



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, GALVESTON DISTRICT
2000 FORT POINT ROAD
GALVESTON, TEXAS 77550

CESWG-RD-P

6 August 2025

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Pre-2015 Regulatory Regime
Approved Jurisdictional Determination in Light of *Sackett v. EPA*, 143 S. Ct. 1322
(2023),¹ SWG-2024-00836²

BACKGROUND. An Approved Jurisdictional Determination (AJD) is a Corps document stating the presence or absence of waters of the United States on a parcel or a written statement and map identifying the limits of waters of the United States on a parcel. AJDs are clearly designated appealable actions and will include a basis of JD with the document.³ AJDs are case-specific and are typically made in response to a request. AJDs are valid for a period of five years unless new information warrants revision of the determination before the expiration date or a District Engineer has identified, after public notice and comment, that specific geographic areas with rapidly changing environmental conditions merit re-verification on a more frequent basis.⁴ For the purposes of this AJD, we have relied on section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (RHA),⁵ the Clean Water Act (CWA) implementing regulations published by the Department of the Army in 1986 and amended in 1993 (references 2.a. and 2.b. respectively), the 2008 *Rapanos-Carabell* guidance (reference 2.c.), and other applicable guidance, relevant case law and longstanding practice, (collectively the pre-2015 regulatory regime), and the *Sackett* decision (reference 2.d.) in evaluating jurisdiction.

This Memorandum for Record (MFR) constitutes the basis of jurisdiction for a Corps AJD as defined in 33 CFR §331.2. The features addressed in this AJD were evaluated consistent with the definition of “waters of the United States” found in the pre-2015 regulatory regime and consistent with the Supreme Court’s decision in *Sackett*. This AJD did not rely on the 2023 “Revised Definition of ‘Waters of the United States,’” as

¹ While the Supreme Court’s decision in *Sackett* had no effect on some categories of waters covered under the CWA, and no effect on any waters covered under RHA, all categories are included in this Memorandum for Record for efficiency.

² When documenting aquatic resources within the review area that are jurisdictional under the Clean Water Act (CWA), use an additional MFR and group the aquatic resources on each MFR based on the TNW, interstate water, or territorial seas that they are connected to. Be sure to provide an identifier to indicate when there are multiple MFRs associated with a single AJD request (i.e., number them 1, 2, 3, etc.).

³ 33 CFR 331.2.

⁴ Regulatory Guidance Letter 05-02.

⁵ USACE has authority under both Section 9 and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 but for convenience, in this MFR, jurisdiction under RHA will be referred to as Section 10.

amended on 8 September 2023 (Amended 2023 Rule) because, as of the date of this decision, the Amended 2023 Rule is not applicable Texas due to litigation.

1. SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS.

- a. Provide a list of each individual feature within the review area and the jurisdictional status of each one (i.e., identify whether each feature is/is not a water of the United States and/or a navigable water of the United States).
 - i. Wetland 1, 0.29 acre, non-jurisdictional/non-adjacent, Latitude 27.806199, Longitude -97.407638.
 - ii. Wetland 2, 0.007 acre, non-jurisdictional/non-adjacent, Latitude 27.807335, Longitude -97.410018.
 - iii. Wetland 3, 0.083 acre, non-jurisdictional/non-adjacent, Latitude 27.806196, Longitude -97.406594.
 - iv. Ditch 1, 0.021 acre, non-jurisdictional/non-relatively permanent, Latitude 27.803462, Longitude -97.409927.
 - v. Ditch 2, 0.022 acre, non-jurisdictional/non-relatively permanent, Latitude 27.801143, Longitude -97.411474.
 - vi. Ditch 3, 0.052 acre, non-jurisdictional/non-relatively permanent, Latitude 27.805516, Longitude -97.406277.
 - vii. Open Water 1 (OW1), 0.191 acre, non-jurisdictional/non-relatively permanent, Latitude 27.805761, Longitude -97.405860.

