



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 NO. SAM-2011-00332-MJF**

**November 5, 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-110347**

**PROPOSED IMPACTS TO OTHER WATERS FOR MAINTENANCE DREDGING OF STARK BAYOU NAVIGATIONAL CHANNEL OCEAN SPRINGS, JACKSON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

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

**APPLICANT: Jackson County Board of Supervisors**  
**Attention: Mr. Randy Bosarge**  
**Post Office Box 998**  
**Pascagoula, Mississippi 39568-0998**

**AGENT: Seymour Engineering, PLLC**  
**Attention: Ms. Jody Spires**  
**925 Tommy Munro Drive, Suite G**  
**Biloxi, Mississippi 39532**

**LOCATION: Stark Bayou, located within the Gulf National Seashore, City of Ocean Springs, Jackson County, Mississippi. Section 33, Township 7 South, Range 8 West, Latitude 30.393437° North Longitude -88.793855° West. This area is depicted on the MS-Ocean Springs Quadrangle, United States Geological Survey Topographic Map, Hydrologic Unit Code 03170009.**

**WORK: The applicant proposes to perform maintenance dredging of approximately 15,112 cubic yards from Stark Bayou Navigation Channel. The project parameters of the proposed alignment are 2,070 feet long x 40 feet Wide @ - 6 feet Mean Low Water Depth with 3:1 Side Slopes with an estimate of 15,112 Cubic Yards of dredge material.**

The applicant provided a Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) and Shell Fish Survey for the proposed dredge alignment which was performed on August 27, 2019. The report provided states there were no SAV or live shell fish found. Dead ribbed muscles (*Guekensia demissa*) were located sporadically along the shoreline. No SAV or shell fish were located within the proposed dredge alignment.

Dredging would be performed via mechanical equipment and barged to an approved disposal site. If required, a Sediment Testing Plan of the proposed dredge material would be prepared and submitted to the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR) for review and approval. Upon approval, sediment testing would be completed for determination of suitability for disposal in a MDMR Beneficial Use Disposal Site. If determined unsuitable, material may be disposed of at the Harrison County Development Commission Disposal Area C-1 located in the Industrial Seaway or at an approved upland Class I or Class II Rubbish Disposal Site or other site deemed acceptable to receive such dredge spoils.

**HISTORY:** A Department of the Army (DA) permit was issued for dredging of 2,070 linear feet of Stark Bayou and 1,850 linear feet of Davis Bayou under number SAM-2011-00332-SPG. That permit expired on November 2, 2016. The applicant states that dredging within those waterways was completed on June 22, 2016.

**EXISTING CONDITIONS:** The area proposed to be dredged would commence at the confluence with Davis Bayou, move northward up Stark Bayou, terminating at the mouth of Halsted Bayou at the public boat launch ramp in the Gulf Island National Seashore campgrounds. All banks adjacent to the proposed dredge alignment are located within the Gulf Island National Seashore. All banks, except the one around the boat ramp, consist of marsh grass.

**PROJECT PURPOSE:** The applicant stated that increasing the water depths in the bayou would restore adequate storm water runoff, safer navigation and enhanced recreational opportunities within the waterway. The basic project purpose of the proposed project is the maintenance dredging for a portion of Stark Bayou. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has initially determined this project to be water dependent. Additional review will be performed by the USACE and cooperating agencies.

**ALTERNATIVES:** The dredging portion of the project as proposed is site specific. No off-site alternatives were provided for this project.

**AVOIDANCE & MINIMIZATION:** The proposed dredging would comply with the state permitting (DMR-110347) requirements of no dredging within 10 feet of marsh grass and identified subaquatic vegetation. In addition, the requested work would not impact the shoreline marshes or other wetland habitats. If biologically sensitive areas are found in the bayou and are located close to the dredging path, sediment silt curtains would be placed to protect the areas from siltation during dredging. If present, sensitive areas would be located and clearly marked before work commences. The applicant states that minimization of would be carried out by use of best management practices.

**The USACE has not verified the accuracy or adequacy of the applicant's avoidance and minimization at this time.**

**MITIGATION: Wetlands would not be impacted by this project; therefore, no mitigation is proposed. Further mitigation may be required, if applicable. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has not verified the adequacy of this mitigation proposal 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 and upon completion of the required advertising; a determination relative to certification will be made.

