

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

June 3, 2024

Regulatory Division
Eastern Evaluation Branch

Project Manager:
Natalie Page
(504) 862-2045
Natalie.R.Page@usace.army.mil

Application #: MVN-2023-01075-ENP

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Interested parties are hereby notified that a permit application has been received by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New Orleans District (CEMVN) 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), and/or [ ] Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. Section 408).

## CONSTRUCTION FOR THE ABITA NURSERY DRAINAGE PROJECT IN SAINT TAMMANY PARISH

**NAME OF APPLICANT:** Saint Tammany Parish Government c/o: Duplantis Design Group, Attn: Logan Buras, 16564 East Brewster Road, Covington Louisiana 70433.

**LOCATION OF WORK:** Located in forested and residential areas near Highway 36, and along Rose Street, Eden Street, and Fern Street, in Abita Springs, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana, (lat. 30.493675, long. -90.046649), as shown within the attached drawings. (Hydrologic Unit Code 08090201, Abita River Watershed).

CHARACTER OF WORK: The proposed project is to deepen and widen the existing drainage canals, replace the existing culverts with larger culverts, and to create two detention ponds to assist the surrounding communities with drainage. The proposed work will be accomplished by clearing, grading, and excavating the sites for the detention ponds and by excavating and constructing culverts and canals throughout the residential community adjacent to the proposed ponds. The purpose of the proposed project is to increase the drainage potential of the Abita Springs community in St. Tammany Parish. The project as proposed would permanently impact approximately 1.86 acres of Palustrine Forested jurisdictional wetlands, and approximately 1.19 acres of other waters of the U.S.

**MITIGATION:** The applicant proposes to use a Corps approved mitigation bank within the watershed of impact to compensate for unavoidable impacts to jurisdictional wetlands.

The comment period on the requested Department of the Army Permit will close 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 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 CEMVN project manager listed above or forwarded to CEMVN at the address above, ATTENTION: REGULATORY DIVISION, RGE, Natalie Page. Individuals or parties may also request an extension of time in which to comment on the proposed work by mail or preferably by emailing the specified project manager listed above. Any request for an extension of time to comment 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 requester will be promptly notified of the decision to grant or deny the request. If granted, the time extension will be continuous and inclusive of the initial comment period and will not exceed a total of 30 calendar days. This public notice is also available for review online at https://go.usa.gov/xennJ

#### **USACE 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.

CEMVN 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 CEMVN 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 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.

Based on the Information Planning and Consultation (IPaC) tool for Endangered Species in Louisiana, as signed on January 27, 2020, between CEMVN and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Office (USFWS), it has been determined that the proposed project would have no effect to any species listed as threatened or endangered by USFWS, nor affect any habitat designated as critical to the survival and recovery of any such species.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The applicant's proposal is not anticipated to result in the destruction, alteration, and/or disturbance 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.

