



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, MOBILE DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 2288
MOBILE, ALABAMA 36628-0001

CESAM-RD-I-S

Public Notice Number SAM-2011-01392-LET

December 17, 2012

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
AND
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
OFFICE OF POLLUTION CONTROL

**REQUEST TO FILL 0.29 ACRE OF WETLANDS AND MODIFY A 10.2-ACRE MAN-MADE
POND TO CONSTRUCT A NEW WASTEWATER TREATMENT LAGOON AND LAND
APPLICATION FIELD AFFECTING WETLANDS ALONG A TRIBUTARY TO PARKERS
CREEK IN WEST HATTIESBURG, LAMAR 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). This public notice is being distributed to all known interested persons to assist in developing facts on which a decision by the Corps can be based. Please communicate this information to interested parties.

APPLICANT: Canebrake Utilities Association, Inc. (CUA)
112 Sheffield Loop, Suite D
Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39402

AGENT: Pittman Environmental Services, L.L.C.
Post Office Box 1926
Purvis, Mississippi 39475

LOCATION OF WORK: The project begins north of U.S. Highway 98 and east of Mississippi Highway 589 extending west along Highway 98 then turning south along MS Highway 589 to Wiggins Lane on the west side of MS Highway 589. More specifically, the work would be located within Sections 13, 14, and 23 of Township 4 North, Range 15 West, at latitude 31.298478° North and longitude -89.478711° West, affecting wetlands along an unnamed tributary to Perkins Creek and affecting wetlands and an open water pond along an unnamed tributary to Parkers Creek west of Hattiesburg in Lamar County, Mississippi. The project is located in the Black Creek watershed (8-digit HUC 03170007) in Mississippi.

PROJECT PURPOSE: The overall project purpose of the project is to develop a new land application (spray) wastewater treatment facility that would have no direct discharge to Perkins Creek or other surface water in order to bring CUA into compliance with its state discharge limits permit. Since 2009 the existing Canebrake Lagoon facility has repeatedly been cited for non-

compliance by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality because it has been unable to meet updated NPDES permit discharge limits, and with new limits for phosphorus and nutrients pending, upgrading the existing lagoon facility will not result in a viable long-term solution for bringing CUA into compliance with its discharge limits.

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant proposes to construct a new sewer pump station in uplands near the existing CUA treatment lagoon located south of the Canebrake Subdivision and lake. An approximately 200 linear foot segment of 12-inch PolyPipe sewer main would be directionally bored beneath wetlands near the new pump station, connecting the station to approximately 8,000 linear feet of new 12-inch PVC sewer force main that would be installed using open trenching methods in uplands along road rights-of-way between the new pump station and the new wastewater treatment lagoon and land application spray fields. There would be no adverse wetland impacts associated with the 200 linear foot directional bore installation of the sewer main beneath wetlands.

Construction of the new wastewater treatment lagoon south of Wiggins Lane would require the discharge of fill material into an existing 10.2-acre jurisdictional man-made open water pond that was excavated approximately 10 years ago in an area that was part of a forested wetland drain. The pond has now been drained for geotechnical assessment purposes associated with the proposed project. Muck would be excavated from the bottom of the drained pond and disposed in uplands then the interior of the pond would be re-shaped and re-sloped to ensure the interior of the wastewater lagoon has stable side slopes, adequate separation from groundwater, and adequate treatment capacity. Approximately 70,000 cubic yards of sandy clay earthen fill (Class 9 borrow) from a local pit would be discharged within the drained pond to construct the dikes between lagoon's wastewater treatment cells. The treatment cells would be lined with clay having a plasticity index (PI) greater than 25. The approximately 52.9 acres of land application spray fields associated with the wastewater lagoon would all be located in uplands within the project boundary that surround the new lagoon.

