

# JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

June 22, 2020

United States Army  
Corps of Engineers  
New Orleans District  
Attn: Regulatory Branch  
7400 Leake Ave.  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70118-3651

State of Louisiana  
Department of Environmental Quality  
Attn: Water Quality Certifications  
Post Office Box 4313  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4313

Project Manager:  
Carrie Schott  
(504) 862-1153  
Carrie.g.schott@usace.army.mil  
Application #: MVN-2020-00567-WS

Project Manager:  
Elizabeth Hill  
(225) 219-3225  
WQC Application Number:  
WQC 200615-04

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: [ ] 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).

The application has also been mailed to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, for a Water Quality Certification (WQC) in accordance with statutory authority contained in Louisiana Revised Statute 30:2074 A(3), and provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (P.L. 95-17).

## **DRAINAGE CANAL FOR HWY 28 WEST COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN RAPIDES PARISH, LOUISIANA**

**NAME OF APPLICANT:** City of Alexandria, c/o: Willis Engineering and Scientific, LLC, attn.: Mr. Frank Willis, 625 Murray Street, Suite 205, Alexandria, LA 71301.

**LOCATION OF WORK:** Latitude 31.28350/Longitude: -92.51918, located off of Highway 28 and the Bayou Cocodrie Diversion Canal, in Alexandria, Louisiana, within Rapides Parish.

Hydrologic Unit Code: 080802010307-Bayou Pointe Aux Loups-Bayou Des Cannes.

**CHARACTER OF WORK:** The applicant proposes to construct a new drainage canal that will start near Louisiana Highway 28 West and flow southeasterly until its discharge into the Bayou Boeuf-Cocodrie Diversion Canal, in the City of Alexandria. The purpose of the proposed project is to accommodate necessary drainage for expanding areas of Alexandria and expected commercial and residential development. The canal will have a top width of approximately 80-100 feet, with a total right of way width of 200-230 feet. It is anticipated that this project will have permanent impacts to approximately 12 acres of Palustrine Forested (PFO) jurisdictional wetlands, from excavation and filling activities. Fill operations will include the deposition of approximately 146,800 cubic yards of earthen material onto the canal banks, on each side. The proposed drainage lateral would be approximately 7,930 linear feet, and will border the existing Pecan Bayou Mitigation Bank

to its direct south. The applicant has proposed to mitigate through the use of credits from an approved USACE mitigation bank, should a DA permit be granted.

The comment period for the Department of the Army Permit and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality WQC will close **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 submitted 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 forwarded to the Corps of Engineers at the address above, **ATTENTION: REGULATORY BRANCH**. 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. 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.

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 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.

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 public notice are being sent to the State Archeologist and State Historic Preservation Officer regarding potential impacts to cultural resources.

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. Based on the Information & Planning Consultation for Endangered Species in Louisiana (IPaC), as signed on Information & Planning Consultation for Endangered Species in Louisiana, between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, it has been determined that the project would have no effect to the Northern Long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), Red-cockaded Woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*), and Louisiana Pinesnake (*Pituophis ruthveni*).

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 Department of Environmental Quality, before a Department of the Army 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.

