

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

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

CESAM-RD-A
PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2020-01025-JCC

December 4, 2020

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

PROPOSED DISCHARGE OF FILL MATERIAL ASSOCIATED WITH REALIGNMENT AND ROAD IMPROVEMENTS OF WEAVER ROAD AND HIGHWAY 43 IN BUCKS, 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 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344). This public notice is being distributed to all known interested persons to assist in developing facts on which a decision by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) can be based. Please communicate this information to interested parties.

APPLICANT: Mobile County Commission

Attention: Jerry Carl 205 Government Street Mobile. Alabama 36644-1600

AGENT: Volkert, Inc.

Attention: Evan Reid

1680 West 2nd Street, Suite B Gulf Shores, Alabama 36542

LOCATION/WATERS: The project is located at the east end of Weaver Road; in Sections 24 and 40, Township 1 North, Range 1 West; in Bucks, Mobile County, Alabama. The project would begin at Latitude 31.018319° North, Longitude -88.037885° West and end at Latitude 31.019626° North, Longitude -88.024214° West.

PROPOSED WORK: The Mobile County Commission is proposing roadway improvements as well as a realignment to the east end of Weaver Road and US Highway 43. The realigned road would consist of approximately 3,800 linear feet of new roadway and approximately 500 linear feet of improvements to the existing roadway. The new roadway would have two 10-foot travel lanes with 1-foot paved shoulders and 4-foot grassed shoulders. Ditches would be constructed along the north side of the new roadway, directing water to multiple cross drains. Approximately 2.3 acres of wetlands and 106

linear feet (0.014 acre) of intermittent stream would be impacted by construction of the proposed roadway.

AVOIDANCE & MINIMIZATION: The proposed modifications have been designed to preserve the north to south drainage of the wetland through the installation of multiple cross drains. The USACE, Mobile District has not verified the adequacy of the applicant's avoidance and minimization efforts at this time.

MITIGATION: In order to mitigate for the unavoidable loss of wetlands associated with the project the applicant proposes to purchase compensatory wetland mitigation credits from an approved commercial mitigation bank which services Mobile County, Alabama. The applicant is proposing to mitigate for unavoidable stream impacts by providing for an appropriate amount of riparian buffer enhancement for a stream located within the Mobile County-owned Laurendine Tract mitigation area in Theodore, Alabama. The USACE, Mobile District has not verified the adequacy of the applicant's mitigation statement at this time.

WATER QUALITY: The applicant has applied for certification from the State of Alabama in accordance with Section 401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act. Upon completion of the required advertising and public comment review, a determination relative to Water Quality Certification 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 Part 325, the undertaking defined in this notice is being considered for the potential to affect cultural and historic properties within the permit area. In accordance with Appendix C of 33 CFR Part 325, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has determined the permit area consists of an approximately 15.27acre linear corridor for the proposed improvements. 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.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The USACE, Mobile District's 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), gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) (T), and gulf sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi*) (T). There is no designated critical habitat within the project's action area.

Review of this proposed activity for potential effects on the above list of threatened or endangered species has been accomplished by use of species-specific Standard Local Operating Procedures for Endangered Species (SLOPES). The USACE, Mobile District's review has indicated the proposed activity will have no effect on the West Indian manatee, wood stork, eastern indigo snake, or gulf sturgeon. The review also found the activity may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the Alabama red-bellied turtle. Details of the proposed activity are being provided to federal and state agencies via this Public Notice for receipt of any relevant comments regarding potential effects of the proposed project on the listed species.

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, 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 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is soliciting comments from the public; federal, state and local agencies and officials; 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.

