

PART II
TRIBAL COORDINATION

Tribal Cooperating Agency Requests



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300
November 19, 2014

NEPA/Cultural Resources Section

Bryant Celestine
Historic Preservation Officer
Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas
571 State Park Road 56
Livingston, TX 77351

Dear Mr. Celestine:

The Galveston District, Corps of Engineers, and the non-federal sponsor, the Texas General Land Office, would like to invite your tribe to participate as a cooperating agency in the development of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Sabine Pass to Galveston Bay, Texas, Coastal Storm Risk Management and Ecosystem Restoration Study. The integrated feasibility report and EIS (IFR-EIS) will evaluate structural and non-structural alternatives which address coastal storm risk management (CSRM) and ecosystem restoration (ER) opportunities in Orange, Jefferson, Chambers, Harris, Galveston and Brazoria counties on the upper Texas Gulf coast. The Draft IFR-EIS is currently scheduled to be released for public review and comment in August 2015.

Structural alternatives that will be evaluated are: (1) new surge protection levees and small, navigable surge gates on Cow and Adams Bayous in Orange and Jefferson Counties; (2) a large navigable surge gate in the Neches River near the Rainbow Bridge (eliminated); and (3) reevaluation of the existing Port Arthur and Freeport Hurricane Flood Protection (HFP) systems in Jefferson and Brazoria Counties, respectively. Maps showing the location of the existing HPFs and the structural alternatives are enclosed. Non-structural measures such as targeted buy-outs, conservation of natural landscapes, and flood-proofing will also be evaluated. Structural and non-structural alternatives to address storm surge impacts in the Galveston Bay system (Galveston, Harris and Chambers Counties), as well as ER measures throughout the six-county study area will be evaluated programmatically, with recommendations being made for detailed analyses of feasible alternatives in future studies.

If your tribe has any concerns regarding potential project impacts to Native American archeological sites or areas of religious or cultural interest from the potential project described above, we request that you contact us so that further consultation can be initiated. We would also like to coordinate with you our schedule for study completion so that all reviews and approvals will, to the maximum extent practicable, be conducted concurrently. The following review periods for the IFR-EIS have been established in accordance with the current project schedule:

- Review of Draft IFR-EIS –45-day review period (August 29 through October 12, 2015)
- State and Agency Review of Final IFR-EIS – 30-day review (July 15 through August 14, 2016)

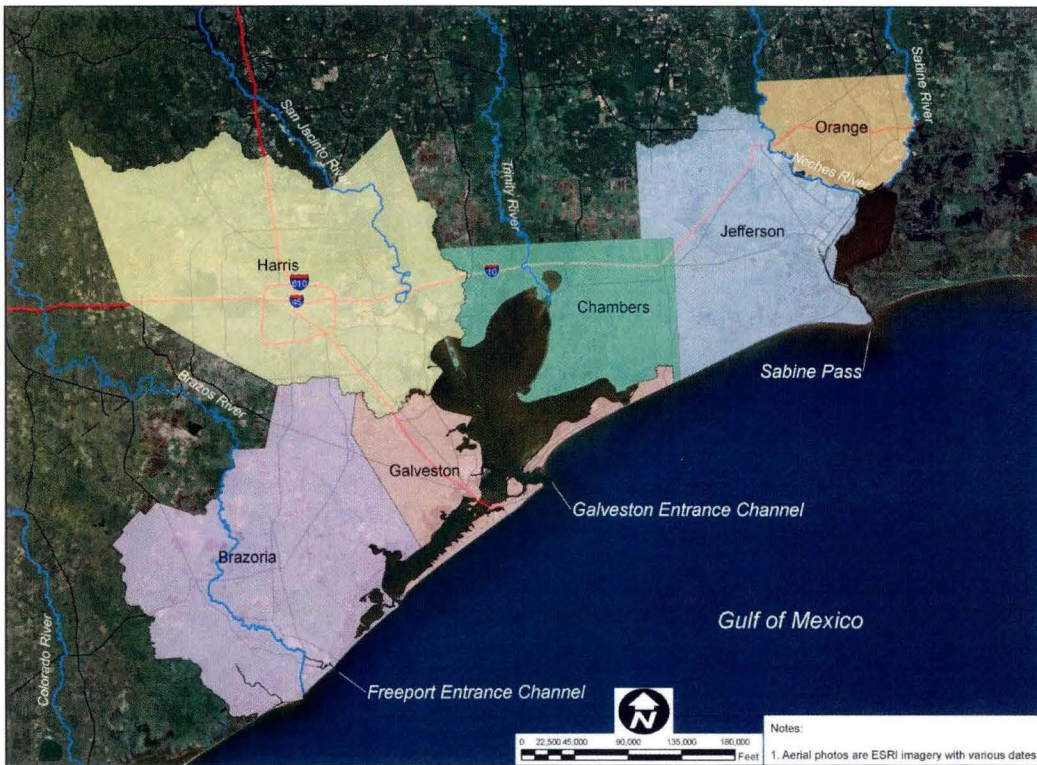
We appreciate this opportunity to consult regarding any concerns your tribe may have with potential project impacts or review periods. If you should have any questions regarding this request, please contact Janelle Stokes of my staff at (409) 766-3039.

