



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

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

CESAM-RD-M
PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2015-00893-MJF

July 22, 2019

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
OFFICE OF POLLUTION CONTROL

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES
DMR-160012

PROPOSED IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE EXPANSION OF AN EXISTING PARKING
LOT, WETLANDS ASSOCIATED WITH BAY ST. LOUIS, HANCOCK COUNTY,
MISSISSIPPI

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This District has received an application for a Department of the Army (DA) permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Please communicate this information to interested parties.

APPLICANT: **Diamondhead Country Club and POA, Inc.**
Attention: **Mr. Tom Koger**
7610 Country Club Circle
Diamondhead, Mississippi 39525
tkoger@dhpoa.org

AGENT: **Culpepper and Associates**
Attention: **Mr. Billy Culpepper**
P.O. Box 1407
Long Beach, Mississippi 39560
billyculpepper@gmail.com

LOCATION: In wetlands associated with Bay St. Louis, Diamondhead Drive East at an existing recreational facility, Section 1, Township 8 South, Range 14 West, Latitude 30.3819° North, Longitude -89.3537° West, City of Diamondhead, Hancock County, Mississippi.

WORK: The applicant proposes to place approximately 3,500 cubic yards fill material in 1.3 acre of low quality wet pine savannah wetlands to expand an existing parking lot associated with an adjacent recreational facility. Upon completion of final grade, the parking area would be completed with pervious surfaces. A DA Nationwide Permit (NWP) was issued in September 2015 for the initial parking lot expansion as well an additional ingress/egress road. A total of 0.47 acre of wetland fill was authorized.

Best management practices would be implemented during and following all construction activities.

EXISTING CONDITIONS: The project site has been clear cut with the majority consisting of recreational facilities including baseball fields, tennis courts, a swimming pool, existing parking areas, and associated building structures. The site is bordered by Diamondhead Drive East to the north, residential homes to the west and northeast, and a forested buffer zone to the east and south. Just south of the buffer zone is Interstate-10.

PROJECT PURPOSE: As stated by the applicant, "To provide adequate parking for the existing recreational facility known as East Recreational Area." The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) initially determined the basic project purpose is parking expansion and would not be considered a water dependent activity. Additional review will be performed by the USACE and cooperating agencies.

ALTERNATIVES: The USACE's initial review of alternatives submitted by the applicant consists of the No Action Alternative and one off-site alternative. Additional review of alternatives will be performed by the USACE and cooperating agencies.

MITIGATION: Compensatory mitigation is required for the loss of 1.3 acres of low quality wet pine savanna. The applicant is proposing mitigation through the purchase of 2.6 mitigation credits from an approved mitigation bank. Additional review of mitigation requirements will be performed by the USACE and cooperating agencies. Final compensatory mitigation will be evaluated by the USACE and cooperating resource agencies throughout the review process for the proposed project.

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 applied for coastal zone consistency from the State of Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR) in accordance with Section 57-15-6 of the Mississippi Code Annotated. The MDMR issued consistency by letter dated February 14, 2019. (DMR-160012).

This public notice is being distributed to all known interested persons in order to assist in developing facts on which a decision by the 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 benefits, 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, protected species, 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 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 the 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 for consideration of 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 effect cultural and historic properties within the permit area. In accordance with Appendix C of 33 CFR Part 325, the USACE has determined that the permit area is the full area of proposed parking area. The National Park Service, National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) database has been consulted. No known archaeological sites are located within or very close to the project area. The proposed project will have **no potential to cause effects** on cultural resources in the permit area. 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 the general public regarding the existence or the potential for existence of significant cultural and historic properties which may be affected by the work. By letter to the MDMR dated December 20, 2018, the MDAH stated that "no cultural resources eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places are likely to be affected by the project; and as such, we have no objections with the undertaking." (MDAH Project Log #12-073-18).

Preliminary review of this application and the U.S. Department of the Interior List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants indicated the following species may be present within the affected 12-digit HUC: the West Indian Manatee (E) (*Trichechus manatus*), the Wood Stork (T) (*Mycteria Americana*), the Gopher tortoise (T)(*Gopherus polyphemus*), the Mississippi Gopher Frog (E) (*Rana sevosa*), the Piping Plover (T)(*Charadrius melodus*), the Red Knot (T)(*Calidris canutus rufa*), the Loggerhead Sea Turtle(E)(*Caretta caretta*), and the Gulf Sturgeon(T)(*Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi*). No listed critical habitat is located on or near the project site. Preliminary review of this application and the U.S. Department of the Interior List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants for the 12-HUC watershed suggest that the proposed activity will have **no effect** on listed endangered or threatened species or critical habitat. This determination is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service via this public notice.

