

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-2024-00999-DJL

January 6, 2025

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

## PROPOSED DREDGING AND SHORELINE STABILIZATION AND RECLAMATION, WOLF BAY, ELBERTA, BALDWIN 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 U.S.C. 1344). Please communicate this information to interested parties.

- APPLICANT: Stacey Ryals Post Office Box 250 Elberta, Alabama 36530
- AGENT: EcoSolutions, Inc. Attention: Thomas Hutchings Post Office Box 361 Montrose, Alabama 36559

**LOCATION/WATERS:** The project is located within Wolf Bay; at and adjacent to 8455 Osprey Drive; within Section 16, Township 8 South, Range 5 East; at Latitude 30.347552 and Longitude -87.578112; in Elberta, Baldwin County, Alabama. See attachments for location details.

**PROJECT PURPOSE:** The project purpose is to reduce shoreline erosion and reclaim lost shoreline within Wolf Bay.

## **PROPOSED WORK:**

a. The hydraulic dredging of 3,317-cubic-yards of material within 29,850-square-feet (0.68 acre) of waterbottoms. Dredged material will be placed in waterbottoms landward of the land reclamation activities.

b. The installation of 1,382-linear-feet of riprap breakwaters. Activities will include the placement of 1,375-cubic-yards of riprap within 9,150-square-feet (0.2 acre) of waterbottoms adjacent to the shoreline.

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c. The placement of 3,317-cubic-yards of fill material within 48,720-square-feet (1.1 acres) of waterbottoms and landward of the proposed breakwaters. Native marsh vegetation will be planted within 35,190-square-feet (0.8 acre) of the proposed fill areas to reestablish lost habitat.

**AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION:** The applicant has indicated the proposed project has been designed to avoid impacts to any submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) and wetlands that may be present within the project area. Furthermore, Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be implemented to prevent water quality impacts within Wolf Bay during project implementation. 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:** Compensatory mitigation would not be required because the activity consists of construction of structures that would not adversely impact special aquatic sites.

**WATER QUALITY/COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT (CZM):** The applicant will apply for certification from the State of Alabama in accordance with Section 401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act, as well as Coastal Zone Management (CZM) consistency certification in accordance with the Alabama Coastal Zone Management Program. Upon completion of the required advertising and public comment review, a determination relative to Water Quality Certification and Coastal Zone consistency will be made by the ADEM. This notice will serve as the notification to the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) pursuant to section 401(a)(2) of the Clean Water Act.

**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, 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 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. 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.

**ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT:** This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The proposed project would impact approximately 2.0-acres of unvegetated estuarine substrate utilized by various life stages of multiple marine

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species. Our final determination relative to project impacts is subject to review by and coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

**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 12-digit Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC-12) of the project area: West Indian Manatee (T), Rufa Red Knot (T), and Eastern Indigo Snake (T). There is no designated critical habitat within the project action area, at this time, the USACE, Mobile District has made no final determination regarding 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 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 guality, 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

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States will also 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-2024-00999-DJL** and should be directed to the project manager, Mr. Dana John Leach by e-mail at <u>Dana.J.leach@usace.army.mil</u>, or to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, Regulatory Division, Attention: Mr. Dana John Leach, Post Office Box 2288, 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.** If you have any questions concerning this publication, you may contact Mr. Dana John Leach by e-mail at <u>Dana.J.Leach@usace.army.mil</u>, or by phone at (251) 305-8963. Please refer to the above Public Notice Number **SAM-2024-00999-DJL**, in any communication concerning this project.

