

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

February 14, 2012

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT
REGULATORY FUNCTIONS
BRANCH
P.O. BOX 60267
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70160

STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
SERVICES
P.O. BOX 4313
BATON ROUGE, LA 70821-4313

STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCES
OFFICE OF COASTAL
MANAGEMENT
P.O. BOX 44487
BATON ROUGE, LA 70804-4487

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CORPS REVIEWER:
Johnny Duplantis

DEQ REVIEWER:
Jamie Phillippe

OCM REVIEWER:
Sharon McCarthy

COE NUMBER:
MVN-2002-00777-WPP

WQC NUMBER:
011217-04

CUP NUMBER:
P20111649

LOWER WARD 7 LEVEE ELEVATION IN TERREBONNE PARISH

NAME OF APPLICANT: Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government c/o Shaw Coastal, Inc., 197 Elysian Drive, Houma, LA 70363.

DESCRIPTION: Proposed lift of +/- 27,000' of the existing Lower Ward 7 Levee from an elevation of +8.0' to 10.0'. Project proposes the excavation of +/- 62,000 cubic yards from an area on the protected side of the existing levee and the hauling in of +/- 353,000 cubic yards of topsoil/dirt for placement upon the proposed lift area to a height of +10 elevation and width of +/- 97'. The proposed lift will result in the widening of the existing levee footprint by +/- 40' on the flood side. *Approximately 21.0 acres of brackish marsh, 5.2 acres of open water/waterbottom, and 64.0 acres of existing levee/developed habitat may be impacted as a result of this proposed activity.

LOCATION: POB: Lat 29° 26' 36.3"N / Long -90° 36' 26.5"W; POE: Lat 29° 23' 14.6"N / Long -90° 37' 19.1"W; Section 6-26, 93, 94 T19S-R18E; La. Hwy 56. Chauvin, 70344.

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) water quality certification is required. Concurrent with processing of this application, the LDEQ is reviewing this application under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act and in accordance with Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, Title 30, Chapter 11, Part IV, Section 2074 A (3) to determine if the work would comply with State water quality standards and other applicable provisions of the CWA. By virtue of an agreement between the USACE and the LDEQ, this public notice is also issued for the purpose of advising all known interested persons that there is pending before the LDEQ a decision on water quality certification under such act. Comments concerning this application for water quality certification in Louisiana must be submitted, using the applicant's name, to: State of Louisiana, Department of Environmental Quality, Attn: Jamie Phillippe, P.O. Box 4313, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4313. The public comment period extends 30 days from the publication date of

this notice. A copy of the public notice with a description of the work is available for review between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays at the LDEQ office at 602 North 5th Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802. Copies may be obtained upon payment of the cost of printing. The LDEQ may conduct a public hearing to consider all comments concerning water quality if requested in writing. A request for a public hearing must contain the following information: the name, mailing address, application number, or other recognizable reference to the application; a brief description of the interest of the requester, or of persons represented by the requester; and a brief description of how the application, if granted, would adversely affect such interest.

The comment period for the Department of the Army Permit and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality WQC will close **20 days** from the date of this joint public notice. Written comments, including suggestions for modifications or objections to the proposed work, stating reasons thereof, are being solicited from anyone having interest in this permit and/or this WQC request and must be mailed so as to be received before or by the last day of the comment period. Letters concerning the Corps of Engineers permit application must reference the applicant's name and the Permit Application Number, and be mailed to the Corps of Engineers at the address above, **ATTENTION: REGULATORY BRANCH**. Similar letters concerning the Water Quality Certification must reference the applicant's name and the WQC Application number and be mailed to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality at the address above.

The application for this proposed project is on file with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and may be examined during weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Copies may be obtained upon payment of costs of reproduction.

Corps of Engineers Permit Criteria

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, 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, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 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 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine whether to make, 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 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.

No properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places are near the proposed work. The

possibility exists that the proposed work may damage or destroy presently unknown archeological, scientific, prehistorical, historical sites, or data. Copies of this notice are being sent to the State Archeologist and the State Historic Preservation Officer.

Our initial finding is that the proposed work would neither affect any species listed as endangered by the U.S. Departments of Interior or Commerce, nor affect any habitat designated as critical to the survival and recovery of any endangered species.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The applicant's proposal would result in the destruction or alteration of 5.2 acre(s) of EFH utilized by various life stages of red drum and penaeid shrimp. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial adverse impact on EFH or federally managed fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

If the proposed work involves deposits of dredged or fill material into navigable waters, the evaluation of the probable impacts will include the application of guidelines established by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Also, a certification that the proposed activity will not violate applicable water quality standards will be required from the Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Water Resources before a permit is issued.

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.

You are requested to communicate the information contained in this notice to any other parties whom you deem likely to have interest in the matter.

Ronnie Duke
Chief, Western Evaluation Section
Regulatory Branch

Attachments