



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, MOBILE DISTRICT
600 VESTAVIA PARKWAY, SUITE 203
THE SHELBY BUILDING
VESTAVIA HILLS, ALABAMA 35216

CESAM-RD-N
PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2023-01123-JDC

August 26, 2024

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY OFFICE OF
POLLUTION CONTROL

**PROPOSED DISCHARGE OF FILL MATERIAL INTO WETLANDS AND UNNAMED
TRIBUTARIES TO JAMES CREEK ASSOCIATED WITH THE EXPANSION OF A RAIL
YARD AT THE WESTLAKE CHEMICAL PLANT IN ABERDEEN, MONROE COUNTY,
MISSISSIPPI**

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 U.S.C. 1344). Please communicate this information to interested parties.

APPLICANT: Westlake Chemical
Attention: Jimmy Autrey
715 Highway 25 South
Aberdeen, Mississippi 39730
jautrey@westlake.com

AGENT: Headwaters, Inc.
Attention: Ryan Odom
P.O. Box 2836
Ridgeland, Mississippi 39158
ryan@headwaters-inc.com

LOCATION: The proposed project is located in wetlands and unnamed tributaries to James Creek in Aberdeen, Monroe County, Mississippi. Specifically, the project is located within Section 3, Township 15 South, Range 7 East. Center coordinates of the project are latitude 33.807732, longitude -88.555614. The project is located in the Upper Tombigbee 8-digit hydrologic unit code (HUC 03160101).

PROJECT PURPOSE: The basic project purpose is linear transportation.

WORK: The applicant is requesting authorization to discharge fill material into 193.45 linear feet of intermittent stream, 2.46 acres of forested wetland, and 0.82 acre of non-forested wetland for grading associated with the construction of roadbed for three new railway tracks at the Westlake Chemical Plant. The three 2,300-foot-long railway tracks

would hold a total of 99 railcars to be used for additional storage and staging at the chemical plant.

AVOIDANCE & MINIMIZATION: According to the applicant, the project was designed to avoid 3.27 acres (50%) of the on-site wetlands. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has not verified the adequacy of the applicant's avoidance and minimization efforts at this time.

COMPENSATORY MITIGATION: The applicant proposes to purchase stream and wetland credits from an approved mitigation bank.

The applicant will apply for certification from the State of Mississippi 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 Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality.

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 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.

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 cultural and historic properties within the permit area. The USACE has not made a determination of effects to historic properties at this time. We are seeking comment from the State Historic Preservation Officer, federally recognized American Indian tribes, local historical societies, museums, universities, the National Park Service, and the general public regarding the existence or the potential for existence of significant cultural and historic properties which may be affected by the work. Further coordination with the State Historic Preservation Officer and/or federally-recognized American Indian tribes will be performed as determined to be appropriate.

ENDANGERED/THREATENED SPECIES: Preliminary review of this application and the U.S. Department of the Interior List of Endangered and Threatened Species indicates the following species have the potential to occur in the project watershed: Northern Long-eared Bat, Tricolored Bat, Alligator Snapping Turtle, and Price's Potato Bean. An effects determination will be made during the evaluation process, at which time the USACE will initiate consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), as appropriate. Copies of this public notice are being sent to the USFWS and other federal and state agencies for review and receipt of any relevant comments regarding potential effects of the proposed project on the listed species.

Correspondence concerning this Public Notice should refer to Public Notice Number **SAM-2023-01123-JDC** and should be directed to the District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mobile District, Birmingham Field Office, Attention: Mr. Jevon Coleman, 600 Vestavia Parkway, Suite 203, Vestavia Hills, Alabama 35216, with a copy to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Pollution Control, Environmental Permits Division, 401 Stormwater Branch, Attention: Ms. Carrie Barefoot, Post Office Box 2261, Jackson, Mississippi 39225. Comments may also be submitted via e-mail to USACE at Jevon.D.Coleman@usace.army.mil and to MDEQ at cbarefoot@mdeq.ms.gov.