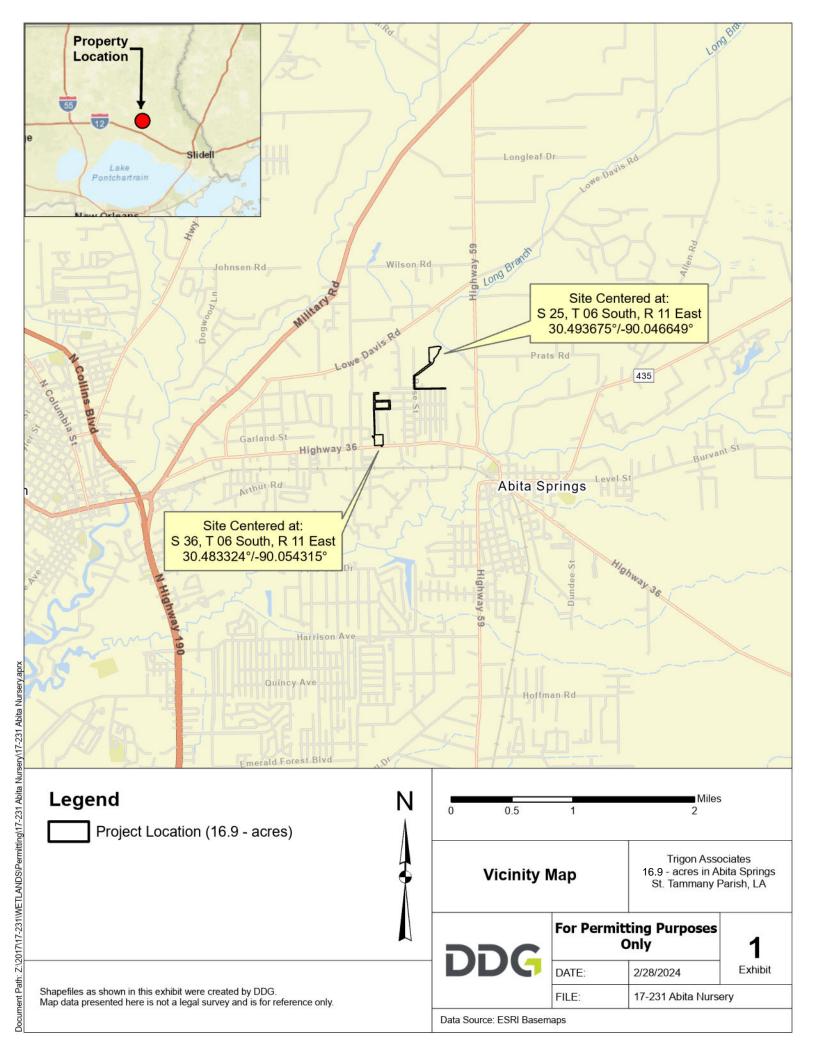
If the proposed work involves deposits of dredged or fill material into navigable waters, the evaluation of the probable impacts will include the application of guidelines established by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Also, a certification that the proposed activity will not violate applicable water quality standards will be required from the LA Department of Environmental Quality before a Department of the Army permit is issued.

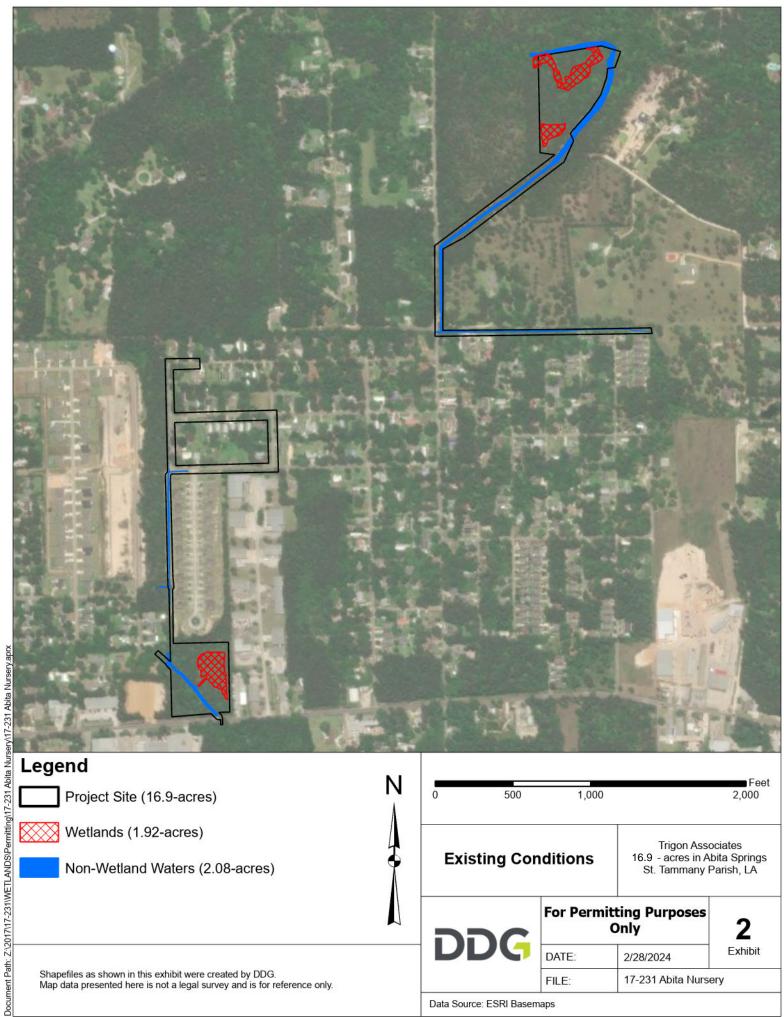
Any person may request, (preferably by email to the project manager, or in writing), within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

