

# JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

December 10, 2018

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](mailto:Kenneth.G.Blanke@usace.army.mil)  
MVN 2009-02156-CQ

(225) 219-3225  
Project Manager  
Ms. Elizabeth Hill  
WQC Application Number  
WQC 181029-02

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 REMOVAL OF EXISTING ROCK DAM AND SHEET PILE WEIR AND TO IMPLEMENT NEW RIVER CANAL DREDGING PROJECT NEAR GONZALES, LOUISIANA IN ASCENSION PARISH**

**NAME OF APPLICANT:** East Ascension Drainage District #1, c/o ELOS Environmental, LLC, Attn: Flynn Daigle, 43177 East Pleasant Ridge Road, Hammond, Louisiana 70403.

**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 Department of the Army permit authorization for the removal of an existing rock dam located along the western portion of the project site and the removal of an existing deteriorated sheet pile weir on the eastern portion of the project site, and the dredging of an approximate 16,168-foot reach of the New River Canal. The proposed dredging work would take place within the channel using an amphibious excavator. All excavated material is to be hauled offsite to an approved Parish upland disposal site. The purpose of the proposed project is to increase water capacity within New River. The proposed removal of the two existing structures will allow for a continuous flow through the project site. The river is proposed to be dredged to a -2.0 foot elevation with a slope not exceeding 1:4 from both banks. The applicant has claimed that the proposed project will increase drainage capacity within the developed area of the Parish to help prevent flooding. Approximately 18.0 acre of jurisdictional Other Waters of the United States would be directly impacted as a result of project implementation. Approximately 135,000 cubic yards of dredged

waterbottom material and 349 cubic yards of rip rap material would be removed from the project area during project implementation. 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 current project does not propose any direct impacts to jurisdictional wetlands and, therefore, compensatory mitigation is not anticipated.

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 Standard Local Operating Procedure for Endangered Species in Louisiana (SLOPES), dated October 22, 2014, 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



