



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

CESAM-RD-M  
PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2021-00025-RCV

February 1, 2024

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
OFFICE OF POLLUTION CONTROL (MDEQ)

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES(DMR23-000749)

**PROPOSED MODIFICATION TO IMPACTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A RAIL LINE,  
ON ESTUARINE WETLANDS ADJACENT TO THE ESCATAWPA RIVER,  
MOSS POINT, JACKSON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

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 USC 403), Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344), Please communicate this information to interested parties.

**APPLICANT:** Jackson County Port Authority (JCPA)  
Attention: Mr. Michael Smith  
P O Box 70  
Pascagoula, MS 39568

**WATERWAY AND LOCATION:** The new rail line is located in Section 19, Township 7 South, and Range 5 West of Moss Point, Jackson County, MS.

The approximate center point of the proposed modified rail is at 30.415546 degrees latitude and -88.514452 degrees longitude. The new rail begins at approximately 30.251299/-88.310062 on the north and extends to 30.244971/-88.302183 where it joins existing rail. The project location is shown on Figure 1.

**PREVIOUSLY PERMITTED WORK:** The existing permit authorized construction of approximately 3,659 linear feet of rail using both elevated rail and construction on fill. Using this combination of construction methods would impact approximately 0.90 acres of marsh wetland. Due to project costs and affordability, JCPA re-evaluated construction of the rail, changing the elevated segments of rail to construction by using soil amendments to allow a ground constructed rail. Additional geotechnical evaluation indicates that construction using soil amendments would be successful.

**PROPOSED MODIFICATION:**

This construction method is in the same location and alignment as the originally permitted rail line and would result in approximately 1,955 feet of rail over existing upland, approximately 2,373 feet of track on fill in marsh wetland, and approximately 82 linear feet of trestle bridge over a creek for a total of 4,410 feet of track. There would be two fill areas that impact marsh including one area 1,960 feet long by 60 feet wide (approximately 2.70 acres). A second area of fill would be approximately 413 feet long by 60 feet wide (0.56 acres). The total fill area would be 142,380 square feet (3.27 acres) and would require approximately 7,000 cubic yards of fill. See the overall project plan on Figure 2.

Modification of the project to use additional fill results in an increase of approximately 2.39 acres of impact to marsh vegetation. JCPA has already constructed approximately 1.0 acres of marsh according to the PRMP. JCPA proposes to increase the marsh creation area by 2.39 acres.

**The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is the lead Federal agency for this project.**

The applicant has applied for coastal zone (CZ) consistency in accordance with the State Coastal Zone Management Program. A determination relative to CZ consistency will be made by the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources.

The Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 Certification Rule (Certification Rule, 40 CFR 121), requires certification for any license or permit that authorizes an activity that may result in a discharge. The applicant is responsible for requesting certification and providing required information to the certifying agency. As of the date of this public notice, the applicant has not submitted a certification request to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (certifying authority).

This public notice is being distributed to all known interested persons in order to assist in developing facts on which a decision by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 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, 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, 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 Corps of Engineers 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.

FRA is the lead Federal agency for this project responsible for ensuring compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act. For comments related to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Previously MDAH Project Log #04-060-21 (01-084-21) (11-119-20), Report #21-0112.

FRA is the lead Federal agency for this project responsible for ensuring compliance with the Endangered Species Act. Previously March 2, 2021, USFWS determination under Log 2020-1-0837.

FRA is the lead Federal agency for this project responsible for ensuring compliance with the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

