

APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION FORM
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

This form should be completed by following the instructions provided in Section IV of the JD Form Instructional Guidebook.

SECTION I: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A. REPORT COMPLETION DATE FOR APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION (JD): 16 April 2019

B. DISTRICT OFFICE, FILE NAME, AND NUMBER: Galveston District, SWG 2018-00549

C. PROJECT LOCATION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

State: Texas County/parish/borough: Harris City: Houston
Center coordinates of site (lat/long in degree decimal format): Lat. ° N, Long. See Table ° W.
Universal Transverse Mercator: (NAD 83)

Name of nearest waterbody: Buffalo Bayou

Name of nearest Traditional Navigable Water (TNW) into which the aquatic resource flows: N/A

Name of watershed or Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC): 12040104 Buffalo-San Jacinto

Check if map/diagram of review area and/or potential jurisdictional areas is/are available upon request.

Check if other sites (e.g., offsite mitigation sites, disposal sites, etc...) are associated with this action and are recorded on a different JD form.

D. REVIEW PERFORMED FOR SITE EVALUATION (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

Office (Desk) Determination. Date: 4/16/2019

Field Determination. Date(s): 3/12/2019

SECTION II: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

A. RHA SECTION 10 DETERMINATION OF JURISDICTION.

There **Are no** "navigable waters of the U.S." within Rivers and Harbors Act (RHA) jurisdiction (as defined by 33 CFR part 329) in the review area. [Required]

Waters subject to the ebb and flow of the tide.

Waters are presently used, or have been used in the past, or may be susceptible for use to transport interstate or foreign commerce.

Explain: .

B. CWA SECTION 404 DETERMINATION OF JURISDICTION.

There **Are no** "waters of the U.S." within Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction (as defined by 33 CFR part 328) in the review area. [Required]

1. Waters of the U.S.

a. Indicate presence of waters of U.S. in review area (check all that apply):¹

- TNWs, including territorial seas
- Wetlands adjacent to TNWs
- Relatively permanent waters² (RPWs) that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs
- Non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs
- Wetlands directly abutting RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs
- Wetlands adjacent to but not directly abutting RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs
- Wetlands adjacent to non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs
- Impoundments of jurisdictional waters
- Isolated (interstate or intrastate) waters, including isolated wetlands

b. Identify (estimate) size of waters of the U.S. in the review area:

Non-wetland waters: linear feet: width (ft) and/or acres.

Wetlands: acres.

c. Limits (boundaries) of jurisdiction based on: Pick List

Elevation of established OHWM (if known): .

2. Non-regulated waters/wetlands (check if applicable):³

Potentially jurisdictional waters and/or wetlands were assessed within the review area and determined to be not jurisdictional.

Explain: **Based on a review of available information and our 12 March 2019 site visit, we have determined that Wetlands 17-22, 24 & 25, and Wetlands B & C are "isolated". These wetlands were identified using the Atlantic and**

¹ Boxes checked below shall be supported by completing the appropriate sections in Section III below.

² For purposes of this form, an RPW is defined as a tributary that is not a TNW and that typically flows year-round or has continuous flow at least "seasonally" (e.g., typically 3 months).

³ Supporting documentation is presented in Section III.F.

Gulf Coast Plain Region Supplement to the 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual. These wetlands are depressional with precipitation as the primary source of hydrology. The nearest known water of the United States (a traditional navigable water {TNW}) is Buffalo Bayou which flows into upper San Jacinto Bay. These wetlands range from 0.93 miles to 1.17 miles from the TNW. Based on our review, none of these wetlands have a surface hydrologic connection to any water of the U.S.

These wetlands are not subject to the ebb and flow of the daily tide nor currently used, or were used in the past, nor are susceptible to use for interstate or foreign commerce.

These wetlands do not cross interstate or tribal boundaries.

The destruction of these intrastate wetlands would not affect interstate or foreign travelers for recreational or other purposes, would not affect fish or shellfish that could be taken and sold in interstate or foreign commerce, and would not affect the current use or potential use for industrial purposes by industries in interstate commerce.

These wetlands are not an impoundment of water of the United States.

These wetlands are not a tributary nor are they part of a tributary system.

These wetlands are not part of the territorial seas.

These wetlands are not "adjacent" (per Federal Regulations 33 CFR 328 (b) defines "adjacent" as bordering, neighboring, or contiguous to a water of the US).

These wetlands are not part of a prior converted cropland.

These wetlands have been determined to be "isolated" per Federal Regulations. (33 CFR 330.2 (e): those non-tidal waters of the United States that are not part of a surface tributary system to interstate or navigable waters of the United States nor adjacent to such tributary waterbodies). Based on the site review and floodplain maps, it was determined that the wetlands are located above the anticipated high flow of any waterway (e.g., outside of the 100-year floodplain) and have no known nexus to interstate commerce associated with them. There are no known species in this georegion that require both the subject wetland and the nearest waterbody (a water of the United States other than an adjacent wetland) to fulfill spawning and/or life cycle requirements. As such these wetlands are not "ecologically adjacent", as defined in the Rapanos as being "reasonably close" such that an ecologic interconnectivity is beyond speculation and insubstantial; therefore, it is the USACE draft determination that these wetlands are not a water of the United States and are not subject to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

| Wetland Name | Acreage | Lat | Long | proximity to nearest TNW |
|--------------|---------|------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| Wet 17 | 1.93 | 29.769444° | -95.444335° | 1.17 miles |
| Wet 18 | 0.22 | 29.768594° | -95.443898° | 1.11 miles |
| Wet 19 | 0.01 | 29.767459° | -95.444041° | 1.1 miles |
| Wet 20 | 0.571 | 29.766763° | -95.445478° | 1.13 miles |
| Wet 21 | 0.01 | 29.766490° | -95.445396° | 1.11 miles |
| Wet 22 | 0.21 | 29.766749° | -95.444909° | 1.1 miles |
| Wet 24 | 0.52 | 29.766859° | -95.441730° | 0.93 miles |
| Wet 25 | 1.05 | 29.765622° | -95.443087° | 0.96 miles |
| Wet B | 0.01 | 29.763676° | -95.445318° | 1.0 miles |
| Wet C | 0.002 | 29.763341° | -95.445767° | 1.0 miles |

SECTION III: CWA ANALYSIS

A. TNWs AND WETLANDS ADJACENT TO TNWs

The agencies will assert jurisdiction over TNWs and wetlands adjacent to TNWs. If the aquatic resource is a TNW, complete Section III.A.1 and Section III.D.1. only; if the aquatic resource is a wetland adjacent to a TNW, complete Sections III.A.1 and 2 and Section III.D.1.; otherwise, see Section III.B below.

1. TNW

Identify TNW: _____

Summarize rationale supporting determination: _____

2. Wetland adjacent to TNW

Summarize rationale supporting conclusion that wetland is “adjacent”: _____

B. CHARACTERISTICS OF TRIBUTARY (THAT IS NOT A TNW) AND ITS ADJACENT WETLANDS (IF ANY):

This section summarizes information regarding characteristics of the tributary and its adjacent wetlands, if any, and it helps determine whether or not the standards for jurisdiction established under *Rapanos* have been met.

The agencies will assert jurisdiction over non-navigable tributaries of TNWs where the tributaries are “relatively permanent waters” (RPWs), i.e. tributaries that typically flow year-round or have continuous flow at least seasonally (e.g., typically 3 months). A wetland that directly abuts an RPW is also jurisdictional. If the aquatic resource is not a TNW, but has year-round (perennial) flow, skip to Section III.D.2. If the aquatic resource is a wetland directly abutting a tributary with perennial flow, skip to Section III.D.4.

A wetland that is adjacent to but that does not directly abut an RPW requires a significant nexus evaluation. Corps districts and EPA regions will include in the record any available information that documents the existence of a significant nexus between a relatively permanent tributary that is not perennial (and its adjacent wetlands if any) and a traditional navigable water, even though a significant nexus finding is not required as a matter of law.

If the waterbody⁴ is not an RPW, or a wetland directly abutting an RPW, a JD will require additional data to determine if the waterbody has a significant nexus with a TNW. If the tributary has adjacent wetlands, the significant nexus evaluation must consider the tributary in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands. This significant nexus evaluation that combines, for analytical purposes, the tributary and all of its adjacent wetlands is used whether the review area identified in the JD request is the tributary, or its adjacent wetlands, or both. If the JD covers a tributary with adjacent wetlands, complete Section III.B.1 for the tributary, Section III.B.2 for any onsite wetlands, and Section III.B.3 for all wetlands adjacent to that tributary, both onsite and offsite. The determination whether a significant nexus exists is determined in Section III.C below.

1. Characteristics of non-TNWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNW

(i) General Area Conditions:

Watershed size: **Pick List**

Drainage area: **Pick List**

Average annual rainfall: _____ inches

Average annual snowfall: _____ inches

(ii) Physical Characteristics:

(a) Relationship with TNW:

Tributary flows directly into TNW.

Tributary flows through **Pick List** tributaries before entering TNW.

Project waters are **Pick List** river miles from TNW.

Project waters are **Pick List** river miles from RPW.

Project waters are **Pick List** aerial (straight) miles from TNW.

Project waters are **Pick List** aerial (straight) miles from RPW.

Project waters cross or serve as state boundaries. Explain: _____

Identify flow route to TNW⁵: _____

Tributary stream order, if known: _____

⁴ Note that the Instructional Guidebook contains additional information regarding swales, ditches, washes, and erosional features generally and in the arid West.

⁵ Flow route can be described by identifying, e.g., tributary a, which flows through the review area, to flow into tributary b, which then flows into TNW.

(b) General Tributary Characteristics (check all that apply):

- Tributary is: Natural
 Artificial (man-made). Explain: _____
 Manipulated (man-altered). Explain: _____

Tributary properties with respect to top of bank (estimate):

- Average width: _____ feet
Average depth: _____ feet
Average side slopes: **Pick List**.

Primary tributary substrate composition (check all that apply):

- | | | |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Silts | <input type="checkbox"/> Sands | <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cobbles | <input type="checkbox"/> Gravel | <input type="checkbox"/> Muck |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bedrock | <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetation. Type/% cover: _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other. Explain: _____ | | |

Tributary condition/stability [e.g., highly eroding, sloughing banks]. Explain: _____

Presence of run/riffle/pool complexes. Explain: _____

Tributary geometry: **Pick List**

Tributary gradient (approximate average slope): _____ %

(c) Flow:

Tributary provides for: **Pick List**

Estimate average number of flow events in review area/year: **Pick List**

Describe flow regime: _____

Other information on duration and volume: _____

Surface flow is: **Pick List**. Characteristics: _____

Subsurface flow: **Pick List**. Explain findings: _____

- Dye (or other) test performed: _____

Tributary has (check all that apply):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bed and banks | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OHWM ⁶ (check all indicators that apply): | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> clear, natural line impressed on the bank | <input type="checkbox"/> the presence of litter and debris |
| <input type="checkbox"/> changes in the character of soil | <input type="checkbox"/> destruction of terrestrial vegetation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> shelving | <input type="checkbox"/> the presence of wrack line |
| <input type="checkbox"/> vegetation matted down, bent, or absent | <input type="checkbox"/> sediment sorting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> leaf litter disturbed or washed away | <input type="checkbox"/> scour |
| <input type="checkbox"/> sediment deposition | <input type="checkbox"/> multiple observed or predicted flow events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> water staining | <input type="checkbox"/> abrupt change in plant community |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other (list): _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Discontinuous OHWM. ⁷ Explain: _____ | |

If factors other than the OHWM were used to determine lateral extent of CWA jurisdiction (check all that apply):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High Tide Line indicated by: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mean High Water Mark indicated by: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> oil or scum line along shore objects | <input type="checkbox"/> survey to available datum; |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fine shell or debris deposits (foreshore) | <input type="checkbox"/> physical markings; |
| <input type="checkbox"/> physical markings/characteristics | <input type="checkbox"/> vegetation lines/changes in vegetation types. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> tidal gauges | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other (list): _____ | |

(iii) **Chemical Characteristics:**

Characterize tributary (e.g., water color is clear, discolored, oily film; water quality; general watershed characteristics, etc.).

Explain: _____

Identify specific pollutants, if known: _____

⁶A natural or man-made discontinuity in the OHWM does not necessarily sever jurisdiction (e.g., where the stream temporarily flows underground, or where the OHWM has been removed by development or agricultural practices). Where there is a break in the OHWM that is unrelated to the waterbody's flow regime (e.g., flow over a rock outcrop or through a culvert), the agencies will look for indicators of flow above and below the break.

⁷Ibid.

(iv) **Biological Characteristics. Channel supports (check all that apply):**

- Riparian corridor. Characteristics (type, average width): .
- Wetland fringe. Characteristics: .
- Habitat for:
 - Federally Listed species. Explain findings: .
 - Fish/spawn areas. Explain findings: .
 - Other environmentally-sensitive species. Explain findings: .
 - Aquatic/wildlife diversity. Explain findings: .

2. **Characteristics of wetlands adjacent to non-TNW that flow directly or indirectly into TNW**

(i) **Physical Characteristics:**

(a) General Wetland Characteristics:

Properties:

Wetland size: acres

Wetland type. Explain: .

Wetland quality. Explain: .

Project wetlands cross or serve as state boundaries. Explain: .

(b) General Flow Relationship with Non-TNW:

Flow is: **Pick List**. Explain: .

Surface flow is: **Pick List**

Characteristics: .

