



Draft Environmental Assessment

**Grand Point Bourbon Subdivision  
Longview Canal Drainage Improvement  
Project, Paulina, LA**

St. James Parish, Louisiana  
HMGP 1603-0221

FEMA-1603-DR-LA

*August 2011*



**FEMA**

**U.S. Department of Homeland Security**  
New Orleans Recovery Office

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b><u>SECTION</u></b>	<b><u>PAGE</u></b>
<b>1.0 INTRODUCTION</b>	1
1.1 Project Authority	1
1.2 Project Location	1
<b>2.0 PURPOSE AND NEED</b>	3
<b>3.0 ALTERNATIVES</b>	4
3.1 Alternative 1 - No Action	4
3.2 Alternative 2 - Proposed Action	4
3.3 Alternative Eliminated from Further Consideration	15
<b>4.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND IMPACTS</b>	15
4.1 Impact Summary	15
4.2 Water Resources	22
4.2.1 Hydrology and Floodplains	22
4.2.2 Wetlands	23
4.2.3 Surface Water and Water Quality	26
4.3 Coastal Resources	27
4.4 Noise	28
4.5 Traffic and Transportation	29
4.6 Hazardous Materials and Toxic Wastes	29
<b>5.0 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS</b>	34
<b>6.0 CONDITIONS AND MITIGATION MEASURES</b>	35
<b>7.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT</b>	37
<b>8.0 CONCLUSION</b>	37
<b>9.0 AGENCY COORDINATION</b>	37
<b>10.0 LIST OF PREPARERS</b>	38
<b>11.0 REFERENCES</b>	38

## **LIST OF FIGURES**

Figure 1:	Site location in Paulina, St. James Parish, Louisiana	2
Figure 2:	Proposed Project Location	3
Figure 3:	Aerial Photograph Depicting the Beginning of the Longview Canal Widening (North)	5
Figure 4:	Aerial Photograph Depicting the End of the Longview Canal Widening (South)	6
Figure 5:	View of the Longview Canal at Highway 3125 Depicting Existing Culverts and the Location of the Chevron Gas Station	11
Figure 6:	Effective DFIRM 22093C 0115C	22
Figure 7:	Proposed Project Wetland Map	25
Figure 8:	Proposed Project Drainage Map	27
Figure 9:	General Location of Abandoned Oil/Gas Well	32
Figure 10:	Location of Abandoned Oil/Gas Well in Relation to Nearby Structures	33
Figure 11:	Location of Abandoned Oil/Gas Well in Relation to Longview Canal	34

## **LIST OF TABLES**

Table 1:	Summary of Pertinent Data for the Replacement Culverts	8
Table 2:	Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences Matrix	16

## **APPENDICES**

Agency Correspondence	Appendix A
8-Step Process and Hydraulic and Hydrology Study	Appendix B
Public Notice	Appendix C

## LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
AI	Agency Interest
APE	Area of Potential Effect
BMP	Best Management Practices
CBRA	Coastal Barrier Resources Act
CBRS	Coastal Barrier Resources System
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CUP	Coastal Use Permit
CWA	Clean Water Act
CZMA	Coastal Zone Management Act
DA	Department of the Army
DFIRM	Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
GOHSEP	Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness
LADOTD	Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development
LDEQ	Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
LDEQ EDMS	LDEQ Electronic Document Management System
LDEQ LUST	LDEQ Leaking Underground Storage Tank Database
LDEQ VRP	LDEQ Voluntary Remediation Program Database
LDNR	Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
LDWF	Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
LPDES	Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NFIP	National Flood Insurance Program
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NRCS	National Resources Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
RHA	Rivers and Harbors Act
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office/Officer
SONRIS	Strategic Online Natural Resources Information System
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
UST	Underground Storage Tank

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Project Authority**

In accordance with 44 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Subpart B – Agency Implementing Procedures, Section 10.9, an environmental assessment (EA) was prepared pursuant to Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as implemented by the regulations promulgated by the President’s Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508). The EA determines if the proposed widening of the Longview Canal on both sides of Louisiana Highway 3125 (north and south) and the replacement of seven roadside culverts in Paulina, St. James Parish, Louisiana will have the potential for significant adverse effects on the quality of the human and natural environment. The results of this EA will be used to make a decision whether to initiate preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or to prepare a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

Hurricane Katrina, a Category 4 hurricane with a storm surge above normal high tide levels, moved across the Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama gulf coasts on August 29, 2005. Maximum sustained winds at landfall were estimated at 140 miles per hour. President Bush declared a major disaster for the State of Louisiana due to damages from Hurricane Katrina and signed a disaster declaration (FEMA-1603-DR-LA) on August 29, 2005, authorizing the Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide federal assistance in designated areas of Louisiana. FEMA is administering this disaster assistance pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act), PL 93-288, as amended. Section 404 of the Stafford Act authorizes FEMA’s Hazard Mitigation Program to provide funds to states and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures after a major disaster declaration.

### **1.2 Project Location**

St. James Parish is located in the central part of southeast Louisiana. It is approximately 165,760 acres (259 square miles), bordered to the east by St. John the Baptist Parish, to the south by Lafourche Parish, to the west by Assumption Parish, and to the north by Ascension Parish. The Town of Paulina is located on the east bank of St. James Parish. St. James Parish has approximately 21,056 people according to 2005-2009 estimated census figures. The town of Paulina is approximately 50 miles from New Orleans, Louisiana and 60 miles from Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The most southern point of the proposed project is located approximately 0.85 mile north of the Mississippi River, and the most northern point of the project is located approximately 2.3 miles north of the Mississippi River (Figure 1). The proposed widening and deepening of the Longview Canal would begin at 30.047554, -90.741838 (north end) and end at 30.028967, -90.737147 (south end) (Figure 2). The proposed project is located within Section 10, Township 11S, Range 05E; Section 9, Township 11S, Range 05E; Section 11, Township 12S, Range 05E; Section 10, Township 12S, Range 05E; Section 9, Township 12S, Range 05E; and Section 8, Township 12S, Range 05E.

Figure 1: Site Location in Paulina, St. James Parish, Louisiana



**Figure 2: Proposed Project Location**



## **2.0 PURPOSE AND NEED**

On August 29, 2005, storm surge caused by Hurricane Katrina inundated large portions of southeast Louisiana causing extensive flood damage to structures in St. James Parish. The proposed drainage improvements would occur east of and adjacent to the Grand Point Bourbon subdivision area. The Grand Point Bourbon subdivision has one of the most severe localized flooding problems in the Parish. The original subdivision was constructed more than 25 years ago, and the increased runoff due to residential construction was not considered in the original design. The Grand Point Bourbon subdivision was constructed by a private developer before the Parish had laws requiring a drainage analysis and culvert permits that ensure proper culvert size and installation. The Parish now requires developers to undertake drainage studies and submit

their drainage design channel and culvert installations to the Parish’s Operations Department for proper sizing and elevation grades.

### 3.0 ALTERNATIVES

#### 3.1 Alternative 1 - No Action

Under this alternative, St. James Parish would not perform the proposed mitigation work at the site. Consequently, the homes in the Grand Point Bourbon subdivision of Paulina would continue to flood during severe storms, tropical storms, and hurricanes. Additionally, traffic delays and delays for emergency response vehicles would continue to plague the area due to street flooding.

#### 3.2 Alternative 2 – Longview Canal Improvement Drainage Project (Proposed Action)

The proposed scope of work includes widening of the Longview Canal on both sides of LA State Highway 3125 (north and south) to expand its drainage capacity and increase the channel’s ability to remove water. The existing ditch south of Highway 3125 appears to be approximately 4 to 5 feet across at the bottom and approximately 12 to 15 feet across at the top. The canal depth appears to vary from an estimated 5 to 10 feet in this area. Along the east side of the Longview Canal are agricultural fields that are planted with sugar cane (Photo 1).

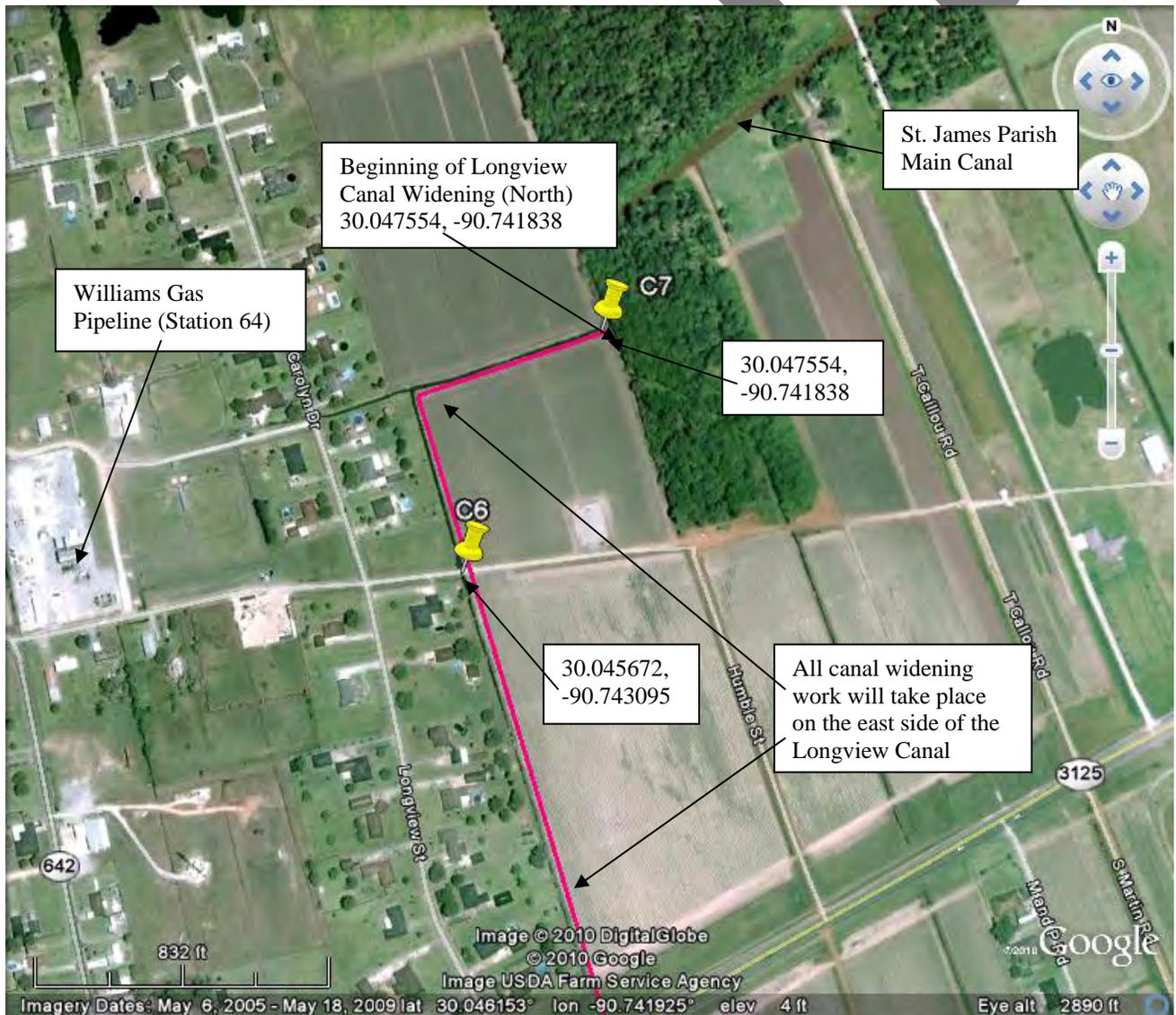


Photo 1 – View of Longview Canal south of Highway 3125 showing the east side of the canal planted with sugar cane.

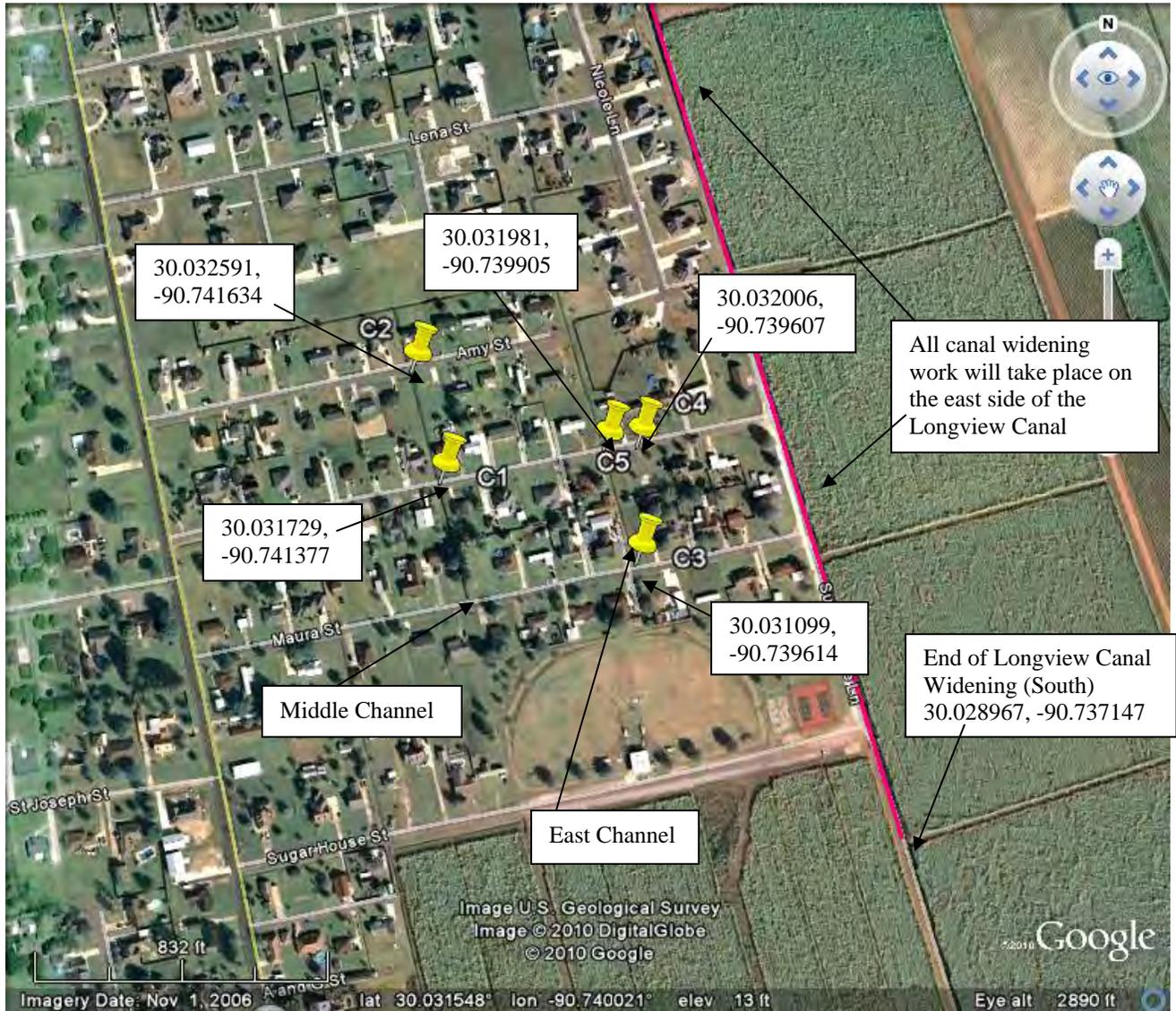
The Parish has previously dredged both this channel and the main receiving drainage channels to be able to readily accommodate the increased drainage; therefore, no additional excavation or dredging of the Longview Canal would be necessary for this project. Approximately 7,400 linear feet (approximately 1.4 mile) of Longview Canal, beginning at 30.047554, -90.741838 (north end) and ending at 30.028967, -90.737147 (south end), would be widened and deepened to increase its capacity and provide the proper design flow (see Figures 3 and 4). The Parish