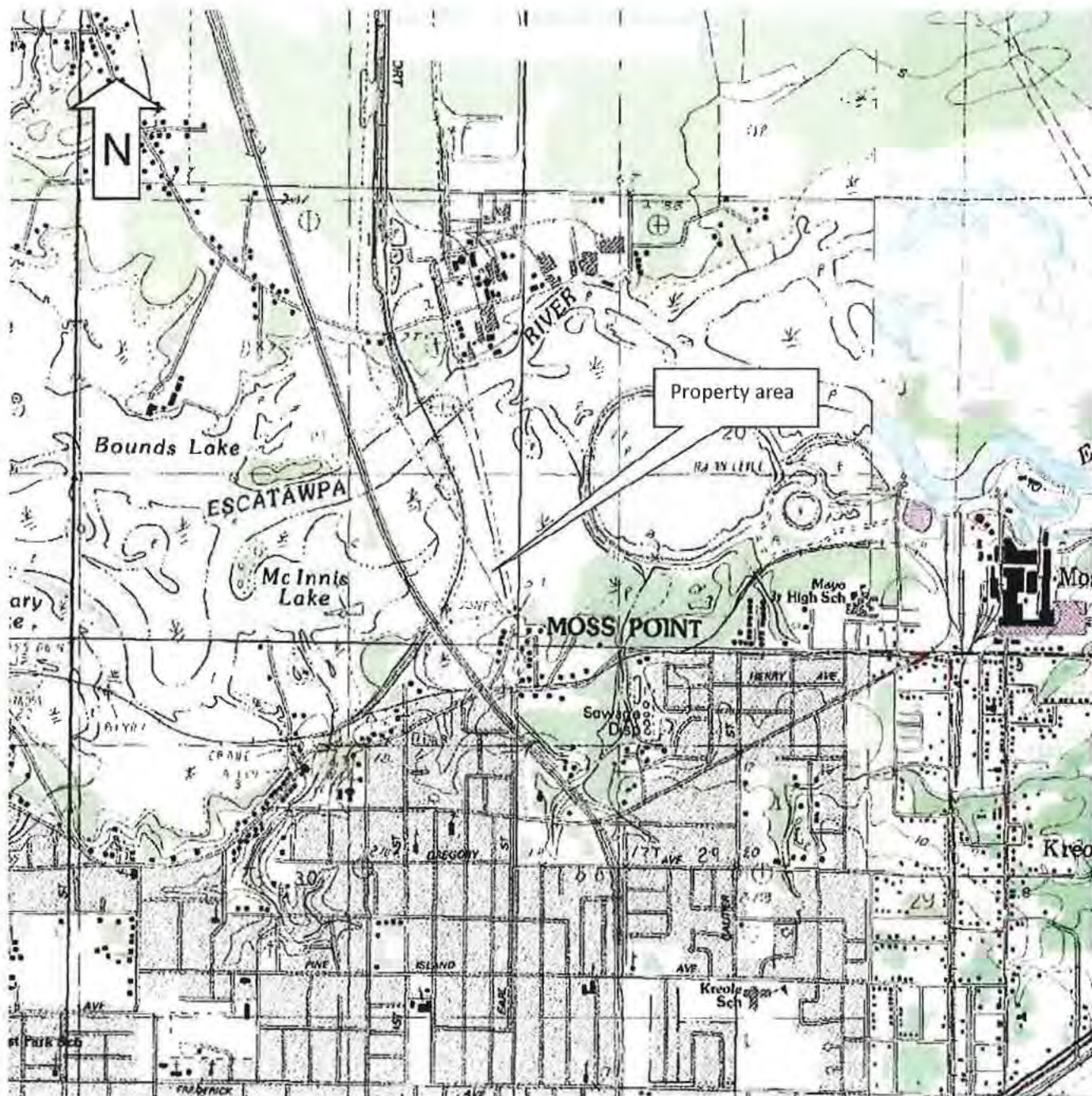
Correspondence concerning this Public Notice should refer to Public Notice Number SAM-2021-00025-RCV and should be directed to the District Engineer, U.S. Army Engineer District, Mobile, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001, Attention: South Mississippi Branch, with a copy to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Pollution Control, Post Office Box 2261, Jackson, Mississippi 39225, and the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, 1141 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, Mississippi 39530, in time to be received within **30 days** of the date of this public notice.

If you have any questions concerning this publication, you may contact the project manager for this application, **Mr. Rudolph C. Villarreal (Rudolph.c.villarreal@usace.army.mil), phone (251) 690-3246**. Please refer to the above Public Notice number. For additional information about our Regulatory Program, please visit our website at:

[www.sam.usace.army.mil](http://www.sam.usace.army.mil) and please take a moment to complete our customer satisfaction survey while you're there. Your responses are appreciated and will allow us to improve our services.