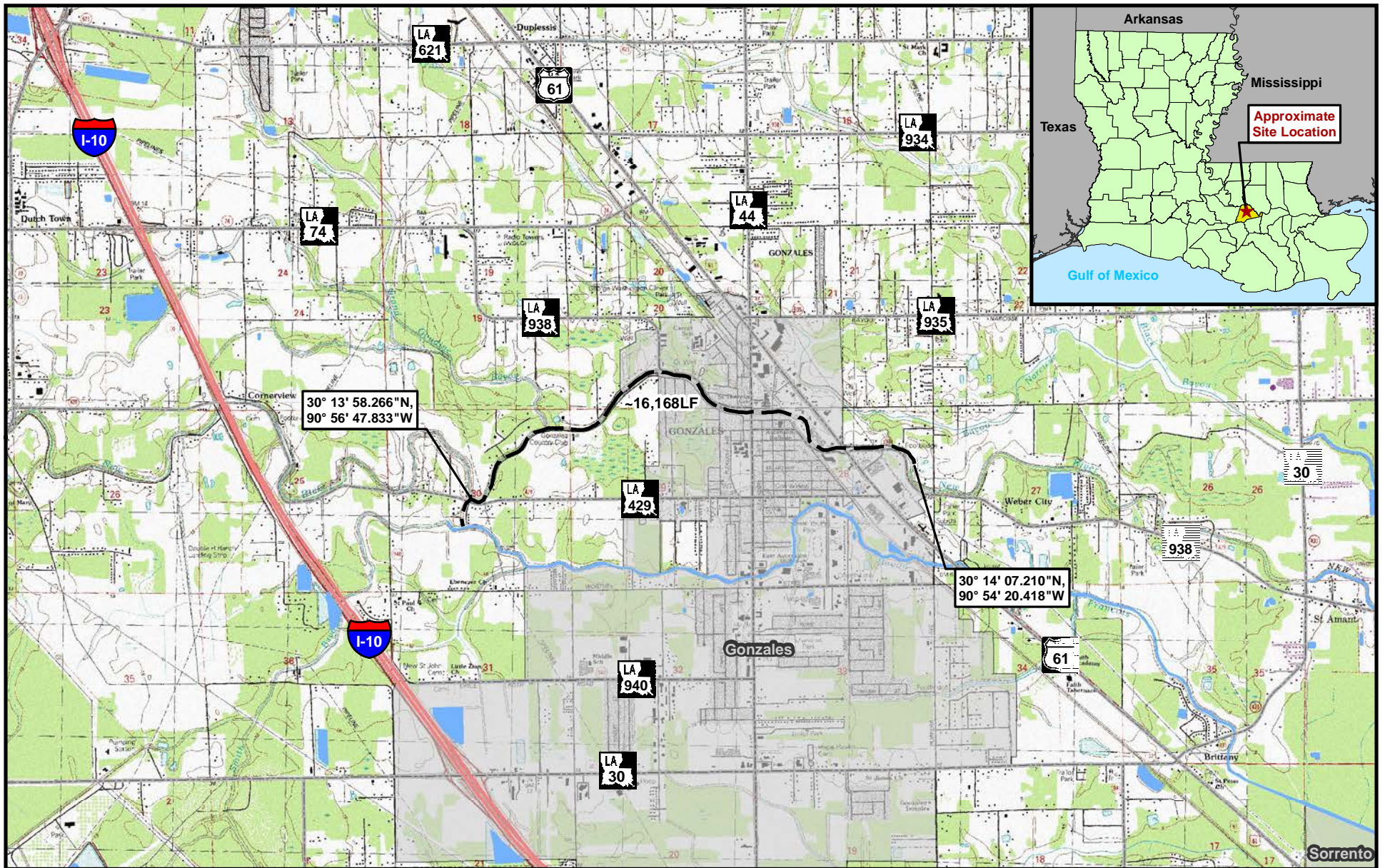


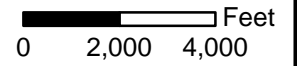
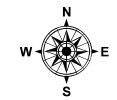
Figure 1: TopoVicinity Map

### New River Canal Dredge

This figure was prepared utilizing public and proprietary data. It should not be used to establish any legal boundaries or specific locations. ELOS Environmental, L.L.C., is not responsible for any usage of this figure contrary to its original, intended purpose.

**Legend:**

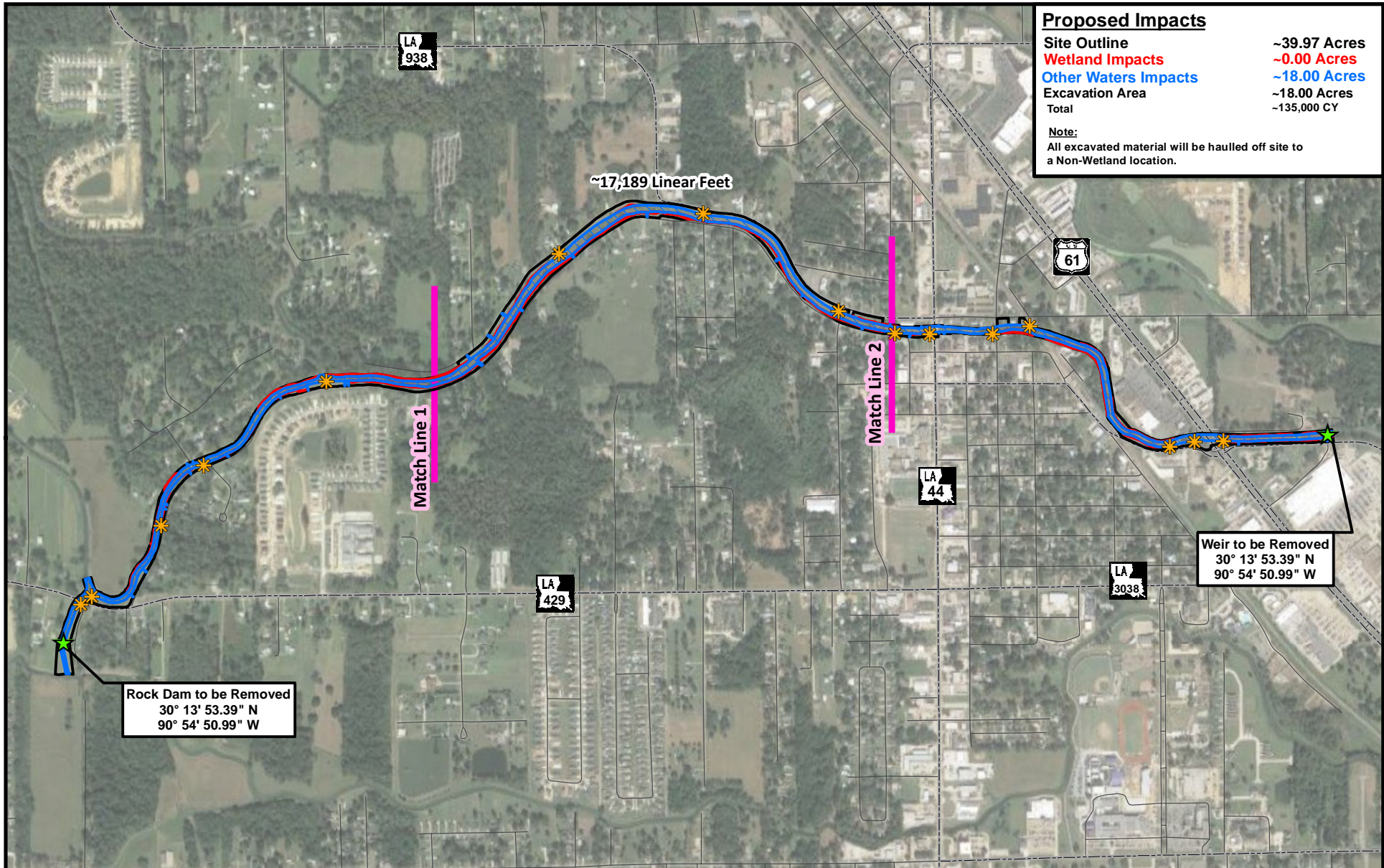
- River Centerline
- Interstate
- Highway
- Roadway
- Stream/River
- Waterbody
- City/Town



Site Information:  
Secs. 20, 28-30  
of T09S - R03E  
Gonzales, Louisiana

**ELOS**  
environmental  
<http://elosenv.com/>  
43177 East Pleasant Ridge Road  
Hammond, Louisiana 70403  
P. 985-662-5501, F. 985-662-5504