Sincerely,

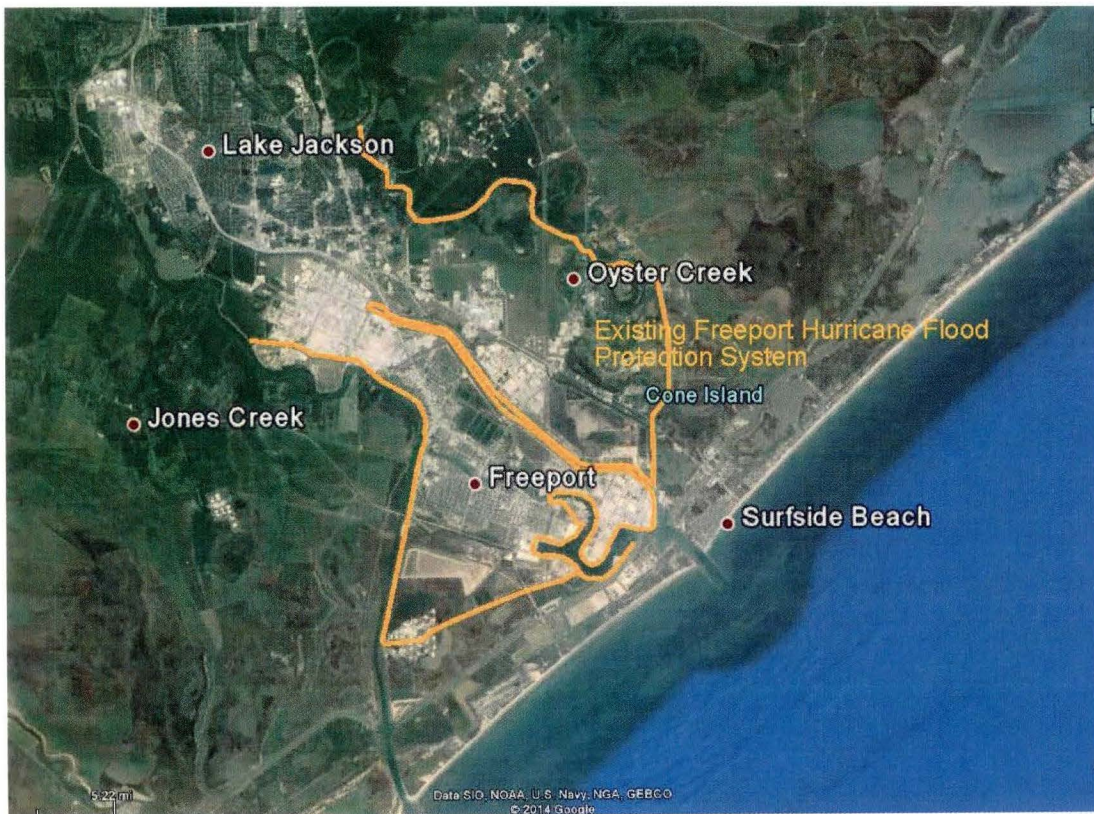


Carolyn Murphy
Chief, Unit A, NEPA/Cultural
Resources Section

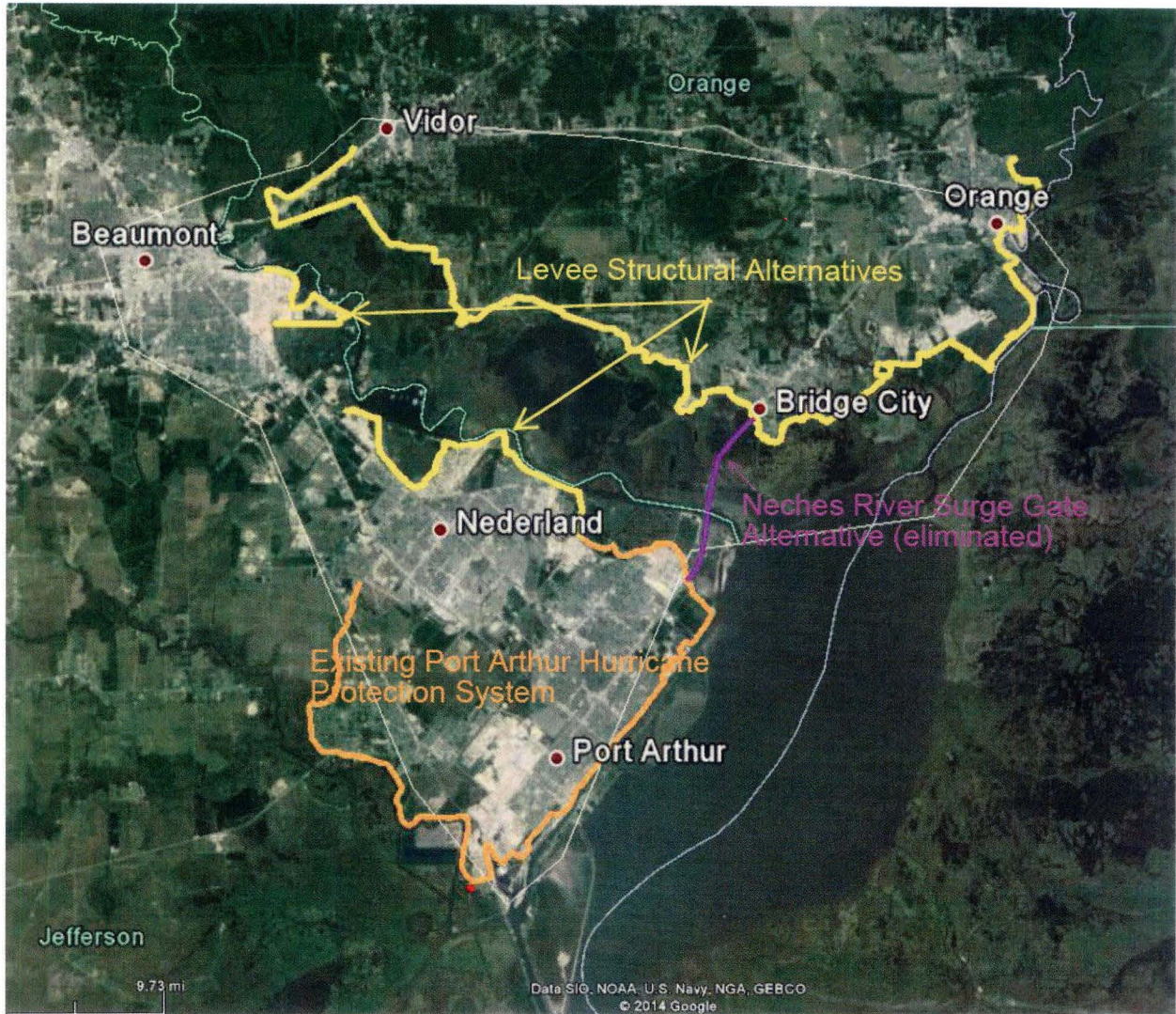
Enclosures



Six County Sabine Pass to Galveston Bay Study Area



Existing Freeport Hurricane Flood Protection System



**Existing Port Arthur Hurricane Flood Protection System,
Levee Structural Alternatives and Neches River Surge
Gate Alternative**

Identical Cooperating Agency Letters Also Sent To:

Mr. Jimmy Arterberry
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Comanche Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 908
Lawton, OK 73502

Dr. Linda Langley
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana
Administrative Building
1940 C.C. Bel Road
Elton, Louisiana 70532

Ms. Amie Tah-Bone
Historic Preservation Office
Kiowa Indian Tribe of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 369
Carnegie, OK 73015

Holly Houghton
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Mescalero Apache Tribe
P.O. Box 227
Mescalero, NM 88340

President Don L. Patterson
Tonkawa Tribe of Oklahoma
1 Rush Buffalo Road
Tonkawa, OK 74653

No Tribes responded to this request, but no Tribes specifically declined.

Tribal Coordination of DIFR-EIS



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
GALVESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 1229
GALVESTON, TEXAS 77553-1229

September 18, 2015

SWF-PEC-TN

Mr. Bryant Celestine
Alabama-Coushatta Tribes of Texas
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
571 State Park Road 56
Livingston, TX 77351

Dear Mr. Celestine:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District (USACE) has prepared a draft report on the feasibility and environmental suitability of Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRМ) and Ecosystem Restoration (ER) projects between Sabine Pass and the Brazos River in Orange, Jefferson, and Brazoria Counties, Texas. Authorization for this study is based on a resolution from the Committee on Environmental and Public Works dated June 23, 2004, entitled "Coastal Texas Protection and Restoration Study." The study identified several alternatives for CSRМ and ER projects in the study area and, more specifically, a tentatively selected plan (TSP) with three components: 1) a new levee/floodwall system in Orange and Northeast Jefferson counties called the Orange-Jefferson CSRМ Plan; 2) improvements to existing floodwalls in the Port Arthur and Vicinity Hurricane Flood Protection Project (HFPP) called the Port Arthur and Vicinity CSRМ Plan; and 3) improvements to existing levees and floodwalls in the Freeport and Vicinity HFPP called the Freeport and Vicinity CSRМ Plan. Maps of the three TSP project components are attached as Figures 1 through 13.

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) for this project will be the footprint of the TSP for direct impacts to archeological resources plus a 1,500-foot buffer for indirect impacts to standing structures or buildings. The Orange-Jefferson CSRМ Plan (Figures 1 through 6) overlaps five archeological sites and two cemeteries. Additionally, there are four National Register Properties within 1,500 feet of the proposed levee system (Navy Park Historic District, W.H. Stark House, Sims House, and the Woodmen of the World Lodge), all of which would experience reduced risk of storm surge damages with construction of the new levee system. The five archeological sites in Orange County (41OR15, OR39, OR59, OR60, and OR70) are all prehistoric sites that have poorly delineated boundaries, insufficient documentation, and have not been evaluated for National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility. All of these sites have the potential to be directly impacted by construction activities. The two cemeteries (Thomas Cemetery and an unknown cemetery) also have a potential to be directly affected by levee construction as their recorded boundaries overlap with the proposed project area.

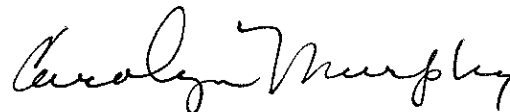
These cemeteries are not well documented and their locations may not be accurate within the existing state databases.

There are numerous cultural resources that occur near the APE for the Port Arthur (Figures 7 through 9) and Freeport CSRM Plans (Figures 10 through 13); however, all of these resources as currently mapped occur outside of the areas proposed for improvements. In Port Arthur, there are no cultural resources that overlap with the areas for proposed improvements along the existing HFPP. However, there are three archeological sites (41BO4, BO119, and BO121) that are within proximity to the proposed improvement areas along the Freeport HFPP. These three sites all occur along Oyster Creek (Figure 13), are poorly delineated, lack sufficient documentation, and have not been evaluated for NRHP eligibility.

Based on the current information for the proposed levee construction and improvements, there is a potential to affect historic properties and cemeteries. These effects consist of direct impacts from earth moving and excavation activities related to construction and potential indirect effects on historic structures such as diminished view shed from the raising of levees and floodwalls. The USACE recommends intensive cultural resources investigations to identify and evaluate any historic properties within proposed construction areas. The USACE intends to execute a Programmatic Agreement (PA) to govern the scope of investigations, which will be determined in concert with the Texas SHPO and Native American Tribes. A draft PA has been developed and provided for public and tribal review as Appendix L in the Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement. A compact disk of this report is enclosed.