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







Project Site (16.9-acres)

Wetlands (1.92-acres)

Non-Wetland Waters (2.08-acres)

1,000 2,000

#### **Existing Conditions**

Trigon Associates 16.9 - acres in Abita Springs St. Tammany Parish, LA



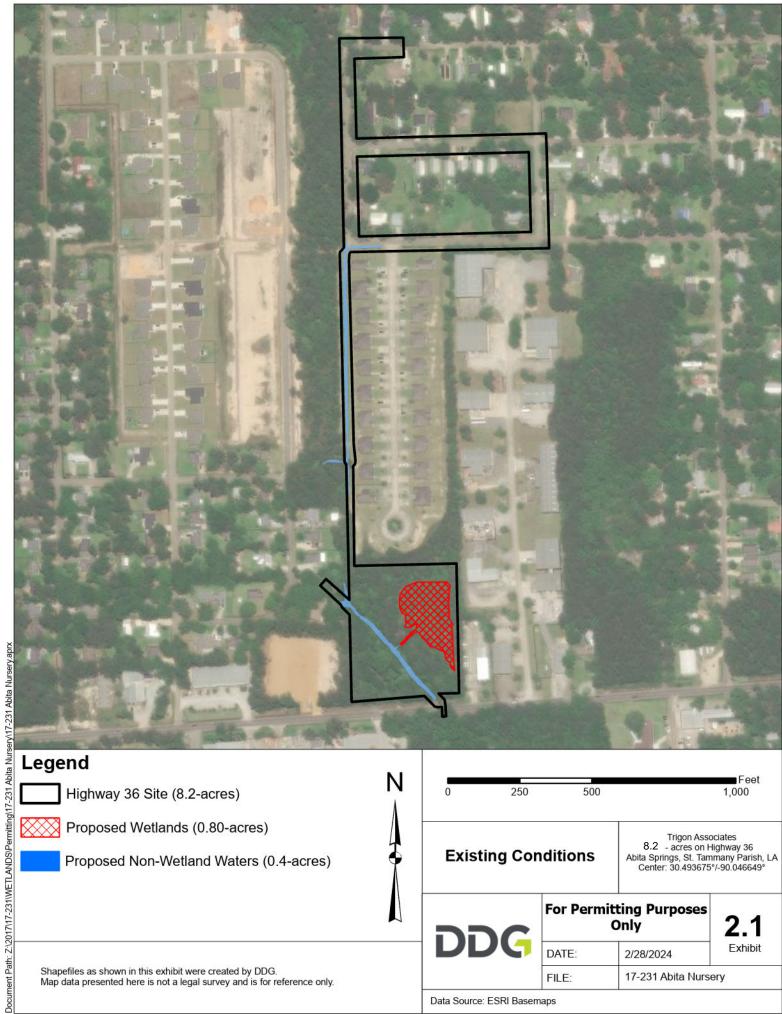
For Permitting Purposes Only	

Exhibit

2/28/2024 17-231 Abita Nursery FILE:

Data Source: ESRI Basemaps

Shapefiles as shown in this exhibit were created by DDG. Map data presented here is not a legal survey and is for reference only.



Legend

Highway 36 Site (8.2-acres)

Proposed Wetlands (0.80-acres)

Proposed Non-Wetland Waters (0.4-acres)

Feet 250 500 1,000

#### **Existing Conditions**

Trigon Associates
8.2 - acres on Highway 36
Abita Springs, St. Tammany Parish, LA
Center: 30.493675°/-90.046649°