2. REFERENCES.

- a. Final Rule for Regulatory Programs of the Corps of Engineers, 51 FR 41206 (November 13, 1986).
- b. Clean Water Act Regulatory Programs, 58 FR 45008 (August 25, 1993).
- c. U.S. EPA & U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Clean Water Act Jurisdiction Following the U.S. Supreme Court's Decision in *Rapanos v. United States & Carabell v. United States* (December 2, 2008)
- d. *Sackett v. EPA*, 598 U.S. 651, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023)

- e. 12 March 2025 Memorandum to the Field Between the U.S. Department of Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Concerning the Proper Implementation of “Continuous Surface Connection” Under the Definition of “Waters of the United States” Under the Clean Water Act.
3. REVIEW AREA. The approximate 5.69-acre review area is comprised of two land tracts located just east of North Port Avenue between the Union Pacific Railroad tracks and Martin Luther King Drive in Corpus Christi, Nueces County, Texas. Center Coordinates: 27.804719° N, -97.409096° W.
4. NEAREST TRADITIONAL NAVIGABLE WATER (TNW), INTERSTATE WATER, OR THE TERRITORIAL SEAS TO WHICH THE AQUATIC RESOURCE IS CONNECTED: Corpus Christi Ship Channel (CCSC)⁶
5. FLOWPATH FROM THE SUBJECT AQUATIC RESOURCES TO A TNW, INTERSTATE WATER, OR THE TERRITORIAL SEAS: The review area contains 0.191 acre of an unnamed tidal canal (OW1) that flows approximately 2,588 feet northwest to where it intersects with the CCSC.
6. SECTION 10 JURISDICTIONAL WATERS⁷: Describe aquatic resources or other features within the review area determined to be jurisdictional in accordance with Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. Include the size of each aquatic resource or other feature within the review area and how it was determined to be jurisdictional in accordance with Section 10.⁸ The unnamed OW1 canal is subject to the daily tidal ebb and flow. Therefore, pursuant to 33 CFR 329.4 the canal meets the Section 10 navigable waters of the US definition.
7. SECTION 404 JURISDICTIONAL WATERS: Describe the aquatic resources within the review area that were found to meet the definition of waters of the United States in accordance with the pre-2015 regulatory regime and consistent with the Supreme

⁶ This MFR should not be used to complete a new stand-alone TNW determination. A stand-alone TNW determination for a water that is not subject to Section 9 or 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (RHA) is completed independently of a request for an AJD. A stand-alone TNW determination is conducted for a specific segment of river or stream or other type of waterbody, such as a lake, where upstream or downstream limits or lake borders are established.

⁷ 33 CFR 329.9(a) A waterbody which was navigable in its natural or improved state, or which was susceptible of reasonable improvement (as discussed in § 329.8(b) of this part) retains its character as “navigable in law” even though it is not presently used for commerce, or is presently incapable of such use because of changed conditions or the presence of obstructions.

⁸ This MFR is not to be used to make a report of findings to support a determination that the water is a navigable water of the United States. The district must follow the procedures outlined in 33 CFR part 329.14 to make a determination that water is a navigable water of the United States subject to Section 10 of the RHA.

Court's decision in *Sackett*. List each aquatic resource separately, by name, consistent with the naming convention used in section 1, above. Include a rationale for each aquatic resource, supporting that the aquatic resource meets the relevant category of "waters of the United States" in the pre-2015 regulatory regime. The rationale should also include a written description of, or reference to a map in the administrative record that shows, the lateral limits of jurisdiction for each aquatic resource, including how that limit was determined, and incorporate relevant references used. Include the size of each aquatic resource in acres or linear feet and attach and reference related figures as needed.

a. TNWs (a)(1): OW1 canal, 0.191 acre.

b. Interstate Waters (a)(2): N/A.

c. Other Waters (a)(3): N/A.

d. Impoundments (a)(4): N/A.

e. Tributaries (a)(5): N/A.

f. The territorial seas (a)(6): N/A.

g. Adjacent wetlands (a)(7): N/A.

8. NON-JURISDICTIONAL AQUATIC RESOURCES AND FEATURES

a. Describe aquatic resources and other features within the review area identified as "generally non-jurisdictional" in the preamble to the 1986 regulations (referred to as "preamble waters").⁹ Include size of the aquatic resource or feature within the review area and describe how it was determined to be non-jurisdictional under the CWA as a preamble water. N/A.

b. Describe aquatic resources and features within the review area identified as "generally not jurisdictional" in the *Rapanos* guidance. Include size of the aquatic resource or feature within the review area and describe how it was determined to be non-jurisdictional under the CWA based on the criteria listed in the guidance.

Based on a review of data sources listed in Section 9 below we have determined Ditches 1-3 neither carry relatively permanent water flow nor exhibit an ordinary high-water mark (OHWM). The ditches were excavated wholly within and drain

⁹ 51 FR 41217, November 13, 1986.

only uplands, and are characterized by infrequent, low volume, and short duration water flow. None of the ditches extend the OHWM of a water of the US. Therefore, pursuant to the pre-2015 post-Sackett guidance Ditches 1-3 do not meet the 33 CFR 328.3(a)(3) tributary definition. The discharge of dredged and/or fill material into Ditches 1-3 does not require a Department of the Army Permit.

