



May 18, 2007

Mr. Ray Aycock  
Field Supervisor  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Jackson Field Office  
6578 Dogwood View Parkway  
Suite A  
Jackson, MS 39213

**Re: Request for Project Review – Bert Jones Small Craft Harbor Area Redevelopment Project, Harrison County, Mississippi**

Dear Mr. Aycock:

The City of Gulfport has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for assistance under the Public Assistance (PA) Program for the proposed redevelopment of the Bert Jones Small Craft Harbor area in Gulfport, Harrison County, Mississippi.

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina's storm surge severely damaged the Harbor area. Prior to Hurricane Katrina, the Harbor attracted many tourists and provided berthing, storage, and ramp access for a variety of vessels ranging from commercial fishing to recreational boats. The Harbor also included boating-related businesses, restaurants, shops, and charter boat services. The Harbor is located immediately southeast from downtown Gulfport, at the intersection of U.S. Highway 90 (Beach Boulevard) and 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue (see Figure 1). The Harbor is bound to the north by Highway 90, to the west by the Mississippi State Port Authority at Gulfport and Downtown Gulfport, to the east by public beaches, and to the south by the Gulf of Mexico. The Harbor is located in floodplain designated zone VE and was within the surge inundation zone for Katrina, receiving up to 25 feet of water.

The City of Gulfport proposes to utilize FEMA funds, in conjunction with funds from the City's Community Development Block Grant and private investments, to redevelop the 40-acre Harbor area and the adjacent 26-acre Jones Park. The redevelopment of the Harbor area would help the City meet its goal to revitalize the downtown area's economy by promoting tourism and business redevelopment. The redevelopment project includes the following (see Figure 2):

**1. Improvements to Existing Facilities**

- a) Yacht basin
  - i. create more than 99,000 square feet of dock area (including about 350 boat slips)
  - ii. relocate and enlarge public boat launch (channel dredging and added riprap jetty)
  - iii. relocate fueling dock location and Harbormaster Building
  - iv. dredge about 140,000 cubic yards of sediment from basin and channel; sediment will be deposited in Jones Park
- b) Jones Park
  - i. add walking trails
  - ii. add amphitheater and promenade
- c) Relocate Ship Island Ferry Terminal to the Fisherman Village complex (see item 2c below)
- d) Add pedestrian walkway along the marina bulkhead
- e) Replace bait shops and marina store
- f) Refinish existing parking lots (300 spaces)



## 2. Expansion of Services

- a) Widen 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue to include new medians and a new traffic circle
- b) Construct parking lots (110 car/trailer spaces and 130 car spaces) on eastern side of harbor (will require placement of fill within a bulkhead)
- c) Construct a Fisherman's Village at the northern tip of the yacht basin, which would include:
  - i. restaurant
  - ii. retail businesses
  - iii. the Relocated Ship Island Ferry Terminal
- d) Construct private mixed-use development, including condominiums
- e) Construct a Coast Transit Authority (CTA) transit center with park-and-ride services (520 spaces)

NISTAC has been retained by FEMA to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed redevelopment project. In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, NISTAC requests that your agency review the proposed project and provide comments and any available information on resources under your agency's jurisdiction within the project area. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me by telephone at 301.670.3379 or electronic mail at [angela\\_chaisson@urscorp.com](mailto:angela_chaisson@urscorp.com).

Sincerely,

NISTAC

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Angela M. Chaisson  
Senior NEPA Specialist

Cc: Brian Mehok, FEMA Transitional Recovery Office – Biloxi, MS  
Ryan Thompson, NISTAC



May 18, 2007

Mr. James D. Giattina  
Director  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, Water Management Division  
Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center  
61 Forsyth Street, SW  
Atlanta, GA 30303-8960

**Re: Request for Project Review – Bert Jones Small Craft Harbor Area Redevelopment Project, Harrison County, Mississippi**

Dear Mr. Giattina:

The City of Gulfport has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for assistance under the Public Assistance (PA) Program for the proposed redevelopment of the Bert Jones Small Craft Harbor area in Gulfport, Harrison County, Mississippi.

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina's storm surge severely damaged the Harbor area. Prior to Hurricane Katrina, the Harbor attracted many tourists and provided berthing, storage, and ramp access for a variety of vessels ranging from commercial fishing to recreational boats. The Harbor also included boating-related businesses, restaurants, shops, and charter boat services. The Harbor is located immediately southeast from downtown Gulfport, at the intersection of U.S. Highway 90 (Beach Boulevard) and 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue (see Figure 1). The Harbor is bound to the north by Highway 90, to the west by the Mississippi State Port Authority at Gulfport and Downtown Gulfport, to the east by public beaches, and to the south by the Gulf of Mexico. The Harbor is located in floodplain designated zone VE and was within the surge inundation zone for Katrina, receiving up to 25 feet of water.

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Angela M. Chaisson  
Senior NEPA Specialist

Cc: Brian Mehok, FEMA Transitional Recovery Office – Biloxi, MS  
Ryan Thompson, NISTAC



May 18, 2007

Mr. Homer L. Wilkes  
State Conservationist  
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service  
100 W. Capitol Street  
Suite 1321 Federal Bldg.  
Jackson, MS 39269

**Re: Request for Project Review – Bert Jones Small Craft Harbor Area Redevelopment Project,  
Harrison County, Mississippi**

Dear Mr. Wilkes:

The City of Gulfport has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for assistance under the Public Assistance (PA) Program for the proposed redevelopment of the Bert Jones Small Craft Harbor area in Gulfport, Harrison County, Mississippi.

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina's storm surge severely damaged the Harbor area. Prior to Hurricane Katrina, the Harbor attracted many tourists and provided berthing, storage, and ramp access for a variety of vessels ranging from commercial fishing to recreational boats. The Harbor also included boating-related businesses, restaurants, shops, and charter boat services. The Harbor is located immediately southeast from downtown Gulfport, at the intersection of U.S. Highway 90 (Beach Boulevard) and 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue (see Figure 1). The Harbor is bound to the north by Highway 90, to the west by the Mississippi State Port Authority at Gulfport and Downtown Gulfport, to the east by public beaches, and to the south by the Gulf of Mexico. The Harbor is located in floodplain designated zone VE and was within the surge inundation zone for Katrina, receiving up to 25 feet of water.

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Angela M. Chaisson  
Senior NEPA Specialist

Cc: Brian Mehok, FEMA Transitional Recovery Office – Biloxi, MS  
Ryan Thompson, NISTAC



May 18, 2007

Mr. Claiborne Barnwell  
Chief  
Mississippi Department of Transportation, Environmental Division  
Administration Building  
P.O. Box 1850  
Jackson, MS 39215-1850

**Re: Request for Project Review – Bert Jones Small Craft Harbor Area Redevelopment Project, Harrison County, Mississippi**

Dear Mr. Barnwell:

The City of Gulfport has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for assistance under the Public Assistance (PA) Program for the proposed redevelopment of the Bert Jones Small Craft Harbor area in Gulfport, Harrison County, Mississippi.

