JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

May 11, 2020

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

(504) 862-1288 Project Manager Zachary Steinkoenig zachary.j.steinkoenig@usace.army.mil MVN 2006-00106-CF State of Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality Water Permits Division Post Office Box 4313 Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4313

(225) 219-3225 Project Manager Elizabeth Hill WQC Application Number WQC #200422-02

Interested parties are hereby notified that a permit application has been received by the New Orleans District of the US 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 [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 for a Water Quality Certification (WQC) in accordance with statutory authority contained in LRS 30:2074 A(3) and provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

PROPOSED MCHUGH ROAD IMPROVEMENT AND REALIGNMENT IN EAST BATON PARISH

<u>NAME OF APPLICANT</u>: CITY OF BATON ROUGE, PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE, c/o CSRS, Inc., 6767 Perkins Rd., Suite 200, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808

LOCATION OF WORK: In South Canal, Latitude 30.605043, Longitude -91.138472, Baker, Louisiana, in East Baton Rouge Parish, within the Lake Pontchartrain Basin in hydrologic unit (HUC 08070202), as shown on the attached drawings.

CHARACTER OF WORK: The applicant has requested a Department of the Army authorization to clear, grade, excavate and deposit fill material in jurisdictional wetlands and other waters of the United States to realign and resurface McHugh Road and the installation and maintenance of embankment, drainage, and safety features. The realignment and resurface of the road was previously permitted under MVN-2006-0106-CX. No work occurred and the former permit is expired. The applicant has requested a modification of the aforementioned permit to include a culverted crossing over South Canal instead of the previously permitted bridge crossing. Additionally, the existing bridge crossing in South Canal is now being proposed to be demolished. Approximately 2,382 cubic yards of soil, 766 cubic yards of asphaltic concrete, and 1,846 cubic yards of soil cement would be hauled in and deposited in wetlands and other waters of the United States to achieve required grade elevation requirements. It is anticipated that the proposed

action would have minimal impact on adjacent wetlands with the use of best management practices to control erosion.

A preliminary analysis has determined that the proposed project would directly impact 1.05 acres of wetlands

The applicant has already purchased 2.925 acres of bottomland hardwood mitigation at the Phase IV – High Point Wetlands Mitigation Area for unavoidable impacts to 1.35 acres of jurisdictional bottomland hardwood wetlands for the previous, expired authorization MVN-2006-0106-CX. The current, modified design will no longer include a segment of flat roadway and will reduce 0.25 acre of permanent impacts to previously mitigated wetlands.

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 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 notice are being sent to the State Archeologist and State Historic Preservation Officer.

Our initial finding is that the proposed work would not affect any species, nor affect any habitat designated as critical to the survival and recovery of such species, listed as endangered by the U.S. Department of Commerce.

The New Orleans District has determined that the proposed project is located in waters known to be utilized by the West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*) and determined that the proposed activity is not likely to adversely affect the species based on the Standard Local Operating Procedure for Endangered Species of Louisiana (SLOPES), dated October 22, 2014, between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Office.

