



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Vicksburg District
4155 Clay Street
Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435
www.mvk.usace.army.mil



Public Notice

APPLICATION NO.:	MVK-2017-222
EVALUATOR:	Ms. Jennifer Brown
PHONE NO.:	(601) 631-5147
E-MAIL:	Jennifer.G.Brown@usace.army.mil
DATE:	November 18, 2022
EXPIRATION DATE:	December 9, 2022

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 Certification Rule (Certification Rule, 40 CFR 121), effective September 11, 2020, requires certification for any license or permit that authorizes an activity that may 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 not 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 will notify the certifying agency of the reasonable period of time for them to act upon the certification.

Law Requiring a Permit: Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403), which applies to structures or work in navigable waters of the United States, and 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:
Mr. Kim Smith
Sierra Frac Sand, LLC
1155 East Johnson Street
Tatum, Texas 75691

Name of Agent:
Mr. Lee Womack
Matrix New World Engineering
2798 O'Neal Lane, Building F
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70816

Location of Work: Sections 22, 23, 26, and 27 of Township 21 North, Range 14 West; Latitude 32.801993, Longitude -93.800724; within the Upper Red River Drainage Basin (8-digit HUC 11140202); Bossier and Caddo Parishes, Louisiana.

Description of Work: (See enclosed map and drawings.)

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

The purpose of the project is to obtain a replenishable stock of sand. The need is to benefit the public and the construction and oil/gas industries in the area. It is purported by Sierra Frac Sand, LLC (Sierra) that the project will provide additional flood storage capacity, reduce water flow velocities, alleviate erosion on the left descending bank, reduce alluvion in the river, and maintain economic development and vitality that is currently produced by Sierra at the site.

Sierra is proposing to continue to mine approximately 275.61 acres of the Cedar Bluff tract to include 150.92 acres of active mining, and 124.69 acres of future mining. The current mining results in the discharge of fill material (overburden/unmarketable material) into approximately 150.92 acres of jurisdictional mining ponds and the future mining may result in the discharge of fill material (overburden/unmarketable material) into approximately 124.69 acres of potentially jurisdictional mining ponds. Sierra also proposes to continue mining a 48.44-acre sand bar using dry excavation equipment. The above-mentioned activities have already been permitted by the Vicksburg District. Other features constructed outside of jurisdictional areas include a wash plant, a wet processing plant, two material dryers, a 700 feet long by 200 feet wide building, a discharge pond, access and haul roads, office trailers, and a parking area.

The below activities represent the requested modification to the existing Standard Permit: Sierra proposes to conduct repeated river dredging in a defined 58.11-acre area of the Red River. The proposed dredged depth is 6 feet below the current thalweg of the river (current thalweg is 149.81' elevation). The proposed amount of sediment to be dredged is approximately 817,000 cubic yards per iteration. A hydraulic cutterhead suction dredge would be used; material would be hydraulically pumped into an existing mining cell, or a proposed upland discharge area within the Cedar Bluff Plant Facility. When not mining, the dredge will be removed from the river. The new discharge area will require the construction of a new containment berm, but would not impact Waters of the U.S., including wetlands.

In addition, Sierra is proposing to armor approximately 10.92 acres of their existing bankline adjacent to the proposed dredge area. The armoring activity would include sloping the banks back to a 3H-1V side slope and placing approximately 17,617 cubic yards of riprap. Approximately 0.93 acres of wetlands would be impacted (filled) to armor the riverbank.

The project, as proposed, would avoid impacts to approximately 176.08 acres of wetlands and approximately 13,846.59 linear feet of streams. Earthen berms (50 feet wide at elevation 184') currently exist around the mining areas to protect non-impacted jurisdictional features from unintentional fill or runoff from the mining activities.

As part of the proposed activities, Sierra proposes to conduct monitoring of the proposed dredged area on a weekly basis for the first month of the operation. After the first month, the monitoring would transition to monthly iterations. The monitoring scope includes a topographic survey of the Red River water bottom in the direct location of the dredging as well as 50 feet northward, and 100 feet southward along the river bottom.

To compensate for the proposed wetland functional losses, the applicant would be required to supply compensatory mitigation credits from an USACE Vicksburg District approved mitigation bank servicing the hydrologic unit code of the impacts, HUC 11140202.

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.

State Water Quality Permit: 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.

Cultural Resources: The Regulatory Archaeologist has reviewed the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places, lists of properties determined eligible, and other sources of information. The following is current knowledge of the presence or absence of historic properties and the effects of the proposed undertaking upon these properties: The permit area was created in modern times and has had no human habitation: therefore, little likelihood exists for the proposed project to impinge upon a historic property.

Endangered Species: The Threatened and Endangered Species list for the project area includes red cockaded woodpecker and northern long-eared bat. Utilizing the Information for Planning and Consultation 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 activity would have no effect to red cockaded woodpecker and northern long-eared bat.

Floodplain: 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 project area is located within the 100-year floodplain.

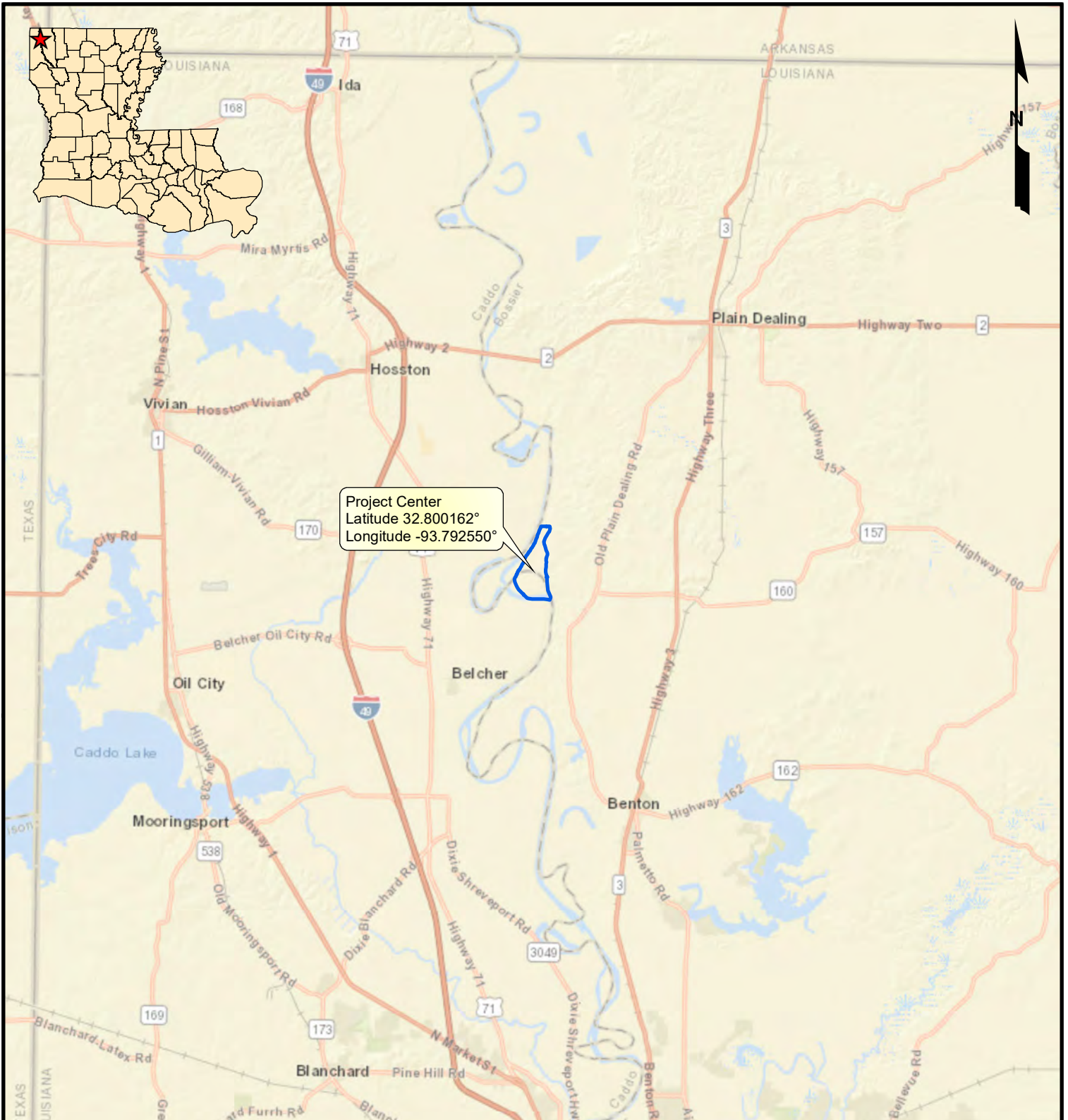
Evaluation Factors: The decision whether or not to issue a permit will be based upon an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which may 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.

