



**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-2017-222</u>
EVALUATOR:	<u>Mr. Thomas McCabe</u>
PHONE NO.:	<u>(601) 631-5588</u>
E-MAIL:	<u>Thomas.A.Mccabe@usace.army.mil</u>
DATE:	<u>January 14, 2022</u>
EXPIRATION DATE:	<u>February 4, 2022</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, MS 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, LA 70821-4313.

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 14, 15, 22 and 23, T21N-R14W, Latitude 32.8002 N and Longitude -93.7926 W, within the Red River Drainage Basin (8-digit HUC 11140202) Caddo and Bossier 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.

Sierra Frac Sand, LLC (Sierra) is first requesting that its authorization to conduct its existing activities pursuant to a Letter of Permission, issued in 2017, be retained and continued under new authorization. These authorized activities include: continued operations within 106.37 acres of the current mining pond; future mining within 171.99 acres of currently stripped areas; 24.74 acres of existing berms; 5.14 acres of existing access roads; a 4.45-acre discharge pond; a 9.54-acre haul road; a 10.67-acre lay down area and a 31.85-acre sand stockpile. 177.02 acres of jurisdictional wetlands and 13,846.59 linear feet of jurisdictional streams will not be impacted.

Second, Sierra is requesting Section 10 authorization to conduct sand removal activities on an existing sandbar in the Red River. The activities will consist of dry excavation on 48.45 acres (434,303.47 yd³) of the existing sandbar which is accessible from the southern boundary of the current operation. Excavation will be done with land-based equipment, such as a track-mounted excavator, and will only be conducted when the sandbar is accessible. No dredging equipment will be used.

The vegetative communities within the footprint of the mine have been previously disturbed and are either barren ground or open water.

No additional impacts to wetlands or streams is proposed with the current proposal. Sierra proposes to construct the project by avoiding impacts to 177.02 acres of wetlands, and 13,846.59 linear feet other waters of the U.S. Earthen berms have been constructed around the mining areas to protect the non-impacted jurisdictional features from incidental fill and runoff created from mining activities. All earthen berms around the currently active and proposed mining areas have been constructed 50-foot-wide and to the 184-foot elevation to protect from flooding from the Red River. Additionally, a minimum 150-foot-wide vegetated buffer will remain between the Red River and the 50-foot-wide earthen berms. No additional compensatory mitigation is proposed.

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*, state 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: No potential to cause effect, the permit area has been so extensively modified that little likelihood exists for the proposed project to impinge upon a historic property, even if present within the affected area.

Endangered Species: Based on the Information and Planning Consultation for Endangered Species in Louisiana Agreement dated January 13, 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 would have no effect on the following species: red-cockaded woodpecker, earth fruit, 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 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.

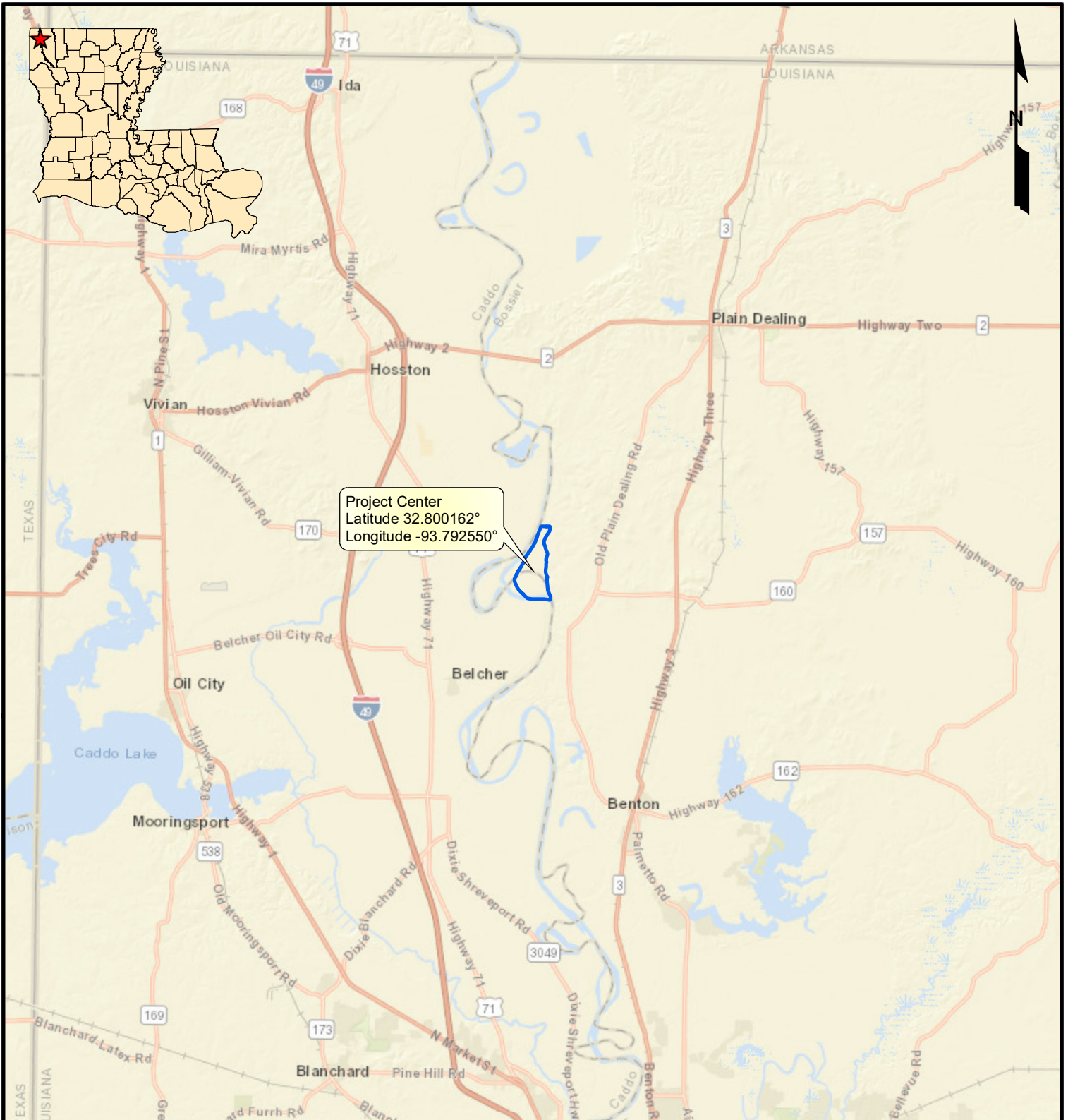
Public Involvement: The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties. These comments will be used to evaluate the impacts of this project. All comments will be considered and used to help determine 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>.



