



ENHANCE ★ PROTECT ★ CONSERVE

# Mississippi Advisory Commission on Marine Resources

February 20, 2024



ENHANCE ★ PROTECT ★ CONSERVE

# Employment, Contracts and Procurement Updates February 20, 2024

# Employment Updates

## New-Hires:

- Chelsea Prince – Contractor – January 16, 2024 – Office of Coastal Restoration and Resiliency

## Promotions:

- Jack Husley – Promoted to Law Enforcement Officer III (Master Sergeant) – February 1, 2024 – Office of Marine Patrol
- Dylan Kessen – Promoted to Law Enforcement Officer II (Sergeant) – February 1, 2024 – Office of Marine Patrol
- Jacob Strickland – Promoted to Law Enforcement Officer II (Sergeant) – February 1, 2024 – Office of Marine Patrol
- Selena Burhorn – Promoted to Admin Support Specialist – February 5, 2024 – Grand Bay NERR



ENHANCE ★ PROTECT ★ CONSERVE

# Actions Update for February 20, 2024 Commission Meeting



# Discussed at the January 2024 meeting:

- The Commission recommended and the Director approved the following motions:
- Motion to recommend approval of the following State Saltwater Finfish Record:
  - a. Youth Conventional Tackle:
    - 1. Silver Perch (*Bairdiella chrysoura*) – 0 lbs. 3.2 oz. – Margaret Schindler

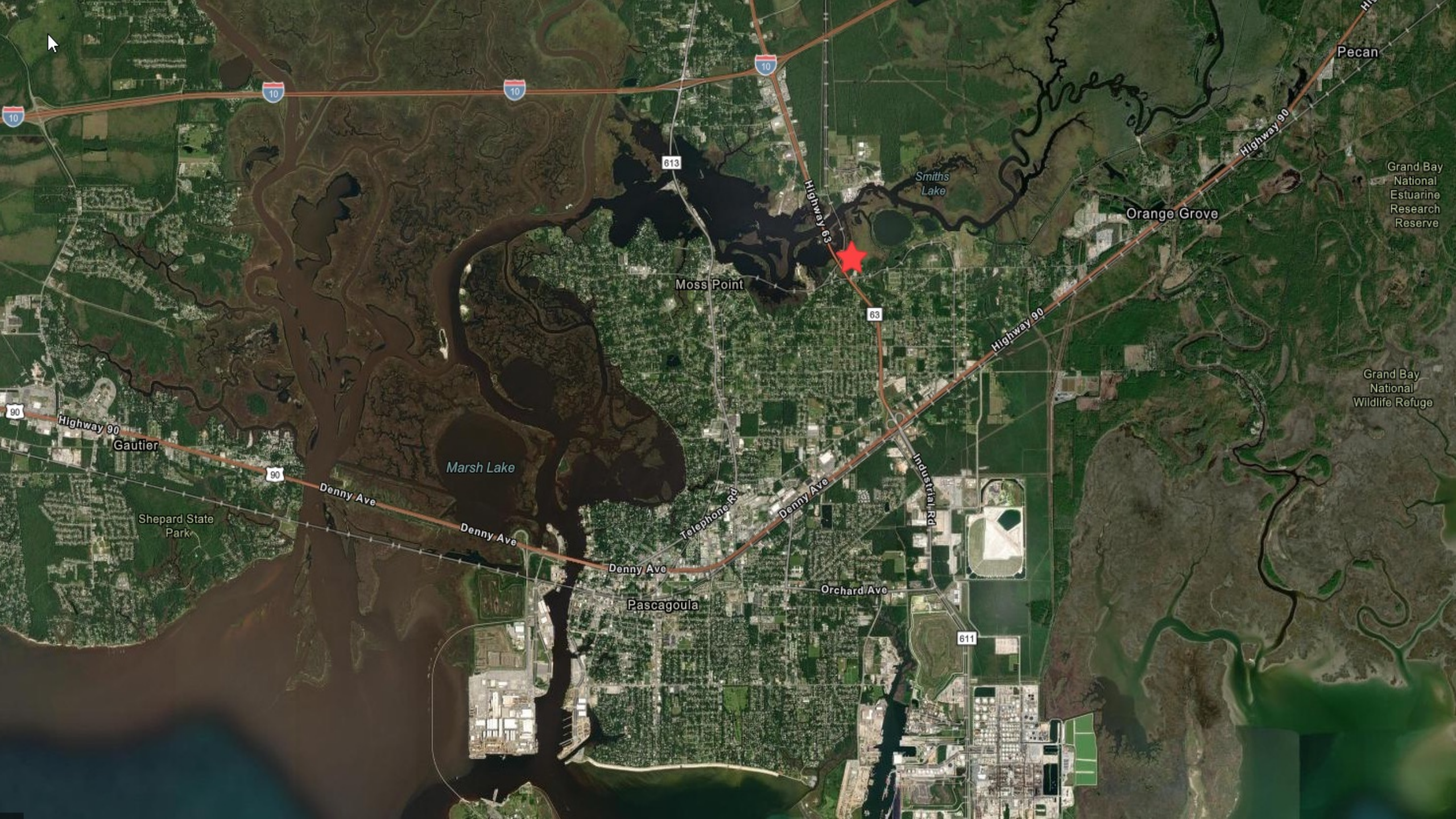
# **Request for Permit by: Jackson County Port Authority DMR23-000749**

- **Location: Wetlands adjacent to the Escatawpa River near Highway 63 in Moss Point, Jackson County, MS**
- **Use District: (G) General Use District**
- **Agent: Lisa Morrison, Neel-Schaffer, Inc.**
- **Project Purpose/Need:**
  - **Provide additional railroad capacity and connectivity between existing infrastructure**
  - **Support the growing needs of the Port of Pascagoula and Bayou Casotte Harbor**
  - **Remove operational conflicts between railroads, reduce congestion with the abandonment of rail crossings, and accommodate the proposed restoration of passenger rail service**

