

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

October 26, 2020

United States Army
Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District
Regulatory Branch
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70118

State of Louisiana
Department of Environmental Quality
Water Permits Division
Post Office Box 4313
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4313

(504) 862-1217
Project Manager
Kenny Blanke
Kenneth.G.Blanke@usace.army.mil
MVN 2009-002156-CQ

(225) 219-3225
Project Manager
Ms. Elizabeth Hill
WQC Application Number
WQC 201006-02

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).

PROPOSED MODIFICATION TO AUTHORIZED NEW RIVER CANAL DREDGING PROJECT NEAR GONZALES, LOUISIANA IN ASCENSION PARISH

NAME OF APPLICANT: East Ascension Drainage District No.1, Attn: Michael Enlow, 42077 Churchpoint Road, Gonzales, Louisiana 70737.

LOCATION OF WORK: Located along at approximate 16,168-linear foot reach of the New River Canal, in Sections 20, 28, & 30, Township 9 South, Range 3 East, east of Interstate 10, near Gonzales, Louisiana, located in Ascension Parish, as shown on the enclosed drawings (P.O.B.- Latitude 30.23285 N Longitude -90.94662 W, P.O.E.- Latitude 30.23534 N Longitude -90.90567 W). This project is located in the Pontchartrain Basin (Amite River HUC 08070202).

CHARACTER OF WORK: The applicant is requesting a permit modification to an existing Department of the Army permit authorization for the installation and maintenance of two (2) 42-inch diameter pipes with manually actuated slide gates at both the New River Weir and the Smith Bayou Weir. Under this proposed modification, the existing weir structures would remain in place and be modified with the installation of pipes and slide gates. This work would be performed using regular and long-reach excavators working from the canal banks and potentially within the canals themselves. Installation of temporary coffer-dams may be necessary to perform the work. No excess rip-rap material will be generated under this activity. Rip rap material that is removed for the installation of the pipes and gates will be reused to armor around the pipes and gates. An additional 220 cubic yards of rip-rap material will be installed around the weirs for armoring as well. The previous permit allowed for removal of the weirs in their entirety. Implementation of this proposed modification would result in a decrease of approximately 41.67 cubic yards in the total amount of rip-rap material added to the existing channel. The proposed installation of the pipes and gates into the two (2) existing weir structures would allow for the periodic de-watering of the upstream canals for maintenance and

for storm water storage in advance of extreme weather events and would allow the existing weir structures to remain in place and serve their intended purposes. The existing weirs help maintain water levels at a constant level for maintenance of aquatic life, erosion control, treated wastewater discharge, and recreation. The remainder of the previously permitted activities as described in the original permit and previous permit modifications would be conducted as previously permitted. The applicant has claimed that the project has been designed to avoid and minimize direct and secondary adverse wetland impacts to the maximum extent practicable. The applicant is proposing to utilize best management practices during and after the construction phase of the project. The original permit was authorized on May 13, 2019, was subsequently modified on April 8, 2020, and has an expiration date of May 31, 2024. No compensatory mitigation is anticipated at this time for this proposed modification.

The comment period for the Department of Army Permit and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality will close in **20 days** 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, **ATTENTION: REGULATORY BRANCH**. 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 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.

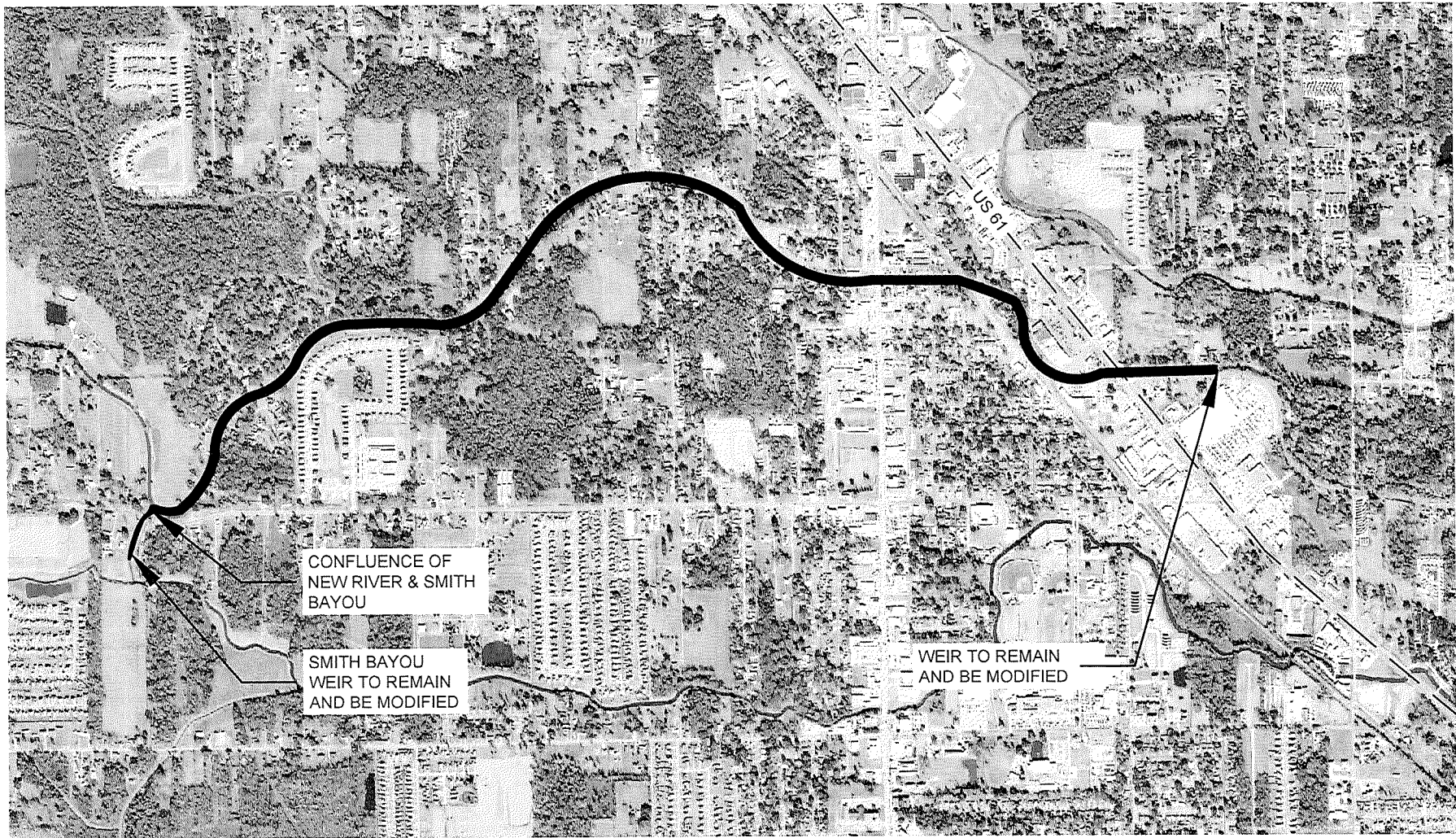
This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The applicant's proposal would result in the destruction or alteration of NA acres of EFH utilized by various life stages of red drum and penaeid shrimp. Our 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, 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.

