

CESAM-RD-M PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2023-00901-CSP

January 11, 2024

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (USACE)

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

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES DMR23-000656

PROPOSED WETLAND FILL FOR THE EXPANSION OF AN AIRCRAFT PARKING APRON AND CONNECTING TAXIWAY AT THE TRENT LOTT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, MOSS POINT, JACKSON 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 (33 USC 1344). Please communicate this information to interested parties.

APPLICANT: Jackson County Airport Authority Attention: Ms. Cinnamon Snyder 8301 Saracennia Road Moss Point, MS 39563

WATERWAY AND LOCATION: Wetlands Associated with Brickyard Bayou; at 8301 Saracennia Road; within Section 6, Township 7 South, Range 5 West; Latitude 30.465511° North and Longitude -88.527725° West; in Moss Point, Jackson County, MS.

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant proposes to fill 2.68 acres of wetlands associated with the construction of an aircraft parking apron and connecting taxiway at Trent Lott International Airport in Jackson County, MS. The total project site is approximately 3.54 acres in size of which 2.68 acres have been identified as wetlands. Impacts include filling 2.68 acres of pine savanna wetlands for the construction of the parking apron and the placement of 100 cubic yards of material to replace the existing 60-foot culvert within a manmade ditch with a 100-foot culvert for the construction of the taxiway. In order to meet the needs of the Trent Lott International Airport, the applicant calculated that an area approximately 300x400 feet was needed for the apron expansion. The applicant considered a larger area that would have impacted additional wetlands to the north or east to allow for future expansion needs but determined not to expand further to avoid additional impacts. In addition, the applicant considered expansion to the west that would require additional length of a culvert and determined that at this time, the

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proposed taxiway and reconstruction of the culvert were all that were required. The applicant proposes to provide in-kind compensatory mitigation through a mitigation bank.

COASTAL ZONE: The applicant has applied for coastal zone (CZ) consistency in accordance with the State Coastal Zone Management Program. The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources issued CZ consistency on November 30, 2023.

WATER QUALITY: 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).

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 is being considered for the potential to affect historic properties. In accordance with Appendix C of 33 CFR 325, the Corps has determined the permit area consists of the entire 3.54-acre project site. The National Register of Historic Places will be consulted for properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register, which are known to exist and would be affected by the proposed work. The Mobile District is seeking comments regarding the existence, or the potential for existence, of significant cultural and historic properties within the permit area. At this time, the USACE, Mobile District has made no determination regarding potential effects of the project on cultural/historic resources. Further coordination with the State Historic Preservation Officer and/or federally-recognized American Indian tribes will be performed as determined to be appropriate.

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 following federally-listed species are known or expected to occur within the project area: Alabama Red-bellied Turtle (E), Pearl Darter (T), Black Pinesnake (T), Eastern Black Rail (T), Mississippi Sandhill Crane (E), Yellow-Blotched Map Turtle (T), Dusky Gopher Frog (E), Gopher Tortoise (T), Loggerhead Sea Turtle (E), Green Sea Turtle (T), and Gulf Sturgeon (T). There is no designated critical habitat within the project action area, but the project site is a tracked location for the Mississippi Sandhill Crane. At this time, the USACE, Mobile District has made no determination regarding potential effects of the project on the above-listed species. Further coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and NMFS will be performed as determined to be appropriate.

COMMENTS: 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

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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.

Correspondence concerning this Public Notice should refer to Public Notice Number **SAM-2023-00901-CSP** and should be directed to the District Engineer, Mobile District, Regulatory Division, Mobile, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001, Attention: Christopher S. Pickering, or submitted electronically at <u>christopher.s.pickering@usace.army.mil</u>, (251) 455-8627. Copies of all comments should be furnished 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.

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