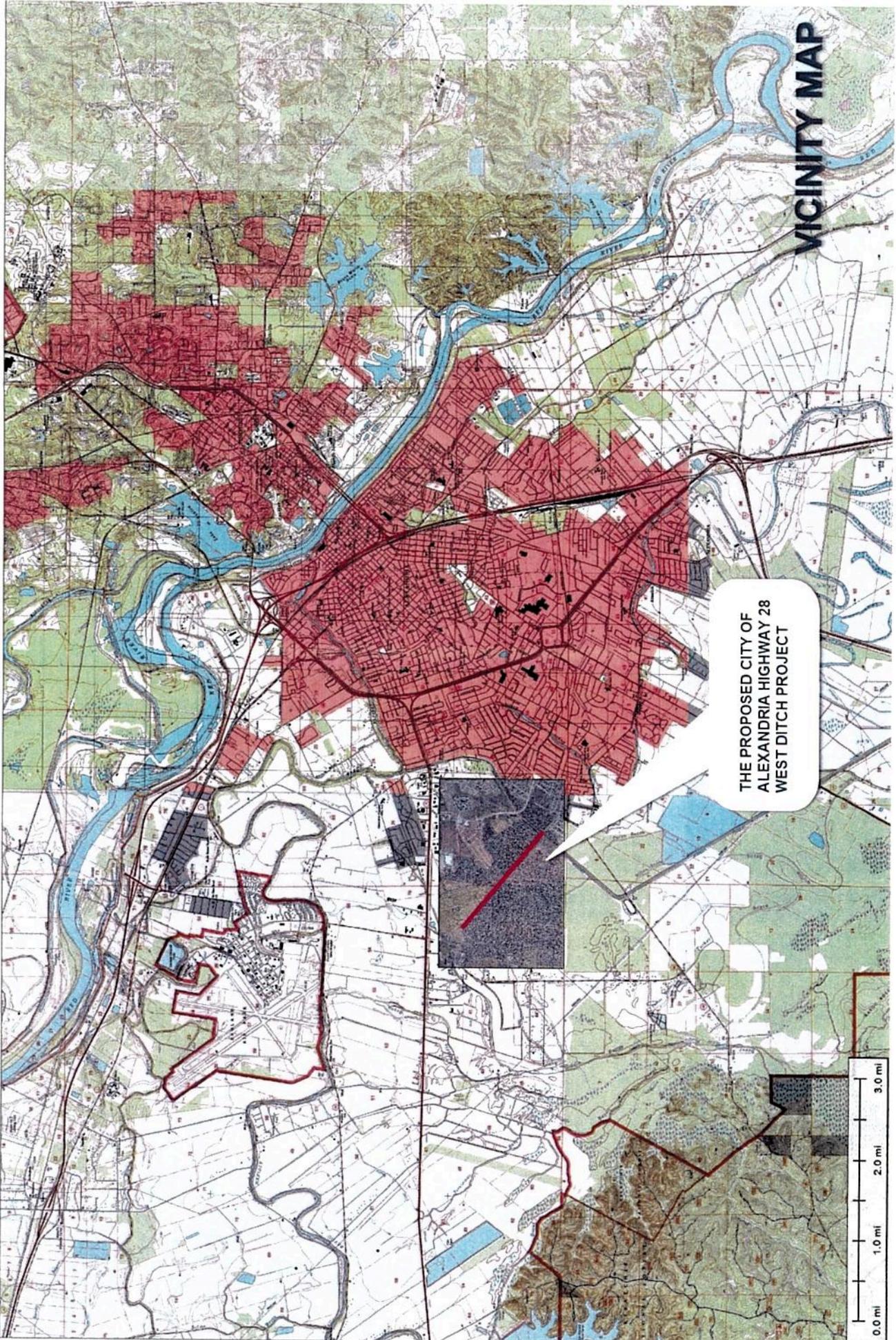
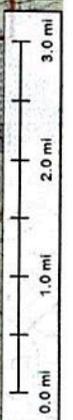
You are invited to communicate the information contained in this notice to any other parties whom you deem likely to have interest in the matter.

