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

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

SEP - 8 2006

CESAM-RD-C
SUBJECT: PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2006-01435-DJS

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
OFFICE OF POLLUTION CONTROL

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

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 Harbor 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: Trinity Yachts, LLC
Attention: Harold Vicknair
13085 Seaway Road
Gulfport, Mississippi 39503

WATERWAY: Harrison County Industrial Seaway, Gulfport, Harrison County, Mississippi.

WORK: The applicant is proposing the hydraulic/mechanical excavation of approximately 7,500 cubic yards of sand and clay in order to provide a navigable depth of -12 to -25 feet at an existing 100 foot by 300 foot boat slip in order to construct and operate a Syncholift Launching System. Additionally the applicant is proposing the construction of 100 linear feet of bulkhead and two low level groins along the sides of the new sychrolift basin to prevent shoaling. The proposed groins will be approximately 160 feet in length and will extend approximately 5 feet above mudline.

All excavated material will be placed in two, upland disposal areas. If the proposed dredging is accomplished by dragline all excavated material will be placed on the applicant's upland area. If the material is excavated hydraulically it will be pumped to the Harrison County Development Commission upland disposal site C-6.

All work will be in accordance with the attached plans and supplemental information provided by the applicant.

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 certified that the proposed activity complies with and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the
State Coastal Zone Management Program. A determination relative to consistency will be made by the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources.

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 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, 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 this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps 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.

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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.

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 review 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 permit area. Copies of this notice are being sent to the State Historic Preservation Officer and the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Division of Archeological Services.

Preliminary review of this application and the U.S. Department of the Interior List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants indicates that the proposed activity will not affect listed endangered or threatened species, or their critical habitat.

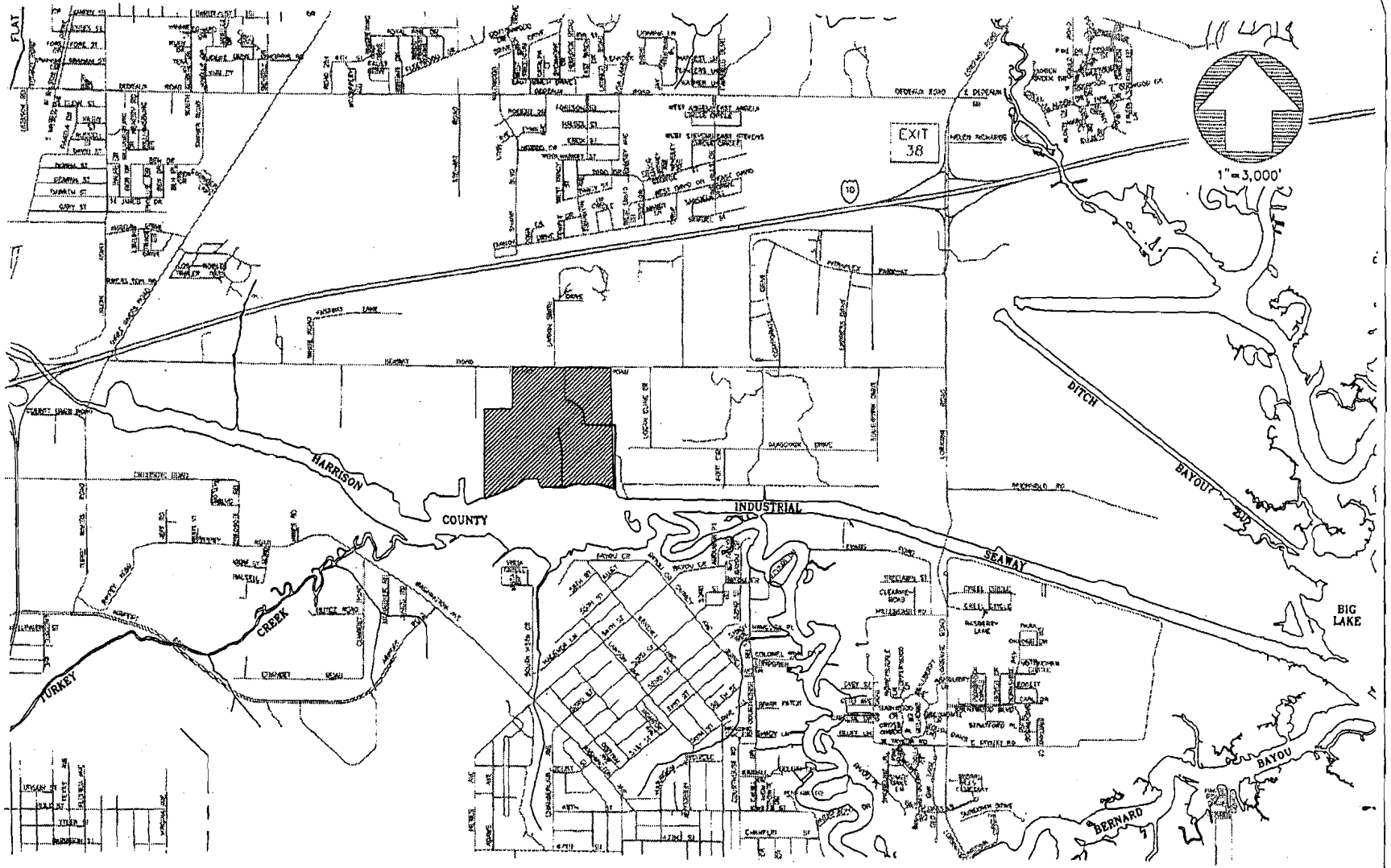
Correspondence concerning this Public Notice should refer to **Public Notice Number SAM-2006-01435-DJS** and should be directed to the District Engineer, U.S. Army Engineer District, Mobile, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001, Attention: Permit Evaluation Branch, with a copy to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Pollution Control, Post Office Box 10385, Jackson, Mississippi 39289, and the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, 1141 Bayview Avenue, Suite 101, Biloxi, Mississippi 39530, in time to be received not later than **30 days from the date of the public notice.**