Off-site stormwater from uplands and a remnant pond that has been drained and become a wetland area would be routed around the new wastewater treatment lagoon through a 20-foot wide by 1,050-foot long constructed vegetated ditch south of the new lagoon. The proposed use of a flat bottom ditch would allow for lower velocities to reduce scour and erosion within the ditch. Riprap treatment of the ditch side slopes would be used only in turbulent and high velocity areas to protect the slopes from erosion. A temporary riprap spur dike would be used to divert the flow of stormwater through a stilling basin to allow suspended sediment to settle out of the water column prior to discharging into natural wetland areas on the property. Check dams constructed of 76 cubic yards (125 tons) of riprap impacting 0.29 acre of wetlands would also be installed at the terminus of the off-site stormwater bypass ditch and at the terminus of a settling basin outfall near the land application site pump station located on the northwest side of the treatment lagoon. The riprap check dam at the terminus of the stormwater bypass ditch would impact 0.17 acre of forested wetlands while the check dam at the settling basin outfall would impact 0.12 acre of forested wetlands. The riprap check dams would be installed to slow flow velocity and prevent scour at the ends of the outfall structures and they would capture any sediment that may have not settled out of the water column in other settling and stilling basin features within the facility. Ditches and road crossing culverts within the wastewater treatment facility have been designed to insure flooding of upstream properties would not occur during the 100-year precipitation event.

Once construction of the new wastewater treatment facility is completed CUA would abandon their existing, inefficiently performing wastewater treatment lagoon by removing the sludge to an approved disposal location and collapsing the levees inward.

AVOIDANCE & MINIMIZATION: No wetlands or streams would be impacted by construction of the proposed sewer force main alignment connecting the new sewer pump station north of U.S. Highway 98 to the new sewage lagoon site and land application fields to the south and west of Wiggins Lane. Use of the proposed project site will allow the applicant to avoid wetland impacts by being able to modify an existing jurisdictional man-made open water pond to construct the new sewage lagoon, whereas some amount of wetland impact would likely have been necessary to construct a lagoon at other sites that had been considered for construction of this project. Additionally, the natural arrangement of the wetlands on the proposed project site has allowed the applicant to limit adverse impacts to wetlands to 0.29 acre of fill required to construct outfall structures from vegetated upland ditches that would be built to re-route stormwater from off-site sources around the new sewage lagoon. Also, during the project design phase the applicant had the proposed land application property evaluated to determine the location of jurisdictional wetlands so the land application fields could be laid out to avoid impacts to these areas. The proposed project would also provide water quality benefits by eliminating the currently existing direct discharge of inadequately treated wastewater from Perkins Creek. The Corps has not verified the adequacy of the applicants' avoidance and minimization statements at this time.

MITIGATION: As mitigation for unavoidable wetland impacts, the applicant proposes the purchase of credits from a Corps of Engineers approved wetland mitigation bank within the Mobile District's regulatory boundary. Sufficient wetland mitigation credits would be purchased to compensate for the loss of 0.29 acre of medium quality hardwood forested wetland "bayhead" drain having a Wetland Rapid Assessment Procedure (WRAP) qualitative assessment score of 0.65. Compensatory mitigation is not proposed for the impacts to the 10.2-acre man-made open water pond that would be required to modify the interior of the pond into a partitioned sewage treatment lagoon. The Corps has not verified the adequacy of the applicant's mitigation proposal at this time.

WATER QUALITY: The applicants have 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 by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality.

HISTORIC PROPERTIES: The applicant has requested the review and comments of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) regarding this project. At this time, a response letter from the MDAH has not been received; however, the applicant has indicated they will conduct any cultural resources surveys that may be required by the MDAH within the permit area. Furthermore, 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 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 project, the potential indirect effects that may occur to historic properties as a result of this undertaking is also being considered. In addition to the State Historic Preservation Officer, we

are seeking comment from the federally-recognized American Indian tribes, local historical societies, museums, universities, the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Division of Archeological Services, and concerned citizens regarding the existence or the potential for existence of significant cultural and historic properties within the permit area. The National Register of Historic Places will be consulted for properties listed in or eligible for the National Register, which are known to exist and would be affected by the proposed work. Additionally, notification will be furnished to the State Historic Preservation Officer and the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Division of Archaeological Services via this Public Notice.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: Based on initial review of the project application and the U.S. Department of the Interior's list of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants, the Corps has preliminarily determined the proposed activities would have "No Effect" on Federally-listed species. Also, there is no listed critical habitat within the project area.