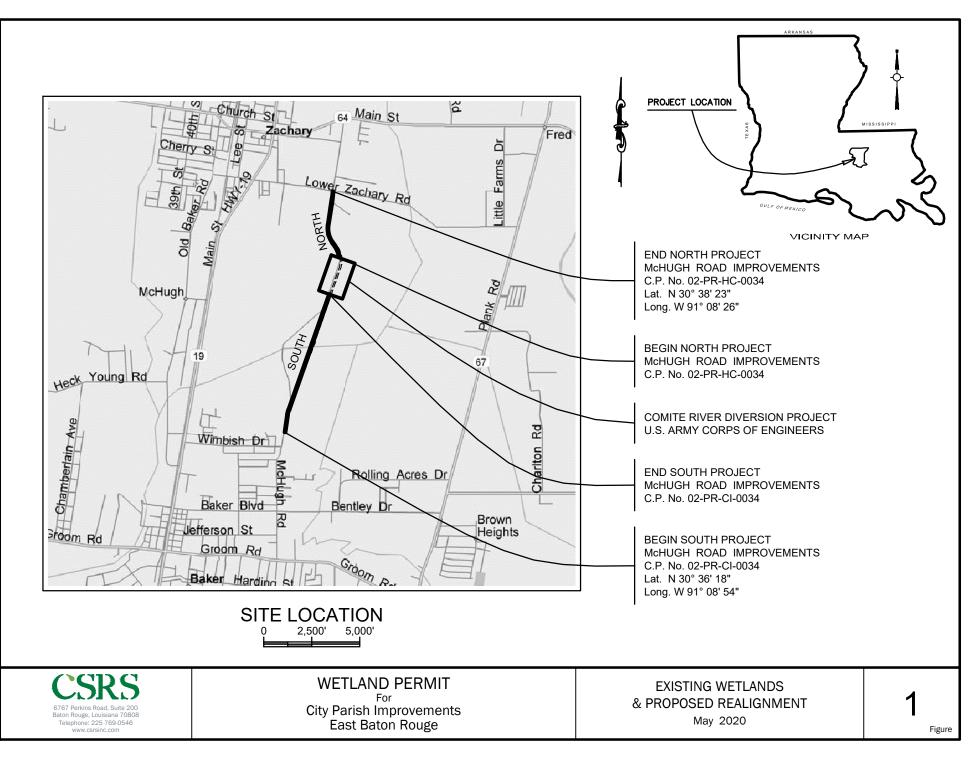
This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The applicant's proposal would result in the destruction or alteration of up to <u>n/a</u> acres of EFH utilized by various life stages of red drum and penaeid 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 water quality standards will be required from the Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services a permit is issued.

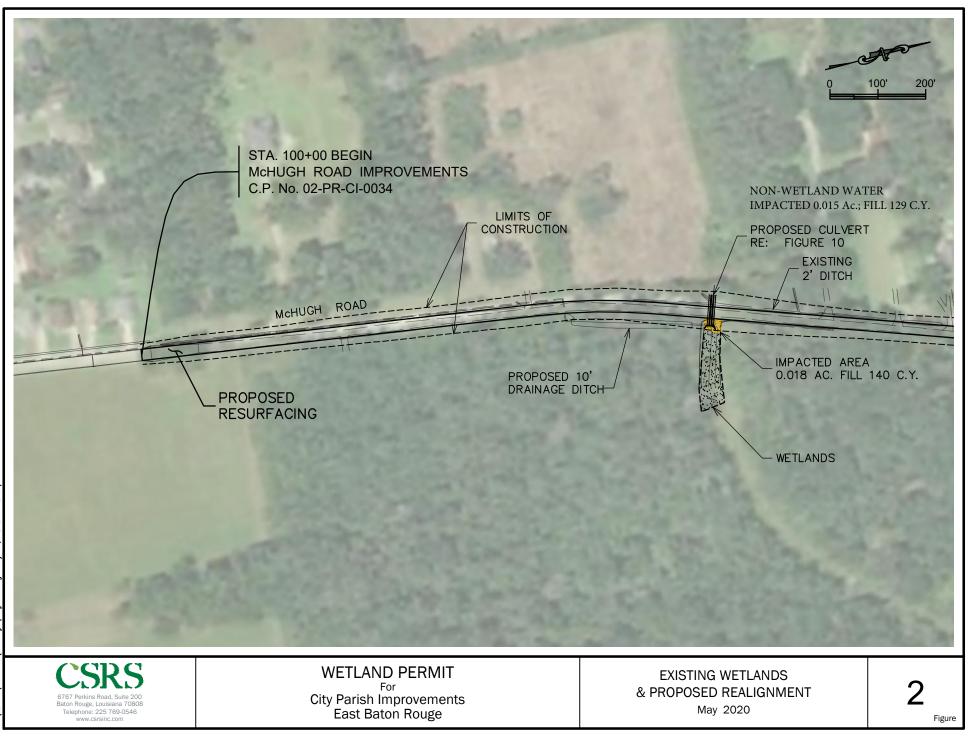
Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. You are requested to communicate the information 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

