



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-M  
PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2015-01098-RCV

October 15, 2015

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

**PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT A NEW JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL FACILITY ADJACENT TO THE  
EXISTING BILOXI HIGH SCHOOL FACILITY WITHIN THE CITY OF BILOXI,  
HARRISON 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: **Biloxi Public School District**  
**Attention: Mr. Arthur McMillan**  
**160 St. Peter**  
**Biloxi, Mississippi 39530**

AGENT: **BMI Environmental Services, LLC**  
**Attention: Mr. Larry Lewis**  
**521 34th Street**  
**Gulfport, Mississippi 39507**

LOCATION OF WORK AND WATERWAY: The proposed project site is located on the existing Biloxi High School Campus located at 1845 Richards Drive, Biloxi, Harrison County, Mississippi (North 30.433958, West -88.948686). The project will involve the filling of approximately 10.75 acres of wetland habitat adjacent to the Tchoutacabouffa River (HUC 03170009).

PROJECT PURPOSE: The project purpose of the proposed development is to expand the present facility. The project will replace the existing junior high school facility, which is no longer adequate to serve the needs of the growing student population served by the Biloxi Public School District (BPSD).

ALTERNATIVES: Based on the analysis, Site 3 (Beauvoir Elementary School), Site 4 (Fernwood School) site, and Site 5 (Existing Biloxi Middle School) site which are currently owned by the BPSD were eliminated because of size and shape limitations, unacceptable renovation cost, and because they would require an additional school bus cycle for student

transportation to the school. Site 1 (Munro Commerce Park) site and Site 2 (Popps Ferry site met most of the site screening criteria; however, they were eliminated because of availability, cost and use limitations, see drawing.

**PROPOSED WORK:** The BPSD proposes to construct a new junior high school facility adjacent to the existing Biloxi High School Campus located at 1845 Richards Drive, Biloxi, Harrison County, Mississippi. The proposed junior high school will replace the existing junior high school facility, which is no longer adequate to serve the needs of the growing student population served by the BPSD. The new Biloxi Junior High School (BJHS) would be constructed on a 33.5-acre site and will include a primary building that will contain classrooms, offices, a library, laboratories, gymnasiums, assembly halls, and other support services; parking areas, and stormwater features will be constructed in the southeastern portion of the site. The project will involve the filling of approximately 10.75 acres of wetlands.

**AVOIDANCE & MINIMIZATION:** The project expansion is not considered site specific. Alternative designs to the proposed action were evaluated as part of the alternatives analysis. For example, alternative designs that involved the construction of multi-level buildings that minimized the footprint, but provided the same square footage were considered and have been incorporated into the design where possible. Additionally, where possible, designs that utilized shared features such as bus drop off areas, bus, staff, visitor parking, and support facilities were incorporated into the design. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has not verified the adequacy of the applicant's avoidance and minimization at this time.

**MITIGATION:** The wetlands to be impacted by this project are described as low quality forested Palustrine wetlands, and are part of a 20.57-acre preservation area (Area C) that was previously set aside to provide compensatory mitigation areas for impacts related to the development of the Biloxi High School on property south of the proposed new school. Specific information regarding the Preservation Area C is provided in USACE's Permit MS00-00860-H, see attached drawing. In order to compensate for the unavoidable loss of wetlands associated with this project, BPSD proposes to purchase mitigation credits in an approved wetlands mitigation bank. The acquisition of "mitigation credits" in the bank will be used to replace the mitigation credits provided by the preservation of wetlands in PA-C, and for the lost ecological values associated with wetlands that will be impacted by the construction of the new school. The USACE has not verified the adequacy of this mitigation proposal at this time.

**WATER QUALITY:** 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 by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality.

**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 effect cultural and historic properties within the permit area. In accordance with Appendix C of 33 CFR 325, the USACE has determined that the permit area consists of the proposed areas of

fill and adjacent areas. The National Register of Historic Places has been consulted and no properties listed in or eligible for the National Register are known to exist which would be affected by the proposed work. This action constitutes the full extent of cultural resources investigations unless comment to this notice is received documenting that significant sites or properties exist which may be affected by this work, or that adequately documents that a potential exists for the location of significant sites or properties within the project area. The USACE is 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.

