



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, MOBILE DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 2288
MOBILE, AL 36628-0001

CESAM-PD-EI
PUBLIC NOTICE NO. FP20-AL01-07

September 17, 2020

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, MOBILE DISTRICT
AND
ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

SELMA, ALABAMA FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT
FEASIBILITY STUDY

ALABAMA RIVER
DALLAS COUNTY, ALABAMA

A FEDERALLY AUTHORIZED PROJECT

Interested persons are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Mobile District proposes to perform bank stabilization using a Soldier-Pile Wall design on the Alabama River in the City of Selma, Alabama.

This public notice is issued in accordance with rules and regulations published in the Federal Register on 26 April 1988. These regulations provide for the review of dredging programs for federally authorized projects under the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) whenever dredged or fill materials may enter waters of the United States.

The recipient of this notice is specifically requested to review the proposed action as it may impact water quality relative to the requirements of Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act. Comments on any other potential impacts also are requested.

WATERWAY AND LOCATION: The Study Area is located along the Alabama River in the City of Selma, Alabama. The city itself is divided into wards with each having a representative in the city government. The wards receiving frequent flooding are identified and are the focused project area for this study. They include Wards 1, 3, 6 and 8. Alabama River Miles 256 through 261 have been assessed for this study.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION: The Tentatively Selected Plan (i.e. proposed action) is the construction of a Soldier-Pile Wall for bank stabilization spanning approximately 750 linear feet (ft) coupled with a floodplain management/emergency evacuation plan (FMEEP). Bank stabilization would be achieved through a Soldier-Pile Wall design with riprap caps on the upstream and

downstream ends. More specifically, the wall would consist of wide flange steel sections or precast concrete sections forming the “soldier” piles with precast concrete panels forming the lagging.

Due to the presence of chalk below the surface, it is expected that driving the piles would not be possible. This would, therefore, require the piles to be installed into holes which would be drilled in advance. After installing the piles into the drilled holes, lean concrete or similar material would be used to encase the piles in-place. This encasement and embedment would assist in resisting the bending movement developed from the driving forces exerted by the retained soil. The lagging spans horizontally between these piles. In this scheme the piles are cantilevered, but tie backs could potentially be used to decrease the pile embedment depth, decrease the pile size, or increase the pile spacing. The use of tie backs could especially be advantageous where walls exceed 15 ft in height. However, adequate space must be available to provide tie backs.

Construction of the wall would be accomplished via barge from the Alabama River. Potential staging areas to load barges have yet to be determined. Access would be obtained via river. FMEEP would identify at-risk zones and create a warning and evacuation system designed to efficiently direct citizens out of flood prone areas.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: Pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, state water quality certification is required for the proposed activities. A decision on state water quality certification will be made by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management after completion of the comment period of this public notice.

USE BY OTHERS: The proposed project may have a temporary negative impact on local fishing and boating activities due to construction activities within the Alabama River; however, these impacts will be minor cumulatively and individually. Any direct or indirect impacts will revert to preconstruction conditions upon project completion.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA) CONSIDERATIONS: The project is addressed in the Selma, Alabama Flood Risk Management Feasibility Study Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment (FR/EA) which is publicly available at USACE, Mobile District’s website: <https://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Planning-Environmental/Environmental-Assessments/>. The proposed action is authorized under House Resolution No. 66 dated 7 June 1961 and performed in accordance with Section 1203 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2018.

SECTION 404(b)(1) EVALUATION REPORT: Water quality impacts associated with placing fill material into waters of the United States as a result of the proposed work has been addressed in a preliminary Section 404 (b)(1) Evaluation Report. This report was prepared in accordance with guidelines promulgated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under Section 404 (b)(1) of the Clean Water Act. The preliminary

evaluation report is included in Appendix B of the Draft Integrated FR/EA, which is available for review at the Mobile District's website at <https://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Planning-Environmental/Environmental-Assessments/>, and will be finalized upon completion of the coordination of this notice.