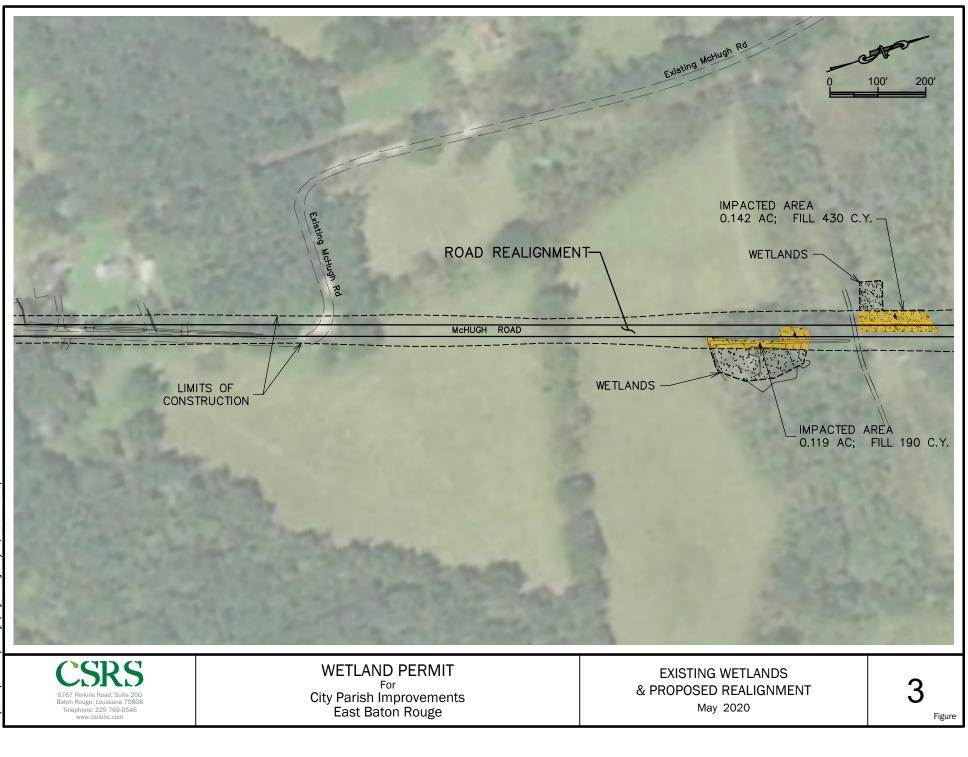
Enclosures



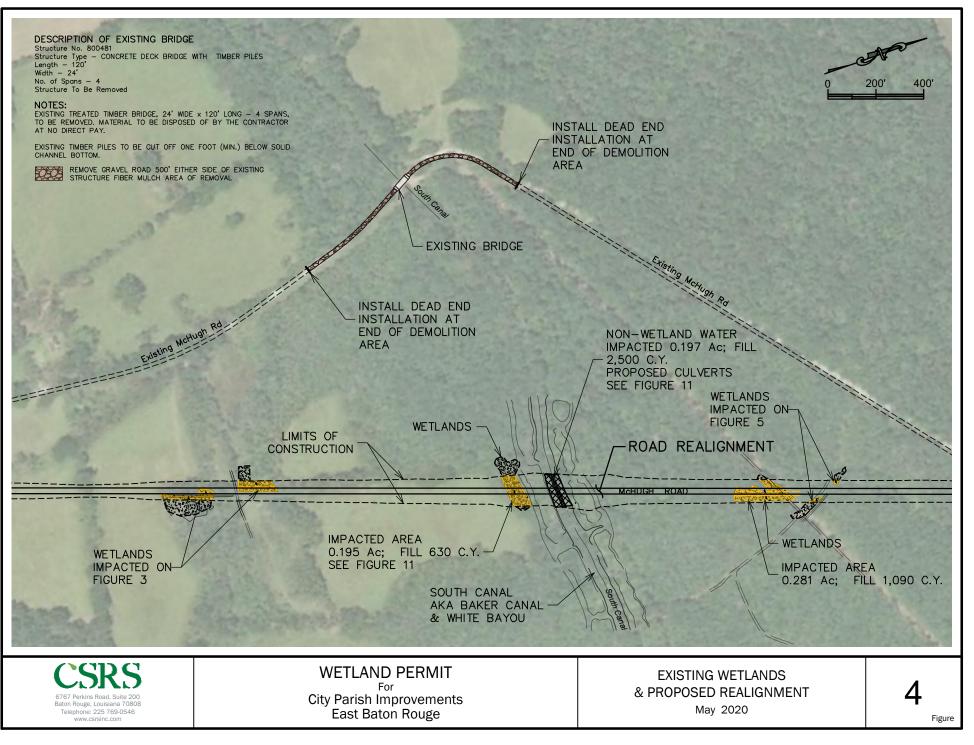
