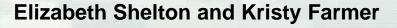
#### **The Corps Regulatory Program**



Regulatory Specialists

ACEC/HGAC Project Development Workshop

25 June 2014

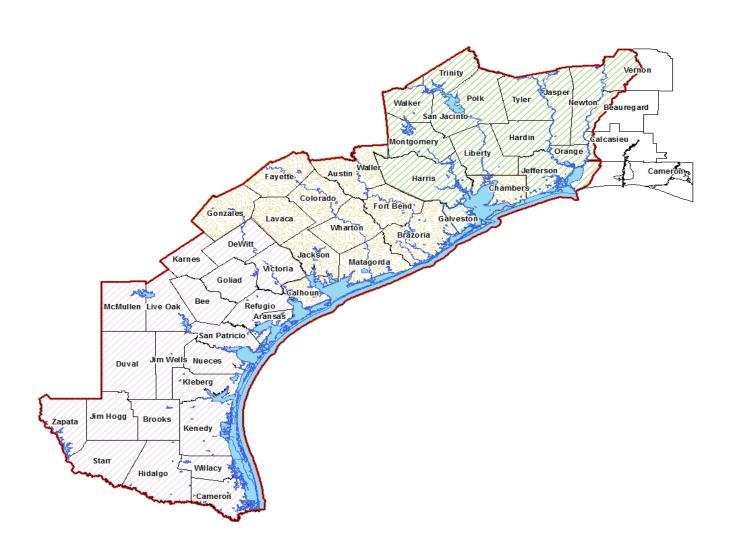


## Outline of Topics

- Jurisdiction
- Wetlands and Waters of the U.S.
- What do we regulate?
- Permit Process
- Application Submittal/Example Plans
- Mitigation



## Map of Galveston District



#### Jurisdiction

#### Regulations and Definitions

# Section 10 – Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899

- all <u>navigable</u> waters of the U.S.
  - subject to ebb and flow of tide shoreward to the mean high water mark
  - presently used, or have been used in the past, or may be susceptible to use to transport <u>interstate</u> or foreign commerce
- extends seaward to include all ocean waters within a zone three nautical miles from the coast line (the "territorial seas")

#### Section 404 – Clean Water Act of 1972

- "Waters of the United States, including the territorial seas" <u>plus...</u>
- Waters of the United States in 33 CFR 328.3(a)



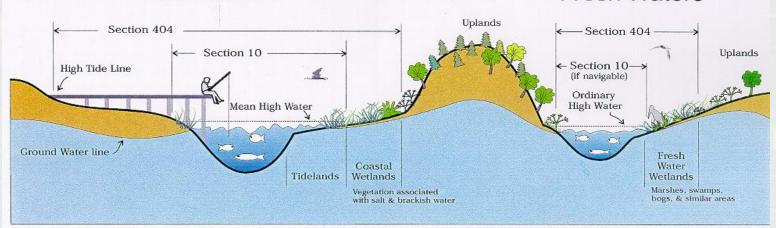
## Jurisdiction (JD)

Section 10 – Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899

Section 404 – Clean Water Act of 1972

CORPS OF ENGINEERS REGULATORY JURISDICTION

Tidal Waters Fresh Waters



#### Section 103

Ocean Discharge of Dredged Material

Typical examples Ocean discharges of of regulated activities dredged material

#### Section 404

Disposal of Dredged or Fill Material (all waters of the U.S.)

All filling activities, utility lines, outfall structures, road crossings, beach nourishment, riprap, jetties, some excavation activities, etc.

#### Section 10

All Structures and Work

Dreding, marinas, piers, wharves, floats, intake / outtake pipes, pilings, bulkheads, ramps, fills, overhead transmission lines, etc.



#### Waters of the U.S.

as defined in 33 CFR 328.3(a)

- Surface water tributary systems (including intermittent streams, and associated water bodies)
- Adjacent Wetlands
- Vegetated Shallows (ex: Seagrass Meadows)
- Sanctuaries and Refuges
- Coral Reefs
- Riffle and Pool Complexes
- Some isolated waters (ex: sloughs, prairie potholes, playa lakes, natural ponds, abandoned construction and mining pits)



#### What is a Wetland?

- Hydrology = Water
- Hydrophytic Plants =
   Plants Adapted for Wet Conditions
  - Hydric Soils = Wet



## **Examples of Wetlands**

# **Bottomland Hardwood Forested Wetlands**



#### **Freshwater Wetlands**





## **Examples of Wetlands**

Fringe Wetlands in a Riverine System

Salt Marsh







# Wetland Identification and Delineation

- A tool that identifies the presence/absence, amount, and type of aquatic resources within the defined project boundaries
- The 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual maintains the technical guidance and procedures
- The regional supplements contain wetland indicators, delineation guidance, and other information specific to the particular region

# Documenting Jurisdiction

(Section 10, 404, or both)

#### Approved Jurisdictional Determinations (AJD)

- Form used to document the amount and type of aquatic resources within the defined project boundaries that are subject to our regulations (Section 10, 404, or 10/404)
- May require coordination with EPA and Corps HQ
- Approved for 5 years
- Can be appealed through the appeal process as outlined in 33 CFR Part 331



# Documenting Jurisdiction (Section 10, 404, or both)

Preliminary Jurisdictional Determinations (PJD)

- Form that documents ALL aquatic resources that APPEAR within the defined project boundaries
- ALL aquatic resources will be considered to be jurisdictional for the purposes of permitting and mitigation

The Preliminary JD is not appealable, however an Approved JD can be requested at any time.