The applicant has requested the review and comments of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Jackson Field Office. At this time, a response letter from the FWS has not been received; however, the applicant has indicated they will conduct any threatened or endangered species surveys that may be required by the FWS within the permit area.

Further coordination of the proposed project with the FWS and Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MSDWFP) is being initiated via this Public Notice.

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 (Corps) 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 proposals 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 Corps 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 the proposed activities. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for these proposals. 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 **SAM-2011-01392-LET** and should be directed to:

District Commander, U.S. Army Engineer District, Mobile
Attention: Regulatory Division (RD-I-S)
Post Office Box 2288
Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001

With a copy furnished to:

Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
Office of Pollution Control
Environmental Permits Division
Post Office Box 10385
Jackson, Mississippi 39289-0385

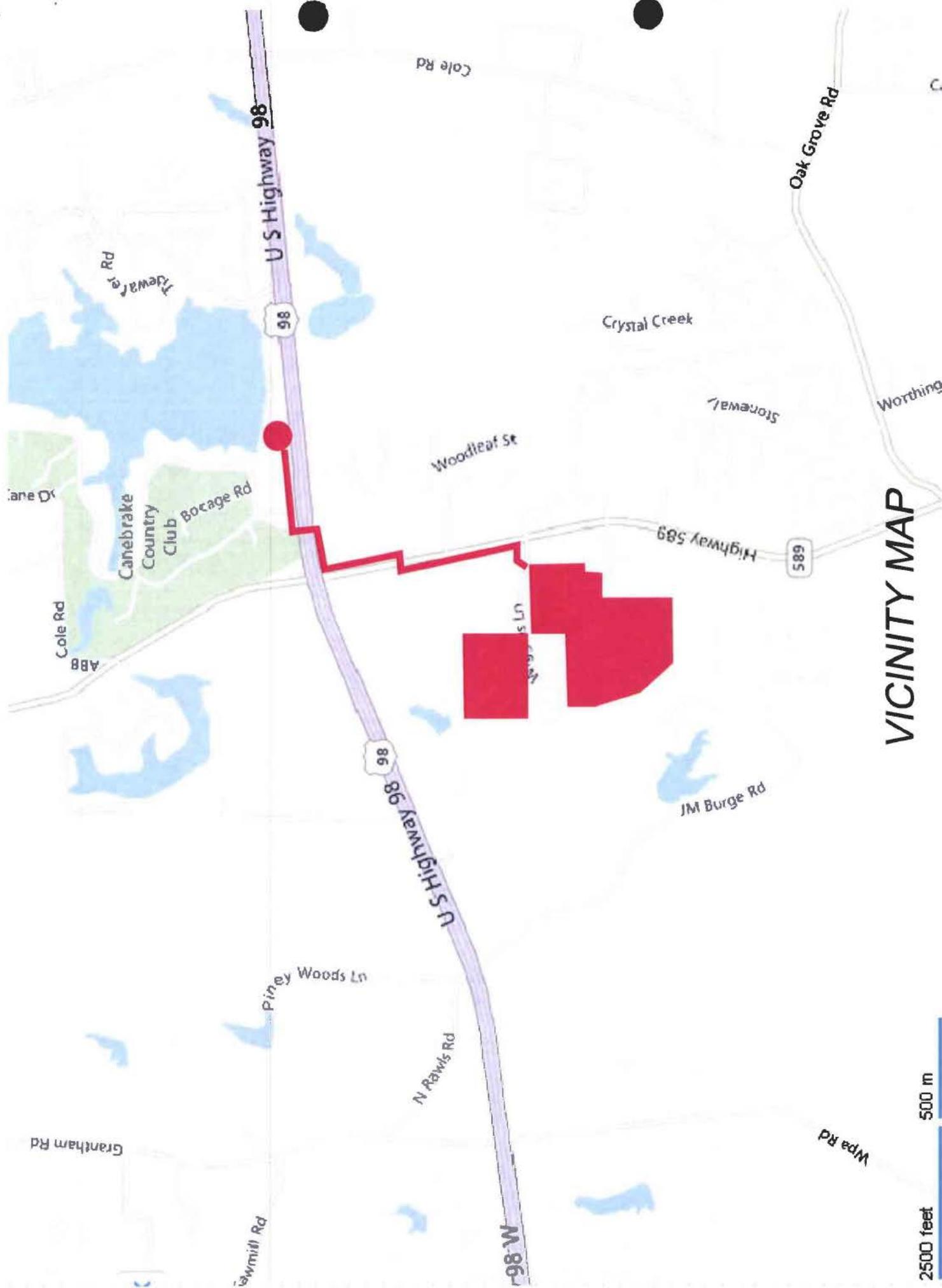
Comments should be received **no later than 30 days** from the date of this Public Notice.

