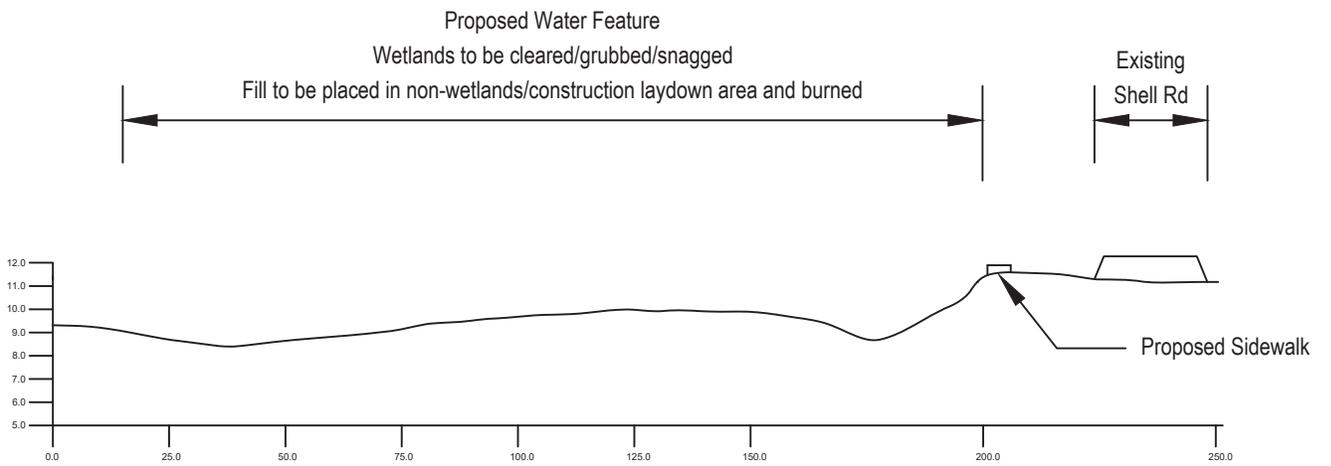
-  Snag/Clear/Grub
-  Fill



SLEEC St. Gabriel, LA	
CROSS SECTION A & B IBERVILLE PARISH, LA	
Created:	AGB
Date:	05/19/2022
FIGURE 9	