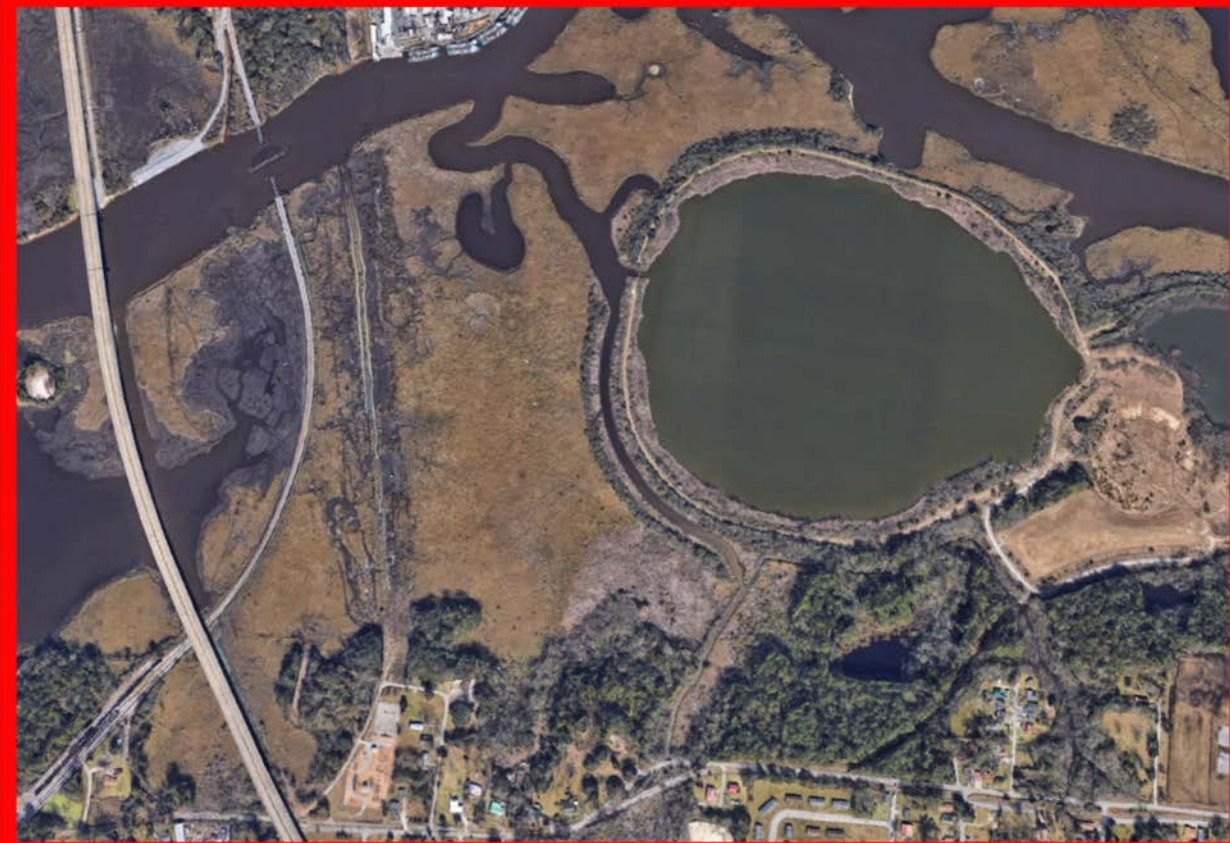
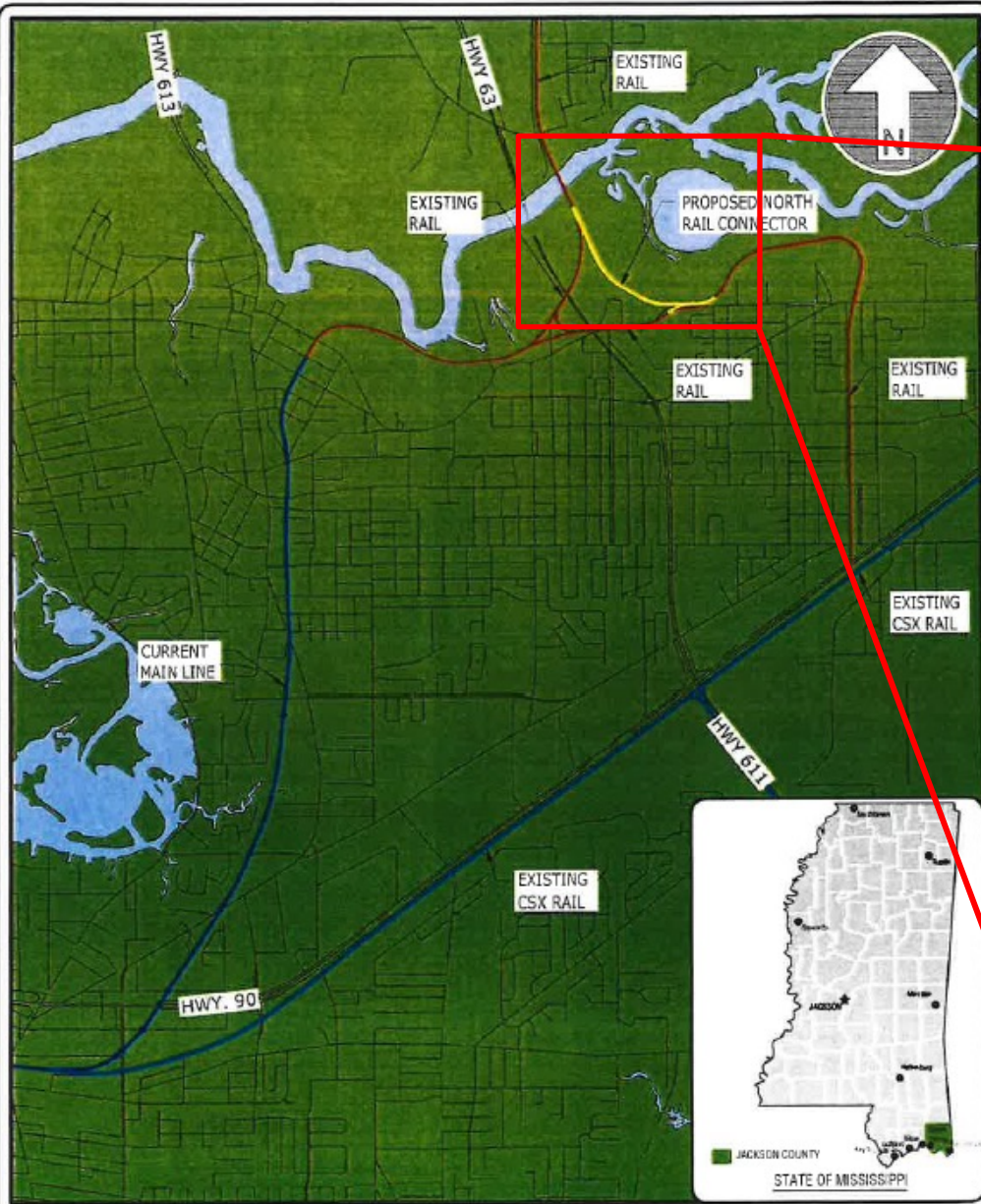
## **Project Description (proposed modification)**

- **Fill:**
  - **3.27 acres of tidal and tidally-influenced marsh**
- **Mitigation:**
  - **Already implemented 1.0 acre of tidal marsh in adjacent area to mitigate for 0.9 acre of fill currently approved**
  - **Creation of an additional 2.27 acres of tidal and tidally-influenced marsh immediately adjacent to the project area**