**ENDANGERED SPECIES:** Upon evaluating the 2014 Federal List of Threatened and Endangered Species, the following terrestrial species are known to exist in Harrison County, Mississippi: The Alabama red-bellied turtle (*Psuedemys alabamensis*), Black pine snake (*Pituophis melanoleucus ssp. lodingi*), Gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*), Dusky gopher frog (*Rana sevosia*), Red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*), Louisiana black bear (*Ursus americanus luteolus*), and the Louisiana quillwort (*Isoetes louisianensis*). The USACE has made a preliminary "no effect" determination for these species based on the nature of the permit area being sited within unsuitable habitat, and previously impacted by the unauthorized activity. Additionally, there is no designated critical habitat within the permit area. The USACE is seeking comment from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for information on whether any listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat may be present in the area, which would be affected by the proposed activity.

**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 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 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. 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.

Correspondence concerning this Public Notice should refer to Public Notice Number **SAM-2015-01098-RCV**, and should be directed to USACE, Mobile District, Regulatory Division, Attention: Mr. Rudolph C. Villarreal, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001, with a copy furnished to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Pollution Control, Environmental Permitting Division, Attention: Ms. Florance Bass, Post Office Box 2261, Jackson, Mississippi 39225, and to the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, Bureau of Wetlands Permitting, Attention: Mr. Greg Christodoulou, 1141 Bayview Avenue, 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) 690-3246**, or e-mail at **rudolph.c.villarreal@usace.army.mil**. Please refer to the above Public Notice number **SAM-2015-01098-RCV**.

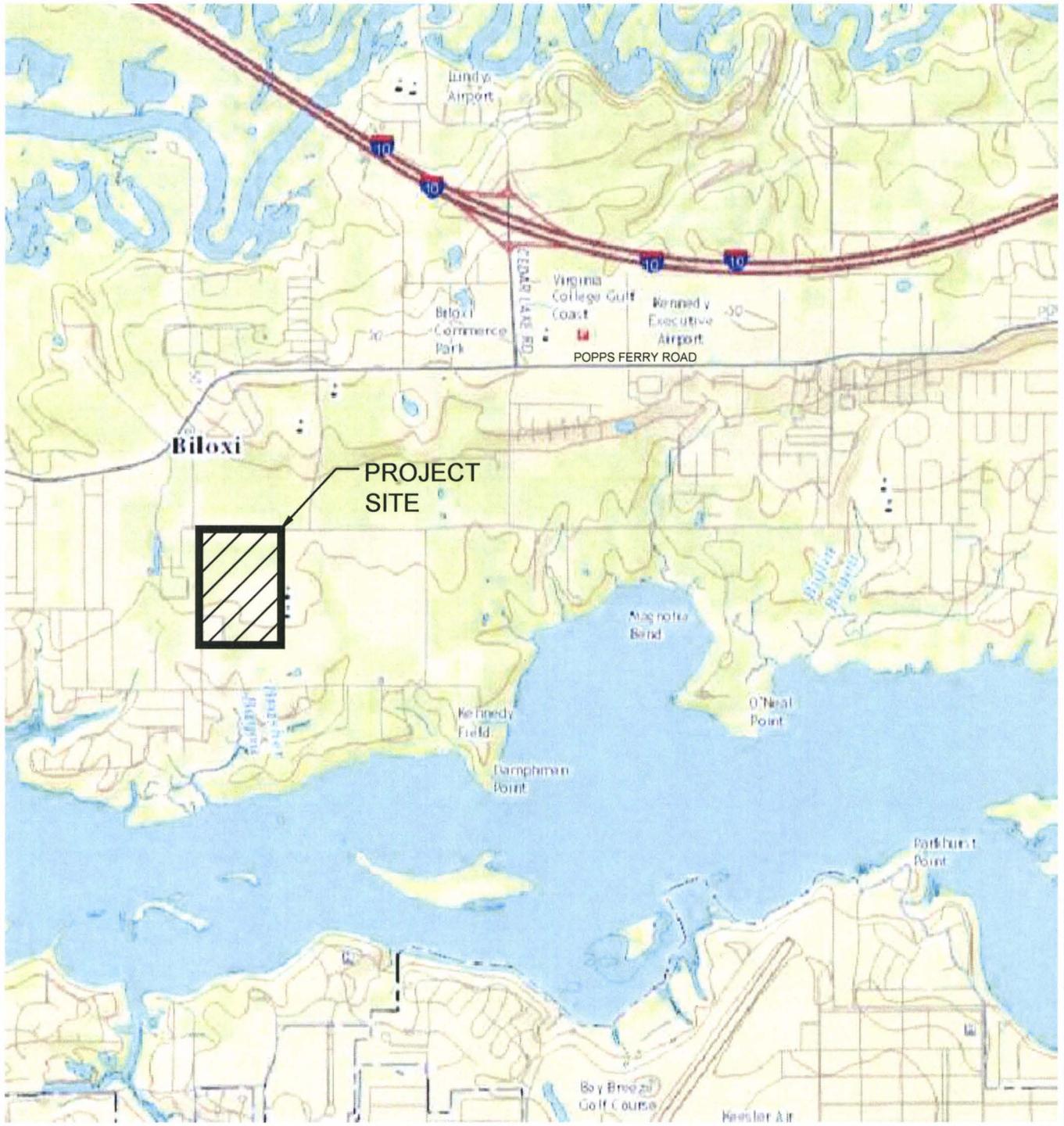
For additional information about our Regulatory Program, please visit our web site at [www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx](http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx).