Jennifer G. Brown
Team Lead, Permit and Evaluation Branch
Regulatory Division



Legend

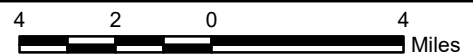
 Tract Boundary (856.97 acres)

Vicinity Map

Section 10 Permit Amendment
Caddo and Bossier Parishes, Louisiana

Sierra Frac Sand, LLC

Cedar Bluff Tract



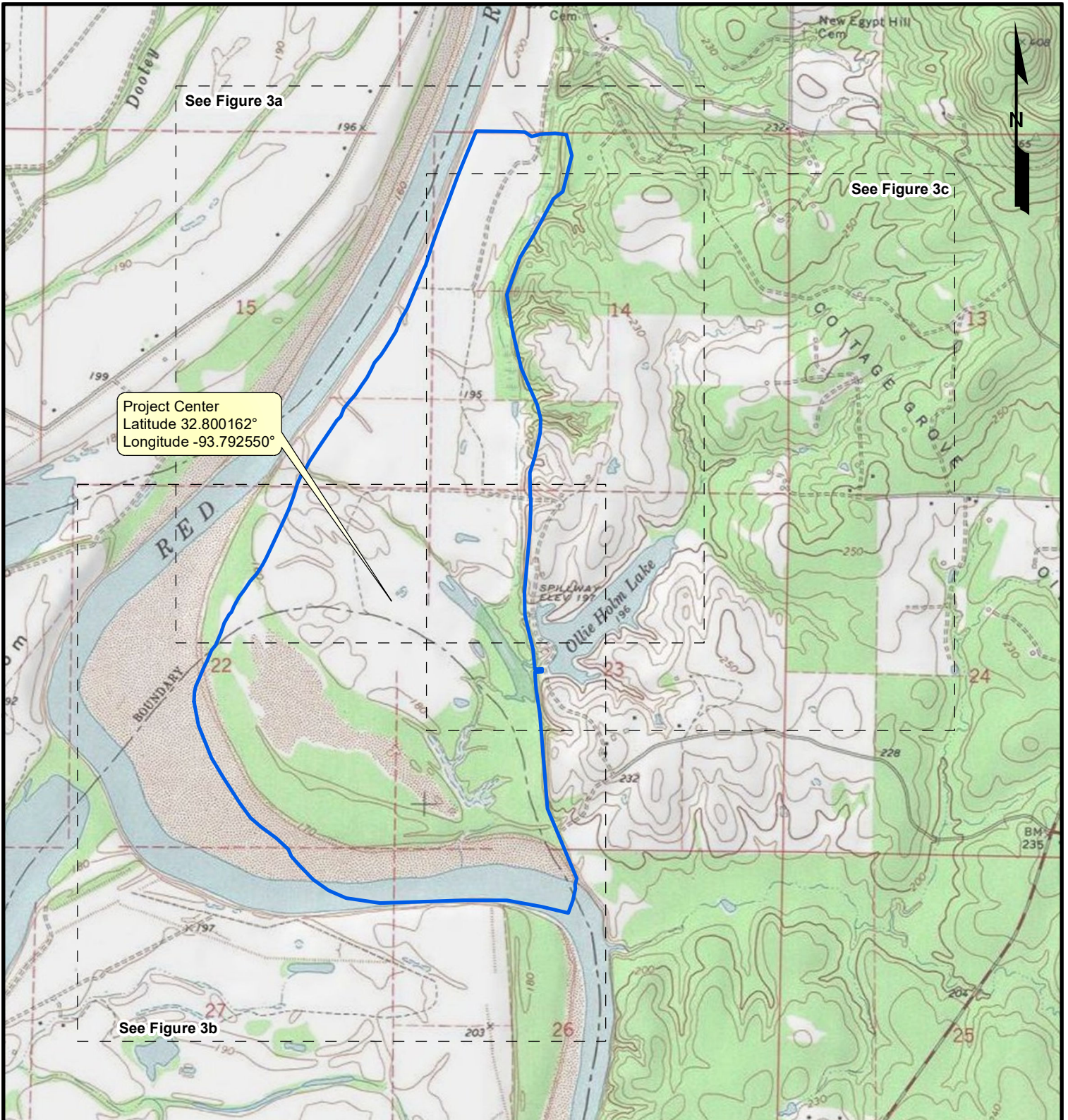
MATRIXNEWORLD
Engineering Progress

Drawn By	CET
Approved By	LAW
Date	04/05/2021
Drawing No.	19-489-A037

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

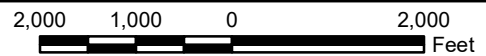
Source: Base map comprised of U.S.G.S. 7.5-minute topographic map, "Gilliam, LA" dated 1971.

