



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

CESAM-RD-M
PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2019-00311-RCV

April 18, 2019

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

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
OFFICE OF POLLUTION CONTROL

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

PROPOSED IMPACTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A CONNECTOR ROAD,
ON WETLANDS ADJACENT TO THE BILOXI RIVER,
BILOXI, HARRISON 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. Please communicate this information to interested parties.

APPLICANT: City of Biloxi
Attention: Ms. Christy Lebarard
P.O. Box 429
Biloxi MS 39530

AGENT: Dana R. Sanders, Jr.
19032 Old Port Gibson Road
Utica, MS 39175

LOCATION OF WORK AND WATERWAY: The Medical Park Drive Road Connector project is located on a 1.39-acre tract located between Medical Park Drive and Ellzey Place Drive. The project site will impact 0.84 acres of medium quality bottomland hardwood/ pine savanna wetlands adjacent to the Biloxi River, Section 12, Township 7 South, Range 10 West, Biloxi, Harrison County, Mississippi (Latitude 30.446559° North, Longitude 88.943108° West).

PROJECT PURPOSE: The basic project purpose of the proposed development is a road crossing. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has initially determined this project to be non-water dependent.

EXISTING CONDITIONS: The project is located between Medical Park Drive on the east and a stub road which borders the property to the west. The 1.39 acre consists of a wetland drainage separating two ridges in which Medical Park Drive and Ellzey Place Drive are located. Currently, the property is forested with a mature pine/hardwood canopy and dense sapling/shrub stratum.

ALTERNATIVES: The project is a linear project which joins two roads at the closest points. Selection criteria of the preferred alternative was based upon location. There are

actually no practical alternatives to this project as the purpose of the project would connect stubbed roads within the Ellzey development and the Medical Park. Engineers planning these developments stubbed roads to be connected at a later time, and to provide an alternate route to Interstate 10 for the Ellzey Development. On-site alternatives were considered for environmental concerns. There could be no other project design alternative that would result in as few wetland impacts as the project design, without further reducing the scope of the project.

PROPOSED WORK: This project consists of a road right of way which is 760 feet in length and 80 feet wide. The road way will have an east and west lane separated by median which will be grassed with light poles, utilities and sidewalks. The roadway and improved shoulder will be sloped and graded to meet local requirements with culverts installed in order to maintain hydrological connection. The site has 0.84 acre of wetlands, of which 0.84 acre is proposed to be permanently filled.

AVOIDANCE & MINIMIZATION: The plan view of the project shows that impacts to wet pine savanna wetlands are unavoidable for this project. The proposed road connector crosses the wetlands at the narrowest point in a straight line between the two roads. No other configuration could be offered that would result in fewer wetland impacts without reducing the scope of the project.

The applicant states that minimization of wetland impacts will be carried out by best management practices (i.e. over-seeding) will be carried out in all areas where bare ground exists in order to minimize sediment loading of surface runoff. Silt fences will be constructed and maintained to prevent sedimentation. The USACE has not verified the accuracy or adequacy of the applicant's avoidance and minimization at this time.

MITIGATION: The applicant proposes to purchase sufficient number of in-kind credits from a USACE's approved mitigation bank. The applicant proposes to mitigate the impacts of 0.84 acres of medium quality wetlands with the purchase of 2.52 credits from an IRT-approved wetlands mitigation bank. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has not verified the adequacy of this mitigation proposal at this time.

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 by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality.

The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) will be consulted for properties listed in or eligible for the National Register, which would be affected by the proposed work. Copies of this notice are being sent to the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, and Division of Archeological Services for further consultation and comments. Previous investigations for the facility have determined that no properties are listed in or eligible for listing in the NRHP. In accordance with Appendix C of 33 CFR Part 325, the USACE has determined the permit area is the full area of development for the overall project footprint. The agent representing the applicant submitted a Cultural Resource Assessment of the current permit review area to the Mississippi Department

of Archives and History (MDAH) for review. Copies of this public notice are being sent to the SHPO.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: Preliminary review of this application and the U.S. Department of the Interior List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants indicate the proposed activity may require additional coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). The site contains the presence of dense sapling/ shrub stratum, and to the lack of any supporting habitat that might otherwise be potentially occupied by the gopher tortoise, red-cockaded woodpeckers, Louisiana quillwort, Dusky gopher frog, Black Pine Snake, Mississippi Sandhill Crane, Alabama Red Bellied Turtle, Wood Stork, or other Federally listed species that may occur temporarily or otherwise in coastal Mississippi.