plans to purchase an additional 30 feet of right-of-way on the east side of the Longview Canal from Stone Oil Company that would be required to widen the channel by 20 feet to provide an additional 10 feet of right of way for future access to the Parish for proper maintenance and grass cutting. The Parish would acquire approximately 5.1 acres of land; however, the land area that would be impacted by excavation and construction work is approximately 3.4 acres. The remaining 1.7 acres would be used by St. James Parish for access and maintaining the canal. The enlarged channel would have an 8-foot bottom and 2:1 side slopes. The widening of the Longview Canal would provide not only a quicker means to remove the floodwater, but since the Parish recently re-dredged the primary drainage channel (the St. James Parish Main Canal) that leads into Blind River and Lake Maurepas, it would allow the subdivision's drainage channel to flow better without causing an increase in flooding in another area of the Parish.

**Figure 3: Aerial Photograph Depicting the Beginning of the Longview Canal Widening Project (North)**



**Figure 4: Aerial Photograph Depicting the End of the Longview Canal Widening Project (South)**



The Parish also proposes to remove seven (7) existing undersized culverts within the subdivision and replace them with larger and more adequate culverts. Existing culverts C-1 through C-5 are located within developed areas at the intersections of Maura Street, Amy Street, and Wendy Street, with the Middle and East Channels, which are shallow channels that run perpendicular to the streets within the subdivision south of Highway 3125 (see Figure 4 [above] and Photos 2 and 3).



Photo 2 – View of existing culvert C-5 on Wendy Street near the East Channel. This culvert is a representative of the culverts within the subdivision that would be replaced as part of the proposed project.



Photo 3 – View of the East Channel looking north from the existing C-3 location along Maura Street.

Existing culverts C-6 and C-7 are located within the Longview Canal north of Highway 3125. The locations of the proposed replacement culverts are depicted in Figure 3 above. The proposed culverts would be constructed of arched pipe (CMPA). The culvert removal and replacement would require removal of the asphalt streets over the existing culverts. The Parish would remove the old culverts, install the new larger culverts, and make the necessary street repairs. The proposed project includes the placement of properly-sized culverts to handle the peak flow associated with the 25-year/24-hour rain event and protect 113 structures. A summary

of the current and proposed dimensions and locations of the proposed replacement culverts are listed in Table 1 below.

**Table 1 - Summary of Pertinent Data for the Replacement Culverts**

Site Name	Address	City	Latitude	Longitude	Current Dimensions (Inches)	Proposed Dimensions (Inches)
C1 - Link 188	Wendy Street at Middle Channel	Paulina	30.031729	-90.741377	49 x 33	64 x 43
C2 - Link 185	Amy Street at Middle Channel	Paulina	30.032591	-90.741634	42 x 29	64 x 43
C3 - Link 204	Maura Street at East Channel	Paulina	30.031099	-90.739614	24	64 x 43
C4 - Link 96	Wendy Street East of East Channel	Paulina	30.032006	-90.739607	15	28 x 20
C5 - Link 202	Wendy Street at East Channel	Paulina	30.031981	-90.739905	49 x 33	64 x 43
C6 - Link 252	Humble Street at Longview Canal	Paulina	30.045672	-90.743095	68	87 x 63
C7 - Link 239	Longview Canal North of Humble Street at Secondary Drainage Canal	Paulina	30.047554	-90.741838	60 x 54	87 x 63

Numerous drainage pipes were observed emptying into the Longview Canal, both from the residential and commercial area to the west and from the agricultural fields to the east (Photos 4 and 5).



Photo 4 – View of a drainage pipe emptying into the Longview Canal from the agricultural field south of Highway 3125.

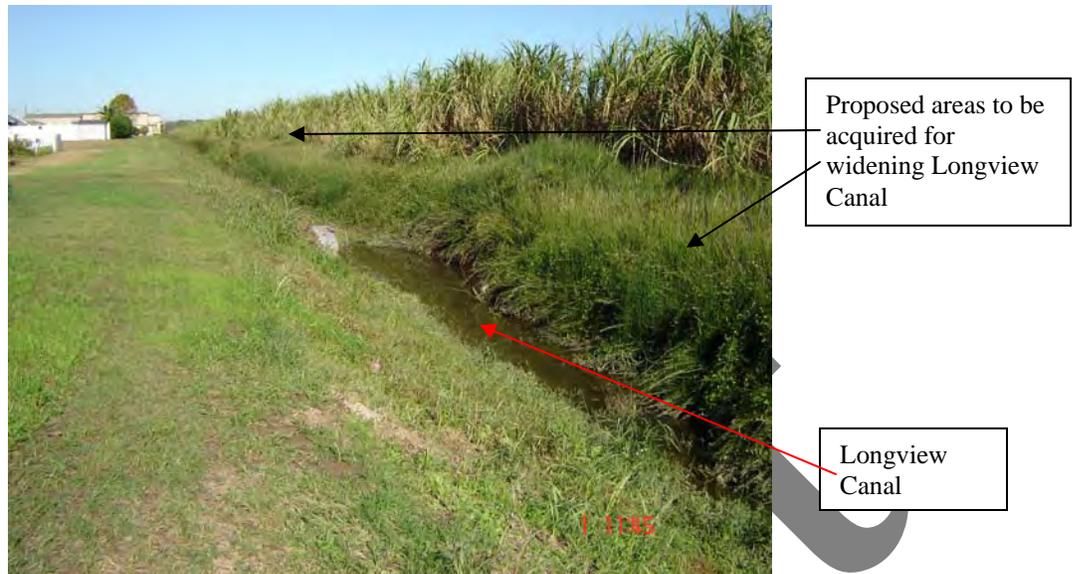


Photo 5 – View of a drainage pipe emptying into the Longview Canal from the residential area south of Highway 3125.

During a site reconnaissance conducted on December 1, 2010 and a follow-up site reconnaissance on January 11, 2011, FEMA personnel met with Mr. Jody Chenier, Director of Operations for St. James Parish, who is familiar with the proposed project. Mr. Chenier confirmed that all excavation and widening work would be performed on the east side of the Longview Canal, and would amount to approximately one row of sugar cane. The proposed project would remove the acreage for proposed canal excavation and the parish access and maintenance areas from sugar cane cultivation. The NRCS Alexandria, LA office has determined that the proposed project construction areas are located within urban areas. The proposed project is therefore exempt from the rules and regulations of the FPPA (See Table 2). Mr. Chenier indicated that all the land that would be purchased currently belongs to the Stone Oil Company, which is a willing seller of the land required for the proposed project. According to Mr. Chenier, it would be easier to purchase land from one owner than the numerous residential and commercial property owners along the west side of the Longview Canal.

In addition, there are several commercial structures located west of Longview Canal, and immediately south of Highway 3125 (Photo 6). As shown in the photo below of the commercial structures, there is insufficient land on the west side of the canal that could be purchased for purposes of widening the Longview Canal in this area.

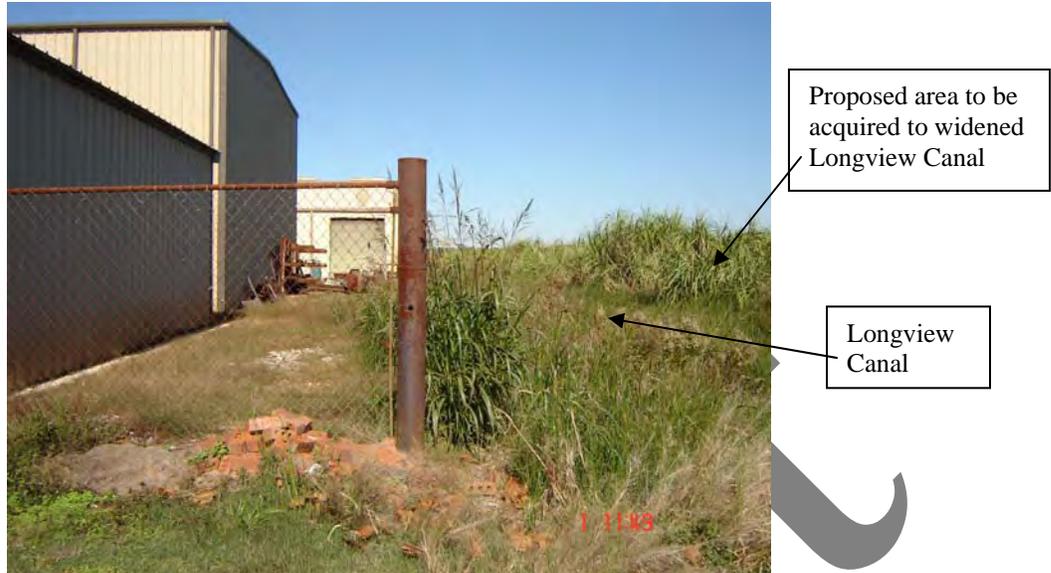


Photo 6 - View of rear of commercial structures west of Longview Canal (on the opposite side of the proposed work area).

The Longview Canal passes under LA State Highway 3125. There are three existing culverts in the Longview Canal under Highway 3125. This area is depicted in Figure 5 and Photo 7. Figure 5 also depicts the proposed invert elevations at this location to be constructed as part of the proposed project.

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**Figure 5: View of the Longview Canal at Highway 3125 Depicting Existing Culverts and the Location of the Chevron Gas Station**

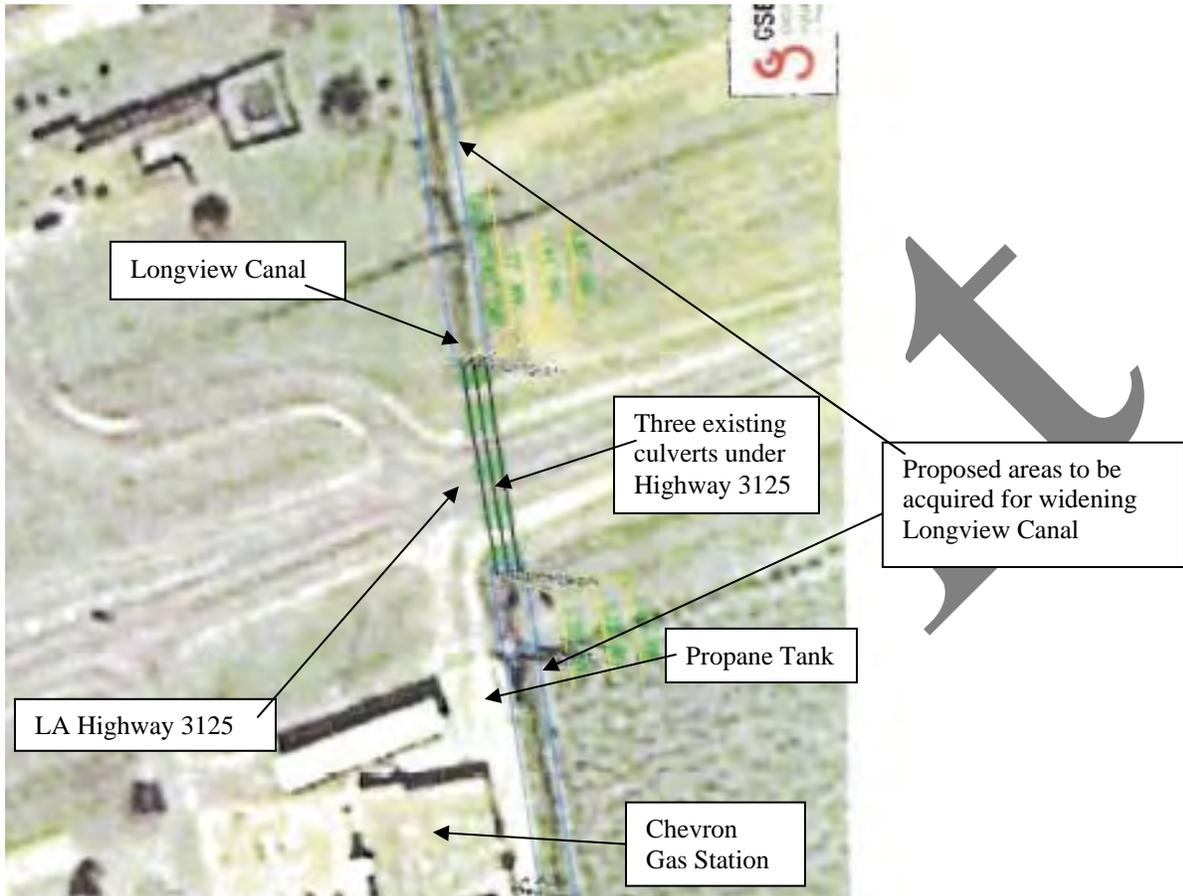


Photo 7 – View of three existing culverts within the Longview Canal under Highway 3125.

