



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, MOBILE DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 2288
MOBILE, ALABAMA 36628-0001

CESAM-RD-M
PUBLIC NOTICE SAM-2019-00620-JRO

October 8, 2019

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
OFFICE OF POLLUTION CONTROL

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES
DMR-060061

**REQUEST TO PLACE FILL IN WATERS OF THE U.S. TO CONSTRUCT A 270-ACRE
BENEFICIAL USE SITE FOR DREDGE MATERIAL, MISSISSIPPI SOUND, PASCAGOULA,
JACKSON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This District has received an application for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 10 of the River and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Please communicate this information to interested parties.

APPLICANT: **Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
Attention: Mr. Jared Harris, Beneficial Use Program
1141 Bayview Avenue
Biloxi, Mississippi 39530**

LOCATION: **In the Mississippi Sound, south of Greenwood Island, Pascagoula, Jackson County, Mississippi. (Latitude 30.33235 North, Longitude -88.52112 West).**

WORK: **The applicant is requesting a 10-year permit to fill 270 acres of open water as a Beneficial Use (BU) for Dredged Material Disposal site. The site is located directly south of Greenwood Island in the Mississippi Sound. The proposed project would include approximately 11,000 linear feet of rip rap containment dikes. The dikes would be raised to an elevation of +3.0 feet MLLW and contain gaps to allow for tidal exchange and fish passage.**

Dredged material from various local dredging projects within Mississippi's three coastal Counties would be placed within the 270-acre bermed site over the 10-year period. All dredged material would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis for suitability of use within the BU site, through each individual permitting process. The site would accept material incrementally for the life of the permit or until capacity is reached.

EXISTING CONDITIONS: The site is located west of Bayou Casotte and south of an existing BU site at Greenwood Island in the Mississippi Sound. Water depths in the area vary from -2 to -9 feet MLLW. Preliminary geotechnical probing in the area indicates that the sediments at the water bottom are primarily soft silts underlain by a marine clay layer. No vegetated wetlands are known to exist within the project area. A submersed aquatic vegetation (SAV) and oyster survey was conducted in September of 2018. No SAV or oyster reefs were found within the project boundary.

PROJECT PURPOSE: As stated by the applicant, "The purpose of the project is to create marsh habitat by beneficially using dredge material."

MITIGATION: According to the applicant, compensatory mitigation would not be required for this project as the objective is to restore areas of degraded island habitat. Additional review of mitigation requirements will be performed by the USACE and cooperating agencies. Final compensatory mitigation will be evaluated by the USACE and cooperating resource agencies throughout the review process for the proposed project.

The applicant has applied for certification from the State of Mississippi in accordance with Section 401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act and upon completion of the required advertising; a determination relative to certification will be made.

The applicant has applied for coastal zone consistency from the State of Mississippi Department of Marine Resources in accordance with Section 57-15-6 of the Mississippi Code Annotated. (DMR-060061).

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 (USACE) 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 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 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, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, consideration of property ownership 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. 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.

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. In accordance with Appendix C of 33 CFR Part 325, the USACE has determined that the permit area is the full area of the project footprint. 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 the general public regarding the existence or the potential for existence of significant cultural and historic properties which may be affected by the work. The USACE has determined that the proposed project would have **no effect** on cultural resources in the permit area.

The 2017 Mississippi Standard Local Operating Procedures (SLOPES) for Endangered Species was utilized for the initial evaluation of proposed impacts to federally-listed species. Standard ESA Section 7(a)(2) procedures are followed for species not denoted by the SLOPES species-specific determination keys. A preliminary review of this application, of the U.S. Department of the Interior List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants in the subject project's subwatershed, and the National Marine Fisheries Service list of Mississippi's Threatened and Endangered Species indicates the proposed project may affect but is not likely to adversely affect the Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle, Green Sea Turtle, Loggerhead Sea Turtle, West Indian manatee and Gulf sturgeon and its critical habitat, and have no effect on any other threatened, endangered, or proposed species and/or their designated critical habitat. This notice serves as request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service for information on whether any listed or proposed to be listed endangered or threatened species may be present in the area which would be affected by the proposed activity be affected by this project. This determination will be coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The proposal would impact approximately 270 acres of estuarine substrates utilized by various life stages of species included in Fishery Management Plans for Coastal Migratory Pelagics, Red Drum, Reef Fish, Shrimp, Corals, or Highly Migratory Species. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial adverse impact on EFH or Federally managed fisheries. 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 and/or U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife Service.

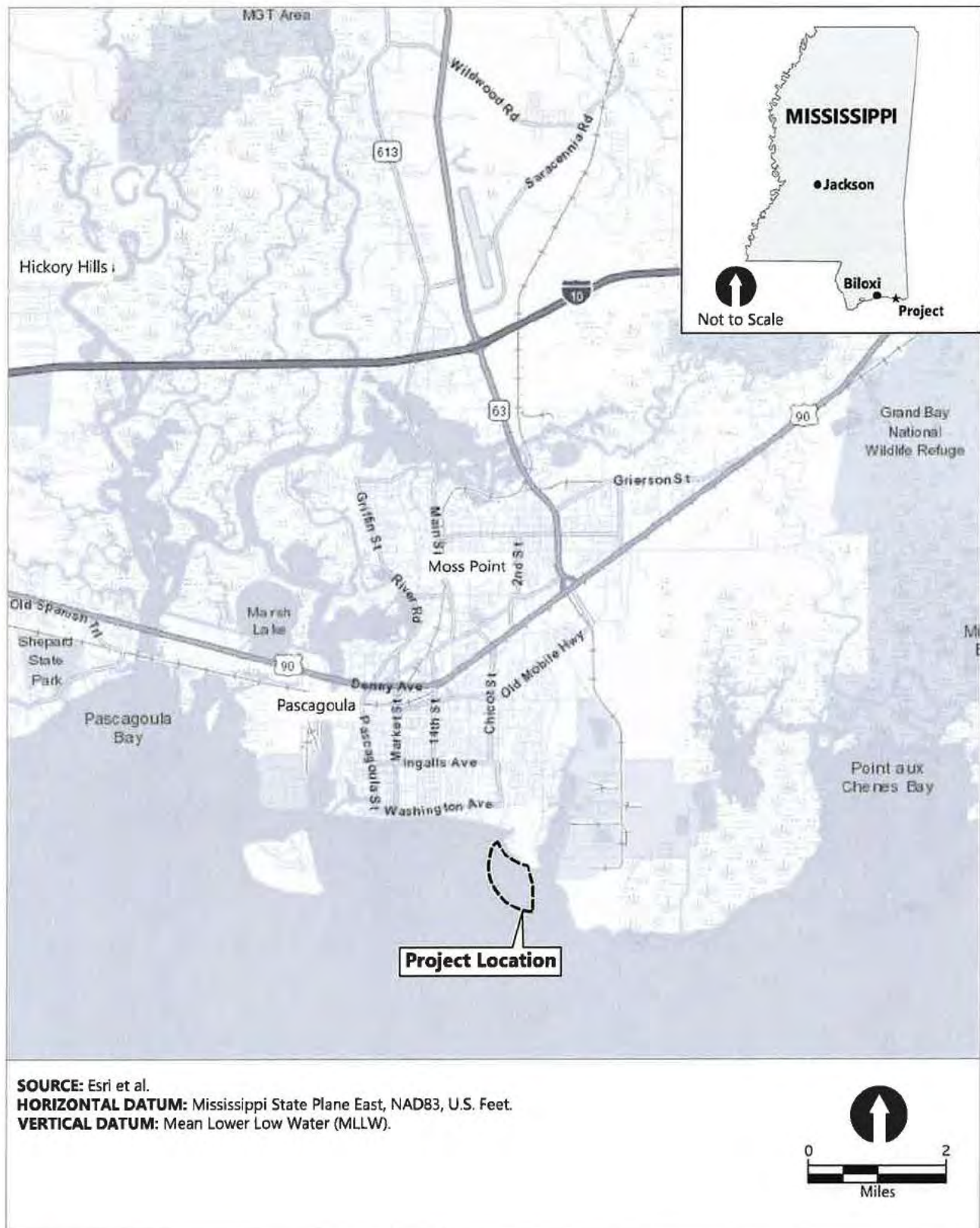
Correspondence concerning this Public Notice should refer to Public Notice Number **SAM-2019-00920-JRO** and should be directed to the District Engineer, Corps, Mobile District, Attention: **Mr. Jeremy Overstreet**, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001, with a copy to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Pollution Control, **Attention: Ms. Florance Bass, P.E.**, Post Office Box 2261, Jackson, Mississippi 39225 and the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, **Attention: Mr. Brock Peacock**, 1141 Bayview Avenue, Suite 501, Biloxi, Mississippi 39530.

All 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, at (251) 690-3188 or email at jeremy.r.overstreet@usace.army.mil. Please refer to the above Public Notice number.

For additional information about our Regulatory Program, please visit our web site at: www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx.

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MOBILE DISTRICT
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



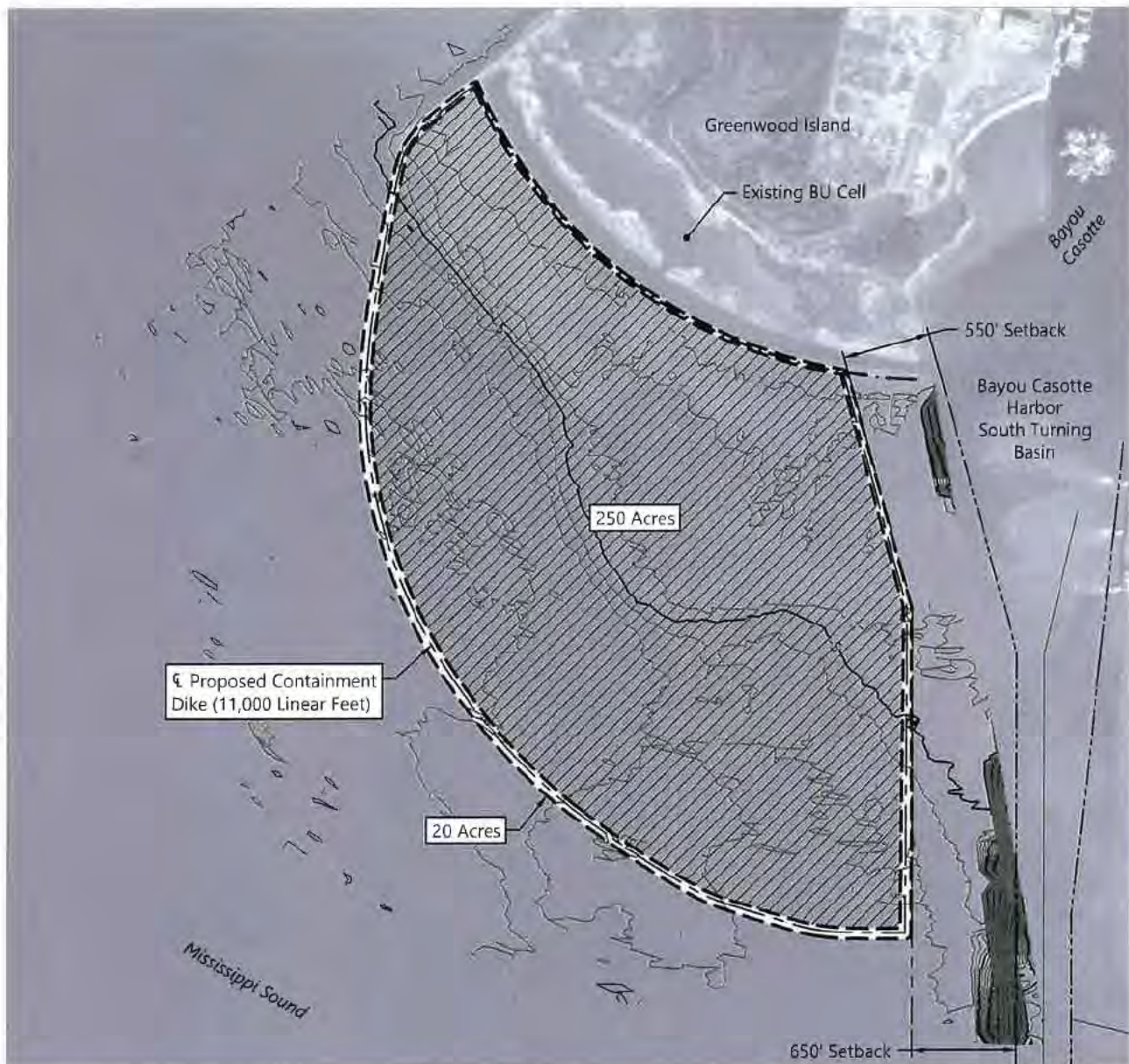
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Figure 1
Vicinity Map

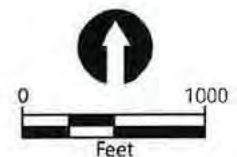
Greenwood Island Beneficial Use Expansion
 Permit
 Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality



SOURCE: Hydrographic survey provided by DIMCO, Inc. dated August 15 and 16, 2018; aerial image ©2018 Microsoft Corporation ©2018 DigitalGlobe ©CNES (2018) Distribution Airbus DS
HORIZONTAL DATUM: Mississippi State Plane East, North American Datum (NAD83), U.S. Survey Feet
VERTICAL DATUM: Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW)

LEGEND:

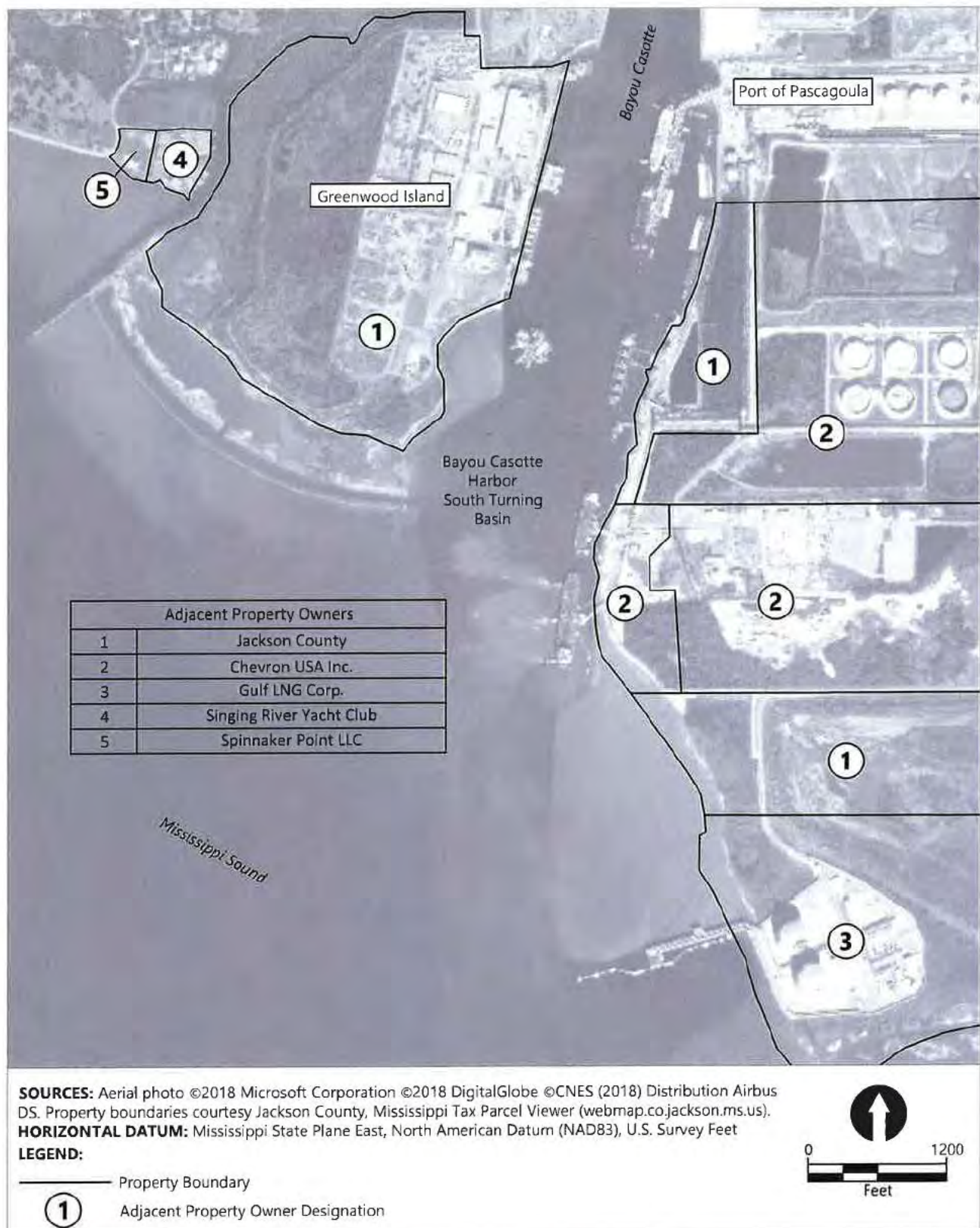
- Toe of Existing Existing Bayou Casotte Channel
- - - - - Setback from Existing Channel Toe
- ===== Footprint Proposed Expansion Containment Dike (20 Acres)
- ////// Footprint Proposed Containment Area (250 Acres, 270 Acres Total)
- . - . - Existing BU Cell Containment Dike



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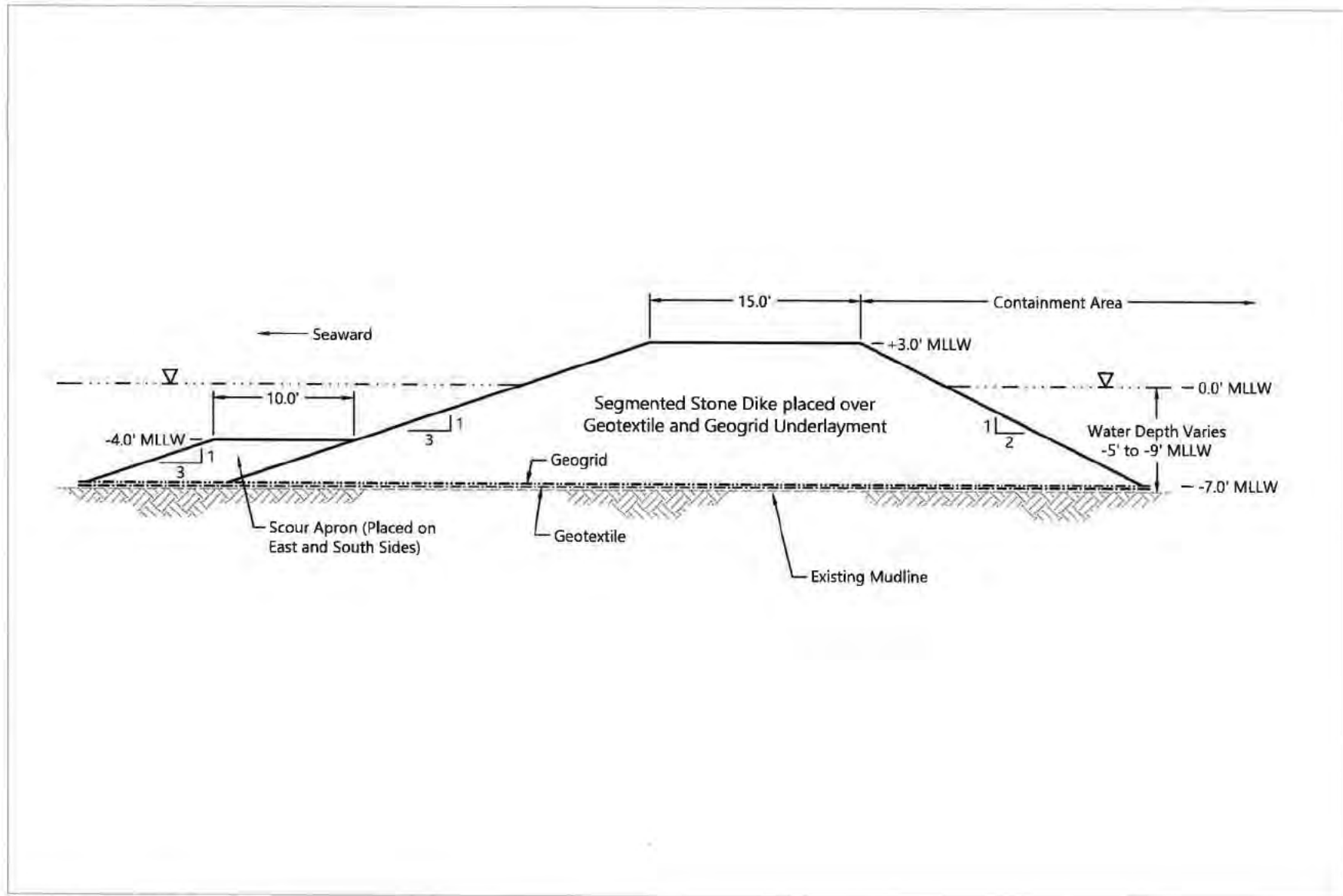
Figure 2
Proposed Containment Dike Alignment
 Greenwood Island Beneficial Use Expansion
 Permit
 Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality



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Figure 3
Adjacent Property Owners
 Greenwood Island Beneficial Use Expansion
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Figure 4
Proposed Containment Dike Cross Section

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