CULTURAL / HISTORIC RESOURCES CONSIDERATIONS: The Study Area contains the most Nationally Registered Historic Properties in a city or town in the State of Alabama. These structures contribute to five National Register Historic Districts: Water Avenue District, Old Towne District, Riverview District, Ice House District, and Civil Rights Historic District. Construction dates of these structures range from the 1830s to the 1960s, and include locally, regionally, and nationally significant structures such as the St. James Hotel, the Brown Chapel A.M.E. church, the former National Voting Rights Museum, and the Edmund Pettus Bridge, a National Historic Landmark. The Tentatively Selected Plan (i.e. proposed action) could have negative impacts to viewshed as the viewshed of the Edmund Pettus Bridge and the Water Avenue and Civil Rights Historic Districts would be altered. These impacts can be mitigated through construction of a natural bankline and Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) among the National Park Service (NPS), the Alabama Historical Commission (AHC), the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), and USACE.

The Study Area contains a number of nationally significant cultural and archeological sites, including the 1865 Civil War Battle of Selma and the 1965 Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights Marches. A portion of the Nationally Registered Selma to Montgomery Trail runs through the Study Area. Few areas of the nation encompass such a comprehensive cultural snapshot of America. The Tentatively Selected Plan (i.e. proposed action) would have adverse impacts to archeological sites along the bank but these impacts could be mitigated through archeological data recovery. Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, these efforts would be captured in a MOA among NPS, the Alabama SHPO, and USACE.

ENDANGERED / THREATENED SPECIES: The footprint of the Soldier-Pile Wall lies within suitable habitat for the Tulotoma Snail (*Tulotoma magnifica*), as identified by Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ALDCNR). Of the entire species population, the largest and healthiest population occurs within the Study Area. This population has not been formally delineated, so the exact range is unknown; however, one can assume that the population spans the entire length of the Soldier-Pile Wall footprint due to the presence of suitable habitat. For this reason, USACE determined that the Tentatively Selected Plan (i.e. proposed action) "may affect and is likely to adversely affect" the Tulotoma Snail. Through early technical assistance, potential Reasonable and Prudent Measures (RPMs), such as relocation surveys, were identified as ways minimize the impacts to the species and avoid jeopardizing the continued species existence.

Additionally, critical habitats for the Alabama Sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus suttkusi*), Orangenacre Mucket (*Lampsilis perovalis*), and Southern Clubshell (*Pleurobema decisum*), exist within the Study Area. Technical coordination with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) suggests the Study Area meets all Primary Constituent Elements necessary to sustain classification as critical habitat. Though the riverbed may experience erosional processes periodically, the “stability” required for species’ needs is less than what’s required for the human environment; therefore, USACE, Mobile District determined that the Tentatively Selected Plan (i.e. proposed action) “may affect and is likely to adversely affect” critical habitat for these species.

The formal consultation process with USFWS under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) is ongoing. A copy of the final Biological Opinion will be included in Appendix B of the Final Integrated FR/EA.

EVALUATION: The decision whether to proceed with the proposed action will be based on 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 may be reasonably 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, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

Inasmuch as the proposed work would involve the discharge of materials into waters of the United States, designation of the proposed disposal site associated with this Federal project is being made through application of guidelines promulgated by the Administrator of the EPA in conjunction with the Secretary of the Army.

COORDINATION: USACE, Mobile District is soliciting comments from the general public; Federal, State, and local agencies, and officials; American Indian Tribes, and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed activity. Any comments received will be used by USACE, Mobile District to determine whether or not to proceed with the proposed action. 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 also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest in the proposed activity and in preparing an EA and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the NEPA compliance.

Among the agencies receiving copies of the Public Notice are:

Region IV, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
Field Supervisor, Fish and Wildlife Service
Regional Director, National Marine Fisheries Service
Regional Director, National Park Service
Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District
Federal Emergency Management Agency
State Conservationist, Alabama, Natural Resources Conservation Service,
U. S. Department of Agriculture
Alabama Department of Environmental Management
Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Alabama State Historic Preservation Officer
Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs

We request that you communicate the information contained in this notice to any other parties who may have an interest in the proposed action.

PUBLIC HEARING: Any person who may be affected by the discharge of this fill material may request a public hearing. The request must be submitted in writing to the District Commander within the comment period of this public notice. The request must clearly set forth the interest which may be affected and the manner in which the interest may be affected by this activity.

