

October 19, 2020

CESAM-RD-A PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2020-00884-JCC

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND STATE OF ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

PROPOSED DREDGING AND FILLING OF WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES IN CONJUNCTION WITH SHORELINE RESTORATION AND STABILIZATION OF AN ACCESS CHANNEL IN MOBILE COUNTY, ALABAMA

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: This District has received an application for a Department of the Army (DA) permit pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403), and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). Please communicate this information to interested parties.

APPLICANTS: City of Mobile Engineering Department Attention: Nick Amberger 205 Government Street Mobile, Alabama 36602

AGENT: Cowles, Murphy, Glover & Associates Attention: Patrick Garstecki 457 Saint Michael Street Mobile, Alabama 36602

LOCATION OF WORK: The proposed project is located on Mobile Bay, at the entrance channel to the McNally Park public boat ramp near 4381 Park Road; within Section 40 of Township 5 South, Range 1 West; at Latitude 30.58254° North, Longitude -88.07341° West; in Mobile, Mobile County, Alabama. The project site is located within the Alabama Coastal Zone Management Area.

PROJECT PURPOSE: The purpose of the proposed project is to maintenance dredge an existing channel to preserve the public's navigable access to Mobile Bay and to stabilize and protect the existing structures associated with the access channel.

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant proposes to hydraulically and mechanically dredge 120,000 square feet (2.75 acres) of water bottoms in Mobile Bay for navigable depths. The dredging would include the removal of 15,000 cubic yards of sandy silt material in the first year and 10,000 cubic yards of material biennially for the remainder of the five-year permit for a total of 35,000 cubic yards of dredging. The water levels after dredging will measure to depths of -7 feet below MLLW.

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The applicant proposes to discharge the dredged sandy silt material into 200,000 square feet (4.59 acres) of waterbottoms for the stabilization of the existing jetties surrounding the McNally Park access channel. The material will be contained by turbidity curtains that will remain in place until all suspended solids have settled.

AVOIDANCE & MINIMIZATION: The applicant has indicated the dredging has been postponed and the fill has been minimized to the greatest extent practicable while still protecting the existing channel structure at McNally Park. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has not determined the adequacy of the applicant's avoidance and minimization efforts for the proposed activity.

COMPENSATORY MITIGATION: Since this project would only stabilize shoreline areas with no impacts to wetlands or submerged aquatic vegetation, no mitigation is required.

WATER QUALITY / COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT: The applicant has applied for certification from the State of Alabama in accordance with Section 401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act, and for a consistency determination regarding Coastal Zone regulations in accordance with the Alabama Coastal Area Management Program. Upon completion of the required advertising and public comment review, a determination relative to Water Quality Certification and Coastal Zone consistency will be made by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management.

HISTORIC PROPERTIES: In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and Appendix C of 33 CFR 325, the undertaking defined in this notice has been considered for the potential to affect 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 have also been considered. The National Register of Historic Places will be consulted for properties listed in or eligible for the National Register which are known to exist and would be affected by the proposed work. The Mobile District is seeking comment from the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) regarding the existence, or the potential for existence, of significant cultural and historic properties within the permit area. The permit area described above is currently under review by District Archaeologists to provide a determination on the potential for existence of significant cultural and historic properties.

In addition to the provided comments from the SHPO (the Alabama Historical Commission), we are seeking comments from federally-recognized American Indian tribes, local historical societies, museums, universities, the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Division of Archeological Services and concerned citizens regarding the existence or the potential for existence of significant cultural and historic properties within the permit area.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The proposed project would impact approximately 320,000 square feet (7.35 acres) of estuarine waterbottoms. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have an adverse impact on EFH or federally managed fisheries due to the lack of submerged

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aquatic vegetation, tidal marsh wetlands, or other EFH in the project vicinity. Our final determination is subject to review by and coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service and/or the U.S. Department of Interior, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

ENDANGERED SPECIES: Preliminary review of the U.S. Department of the Interior's List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants indicate the following listed endangered or threatened species with the potential to exist within Mobile Bay or the watershed of the project: West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*) (T), wood stork (*Mycteria americana*) (T), eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon corais couperi*) (T), Alabama red-bellied turtle (*Pseudemys alabamensis*)(E), green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) (T), Kemp's Ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*) (E), Loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*) (T), and gulf sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi*) (T). There is no designated critical habitat within the project's action area.