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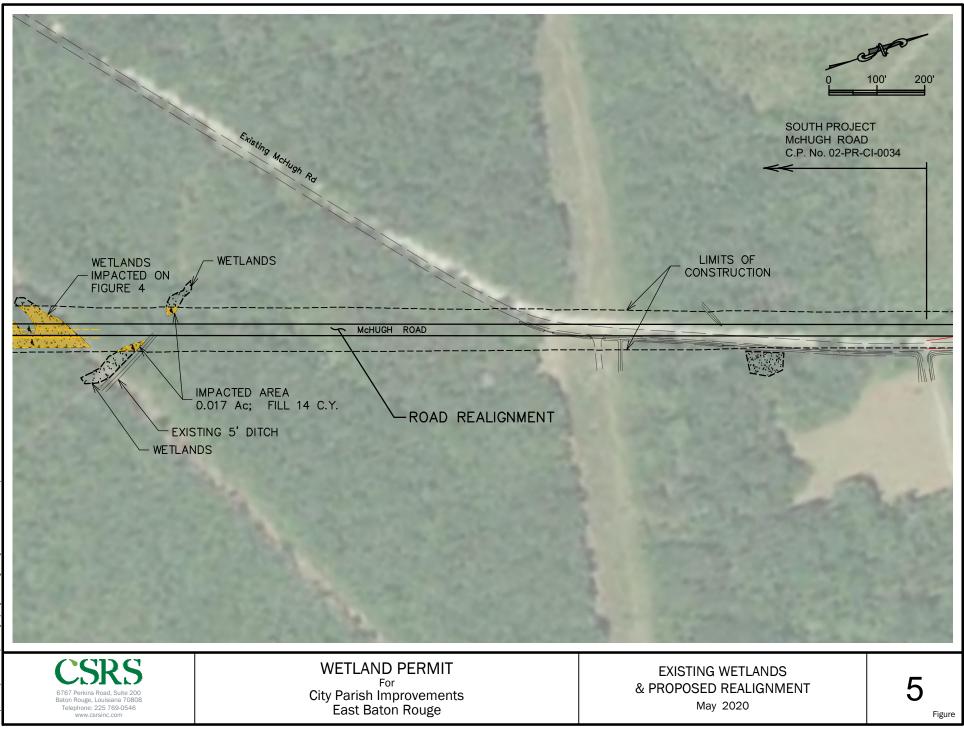


