



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

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



Public Notice

APPLICATION NO.:	<u>MVK-2008-1006</u>
EVALUATOR:	<u>Ms. Tarmiko Graham</u>
PHONE NO.:	<u>(601) 631-5540</u>
E-MAIL:	<u>Tarmiko.V.Graham@usace.army.mil</u>
DATE:	<u>October 14, 2020</u>
EXPIRATION DATE:	<u>November 3, 2020</u>

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 Clay Street, Vicksburg, Mississippi 39183-3435.

Application also has been made to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services for a Water Quality Certification in accordance with La. R.S. 30.2074(A)(93), and Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (P.L. 95-217). Additional information is on file with the above office and may be inspected at any time between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays. Copies may be obtained upon payment of cost of copying. Comments concerning the application can be filed with the Office of Environmental Services within 20 days of this notice to the following address: Office of Environmental Services, Post Office Box 4313, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4313.

Law Requiring a Permit: Section 10/404 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. Buz Craft
City of Vidalia, Mayor
101 Front Street
Vidalia, Louisiana 71373

Name of Agent:
Mr. Chandler Jordan
Bryant Hammett & Associates
6885 Highway 84 West
Ferriday, Louisiana 71334

Location of Work: Section 1, T6N-R4W, Latitude 31.536789 North, Longitude -91.482899 West, within the Lower Mississippi River Drainage Basin (8-digit USGS HUC: 08060100), Concordia Parish, Louisiana.

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

The following description 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 for the discharge of dredged and/or fill material into jurisdictional wetlands for purposes of enhancing the Vidalia Port temporary barge docking out of the mainstream of the Mississippi River channel. The proposed project is a slack water channel recessed into the bank of the Mississippi River. The water channel runs back along the downstream side of the Port fill area to the base of the Mississippi River Mainline Levee (Levee) encompassing an existing borrow pit (previously permitted by the USACE).

The proposed project would constitute excavation of an entrance slip from the Mississippi River and a barge turnaround area located inland from the Mississippi River Top Bank, approximately 700 feet. The natural grade in the area of the project is approximately 60- 65 feet mean sea level (MSL), except the area of the existing borrow pit which has a bottom elevation of approximately 50 feet MSL. The slip entrance from the river would have a 150-foot wide bottom width and would be approximately 900 feet long. The depth of the slip entrance from natural ground of 60 feet MSL to slip entrance bottom elevation of 14 feet MSL would be 46 feet. The side slopes on the slip entrance would be 4:1, making the top width approximately 475 feet wide. This would vary somewhat, depending on the elevation of the natural ground at the crown of the slip entrance. The slip entrance would be perpendicular to the River and the Levee.

The barge turnaround portion of the slip would have the same bottom elevation of the entrance(14 feet MSL) and would be approximately 977 feet long, parallel to the Levee/River and 400 feet wide measured perpendicular to the Levee/River, and would be connected to the slip entrance at its southwest corner. The side slopes of the barge turnaround area vary, with the slopes adjacent to the river (southern side) and the downstream adjacent property (western side) being 4:1. The eastern slope, adjacent to Vidalia's existing facility, and the northern slope, adjacent to the Levee, would be 6:1. The length of the barge turnaround area at top bank would be approximately 1,400 feet and the width would be approximately 1,000 feet. The depth of the barge turnaround would be the same depth as the slip entrance and the bottom of the barge turnaround would be located approximately 950 feet from the levee toe.

Approximately 28.6 acres of jurisdictional forested wetlands would be impacted by the proposed project. Approximately 710,000 cubic yards of clean clay fill from the excavation would be utilized to construct working pads adjacent to the barge turnaround area facing the Levee and the Vidalia facilities. The working pads would run the full length and width of the turnaround area on both sides. The pads would be constructed to elevation 80 feet MSL and would be 500 feet

wide to the north and would tie into the Levee side slope. The crown of the levee is approximately 86 feet MSL. The pad to the east would be approximately 200 feet wide and tie into the Vidalia Facilities entrance road, which is also at 80 feet MSL.