### What do we regulate?

Work, Structures, Fill

Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899

Clean Water Act of 1972

Section 10 – Requires permit from the Corps for structures or work in, or affecting, the course, location, or condition of a navigable water of the United States

Section 404 – Requires authorization from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to discharge dredged or **fill** material into waters of the United States



#### Fill Material

Any material placed in waters of the U.S. where the material has the effect of replacing any portion of a water of the U.S. with dry land or changing the bottom elevation of any portion of a water

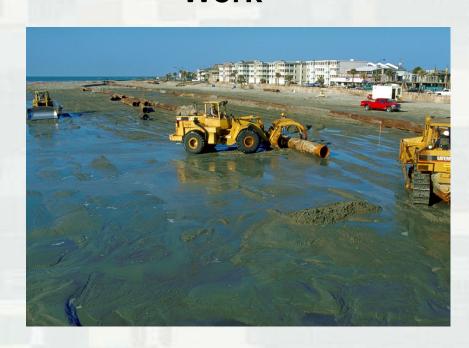


# Section 10 – Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899

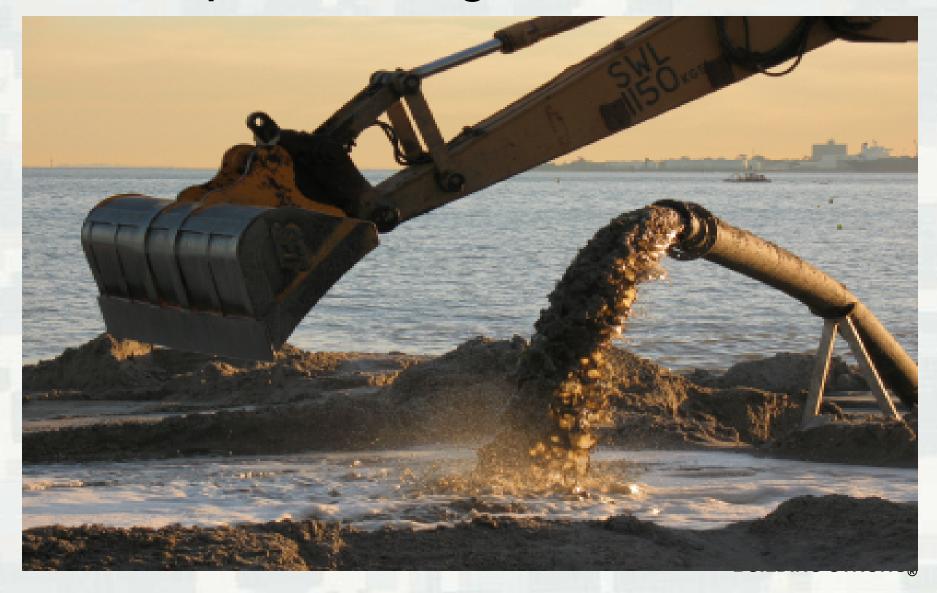
#### **Structures**



#### Work



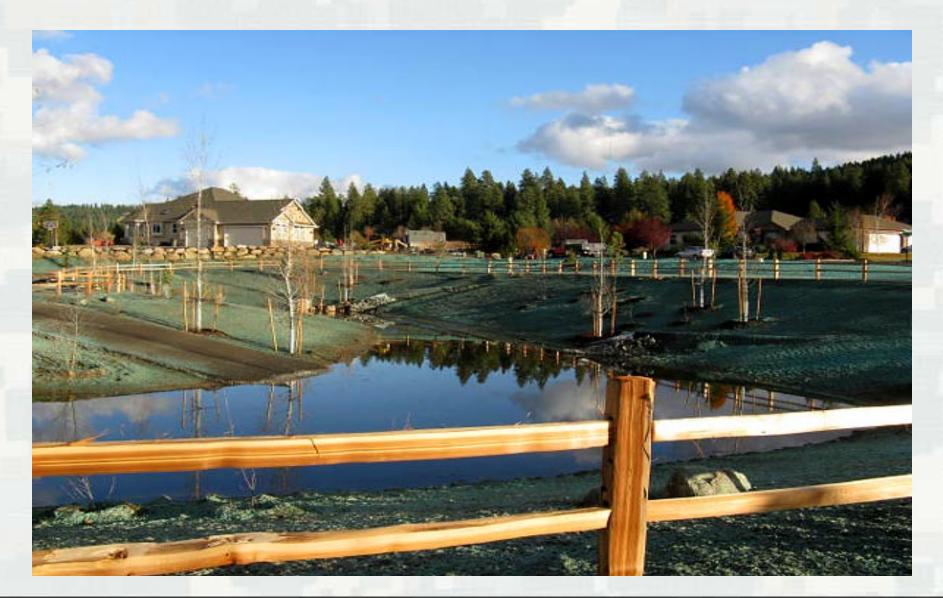




#### Section 404 – Clean Water Act of 1972













#### **Corps Permit Process**



### Corps Permit Process

#### **Who Needs A Permit?**

Anyone who conducts work, places structures, or discharges fill in a jurisdictional aquatic resource may need a permit.

#### Is a Permit Required?

If in doubt, ASK.

The Corps will make determinations and verify wetland delineations.



# The Corps' Permit Is one Trigger That Subjects the Regulated Activity to Jurisdiction of Other Laws

- The Corps' permit is one of many possible Federal actions that initiates review under other environmental laws such as: ESA, NHPA, NEPA and others
- If a Corps permit is not required, these other acts may or may not apply to the proposed action



## Stepwise Process of Review

**Avoid** 

**Minimize** 

**Then** 

**Mitigate** 



#### Important Notes

It is highly recommended that you coordinate with the Corps

Consultants can give their opinion, but the final jurisdictional authority lies with the Corps



## Tips on Working with Corps

- Contact the Corps EARLY in project planning
- Attend pre-application meetings OR Joint Evaluation Meetings
- Be aware that heavy Regulatory Program workload may delay Corps decisions



# Joint Evaluation Meeting (JEM) Process

- Held 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month from 9:30 am to 4 pm
- Participation is requested by Applicants
- Forum to meet with State and Federal Resource Agencies to discuss planned/proposed projects (pre- or post-application) i.e. EPA, NMFS, USFWS, TPWD, TGLO
- Topics include proposed impacts, pros/cons of proposed designs, suggestions to minimize environmental impact of projects, alternative project sites, potential compensation options (if required)