JOHN M. HERMAN
Chief, Central Evaluation Section
Regulatory Branch

Enclosure



OVERALL PROJECT MAP

SCALE: N.T.S.

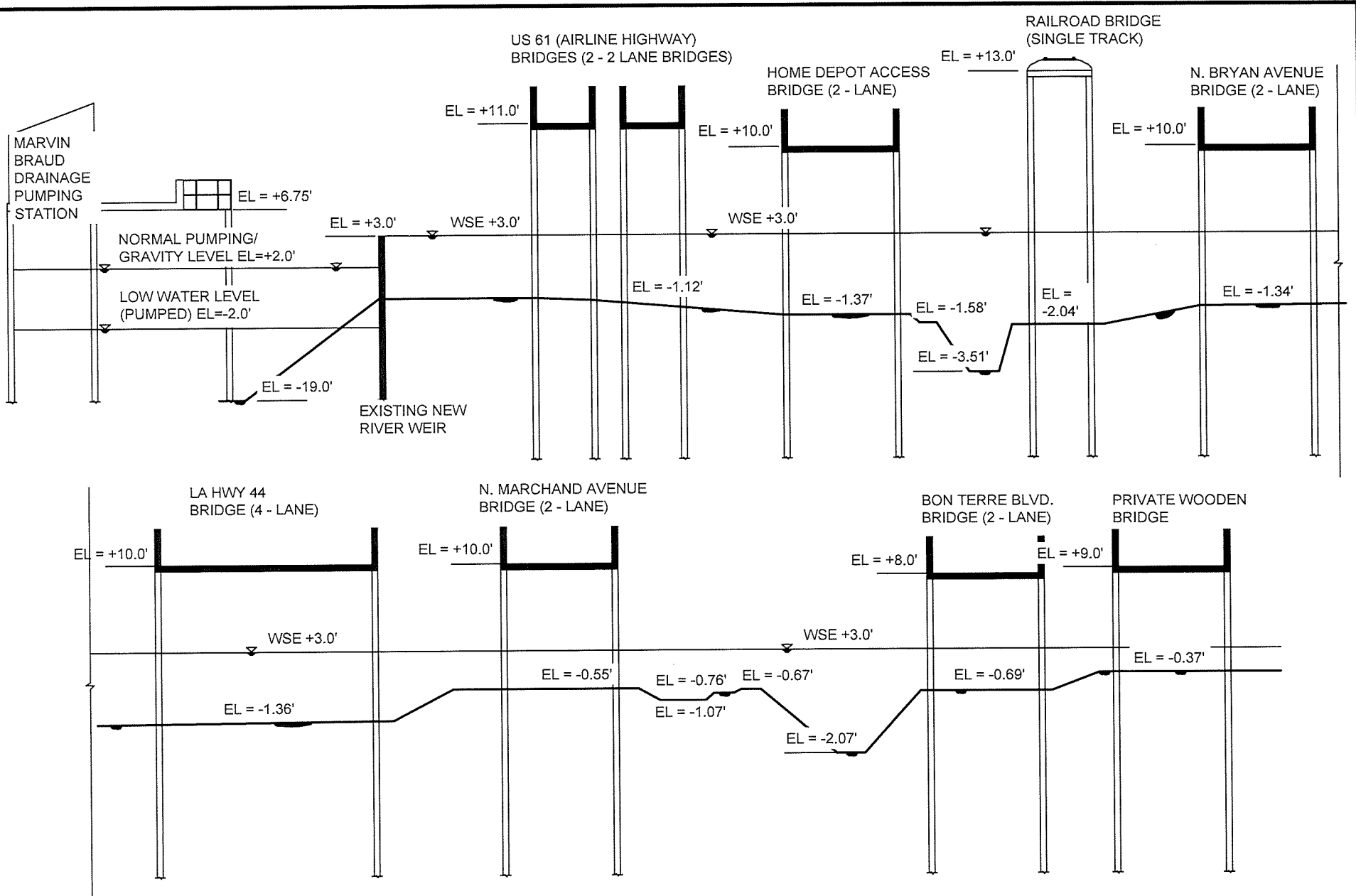


EAST ASCENSION CONSOLIDATED
GRAVITY DRAINAGE DISTRICT NO.1
42077 CHURCHPOINT ROAD
GONZALES, LA 70737

GENERAL NOTES:

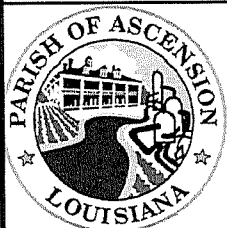
1. AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF
AUTOCAD GEOLOCATION MAPS.

PERMIT EXHIBIT - NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION



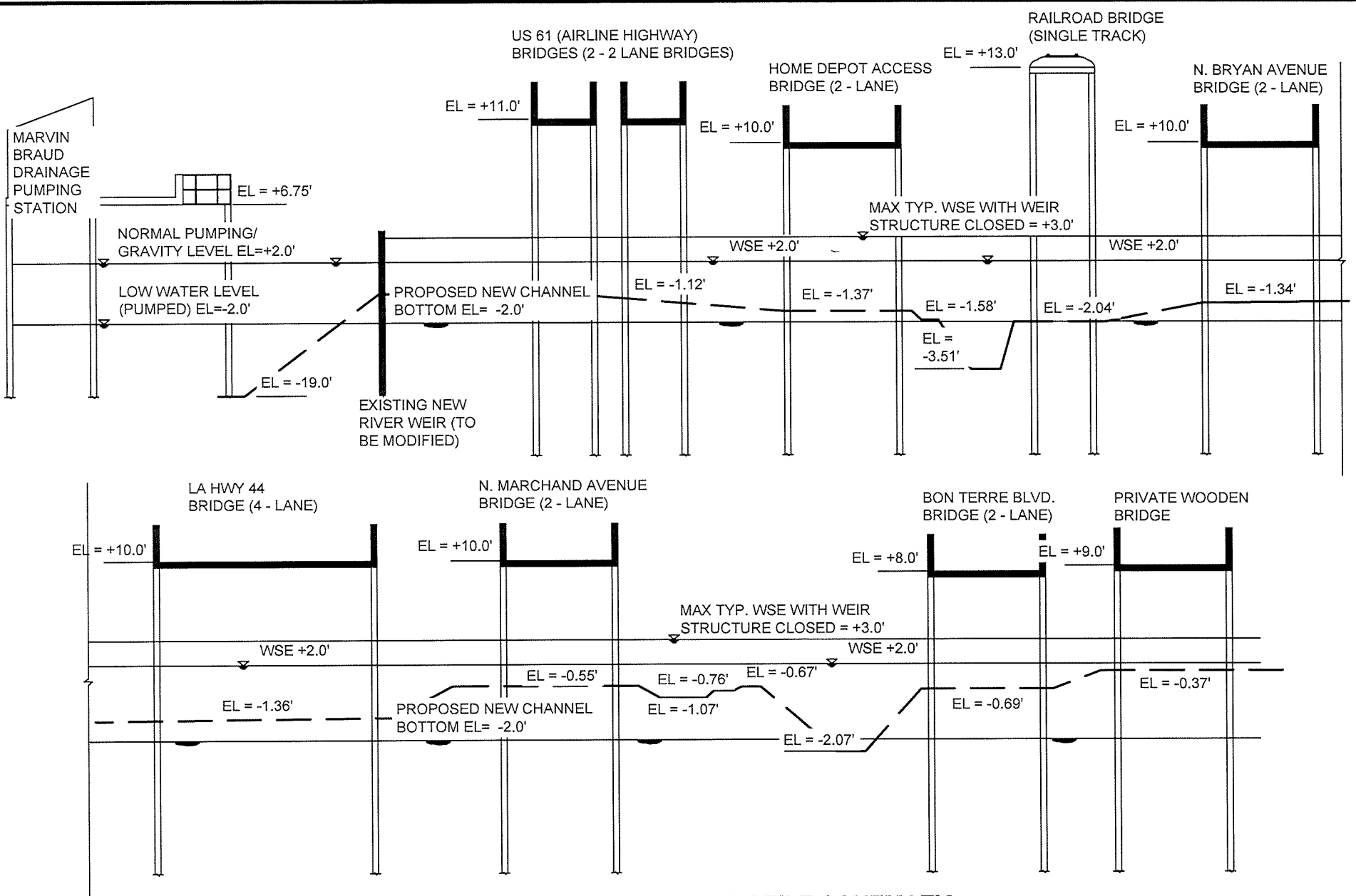
EXISTING CHANNEL PROFILE SCHEMATIC

SCALE: N.T.S.



