



# Public Notice

<b>U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers Galveston District</b>	Permit Application No: _____	SWG-2013-00223
	Date Issued: _____	21 May 2019
	Comments Due: _____	21 June 2019

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**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/SPONSOR:** Third Texas Resource, L.L.C.  
6575 West Loop South, Suite 300  
Bellaire, Texas 77401  
Phone Number: 346-310-6211

**Agent:** Resource Environmental Solutions L.L.C.  
POC: Matt Genotte  
Phone: 346-310-6211  
Email: [mgenotte@res.us](mailto:mgenotte@res.us)

**LOCATION:** The proposed 252-acre site is located approximately 6.6 miles north of the city of Devers, 0.2 miles south of State Highway 61 and Farm-to-Market Road 1410 intersection, in Liberty County, Texas. The site is within the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Lower Trinity Watershed, hydrologic unit code (HUC) 12030203, and within the geographic limits of the USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle SHILOH, Texas at Latitude 29.9347° north and Longitude -94.630° west.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Third Texas Resource, L.L.C., the Sponsor, has requested authorization to create a commercial wetlands mitigation bank, named the Cow Island Bayou Mitigation Bank (CIBMB), within the Galveston District of the US Army Corps of Engineers (CESWG). The Sponsor is proposing to restore, enhance, and preserve wetland resources within the CIBMB for the purpose of providing an effective approach to satisfy compensatory mitigation requirements of the USACE Regulatory Program developed in accordance with the Compensatory Mitigation for Losses of Aquatic Resources (73 Fed. Reg. 19594, 10 April 2008 (codified in 33 CFR 332)). A Mitigation Banking Instrument (MBI) will be developed following the aforementioned policy and will detail the legal and physical characteristics of the bank and how the bank would be established and operated. Subjects addressed in detail in the MBI will include development of the site, service area, credit determination, financial assurances, scope of agreement, purpose and goals of the bank, baseline conditions, performance standards for restoration or enhancement activities, accounting procedures, monitoring and reporting, long-term maintenance and protection, and transfer of bank ownership or sponsorship. The applicant will be working with the USACE and other Federal and State resource agencies (the Interagency Review Team-IRT) in the development of the MBI.

The proposed objectives of CIBMB are to: 1) re-establish, rehabilitate, and sustain wetland functions to 117.4 acres of existing cleared agricultural land as forested wetlands; 2) re-establish and sustain wetland functions to 46.8 acres as herbaceous wetlands, including an approximate 2.0-acre portion that will have submerged aquatic vegetation; 3) enhance 11.2 acres of existing forested wetlands and re-establish and sustain 13.1 acres of forested wetlands to result in a 70% / 30% wetland / upland ratio within a 34.7-acre area; 4) re-establish and sustain 14.8 acres of forested wetland to result in a 50% / 50% wetland/upland ratio within a 29.5-acre forested area; and 5) re-establish and sustain 23.8 acres as native prairie upland buffer.

**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 verified a jurisdictional wetland delineation. A copy of the proposed Draft MBI which includes a more detailed description of the proposed project can be viewed and/or downloaded at: <http://www.swg.usace.army.mil/Media/PublicNotices.aspx>

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 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:** Texas Coastal Zone consistency certification may be required. The applicant must state that the project is consistent with the Texas Coastal Management Program goals and policies and will be conducted in a manner consistent with said Program.

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) certification may be required. Concurrent with processing of this application, the TCEQ is reviewing this application under Section 401 of the CWA and in accordance with Title 30, Texas Administrative Code Section 279.1-13 to determine if the work would comply with State water quality standards. By virtue of an agreement between the Corps and the TCEQ, this public notice is also issued for the purpose of advising all known interested persons that there is pending before the TCEQ a decision on water quality certification under such act. Any comments concerning this application may be submitted to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, 401 Coordinator, MSC-150, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. The public comment period extends 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. A copy of the public notice with a description of work is made available for review in the TCEQ's Austin office. The complete application may be reviewed in the Corps office listed in this public notice. The TCEQ may conduct a public meeting to consider all comments concerning water quality if requested in writing. A request for a public meeting must contain the following information: the name, mailing address, application number, or other recognizable reference to the application, a brief description of the interest of the requester, or of persons represented by the requester; and a brief description of how the application, if granted would adversely affect such interest.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES:** USACE staff archaeologist will evaluate the bank site processed under this proposal and review the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places, lists of properties determined eligible, and other sources of information. This will determine the current knowledge of the presence or absence of historic properties and the effects of the undertaking upon these properties.

**THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES:** An evaluation will be conducted on the bank site processed under this proposal to determine if threatened and/or endangered species, or their critical habitat, will be affected by the proposed work. If necessary, consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service will be initiated to assess the effect on 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 authorize this proposal 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, 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 **21 June 2019**. 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-2013-00223**, and should be submitted to:

Policy Analysis Branch  
Regulatory Division, CESWG-RDP  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 1229  
Galveston, Texas 77553-1229  
409-766-3869 Phone  
409-766-3931 Fax  
[swg\\_public\\_notice@usace.army.mil](mailto:swg_public_notice@usace.army.mil)

DISTRICT ENGINEER  
GALVESTON DISTRICT  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS