



**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-2021-739</u>
EVALUATOR:	<u>Ms. Samantha Thompson</u>
PHONE NO.:	<u>(601) 631-5478</u>
E-MAIL:	<u>Samantha.H.Thompson@usace.army.mil</u>
DATE:	<u>September 2, 2021</u>
EXPIRATION DATE:	<u>September 23, 2021</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.

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 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. John Stringer
Tensas Basin Levee District
505 District Road
Monroe, Louisiana 71202

Name of Agent:
Mr. Matt Mixon
Wetlands Unlimited, LLC
Post Office Box 1892
West Monroe, Louisiana 71294

Location of Work: Section 7, T12N-R5E, Latitude 32.017453, Longitude -91.991967, within Lower Ouachita Drainage Basin (8-digit USGS HUC 08040207), Caldwell Parish, 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 applicant is applying for a Department of the Army permit for conducting regulated activities in jurisdictional wetlands for the purpose of constructing a new section of the Lee Lane Levee.

The proposed project involves the construction of a levee system along an approximately 4,500 linear feet section of the southern and eastern bank of the Ouachita River. The proposed new levee system would be built as a relocation for areas of the existing levee which have become vulnerable due to erosion and undercutting from a bend in the Ouachita River, near Lee Lane. The proposed construction project will consist of two primary levee work areas - an approximately six-acre borrow pit area for obtaining the materials required to construct the levee and a temporary access road for excavation and transport vehicles to access the borrow area, and the installation/construction of a permanent dead-end road section adjacent to the proposed levee toe.

During high river stages and times of high discharge, the river current applies more force to cut banks and levee systems, increasing the rate of erosion in those areas. This natural phenomena has resulted in significant erosion and the potential for a failure of the levee system in the near future at the proposed project site. A compromised levee system in a high discharge event could be hazardous and costly for the surrounding communities.

The vegetation within the project area is currently dominated by broomsedge, Bermuda grass, sweet gum, Eastern red cedar, possum haw, bahia grass, yellow nutgrass, sawtooth blackberry, willow oak, cat greenbrier, honey locust, tall goldenrod, sycamore, and dallis grass. Soils within the project site consists of Herbert silt loam, Rilla silt loam, Sterlington silt loam, and Perry- Herbert Complex.

Approximately 2.33 acres of emergent wetlands would be impacted (fill) due to the construction of the levee.

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

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. The proposed work and/or structures are of such limited nature and scope that little likelihood exists for the proposed project to impinge upon a historic property, even if present within the affected area.

Endangered Species: The Corps has determined that the proposed activity will not affect the Northern long-eared bat. Our finding is based on utilizing the Information Planning and Consultation 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).

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.

