

#### **DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, MOBILE DISTRICT 600 VESTAVIA PARKWAY, SUITE 203 VESTAVIA, ALABAMA 35216

October 31, 2024

CESAM-RD-N
PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2017-00523-JMT

### JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

## MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY OFFICE OF POLLUTION CONTROL

# PROPOSED DISCHARGE OF FILL MATERIAL INTO 878.88 LINEAR FEET OF STREAMS ASSOCIATED WITH SAFETY REQUIREMENTS AT THE MERIDIAN REGIONAL AIRPORT, LAUDERDALE 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: Meridian Airport Authority

Attention: Mr. Tom Williams 2811 Airport Boulevard South Meridian, Mississippi 39307

Agent: Headwaters, Inc.

Attention: Mr. Clay Cromwell

P.O. Box 2836

Ridgeland, Mississippi, 39158

**LOCATION**: The project is located on the west side of the Meridian Regional Airport in streams that drain into Oakatibbee Creek in Meridian, Lauderdale County, Mississippi, Latitude 32.347624 Longitude -88.750683.

**WORK DESCRIPTION**: The applicant is proposing to fill 31 linear feet (LF) or 0.02 acre of intermittent stream, S1, to repair a culvert and levee structure in the southwest section of the airport. This work is currently being conducted to avoid imminent loss of infrastructure. Additionally, due to the requirement of a 1000-foot safety perimeter from the runway, approximately 848.88 LF of intermittent stream, S2, located in the northwest section of the airport will be re-routed to meet the clearance requirement.

**PURPOSE**: The purpose of these drainage improvements is to minimize impacts to aviation signals during potential flood events.

**AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION**: Avoidance and minimization measures have not been presented at this time. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will assess if there are

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measures that need to be implemented.

**COMPENSATORY MITIGATION**: The applicant proposes to purchase wetland credits from an approved mitigation bank.

**WATER QUALITY**: The applicant is in the process of acquiring 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 by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality.

HISTORIC PROPERTIES/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 affect cultural and historic properties within the permit area. The USACE has not made a determination of effects to historic properties at this time. Further coordination with the MDAH and/or federally recognized American Indian tribes will be performed as determined to be appropriate. The USACE is 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.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES: 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 project area: Northern Long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) (T), Tri-colored Bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*) (PE), Alligator Snapping Turtle (*Macrochelys temminckii*) (PT), and Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) (C). The USACE has not made a determination regarding effects of the project on the above-listed species at this time. Further coordination with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will be performed as determined to be appropriate. A copy of this public notice is being sent to the USFWS for review and comment.

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 impacts, 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,

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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 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 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-2017-00523-JMT** and should be directed to USACE, Mobile District, Regulatory Division, Attention: Ms. Angela M. Rangel, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001, with a copy to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Pollution Control, Environmental Permitting Division, Attention: Ms. Carrie Barefoot, Post Office Box 2261, Jackson, Mississippi 39225. Comments may also be submitted via e-mail to USACE at angela.m.rangel@usace.army.mil.

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) 455-6785 or email at <a href="mailto:angel@usace.army.mil">angel@usace.army.mil</a>. Please refer to the above Public Notice number. For additional information about our Regulatory Program, please visit our web site at <a href="https://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx">www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx</a>.

MOBILE DISTRICT U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Enclosures











