

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

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

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PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2017-0658-DEM

January 19, 2018

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

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

PROPOSED WETLAND FILL FOR THE EXPANSION OF AN EXISTING SPORTSPLEX IN LAUREL, JONES 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: City of Laurel

Attention: Mayor Johnny Magee

401 North 5th Avenue Laurel, Mississippi 39440

AGENT: Pittman Environmental Services, LLC

Attention: Mr. Bart Pittman

Post Office Box 1926 Purvis, Mississippi 39475

WATERWAY/LOCATION: Wetlands that connect to a Horse Creek located at 4978 U.S. Highway 84, Section 3, Township 8 North, Range 12 West, Laurel, Jones County, Mississippi (Latitude 31.687316° North, Longitude -89.188954° West).

WORK: The applicant proposes to fill 4.58 acres of jurisdictional wetlands and impact approximately 841 linear feet of intermittent stream associated with the approximate 50-acre expansion (approximately 33 acres within grading limits) of the existing City of Laurel Sportsplex. The proposal would expand the existing facilities to include additional sports fields and associated parking required to meet the current demand of public recreational needs. The proposed project area is currently comprised of an abandoned golf course and an abandoned pre-subtitle D landfill to the south of the existing sportsplex. The applicant proposes to provide in-kind compensatory mitigation through a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) approved mitigation bank.

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The applicant has applied for State Water Quality Certification (WQC) in accordance with Section 401(a) (1) of the Clean Water Act, and for Coastal Zone (CZ) Consistency in accordance with the State Coastal Zone Management Program. Upon completion of the required advertising and public comment review, a determination relative to WQC and CZ Consistency will be made by the Mississippi Office of Pollution Control and 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 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 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, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, consideration of property ownership 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 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.

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.

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. In accordance with Appendix C of 33 CFR 325, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has determined the permit area consists of the entire 50-acre expansion site within the abandoned golf course and landfill areas. The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) 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. The USACE has made a preliminary determination that there will be no potential effect to cultural and historic resources within the permit area. However, we are seeking comment from the State Historic Preservation Officer, (SHPO) 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. 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.

A preliminary review of this application, the U.S. Department of the Interior List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants, and the applicant's species survey indicates the proposed activity will have no effect on endangered or threatened species or their critical habitat. In addition, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has previously reviewed (USFWS #2017-1-732) this proposal and concluded the project would have "No Effect" to listed species. This notice serves as request to the Service for concurrence with the USACE determination of No Effect to listed species or critical habitat.

Correspondence concerning this Public Notice should refer to Public Notice Number **SAM-2017-00658-DEM** and should be directed to the USACE, Mobile District, Regulatory Division, Attention: Mr. Don Mroczko, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001, 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.

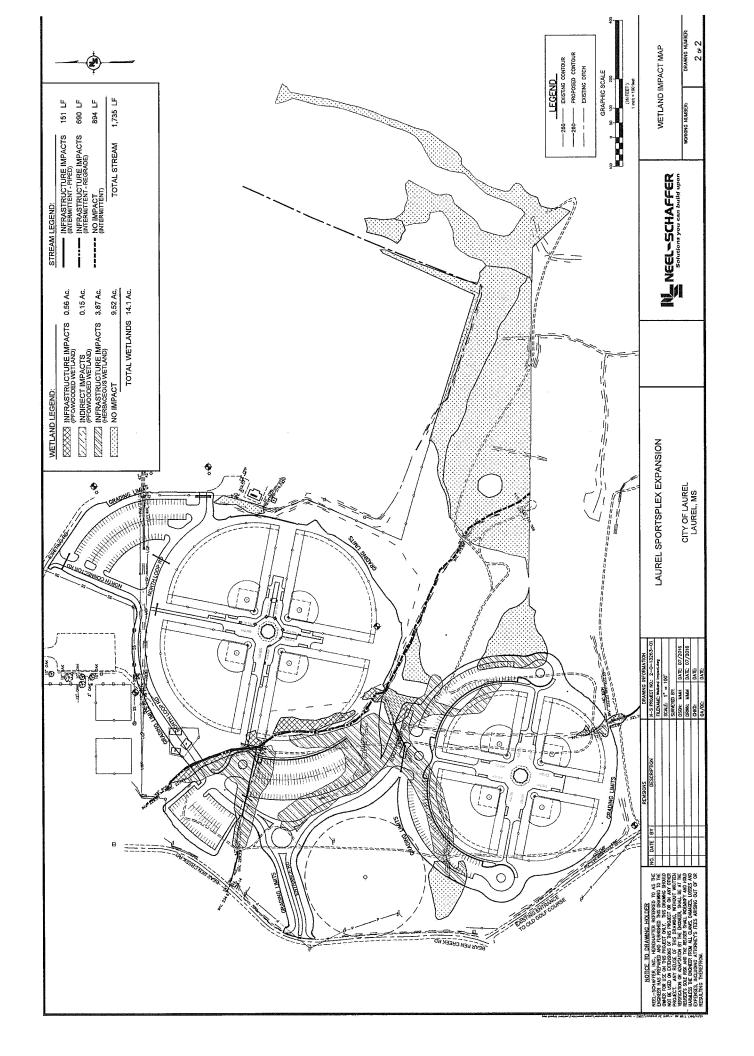
All Comments should be received no later than 30 days from the date of this Public Notice. If you have any questions concerning this publication, you may contact the project manager at (251) 690-3185 or email donald.e.mroczko@usace.army.mil. Please refer to the above Public Notice number.