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for  
Angela M. Chaisson  
Senior NEPA Specialist

Cc: Brian Mehok, FEMA Transitional Recovery Office – Biloxi, MS  
Ryan Thompson, NISTAC



May 18, 2007

Robin Zantow  
Administrative Assistant  
Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, Bureau of Wetlands Permitting  
1141 Bayview Avenue  
Biloxi, MS 39530

**Re: Request for Project Review – Bert Jones Small Craft Harbor Area Redevelopment Project, Harrison County, Mississippi**

Dear Zantow:

The City of Gulfport has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for assistance under the Public Assistance (PA) Program for the proposed redevelopment of the Bert Jones Small Craft Harbor area in Gulfport, Harrison County, Mississippi.

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Angela M. Chaisson  
Senior NEPA Specialist

Cc: Brian Mehok, FEMA Transitional Recovery Office – Biloxi, MS  
Ryan Thompson, NISTAC



May 18, 2007

Ms. Michelle Vinson  
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Pollution Control, Environmental Permits  
Division  
P.O. Box 10385  
Jackson, MS 39289-0385

**Re: Request for Project Review – Bert Jones Small Craft Harbor Area Redevelopment Project,  
Harrison County, Mississippi**

Dear Ms. Vinson:

The City of Gulfport has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for assistance under the Public Assistance (PA) Program for the proposed redevelopment of the Bert Jones Small Craft Harbor area in Gulfport, Harrison County, Mississippi.

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Angela M. Chaisson  
Senior NEPA Specialist

Cc: Brian Mehok, FEMA Transitional Recovery Office – Biloxi, MS  
Ryan Thompson, NISTAC



May 18, 2007

Mr. Don Underwood  
Executive Director  
Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission  
P.O. Box 23005  
Jackson, MS 39225-3005

**Re: Request for Project Review – Bert Jones Small Craft Harbor Area Redevelopment Project, Harrison County, Mississippi**

Dear Mr. Underwood:

The City of Gulfport has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for assistance under the Public Assistance (PA) Program for the proposed redevelopment of the Bert Jones Small Craft Harbor area in Gulfport, Harrison County, Mississippi.

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Ryan Thompson, NISTAC



May 18, 2007

Mr. Andy Prosser  
Bureau Director  
Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce  
P.O. Box 1609  
Jackson, MS 39215

**Re: Request for Project Review – Bert Jones Small Craft Harbor Area Redevelopment Project, Harrison County, Mississippi**

Dear Mr. Prosser:

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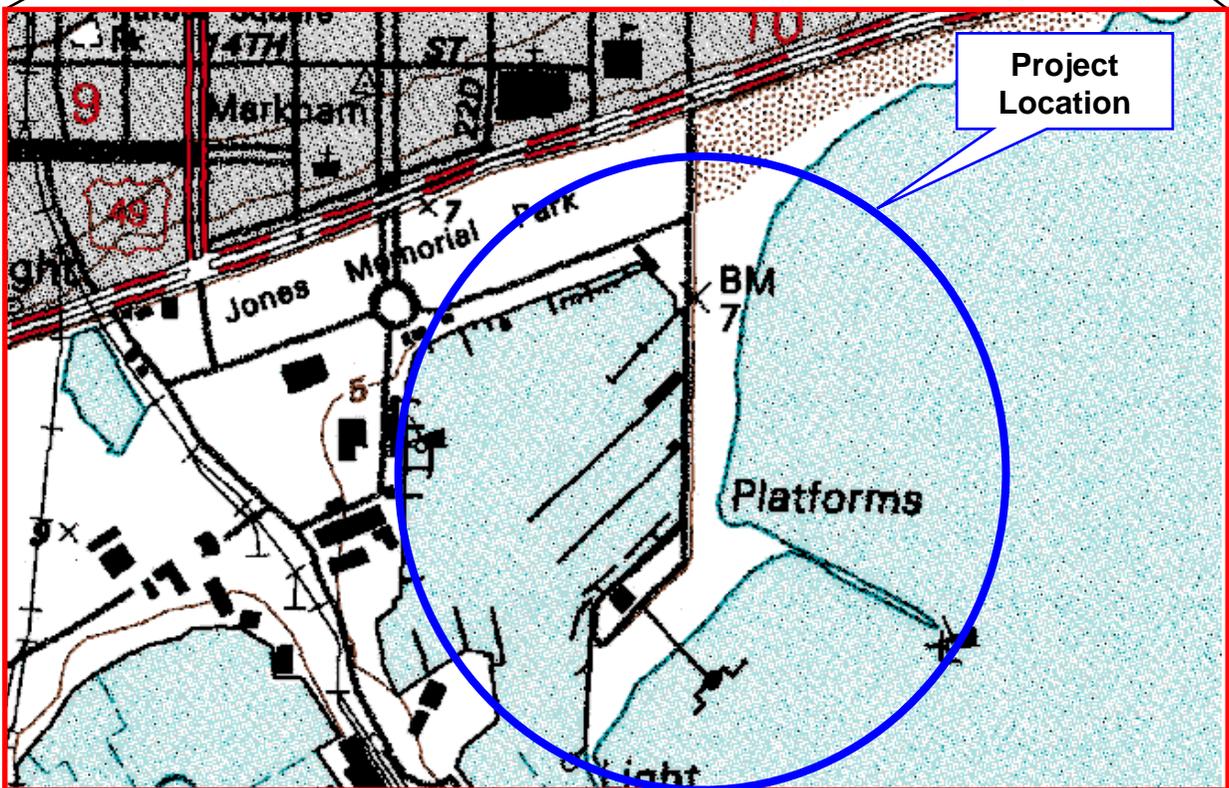
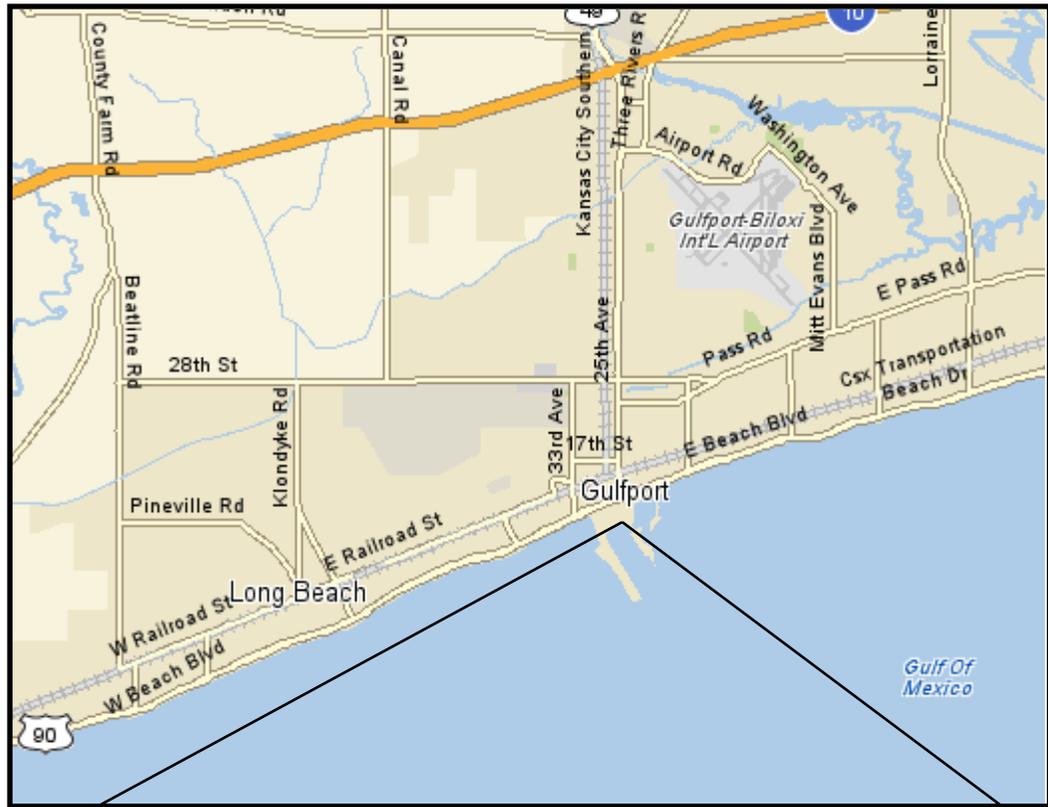
Sincerely,