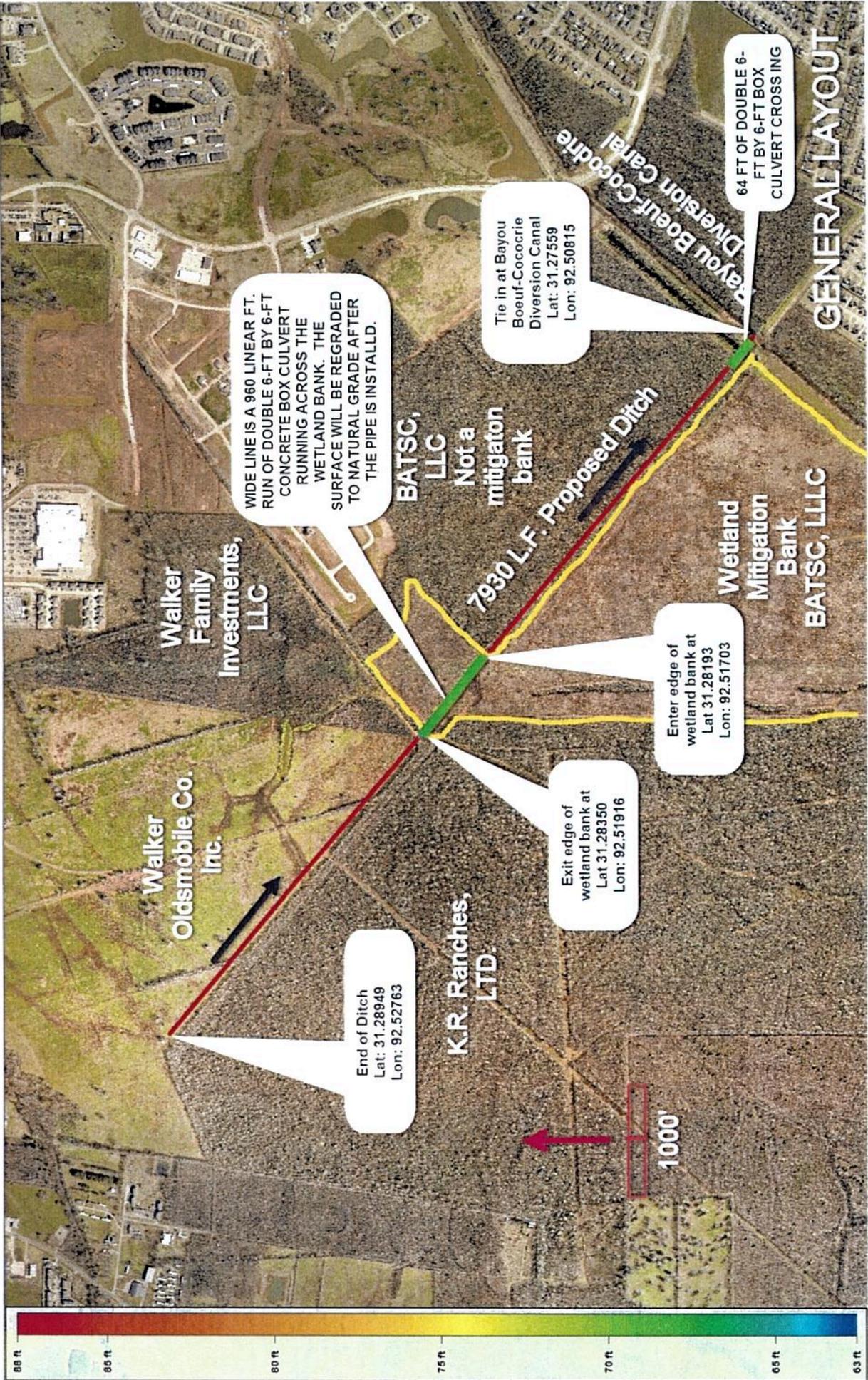
Darrell S. Barbara  
Chief, Western Evaluation Section  
Regulatory Branch