If you have any questions concerning this publication, you may contact Ms. Leslie Turney at telephone number (251) 694-3873, or by e-mail at leslie.e.turney@usace.army.mil. Please refer to Public Notice Number SAM-2011-01392-LET.

For additional information about our Regulatory Program, please visit our web site at: www.sam.usace.army.mil/RD/reg, and please take a moment to complete our customer satisfaction survey while you're there. Your responses are appreciated and will allow us to improve our services.

MOBILE DISTRICT
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Enclosures



VICINITY MAP





334

350

Canebrake Subdivision

New Sewer Pump Station

Bellevue Ch

U.S. Hwy. 98

303

589

PVD Sewer Force Main (Direct Bury - Cut and Cover) In Road and/or Powerline Right-of-Ways

PIPELINE

Land Application Site

Wiggins Lane

350

Parker's

Land Application Site

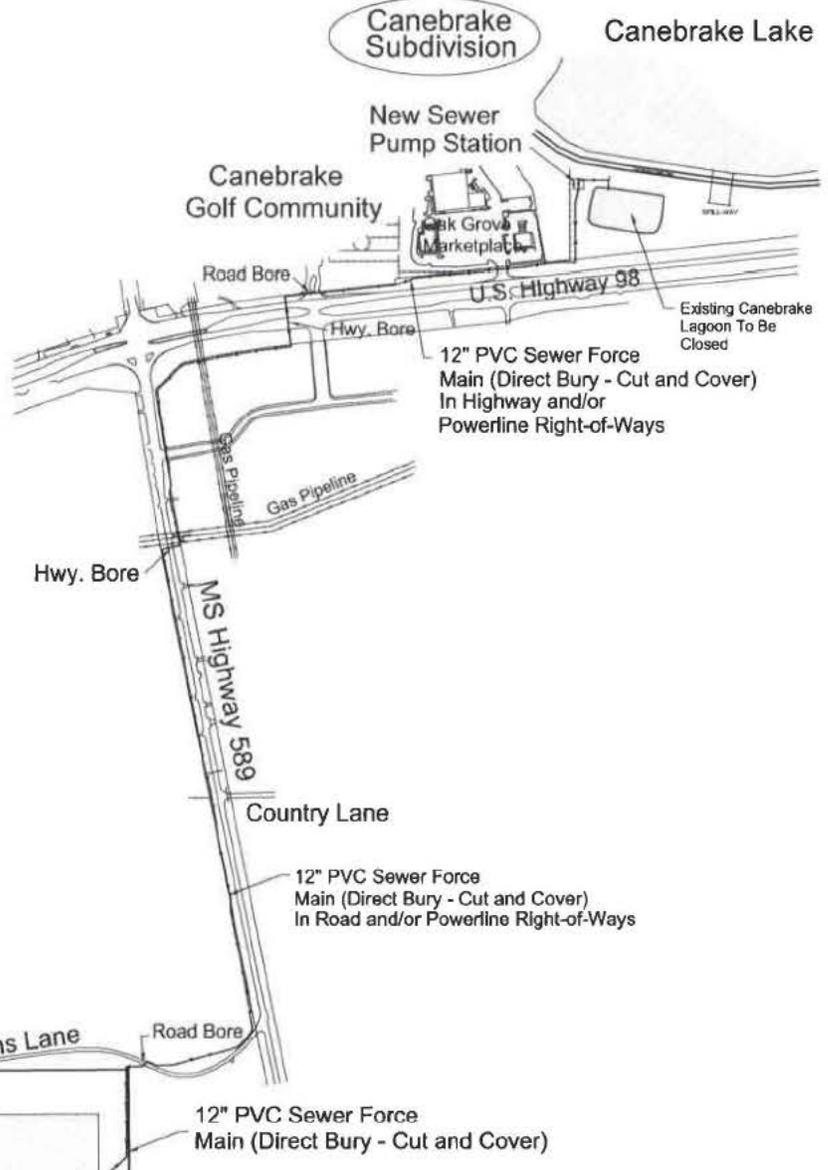
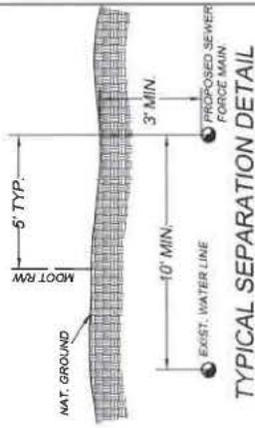
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Vicinity Map

350

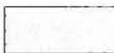
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Gravel Pit