The residential area west of the Longview canal appears to be area of the mixed income single family homes, some of which are mobile homes (Photos 8 and 9).



Photo 8 – View the residential area west of Longview Canal.



Photo 9 – View the residential area west of Longview Canal.

North of Louisiana Highway 3125, the Longview Canal appears to be approximately 5 feet deep (Photos 10 and 11).



Photo 10 – View of the area to be disturbed as part of the proposed project, east of the Longview Canal north of Highway 3125.



Photo 11 – View of the residential area west of the Longview Canal north of Highway 3125.

Photo 12 depicts the existing conditions at culvert C-6, where Longview Canal passes under Humble Street.

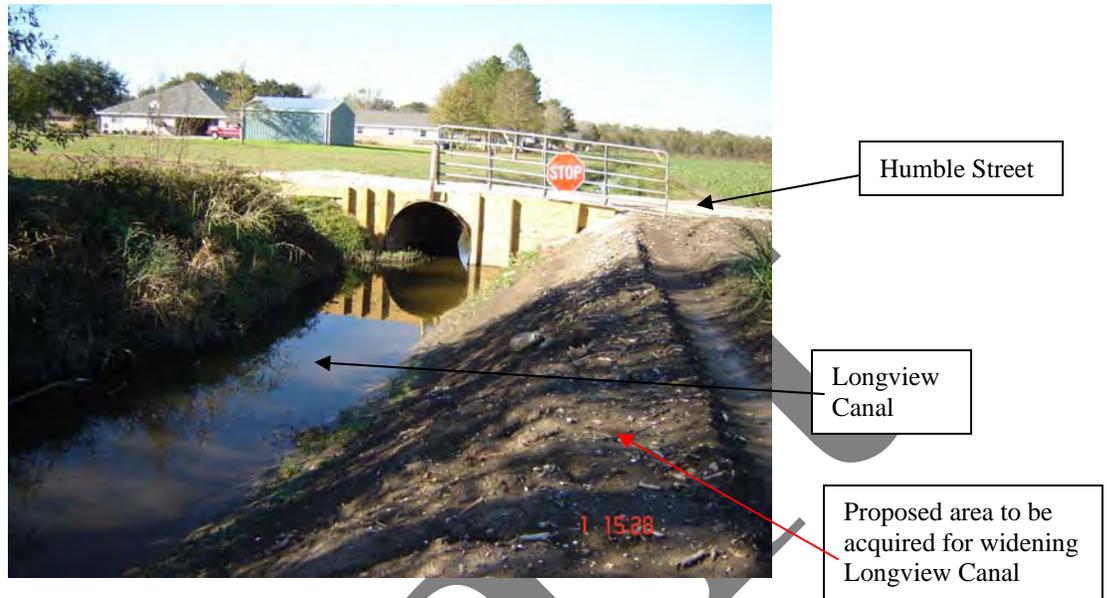


Photo 12 – View of the existing C-6 culvert at Humble Street. This culvert would be replaced as part of the proposed project.

Photo 13 depicts the existing conditions at culvert C-7.



Photo 13 – View of the C-7 culvert, which would be replaced as part of the proposed project. This is the north end of the project.

### **3.3 Alternative Eliminated From Further Consideration**

The following alternative was considered by St. James Parish, but was eliminated from further consideration.

St. James Parish considered elevation of the streets and flood-prone structures within the Grand Point Bourbon subdivision. This alternative would create some hardships for commuters and residents within the subdivision due to the extensive amount of work associated with raising an existing asphalt street. Approximately 45 homes and 30 detached structures would need to be elevated to eliminate flood damages. The remaining 42 residents would require some elevation of utility equipment, such as air conditioning and heating units and phone service jacks. The Parish estimates the cost of this alternative would exceed \$1 million. The cost to raise 50 homes, with 95% presently slab-on-grade brick structures, would cost over \$6.2 million. Finally, elevating the utility equipment on the remaining property would cost approximately \$100,000. Therefore, because of the excessive cost, this alternative was not selected, although it would eliminate the flood risk.

## **4.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND IMPACTS**

### **4.1 Impact Summary**

The following matrix summarizes the results of the environmental review process (Table 2). Potential environmental impacts that were found to be negligible are not evaluated further. Resource areas that have the potential for impacts of minor, moderate, or major intensity are further developed in the following sections. Definitions of the impact intensity are described below:

**Negligible:** The resource area (e.g., geology) would not be affected, or changes would be either non-detectable or if detected, would have effects that would be slight and local. Impacts would be well below regulatory standards, as applicable.

**Minor:** Changes to the resource would be measurable, although the changes would be small and localized. Impacts would be within or below regulatory standards, as applicable. Mitigation measures would reduce any potential adverse effects.

**Moderate:** Changes to the resource would be measurable and have both localized and regional scale impacts. Impacts would be within or below regulatory standards, but historical conditions are being altered on a short-term basis. Mitigation measures would be necessary and the measures would reduce any potential adverse effects.

**Major:** Changes would be readily measurable and would have substantial consequences on a local and regional level. Impacts would exceed regulatory standards. Mitigation measures to offset the adverse effects would be required to reduce impacts, though long-term changes to the resource would be expected.

**Table 2 - Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences Matrix**

Resource Area	Impact Intensity				Impact Summary	Agency Coordination / Permits	Mitigation
	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major			
Geology and Soils	X				There is potential for short-term localized increase in soil erosion during construction. NRCS policy clarifies several activities that are not subject to the rules and regulations of the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA)-Subtitle I of Title XV, Section 1539-1549 of PL 97-98, which was published in the Federal Register on June 17, 1994. The third exception item is "Projects on land already in urban development or used for water storage." The NRCS Alexandria, LA office has determined that the proposed project construction areas are located within urban areas. The proposed project is therefore exempt from the rules and regulations of the FPPA. The NRCS has no objections to the proposed project.	NRCS correspondence letter from Kevin D. Norton of the Alexandria, LA office, dated 10/21/10. (See Appendix A) LDEQ email dated 11/8/2010. (See Appendix A)	Implement construction Best Management Practices (BMPs); install silt fences/straw bales to reduce sedimentation. Area soils would be covered and/or wetted during construction. If fill is stored on site as part of unit installation or removal, the contractor would be required to appropriately cover it. Construction contractor would be required to obtain applicable Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) permit, and implement stormwater pollution prevention plan. See also Section 6.0.
Hydrology and Floodplains (Executive Order 11988)		X			Effective Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs) were reviewed on FEMA's web site. The project site is located within zone "shaded X" (the 500-year or the 0.2 percent annual chance flood). According to the drainage impact study for the proposed project, the project would provide 25-year flood stage protection for the drainage ditches within the watershed. The proposed modifications would have minimal impact to the stages along Highway 642, but would provide significant stages reductions along the eastern drainage conveyance. The modifications would be negligible to the 25-year maximum flood stages downstream of the proposed modifications. See also Sections 4.2.1.	Correspondence letter from Phillip L. Parker, P.E., Louisiana Certified Civil Engineer, dated 9/7/2010. (See Appendix B) Effective DFIRM Panel 22093C 0115C	The project area must be kept cleared so as not to interfere with floodplain functions. Contact the St. James Parish Floodplain Administrator to obtain all appropriate permits. See also Sections 4.2.1 and 6.0.
Wetlands (Executive Order 11990)		X			No USFWS-mapped wetlands are present within the proposed project area; however, there are USFWS-mapped wetlands adjacent to the northeastern portion of the project. The USACE determined that the proposed project occurs within waters of the United States (the Longview Canal) and would; therefore, require a Department of the Army permit under Section 404 of the CWA. The USACE requires more detailed drawings of the proposed project for a final decision of potential impacts. See also Sections 4.2.2.	Correspondence letter from the USACE, dated 1/13/2011. (See Appendix A)	The applicant must obtain a Department of the Army permit under Section 404 of the CWA. Any changes or modifications to the proposed project will require a revised determination. Off-site locations of activities such as borrow; disposals, haul and detour roads, and work mobilization site developments may be subject to USACE regulatory requirements. See also Sections 4.2.2 and 6.0.

Resource Area	Impact Intensity				Impact Summary	Agency Coordination / Permits	Mitigation
	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major			
Surface Water and Water Quality		X			There is potential for short-term localized increase in sedimentation during construction. See also Section 4.2.3.	LDEQ email dated 11/8/2010. (See Appendix A)	Contractor to contact the LDEQ to determine if a LPDES permit is required. If required, the contractor must follow are requirements of the LPDES permit. Implement construction BMPs; install silt fences/straw bales to reduce sedimentation. See also Sections 4.2.2 and 6.0.
Groundwater	X				St. James Parish does not overlie a Sole Source Aquifer. According to the LDNR Strategic Online Natural Resources Information System (SONRIS) database, there are no groundwater areas of concern in the project vicinity. According to the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD) database, accessed via SONRIS, no recorded drinking water wells are located within the project vicinity; however, there may be unrecorded drinking wells near the project work areas.	LDEQ email dated 11/8/2010. (See Appendix A) Correspondence letter from the LDNR, Office of Conservation, dated 12/13/2010. (See Appendix A)	The contractor should observe all precautions to protect the groundwater of the region. The LDNR Office of Conservation should be contacted at 225-342-5540 if any unregistered drinking water wells are encountered during construction work. See also Section 6.0.
Coastal Resources		X			St. James Parish lies entirely within the Louisiana Coastal Zone and the proposed project may be subject to the rules and regulations of the CZMA. At the time of this assessment, St. James Parish had not yet coordinated with the LDNR to obtain a Coastal Use Permit (CUP). The project is not located within the CBRS. See also Section 4.3.	Correspondence letter from the LDNR, Coastal Zone Management Program, dated 11/10/2010. (See Appendix A) Correspondence letter from the St. James Parish Government, dated 11/18/2010. (See Appendix A) Effective DFIRM Panel 22093C 0115C (for CBRS)	The proposed project may require a CUP from the LDNR. The St. James Parish Coastal Zone Committee must be notified if additional structures or activities are added that are not represented in the permit application. See also Sections 4.3 and 6.0.
Air Quality	X				During construction, there is a potential for short-term localized increase in vehicle emissions and dust particles. The St. James Parish airshed is in attainment for all criteria pollutants per the Clean Air Act.	LDEQ email dated 11/8/2010. (See Appendix A)	Vehicle operation times would be kept to a minimum. Area soils would be covered and/or wetted during construction to minimize dust. See also Section 6.0.
Vegetation and Wildlife	X				The proposed project area is a developed area which borders agricultural fields which are planted with sugar cane. The developed areas consist of maintained grassland or paved roadways and driveways. No long-term impacts to existing vegetation and wildlife are anticipated.	USFWS determination of no effect, dated 10/20/10. (See Appendix A) LDWF letter dated 11/17/10. (See Appendix A)	

Resource Area	Impact Intensity				Impact Summary	Agency Coordination / Permits	Mitigation
	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major			
Threatened and Endangered Species (Endangered Species Act Section 7)	X				<p>No impact to federally listed threatened or endangered species is anticipated. No impacts to critical habitats are anticipated.</p> <p>No impacts to state listed rare, threatened, or endangered species or critical habitats are anticipated for the proposed project. No state or federal parks, wildlife refuges, scenic streams, or wildlife management areas are known at the specific site.</p> <p>The bald eagle is protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Act. Bald eagles are known to occur in St. James Parish.</p>	<p>USFWS determination of no effect on Federal trust resources, dated 10/20/10. (See Appendix A)</p> <p>LDWF correspondence letter dated 11/17/10. (See Appendix A)</p>	<p>If a bald eagle or its nest is spotted within 1,500 feet of the project site during the months of October through mid-May, the applicant must cease construction activities and contact LDWF and USFWS immediately. All correspondence must be documented and remain in the project permanent files. See also Section 6.0.</p>

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Resource Area	Impact Intensity				Impact Summary	Agency Coordination / Permits	Mitigation
	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major			
Cultural Resources (National Historic Preservation Act Section 106)	X				<p>Based on research using FEMA’s National Register maps, updated in coordination with SHPO since Hurricane Katrina, FEMA has determined the project area is located within 0.1 mile of a previously identified archaeological site of unknown NRHP eligibility, 16SJ12. FEMA HMGP archaeologists undertook a cultural resources survey of 5.096 acres at the Longview Canal, near Paulina, LA in order to locate, identify, delineate, and interpret any possible buried cultural resources. A portion of the APE adjacent to 16SJ12 was investigated with shovel tests, auger tests, and pedestrian survey, restricted in most tests to the plow zone, revealing a low-density late nineteenth/early twentieth century domestic artifact scatter, mixed with modern artifacts in poor archaeological context. This domestic scatter was determined an NRHP ineligible locus representing the domestic component of 16SJ12. The survey also addressed the remaining 5,800 ft. of APE with a combination of pedestrian survey and auger testing, and no other cultural resources were encountered. A copy of the Draft Phase I Cultural Resources Survey Report, dated May 27, 2011, which has been updated to incorporate comments from the SHPO, and which details these findings, is attached in Appendix A. FEMA has determined that there is No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties as a result of the proposed undertaking. The SHPO concurrence with this determination was received on March 29, 2011. Consultation with affected tribes including the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, Jena Band of Choctaw Indians, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, and Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana was conducted per 36 CFR §800.2(c)(2)(i)(B). No tribal concurrences were received. Therefore, no impacts to cultural resources are anticipated by the proposed action.</p>	SHPO concurrence letter dated 3/29/11. (See Appendix A)	<p>If archaeological artifacts or features (prehistoric or historic) or human remains are discovered during the course of FEMA funded work at the project site, the Applicant must ensure that their Contractor stops work in the vicinity of the discovery and takes all reasonable measures to avoid and minimize harm to the discovery. The Applicant shall inform the Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) and FEMA of the discovery, and FEMA would deploy an archaeologist to the location to conduct a site condition assessment. The Applicant would not proceed with work until FEMA has completed consultation with the SHPO on the treatment of the discovery.</p> <p>The Applicant would immediately notify GOHSEP, FEMA, the local Police Department, and the local Coroner’s Office of the discovery. The local Coroner’s Office would assess the nature and age of the human skeletal remains. If the Coroner’s Office determines that the human skeletal remains are older than 50 years of age, the Louisiana Division of Archaeology would take jurisdiction over the remains. Within twenty-four (24) hours, FEMA would notify the Louisiana Division of Archaeology (225-342-8170) of the finding. Within seventy-two (72) hours, FEMA would take the lead in working with the Louisiana Division of Archaeology and other interested parties, as necessary, to ensure compliance with the Louisiana Unmarked Human Burial Sites Preservation Act (R.S. 8:671 <i>et seq.</i>) and other applicable laws. In addition, the Applicant must afford FEMA the opportunity to comply with the “Human Remains Policy” set forth by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP). See also Section 6.0.</p>