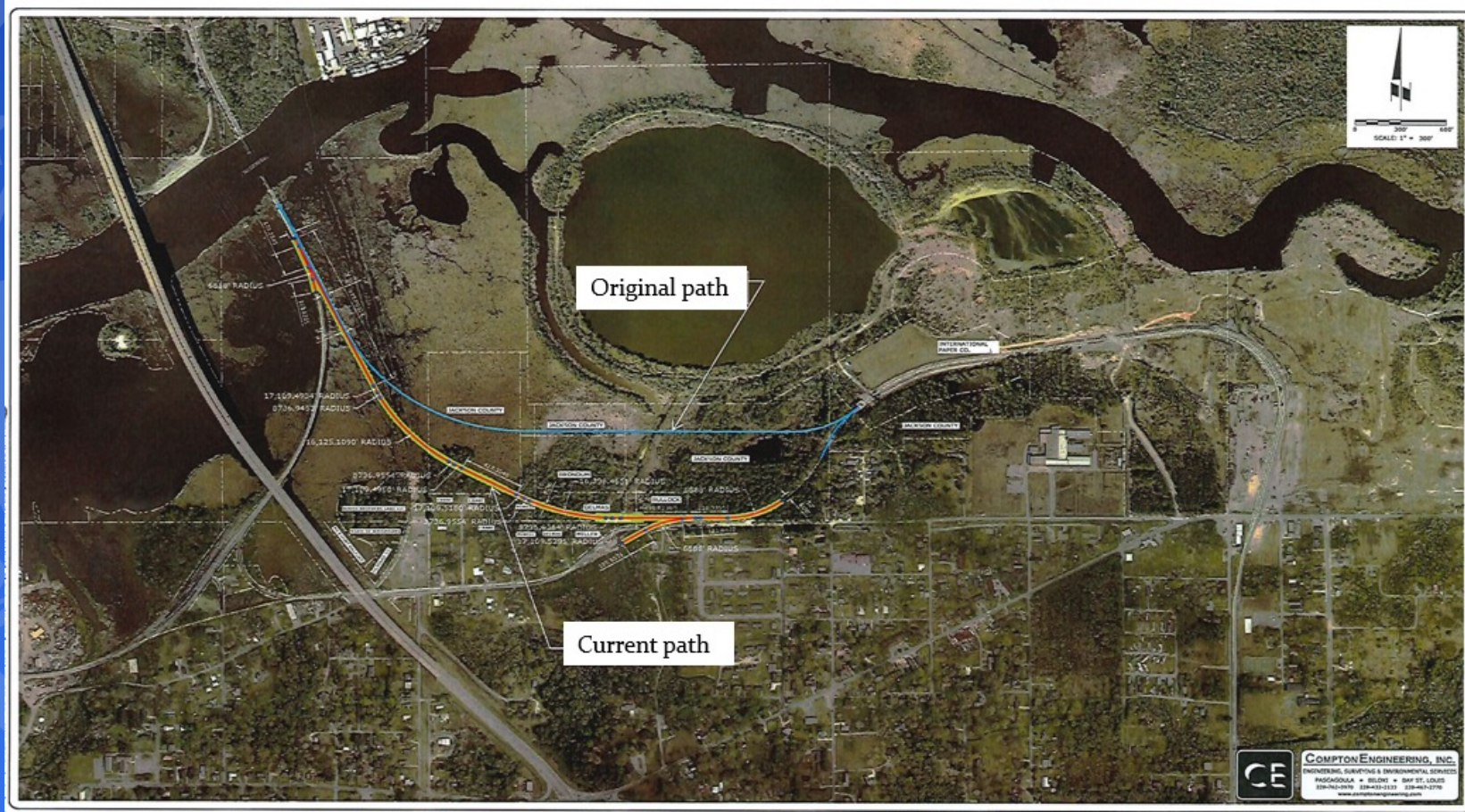


**FIGURE 1-1**  
**NORTH RAIL CONNECTOR**  
**CURRENT MAIN LINE & PROPOSED**  
**NRC**



# Project Chronology

- **2019 (original project): Impact 4.89 acres with fill of tidal and tidally-influenced marsh and forested, non-tidal wetlands**
- **2020 (currently approved): Adjust footprint south, construct elevated rail line with 0.9 acres of tidal and tidally-influenced marsh fill**

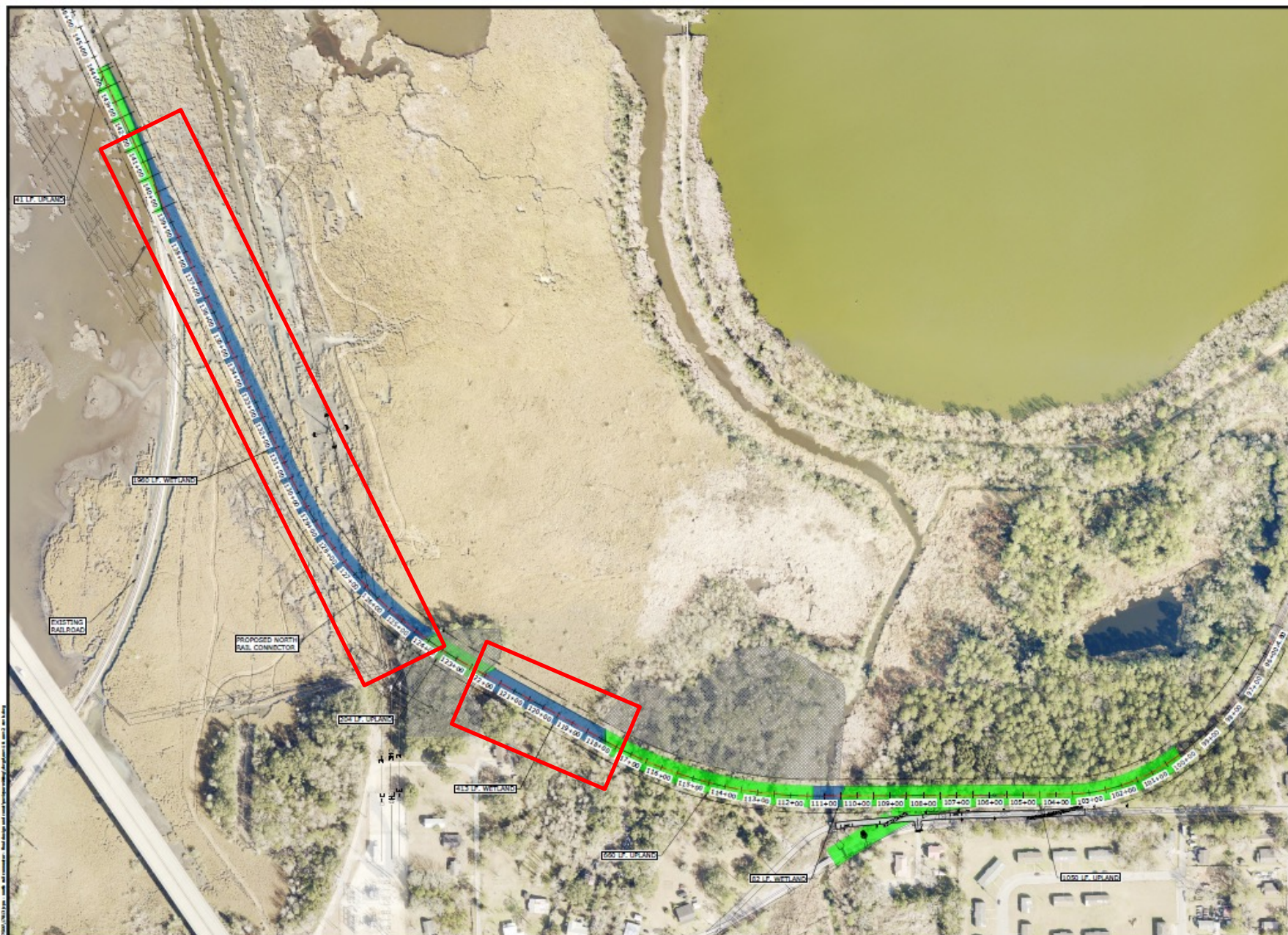






LEGEND:	
	RAIL CENTER LINE = 4410 L.F.
	WETLANDS = 2455 L.F.
	UPLANDS = 1925 L.F.