Correspondence concerning this Public Notice should refer to Public Notice Number **SAM-2015-00893-MJF**, and should be directed to the District Engineer, Mobile District, Biloxi Field Office, Attention: **Ms. Maryellen Farmer**, 1141 Bayview Avenue, Suite 104, Biloxi, Mississippi 39530, with a copy to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Pollution Control, **Attention: Ms. Florance Bass, P.E.**, Post Office Box 2261, Jackson, Mississippi 39225.

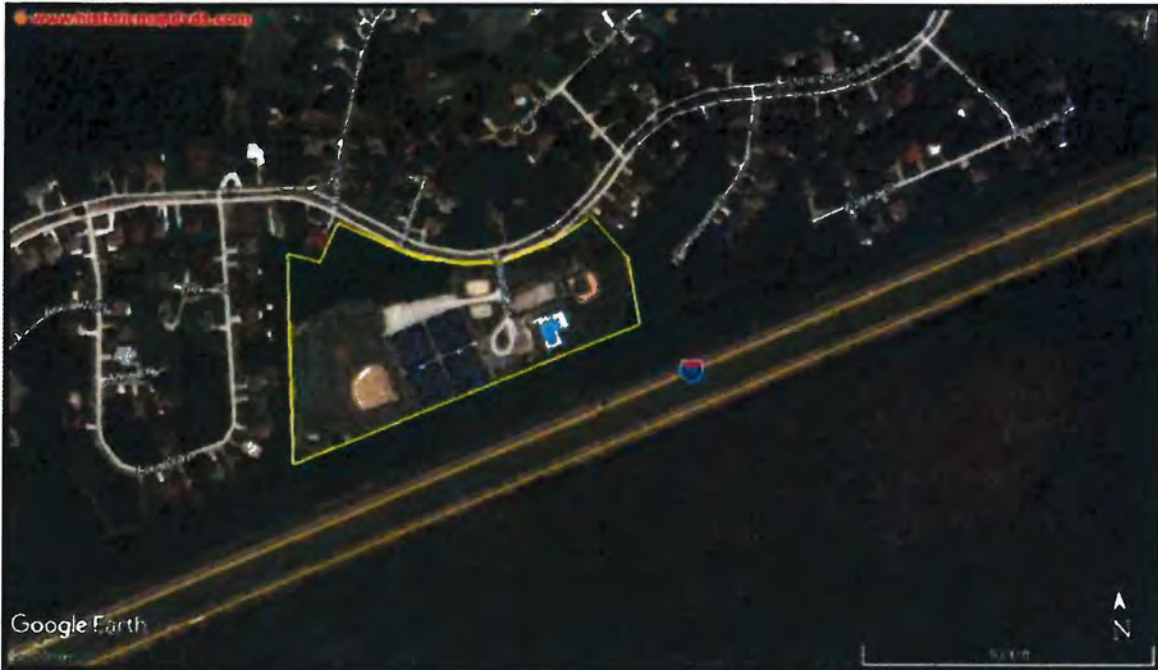
All Comments should be received no later than 30 days from the date of this Public Notice. If you have any questions concerning this publication, you may contact the project manager at (228) 523-4116, or email at maryellen.j.farmer@usace.army.mil. Please refer to the above Public Notice number.

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

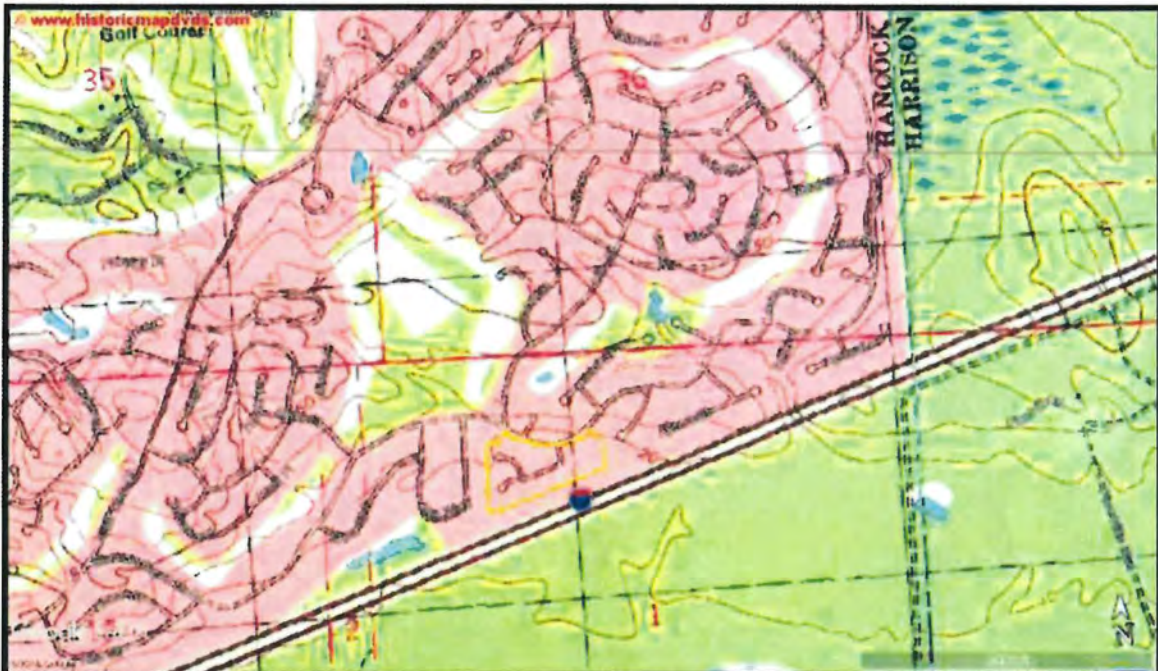
MOBILE DISTRICT
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Enclosures