Site Location Map

Section 10 Permit Amendment
 Caddo and Bossier Parishes, Louisiana

Sierra Frac Sand, LLC

Cedar Bluff Tract

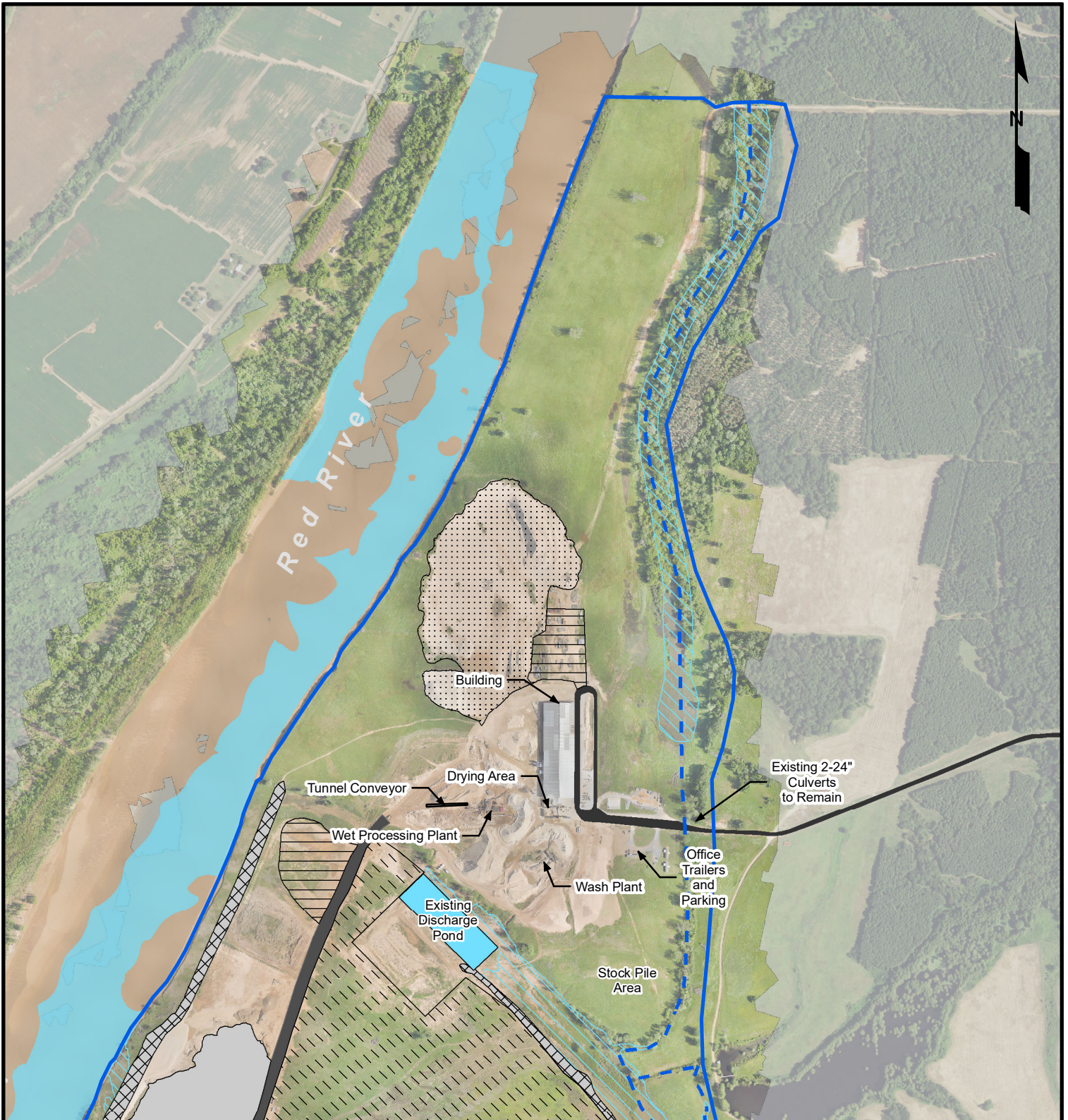


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 Engineering Progress

Drawn By	CET
Approved By	LAW
Date	04/05/2021
Drawing No.	19-489-A038

2

Figure No.



Legend

- Tract Boundary (856.97 acres)
- Proposed Dry Excavation (48.45 acres to Elevation 160')
- Currently Permitted Stripped Areas to be Mined (171.99 acres)
- Currently Permitted Mined Area (106.37 acres)
- Existing Constructed Berms (24.74 acres)
- Non-Impacted Jurisdictional Wetlands (177.02 acres)
- Non-Impacted Jurisdictional Streams (13,846.59 linear feet)
- Existing Red River Revetment
- Existing Access Road (5.14 acres)
- Existing Discharge Pond (4.45 acres)
- Existing Haul Road (9.84 acres)
- Existing Laydown Area (10.67 acres)
- Existing Sand Stockpile (31.85 acres)
- Red River Mean Low Water

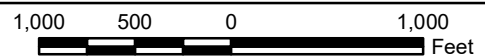
Source: Base map comprised of 2019 aerial photograph from USDA/FSA Aerial Photography Field Office and client provided aerial flown April 2020.