Subsurface flow: **Pick List**. Explain findings: .

Dye (or other) test performed: .

(c) Wetland Adjacency Determination with Non-TNW:

Directly abutting

Not directly abutting

Discrete wetland hydrologic connection. Explain: .

Ecological connection. Explain: .

Separated by berm/barrier. Explain: .

(d) Proximity (Relationship) to TNW

Project wetlands are **Pick List** river miles from TNW.

Project waters are **Pick List** aerial (straight) miles from TNW.

Flow is from: **Pick List**.

Estimate approximate location of wetland as within the **Pick List** floodplain.

(ii) **Chemical Characteristics:**

Characterize wetland system (e.g., water color is clear, brown, oil film on surface; water quality; general watershed characteristics; etc.). Explain: .

Identify specific pollutants, if known: .

(iii) **Biological Characteristics. Wetland supports (check all that apply):**

- Riparian buffer. Characteristics (type, average width): .
- Vegetation type/percent cover. Explain: .
- Habitat for:
 - Federally Listed species. Explain findings: .
 - Fish/spawn areas. Explain findings: .
 - Other environmentally-sensitive species. Explain findings: .
 - Aquatic/wildlife diversity. Explain findings: .

3. **Characteristics of all wetlands adjacent to the tributary (if any)**

All wetland(s) being considered in the cumulative analysis: **Pick List**

Approximately () acres in total are being considered in the cumulative analysis.

For each wetland, specify the following:

Directly abuts? (Y/N) Size (in acres) Directly abuts? (Y/N) Size (in acres)

Summarize overall biological, chemical and physical functions being performed:

C. SIGNIFICANT NEXUS DETERMINATION

A significant nexus analysis will assess the flow characteristics and functions of the tributary itself and the functions performed by any wetlands adjacent to the tributary to determine if they significantly affect the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of a TNW. For each of the following situations, a significant nexus exists if the tributary, in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands, has more than a speculative or insubstantial effect on the chemical, physical and/or biological integrity of a TNW. Considerations when evaluating significant nexus include, but are not limited to the volume, duration, and frequency of the flow of water in the tributary and its proximity to a TNW, and the functions performed by the tributary and all its adjacent wetlands. It is not appropriate to determine significant nexus based solely on any specific threshold of distance (e.g. between a tributary and its adjacent wetland or between a tributary and the TNW). Similarly, the fact an adjacent wetland lies within or outside of a floodplain is not solely determinative of significant nexus.

Draw connections between the features documented and the effects on the TNW, as identified in the *Rapanos* Guidance and discussed in the Instructional Guidebook. Factors to consider include, for example:

- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), have the capacity to carry pollutants or flood waters to TNWs, or to reduce the amount of pollutants or flood waters reaching a TNW?
- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), provide habitat and lifecycle support functions for fish and other species, such as feeding, nesting, spawning, or rearing young for species that are present in the TNW?
- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), have the capacity to transfer nutrients and organic carbon that support downstream foodwebs?
- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), have other relationships to the physical, chemical, or biological integrity of the TNW?

Note: the above list of considerations is not inclusive and other functions observed or known to occur should be documented below:

1. **Significant nexus findings for non-RPW that has no adjacent wetlands and flows directly or indirectly into TNWs.** Explain findings of presence or absence of significant nexus below, based on the tributary itself, then go to Section III.D:
2. **Significant nexus findings for non-RPW and its adjacent wetlands, where the non-RPW flows directly or indirectly into TNWs.** Explain findings of presence or absence of significant nexus below, based on the tributary in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands, then go to Section III.D:
3. **Significant nexus findings for wetlands adjacent to an RPW but that do not directly abut the RPW.** Explain findings of presence or absence of significant nexus below, based on the tributary in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands, then go to Section III.D:

D. DETERMINATIONS OF JURISDICTIONAL FINDINGS. THE SUBJECT WATERS/WETLANDS ARE (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

1. **TNWs and Adjacent Wetlands.** Check all that apply and provide size estimates in review area:

- TNWs: linear feet width (ft), Or, acres.
- Wetlands adjacent to TNWs: acres.

2. **RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs.**

- Tributaries of TNWs where tributaries typically flow year-round are jurisdictional. Provide data and rationale indicating that tributary is perennial:
- Tributaries of TNW where tributaries have continuous flow “seasonally” (e.g., typically three months each year) are jurisdictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.B. Provide rationale indicating that tributary flows seasonally:

Provide estimates for jurisdictional waters in the review area (check all that apply):

- Tributary waters: linear feet width (ft).
 Other non-wetland waters: acres.
Identify type(s) of waters: .

3. Non-RPWs⁸ that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs.

- Waterbody that is not a TNW or an RPW, but flows directly or indirectly into a TNW, and it has a significant nexus with a TNW is jurisdictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.C.

Provide estimates for jurisdictional waters within the review area (check all that apply):

- Tributary waters: linear feet width (ft).
 Other non-wetland waters: acres.
Identify type(s) of waters: .

4. Wetlands directly abutting an RPW that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs.

- Wetlands directly abut RPW and thus are jurisdictional as adjacent wetlands.
 Wetlands directly abutting an RPW where tributaries typically flow year-round. Provide data and rationale indicating that tributary is perennial in Section III.D.2, above. Provide rationale indicating that wetland is directly abutting an RPW: .
 Wetlands directly abutting an RPW where tributaries typically flow "seasonally." Provide data indicating that tributary is seasonal in Section III.B and rationale in Section III.D.2, above. Provide rationale indicating that wetland is directly abutting an RPW: .

Provide acreage estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area: acres.

5. Wetlands adjacent to but not directly abutting an RPW that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs.

- Wetlands that do not directly abut an RPW, but when considered in combination with the tributary to which they are adjacent and with similarly situated adjacent wetlands, have a significant nexus with a TNW are jurisdictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.C.

Provide acreage estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area: acres.

6. Wetlands adjacent to non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs.

- Wetlands adjacent to such waters, and have when considered in combination with the tributary to which they are adjacent and with similarly situated adjacent wetlands, have a significant nexus with a TNW are jurisdictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.C.

Provide estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area: acres.

7. Impoundments of jurisdictional waters.⁹

As a general rule, the impoundment of a jurisdictional tributary remains jurisdictional.

- Demonstrate that impoundment was created from "waters of the U.S.," or
 Demonstrate that water meets the criteria for one of the categories presented above (1-6), or
 Demonstrate that water is isolated with a nexus to commerce (see E below).

E. ISOLATED [INTERSTATE OR INTRA-STATE] WATERS, INCLUDING ISOLATED WETLANDS, THE USE, DEGRADATION OR DESTRUCTION OF WHICH COULD AFFECT INTERSTATE COMMERCE, INCLUDING ANY SUCH WATERS (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):¹⁰

- which are or could be used by interstate or foreign travelers for recreational or other purposes.
 from which fish or shellfish are or could be taken and sold in interstate or foreign commerce.
 which are or could be used for industrial purposes by industries in interstate commerce.
 Interstate isolated waters. Explain: .
 Other factors. Explain: .

Identify water body and summarize rationale supporting determination: .

⁸See Footnote # 3.

⁹To complete the analysis refer to the key in Section III.D.6 of the Instructional Guidebook.

¹⁰Prior to asserting or declining CWA jurisdiction based solely on this category, Corps Districts will elevate the action to Corps and EPA HQ for review consistent with the process described in the Corps/EPA Memorandum Regarding CWA Act Jurisdiction Following Rapanos.

Provide estimates for jurisdictional waters in the review area (check all that apply):

- Tributary waters: linear feet width (ft).
- Other non-wetland waters: acres.
Identify type(s) of waters: .
- Wetlands: acres.

F. NON-JURISDICTIONAL WATERS, INCLUDING WETLANDS (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

- If potential wetlands were assessed within the review area, these areas did not meet the criteria in the 1987 Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual and/or appropriate Regional Supplements.
- Review area included isolated waters with no substantial nexus to interstate (or foreign) commerce.
 - Prior to the Jan 2001 Supreme Court decision in "SWANCC," the review area would have been regulated based solely on the "Migratory Bird Rule" (MBR).
- Waters do not meet the "Significant Nexus" standard, where such a finding is required for jurisdiction. Explain: **The subject potential wetlands do not have the ability to significantly effect the chemical, biological, physical integrity of a TNW.**
- Other: (explain, if not covered above): .

Provide acreage estimates for non-jurisdictional waters in the review area, where the sole potential basis of jurisdiction is the MBR factors (i.e., presence of migratory birds, presence of endangered species, use of water for irrigated agriculture), using best professional judgment (check all that apply):

- Non-wetland waters (i.e., rivers, streams): linear feet width (ft).
- Lakes/ponds: acres.
- Other non-wetland waters: acres. List type of aquatic resource: .
- Wetlands: approximately 4.36 acres.

Provide acreage estimates for non-jurisdictional waters in the review area that do not meet the "Significant Nexus" standard, where such a finding is required for jurisdiction (check all that apply):

- Non-wetland waters (i.e., rivers, streams): linear feet, width (ft).
- Lakes/ponds: acres.
- Other non-wetland waters: acres. List type of aquatic resource: .
- Wetlands: acres.

SECTION IV: DATA SOURCES.

A. SUPPORTING DATA. Data reviewed for JD (check all that apply - checked items shall be included in case file and, where checked and requested, appropriately reference sources below):

- Maps, plans, plots or plat submitted by or on behalf of the applicant/consultant: Environmental Resources Management wetland delineation dated 09 January 2018.
- Data sheets prepared/submitted by or on behalf of the applicant/consultant.
 - Office concurs with data sheets/delineation report.
 - Office does not concur with data sheets/delineation report.
- Data sheets prepared by the Corps: .
- Corps navigable waters' study: .
- U.S. Geological Survey Hydrologic Atlas: .
 - USGS NHD data.
 - USGS 8 and 12 digit HUC maps.
- U.S. Geological Survey map(s). Cite scale & quad name: Houston Heights, Texas 1967.
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Survey. Citation: NRCS Web Soil Survey for Harris County.
- National wetlands inventory map(s). Cite name: USFWS NWI Map.
- State/Local wetland inventory map(s): .
- FEMA/FIRM maps: 48201C0665M 6/9/2014.
- 100-year Floodplain Elevation is: (National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929)
- Photographs: Aerial (Name & Date): Google Earth 2018, 2019.
or Other (Name & Date): .
- Previous determination(s). File no. and date of response letter: .
- Applicable/supporting case law: .
- Applicable/supporting scientific literature: .
- Other information (please specify): .

B. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS TO SUPPORT JD: Based on a review of available information and our 12 March 2019 site visit, we have determined that Wetlands 17-22, 24 & 25, and Wetlands B & C are "isolated". These wetlands were identified using the

Atlantic and Gulf Coast Plain Region Supplement to the 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual. These wetlands are depressional with precipitation as the primary source of hydrology. The nearest known water of the United States (a traditional navigable water {TNW}) is Buffalo Bayou which flows into upper San Jacinto Bay. These wetlands range from 0.93 miles to 1.17 miles from the TNW. Based on our review, none of these wetlands have a surface hydrologic connection to any water of the U.S. These wetlands are not subject to the ebb and flow of the daily tide nor currently used, or were used in the past, nor are susceptible to use for interstate or foreign commerce. These wetlands do not cross interstate or tribal boundaries. The destruction of these intrastate wetlands would not affect interstate or foreign travelers for recreational or other purposes, would not affect fish or shellfish that could be taken and sold in interstate or foreign commerce, and would not affect the current use or potential use for industrial purposes by industries in interstate commerce. These wetlands are not an impoundment of water of the United States. These wetlands are not a tributary nor are they part of a tributary system. These wetlands are not part of the territorial seas. These wetlands are not "adjacent" (per Federal Regulations 33 CFR 328 (b) defines "adjacent" as bordering, neighboring, or contiguous to a water of the US). These wetlands are not part of a prior converted cropland. These wetlands have been determined to be "isolated" per Federal Regulations. (33 CFR 330.2 (e): those non-tidal waters of the United States that are not part of a surface tributary system to interstate or navigable waters of the United States nor adjacent to such tributary waterbodies). Based on the site review and floodplain maps, it was determined that the wetlands are located above the anticipated high flow of any waterway (e.g., outside of the 100-year floodplain) and have no known nexus to interstate commerce associated with them. There are no known species in this georegion that require both the subject wetland and the nearest waterbody (a water of the United States other than an adjacent wetland) to fulfill spawning and/or life cycle requirements. As such these wetlands are not "ecologically adjacent", as defined in the Rapanos as being "reasonably close" such that an ecologic interconnectivity is beyond speculation and insubstantial; therefore, it is the USACE draft determination that these wetlands are not a water of the United States and are not subject to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

| C. | Wetland Name | Acreage | Lat | Long | proximity to nearest TNW |
|----|--------------|---------|------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| D. | Wet 17 | 1.93 | 29.769444° | -95.444335° | 1.17 miles |
| E. | Wet 18 | 0.22 | 29.768594° | -95.443898° | 1.11 miles |
| F. | Wet 19 | 0.01 | 29.767459° | -95.444041° | 1.1 miles |
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| I. | Wet 22 | 0.21 | 29.766749° | -95.444909° | 1.1 miles |
| J. | Wet 24 | 0.52 | 29.766859° | -95.441730° | 0.93 miles |
| K. | Wet 25 | 1.05 | 29.765622° | -95.443087° | 0.96 miles |
| L. | Wet B | 0.01 | 29.763676° | -95.445318° | 1.0 miles |
| M. | Wet C | 0.002 | 29.763341° | -95.445767° | 1.0 miles. |

APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION FORM
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

This form should be completed by following the instructions provided in Section IV of the JD Form Instructional Guidebook.