Public Involvement: 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>.

for **Bryan Williamson**
Chief, Permit and Evaluation Branch
Regulatory Division



Project Center
 Latitude 32.800162°
 Longitude -93.792550°

Legend

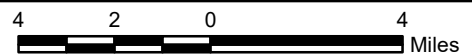
 Tract Boundary (856.97 acres)

Vicinity Map

Section 10/404 Permit Amendment (Phase 2)
 Caddo and Bossier Parishes, Louisiana

Sierra Frac Sand, LLC

Cedar Bluff Tract



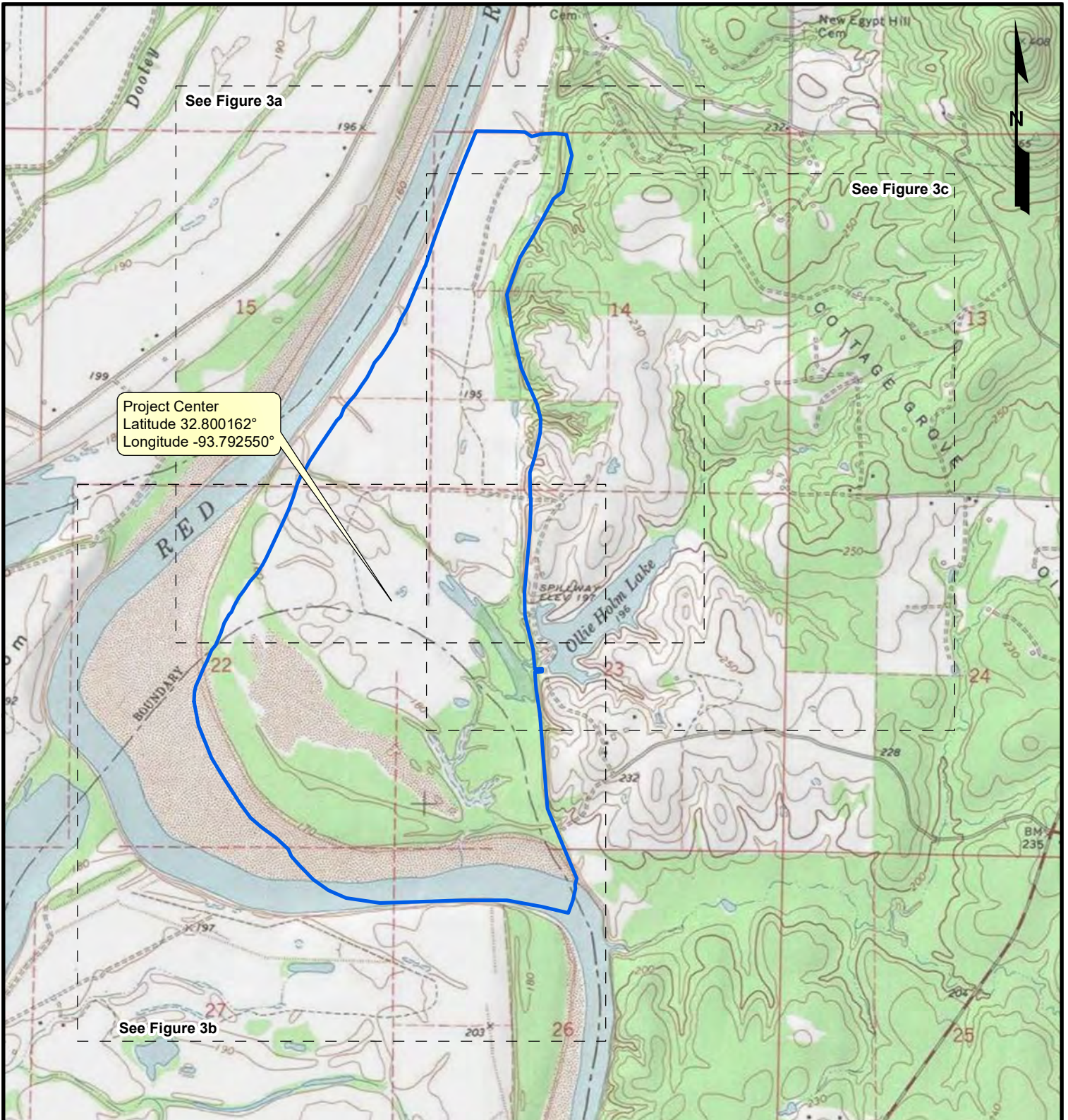
MATRIXNEWORLD
 Engineering Progress

Drawn By	LMM
Approved By	LAW
Date	11/7/2022
Drawing No.	19-489-A081

1

Figure No.

Source: Base map comprised of ESRI StreetMap USA data.



Project Center
 Latitude 32.800162°
 Longitude -93.792550°

Legend

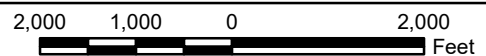
- Tract Boundary (856.97 acres)
- Site Plan Index

Site Location Map

Section 10/404 Permit Amendment (Phase 2)
 Caddo and Bossier Parishes, Louisiana

Sierra Frac Sand, LLC

Cedar Bluff Tract



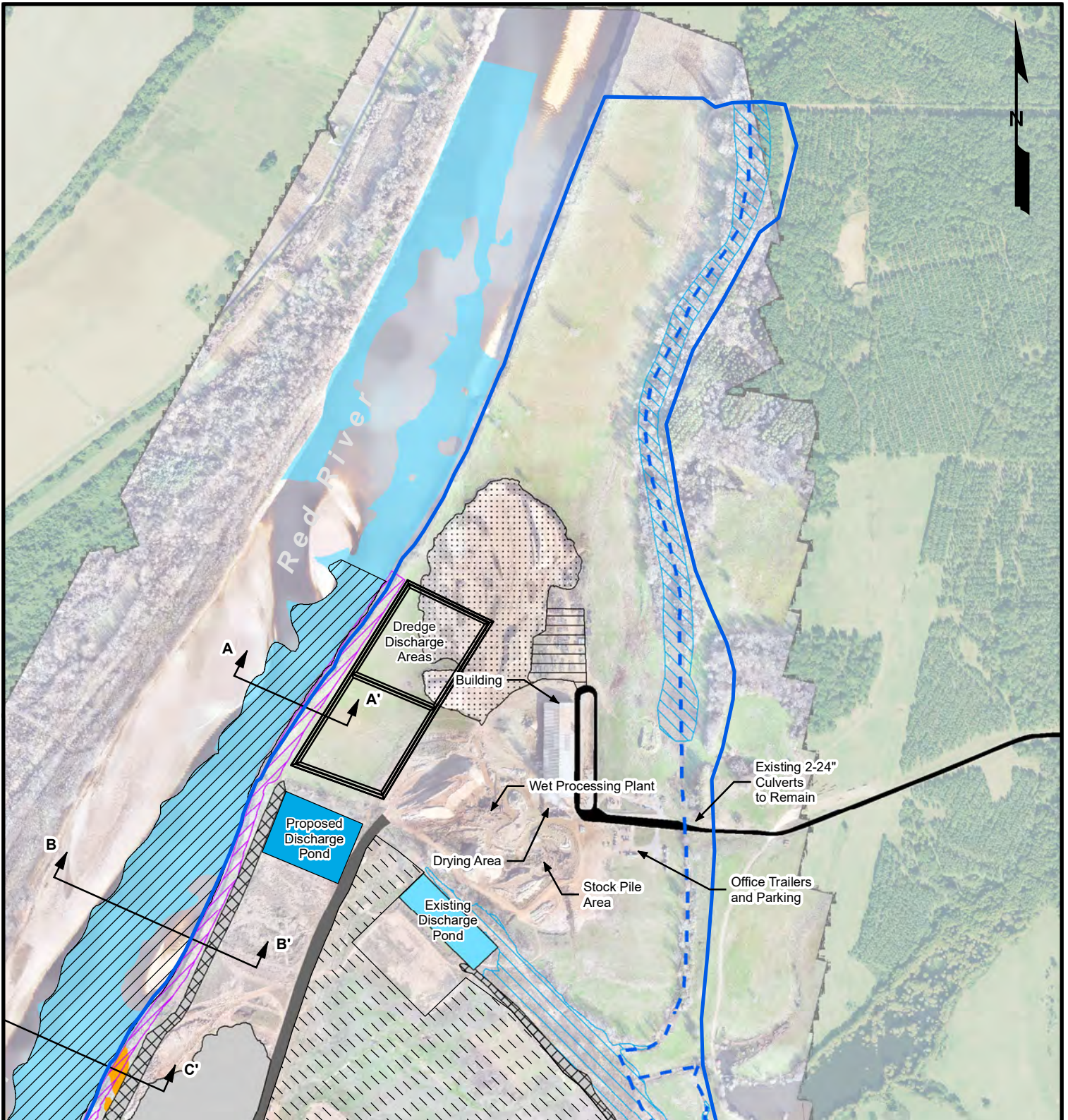
MATRIXNEWORLD
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Drawing No.	19-489-A082

2

Figure No.