Proposed Impacts	
Site Outline	~39.97 Acres
Wetland Impacts	~0.00 Acres
Other Waters Impacts	~18.00 Acres
Excavation Area	~18.00 CY
Total	~135,000 CY

**Note:**  
All excavated material will be hauled off site to a Non-Wetland location.

Rock Dam to be Removed  
30° 13' 53.39" N  
90° 54' 50.99" W

Weir to be Removed  
30° 13' 53.39" N  
90° 54' 50.99" W

**ELOS**  
environmental

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**Figure 2: Plan View**

**New River Canal Dredge**

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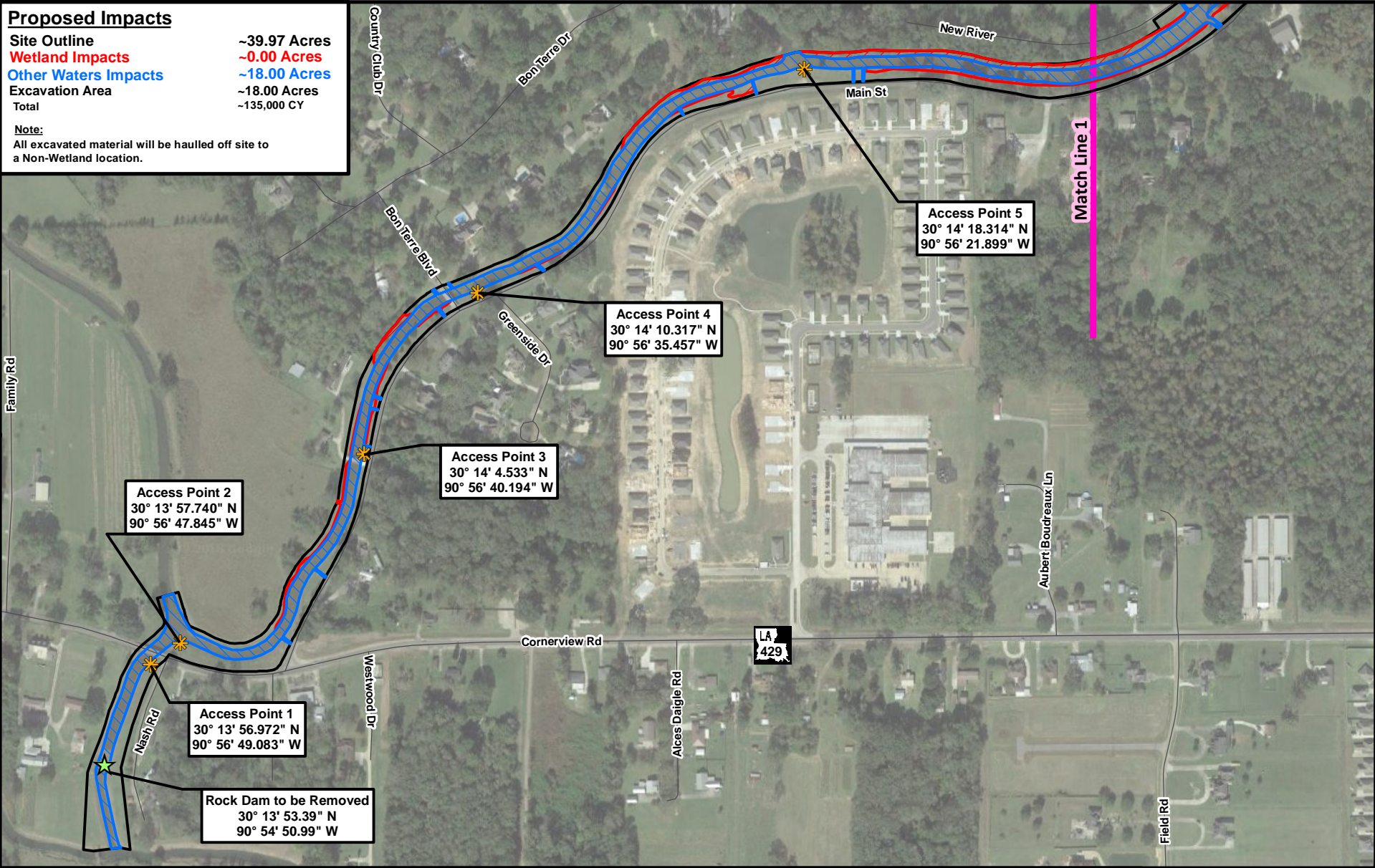
**Legend:**

Site Outline	Structures to be Removed
Other Waters	Highway
Wetlands	Roadway
Access Point	Match Line

N  
W — E  
S

0      600      1,200 Feet





**Figure 2.1: Plan View**

**New River Canal Dredge**

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**Legend:**

- Site Outline
- Wetlands
- Other Waters
- ✱ Access Point
- ★ Structures to be Removed
- Roadway
- Match Line



**Proposed Impacts**

Site Outline ~39.97 Acres  
 Wetland Impacts ~0.00 Acres  
 Other Waters Impacts ~18.00 Acres  
 Excavation Area ~18.00 Acres  
 Total ~135,000 CY