Resource Area	Impact Intensity				Impact Summary	Agency Coordination / Permits	Mitigation
	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major			
Environmental Justice (Executive Order 12898)/Socioeconomics	X				The U.S. Census Bureau does not specific demographic data for the town of Paulina, Louisiana. According to the U.S. Census Bureau estimated data for 2005-2009, the percentage of families in St. James Parish below the poverty level is 10.4%. This figure for the U.S. as a whole is 9.9%. The median per capita income for St. James Parish is \$21,818. This figure for the U.S. as a whole is \$27,041. The demographic census data for St. James Parish are as follows: Caucasian: 50.2%, African American: 49.2%, and Hispanic: 1.1%. The comparable demographic census data for the U.S. as a whole are: Caucasian: 74.5%, African American: 12.4%, Hispanic: 15.1%. The developed area immediately west of Longview Canal appears to be a mixed income residential subdivision, with a several commercial properties located near Highway 3125. The proposed work has no potential to adversely impact any population.	U.S. Census Bureau, American Fact Finder, Data for St. James Parish, Louisiana	
Noise		X			During the construction period there would be a short-term increase in noise levels. See also Section 4.4.	St. James Parish Council, Louisiana – Code of Ordinances	St. James Parish does not have any specific ordinances regarding construction noise. If necessary, the following noise reduction measures should be considered: using a 7 A.M. to 7 P.M. construction schedule on all construction workdays. See also Sections 4.4 and 6.0.
Public Safety	X				No impacts to safety and security are anticipated.		The contractor would place fencing around the work area perimeters to protect nearby residents from vehicular traffic. To minimize worker and public health and safety risks from project construction and closure, all construction and closure work would be done using qualified personnel trained in the proper use of construction equipment, including all appropriate safety precautions. Additionally, all activities would be conducted in a safe manner in accordance with the standards specified in Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OHSA) regulations and the USACE safety manual. The contractor would post appropriate signage and fencing to minimize potential adverse public safety concerns. See also Section 6.0.

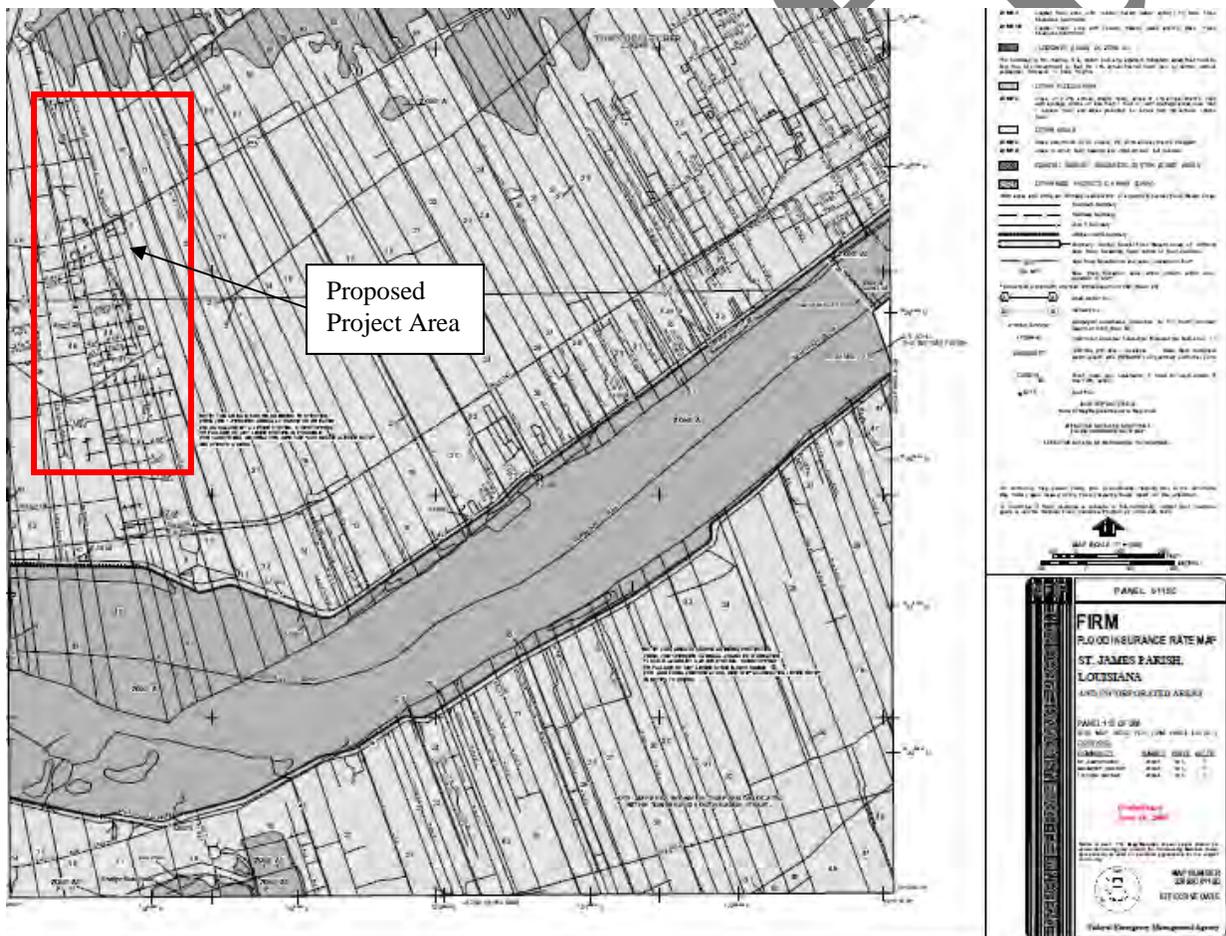
Resource Area	Impact Intensity				Impact Summary	Agency Coordination / Permits	Mitigation
	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major			
Traffic and Transportation		X			Traffic volumes along the respective work areas would increase temporarily during work activities. Surface traffic on the affected areas of Wendy Street, Amy Street, Maura Street, and Humble Road would be impacted during culvert replacement work on these streets. See also Section 4.5.		Appropriate signage and barriers should be in place prior to construction activities in order to alert pedestrians and motorists of project activities and traffic pattern changes. The contractor would implement traffic control measures, as necessary. See also Sections 4.5 and 6.0.
Hazardous Materials and Toxic Wastes		X			Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and LDEQ hazardous materials database searches were queried for the project work areas. No sites of concern were identified by the database search within the proposed project work areas. No environmental conditions of concern observed during field reconnaissance within the project area. There is a gas station with underground storage tanks and a propane tank located at the southwest corner of the intersection of LA State Highway 3125 and Longview Canal; however, all work would take place on the opposite side of the canal. The Williams Gas Pipeline (Station 64), which is a natural gas transmission facility, is located on Humble Street approximately 1,000 linear feet west of the C-6 culvert location. The LDNR SONRIS database was queried for the project work areas. According to the LDNR, there is one plugged and abandoned oil/gas well located in the project area. The pipe near the surface could be hazardous to construction machinery; moreover, the pipe could harbor migrated hydrocarbon gas and, if damaged, could cause an explosion. In addition, numerous recorded oil and gas wells, all which are labeled "non-producing", are located near the project area. See also Section 4.6.	EPA Envirofacts Database EPA EnviroMapper EPA Brownfields Database LDEQ Electronic Document Management System (EDMS) LDEQ Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP) Database LDEQ Louisiana State Brownfields Database LDNR SONRIS Database LDEQ Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Database LDEQ Authorized Debris Sites Database  Email from the LDEQ dated 11/8/2010 (See Appendix A) Correspondence letter from the LDNR, Office of Conservation, dated 12/13/2010. (See Appendix A)	If hazardous materials are unexpectedly encountered in the project area during the proposed construction operations, appropriate measures for the proper assessment, remediation, management and disposal of the contamination would be initiated in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations. The contractor would be required to take appropriate measures to prevent, minimize, and control the spill of hazardous materials in the construction area. The applicant must locate and mark the old oil/gas well, with LDNR assistance if necessary, so that it may be avoided during construction work. The LDNR Office of Conservation may be contacted at 225-342-5540 for assistance. This office should also be contacted if any unregistered wells of any type are encountered during construction work. For pipelines and other underground hazards, Louisiana One Call should be contacted at 800-272-3020 prior to commencing operations. See also Sections 4.6 and 6.0.

## 4.2 Water Resources

### 4.2.1 Hydrology and Floodplains

Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management) requires federal agencies to avoid or minimize development in the floodplain except when there are no practicable alternatives. St. James Parish enrolled in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) on July 13, 1982. Preliminary DFIRMs were produced for St. James Parish, dated June 10, 2009. The Parish has adopted these DFIRMs and they became effective on July 4, 2011. According to effective DFIRM Panel Number 22093C 0115C (Figure 6) the proposed project is located in zone “shaded X” (the 500-year or 0.2 percent annual chance flood).

**Figure 6: Effective DFIRM 22093C 0115C**



The current drainage layout of the Grand Point Bourbon subdivision consists of three main drainage channels that are fed by multiple tributary channels. The channels are both open channel and conduit flow of various sizes. One of the main drainage channels flows through a culvert system with three catch basins, each 36 inches in diameter. The second main drainage channel crosses through a 36-inch culvert, to a 48-inch culvert, then to a 36-inch culvert before draining into an outlet channel. The third main drainage channel crosses through a 22-inch

culvert and then flows through a 42-inch culvert before emptying into the outlet channel. In the past few years, St. James Parish has already begun replacing some of the undersized culverts in an effort to provide flood relief and minimize flood damage and road closures in and around the project area. The Parish has just completed maintenance dredging of the Parish's main drainage canal that receives and drains all the runoff water from this area and leads into Blind River and then to Lake Maurepas. This subdivision borders an existing secondary drainage channel (the Longview Canal) that receives all the subdivision's water.

Alternative 1- No Action: The No Action Alternative would have no effect on floodplains.

Alternative 2 – Longview Canal Improvement Drainage Project (Proposed Action): Under the proposed alternative, the Parish proposes to replace all of the remaining undersized culverts and widen and deepen Longview Canal to eliminate future flooding in this area. The project is located in zone "shaded X" (500-year or 0.2 percent chance flood zone). To comply with Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, FEMA is required to follow the procedure outlined in 44 CFR Part 9 to assure that alternatives to the proposed action have been considered. This process, also known as the "Eight Step Planning Process," has been applied to this mitigation project and is described in Appendix B. The proposed action must be coordinated with the local floodplain manager as well as comply with local floodplain ordinances. For the purposes of this study, there are no practical alternatives to the proposed action.

GSE Associates, LLC performed a drainage study for the project area (September 2010), which included rainfall-runoff simulation and modeling. According to Phillip L. Parker, LLC P.E., of GSE Associates, LLC, the proposed drainage project would provide 25-year flood stage protection for the drainage ditches within the watershed. The proposed modifications would have minimal impact to the stages along Highway 642, but would provide significant stages reductions along the eastern drainage conveyance. The proposed modifications would be negligible to the 25-year maximum flood stages downstream of the proposed modifications. A copy of this letter and study is attached in Appendix B.

#### **4.2.2 Wetlands**

Executive Order 11990, (Protection of Wetlands) requires federal agencies to take actions to minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands, except when there are no practicable alternatives. This Executive Order also mandates that any wetlands impacted by a Federally-funded project be mitigated if avoidance or minimization of impacts is not possible.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regulates the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S., including wetlands, pursuant to Section 404 of the CWA. The USACE also regulates the building of any structures in waters of the U.S. pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbor Act (RHA). The project area contains Longview Canal, which runs southeast to northwest, and drains into the St. James Parish Main Canal (the primary drainage canal for the parish), which leads to the Blind River and ultimately into Lake Maurepas.

Jurisdictional wetlands are defined as those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil

conditions. There are USFWS-mapped wetlands adjacent to the northern portion of the project area. Jurisdictional wetland determinations are regulated by the USACE pursuant to CWA.