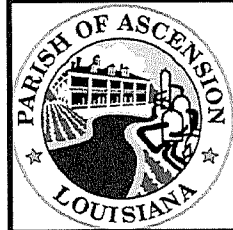
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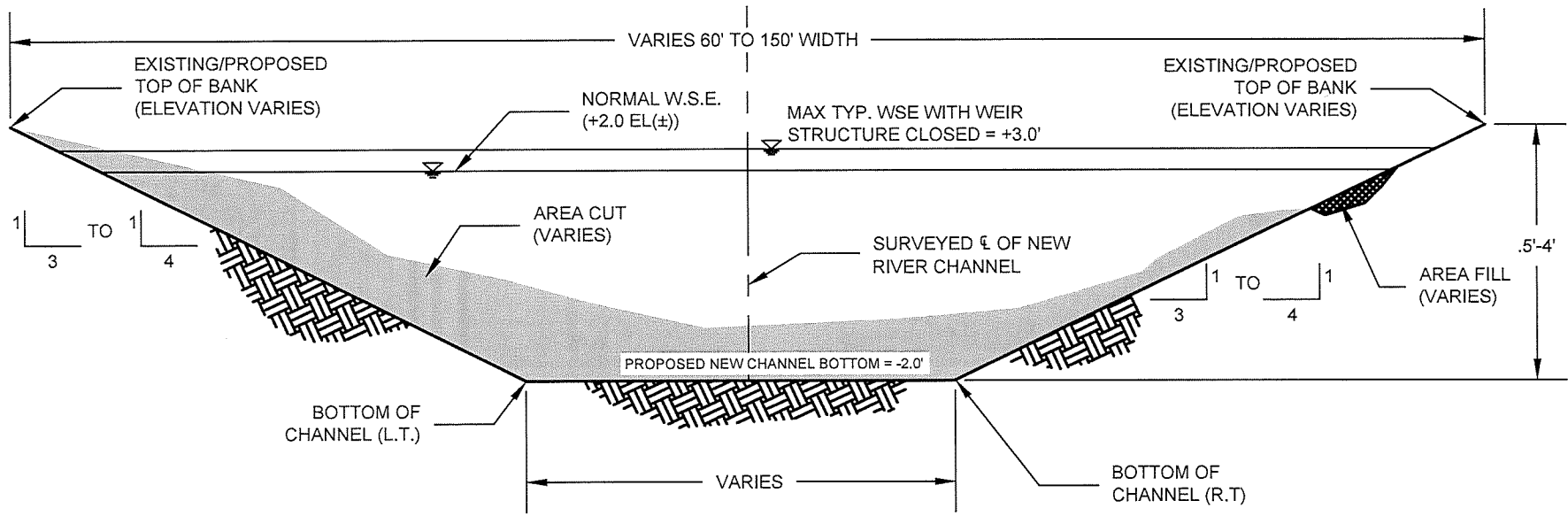
PROPOSED CHANNEL PROFILE SCHEMATIC

SCALE: N.T.S.



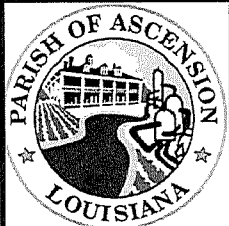
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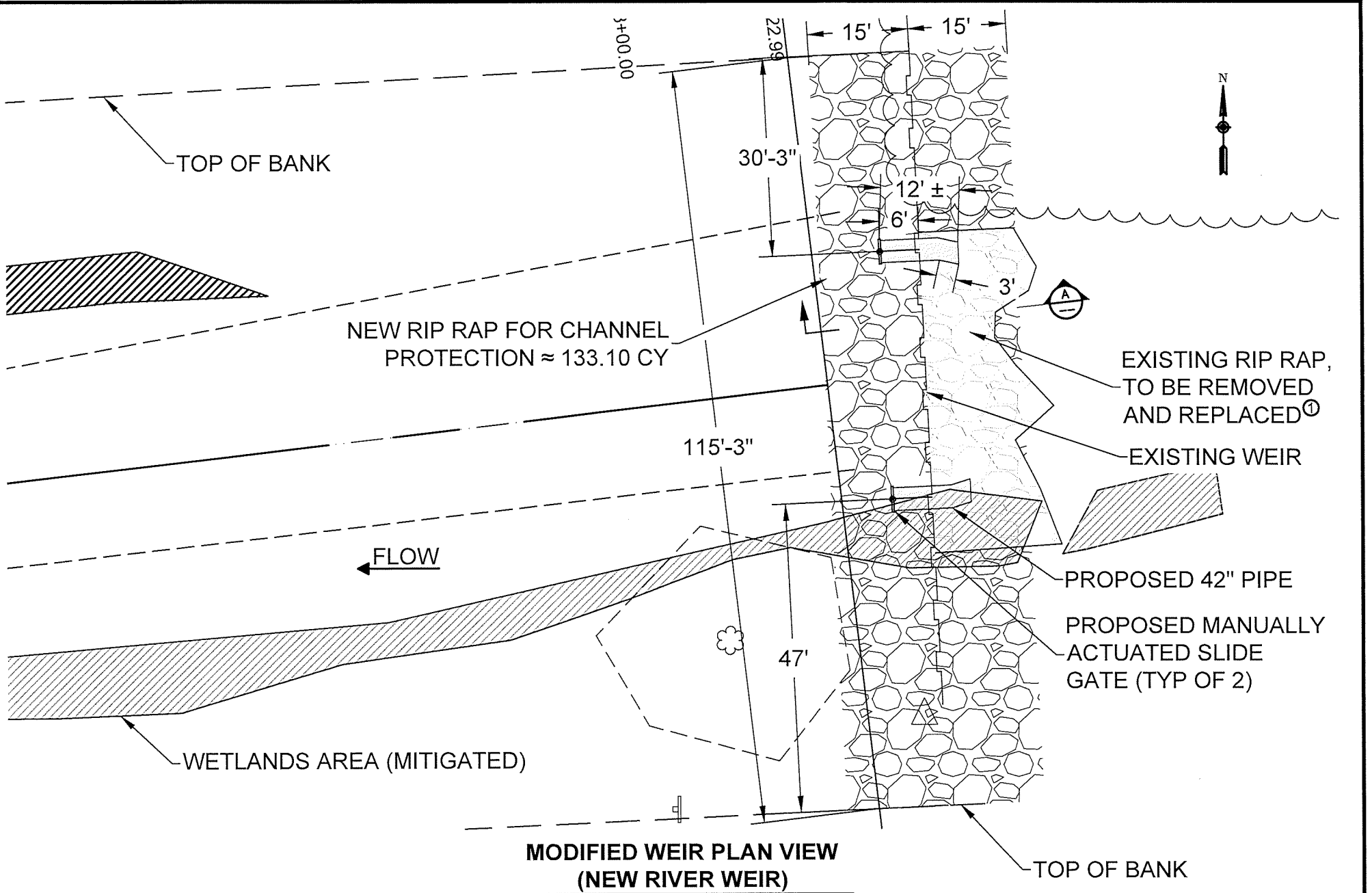
PROPOSED TYPICAL CROSS SECTION