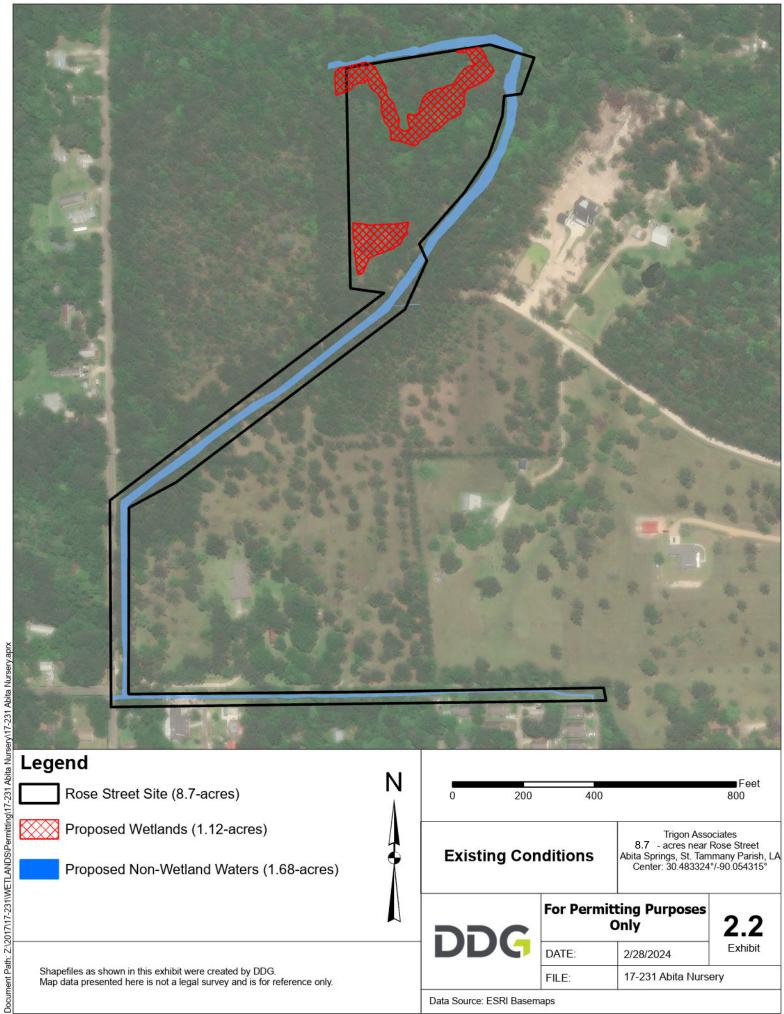
For	<b>Permitting</b>	<b>Purposes</b>
	Only	

Exhibit

2/28/2024 17-231 Abita Nursery FILE:

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#### Legend

Rose Street Site (8.7-acres)

Proposed Wetlands (1.12-acres)

Proposed Non-Wetland Waters (1.68-acres)

200 400 800

#### **Existing Conditions**

Trigon Associates 8.7 - acres near Rose Street Abita Springs, St. Tammany Parish, LA Center: 30.483324°/-90.054315°



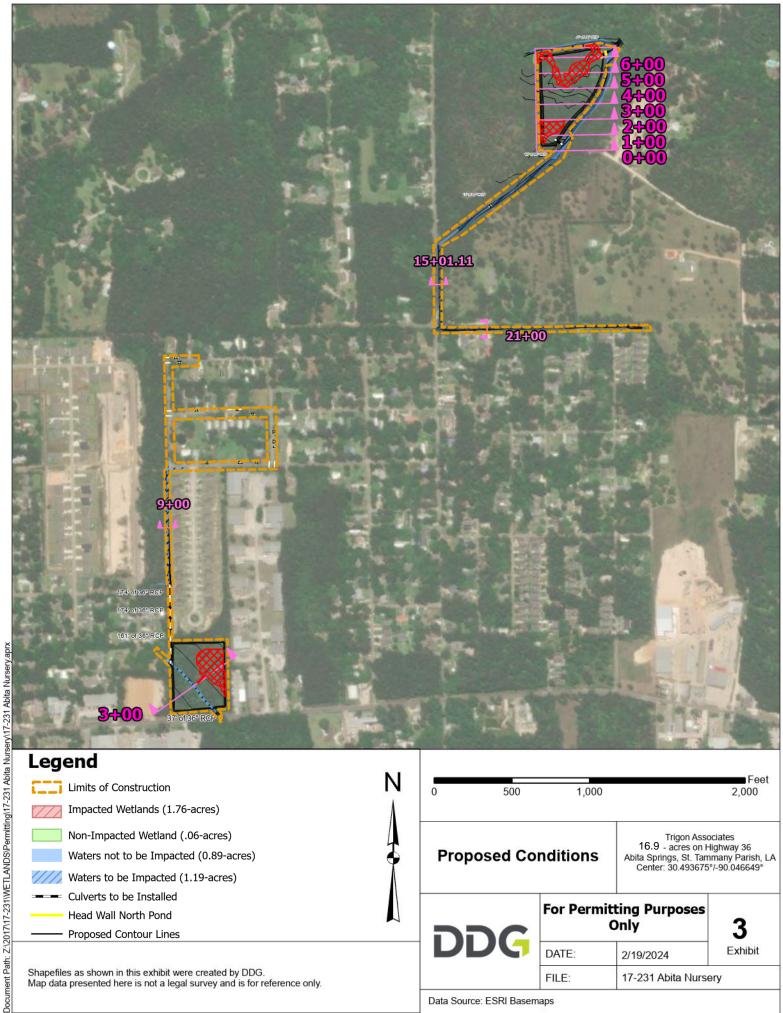
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2/28/2024