Site Plan

Section 10 Permit Amendment
Caddo and Bossier Parishes, Louisiana

Sierra Frac Sand, LLC

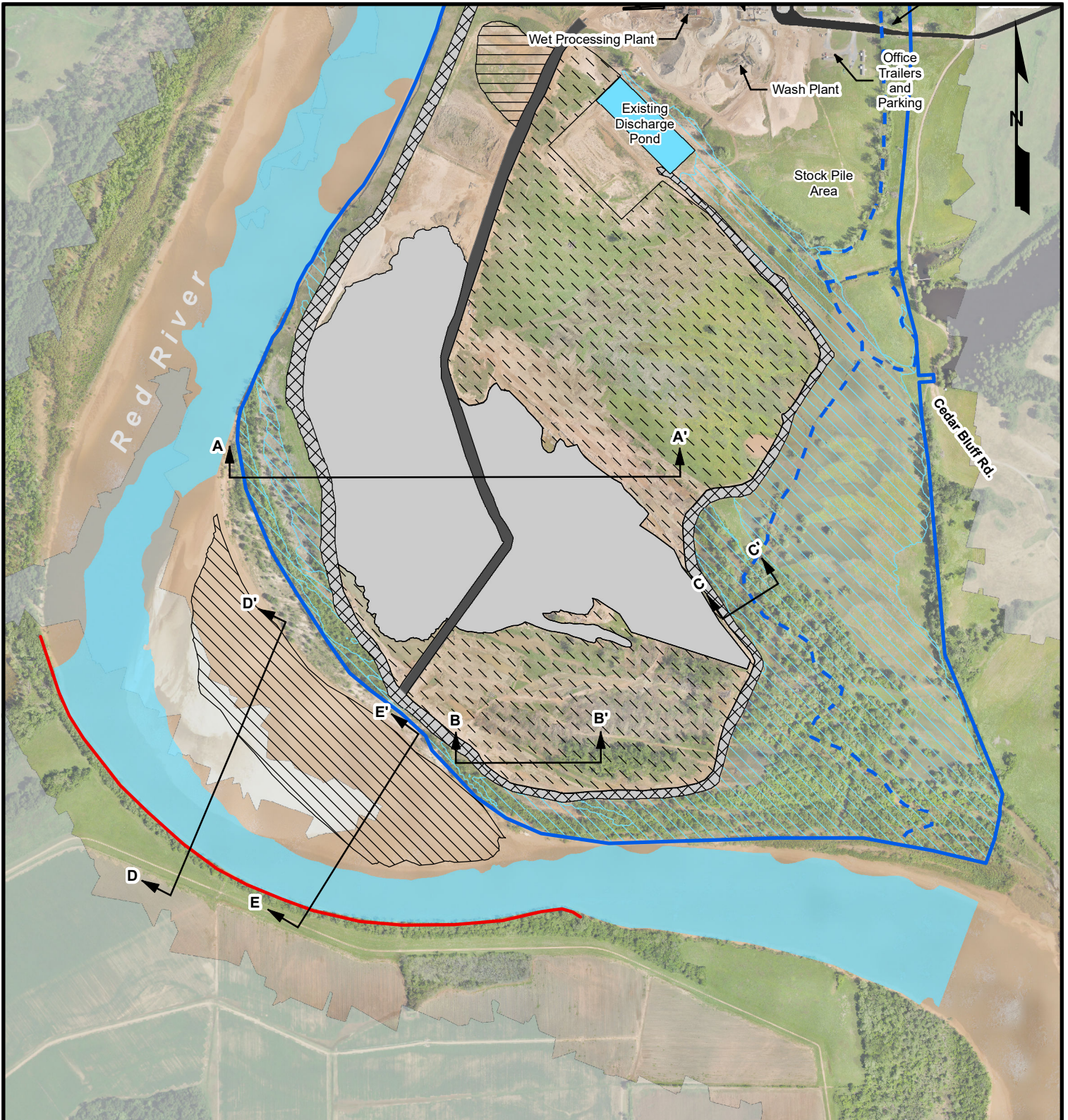
Cedar Bluff Tract



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Engineering Progress

Drawn By	CET
Approved By	LAW
Date	12/2/2021
Drawing No.	19-489-A077

3a
Figure No.



Legend

- Tract Boundary (856.97 acres)
- Proposed Dry Excavation (48.45 acres to Elevation 160')
- Currently Permitted Stripped Areas to be Mined (171.99 acres)
- Currently Permitted Mined Area (106.37 acres)
- Existing Constructed Berms (24.74 acres)
- Non-Impacted Jurisdictional Wetlands (177.02 acres)
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- Existing Sand Stockpile (31.85 acres)
- Red River Mean Low Water

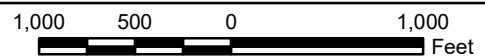
Source: Base map comprised of 2019 aerial photograph from USDA/FSA Aerial Photography Field Office and client provided aerial flown April 2020.

Site Plan

Section 10 Permit Amendment
Caddo and Bossier Parishes, Louisiana

Sierra Frac Sand, LLC

Cedar Bluff Tract



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Engineering Progress

Drawn By	CET
Approved By	LAW
Date	12/2/2021
Drawing No.	19-489-A077

3b
Figure No.



Legend

- Tract Boundary (856.97 acres)
- Proposed Dry Excavation (48.45 acres to Elevation 160')
- Currently Permitted Stripped Areas to be Mined (171.99 acres)
- Currently Permitted Mined Area (106.37 acres)
- Existing Constructed Berms (24.74 acres)
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- Existing Sand Stockpile (31.85 acres)
- Red River Mean Low Water

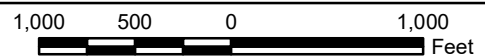
Source: Base map comprised of 2019 aerial photograph from USDA/FSA Aerial Photography Field Office and client provided aerial flown April 2020.