SECTION I: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A. REPORT COMPLETION DATE FOR APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION (JD): 16 April 2019

B. DISTRICT OFFICE, FILE NAME, AND NUMBER: Galveston District, SWG-2018-00549, Berg Oliver, Memorial Park, Tributary A1 & B1

C. PROJECT LOCATION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

State: Texas County/parish/borough: Harris County City: Houston

Center coordinates of site (lat/long in degree decimal format): Lat. 29.763041° & 29.763024° **N**, Long. -95.444103° & -95.443572° **W**

Universal Transverse Mercator: NAD83, Zone: 15

Name of nearest waterbody: Buffalo Bayou

Name of nearest Traditional Navigable Water (TNW) into which the aquatic resource flows: Buffalo Bayou

Name of watershed or Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC): 12040104 Buffalo-San Jacinto

Check if map/diagram of review area and/or potential jurisdictional areas is/are available upon request.

Check if other sites (e.g., offsite mitigation sites, disposal sites, etc...) are associated with this action and are recorded on a different JD form.

D. REVIEW PERFORMED FOR SITE EVALUATION (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

Office (Desk) Determination. Date: 16 April 2019

Field Determination. Date(s): 12 March 2019

SECTION II: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

A. RHA SECTION 10 DETERMINATION OF JURISDICTION.

There **Are no** "navigable waters of the U.S." within Rivers and Harbors Act (RHA) jurisdiction (as defined by 33 CFR part 329) in the review area. [Required]

Waters subject to the ebb and flow of the tide.

Waters are presently used, or have been used in the past, or may be susceptible for use to transport interstate or foreign commerce.

Explain:

B. CWA SECTION 404 DETERMINATION OF JURISDICTION.

There **Are no** "waters of the U.S." within Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction (as defined by 33 CFR part 328) in the review area. [Required]

1. Waters of the U.S.

a. Indicate presence of waters of U.S. in review area (check all that apply):¹

- TNWs, including territorial seas
- Wetlands adjacent to TNWs
- Relatively permanent waters² (RPWs) that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs
- Non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs
- Wetlands directly abutting RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs
- Wetlands adjacent to but not directly abutting RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs
- Wetlands adjacent to non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs
- Impoundments of jurisdictional waters
- Isolated (interstate or intrastate) waters, including isolated wetlands

b. Identify (estimate) size of waters of the U.S. in the review area:

Non-wetland waters: linear feet: width (ft) and/or acres.

Wetlands: acres.

c. Limits (boundaries) of jurisdiction based on: Pick List

Elevation of established OHWM (if known):

2. Non-regulated waters/wetlands (check if applicable):³

Potentially jurisdictional waters and/or wetlands were assessed within the review area and determined to be not jurisdictional.

Explain: See Section IV . ADDITIONAL COMMENTS TO SUPPORT JD.

¹ Boxes checked below shall be supported by completing the appropriate sections in Section III below.

² For purposes of this form, an RPW is defined as a tributary that is not a TNW and that typically flows year-round or has continuous flow at least "seasonally" (e.g., typically 3 months).

³ Supporting documentation is presented in Section III.F.

SECTION III: CWA ANALYSIS

A. TNWs AND WETLANDS ADJACENT TO TNWs

The agencies will assert jurisdiction over TNWs and wetlands adjacent to TNWs. If the aquatic resource is a TNW, complete Section III.A.1 and Section III.D.1. only; if the aquatic resource is a wetland adjacent to a TNW, complete Sections III.A.1 and 2 and Section III.D.1.; otherwise, see Section III.B below.

1. **TNW**

Identify TNW: .

Summarize rationale supporting determination: .

2. **Wetland adjacent to TNW**

Summarize rationale supporting conclusion that wetland is “adjacent”:

B. CHARACTERISTICS OF TRIBUTARY (THAT IS NOT A TNW) AND ITS ADJACENT WETLANDS (IF ANY):

This section summarizes information regarding characteristics of the tributary and its adjacent wetlands, if any, and it helps determine whether or not the standards for jurisdiction established under *Rapanos* have been met.

The agencies will assert jurisdiction over non-navigable tributaries of TNWs where the tributaries are “relatively permanent waters” (RPWs), i.e. tributaries that typically flow year-round or have continuous flow at least seasonally (e.g., typically 3 months). A wetland that directly abuts an RPW is also jurisdictional. If the aquatic resource is not a TNW, but has year-round (perennial) flow, skip to Section III.D.2. If the aquatic resource is a wetland directly abutting a tributary with perennial flow, skip to Section III.D.4.

A wetland that is adjacent to but that does not directly abut an RPW requires a significant nexus evaluation. Corps districts and EPA regions will include in the record any available information that documents the existence of a significant nexus between a relatively permanent tributary that is not perennial (and its adjacent wetlands if any) and a traditional navigable water, even though a significant nexus finding is not required as a matter of law.

If the waterbody⁴ is not an RPW, or a wetland directly abutting an RPW, a JD will require additional data to determine if the waterbody has a significant nexus with a TNW. If the tributary has adjacent wetlands, the significant nexus evaluation must consider the tributary in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands. This significant nexus evaluation that combines, for analytical purposes, the tributary and all of its adjacent wetlands is used whether the review area identified in the JD request is the tributary, or its adjacent wetlands, or both. If the JD covers a tributary with adjacent wetlands, complete Section III.B.1 for the tributary, Section III.B.2 for any onsite wetlands, and Section III.B.3 for all wetlands adjacent to that tributary, both onsite and offsite. The determination whether a significant nexus exists is determined in Section III.C below.

1. **Characteristics of non-TNWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNW**

(i) **General Area Conditions:**

Watershed size: 1030square miles

Drainage area: 1.32 square miles

Average annual rainfall: 53.34 inches

Average annual snowfall: 0.1 inches

(ii) **Physical Characteristics:**

(a) Relationship with TNW:

Tributary flows directly into TNW.

Tributary flows through 4 tributaries before entering TNW.

Project waters are 1-2 river miles from TNW.

Project waters are 1 (or less) river miles from RPW.

Project waters are 1 (or less) aerial (straight) miles from TNW.

Project waters are 1 (or less) aerial (straight) miles from RPW.

Project waters cross or serve as state boundaries. Explain: No.

Identify flow route to TNW⁵: Tributaries A1 & B1 are 1st order unnamed tributaries that converge to form a 2nd order unnamed tributary, which converges with another 2nd order unnamed tributary forming a 3rd order stream, which

⁴ Note that the Instructional Guidebook contains additional information regarding swales, ditches, washes, and erosional features generally and in the arid West.

⁵ Flow route can be described by identifying, e.g., tributary a, which flows through the review area, to flow into tributary b, which then flows into TNW.

converges with another 3rd order unnamed tributary, this convergence forms a 4th order tributary which flows into Buffalo Bayou, a 5th order RPW, which becomes a TNW.
Tributary stream order, if known: 1st stream order.

(b) General Tributary Characteristics (check all that apply):

Tributary is: Natural
 Artificial (man-made). Explain: .
 Manipulated (man-altered). Explain: .

Tributary properties with respect to top of bank (estimate):

Average width: 1.5 feet
Average depth: 0 feet
Average side slopes: **4:1 (or greater)**.

Primary tributary substrate composition (check all that apply):

Silts Sands Concrete
 Cobbles Gravel Muck
 Bedrock Vegetation. Type/% cover: %
 Other. Explain: .

Tributary condition/stability [e.g., highly eroding, sloughing banks]. Explain: Relatively degraded in some areas and stable in other areas.

Presence of run/riffle/pool complexes. Explain: No.

Tributary geometry: **Relatively straight**

Tributary gradient (approximate average slope): %

(c) Flow:

Tributary provides for: **Ephemeral flow**

Estimate average number of flow events in review area/year: **2-5**

Describe flow regime: fitful, short & brief.

Other information on duration and volume: .

Surface flow is: **Discrete and confined**. Characteristics: .

Subsurface flow: **No**. Explain findings: .

Dye (or other) test performed: .

Tributary has (check all that apply):

Bed and banks
 OHWM⁶ (check all indicators that apply):
 clear, natural line impressed on the bank the presence of litter and debris
 changes in the character of soil destruction of terrestrial vegetation
 shelving the presence of wrack line
 vegetation matted down, bent, or absent sediment sorting
 leaf litter disturbed or washed away scour
 sediment deposition multiple observed or predicted flow events
 water staining abrupt change in plant community
 other (list):
 Discontinuous OHWM.⁷ Explain: .

If factors other than the OHWM were used to determine lateral extent of CWA jurisdiction (check all that apply):

High Tide Line indicated by: Mean High Water Mark indicated by:
 oil or scum line along shore objects survey to available datum;
 fine shell or debris deposits (foreshore) physical markings;
 physical markings/characteristics vegetation lines/changes in vegetation types.
 tidal gauges
 other (list):

(iii) **Chemical Characteristics:**

Characterize tributary (e.g., water color is clear, discolored, oily film; water quality; general watershed characteristics, etc.).
Explain: no water present.

⁶A natural or man-made discontinuity in the OHWM does not necessarily sever jurisdiction (e.g., where the stream temporarily flows underground, or where the OHWM has been removed by development or agricultural practices). Where there is a break in the OHWM that is unrelated to the waterbody's flow regime (e.g., flow over a rock outcrop or through a culvert), the agencies will look for indicators of flow above and below the break.

⁷Ibid.

Identify specific pollutants, if known: .

(iv) **Biological Characteristics. Channel supports (check all that apply):**

- Riparian corridor. Characteristics (type, average width): pine and hardwood species, 40% coverage.
- Wetland fringe. Characteristics: no vegetation present in bed and bank.
- Habitat for:
 - Federally Listed species. Explain findings: .
 - Fish/spawn areas. Explain findings: .
 - Other environmentally-sensitive species. Explain findings: .
 - Aquatic/wildlife diversity. Explain findings: .

2. **Characteristics of wetlands adjacent to non-TNW that flow directly or indirectly into TNW**

(i) **Physical Characteristics:**

(a) General Wetland Characteristics:

Properties:

Wetland size: acres

Wetland type. Explain: Emergent.

Wetland quality. Explain: .

Project wetlands cross or serve as state boundaries. Explain: No.

(b) General Flow Relationship with Non-TNW:

Flow is: **Pick List**. Explain: .

Surface flow is: **Pick List**

Characteristics: .

Subsurface flow: **Pick List**. Explain findings: .

Dye (or other) test performed: .

(c) Wetland Adjacency Determination with Non-TNW:

Directly abutting

Not directly abutting

Discrete wetland hydrologic connection. Explain: .

Ecological connection. Explain: .

Separated by berm/barrier. Explain: .

(d) Proximity (Relationship) to TNW

Project wetlands are **Pick List** river miles from TNW.

Project waters are **Pick List** aerial (straight) miles from TNW.

Flow is from: **Pick List**.

Estimate approximate location of wetland as within the **Pick List** floodplain.

(ii) **Chemical Characteristics:**

Characterize wetland system (e.g., water color is clear, brown, oil film on surface; water quality; general watershed characteristics; etc.). Explain: .

Identify specific pollutants, if known: .

(iii) **Biological Characteristics. Wetland supports (check all that apply):**

Riparian buffer. Characteristics (type, average width): .

Vegetation type/percent cover. Explain: .

Habitat for:

Federally Listed species. Explain findings: .

Fish/spawn areas. Explain findings: .

Other environmentally-sensitive species. Explain findings: .

Aquatic/wildlife diversity. Explain findings: .

3. **Characteristics of all wetlands adjacent to the tributary (if any)**

All wetland(s) being considered in the cumulative analysis: **Pick List**

Approximately () acres in total are being considered in the cumulative analysis.

For each wetland, specify the following:

Directly abuts? (Y/N) Size (in acres) Directly abuts? (Y/N) Size (in acres)

Summarize overall biological, chemical and physical functions being performed:

C. SIGNIFICANT NEXUS DETERMINATION

A significant nexus analysis will assess the flow characteristics and functions of the tributary itself and the functions performed by any wetlands adjacent to the tributary to determine if they significantly affect the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of a TNW. For each of the following situations, a significant nexus exists if the tributary, in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands, has more than a speculative or insubstantial effect on the chemical, physical and/or biological integrity of a TNW. Considerations when evaluating significant nexus include, but are not limited to the volume, duration, and frequency of the flow of water in the tributary and its proximity to a TNW, and the functions performed by the tributary and all its adjacent wetlands. It is not appropriate to determine significant nexus based solely on any specific threshold of distance (e.g. between a tributary and its adjacent wetland or between a tributary and the TNW). Similarly, the fact an adjacent wetland lies within or outside of a floodplain is not solely determinative of significant nexus.

Draw connections between the features documented and the effects on the TNW, as identified in the *Rapanos* Guidance and discussed in the Instructional Guidebook. Factors to consider include, for example:

- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), have the capacity to carry pollutants or flood waters to TNWs, or to reduce the amount of pollutants or flood waters reaching a TNW?
- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), provide habitat and lifecycle support functions for fish and other species, such as feeding, nesting, spawning, or rearing young for species that are present in the TNW?
- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), have the capacity to transfer nutrients and organic carbon that support downstream foodwebs?
- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), have other relationships to the physical, chemical, or biological integrity of the TNW?