MOBILE DISTRICT  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Enclosures

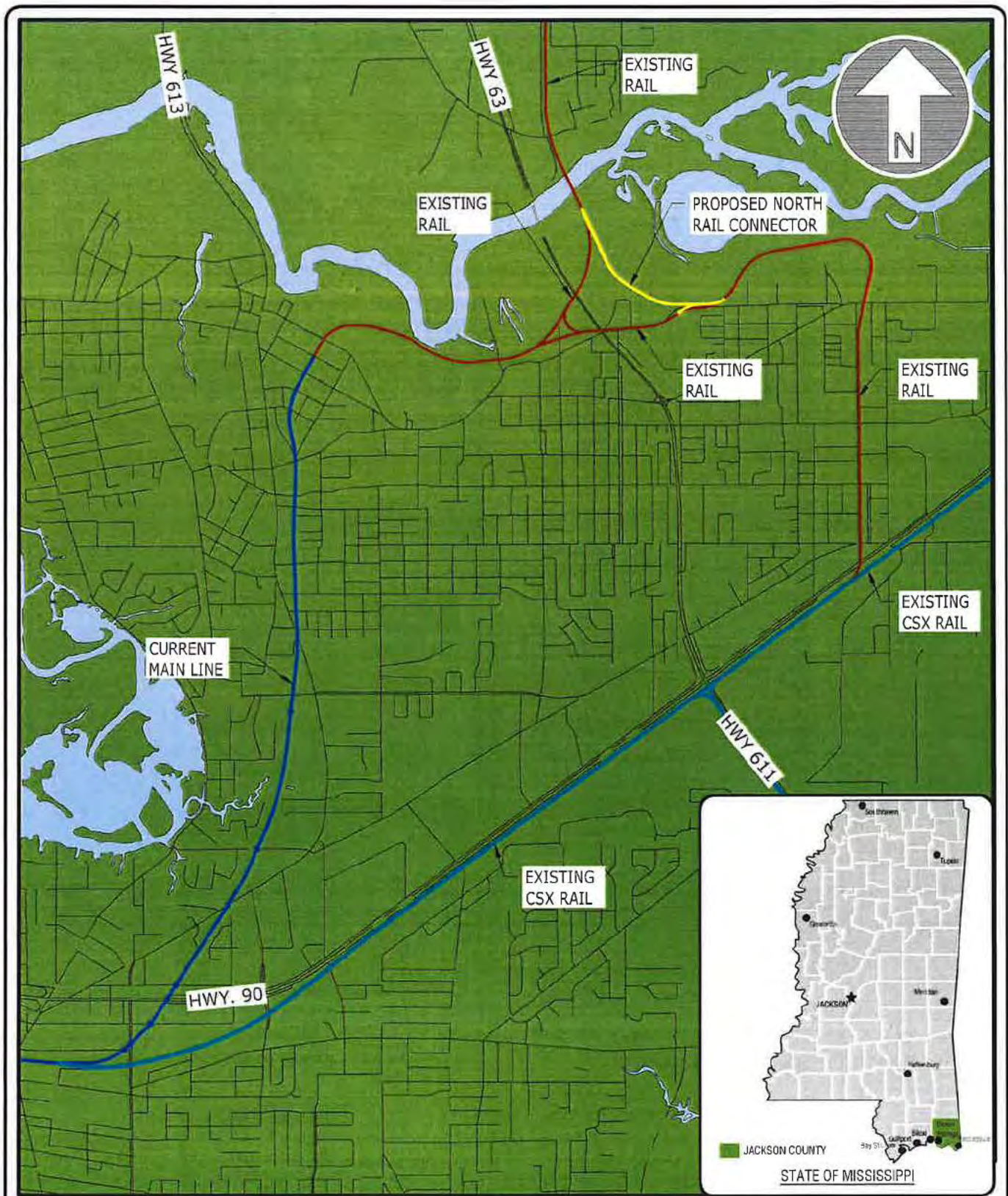


**COMPTON ENGINEERING, INC.**  
 Engineering, Surveying, and Environmental Services  
 156 Nixon Street  
 Biloxi, Mississippi 39530  
 Phone: (228) 432-2133 Fax: (228) 432-8149  
 E-mail: compton@comptonengineering.com