**Note:**  
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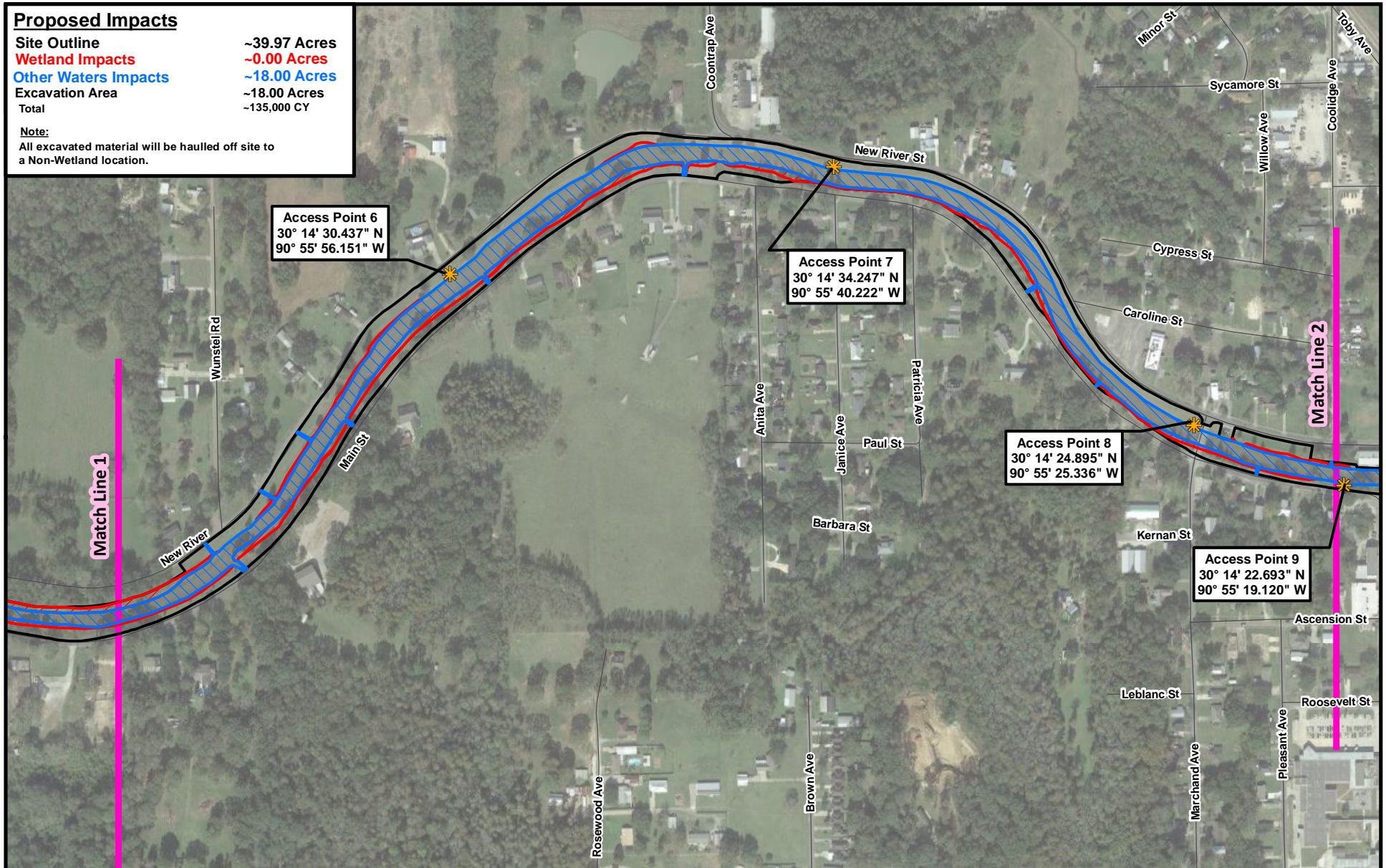


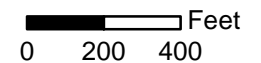
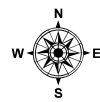
Figure 2.2: Plan View

