

CESAM-RD-M PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2023-01038-MJF

March 6, 2024

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (USACE)

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY OFFICE OF POLLUTION CONTROL (MDEQ)

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES DMR23-000704

PROPOSED MAINTENANCE DREDGING, UNNAMED CANAL ADJACENT TO SAINT MARTIN BAYOU, ST. MARTIN, 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 Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 USC 403), and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344). Please communicate this information to interested parties.

APPLICANT: Jackson County Board of Supervisors Attention: Mr. Matthew Hosey 2915 Canty Street, Suite H Pascagoula, Mississippi 39568

WATERWAY AND LOCATION: An Unnamed Tributary to Saint Martin Bayou, Section 15, Township 7 South, Range 9 West, Community of Saint Martin, Jackson County, Mississippi. (Latitude: 30.427993°North, and Longitude: -88.873904°West).

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant is requesting a 10-year permit for the maintenance dredging of an unnamed channel near Langley Drive. Approximately 3,100 cubic yards of sediment consisting mainly of silt and sandy silt, would be removed to a final dept of -5 feet Mean Low Low Water (MLLW) during the initial dredge event. The proposed alignment is as follows:

• Alignment A = 1,550 LF in length approximately 15-feet in width to a -5 feet MLLW depth with 3:1 side slopes with an estimated 3,100 cy of dredge material

Dredging would be performed via mechanical equipment and barged to an approved disposal site. The applicant proposes to dispose of the dredged material at the USACE approved Deer Island Beneficial Use (BU) site, if the dredged material is determined suitable by USACE. If the material does not pass the required testing, the material

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would be transported to the Harrison County Development Commission Disposal Area C-1.

COASTAL ZONE: The applicant has applied for coastal zone (CZ) consistency in accordance with the State Coastal Zone Management Program. A determination relative to CZ consistency has been made by the MDMR. MDMR issued a Certificate of Waiver by letter dated December 20, 2023. (DMR23-000704).

WATER QUALITY: The Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 Certification Rule (Certification Rule, 40 CFR 121), requires certification for any license or permit that authorizes an activity that may result in a discharge. The applicant is responsible for requesting certification and providing required information to the certifying agency. As of the date of this public notice, the applicant has not submitted a certification request to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (certifying authority).

HISTORIC PROPERTIES: 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 affect historic properties. In accordance with Appendix C of 33 CFR 325, the Corps has determined the permit area consists of the entire undertaking in waters of the United States, which includes the footprint of the alignment to be dredged as well as the disposal location if disposal includes an approved BU Site. The National Register of Historic Places will be consulted for properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register, which are known to exist and would be affected by the proposed work. The Mobile District is seeking comments regarding the existence, or the potential for existence, of significant cultural and historic properties within the permit area. At this time, the USACE, Mobile District has made no determination regarding potential effects of the project on cultural/historic resources. Further coordination with the State Historic Preservation Officer and/or federallyrecognized American Indian tribes will be performed as determined to be appropriate.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: Preliminary review of this application and the U.S. Department of the Interior's List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants indicate the following federally-listed species are known or expected to occur within the project area: Alabama Red-bellied Turtle (E), West Indian Manatee (T), Wood Stork (T), Eastern Black Rail (T), MS Sandhill Crane (E), Piping Plover (T), Red Knot (T), Gopher Tortoise (T), Loggerhead Sea Turtle (E), Alligator Snapping Turtle (PT), and Gulf Sturgeon (T). There is no designated critical habitat within the project action area. At this time, the USACE, Mobile District has made no determination regarding potential effects of the project on the above-listed species. Further coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will be performed as determined to be appropriate.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The proposed project would impact approximately 1,550 linear feet of

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estuarine substrate. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not adversely affect EFH or associated fisheries managed by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council or the National Marine Fisheries Service. 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.

COMMENTS: 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 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 Corps of Engineers 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 of Engineers 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.

Correspondence concerning this Public Notice should refer to Public Notice Number **SAM-2023-01038-MJF** and should be directed to the District Engineer, Mobile District, Regulatory Division, Mobile, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001, Attention: Maryellen J. Farmer, or submitted electronically at maryellen.j.farmer@usace.army.mil, (251) 509-6240. Copies of all comments should be furnished to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Pollution Control, Post Office Box 2261, Jackson, Mississippi 39225, and the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, 1141 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, Mississippi 39530.

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

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

MOBILE DISTRICT U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Attachments







