



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

## DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, MOBILE  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
BIRMINGHAM FIELD OFFICE  
218 SUMMIT PARKWAY, SUITE 222  
HOMEWOOD, ALABAMA 35209

**CESAM-RD-N**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2017-00523-JMT**

**DATE 16 Aug 2017**

**JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND**  
**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

**REQUEST FOR THE FILLING OF WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES ASSOCIATED**  
**WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF A LEVEE AT MERIDIAN AIRPORT, LAUDERDALE**  
**COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: This District has received an application for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344). Please communicate this information to interested parties.

**APPLICANT:** Meridian Airport Authority  
Attention: Mr. Tom Williams  
2811 Airport Boulevard, South  
Meridian, Mississippi 39307

**AGENT:** Headwaters, Inc.  
Attention: Mr. Clay Cromwell  
Post Office Box 2836  
Ridgeland, Mississippi 39157

**LOCATION:** The proposed project site is located in the northwest corner of the airport property within Section 22, Township 6 North, and Range 15 East in Meridian, Lauderdale County, Mississippi (N32.347190, W-88.751743). The project is located in the Chunky-Okatibbee watershed (HUC 03170001).

**PROJECT PURPOSE:** The basic project purpose is flood prevention. A FAA mandate requires lower water elevations to minimize the impact to aviation signals during flood events. Currently, during flood events, the electronic signal from the FAA aviation equipment reflects off surface water creating a false approach and take-off communication with aircraft.

**WORK:** The applicant is seeking authorization for the discharge of dredge and fill material into waters of the United States (WoUS) for the purpose of extending an existing levee system at the NW corner of airport property. The levee will prevent flood waters from Okatibbee Creek entering the airport property near the aviation signal



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equipment located at the northern end of the runway. The work will include filling 0.85 acres of emergent wetland and re-routing approximately 365 linear feet of perennial stream.

**AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION:** The USACE has not verified the adequacy of the applicant's avoidance and minimization at this time.

**MITIGATION:** The applicant is requesting a waiver to provide compensatory mitigation for the proposed impacts to WoUS. The USACE has not verified the adequacy of the applicant's request at this time.

The applicant has applied for certification from the State of Mississippi in accordance with Section 401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act.

This public notice is being distributed to all known interested persons in order to assist in developing facts on which a decision by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers can 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. The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and use of important resources. The benefit 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, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The USACE 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 USACE 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 Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act.



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Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

Evaluation of the probable impacts involving deposits of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States will include the application of guidelines established by the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

**CULTURAL RESOURCES:** In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and Appendix C of 33 CFR 325, the undertaking defined in this notice is being considered for the potential to effect cultural and historic properties within the permit area. Although the extent of federal control and responsibility for these considerations are confined to the limits of the permit area for this particular project, the potential indirect effects that may occur to historic properties as a result of this undertaking are also being considered. We are seeking comment from the State Historic Preservation Officer, federally-recognized American Indian tribes, local historical societies, museums, universities, the National Park Service, and concerned citizens regarding the existence or the potential for existence of significant cultural and historic properties within the permit area. Historic architectural or archaeological investigations may be necessary to ascertain the existence of such resources. Efforts will be made through the consultation process to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects to significant cultural and historic properties that may occur as a result of this undertaking

**ENDANGERED SPECIES:** Determination of Effect will be considered using the 2017 Memorandum of Agreement for Standard Local Operating Procedures for Endangered Species (SLOPES) in Mississippi. Preliminary review of this document indicates the project site could have suitable habitat for the **threatened Northern long eared bat (NLEB) (*Myotis septentrionalis*)**, and the **threatened Wood stork (*Mycteria americana*)**.

Correspondence concerning this Public Notice should refer to Public Notice Number SAM-2017-00523-JMT and should be directed to:

U.S. Army Engineer District, Mobile  
Birmingham Field Office  
Attention: Mr. Joseph Tanko  
218 Summit Parkway, Suite 222

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Homewood, Alabama 35209

with a copy to the:

State of Mississippi  
Department of Environmental Quality  
Post Office Box 2261  
Jackson, Mississippi 39225

Comments should be received no later than **30 days** from the date of this Public Notice.