Source: Base map comprised of U.S.G.S. 7.5-minute topographic map, "Gilliam, LA" dated 1971.



Legend

- Tract Boundary (856.97 acres)
- Currently Permitted Stripped Areas to be Mined (124.69 acres)
- Currently Permitted Mined Area (150.92 acres)
- Existing Constructed Berms (24.74 acres)
- Currently Permitted Dry Excavation to Elevation 160' (48.44 acres)
- Proposed Dredge Excavation (58.11 acres to EL 143.81')
- Non-Impacted Jurisdictional Wetlands (176.08 acres)
- Impacted Jurisdictional Wetlands (0.93 acres)
- Area to be Sloped and Rip-Rapped (10.92 acres)
- Existing Access Road (5.14 acres)
- Existing Discharge Pond (4.45 acres)
- Existing Haul Road (12.36 acres)
- Existing Laydown Area (4.40 acres)
- Existing Sand Stockpile (31.85 acres)
- Red River Mean Low Water
- Proposed Discharge Pond (6.72 acres)
- Existing Red River Revetment
- Non-Impacted Jurisdictional Streams (13,846.59 linear feet)

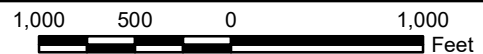
Source: Base map comprised of 2021 aerial photograph from USDA/FSA Aerial Photography Field Office and client provided aerial flown December 2021.

Site Plan

Section 10/404 Permit Amendment (Phase 2)
Caddo and Bossier Parishes, Louisiana

Sierra Frac Sand, LLC

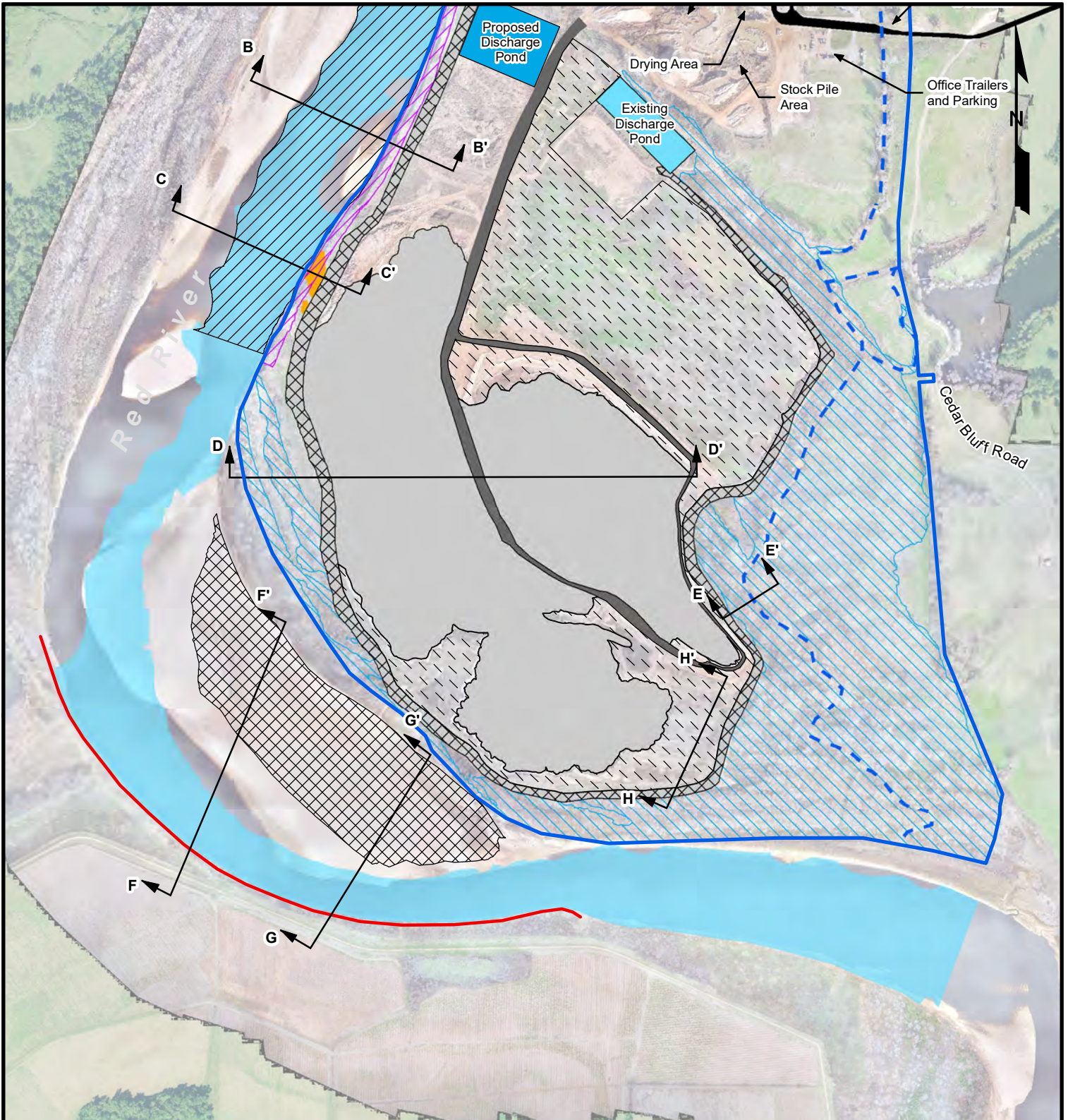
Cedar Bluff Tract



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Drawing No.	19-489-A133

3a
Figure No.



Legend

- Tract Boundary (856.97 acres)
- Currently Permitted Stripped Areas to be Mined (124.69 acres)
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- Existing Constructed Berms (24.74 acres)
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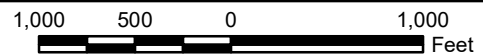
Source: Base map comprised of 2021 aerial photograph from USDA/FSA Aerial Photography Field Office and client provided aerial flown December 2021.

