

Public Notice

Vicksburg District 4155 Clay Street Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435 www.mvk.usace.army.mil

APPLICATION NO.: MVK-2020-290

EVALUATOR: Ms. Molly Connerton

PHONE NO.: (601) 937-2373

E-MAIL: Molly.A.Connerton@usace.army.mil

DATE: <u>April 30, 2024</u>

EXPIRATION DATE: May 21, 2024

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District is considering an application for a Department of the Army Permit for the work described herein. Comments should be forwarded to the Vicksburg District, Attention: CEMVK-RD, 4155 East Clay Street, Vicksburg Mississippi 39183-3435, and must reach this office by the cited expiration date.

The Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 Water Quality Certification Improvement Rule (Certification Improvement Rule, 40 CFR 121), effective November 27, 2023, requires certification for any license or permit that authorizes an activity that has the potential to result in a discharge. The scope of a CWA Section 401 certification is limited to assuring that a discharge from a Federally licensed or permitted activity will comply with water quality requirements. The applicant is responsible for requesting certification and providing required information to the certifying agency. As of the date of this public notice, the applicant has submitted a certification request to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (certifying authority). In accordance with Certification Rule part 121.6, once the applicant submits a certification request the Corps of Engineers, in conjunction with the certifying agency, will determine a reasonable period of time for them to act upon the certification.

<u>Law Requiring a Permit:</u> Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), which applies to discharges of dredged and/or fill material into waters of the United States.

Name of Applicant:

Mayor Friday Ellis
City of Monroe
400 Lea Joyner Memorial Expressway
Monroe, Louisiana 71201

Mr. Matt Mixon
Wetlands Unlimited, LLC

Name of Agent:

Post Office Box 1892

West Monroe, Louisiana 71294

<u>Location of Work</u>: Section 32, Township 18 North, Range 4 East, Ouachita Parish, Louisiana (Latitude, 32.506623 Longitude -92.094124, (USGS 8-digit HUC 08050001).

<u>Description of Work</u>: (See enclosed maps and drawings.)

The following descriptions of the proposed project and associated impacts are based upon information provided by the applicant.

The applicant is applying for a Department of the Army permit to conduct regulated activities in aquatic resource sites for the purpose of constructing a new stormwater retention area referred to as the Youngs Bayou Retention area in the City of Monroe, Louisiana.

The proposed project will serve as a method of flood prevention for the communities in the area that have suffered damages from floodwater intrusion in recent years. Youngs Bayou currently does not possess the hydraulic capacity to clear the water volumes observed during significant precipitation runoff, such as in the recent flood events, resulting in backups and flooding from the waterway. This project will provide significant additional storage area for potential flood waters during these high-water events to allow the existing downstream drainage systems sufficient time to clear accumulated flows.

The project's proposed construction would mainly occur in undeveloped areas within Monroe's city limits, including a former city-owned landfill and dump area. The project will convert approximately 58 acres of land to an interconnected system of low-elevation retention areas (henceforth referred to as the "retention area"). Most of the property consists of bottomland hardwood overstory cover, except for a cleared and actively maintained city sewer primary right of way that dissects the property from north to south near the center of the project footprint and upland buffer areas adjacent to two channelized drainage systems (Youngs Bayou and Oliver Road Canal) within the project footprint. The majority of the undeveloped hardwood vegetation will be cleared as part of the construction process. Upon completion of the construction process, the project area will be allowed to naturally revert back to wetland conditions. Youngs Bayou and Oliver Road Canal will also be altered as part of the construction process.

The following is a breakdown of the identified aquatic resources found within the project site:

- Palustrine Emergent (PEM) Wetlands 1.01 acres
- Palustrine Forested (PFO) Wetlands 66.80 acres
- Perennial Streams- Youngs Bayou (2,795 linear feet) & Oliver Canal (3,103 linear feet)

As a result of project activities for the construction of the proposed retention area (these activities include clearing of trees, excavation, filling and eventual flooding of the retention area), total unavoidable impacts to waters of the U.S. (WOUS) will

include 0.19 acres of permanent impacts to PEM wetlands and 48.91 acres of permanent impacts to PFO wetlands. Initial site preparations will consist of clearing and grubbing of vegetative cover, including overstory trees. Approximately 840,000 cubic yards of material will then need to be excavated to construct the floodwater retention area. Excavated material will be used in the formation of the retention area, where possible and the remaining material will be spread in the upland area to the east of the retention area.

A city sewer right-of-way is positioned in the approximate center of the proposed retention area, extending from the northern property boundary near South 23rd Street, south to the KCS railway right of way. The sewer right-of-way will dissect the largest section of the retention area, forming an approximately 20.15-acre retention area to the west and a 29.43-acre retention area to the east. The two retention areas will be connected by a 100-ft wide connection channel located at approximate latitude 32.5070529°N and approximate longitude 92.0942664°W, where sewer main infrastructure upgrades and relocation will be required. Work within the retention pond connection area will include the removal of an abandoned sewer gravity main, the removal and replacement of an existing sewer gravity main, the installation of sewer support framing, and the installation of 55 lb. riprap (2" thick/10' wide) on both sides of the pipe.

Youngs Bayou, 2,795 linear feet, and Oliver Road Canal, 3,103 linear feet, will also be subjected to alterations as part of the construction process for the retention pond as described here: throughout the project footprint, a portion of the eastern bank of Youngs Bayou will be removed, allowing water to enter the retention areas during high water events. In addition to the reduction of the east bank of Youngs Bayou, two additional similar bank reductions are also proposed, an approximately 110 linear feet section of the west bank of Youngs Bayou near the southern extent of the project footprint, and an approximately 170 linear feet section of the west bank of the Oliver Road Canal near the northeastern corner of the project boundary. The proposed bank reductions are to allow potential floodwaters to enter the retention area during times of elevated flow, thus providing relief for Youngs Bayou and the Oliver Road Canal until accumulated waters can clear downstream. Flow within Youngs Bayou and the Oliver Road Canal will not be diverted into the retention areas during normal flow cycles. Flows will only discharge into the retention areas during times of elevated flow volumes.

The project had been designed to minimize wetland impacts. Best management practices such as silt-fences will be installed to prevent impacts to aquatic resources that are being avoided by site design. Negative impacts to the areas within the proposed 58-acre retention area will be temporary in nature due to the fact that post-construction, the area will be allowed to evolve naturally and return to historic wetland conditions in the pre-project wetland areas while also seeing an expansion of wetland acreage with the conversion of pre-project upland areas

to wetlands. For unavoidable impacts, the applicant proposes to purchase the required compensatory mitigation credits from a USACE Vicksburg District approved mitigation bank in the same 8-digit HUC.

The majority of the proposed area for the Youngs Bayou Retention area is currently forested. Primary hydrology indicators observed on site include surface water, high water table, saturation, drainage patterns, FAC-Neutral Test, and oxidized rhizospheres along living roots. The dominant wetland vegetation within the project area consists of Water oak (Quercus Nigra), American sycamore (Plantanus occidentalis), Chinese tallow (Triadica sebifera), Sweetgum (Liquidambar styraciflua), Boxelder (Acer Negundo), Soft Rush (Juncus effusus), Devil's Daring Needles (Clematis virginiana), Fox Sedge (Carex vulpinoidea), and Pricklefruit buttercup (Ranunculus muricatus). Soil within the project area consists of Loring silt loam and Oaklimeter silt loam.

Upon reviewing this notice, you should write to this office to provide your opinion of the impacts this work will have on the natural and human environment and address any mitigation you believe is necessary to offset these impacts. Other comments are welcome, but the above information will further our review of the applicant's plan as proposed. Comments of a general nature are not as helpful as those specific to the impacts of the subject project.

<u>State Water Quality Permit:</u> The State Pollution Control Agency must certify that the described work will comply with the State's water quality standards and effluent limitations before a Corps permit is issued.

<u>Cultural Resources</u>: Currently this office is coordinating with the lead Federal agency (HUD), the State Historic Preservation Officer, Federally-recognized Tribes, and other interested parties regarding potential effects to historic properties that could result from the proposed activity.

Copies of this Public Notice have been sent to the State Historic Preservation Officer, Federally Recognized Tribes, and other interested parties for comment on potential effects to historic properties that could result from the proposed activity.

Endangered Species: Threatened and Endangered Species for this area include the Red-cockaded woodpecker (Endangered) and the Northern long-eared bat (Endangered). Utilizing the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPAC) tool for Endangered Species in Louisiana (as per Memorandum of Agreement, signed on January 14, 2020, between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Louisiana Ecological Services Office), the Corps has determined that the proposed activities are not likely to adversely affect the Northern Long-eared Bat and would have no effect on the Red Cockaded Woodpecker.

<u>Floodplain:</u> In accordance with 44 CFR Part 60 (Floodplain Management and Use), participating communities are required to review all proposed development to determine if a floodplain development permit is required. Floodplain

administrators should review the proposed development described in this public notice and apprise this office of any flood plain development permit requirements. The entire project site is located above the 100-year floodplain.