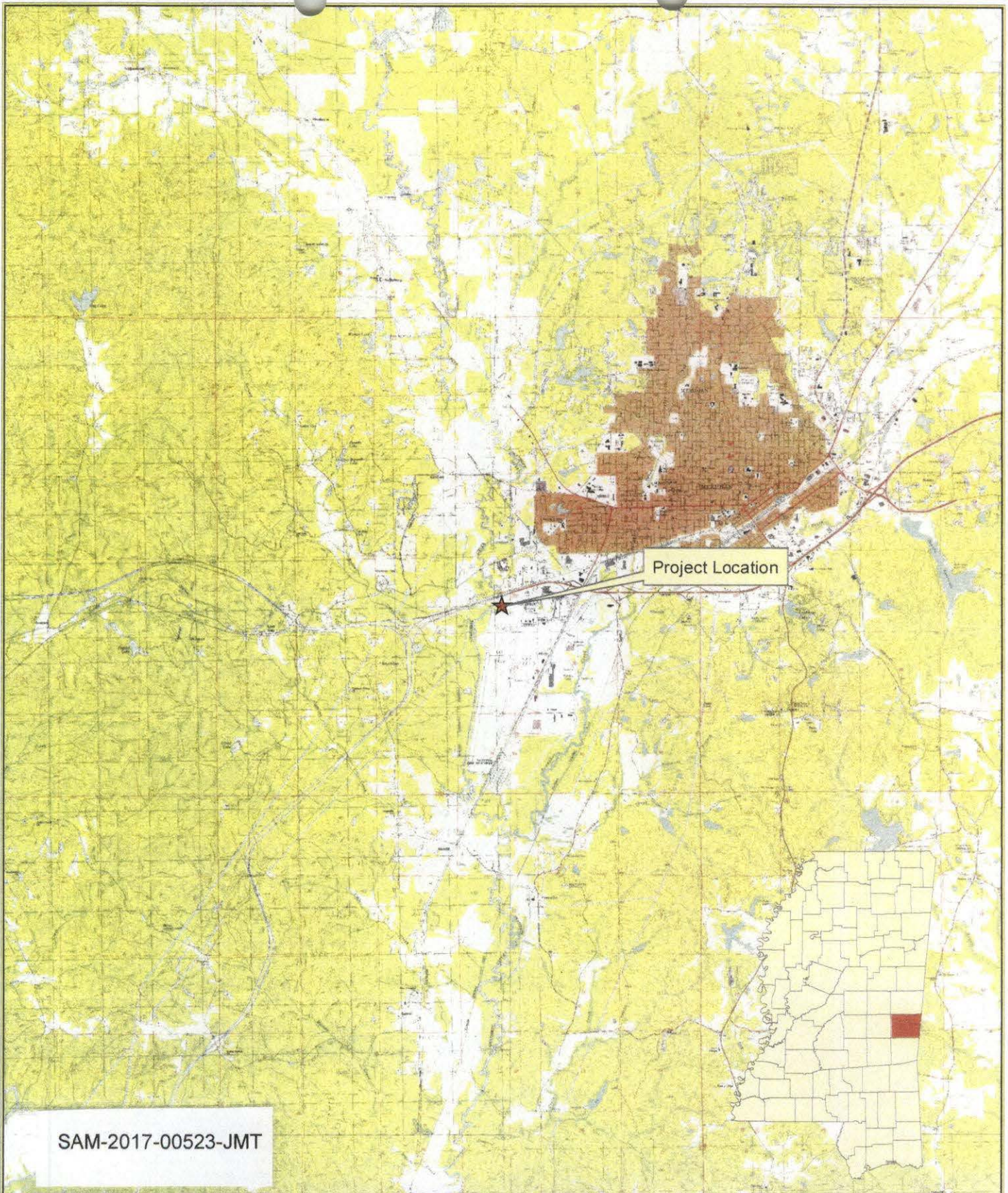
If you have any questions concerning this publication, you may contact the project manager via e-mail at [joseph.m.tanko@usace.army.mil](mailto:joseph.m.tanko@usace.army.mil) or telephone number **(205) 290-9096**. Please refer to the above Public Notice number.

For additional information about our program, visit our web site at <http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx>. Also, please take a moment to complete our customer satisfaction survey located near the bottom of the webpage. Your responses are appreciated and will help us to improve our services.