Preliminary review of this application and the above list of threatened or endangered species indicate that the proposed activity will have no effect on the wood stork, eastern indigo snake, green sea turtle, Kemp's Ridley sea turtle, Loggerhead sea turtle, the gulf sturgeon or on any designated critical habitat. The activity may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the West Indian manatee and the Alabama red-bellied turtle. This determination is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and state agencies regarding any potential effects on the listed species via this Public Notice.

PUBLIC REVIEW: 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 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 USACE is soliciting comments from the public; federal, state and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity and 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

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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 discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States will include the application of the Section 404(b)(1) guidelines established by the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Correspondence concerning this Public Notice should refer to Public Notice Number **SAM-2020-00884-JCC**, and should be directed to the project manager, Ms. Jessica C. Comeaux by e-mail at <u>Jessica.C.Comeaux@usace.army.mil</u>, or to the USACE, Mobile District, Regulatory Division, Attention: Ms. Jessica C. Comeaux, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001. Copies of all comments should be furnished to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management at <u>coastal@adem.alabama.gov</u>, or sent to: Alabama Department of Environmental Management, Mobile Branch/Coastal Section, 3664 Dauphin Street, Suite B, Mobile, Alabama 36608. **All comments should be received no later than 30 days from the date of this Public Notice.**

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

MOBILE DISTRICT U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

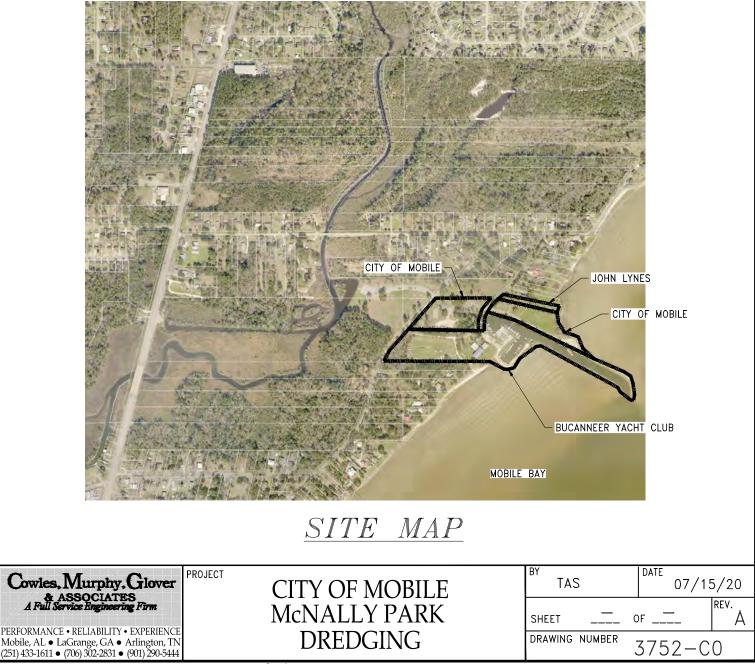
Attachments

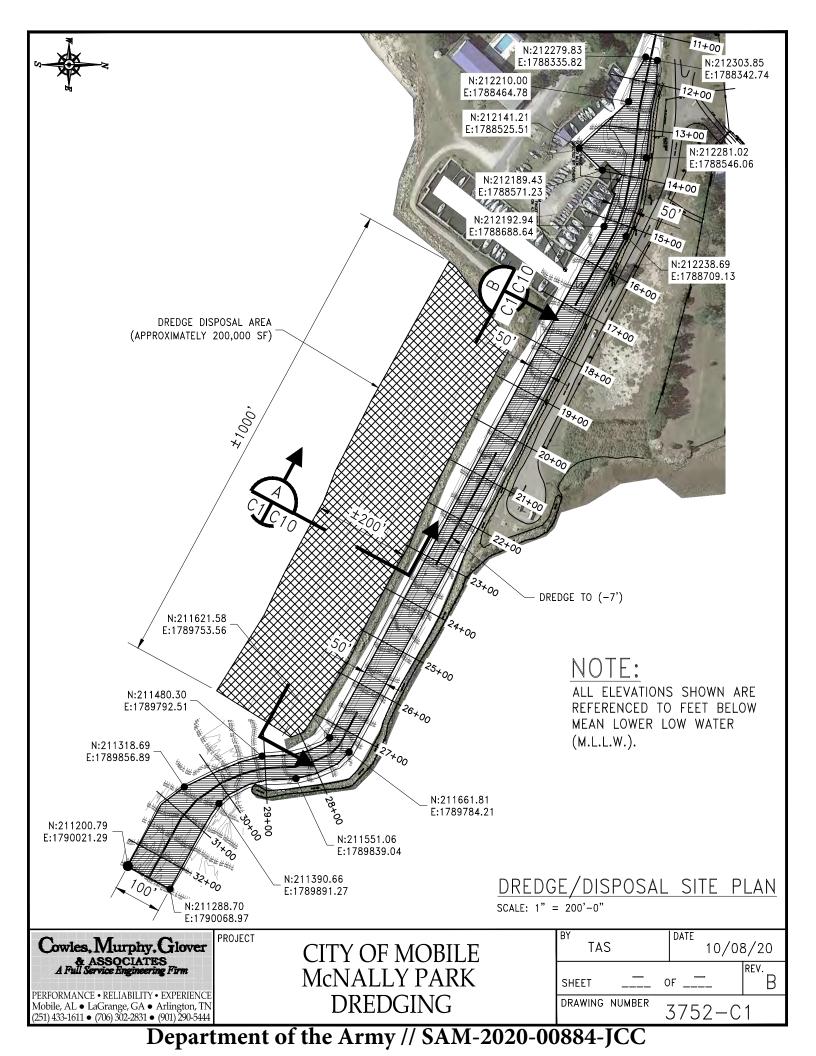
DIRECTIONS:

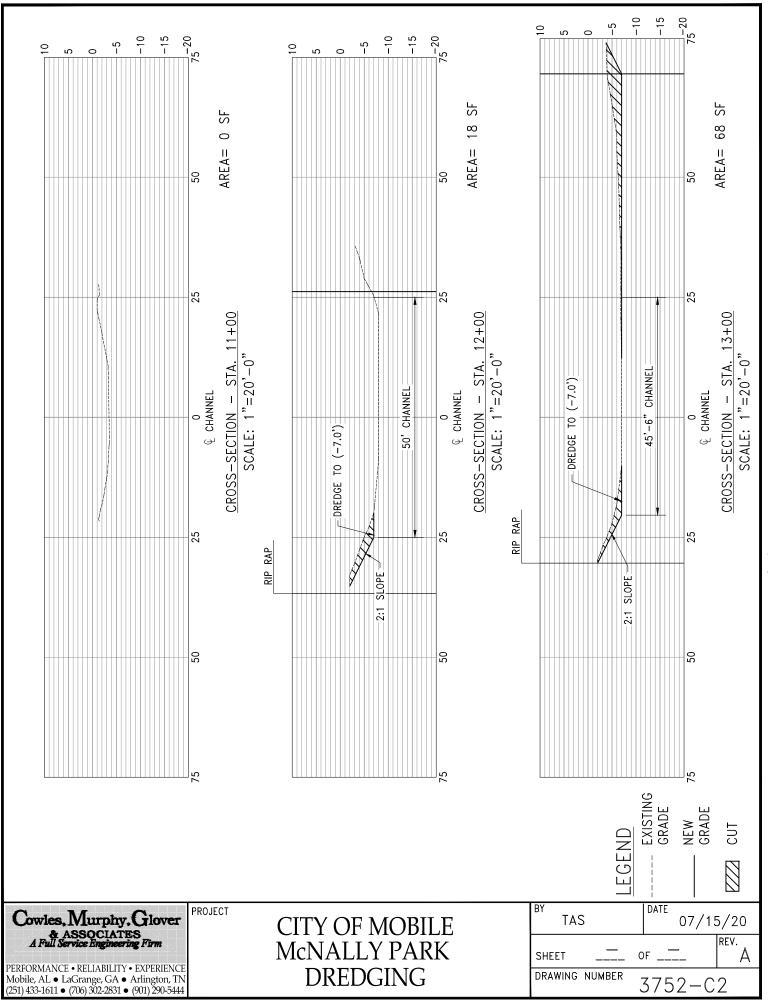
- 1. FROM I-10 IN MOBILE, AL, TAKE EXIT 22 ON DAUPHIN ISLAND PARKWAY/AL-163 SOUTH.
- 2. CONTINUE ON DAUPHIN ISLAND PARKWAY/AL-163 SOUTH FOR APPROXIMATELY 4.2 MILES.
- 3. TURN LEFT ON TERRELL ROAD AND CONTINUE FOR APPROXIMATELY 0.6 MILES.
- 4. TURN RIGHT ONTO PARK ROAD TO ENTER INTO THE CITY OF MOBILE'S MCNALLY PARK.

