



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

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

January 5, 2012

CESAM-RD-C-M

**JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE SAM-2010-01713-KMN MOD1
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
OFFICE OF POLLUTION CONTROL**

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

**MODIFICATION OF BENEFICIAL USE SITE FOR DREDGE MATERIAL
GREENWOOD ISLAND, JACKSON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This District has received an application for a Department of the Army (DOA) permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344) and Section 10 of the River and Harbor Act of 1899 (33 USC 403). Please communicate this information to interested parties.

APPLICANT: Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR)
Attention: Mr. George Ramseur, Jr
1141 Bayview Avenue, Suite 501
Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

LOCATION: Mississippi Sound, Greenwood Island, HUC 317009, USGS 1:25K Quad Name: MS-Pascagoula South, Section 20, Township 8 South, Range 5 West; Latitude 30 ° 19' 59.99" N; Longitude 88 ° 31' 18.07" W; Mississippi Sound, near Pascagoula, Jackson County, Mississippi.

PROJECT HISTORY: In 2010 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Mobile District (FP05-PA03-03) constructed a riprap containment structure around an 18-acre site for the establishment of a marsh habitat system (Figure 2). The structure is located at the southern end of Greenwood Island in the Mississippi Sound. The site is located to the east of Bayou Chico and to the west of Bayou Casotte. Upon completion of the riprap containment structure the COE transferred the project authority to the MDMR. MDMR obtained a permit (SAM-2011-01713-KMN) to place dredged material from private dredging projects in a manner that would support the creation of coastal habitat, particularly emergent tidal marsh.

WORK: The applicant is proposing to expand the 18-acre beneficial use site an additional 632 acres for a total of 650 acres. The proposed project would create approximately 650 acres of coastal flats, uplands and tidal marsh habitat along the -6 mean lower low water (MLLW) contours found around Greenwood Island. The proposed project would take place over the next 10 years using beneficial use material obtained from commercial, private and public dredging projects. The applicant is proposing to use several different placement techniques in order to capture acceptable dredged material at the

project site. Project construction would take place as material and funding become available for construction.

Initial construction is being proposed along the southern area of Greenwood Island and would include the construction of a containment dike from sandy dredged material that would extend up to approximately 5,500 yards in length. The structure would attach to the existing eastern containment dike and run south for approximately 1,000 yards and then turn in a westward direction for approximately 3,000 yards then turn northward toward the existing western containment dike. The dike is proposed to be constructed approximately 300 feet wide at the base and the height would be approximately +12 feet MLLW. The exterior of the eastern and southeastern portion of the dike would be armored up to +8 feet MLLW in order to protect it from wave energy (Figure 4). The western portion of the dike receives less wave energy; therefore, could be constructed using a smaller footprint and/or could be constructed using a flow through system. Gaps could be incorporated into the overall dike structure as needed for passage of fish and other pelagic organisms. The dike would be constructed using approximately 1,000,000 cubic yards of sandy dredged material.

Initial construction could also include the creation of approximately 50 acres of estuarine system and associated habitats behind the containment dike. Techniques used for placement of dredged material into the site could be broad layer placement or mound placement with a goal of creating new marsh that has ample tidal flow. Upon completion, the modified site would be able to contain approximately 5,000,000 cubic yards of dredged material.

Additional construction would occur as material becomes available. Techniques used for placement of materials would be implemented based upon the types of material available for placement at the site. Upland restoration could be implemented in future construction if materials suitable for stacking to higher elevations could be obtained. These upland areas could provide flats for shorebird habitat and/or upland and maritime forest habitats.

Sandy grained material could be used to create mound systems. The mound systems would be put into place using hydraulic pumping. Height and width of the mounds would vary based upon the consistency of the material placed at the site. Width and slope of mound construction would also be influenced by a variety of site factors including water depths and tide conditions. Mound placement helps facilitate tidal flow throughout the project area during and after construction and could provide a high degree of habitat complexity.

Sandy grained material could also be used for broad layer placement. Broad layer placement would involve the placement of material in homogenous layers with the goal of elevating the overall base inside of the dike to support future fine grained maintenance material for marsh construction. Fine grained silts and clays could be accommodated by creating containment areas. The containment areas could be created by dredging on-site sand from the interior portion of the containment area and side casting it in order to create ring dikes. Alternately, soft containment strategies such as coir (coconut fiber) logs, straw bales, etc., could be used to construct containments. Finer grain materials could then be placed into these containment areas. Once the placed material settles, additional dredged material could be placed in these areas until the target height has been obtained.

Sub-basins and channels would be incorporated to the extent possible during construction with the goal of ensuring good tidal exchange throughout the project from the onset.

Dredging permits are currently subject to Mississippi Code §49-27-61 which requires beneficial use of the dredged material. The proposed project would provide a location for placement of dredged material deemed suitable by the MDMR for Beneficial Use.

EXISTING CONDITIONS: The subject property is an approximately 18-acre Beneficial Use Site which abuts a former dredged disposal site. The current site has received approximately 7,000 cubic yards of dredged material which consists of intertidal flats and shallow water contained by a riprap dike. The area proposed for expansion is currently water bottoms which vary in depths of -2 to -6 feet MLLW.