17-231 Abita Nursery FILE:

Data Source: ESRI Basemaps

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Limits of Construction

Impacted Wetlands (1.76-acres)

Non-Impacted Wetland (.06-acres)

Waters not to be Impacted (0.89-acres)

Waters to be Impacted (1.19-acres)

Culverts to be Installed

Head Wall North Pond

**Proposed Contour Lines** 

Shapefiles as shown in this exhibit were created by DDG. Map data presented here is not a legal survey and is for reference only.



#### **Proposed Conditions**

Trigon Associates 16.9 - acres on Highway 36 Abita Springs, St. Tammany Parish, LA Center: 30.493675°/-90.046649°



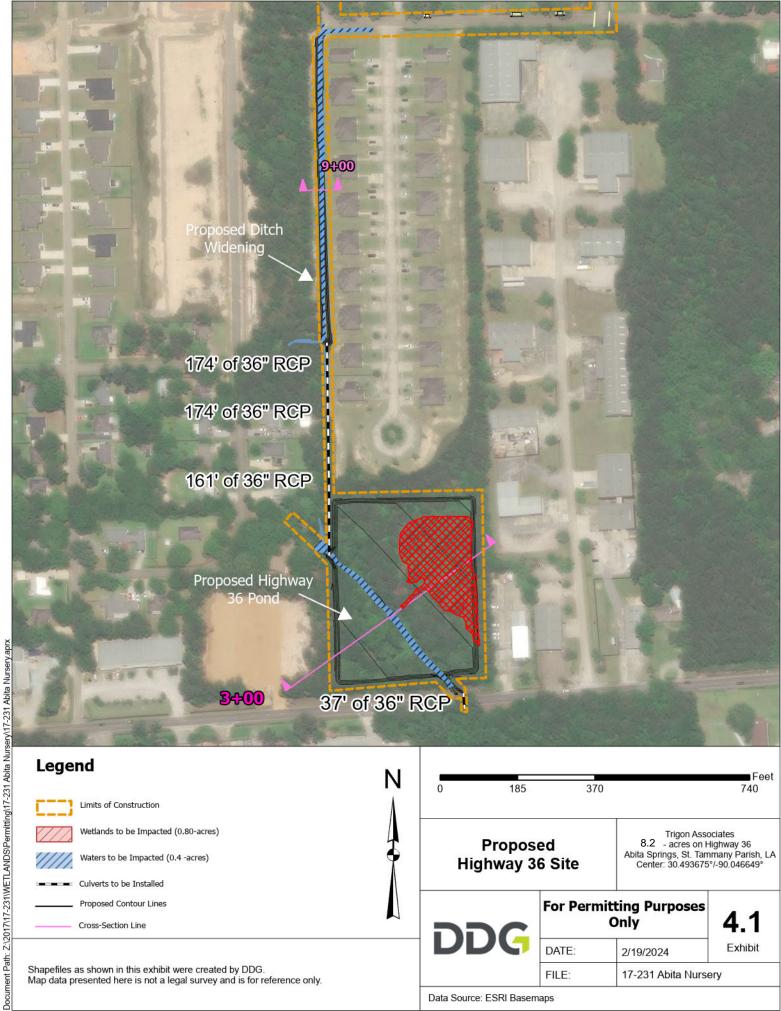
For Permitting Only	Purposes

Exhibit

2/19/2024

FILE: 17-231 Abita Nursery

Data Source: ESRI Basemaps







Limits of Construction



Wetlands to be Impacted (0.80-acres)