Note: the above list of considerations is not inclusive and other functions observed or known to occur should be documented below:

1. **Significant nexus findings for non-RPW that has no adjacent wetlands and flows directly or indirectly into TNWs.** Explain findings of presence or absence of significant nexus below, based on the tributary itself, then go to Section III.D: Tributaries A1 & B1 are 1st order tributaries with ephemeral flow (non-relatively permanent flowing waters) and have shallow water depth (when flowing). They provide surface flow into a 2nd order ephemeral flowing unnamed tributary that later on downstream converges with another 2nd order unnamed ephemeral tributary to form a 3rd order ephemeral unnamed tributary. This ephemeral 3rd order tributary converges with another 3rd order tributary to form a 4th order relatively permanent water (RPW). This 4th order unnamed tributary then flows into Buffalo Bayou (a RPW at that confluence). Buffalo Bayou is a Traditional Navigable Water (TNW) approximately 1.52 river miles away (or approximately 0.93 aerial miles) from the nearest point to the Buffalo River.
 - Tributary A1 is approximately 223' in length and approximately 1.5' mean average width. Tributary B1 is approximately 169' in length with a mean approximately 1.5' width.
 - These subject aquatic features/tributaries are composed of open water along the entire order/reach. The surface flow is ephemeral and last only for short/brief episodic spotting duration and only after precipitation events. They have an ordinary high water mark and have a discrete and confined bed and bank.
 - Riparian and/or riverine type wetlands provide potential functions associated with maintaining the channel's integrity by providing cohesive materials (roots, etc) that aid in stabilizing bed and banks. Wetlands in these types of systems aid in slowing the velocity of the surface water and facilitate the repository of erosive materials that could be carried on downstream & assist in temporary stormwater storage. However, we could not state that the two subject aquatic reaches (A1 & B1) in review provide more than a speculative or insubstantial effect upon the physical integrity of the downstream TNW located approximately 1.52 river miles downstream.
 - These type of aquatic systems aid in the sequestering of pollutants, provide nutrients and add organic carbon to this immediate adjacent aquatic ecosystem. They have not been identified as a state impaired water. There are not any known identified chemical attributes with the aquatic feature within either of these reaches that provide more than an immediate reduction of Total Suspended Solids (TSS) and a temporary rise in Dissolved Oxygen (D.O.) levels (which only occurs after rain events) that extends beyond the respective reach. As such, we could not demonstrate that the two aquatic reaches (A1 & B1) provide more than a speculative or insubstantial impact upon the chemical integrity of the downstream TNW located approximately 1 river miles downstream.
 - These upper reaches of headwater tributary type systems provide habitat for numerous biological (aquatic and non-aquatic) species. However, there is no known biological species found that require these subject review aquatic features and the downstream TNW (approx. 1.52 mile downstream) to fulfill life cycles requirements. It is the Corps findings, that we cannot

support the statement that these aquatic features do provide more than a speculative or insubstantial effect upon the biological integrity of the downstream TNW.

- In conclusion: The nearest downstream TNW is located approximately 1.52 river mile (or approximately 0.93 & 0.96 aerial miles) away from the nearest confluence of either of the two 1st order ephemeral flowing surface tributaries. These two aquatic features comprise an estimated total of appx 0.007 & 0.005 acre each: a total of 0.01 acre. They are approximately 0.9 mile to the nearest RPW. Based on our analysis, we have determined that the two aquatic features in review (tributary A1 & B1 total ~0.01 acre) do not provide more than speculative or insubstantial effect upon the chemical, physical and/or biological integrity of the downstream TNW

2. **Significant nexus findings for non-RPW and its adjacent wetlands, where the non-RPW flows directly or indirectly into TNWs.** Explain findings of presence or absence of significant nexus below, based on the tributary in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands, then go to Section III.D:
3. **Significant nexus findings for wetlands adjacent to an RPW but that do not directly abut the RPW.** Explain findings of presence or absence of significant nexus below, based on the tributary in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands, then go to Section III.D:

D. DETERMINATIONS OF JURISDICTIONAL FINDINGS. THE SUBJECT WATERS/WETLANDS ARE (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

1. **TNWs and Adjacent Wetlands.** Check all that apply and provide size estimates in review area:

TNWs: linear feet width (ft), Or, acres.
 Wetlands adjacent to TNWs: acres.

2. **RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs.**

Tributaries of TNWs where tributaries typically flow year-round are jurisdictional. Provide data and rationale indicating that tributary is perennial:
 Tributaries of TNW where tributaries have continuous flow "seasonally" (e.g., typically three months each year) are jurisdictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.B. Provide rationale indicating that tributary flows seasonally:

Provide estimates for jurisdictional waters in the review area (check all that apply):

Tributary waters: linear feet width (ft).
 Other non-wetland waters: acres.
Identify type(s) of waters:

3. **Non-RPWs⁸ that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs.**

Waterbody that is not a TNW or an RPW, but flows directly or indirectly into a TNW, and it has a significant nexus with a TNW is jurisdictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.C.

Provide estimates for jurisdictional waters within the review area (check all that apply):

Tributary waters: linear feet width (ft).
 Other non-wetland waters: acres.
Identify type(s) of waters:

4. **Wetlands directly abutting an RPW that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs.**

Wetlands directly abut RPW and thus are jurisdictional as adjacent wetlands.
 Wetlands directly abutting an RPW where tributaries typically flow year-round. Provide data and rationale indicating that tributary is perennial in Section III.D.2, above. Provide rationale indicating that wetland is directly abutting an RPW:

Wetlands directly abutting an RPW where tributaries typically flow "seasonally." Provide data indicating that tributary is seasonal in Section III.B and rationale in Section III.D.2, above. Provide rationale indicating that wetland is directly abutting an RPW:

Provide acreage estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area: acres.

5. **Wetlands adjacent to but not directly abutting an RPW that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs.**

⁸See Footnote # 3.

- Wetlands that do not directly abut an RPW, but when considered in combination with the tributary to which they are adjacent and with similarly situated adjacent wetlands, have a significant nexus with a TNW are jurisdictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.C.

Provide acreage estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area: _____ acres.

6. Wetlands adjacent to non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs.

- Wetlands adjacent to such waters, and have when considered in combination with the tributary to which they are adjacent and with similarly situated adjacent wetlands, have a significant nexus with a TNW are jurisdictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.C.

Provide estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area: _____ acres.

7. Impoundments of jurisdictional waters.⁹

As a general rule, the impoundment of a jurisdictional tributary remains jurisdictional.

- Demonstrate that impoundment was created from “waters of the U.S.,” or
 Demonstrate that water meets the criteria for one of the categories presented above (1-6), or
 Demonstrate that water is isolated with a nexus to commerce (see E below).

E. ISOLATED [INTERSTATE OR INTRA-STATE] WATERS, INCLUDING ISOLATED WETLANDS, THE USE, DEGRADATION OR DESTRUCTION OF WHICH COULD AFFECT INTERSTATE COMMERCE, INCLUDING ANY SUCH WATERS (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):¹⁰

- which are or could be used by interstate or foreign travelers for recreational or other purposes.
 from which fish or shellfish are or could be taken and sold in interstate or foreign commerce.
 which are or could be used for industrial purposes by industries in interstate commerce.
 Interstate isolated waters. Explain: _____
 Other factors. Explain: _____

Identify water body and summarize rationale supporting determination: _____

Provide estimates for jurisdictional waters in the review area (check all that apply):

- Tributary waters: _____ linear feet _____ width (ft).
 Other non-wetland waters: _____ acres.
Identify type(s) of waters: _____
 Wetlands: _____ acres.

F. NON-JURISDICTIONAL WATERS, INCLUDING WETLANDS (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

- If potential wetlands were assessed within the review area, these areas did not meet the criteria in the 1987 Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual and/or appropriate Regional Supplements.
 Review area included isolated waters with no substantial nexus to interstate (or foreign) commerce.
 Prior to the Jan 2001 Supreme Court decision in “*SWANCC*,” the review area would have been regulated based solely on the “Migratory Bird Rule” (MBR).
 Waters do not meet the “Significant Nexus” standard, where such a finding is required for jurisdiction. Explain: **see below**.
 Other: (explain, if not covered above): _____

Provide acreage estimates for non-jurisdictional waters in the review area, where the sole potential basis of jurisdiction is the MBR factors (i.e., presence of migratory birds, presence of endangered species, use of water for irrigated agriculture), using best professional judgment (check all that apply):

- Non-wetland waters (i.e., rivers, streams): _____ linear feet _____ width (ft).
 Lakes/ponds: _____ acres.
 Other non-wetland waters: _____ acres. List type of aquatic resource: _____
 Wetlands: _____ acres.

Provide acreage estimates for non-jurisdictional waters in the review area that do not meet the “Significant Nexus” standard, where such a finding is required for jurisdiction (check all that apply):

- Non-wetland waters (i.e., rivers, streams): ~223 & 169 linear feet, ~1.5width (ft).

⁹ To complete the analysis refer to the key in Section III.D.6 of the Instructional Guidebook.

¹⁰ Prior to asserting or declining CWA jurisdiction based solely on this category, Corps Districts will elevate the action to Corps and EPA HQ for review consistent with the process described in the Corps/EPA Memorandum Regarding CWA Act Jurisdiction Following Rapanos.

- Lakes/ponds: acres.
- Other non-wetland waters: acres. List type of aquatic resource: .
- Wetlands: acres.

SECTION IV: DATA SOURCES.

A. SUPPORTING DATA. Data reviewed for JD (check all that apply - checked items shall be included in case file and, where checked and requested, appropriately reference sources below):

- Maps, plans, plots or plat submitted by or on behalf of the applicant/consultant:2/19/2015.
- Data sheets prepared/submitted by or on behalf of the applicant/consultant.
 - Office concurs with data sheets/delineation report.
 - Office does not concur with data sheets/delineation report.
- Data sheets prepared by the Corps:
 - Corps navigable waters' study: .
 - U.S. Geological Survey Hydrologic Atlas: .
 - USGS NHD data.
 - USGS 8 and 12 digit HUC maps.
 - U.S. Geological Survey map(s). Cite scale & quad name:USGS quads: Houston Heights, 1967 .
 - USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Survey. Citation:USDA, Web Soil Survey Map.
 - National wetlands inventory map(s). Cite name: NWI.
 - State/Local wetland inventory map(s): .
 - FEMA/FIRM maps:48201C0665M, 6/9/2014.
 - 100-year Floodplain Elevation is: (National Geodectic Vertical Datum of 1929)
 - Photographs: Aerial (Name & Date):2019, 2018.
 - or Other (Name & Date):Berg Oliver site visit photos, dated 12/11/2018, Corps site visit photos, dated 3/12/2019
- (WETS table results exhibit wetter than normal for both site photo dates) .
- Previous determination(s). File no. and date of response letter: .
- Applicable/supporting case law: .
- Applicable/supporting scientific literature: .
- Other information (please specify): .

B. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS TO SUPPORT JD: Tributaries A1 & B1 are 1st order tributaries with ephemeral flow (non-relatively permanent flowing waters) and have shallow water depth (when flowing). They provide surface flow into a 2nd order ephemeral flowing unnamed tributary that later on downstream converges with another 2nd order unnamed ephemeral tributary to form a 3rd order ephemeral unnamed tributary. This ephemeral 3rd order tributary converges with another 3rd order tributary to form a 4th order relatively permanent water (RPW). This 4th order unnamed tributary then flows into Buffalo Bayou (a RPW at that confluence). Buffalo Bayou is a Traditional Navigable Water (TNW) approximately 1.52 river miles away (or approximately 0.93 aerial miles) from the nearest point to the Buffalo River.

- Tributary A1 is approximately 223' in length and approximately 1.5' mean average width. Tributary B1 is approximately 169' in length with a mean approximately 1.5' width.
- These subject aquatic features/tributaries are composed of open water along the entire order/reach. The surface flow is ephemeral and last only for short/brief episodic spotting duration and only after precipitation events. They have an ordinary high water mark and have a discrete and confined bed and bank.
- Riperian and/or riverine type wetlands provide potential functions associated with maintaining the channel's integrity by providing cohesive materials (roots, etc) that aid in stabilizing bed and banks. Wetlands in these types of systems aid in slowing the velocity of the surface water and facilitate the repository of erosive materials that could be carried on downstream & assist in temporary stormwater storage. However, we could not state that the two subject aquatic reaches (A1 & B1) in review provide more than a speculative or insubstantial effect upon the physical integrity of the downstream TNW located approximately 1.52 river miles downstream.
- These type of aquatic systems aid in the sequestering of pollutants, provide nutrients and add organic carbon to this immediate adjacent aquatic ecosystem. They have not been identified as a state impaired water. There are not any known identified chemical attributes with the aquatic feature within either of these reaches that provide more than an immediate reduction of Total Suspended Solids (TSS) and a temporary rise in Dissolved Oxygen (D.O.) levels (which only occurs after rain events) that extends beyond the respective reach. As such, we could not demonstrate that the two aquatic reaches (A1 & B1) provide more than a speculative or insubstantial impact upon the chemical integrity of the downstream TNW located approximately 1 river miles downstream.
- These upper reaches of headwater tributary type systems provide habitat for numerous biological (aquatic and non-aquatic) species. However, there is no known biological species found that require these subject review aquatic features and the downstream TNW (approx. 1.52 mile downstream) to fulfill life cycles requirements. It is the Corps findings, that we cannot support the statement that these aquatic features do provide more than a speculative or insubstantial effect upon the biological integrity of the downstream TNW.
- In conclusion: The nearest downstream TNW is located approximately 1.52 river mile (or approximately 0.93 & 0.96 aerial miles) away from the nearest confluence of either of the two 1st order ephemeral flowing surface tributaries. These two aquatic features comprise an estimated total of appx 0.007 & 0.005 acre each: a total of 0.01 acre. They are approximately 0.9 mile to the nearest RPW. Based on our analysis, we have determined that the two aquatic features in review (tributary A1 & B1 total ~ 0.01 acre) do not provide more than speculative or insubstantial effect upon the chemical, physical and/or biological integrity of the downstream TNW.

APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION FORM
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

This form should be completed by following the instructions provided in Section IV of the JD Form Instructional Guidebook.

SECTION I: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A. REPORT COMPLETION DATE FOR APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION (JD): 16 April 2019

B. DISTRICT OFFICE, FILE NAME, AND NUMBER: Galveston District, SWG-2018-00549, Berg Oliver, Memorial Park, Tributary C2

C. PROJECT LOCATION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

State: Texas County/parish/borough: Harris County City: Houston
Center coordinates of site (lat/long in degree decimal format): Lat. 29.762762° N, Long. -95.443833° W.
Universal Transverse Mercator: NAD83, Zone: 15

Name of nearest waterbody: Buffalo Bayou

Name of nearest Traditional Navigable Water (TNW) into which the aquatic resource flows: Buffalo Bayou

Name of watershed or Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC): 12040104 Buffalo-San Jacinto

Check if map/diagram of review area and/or potential jurisdictional areas is/are available upon request.

Check if other sites (e.g., offsite mitigation sites, disposal sites, etc...) are associated with this action and are recorded on a different JD form.

D. REVIEW PERFORMED FOR SITE EVALUATION (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

Office (Desk) Determination. Date: 16 April 2019

Field Determination. Date(s): 12 March 2019

SECTION II: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

A. RHA SECTION 10 DETERMINATION OF JURISDICTION.

There **Are no** "navigable waters of the U.S." within Rivers and Harbors Act (RHA) jurisdiction (as defined by 33 CFR part 329) in the review area. [Required]

Waters subject to the ebb and flow of the tide.

Waters are presently used, or have been used in the past, or may be susceptible for use to transport interstate or foreign commerce.
Explain: .

B. CWA SECTION 404 DETERMINATION OF JURISDICTION.

There **Are** "waters of the U.S." within Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction (as defined by 33 CFR part 328) in the review area. [Required]

1. Waters of the U.S.

a. Indicate presence of waters of U.S. in review area (check all that apply):¹

TNWs, including territorial seas

Wetlands adjacent to TNWs

Relatively permanent waters² (RPWs) that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs

Non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs

Wetlands directly abutting RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs

Wetlands adjacent to but not directly abutting RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs

Wetlands adjacent to non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs

Impoundments of jurisdictional waters

Isolated (interstate or intrastate) waters, including isolated wetlands

b. Identify (estimate) size of waters of the U.S. in the review area:

Non-wetland waters: 248 linear feet: 2 width (ft) and/or 0.1 acres.

Wetlands: . acres.

c. Limits (boundaries) of jurisdiction based on: 1987 Delineation Manual

Elevation of established OHWM (if known): .

2. Non-regulated waters/wetlands (check if applicable):³

Potentially jurisdictional waters and/or wetlands were assessed within the review area and determined to be not jurisdictional.
Explain: .

¹ Boxes checked below shall be supported by completing the appropriate sections in Section III below.

² For purposes of this form, an RPW is defined as a tributary that is not a TNW and that typically flows year-round or has continuous flow at least "seasonally" (e.g., typically 3 months).

³ Supporting documentation is presented in Section III.F.

SECTION III: CWA ANALYSIS

A. TNWs AND WETLANDS ADJACENT TO TNWs

The agencies will assert jurisdiction over TNWs and wetlands adjacent to TNWs. If the aquatic resource is a TNW, complete Section III.A.1 and Section III.D.1. only; if the aquatic resource is a wetland adjacent to a TNW, complete Sections III.A.1 and 2 and Section III.D.1.; otherwise, see Section III.B below.

1. **TNW**

Identify TNW: .

Summarize rationale supporting determination: .

2. **Wetland adjacent to TNW**

Summarize rationale supporting conclusion that wetland is “adjacent”:

B. CHARACTERISTICS OF TRIBUTARY (THAT IS NOT A TNW) AND ITS ADJACENT WETLANDS (IF ANY):

This section summarizes information regarding characteristics of the tributary and its adjacent wetlands, if any, and it helps determine whether or not the standards for jurisdiction established under *Rapanos* have been met.

The agencies will assert jurisdiction over non-navigable tributaries of TNWs where the tributaries are “relatively permanent waters” (RPWs), i.e. tributaries that typically flow year-round or have continuous flow at least seasonally (e.g., typically 3 months). A wetland that directly abuts an RPW is also jurisdictional. If the aquatic resource is not a TNW, but has year-round (perennial) flow, skip to Section III.D.2. If the aquatic resource is a wetland directly abutting a tributary with perennial flow, skip to Section III.D.4.

A wetland that is adjacent to but that does not directly abut an RPW requires a significant nexus evaluation. Corps districts and EPA regions will include in the record any available information that documents the existence of a significant nexus between a relatively permanent tributary that is not perennial (and its adjacent wetlands if any) and a traditional navigable water, even though a significant nexus finding is not required as a matter of law.

If the waterbody⁴ is not an RPW, or a wetland directly abutting an RPW, a JD will require additional data to determine if the waterbody has a significant nexus with a TNW. If the tributary has adjacent wetlands, the significant nexus evaluation must consider the tributary in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands. This significant nexus evaluation that combines, for analytical purposes, the tributary and all of its adjacent wetlands is used whether the review area identified in the JD request is the tributary, or its adjacent wetlands, or both. If the JD covers a tributary with adjacent wetlands, complete Section III.B.1 for the tributary, Section III.B.2 for any onsite wetlands, and Section III.B.3 for all wetlands adjacent to that tributary, both onsite and offsite. The determination whether a significant nexus exists is determined in Section III.C below.

1. **Characteristics of non-TNWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNW**

(i) **General Area Conditions:**

Watershed size: 1030square miles

Drainage area: 1.32 square miles

Average annual rainfall: 53.34 inches

Average annual snowfall: 0.1 inches

(ii) **Physical Characteristics:**

(a) Relationship with TNW:

Tributary flows directly into TNW.

Tributary flows through 3 tributaries before entering TNW.

Project waters are 1-2 river miles from TNW.

Project waters are 1 (or less) river miles from RPW.

Project waters are 1 (or less) aerial (straight) miles from TNW.

Project waters are 1 (or less) aerial (straight) miles from RPW.

Project waters cross or serve as state boundaries. Explain: No.

⁴ Note that the Instructional Guidebook contains additional information regarding swales, ditches, washes, and erosional features generally and in the arid West.

Identify flow route to TNW⁵: Tributary C2 is a 2nd order unnamed tributary, which converges with another 2nd order unnamed tributary forming a 3rd order stream, which converges with another 3rd order unnamed tributary, this convergence forms a 4th order tributary which flows into Buffalo Bayou, a 5th order RPW, which becomes a TNW. Tributary stream order, if known: 2nd stream order.

(b) General Tributary Characteristics (check all that apply):

Tributary is: Natural
 Artificial (man-made). Explain: .
 Manipulated (man-altered). Explain: .

Tributary properties with respect to top of bank (estimate):

Average width: 2 feet
 Average depth: 0 feet
 Average side slopes: **4:1 (or greater)**.

Primary tributary substrate composition (check all that apply):

Silts Sands Concrete
 Cobbles Gravel Muck
 Bedrock Vegetation. Type/% cover: %
 Other. Explain: .

Tributary condition/stability [e.g., highly eroding, sloughing banks]. Explain: Relatively degraded in some areas and stable in other areas.

Presence of run/riffle/pool complexes. Explain: No.

Tributary geometry: **Relatively straight**

Tributary gradient (approximate average slope): %

(c) Flow:

Tributary provides for: **Ephemeral flow**

Estimate average number of flow events in review area/year: **2-5**

Describe flow regime: fitful, short & brief.

Other information on duration and volume: .

Surface flow is: **Discrete and confined**. Characteristics: .

Subsurface flow: **No**. Explain findings: .

Dye (or other) test performed: .

Tributary has (check all that apply):

Bed and banks
 OHWM⁶ (check all indicators that apply):
 clear, natural line impressed on the bank the presence of litter and debris
 changes in the character of soil destruction of terrestrial vegetation
 shelving the presence of wrack line
 vegetation matted down, bent, or absent sediment sorting
 leaf litter disturbed or washed away scour
 sediment deposition multiple observed or predicted flow events
 water staining abrupt change in plant community
 other (list):
 Discontinuous OHWM.⁷ Explain: .

If factors other than the OHWM were used to determine lateral extent of CWA jurisdiction (check all that apply):

High Tide Line indicated by: Mean High Water Mark indicated by:
 oil or scum line along shore objects survey to available datum;
 fine shell or debris deposits (foreshore) physical markings;
 physical markings/characteristics vegetation lines/changes in vegetation types.
 tidal gauges
 other (list):

(iii) **Chemical Characteristics:**

⁵ Flow route can be described by identifying, e.g., tributary a, which flows through the review area, to flow into tributary b, which then flows into TNW.

⁶ A natural or man-made discontinuity in the OHWM does not necessarily sever jurisdiction (e.g., where the stream temporarily flows underground, or where the OHWM has been removed by development or agricultural practices). Where there is a break in the OHWM that is unrelated to the waterbody's flow regime (e.g., flow over a rock outcrop or through a culvert), the agencies will look for indicators of flow above and below the break.

⁷Ibid.

Characterize tributary (e.g., water color is clear, discolored, oily film; water quality; general watershed characteristics, etc.).

Explain: no water present.

Identify specific pollutants, if known: .

(iv) **Biological Characteristics. Channel supports (check all that apply):**

- Riparian corridor. Characteristics (type, average width): pine and hardwood species, 40% coverage.
- Wetland fringe. Characteristics: no vegetation present in bed and bank.
- Habitat for:
 - Federally Listed species. Explain findings: .
 - Fish/spawn areas. Explain findings: .
 - Other environmentally-sensitive species. Explain findings: .
 - Aquatic/wildlife diversity. Explain findings: .

2. **Characteristics of wetlands adjacent to non-TNW that flow directly or indirectly into TNW**

(i) **Physical Characteristics:**

(a) General Wetland Characteristics:

Properties:

Wetland size: acres

Wetland type. Explain: Emergent.

Wetland quality. Explain: .

Project wetlands cross or serve as state boundaries. Explain: No.

(b) General Flow Relationship with Non-TNW:

Flow is: **Pick List**. Explain: .

Surface flow is: **Pick List**

Characteristics: .

Subsurface flow: **Pick List**. Explain findings: .

Dye (or other) test performed: .

(c) Wetland Adjacency Determination with Non-TNW:

Directly abutting

Not directly abutting

Discrete wetland hydrologic connection. Explain: .

Ecological connection. Explain: .

Separated by berm/barrier. Explain: .

(d) Proximity (Relationship) to TNW

Project wetlands are **Pick List** river miles from TNW.

Project waters are **Pick List** aerial (straight) miles from TNW.

Flow is from: **Pick List**.

Estimate approximate location of wetland as within the **Pick List** floodplain.

(ii) **Chemical Characteristics:**

Characterize wetland system (e.g., water color is clear, brown, oil film on surface; water quality; general watershed characteristics; etc.). Explain: .

Identify specific pollutants, if known: .

(iii) **Biological Characteristics. Wetland supports (check all that apply):**

Riparian buffer. Characteristics (type, average width): .

Vegetation type/percent cover. Explain: .

Habitat for:

Federally Listed species. Explain findings: .

Fish/spawn areas. Explain findings: .

Other environmentally-sensitive species. Explain findings: .

Aquatic/wildlife diversity. Explain findings: .

3. **Characteristics of all wetlands adjacent to the tributary (if any)**

All wetland(s) being considered in the cumulative analysis: **Pick List**

Approximately () acres in total are being considered in the cumulative analysis.

For each wetland, specify the following:

Directly abuts? (Y/N) Size (in acres) Directly abuts? (Y/N) Size (in acres)

Summarize overall biological, chemical and physical functions being performed:

C. SIGNIFICANT NEXUS DETERMINATION

A significant nexus analysis will assess the flow characteristics and functions of the tributary itself and the functions performed by any wetlands adjacent to the tributary to determine if they significantly affect the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of a TNW. For each of the following situations, a significant nexus exists if the tributary, in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands, has more than a speculative or insubstantial effect on the chemical, physical and/or biological integrity of a TNW. Considerations when evaluating significant nexus include, but are not limited to the volume, duration, and frequency of the flow of water in the tributary and its proximity to a TNW, and the functions performed by the tributary and all its adjacent wetlands. It is not appropriate to determine significant nexus based solely on any specific threshold of distance (e.g. between a tributary and its adjacent wetland or between a tributary and the TNW). Similarly, the fact an adjacent wetland lies within or outside of a floodplain is not solely determinative of significant nexus.