#### ENG 4345 – Application Form

APPLICATION FOR DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY PERMIT (33 CFR 325)			OMB APPROVAL NO. 0710-0003 Expires December 31, 2004	18.	18. Nature of Activity (Description of project, include all features)						
The Public burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 10 hours per response, although the majority of applications should require 5 hours or less. This includes the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needes and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Department of Defense, Washington Headquarters Service Directorate of Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highways, Suite 1204, Arignton, VA 22202-4302; and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0710-0003), Washington, DC 20503. Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law no person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid (MMR control											
number. Please DO NOT RETURN your form to either of those addresses. Completed applications must be submitted to the District Engineer having jurisdiction over the location of the proposed activity.					19. Project Purpose (Describe the reason or purpose of the project, see instructions)						
permit. Routine Uses: This info	Act, Section 10, 33 USC 403; Clean 33 USC 1413. Principal Purpose: Inf	formation provided on this form will	1344; Marine Protection , Research and be used in evaluating the application for a , state, and local government agencies. Ication cannot be evaluated nor can a pern								
One set of original drawings or g application (see sample drawings	good reproducible copies which show t	the location and character of the pr	oposed activity must be attached to this iction over the location of the proposed	20. 1	Reason(s) for Disc		20-22 IF DREDGED AND/OR F	ILL MATERIAL IS TO	) BE DISCHARGED		
(ITEMS 1 THRU 4 TO BE FILLED BY THE CORPS)											
APPLICATION NO.	2. FIELD OFFICE CODE	3. DATE RECEIVED	DATE APPLICATION COMPLETED	21. 1	21. Type(s) of Material Being Discharged and the Amount of Each Type in Cubic Yards						
	UTEMS BELOW TO	BE FILLED BY APPLICANT)		2	ype(s) or mater	an being bischarged and	the Amount of Later Type III C	Judic Farus			
5. APPLICANT'S NAME	THE ME DELOTE TO 1		ME AND TITLE (an agent is not required)								
The second of th				22 6	22. Surface Area in Acres of Wetlands or Other Waters Filled (see instructions)						
6. APPLICANT'S ADDRESS		9. AGENT'S ADDRESS	AGENT'S ADDRESS			teres or treatmes or on	the state of made late insortiums				
				22	le Any Portion of	the Work Already Comp	elete? YesNo	IE VEG DEGG	CRIBE THE COMPLET	ren wone	
7. APPLICANT'S PHONE NOS, W/AREA CODE 10. AGENT'S PHONE NOS, W/AREA CODE					is Ally Foldon of	the Work Alleady Comp	nete: res	IF TES, DESC	NIBE THE COMPLET	IED WORK	
a. Residence  a. Residence			WIER CODE								
b. Business		b. Business									
11.	STATES	MENT OF AUTHORIZATION		24 /	Addresses of Adio	nining Property Owners	Lessees, Etc., Whose Property	Adining the Waterb	adu (If more then ex	on he entered have	
I hereby authorize,	O I A I		y agent in the processing of this applicatio			supplemental list).	cessees, ctc., whose Property	Aujoins the Waterb	ouy (ii more than ca	in be entered nere,	
upon request, supplemental inform	mation in support of this permit applic	ation.	,								
APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE DATE											
	NAME, LOCATION AND DESC	CRIPTION OF PROJECT OR ACTIVIT	Y	25. L	ist of Other Certi	ifications or Approvals/D	enials Received from other Fe	deral, State or Loca	Agencies for Work	Described in This Apoli	
12. PROJECT NAME OR TITLE IS	see instructions)				AGENCY	TYPE APPROVAL*	IDENTIFICATION NUMBER		DATE APPROVED		
13. NAME OF WATERBODY, IF	KNOWN of applicables	14. PROJECT STREET ADDRESS	S (if applicable)								
AF A DOLATION OF PROJECT		-		L							
15. LOCATION OF PROJECT							to a				
COUNTY	STATE			ž.	application is con		r permits to authorize the work urther certify that I possess the				
16. OTHER LOCATION DESCRIP	PTIONS, IF KNOWN, /see instructions/										
					SIGNATUR	RE OF APPLICANT	DATE	SIGNATURE C	F AGENT	DATE	
17. DIRECTIONS TO THE SITE					The application must be signed by the person who desires to undertake the proposed activity (applicant) or it may be signed by a duly authorized agent if the statement in block 11 has been filled out and signed.						
				10	8 U.S.C. Section	1001 provides that: W	hoever, in any manner within	the jurisdiction of a	ny department or ag	ency of the United State	
				kn	owingry and will! udulent statemen	ts or representations or	or covers up any trick, scheme makes or uses any false writin	e, or disguises a ma- ing or document kno	erial fact or makes a wing same to contain	any false, fictitious or in any false, fictitious or	
ENG FORM 4345, Jul 97	FOITION	OF FER 94 IS ORSOLETE	(Propopost	fraud	fulent statements	or entry, shall be fined	not more than \$10,000 or imp	risoned not more th	an five years or bot	th.	

# Items to Include with the application

- Site Vicinity Map
- Plan and cross sectional views reflecting:
  - Named waterbody and/or all aquatic resources within the project boundaries
  - Mean high water or ordinary high water mark
  - Cubic yards of fill material (if applicable)
  - Wetland Delineation (if applicable)
  - Dimensions and cubic yards of material removed during dredging (if applicable)



#### Types of Permits

#### **General Permits (GP)**

For activities having minor impacts

#### Nationwide General Permits (NWP)

- Subject to Section 10 and Section 404 for specific activities)
- These permits are developed by USACE Headquarters
- Already issued to the nation and have been pre-coordinated with other agencies for water quality impacts, endangered species concerns, etc.
- Some permits require notification to the Corps = Pre-Construction Notification (PCN)

#### Regional General Permits (RGP)

- Subject to Section 10 (for specific activities)
- These permits are developed by the USACE districts

#### **Standard Permits (SP)**

For activities having more than minor impacts

#### Letters of Permission (LOP)

- Subject to Section 10 only
- These permits require a 15 Day Interagency Coordination
- Do not require Section 401 CWA Certification

#### Individual Permits (SP)

- Subject to Section 10 and Section 404
- The permits include a 15/30 Day Public Notice
- Requires all other elements of permit evaluation