Site Plan

Section 10 Permit Amendment
Caddo and Bossier Parishes, Louisiana

Sierra Frac Sand, LLC

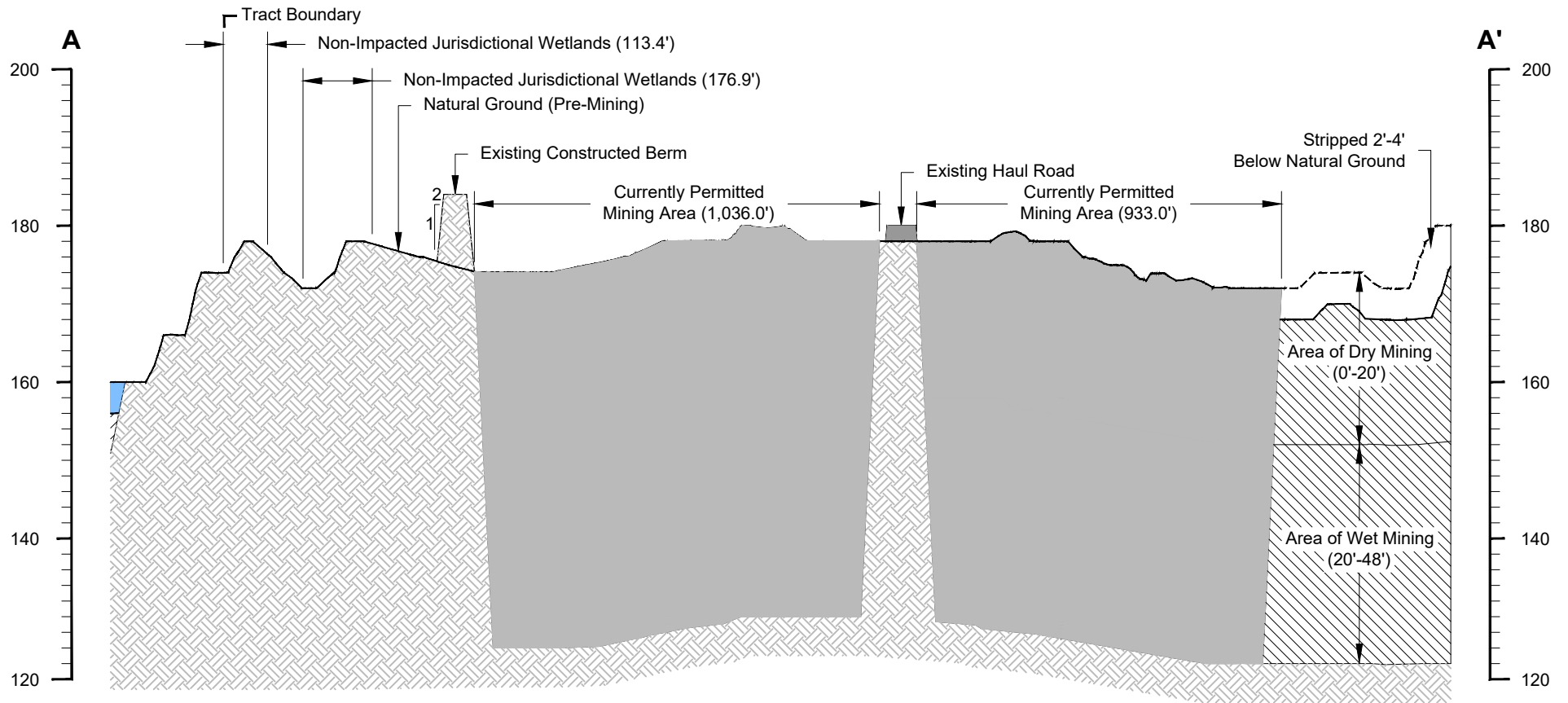
Cedar Bluff Tract



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Date	12/2/2021
Drawing No.	19-489-A077

3C
Figure No.



Cross Section A-A'

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

Legend

 Currently Permitted Stripped Area to be Mined

Cross Section A-A'