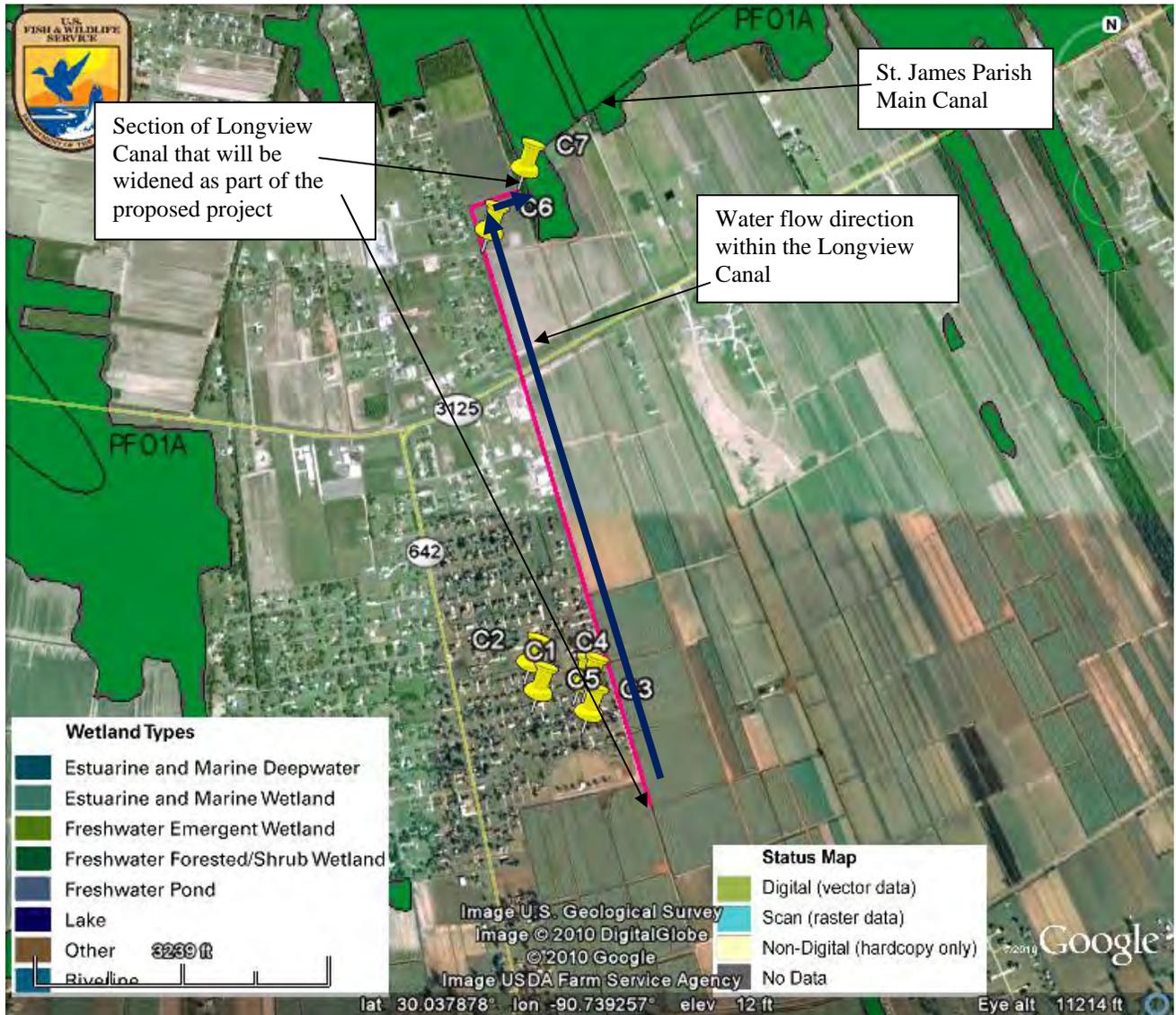
There are no wild and scenic rivers, as designated under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, in or near the project area.

Alternative 1- No Action: The No Action Alternative would have no impact on wetlands or other waters of the U.S. and would not require permits regulated under Sections 401 or 404 of the CWA, or Section 10 under the RHA.

Alternative 2 – Longview Canal Improvement Drainage Project (Proposed Action): There are no mapped wetlands within the proposed project area. During a site reconnaissance conducted on December 1, 2010 and a follow-up site reconnaissance on January 11, 2011, it was determined that the lands that will be purchased by St. James Parish are all agricultural fields, and there are no wetlands within the proposed project area. However, there are USFWS-mapped wetlands adjacent to the northeastern end of the project. Water within the Longview Canal flows toward, and drains into, these mapped wetlands. A wetlands map of the proposed project area is depicted in Figure 7.

In a response letter dated January 13, 2011, the USACE has determined that waters of the United States (the Longview Canal) occur within the proposed project area. The proposed project therefore would require a Department of the Army (DA) permit under Section 404 of the CWA prior to the deposition or redistribution of dredged or fill material into these waters. More detailed project drawings should be submitted to the USACE for a final determination regarding potential impacts. Any changes or modifications to the proposed project would require a revised determination from the USACE. Off-site locations of activities such as borrow, disposals, haul and detour roads, and work mobilization site developments may be subject to DA regulatory requirements and may impact a DA project. Prior to project implementation, the Applicant must coordinate with the USACE for any required permits and/or clearance. All permit documentation should be forwarded to FEMA for retention in the project files. Copies of the agency correspondence are presented in Appendix A.

**Figure 7 Proposed Project Wetland Map**



Photograph 14 depicts the adjacent mapped wetland area east of the C-7 culvert location.

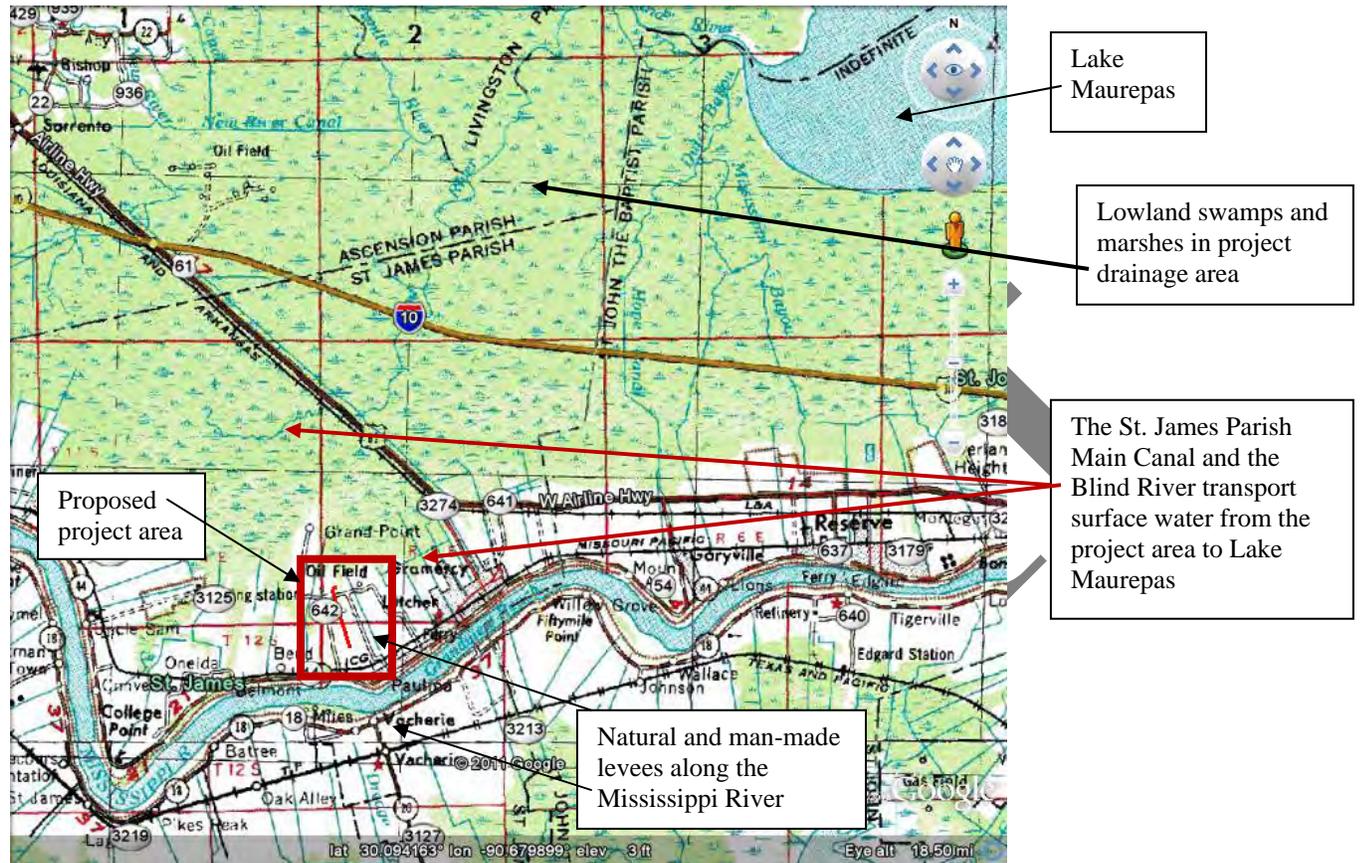


Photo 14 – View of the receiving water body for the Longview Canal east of the C-7 culvert location. The forested area in background is a USFWS-mapped wetland area.

#### **4.2.3 Surface Water and Water Quality**

There are natural and man-made levees along both sides of the Mississippi River in St. James Parish. The natural levees, which are approximately 3 miles wide on both sides of the River, are higher in elevation than the land further north of the river on the east bank and further south of river on the west bank. Therefore, surface water flows away from the river, toward the lowland swamps and marshes (wetlands) to the north on the east bank (which includes the project area), and toward lowland swamps and marshes to the south on the west bank. The majority of the agricultural and developed areas of St. James Parish have historically been, and are currently, built upon the natural levees. According to information provided by St. James Parish, stormwater from the project drainage area drains into Longview Canal, which drains north into the St. James Parish Main Canal and associated wetlands (see Figure 7 [above]). The St. James Parish Main Canal drains to the Blind River and ultimately into Lake Maurepas. Figure 8 depicts the existing drainage area for the overall project.

**Figure 8 Proposed Project Drainage Map**



Alternative 1- No Action: The No Action Alternative would not change site drainage or have an effect on the surface water quality of the area.

Alternative 2 – Longview Canal Improvement Drainage Project (Proposed Action): During construction there is the potential to impact surface waters through minor erosion and sedimentation. Excavation and trenching would be required to widen Longview Canal. In order to minimize impacts to waters of the U.S., the contractor is required to implement BMPs that meet the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality’s (LDEQ) permitting specifications for storm water discharge regulated under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). This includes specific construction measures to reduce or eliminate run-off impacts. However, any adverse effects to water quality associated with the construction of the projects would be short term and minimized by the measures described above.

### 4.3 Coastal Resources

The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (LDNR) regulates development in the designated coastal zone under the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) of 1972. A central requirement of the CZMA is that each state develops a management program for its coastal zone. In 1978, the Louisiana Legislature passed the State and Local Coastal Resources Management Act. This act established a coastal zone boundary and a system of Coastal Use Permits (CUPs)

to regulate uses and activities in Louisiana's coastal zone. These CUPs are required for those projects that have a direct impact on coastal waters.

Federally-funded activities that affect the coastal zone are also subject to federal consistency provisions of the CZMA. Before the federal agency can grant financial assistance, the applicant must attach a consistency certification issued by the state coastal agency.

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) administers the Coastal Barrier Resource Act (CBRA). The Act designated various undeveloped coastal barrier islands, depicted by specific maps, for inclusion in the Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS). Areas so designated were made ineligible for direct or indirect Federal financial assistance that might support development, including flood insurance, except for emergency life-saving activities. There are designated CBRS units in Louisiana, but not near the proposed project area.

Alternative 1- No Action: The No Action Alternative would have no effect on the coastal zone or any designated Coastal Barrier Resource System unit.

Alternative 2 – Longview Canal Improvement Drainage Project (Proposed Action): The proposed site is located in the designated Louisiana Coastal Management Zone. The LDNR regulates the Louisiana Coastal Zone Management Program. In a response letter dated November 10, 2010, the LDNR indicated that the applicant must complete a Coastal Use Permit Application packet to the LDNR to obtain an official determination, and begin processing any CUP that may be required for the project. In addition, in a response letter dated November 18, 2010, the St. James Parish Coastal Zone Committee stated that they have no objections to the proposed project, provided no additional structures or activities are added that are not represented in the permit application. The Applicant must coordinate with the LDNR for permits and clearances. Copies of the agency correspondence are presented in Appendix A.

The project site is not part of a designated CBRS unit and therefore, CBRA does not apply.

#### **4.4 Noise**

Noise is generally described as unwanted sound. The project area is generally fully developed with residential and commercial structures and numerous roadways cross over or are located near the proposed project. There are numerous noise receptors within 500 feet of the proposed project. There are numerous residential and commercial properties in the immediate area. Existing noise consists primarily of traffic noise. Noise levels within and adjacent to the project area would increase during construction activities as a result of construction equipment and increased vehicular activity.

Alternative 1- No Action: The No Action Alternative would have no impact on noise in the project area.

Alternative 2 – Longview Canal Improvement Drainage Project (Proposed Action): Widening of Longview Canal and replacement of the seven culverts would result in an increase in noise. The increase is expected to be temporary and would not affect any sensitive receptors. St. James

Parish does not have any specific ordinances regarding construction noise. If necessary, the following noise reduction measures should be considered: using a 7 A.M. to 7 P.M. construction schedule on all workdays.

#### **4.5 Traffic and Transportation**

The proposed site is located in a developed, moderate traffic volume area.

Alternative 1- No Action: The No Action alternative would have no effect on traffic.

Alternative 2 – Longview Canal Improvement Drainage Project (Proposed Action): Construction at the proposed project site would have a temporary effect on traffic by increasing the number of heavy machinery vehicles on Wendy Street, Amy Street, Maura Street, LA Highway 3125, and Humble Street along the portion of the Longview Canal under Humble Street that would be widened. Construction traffic should be closely monitored and controlled as appropriate. All construction activities would be conducted in a safe manner in accordance with Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) requirements.

Surface traffic on the affected areas of Wendy Street, Amy Street, Maura Street, and Humble Road would be impacted during culvert replacement work on these streets. The contractor will implement traffic control measures as necessary. During construction activities, the construction site(s) would be fenced off to discourage trespassers.

#### **4.6 Hazardous Materials and Toxic Wastes**

Hazardous wastes, as defined by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), are defined as "a solid waste, or combination of solid wastes, which because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical, or infectious characteristics may (1) cause, or significantly contribute to, an increase in mortality or an increase in serious irreversible or incapacitating reversible illness or (2) pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly treated, stored, transported or disposed of or otherwise managed. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Louisiana LDEQ hazardous materials database searches were queried for the proposed project work areas. No sites of concern were identified by the database search. There was no evidence of underground or aboveground storage tanks located within the project work area during a site reconnaissance conducted on December 1, 2010 and a follow-up site reconnaissance on January 11, 2011. No other environmental conditions of concern were observed during the field reconnaissance.

