

July 17, 2023

Regulatory Division Eastern Evaluation Branch

Project Manager: Carrie Schott (504) 862-1153 Carrie.G.Schott@usace.army.mil

Application #: MVN-2022-01238-ECS

PUBLIC NOTICE

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), and/or [X] Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. Section 408).

SAND DREDGING OPERATION ON THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER, NEAR IRONTON, IN PLAQUEMINES PARISH

NAME OF APPLICANT: Alliance River Properties, LLC, Attention: Mark Pivach, 8311 Louisiana Highway 23, Suite 104, Belle Chasse, Louisiana 70037.

LOCATION OF WORK: Located on the right descending bank of the Mississippi River, approximately 60 miles above Head of Passes, near Ironton, in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, (lat. 29.645311, long. -89.959736), as shown on the attached drawings. (Hydrologic Unit Code: 08090301; East – Central Louisiana Coastal)

CHARACTER OF WORK: The proposed project is to hydraulically dredge 500,100 cubic yards of sand from fifty-six acres within the Mississippi River, transport material via a temporary pipeline, and deposit the dredged material into a previously-used sand pit stockpiling area. The 3,700-foot sixteen-inch dredge pipe will cross the Mississippi River Levee and discharge into the thirty-five acre stockpiling area that is surrounded by existing containment dikes. All sand pit stockpiling activities are proposed to take place at least 1,000 feet away from the southernmost boundary of the Ironton community. The applicant's stated purpose of the project is to meet the need for sand material closer to ongoing and future industrial projects in the area. The project as proposed will require fill for the levee crossing, as well as the clearing of 0.07 acre of jurisdictional wetlands in the previously-used sand pit.

<u>MITIGATION</u>: The applicant proposes to minimize impacts to wetlands to the maximum extent practicable. For compensation for unavoidable wetland impacts, the applicant proposes to use a Corps approved mitigation bank within the watershed of impact.

The comment period on the requested Department of the Army Permit will close 30 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 request, and 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 can be preferably emailed to the Corps of Engineer's project manager listed above or forwarded to the Corps of Engineers at the address above, **ATTENTION: REGULATORY DIVISION, RGE, Carrie Schott.** 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.

This request will also be reviewed pursuant to Section 408 and USACE Engineering Circular (EC) 1165-2-220, which provides policy and procedural guidance for processing requests to alter USACE civil works projects.

The decision whether to grant permission for the requested alteration will be based on several factors. The benefits that reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal will be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. Review of the requests for modification will be reviewed by a USACE technical review team considering the following factors:

- Potential to Impair the Usefulness of the Project. Proposed alterations will be reviewed to determine whether the alteration would limit the ability of the USACE project to function as authorized, or would compromise or change any authorized project conditions, purposes, or outputs. If USACE determines that the usefulness of the authorized project would be impaired, the request will be denied.
- 2) Potential to be Injurious to the Public Interest. Proposed alterations will be reviewed to determine the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, on the public interest. Factors that may be relevant to the public interest depend upon the type of USACE project being altered and may include, but are not limited to, such things as impacts to disadvantaged, minority and/or low-income communities, conservation, economic development, historic properties, cultural

resources, environmental impacts, water supply, water quality, flood hazards, floodplains, residual risk, induced damages, navigation, shore erosion or accretion, and recreation. This evaluation will consider information received from the interested parties, including residents of surrounding communities, tribes, agencies, and the public. The decision whether to approve an alteration will be determined by the consideration of whether benefits are commensurate with risks. If the potential detriments are found to outweigh the potential benefits, then it may be determined that the proposed alteration is injurious to the public interest.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from area residents, 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 communities with Environmental Justice concerns, 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 Section 408 review will consider the potential impact to the usefulness of the Federal project and whether the proposed alteration would be injurious to the public interest. Policy and legal compliance will also be considered.

The New Orleans District is presently unaware of properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places at or near the proposed work but is pending further review in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act. The possibility exists that the proposed work may damage or destroy presently unknown archeological, scientific, prehistorical, historical sites, or data. As deemed necessary, copies of this public notice will be sent to the State Archeologist, State Historic Preservation Officer, and federally listed tribes regarding potential impacts to cultural resources.