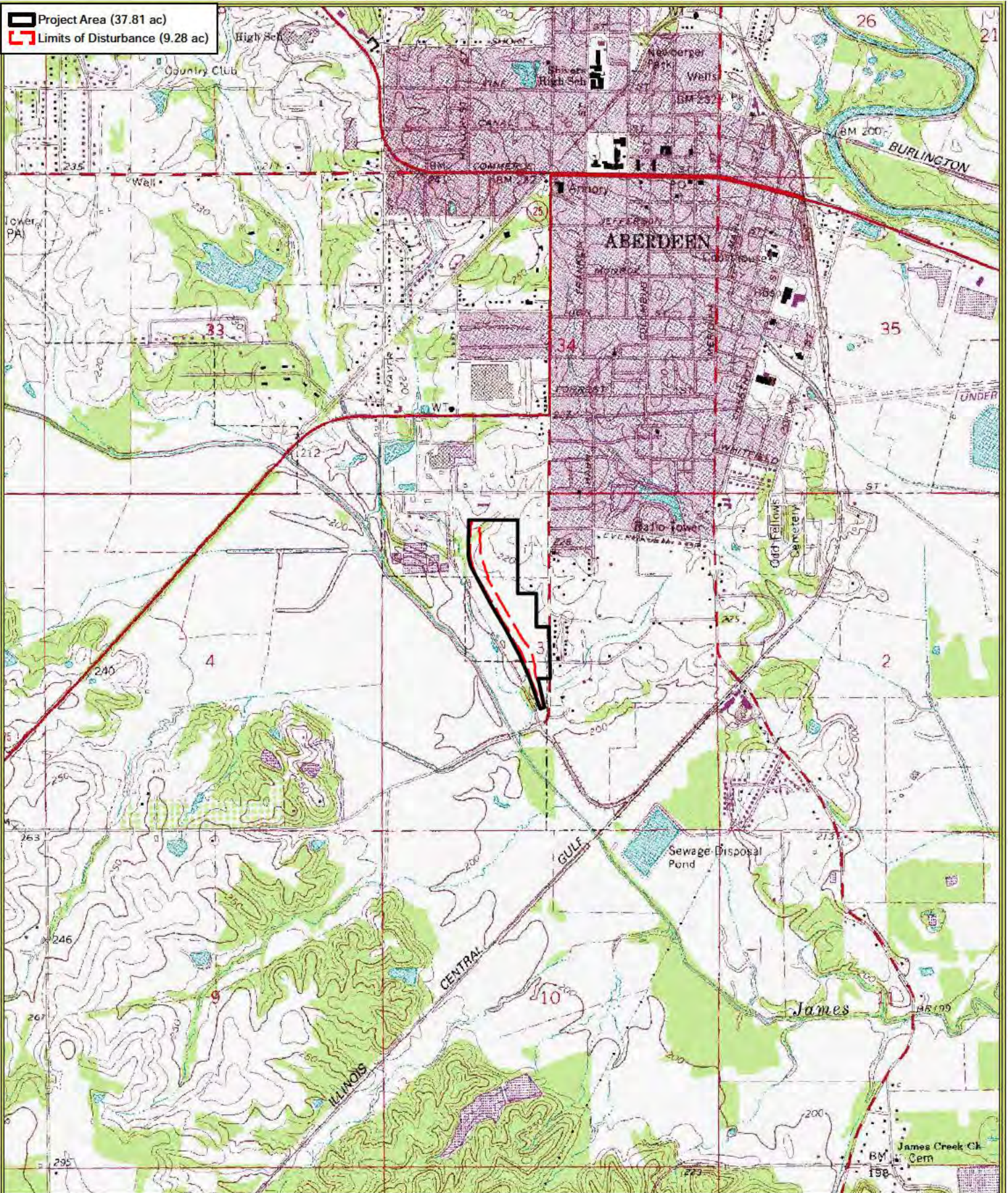
Comments should be received no later than 30 days from the date of this Public Notice. If you have any questions concerning this publication, you may contact the project manager via e-mail at Jevon.D.Coleman@usace.army.mil or telephone number (205) 381-0741. Please refer to the above Public Notice number.