Draw connections between the features documented and the effects on the TNW, as identified in the *Rapanos* Guidance and discussed in the Instructional Guidebook. Factors to consider include, for example:

- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), have the capacity to carry pollutants or flood waters to TNWs, or to reduce the amount of pollutants or flood waters reaching a TNW?
- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), provide habitat and lifecycle support functions for fish and other species, such as feeding, nesting, spawning, or rearing young for species that are present in the TNW?
- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), have the capacity to transfer nutrients and organic carbon that support downstream foodwebs?
- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), have other relationships to the physical, chemical, or biological integrity of the TNW?

Note: the above list of considerations is not inclusive and other functions observed or known to occur should be documented below:

1. **Significant nexus findings for non-RPW that has no adjacent wetlands and flows directly or indirectly into TNWs.** Explain findings of presence or absence of significant nexus below, based on the tributary itself, then go to Section III.D:
 - Tributary C2 is a 2nd order tributary with ephemeral flow (non-relatively permanent flowing waters) and has a shallow water depth (when flowing). This ephemeral tributary provide surface flow into a 3rd order ephemeral unnamed tributary. This ephemeral 3rd order tributary converges with another 3rd order tributary to form a 4th order relatively permanent water (RPW). This 4th order unnamed tributary then flows into Buffalo Bayou (a RPW at that confluence). Buffalo Bayou is a Traditional Navigable Water (TNW) approximately 1.29 river miles away (or approximately 0.93 aerial miles) from the nearest point to the Buffalo Bayou.
 - Tributary C2 is approximately 248' in length and approximately 2' mean average width.
 - This tributary is composed of open water along the entire order/reach. The surface flow is ephemeral and last only for short/brief episodic spotting duration and only after precipitation events. The tributary has an ordinary high water mark and have a discrete and confined bed and bank.
 - This tributary is located within the 100-year floodplain of Buffalo Bayou, a TNW located approximately 1.29 river miles downstream. This relevant reach of the tributary provides vital water retention and retardation of overbank flooding that is associated with a perennial flowing system downstream. This tributary within this reach has a direct surface hydrologic connection with the downstream TNW. Based on our analysis, we have determined that the tributary has more than speculative or insubstantial effect upon the physical integrity of the downstream TNW.
 - This tributary type system provide habitat for numerous biological (aquatic and non-aquatic) species. However, there is no known biological species found that require these subject review aquatic features and the downstream TNW (approx. 1.29 mile downstream) to fulfill life cycles requirements. It is the Corps findings, that we cannot support the statement that these aquatic features do provide more than a speculative or insubstantial effect upon the biological integrity of the downstream TNW.
 - These type of aquatic systems aid in the sequestering of pollutants, provide nutrients and add organic carbon to this immediate adjacent aquatic ecosystem. This tributary has not been identified as a state impaired water. This tributary does not contain any known identified chemical attributes with the aquatic feature within either of these reaches that provide more than an immediate reduction of Total Suspended Solids (TSS) and a temporary rise in Dissolved Oxygen (D.O.) levels (which only occurs after rain events) that extends beyond the respective reach. Based on our analysis, we have determined that the tributary does not have more than a speculative or insubstantial effect upon the chemical integrity of the downstream TNW.
 - In conclusion: The nearest downstream TNW is located approximately 1.29 river mile (or approximately 0.94 aerial miles) away

from the nearest confluence of the 2nd order ephemeral flowing surface tributary. This aquatic feature comprises an estimated total of appx 0.01 acre. It is approximately 0.36 mile to the nearest RPW. Based on our analysis, we have determined that the aquatic feature in review (C2~ 0.01 acre) does provide more than speculative or insubstantial effect upon the chemical, physical and/or biological integrity of the downstream TNW.

2. **Significant nexus findings for non-RPW and its adjacent wetlands, where the non-RPW flows directly or indirectly into TNWs.** Explain findings of presence or absence of significant nexus below, based on the tributary in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands, then go to Section III.D:
3. **Significant nexus findings for wetlands adjacent to an RPW but that do not directly abut the RPW.** Explain findings of presence or absence of significant nexus below, based on the tributary in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands, then go to Section III.D:

D. DETERMINATIONS OF JURISDICTIONAL FINDINGS. THE SUBJECT WATERS/WETLANDS ARE (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

1. **TNWs and Adjacent Wetlands.** Check all that apply and provide size estimates in review area:
 TNWs: linear feet width (ft), Or, acres.
 Wetlands adjacent to TNWs: acres.
2. **RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs.**
 Tributaries of TNWs where tributaries typically flow year-round are jurisdictional. Provide data and rationale indicating that tributary is perennial:
 Tributaries of TNW where tributaries have continuous flow “seasonally” (e.g., typically three months each year) are jurisdictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.B. Provide rationale indicating that tributary flows seasonally:

Provide estimates for jurisdictional waters in the review area (check all that apply):

- Tributary waters: linear feet width (ft).
 Other non-wetland waters: acres.
Identify type(s) of waters:

3. **Non-RPWs⁸ that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs.**
 Waterbody that is not a TNW or an RPW, but flows directly or indirectly into a TNW, and it has a significant nexus with a TNW is jurisdictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.C.

Provide estimates for jurisdictional waters within the review area (check all that apply):

- Tributary waters: ~243 linear feet ~2width (ft).
 Other non-wetland waters: acres.
Identify type(s) of waters:

4. **Wetlands directly abutting an RPW that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs.**
 Wetlands directly abut RPW and thus are jurisdictional as adjacent wetlands.
 Wetlands directly abutting an RPW where tributaries typically flow year-round. Provide data and rationale indicating that tributary is perennial in Section III.D.2, above. Provide rationale indicating that wetland is directly abutting an RPW:
 Wetlands directly abutting an RPW where tributaries typically flow “seasonally.” Provide data indicating that tributary is seasonal in Section III.B and rationale in Section III.D.2, above. Provide rationale indicating that wetland is directly abutting an RPW:

Provide acreage estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area: acres.

5. **Wetlands adjacent to but not directly abutting an RPW that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs.**
 Wetlands that do not directly abut an RPW, but when considered in combination with the tributary to which they are adjacent and with similarly situated adjacent wetlands, have a significant nexus with a TNW are jurisdictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.C.

⁸See Footnote # 3.

Provide acreage estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area: _____ acres.

6. Wetlands adjacent to non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs.

- Wetlands adjacent to such waters, and have when considered in combination with the tributary to which they are adjacent and with similarly situated adjacent wetlands, have a significant nexus with a TNW are jurisdictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.C.

Provide estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area: _____ acres.

7. Impoundments of jurisdictional waters.⁹

As a general rule, the impoundment of a jurisdictional tributary remains jurisdictional.

- Demonstrate that impoundment was created from “waters of the U.S.,” or
 Demonstrate that water meets the criteria for one of the categories presented above (1-6), or
 Demonstrate that water is isolated with a nexus to commerce (see E below).

E. ISOLATED [INTERSTATE OR INTRA-STATE] WATERS, INCLUDING ISOLATED WETLANDS, THE USE, DEGRADATION OR DESTRUCTION OF WHICH COULD AFFECT INTERSTATE COMMERCE, INCLUDING ANY SUCH WATERS (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):¹⁰

- which are or could be used by interstate or foreign travelers for recreational or other purposes.
 from which fish or shellfish are or could be taken and sold in interstate or foreign commerce.
 which are or could be used for industrial purposes by industries in interstate commerce.
 Interstate isolated waters. Explain: _____ .
 Other factors. Explain: _____ .

Identify water body and summarize rationale supporting determination: _____ .

Provide estimates for jurisdictional waters in the review area (check all that apply):

- Tributary waters: _____ linear feet _____ width (ft).
 Other non-wetland waters: _____ acres.
Identify type(s) of waters: _____ .
 Wetlands: _____ acres.

F. NON-JURISDICTIONAL WATERS, INCLUDING WETLANDS (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

- If potential wetlands were assessed within the review area, these areas did not meet the criteria in the 1987 Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual and/or appropriate Regional Supplements.
 Review area included isolated waters with no substantial nexus to interstate (or foreign) commerce.
 Prior to the Jan 2001 Supreme Court decision in “SWANCC,” the review area would have been regulated based solely on the “Migratory Bird Rule” (MBR).
 Waters do not meet the “Significant Nexus” standard, where such a finding is required for jurisdiction. Explain: **see below**.
 Other: (explain, if not covered above): _____ .

Provide acreage estimates for non-jurisdictional waters in the review area, where the sole potential basis of jurisdiction is the MBR factors (i.e., presence of migratory birds, presence of endangered species, use of water for irrigated agriculture), using best professional judgment (check all that apply):

- Non-wetland waters (i.e., rivers, streams): _____ linear feet _____ width (ft).
 Lakes/ponds: _____ acres.
 Other non-wetland waters: _____ acres. List type of aquatic resource: _____ .
 Wetlands: _____ acres.

Provide acreage estimates for non-jurisdictional waters in the review area that do not meet the “Significant Nexus” standard, where such a finding is required for jurisdiction (check all that apply):

- Non-wetland waters (i.e., rivers, streams): _____ linear feet, _____ width (ft).
 Lakes/ponds: _____ acres.
 Other non-wetland waters: _____ acres. List type of aquatic resource: _____ .
 Wetlands: _____ acres.

⁹ To complete the analysis refer to the key in Section III.D.6 of the Instructional Guidebook.

¹⁰ Prior to asserting or declining CWA jurisdiction based solely on this category, Corps Districts will elevate the action to Corps and EPA HQ for review consistent with the process described in the Corps/EPA Memorandum Regarding CWA Act Jurisdiction Following Rapanos.

SECTION IV: DATA SOURCES.

A. SUPPORTING DATA. Data reviewed for JD (check all that apply - checked items shall be included in case file and, where checked and requested, appropriately reference sources below):

- Maps, plans, plots or plat submitted by or on behalf of the applicant/consultant:2/19/2015.
 - Data sheets prepared/submitted by or on behalf of the applicant/consultant.
 - Office concurs with data sheets/delineation report.
 - Office does not concur with data sheets/delineation report.
 - Data sheets prepared by the Corps:
 - Corps navigable waters' study:
 - U.S. Geological Survey Hydrologic Atlas:
 - USGS NHD data.
 - USGS 8 and 12 digit HUC maps.
 - U.S. Geological Survey map(s). Cite scale & quad name:USGS quads: Houston Heights, 1967 .
 - USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Survey. Citation:USDA, Web Soil Survey Map.
 - National wetlands inventory map(s). Cite name: NWI.
 - State/Local wetland inventory map(s):
 - FEMA/FIRM maps:48201C0665M, 6/9/2014.
 - 100-year Floodplain Elevation is: (National Geodectic Vertical Datum of 1929)
 - Photographs: Aerial (Name & Date):2019, 2018.
or Other (Name & Date):Berg Oliver site visit photos, dated 12/11/2018, Corps site visit photos, dated 3/12/2019
- (WETS table results exhibit wetter than normal for both site photo dates) .
- Previous determination(s). File no. and date of response letter:
 - Applicable/supporting case law:
 - Applicable/supporting scientific literature:
 - Other information (please specify):

B. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS TO SUPPORT JD:

-- Tributary C2 is a 2nd order tributary with ephemeral flow (non-relatively permanent flowing waters) and has a shallow water depth (when flowing). This ephemeral tributary provide surface flow into a 3rd order ephemeral unnamed tributary. This ephemeral 3rd order tributary converges with another 3rd order tributary to form a 4th order relatively permanent water (RPW). This 4th order unnamed tributary then flows into Buffalo Bayou (a RPW at that confluence). Buffalo Bayou is a Traditional Navigable Water (TNW) approximately 1.29 river miles away (or approximately 0.93 aerial miles) from the nearest point to the Buffalo Bayou.

- Tributary C2 is approximately 248' in length and approximately 2' mean average width.

- This tributary is composed of open water along the entire order/reach. The surface flow is ephemeral and last only for short/brief episodal spotting duration and only after precipitation events. The tributary has an ordinary high water mark and have a discrete and confined bed and bank.

- This tributary is located within the 100-year floodplain of Buffalo Bayou, a TNW located approximately 1.29 river miles downstream. This relevant reach of the tributary provides vital water retention and retardation of overbank flooding that is associated with a perennial flowing system downstream. This tributary within this reach has a direct surface hydrologic connection with the downstream TNW. Based on our analysis, we have determined that the tributary has more than speculative or insubstantial effect upon the physical integrity of the downstream TNW.

- This tributary type system provide habitat for numerous biological (aquatic and non-aquatic) species. However, there is no known biological species found that require these subject review aquatic features and the downstream TNW (approx. 1.29 mile downstream) to fulfill life cycles requirements. It is the Corps findings, that we cannot support the statement that these aquatic features do provide more than a speculative or insubstantial effect upon the biological integrity of the downstream TNW.

- These type of aquatic systems aid in the sequestering of pollutants, provide nutrients and add organic carbon to this immediate adjacent aquatic ecosystem. This tributary has not been identified as a state impaired water. This tributary does not contain any known identified chemical attributes with the aquatic feature within either of these reaches that provide more than an immediate reduction of Total Suspended Solids (TSS) and a temporary rise in Dissolved Oxygen (D.O.) levels (which only occurs after rain events) that extends beyond the respective reach. Based on our analysis, we have determined that the tributary does not have more than a speculative or insubstantial effect upon the chemical integrity of the downstream TNW.