**New River Canal Dredge**

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**Legend:**

- Site Outline
- Wetlands
- Other Waters
- ✱ Access Point
- Match Line
- Roadway



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**Proposed Impacts**

Site Outline ~39.97 Acres  
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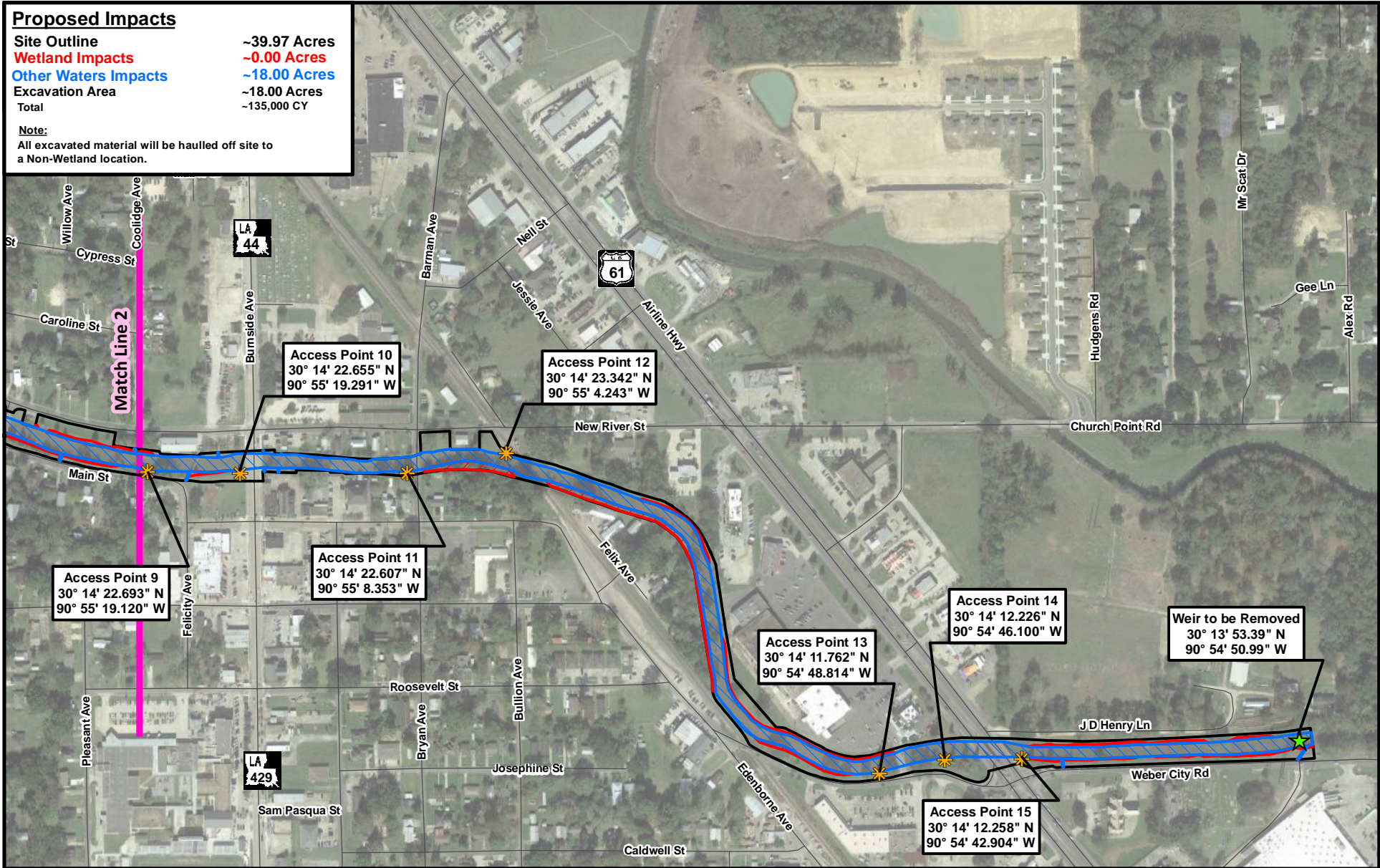


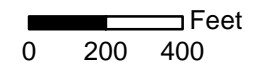
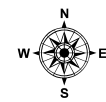
Figure 2.3: Plan View

**New River Canal Dredge**

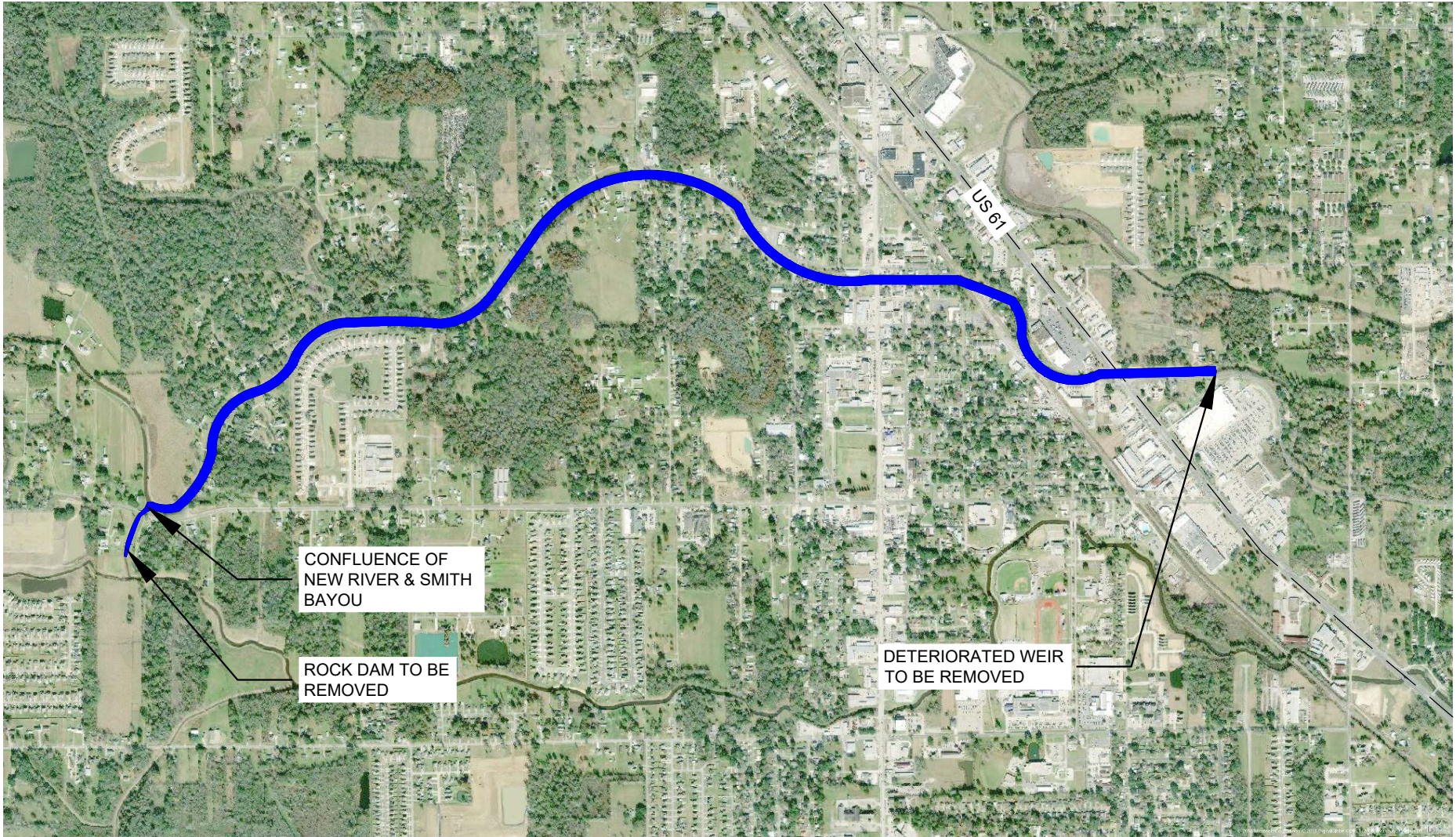
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**Legend:**