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

MOBILE DISTRICT
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

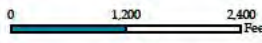

Attachments

 Project Area (37.81 ac)
 Limits of Disturbance (9.28 ac)




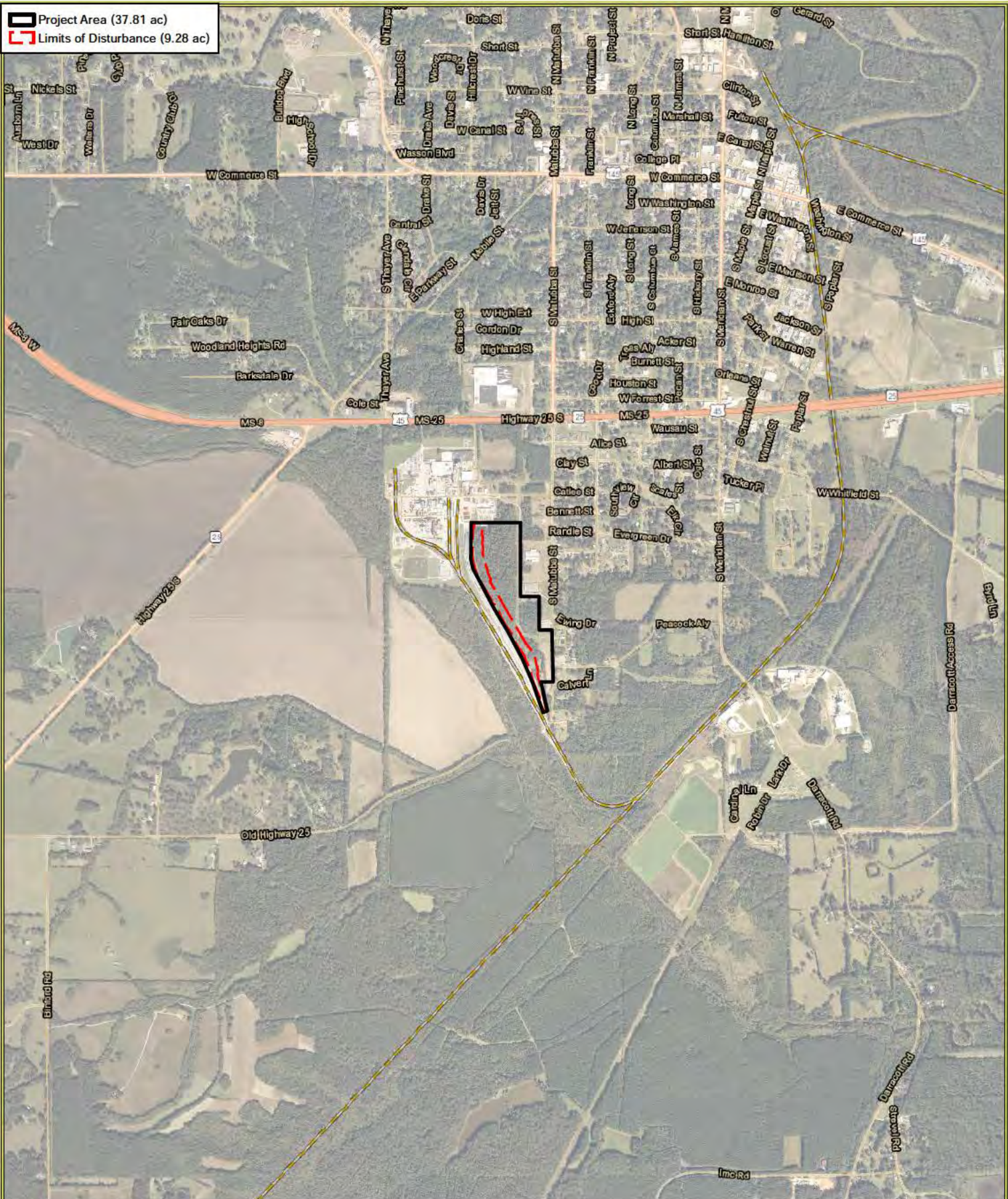

HEADWATERS
 NATURAL RESOURCES CONSULTING
WWW.HEADWATERS-INC.COM

Westlake Chemical
Track Expansion Project
 Sec. 3 - T - 15S - R 7E
 Monroe County, Mississippi
[Site Location Map](#)