NISTAC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Angela M. Chaisson", with a small flourish below it.

Angela M. Chaisson  
Senior NEPA Specialist

Cc: Brian Mehok, FEMA Transitional Recovery Office – Biloxi, MS  
Ryan Thompson, NISTAC



CLIENT City of Gulfport, Mississippi				TITLE <b>PROJECT AREA</b>		
PROJ Bert Jones Small Craft Harbor						
REVISION NO	DES BY		PROJ NO			15708003
SCALE	NTS	DR BY	KRS			1/25/07
FILE		CHK BY	X			X
				FIGURE	<b>1</b>	





**MISSISSIPPI  
DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES**

May 31, 2007

NISTAC  
200 Orchard Ridge Drive, Suite 101  
Gaithersburg, MD 20878  
Attn: Angela M. Chaisson

RE: DMR-070584; Bert Jones Small Craft Harbor

Dear Ms. Chaisson:

The Department of Marine Resources in cooperation with other state agencies is responsible under the Mississippi Coastal Program (MCP) for managing the coastal resources of Mississippi. Proposed activities in the coastal area are reviewed to insure that the activities are in compliance with the MCP.

The Department has received a request to review a redevelopment project for the City of Gulfport Bert Jones Small Craft Harbor located in Gulfport, Harrison County, Mississippi. The City of Gulfport has already obtained the necessary permit (DMR-070152) from our agency for the construction of associated piers, boat docks, platforms, bulkhead, and dredging within the yacht basin. The Department has no objections provided there are no further impacts to coastal wetlands and no coastal program agency objects to the proposal. If further wetland impacts are anticipated, an application should be submitted to this office for review. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your project.

For more information or questions concerning this correspondence, contact Charlie Robertson with the Bureau of Wetlands Permitting at (228) 523-4110.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Willa Henriksen".

Willa Henriksen  
Bureau Director, Wetlands Permitting

WH/cer



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Suite 1321, Federal Building  
100 West Capitol Street  
Jackson, MS 39269  
COM: (601) 965-5205 FAX: (601) 965-4940

---

September 20, 2007

Angela M. Chaisson  
NISTAC  
200 Orchard Ridge Drive, Suite 101  
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Dear Ms. Chaisson:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Bert Jones Small Craft Harbor Redevelopment Project, Harrison County, Mississippi.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has a sand dune project (see attached photo) adjacent to the existing bait shop (proposed Fisherman's Village site). If the dune will be leveled during the clearing phase for the new construction, NRCS recommends that a new dune be constructed as mitigation. Mr. Tyree Harrington, District Conservationist, may be contacted for coordination at (228) 831-0881, ext. 3.

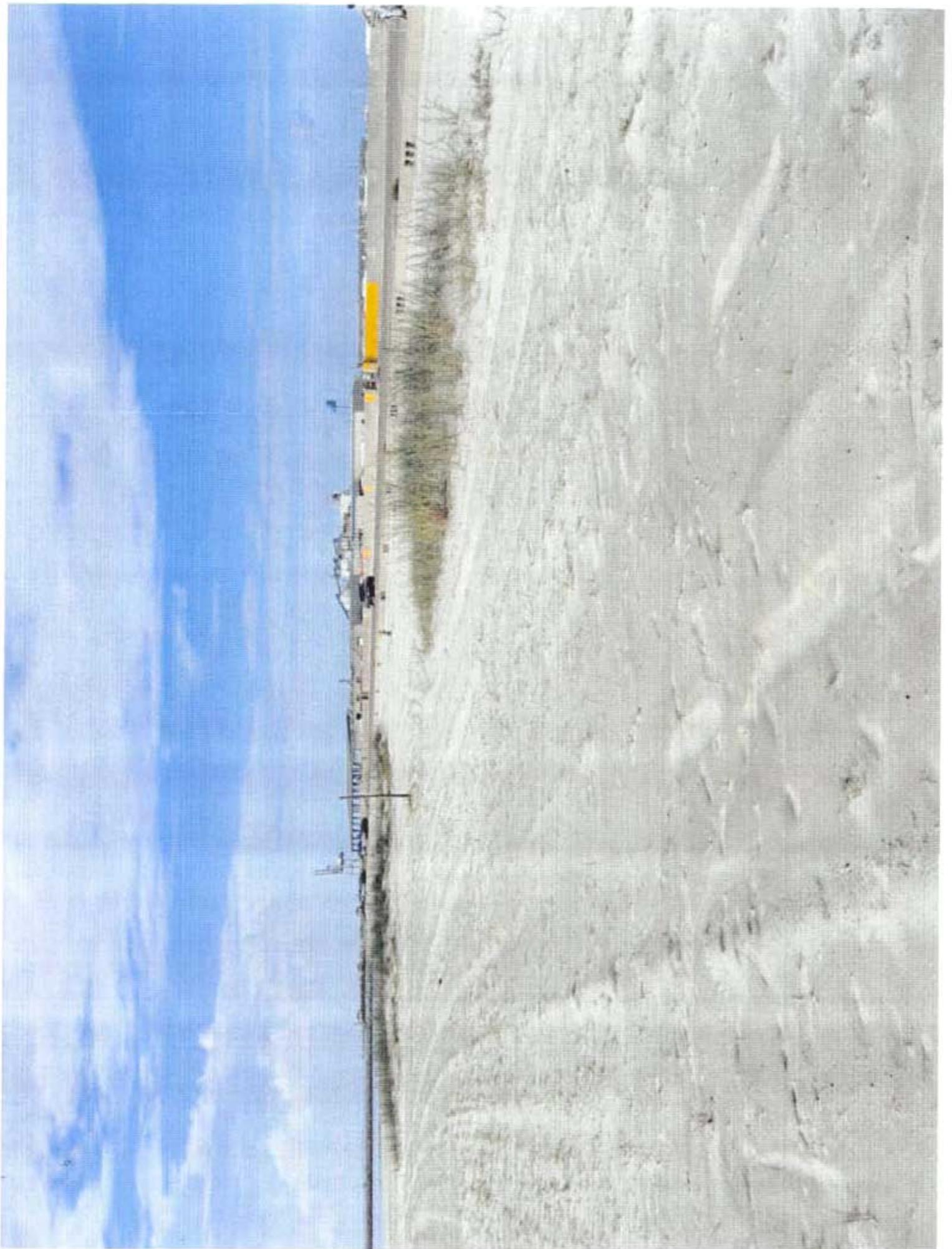
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Homer L. Wilkes".