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 such species.

The New Orleans District has determined that the work is located in waters known to be utilized by the Pallid Sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*) and the West Indian Manatee (*Trichechus manatus*) and furthermore concluding the activity is not likely to adversely affect this species based on the Information Planning and Consultation (IPaC) tool for Endangered Species in Louisiana, as signed on January 27, 2020, between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. If the project is authorized, cutterhead/suction dredge operational parameters and steps to avoid detrimental effects to the threatened West Indian Manatee will be included as permit conditions.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The applicant's proposal may result in the destruction, alteration, and/or disturbance of N/A 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 LA Department of Environmental Quality before a Department of the Army permit is issued.

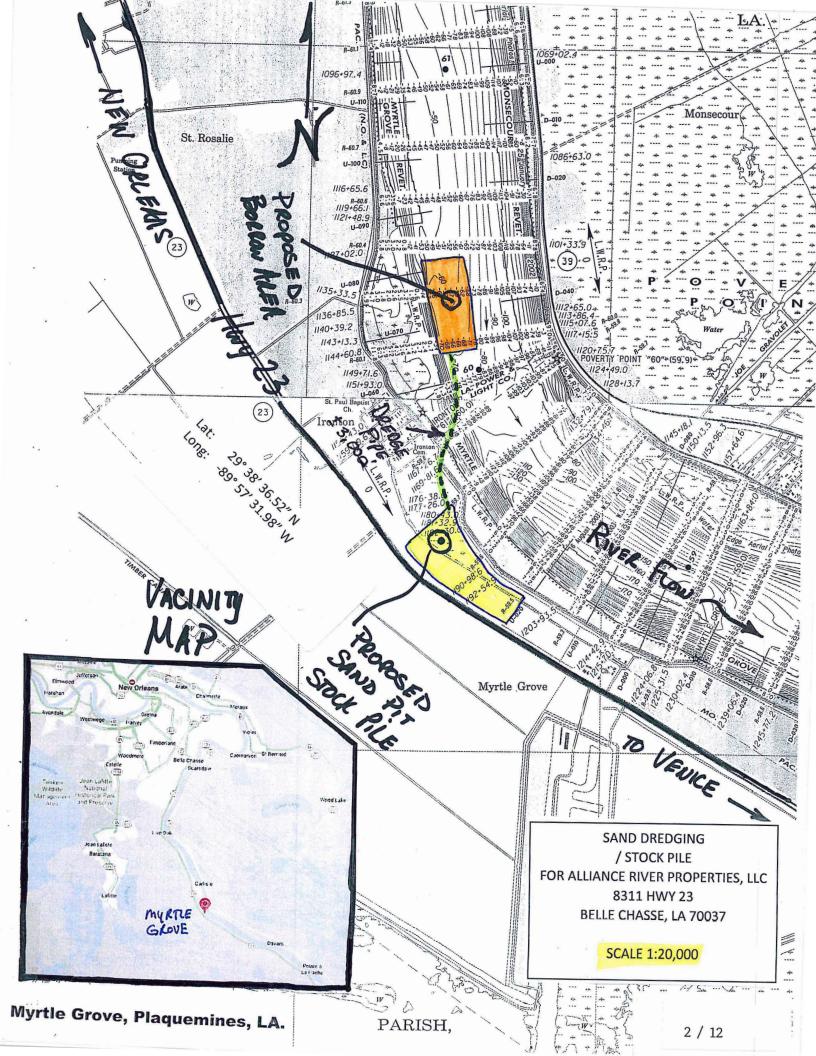
Any person may request, (preferably by email to the project manager, or in writing), within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