Section C-C': Proposed facility location
5:1 Vertical Exaggeration

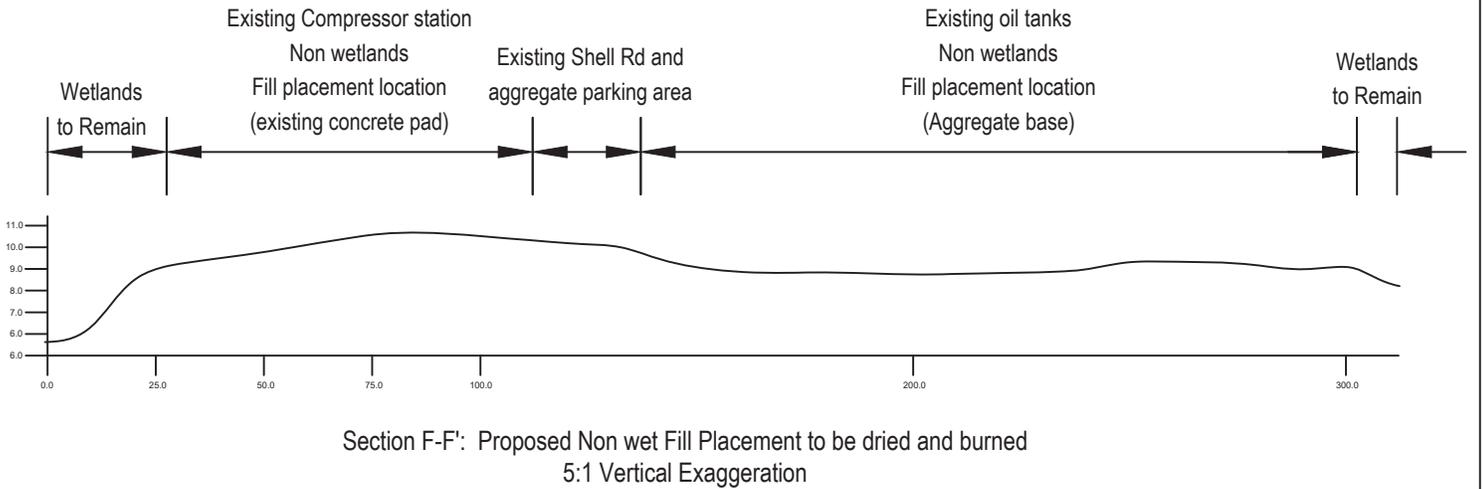
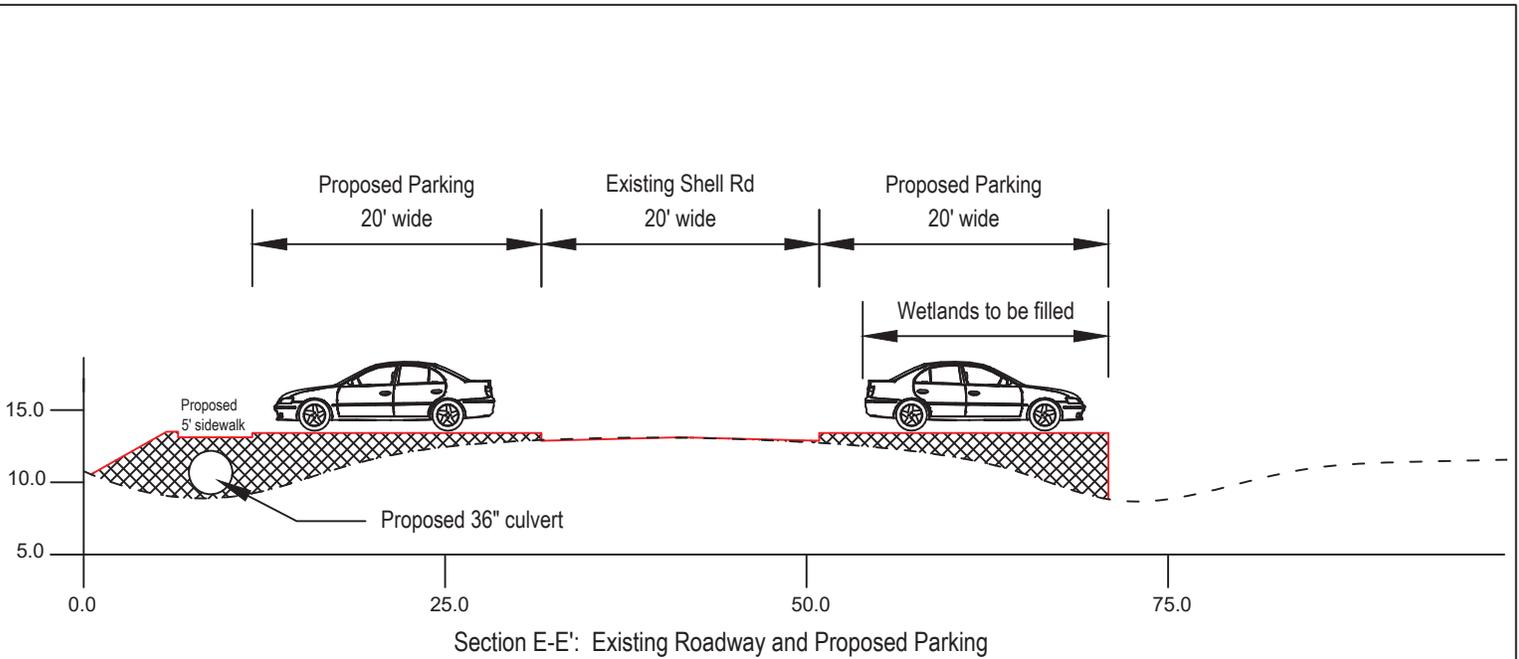