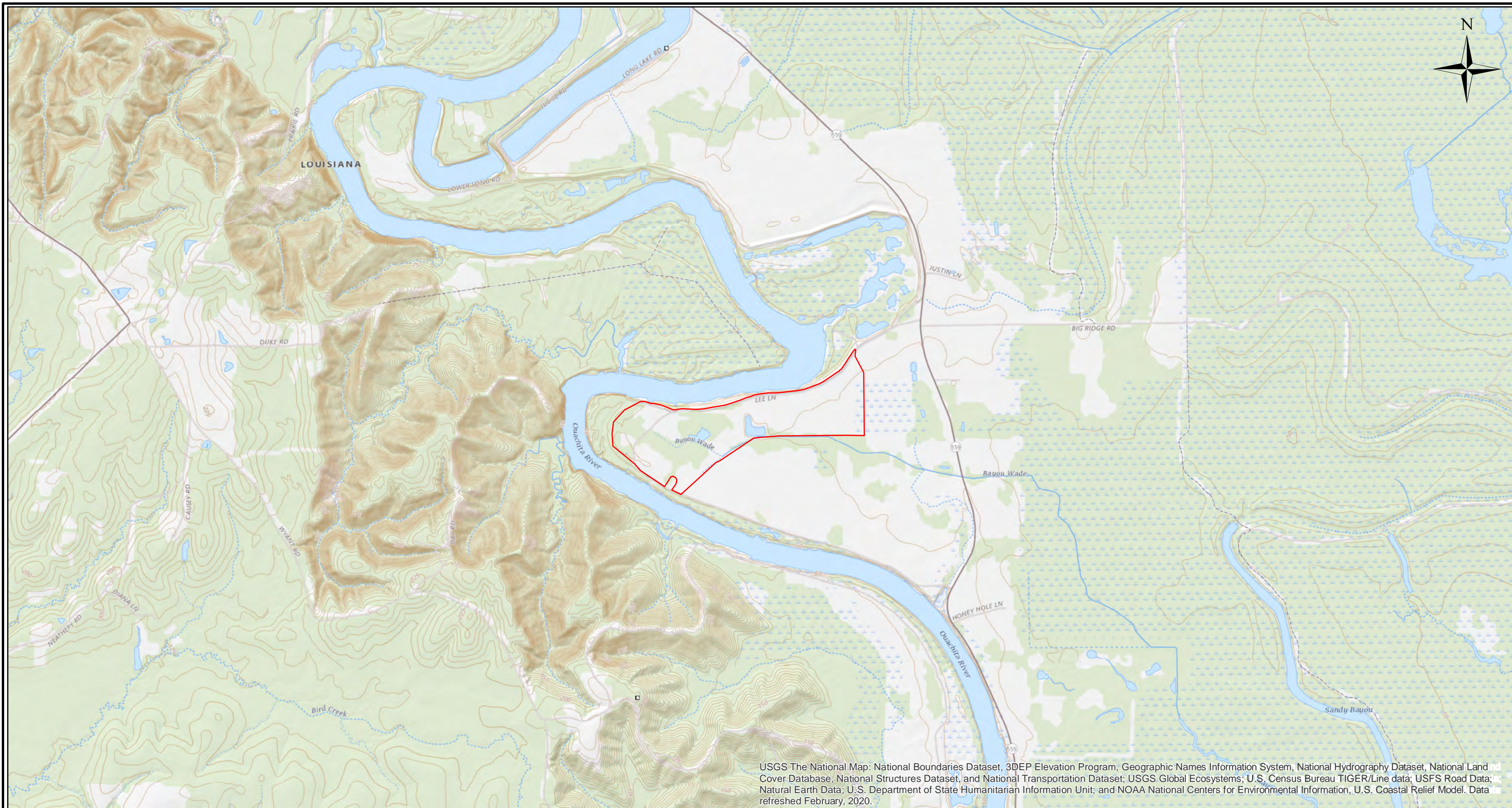
Public Involvement: The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties. These comments will be used to evaluate the impacts of this project. All comments will be considered and used to help determine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

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



USGS The National Map: National Boundaries Dataset, 3DEP Elevation Program, Geographic Names Information System, National Hydrography Dataset, National Land Cover Database, National Structures Dataset, and National Transportation Dataset; USGS Global Ecosystems; U.S. Census Bureau TIGER/Line data; USFS Road Data; Natural Earth Data; U.S. Department of State Humanitarian Information Unit; and NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information, U.S. Coastal Relief Model. Data refreshed February, 2020.