The dominant vegetation at the project site is composed of black willow, smartweed, buttercup, ground-leaf groundsel, alligator weed, and other wetland species. Soils within the project site consist of Guyton silt loam, Abita silt loam, and Arat silty clay loam with NRCS hydric ratings of 94, 5, and 86 percent, respectively.

The applicant proposes to mitigate for the unavoidable loss of jurisdictional wetlands through the purchase of credits from an USACE approved mitigation bank that services the project area.

Upon reviewing this notice, you should write to this office to provide your opinion regarding the impacts this work would 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, State lists of properties determined eligible, and other sources of information. A historic properties investigation has been conducted within the permit area. No sites determined eligible for listing, or listed, on the National Register of Historic Places are within the permit area or affected area.

Endangered Species: Based on the Information and Planning Consultation (IPaC) for Endangered Species in Louisiana Agreement dated January 14, 2020 between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, it has been determined that the proposed activity may affect the following species: Northern long-eared bat, Pallid sturgeon and Fat pocketbook mussel; but would not adversely affect the Interior least tern. This project may affect the NLEB, but any resulting incidental take of the NLEB is not prohibited by the final 4(d) rule. The project may affect the Fat pocketbook mussel and Pallid sturgeon; further coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be conducted as part of the permit review process.

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 proposed project site is within the 100-year floodplain.

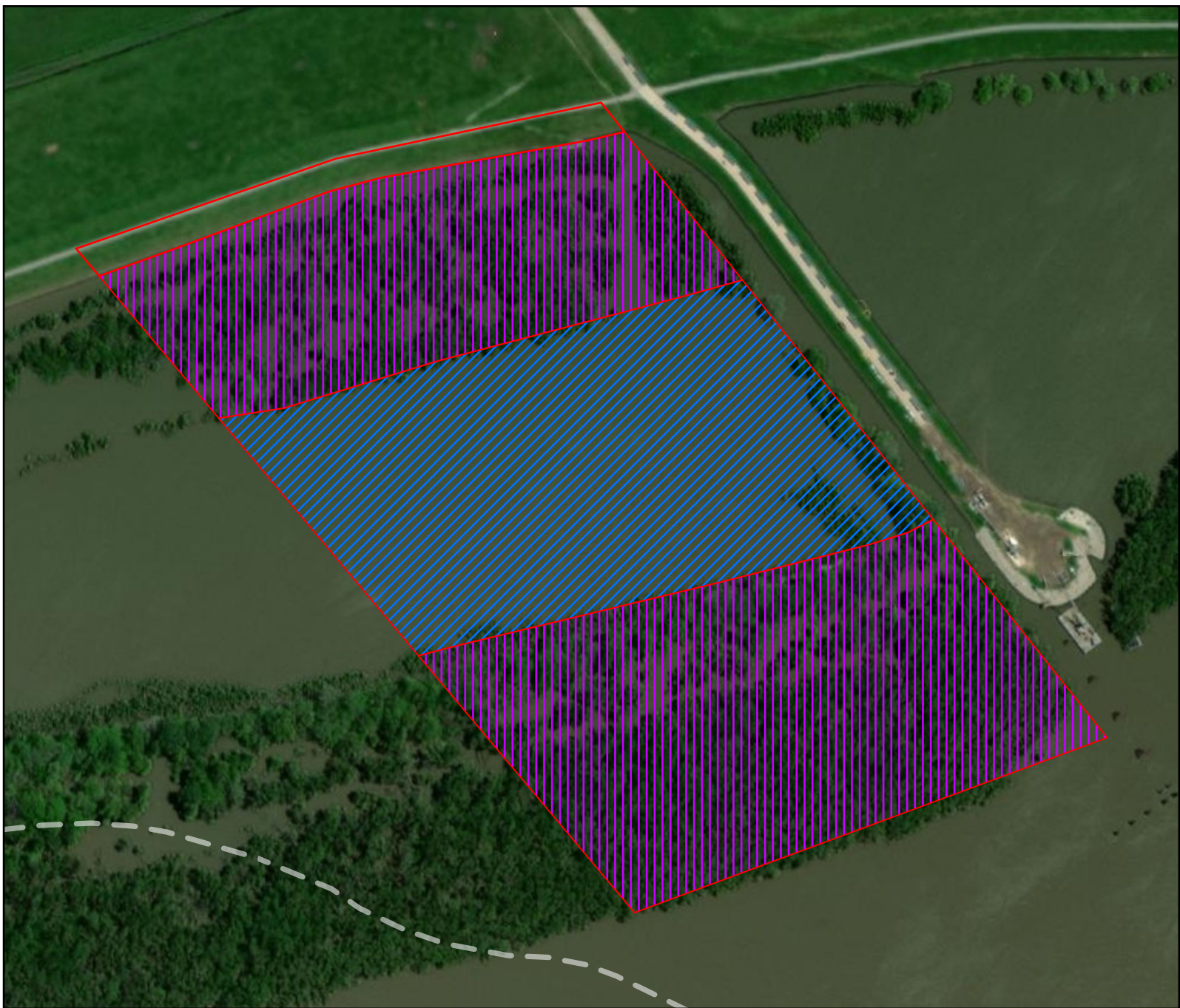
Evaluation Factors: The decision whether or not to issue a permit will be based upon an evaluation of the probable impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which may 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 Environmental 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 to the Regulatory web page, <http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx>.