 Areas of fill



#### NOTICE TO DRAWING HOLDER

NEEL-SCHAFER, INC. HERINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE ENGINEER HAS PREPARED AND FURNISHED THIS DRAWING TO THE OWNER FOR USE ON THIS PROJECT ONLY. THIS DRAWING SHOULD NOT BE USED ON EXTENSIONS OF THIS PROJECT OR ON ANY OTHER PROJECT. ANY REUSE OF THIS DRAWING, WITHOUT WRITTEN PERMISSION OR ADOPTION BY THE ENGINEER, SHALL BE AT THE USER'S SOLE RISK AND THE ENGINEER SHALL INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS THE ENGINEER FROM ALL CLAIMS, DAMAGES, LOSSES AND EXPENSES, INCLUDING ATTORNEY'S FEES ARISING OUT OF OR RESULTING THEREFROM.

REVISIONS			DRAWING INFORMATION	
NO.	DATE	BY	DESCRIPTION	
A	01/05/24	JL	ISSUED FOR REVIEW	PROJECT NO.: NS17813.00 FILENAME: ENV-1 & ENV-2 REV 0.dwg SCALE: AS NOTED SURVEYED BY: OSDN: LDM DATE: 01/05/24 DRWN: JDL DATE: 01/05/24 CHKD: LDM DATE: 01/05/24 QA/QC: DATE: /
B	01/17/24	JL	BUILD FOR REVIEW	

#### PORT OF PASCAGOULA NORTH RAIL CONNECTOR PROJECT

CITY OF PASCAGOULA



#### UPLAND AND WETLAND PLAN

WORKING NUMBER:  
ENV-2

DRAWING NUMBER:  
FIGURE 2





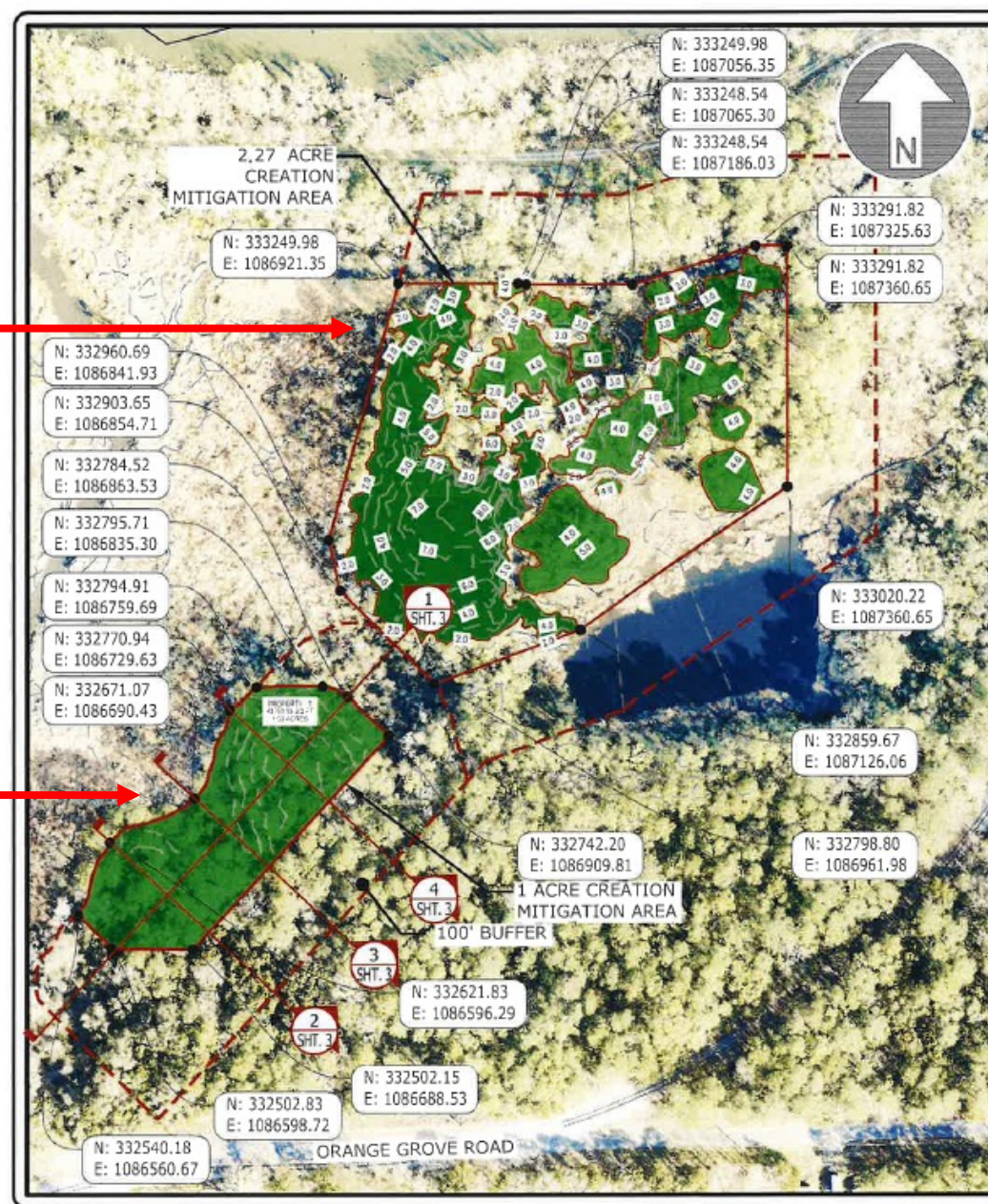


# Coastal Wetlands Use Plan

- **Coastal Wetlands Use Plan**
  - **The proposed project is allowable within the (G) General Use District**

Proposed mitigation of additional 2.27 acres

Previous mitigation of 1.0 acre



**COMPTON ENGINEERING, INC.**  
 ENGINEERING, SURVEYING & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
 PASCAGOULA • BILOXI • BAY ST. LOUIS  
 228-762-3970 228-432-2133 228-467-2770  
 www.comptonengineering.com

17813 JACKSON COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY (JCPA),  
 NORTH RAIL CONNECTOR,  
 PROPOSED PERMITTED RESPONSIBLE,  
 MITIGATION AREA,  
 SCALE: NTS  
 DRN. BY: JDL