Pine timber which could be used for potential foraging habitat by the red-cockaded woodpeckers is disconnected by 0.25 miles or more of open space from any adjacent potential habitat

The site was surveyed by the agent representing the applicant and no evidence of occupancy (burrows or tracks) was found, allowing the conclusion the site is not occupied by gopher tortoises. The conclusion of a quillwort survey conducted on this site is that no quillwort exists on this site, nor is there any potential habitat. Additional coordination will be performed with the FWS on the proposed project.

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 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, 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 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (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.

Correspondence concerning this Public Notice should refer to Public Notice Number **SAM-2019-00311-RCV** and should be directed to the District Engineer, U.S. Army Engineer District Mobile, Attention: **Mr. Rudolph C. Villarreal**, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001, 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 and the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, **Attention: Ms. Jennifer Wilder**, 1141 Bayview Avenue, Suite 101, Biloxi, Mississippi 39530.

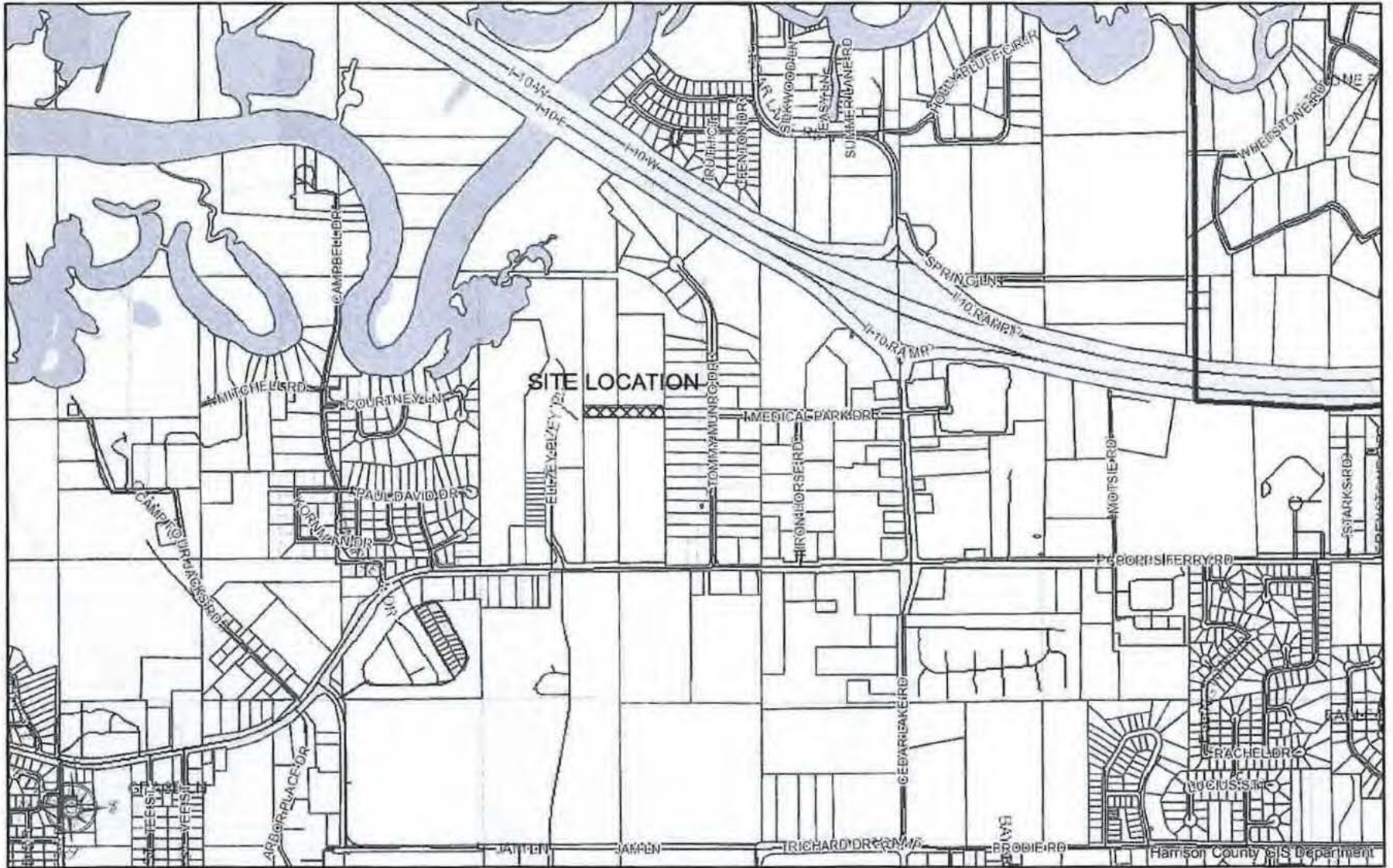
All Comments should be received no later than 30 days from the date of this Public Notice. If you have any questions concerning this publication, you may contact the project manager at (251) 690-3246, or at rudolph.c.villarreal@usace.army.mil. Please refer to the above Public Notice number.