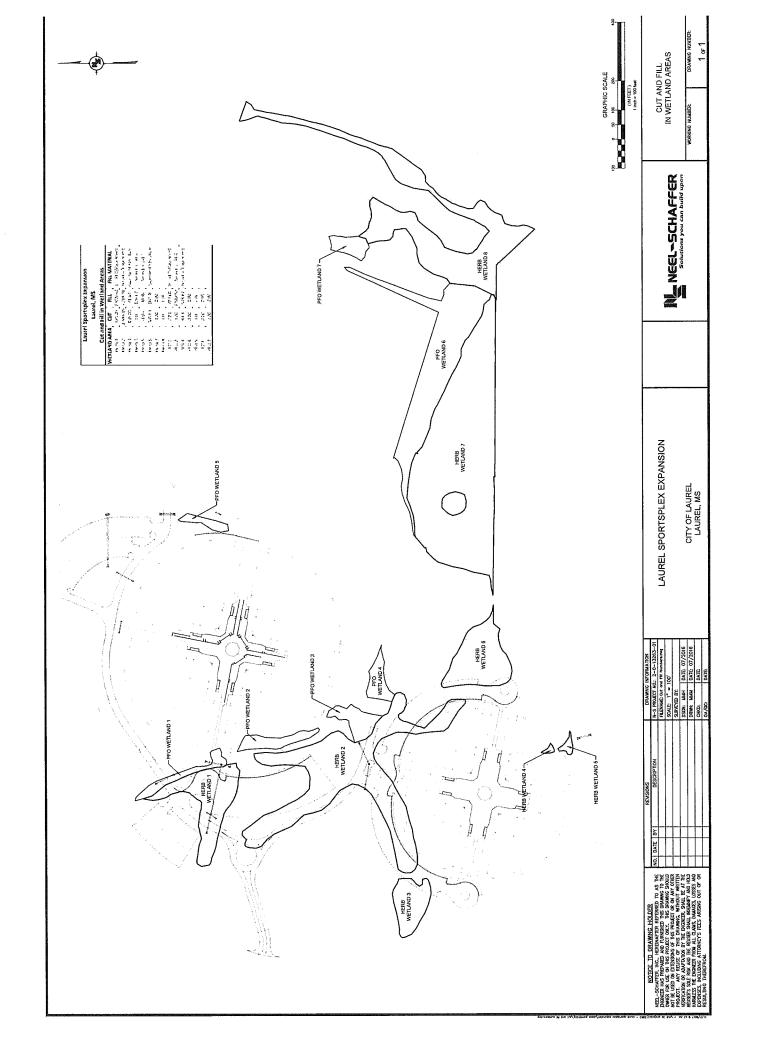
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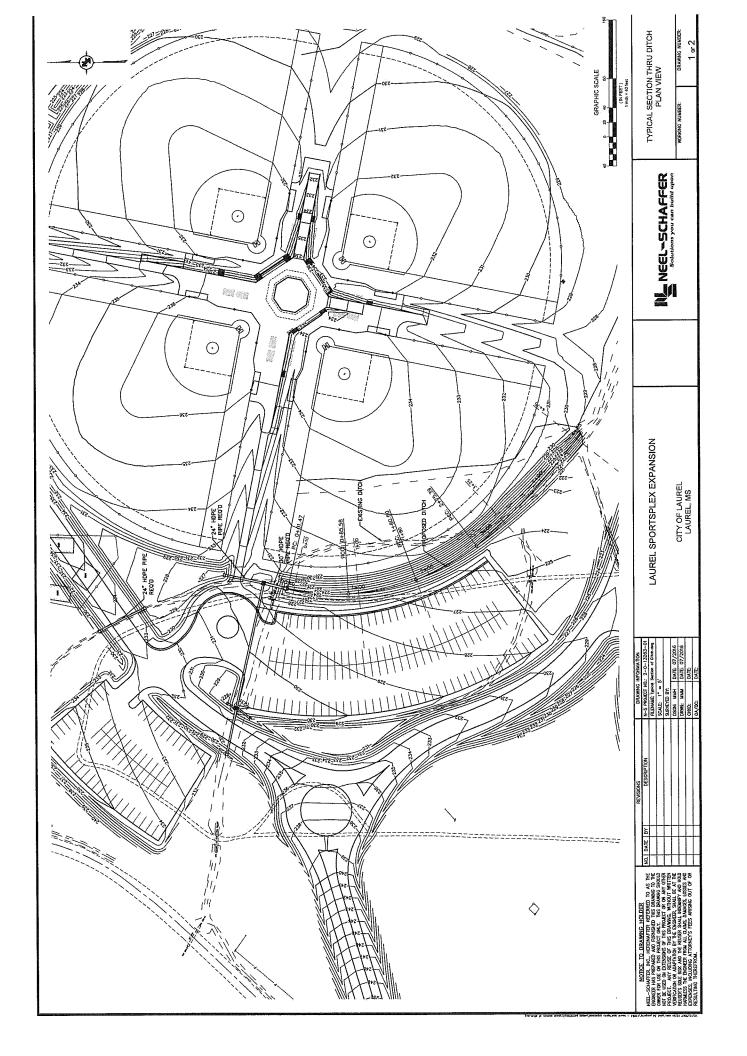
For additional information about our Regulatory Program, please visit our website at www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.