Section 10 Permit Amendment
 Caddo and Bossier Parishes, Louisiana

Sierra Frac Sand, LLC

Cedar Bluff Tract

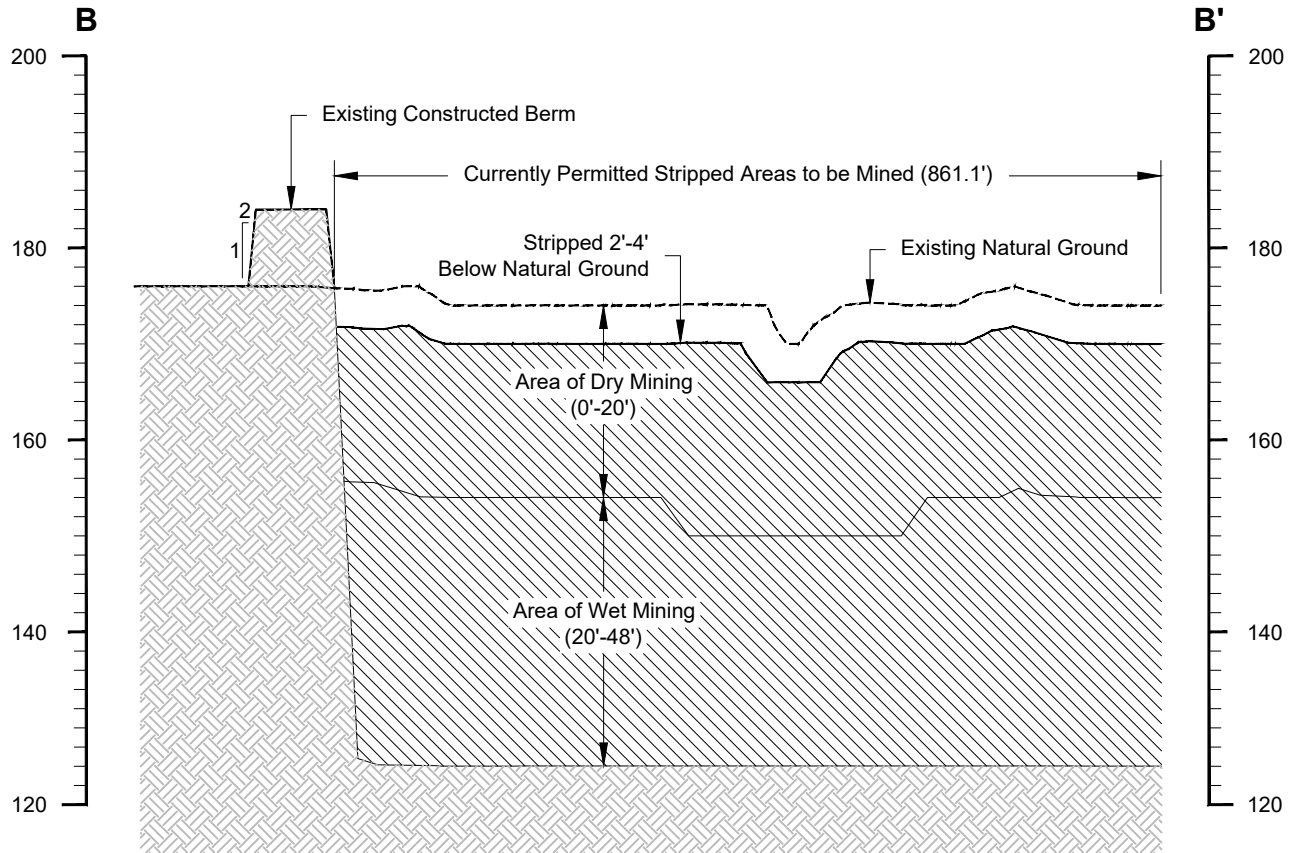


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 Engineering Progress

Drawn By	LMM
Approved By	CET
Date	04/05/2021
Drawing No	19-489-A065

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Figure No.



Cross Section B-B'

Horizontal Scale: 1" = 200'

Vertical Scale: 1" = 20'

Cross Section B-B'

Section 10 Permit Amendment
Caddo and Bossier Parishes, Louisiana

Sierra Frac Sand, LLC

Cedar Bluff Tract

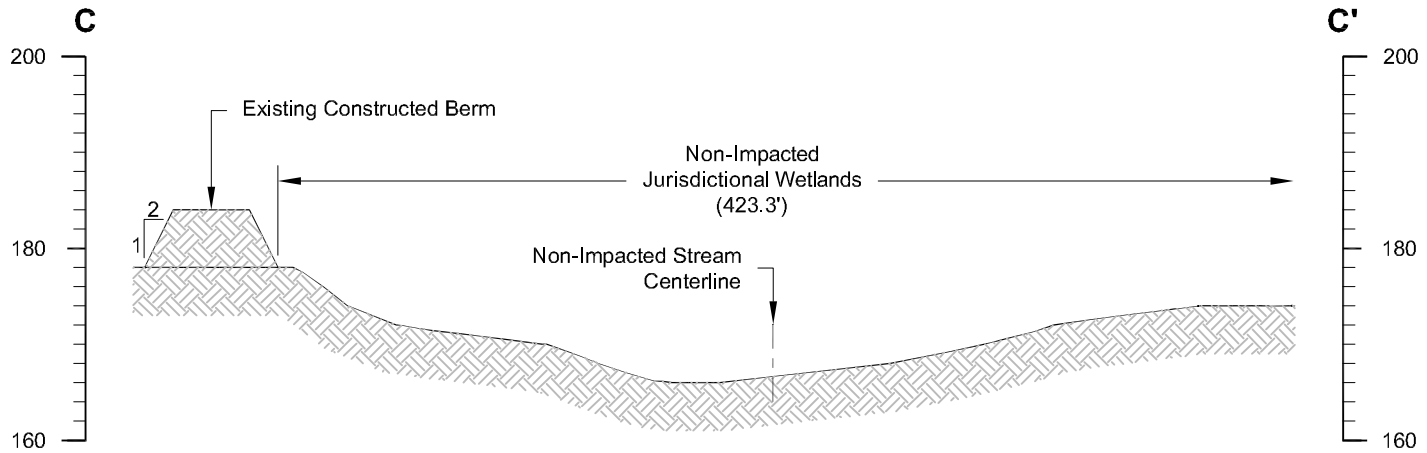


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Engineering Progress

Drawn By	LMM
Approved By	CET
Date	04/05/2021
Drawing No	19-489-A066

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Figure No.



Cross Section C-C'

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

Cross Section C-C'