Homer L. Wilkes  
State Conservationist

Attachment

cc: Kim Harris, State Conservation Engineer, NRCS, Jackson, MS  
Wesley Kerr, Area Conservationist, NRCS, Hattiesburg, MS  
Tyree Harrington, District Conservationist, NRCS, Gulfport, MS  
James Garner, Planning Biologist, NRCS, Jackson, MS





# FEMA

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Transitional Recovery Office  
Physical Address  
220 Popps Ferry Rd.  
Building A South  
Biloxi, MS 39532

February 27, 2009

Mr. Jim Woodrick  
Mississippi Department of Archives and History  
Historic Preservation Division  
P.O. Box 571  
Jackson, MS 39205-0571

**Re: Request for Project Review – City of Gulfport Small Craft Harbor Redevelopment,  
Harrison County, Mississippi**

Dear Mr. Woodrick:

The City of Gulfport has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for assistance under the Public Assistance (PA) Program for the proposed redevelopment of the Gulfport Small Craft Harbor (Harbor) area in Gulfport, Harrison County, Mississippi.

Located at 400 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue, in Gulfport, Mississippi, the Harbor was a cornerstone for recreational and commercial boating for the City of Gulfport (Figure 1). The Harbor contained boat slips and facilities for boaters, a ferry terminal, fishing piers, beach access, restaurants, and several small businesses. On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina's storm surge severely damaged the Harbor. As a result, the Harbor now operates at a significantly-reduced capacity, as it no longer provides berthing, storage, and launches for commercial and recreational vessels, or the harbor facilities and restaurants that were in operation prior to Katrina. Recreational fishermen currently use the fishing piers that have been repaired since the hurricane; the Harbor currently has no other users. The project proposes to replace the Harbor facilities to restore the services available prior to Katrina, and, as a result, provide local jobs supporting recreation and tourism, and contribute towards the restoration and revitalization of the downtown area.

The City of Gulfport proposes to utilize FEMA funds, in conjunction with Community Development Block Grant and other public funding sources, to redevelop the 40-acre Harbor area. The redevelopment of the Harbor would help Gulfport meet its goal to revitalize the downtown area's economy by promoting tourism and business redevelopment. The Harbor redevelopment project includes the following FEMA-funded actions (Figure 2):

- Construction of 3,307 linear feet of new bulkheads that would consist of precast, pre-stressed 16-inch-square concrete piles and 3-foot-long by 10-inch-wide concrete sheet piling located approximately 10 feet away from the existing bulkheads. Sand would be used to backfill between the existing and new bulkheads and would be capped with concrete that would serve as a boardwalk.

- Replacement of the existing piers that would provide 318 boat slips and 88,642 square feet of piers. Structural pilings would consist of 14-inch-square precast, pre-stressed concrete. All tie or spring pilings would be 12-inch-diameter timber. Although the proposed project would have the same capacity (318 boat slips) as the existing damaged facility, the layout of the piers would be modified.
- Upgrades to the electrical system supporting the piers and slips including installation of transformers on elevated platforms intermittently spaced throughout the piers. The bottom of the platforms would be elevated to meet the Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (Digital FIRM) requirements and local ordinances, and would include burial of all electrical lines.
- Dredging of approximately 40,000 cubic yards of sand and silt located within 50 feet of the existing harbor bulkheads. All dredged material would be placed on an upland dewatering site located at the northwestern corner of the Harbor (Figure 2). Dredged material will be allowed to dewater in the western portion of Jones Park (Figure 2), and then it will be transported by truck and disposed of in the Harrison County Development Commission Upland Disposal Area C-1.
- Relocation of the Harbor Services Facility building, approximately 1,000 feet northeast from the former location, to the eastern side of the harbor/bulkhead. The new 5,061-square-foot building would be constructed on piers and elevated above the Coastal High Hazard Area to a finished floor elevation of 25.5 feet. A new bulkhead would be constructed around the building foundation and filled with approximately 1,750 cubic yards of material.
- Relocation of the fueling dock and bait shop to the south side of the harbor. Construction of the fuel dock will require the installation of four 2,500-gallon double-wall fiberglass underground fuel storage tanks.

Redevelopment of the Harbor also includes actions that would not utilize FEMA funding, but would rely upon the Harbor FEMA-funded redevelopment activities (construction of the new piers, bulkheads, boat slips, and dredging) to attract customers. The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA direct federal agencies to avoid improper segmentation when analyzing environmental impacts, in particular with regard to connected actions, e.g., actions that are interdependent parts of a larger action and that depend on the larger action for justification (40 CFR 1508.25[a]). Therefore, the non-FEMA-funded actions listed below will be analyzed in this EA as part of the proposed action due to their interdependence on the construction of the FEMA-funded activities listed above.

The non-FEMA-funded actions include:

- Widening of 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue to include new medians and a new traffic circle
- Importing 2.97 acres of fill material on the eastern side of the harbor and reconfiguring the existing harbor area to create a parking lot with space for 130 cars and 122 trailers
- Constructing a new public boat launch that includes:
  - a 350-foot-long bulkhead,

- installation of 2 timber decks with a total area of 1,500 square feet,
  - 3 piers with an approximate footprint of 1,200 square feet
  - 4 boat ramps totaling an area of 7,280 square feet,
  - a 1.15 acre rip-rap jetty, and
  - installation of 12 channel marker/sign pilings.
- Dredging an approach channel with a 3.2-acre footprint to a depth of 7 feet below mean low water
  - Dredging a 1.15-acre basin to a depth of 7 feet below mean low water, totaling approximately 23,000 cubic yards of dredged material
  - Construction of a Fisherman’s Village that would include an office, a restaurant, and retail business space
  - Construction of a Coast Transit Authority Rest Station that would provide park and ride services for the public
  - Improvements in Jones Park that include walking trails and an amphitheater
  - Developing 2.97 acres of shallow water habitat adjacent to the shoreline east of the Fisherman’s Village

Paul Drummond, a FEMA Archaeologist qualified under the *Secretary of the Interior’s Professional Qualification Standards* (36 CFR Part 61) in the discipline of archaeology, conducted an assessment of the project’s potential to affect historic properties within the Area of Potential Effects (APE). The APE is the geographic area within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause changes in the character or use of historic properties, if such properties exist. For archaeological resources, the APE consists of the proposed project site; for above-ground historic properties, the APE is extended out to a 0.5-mile radius around the proposed project site. This APE was previously established through FEMA consultation with the Mississippi State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

On December 12, 2008, Mr. Drummond visited the site to determine if any historic buildings/structures or archaeological sites were visible within the APE. The site visit revealed that the area within the APE has changed little since the removal of post-Katrina debris. Much of the area, with the exception of the Ship Island Excursion facilities, lacks redevelopment and exhibits seriously damaged infrastructure.