Site Plan

Section 10/404 Permit Amendment (Phase 2)
Caddo and Bossier Parishes, Louisiana

Sierra Frac Sand, LLC

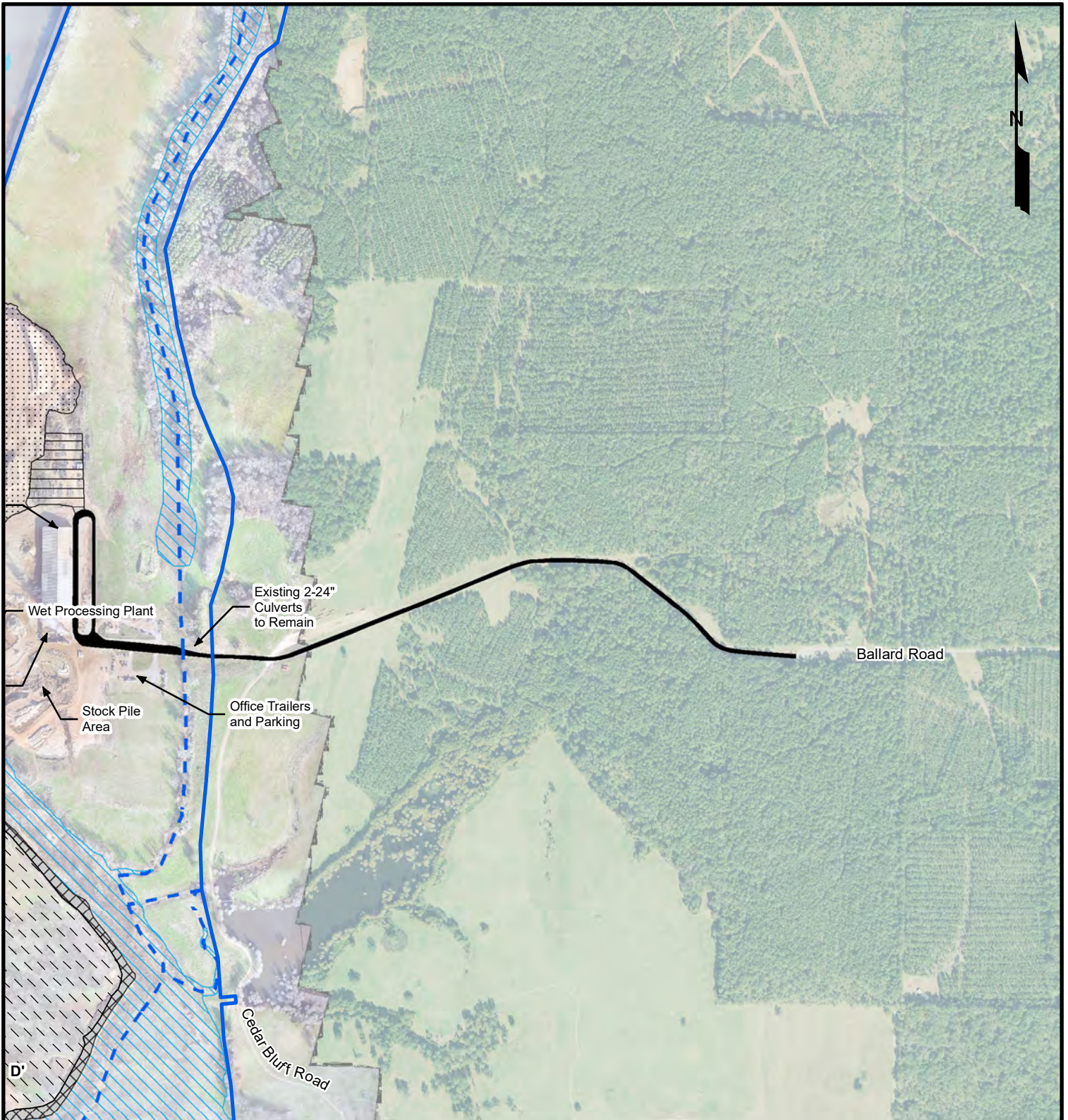
Cedar Bluff Tract



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Approved By	LAW
Date	11/7/2022
Drawing No.	19-489-A133

3b
Figure No.



Legend

- | | |
|--|---|
| Tract Boundary (856.97 acres) | Existing Access Road (5.14 acres) |
| Currently Permitted Stripped Areas to be Mined (124.69 acres) | Existing Discharge Pond (4.45 acres) |
| Currently Permitted Mined Area (150.92 acres) | Existing Haul Road (12.36 acres) |
| Existing Constructed Berms (24.74 acres) | Existing Laydown Area (4.40 acres) |
| Currently Permitted Dry Excavation to Elevation 160' (48.44 acres) | Existing Sand Stockpile (31.85 acres) |
| Proposed Dredge Excavation (58.11 acres to EL 143.81') | Red River Mean Low Water |
| Non-Impacted Jurisdictional Wetlands (176.08 acres) | Proposed Discharge Pond (6.72 acres) |
| Impacted Jurisdictional Wetlands (0.93 acres) | Existing Red River Revetment |
| Area to be Sloped and Rip-Rapped (10.92 acres) | Non-Impacted Jurisdictional Streams (13,846.59 linear feet) |

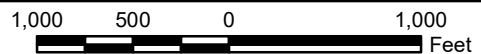
Source: Base map comprised of 2021 aerial photograph from USDA/FSA Aerial Photography Field Office and client provided aerial flown December 2021.

Site Plan

Section 10/404 Permit Amendment (Phase 2)
Caddo and Bossier Parishes, Louisiana

Sierra Frac Sand, LLC

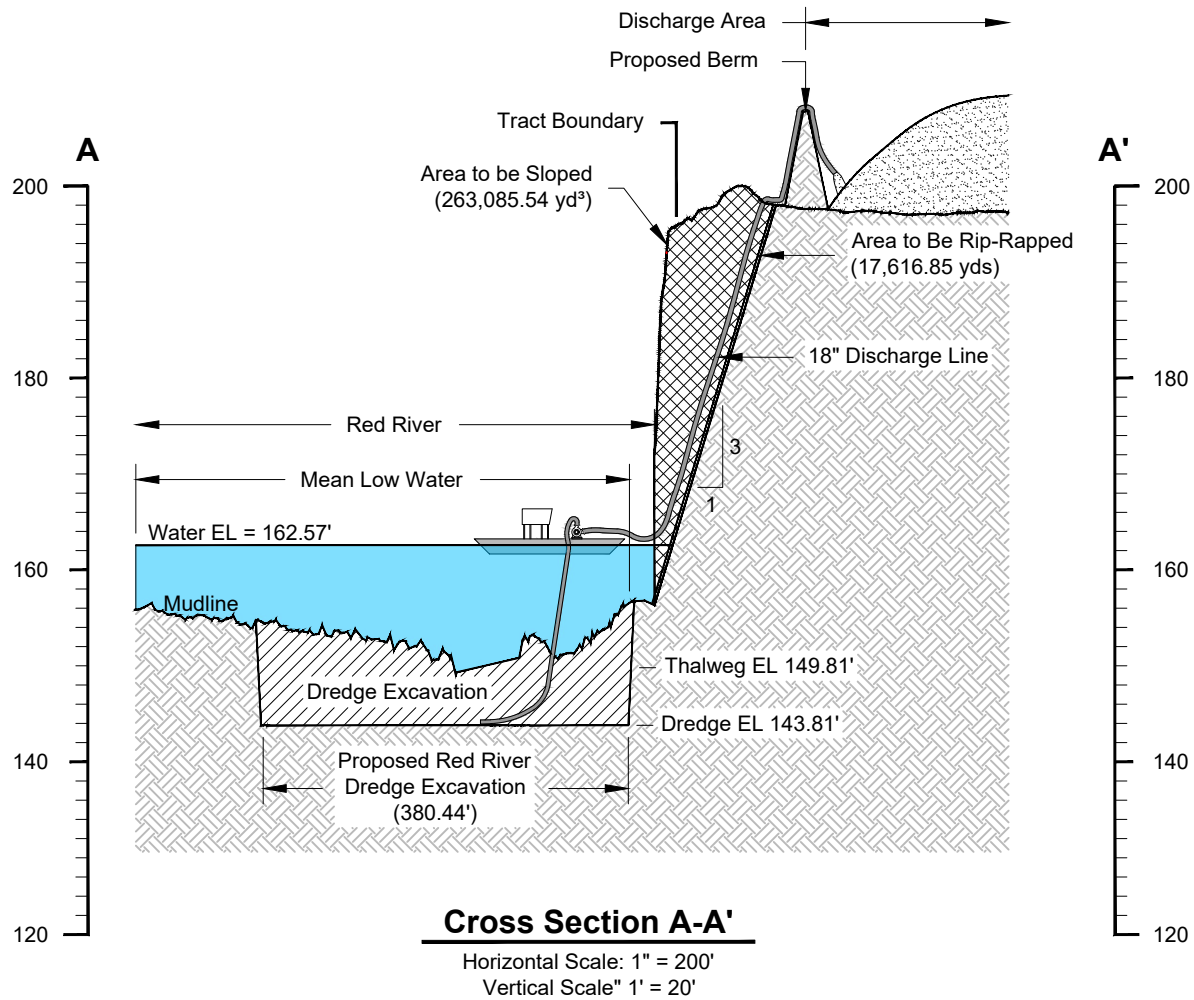
Cedar Bluff Tract



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Engineering Progress

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Approved By	LAW
Date	11/7/2022
Drawing No.	19-489-A133

3C
Figure No.



Notes

MLW EL = 153.29' NAVD 88

Red River bottom elevations and sand bar elevations based on topographic survey information collected 09/10/2020, 09/15/2020, 03/29/2021, and 11/19/2021.

Red River water level collected 09/10/2020.