## Commonly used NWPs

Maintenance
Outfall Structures
Utility Line Activities (pipelines, power lines)
Bank Stabilization (bulkheads, riprap)
Linear Transportation Project (roads, railways)
Minor Discharges (fill material)
Minor Dredging
Temporary Construction Access and Dewatering
Maintenance Dredging

Each project is unique, not all projects qualify for a NWP



### Summary of the NWP process

- Assigned to Project Manager
- Geographic Jurisdictional Determination
- Determination if project meets the terms of the General Permit
- Review of project plans and determination of completeness
- Internal Review
- Corps evaluates response and determines whether additional information or coordination is needed
- Decision document and Verification Letter written



## Summary of the SP process

- Assigned to Project Manager
- Geographic Jurisdictional Determination
- Internal Review
- External Coordination/Public Notice
- Forward comments to applicant
- Applicant responds
- Corps evaluates response and determines whether additional information or coordination is needed



# 404(b)(1) Guidelines Alternative Analysis

- Inherent assumption to guidelines is that a <u>non</u> water dependent project does not need to be built in a special aquatic site
  - i.e.: Roadway
    - basic purpose is vehicular transportation
    - it does not need to be built in waters of the U.S.
- It is assumed there are other practicable alternatives and locations that are available



# 404(b)(1) Guidelines Alternative Analysis

- Permit can be NOT issued if it does not comply with the guidelines (33 CFR 320.4)
- Corps has final responsibility for determining compliance with the guidelines
- Must select "least environmentally damaging practicable alternative"
- Level of review commensurate to impact (RGL 93- 2)



# 404(b)(1) Guidelines Alternative Analysis

- The Alternative Analysis is not a justification of the action.
- It is the process of finding other practicable alternatives for the action.
- The majority of the actions that come into our office, do receive a permit, but most likely will not look like the action that was proposed.

# Mitigation – 33 CFR 332

- Mitigating the environmental impacts of necessary development actions on the Nation's wetlands and other aquatic resources is a central premise of Federal wetlands programs
- The Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404 permit program relies on the use of compensatory mitigation to offset unavoidable damage to wetlands and other aquatic resources through, for example, the restoration or creation of wetlands

http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/Regulatory
ProgramandPermits/FederalRegulation.aspx

# Type and Location of Mitigation

- Mitigation Banks
  - Regulatory In lieu Fee and Bank Information Tracking System (RIBITS) <a href="http://geo.usace.army.mil/ribits/index.html">http://geo.usace.army.mil/ribits/index.html</a>
- In-Lieu Fee
- Permittee-Responsible Mitigation
  - Under a Watershed Approach
  - On-site and In-kind
  - Off-site and/or Out-of-Kind
- Watershed Approach (Preservation, Restoration, and/or Enhancement)



# How much Mitigation is Required?

Sufficient to replace lost aquatic resource functions

 An appropriate functional or condition assessment method or other suitable metric that is available can be used for determination of the amount of compensatory mitigation required



# End of Corps Permit Process

- The Corps generates an Environmental Assessment (EA) which evaluates environmental impacts, concludes with a "significance" determination if an EIS is or is not required
- The EA takes the form of a decision document that concludes a decision to issue, issue w/conditions, or deny the permit application



# Why does it take so long?

- An estimated 4,355 permits were finalized in the last calendar year for the Galveston District
  - Includes pre-application meetings that were recorded
- The Galveston District has 10 project managers that carry an average of 30-50 permit applications each
- Training, section meetings, app phone calls, preapplication meetings, JEM, office day phone calls, etc. interrupt review time

# Items to include with the application

- Site Vicinity Map
- Plan and cross sectional views reflecting:
  - Named waterbody and/or all aquatic resources within the project boundaries
  - Mean high water or ordinary high water mark
  - Cubic yards of fill material (if applicable)
  - Wetland Delineation (if applicable)
  - Dimensions and cubic yards of material removed during dredging (if applicable)

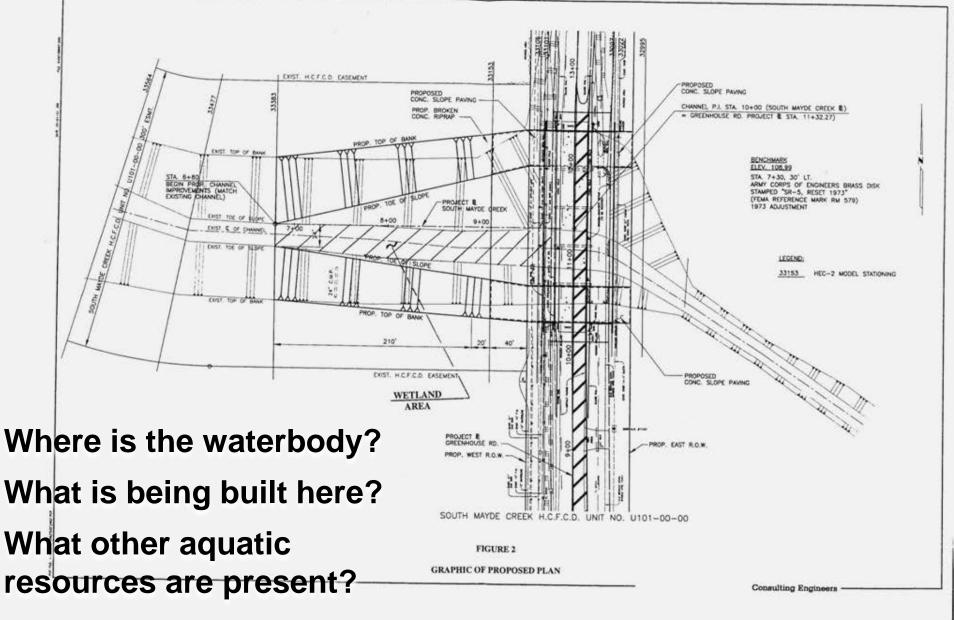


# Example Project Plans

 How do we determine the limits of our geographic authority from these drawings?

