



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

CESAM-RD-N
PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2014-00470-JMT

DATE 17 July 2014

**JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND
STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

**REQUEST FOR THE FILLING OF WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES ASSOCIATED WITH
THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SCHOOL CAMPUS, LOWNDES 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: Lynn Wright, Superintendent
Lowndes County School District
1053 Highway 45 South
Columbus, Mississippi 39701

AGENT: Headwaters, Inc.
Attention: Mr. Walt Dinkelacker
Post Office Box 2836
Vicksburg, Mississippi 39158

LOCATION: The proposed project site is located at 99 Confederate Drive in the Caledonia Community, Lowndes County, Mississippi. Specifically, the project site is located in Section 16, Township 16 South, Range 17 West and is centered at coordinates N33.678072, W-88.328798. Impacts to waters of the United States are located in the Buttahatchee watershed (HUC 03160103).

WORK: The applicant proposes to fill .46 acres of forested wetlands and 2,420.06 linear feet of streams associated with the construction of an elementary school building, parking lots, sidewalks and a soccer field.

PURPOSE AND NEED: The applicant stated: "The Caledonia School District currently houses all three schools (i.e. elementary, middle school and high school) on one campus. As the District population has grown and some of the facility's conditions have deteriorated, safety is an issue of major concerns. The campus is too small and has become congested especially during arrival and departure times. Constructing a new elementary school within close proximity of the existing campus allows the school to achieve efficiency in maintenance/support, logistics (bus pick up and drop off) and deliveries."

AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION: The applicant proposes to avoid 1099.83 linear feet of streams located within the project area.

MITIGATION: The applicant is proposing to purchase credits at a Corps approved mitigation bank for impacts associated with this project.

The applicant has not yet applied for certification from the State of Mississippi in accordance with Section 401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act.

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 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 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.

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.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: 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. We are seeking comment from the State Historic Preservation Officer, 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.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: Preliminary review of this application and the U.S. Department of the Interior List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants indicate that the proposed activity most likely will not affect listed endangered or threatened species, or their critical habitat. **By letter dated May 7, 2014, the USFWS stated: "There are no listed species or their habitats within the project activity. Therefore, we anticipate that no species will be impacted by the work activities."**

Correspondence concerning this Public Notice should refer to Public Notice Number SAM-2014-00470-JMT and should be directed to:

U.S. Army Engineer District, Mobile
Birmingham Field Office
Attention: Mr. Joseph Tanko
218 Summit Parkway, Suite 222
Homewood, Alabama 35209

with a copy to the:

State of Mississippi
Department of Environmental Quality
Post Office Box 2261
Jackson, Mississippi 39225

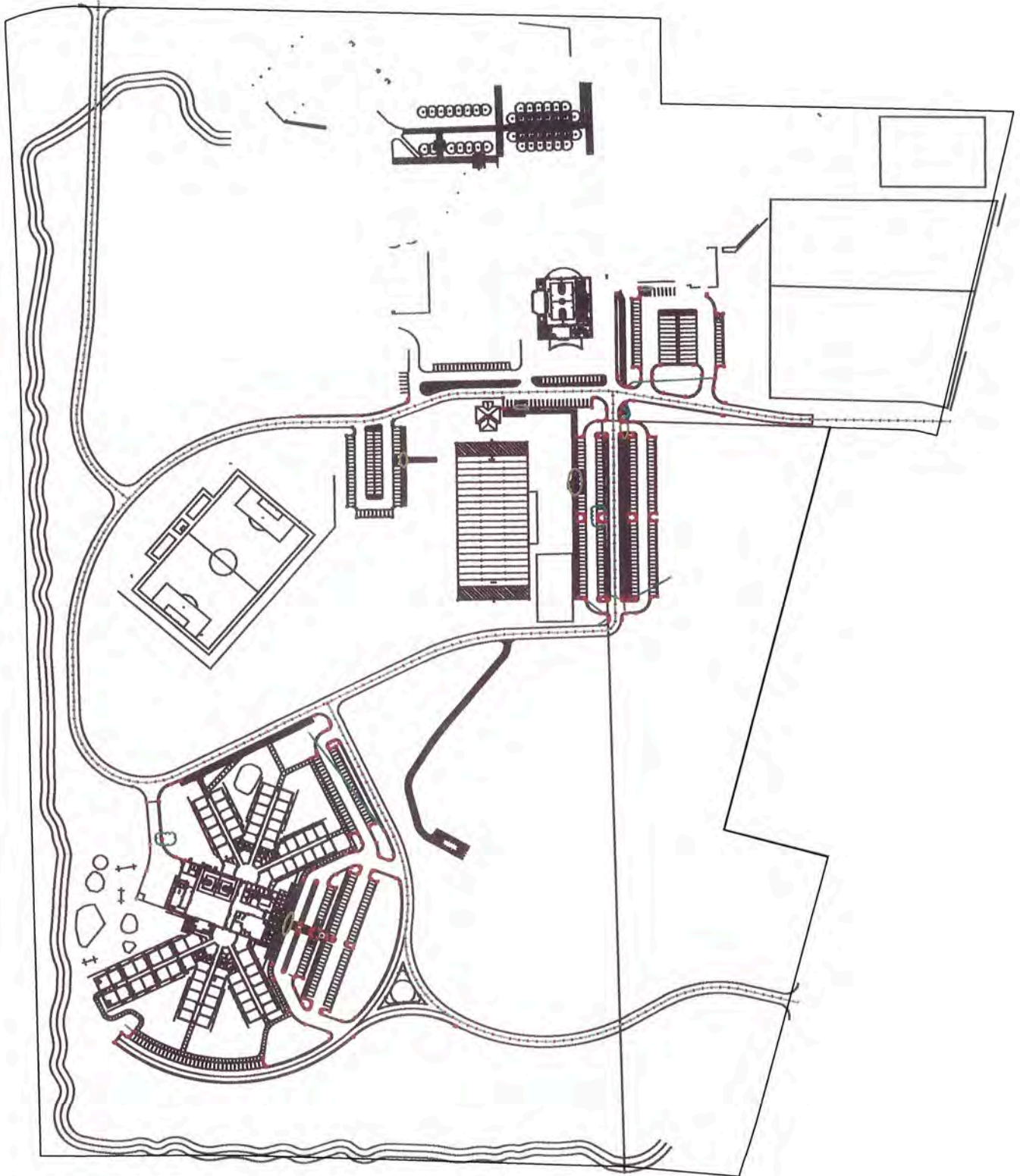
Comments should be received no later than **30 days** from the date of this Public Notice.

If you have any questions concerning this publication, you may contact the project manager via e-mail at joseph.m.tanko@usace.army.mil or telephone number **(205) 290-9096**. Please refer to the above Public Notice number.

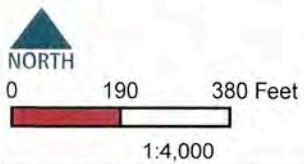
For additional information about our Regulatory Program, please visit our web site at www.sam.usace.army.mil/Home/reg, and please take a moment to complete our customer satisfaction survey while you're there. Your responses are appreciated and will allow us to improve our services.