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

Encls

MOBILE DISTRICT
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

FIGURE 1. SITE LOCATION FOR MEDICAL PARK ROAD CONNECTOR



HARRISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

DISCLAIMER: THIS MAP IS FOR PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT PURPOSES ONLY. IT WAS CONSTRUCTED FROM PROPERTY INFORMATION RECORDED IN THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTER OF DEEDS AND IS NOT CONCLUSIVE AS TO LOCATION OF PROPERTY OR LEGAL OWNERSHIP. TAL FLURRY, TAX ASSESSOR.

MAP DATE: March 12, 2019

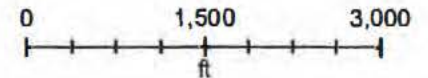


FIGURE 2. PROJECT LAYOUT FOR MEDICAL PARK DRIVE CONNECTOR

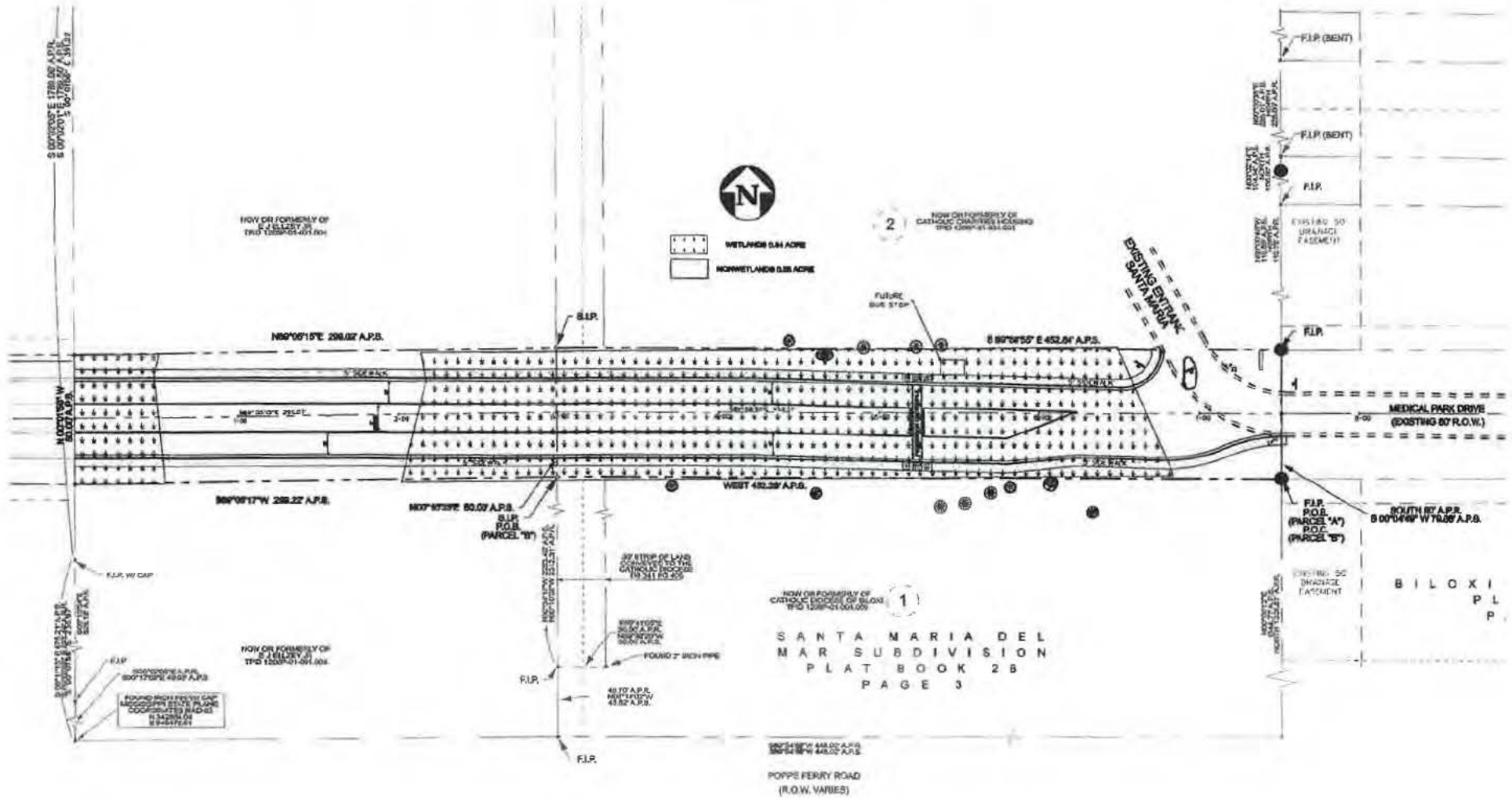
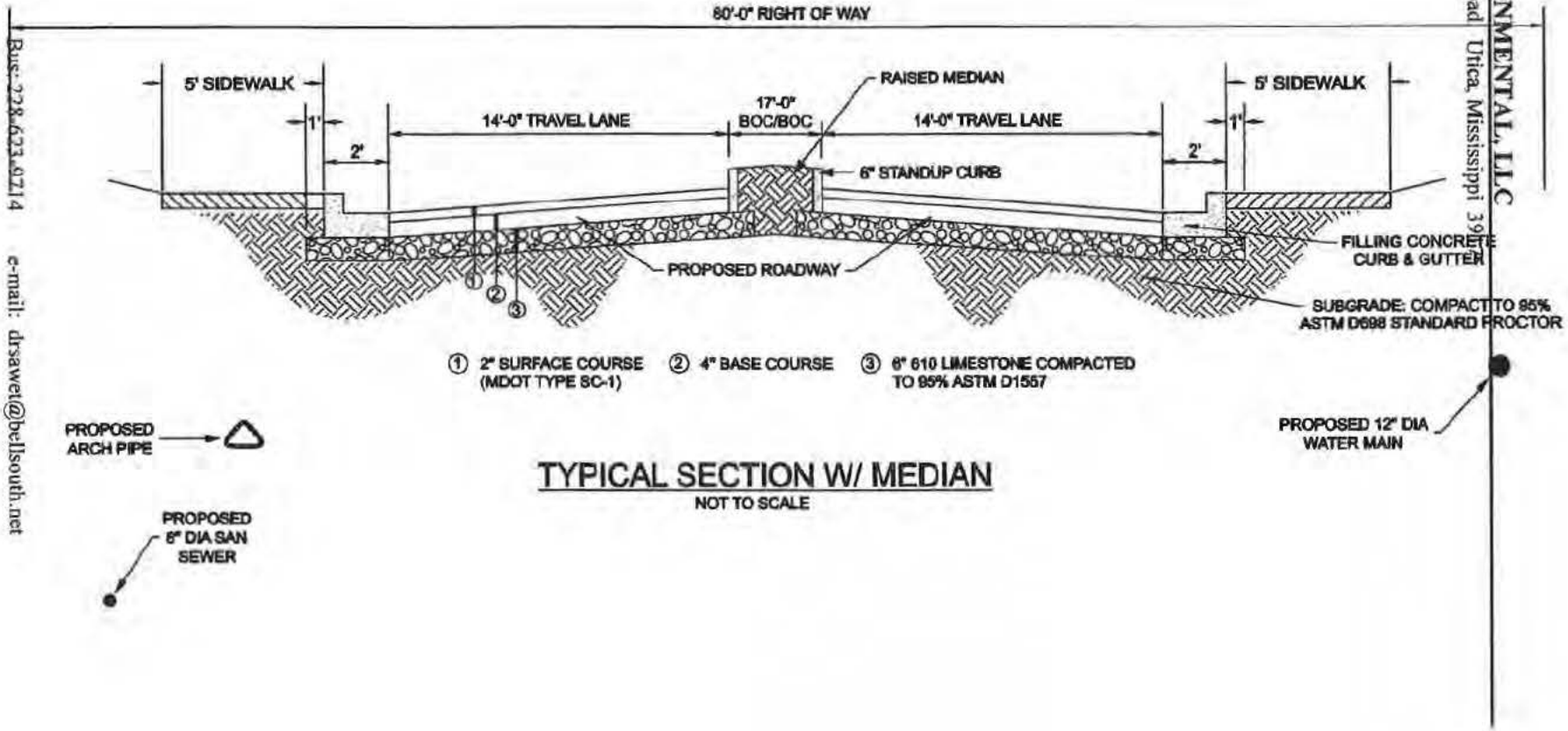


FIGURE 3. MEDICAL PARK DRIVE CONNECTOR ROAD CROSS SECTION

SANDERS ENVIRONMENTAL, LLC
 19032 Old Port Gibson Road Urica, Mississippi 39178



Bus: 728.633.9714

e-mail: drsawet@bellsouth.net

FIGURE 4. WETLAND DELIENATION FOR PROPOSED MEDICAL PARK DRIVE EXTENSION, HARRISON COUNTY, MS