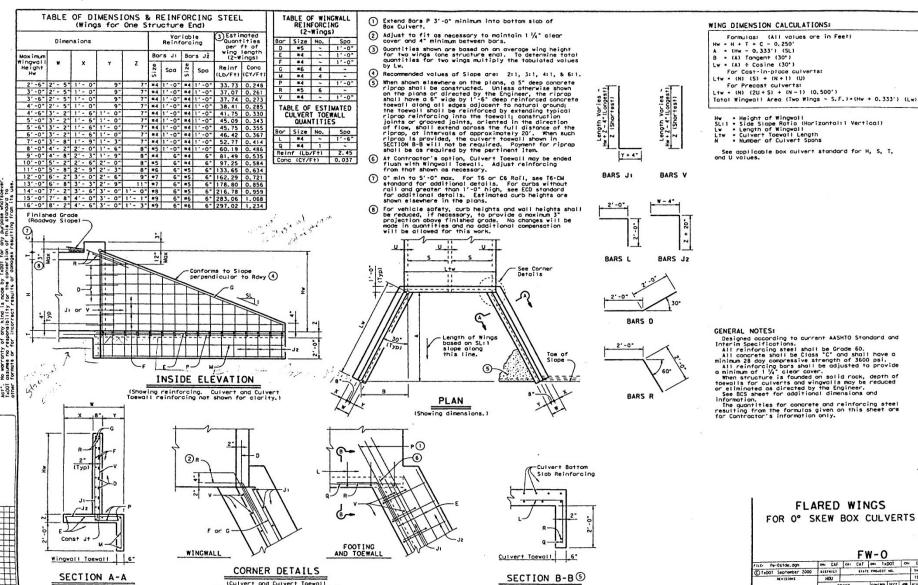
 How does EPA, USFWS, NMFS, TPWD, local agencies, adjacent landowners review these impacts in light of their regulatory authority and personal interests?

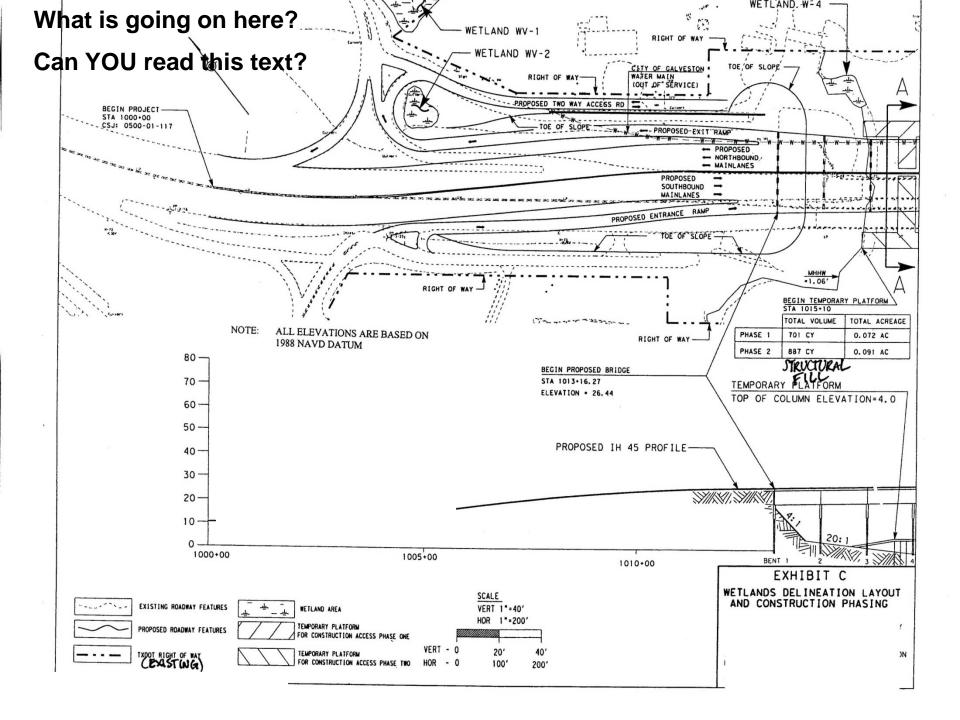


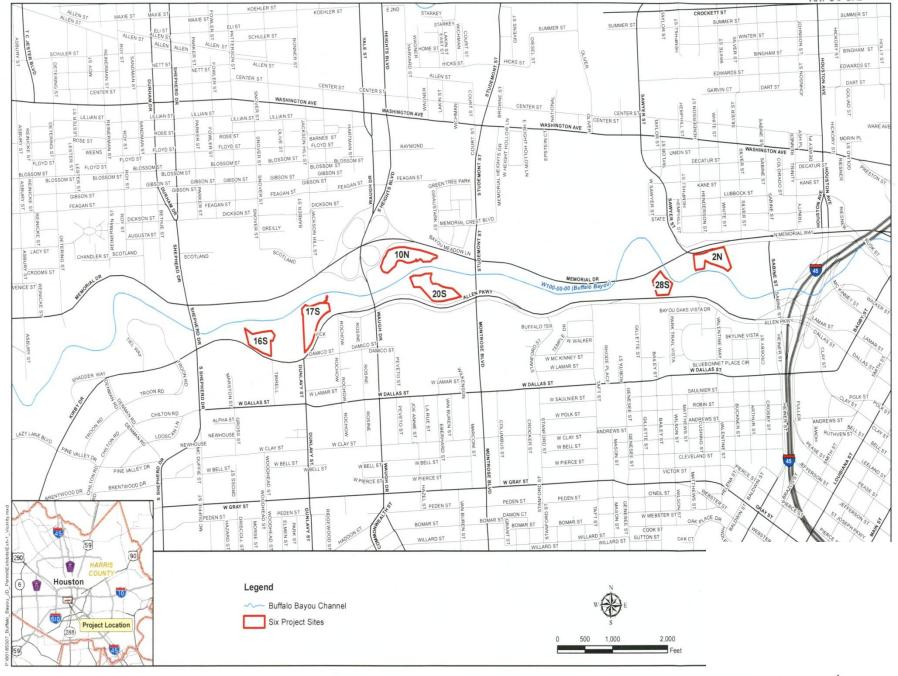


How much fill material is being discharged?