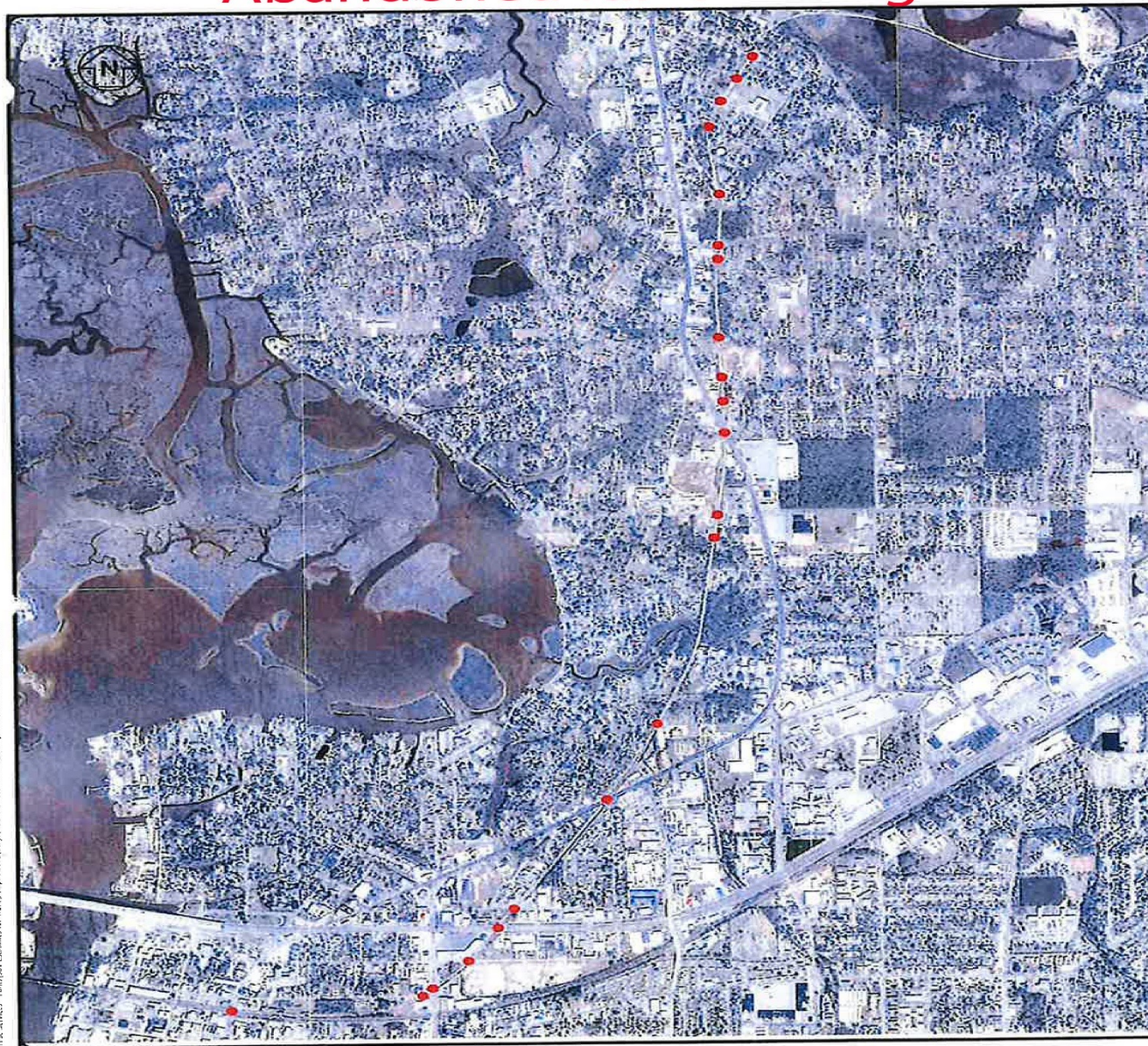


# Variance Requests

- **Title 22, Part 23 (MS Coastal Program):**
  - Ch. 8, Sect. 114.01 “Permanent filling of coastal wetlands below the mean high tide line because of potential adverse and cumulative environmental impacts is not authorized.”
  - Ch. 8, Sect. 114.03 “Sensitive coastal wetlands must not be filled.”
  - Ch. 8, Sect. 105.01 “Bridging must be used in preference to filling to create roadbeds, railways, and other transportation facilities.”
  - Ch. 8, Sect. 105.03 “Except for the construction of replacement bridges and approaches, transportation improvement projects must generally follow existing alignments in coastal wetlands.”
- **Justification:**
  - Ch. 8, Sect. 118.03 “No feasible, alternative sites or construction techniques are available; there is significant public benefit; and a public hearing has been held”
    - Efficient transport of goods including those which support the nation’s energy policy
    - Increase public safety by closing railroad crossing