We request your comments on the proposed undertaking and the potential to affect historic properties in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Thank you for your cooperation in this review process. If you have any questions concerning the proposed project or if we can be of further assistance, please contact John A. Campbell at 409-766-3878.

Sincerely,



Carolyn Murphy
Chief, Unit A
NEPA & Cultural Resources Section
Environmental Technical Services Branch
Regional Planning & Environmental Center

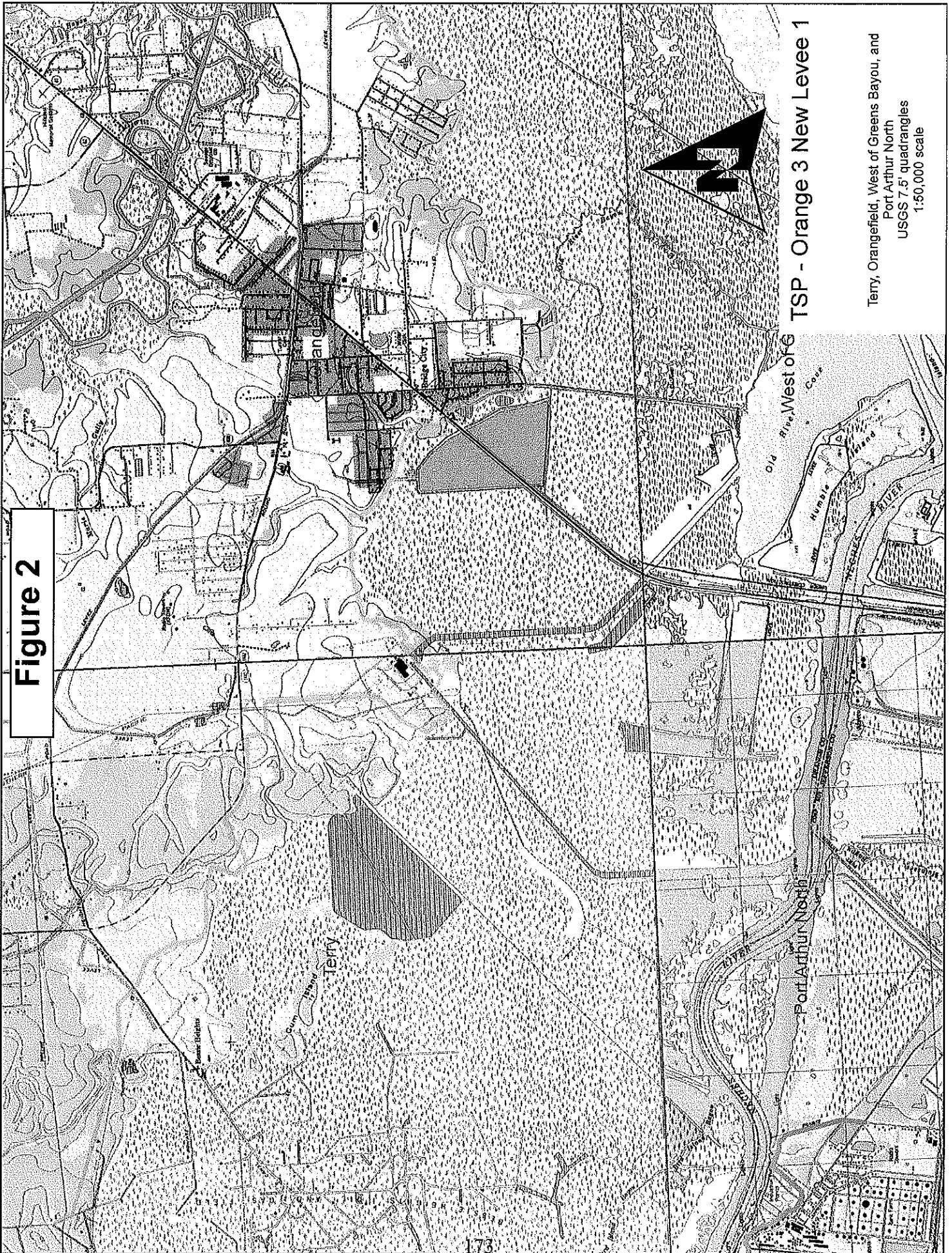
Enclosures

ATTACHMENTS

Figure 1: Orange and Jefferson Counties CSRSM Plan



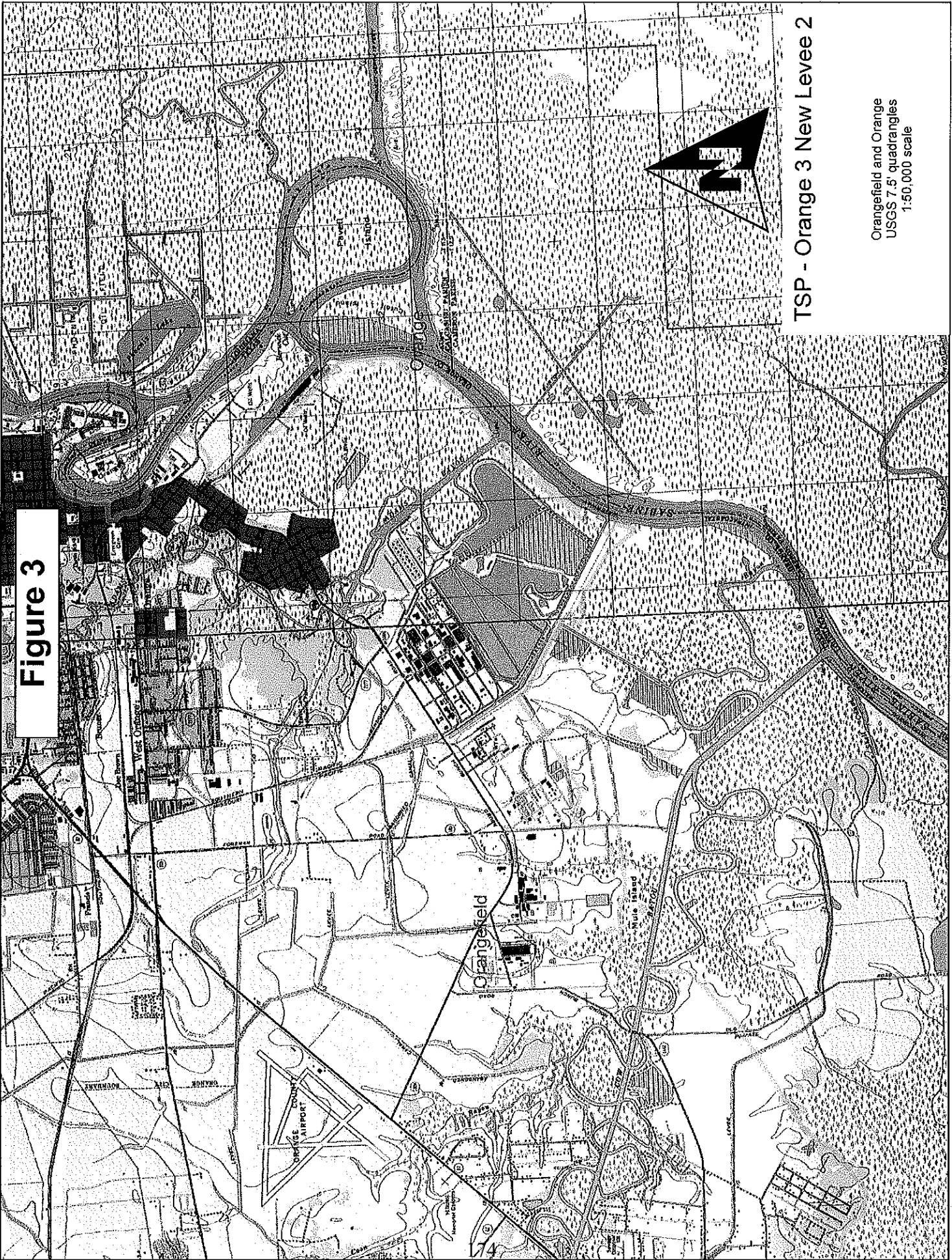
Figure 2



TSP - Orange 3 New Levee 1

Terry, Orangefield, West of Greens Bayou, and
Port Arthur North
USGS 7.5 quadrangles
1:50,000 scale

