

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

August 8, 2022

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

Project Manager: Johnny J. Duplantis (504) 862-2548 johnny.j.duplantis@usace.army.mil Application #: MVN-2022-00155-WPP

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).

PROPOSED CONVENIENCE STORE AND FUEL STATION IN CALCASIEU PARISH

<u>NAME OF APPLICANT</u>: QuickTrip Corporation c/o: Apex Companies, LLC, 12012 Technology Blvd, Austin, TX 78727.

LOCATION OF WORK: Located in Calcasieu Parish, located south of Highway 10 and east of Louisiana Highway 397, in Lake Charles, Louisiana, (lat. 30.240272°, long. -93.127574°), as shown within the attached drawings. (Hydrologic Unit Code 08080206, Lower Calcasieu Watershed)

CHARACTER OF WORK: Clear, grade, excavate and deposit fill to construct a QuikTrip gas station along Interstate I-10 in Lake Charles, on an approximately 12-acre tract of land located south of Highway 10 and east of Louisiana Highway 397. The proposed project would impact approximately 8.08 acres of jurisdictional wetlands through filling activities and 1.92 acres through excavations. Fill operations would include the deposition of approximately 8,900 cubic yards of earthen material into wetlands, as foundation for roadways, drainage amenities, facilities, and parking. The property has a history of agricultural use with an on-site network of drainage ditches and is currently characterized as grassland. The purpose of the proposed development would be to provide retail motor fuel sales, including a separate truck diesel fueling canopy area, food, drinks, compressed air, truck scales, along with truck and RV parking available to travelers in the I-10 corridor. The facilities would also provide the same services to local residents. If a Department of the Army permit is found justified, the

applicant has proposed to mitigate unavoidable wetlands impacts at an approved and acceptable mitigation bank within the N.O. District.

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 <u>preferably</u> 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, RGW, Johnny **Duplantis.** 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.

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 applicant completed a desktop cultural resources survey for the proposed Project in November 2021. The survey included reviewing the Louisiana Division of Archaeology's (LDA) Louisiana Cultural Resources online database and the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places within 1 kilometer of the Project area. Review of the LDA's Louisiana Cultural Resources online database identified one cemetery, approximately 0.9 kilometer northwest of the proposed Project. No documented cultural resources, including any listed on the NRHP, were found to be located within or adjacent to the boundaries of the proposed Project. Based on the LDA's database, no prior cultural resource surveys have been undertaken within the Project area. The predictive model and records review indicated a moderate potential for undocumented prehistoric and historic-era cultural deposits within the Project area. 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 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 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, it has been determined that the project would have no effect to the West Indian Manatee (*Trichechus manatus*), Eastern Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*), and Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*).

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 **0.00 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 Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality before a Department of the Army permit could be 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.

> Darrell S. Barbara Chief, Western Evaluation Branch Regulatory Division

Enclosure



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