If you have any questions concerning this publication, you may contact this office, **David Schwartz, telephone number 690-2658**. 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/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.

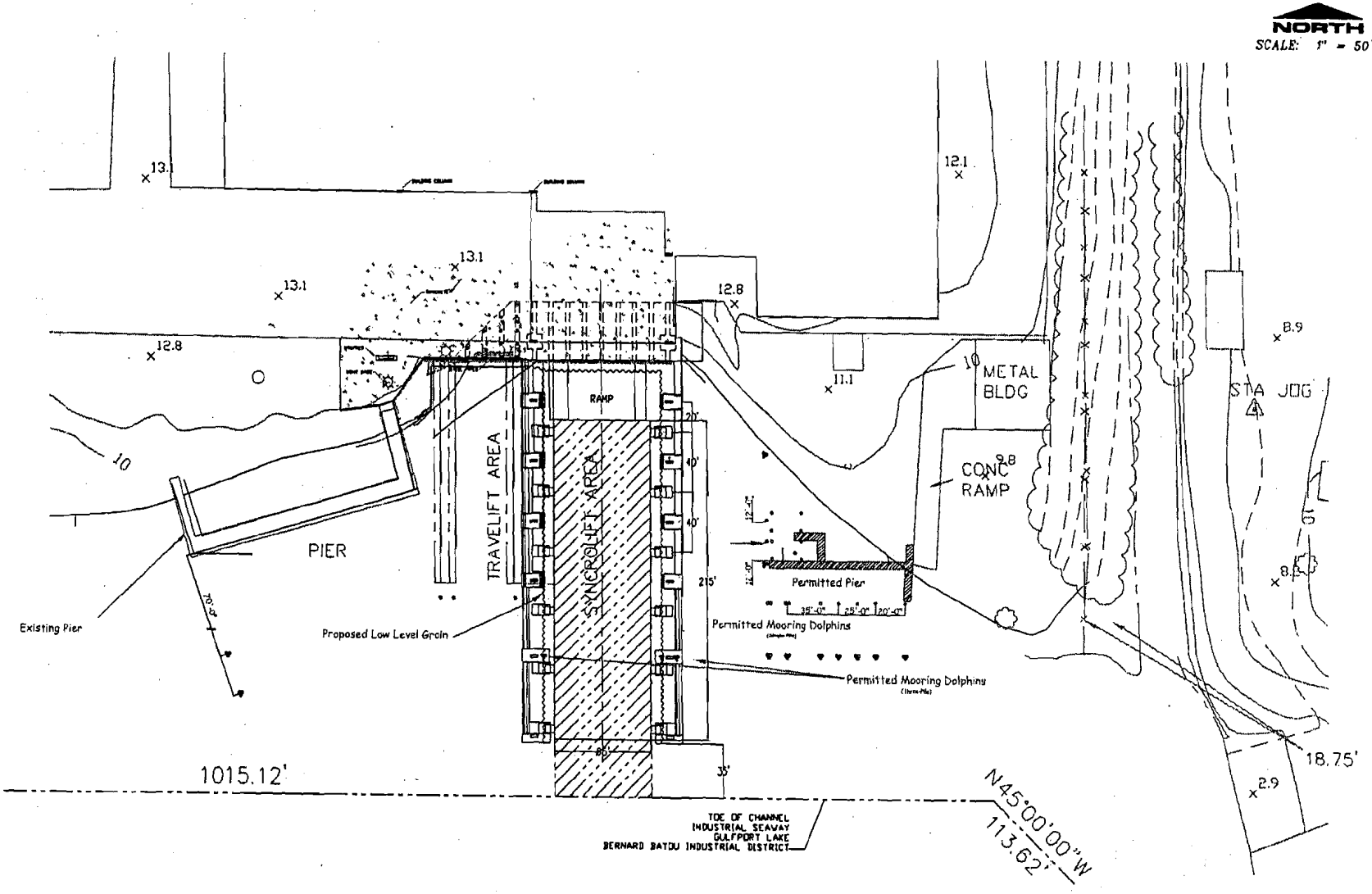
Encls

MOBILE DISTRICT
U.S. Army Corps of Engineer



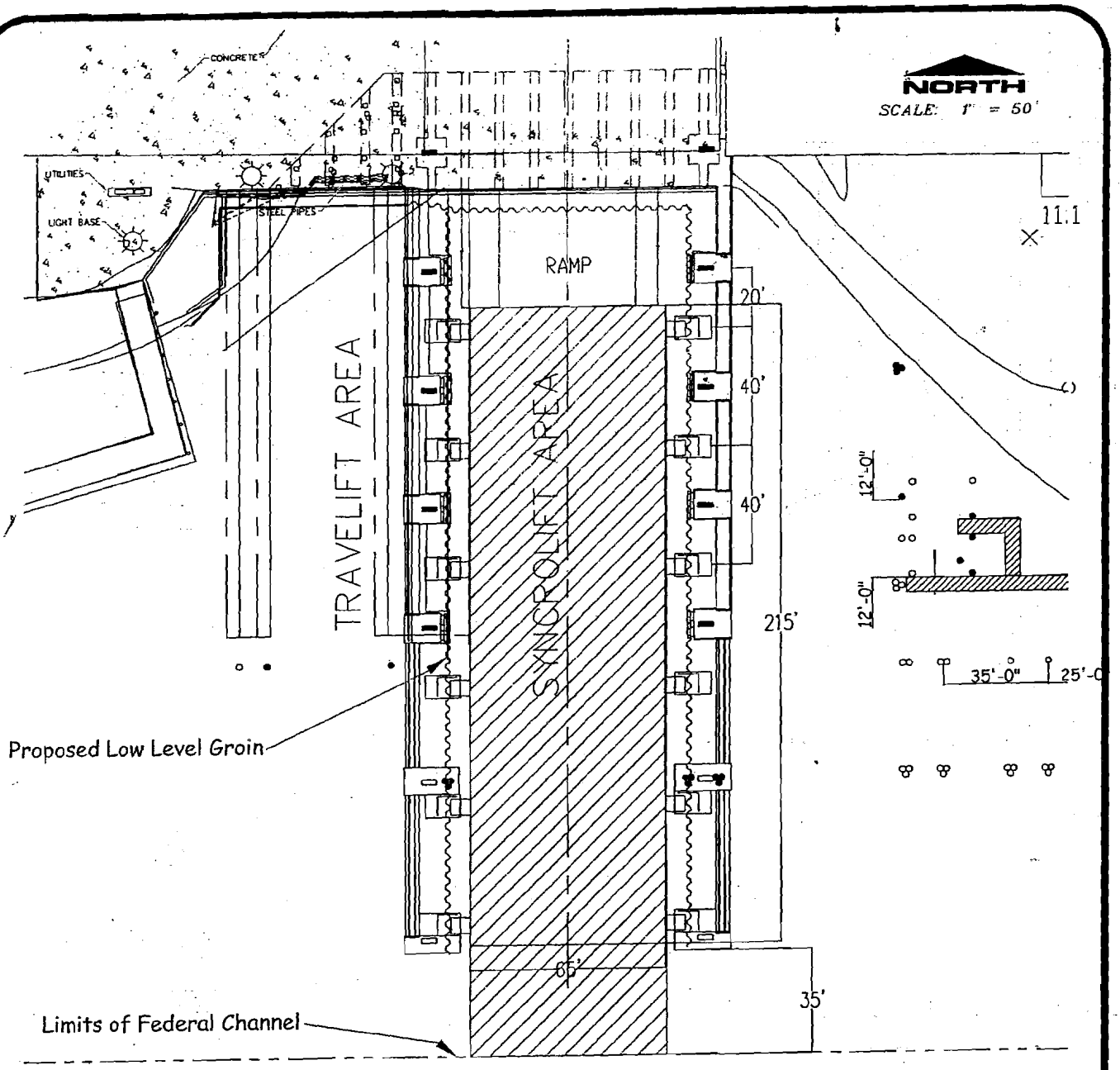
Project Location Map
Synchrolift Project
Trinity Yachts
Gulfport, MS