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

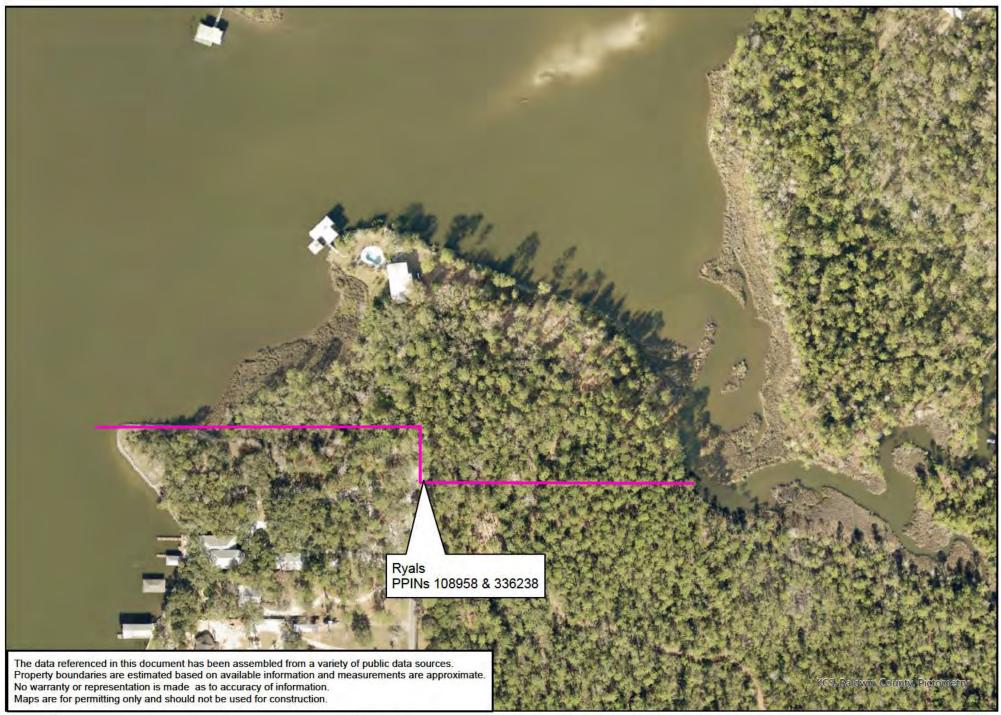
MOBILE DISTRICT U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Attachments



Phone: 251-621-5006 Fax: 251-621-5058

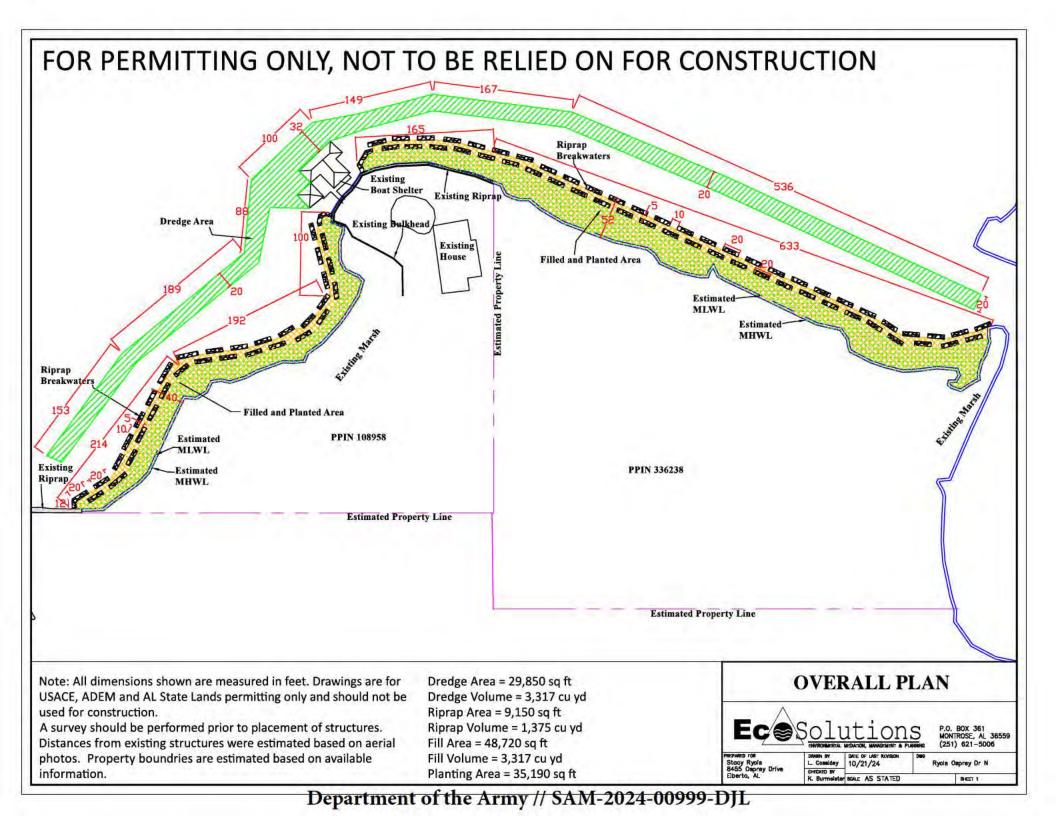
1 inch equals 200 feet Department of the Army // StAM-2024-00999-DJL 800