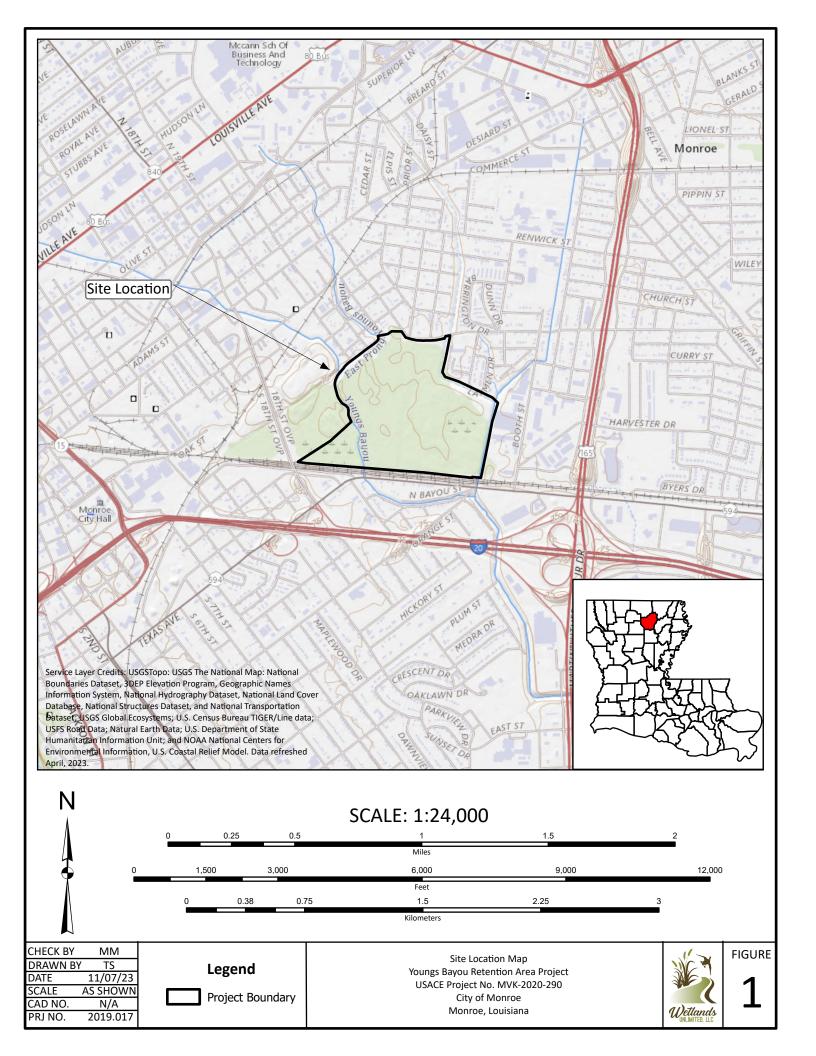
Evaluation Factors: The decision whether or not to issue a permit will be based upon an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its expected adverse effects. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered; among these are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, historic values, fish and wildlife values, flood damage prevention, land use classification, navigation, recreation, water supply, water quality, energy needs, safety, food requirements and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Evaluation of the proposed activity will include application of the guidelines published by the Environmental Protection Agency under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act.

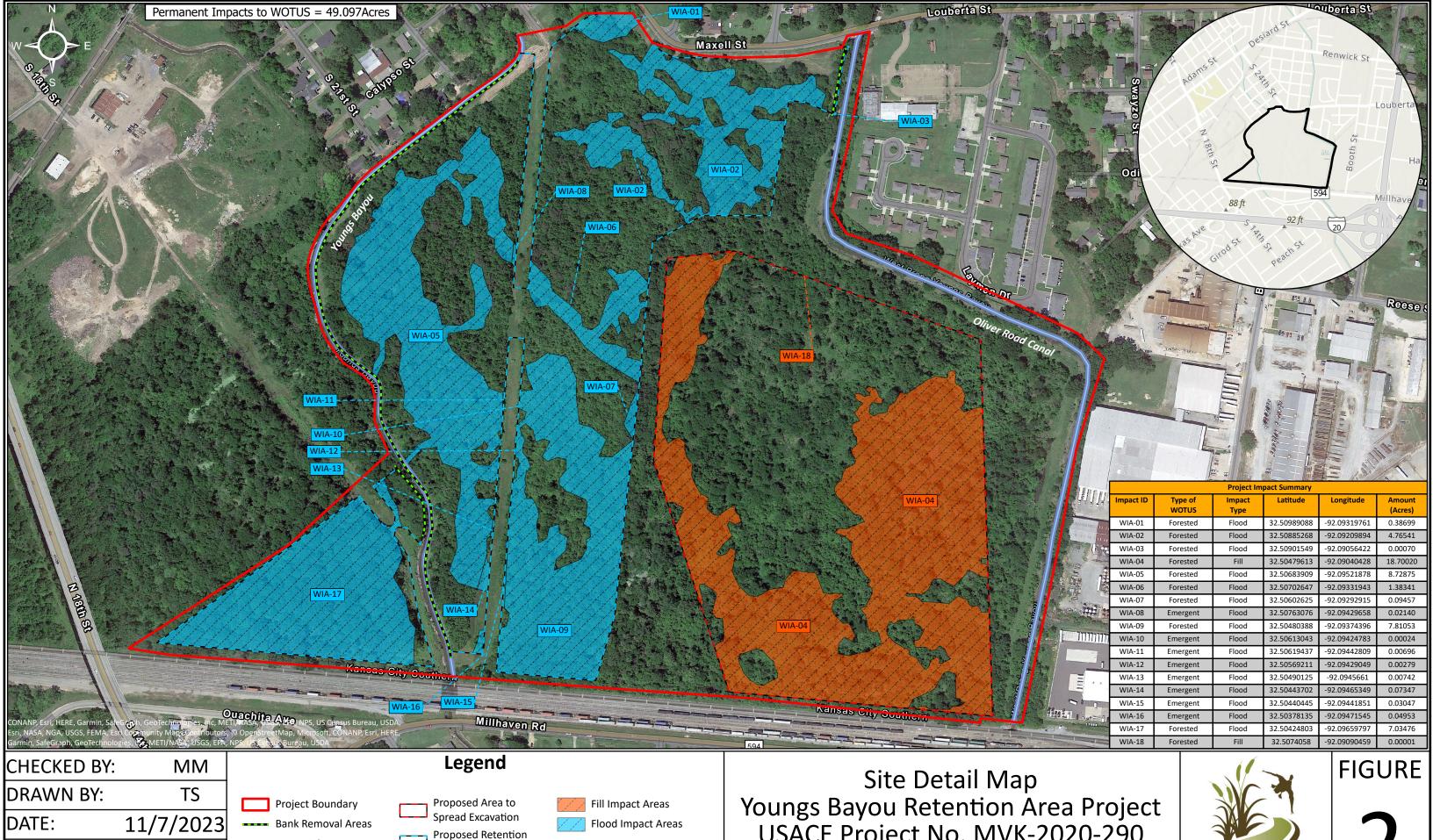
<u>Public Involvement:</u> The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties. These comments will be used to evaluate the impacts of this project. All comments will be considered and used to help determine whether to issue the permit, deny the permit, or issue the permit with conditions, and to help us determine the amount and type of mitigation necessary. This information will be used in our Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing.

Opportunity for a Public Hearing: Any person may make a written request for a public hearing to consider this permit application. This request must be submitted by the public notice expiration date and must clearly state why a hearing is necessary. Failure of any agency or individual to comment on this notice will be interpreted to mean that there is no objection to the proposed work. Please bring this announcement to the attention of anyone you know who might be interested in this matter.

Notification of Final Permit Actions: Each month, the final permit actions from the preceding month are published on the Vicksburg District Regulatory web page. To access this information, you may follow the link from the Regulatory web page, http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx.