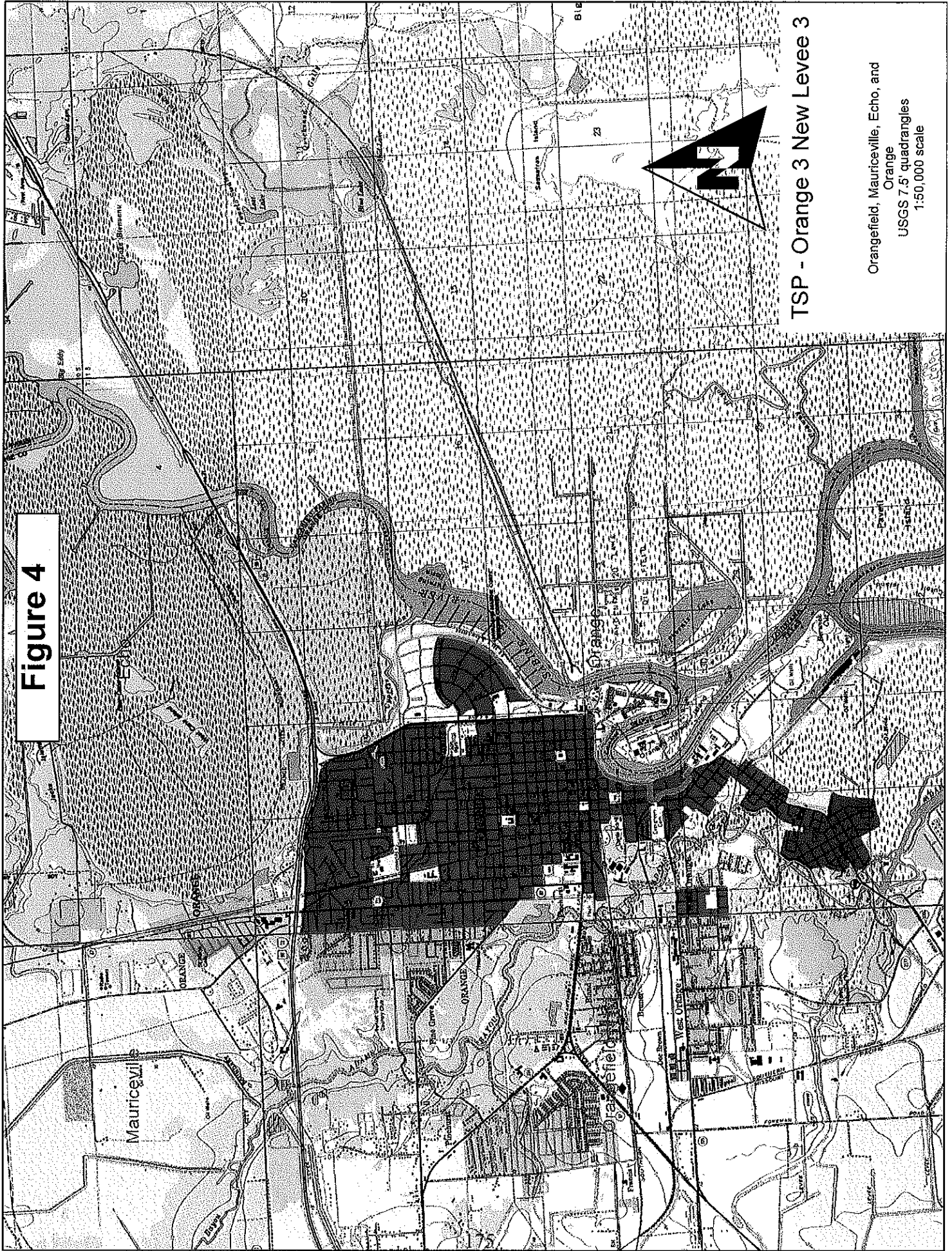
Figure 3



TSP - Orange 3 New Level 2

Orangefield and Orange
USGS 7.5' quadrangles
1:50,000 scale

Figure 4



TSP - Orange 3 New Level 3

Orangefield, Mauriceville, Echo, and
Orange
USGS 7.5' quadrangles
1:50,000 scale

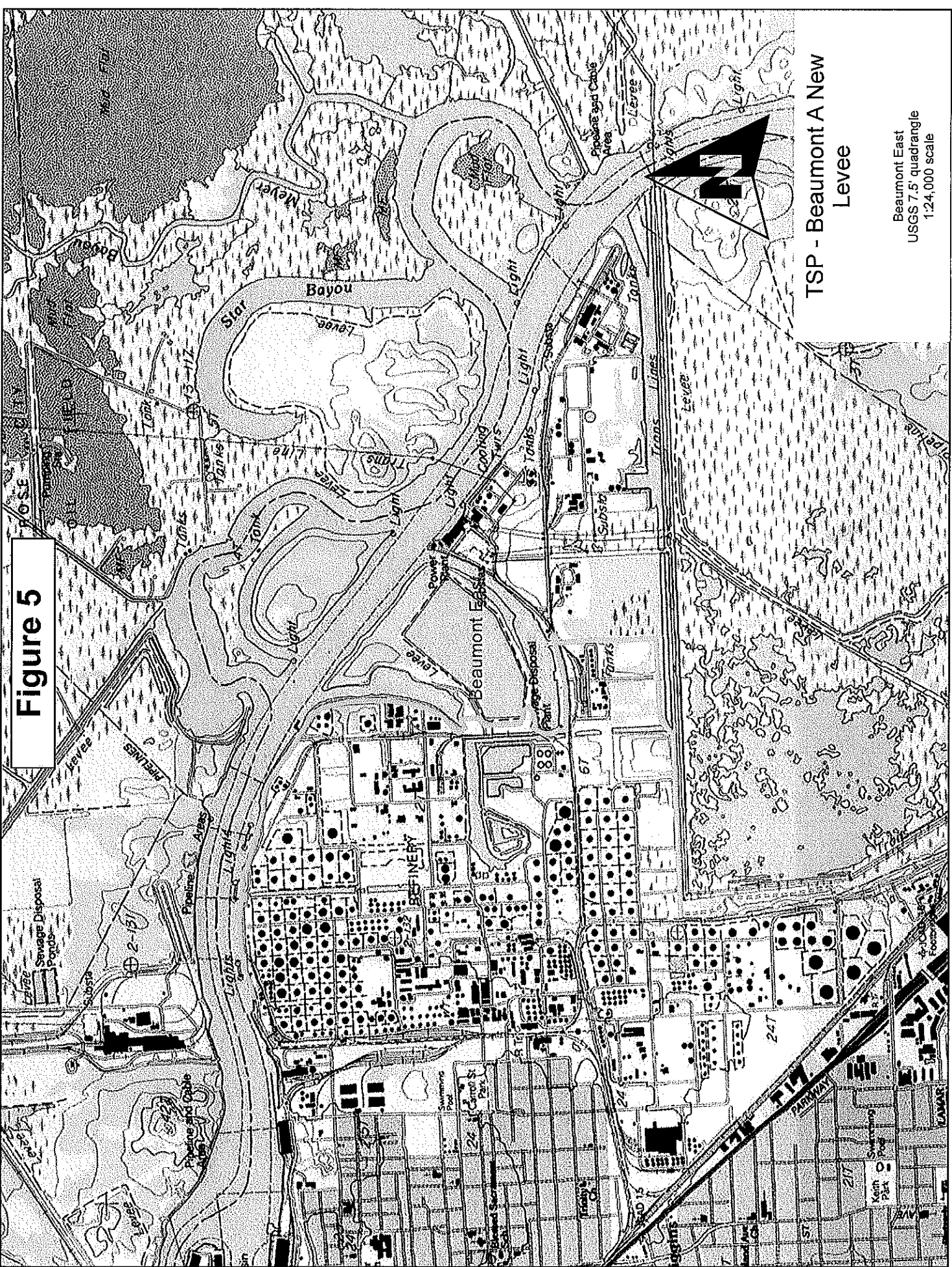
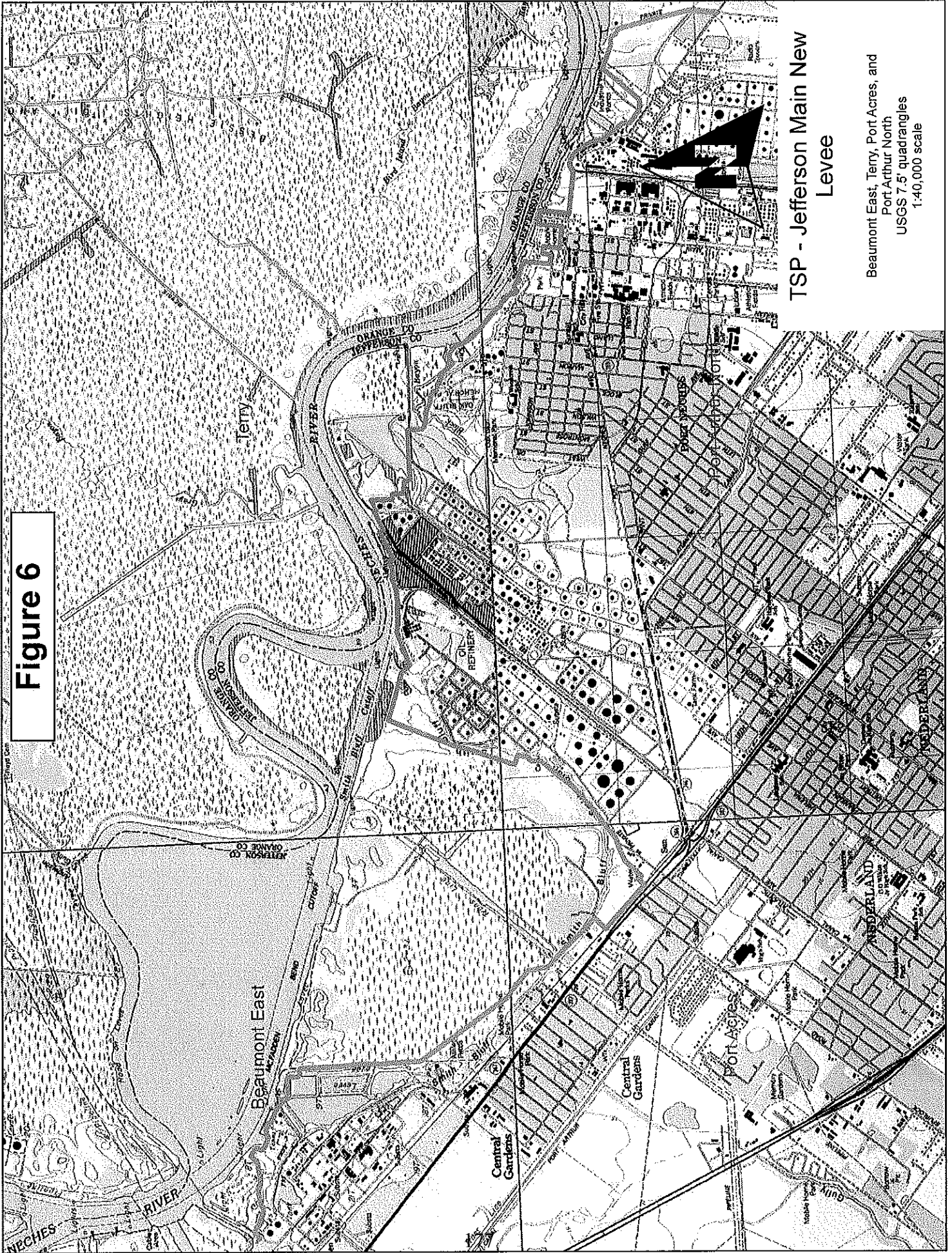