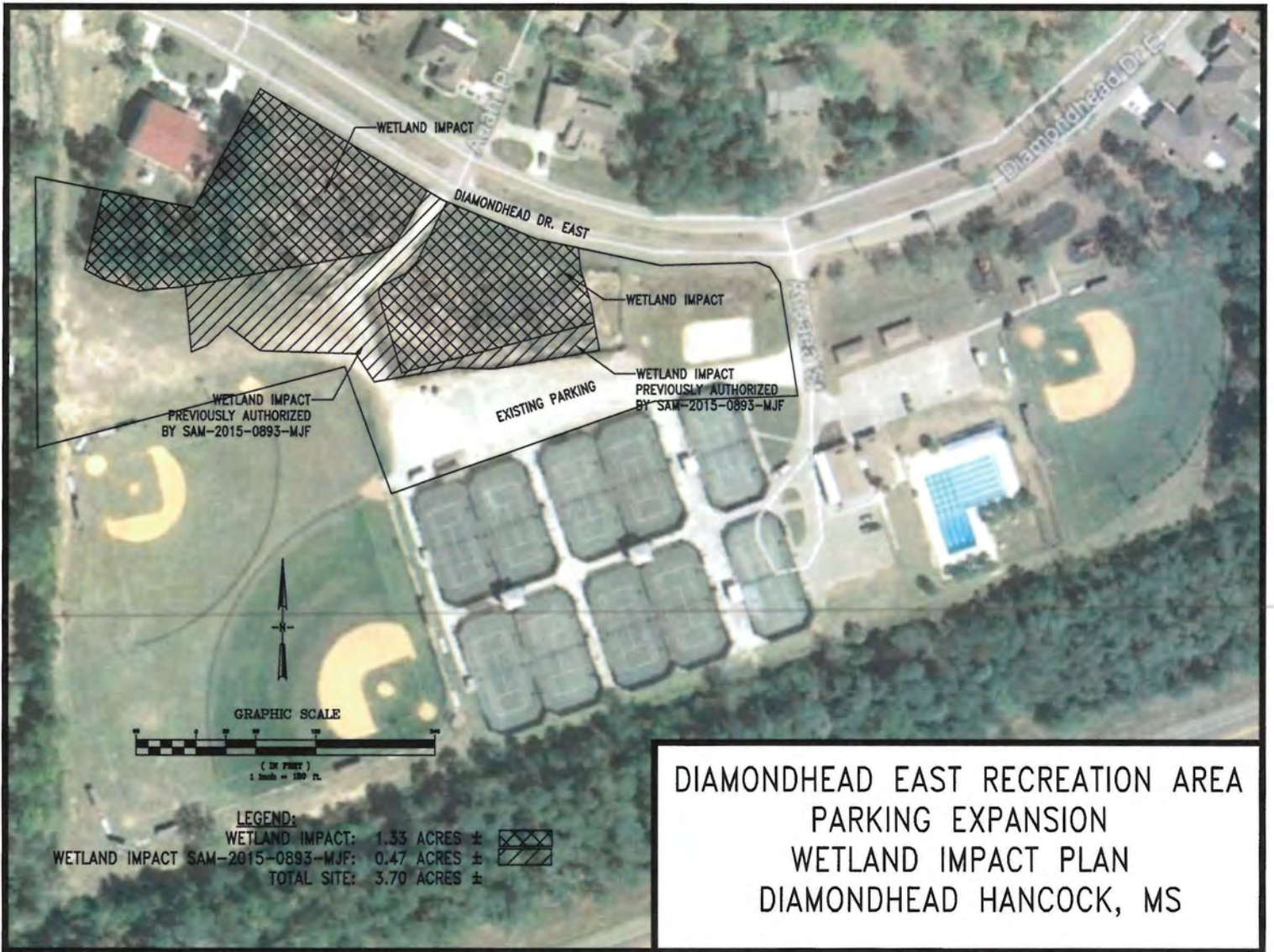
Diamondhead POA and Country Club, Inc.