 0 1,200 2,400 Feet
 1:24,000

 NAD 1983 StatePlane Mississippi East FIPS 2301 Feet
 USGS Aberdeen (MS) Quad

Date Created: 8/12/2024 Created by: JDL


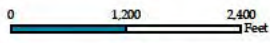
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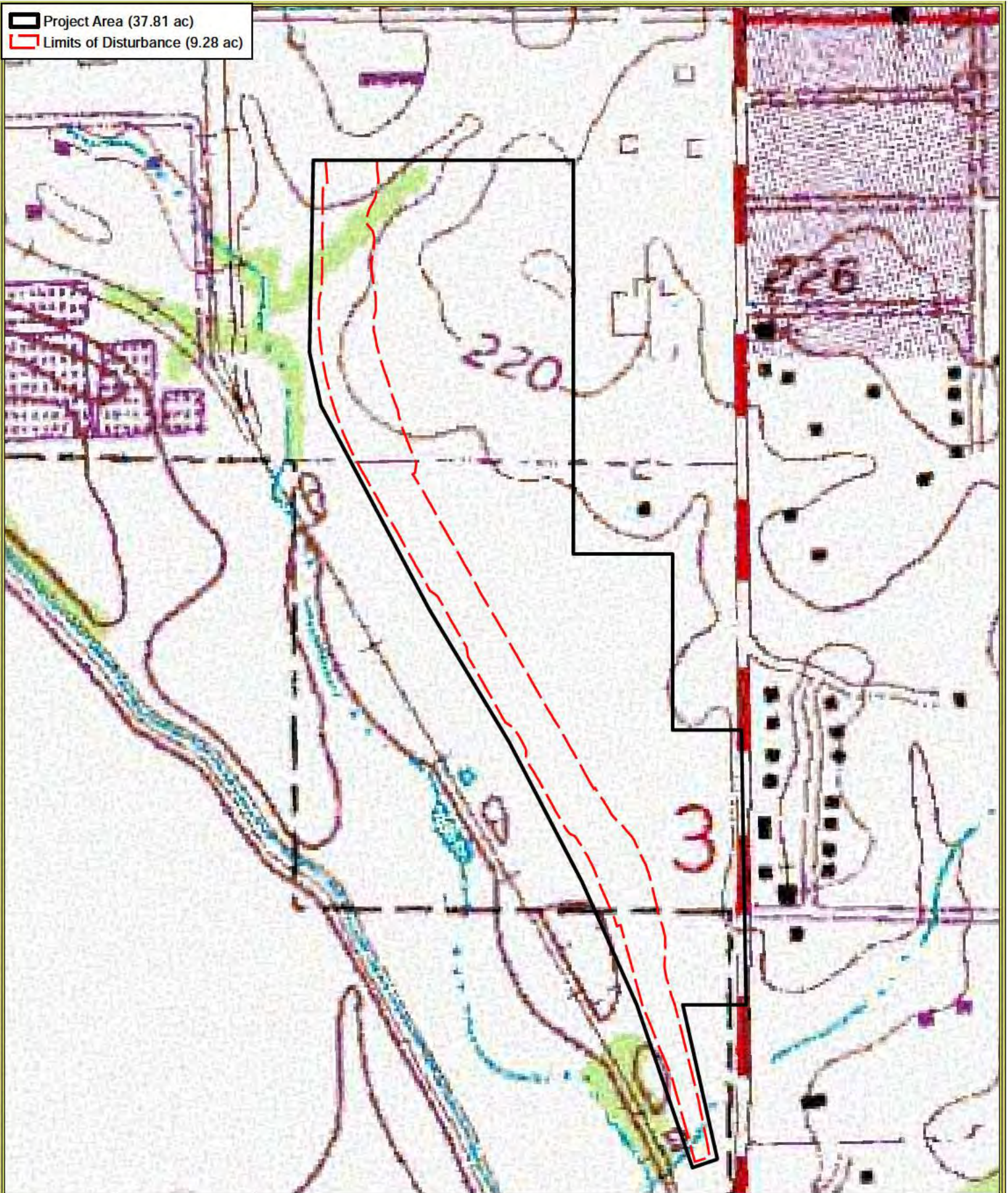

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 USDA NAIP 2021 Imagery Basemap