Andy Sanderson Chief, Louisiana Branch Regulatory Division

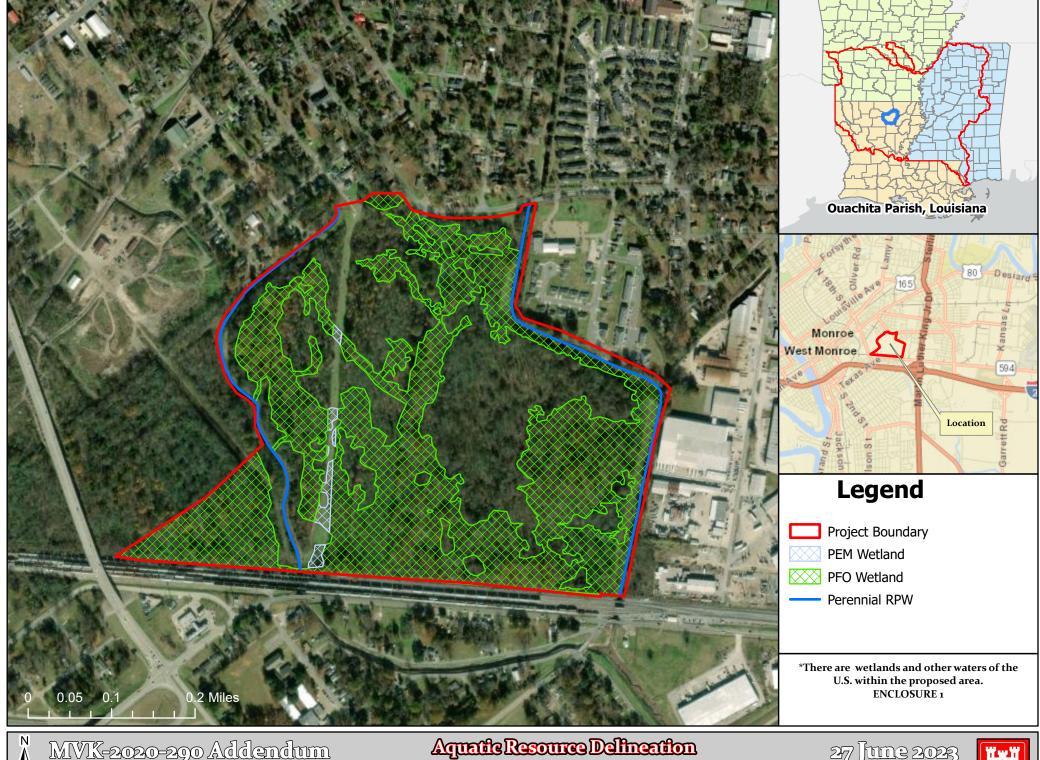




Proposed Retention Perennial Stream SCALE: **AS SHOWN** N/A CAD NO: 0.04 0.07 0.15 0.22 0.3 PROJ NO: 2019.017 \blacksquare Miles

USACE Project No. MVK-2020-290 City of Monroe Monroe, Louisiana







INDEX TO SHEETS

SHEET NO. DESCRIPTION

YOUNGS BAYOU RETENTION

OUACHITA PARISH DATE: DECEMBER, 2022

ARKANSAS PROJECT LOCATION

OUACHITA

VICINITY MAP

CITY OF MONROE &

RANDY A. DENMON REG. NO. 29390

PROJECT LOCATION

STANDARD PLANS EC-01, EROSION CONTROL

TYPE OF CONSTRUCTION: EARTHWORD, DRAINAGE AND LEVEES

THE 2016 EDITION OF THE LOUISIANA DOTD STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS FOR ROADS AND BRIDGES, AS AMENDED BY THE PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS, SHALL GOVERN ON THIS PROJECT. VOLKERT, INC PREPARED BY

ENGINEERS AND SURVEYORS MONROE, LOUISIANA

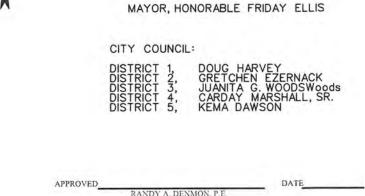
PRELIMINARY - NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