Section 10 Permit Amendment
 Caddo and Bossier Parishes, Louisiana

Sierra Frac Sand, LLC

Cedar Bluff Tract

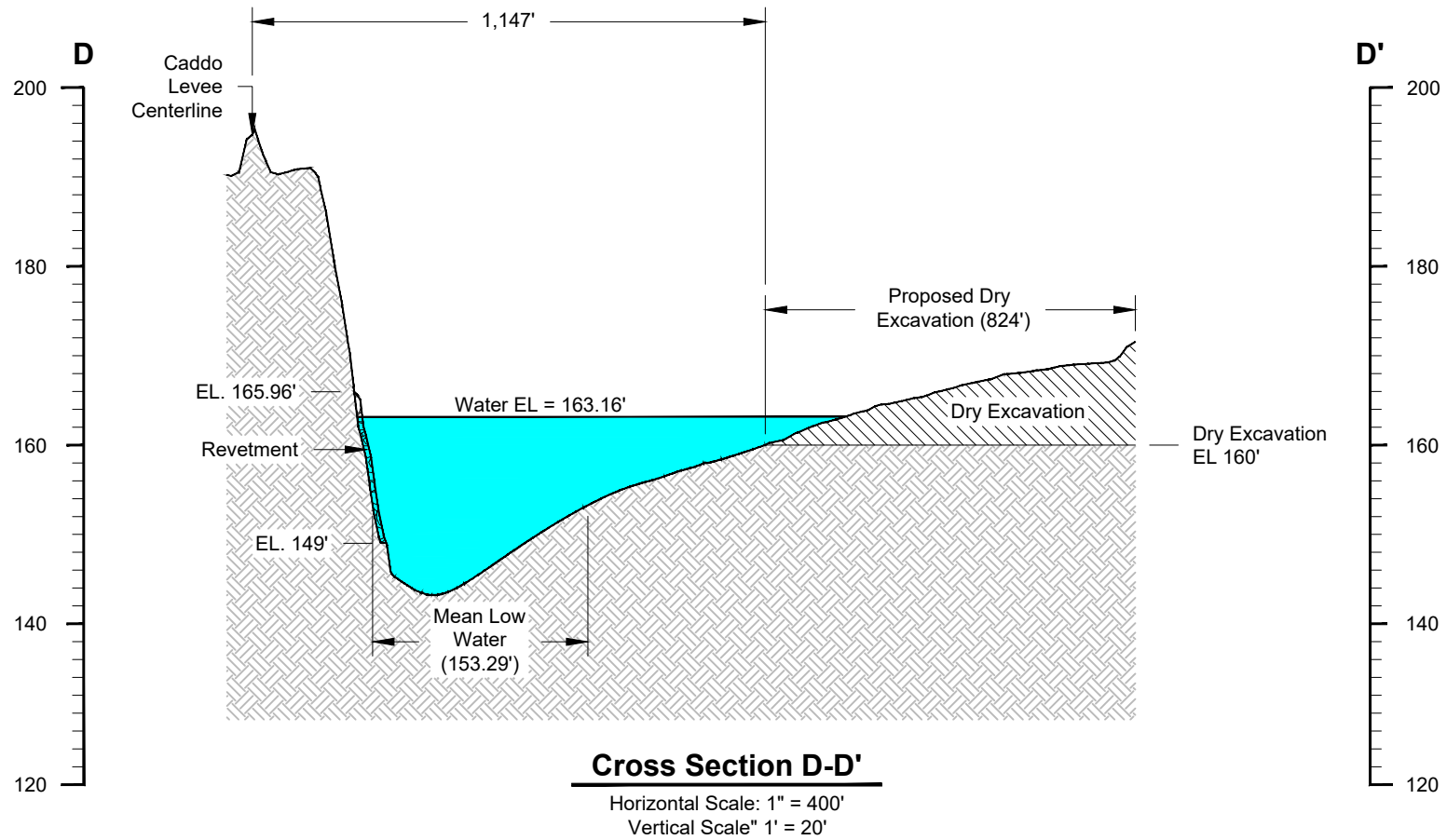


MATRIXNEWORLD
 Engineering Progress

Drawn By	LMM
Approved By	CET
Date	04/05/2021
Drawing No	19-489-A067

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Figure No.



Notes

Red River bottom elevations based on topographic survey information collected 09/15/2020 and 09/16/2020.

Sand bar elevations based on topographic survey information collected 11/19/2021.

Red River water level collected 03/19/2021.

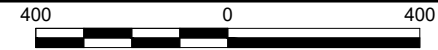
Dry Excavation = 48.45 acres (434,303.47 yd³).

Cross Section D-D'

Section 10 Permit Amendment
 Caddo and Bossier Parishes, Louisiana

Sierra Frac Sand, LLC

Cedar Bluff Tract

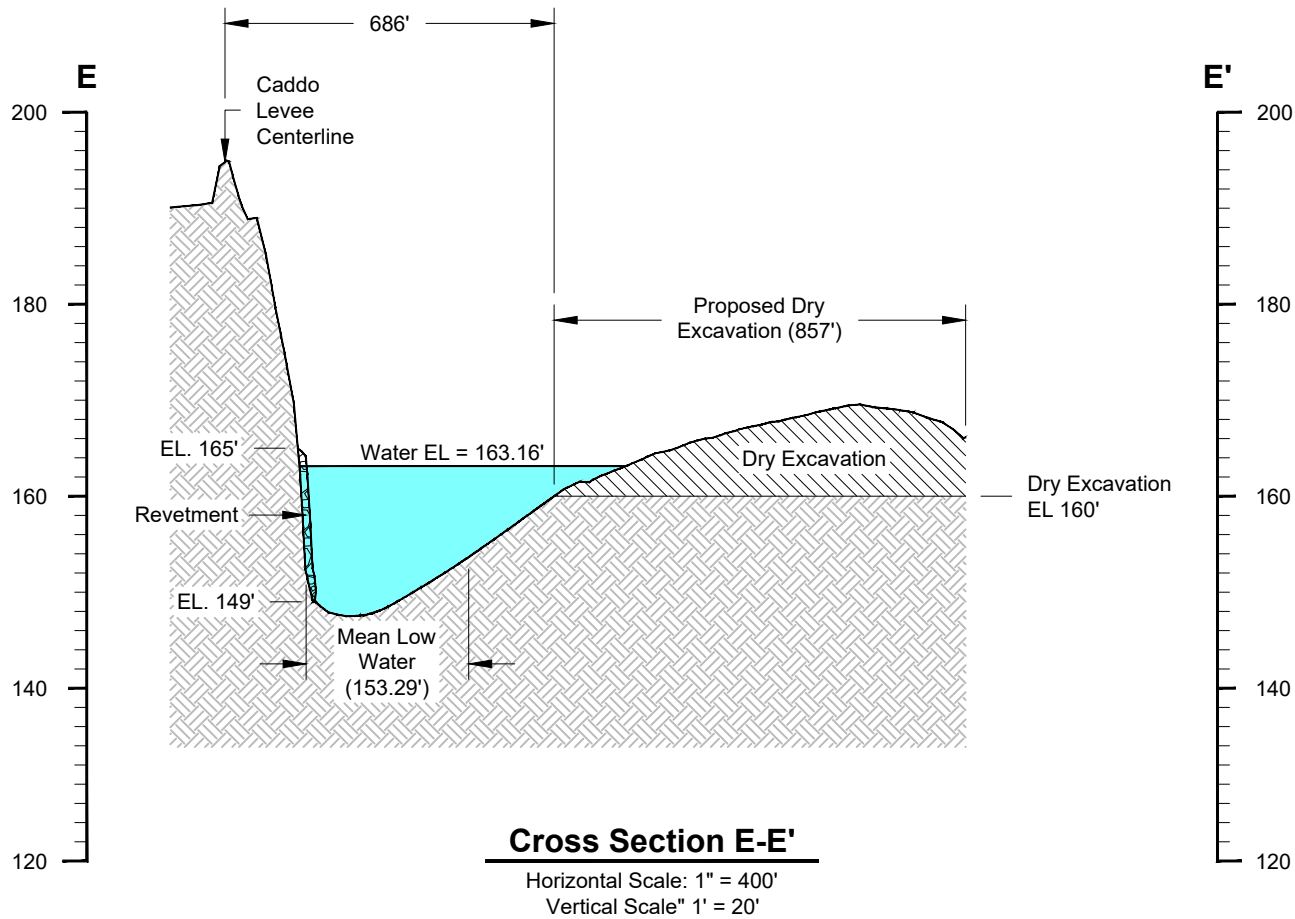


MATRIXNEWORLD
 Engineering Progress

Drawn By	LMM
Approved By	LAW
Date	12/03/2021
Drawing No	19-489-A075

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Figure No.