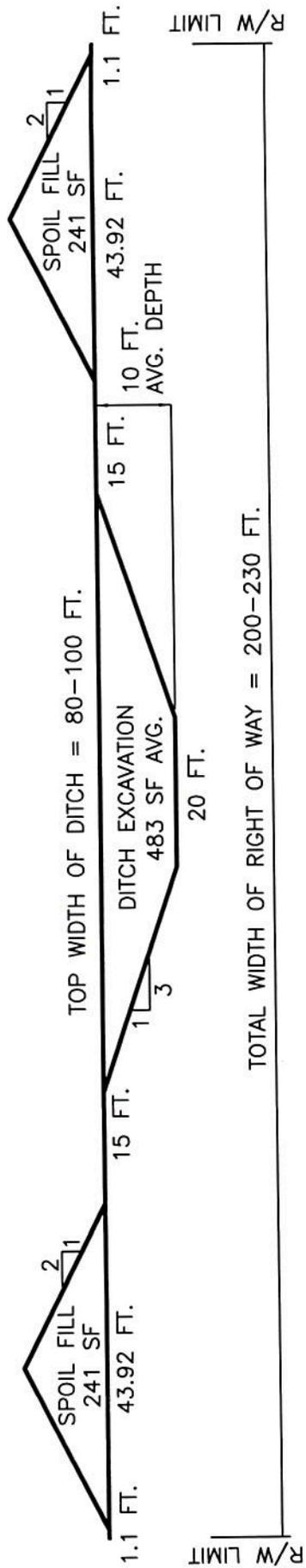
Enclosure

# VICINITY MAP

THE PROPOSED CITY OF  
ALEXANDRIA HIGHWAY 28  
WEST DITCH PROJECT







# DITCH AND SPOIL BANK CROSS SECTION



REGRADE FINISHED  
GRADE TO MATCH  
EXISTING GRADE

DOUBLE 6'X6' CONC.  
BOX CULVERTS



10 FT.  
AVG. DEPTH

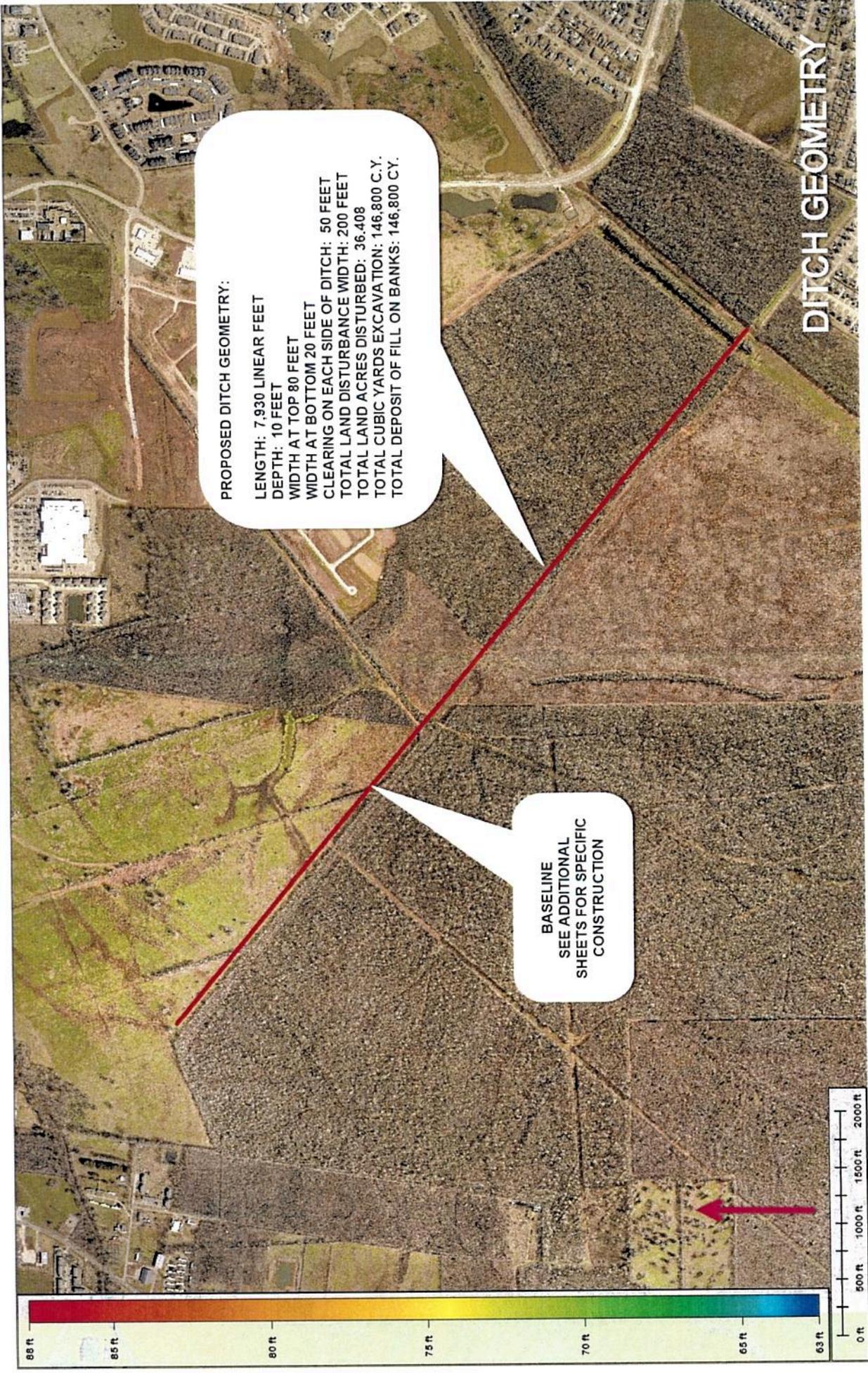
R/W LIMIT

TOTAL WIDTH OF RIGHT OF WAY IN AREA OF BOX CULVERT IS = 60-FT. PERM. SERVITUDE  
200-FT. WIDE TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION SERVITUDE.

R/W LIMIT

# TYPICAL DOUBLE 6-FT. CONC. BOX SECTION

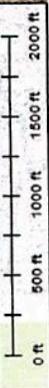
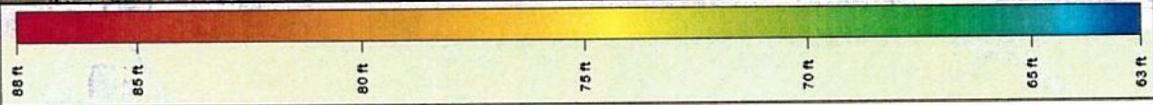




**PROPOSED DITCH GEOMETRY:**  
LENGTH: 7,930 LINEAR FEET  
DEPTH: 10 FEET  
WIDTH AT TOP: 80 FEET  
WIDTH AT BOTTOM: 20 FEET  
CLEARING ON EACH SIDE OF DITCH: 50 FEET  
TOTAL LAND DISTURBANCE WIDTH: 200 FEET  
TOTAL LAND ACRES DISTURBED: 36.408  
TOTAL CUBIC YARDS EXCAVATION: 146,800 C.Y.  
TOTAL DEPOSIT OF FILL ON BANKS: 146,800 C.Y.