SCALE: N.T.S.



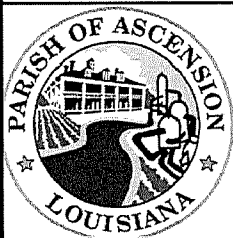
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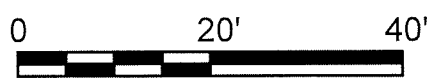


**MODIFIED WEIR PLAN VIEW
(NEW RIVER WEIR)**

SCALE: 1" = 20'-0" (8 1/2" x 11" SHEET)



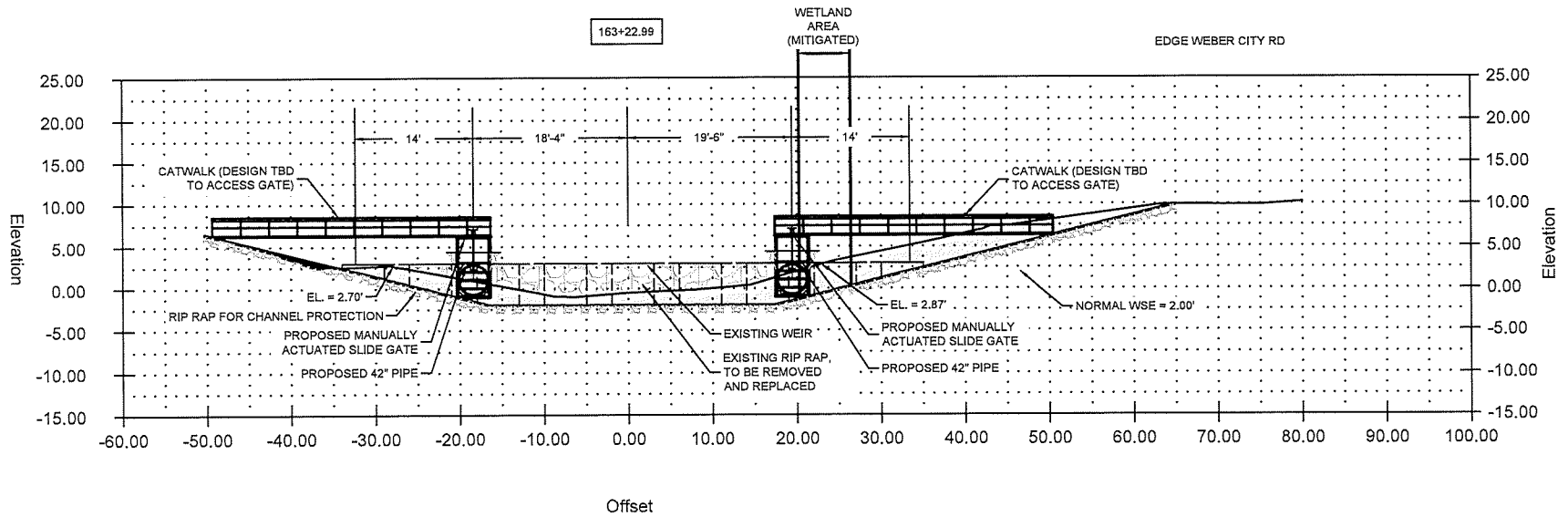
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GRAPHIC SCALE

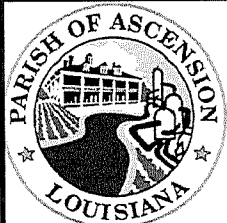
① EXISTING RIP-RAP MATERIAL TO BE REUSED