BMI Environmental Services, LLC
Environmental Consultants



Synchrolift Project
Trinity Yachts
Gulfport, MS

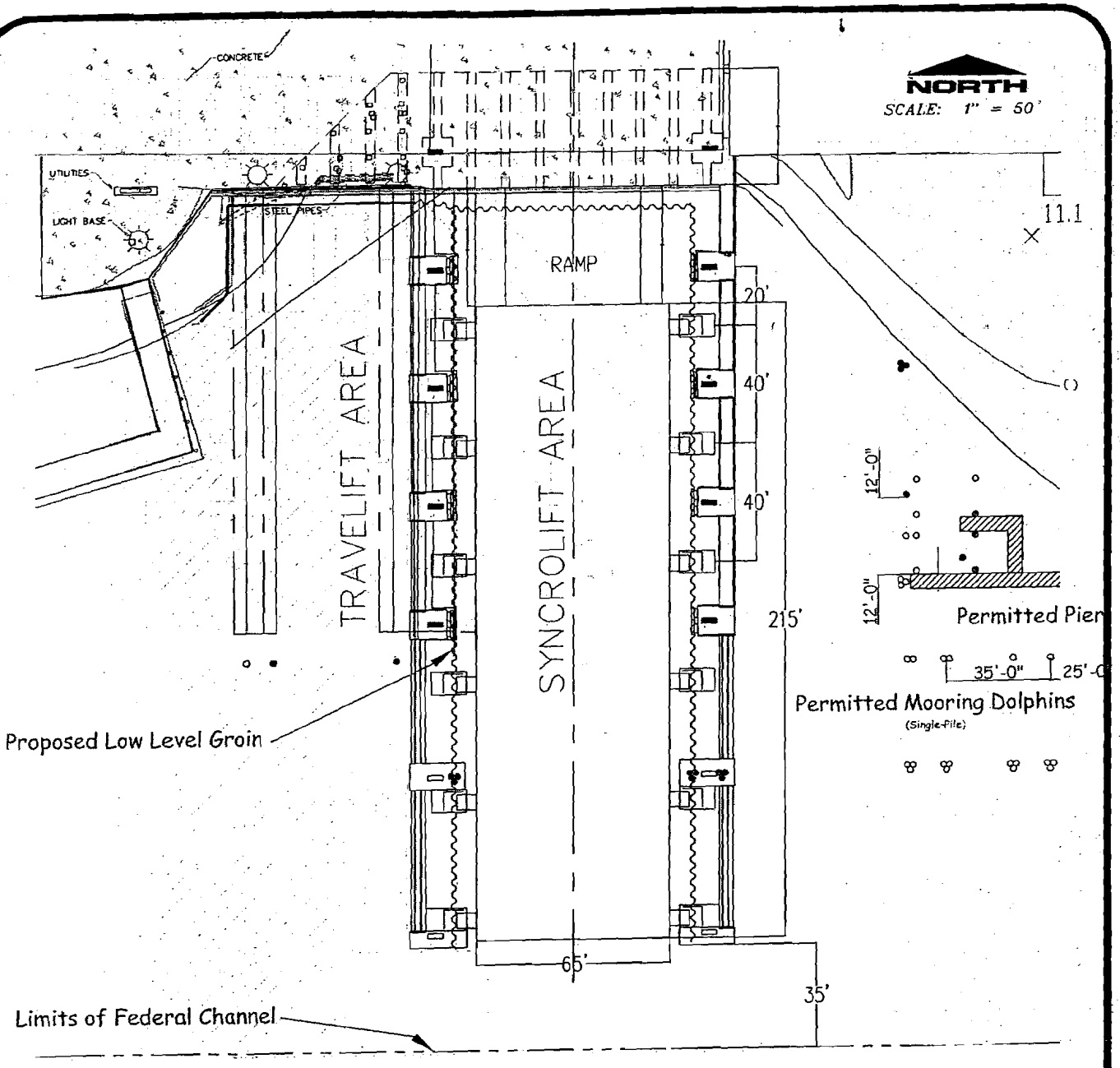
BMI Environmental Services, LLC
Environmental Consultants