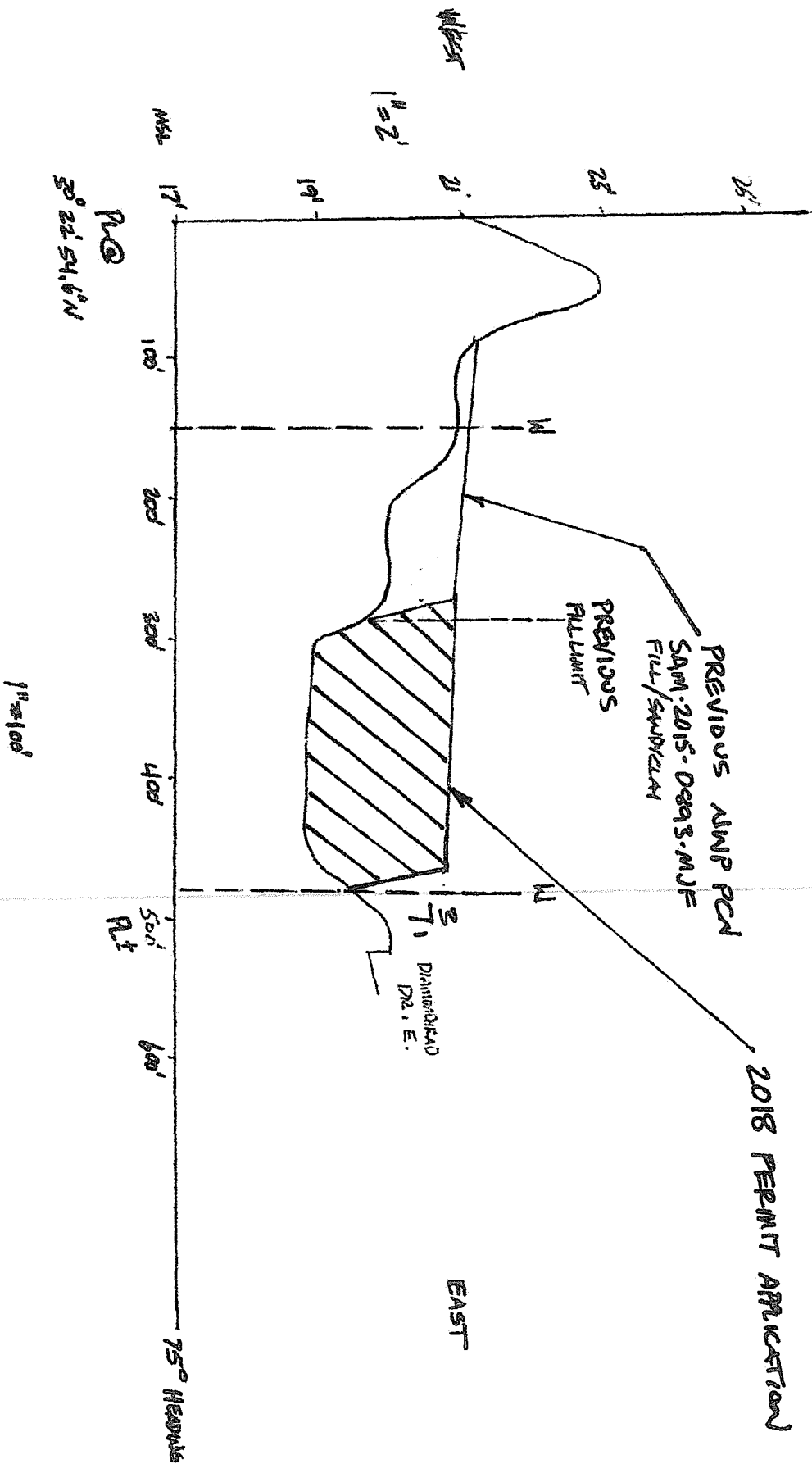
Site Perimeter Aerial



Site Perimeter, USGS Quadrangle, Dedeaux 7.5' Series



AMENDMENT JULY 15, 2019



DIAMONDHEAD POA CLASS-SECTION A
M: METRAID SAMI-2015-0893-MJF