Notes

Red River bottom elevations based on topographic survey information collected 09/15/2020 and 09/16/2020.

Sand bar elevations based on topographic survey information collected 11/19/2021.

Red River water level collected 03/19/2021.

Dry Excavation = 48.45 acres (434,303.47 yd³).

Cross Section E-E'

Section 10 Permit Amendment
Caddo and Bossier Parishes, Louisiana

Sierra Frac Sand, LLC

Cedar Bluff Tract

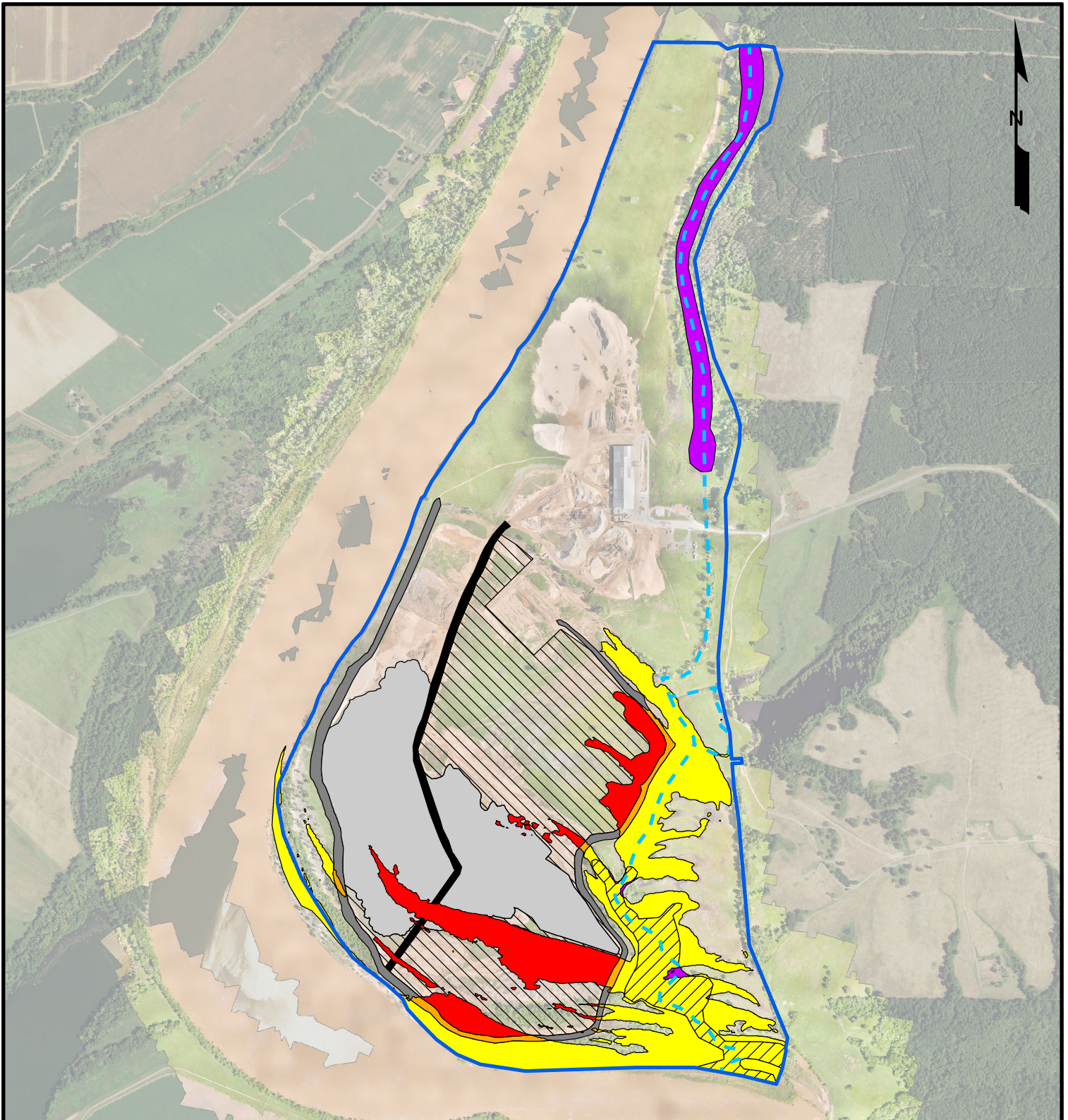


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Engineering Progress

Drawn By	LMM
Approved By	LAW
Date	12/03/2021
Drawing No	19-489-A076

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Figure No.



Legend

- Tract Boundary (856.97 acres)
- Currently Permitted Stripped Areas to be Mined (171.99 acres)
- Currently Permitted Mined Area (106.37 acres)
- Existing Constructed Berms (24.74 acres)
- Existing Haul Road (9.84 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)

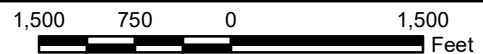
Source: Base map comprised of 2019 aerial photograph from USDA/FSA Aerial Photography Field Office and client provided aerial flown April 2020.

Previously Permitted Section 10 Areas

Section 10 Permit Amendment
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	04/05/2021
Drawing No.	19-489-A070

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Figure No.