PROJECT PURPOSE AND NEED: The overall project purpose is to create approximately 650 acres of coastal flats, uplands and tidal marsh habitat. Establishment of coastal flats, uplands and tidal marsh habitat around the island could restore coastal systems critical to fisheries and migratory birds. Marsh systems have been shown to provide protection of areas from hurricanes and associated tidal surge. The proposed marsh system could provide protection to the mainland area located to the north.

ALTERNATIVES: The alternate use of the material would be to place it on uplands located on the project site and not use it for Beneficial Use which would provide the restoration of tidal marsh habitat in the vicinity of the project impact.

Two additional sites, in the vicinity, are available for beneficial use material; however, their capacities are small in size and would not be able to hold large amounts of dredged material.

WATER QUALITY REVIEW: The original project was reviewed by the Mississippi Department of Water Quality under number WQC2005065. 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.

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT: The original project was reviewed by MDMR's Permitting Branch under number DMR-060061. The applicant has applied for certification from the State 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 MDMR.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) lists 18 endangered, threatened or candidate species as occurring or potentially occurring in Jackson County. The Gulf sturgeon (*Acipenser*) is listed as threatened. Based upon preliminary review of this application and the U.S. Department of the Interior's list of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants, a preliminary determination has been made that these activities designated for the project site may affect but not likely to adversely affect, listed or endangered species or their critical habitat. Notification to the FWS will be furnished via this Public Notice. Notification will also be furnished

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to the Nation Marine Fisheries Department – Protected Resources Division. The original project was reviewed under Biological Opinion number F/SER31:BH.

The Mobile District has determined that the proposed action would not adversely impact Essential Fish Habitat or associated fisheries managed by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council or the National Marine Fisheries Service.

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. Although the extent of federal control and responsibility for these considerations are confined to the limits of the permit area for this particular project, the potential indirect effects that may occur to historic properties as a result of this undertaking are also being considered. At this time, given the history of the dredge material Beneficial Use Site no impacts to any known cultural or historic properties are expected. We are seeking comment from the State Historic Preservation Officer (MDAH), Federally-recognized American Indian tribes, local historical societies, museums, universities, the National Park Service and concerned citizens regarding the existence or the potential for existence of significant cultural and historic properties within the permit area.

Historic architectural or archaeological investigations may be necessary to ascertain the existence of such resources. Efforts will be made through the consultation process to avoid, minimize or mitigate any adverse effects to significant cultural and historic properties that may occur as a result of this undertaking. The District Commander remains the final decision authority.

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 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

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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-2010-01713-KMN MOD1** and should be directed to the District Engineer, U.S. Army Engineer District, Mobile, **Attention: Ms. Kaaren M. Neumann**, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001, with a copy to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Pollution Control, **Attention: Ms. Florance Watson, P.E.**, Post Office Box 2261, Jackson, Mississippi 39225 and the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, **Attention: Mr. James Davis**, 1141 Bayview Avenue, Suite 501, Biloxi, Mississippi 39530.

Comments should be received no later than **15 days** from the date of this Public notice.

If you have any questions concerning this publication, you may contact the project manager via e-mail at **kaaren.m.neumann@usace.army.mil** or phone number **(228) 523-4024**. 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.