There is a Chevron gas station with three underground storage tanks (USTs) located at the southwest corner of the intersection of LA State Highway 3125 and Longview Canal (see Figure 5 [above] and Photos 15 and 16). These USTs are registered with the LDEQ as Longview Supermarket (LDEQ Agency Interest [AI] # 17424). A review of LDEQ records revealed no evidence of any confirmed releases from these USTs. There is also an aboveground propane tank at this facility located adjacent to Longview Canal; however, all proposed work would take place on the opposite side of the canal.



Photo 15 - View of Chevron gas station south of Highway 3125 and west of Longview Canal (on the opposite side of the proposed work area).



Photo 16 – View of propane tank adjacent to the Longview Canal associated with the gas station depicted in the Photo 5.

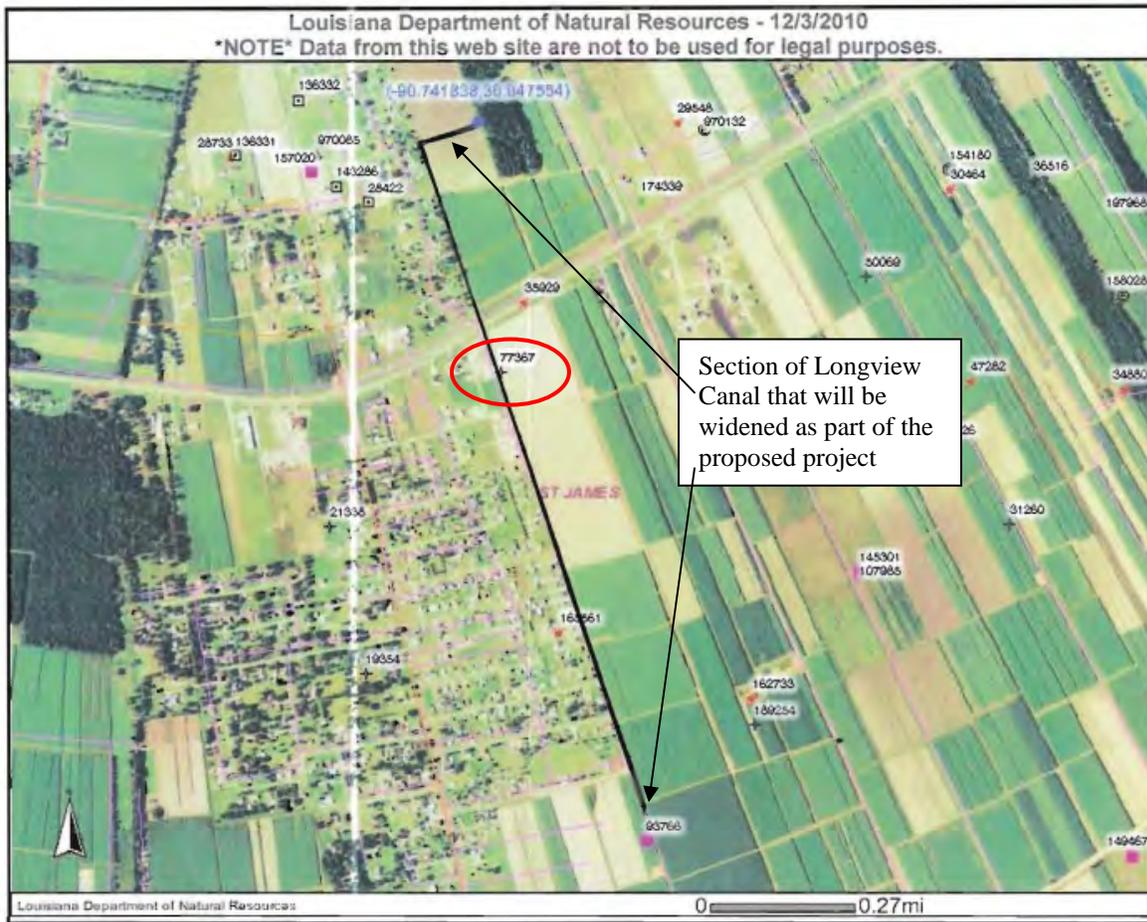
The Williams Gas Pipeline (Station 64), which is a natural gas transmission facility, is located on Humble Street approximately 1,000 linear feet (0.19 mile) west of the C-6 culvert location (see Figure 3 [above]).

The proposed work would have no effect on these facilities, nor would these facilities have an effect on the proposed work locations. There are no recorded hurricane debris sites within project area.

Alternative 1- No Action: The No Action alternative would not disturb any hazardous materials or create any potential hazard to human health.

Alternative 2 – Longview Canal Improvement Drainage Project (Proposed Action): According to the LDNR SONRIS web site, there is an old plugged oil/gas well (Serial # 77367) located approximately 30 feet east of the Longview Canal at 30.0407002255, -90.741295, (Figures 9, 10 and 11) east of and across the Longview Canal from the Grand Point Mini Storage Facility. In a response letter dated December 13, 2010, the LDNR Office of Conservation confirmed the existence of this oil/gas well within the project area. Information from the LDNR states that “the available plug and abandon report on this well does not state that the well was cut below the ground level and a 3/8-inch steel plate was welded on top of the well; however, it is believed that the 3/8-inch steel plate is welded on top of the 10 3/4-inch casing (steel pipe) that extends down to a depth of 2,000 feet. This pipe near the surface could be hazardous to construction machinery; moreover, the pipe could harbor migrated hydrocarbon gas and, if damaged, could cause an explosion.” In addition, numerous recorded oil and gas wells, all which are labeled “non-producing”, are located near the project area, according to the SONRIS database. The applicant must locate and mark the old oil/gas well, with LDNR assistance if necessary, so that it may be avoided during construction work. The LDNR Office of Conservation may be contacted at 225-342-5540 for assistance. This office should also be contacted if any unregistered wells of any type are encountered during construction work. For pipelines and other underground hazards, Louisiana One Call should be contacted at 800-272-3020 prior to commencing operations. If any solid or hazardous wastes, or soils and/or groundwater contaminated with hazardous constituents are encountered during the project, notification to LDEQ’s Single-Point-of-Contact (SPOC) at (225) 219-3640 is required. Additionally, precautions should be taken to protect workers from these hazardous constituents. Copies of the agency correspondence are presented in Appendix A.

**Figure 9 General Location of Abandoned Oil/Gas Well**



**Figure 10 Location of Abandoned Oil/Gas Well in Relation to Nearby Structures**



**Figure 11 Location of Abandoned Oil/Gas Well in Relation to Longview Canal**



## 5.0 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Cumulative impacts are those effects on the environment that result from the incremental effect of the action when added to past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency (federal or nonfederal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

The impact of Hurricane Katrina in St. James Parish resulted in either wind or flood damage to many structures. There have been other projects to repair other structures to pre-disaster condition with upgrades to codes and standards. In addition, St. James Parish plans to construct an earthen berm for flood control in South Vacherie, which is located on the west bank of the Mississippi River and plans to upgrade culverts in other areas of Paulina and other areas of the Parish.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coastal Change Analysis Program (C-CAP) Land Cover Atlas, from 1996 to 2006, the percent of developed land parish wide in St. James has increased from 8.43% to 8.54%, and the percentage of impervious surface area has increased from 2.79% to 2.94%. Within the same timeframe, the percentage of forested land parish-wide has decreased from 55.29% to 54.99%, and the percentage of St. James

that is wetland has decreased from 57.86% to 57.61%. In 1996, St. James Parish had 73.93 square miles of agricultural land. In 2006, St. James Parish had 74.01 square miles of agricultural land, for a net gain of 0.08 square miles of land (+ 0.11% change) used for agriculture.

The proposed project would require the soil excavation along the Longview Canal. In addition, minor soil excavation would be required to replace the seven culverts. The cumulative impact to the natural resources within St. James Parish would be negligible and not likely to adversely affect the Parish as a whole. The human environment of St. James Parish would be impacted by reducing the flood hazards in the Paulina, Louisiana area. On a whole the human environment of St. James Parish would benefit by the project, and no significant adverse cumulative impacts would occur.

## **6.0 CONDITIONS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

Based upon the studies and consultations undertaken in this environmental assessment, several conditions and mitigation measures must be taken by the applicant prior to and during project implementation.

- The LDEQ has stormwater general permits for construction areas equal to or greater than five acres. It is recommended that the LDEQ Water Permit Division be contacted at (225) 219-3181 to determine whether the proposed improvements require one of these permits. The contractor is required to implement BMPs that meet the LDEQ permitting specifications for storm water discharge regulated under Section 402 of the CWA
- The contractor would be responsible for keeping all excavated areas periodically sprayed with water, all equipment maintained in good working order, and all construction vehicles would be limited to 15 mph to minimize pollution/fugitive dust.
- This project may require a CUP from the LDNR. Determination of CUP requirements can be obtained through the submission of a completed CUP application to the LDNR. Projects may be coordinated by contacting LDNR at 225-342-7591 or 1-800-267-4019.
- Prior to project implementation, the Applicant must coordinate with the USACE for any required permits and/or clearance. The proposed project will require a Department of the Army (DA) permit under Section 404 of the CWA from the USACE. All permit documentation should be forwarded to FEMA for retention in the project files.
- Any changes or modifications to the proposed project would require a revised determination. Off-site locations of activities such as borrow; disposals, haul-and detour-roads and work mobilization site developments may be subject to the Department of the Army regulatory requirements and may have an impact to a Department of Army project.
- If any solid or hazardous wastes, or soils and/or groundwater contaminated with hazardous constituents are encountered during the project, notification to LDEQ's Single-

Point-of-Contact (SPOC) at (225) 219-3640 is required. Additionally, precautions should be taken to protect workers from these hazardous constituents.

- The applicant must locate and mark the old oil/gas well, with LDNR assistance if necessary, so that it may be avoided during construction work. The LDNR Office of Conservation may be contacted at 225-342-5540 for assistance. This office should also be contacted if any unregistered wells of any type are encountered during construction work. For pipelines and other underground hazards, Louisiana One Call should be contacted at 800-272-3020 prior to commencing operations.
- Prior to the proposed project implementation, the Applicant must contact the St. James Parish Floodplain Administrator in order to ensure compliance with St. James Parish requirements for the NFIP and to ensure that all appropriate permits are obtained.
- If a bald eagle or its nest is spotted within 1,500 feet of the project site during the months of October through mid-May, the applicant must cease construction activities and contact LDWF and USFWS immediately. All correspondence must be documented and remain in the project permanent files.
- Construction traffic should be closely monitored and controlled as appropriate. All construction activities would be conducted in a safe manner in accordance with OSHA requirements. To alert motorists and pedestrians of project activities, appropriate signage and barriers should be used during construction. During construction activities, the construction site(s) would be fenced off to discourage trespassers.
- If archaeological artifacts or features (prehistoric or historic) are discovered during the course of FEMA funded work at the project site, the Applicant must ensure that their Contractor stops work in the vicinity of the discovery and takes all reasonable measures to avoid and minimize harm to the discovery. The Applicant shall inform the GOHSEP and FEMA of the discovery, and FEMA would deploy an archaeologist to the location to conduct a site condition assessment. The Applicant would not proceed with work until FEMA has completed consultation with the SHPO on the treatment of the discovery.
- In addition, if human remains are discovered during the course of FEMA funded work, the Applicant and the Applicant's Contractor are responsible for immediately halting work within the vicinity of the human remains finding. The Applicant would immediately notify GOHSEP, FEMA, the local Police Department, and the local Coroner's Office of the discovery. The local Coroner's Office would assess the nature and age of the human skeletal remains. If the Coroner's Office determines that the human skeletal remains are older than 50 years of age, the Louisiana Division of Archaeology would take jurisdiction over the remains. Within twenty-four (24) hours, FEMA would notify the Louisiana Division of Archaeology (225-342-8170) of the finding. Within seventy-two (72) hours, FEMA would take the lead in working with the Louisiana Division of Archaeology and other interested parties, as necessary, to ensure compliance with the Louisiana Unmarked Human Burial Sites Preservation Act (R.S. 8:671 *et seq.*) and other applicable laws. In

addition, the Applicant must afford FEMA the opportunity to comply with the “Human Remains Policy” set forth by the ACHP.

Failure to comply with these conditions may make part or all of these projects ineligible for FEMA funding.

## **7.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

The public will be invited to comment on the proposed action. A legal notice was published in the following newspaper: The New Orleans Times-Picayune from August 5, 2011 to August 9, 2011. Additionally the Environmental Assessment was made available at the St. James Library (Lutcher Branch) from August 5, 2011 to August 24, 2011. The Environmental Assessment was published on FEMA’s and the Parish’s official websites. A copy of the Public Notice is attached in Appendix C.

## **8.0 CONCLUSION**

The proposed widening of Longview Canal on both sides of Louisiana Highway 3125 (north and south) and the replacement of seven roadside culverts in Paulina, St. James Parish, Louisiana was analyzed based on the studies, consultations, and reviews undertaken as reported in this draft EA. The findings of this EA conclude that the proposed action at the proposed site would result in no significant adverse impacts to soils, surface water, groundwater, floodplains, wetlands, public health and safety, hazardous materials, socioeconomic resources, environmental justice, or cultural resources are anticipated under the Proposed Action Alternative. During project construction, short-term impacts to soils, surface water, transportation, air quality, and noise are anticipated and conditions have been incorporated to mitigate and minimize the effects.

Project short-term adverse impacts would be mitigated using BMPs, such as silt fences, proper vehicle and equipment maintenance, and appropriate signage. No long-term adverse impacts are anticipated from the proposed project. Therefore, FEMA presently finds the proposed action meets the requirements for a Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSI) under NEPA and the preparation of an EIS will not be required. If new information is received that indicates there may be significant adverse effects, FEMA would revise the findings and issue a second public notice, for additional comments. However, if there are no changes, this draft EA will become the Final EA.