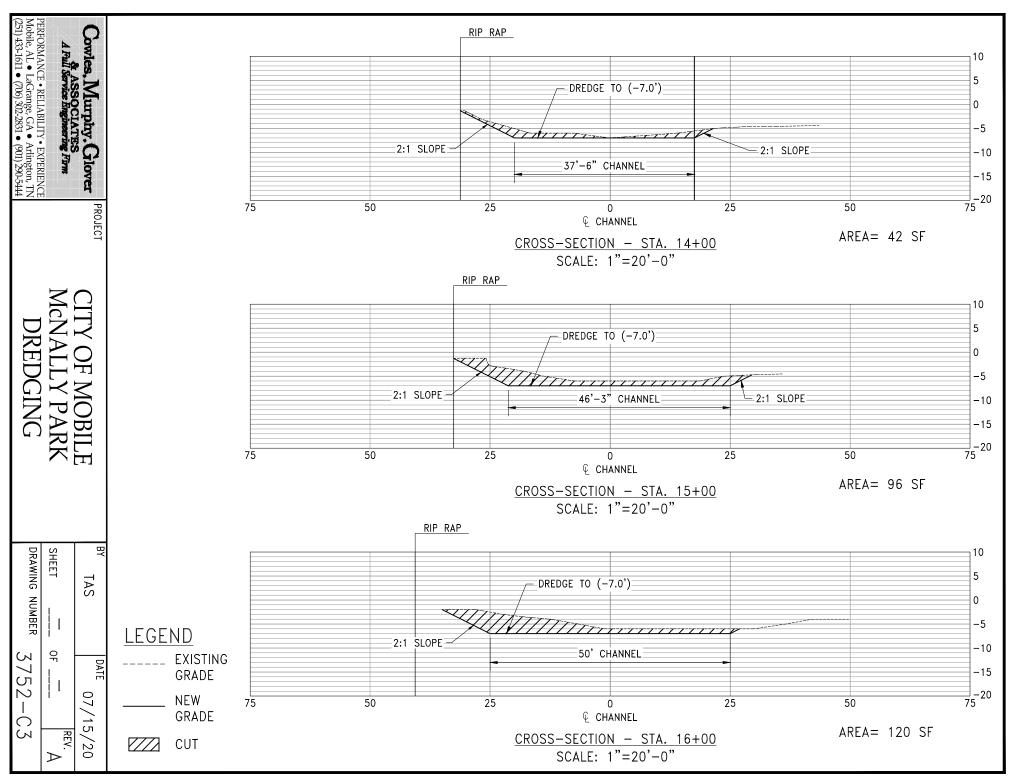


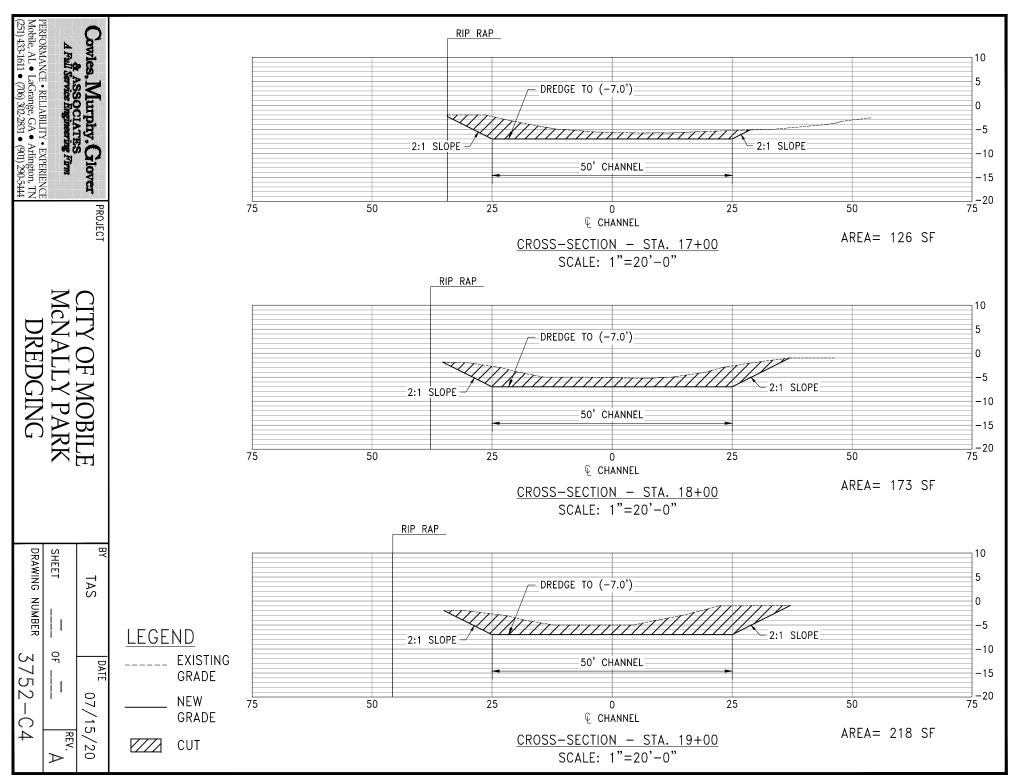
VICINITY MAP