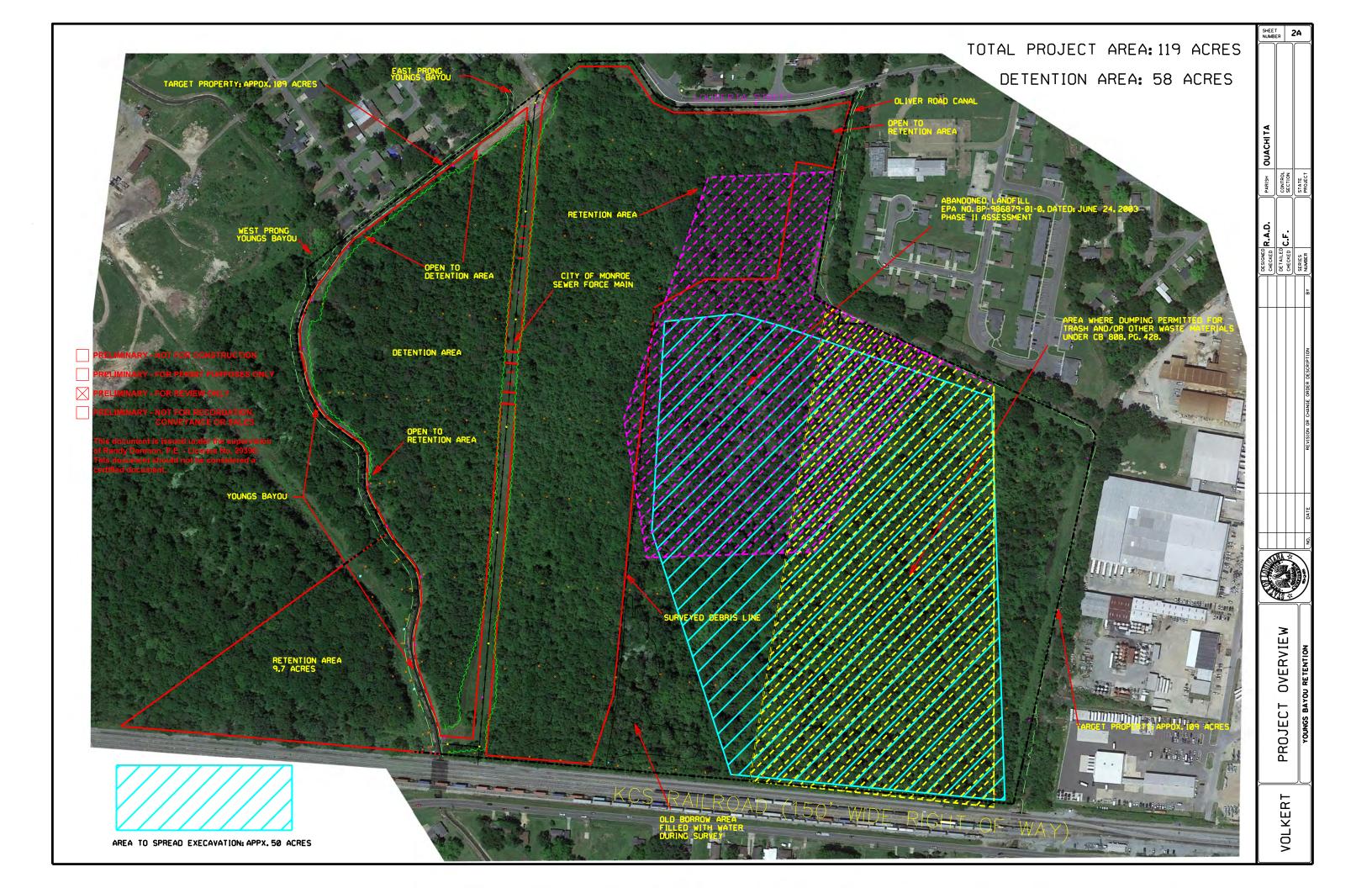
PRELIMINARY - FOR PERMIT PURPOSES ONLY

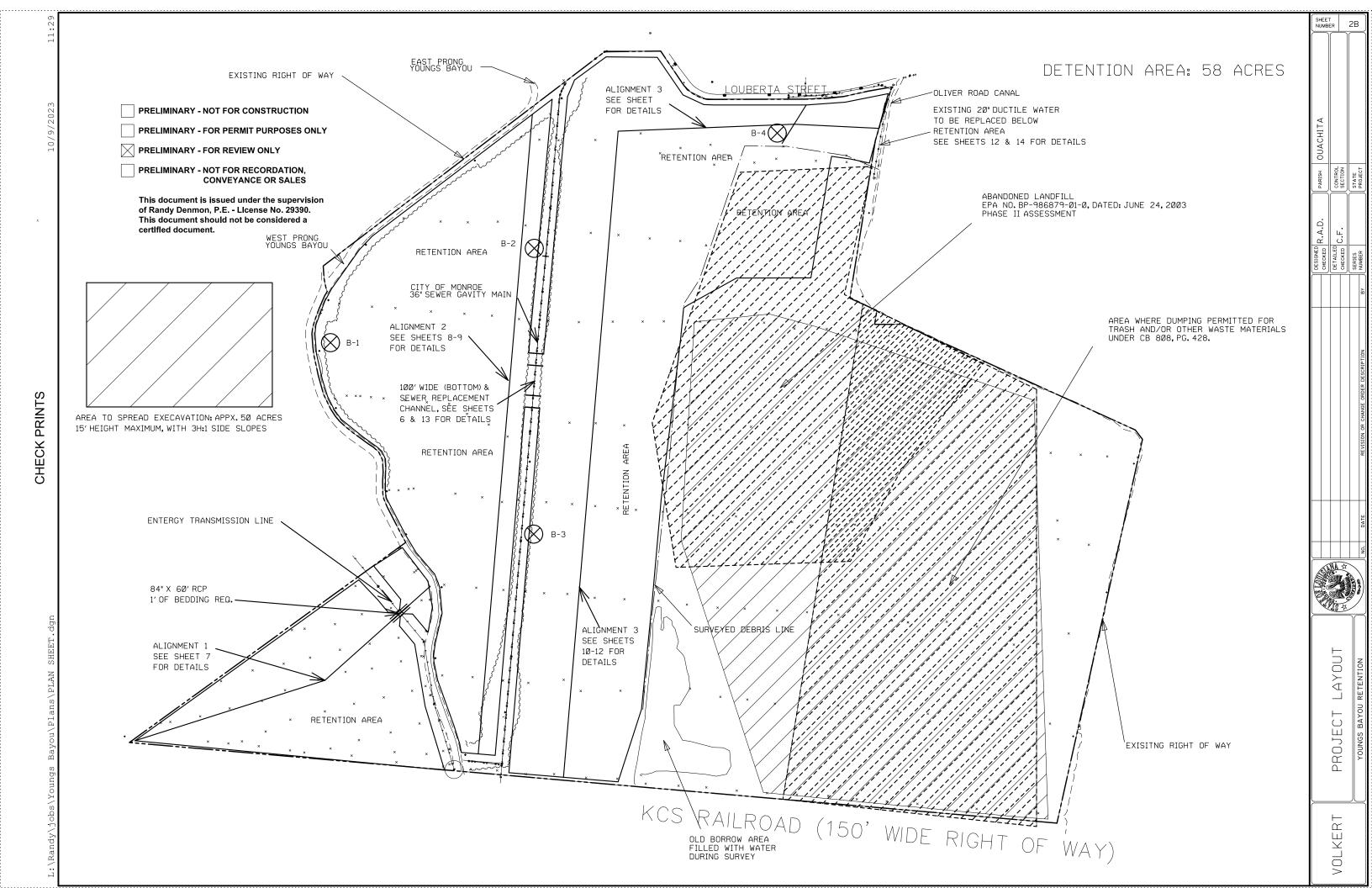
PRELIMINARY - FOR REVIEW ONLY

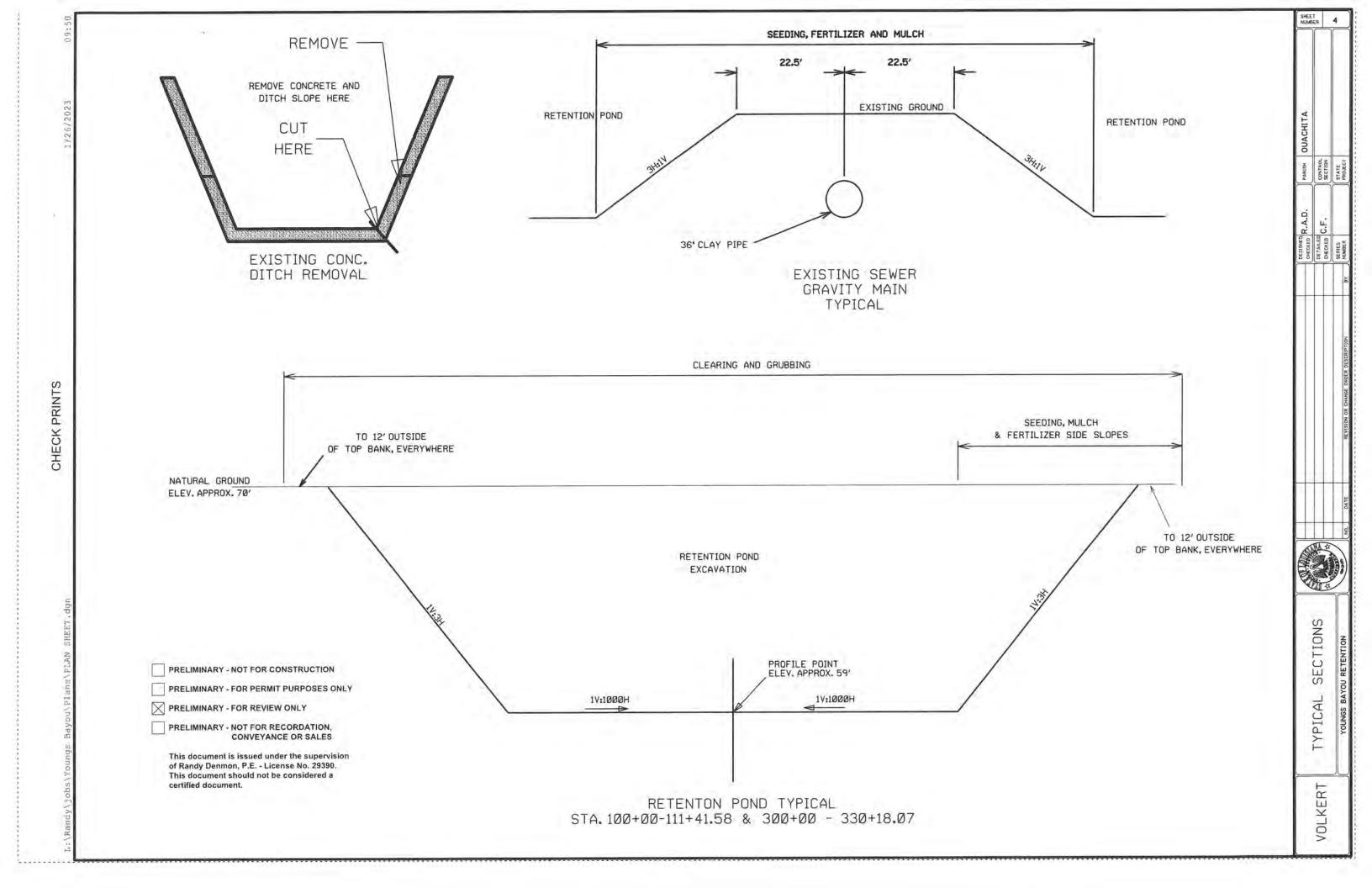
PRELIMINARY - NOT FOR RECORDATION, CONVEYANCE OR SALES

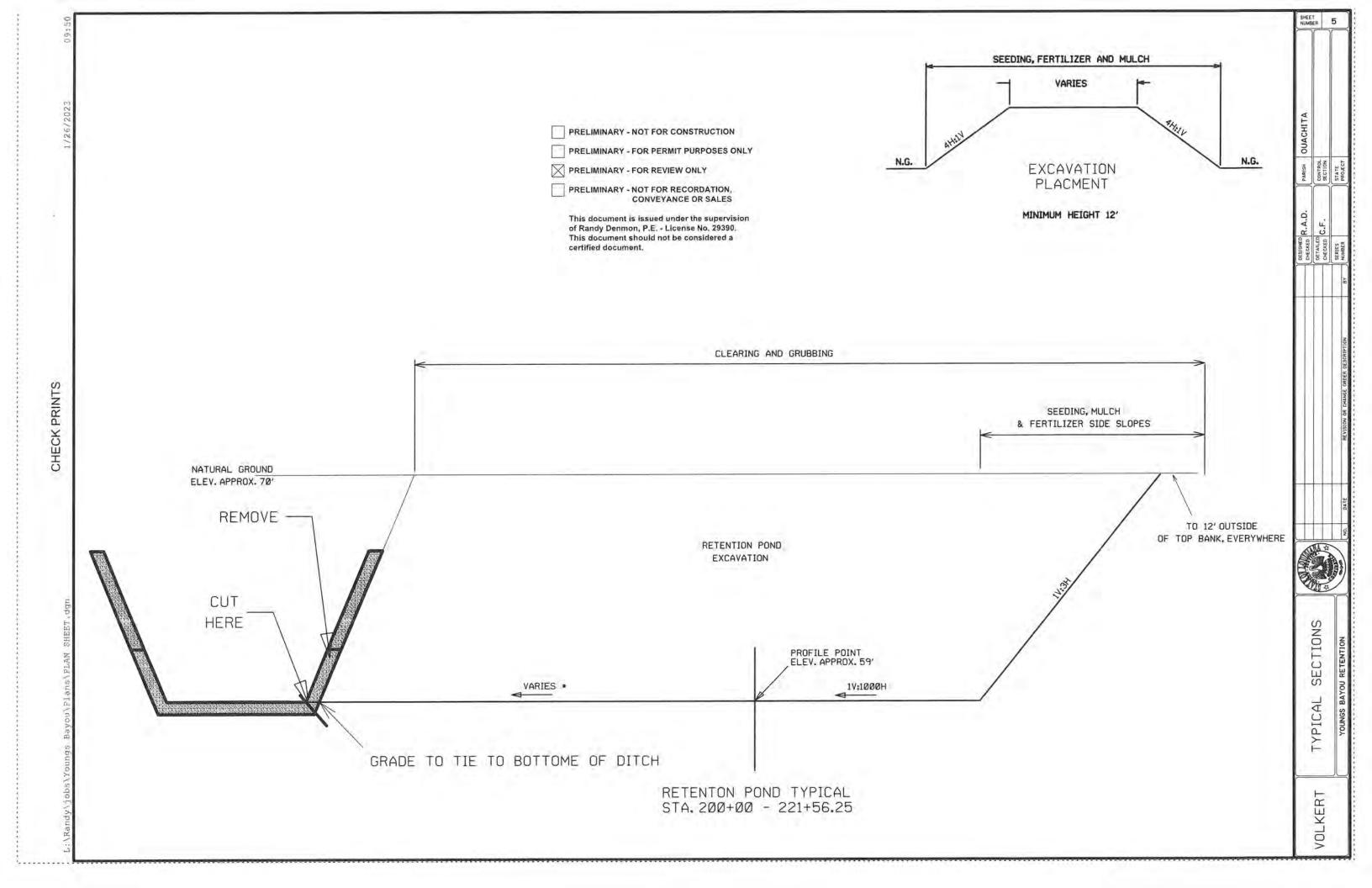
This document is issued under the supervision of Randy Denmon, P.E. - License No. 29390. This document should not be considered a certified document.