- In conclusion: The nearest downstream TNW is located approximately 1.29 river mile (or approximately 0.94 aerial miles) away from the nearest confluence of the 2nd order epherml flowing surface tributary. This aquatic feature comprises an estimated total of appx 0.01 acre. It is approximately 0.36 mile to the nearest RPW. Based on our analysis, we have determined that the aquatic feature in review (C2~ 0.01 acre) does provide more than speculative or insubstantial effect upon the chemical, physical and/or biological integrity of the downstream TNW.

APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION FORM
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

This form should be completed by following the instructions provided in Section IV of the JD Form Instructional Guidebook.

SECTION I: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A. REPORT COMPLETION DATE FOR APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION (JD): 16 April 2019

B. DISTRICT OFFICE, FILE NAME, AND NUMBER: Galveston District, SWG-2018-00549, Berg Oliver, Memorial Park, Tributary D1

C. PROJECT LOCATION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

State: Texas County/parish/borough: Harris County City: Houston
Center coordinates of site (lat/long in degree decimal format): Lat. 29.764453° **N**, Long. -95.441197° **W**.
Universal Transverse Mercator: NAD83, Zone: 15

Name of nearest waterbody: Buffalo Bayou

Name of nearest Traditional Navigable Water (TNW) into which the aquatic resource flows: Buffalo Bayou

Name of watershed or Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC): 12040104 Buffalo-San Jacinto

Check if map/diagram of review area and/or potential jurisdictional areas is/are available upon request.

Check if other sites (e.g., offsite mitigation sites, disposal sites, etc...) are associated with this action and are recorded on a different JD form.

D. REVIEW PERFORMED FOR SITE EVALUATION (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

Office (Desk) Determination. Date: 16 April 2019

Field Determination. Date(s): 12 March 2019

SECTION II: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

A. RHA SECTION 10 DETERMINATION OF JURISDICTION.

There **Are no** "navigable waters of the U.S." within Rivers and Harbors Act (RHA) jurisdiction (as defined by 33 CFR part 329) in the review area. [Required]

Waters subject to the ebb and flow of the tide.

Waters are presently used, or have been used in the past, or may be susceptible for use to transport interstate or foreign commerce.
Explain: .

B. CWA SECTION 404 DETERMINATION OF JURISDICTION.

There **Are no** "waters of the U.S." within Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction (as defined by 33 CFR part 328) in the review area. [Required]

1. Waters of the U.S.

a. Indicate presence of waters of U.S. in review area (check all that apply):¹

- TNWs, including territorial seas
- Wetlands adjacent to TNWs
- Relatively permanent waters² (RPWs) that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs
- Non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs
- Wetlands directly abutting RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs
- Wetlands adjacent to but not directly abutting RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs
- Wetlands adjacent to non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs
- Impoundments of jurisdictional waters
- Isolated (interstate or intrastate) waters, including isolated wetlands

b. Identify (estimate) size of waters of the U.S. in the review area:

Non-wetland waters: linear feet: width (ft) and/or acres.
Wetlands: acres.

c. Limits (boundaries) of jurisdiction based on: **Pick List**

Elevation of established OHWM (if known): .

2. Non-regulated waters/wetlands (check if applicable):³

- Potentially jurisdictional waters and/or wetlands were assessed within the review area and determined to be not jurisdictional.
Explain: **See Section IV . ADDITIONAL COMMENTS TO SUPPORT JD.**

¹ Boxes checked below shall be supported by completing the appropriate sections in Section III below.

² For purposes of this form, an RPW is defined as a tributary that is not a TNW and that typically flows year-round or has continuous flow at least "seasonally" (e.g., typically 3 months).

³ Supporting documentation is presented in Section III.F.

SECTION III: CWA ANALYSIS

A. TNWs AND WETLANDS ADJACENT TO TNWs

The agencies will assert jurisdiction over TNWs and wetlands adjacent to TNWs. If the aquatic resource is a TNW, complete Section III.A.1 and Section III.D.1. only; if the aquatic resource is a wetland adjacent to a TNW, complete Sections III.A.1 and 2 and Section III.D.1.; otherwise, see Section III.B below.

1. TNW

Identify TNW: .

Summarize rationale supporting determination: .

2. Wetland adjacent to TNW

Summarize rationale supporting conclusion that wetland is “adjacent”:

B. CHARACTERISTICS OF TRIBUTARY (THAT IS NOT A TNW) AND ITS ADJACENT WETLANDS (IF ANY):

This section summarizes information regarding characteristics of the tributary and its adjacent wetlands, if any, and it helps determine whether or not the standards for jurisdiction established under *Rapanos* have been met.

The agencies will assert jurisdiction over non-navigable tributaries of TNWs where the tributaries are “relatively permanent waters” (RPWs), i.e. tributaries that typically flow year-round or have continuous flow at least seasonally (e.g., typically 3 months). A wetland that directly abuts an RPW is also jurisdictional. If the aquatic resource is not a TNW, but has year-round (perennial) flow, skip to Section III.D.2. If the aquatic resource is a wetland directly abutting a tributary with perennial flow, skip to Section III.D.4.

A wetland that is adjacent to but that does not directly abut an RPW requires a significant nexus evaluation. Corps districts and EPA regions will include in the record any available information that documents the existence of a significant nexus between a relatively permanent tributary that is not perennial (and its adjacent wetlands if any) and a traditional navigable water, even though a significant nexus finding is not required as a matter of law.

If the waterbody⁴ is not an RPW, or a wetland directly abutting an RPW, a JD will require additional data to determine if the waterbody has a significant nexus with a TNW. If the tributary has adjacent wetlands, the significant nexus evaluation must consider the tributary in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands. This significant nexus evaluation that combines, for analytical purposes, the tributary and all of its adjacent wetlands is used whether the review area identified in the JD request is the tributary, or its adjacent wetlands, or both. If the JD covers a tributary with adjacent wetlands, complete Section III.B.1 for the tributary, Section III.B.2 for any onsite wetlands, and Section III.B.3 for all wetlands adjacent to that tributary, both onsite and offsite. The determination whether a significant nexus exists is determined in Section III.C below.

1. Characteristics of non-TNWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNW

(i) General Area Conditions:

Watershed size: 1030square miles

Drainage area: 1.32 square miles

Average annual rainfall: 53.34 inches

Average annual snowfall: 0.1 inches

(ii) Physical Characteristics:

(a) Relationship with TNW:

Tributary flows directly into TNW.

Tributary flows through 2 tributaries before entering TNW.

Project waters are 1-2 river miles from TNW.

Project waters are 1 (or less) river miles from RPW.

Project waters are 1 (or less) aerial (straight) miles from TNW.

Project waters are 1 (or less) aerial (straight) miles from RPW.

Project waters cross or serve as state boundaries. Explain: No.

Identify flow route to TNW⁵: Tributary D1 is a 1st order unnamed tributary, which converges with a 2nd order unnamed tributary which flows into Buffalo Bayou, a 3rd order RPW, which becomes a TNW.

⁴ Note that the Instructional Guidebook contains additional information regarding swales, ditches, washes, and erosional features generally and in the arid West.

⁵ Flow route can be described by identifying, e.g., tributary a, which flows through the review area, to flow into tributary b, which then flows into TNW.

Tributary stream order, if known: 1st stream order.

(b) **General Tributary Characteristics (check all that apply):**

Tributary is: Natural
 Artificial (man-made). Explain: .
 Manipulated (man-altered). Explain: .

Tributary properties with respect to top of bank (estimate):

Average width: 1.5 feet

Average depth: 0 feet

Average side slopes: **2:1**.

Primary tributary substrate composition (check all that apply):

Silts Sands Concrete
 Cobbles Gravel Muck
 Bedrock Vegetation. Type/% cover: %
 Other. Explain: .

Tributary condition/stability [e.g., highly eroding, sloughing banks]. Explain: Relatively degraded in some areas and stable in other areas.

Presence of run/riffle/pool complexes. Explain: No.

Tributary geometry: **Relatively straight**

Tributary gradient (approximate average slope): %

(c) **Flow:**

Tributary provides for: **Ephemeral flow**

Estimate average number of flow events in review area/year: **2-5**

Describe flow regime: fitful, short & brief.

Other information on duration and volume: .

Surface flow is: **Discrete and confined**. Characteristics: .

Subsurface flow: **No**. Explain findings: .

Dye (or other) test performed: .

Tributary has (check all that apply):

Bed and banks
 OHWM⁶ (check all indicators that apply):
 clear, natural line impressed on the bank the presence of litter and debris
 changes in the character of soil destruction of terrestrial vegetation
 shelving the presence of wrack line
 vegetation matted down, bent, or absent sediment sorting
 leaf litter disturbed or washed away scour
 sediment deposition multiple observed or predicted flow events
 water staining abrupt change in plant community
 other (list):
 Discontinuous OHWM.⁷ Explain: .

If factors other than the OHWM were used to determine lateral extent of CWA jurisdiction (check all that apply):

High Tide Line indicated by: Mean High Water Mark indicated by:
 oil or scum line along shore objects survey to available datum;
 fine shell or debris deposits (foreshore) physical markings;
 physical markings/characteristics vegetation lines/changes in vegetation types.
 tidal gauges
 other (list):

(iii) **Chemical Characteristics:**

Characterize tributary (e.g., water color is clear, discolored, oily film; water quality; general watershed characteristics, etc.).

Explain: no water present.

Identify specific pollutants, if known: .

⁶A natural or man-made discontinuity in the OHWM does not necessarily sever jurisdiction (e.g., where the stream temporarily flows underground, or where the OHWM has been removed by development or agricultural practices). Where there is a break in the OHWM that is unrelated to the waterbody's flow regime (e.g., flow over a rock outcrop or through a culvert), the agencies will look for indicators of flow above and below the break.

⁷Ibid.

(iv) **Biological Characteristics. Channel supports (check all that apply):**

- Riparian corridor. Characteristics (type, average width): pine and hardwood species, 40% coverage.
- Wetland fringe. Characteristics: no vegetation present in bed and bank.
- Habitat for:
 - Federally Listed species. Explain findings: .
 - Fish/spawn areas. Explain findings: .
 - Other environmentally-sensitive species. Explain findings: .
 - Aquatic/wildlife diversity. Explain findings: .

2. **Characteristics of wetlands adjacent to non-TNW that flow directly or indirectly into TNW**

(i) **Physical Characteristics:**

(a) General Wetland Characteristics:

Properties:

Wetland size: acres

Wetland type. Explain: Emergent.

Wetland quality. Explain: .

Project wetlands cross or serve as state boundaries. Explain: No.

(b) General Flow Relationship with Non-TNW:

Flow is: **Pick List**. Explain: .

Surface flow is: **Pick List**

Characteristics: .

Subsurface flow: **Pick List**. Explain findings: .

Dye (or other) test performed: .

(c) Wetland Adjacency Determination with Non-TNW:

Directly abutting

Not directly abutting

Discrete wetland hydrologic connection. Explain: .

Ecological connection. Explain: .

Separated by berm/barrier. Explain: .

(d) Proximity (Relationship) to TNW

Project wetlands are **Pick List** river miles from TNW.

Project waters are **Pick List** aerial (straight) miles from TNW.

Flow is from: **Pick List**.

Estimate approximate location of wetland as within the **Pick List** floodplain.

(ii) **Chemical Characteristics:**

Characterize wetland system (e.g., water color is clear, brown, oil film on surface; water quality; general watershed characteristics; etc.). Explain: .

Identify specific pollutants, if known: .

(iii) **Biological Characteristics. Wetland supports (check all that apply):**

Riparian buffer. Characteristics (type, average width): .

Vegetation type/percent cover. Explain: .

Habitat for:

Federally Listed species. Explain findings: .

Fish/spawn areas. Explain findings: .

Other environmentally-sensitive species. Explain findings: .

Aquatic/wildlife diversity. Explain findings: .

3. **Characteristics of all wetlands adjacent to the tributary (if any)**

All wetland(s) being considered in the cumulative analysis: **Pick List**

Approximately () acres in total are being considered in the cumulative analysis.

For each wetland, specify the following:

Directly abuts? (Y/N) Size (in acres) Directly abuts? (Y/N) Size (in acres)

Summarize overall biological, chemical and physical functions being performed:

C. SIGNIFICANT NEXUS DETERMINATION

A significant nexus analysis will assess the flow characteristics and functions of the tributary itself and the functions performed by any wetlands adjacent to the tributary to determine if they significantly affect the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of a TNW. For each of the following situations, a significant nexus exists if the tributary, in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands, has more than a speculative or insubstantial effect on the chemical, physical and/or biological integrity of a TNW. Considerations when evaluating significant nexus include, but are not limited to the volume, duration, and frequency of the flow of water in the tributary and its proximity to a TNW, and the functions performed by the tributary and all its adjacent wetlands. It is not appropriate to determine significant nexus based solely on any specific threshold of distance (e.g. between a tributary and its adjacent wetland or between a tributary and the TNW). Similarly, the fact an adjacent wetland lies within or outside of a floodplain is not solely determinative of significant nexus.

Draw connections between the features documented and the effects on the TNW, as identified in the *Rapanos* Guidance and discussed in the Instructional Guidebook. Factors to consider include, for example:

- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), have the capacity to carry pollutants or flood waters to TNWs, or to reduce the amount of pollutants or flood waters reaching a TNW?
- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), provide habitat and lifecycle support functions for fish and other species, such as feeding, nesting, spawning, or rearing young for species that are present in the TNW?
- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), have the capacity to transfer nutrients and organic carbon that support downstream foodwebs?
- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), have other relationships to the physical, chemical, or biological integrity of the TNW?