The applicant has obtained coastal zone consistency from the State of Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR) in accordance with Section 57-15-6 of the Mississippi Code Annotated. (DMR-110347)

This public notice is being distributed to all known interested persons in order to assist in developing facts on which a decision by the 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 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 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, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, protected species, 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.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (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 for consideration of 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 development for the overall project footprint. The proposed project alignment has previously been impacted by dredging to maintain use of the navigation channel. Based on the above information, the USACE has determined the proposed project will have **no potential to cause effects** on cultural resources in the permit area. 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 Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) responded to MDMR by letter dated April 11, 2011 stating their concurrence that no historic properties or resources eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places are likely to be affected by the proposed project. (MDAH Project Log #03-135-11).

Preliminary review of this application and the U.S. Department of the Interior List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife indicated the following terrestrial species may be present within the affected watershed: the West Indian Manatee (*Trichechus manatus*) (Endangered) the Mississippi Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis pulla*) (Endangered), the Wood Stork (*Mycteria Americana*) (Threatened), the Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) (Threatened), the Red Knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*) (Threatened), the Gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) (Threatened), the Mississippi Gopher Frog (*Rana sevosia*) (Endangered) and the Alabama Red-bellied Turtle (*Pseudemys alabamensis*) (Endangered). No listed critical habitat is located on or near the project site. Preliminary review of this application and the U.S. Department of the Interior List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants for the 12-HUC watershed suggest that the proposed activity **may affect but is not likely to adversely affect** the West Indian Manatee. In addition the proposed activity should have **no effect** on the remainder of the listed endangered or threatened species or critical habitat. This determination is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service via this public notice.

Correspondence concerning this Public Notice should refer to Public Notice Number **SAM-2011-00332-KMN** and should be directed to the District Engineer, USACE, Mobile District, USACE Biloxi Field Office, Attention: **Ms. Maryellen Farmer**, 1141 Bayview Avenue, Suite 104, Biloxi, Mississippi 39530, [Maryellen.J.Farmer@usace.army.mil](mailto:Maryellen.J.Farmer@usace.army.mil) 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 [FBass@mdeq.ms.gov](mailto:FBass@mdeq.ms.gov) and the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, **Attention: Mr. Greg Christodoulou**, 1141 Bayview Avenue, Suite 501, Biloxi, Mississippi 39530. [Greg.Christodoulou@dmr.ms.gov](mailto:Greg.Christodoulou@dmr.ms.gov).

**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 by email at [Kaaren.M.Neumann@usace.army.mil](mailto:Kaaren.M.Neumann@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](http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx).