CORRESPONDENCE: Correspondence concerning this 30-day public notice should refer to Public Notice No. FP20-AL01-07 and should be directed to the Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, CESAM-PD-EI, Attention: Ms. Heather Bulger, Biologist, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628. Copies of comments should also be forwarded to Alabama Department of Environmental Management, Field Operations Division, Post Office Box 301463, 1400 Coliseum Boulevard, Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1463. Ms. Heather Bulger may be contacted at telephone number (251) 694-3889 or email address heather.p.bulger@usace.army.mil for additional information.

JEREMY M. LADART
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
Mobile District

Figure 1: Vicinity Map

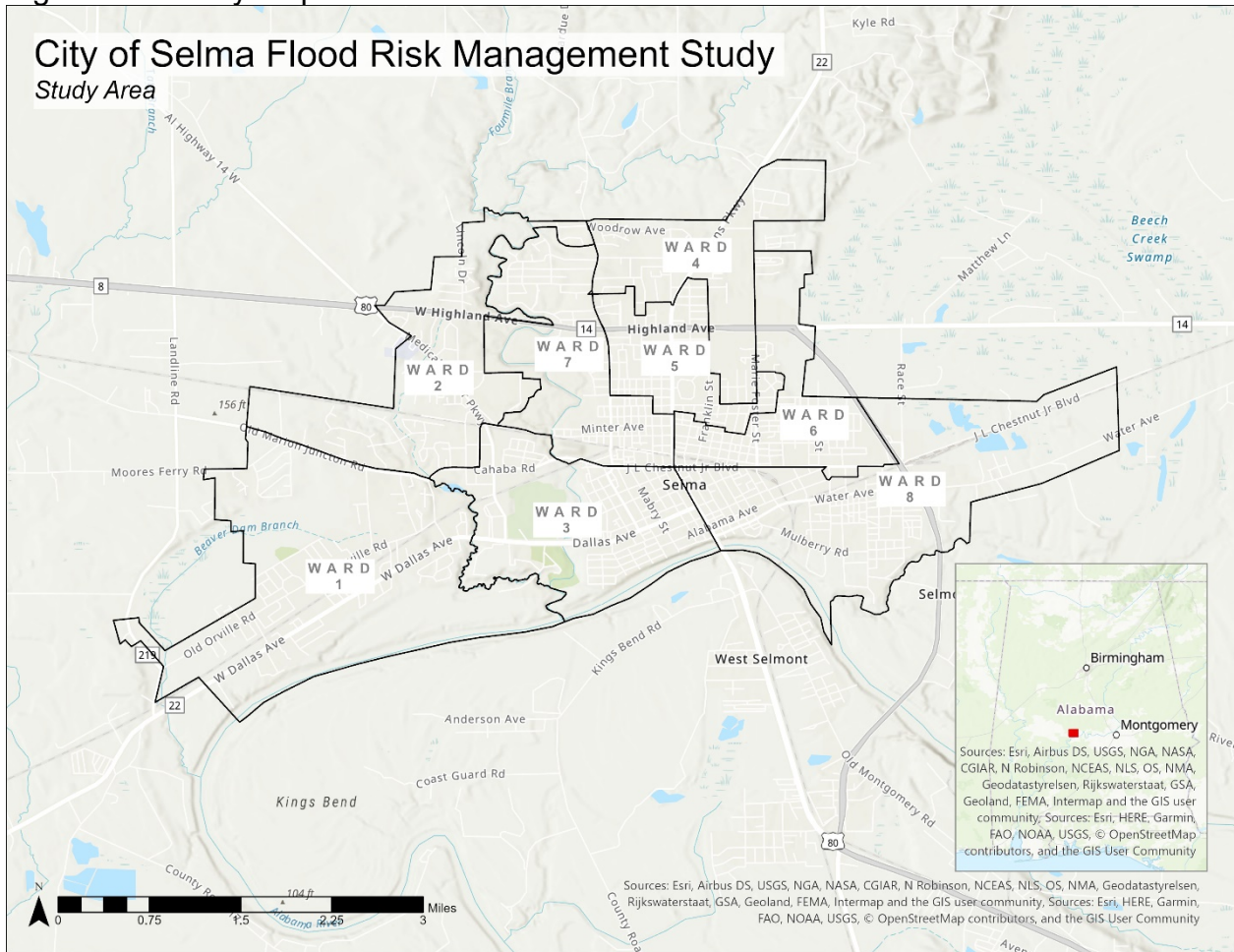
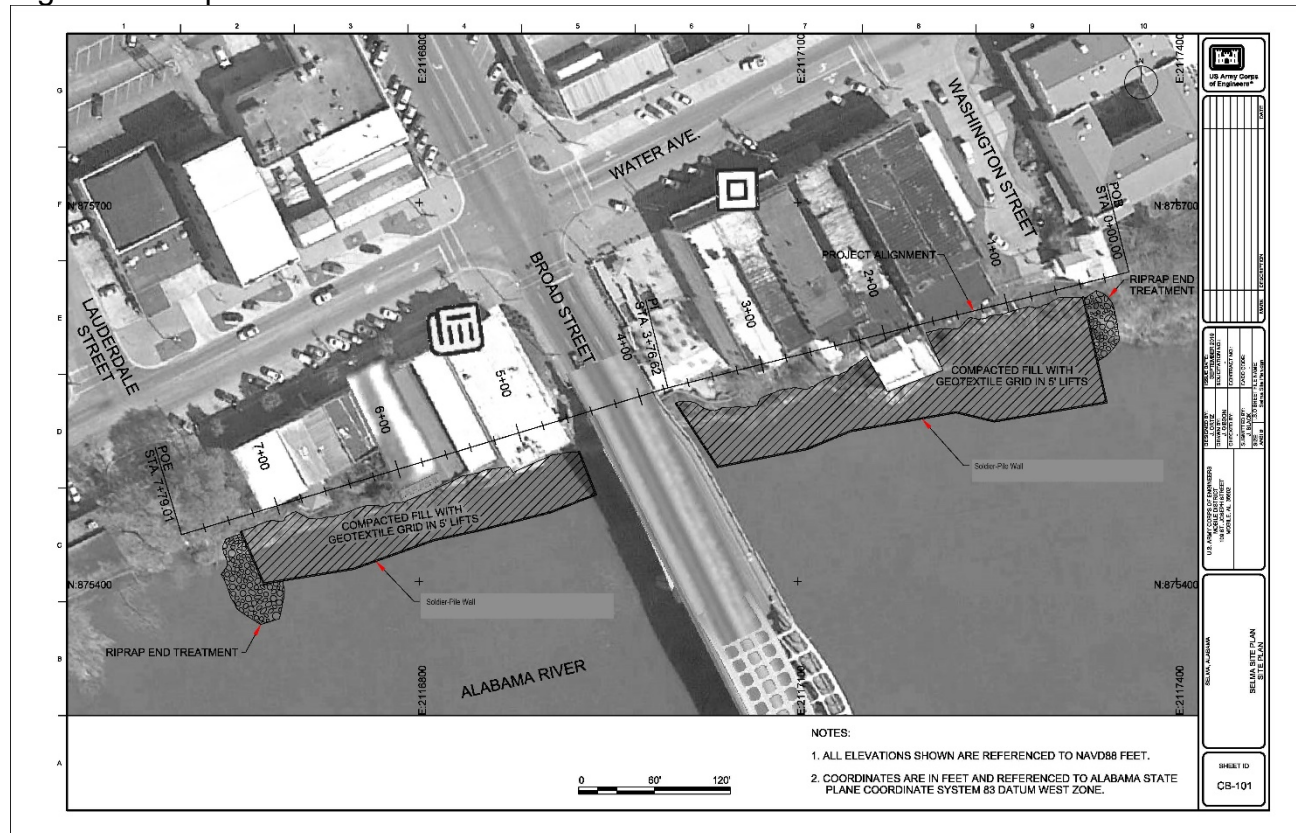


Figure 2: Proposed Action Site Plan



NOTES:
 1. ALL ELEVATIONS SHOWN ARE REFERENCED TO NAVD88 FEET.
 2. COORDINATES ARE IN FEET AND REFERENCED TO ALABAMA STATE PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM 83 DATUM WEST ZONE.

DESIGNED BY: [] CHECKED BY: [] DATE: []	DRAWN BY: [] CHECKED BY: [] DATE: []
TITLE: []	
SHEET ID: CS-101	

Figure 3: Example Cross-Section of Proposed Action