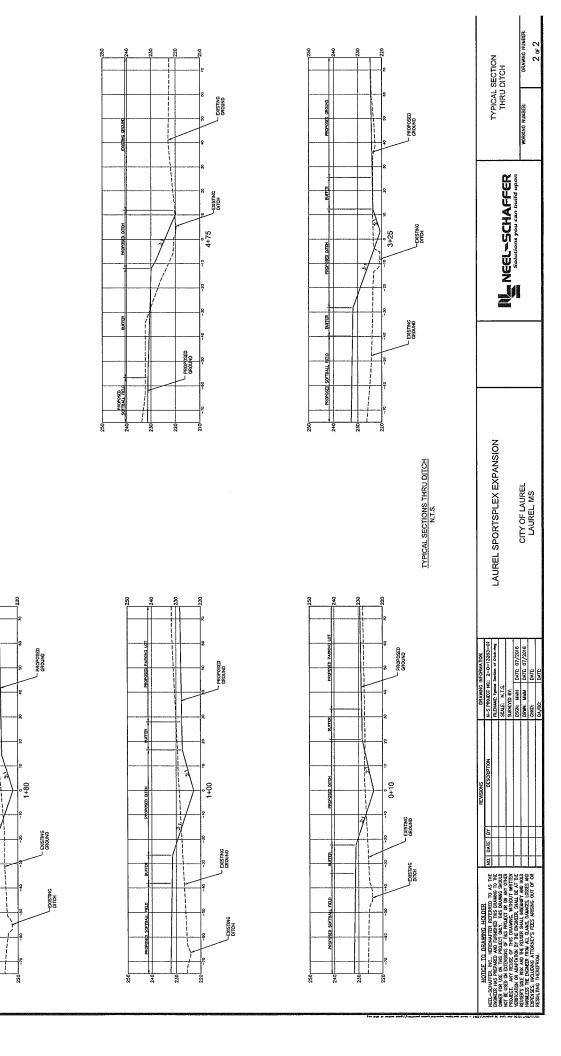
MOBILE DISTRICT U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Enclosures









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