## Abandoned rail crossings



11211-09) SCSA HSC Services - Paris201 Estimates for Training Improvements RAIL SITE-01-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100-101-102-103-104-105-106-107-108-109-110-111-112-113-114-115-116-117-118-119-120-121-122-123-124-125-126-127-128-129-130-131-132-133-134-135-136-137-138-139-140-141-142-143-144-145-146-147-148-149-150-151-152-153-154-155-156-157-158-159-160-161-162-163-164-165-166-167-168-169-170-171-172-173-174-175-176-177-178-179-180-181-182-183-184-185-186-187-188-189-190-191-192-193-194-195-196-197-198-199-200-201-202-203-204-205-206-207-208-209-210-211-212-213-214-215-216-217-218-219-220-221-222-223-224-225-226-227-228-229-230-231-232-233-234-235-236-237-238-239-240-241-242-243-244-245-246-247-248-249-250-251-252-253-254-255-256-257-258-259-260-261-262-263-264-265-266-267-268-269-270-271-272-273-274-275-276-277-278-279-280-281-282-283-284-285-286-287-288-289-290-291-292-293-294-295-296-297-298-299-300-301-302-303-304-305-306-307-308-309-310-311-312-313-314-315-316-317-318-319-320-321-322-323-324-325-326-327-328-329-330-331-332-333-334-335-336-337-338-339-340-341-342-343-344-345-346-347-348-349-350-351-352-353-354-355-356-357-358-359-360-361-362-363-364-365-366-367-368-369-370-371-372-373-374-375-376-377-378-379-380-381-382-383-384-385-386-387-388-389-390-391-392-393-394-395-396-397-398-399-400-401-402-403-404-405-406-407-408-409-410-411-412-413-414-415-416-417-418-419-420-421-422-423-424-425-426-427-428-429-430-431-432-433-434-435-436-437-438-439-440-441-442-443-444-445-446-447-448-449-450-451-452-453-454-455-456-457-458-459-460-461-462-463-464-465-466-467-468-469-470-471-472-473-474-475-476-477-478-479-480-481-482-483-484-485-486-487-488-489-490-491-492-493-494-495-496-497-498-499-500-501-502-503-504-505-506-507-508-509-510-511-512-513-514-515-516-517-518-519-520-521-522-523-524-525-526-527-528-529-530-531-532-533-534-535-536-537-538-539-540-541-542-543-544-545-546-547-548-549-550-551-552-553-554-555-556-557-558-559-560-561-562-563-564-565-566-567-568-569-570-571-572-573-574-575-576-577-578-579-580-581-582-583-584-585-586-587-588-589-590-591-592-593-594-595-596-597-598-599-600-601-602-603-604-605-606-607-608-609-610-611-612-613-614-615-616-617-618-619-620-621-622-623-624-625-626-627-628-629-630-631-632-633-634-635-636-637-638-639-640-641-642-643-644-645-646-647-648-649-650-651-652-653-654-655-656-657-658-659-660-661-662-663-664-665-666-667-668-669-670-671-672-673-674-675-676-677-678-679-680-681-682-683-684-685-686-687-688-689-690-691-692-693-694-695-696-697-698-699-700-701-702-703-704-705-706-707-708-709-710-711-712-713-714-715-716-717-718-719-720-721-722-723-724-725-726-727-728-729-730-731-732-733-734-735-736-737-738-739-740-741-742-743-744-745-746-747-748-749-750-751-752-753-754-755-756-757-758-759-760-761-762-763-764-765-766-767-768-769-770-771-772-773-774-775-776-777-778-779-780-781-782-783-784-785-786-787-788-789-790-791-792-793-794-795-796-797-798-799-800-801-802-803-804-805-806-807-808-809-810-811-812-813-814-815-816-817-818-819-820-821-822-823-824-825-826-827-828-829-830-831-832-833-834-835-836-837-838-839-840-841-842-843-844-845-846-847-848-849-850-851-852-853-854-855-856-857-858-859-860-861-862-863-864-865-866-867-868-869-870-871-872-873-874-875-876-877-878-879-880-881-882-883-884-885-886-887-888-889-890-891-892-893-894-895-896-897-898-899-900-901-902-903-904-905-906-907-908-909-910-911-912-913-914-915-916-917-918-919-920-921-922-923-924-925-926-927-928-929-930-931-932-933-934-935-936-937-938-939-940-941-942-943-944-945-946-947-948-949-950-951-952-953-954-955-956-957-958-959-960-961-962-963-964-965-966-967-968-969-970-971-972-973-974-975-976-977-978-979-980-981-982-983-984-985-986-987-988-989-990-991-992-993-994-995-996-997-998-999-1000-1001-1002-1003-1004-1005-1006-1007-1008-1009-1010-1011-1012-1013-1014-1015-1016-1017-1018-1019-1020-1021-1022-1023-1024-1025-1026-1027-1028-1029-1030-1031-1032-1033-1034-1035-1036-1037-1038-1039-1040-1041-1042-1043-1044-1045-1

J606\WP7-2\FR0384\S



**COMPTON ENGINEERING, INC.**  
Engineering, Surveying, and Environmental Services  
1969 Market Street  
Pascagoula, Mississippi 39567  
Phone: (228) 762-3970 Fax: (228) 769-9079  
E-mail: [compton@comptonengineering.com](mailto:compton@comptonengineering.com)

(21) ROAD CROSSINGS  
THROUGH MOSS POINT &  
PASCAGOULA



# Public and Agency Notice and Comments

- **Public Notice**
  - Notification of the project appeared in the Sun Herald on January 7, 14, and 21, 2024
  - Notification of the proposed project appeared on the MDMR web site from January 8 to January 29, 2024
    - No public comments were received
- **Public Hearing**
  - February 1, 2024
    - No public comments were received
- **MDEQ: No comments received during the comment period**
- **MDAH: No comments received regarding the current modification**
- **MS SOS: Project area is held under a rent-exempt Tidelands Lease**

ENHANCE ★ PROTECT ★ CONSERVE

# Staff Recommendation

- The staff of the Department of Marine Resources has conducted a thorough evaluation of the project and has made findings on the decision factors in accordance with Title 22, Part 23 of the Mississippi Coastal Program (MCP). The project would serve a higher public interest by:
  - Allowing more efficient movement of goods by rail from Bayou Casotte and the Port of Pascagoula
  - Increasing public safety through the abandonment of approximately 21 rail crossings in areas of Pascagoula and Moss Point
- Therefore, staff requests a motion that the Commission recommend to the Executive Director:
  - Approve the Requested Variance
  - Approve the Permit as Requested



**Request for Permit by:  
Mississippi Department of Marine Resources  
DMR23-000222**

- **Location:** Railroad Corner near the mouth of the West Pascagoula River, Jackson County, MS
- **Use District:** (G) General Use District
- **Agent:** Covington Civil and Environmental, LLC
- **Project Purpose/Need:** Create approximately 175 acres of tidal marsh habitat and provide an additional location for the placement of dredged materials