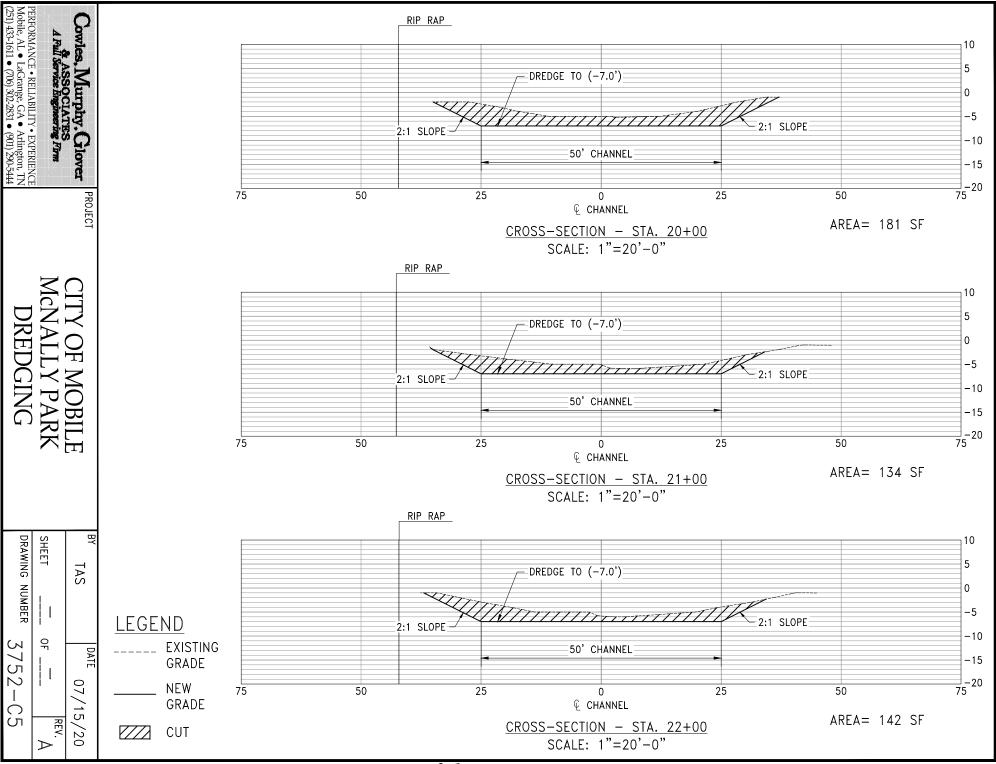


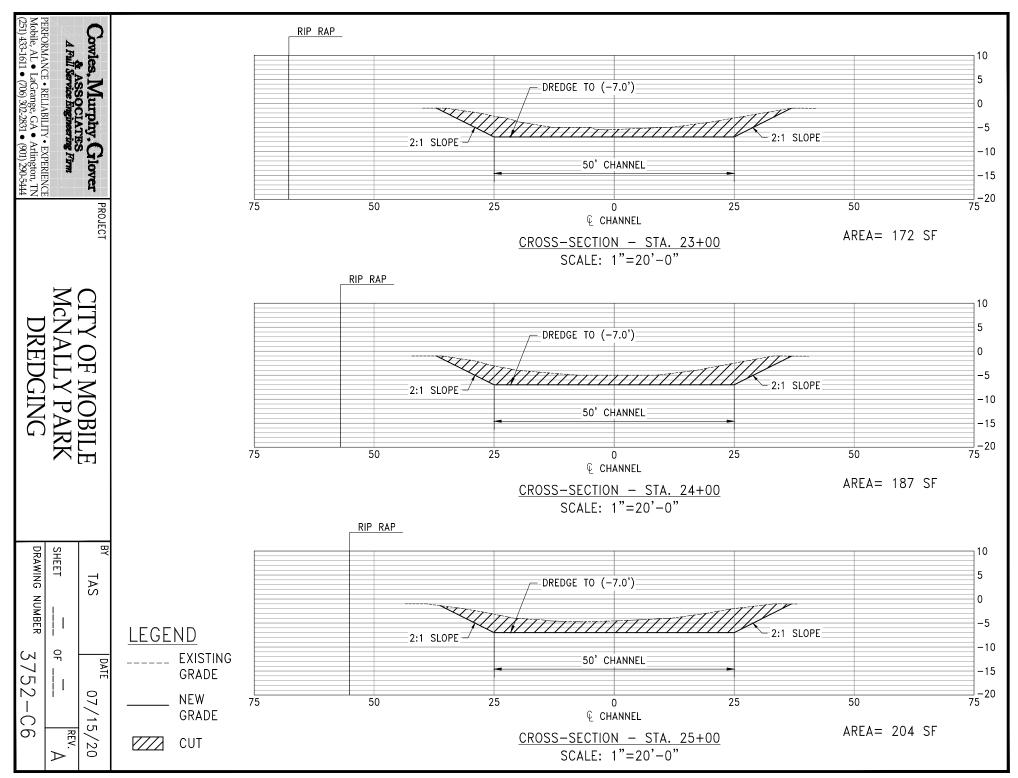




