

US Army Corps of Engineers



Public Notice

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

APPLICATION NO.:MVK-2020-921EVALUATOR:Mr. Samantha ThompsonPHONE NO.:(601) 631-5478E-MAIL:Samantha.H.Thompson@usace.army.milDATE:February 11, 2022EXPIRATION DATE:March 4, 2022

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, Regulatory Division 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-PE, 4155 Clay Street, Vicksburg, Mississippi 39183-3435.

An application has also been submitted 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. Brad Peck Love's Travel Stops & Country Stores 10601 N Pennsylvania Avenue Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73120 <u>Name of Agent</u>: Ms. Rebecca Gaspard

Terracon Consultants, Incorporated 524 Elmwood Park Blvd., Suite 170 New Orleans, Louisiana 70123

<u>Location of Work:</u> Section 32, T19N-R14W, Latitude 32.596027, Longitude -93.828279, within the Bayou Pierre watershed of the Cross Bayou Drainage Basin (8-digit USGS HUC 11140304), Caddo 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 conduct regulated activities in jurisdictional wetlands for the purpose of constructing a Love's Travel Stop and Country Store consisting of a large convenience store, auto and truck fueling and parking, and associated appurtenances located near Shreveport. The site includes approximately 15.22 acres of undeveloped partially cleared forested uplands. The site also consists of approximately 0.14 acres of emergent wetlands, 0.97 acres of scrub/shrub wetlands and 701 linear feet of intermittent stream. The proposed project would permanently impact 0.64 acre of scrub-shrub wetlands, 0.02 acre of emergent wetlands, and 497 linear feet of intermittent stream. The proposed project would also temporarily impact 0.14 acre of emergent wetlands and 0.26 acre of scrub-shrub wetlands.

The vegetative communities within the project area are dominated by overstory bottomland hardwood forest with a minimal understory and groundcover. Dominant tree and sapling species observed within the project area include southern red oak, pecan, giant thorny bamboo, Chinese tallow, button bush, Chinese privet, trumpet creeper, lamp rush, blue flag iris. Soil within the project site consists of Guyton-lulus complex soils considered hydric by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

The applicant proposes to mitigate for the unavoidable loss of jurisdictional impacts through the purchase of credits from a USACE approved 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.

<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: 1 survey and 5 sites within

one mile. Historic imagery, starting in 1933, show historic structures and unpaved roads in the NW quadrant of the project area. However, much of the areas where these structures were located will not be impacted. Due to the limited nature of the permitted impacts, staff archaeologist determined a no potential to cause effect.

<u>Endangered Species</u>: 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 would have no effect on the following species: Red-cockaded woodpecker. This project may affect the Northern long-eared bat (NLEB), but any resulting incidental take of the NLEB is not prohibited by the final 4(d) rule.

<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. A portion of the project is located within the 100-year floodplain.

<u>Evaluation Factors</u>: 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.

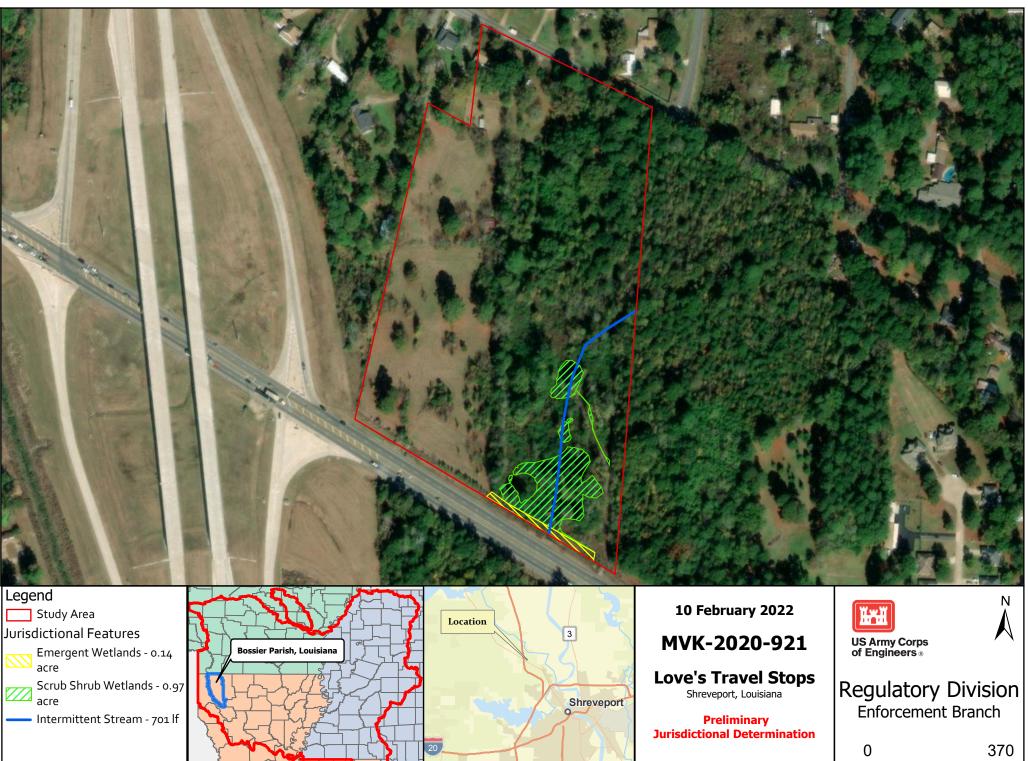
<u>Public Involvement</u>: The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties. These comments will be used to evaluate the impacts of this project. All comments will be considered and used to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

<u>Opportunity for a Public Hearing</u>: 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.

<u>Notification of Final Permit Actions</u>: 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, <u>http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx</u>.

Bryan Williamson

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



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Andy Sanderson

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LEGEND FOR PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

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TY LINE / R.O.W. PROPOSED BUILDING POSED CURB AND GUTTER PROPOSED INLET PROPOSED CURB INLET

PROPOSED STORM SEWER PROPOSED ELEVATION

WETLAND SUMMARY

PERMENANT IMPACTS SCRUB SHRUB WETLANDS EMERGENT WETLANDS STREAM IMPACTS

TEMPORARY IMPACTS SCRUB SHRUB WETLANDS EMERGENT WETLANDS

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PERMENANT IMPACTS

0.64±AC SCRUB SHRUB WETLAND 0.02±LF TEMPORARY IMPACTS 497± LF

 $0.26 \pm AC$ $0.14 \pm AC$

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