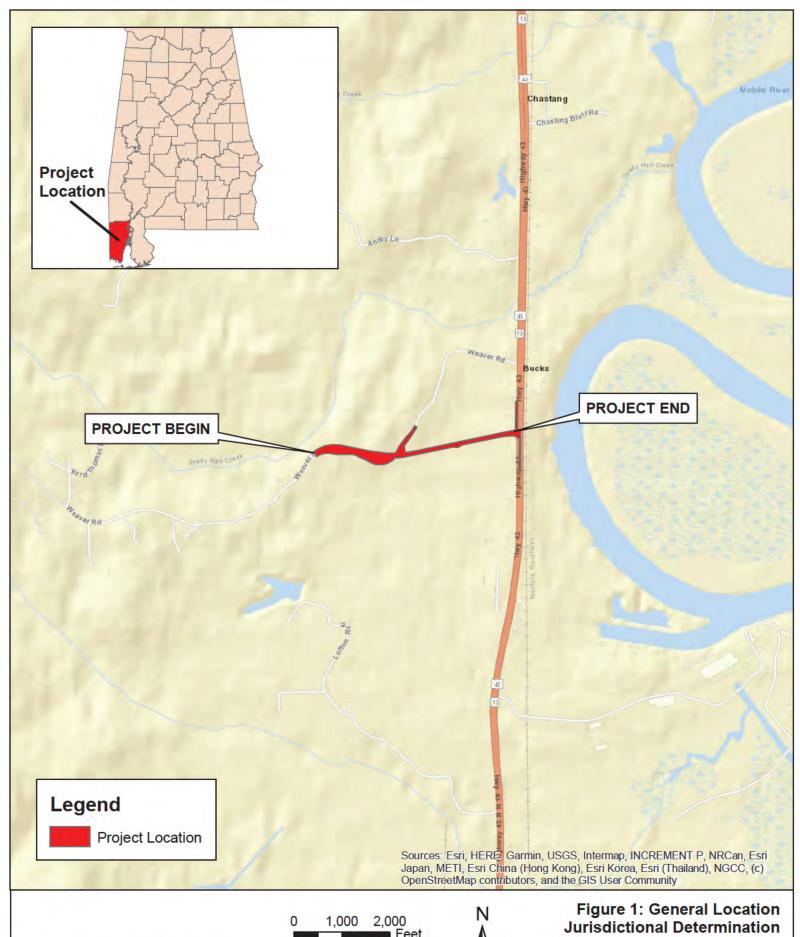
Correspondence concerning this public notice should refer to Public Notice Number SAM-2020-01025-JCC and should be directed via email to the project manager, Ms. Jessica C. Comeaux, at Jessica.C.Comeaux@usace.army.mil, or to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, Regulatory Division, Attention: 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 Coastal@adem.alabama.gov, 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. If you have any questions concerning this publication, you may contact the project manager, Ms. Jessica Comeaux by email at Jessica.C.Comeaux@usace.army.mil, or at (251) 690-3262. Please refer to the Public Notice Number SAM-2020-01025-JCC, in any communication concerning this project.

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

Attachments







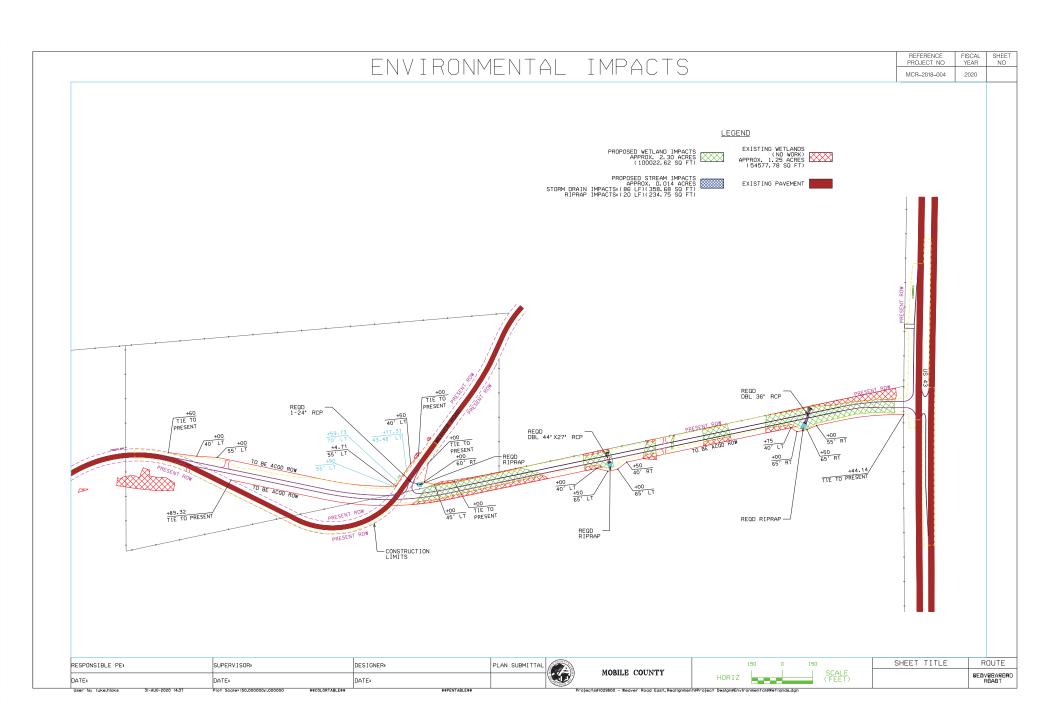
1 inch = 2,000 feet

Note: This map is not intended for construction.



Mobile County Commission Weaver Road Realignment Bucks, Mobile County, Alabama

Department of the Army // SAM-2020-01025-JCC



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