Proposed Dredging

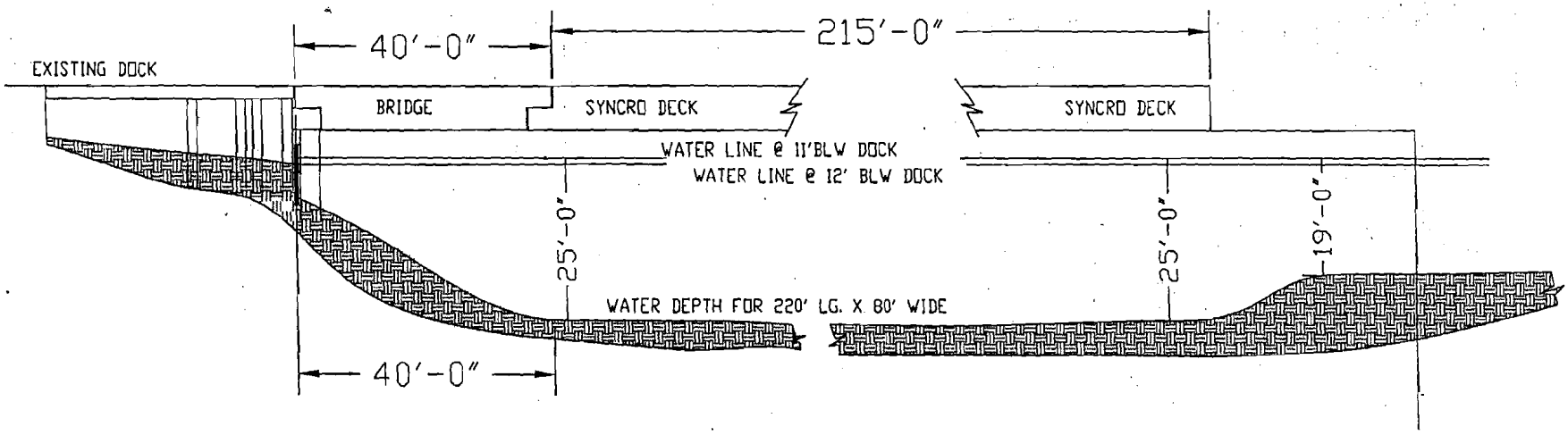
Proposed Dredging
Synchrolift Project
Trinity Yachts
Gulfport, MS