Red River Dredge Excavation = 816,941.02 yd³

Cross Section A-A'

Section 10/404 Permit Amendment (Phase 2)

Caddo and Bossier Parishes, Louisiana

Sierra Frac Sand, LLC

Cedar Bluff Tract

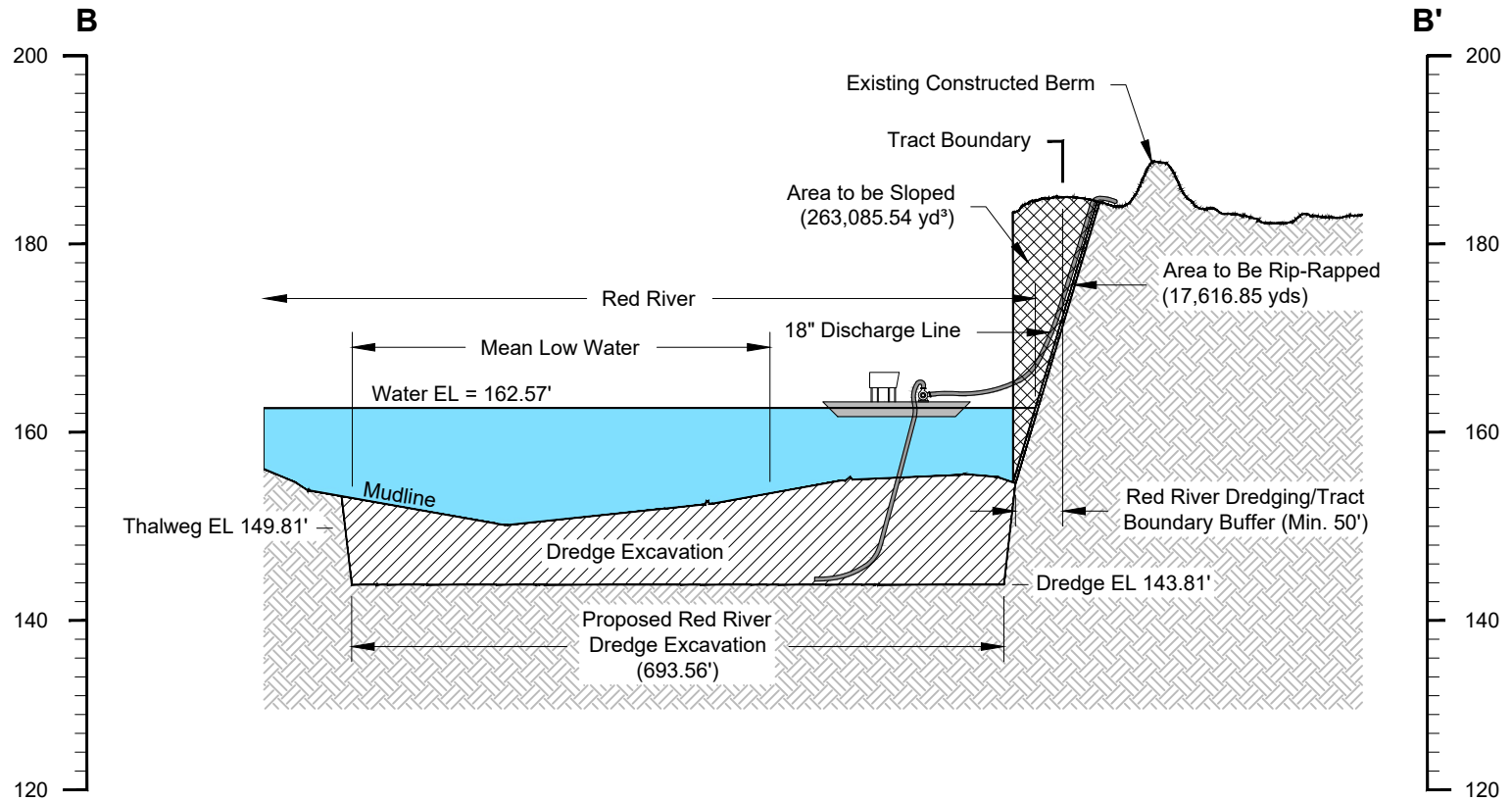
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Date	11/07/2022
Drawing No	19-489-A134

4

Figure No.



Cross Section B-B'

Horizontal Scale: 1" = 200'
Vertical Scale: 1' = 20'

Notes

MLW EL = 153.29' NAVD 88

Red River bottom elevations and sand bar elevations based on topographic survey information collected 09/10/2020, 09/15/2020, 03/29/2021, and 11/19/2021.

Red River water level collected 09/10/2020.

Red River Dredge Excavation = 816,941.02 yd³

Cross Section B-B'

Section 10/404 Permit Amendment (Phase 2)
Caddo and Bossier Parishes, Louisiana

Sierra Frac Sand, LLC

Cedar Bluff Tract

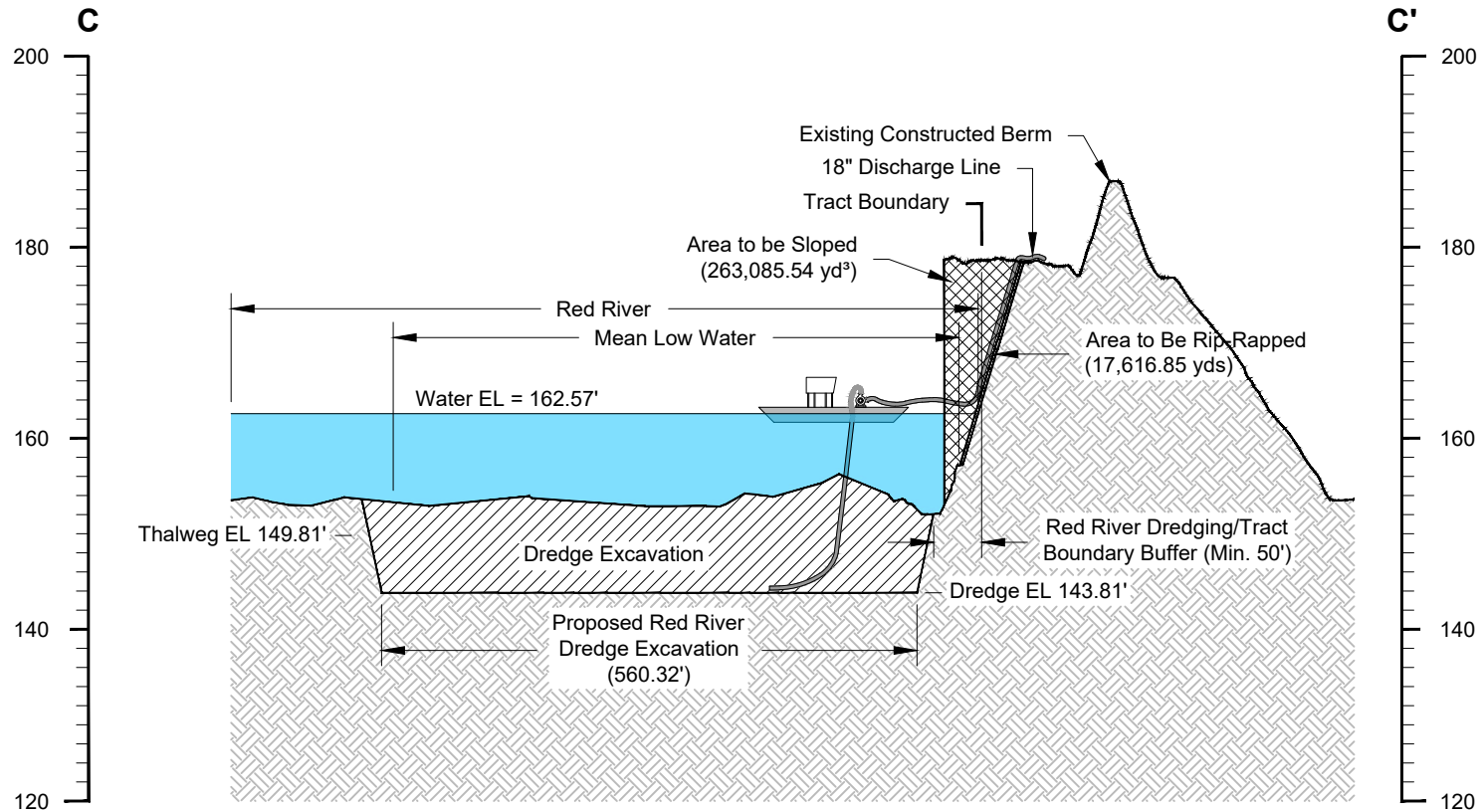
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Date	11/07/2022
Drawing No	19-489-A135

5

Figure No.



Cross Section C-C'

Horizontal Scale: 1" = 200'
 Vertical Scale: 1" = 20'

Notes

MLW EL = 153.29' NAVD 88

Red River bottom elevations and sand bar elevations based on topographic survey information collected 09/10/2020, 09/15/2020, 03/29/2021, and 11/19/2021.

Red River water level collected 09/10/2020.

