

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

CESAM RD-A PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2022-01194-KNB

April 19, 2023

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

REQUEST TO IMPACT 0.73 ACRE OF TIDAL WETLANDS AND 3.24 ACRES OF NON-TIDAL WETLANDS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CREATION OF PUBLIC GOLF COURSE FEATURES ON DOG RIVER, MOBILE, MOBILE COUNTY, ALABAMA

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: This District has received an application for a Department of the Army 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.

APPLICANT: Mobile County Commission Attention: Connie Hudson 205 Government Street 7th Floor Mobile, Alabama 36644

AGENT: Thompson Engineering, Inc. Attention: Stephen O'Hearn 2970 Cottage Hill Road Suite 190 Mobile, Alabama 36606

LOCATION: The project is located on and adjacent to Dog River, at 3700 St. Andrews Drive; within Section 13, Township 5 South, Range 2 West; at Latitude 30.614402° North, Longitude -88.127477° West; Mobile, Mobile County, Alabama.

PROJECT PURPOSE: The basic project purpose is to provide public recreation. The overall project purpose is to construct public recreational facilities in Mobile County to meet regional demands.

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant has proposed to discharge up to 21,710 cubic yards (CY) of commercially obtained sand and sod mix over a total area of 172,605 square feet (3.96 acres) within three wetlands. Up to 17,281 CY of fill would be placed in 3.24 acres of one non-tidal wetland, and up to 4,424 CY of fill would be placed in 0.73 acre of two tidal wetlands. The fill would be discharged for the creation of golf course facilities, including a driving range tee box area, greens, and fairways.

AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION: The applicant has indicated the proposed recreational facility construction has been planned to provide the minimal area necessary for public golfing activities, thereby minimizing wetland impacts. The applicant has also proposed to construct all golf paths and bridges in wetlands as timber elevated structures, thereby minimizing wetland impacts to the maximum extent practicable. The applicant has proposed to utilize earthen berms and silt fencing during the discharge of fill material to prevent loss of sediment and turbidity in the adjacent waterway. Construction Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be implemented to prevent any placed materials from reentering the waterway. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Mobile District, has not verified the adequacy of the applicant's avoidance and minimization efforts at this time.

MITIGATION: The applicant has proposed to compensate for unavoidable impacts to tidal wetlands through the purchase of mitigation credits to offset any wetland impacts. The Mobile District has not verified the adequacy of the applicant's proposed mitigation plan at this time.

WATER QUALITY / COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT: The applicant will apply for certification from the State of Alabama in accordance with Section 401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act and for Coastal Zone Management (CZM) consistency concurrence 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 CZM consistency will be made by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM).

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 Mobile District has determined the permit area consists of the entire undertaking in waters of the United States. 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 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.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: Preliminary review of this application and the U.S. Department of the Interior's List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants indicate the proposed activity May Affect, But is Not Likely to Adversely Affect the following listed endangered or threatened species with the potential to exist within the watershed of the permit area: eastern black rail (T), Alabama red-bellied turtle (E), and

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gopher tortoise (T). Additionally, the USACE has preliminarily determined that the proposed activity would have No Effect to black pine snake (T), eastern indigo snake (T), and west Indian manatee (T). There is no designated critical habitat within the project action area. This determination is being coordinated with the USFWS via this Public Notice.

COMMENTS: This public notice is being distributed to all known interested persons to assist in developing facts on which a decision by the USACE can be based. The Mobile District 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 below. 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. 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, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Evaluation of the probable impacts involving deposits of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States will also include the application of guidelines established by the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Correspondence concerning this notice should refer to Public Notice Number **SAM-2022-01194-KNB**, and should be directed to the project manager, Ms. Kelsey Blubaugh, by e-mail at <u>Kelsey.N.Blubaugh@usace.army.mil</u>, or to the USACE, Mobile District, Regulatory Division, Attention: Ms. Kelsey Blubaugh, Post Office Box 2288,

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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