Waters to be Impacted (0.4 -acres)

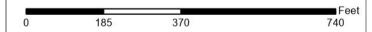


Culverts to be Installed



Proposed Contour Lines

Cross-Section Line Shapefiles as shown in this exhibit were created by DDG. Map data presented here is not a legal survey and is for reference only.



#### **Proposed Highway 36 Site**

Trigon Associates 8.2 - acres on Highway 36 Abita Springs, St. Tammany Parish, LA Center: 30.493675°/-90.046649°



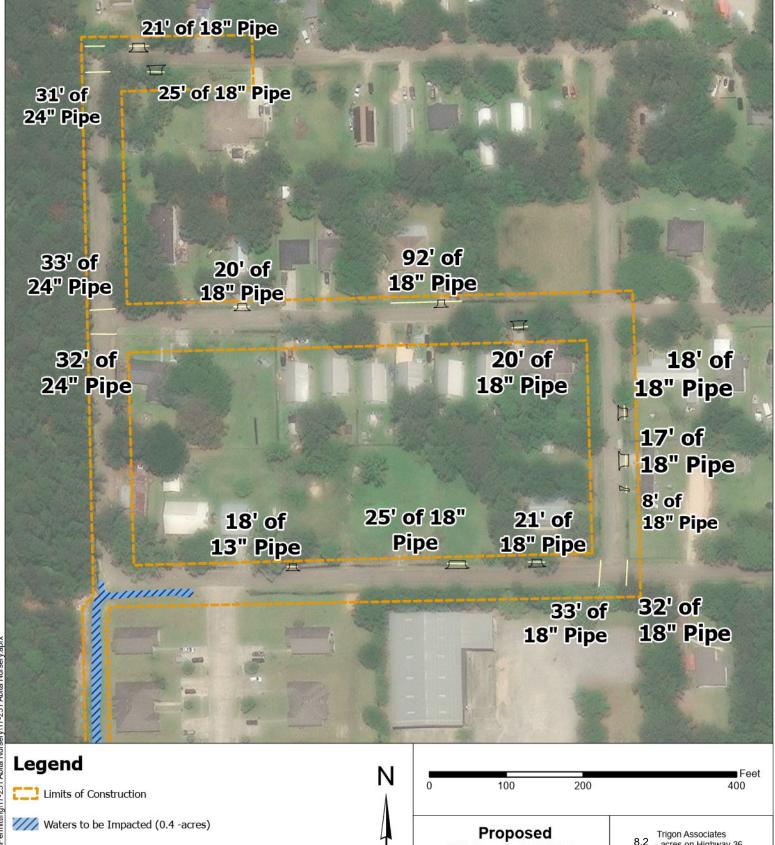
#### **For Permitting Purposes** Only

Exhibit

DATE: 2/19/2024

FILE: 17-231 Abita Nursery

Data Source: ESRI Basemaps



Driveway Replacements and Installation

Roadside Culvert Replacement

**Highway 36 Ditch** 

**Improvements** 

Trigon Associates 8.2 - acres on Highway 36 Abita Springs, St. Tammany Parish, LA Center: 30.493675°/-90.046649°