BMI Environmental Services, LLC
Environmental Consultants



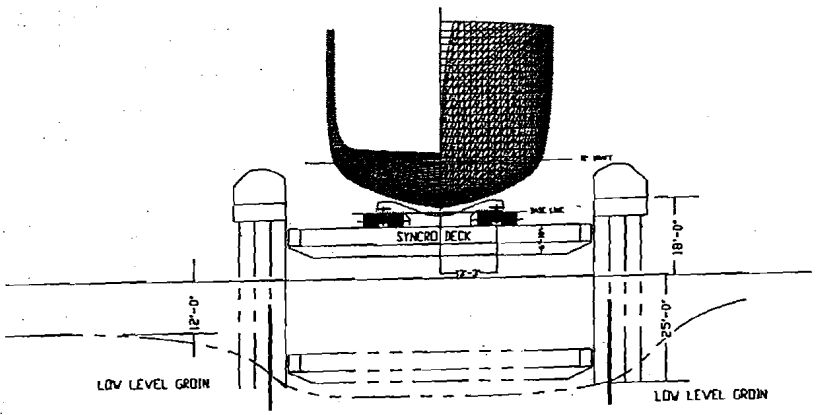
Proposed Synchrolift Pier and Low Level Groin
Synchrolift Project
Trinity Yachts
Gulfport, MS