Project Area (37.81 ac)
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Feet
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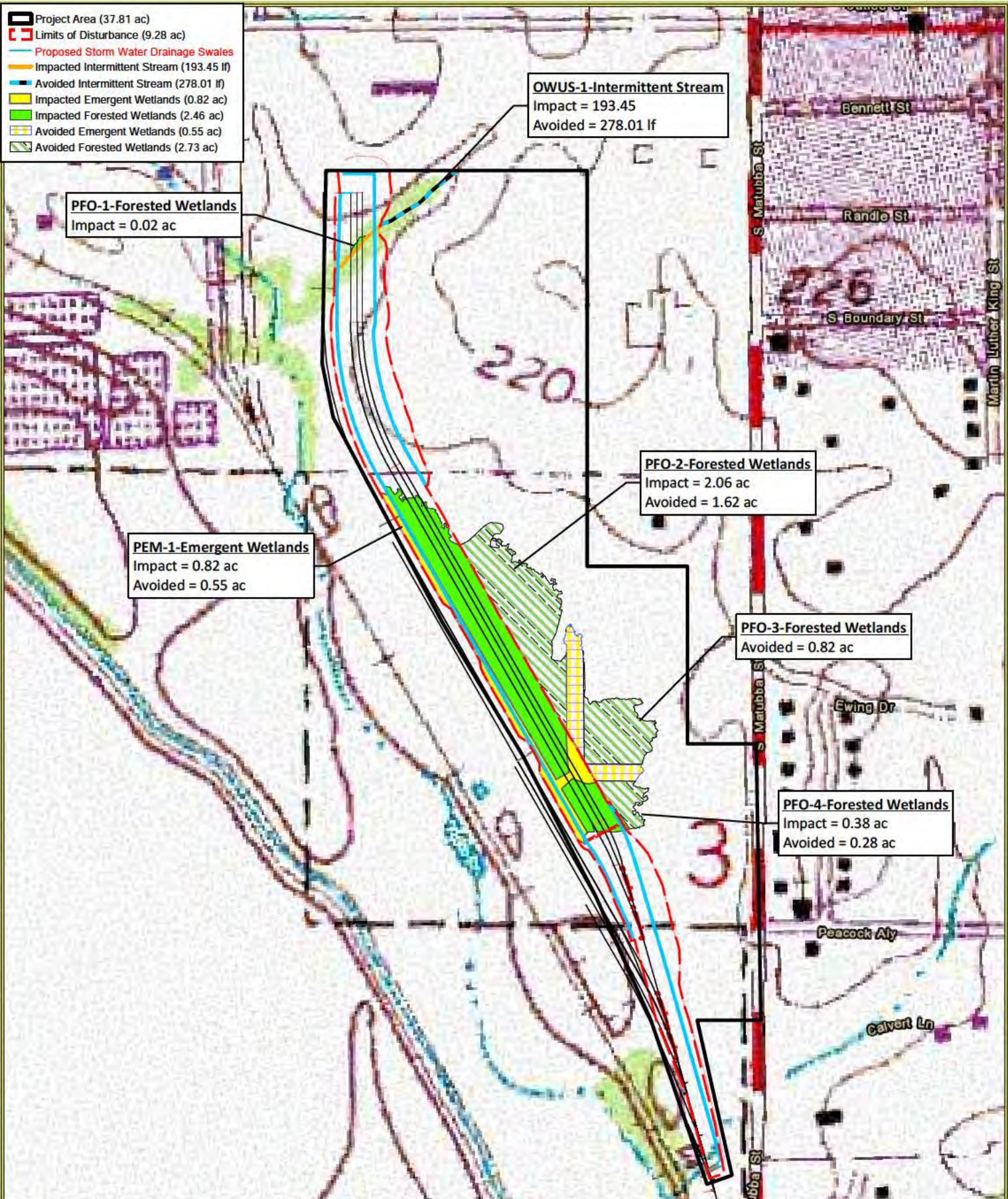