MOBILE DISTRICT  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Enclosures





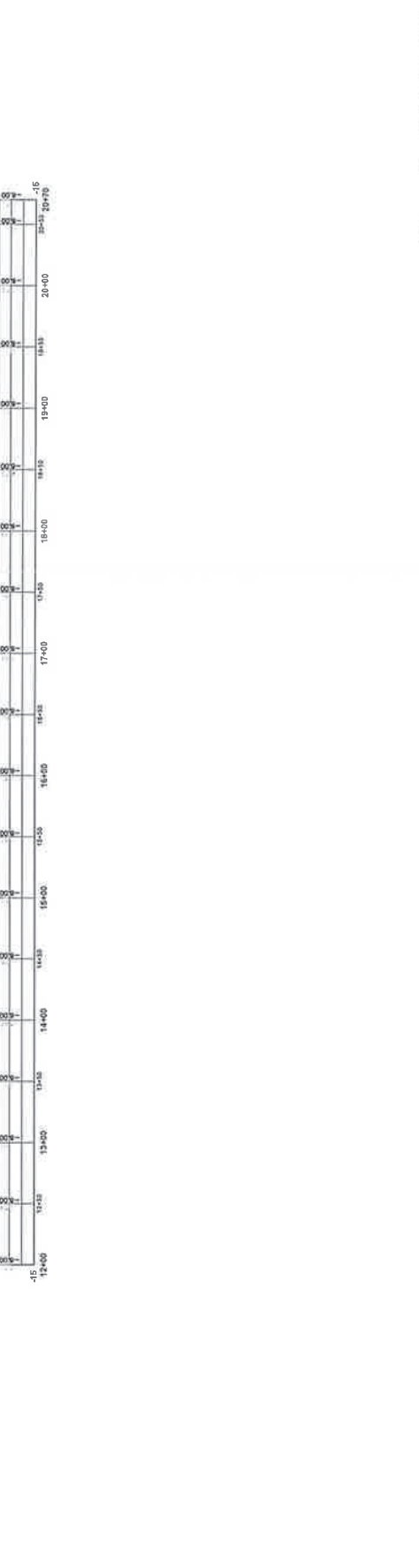
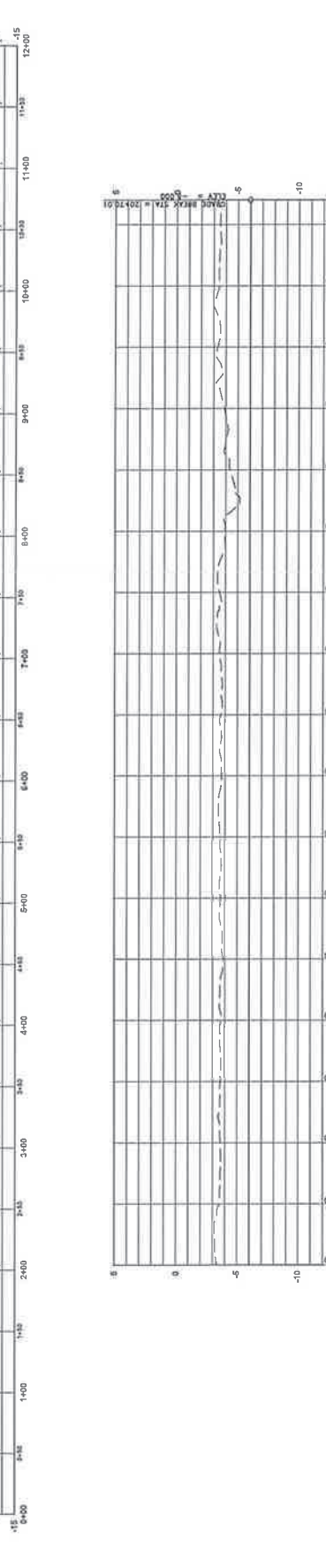
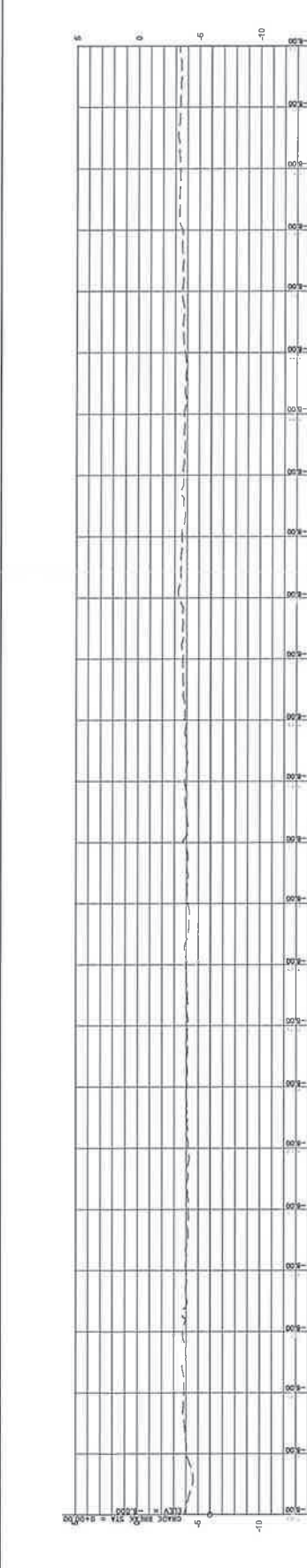
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ALIGNMENT A PROFILE

Project Name  
**HURRICANE NATE  
 MAINTENANCE DREDGE PROJECT 2019  
 STARK BAYOU  
 JACKSON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

**SEYMOUR ENGINEERING**  
 PHONE: 228-395-2350 925 TOMMY MUNRO DRIVE, SUITE C  
 BLOXIE, MISSISSIPPI 39472  
 FAX: 228-398-2353

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 Project No.  
 19-005.DOC



EXISTING HYDROGRAPHIC CHANNEL  
 BOTTOM ELEVATION (MLV) (DTP)