BMI Environmental Services, LLC
Environmental Consultants

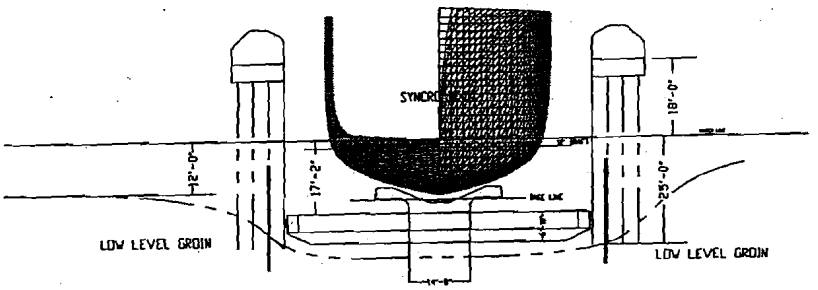


Elevation Cross Section
Synchroift Project
Trinity Yachts
Gulfport, MS

BMI Environmental Services, LLC
Environmental Consultants

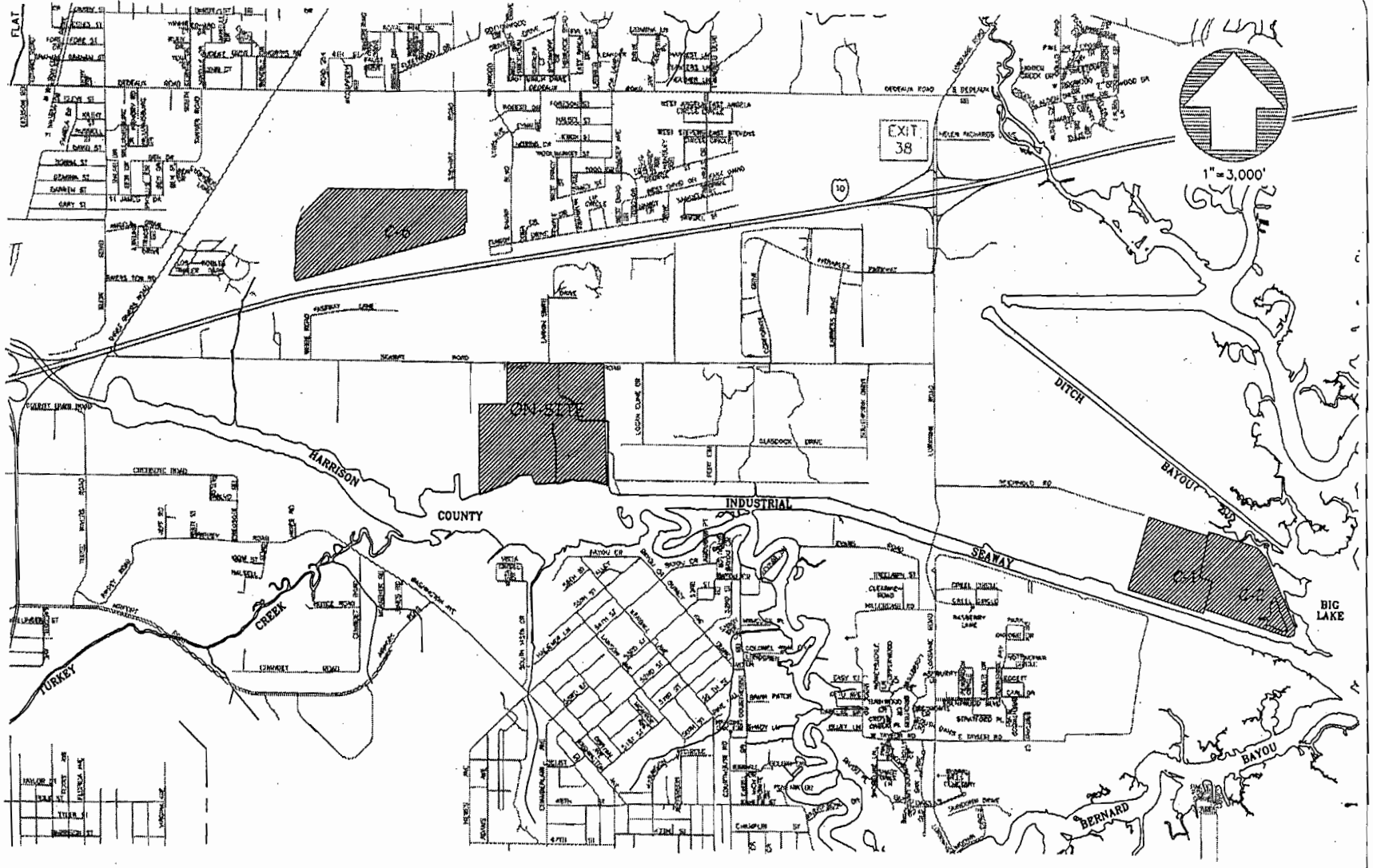


PRE-LAUNCH SECTION



LAUNCH SECTION

Details
Synchrolift Project
Trinity Yachts
Gulfport, MS



Location Map - Dredged Material Disposal Areas
Synchroift Project
Trinity Yachts
Gulfport, MS

BMI Environmental Services, LLC
Environmental Consultants

"Attachment C"
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
SYNCHROLIFT PROJECT

1.0 INTRODUCTION, PURPOSE AND NEED

This report describes the environmental impacts associated with the proposed construction of a Synchrolift Launch Facility on the Harrison County Industrial Seaway, Gulfport, Harrison County, Mississippi. This assessment outlines the proposed activities and discusses the environmental impacts associated with the project.

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project involves dredging of the dockside berthing area of the Trinity Yachts site to establish sufficient water depths to allow for the operation of a Synchrolift launch system. The area to be dredged is approximately 100 feet wide by 300 feet long and will be dredged to a maximum depth of -25 feet Mean Low Water (MLW). Approximately 7,500 cubic yards of dredged material will be dredged from the Synchrolift basin and deposited in one of two alternative disposal areas. If a dragline dredged is used, the material will be placed in the upland areas on Trinity Yachts site. If a hydraulic dredged is used, the material will be placed in the Harrison County Development Commission upland disposal site C-6.

The applicant proposes to install pile supports for the attachment of winch systems which are part of the Synchrolift launch facility and a bulkhead retaining wall. The Synchrolift is approximately 215 feet long by 60 feet wide. The bulkhead approximately 100 feet long will be constructed along the shoreline at mean high water. In addition to the bulkhead, two low level groins will be constructed along the sides of the Synchrolift basin to prevent shoaling of material into the basin. The low level groins will be approximately 160 long and they will extend approximately 5 feet above the mud line.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

This project site is located at the upper end of the Harrison County Industrial Seaway, near Three Rivers Road. The Seaway is a 5.02 mile long man-made navigation channel that begins at The Back Bay of Biloxi and continues west to its end at the mouth of Bayou Bernard. Portions of the channel were excavated from land and parts of the channel encompassed what was originally Bayou Bernard. A description of the environmental setting is provided below.