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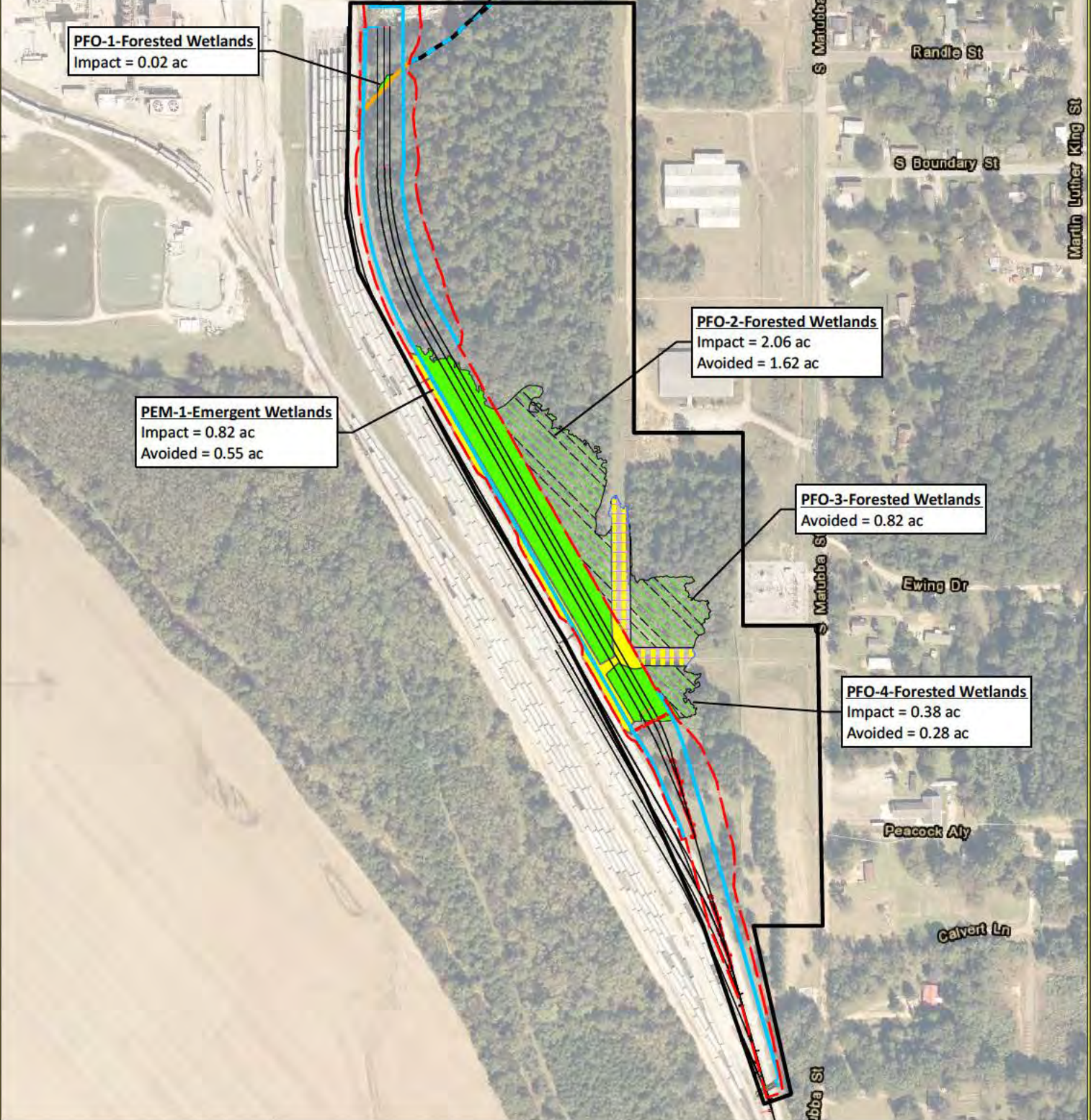
Westlake Chemical
Track Expansion Project
Sec. 3 - T - 15S - R 7E
Monroe County, Mississippi

"Other Waters of the U.S." Impact Map

NAD 1983 StatePlane Mississippi East FIPS 2301 Feet

USGS Aberdeen (MS) Quad

-  Project Area (37.81 ac)
-  Limits of Disturbance (9.28 ac)
-  Proposed Storm Water Drainage Swales
-  Impacted Intermittent Stream (193.45 lf)
-  Avoided Intermittent Stream (278.01 lf)
-  Impacted Emergent Wetlands (0.82 ac)
-  Impacted Forested Wetlands (2.46 ac)
-  Avoided Emergent Wetlands (0.55 ac)
-  Avoided Forested Wetlands (2.73 ac)



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 Monroe County, Mississippi
"Other Waters of the U.S." Impact Map