#### Why is this relevant to our review of the impacts to the aquatic resource?





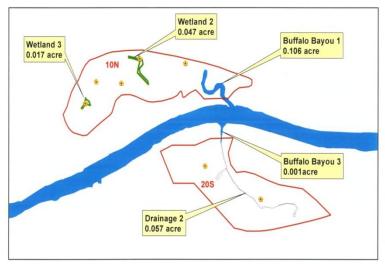


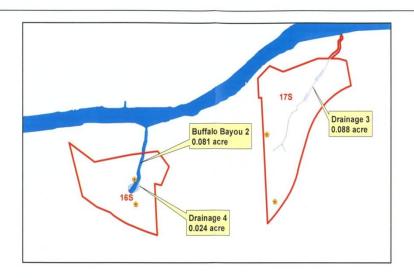
#### What is being done?

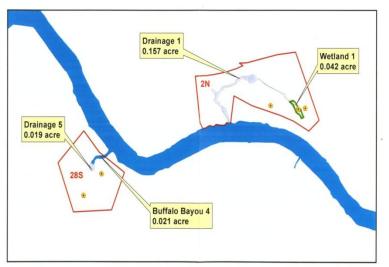
Where are the limits of our jurisdiction?

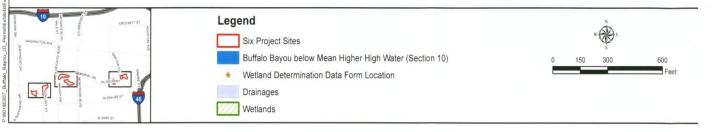
What other aquatic resources are present?

### How much fill material is being discharged?



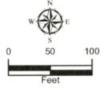


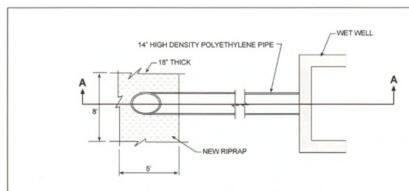




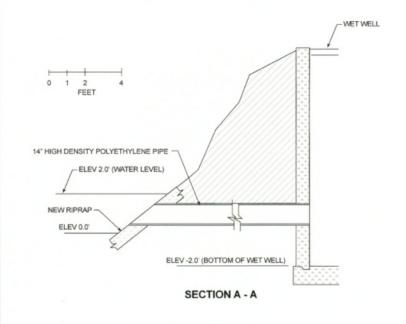
What is the acreage of the wetland? What are the cubic yards of fill material? No detail drawings showing the granite crossing, path and bridge, asphalt footpath, etc. were provided HAND PLANTING ALONG TRIBUTARY EXISTING GRANITE BLOCK CROSSING PROPOSED FOREST PLANTING PROPOSED ASPHALT FOOTPATH **EXISTING PATH AND BRIDGE** WETLAND PLANTING **EXISTING PATH AND BRIDGE** PROPOSED SHALLOW WETLAND PLANTING SURFACE DRAINAGE SWALE HAND PLANTED RIPARIAN PLANTING **EXISTING GRANITE WALKWAY** CONTROLS (TAPLEY CIRCLE) **EXISTING** 1" CONDUIT PROPOSED BRIDGE CONCRETE TRAIL SEE EXHIBIT 2a FOR BRIDGE W100-00-00 (Buffalo Bayou) SUPPLY WATER FOR WETLAND CROSS-SECTION WET WELL SEE EXHIBIT 2a FOR DETAIL PROPOSED WATER INTAKE PIPE roject Site (2N) ICFCD W100-00-00 Project Area







#### TIRRELL FALLS WET WELL - TOP VIEW

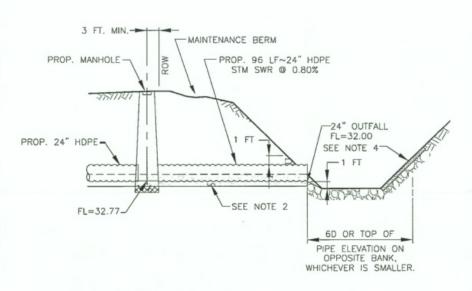


What kind of rip rap?

What size and cubic yards of rip rap?

The water level needs a reference datum. Our regulations lists MHW or OHWM.





#### STORM SEWER OUTFALL NOTES:

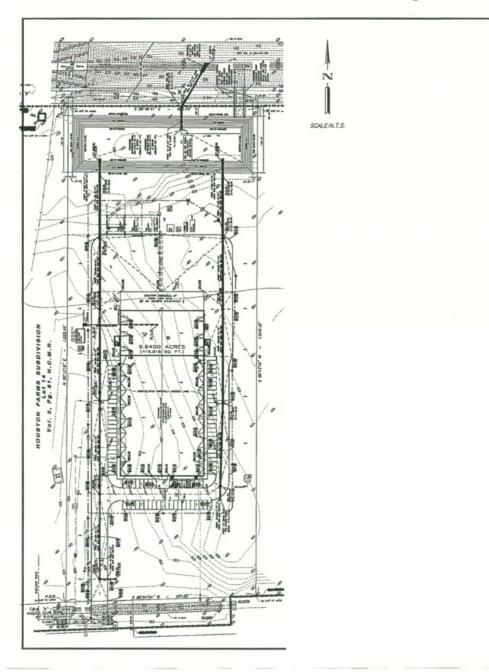
- 1. STORM SEWER OUTFALL PIPES WITHIN THE HCFCD RIGHT-OF-WAY SHALL BE CMP OR HDPE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SPECIFICATION SECTION 02642-CORRUGATED METAL PIPE, HIGH DENSITY POLYETHYLENE PIPE (HDPE) IN ACCORDANCE WITH SPECIFICATION SECTION 02505-HIGH DENSITY POLYETHYLENE PIPE, OR APPROVED EQUAL. USE TABLE BELOW FOR CORRUGATED GALVANIZED STEEL PIPE.
- PROVIDE AND PLACE CEMENT STABILIZED SAND IN ACCORDANCE WITH SPECIFICATION SECTION NO. 02321—CEMENT STABILIZED SAND.
- STORM SEWER OUTFALLS SHALL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SPECIFICATION SECTION 02316—STRUCTURAL EXCAVATING AND BACKFILLING.
- 4. RIPRAP SHALL BE PLACED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SPECIFICATION SECTION 02378—RIPRAP AND GRANULAR FILL. FILL RIPRAP VOIDS AND BURY RIPRAP A MINIMUM OF 6 INCHES WITH TOPSOIL ON SIDE SLOPE AS DIRECTED BY THE ENGINEER.