3.1 Topography, Geology, and Soils

The topography of the area within the vicinity of the Seaway varies from a 0-10' elevation and much of the site consists of man-made fill. Geologically, the project lies within the coastal plains region which extends from Hattiesburg, Mississippi south to the Mississippi Sound. Based on the U.S. Soil Conservation Service Soil Map for Harrison County, the major soil group found within the project area is Sulfaquepts soils. Sulfaquepts Soils are soils that formed in areas of hydraulic fill. They are usually located along the marshes, beaches, and the Harrison County Industrial Seaway.

3.2 Surface Water

The Harrison County Industrial Seaway is a brackish water body that is influenced by estuarine tidal waters from the Back Bay of Biloxi area and freshwater inflow from Bernard Bayou.

3.3 Vegetation and Wetlands

The plant communities within the vicinity of the project area are typical of the southern mixed forests and mixed pine hardwood forests of south Mississippi. Landscape position, soil saturation, and disturbance have contributed significantly to the type of vegetation found in the area. For example, the majority of the surrounding area has been developed and the majority of the natural vegetation has been removed. In undeveloped areas adjacent to the project site, grasses and shrubs are abundant and often the shrubs dominate the understory layer. The overstory, where present, is dominated by Slash Pines, Sweetbay Magnolia, and Cypress trees. Although there are several areas that support wetlands in the vicinity of the Seaway, no wetlands are located in the channel or turning basin.

3.4 Fish & Wildlife

Areas along the Seaway provide habitat for various species of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and to a lesser extent, fish. The species diversity is comparable to similar areas of south Mississippi in close proximity to urban development.

Song birds, wading birds, raptors, and some game birds have been identified along the Seaway. In addition to the year round resident birds, some neotropical migrants may be observed during the spring. The site is also within the range of the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker, but surveys do not indicate the presence of this species within the vicinity of the project site.

Occasionally, reptiles and amphibians may be found in the interior portions of the site and along the channel margins of the Seaway. The moist areas along the margins of the channel provide habitat for frogs, some turtles, and some snakes. Snakes, turtles, and skinks are also found in the drier areas along the banks of the channel as well as the margins of the channel.

Nutria, muskrat, gray squirrel, raccoon, and rabbits are common mammals that occur within the project area. The area also provides habitat for small mammal species such as mice and rats.

Fish species vary depending on the salinity of the Seaway. During periods of low rainfall, the salinity increases and the fish species found in the Seaway are more estaurine type species such as flounder, croaker, and saltwater catfish. During periods of heavy rainfall runoff, the salinity of the channel decreases and bluegills, sunfish, and bass can be found in the upper reaches of the Seaway.

4.0 PROJECT IMPACTS

The project should not significantly impact fish and wildlife resources along and within the margins of the Seaway. Most species will be able to avoid the area during construction, and will return to the area after the project is completed. There will be an increase in turbidity during the dredging operations, but it is not anticipated that the turbidity will be any greater than that in the Seaway during a heavy rainfall event. The dredging will cause a loss of benthic organisms. Once the dredging is completed, the benthic organisms should repopulate the dredged area.

The construction of the Synchrolift Launch System should not negatively impact the environment. Once the pilings that support the Synchrolift are installed, they will provide substrate for algae and other organisms to attach. The construction of the bulkhead will not negatively impact the coastal environment. Once the bulkhead is installed, the surface area of the bulkhead will provide a substrate for algae and other organisms to attach.

5.0 ALTERNATIVES

Several alternatives were evaluated for this project. Alternative launch systems that used launchways were considered but determined to be not feasible because of the existing shoreline features and land based building configurations. The use of alternative launch systems would require the removal of certain pile systems that currently stabilize the shoreline. In addition to the shoreline modification, the main fabrication building would have to be modified which would reduce the work space currently provided by the building.

The other alternative which was considered was that of "No Action". This alternative would not provide any of the needed benefits of the proposed project and was therefore eliminated from consideration.

6.0 SUMMARY

The applicant proposes to construct a Synchrolift Launch System along the shoreline of their facility on the Harrison County Industrial Seaway. The project will require dredging and construction activities which will cause some minor disturbance to the area during construction. Alternatives to reduce impacts have been considered and Trinity Yachts has selected the least, damaging most practicable alternative. No significant long term environmental impacts are anticipated from this project.