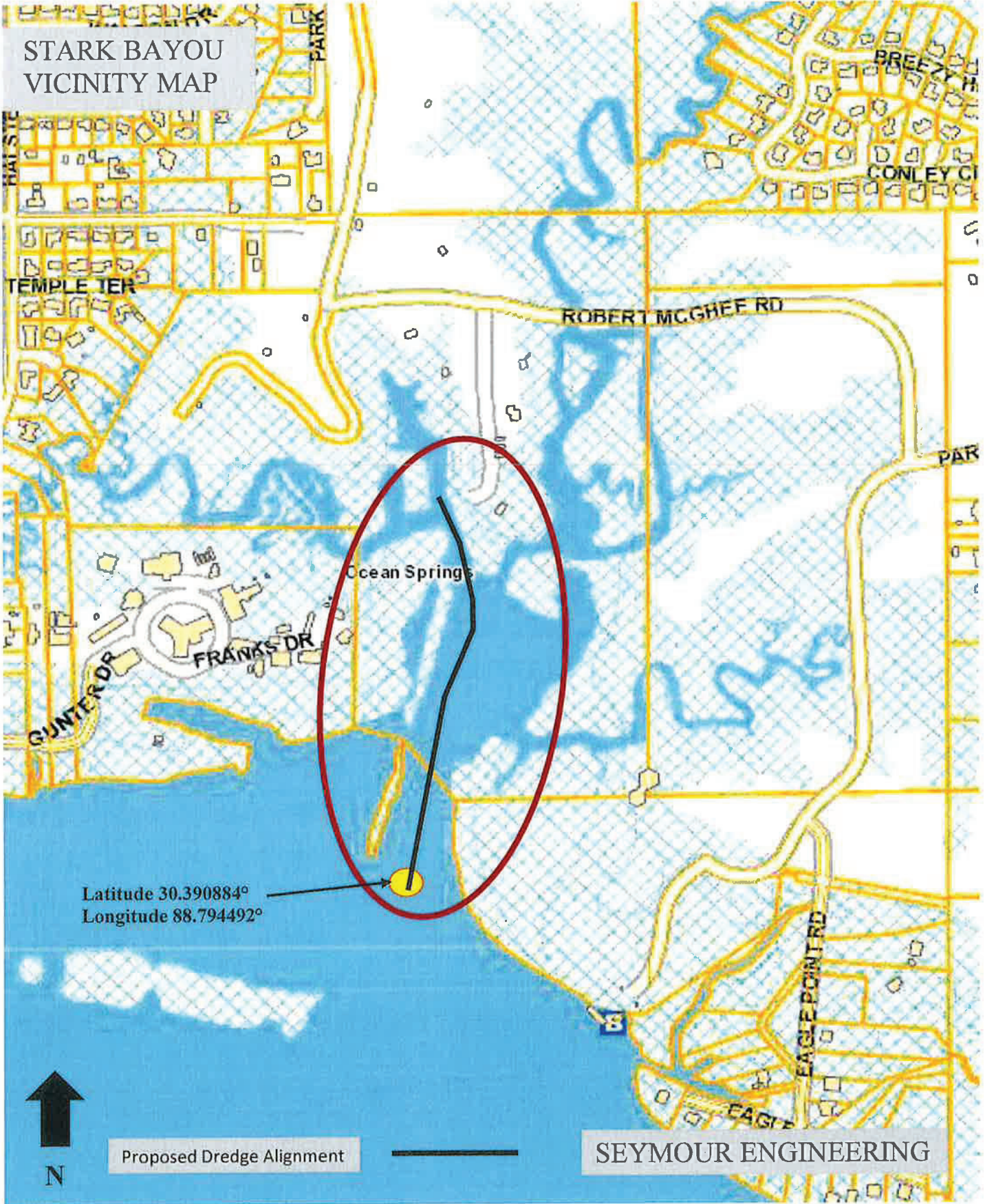
PROPOSED HYDROGRAPHIC CHANNEL  
 BOTTOM ELEVATION (MLV) (DTP)

SCALE: 1" = 4' V

ALIGNMENT A PROFILE



STARK BAYOU VICINITY MAP



Latitude 30.390884°  
Longitude 88.794492°

Proposed Dredge Alignment

SEYMOUR ENGINEERING