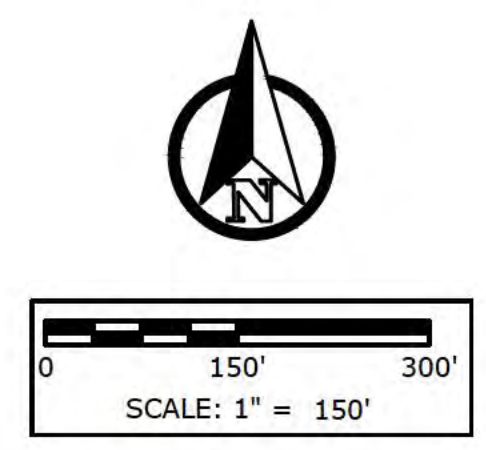
Site: North Rail Project Area  
 Moss Point, Jackson County, MS

Figure Title: **Topographic Map** (Map Source: USGS, 2012)




Appendix ID:  
 A



**FIGURE 1-1**  
**NORTH RAIL CONNECTOR**  
**CURRENT MAIN LINE & PROPOSED**  
**NRC**



**LEGEND:**

	RAIL CENTER LINE = 4410 L.F.
	WETLANDS = 3.27 ACRES
	UPLANDS = 3.23 ACRES

1/23/2024 8:44 AM Y:\projects\0150000001250012813\pca - north rail connector - final design and construction\permitting\design\env-1 & env-2 rev b.dwg

**NOTICE TO DRAWING HOLDER**

NEEL-SCHAFFER, INC., HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE ENGINEER HAS PREPARED AND FURNISHED THIS DRAWING TO THE OWNER FOR USE ON THIS PROJECT ONLY. THIS DRAWING SHOULD NOT BE USED ON EXTENSIONS OF THIS PROJECT OR ON ANY OTHER PROJECT. ANY REUSE OF THIS DRAWING, WITHOUT WRITTEN VERIFICATION OR ADAPTATION BY THE ENGINEER, SHALL BE AT THE REUSER'S SOLE RISK AND THE REUSER SHALL INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS THE ENGINEER FROM ALL CLAIMS, DAMAGES, LOSSES AND EXPENSES, INCLUDING ATTORNEY'S FEES ARISING OUT OF OR RESULTING THEREFROM.

REVISIONS			DRAWING INFORMATION	
NO.	DATE	BY	DESCRIPTION	
A	01/05/24	JDL	ISSUED FOR REVIEW	N-S PROJECT NO.: NS.17813.00
B	01/17/24	JDL	ISSUED FOR REVIEW	FILENAME: ENV-1 & ENV-2 REV B.dwg
				SCALE: AS NOTED
				SURVEYED BY:
				DSGN: LDM DATE: 01/05/24
				DRWN: JDL DATE: 01/05/24
				CHKD: LDM DATE: 01/05/24
				QA/QC: DATE:

**VERIFY SCALES**

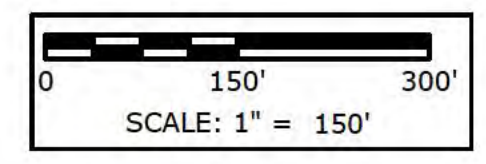
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BAR IS ONE INCH ON ORIGINAL DRAWING. IF NOT ONE INCH ON THIS SHEET, ADJUST SCALES ACCORDINGLY.

**PORT OF PASCAGOULA  
 NORTH RAIL CONNECTOR PROJECT**  
  
 CITY OF PASCAGOULA



<b>UPLAND AND          WETLAND PLAN</b>	
WORKING NUMBER: ENV-1	DRAWING NUMBER: FIGURE 1



**LEGEND:**

	RAIL CENTER LINE = 4410 L.F.
	WETLANDS = 2455 L.F.
	UPLANDS = 1955 L.F.