**Archaeological Assessment** - Due to the fact that the entire site is man-made (infill of materials to produce land) and the presence of pre-existing ground disturbance (past construction, utilities, and dredging) intact sub-surface cultural resources are unlikely to be present. A Phase 1 Cultural Resources Investigation is not recommended. Non-federal actions that may require further archaeological investigation by the Applicant include the dredging of the approach channel and the 1.15-acre basin. FEMA recommends that the Applicant pursue Section 106 consultation with the SHPO and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) prior to dredging activities.

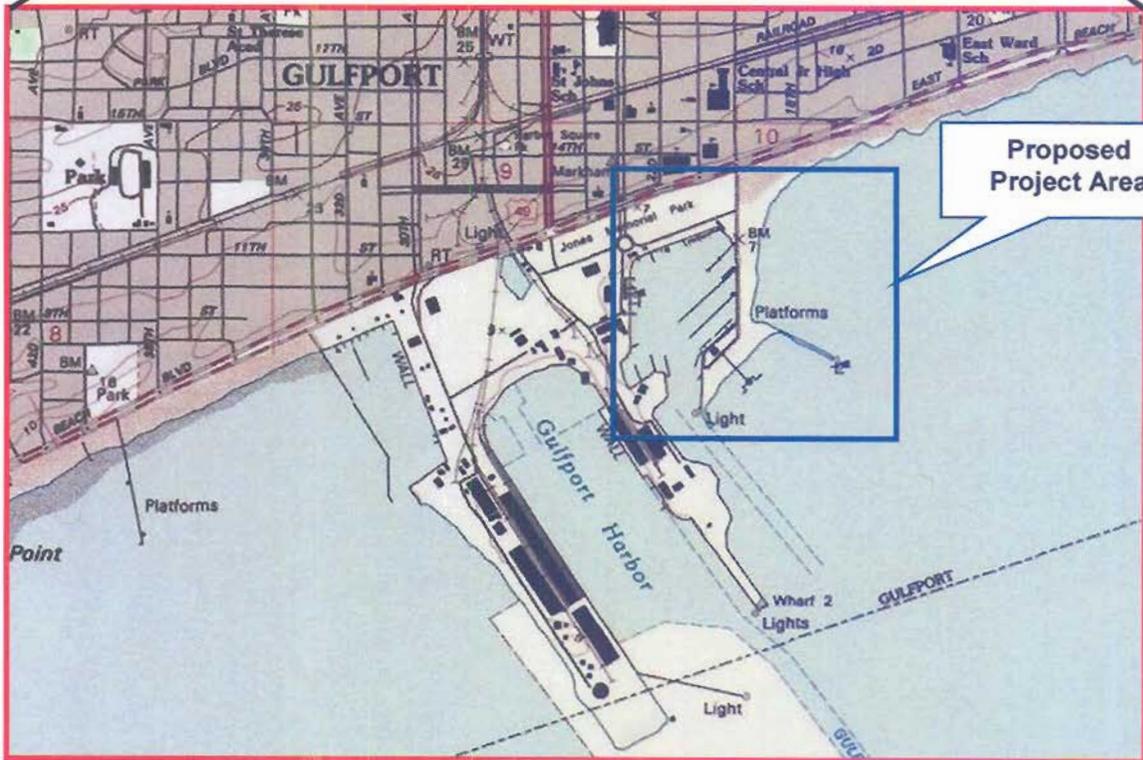
**Above-Ground Assessment** - The area of potential effect is a 0.5 mile radius around the project site, which allows for adequate evaluation of the potential effects of the proposed new construction. The project site is located on the south side of U.S. Highway 90 on the Mississippi Sound, and is separated from the Harbor Square National Register Historic District by four lanes of Highway 90 and a wide stretch of vacant land to the north of the highway that parallels the southern boundary of the district. The eastern boundary of this district is at 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. The southern and eastern edges of this historic district are marred by vacant lots, slabs of buildings that were demolished following damages from Hurricane Katrina, and by damaged buildings that remain in a state of disrepair. These conditions have compromised the integrity of the portion of the historic district immediately to the north of the project area. In addition, the historic view shed of the district to the Gulf of Mexico has been interrupted by the presence of Port industrial facilities and several recently-constructed three and four-story buildings located adjacent to those facilities.

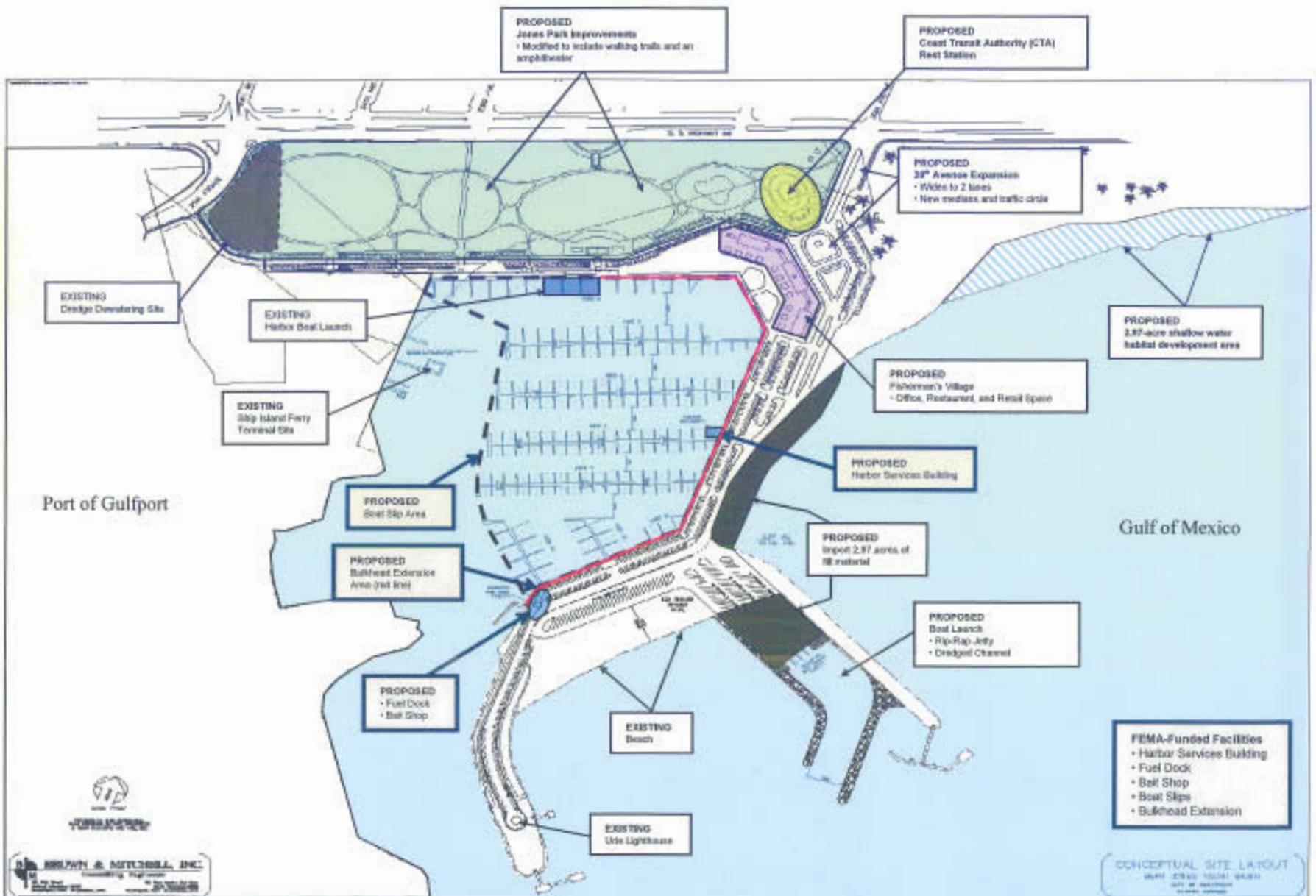
In consideration of the analysis as presented above, FEMA requests concurrence with its determination that the project will have No Adverse Effect on historic properties. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Paul Drummond by telephone at (228) 594-2960 or electronic mail at [paul.a.drummond@dhs.gov](mailto:paul.a.drummond@dhs.gov).