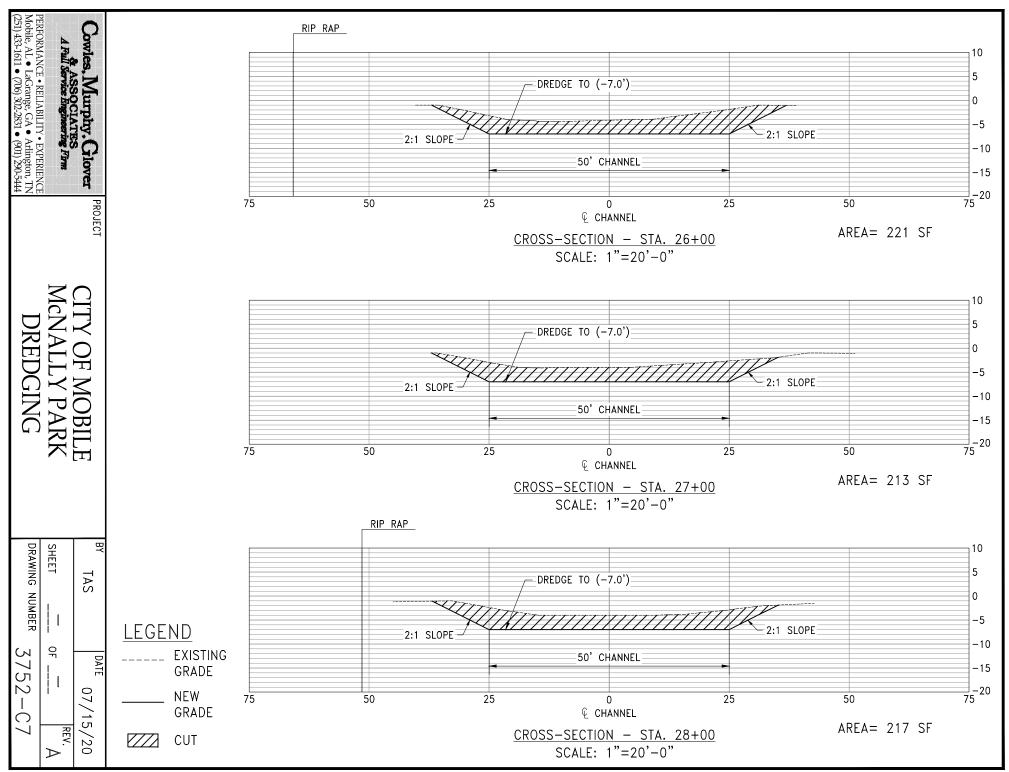


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