



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

CESWG-RD-North

16 December 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-2025-00614

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.² 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.³ For the purposes of this AJD, we have relied on section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (RHA),⁴ 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 amended on 8 September 2023 (Amended 2023 Rule) because, as of the date of this decision, the Amended 2023 Rule is not applicable in Texas due to litigation.

1. SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS.

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 33 CFR 331.2.

³ Regulatory Guidance Letter 05-02.

⁴ 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.

- 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).

Summary of Wetlands and Waterbodies Identified within the Survey Area				
Feature	Classification	Size	Coordinates	Jurisdiction
Sims Bayou	R2UBH Riverine Lower perennial unconsolidated bottom permanently flooded	510 Linear Feet	29.627473, -95.407255	Relatively permanent Water (RPW)/Jurisdictional

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 subject site is approximately 410 acres located State Highway 288 to Hiram Clark Road, on West Orem Drive in Houston, Harris County, Texas. The center coordinates for the site are Latitude 29.627818, -95.430543 Longitude.
- 4. NEAREST TRADITIONAL NAVIGABLE WATER (TNW), INTERSTATE WATER, OR THE TERRITORIAL SEAS TO WHICH THE AQUATIC RESOURCE IS CONNECTED. Sims Bayou becomes a TNW 9.47 miles from proposed crossing.

5. FLOWPATH FROM THE SUBJECT AQUATIC RESOURCES TO A TNW, INTERSTATE WATER, OR THE TERRITORIAL SEAS.

Sims Bayou (510 linear feet) flows east 9.47 miles to Sims Bayou, a Traditional Navigable Water (TNW).

6. SECTION 10 JURISDICTIONAL WATERS⁵: 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 10.⁶ N/A

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 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): N/A
- b. Interstate Waters (a)(2): N/A
- c. Other Waters (a)(3): N/A
- d. Impoundments (a)(4): N/A

⁵ 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.

⁶ 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.

- e. Tributaries (a)(5): Sims Bayou (510 linear feet) has permanent water flow, a bed and bank, and an ordinary high-water mark. Therefore, Sims Bayou meets the definition of a tributary and is a Relatively Permanent Water (RPW) subject to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.
- 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”).⁷ 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.
- 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. of the tributary
- 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

⁷ 51 FR 41217, November 13, 1986.

- 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). N/A
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. Aerial Photographs: *Google Earth Aerial Photos* (2023)
 - b. United States Geological Survey (USGS) Topographic Maps: 2019 Bellaire, Texas 1:24,000
 - c. United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) Map Accessed 10 December 2025
 - d. US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Soil Map Accessed 10 December 2025
 - e. USGS National Map 3D Elevation Program (3DEP) LiDAR 2 January 2025 Accessed 10 December 2025.

OTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION.

FEMA Flood Maps submitted by KU & Associates 4 November 2025
Project Description and partial plans 14 November 2025

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.

PREPARED BY:

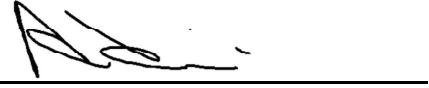


Date: 11 December 2025
Shawn Hillen
Regulatory Specialist

CESWG-RD-C

SUBJECT: Pre-2015 Regulatory Regime Approved Jurisdictional Determination in Light of *Sackett v. EPA*, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023), SWG-2025-00614

REVIEWED/APPROVED BY:



Date: 16 December 2025

Andria Davis
Leader, North Branch
Regulatory Division, Galveston District

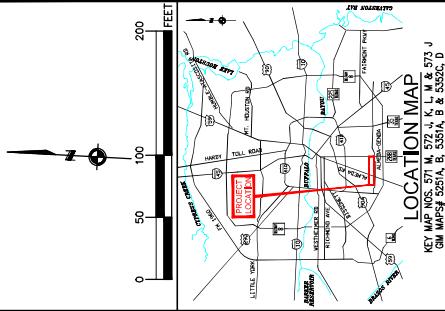
Jurisdictional Determination



Google Earth

LOCATION MAP

KEY MAP NOS. 571 M, 572 J, K, L, M & 573 J
GIM MAPS# 5251A, B, 5351A, B & 5352 D
COUNCIL DISTRICT 'D' & 'K'



NOTES:

1. PROPOSED 42-INCH WATER LINE TO BE INSTALLED INSIDE STEEL CASING BY TRENCHLESS CONSTRUCTION.



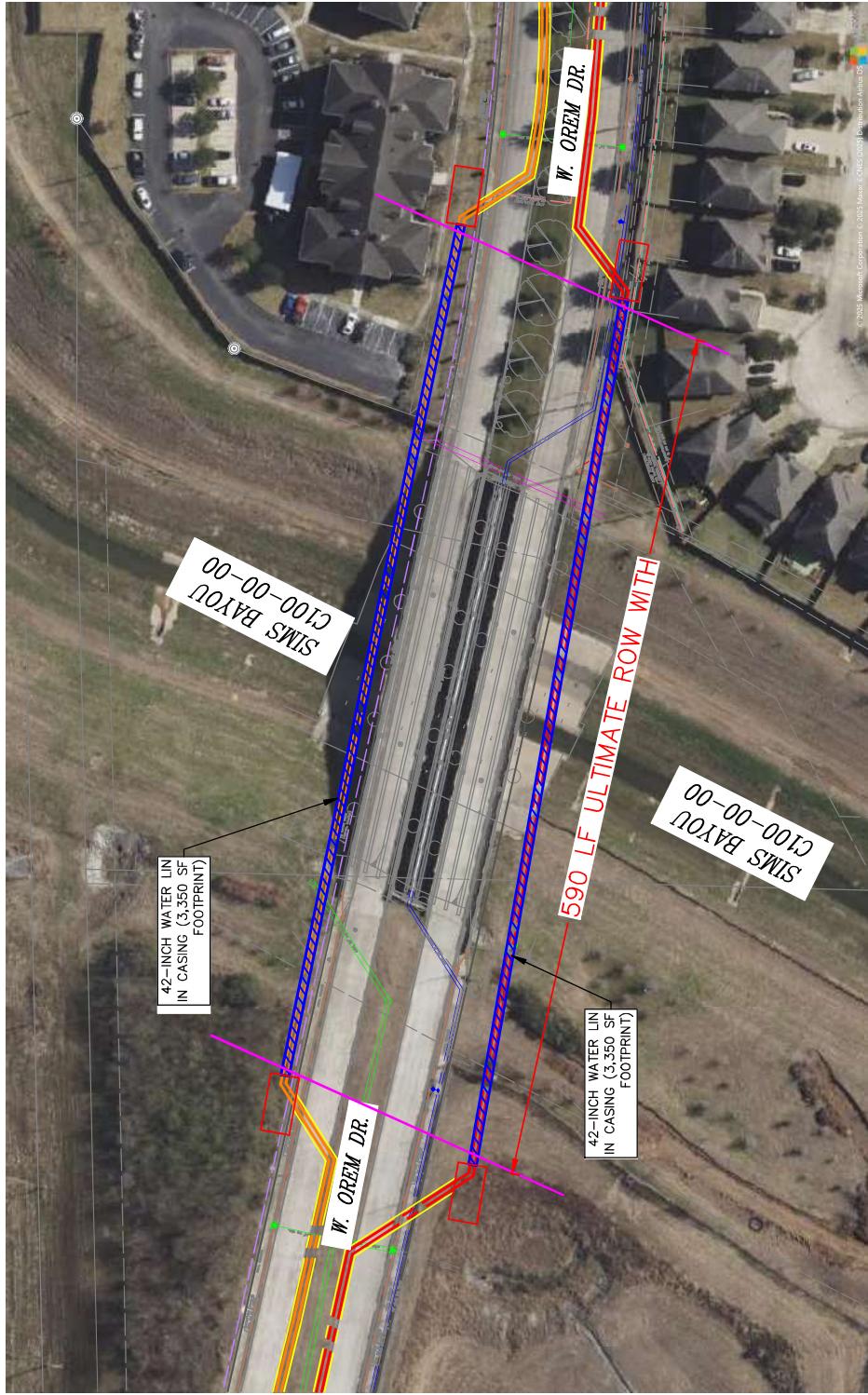
ENG/CDM/INTERIOR
5100 West Sam M. Walton
Freeway, Suite 700
14175 North Loop 1604, Suite 700
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77040
TREC Firm Registration No. 44778
TREC Firm Registration No. 107956
CITY OF HOUSTON
HOUSTON PUBLIC WORKS
WBS NO. S-00900-0310-3

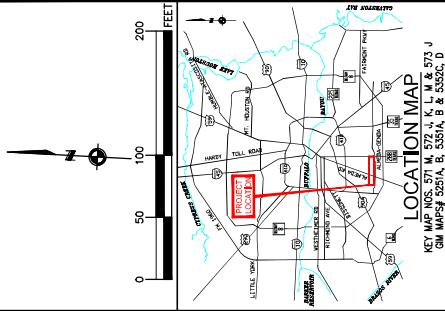
PROJECT TITLE:

42-INCH FUQUA LINE
EXTENSION FROM SH 288 TO
HIRAM CLARK RD
WBS NO. S-00900-0310-3

EXHIBIT
SIMS BAYOU CROSSING
C100-00-Q0

SHT. NO. X CF X DATE: 11/10/2025





NOTES:

1. PROPOSED 42-INCH WATER LINE TO BE INSTALLED INSIDE STEEL CASING BY TRENCHLESS CONSTRUCTION.



PROJECT TITLE:
42-INCH FUQUA LINE
EXTENSION FROM SH 288 TO
HIRAM CLARK RD
WBS NO. S-00900-03103

EXHIBIT

DRAINAGE DITCH CROSSING

SHT. NO. X CFX | DATE: 11/12/2025