Sincerely,



Michael Grisham  
Environmental Liaison Officer  
FEMA-1604-DR-MS





CONCEPTUAL SITE LAYOUT  
 DATE: 07/20/11  
 CITY OF GULFPORT  
 MISSISSIPPI

CLIENT	City of Gulfport, Mississippi		
PRJ	Gulfport Small Craft Harbor Redevelopment		
REVISION NO	DES BY		
SCALE	NOT TO SCALE	DR BY	
FILE	CHK BY		

TITLE

## PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN



PROJ NO 15706003

FIGURE 2

**Client Name:**

City of Gulfport

**Site Location:**

Bert Jones Small Craft Harbor, Gulfport, MS

**Project No.**Date  
12/3/08Data  
PointPhoto  
No.  
1**Direction Photo Taken:**Northeast corner facing  
west.**Description:**Overview of northern  
section of APE.Date  
12/3/08Data  
PointPhoto  
No.  
2**Direction Photo Taken:**Northeast corner facing  
south.**Description:**

Inner basin of APE.



**Client Name:**

City of Gulfport

**Site Location:**

Bert Jones Small Craft Harbor, Gulfport, MS

**Project No.**Date  
12/3/08Data  
PointPhoto  
No.  
3**Direction Photo Taken:**

East facing west

**Description:**Inner basin. Downtown  
Gulfport visible in  
background.Date  
12/3/08Data  
PointPhoto  
No.  
4**Direction Photo Taken:**Southeast corner facing  
west.**Description:**Southern section of inner  
basin. Crane in  
background is removing  
old pilings.

**Client Name:**

City of Gulfport

**Site Location:**

Bert Jones Small Craft Harbor, Gulfport, MS

**Project No.**

Date	Data Point	Photo No.
12/3/08		5

**Direction Photo Taken:**

Northeast facing southwest.

**Description:**

Ship Island Excursion facilities.



Date	Data Point	Photo No.
12/3/08		6

**Direction Photo Taken:**

Southeast facing northwest.

**Description:**

Inner basin with view of downtown Gulfport.





# FEMA

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Transitional Recovery Office  
Physical Address  
220 Popps Ferry Rd.  
Building A South  
Biloxi, MS 39532

February 27, 2009

Mr. Kenneth H. Carleton  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians  
101 Industrial Road  
Choctaw, MS 39305

**Re: Request for Project Review – City of Gulfport Small Craft Harbor Redevelopment,  
Harrison County, Mississippi**

Dear Mr. Carleton:

The City of Gulfport has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for assistance under the Public Assistance (PA) Program for the proposed redevelopment of the Gulfport Small Craft Harbor (Harbor) area in Gulfport, Harrison County, Mississippi.

Located at 400 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue, in Gulfport, Mississippi, the Harbor was a cornerstone for recreational and commercial boating for the City of Gulfport (Figure 1). The Harbor contained boat slips and facilities for boaters, a ferry terminal, fishing piers, beach access, restaurants, and several small businesses. On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina's storm surge severely damaged the Harbor. As a result, the Harbor now operates at a significantly-reduced capacity, as it no longer provides berthing, storage, and launches for commercial and recreational vessels, or the harbor facilities and restaurants that were in operation prior to Katrina. Recreational fishermen currently use the fishing piers that have been repaired since the hurricane; the Harbor currently has no other users. The project proposes to replace the Harbor facilities to restore the services available prior to Katrina, and, as a result, provide local jobs supporting recreation and tourism, and contribute towards the restoration and revitalization of the downtown area.

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In consideration of the analysis as presented above, FEMA requests concurrence with its determination that the project will have No Adverse Effect on historic properties. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Paul Drummond by telephone at (228) 594-2960 or electronic mail at [paul.a.drummond@dhs.gov](mailto:paul.a.drummond@dhs.gov).

Sincerely,



Michael Grisham  
Environmental Liaison Officer  
FEMA-1604-DR-MS



HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
Ken P'Pool, director • Jim Woodrick, acting director  
PO Box 571, Jackson, MS 39208-0571  
(601) 576-6940 • Fax (601) 576-6955  
end@state.ms.us

March 5, 2009

Mr. Michael Grisham  
Environmental Liaison Officer  
FEMA-DR-1604-MS  
220 Popp's Ferry Road, Bldg. A South  
Biloxi, Mississippi 39531

RE: Proposed Small Craft Harbor Redevelopment, City of Gulfport, MDAH Project  
Log #03-008-09, Harrison County

Dear Mr. Grisham:

We have reviewed your request for a cultural resource assessment, received on March 2, 2009, for the above referenced project in accordance with our responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and 36 CFR Part 800. After reviewing the information provided, we concur with FEMA's determination that the proposed Small Craft Harbor Redevelopment project will have no adverse effect on historic properties. Therefore, we have no objection with the proposed undertaking.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

  
Jim Woodrick  
Review and Compliance Officer

FOR: H.T. Holmes  
State Historic Preservation Officer

c: Clearinghouse for Federal Programs

# **BMI Environmental Services, LLC**

*Environmental Consultants*

March 11, 2009

Mr. Jason Steele  
Team Leader  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 2288  
Mobile, AL 36628-0001

Mr. Greg Christodoulou  
Mississippi Department of Marine Resources  
1411 Bayview Avenue, Suite 101  
Biloxi, MS 39530

Mr. Robert Seyfarth  
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality  
P. O. Box 2261  
Jackson, MS 39225-2261

**REF: Modification - Bert Jones Boat Ramp Project  
Corps of Engineers SAM-2007-1957-JWS  
MDMR Permit DMR-070152  
MDEQ WQC No. WQC2008073  
City of Gulfport**

Gentlemen:

On behalf of our client, the City of Gulfport, we respectfully request a modification to Corps of Engineers (COE) Permit Application SAM-2007-1957-JWS, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources Permit (MDMR) Number DMR-070152, and Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) WQC 2008073.