## **9.0 AGENCY COORDINATION**

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality  
Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Zone Management Program  
Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, Office of Conservation  
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
Environmental Protection Agency  
U.S. Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Louisiana State Historic Preservation Officer  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## 10.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

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Support to FEMA  
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Mark Martinkovic, Historic Preservation Specialist/Archaeologist, URS - Contractor Support to  
FEMA  
Federal Emergency Management Agency, Louisiana Recovery Office

## 11.0 REFERENCES

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**Draft**

**APPENDIX A**

**AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE**

**From:** Rohrer, Laurel (CTR)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 20, 2010 08:33  
**To:** 'Beth.Dixon@LA.gov'; 'Jamie.Phillippe@la.gov'; 'mick.tamara@epamail.epa.gov';  
'Amy.E.Powell@usace.army.mil'; 'cmichon@wlf.la.gov'; 'Karl.morgan@la.gov';  
'mandy.york@la.usda.gov'  
**Cc:** Sibley, Melanie  
**Subject:** NEMIS 1603-0221 St. James Parish Drainage Improvements - Scoping Notification  
**Attachments:** 1603-0221 St. James Parish Scoping letter SOW.doc

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
FEMA-DR 1603/1607 LA  
1 Seine Ct, 4<sup>th</sup> floor  
New Orleans, LA 70114



October 20, 2010

MEMORANDUM TO: See Distribution

SUBJECT: Scoping Notification/Solicitation of Views

To Whom It May Concern:

The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is mandated by the U.S. Congress to administer Federal disaster assistance pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act), PL 93-288, as amended. Section 406 of the Stafford Act authorizes FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Program to provide funds to states and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures after a major disaster declaration.

The attached scope of work and aerial maps correspond to a proposed project for which FEMA funding has been requested.

On August 29, 2005, storm surge caused by Hurricane Katrina inundated large portions of southeast Louisiana causing extensive flood damage to structures in St. James Parish. The proposed drainage improvements will occur in and adjacent to the Grand Point Bourbon subdivision area.

The Grand Point Bourbon subdivision has one of the most severe localized flooding problems in the Parish. The original subdivision was constructed more than 25 years ago, and the increased runoff due to residential construction was not considered in the original design. The Grand Point Bourbon subdivision was constructed by a private developer before the Parish had laws requiring a drainage analysis and culvert permits that insure proper culvert size and installation. Under this project, the Parish proposes to replace all of the remaining undersized culverts and widen Longview Canal to eliminate future flooding in this area. Approximately 7,400 linear feet of Longview Canal, beginning at 30.047554, -90.741838 (north) and ending at 30.028967, -90.737147 (south), will be widened to increase its

capacity and provide the proper design flow.

To ensure compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Executive Orders (EOs), and other applicable Federal regulations, we will be preparing a Record of Environmental Consideration (REC). To assist us in preparation of the REC, we request that your office review the attached documents for a determination as to the requirements of any formal consultations, regulatory permits, determinations, or authorizations.

Please respond within 30 calendar days of the date of this scoping notification. If our office receives no comments at the close of this period, we will assume that your agency does not object to the project as proposed.

Comments may be faxed to (504) 762-2353, emailed to [Laurel.Rohrer@associates.dhs.gov](mailto:Laurel.Rohrer@associates.dhs.gov) or mailed to the attention of Laurel Rohrer, Environmental Department, at the address above.

For questions regarding this matter, please contact Laurel Rohrer, Environmental Specialist at (504) 762-2205.

Tiffany Spann,  
Environmental Supervisor

Distribution: LDEQ, USEPA, USACE, LWFD, LDNR, NRCS

**LAUREL ROHRER, CFM, CHMM, REM  
URS CORPORATION, NEPA ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST  
CONTRACTOR SUPPORT TO THE HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM  
1 SEINE CT, NEW ORLEANS, LA 70114  
DESK:504-762-2205  
FAX: 504-762-2353**

This project is to improve the drainage and reduce flooding in the Grand Point Bourbon Subdivision in Paulina, LA. Please see the scope of work below.

### **Damage Description:**

On August 29, 2005, storm surge caused by Hurricane Katrina inundated large portions of southeast Louisiana causing extensive flood damage to structures in St. James Parish. The proposed drainage improvements will occur in and adjacent to the Grand Point Bourbon subdivision area.

The Grand Point Bourbon subdivision has one of the most severe localized flooding problems in the Parish. The original subdivision was constructed more than 25 years ago, and the increased runoff due to residential construction was not considered in the original design. The Grand Point Bourbon subdivision was constructed by a private developer before the Parish had laws requiring a drainage analysis and culvert permits that insure proper culvert size and installation. The Parish now requires developers to undertake drainage studies and submit their drainage design channel and culvert installations to the Parish's Operations Department for proper sizing and elevation grades.

The current drainage layout of the Grand Point Bourbon subdivision consists of three main drainage channels that are fed by multiple tributary channels. The channels are both open channel and conduit flow of various sizes. One of the main drainage channels flows through a culvert system with three catch basins, each 36 inches in diameter. The second main drainage channel crosses through a 36 -inch culvert, to a 48-inch culvert, then to a 36-inch culvert before draining into an outlet channel. The third main drainage channel crosses through a 22-inch culvert and then flows through a 42-inch culvert before emptying into the outlet channel. In the past few years, St. James Parish has already begun replacing some of the undersized culverts in an effort to provide flood relief and minimize flood damage and road closures in and around the project area. The Parish has just completed maintenance dredging of the Parish's main drainage canal that receives and drains all the runoff water from this area and leads into Blind River and then to Lake Maurepas. This subdivision borders an existing secondary drainage channel (the Longview Canal) that receives all the subdivision's water. Under this project, the Parish proposes to replace all of the remaining undersized culverts and widen Longview Canal to eliminate future flooding in this area.

### **Scope of work:**

The proposed scope of work includes enlargement (widening) of Longview Canal on both sides of Highway 3125 to expand its drainage capacity and increase the channel's ability to remove water. The Parish has previously dredged both this channel and the main receiving drainage channels to be able to readily accommodate the increased drainage; therefore, no additional excavation or dredging of the Longview Canal will be necessary for this project. Approximately 7,400 linear feet of Longview Canal, beginning at 30.047554, -90.741838 (north) and ending at 30.028967, -90.737147 (south), will be widened to increase its capacity and provide the proper design flow. The section of Longview Canal that will be widened is depicted on the attached Project Vicinity Map. The Parish plans to purchase an additional 30 feet of right-of-way that will be required to widen the channel by 20 feet to provide future access to the Parish for proper maintenance and grass cutting. The channel will have an 8-foot bottom and 2 to 1 side slopes. The widening of Longview Canal will provide not only a quicker means to remove the floodwater, but since the Parish recently re-dredged the primary drainage channel that leads into Blind River and Lake Maurepas, it will allow the subdivision's drainage channel to flow better without causing flooding to another area of the Parish.

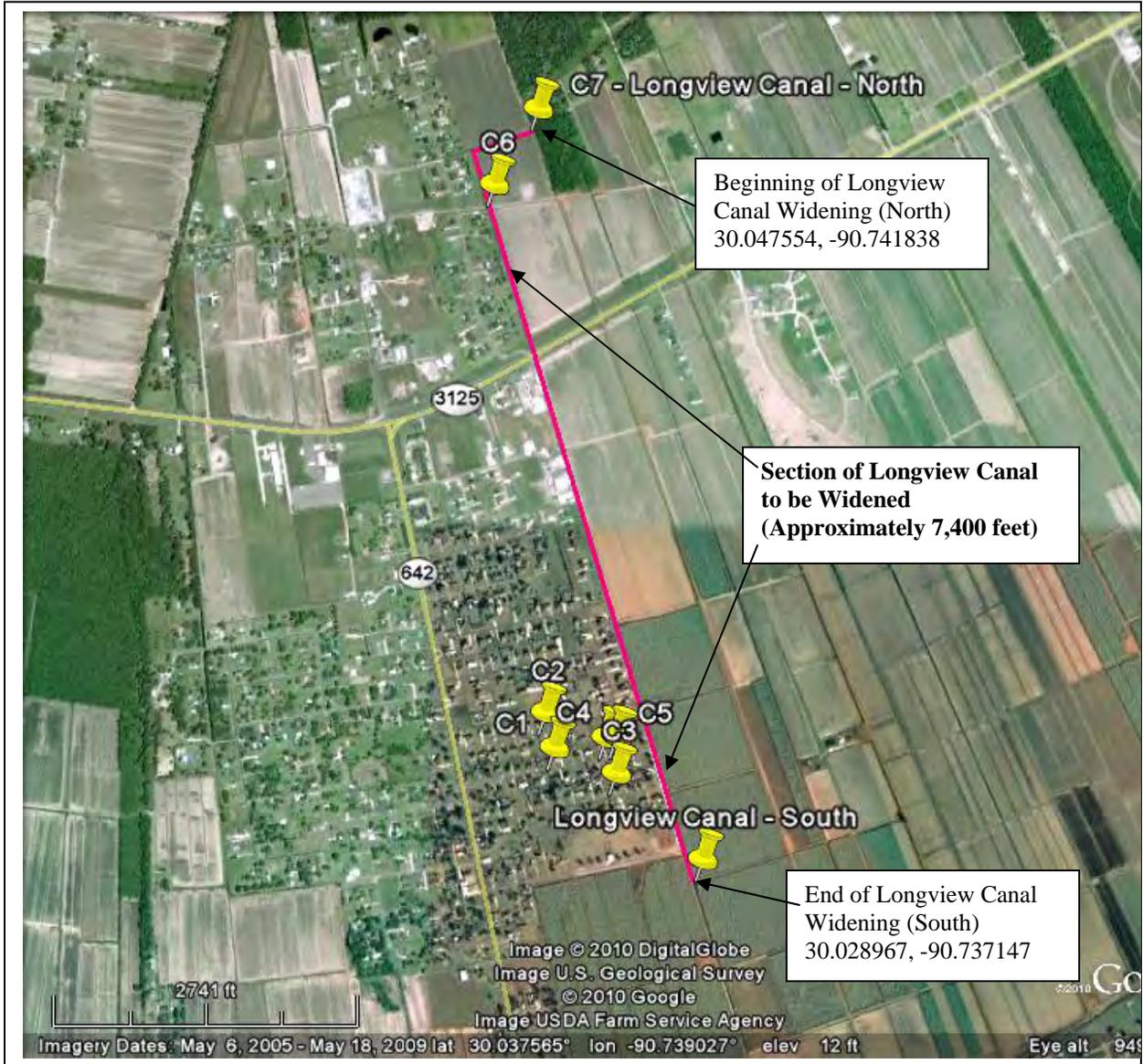
The Parish also proposes to remove seven (7) existing undersized culverts within the subdivision and replace them with larger and more adequate culverts. The proposed culverts will be constructed of arched pipe (CMPA). The culvert removal and replacement will require removal of the asphalt streets over the existing culverts. The Parish will remove the old culverts install the new larger culverts, and make the necessary street repairs. The proposed project will include the redesigning of the appropriately sized culverts to handle the peak flow associated with the 25-year/24-hour rain event and protect 113 structures. The current and proposed dimensions and locations of the replacement culverts are listed in the table below and shown in the attached two Culvert Maps.

<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Latitude</b>	<b>Longitude</b>	<b>Current Dimensions (Inches)</b>	<b>Proposed Dimensions (Inches)</b>
C1 - Link 188	Wendy Street at Middle Channel	Paulina	30.031729	-90.741377	49 x 33	64 x 43
C2 - Link 185	Amy Street at Middle Channel	Paulina	30.032591	-90.741634	42 x 29	64 x 43
C3 - Link 204	Maura Street at East Channel	Paulina	30.031099	-90.739614	24	64 x 43
C4 - Link 96	Wendy Street East of East Channel	Paulina	30.032006	-90.739607	15	28 x 20
C5 - Link 202	Wendy Street at East Channel	Paulina	30.031981	-90.739905	49 x 33	64 x 43
C6 - Link 252	Humble Street at Longview Canal	Paulina	30.045672	-90.743095	68	87 x 63
C7 - Link 239	Longview Canal North of Humble Street at Secondary Drainage Canal	Paulina	30.047554	-90.741838	60 x 54	87 x 63