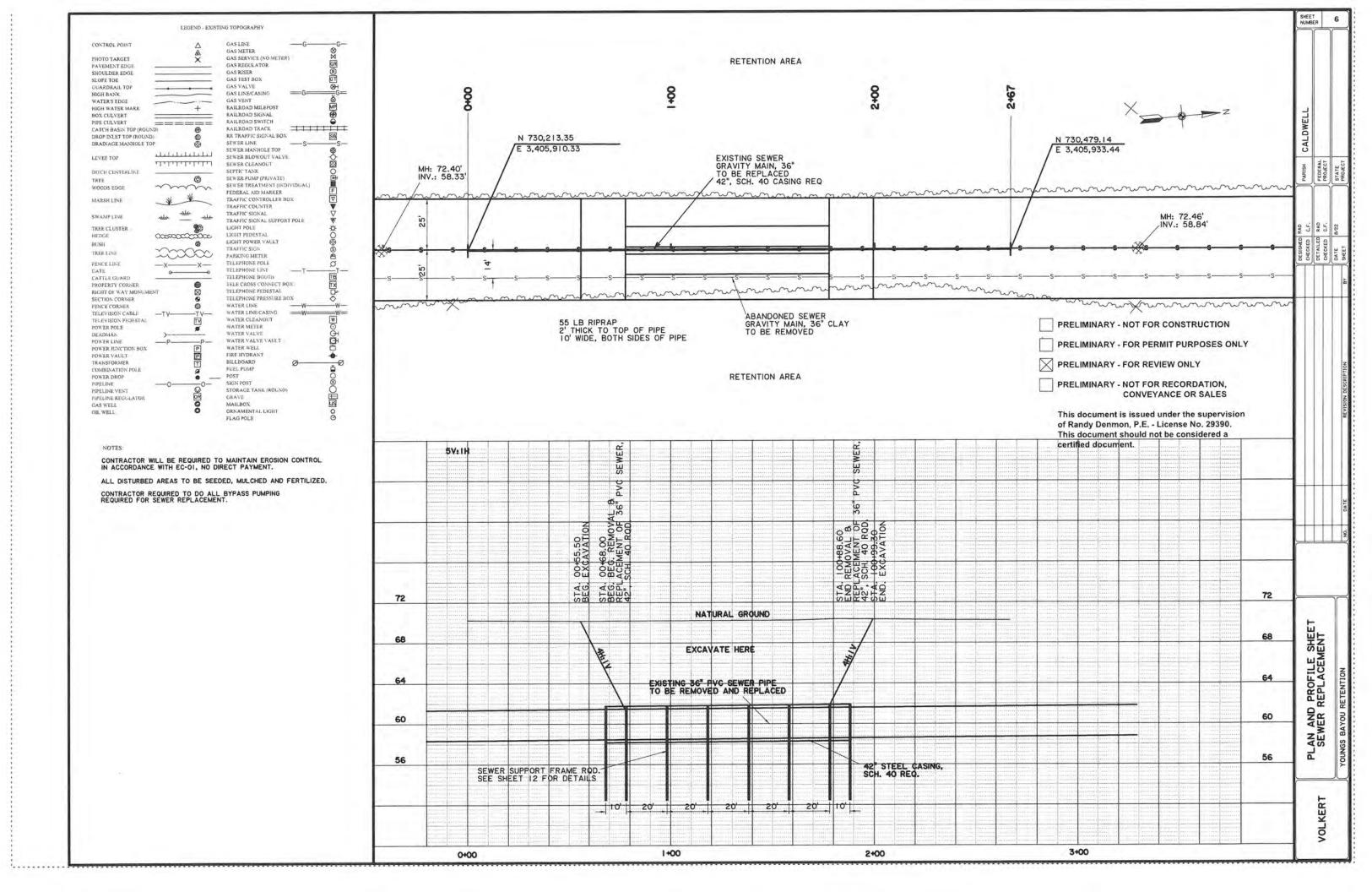


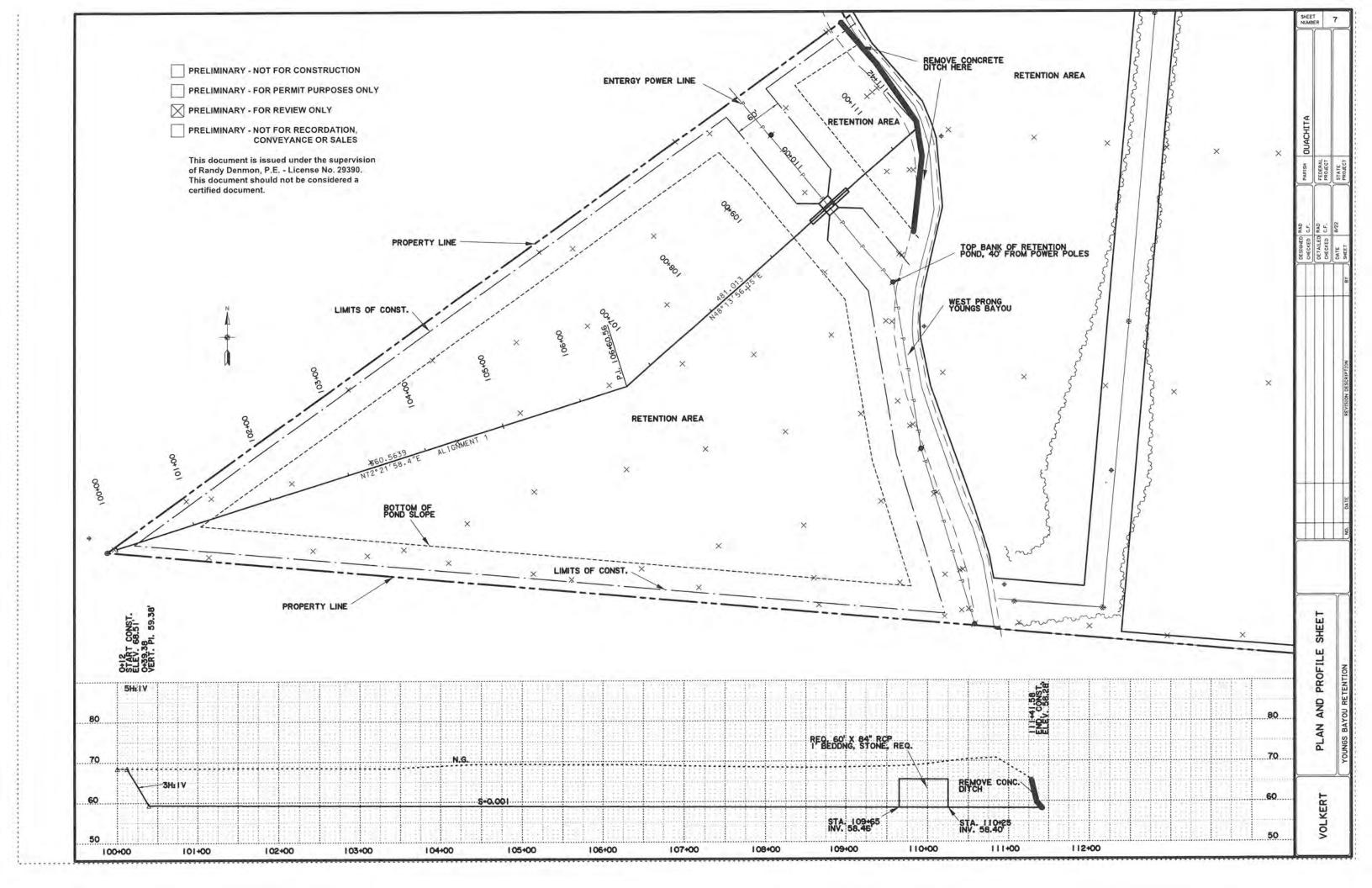


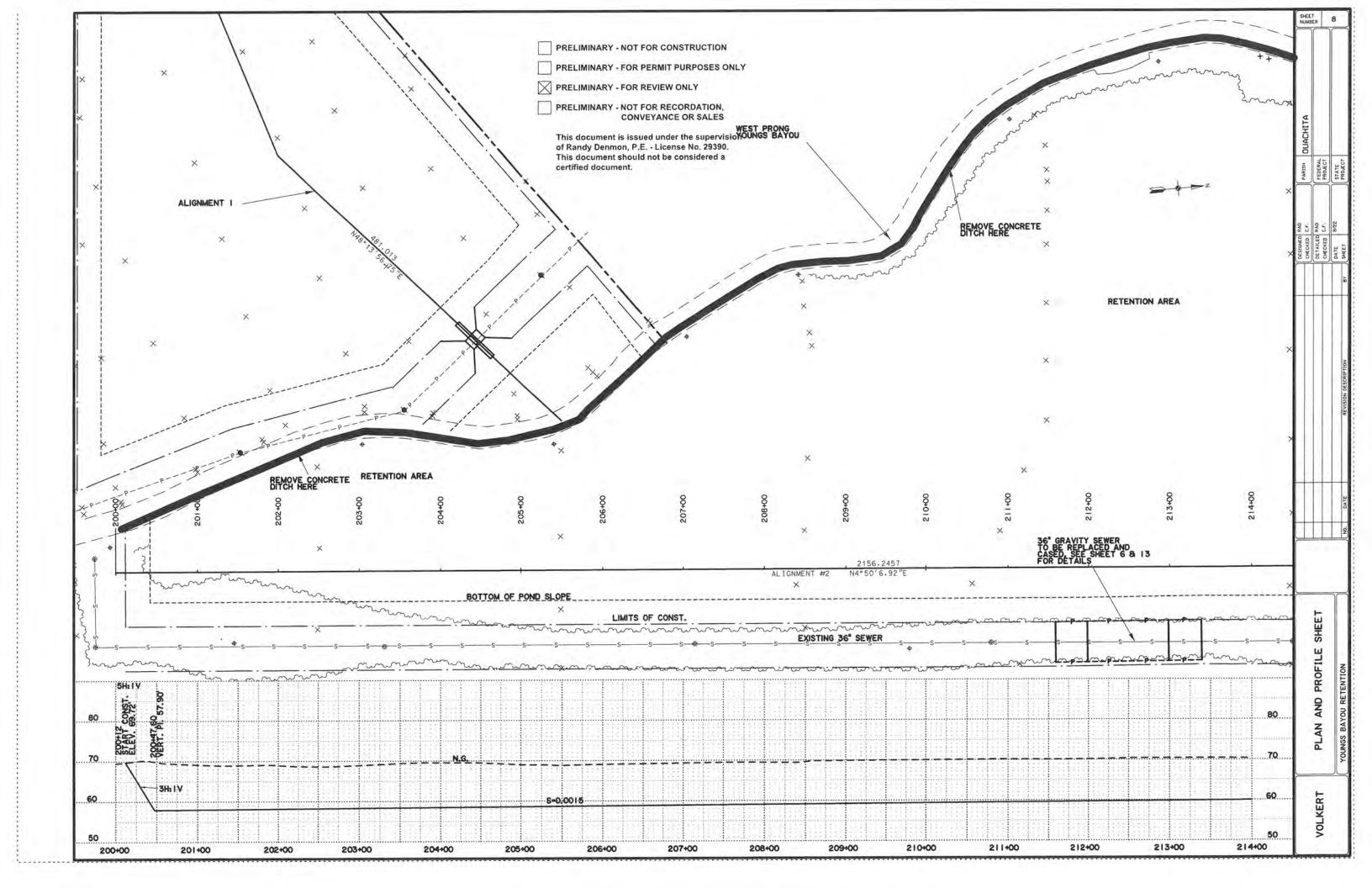


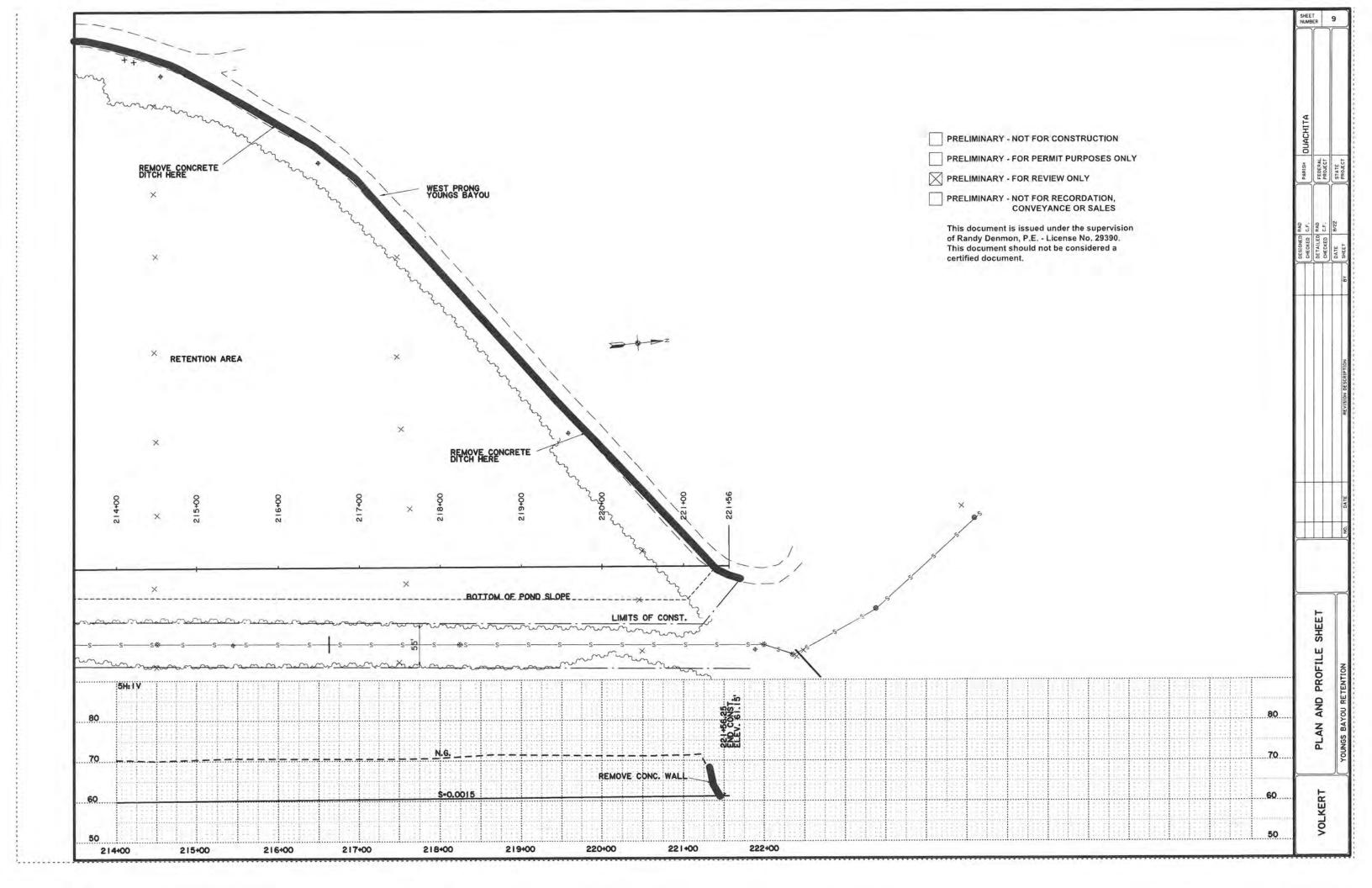


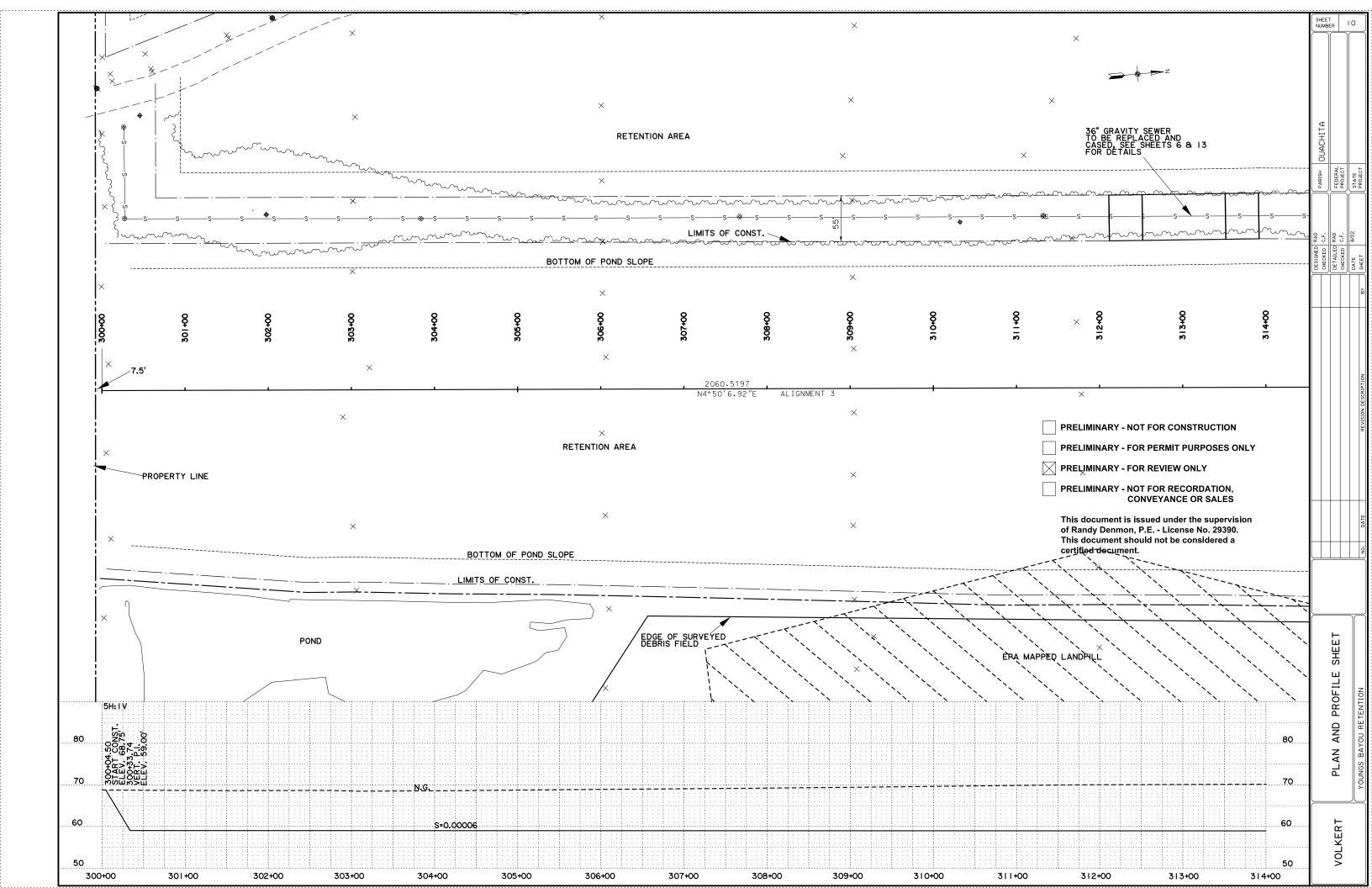


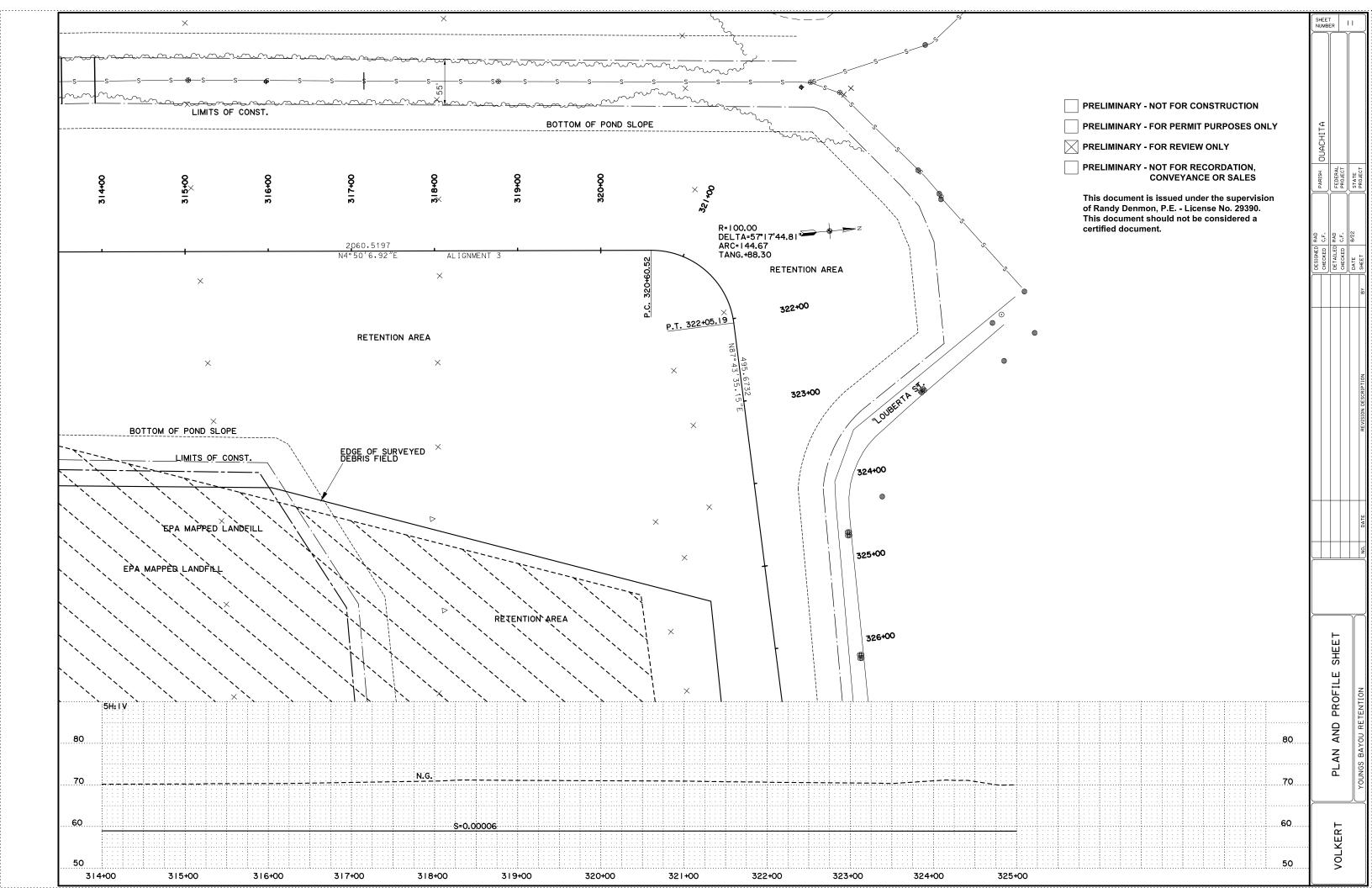


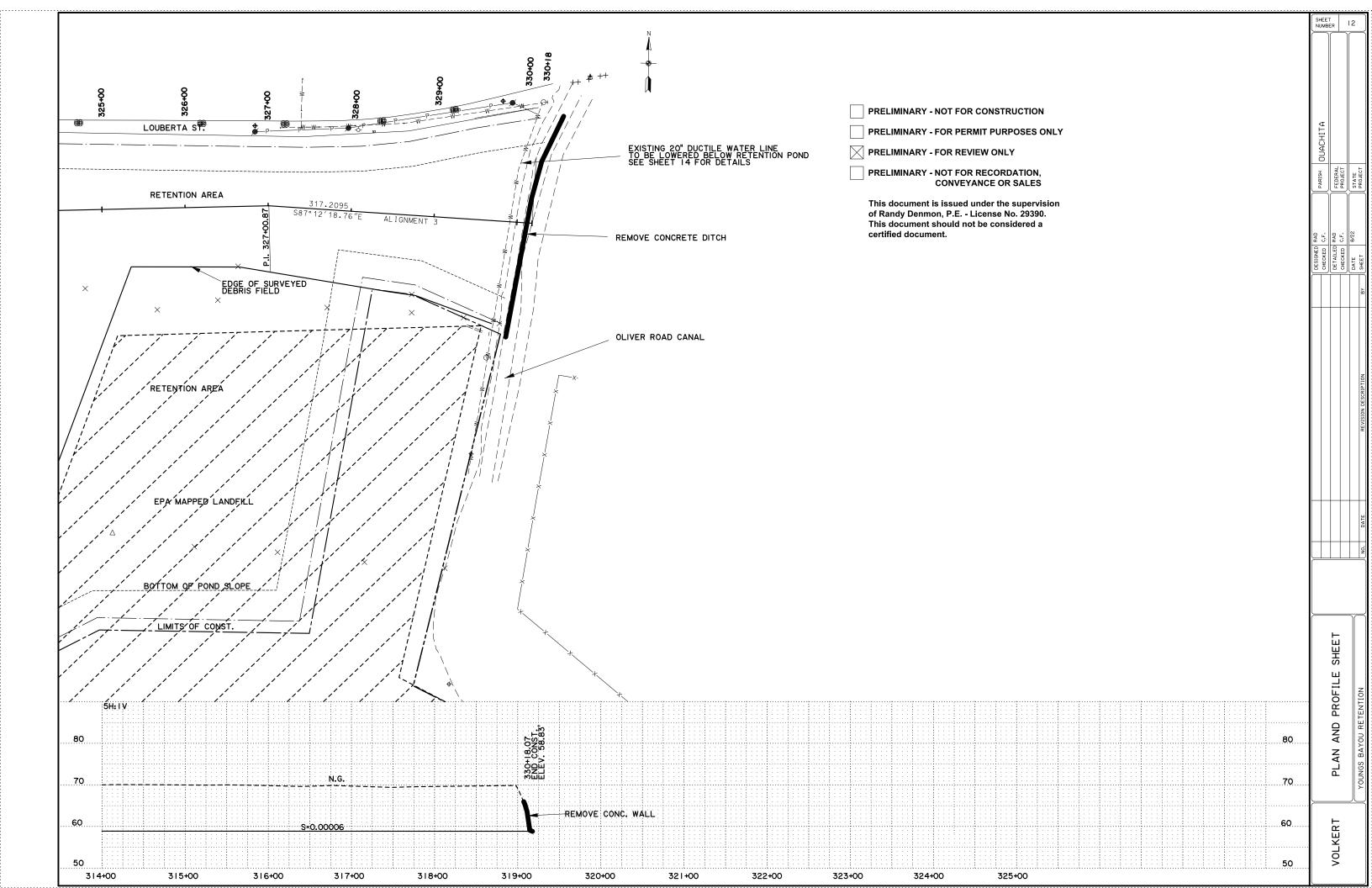


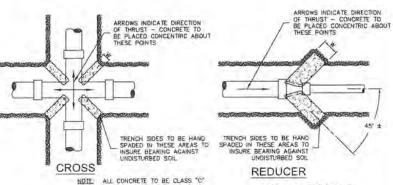












PIPE SIZE	DEAD END		80. ETBOM		CROSS		45" ELBOW		22/2 ELBOW		REDUCER	REDUCER	
	W	D.*	W	p*	W	D.*	W	0*	W.	D.*	SIZE	W	D
1 -1/2	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	3 - 2 1/2	12	6
2"	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	3 - 2	12	6
2 -1/2"	12	12	18	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	4 - 3	12	8
3"	18	12	24	12	18	12	18	12	12	12	5 - 4	12	10
3 -1/2"	24	12	24	18	15	12	18	12	12	12	6 - 4	12	12
4"	18	18	24	24	18	18	18	18	12	12	6 - 5	12	12
5"	30	18:	30	24	18	18	24	18	18	12	8 - 6	15	12
6*	30	24	36	30	24	18	24	24	24	12	10 - B	24	18
8"	48	24	46	36	24	24	36	24	30	18	12 - 8	30	24
107	48	36	60	48	36	24	42	36	30	24	12 - 10	30	24
12"	60	48	60	60	36	30	48	42	36	30			