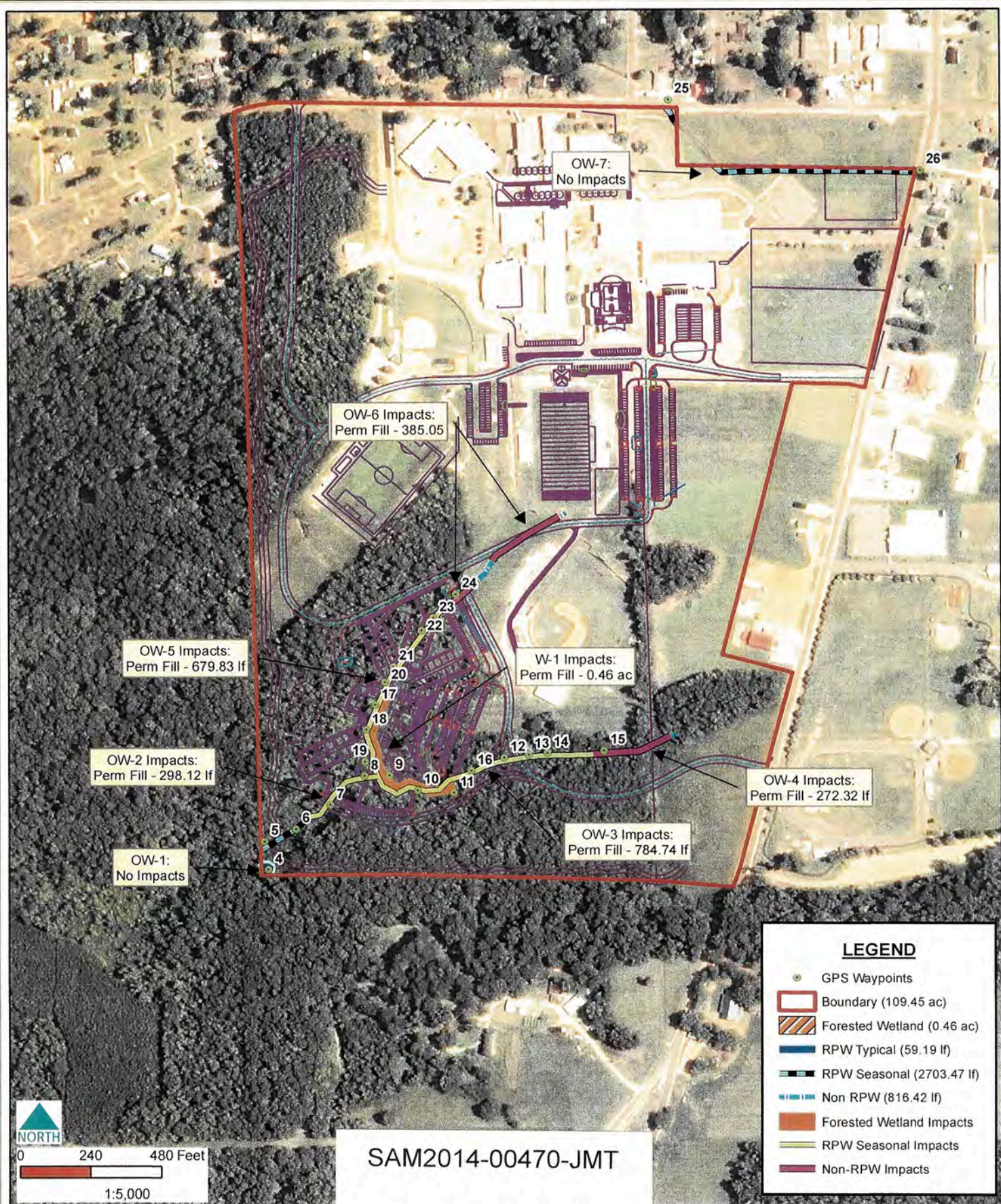
MOBILE DISTRICT
U.S. Army Corps of Engineer

Enclosures



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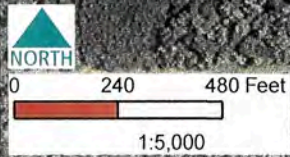




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LEGEND

- GPS Waypoints
- Boundary (109.45 ac)
- ▨ Forested Wetland (0.46 ac)
- RPW Typical (59.19 lf)
- RPW Seasonal (2703.47 lf)
- Non RPW (816.42 lf)
- ▨ Forested Wetland Impacts
- RPW Seasonal Impacts
- Non-RPW Impacts



Caledonia School
Lowndes County, Mississippi

Wetland Impacts Map
Engineer's Site Plan

USDA NAIP 2012