Figure 5

TSP - Beaumont A New
Levee

Beaumont East
USGS 7.5' quadrangle
1:24,000 scale

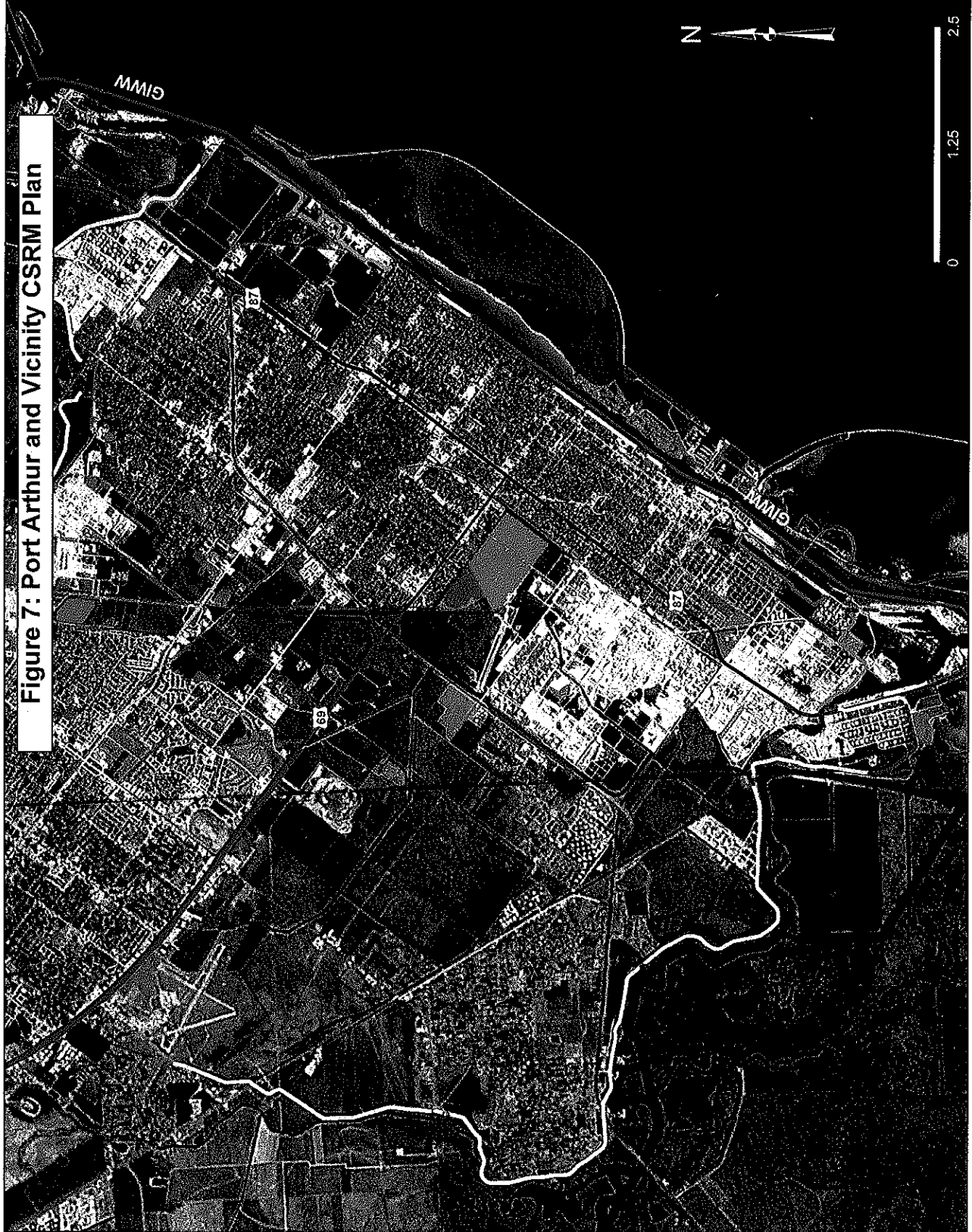
Figure 6



TSP - Jefferson Main New
Levee

Beaumont East, Terry, Port Acres, and
Port Arthur North
USGS 7.5' quadrangles
1:40,000 scale