**BASELINE  
SEE ADDITIONAL  
SHEETS FOR SPECIFIC  
CONSTRUCTION**

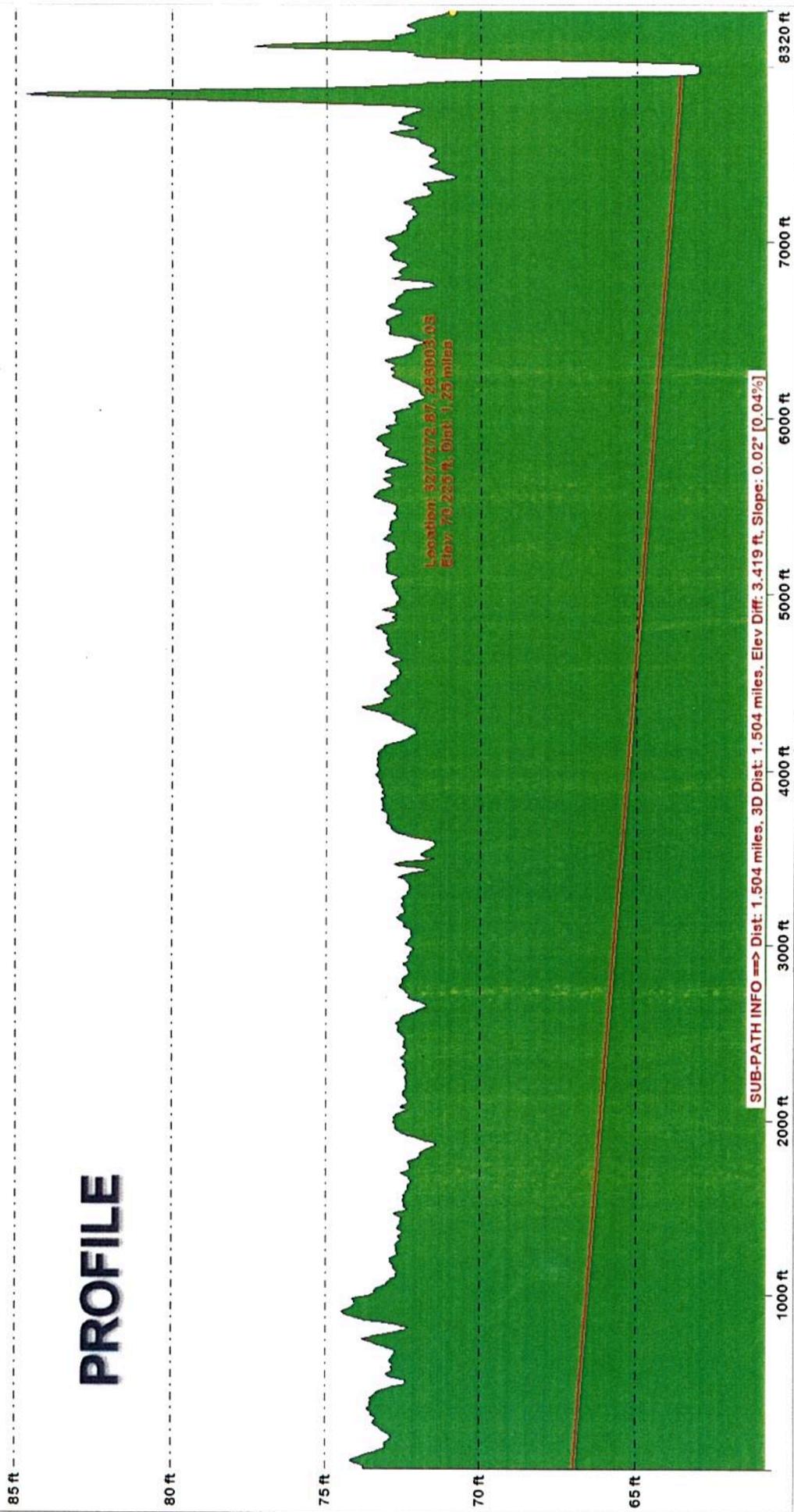
**DITCH GEOMETRY**

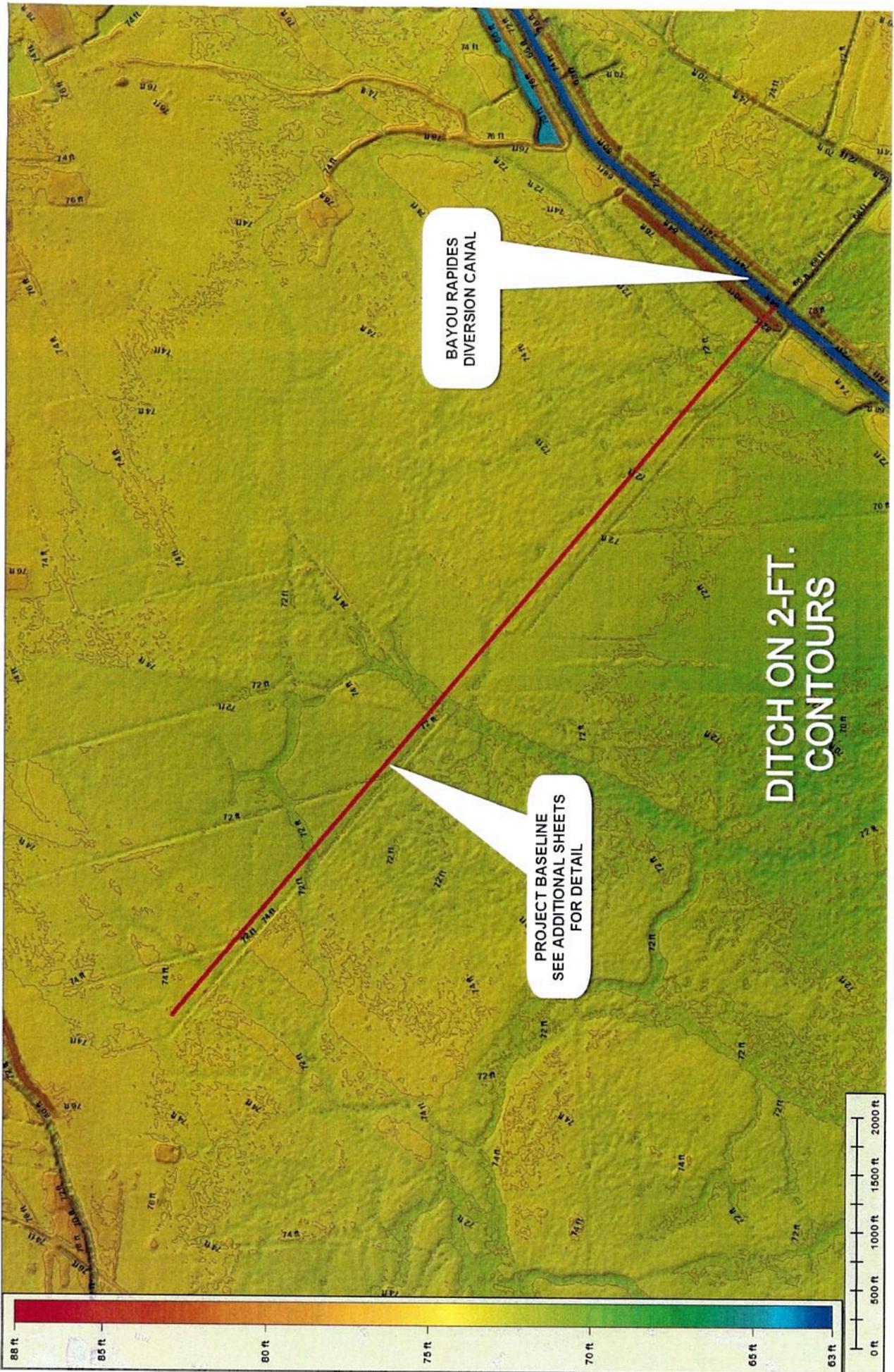


From Pos: 3272193.11, 287213.09

To Pos: 3278600.17, 281908.12

# PROFILE





BAYOU RAPIDES  
DIVERSION CANAL

PROJECT BASELINE  
SEE ADDITIONAL SHEETS  
FOR DETAIL

DITCH ON 2-FT.  
CONTOURS