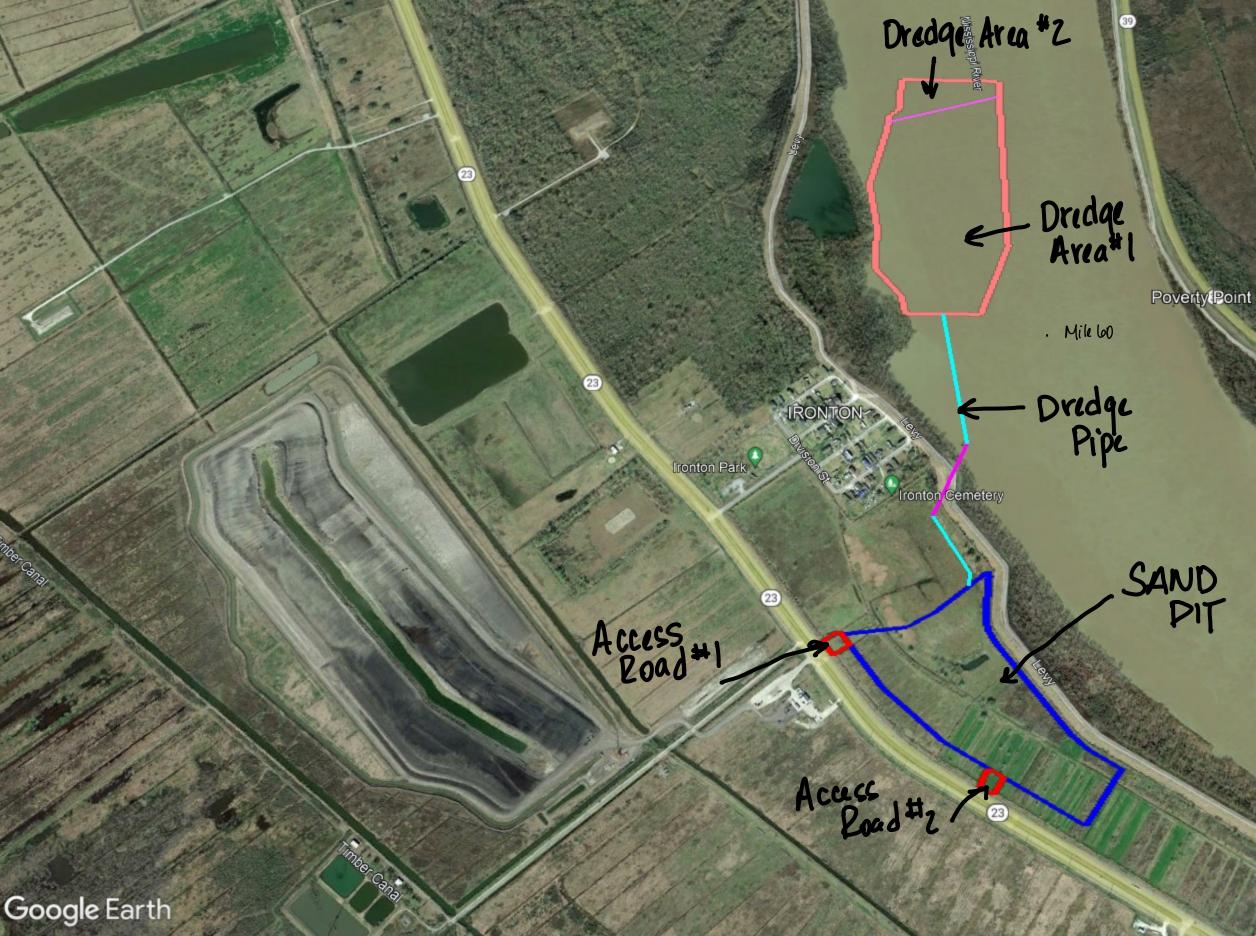
The applicant has certified that the proposed activity described in the application complies with and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the Louisiana Coastal Resources Program (Louisiana Coastal Zone Application P20220645). The Department of the Army permit will not be issued unless 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.