- Site Outline
- ★ Structures to be Removed
- ★ Access Point
- Wetlands
- Other Waters
- Roadway
- Match Line







## OVERALL PROJECT MAP

SCALE: N.T.S.



H. Davis Cole &  
Associates, LLC  
Consulting Engineers

NEW ORLEANS OFFICE  
1340 Poydras Street, Suite 1850  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112  
Telephone: 504.836.2020  
Facsimile: 504.836.2010

### GENERAL NOTES:

1. AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF AUTOCAD GEOLOCATION MAPS.

**PERMIT EXHIBIT - NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION**

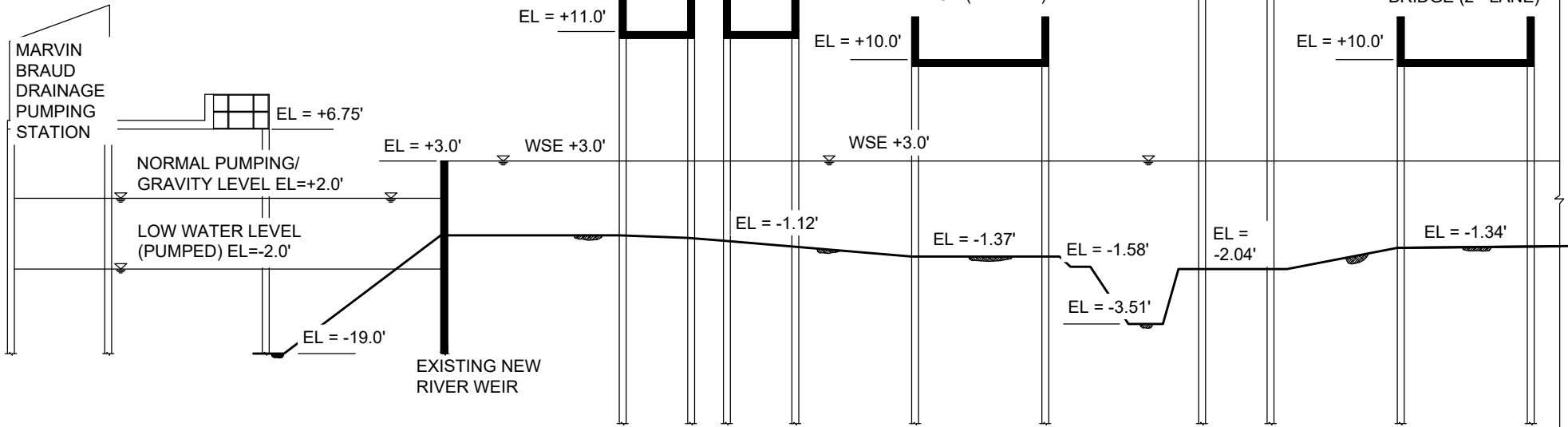


US 61 (AIRLINE HIGHWAY)  
BRIDGES (2 - 2 LANE BRIDGES)

RAILROAD BRIDGE  
(SINGLE TRACK)

HOME DEPOT ACCESS  
BRIDGE (2 - LANE)