1/23/2024 8:46 AM Y:\projects\0015000000\00150012813\pca - north rail connector - final design and construction\permitting\design\env-1 & env-2 rev b.dwg

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		CHKD:	LDM	DATE: 01/05/24
		QA/QC:		DATE: / /

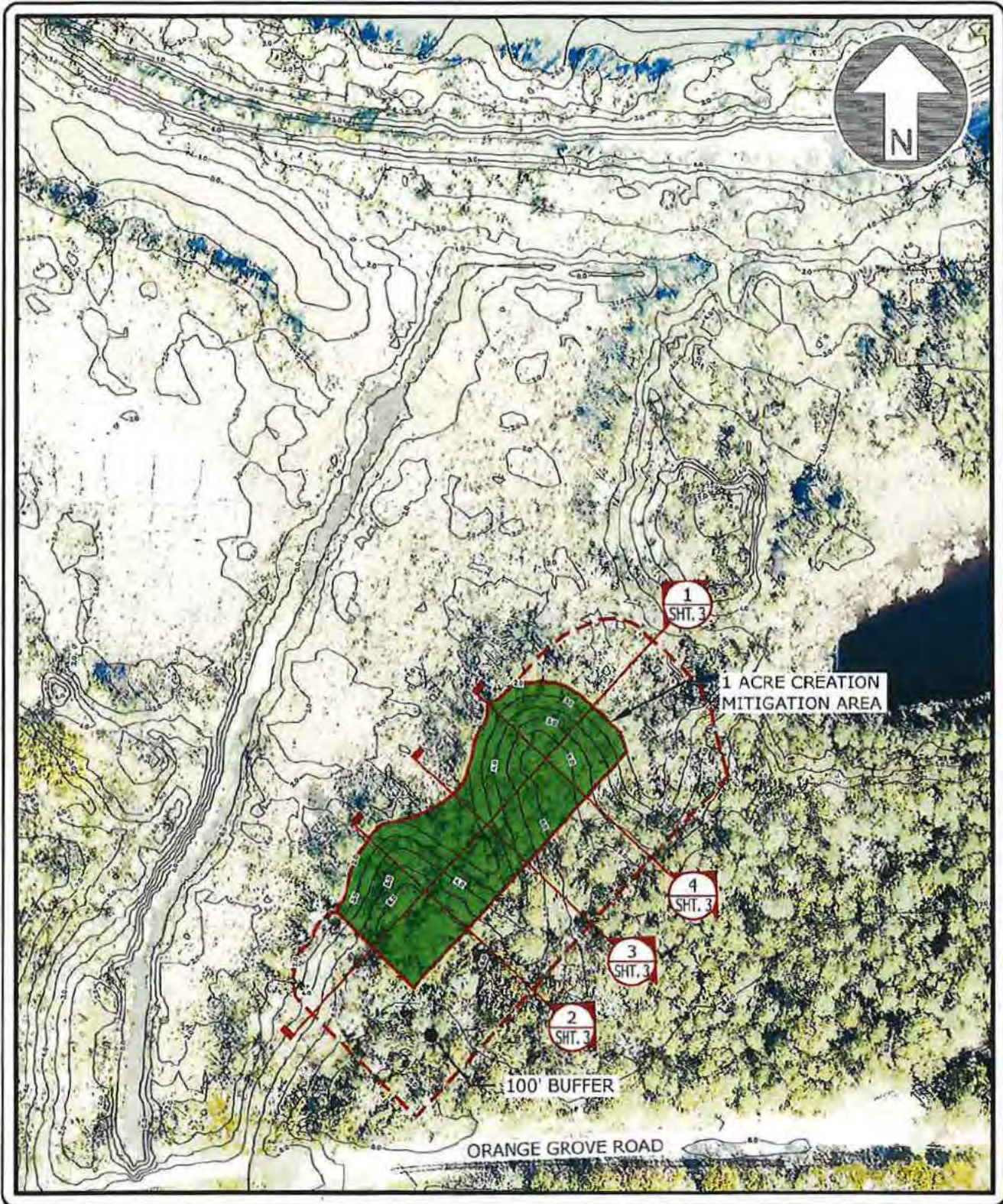
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**PORT OF PASCAGOULA  
 NORTH RAIL CONNECTOR PROJECT**  
  
 CITY OF PASCAGOULA



<b>UPLAND AND WETLAND PLAN</b>	
WORKING NUMBER: <b>ENV-2</b>	DRAWING NUMBER: <b>FIGURE 2</b>





**COMPTON ENGINEERING, INC.**

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218-051  
 JACKSON COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY (JCPA),  
 NORTH RAIL CONNECTOR,  
 PROPOSED PERMITTED RESPONSIBLE,  
 MITIGATION AREA,  
 SHEET 2  
 SCALE: NTS  
 DRN. BY: JDL