Figure 7: Port Arthur and Vicinity CSRMM Plan



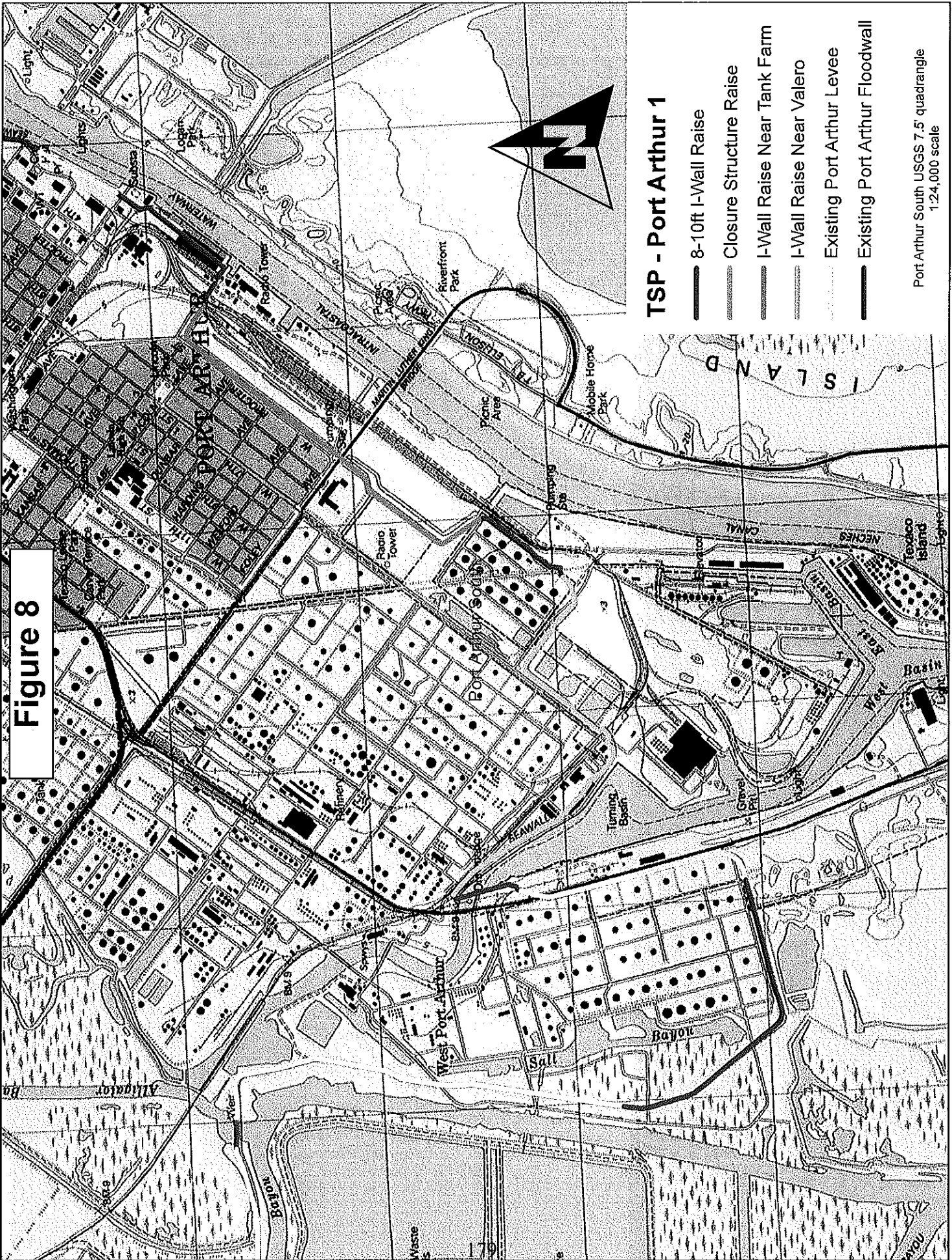
Legend

- Existing Levee
- Existing Floodwall
- 8-10ft I-Wall Raise
- Closure Structure Raise
- I-Wall Raise Near Tank Farm
- I-Wall Raise Near Valero
- Road
- Water Way



Miles
5

Figure 8

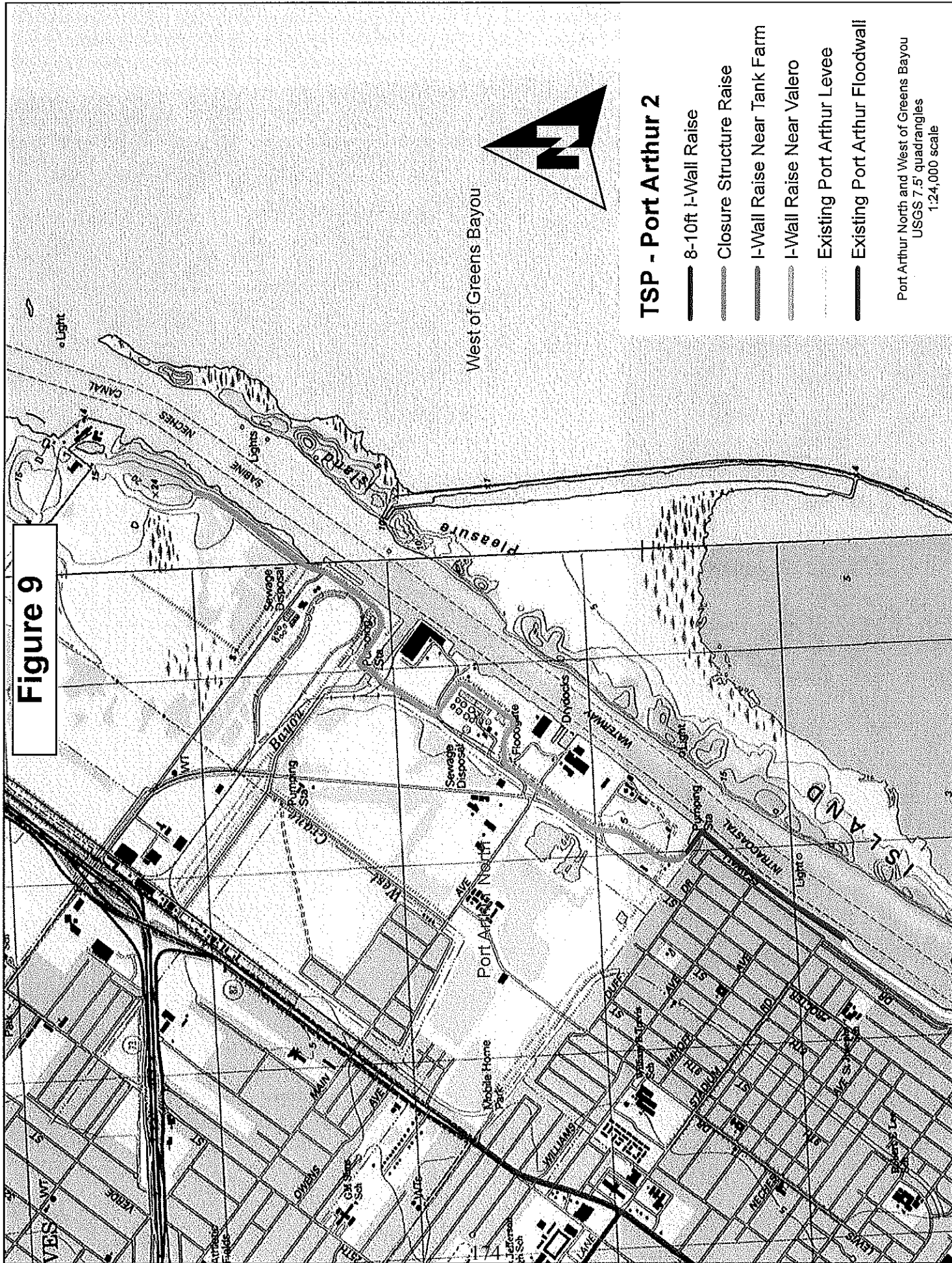


TSP - Port Arthur 1

- 8-10ft I-Wall Raise
- Closure Structure Raise
- I-Wall Raise Near Tank Farm
- I-Wall Raise Near Valero
- - - Existing Port Arthur Levee
- Existing Port Arthur Floodwall