Red River Dredge Excavation = 816,941.02 yd³

Cross Section C-C'

Section 10/404 Permit Amendment (Phase 2)
 Caddo and Bossier Parishes, Louisiana

Sierra Frac Sand, LLC

Cedar Bluff Tract

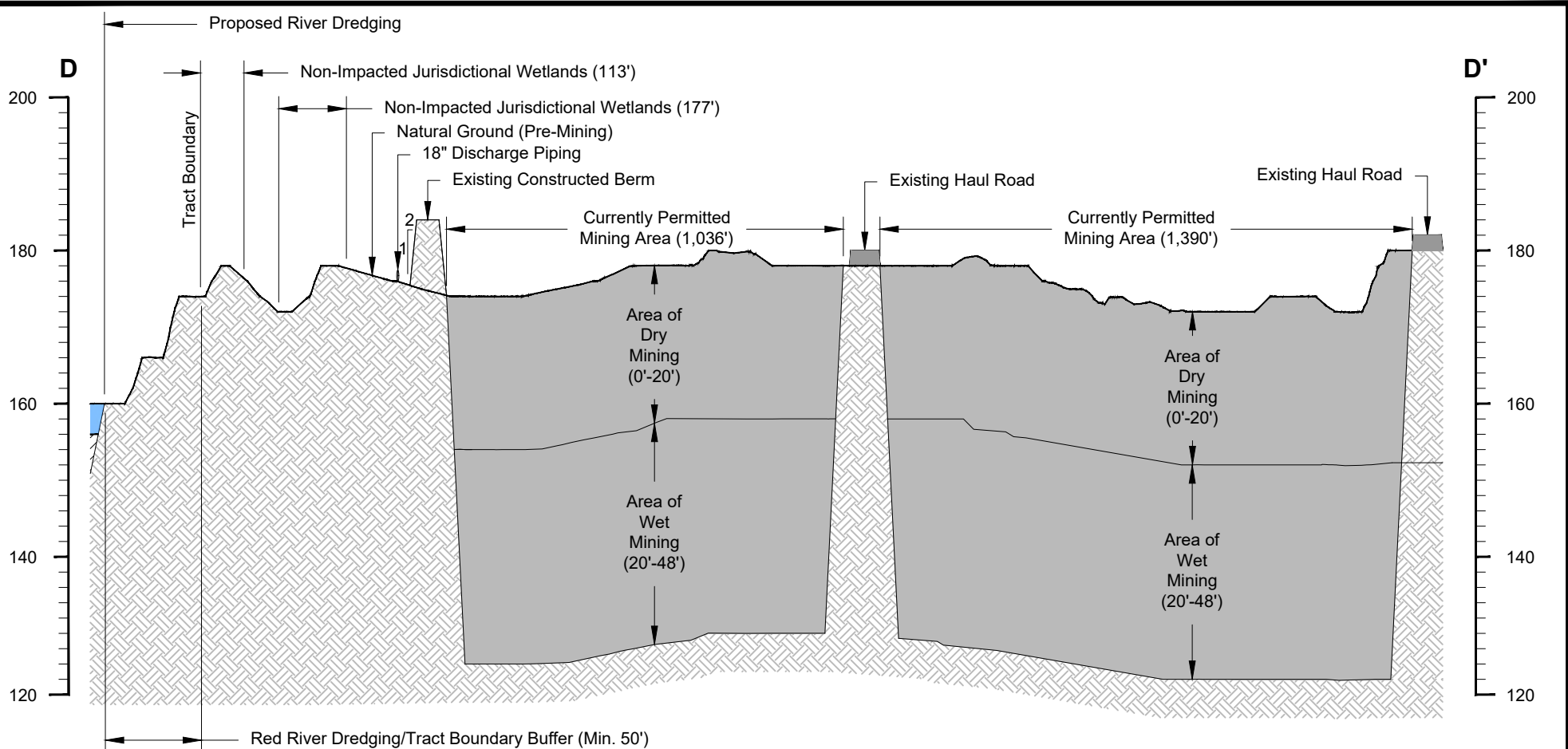


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Drawing No	19-489-A136

6

Figure No.



Cross Section D-D'

Horizontal Scale: 1" = 400'
Vertical Scale: 1" = 20'

Notes

Dry Excavation = 4,872,096.38 yd³

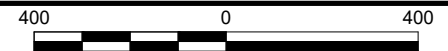
Wet Excavation = 6,820,934.93 yd³

Cross Section D-D'

Section 10/404 Permit Amendment (Phase 2)
Caddo and Bossier Parishes, Louisiana

Sierra Frac Sand, LLC

Cedar Bluff Tract

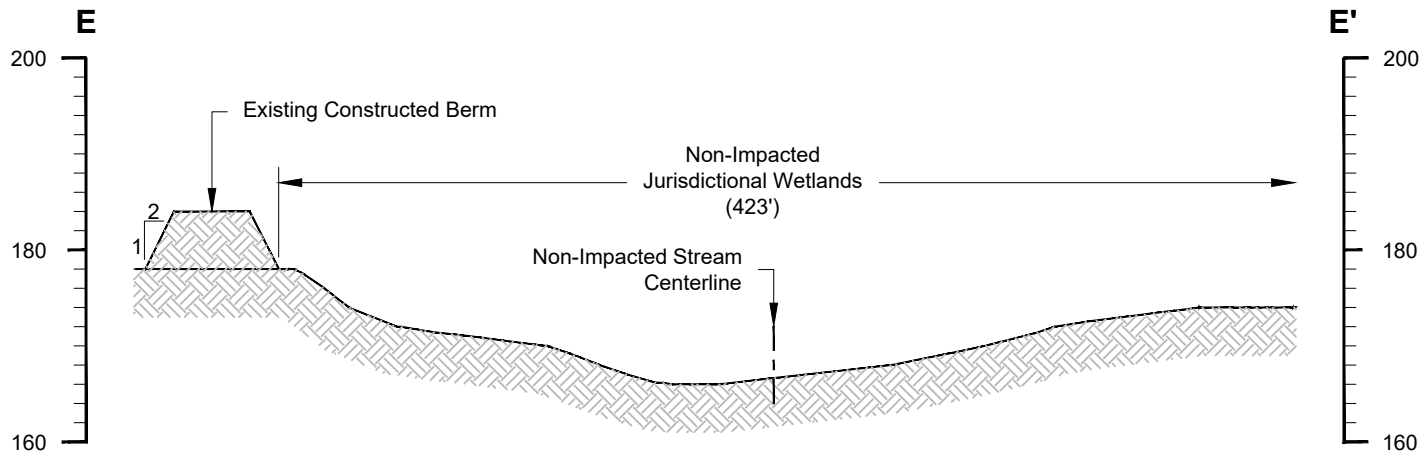


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Drawing No	19-489-A087

7

Figure No.



Cross Section E-E'

Horizontal Scale: 1" = 80'
Vertical Scale: 1" = 20'

Cross Section E-E'