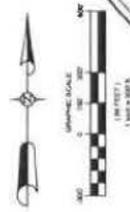


Land Application Site

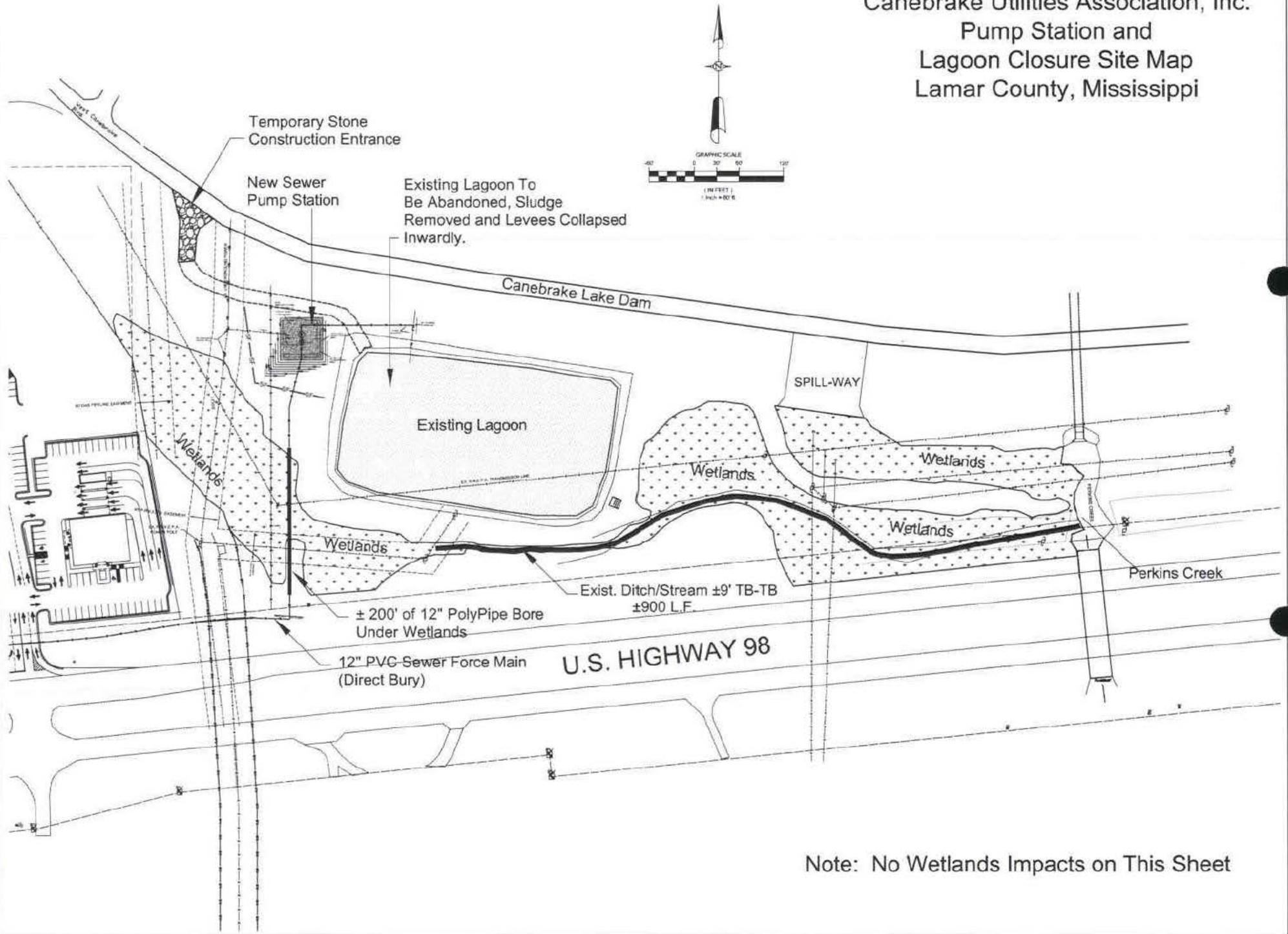
Canebrake Utilities Association, Inc.
 New Sewage Lagoon and Land Application System
 Overall Project Layout
 Lamar County, Mississippi