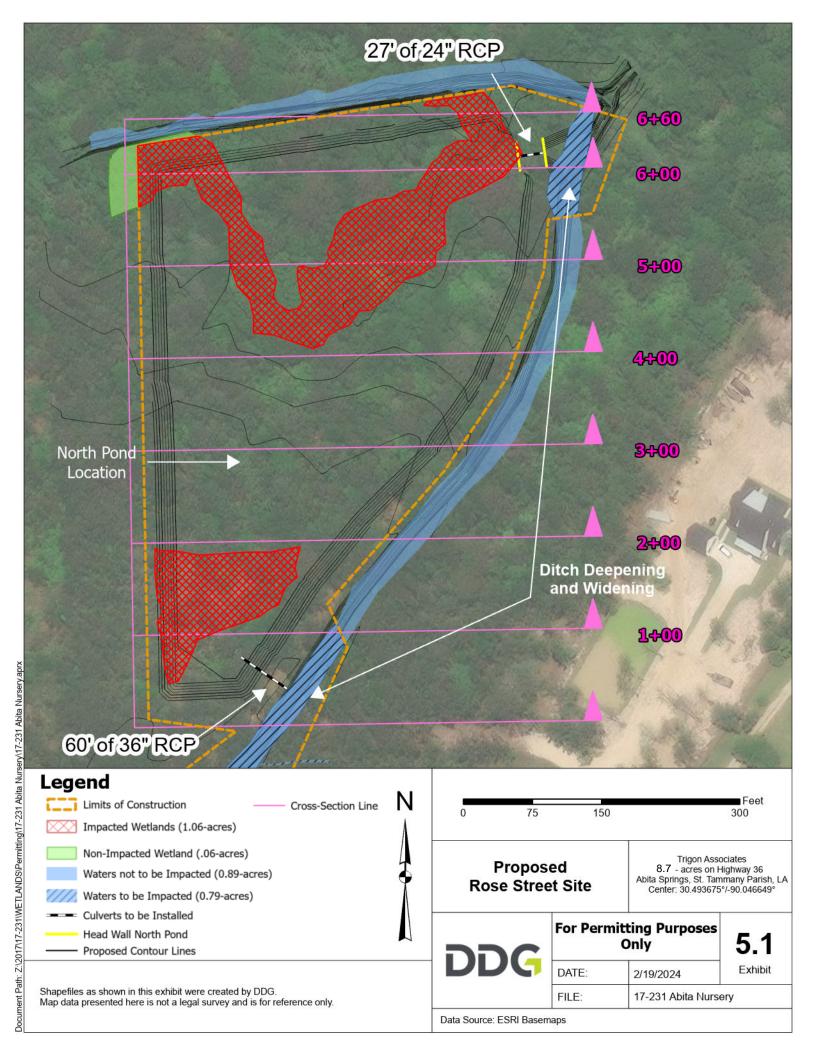
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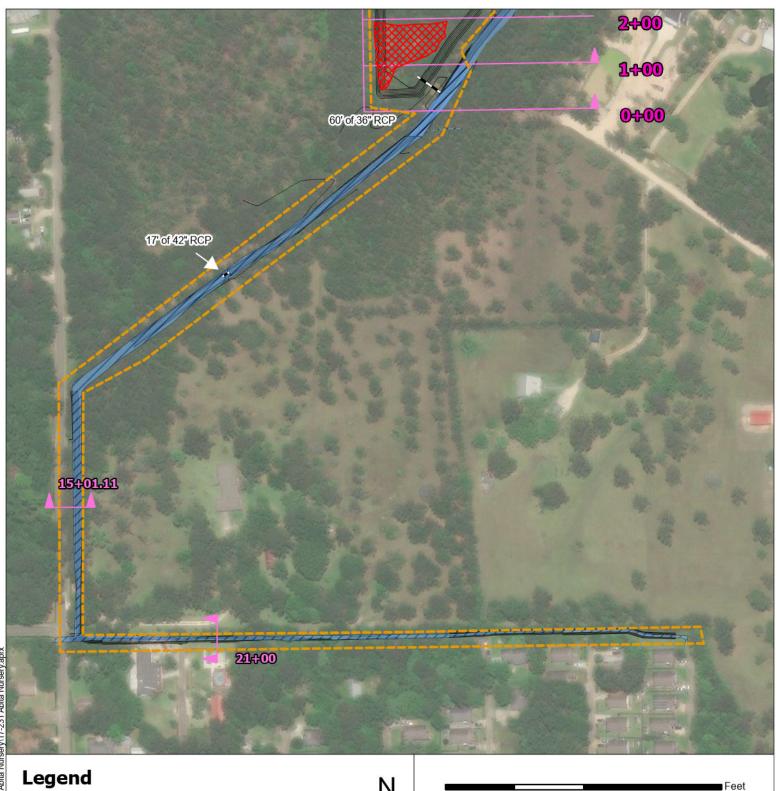
Exhibit 2/19/2024

FILE: 17-231 Abita Nursery

Data Source: ESRI Basemaps

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Limits of Construction



Impacted Wetlands (1.06-acres)



Waters to be Impacted (0.79-acres)



Major Pipes



Contour Lines



Shapefiles as shown in this exhibit were created by DDG. Map data presented here is not a legal survey and is for reference only.