Brad P. LaBorde Chief, Eastern Evaluation Branch Regulatory Division

Enclosures





Joe Gravolet Canal

St John Church

Phoenix

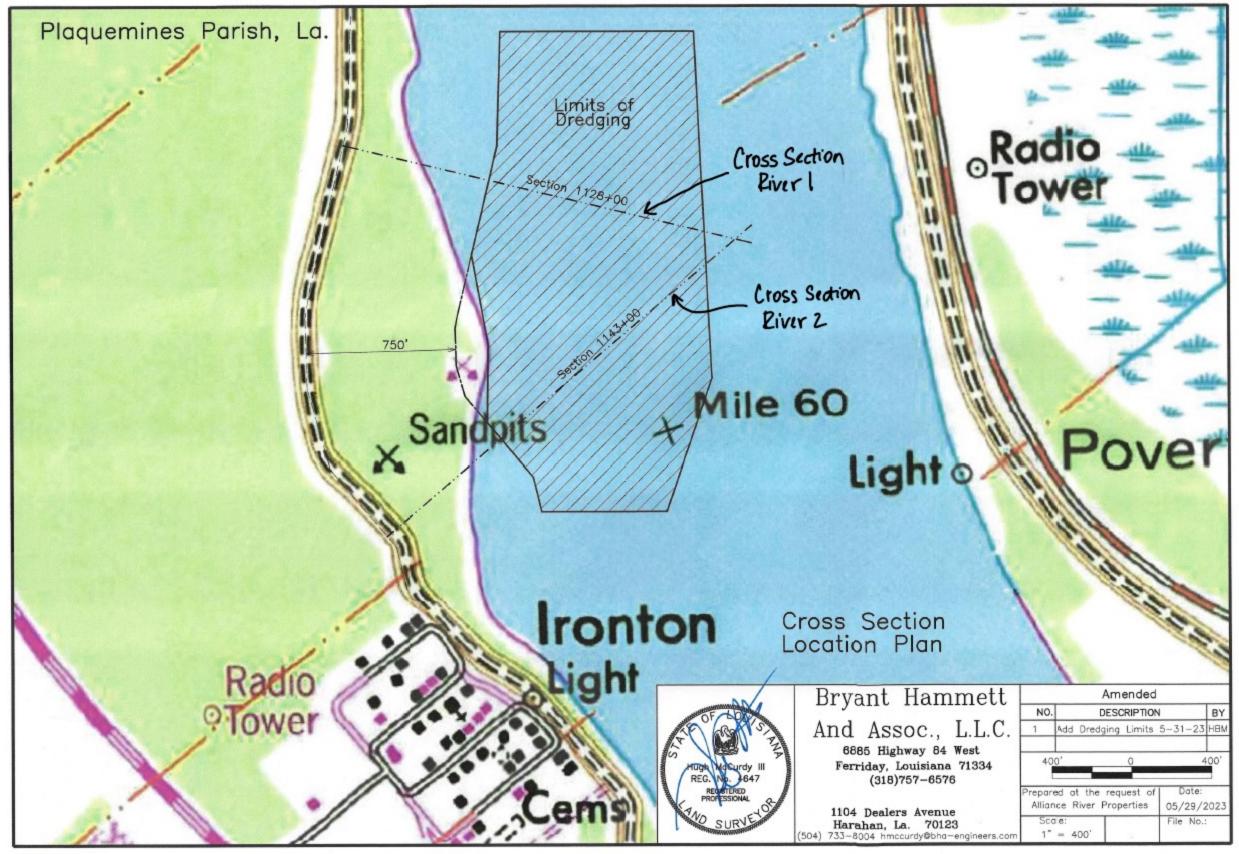
SAND DREDGING / STOCKPILE FOR ALLIANCE RIVER PROPERTIES, LLC 8311 HWY 23 BELLE CHASSE, LA 70037