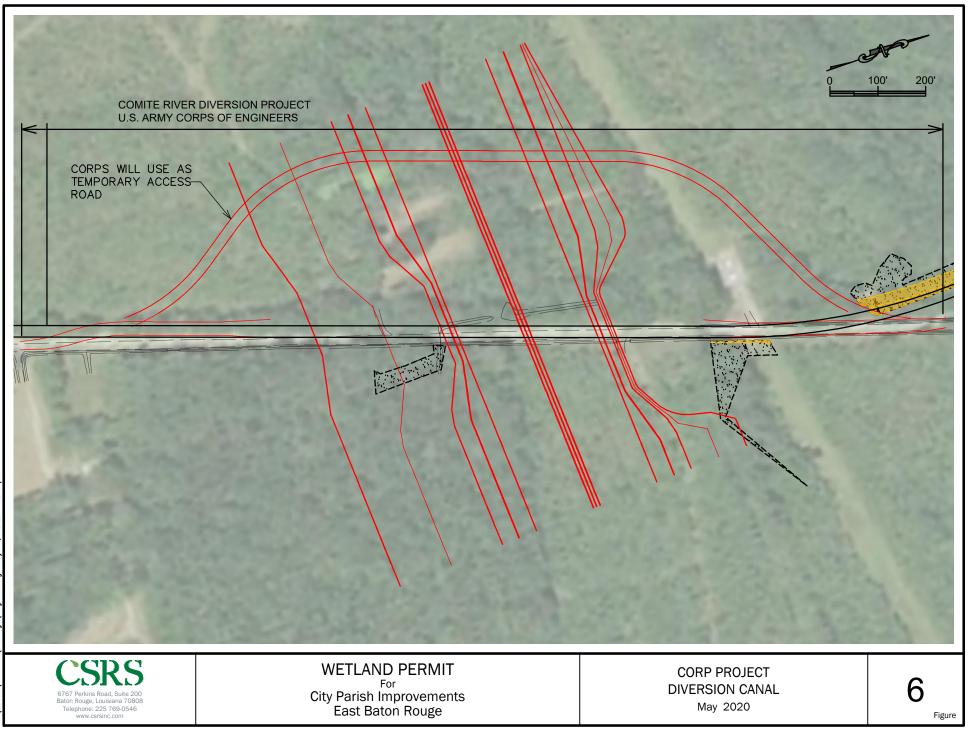
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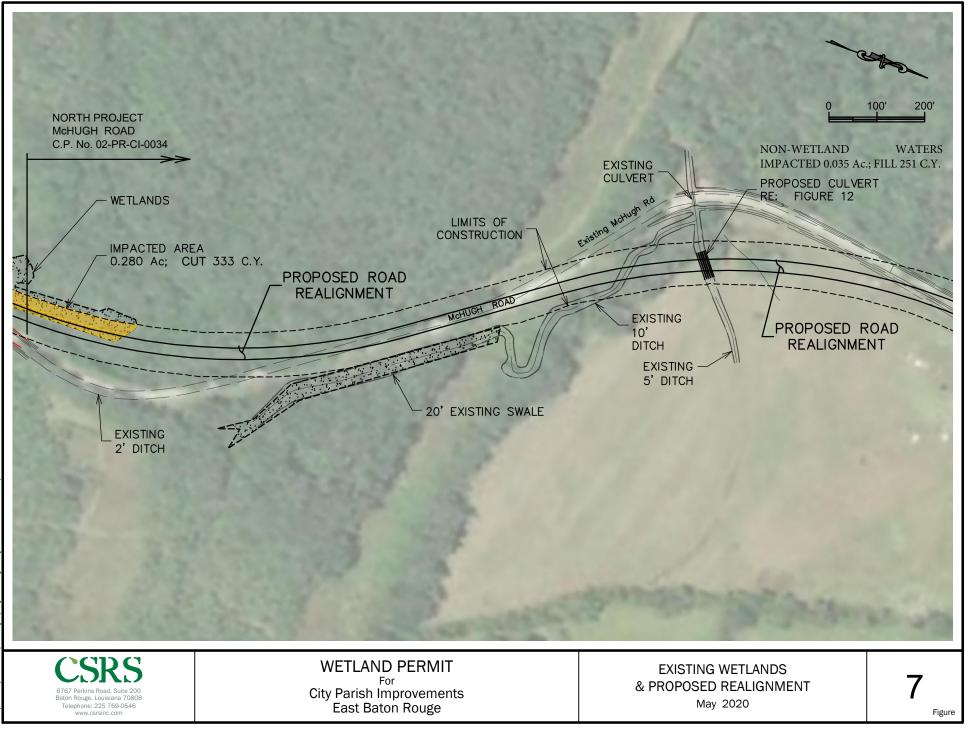