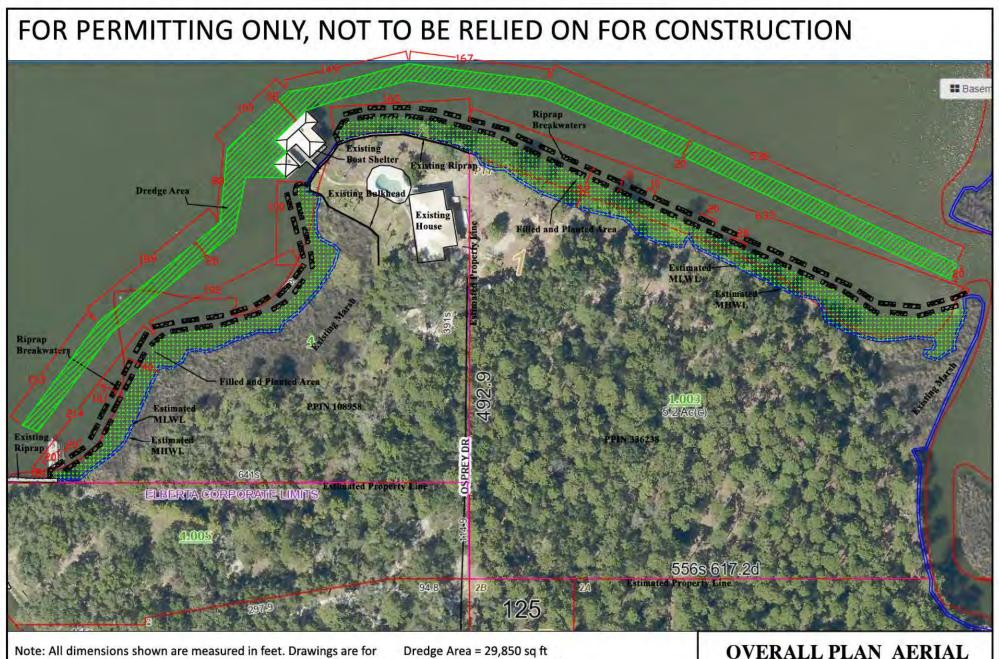




Topo Map Project: Ryals Osprey Dr N Applicant(s): Stacey Ryals 1 inch equals 200 feet Department<sup>1</sup> of the Army // StAM-2024-00999-DJL <sup>Stop</sup>

T-8-S, R-5-E, Sect. 16 Elberta, AL



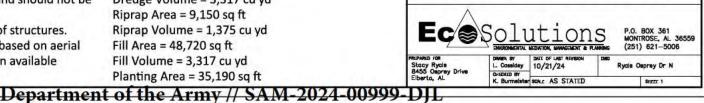


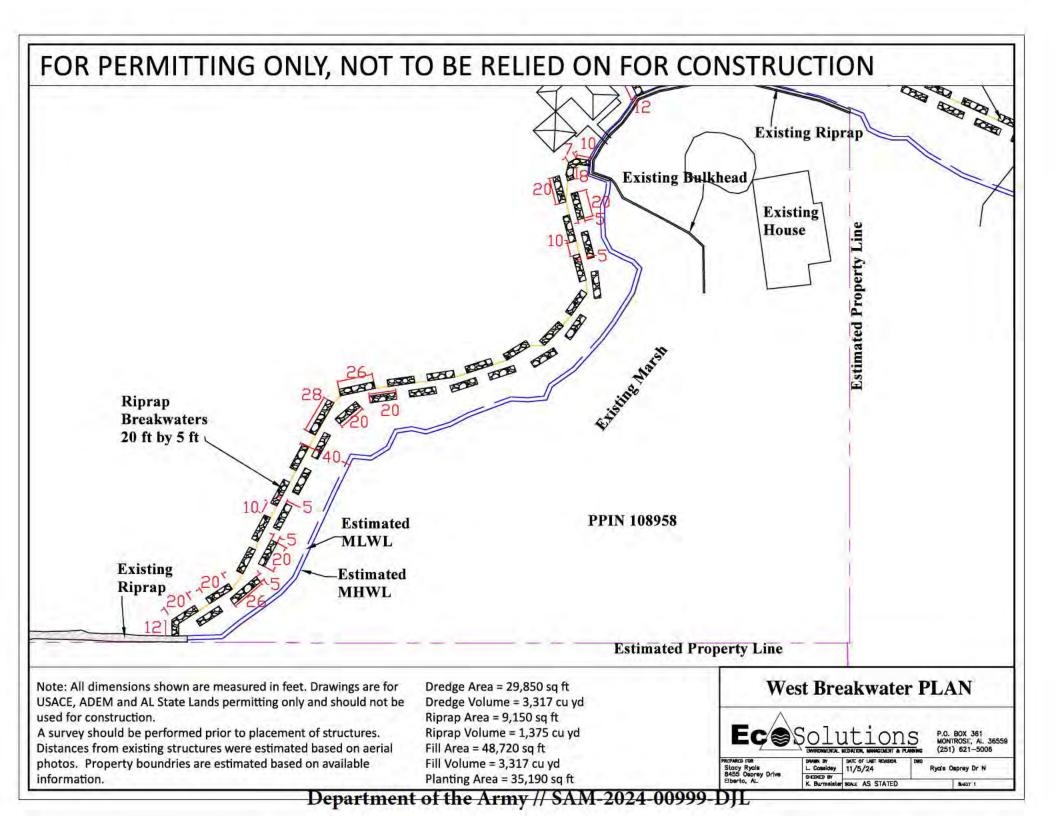
USACE, ADEM and AL State Lands permitting only and should not be used for construction.

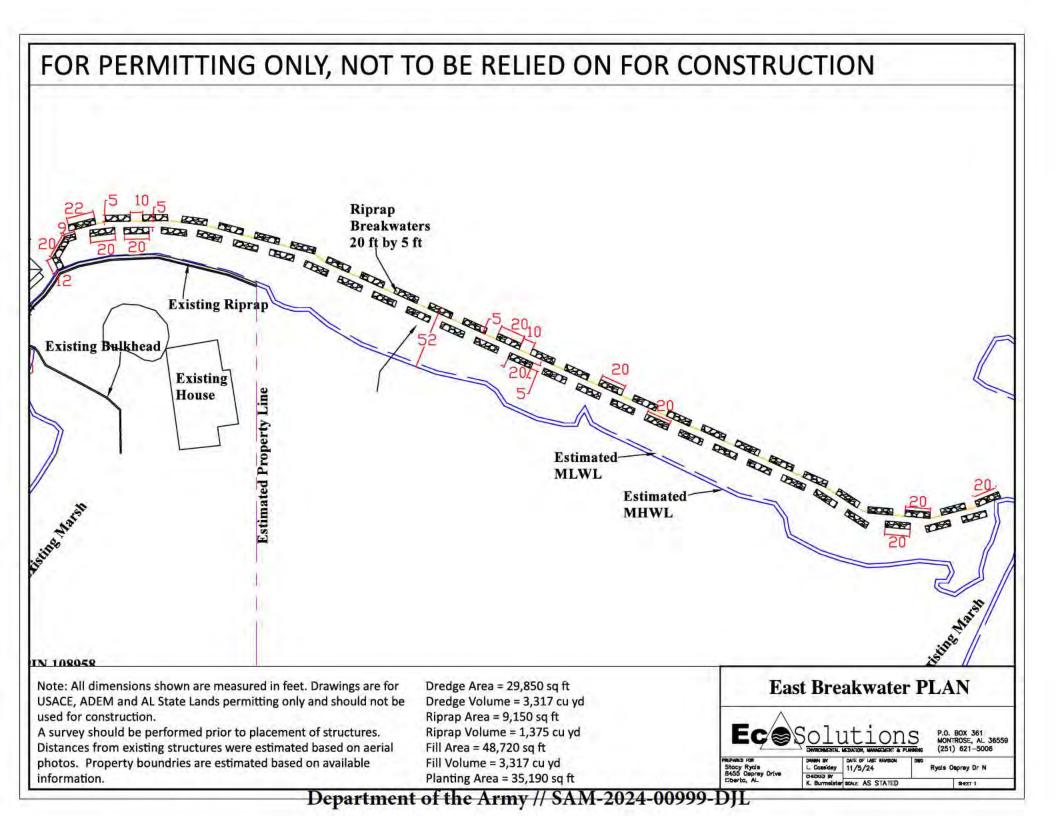
A survey should be performed prior to placement of structures. Distances from existing structures were estimated based on aerial photos. Property boundries are estimated based on available information.

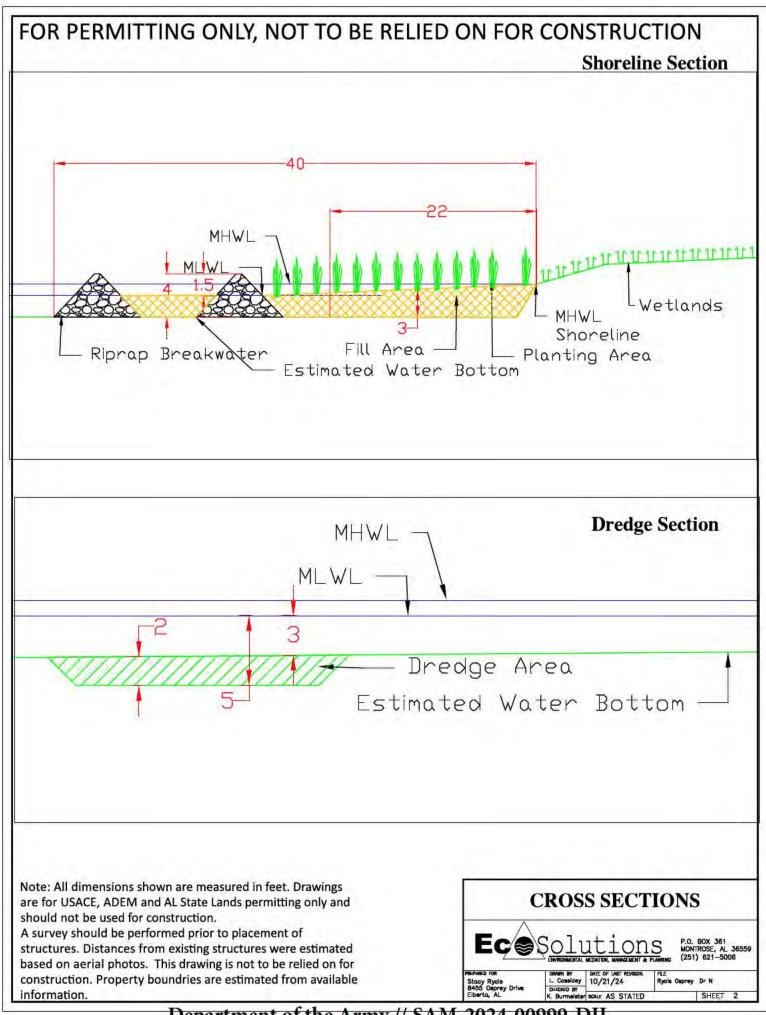
Dredge Volume = 3,317 cu yd Riprap Area = 9,150 sq ft Riprap Volume = 1,375 cu yd Fill Area = 48,720 sq ft Fill Volume = 3,317 cu yd Planting Area = 35,190 sq ft

# **OVERALL PLAN AERIAL**









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