Port Arthur South USGS 7.5' quadrangle
1:24,000 scale

Figure 9



West of Greens Bayou

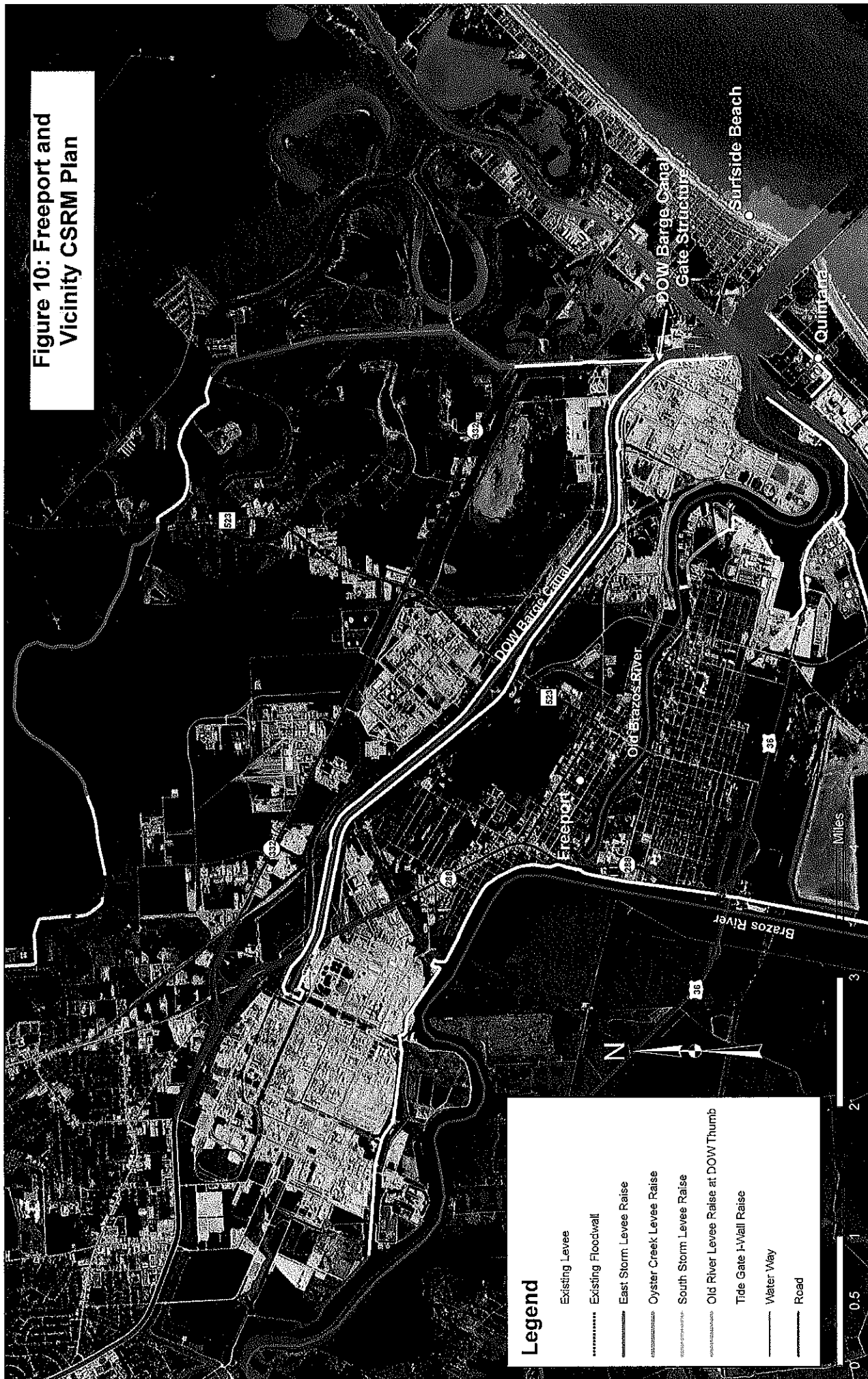


TSP - Port Arthur 2

- 8-10ft I-Wall Raise
- Closure Structure Raise
- I-Wall Raise Near Tank Farm
- I-Wall Raise Near Valero
- Existing Port Arthur Levee
- Existing Port Arthur Floodwall

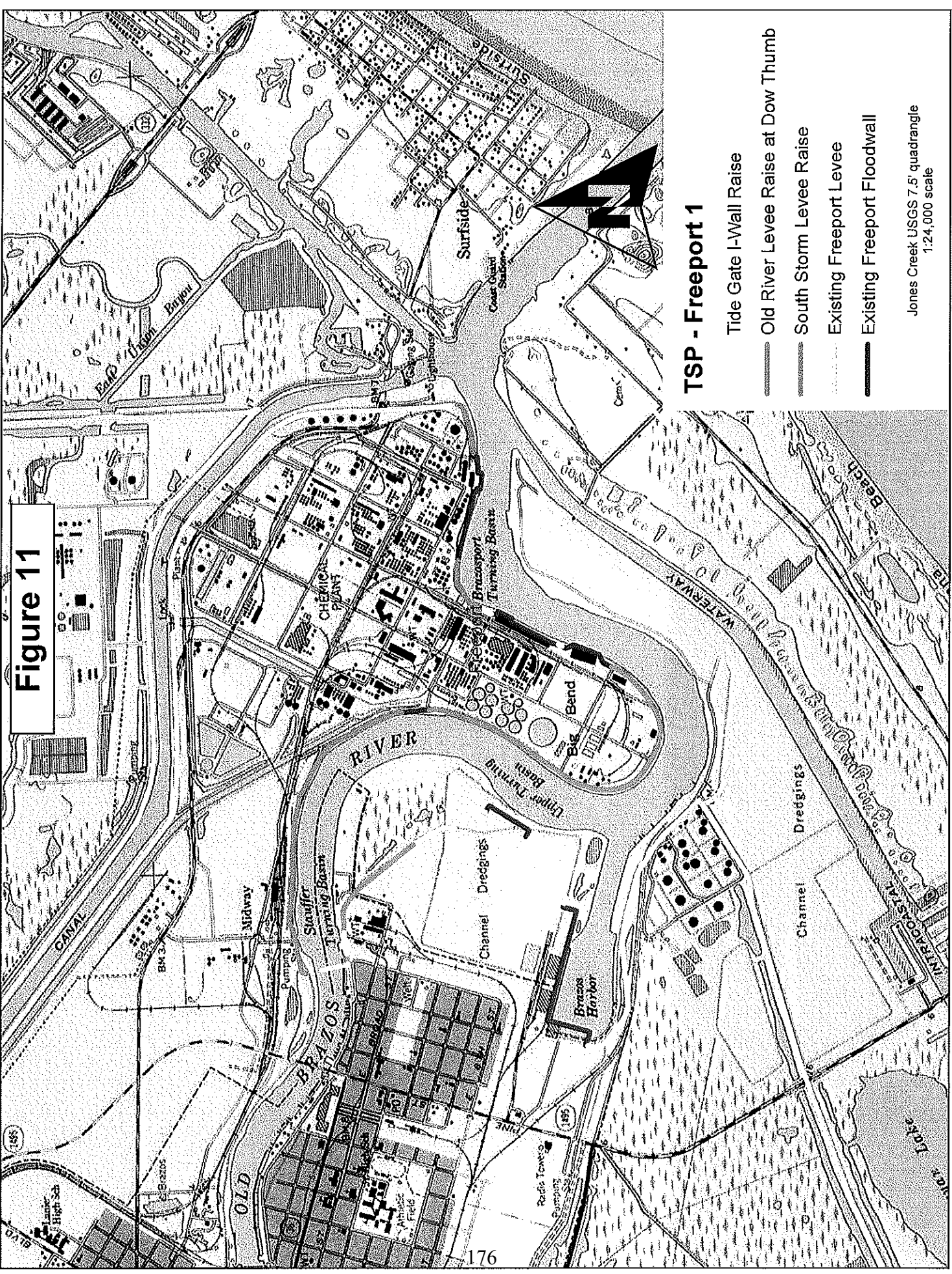
Port Arthur North and West of Greens Bayou
USGS 7.5' quadrangles
1:24,000 scale

**Figure 10: Freeport and
Vicinity CSR Plan**



Legend

- Existing Levee
- Existing Floodwall
- East Storm Levee Raise
- Oyster Creek Levee Raise
- South Storm Levee Raise
- Old River Levee Raise at DOW Thumb
- Tide Gate I-Wall Raise
- Water Way
- Road



TSP - Freeport 1

- Tide Gate I-Wall Raise
- Old River Levee Raise at Dow Thumb
- South Storm Levee Raise
- Existing Freeport Levee
- Existing Freeport Floodwall