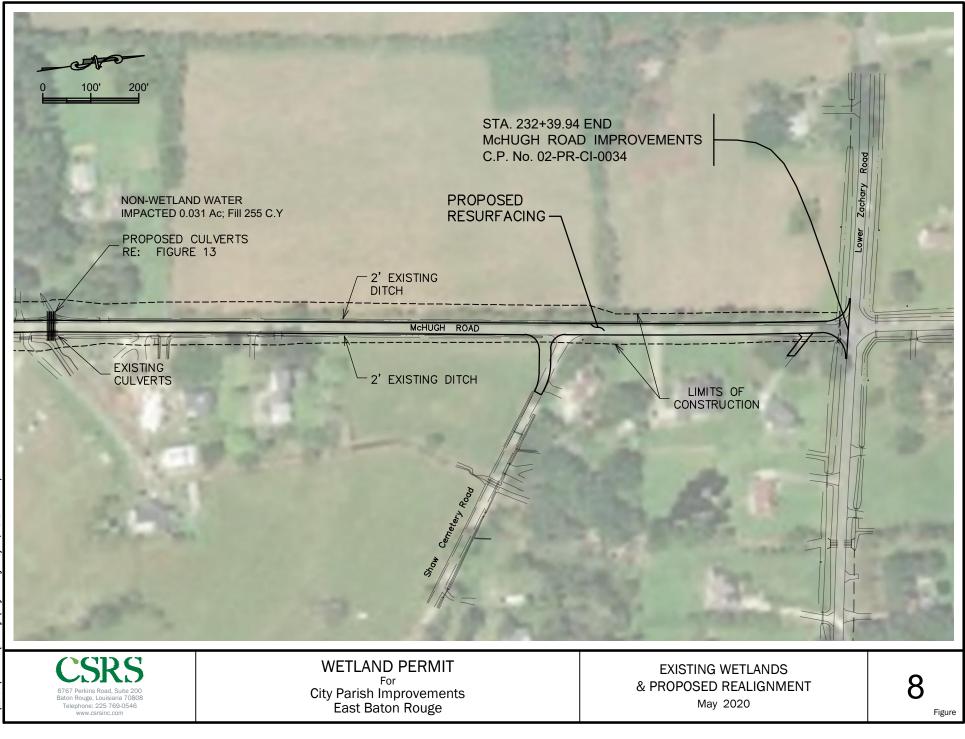
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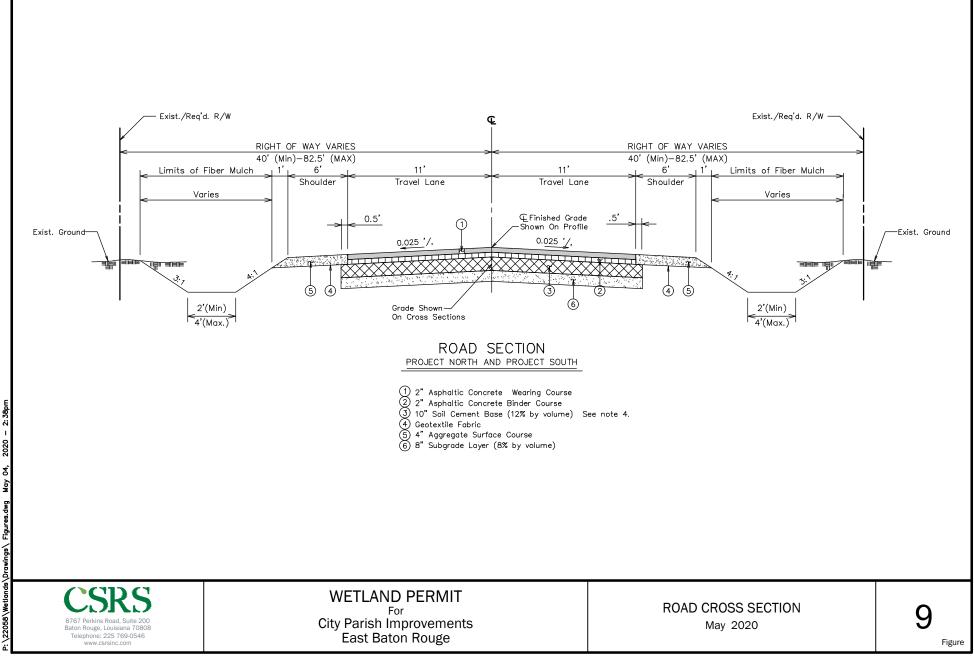












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