This modification has been developed in response to the most recent round of comments and recommendations by resource and regulatory agencies and it reduces both the scope of the project and its impacts. In view of the concerns expressed by the agencies regarding the boat ramp relocation project, the City of Gulfport has agreed to eliminate that portion of the project at the present time. While it is still the intent of the City of Gulfport to relocate the boat ramps from the inside of the Bert Jones Yacht Basin to a more suitable area in the vicinity of Mosses Pier/Urie Pier, the City has agreed to pursue authorization for the boat ramp relocation project at a later date.

Regardless of where the boat ramps are located along the perimeter of Bert Jones Yacht Basin, the City of Gulfport must make improvements to 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue which provides access to the eastern and southern perimeter of the basin as well as Mosses and Urie Fishing Piers. The improvements will allow for additional parking and the creation of a 50 foot wide beach area that will provide some recreational beach and roadway protection. The new project description for this project is as follows:

1. The applicant has revised the plans and now proposes to place fill material seaward of the existing shoreline to provide a 50 foot wide beach area that will protect 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue and provide a recreational beach on the east side of 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue;

**521 34th Street, Gulfport, MS 39507 • (228) 864-7612 • (228) 864-7676 fax**

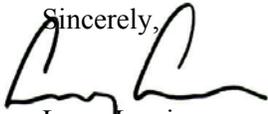
Mr. Jason Steele  
Mr. Greg Christodoulou  
Mr. Robert Seyfarth  
March 11, 2009  
Page 2

2. The area of fill is approximately 0.96 acres; and
3. The applicant will compensate for the loss of shallow water habitat by excavating approximately 0.96 acres of existing beach area north of the subject site.

In support of this project modification, we have attached copies of the revised drawings which show the proposed fill area and the mitigation area. Also, by copy of this letter, we are forwarding this information to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service and requesting their review and comments on this modification.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

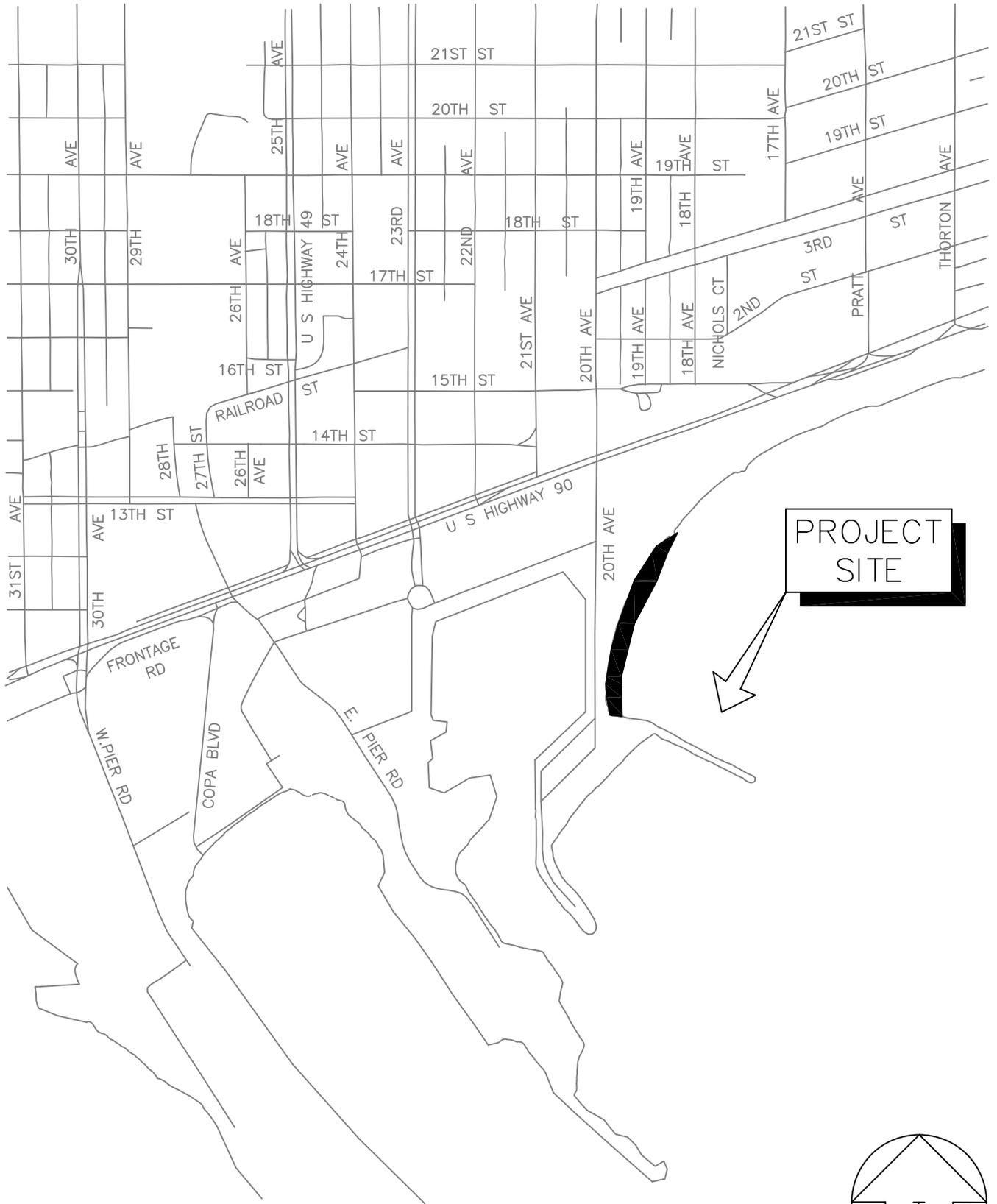


Larry Lewis  
Senior Environmental Scientist

#### Attachments

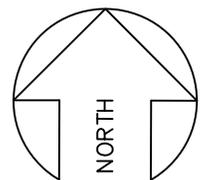
cc: Mr. Paul Necaise, USFWS  
Mr. Mark Thompson, NMFS  
Mr. Michael Necaise, City of Gulfport  
Dr. Jon Kelly, City of Gulfport  
Mr. D.J. Ziegler, City of Gulfport Harbormaster