Jones Creek USGS 7.5' quadrangle
1:24,000 scale

Figure 12

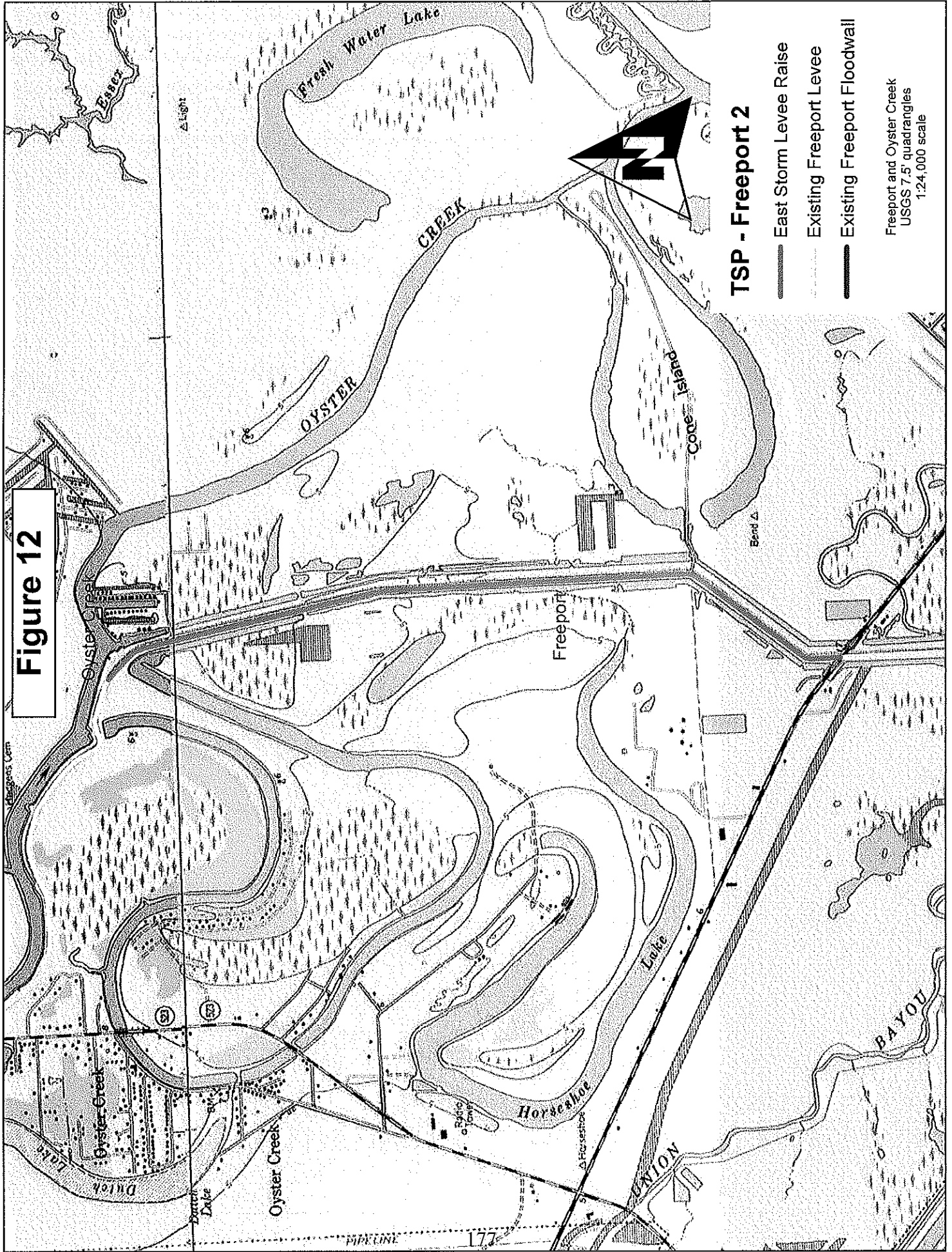
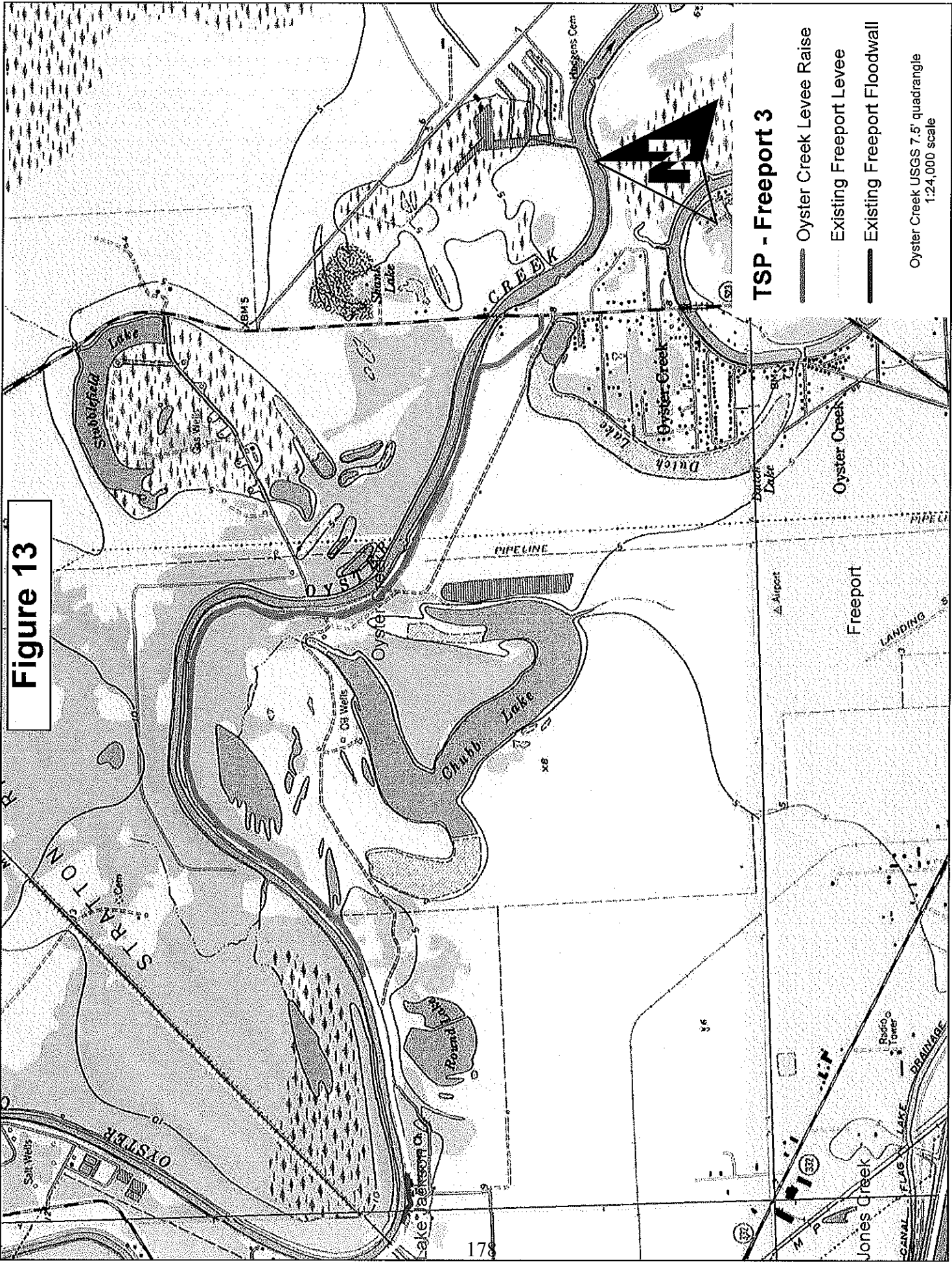


Figure 13



TSP - Freeport 3

- Oyster Creek Levee Raise
- Existing Freeport Floodwall
- Existing Freeport Floodwall

Oyster Creek USGS 7.5' quadrangle
1:24,000 scale

Identical DIFR-EIS Coordination Letters Also Sent To:

Mr. Jimmy Arterberry
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
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P.O. Box 908
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Mescalero Apache Tribe
P.O. Box 227
Mescalero, NM 88340

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1 Rush Buffalo Road
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