16"	60	60	72	72	36	36	48	48	36	36			
20"	78	76	78	78	92	42	72	72	48	48	-		

PAVEMENT REPAIR (SEE NOTES BELOW) EXCESS EXCAVATION TO BE MOUNDED OVER TRENCH LINE NATIVE MATERIAL PLACED IN EXIST. BASE COURSE 6" TO 9" LIFTS COMPACTED TO A MIN, OF 85% STD, PROCTOR DENSITY (NO DIRECT PAY) SELECT FILL PLACED
IN 6" TO 9" LIFTS
COMPACTED TO 95%
TD PROCTOR DENSITY"
(NO DIRECT PAY) NATIVE MATERIAL PLACED IN 6" TO 9" LIFTS HAND TAMPED TO 90% STD PROCTOR DENSITY (NO DIRECT PAY) WATER MAIN PIPE SPRING LINE OF PIPE REO'D, NO. 610 REO'D. NO. 610 LIMESTONE OR SELECT FILL FOR PIPE BEDDING (ONLY AT DIRECTION OF REO'D, NO. 610 LIMESTONE OR SELECT FILL FOR PIPE BEDDING (ONLY AT DIRECTION OF PROJECT ENGINEER) 8. 2. 24 TRENCH WIDTH D+1'(MIN.) PROJECT ENGINEER)

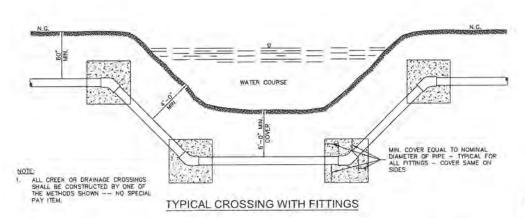
WATER MAIN INSTALLATION DETAILS

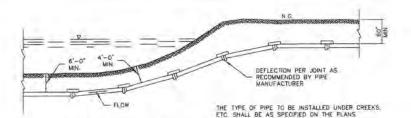
WATER MAIN INSTALLATION DETAILS (TRAFFIC AREAS)

(NON TRAFFIC AREAS)

-). IF EXISTING DRIVING SURFACE IS ASPHALT, USE 6° THICK ASPHALTIC CONCRETE, TYPE 1 (4° 1st. LIFT, 2° 2nd. LIFT).