### What is the name of the waterbody?

What is the water level – MHW/OHWM?

What is the size and cubic yards of the rip rap being placed for bank stabilization under the outfall?





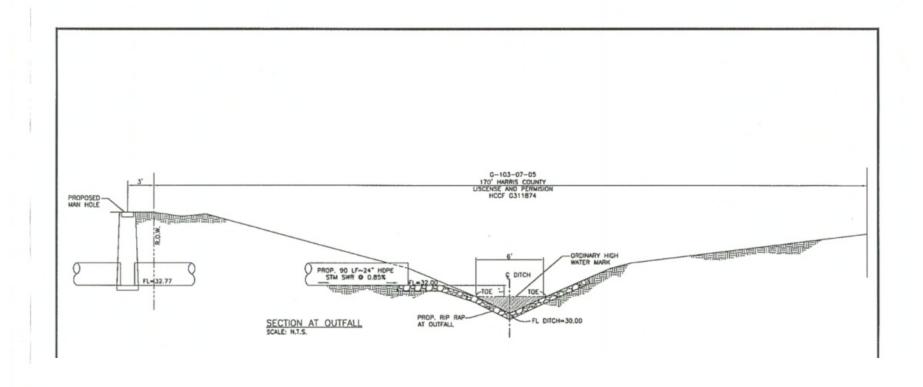
What is being built?

Where are the aquatic resources?

Where is the named waterbody?