PERMIT EXHIBIT - NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

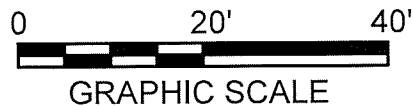


**MODIFIED WEIR CROSS SECTION
(NEW RIVER WEIR)**

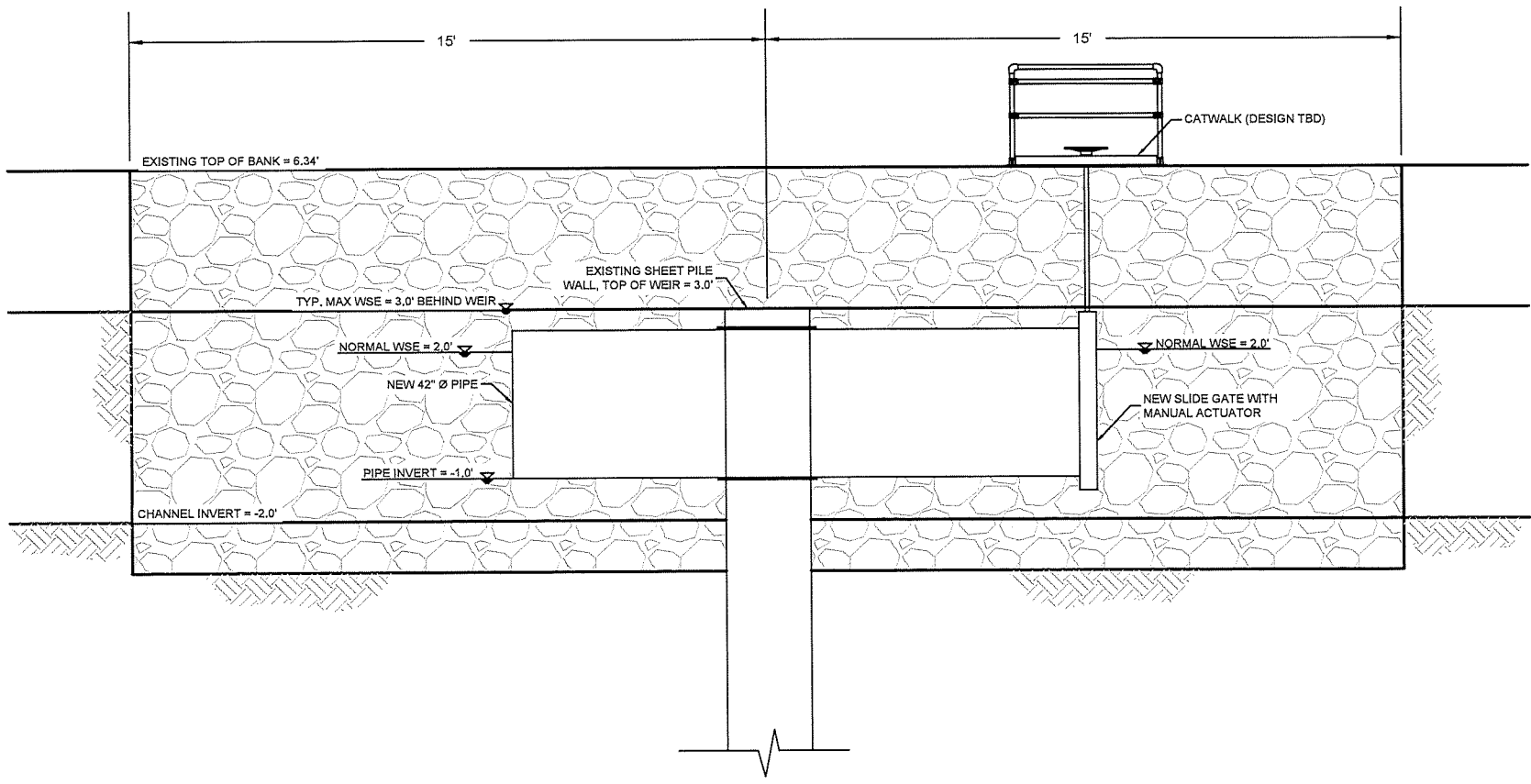
SCALE: 1" = 20'-0"



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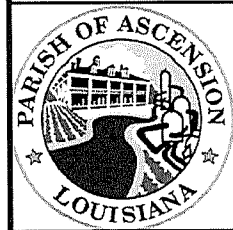


PERMIT EXHIBIT - NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION



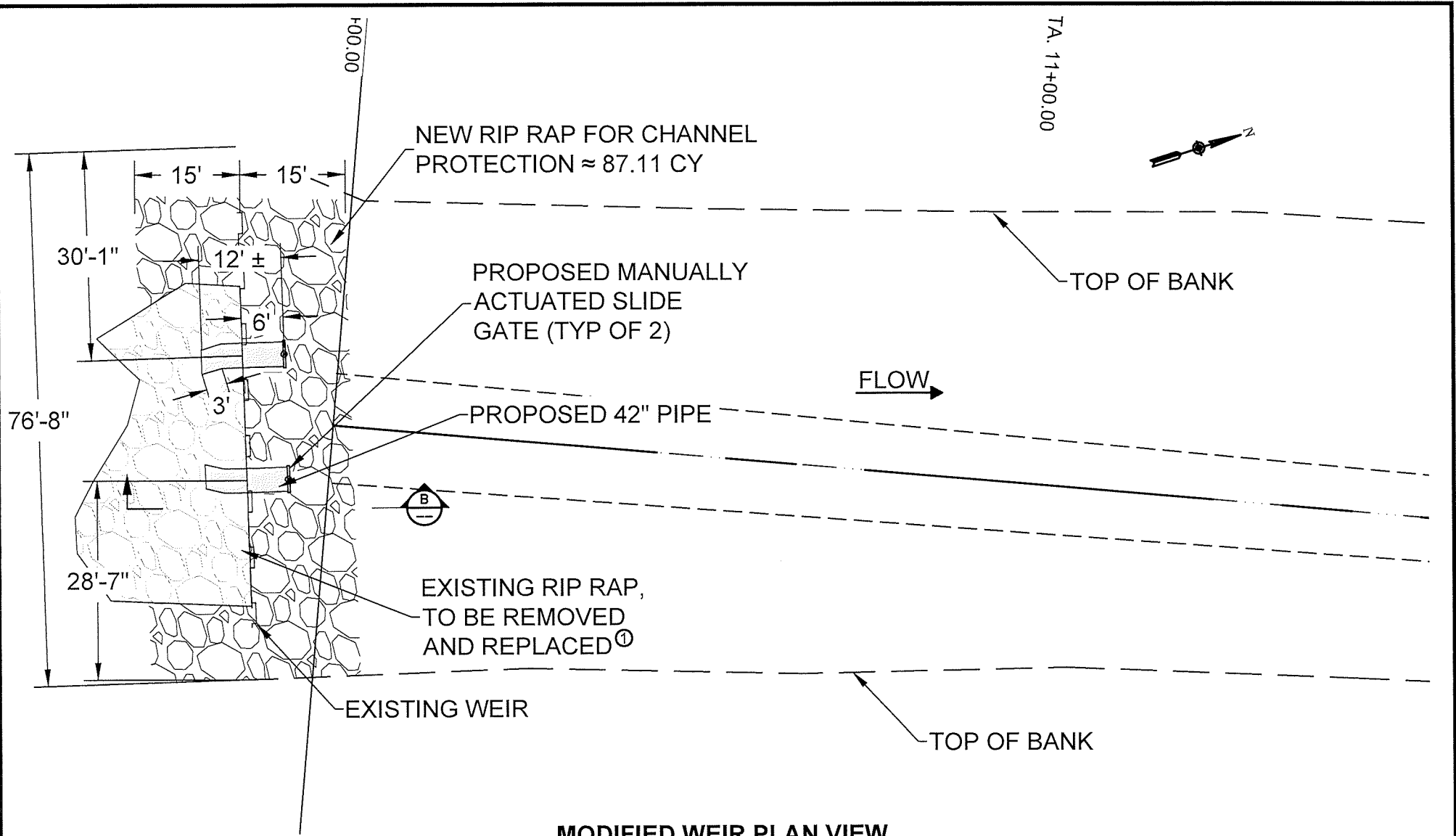
**MODIFIED WEIR ELEVATION
(NEW RIVER WEIR)**

SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"



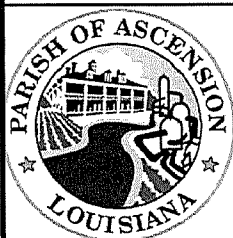
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**MODIFIED WEIR PLAN VIEW
(SMITH BAYOU WEIR)**

SCALE: 1" = 20'-0" (8 1/2" x 11" SHEET)



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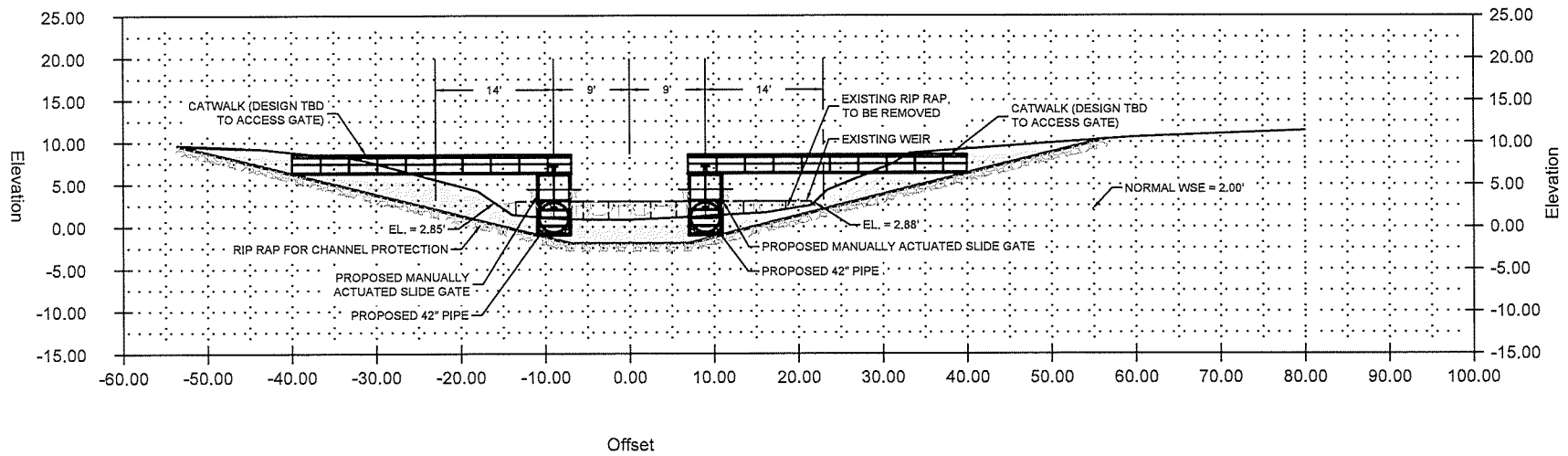