- 2. IF EXISTING DRIVING SURFACE IS CONCRETE, USE 8" THICK (3,400 PSI) PORTLAND CEMENT CONCRETE W/6"x 6", 6 GA W.W. FABRIC -CONCRETE & REINFORCING SHALL MEET APPLICABLE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 601 L.O.H. SPECIFICATIONS.

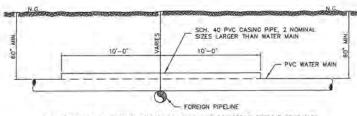
TRENCH SIDES TO BE HAND SPADED IN THESE AREAS TO INSURE BEARING AGAINST UNDISTURBED SOIL DEAD END ELBOW 1. THRUST BLOCKING REQUIRED AT ALL BENDS AS SHOWN----NO SPECIAL PAY ITEM





TYPICAL CROSSING USING JOINT DEFLECTION

DETAIL FOR CREEK OR DRAIN CROSSING



- 1) THIS DETAIL SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE RESPECTIVE PIPELINE COMPANIES.
- 2 NO SPECIAL PAY ITEM.

FOREIGN PIPELINE CROSSING DETAIL

AT CREEK AND BRAIN CROSSINGS, CONTRACTOR SHALL INSTALL AN APPROVED TYPE WEIGHT (FRECAST OR CAST IN PLACE) ON THE PIPE TO DEVLLOP A NEGATIVE BUOYANCY, SIZE AND SPACING OF WEIGHTS SHALL BE AS DETERMINED FROM THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULE.

PIPE SIZE	PIPE ANCHORAGE						
2"	4 LBS. PER L.F. PIPE						