Mississippi River

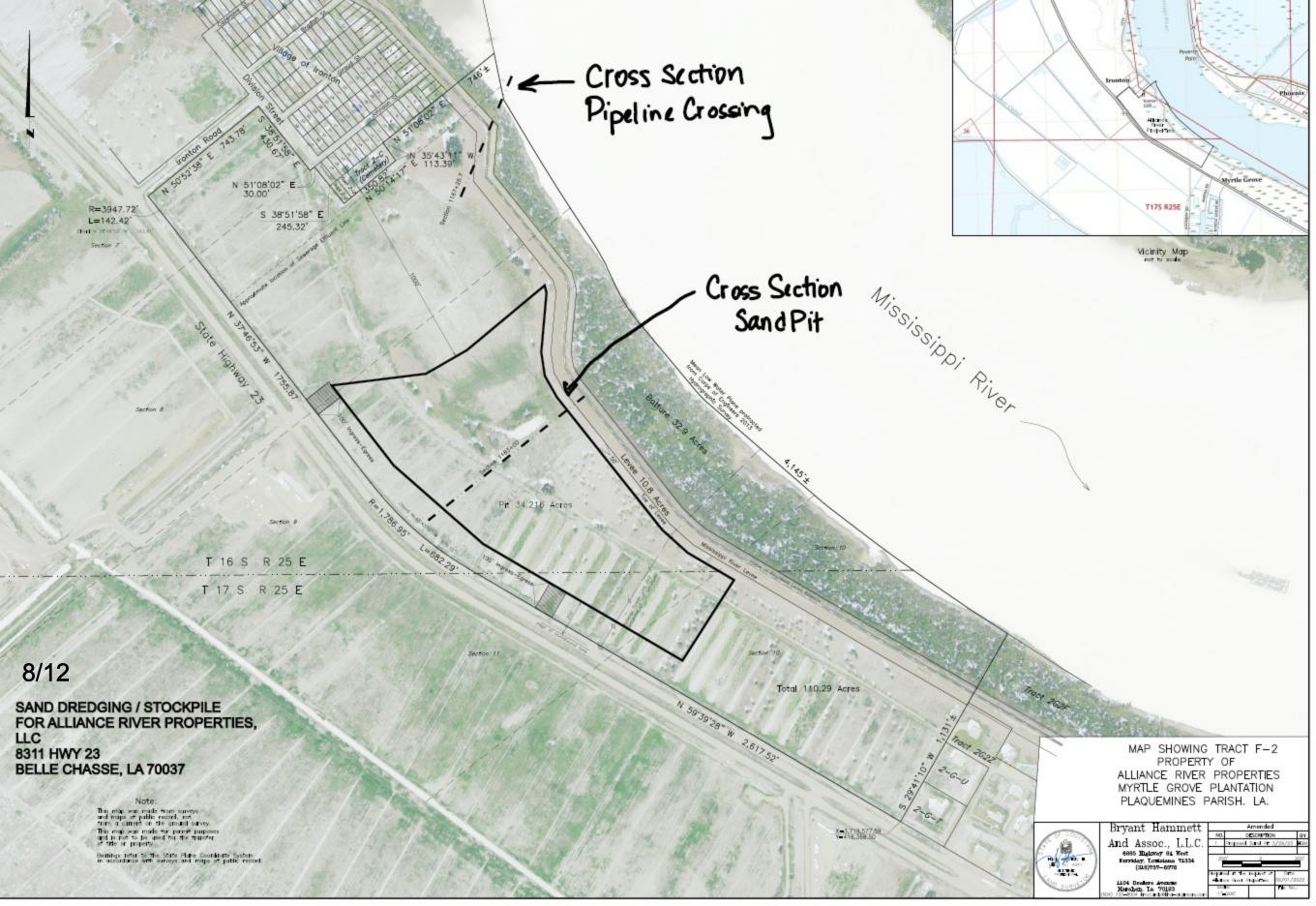
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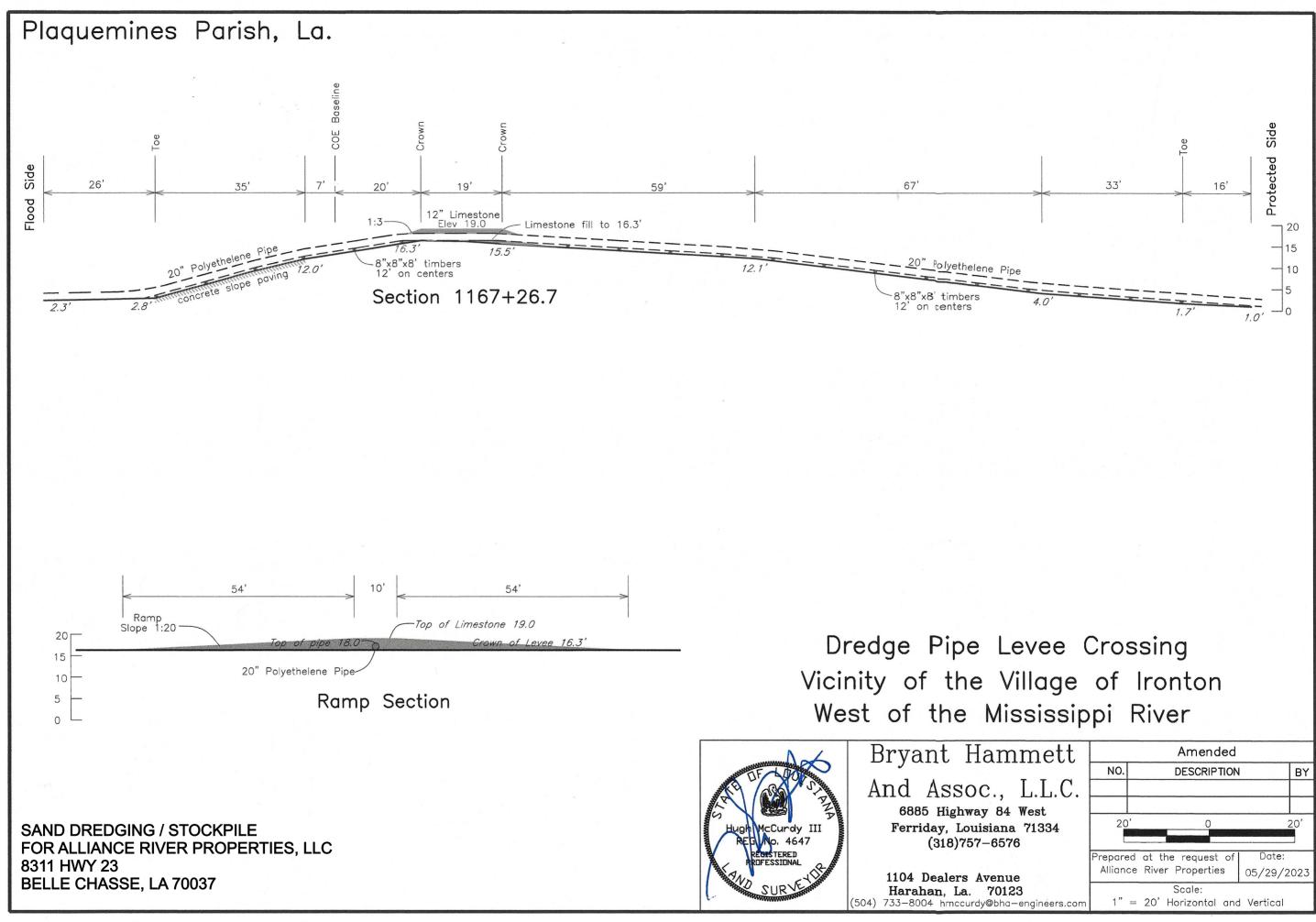


2000 ft



SAND DREDGING / STOCKPILE FOR ALLIANCE RIVER PROPERTIES, LLC 8311 HWY 23, BELLE CHASSE, LA 70037





9/12

500,000 cu yds of sand to be pumped Time to pump: 2-3 weeks Purpose: There is a need for sand w/ construction projects in the area: (1) Venture Global, (2) Mid Barataria Diversion, (3) Container Port Acues load #1

140

- 1 1245'

=1,900

± 34 Acres

(23

23

120'

·¥2,360.

Acus

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Google Earth