Section D-D': Proposed Water Feature
5:1 Vertical Exaggeration

-  Snag/Clear/Grub
-  Fill



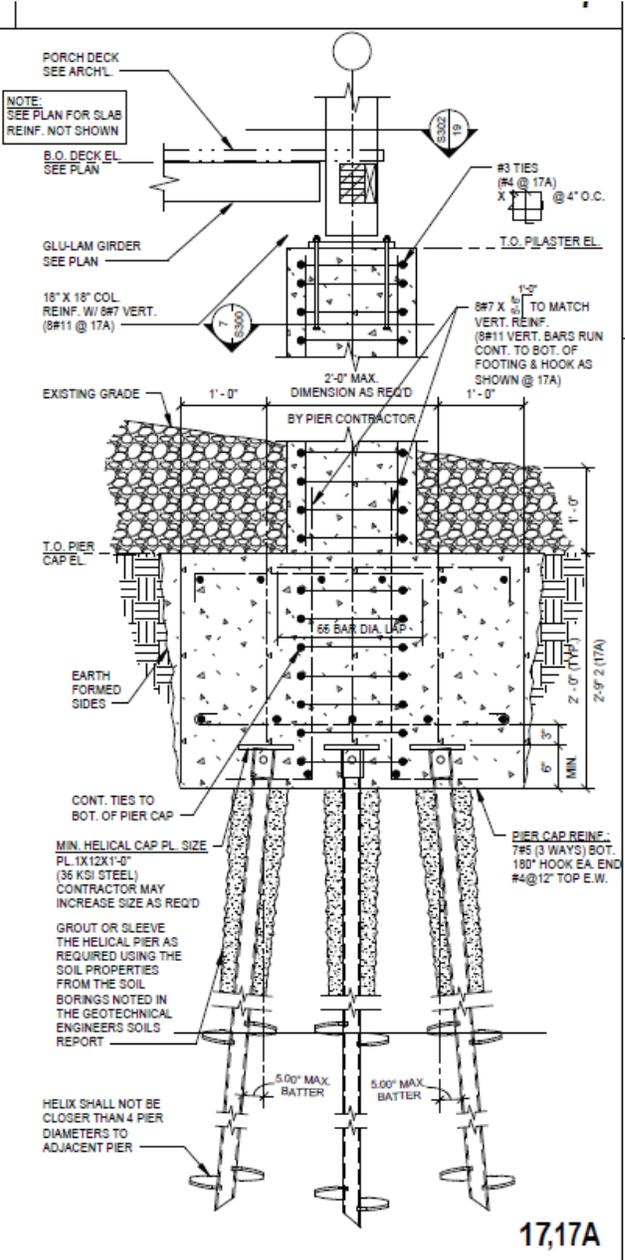
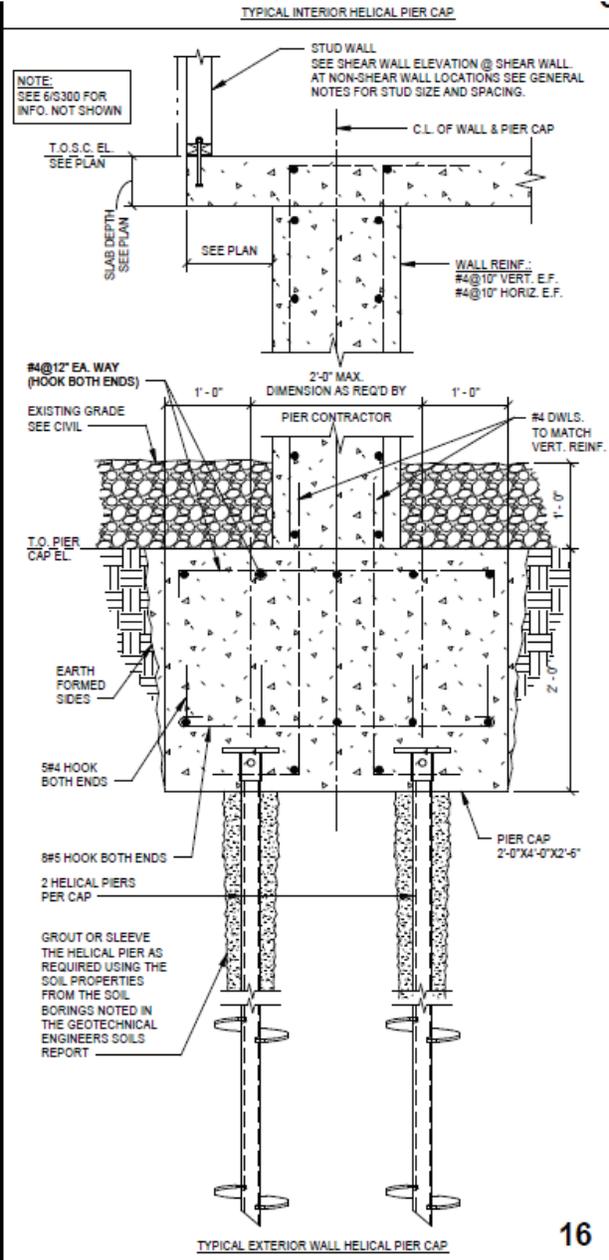
SLEEC St. Gabriel, LA	
CROSS SECTION C & D IBERVILLE PARISH, LA	
Created:	AGB
Date:	05/19/2022
FIGURE 10	