Section 10/404 Permit Amendment (Phase 2)
Caddo and Bossier Parishes, Louisiana

Sierra Frac Sand, LLC

Cedar Bluff Tract

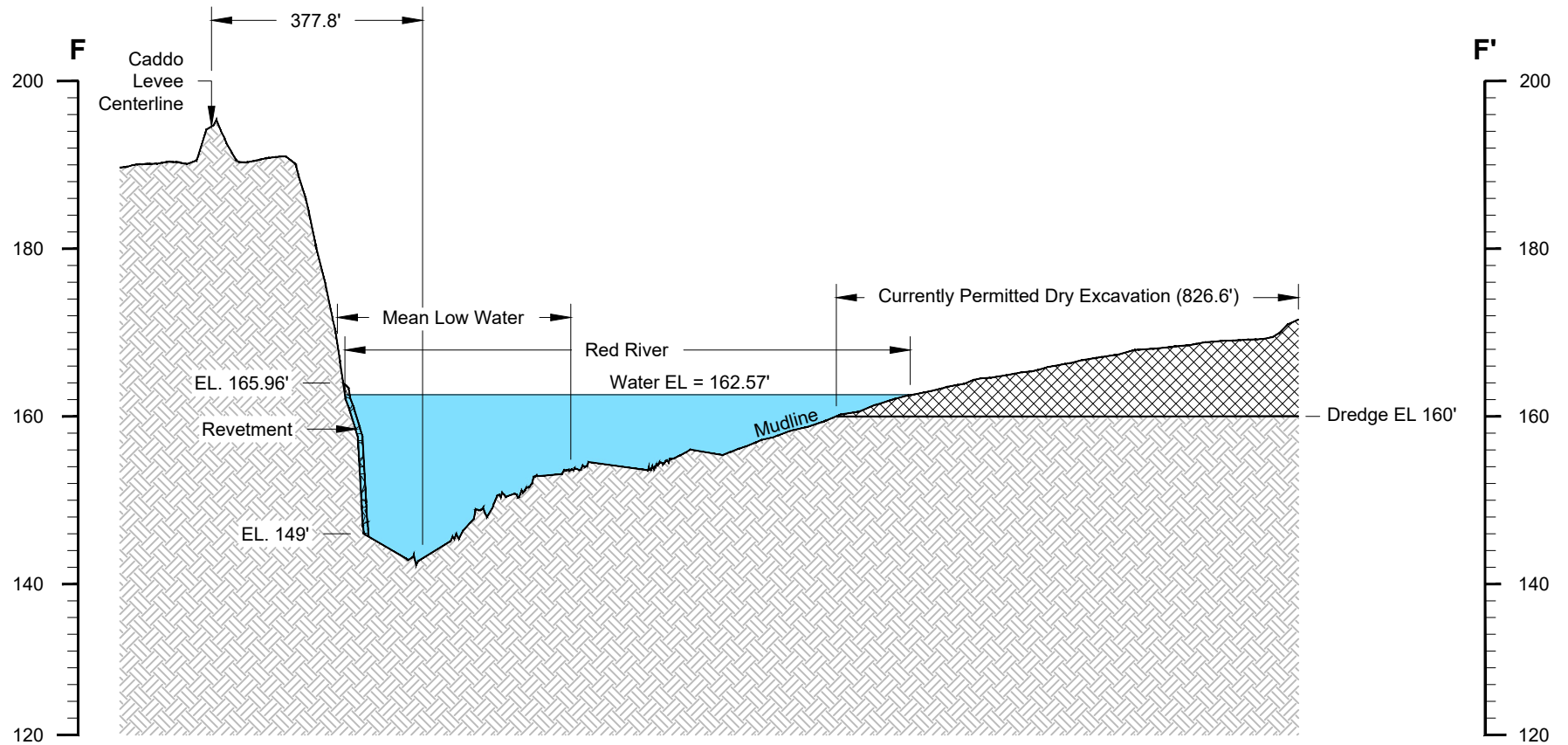


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Approved By	LAW
Date	11/07/2022
Drawing No	19-489-A088

8

Figure No.



Cross Section F-F'

Horizontal Scale: 1" = 300'
Vertical Scale: 1" = 20'

Notes

MLW EL = 153.29' NAVD 88

Red River bottom elevations and sand bar elevations based on topographic survey information collected 09/10/2020, 09/15/2020, 03/29/2021, and 11/19/2021.

Red River water level collected 09/10/2020.

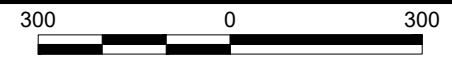
Permitted Excavation = 434,185.82 yd³

Cross Section F-F'

Section 10/404 Permit Amendment (Phase 2)
Caddo and Bossier Parishes, Louisiana

Sierra Frac Sand, LLC

Cedar Bluff Tract

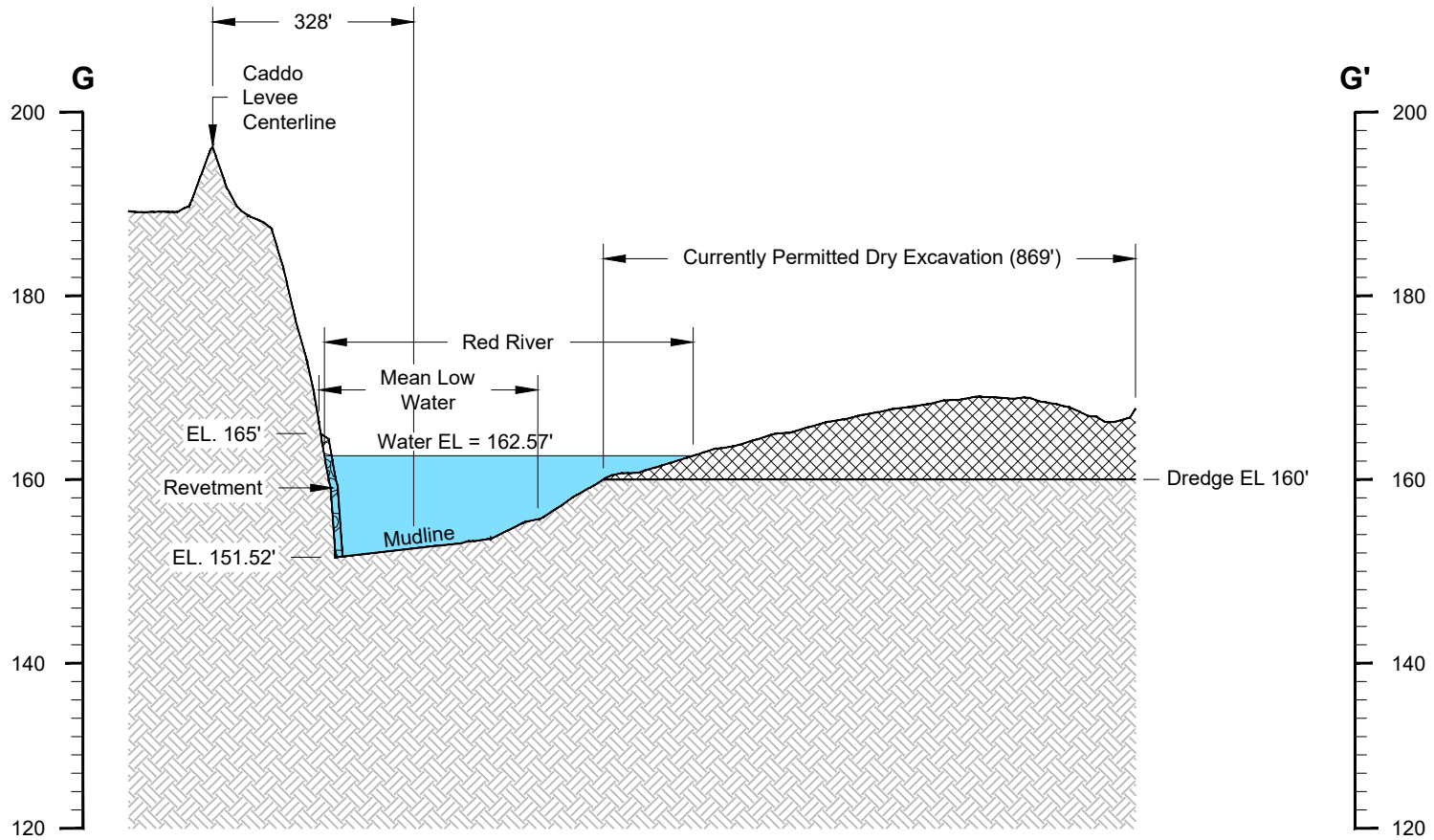


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Date	11/07/2022
Drawing No	19-489-A137

9

Figure No.



Cross Section G-G'

Horizontal Scale: 1" = 300'
Vertical Scale: 1" = 20'

Notes

MLW EL = 153.29' NAVD 88

Red River bottom elevations and sand bar elevations based on topographic survey information collected 09/10/2020, 09/15/2020, 03/29/2021, and 11/19/2021.

Red River water level collected 09/10/2020.