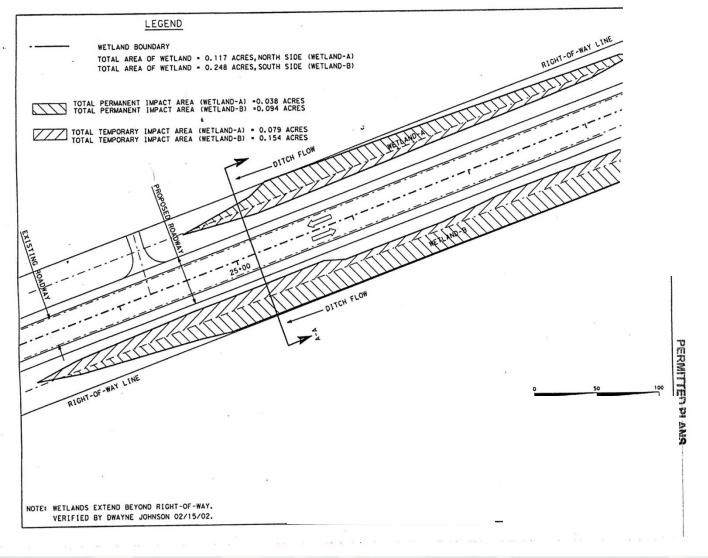


**BUILDING STRONG®** 

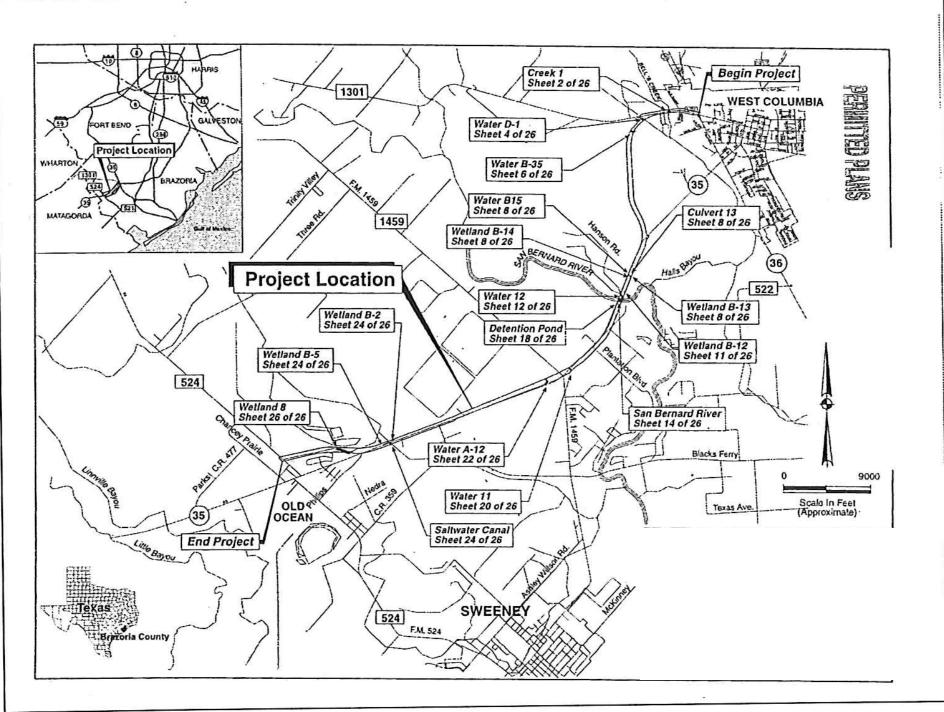


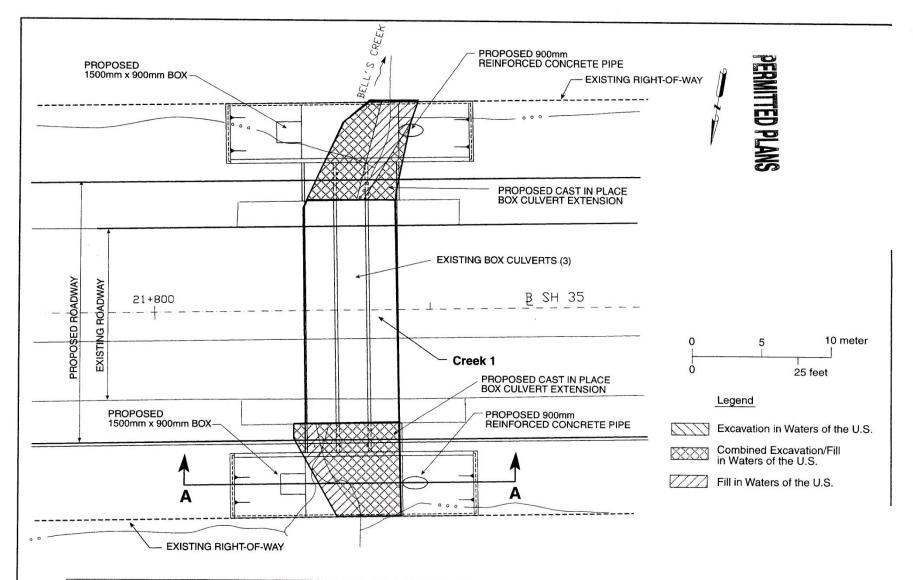
The OHWM is labeled but there are no units and values and no reference bottom elevation.

## **Example Permitted Plans**

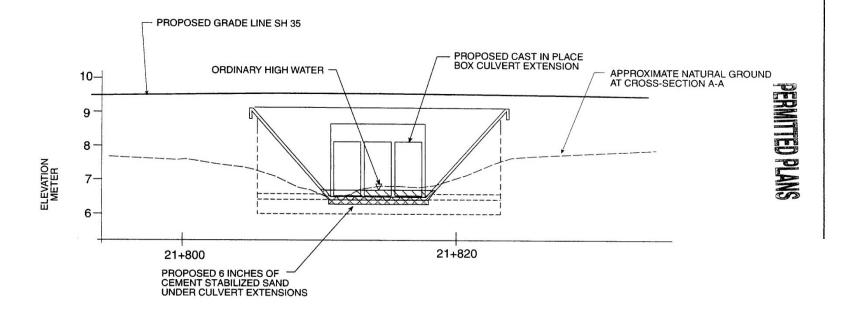








JURISDICTIONAL	EXCAVATION	DIRT AND/OR	JURISDICTIONAL
AREA	AREA	STRUCTURAL FILL	AREA WITHIN ROW
Creek 1	0.02 Ac.	0.02 Ac.	0.05 Ac.
(Bell's Creek)	(35 cy)	(14 cy)	



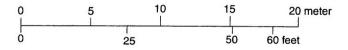
#### **SECTION A-A**

#### Legend

Excavation in Waters of the U.S.

Combined Excavation/Fill in Waters of the U.S.

Fill in Waters of the U.S.



#### **Restoration Plan**

In accordance with a NWP 33, the following restoration plan will be implemented. The proposed project will temporarily impact Wetland Z, Wetland Y and Wetlands ZZ during the construction of the turn-around road west of Cedar Bayou and the installation of bridge pilings for the proposed Cedar Bayou Bridge.

Within 2 weeks from completion of construction, all temporary fill will be removed to an area that has no waters of the US, and the area will be restored to pre-construction elevations and contours as depicted on the plans (**Attachment B**).

Based on the Wetland Delineation Report (SWG-1992-01589) with an Approved Jurisdictional Determination (AJD), the existing dominant vegetation within Wetland Z is Black willow (Salix nigra), Chairmaker's bulrush (Schoenoplectus americanus) and Bushy bluestem (Andropogon glomeratus). The existing dominant vegetation within Wetland Y and Z is Black willow (Salix nigra), Chinese tallow (Triadica sebifera), Broadleaf cattail (Typha latifolia), Dollarweed (Hydrocotyle umbellate) and Dwarf Palmetto (Sabal minor).

All temporary impacts to Wetland Z, Wetland Y and Wetland ZZ will be removed and restored to pre-construction contours. The restored areas will all be revegetated as appropriate, with native species as described above and in accordance with TxDOT's Roadside Vegetation Management Manual (Revised September 2013).

No secondary impacts to downstream flows, hydrology, or water quality are anticipated as a result of the proposed project.

General Condition 9 of the NWP Program requires compliance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, which stipulates the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to manage water quality on construction sites. Best Management Practices will be used during both pre- and post- construction. The Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SW3P) prepared for this project would include at least one BMP in each of the three categories identified in the Section 401 Water Quality Certification Conditions for NWPs as published by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) on April 12, 2002. These BMPs will address the following categories:

- · Category I: Erosion control
- Category II: Sediment Control
- Category III: Post Construction total suspended solids control.

Category I would be addressed by installing temporary vegetation and erosion control blankets and matting to disturbed areas. Category II would be addressed by the installation of silt fences across drainage swales and/or upstream of water bodies to prevent turbid discharges from adversely affecting ambient water quality. Category III would be addressed by extended detention basins. These measures would minimize potential adverse affects to water quality and with the implementation of these measures, no long-term effects to water quality are anticipated.



### Tools to help

- Better plans and maps
  - 8 ½ x 11 size no blueprint sizes in tubes
  - Reflect the impact to the jurisdictional water of the U.S.
- Participate in pre-application meetings to discuss the project and information that is needed for our review
- Participate in the JEM process to discuss the project with agencies

### Summary

- Areas of Jurisdiction (10 and 404)
- Jurisdictional Determinations
- Waters of the U.S. (wetlands, other special aquatic sites)
- Permit types (NWP, GP, LOP, IP)
- Permit Evaluation Process
- Mitigation (includes avoidance)



### Questions ??

http://www.swg.usace.army.mil/









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www.dvidshub.net/units/USACE-GD



#### **ONLINE**

www.swg.usace.army.mil