GRAPHIC SCALE

1 EXISTING RIP-RAP MATERIAL TO BE REUSED

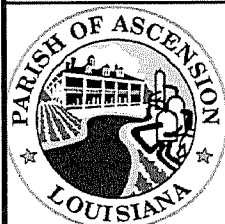
PERMIT EXHIBIT - NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

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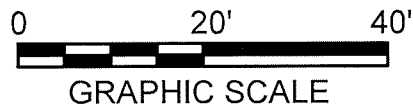


MODIFIED WEIR CROSS SECTION (SMITH BAYOU WEIR)

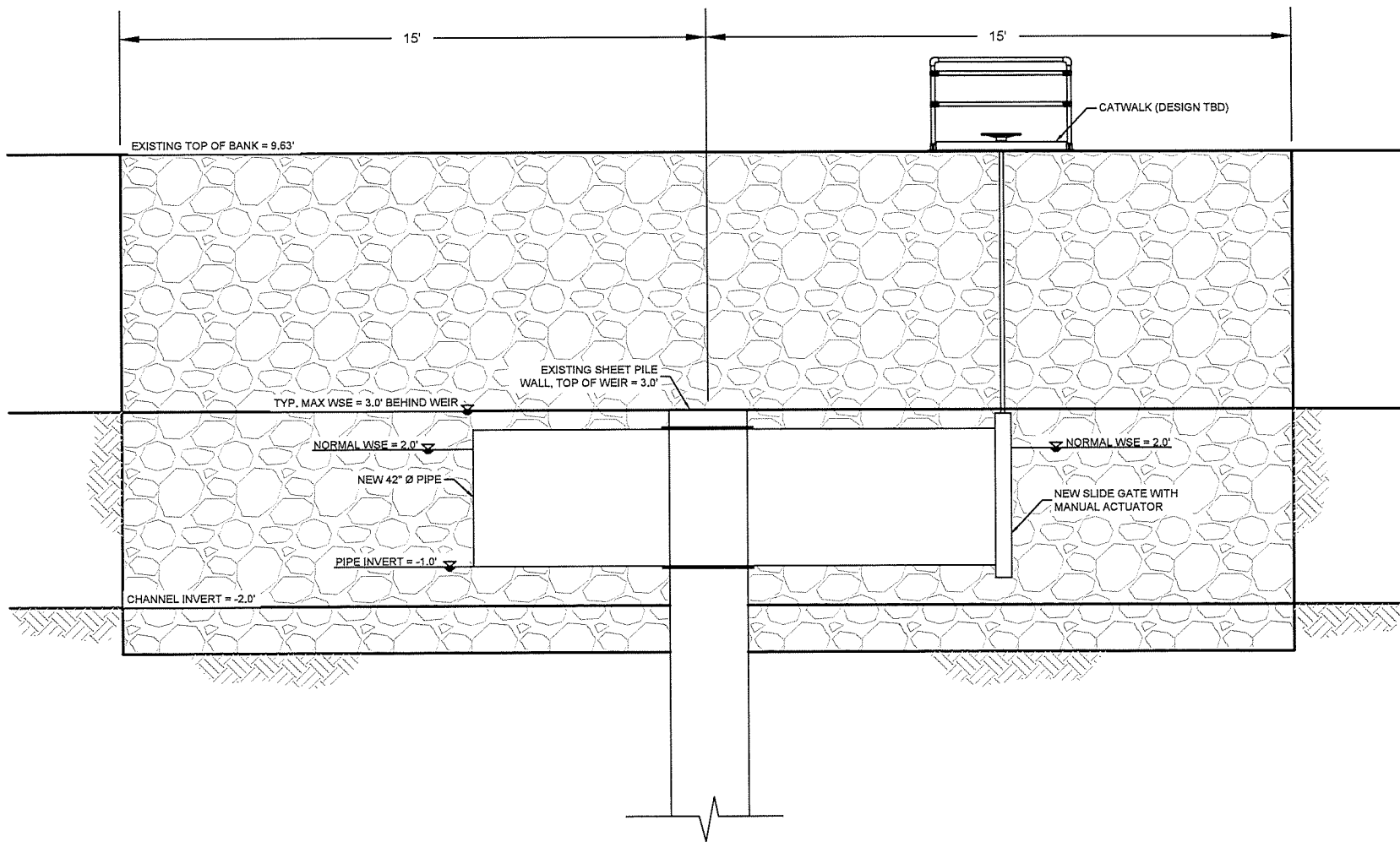
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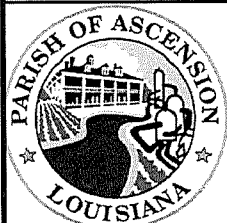


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**MODIFIED WEIR ELEVATION
(SMITH BAYOU WEIR)**

SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"



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