**Cori Carraway
Chief, Permit and Evaluation Branch
Regulatory Division**



Concordia Parish, LA



02 SEPTEMBER 2020
MVK-2008-1006

Bryant Hammett and Associates
City of Vidalia
Proposed Port of Vidalia
Concordia Parish, LA

Approved
Jurisdictional Determination

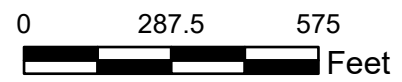
Jeremy Stokes

Location






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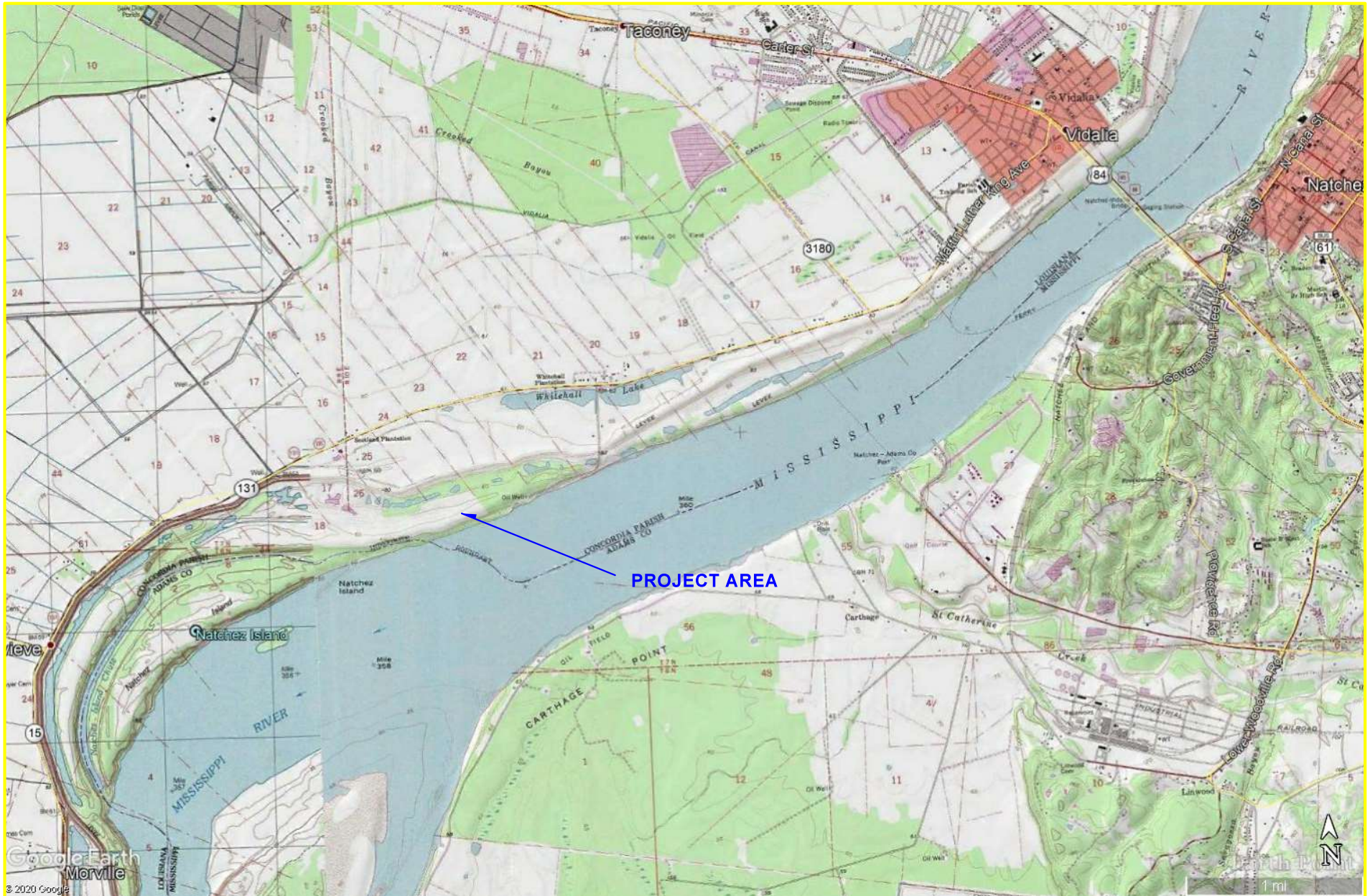
REGULATORY BRANCH
ENFORCEMENT SECTION