-  Snag/Clear/Grub/Excavate
-  Fill



SLEEC St. Gabriel, LA	
CROSS SECTION E & F IBERVILLE PARISH, LA	
Created:	AGB
Date:	05/19/2022
FIGURE 12	

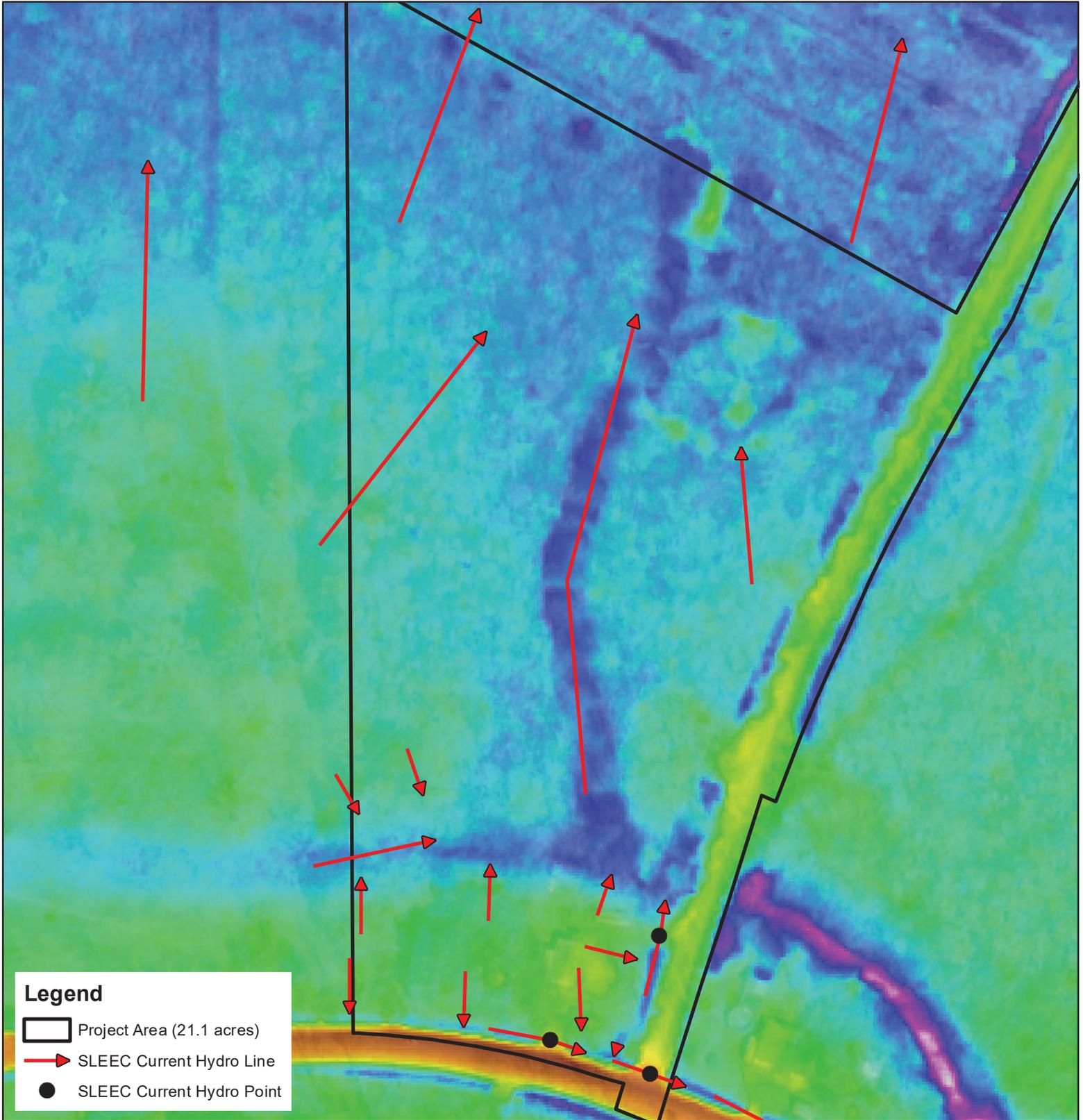


SLEEC
St. Gabriel, LA

FOOTING DETAIL
IBERVILLE PARISH, LA

Created: AGB
Date: 05/19/2022

FIGURE 12



Legend

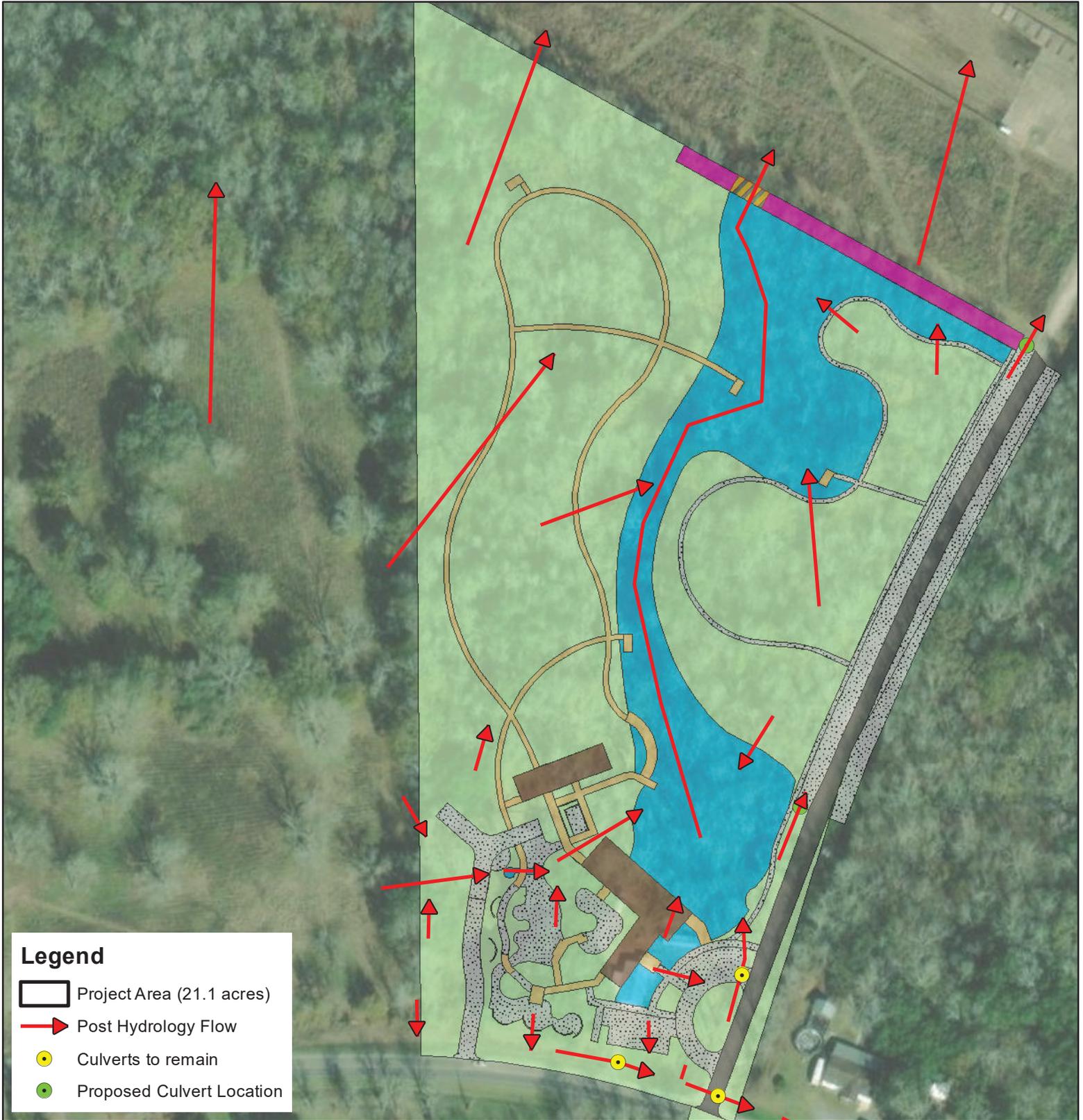
- Project Area (21.1 acres)
- ▶ SLEEC Current Hydro Line
- SLEEC Current Hydro Point

Map Notes:

1. The boundary shown is based on the boundary survey provided by the client.
2. Map projected to NAD83 UTM Zone 15.



SLEEC
St. Gabriel, LA
EXISTING HYDROLOGY
IBERVILLE PARISH, LA
Created : AGB/ArcView
Date : 05/13/2022
FIGURE 13



Legend

-  Project Area (21.1 acres)
-  Post Hydrology Flow
-  Culverts to remain
-  Proposed Culvert Location

Map Notes:

1. The boundary shown is based on the boundary survey provided by the client.
2. Map projected to NAD83 UTM Zone 15.



SLEEC
St. Gabriel, LA
PROPOSED HYDROLOGY
IBERVILLE PARISH, LA

Created : AGB/ArcView

Date : 05/13/2022

FIGURE 14