Note: the above list of considerations is not inclusive and other functions observed or known to occur should be documented below:

1. **Significant nexus findings for non-RPW that has no adjacent wetlands and flows directly or indirectly into TNWs.** Explain findings of presence or absence of significant nexus below, based on the tributary itself, then go to Section III.D: Tributary D1 is a 1st order tributary with ephemeral flow (non-relatively permanent flowing waters) and has a shallow water depth (when flowing). This ephemeral tributary provides surface flow into a 2nd order ephemeral unnamed tributary. This ephemeral 2nd order tributary converges with a 3rd order relatively permanent water (RPW). This 3rd order tributary is Buffalo Bayou (a RPW at that confluence). Buffalo Bayou is a Traditional Navigable Water (TNW) approximately 1.30 river miles away (or approximately 0.83 aerial miles) from the nearest point to the Buffalo River.
 - Tributary D1 is approximately 175' in length and approximately 1.5' mean average width.
 - This tributary is composed of open water along the entire order/reach. The surface flow is ephemeral and last only for short/brief episodic spotting duration and only after precipitation events. The tributary has an ordinary high water mark and have a discrete and confined bed and bank.
 - Riparian and/or riverine type wetlands provide potential functions associated with maintaining the channel's integrity by providing cohesive materials (roots, etc) that aid in stabilizing bed and banks. Wetlands in these types of systems aid in slowing the velocity of the surface water and facilitate the repository of erosive materials that could be carried on downstream & assist in temporary stormwater storage. However, we could not state that the subject aquatic reach (D1) in review provide more than a speculative or insubstantial effect upon the physical integrity of the downstream TNW located approximately 1.3 river miles downstream.
 - These type of aquatic systems aid in the sequestering of pollutants, provide nutrients and add organic carbon to this immediate adjacent aquatic ecosystem. This tributary has not been identified as a state impaired water. This tributary does not contain any known identified chemical attributes with the aquatic feature within either of these reaches that provide more than an immediate reduction of Total Suspended Solids (TSS) and a temporary rise in Dissolved Oxygen (D.O.) levels (which only occurs after rain events) that extends beyond the respective reach. As such, we could not demonstrate that the this tributary reach provides more than a speculative or insubstantial impact upon the chemical integrity of the downstream TNW located approximately 1.3 river miles downstream.
 - These upper reaches of headwater tributary type systems provide habitat for numerous biological (aquatic and non-aquatic) species. However, there is no known biological species found that require these subject review aquatic features and the downstream TNW (approx. 1.3 mile downstream) to fulfill life cycles requirements. It is the Corps findings, that we cannot support the statement that these aquatic features do provide more than a speculative or insubstantial effect upon the biological

integrity of the downstream TNW.

- In conclusion: The nearest downstream TNW is located approximately 1.3 river mile (or approximately 0.83 aerial miles) away from the nearest confluence of the 2nd order ephemeral flowing surface tributary. This aquatic feature comprises an estimated total of appx 0.01 acre. It is approximately 0.37 mile to the nearest RPW. Based on our analysis, we have determined that the aquatic feature in review (D1~ 0.01 acre) does not provide more than speculative or insubstantial effect upon the chemical, physical and/or biological integrity of the downstream TNW

2. **Significant nexus findings for non-RPW and its adjacent wetlands, where the non-RPW flows directly or indirectly into TNWs.** Explain findings of presence or absence of significant nexus below, based on the tributary in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands, then go to Section III.D:
3. **Significant nexus findings for wetlands adjacent to an RPW but that do not directly abut the RPW.** Explain findings of presence or absence of significant nexus below, based on the tributary in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands, then go to Section III.D:

D. DETERMINATIONS OF JURISDICTIONAL FINDINGS. THE SUBJECT WATERS/WETLANDS ARE (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

1. **TNWs and Adjacent Wetlands.** Check all that apply and provide size estimates in review area:

- TNWs: linear feet width (ft), Or, acres.
- Wetlands adjacent to TNWs: acres.

2. **RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs.**

- Tributaries of TNWs where tributaries typically flow year-round are jurisdictional. Provide data and rationale indicating that tributary is perennial:
- Tributaries of TNW where tributaries have continuous flow "seasonally" (e.g., typically three months each year) are jurisdictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.B. Provide rationale indicating that tributary flows seasonally:

Provide estimates for jurisdictional waters in the review area (check all that apply):

- Tributary waters: linear feet width (ft).
- Other non-wetland waters: acres.
Identify type(s) of waters:

3. **Non-RPWs⁸ that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs.**

- Waterbody that is not a TNW or an RPW, but flows directly or indirectly into a TNW, and it has a significant nexus with a TNW is jurisdictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.C.

Provide estimates for jurisdictional waters within the review area (check all that apply):

- Tributary waters: linear feet width (ft).
- Other non-wetland waters: acres.
Identify type(s) of waters:

4. **Wetlands directly abutting an RPW that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs.**

- Wetlands directly abut RPW and thus are jurisdictional as adjacent wetlands.
 - Wetlands directly abutting an RPW where tributaries typically flow year-round. Provide data and rationale indicating that tributary is perennial in Section III.D.2, above. Provide rationale indicating that wetland is directly abutting an RPW:
 - Wetlands directly abutting an RPW where tributaries typically flow "seasonally." Provide data indicating that tributary is seasonal in Section III.B and rationale in Section III.D.2, above. Provide rationale indicating that wetland is directly abutting an RPW:

Provide acreage estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area: acres.

5. **Wetlands adjacent to but not directly abutting an RPW that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs.**

⁸See Footnote # 3.

- Wetlands that do not directly abut an RPW, but when considered in combination with the tributary to which they are adjacent and with similarly situated adjacent wetlands, have a significant nexus with a TNW are jurisdictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.C.

Provide acreage estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area: _____ acres.

6. Wetlands adjacent to non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs.

- Wetlands adjacent to such waters, and have when considered in combination with the tributary to which they are adjacent and with similarly situated adjacent wetlands, have a significant nexus with a TNW are jurisdictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.C.

Provide estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area: _____ acres.

7. Impoundments of jurisdictional waters.⁹

As a general rule, the impoundment of a jurisdictional tributary remains jurisdictional.

- Demonstrate that impoundment was created from “waters of the U.S.,” or
 Demonstrate that water meets the criteria for one of the categories presented above (1-6), or
 Demonstrate that water is isolated with a nexus to commerce (see E below).

E. ISOLATED [INTERSTATE OR INTRA-STATE] WATERS, INCLUDING ISOLATED WETLANDS, THE USE, DEGRADATION OR DESTRUCTION OF WHICH COULD AFFECT INTERSTATE COMMERCE, INCLUDING ANY SUCH WATERS (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):¹⁰

- which are or could be used by interstate or foreign travelers for recreational or other purposes.
 from which fish or shellfish are or could be taken and sold in interstate or foreign commerce.
 which are or could be used for industrial purposes by industries in interstate commerce.
 Interstate isolated waters. Explain: _____
 Other factors. Explain: _____

Identify water body and summarize rationale supporting determination: _____

Provide estimates for jurisdictional waters in the review area (check all that apply):

- Tributary waters: _____ linear feet _____ width (ft).
 Other non-wetland waters: _____ acres.
Identify type(s) of waters: _____
 Wetlands: _____ acres.

F. NON-JURISDICTIONAL WATERS, INCLUDING WETLANDS (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

- If potential wetlands were assessed within the review area, these areas did not meet the criteria in the 1987 Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual and/or appropriate Regional Supplements.
 Review area included isolated waters with no substantial nexus to interstate (or foreign) commerce.
 Prior to the Jan 2001 Supreme Court decision in “SWANCC,” the review area would have been regulated based solely on the “Migratory Bird Rule” (MBR).
 Waters do not meet the “Significant Nexus” standard, where such a finding is required for jurisdiction. Explain: **see below**.
 Other: (explain, if not covered above): _____

Provide acreage estimates for non-jurisdictional waters in the review area, where the sole potential basis of jurisdiction is the MBR factors (i.e., presence of migratory birds, presence of endangered species, use of water for irrigated agriculture), using best professional judgment (check all that apply):

- Non-wetland waters (i.e., rivers, streams): _____ linear feet _____ width (ft).
 Lakes/ponds: _____ acres.
 Other non-wetland waters: _____ acres. List type of aquatic resource: _____
 Wetlands: _____ acres.

Provide acreage estimates for non-jurisdictional waters in the review area that do not meet the “Significant Nexus” standard, where such a finding is required for jurisdiction (check all that apply):

- Non-wetland waters (i.e., rivers, streams): ~175 linear feet, ~1.5 width (ft).

⁹ To complete the analysis refer to the key in Section III.D.6 of the Instructional Guidebook.

¹⁰ Prior to asserting or declining CWA jurisdiction based solely on this category, Corps Districts will elevate the action to Corps and EPA HQ for review consistent with the process described in the Corps/EPA Memorandum Regarding CWA Act Jurisdiction Following Rapanos.

- Lakes/ponds: acres.
- Other non-wetland waters: acres. List type of aquatic resource: .
- Wetlands: acres.

SECTION IV: DATA SOURCES.

A. SUPPORTING DATA. Data reviewed for JD (check all that apply - checked items shall be included in case file and, where checked and requested, appropriately reference sources below):

- Maps, plans, plots or plat submitted by or on behalf of the applicant/consultant:2/19/2015.
- Data sheets prepared/submitted by or on behalf of the applicant/consultant.
 - Office concurs with data sheets/delineation report.
 - Office does not concur with data sheets/delineation report.
- Data sheets prepared by the Corps: .
- Corps navigable waters' study: .
- U.S. Geological Survey Hydrologic Atlas: .
 - USGS NHD data.
 - USGS 8 and 12 digit HUC maps.
- U.S. Geological Survey map(s). Cite scale & quad name:USGS quads: Houston Heights, 1967 .
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Survey. Citation:USDA, Web Soil Survey Map.
- National wetlands inventory map(s). Cite name: NWI.
- State/Local wetland inventory map(s): .
- FEMA/FIRM maps:48201C0665M, 6/9/2014.
- 100-year Floodplain Elevation is: (National Geodectic Vertical Datum of 1929)
- Photographs: Aerial (Name & Date):2019, 2018.
 - or Other (Name & Date):Berg Oliver site visit photos, dated 12/11/2018, Corps site visit photos, dated 3/12/2019 (WETS table results exhibit wetter than normal for both site photo dates) .
- Previous determination(s). File no. and date of response letter: .
- Applicable/supporting case law: .
- Applicable/supporting scientific literature: .
- Other information (please specify): .

B. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS TO SUPPORT JD: Tributary D1 is a 1st order tributary with ephemeral flow (non-relatively permanent flowing waters) and has a shallow water depth (when flowing). This ephemeral tributary provide surface flow into a 2nd order ephemeral unnamed tributary. This ephemeral 2nd order tributary converges with a 3rd order relatively permanent water (RPW). This 3rd order tributary is Buffalo Bayou (a RPW at that confluence). Buffalo Bayou is a Traditional Navigable Water (TNW) approximately 1.30 river miles away (or approximately 0.83 aerial miles) from the nearest point to the Buffalo River.

- Tributary D1 is approximately 175' in length and approximately 1.5' mean average width.
- This tributary is composed of open water along the entire order/reach. The surface flow is ephemeral and last only for short/brief episodic spotting duration and only after precipitation events. The tributary has an ordinary high water mark and have a discrete and confined bed and bank.
- Riparian and/or riverine type wetlands provide potential functions associated with maintaining the channel's integrity by providing cohesive materials (roots, etc) that aid in stabilizing bed and banks. Wetlands in these types of systems aid in slowing the velocity of the surface water and facilitate the repository of erosive materials that could be carried on downstream & assist in temporary stormwater storage. However, we could not state that the subject aquatic reach (D1) in review provide more than a speculative or insubstantial effect upon the physical integrity of the downstream TNW located approximately 1.3 river miles downstream.
- These type of aquatic systems aid in the sequestering of pollutants, provide nutrients and add organic carbon to this immediate adjacent aquatic ecosystem. This tributary has not been identified as a state impaired water. This tributary does not contain any known identified chemical attributes with the aquatic feature within either of these reaches that provide more than an immediate reduction of Total Suspended Solids (TSS) and a temporary rise in Dissolved Oxygen (D.O.) levels (which only occurs after rain events) that extends beyond the respective reach. As such, we could not demonstrate that the this tributary reach provides more than a speculative or insubstantial impact upon the chemical integrity of the downstream TNW located approximately 1.3 river miles downstream.
- These upper reaches of headwater tributary type systems provide habitat for numerous biological (aquatic and non-aquatic) species. However, there is no known biological species found that require these subject review aquatic features and the downstream TNW (approx. 1.3 mile downstream) to fulfill life cycles requirements. It is the Corps findings, that we cannot support the statement that these aquatic features do provide more than a speculative or insubstantial effect upon the biological integrity of the downstream TNW.
- In conclusion: The nearest downstream TNW is located approximately 1.3 river mile (or approximately 0.83 aerial miles) away from the nearest confluence of the 2nd order epherml flowing surface tributary. This aquatic feature comprises an estimated total of appx 0.01 acre. It is approximately 0.37 mile to the nearest RPW. Based on our analysis, we have determined that the aquatic feature in review (D1~ 0.01 acre) does not provide more than speculative or insubstantial effect upon the chemical, physical and/or biological integrity of the downstream TNW.