MOBILE DISTRICT
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Enclosures



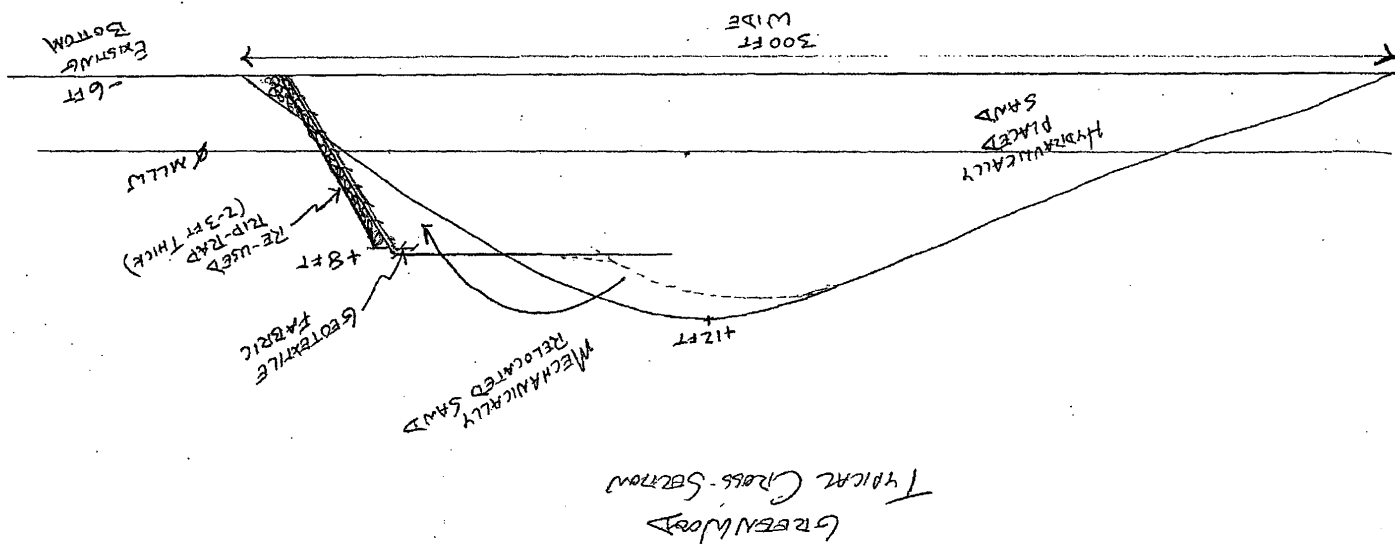
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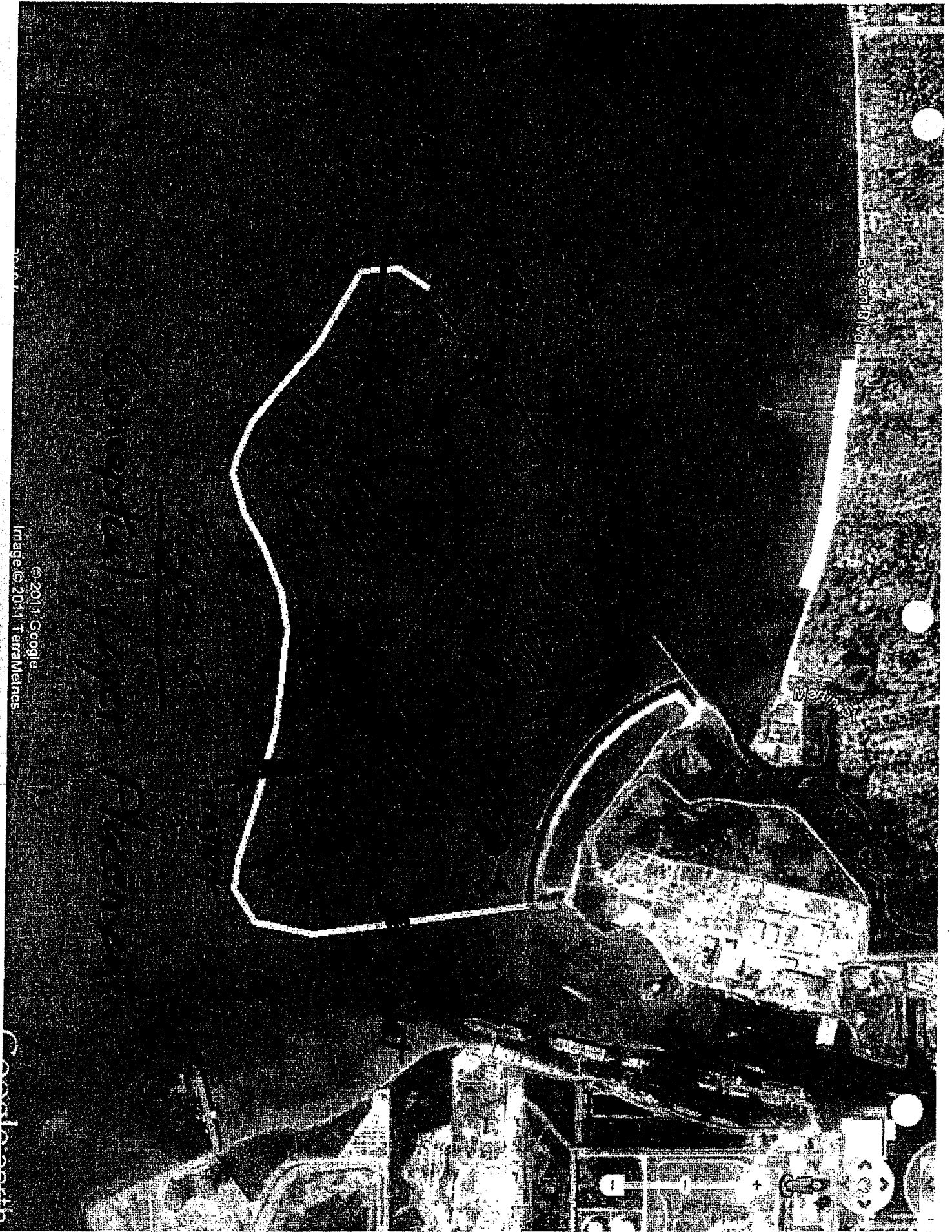


Figure 1
Existing Greenwood Island
and
Proposed Expansion

Figure 4 Conceptual Dike Cross - Section

- SAND ARMED TO CONSTRUCT DIKE ≈ 800K TO 1M CU YDS
- RIP RAP ARMED TO ARMOR EAST + SOUTHWEST DIKE ≈ 16K TONS





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