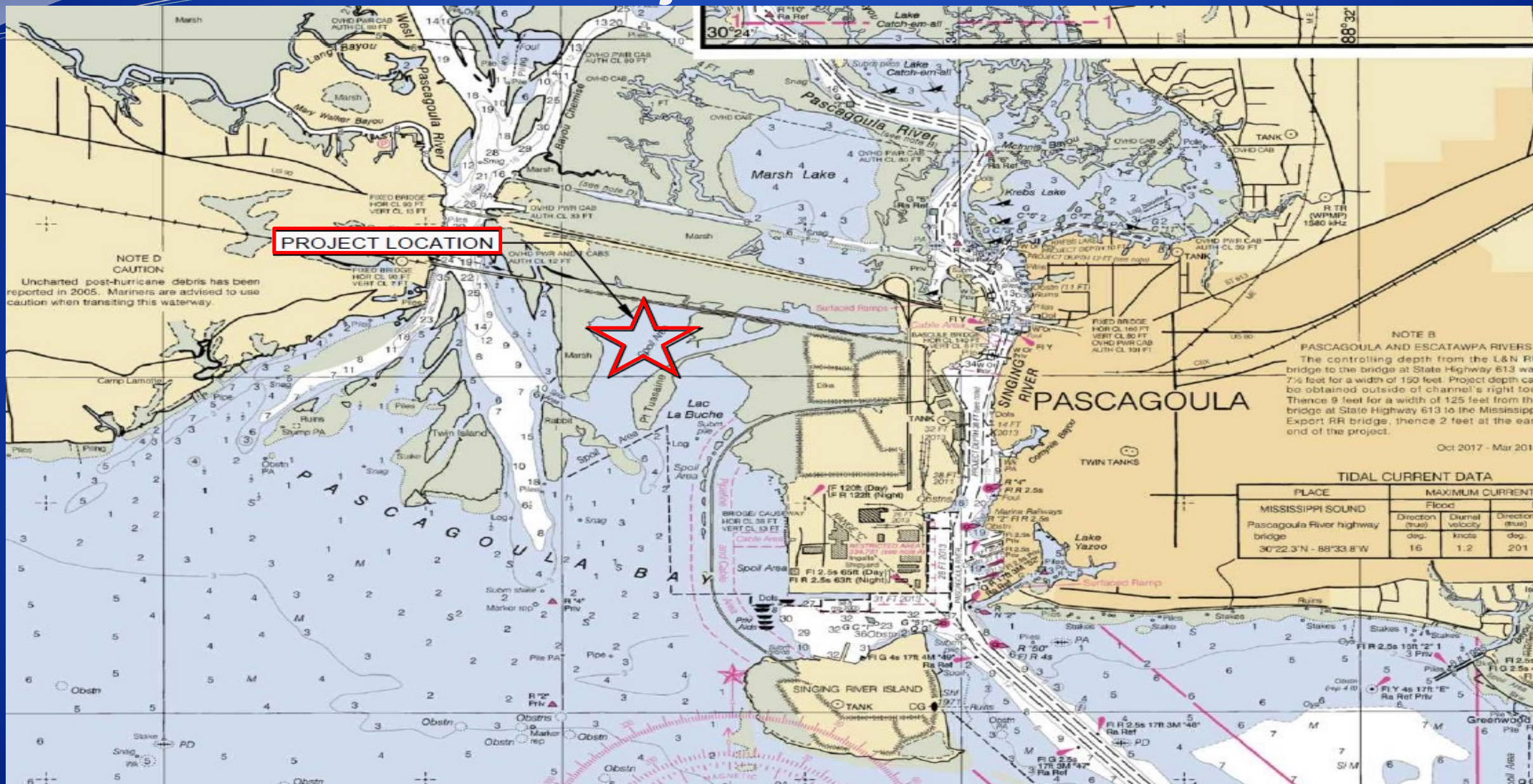
## Project Description

- **Filling of Coastal Wetlands for the Construction of a Beneficial Use (BU) Site**
  - **Fill of 175 acres of Coastal Wetlands for creation of marsh habitat**
    - **Three structures to contain dredged material**
      - **Rock berm 1,365 linear feet with a crest elevation of +4.0 feet MLLW at the southern extent of project area**
      - **Earthen berm 3,500 linear feet with a crest elevation of +2.0 MLLW to protect existing SAV on the western side**
      - **Vegetated berm 1,325 linear feet with a crest elevation of +4.0 feet MLLW on the eastern side of project area to reinforce existing marsh**
    - **926 square feet of existing brackish marsh will be covered on the eastern tie-in of the proposed rock berm**

ENHANCE ★ PROTECT ★ CONSERVE

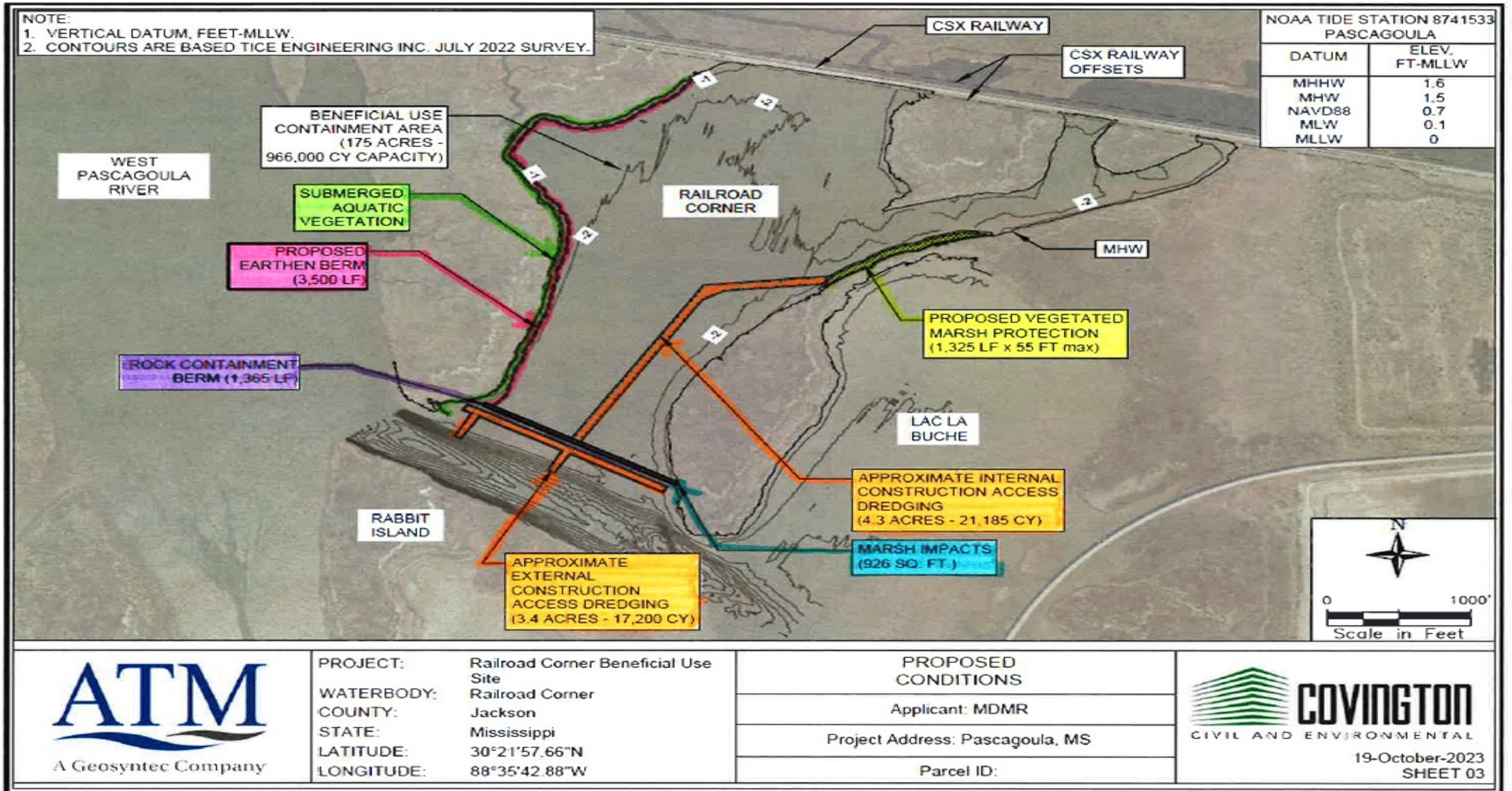


# Project Location





# Project Area



# Coastal Wetlands Use Plan

- The proposed project is allowable within the General Use District but the applicant is requesting a change to the Coastal Wetlands Use Plan in the footprint of the proposed project to a Special Use District: S-6 for Restoration and Enhancement Areas
  - Justified under Miss. Admin. Code Title 22, Part 23 (MS Coastal Program), Chapter 7, Section 105.06.01
    - “No significant environmental impacts would occur as a result of the use allowed; no feasible, alternative sites in the use designation being requested are available; the general public and governmental entities were notified of the activity; no significant conflicts with surrounding uses or public access to coastal wetlands would occur; and the activity does not adversely affect the public interest in wetlands protection.”