MOBILE DISTRICT  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineer

Enclosures





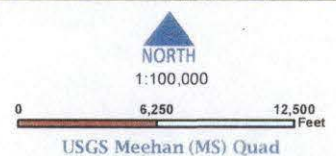
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**Meridian Airport Authority  
NW Levee Extension Project**

Sec. 22 & 27 - T6N - R15E  
Lauderdale County, Mississippi

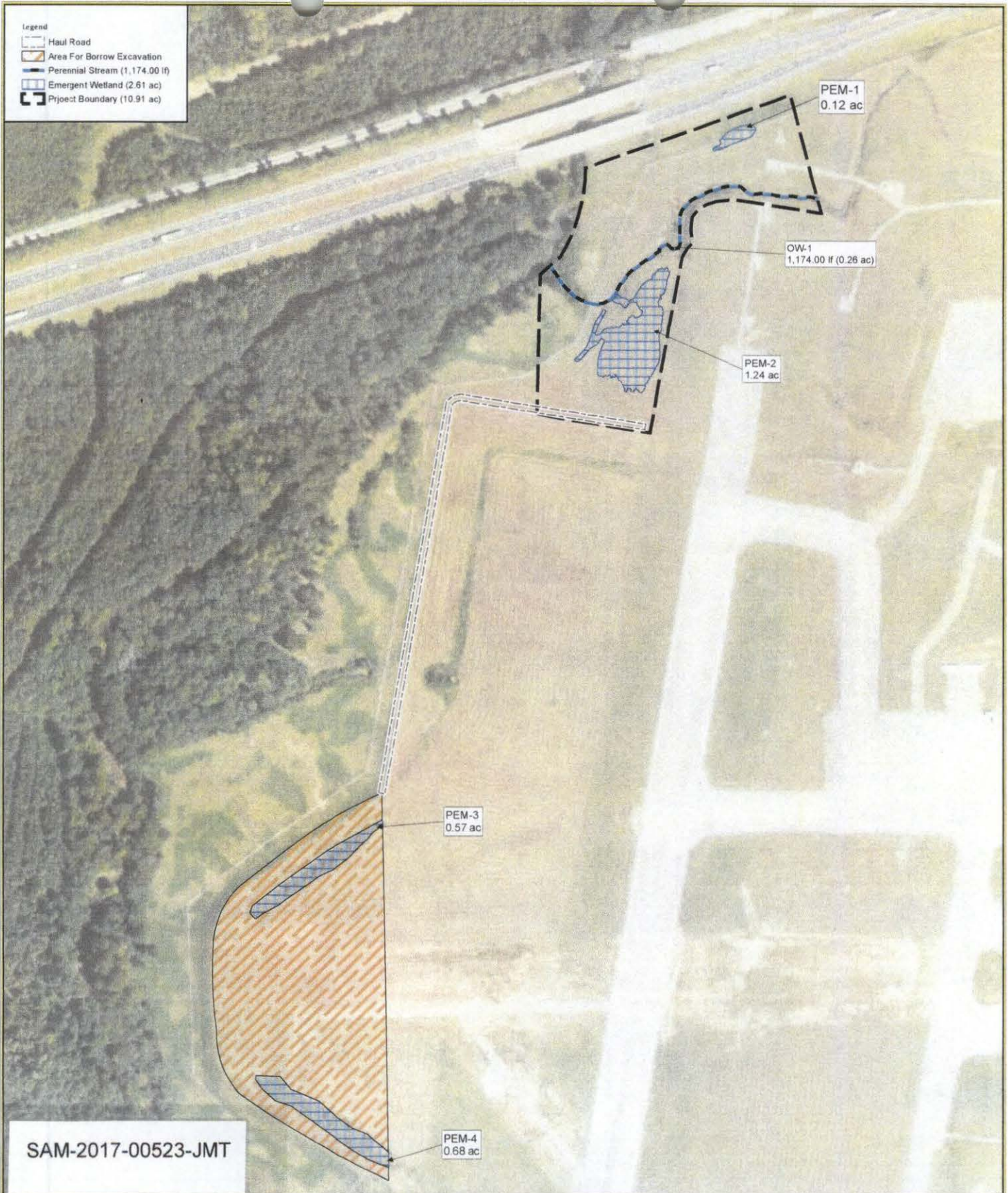
General Location Map











**Meridian Airport Authority  
NW Levee Extension Project**  
Sec. 22 & 27 - T6N - R15E  
Lauderdale County, Mississippi  
**Wetland Location Map**