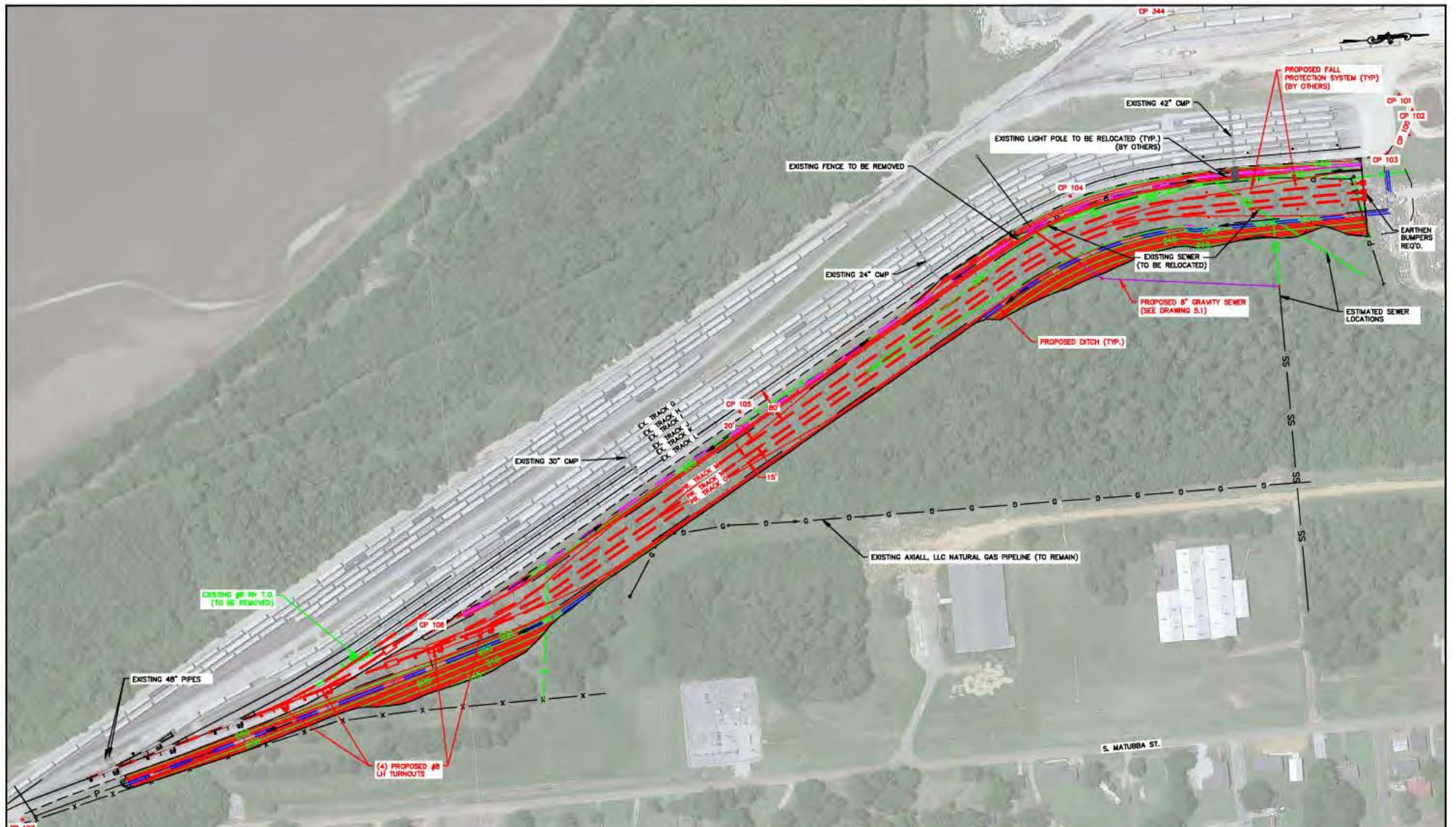
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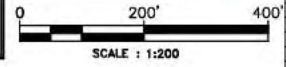
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NAD 1983 StatePlane Mississippi East FIPS 2301 Feet

USDA NAIP 2021 Imagery Basemap



REMARKS:
 ISSUED FOR REVIEW
 NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION
 CLARK W. MOORE
 MS REGISTRATION NO. 18328



REV	ITEM	BY	DATE
A	ISSUED FOR REVIEW - 30% PLANS	FJA	7-21-23
B	ADDED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR WETLANDS	FJA	7-24-23
C	ISSUED FOR REVIEW - 100% PLANS	FJA	11-22-23
D	ISSUED FOR REVIEW - 100% PLANS	FJA	02-06-24

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FOSTER, JONES & ASSOCIATES, INC.
 ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT
 120 SOLLETTA DRIVE, SUITE C ANDOVER, MS 38110
 (601) 288-1404
 JOB # 23-024.00

COMPANY	WESTLAKE CHEMICAL	PROJECT	RAIL EXPANSION
LOCATION	ABERDEEN, MS	DRAWING TITLE	OVERALL PLAN
CAD FILE	WESTLAKE - BASE.DWG	DRAWING NO.	1.2
CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORIZATION	NO. : 2598	DATE DRAWN	7-17-23
STATE : MS		REV.	D