ENHANCE ★ PROTECT ★ CONSERVE



## Variance Requests

- **Title 22, Part 23 (MS Coastal Program):**
  - **Ch. 8, Sect. 114.01** “Permanent filling of coastal wetlands below the mean high tide line because of potential adverse and cumulative environmental impacts is not authorized.”
- **Justification:**
  - **Ch. 8, Sect. 118.04** “Impacts to Coastal Wetlands would be no worse than if the guidelines were followed”
    - The filling of shallow water bottoms is being conducted to support ecological enhancement, which will provide a net positive environmental impact. This project will create approximately 175 acres of productive tidal marsh habitat through the beneficial use of dredged materials.

# Public and Agency Notice and Comments

- **Public Notice**

- Notification of the proposed project appeared in The Sun Herald on January 7, 14, & 21, 2024.
- Notification of the proposed project appeared on the MDMR website on January 4 through January 26, 2024
  - No public comments were received
- **MDEQ: Has issued 401 Water Quality Certification**
- **MDAH: No objections**
- **MS SOS: "...we authorize this use of the public trust lands at this location for the purposes identified in the application."**



## Staff Recommendation

- The staff of the Department of Marine Resources has conducted a thorough evaluation of the project and has made findings on the decision factors in accordance with Title 22, Part 23 (Mississippi Coastal Program). The project would serve a higher public interest by:
  - Providing an additional BU site for dredged material for current and future local dredging projects
  - Creating a highly productive marsh habitat that would protect shorelines from wave energy while also performing environmental functions, such as improving water quality, promoting settlement of suspended particulates, and providing habitat to various species of birds, fish, crustaceans, and other invertebrates.
- Therefore, staff requests a motion that the Commission recommend to the Executive Director:
  - Approve the requested Variance
  - Approve the requested Use Plan Change
  - Approve the Permit as requested



ENHANCE ★ PROTECT ★ CONSERVE

# Mississippi

## Department of Marine Resources

Agency Financial Results  
as of January 31, 2024



Key Metrics:

- State Revenue of \$4.8M
- Agency Revenue of \$26.1M
- State Net Income of \$605K
- Agency Net Income of \$1.7M

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

Income Statement - Fiscal Year 2024

As of January 31, 2024

	Federal : GOMESA PHII: NFWF:		Operating		
	State	Non-Federal:	Subtotal	Tidelands	Total DMR
<b>Revenue:</b>					
Off-road Fuel Tax	3,050,000	-	3,050,000	-	3,050,000
Federal/NonFederal Grants	21,130	6,152,812	6,173,942	-	6,173,942
Sales Revenue	890,423	-	890,423	679	891,102
Indirect Cost Recovery	704,919	-	704,919	-	704,919
Other Revenue	218,954	3,139,462	3,358,415	11,960,839	15,319,254
Current Budget Year Revenue:	4,885,425	9,292,274	14,177,699	11,961,517	26,139,216
<b>Expenditures:</b>					
Salaries, Wages, Fringe	3,504,542	2,076,739	5,581,281	638,980	6,220,261
Travel	21,899	23,813	45,712	16,497	62,209
Contractual Services	452,198	2,459,734	2,911,933	491,799	3,403,732
Commodities	177,209	2,007,740	2,184,949	140,189	2,325,139
Other than Equipment	-	4,850	4,850	-	4,850
Equipment	123,168	88,239	211,407	118,292	329,699
Vehicles	-	52,995	52,995	-	52,995
Subsidies, Loans, and Grants	955	8,774,137	8,775,092	3,213,698	11,988,790
Current Budget Year Expenditures:	4,279,972	15,488,247	19,768,218	4,619,456	24,387,674
Current Budget Year Net Income/(Loss):	\$ 605,454	\$ (6,195,973)	\$ (5,590,519)	\$ 7,342,061	\$ 1,751,542

# Financial Budget Comparison

- After seven months of Fiscal Year 2024:

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES									
2024 Budget Comparison									
As of January 31, 2024									
	Actual Year to Date Expenditures			Budget Year Totals			Percent Remaining		
	Operating	Tidelands	Total	Operating	Tidelands	Total	Operating	Tidelands	Total
Expenditures:									
Salaries, Wages, Fringe	\$ 5,581,281	\$ 638,980	\$ 6,220,261	\$ 15,093,165	\$ 1,304,662	\$ 16,397,827	63.0%	51.0%	62.1%
Travel	45,712	16,497	62,209	213,093	30,000	243,093	78.5%	45.0%	74.4%
Contractual Services	2,911,933	491,799	3,403,732	13,643,311	1,651,000	15,294,311	78.7%	70.2%	77.7%
Commodities	2,184,949	140,189	2,325,139	3,923,349	360,000	4,283,349	44.3%	61.1%	45.7%
Other than Equipment	4,850	-	4,850	100,000	20,000	120,000	95.2%	100.0%	96.0%
Equipment	211,407	118,292	329,699	788,317	335,000	1,123,317	73.2%	64.7%	70.6%
Vehicles	52,995	-	52,995	400,000	195,000	595,000	86.8%	100.0%	91.1%
Wireless Devices	-	-	-	6,250	-	6,250	100.0%	-	100.0%
Subsidies, Loans, and Grants	8,775,092	3,213,698	11,988,790	165,490,342	8,559,585	174,049,927	94.7%	62.5%	93.1%
Total Expenditures:	\$ 19,768,218	\$ 4,619,456	\$ 24,387,674	\$ 199,657,827	\$ 12,455,247	\$ 212,113,074	90.1%	62.9%	88.5%

- Operating Funds have 90.1% of Budget remaining
- Tidelands Trust Fund has 62.9% of Budget remaining





ENHANCE ★ PROTECT ★ CONSERVE

# State Saltwater Finfish Records

Trevor Moncrief  
February 20, 2024

K.1.

The background features a large, faint, light blue seal of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources. The seal is circular with a double-lined border. The outer ring contains the text "MISSISSIPPI" at the top and "DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES" at the bottom, separated by two five-pointed stars. The inner circle depicts a stylized scene with a bird in flight over wavy lines representing water, and a marsh reed on the right side.

# Conventional Tackle

ENHANCE ★ PROTECT ★ CONSERVE



# Conventional Tackle Fishing Record

Red Grouper  
*Epinephelus morio*

Old Record: 20 lbs. 1.28oz.

New Record: 22 lbs. 12 oz.

Angler: Ron McMillan

ENHANCE ★ PROTECT ★ CONSERVE



ENHANCE ★ PROTECT ★ CONSERVE





ENHANCE ★ PROTECT ★ CONSERVE

The background of the slide features a large, faint, circular seal of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources. The seal contains the text "MISSISSIPPI" at the top and "DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES" at the bottom, separated by two stars. In the center of the seal is a stylized illustration of a fish jumping out of the water.

# Required: Motion to Adopt New Sate Records

ENHANCE ★ PROTECT ★ CONSERVE