DRAWN BY:	TS
CHECKED BY:	MM
DATE:	08/20/2021
SCALE:	AS SHOWN
CAD NO:	N/A
PROJ NO:	2021.013

Legend

Site Location

0 0.45 0.9 1.8
 Miles

Site Location Map
Lee Lane Levee Project
Caldwell Parish, Louisiana



FIGURE
1



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

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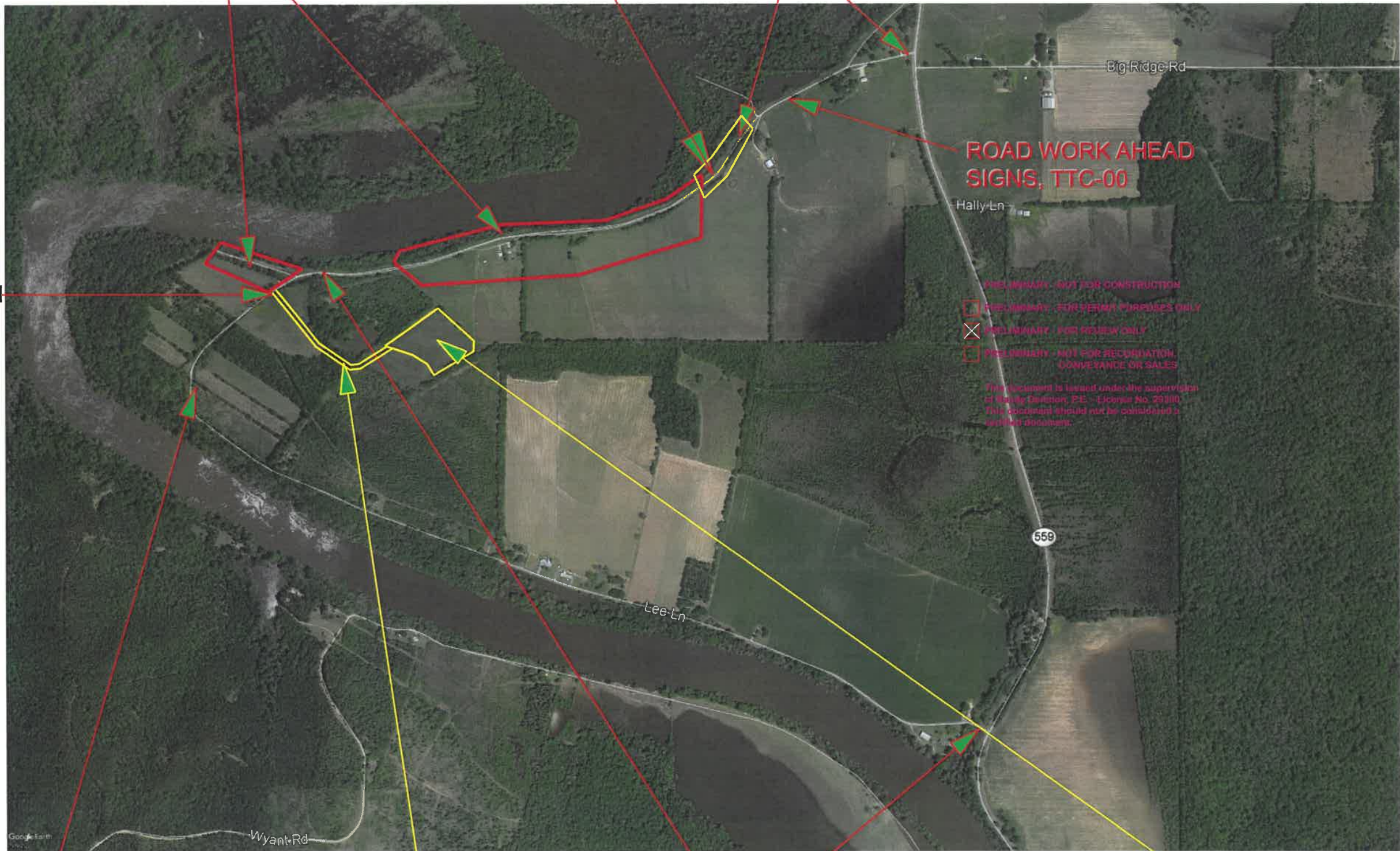
Impact Areas (2.33 Acres)	Intermittent Stream (2,129.30ft)
Emergent Wetlands	Borrow Pit Area (6.00ac)
Forested Wetlands	Project Boundary
New Access Road	Temporary Access Road
Construction Area	

0 550 1,100 2,200
Feet

Site Detail Drawing
Lee Lane Levee Project
Caldwell Parish, Louisiana



FIGURE
2



WORK AREAS

TREES CLEARED AND GRUBBED TO 15' FROM THE LEVEE TOE IN THIS AREA. ALL VOIDS BACKFILLED SEEDING, MULCH, FERT. REQ.

DEAD END & NO OUTLET SIGN W14-1, W14-2 36"X36"

DEAD END & NO OUTLET SIGN W14-1, W14-2 36"X36"

ROAD WORK AHEAD SIGNS, TTC-00

- PRELIMINARY - NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION
 [] PRELIMINARY - FOR PERMITS PURPOSES ONLY
 [X] PRELIMINARY - FOR REVIEW ONLY
 [] PRELIMINARY - NOT FOR RECORDATION, CONVEYANCE OR SALES

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ROAD WORK AHEAD SIGNS, TTC-00

50' WIDE TEMPORARY EASEMENT TO BORROW AREA

DEAD END & NO OUTLET SIGN W14-1, W14-2 36"X36"

6 ACRE BORROW AREA

SHEET NUMBER	CALDWELL			SHEET	2
	PARISH	PROJECT	DEC		
DETAILED	TMB	DATE	6/21	BT	
CHECKED	CONF	SHEET			
REVISION DESCRIPTION					
NO.	DATE				
PROJECT LAYOUT & TRAFFIC SIGNS					
LEE LANE LEVEE RELOCATION					