N. BRYAN AVENUE  
BRIDGE (2 - LANE)

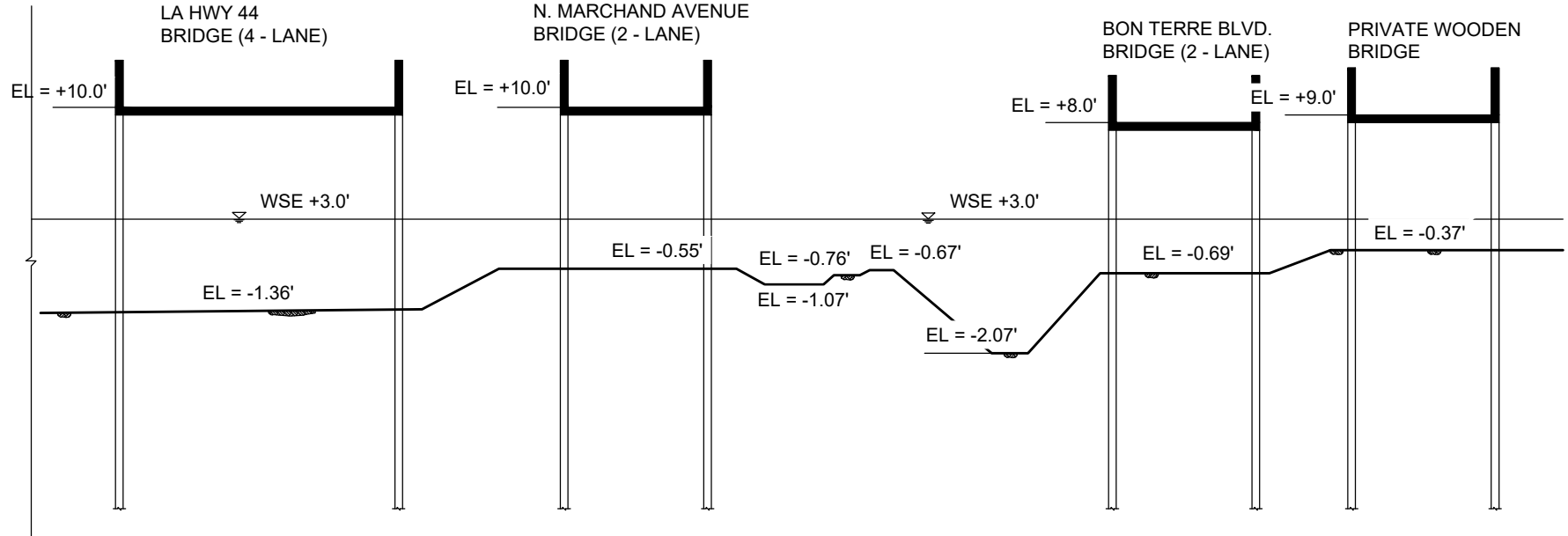


LA HWY 44  
BRIDGE (4 - LANE)

N. MARCHAND AVENUE  
BRIDGE (2 - LANE)

BON TERRE BLVD.  
BRIDGE (2 - LANE)

PRIVATE WOODEN  
BRIDGE



**EXISTING CHANNEL PROFILE SCHEMATIC**

SCALE: N.T.S.