MOBILE DISTRICT  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Enclosures

SAM-2015-01098-RCV

GRAPHIC SCALE  
Not To Scale



**VICINITY MAP  
PROPOSED 7th & 8th GRADE SCHOOL**

**BILOXI PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI**



■ CIVIL  
 ■ ELECTRICAL  
 ■ MECHANICAL  
 ■ SURVEYING  
 1641 Popps Ferry Rd., Suite A-4  
 Biloxi, Mississippi 39532  
 Office 228.388.1950 | Fax 228.388.1971  
 www.mppeng.us

SCALE: NTS  
 PROJECT NO: 0148.15.001  
 DATE: SEPTEMBER 2015  
 DRAWN BY: LES  
 CHECKED BY: DJM  
 SHEET NO.:

**C100**

SAM-2015-01098-RCV



GRAPHIC SCALE  
1" = 300'



WETLANDS ±19.50 AC

**WETLAND MAP  
PROPOSED 7th & 8th GRADE SCHOOL**

**BILOXI PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT  
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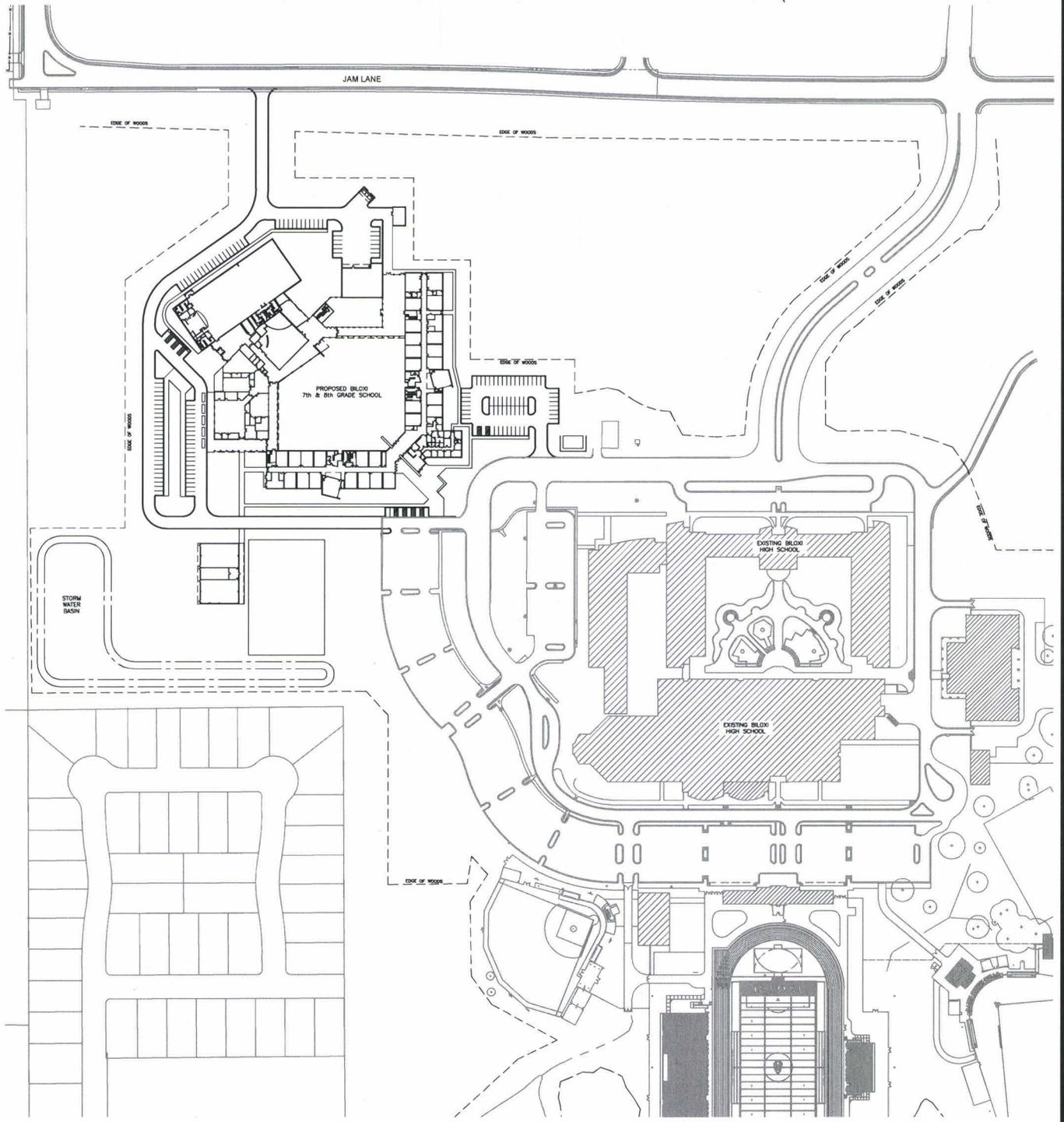
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PROJECT NO: 0148.15.001  
DATE: SEPTEMBER 2015  
DRAWN BY: LES  
CHECKED BY: DJM  
SHEET NO.:

**C300**

SAM-2015-01098-RCV



GRAPHIC SCALE  
1" = 300'



**PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT PLAN  
PROPOSED 7th & 8th GRADE SCHOOL**

**BILOXI PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI**



**MACHADO | PATARO**

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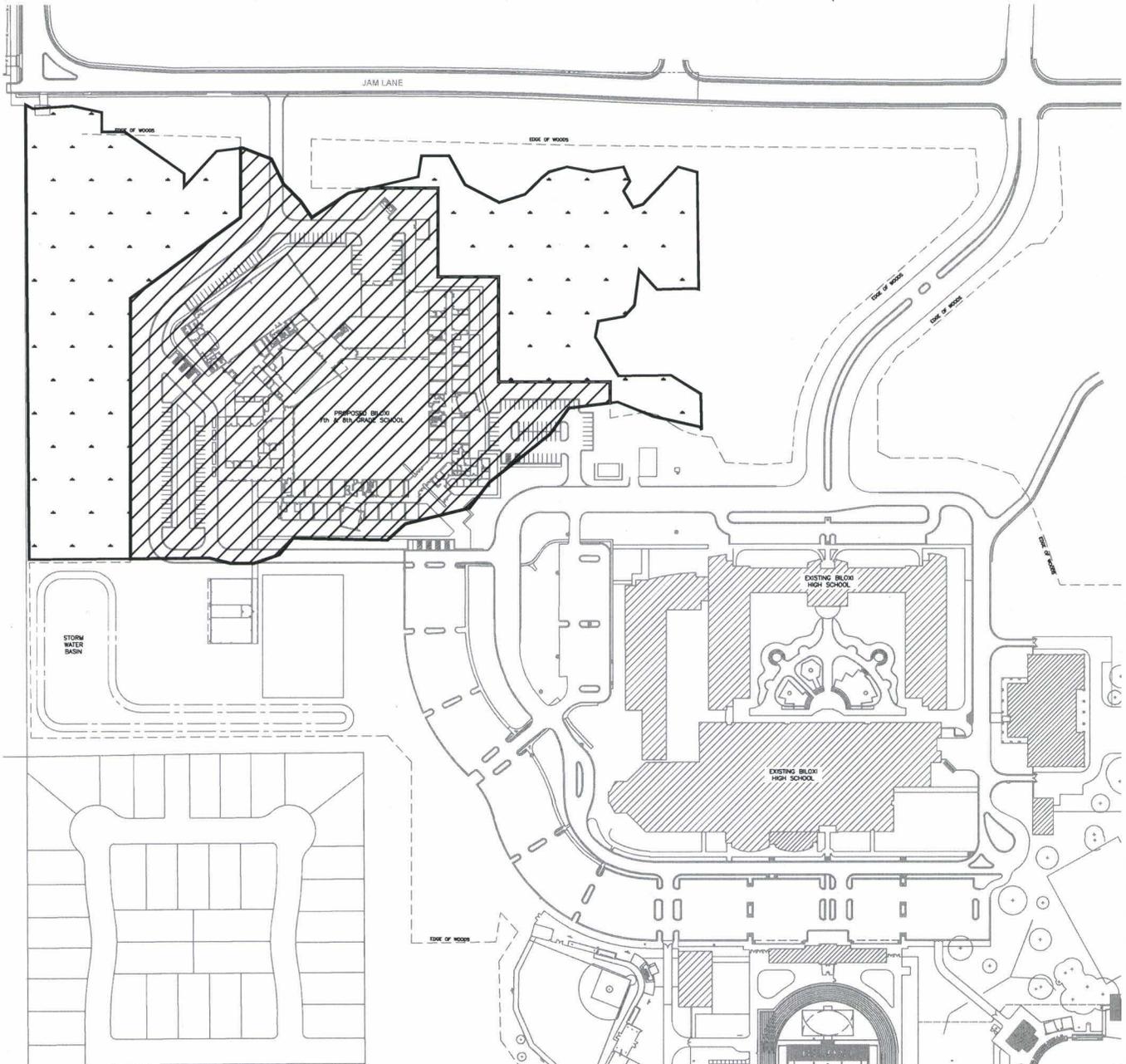
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 PROJECT NO: 0148.15.001  
 DATE: SEPTEMBER 2015  
 DRAWN BY: LES  
 CHECKED BY: DJM  
 SHEET NO.:

**C200**

SAM-2015-01098-RCV



GRAPHIC SCALE  
1" = 300'



WETLANDS IMPACT ±10.75 AC

**WETLAND IMPACT PLAN  
PROPOSED 7th & 8th GRADE SCHOOL**

**BILOXI PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI**

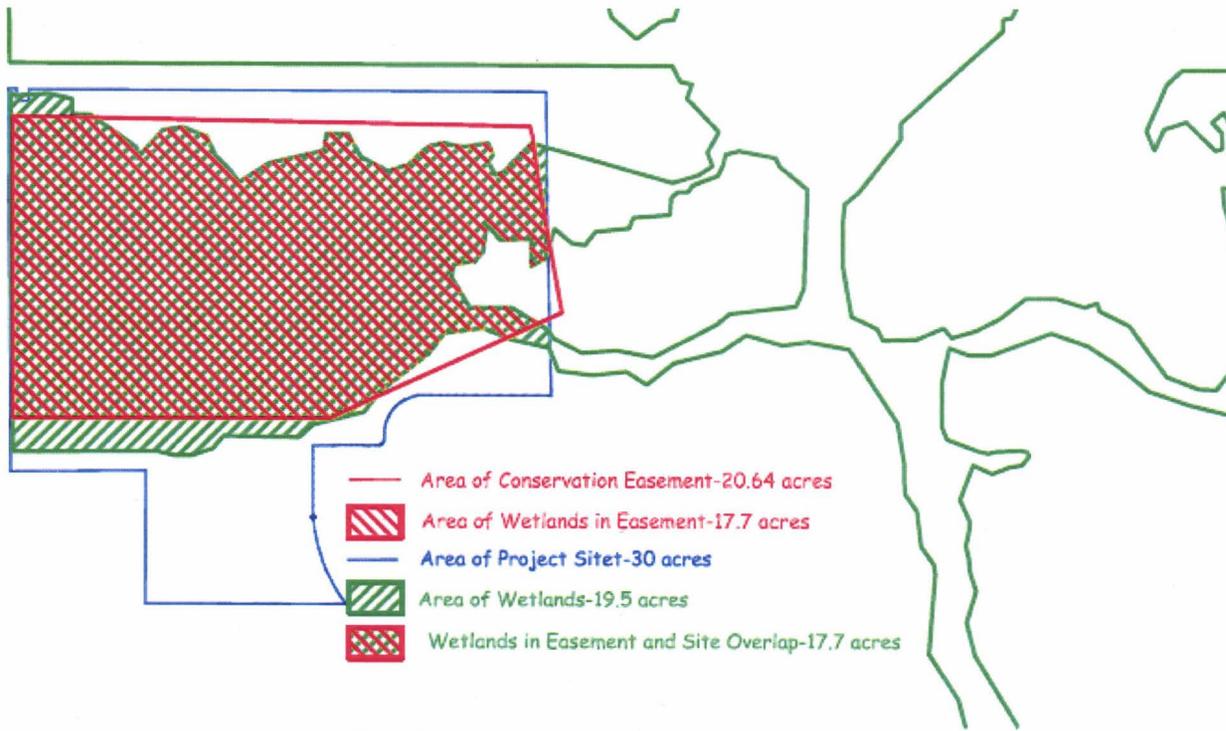


**MACHADO | PATANO**

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SCALE: 1" = 300'  
PROJECT NO: 0148.15.001  
DATE: SEPTEMBER 2015  
DRAWN BY: LES  
CHECKED BY: DJM  
SHEET NO.:

**C310**



## Wetlands On Project Site and Easement Overlap Map



Alternative Sites Map