Legend

-  Jurisdictional Borrow Area (22.32 Acres)
-  Jurisdictional Forested Wetland (39.246 Acres)
-  Property Boundary

Scale: 1:4,500



**BRYANT HAMMETT
& ASSOCIATES, LLC**
CIVIL ENGINEERING & LAND SURVEYING

6885 HWY 84 FERRIDAY LA, 71334

**PORT OF VIDALIA
SLACK WATER SLIP**

FILE:

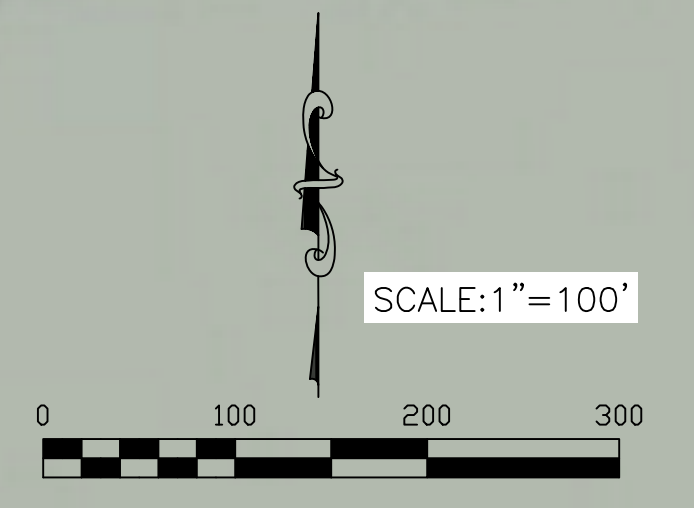
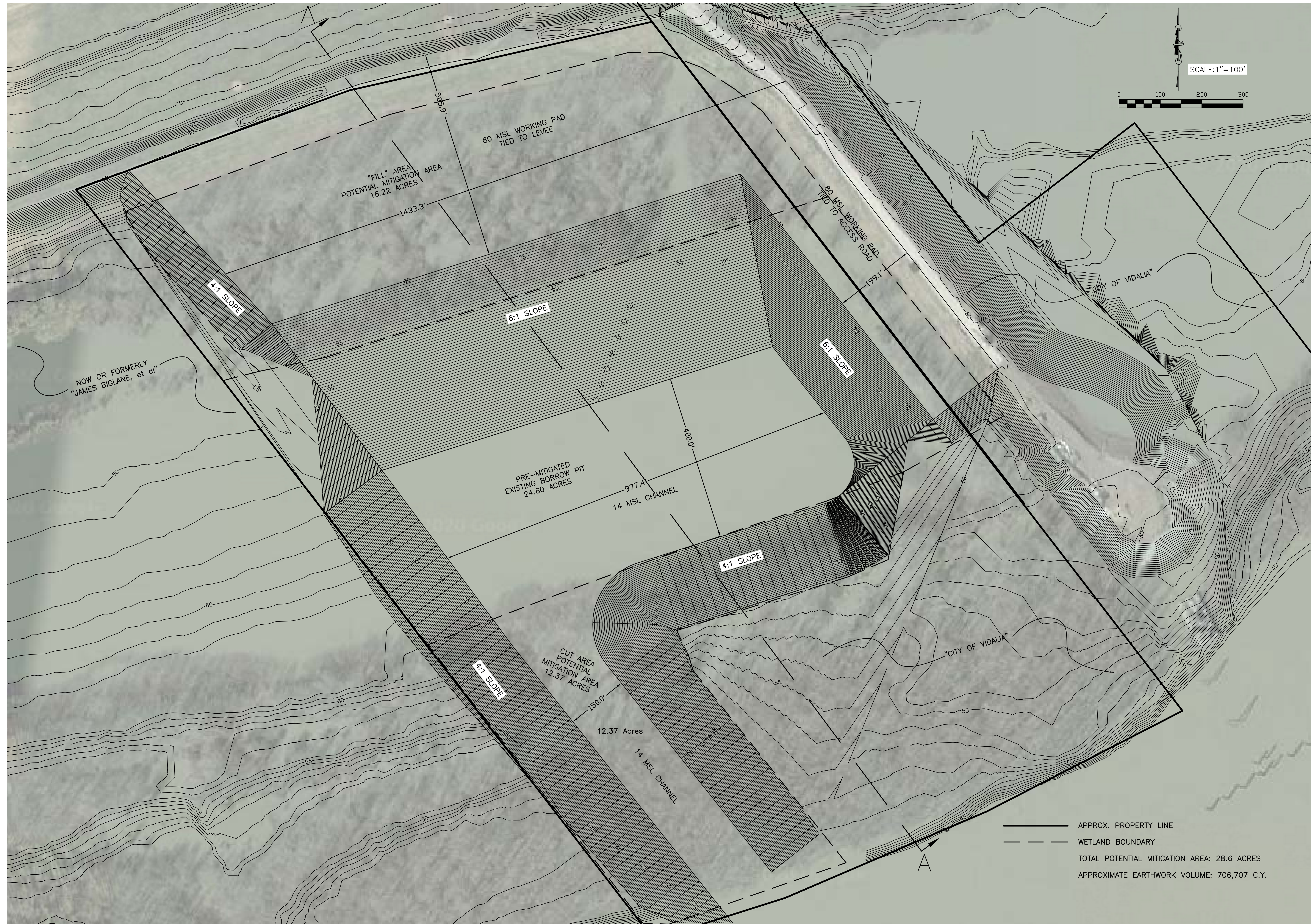
SCALE:

DATE:

N.T.S.

6/03/20

DWG.
NO.
1



DATE: 5/2020
 DRAWN BY: PES
 DESIGNED BY: CKC/jr
 CHECKED BY: CKC/jr

BRYANT HAMMETT & ASSOCIATES, LLC
 CIVIL ENGINEERING & LAND SURVEYING

ADDED CROSS SECTION 06/15/2020

NO.	DESCRIPTION	BY

C. Keith Capdepon, Jr.
 REG. No. 22157
 REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER
 IN CIVIL ENGINEERING