



Public Notice

U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers	Permit Application No: _____	SWG-2019-00449
	Date Issued: _____	16 January 2020
	Comments _____	
Galveston District	Due: _____	18 February 2020

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, GALVESTON DISTRICT
AND
TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE: To inform you of a proposal for work in which you might be interested. It is also to solicit your comments and information to better enable us to make a reasonable decision on factors affecting the public interest. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is not the entity proposing or performing the proposed work, nor has the Corps taken a position, in favor or against the proposed work.

AUTHORITY: This application will be reviewed pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA).

APPLICANT: Lisa Halili
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San Leon, Texas 77539-2034
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AGENT: Horizon Environmental Services
1507 South Interstate 35
Austin, Texas 78741-2502
POC: C. Lee Sherrod
Telephone: 512-431-3562
Email: lee_sherrod@horizon-esi.com

LOCATION: The project site is located just east of Highway 146, in Dickinson Bayou and adjacent wetlands, in San Leon, Galveston County. The project can be located on the U.S.G.S. quadrangle map titled: Texas City, Texas.

LATITUDE & LONGITUDE (NAD 83):

Latitude: 29.464892° North; **Longitude:** 094.972230° West

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant proposes to mechanically dredge approximately 12,446 cubic yards of dredged material from 1.0 acre of open water and 0.17 acre of wetlands to construct an entrance channel and berth along Dickinson Bayou. The entrance channel is proposed to be dredged 140 feet wide and extend 300 feet into Dickinson Bayou with a depth of 10 feet below mean sea level. The applicant also proposes to discharge approximately 1,215 cubic yards of riprap into 0.5 acre of open water to stabilize the shoreline, and approximately 22 cubic yards into 0.01 acre of herbaceous wetlands to construct a walkway around the proposed berth. The applicant states that the bulkhead around the proposed berth will be placed in uplands prior to excavation of the berth. All dredged material is proposed to be placed in uplands.

AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION: The applicant has stated that they have avoided and minimized the environmental impacts by designing the proposed project to avoid impacts to 1.69 acres of tidal wetlands fringe marsh, and 1.33 acres of interior non-tidal emergent marsh. The applicant also states that the shoreline stabilization with riprap will occupy 0.5 acres of shallow water, but the riprap will be placed water-ward of existing fringe wetlands and provide hard substrate habitat for aquatic organisms as well as protection of the tidal wetland fringe from erosion.

MITIGATION: The applicant states that there are no approved mitigation banks with a service area covering the project site have tidal fringe credits. The applicant would prefer to purchase 0.17 acres of functional credit units from an approved mitigation bank. A permittee responsible mitigation plan will be developed if credits at an approved compensatory mitigation bank are not available.

CURRENT SITE CONDITIONS: The project site is currently an undeveloped tract of land containing emergent wetlands, tidal fringe wetlands and a non-tidal excavated pond. The proposed project site is located along Dickinson Bayou with Highway 146 west of the site, and commercial and industrial development north and east of the site.

NOTES: This public notice is being issued based on information furnished by the applicant. This project information has not been verified by the Corps. As of the date of this public notice, the Corps has received but not yet verified the wetland delineation. The applicant's plans are enclosed in 3 sheets.

A preliminary review of this application indicates that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required. Since permit assessment is a continuing process, this preliminary determination of EIS requirement will be changed if data or information brought forth in the coordination process is of a significant nature.

Our evaluation will also follow the guidelines published by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to Section 404 (b)(1) of the CWA.

OTHER AGENCY AUTHORIZATIONS: Consistency with the State of Texas Coastal Management Plan is required. The applicant has stated that the proposed activity complies with Texas' approved Coastal Management Program goals and policies and will be conducted in a manner consistent with said program.

This project incorporates the requirements necessary to comply with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's (TCEQ) Tier I project criteria. Tier I projects are those which result in a direct impact of three acres or less of waters of the state or 1,500 linear feet of streams (or a combination of the two is below the threshold) for which the applicant has incorporated best management practices and other provisions designed to safeguard water quality. The Corps has received a completed checklist and signed statement fulfilling Tier I criteria for the project. Accordingly, a request for 401 certification is not necessary and there will be no additional TCEQ review.

The return water from a previously authorized upland contained dredge material placement area(s) requires an independent certification by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). The applicant must obtain an individual Section 401 water quality certification from the TCEQ for the effluent or return water discharge. A copy of the 401 certification must be furnished to the Corps of Engineers prior to the Corps making a decision on the proposed project.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES: The Corps Staff Archaeologist has reviewed the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places, lists of properties determined eligible, and other sources of information. The following is current knowledge of the presence or absence of historic properties and the effects of the undertaking upon these properties:

A historic properties investigation has been conducted within the permit area. No sites determined eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places are within the permit area or affected area.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES: Preliminary indications are that no known threatened and/or endangered species or their critical habitat will be affected by the proposed work.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial adverse impact on Essential Fish Habitat or federally managed fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

PUBLIC INTEREST REVIEW FACTORS: This application will be reviewed in accordance with 33 CFR 320-332, the Regulatory Programs of the Corps, and other pertinent laws, regulations and executive orders. The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors, which may be relevant to the proposal, will be considered: among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS: The Corps is soliciting comments from the public, Federal, State, and local agencies and officials, Indian tribes, and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment and/or an EIS pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

This public notice is being distributed to all known interested persons in order to assist in developing facts upon which a decision by the Corps may be based. For accuracy and completeness of the record, all data in support of or in opposition to the proposed work should be submitted in writing setting forth sufficient detail to furnish a clear understanding of the reasons for support or opposition.

PUBLIC HEARING: The purpose of a public hearing is to solicit additional information to assist in the evaluation of the proposed project. Prior to the close of the comment period, any person may make a written request for a public hearing, setting forth the particular reasons for the request. The District Engineer will determine if the reasons identified for holding a public hearing are sufficient to warrant that a public hearing be held. If a public hearing is warranted, all known interested persons will be notified of the time, date, and location.

CLOSE OF COMMENT PERIOD: All comments pertaining to this public notice must reach this office on or before **18 February 2020**. Extensions of the comment period may be granted for valid reasons provided a written request is received by the limiting date. **If no comments are received by that date, it will be considered that there are no objections.** Comments and requests for additional information should reference our file number, **SWG-2019-00449**, and should be submitted to:

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P.O. Box 1229
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DISTRICT ENGINEER
GALVESTON DISTRICT
CORPS OF ENGINEERS