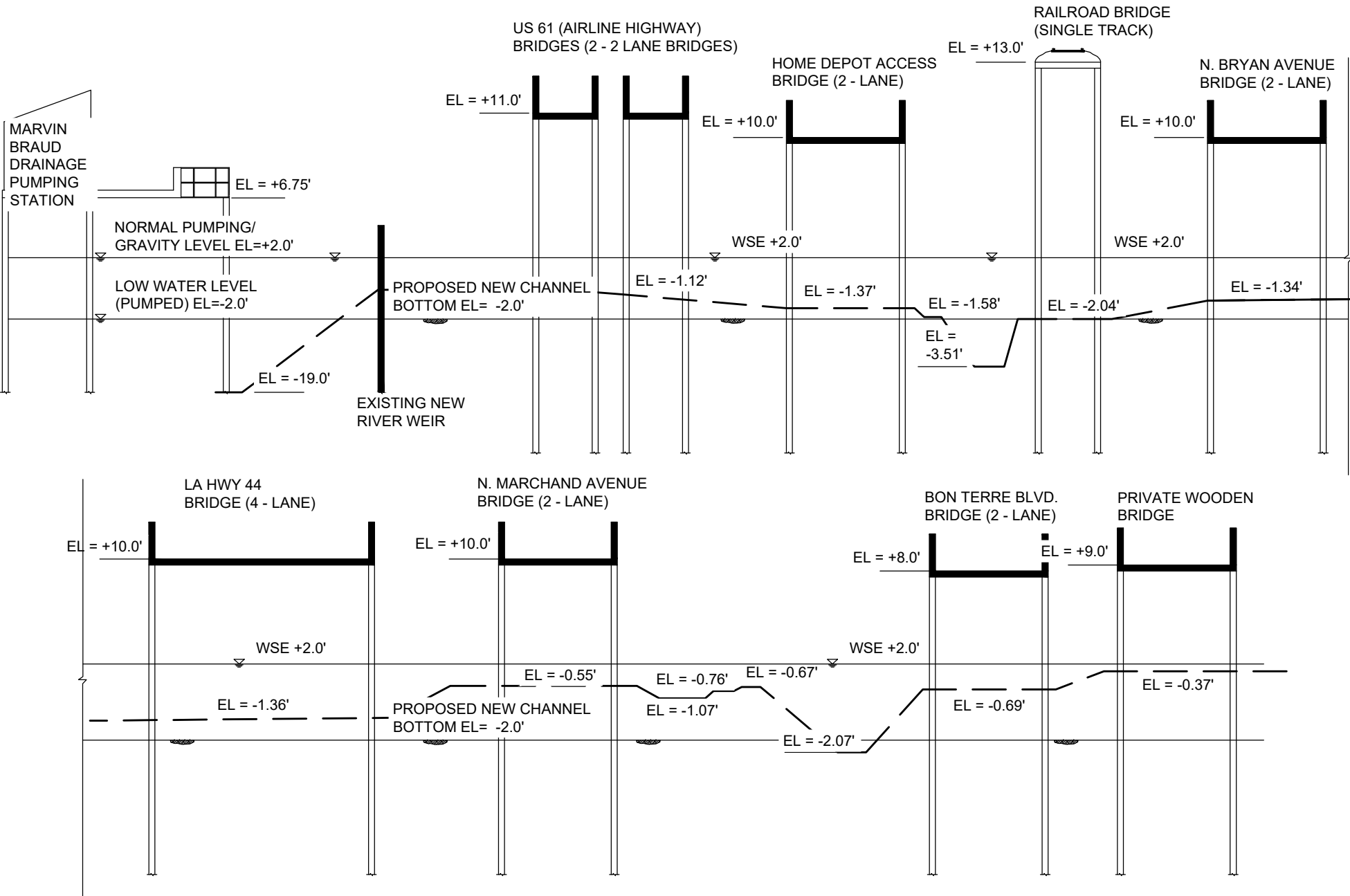


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**PROPOSED CHANNEL PROFILE SCHEMATIC**

SCALE: N.T.S.



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D1

**WEIR REMOVAL PHOTO**

SCALE: N.T.S.



D2

**ROCK DAM TO BE REMOVED PHOTO**

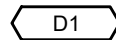
SCALE: N.T.S.

**LEGEND:**

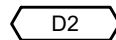


TO BE REMOVED AND DISPOSED OF IN A NON-WET LOCATION

**SCOPE:**



EXISTING SHEET PILE WEIR TO BE REMOVED AND DISPOSED OF  
APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF WEIR: 30° 14' 12.91" N, 90° 54' 31.40" W



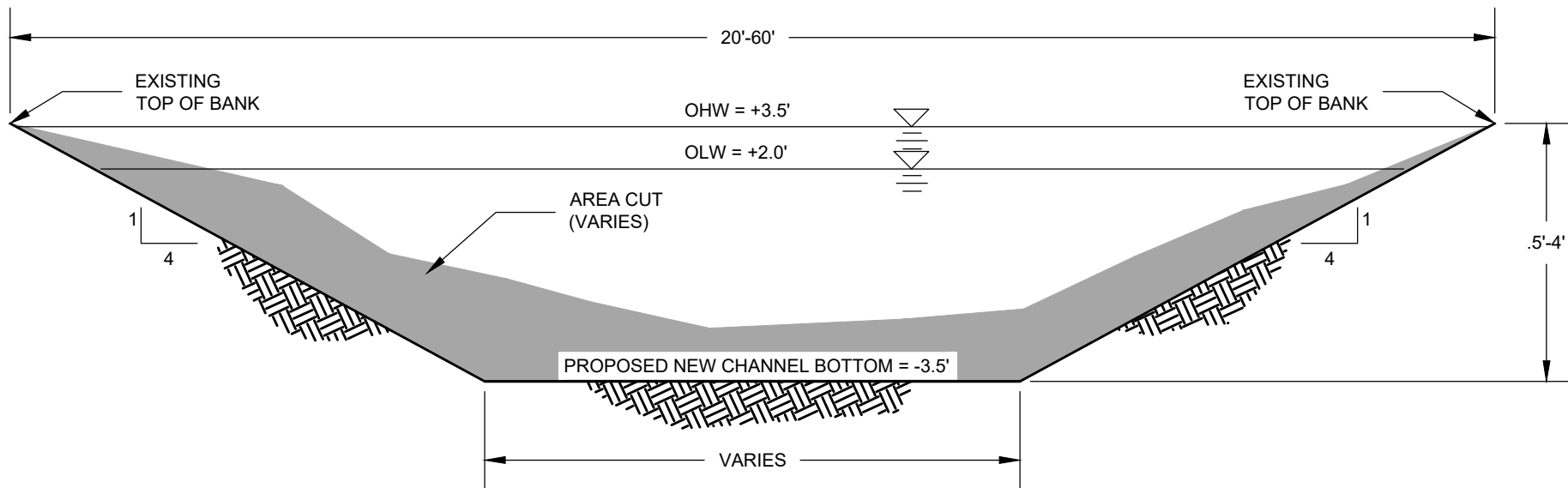
EXISTING NEW RIVER ROCK DAM TO BE REMOVED  
APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF WEIR: 30° 13' 53.39" N, 90° 56' 50.99" W



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**PROPOSED TYPICAL CROSS SECTION**

SCALE: N.T.S.



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