- c. Describe aquatic resources and features identified within the review area as waste treatment systems, including treatment ponds or lagoons designed to meet the requirements of CWA. Include the size of the waste treatment system within the review area and describe how it was determined to be a waste treatment system. N/A.
- d. Describe aquatic resources and features within the review area determined to be prior converted cropland in accordance with the 1993 regulations (reference 2.b.). Include the size of the aquatic resource or feature within the review area and describe how it was determined to be prior converted cropland. N/A.
- e. Describe aquatic resources (i.e. lakes and ponds) within the review area, which do not have a nexus to interstate or foreign commerce, and prior to the January 2001 Supreme Court decision in “*SWANCC*,” would have been jurisdictional based solely on the “Migratory Bird Rule.” Include the size of the aquatic resource or feature, and how it was determined to be an “isolated water” in accordance with *SWANCC*. N/A.
- f. Describe aquatic resources and features within the review area that were determined to be non-jurisdictional because they do not meet one or more categories of waters of the United States under the pre-2015 regulatory regime consistent with the Supreme Court’s decision in *Sackett* (e.g., tributaries that are non-relatively permanent waters; non-tidal wetlands that do not have a continuous surface connection to a jurisdictional water).

Based on a review of data sources listed in Section 9 below we have determined that Wetlands 1-3 are closed depressions that lack a continuous surface connection to a water of the US. Therefore, in accordance with the pre-2015 regime post-Sackett guidance and the 12 March 2025 Memorandum to the Field Between the U.S. Department of Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Concerning the Proper Implementation of “Continuous Surface Connection” Under the Definition of “Waters of the United States” Under the Clean Water Act, Wetlands 1-3 do not meet the adjacent definition as defined in the pre-2015 regime post Sackett guidance and are not waters of the US subject to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The discharge of

dredged and/or fill material into Wetlands 1-3 does not require a Department of the Army (DA) permit.

9. DATA SOURCES. List sources of data/information used in making determination. Include titles and dates of sources used and ensure that information referenced is available in the administrative record.
 - a. Delineation, maps, data sheets, and site photographs prepared by Triton Environmental Solutions, LLC, dated 8 October 2024.
 - b. Aerial Photos: 2024 National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP) 0.6-meter Near Color/Color Infrared Imagery; Google Earth Aerial Images (1955-2024); National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), Global Enhanced Geographic Intelligence (GEOINT) Delivery (G-EGD), Digital Globe High Resolution NC Aerial Imagery – 16 January 2025, 27 May 2025, and 25 June 2025.
 - c. United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Web Soil Survey:
<https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>, accessed 9 January 2025
 - d. U.S. Department of Interior (DOI), Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), National Wetland Inventory (NWI): FWS NWI Web Map Services (WMS)
(<https://fwspublicservices.wim.usgs.gov/wetlandsmapservice/services/Wetlands/MapServer/WMSServer?request=GetCapabilities&service=WMS >).
 - f. U.S. Department of Interior (DOI), Geological Survey (USGS):
 - i. *7.5-Minute Topographical (Topo) Quadrangle (Quad) Maps*: Corpus Christi, Texas – 1949, 1952, 1971, and 2016.
 - ii. *South Texas Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR)*: 2018 0.7-Meter Bare-Earth Ground Digital Elevation Model (DEM), North American Vertical Datum 1988 (meters).
10. OTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION. Antecedent precipitation tool (APT) climatic analysis of reviewed data (see administrative record).

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11. NOTE: The structure and format of this MFR were developed in coordination with the EPA and Department of the Army. The MFR's structure and format may be subject to future modification or may be rescinded as needed to implement additional guidance from the agencies; however, the approved jurisdictional determination described herein is a final agency action.

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Jayson Hudson
Team Lead, Policy Analysis Branch
Regulatory Division, Galveston District

Date: 06-Aug-2025



-  Tidal Open Water
-  Wetland
-  Ditch

SWG-2024-00836
Port of Corpus Christi Authority (PCCA)
Approved Jurisdictional Determination (AJD)
Approximate 5.69-acre Site
Corpus Christi, Nueces County, Texas
Aerial Imagery - 25 June 2025