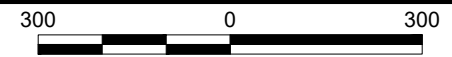
Permitted Excavation = 434,185.82 yd³

Cross Section G-G'

Section 10/404 Permit Amendment (Phase 2)
Caddo and Bossier Parishes, Louisiana

Sierra Frac Sand, LLC

Cedar Bluff Tract

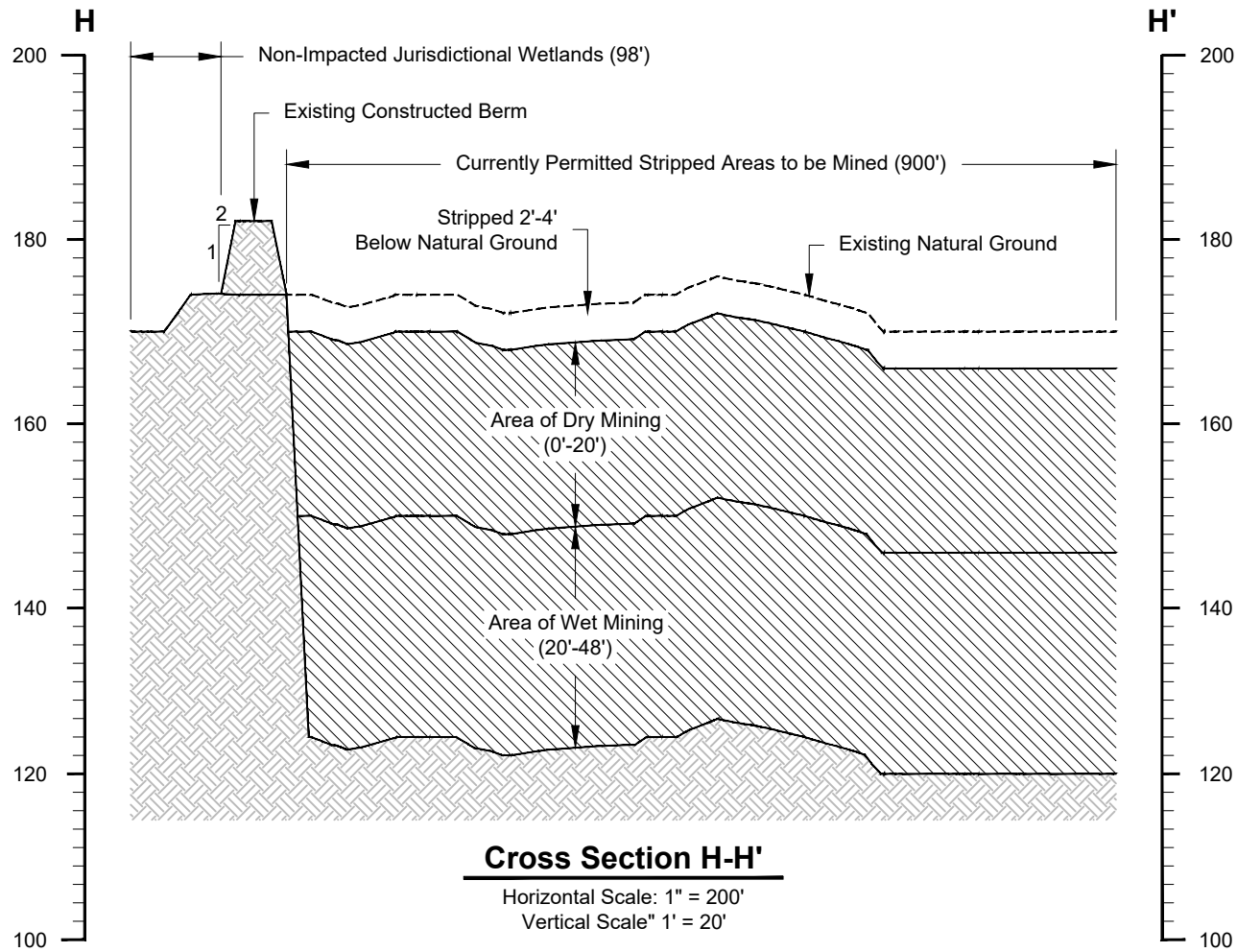


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Engineering Progress

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Date	11/07/2022
Drawing No	19-489-A138

10

Figure No.



Legend

Currently Permitted Stripped Area to be Mined

Notes

Dry Excavation = 4,872,096.38 yd³

Wet Excavation = 6,820,934.93 yd³

Cross Section H-H'

Section 10/404 Permit Amendment (Phase 2)
Caddo and Bossier Parishes, Louisiana

Sierra Frac Sand, LLC

Cedar Bluff Tract

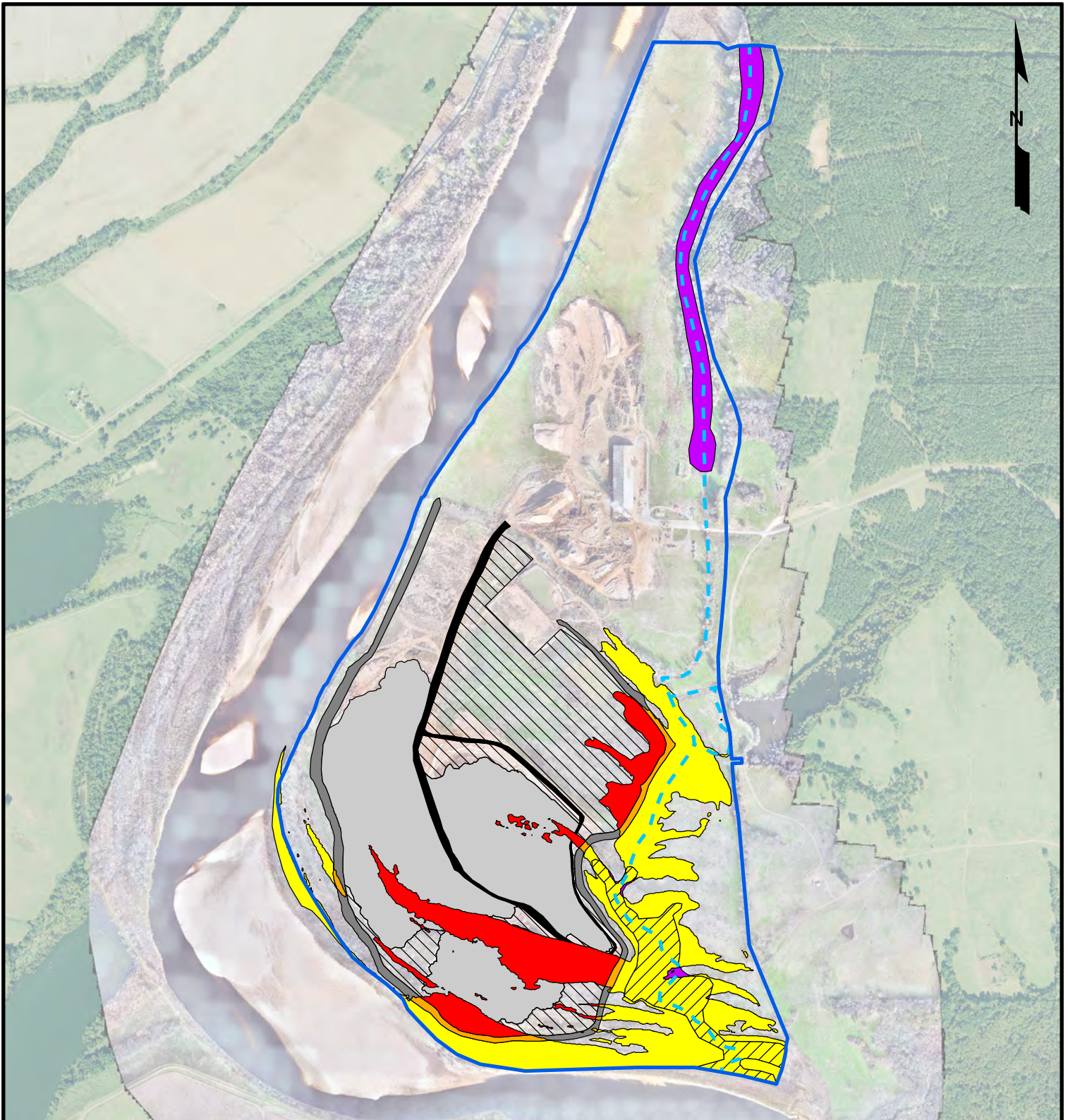


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Engineering Progress

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Drawing No	19-489-A091

11

Figure No.



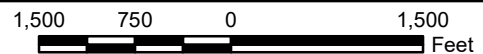
Legend

- Tract Boundary (856.97 acres)
- Currently Permitted Stripped Areas to be Mined (129.53 acres)
- Currently Permitted Mined Area (151.00 acres)
- Existing Constructed Berms (24.74 acres)
- Existing Haul Road (7.46 acres)
- Non-Impacted Jurisdictional Streams (13,846.59 linear feet)
- Impacted Section 10 Waters (Excavation; 39.89 acres)
- Impacted Section 10 Waters (Fill; 5.85 acres)
- Non-Impacted Section 10 Waters (81.06 acres)
- Non-Impacted Section 10/404 Wetlands (24.79 acres)
- Non-Impacted Section 404 Wetlands (21.58 acres)

Source: Base map comprised of 2021 aerial photograph from USDA/FSA Aerial Photography Field Office and client provided aerial flown December 2021.

Previously Permitted Section 10 Areas
Section 10/404 Permit Amendment (Phase 2)
 Caddo and Bossier Parishes, Louisiana

Sierra Frac Sand, LLC
 Cedar Bluff Tract



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 Engineering Progress

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Approved By	LAW
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Drawing No.	19-489-A092

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Figure No.