

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

Mississippi 39183-3435.



Public Notice

APPLICATION NO.: MVK-2022-920

EVALUATOR: Mr. Greg Christodoulou

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DATE: April 11, 2023
EXPIRATION DATE: May 1, 2023

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,

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.

<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:
Mr. Ric LeGrange
Louisiana State Parks
1051 North Third Street
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802

Name of Agent:
Mr. Cory Ricks
ELOS Environmental, LLC
607 West Morris Avenue
Hammond, Louisiana 70403

<u>Location of Work</u>: Section 40, 46, and 49 T3S R10,11E, Latitude 30.781818 N, Longitude -90.144447 W, within the Bogue Chitto River Basin (8-digit USGS HUC: 03180005), Washington Parish, Louisiana.

<u>Description of Work</u>: (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 to discharge dredged and/or fill material into jurisdictional "other waters" of the U.S. to provide bank erosion control intended to combat the ongoing occurrence of embankment scouring due to high water events. The project has a site outline of 2.64 acres with approximately 0.90 acres of jurisdictional impacts (dredged or fill material placed below OHW), overlaid by 2,978CY of articulated concrete block. A 2'x 2' retaining trench will be excavated and filled with concrete upon the revetment crown stretching the entirety of the site. Fifteen feet of clear and grub will be imposed from the concrete trench towards the outward land side of the project area. Water and electric lines will be relocated to the western edge of the site outline.

The purpose of this project is to prevent the further loss of land to erosion, maintain access to the existing beach, and save the existing bathroom building. No land that is already eroded away will be reclaimed. The project intends to defend the river embankment from scouring that occurs during frequent highwater events. Some additional excavation will be required to meet the slope requirements of 2:1 for the articulated concrete blocks.

Typical tree species along the riverbank include water oak, sycamore, black willow, and river birch. Understory vegetation includes wood oats, American beautyberry, yaupon holly, Chinese privet, and Virginia dayflower. The soils along the site are dominated by Cahaba, fine sandy 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>: The Regulatory Archaeologist has reviewed the latest published version of the <u>National Register of Historic Places</u>, 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 area is considered a high probability area for unrecorded archaeological resources based on topography and adjacency to the Bogue Chitto River.

An investigation (Phase I Cultural Resources Survey) is justified and has been requested.

Endangered Species: Threatened and Endangered Species for this area include the Gopher Tortoise, Ringed Map Turtle, Gulf Sturgeon, and the Louisiana Quillwort. Utilizing the Information and Planning 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), the Corps has determined that the proposed activity will have no effect on the Gopher Tortoise and Louisiana Quillwort or their designated habitats. The project is "not likely to adversely affect" the Gulf Sturgeon and "may affect" the Ringed Map Turtle. This proposal is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and any comments regarding endangered species or their critical habitat will be addressed in our evaluation of the described work.

<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. Portions of the proposed project site are 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.

<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
Acting Chief, Louisiana Branch
Regulatory Division