**Proposed Rose Street Ditch** 

**Improvements** 

150

Trigon Associates 8.7 - acres on Highway 36 Abita Springs, St. Tammany Parish, LA Center: 30.493675°/-90.046649°



#### **For Permitting Purposes** Only

Exhibit

600

DATE: 2/19/2024 FILE:

300

17-231 Abita Nursery

Data Source: ESRI Basemaps







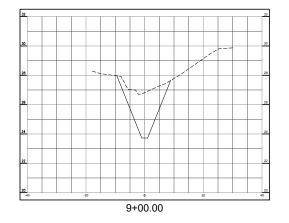
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

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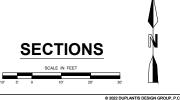
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#### NORTH DITCH 1 SECTIONS

15+01.11



**SOUTH DITCH 2 SECTION** 



ABITA NURSERY DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS
ST. TAMMANY PARISH, LOUISIANA
ST. TAMMANY PARISH GOVERNMENT



PRELIMINARY NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

DDG PROJECT NO.	17-23
PRELIMINARY 30% PLA 08/23/2023	NS
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CHECKED DRAWN BY	CMR

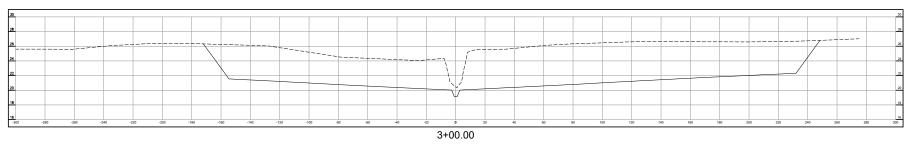
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Z-2017/17-231/COASTAL/17-231 C-3.0-3.2 SECTIONS.DW

DDG PROJECT NO.

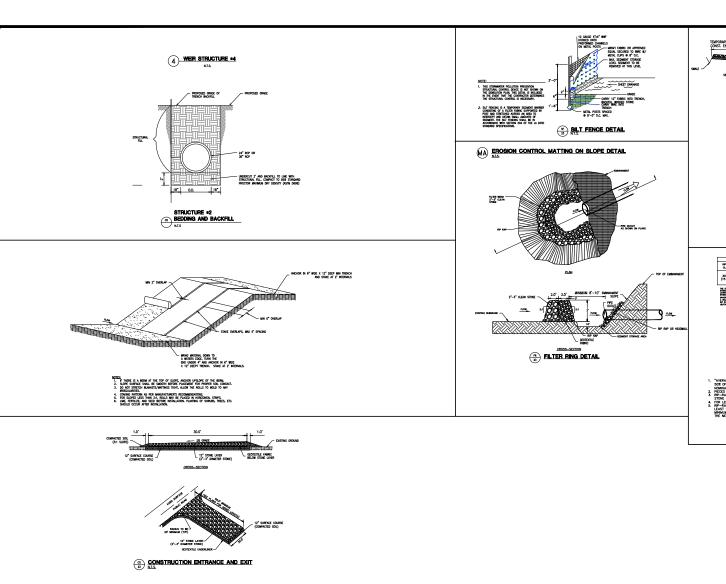
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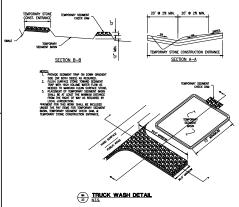


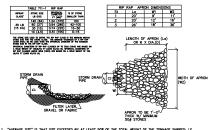


#### POND SOUTH SECTION









S RIP RAP OUTFALL DETAIL



REVISION BY

ISSUED FOR EXHIBIT FILE 17-231- C-4.0 DETAILS

**DETAILS**