**ATTACHMENT 1  
DRAWINGS**

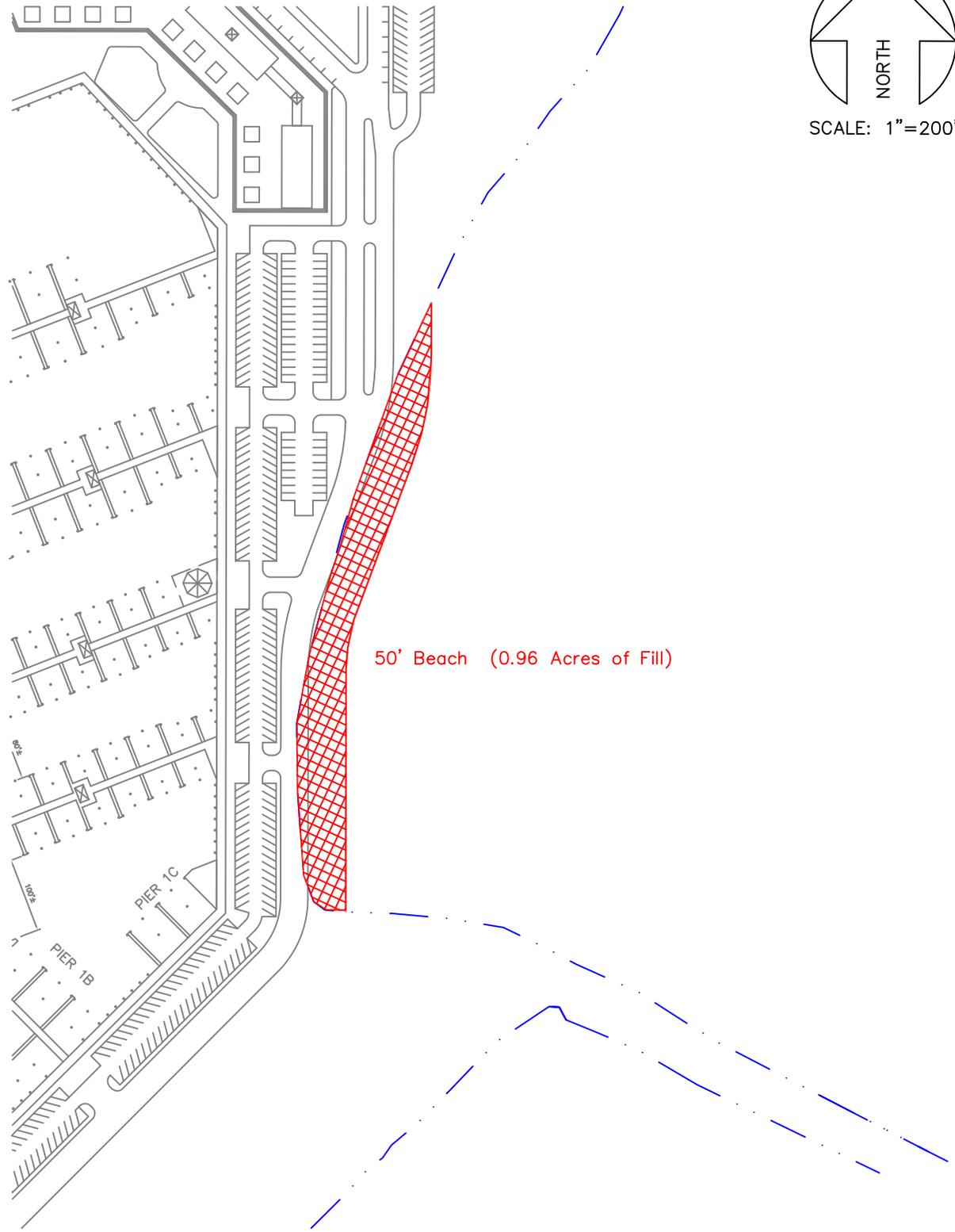


Vicinity Map

Bert Jones Yacht Basin & Jones Memorial Park  
 Gulfport, Mississippi



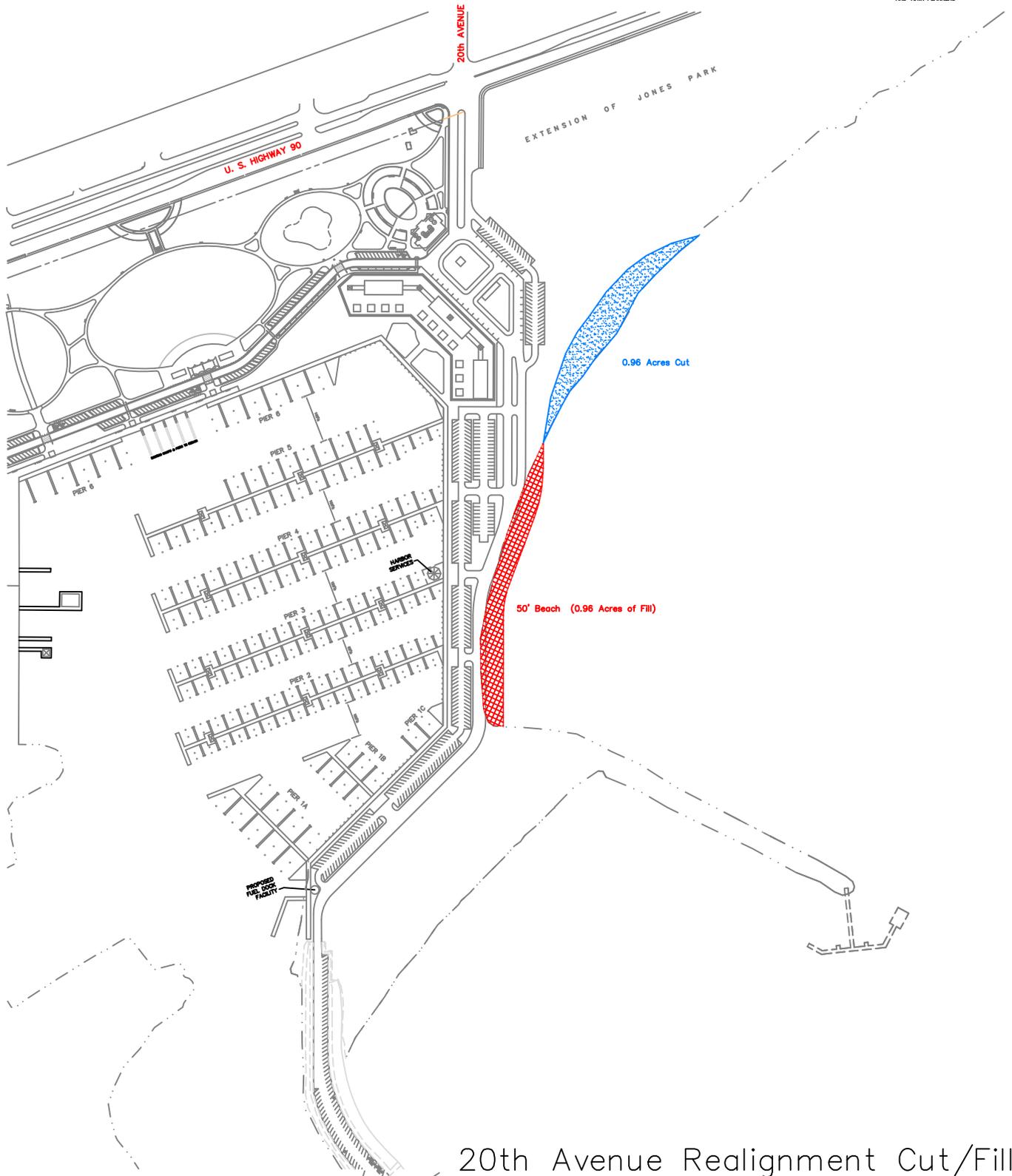
SCALE: 1"=1000'



20th Avenue Realignment Proposed Fill  
 Bert Jones Yacht Basin & Jones Memorial Park  
 Gulfport, Mississippi

3/11/09  
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**BROWN & MITCHELL, INC.**  
 Consulting Engineers  
 BMI Environmental Services, LLC



20th Avenue Realignment Cut/Fill  
Bert Jones Yacht Basin & Jones Memorial Park  
Gulfport, Mississippi