3"	7 LBS, PER L.F. PIPE						
47	12 LBS. PER LF. PIPE						
5"	18 LBS. PER L.F. PIPE						
6"	25 LBS. PER L.F. PIPE						
8*	43 LBS. PER L.F. PIPE						
10*	XX LBS. PER L.F. PIPE						
12*	XX LBS. PER L.F. PIPE						
16*	XX LBS: PER LF, PIPE						
20*	XX LBS. PER L.F. PIPE						



PVC PIPING, 1-1/2" TO 6" WILL NOT REQUIRE BELL HOLES FOR PIPE JOINTS. ALL LARGER SIZED PVC PIPE 8" & LARGER, SHALL BE PROVIDED WITH BELL HOLES SO THAT BARREL OF PIPE RESTS FIRMLY ON BOTTOM OF TRENCH. CAST IRON AND A.C. PIPE OF ALL SIZES SHALL HAVE BELL HOLES FOR PIPE JOINTS.

BELL HOLE DETAILS

	PRELIMINARY - NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION
	PRELIMINARY - FOR PERMIT PURPOSES ONLY
X	PRELIMINARY - FOR REVIEW ONLY
	PRELIMINARY - NOT FOR RECORDATION, CONVEYANCE OR SALES

This document is issued under the supervision of Randy Denmon, P.E. - License No. 29390. This document should not be considered a certified document.



OUACHITA

PARISH CONTROL SECTION STATE PROJECT

DESIGNED R.A.D.
CHECKED R.A.D.
CHECKED C.F.
SERIES

WATER RELOCATION DETAILS

VOLKERT