 Spray Irrigation Zones

*Wetlands Not Shown For Clarity
 **No Wetland Impacts On Force Main

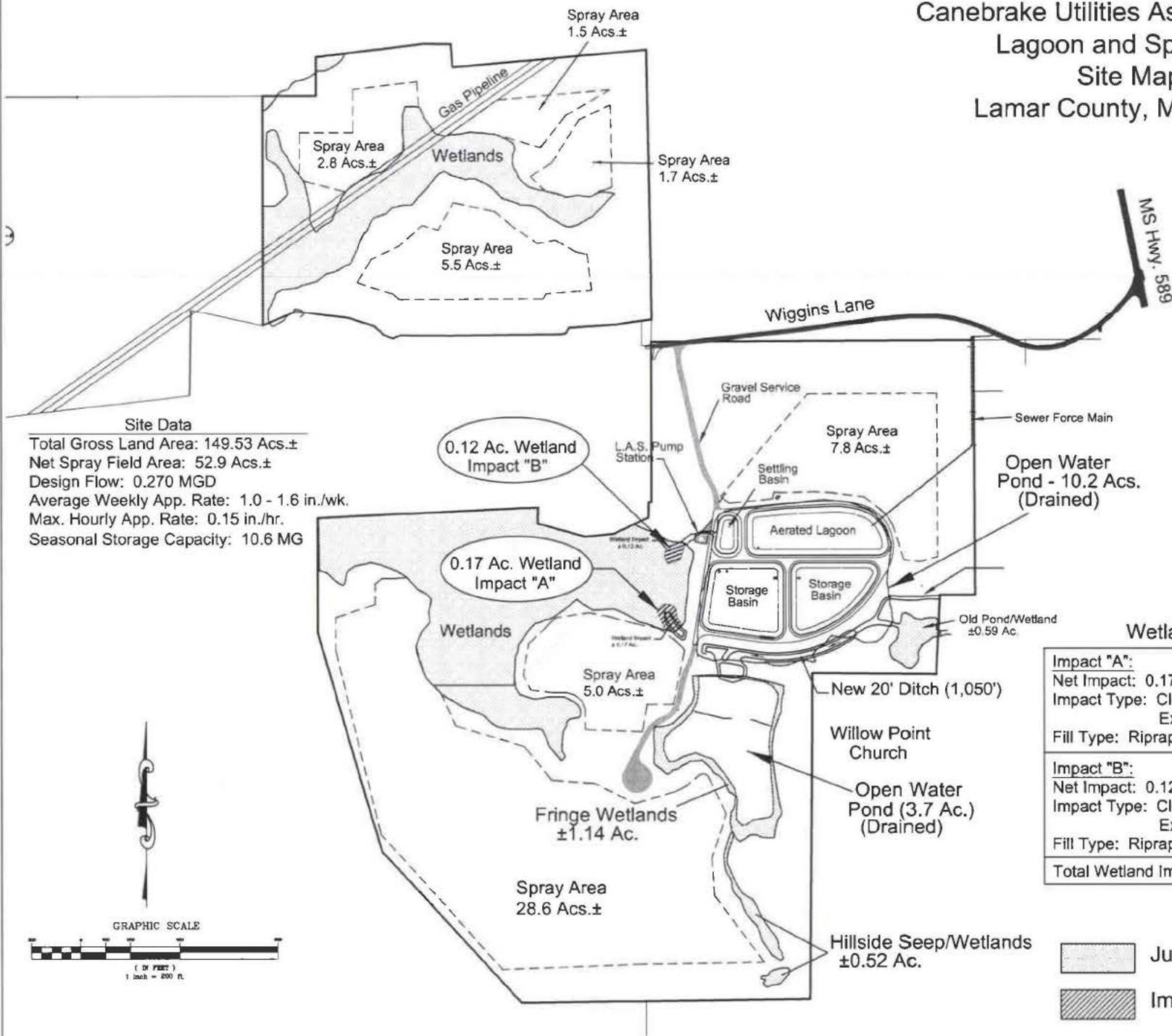


Canebrake Utilities Association, Inc.
Pump Station and
Lagoon Closure Site Map
Lamar County, Mississippi



Note: No Wetlands Impacts on This Sheet

Canebrake Utilities Association, Inc.
 Lagoon and Sprayfield
 Site Map
 Lamar County, Mississippi



Site Data

Total Gross Land Area: 149.53 Acs.±
 Net Spray Field Area: 52.9 Acs.±
 Design Flow: 0.270 MGD
 Average Weekly App. Rate: 1.0 - 1.6 in./wk.
 Max. Hourly App. Rate: 0.15 in./hr.
 Seasonal Storage Capacity: 10.6 MG

Wetland Impact Data

<p>Impact "A": Net Impact: 0.17 Ac. Impact Type: Clearing, Grubbing, Ditch Excavation, Riprap Stabilization Fill Type: Riprap = 75 Tons (46 Cu. Yds.)</p>
<p>Impact "B": Net Impact: 0.12 Ac. Impact Type: Clearing, Grubbing, Ditch Excavation, Riprap Stabilization Fill Type: Riprap = 50 Tons (30 Cu. Yds.)</p>
<p>Total Wetland Impacts: 0.29 Acs.±</p>

- Jurisdictional Wetlands
- Impacted Wetlands