# Project Location Map



**Project Vicinity**



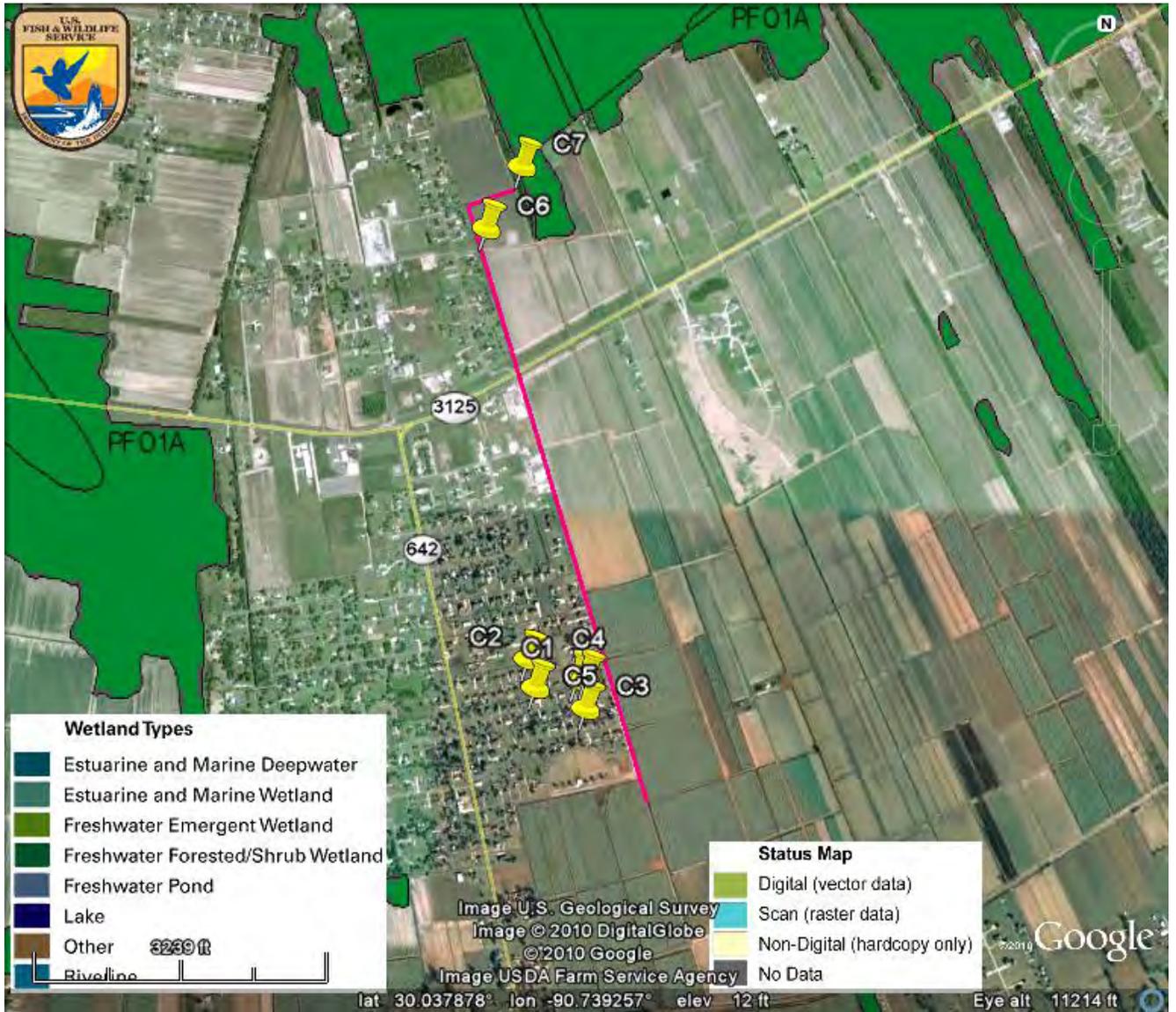
**Culverts 1 through 5 (To be replaced)**



**Culverts 6 and 7 (To be replaced)**



# Wetland Map



United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
3737 Government Street  
Alexandria, LA 71302

(318) 473-7751  
Fax: (318) 473-7626

October 21, 2010

Laurel Rohrer, CFM, CHMM, REM  
URS Corporation, NEPA Environmental Specialist  
Contractor Support to the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program  
1 Seine Court  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70114

RE: St. James Parish Drainage Improvements – Project 1603-0221

Laurel Rohrer:

I have reviewed your request for comments relative to impacts to Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance for the following project in St. James parish, Louisiana:

1. St. James Parish Drainage Improvements – Project 1603-0221

The Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA)-Subtitle I of Title XV, Section 1539-1549 of PL 97-98, final rules and regulations were published in the Federal Register on June 17, 1994. These rules state that projects are subject to FPPA requirements if they may irreversibly convert farmland (directly or indirectly) to nonagricultural use and are completed by a federal agency or with assistance from a federal agency. For the purpose of FPPA, farmland includes prime farmland, unique farmland, and land of statewide or local importance. Farmland subject to FPPA requirements does not have to be currently used for cropland. It can be forest land, pastureland, cropland, or other land, but not water or urban built-up land.

NRCS policy clarifies the Rule by stating that activities not subject to FPPA include:

1. Federal permitting and licensing
2. Projects planned and completed without assistance of a federal agency
3. Projects on land already in urban development or used for water storage
4. Construction within an existing right-of-way purchased on or before August 4, 1984.
5. Construction for national defense purposes
6. Construction of on-farm structures needed for farm operations
7. Surface mining, where restoration to agricultural use is planned
8. Construction of new minor secondary structures, such as a garage or storage shed.

The project map submitted with your request indicates that the proposed construction areas are within urban areas. Therefore the third exception item listed above can be cited as reason to determine that both the proposed project(s) are exempt from the rules and regulations of the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA)—Subtitle I of Title XV, Section 1539-1549.

The NRCS has no objection to the project.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin D. Norton".

Kevin D. Norton  
State Conservationist

ACTING FOR

*Helping People Help the Land*

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

**From:** Beth Altazan-Dixon [Beth.Dixon@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 08, 2010 15:16  
**To:** Laurel.Rohrer@associates.dhs.gov  
**Subject:** DEQ SOV 101020/2190 Grand Point Bourbon subdivision drainage improvements

November 8, 2010

Tiffany Spann, Environmental Supervisor  
 FEMA Trans. Response Office  
 1 Seine Ct.  
 Algiers, LA 70114  
 Laurel.Rohrer@associates.dhs.gov

RE: 101020/2190 Grand Point Bourbon subdivision drainage improvements  
 FEMA funding  
 St. James Parish

Dear Ms. Spann:

The Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ), Business and Community Outreach Division has received your request for comments on the above referenced project.

After reviewing your request, the department has no objections based on the information provided in your submittal. However, for your information, the following general comments have been included. Please be advised that if you should encounter a problem during the implementation of this project, you should immediately notify LDEQ's Single-Point-of-contact (SPOC) at (225) 219-3640.

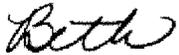
- Please take any necessary steps to obtain and/or update all necessary approvals and environmental permits regarding this proposed project.
- If your project results in a discharge to waters of the state, submittal of a Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) application may be necessary.
- If the project results in a discharge of wastewater to an existing wastewater treatment system, that wastewater treatment system may need to modify its LPDES permit before accepting the additional wastewater.
- All precautions should be observed to control nonpoint source pollution from construction activities. LDEQ has stormwater general permits for construction areas equal to or greater than one acre. It is recommended that you contact the LDEQ Water Permits Division at (225) 219-3181 to determine if your proposed project requires a permit.
- If your project will include a sanitary wastewater treatment facility, a Sewage Sludge and Biosolids Use or Disposal Permit application or Notice of Intent must be submitted no later than June 1, 2011. Additional information may be obtained on the LDEQ website at <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2296/Default.aspx> or by contacting the LDEQ Water Permits Division at (225) 219- 3181.
- If any of the proposed work is located in wetlands or other areas subject to the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, you should contact the Corps directly regarding permitting issues. If a Corps permit is required, part of the application process may involve a water quality certification from LDEQ.
- All precautions should be observed to protect the groundwater of the region.
- Please be advised that water softeners generate wastewaters that may require special limitations depending on local water quality considerations. Therefore if your water system improvements include water softeners, you are advised to contact the LDEQ Water Permits to determine if special water quality-based limitations will be necessary.
- Any renovation or remodeling must comply with LAC 33:III.Chapter 28, Lead-Based Paint Activities; LAC 33:III.Chapter 27, Asbestos-Containing Materials in Schools and State Buildings (includes all training and accreditation); and LAC 33:III.5151, Emission Standard for Asbestos for any renovations or demolitions.

- If any solid or hazardous wastes, or soils and/or groundwater contaminated with hazardous constituents are encountered during the project, notification to LDEQ's Single-Point-of-Contact (SPOC) at (225) 219-3640 is required. Additionally, precautions should be taken to protect workers from these hazardous constituents.

**Currently, St. James Parish is classified as attainment with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards and has no general conformity determination obligations.**

Please send all future requests to my attention. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (225) 219-3958 or by email at [beth.dixon@la.gov](mailto:beth.dixon@la.gov).

Sincerely,



Beth Altazan-Dixon  
Performance Management  
LDEQ/Business and Community Outreach Division  
Office of the Secretary  
P.O. Box 4301 (602 N. 5th Street)  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4301  
Phone: 225-219-3958  
Fx: 225-325-8148  
Email: [beth.dixon@la.gov](mailto:beth.dixon@la.gov)



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P. O. BOX 60267  
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70160-0267

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

JAN 13 2011

Operations Division  
Operations Manager,  
Completed Works

RECEIVED

JAN 18 2011

Ms. Laurel Rohrer  
United States Department of Homeland Security  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
1 Seine Court, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70114

Dear Ms. Rohrer:

This is in response to your Solicitation of Views request dated October 20, 2010, concerning the St. James Parish Drainage Improvements which include enlargement of Longview Canal and replacement of culverts in Grand Point Bourbon Subdivision, at Paulina, Louisiana in St. James Parish.

We have reviewed your request for potential Department of the Army regulatory requirements and impacts on any Department of the Army projects.

We do not anticipate any adverse impacts to any Corps of Engineers projects.

Based on our review of the information provided, we have determined that waters of the United States occur within the project area. Department of the Army (DA) permits under section 404 of the Clean Water Act are required prior to deposition or redistribution of dredged or fill material into these waters. More detailed project drawings should be submitted for a final decision regarding potential impacts.

Please be advised that this property is in the Louisiana Coastal Zone. For additional information regarding coastal use permit requirements, contact Ms. Christine Charrier, Coastal Management Division, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources at (225) 342 7953.

This preliminary determination is advisory in nature. If an approved delineation is needed, please furnish us with the detailed field data concerning vegetation, soils, and hydrology that we require for all jurisdictional decisions. The fact that a field wetland delineation/determination has not been completed does not alleviate your responsibility to obtain the proper DA permits prior to working in jurisdictional wetlands or waters occurring on this property.

Off-site locations of activities such as borrow, disposals, haul-and detour-roads and work mobilization site developments may be subject to Department of the Army regulatory requirements and may have an impact on a Department of the Army project.

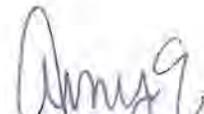
You should apply for said permit well in advance of the work to be performed. The application should include sufficiently detailed maps, drawings, photographs, and descriptive text for accurate evaluation of the proposal.

Please contact Mr. Robert Heffner, of our Regulatory Branch by telephone at (504) 862-1288, or by e-mail at [Robert.A.Heffner@usace.army.mil](mailto:Robert.A.Heffner@usace.army.mil) for questions concerning wetlands determinations or need for on-site evaluations. Questions concerning regulatory permit requirements may be addressed to Mr. Martin Mayer by telephone at (504) 862-2276 or by e-mail at [Martin.S.Mayer@usace.army.mil](mailto:Martin.S.Mayer@usace.army.mil).

Future correspondence concerning this matter should reference our account number MVN-2010-02798-SK. This will allow us to more easily locate records of previous correspondence, and thus provide a quicker response.

We apologize for missing the target date of November 20, 2010, listed in your request. Thank you for your patience in this matter.

Sincerely,



Karen L. Oberlies  
Solicitation of Views Manager

(See Page 3 for Copy Furnished)

Copy Furnished:

Ms. Christine Charrier  
Coastal Zone Management  
Department of Natural Resources  
Post Office Box 44487  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-4487



# FEMA

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
DR-1603-LA  
1 Seine Court, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New Orleans, LA 70114

December 3, 2010

Louisiana Department of Natural Resources  
Office of Mineral Resources  
617 North Third Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Subject: St. James Parish Government  
Paulina, Louisiana  
Grand Point Bourbon Subdivision Drainage Improvements/Longview Canal  
Widening Project  
NEMIS # 1603-0221 FEMA-1603-DR-LA

To Whom It May Concern,

FEMA is considering providing Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding for the attached project in relation to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita (FEMA-1603/1607-DR-LA). Using the SONRIS database, FEMA is has determined that the proposed project is very close to a non-producing, non-active oil/gas well (Labeled # 77367). In addition, there are numerous other gas wells in the project vicinity. Please review the attached project description to determine the required conditions, if any, the applicant must adhere to while performing the proposed work to avoid damage to any of these wells. The applicant is the St. James Parish Government. We would appreciate your comments on this project within 30 days. If we do not receive comments from you within this time period, we will assume that you have no concerns or issues with the proposed project. If appropriate, FEMA will add the condition that the applicant will be required to obtain applicable permits from your office.

Please contact Laurel Rohrer, Environmental Specialist by phone at (540) 842-3300, by mail at 1 Seine Court, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, New Orleans, LA 70114, or by email at [laurel.rohrer@associates.dhs.gov](mailto:laurel.rohrer@associates.dhs.gov) with any questions.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Spann  
Environmental Supervisor  
FEMA 1603/1607-DR-LA

Attachments: Project Description Scope of Work  
Vicinity Maps Showing Approximate Project Footprint and Oil/Gas Wells

This project is to improve the drainage and reduce flooding in the Grand Point Bourbon Subdivision in Paulina, LA. Please see the scope of work below.

### **Damage Description:**

On August 29, 2005, storm surge caused by Hurricane Katrina inundated large portions of southeast Louisiana causing extensive flood damage to structures in St. James Parish. The proposed drainage improvements will occur in and adjacent to the Grand Point Bourbon subdivision area.

The Grand Point Bourbon subdivision has one of the most severe localized flooding problems in the Parish. The original subdivision was constructed more than 25 years ago, and the increased runoff due to residential construction was not considered in the original design. The Grand Point Bourbon subdivision was constructed by a private developer before the Parish had laws requiring a drainage analysis and culvert permits that insure proper culvert size and installation. The Parish now requires developers to undertake drainage studies and submit their drainage design channel and culvert installations to the Parish's Operations Department for proper sizing and elevation grades.

The current drainage layout of the Grand Point Bourbon subdivision consists of three main drainage channels that are fed by multiple tributary channels. The channels are both open channel and conduit flow of various sizes. One of the main drainage channels flows through a culvert system with three catch basins, each 36 inches in diameter. The second main drainage channel crosses through a 36 - inch culvert, to a 48-inch culvert, then to a 36-inch culvert before draining into an outlet channel. The third main drainage channel crosses through a 22-inch culvert and then flows through a 42-inch culvert before emptying into the outlet channel. In the past few years, St. James Parish has already begun replacing some of the undersized culverts in an effort to provide flood relief and minimize flood damage and road closures in and around the project area. The Parish has just completed maintenance dredging of the Parish's main drainage canal that receives and drains all the runoff water from this area and leads into Blind River and then to Lake Maurepas. This subdivision borders an existing secondary drainage channel (the Longview Canal) that receives all the subdivision's water. Under this project, the Parish proposes to replace all of the remaining undersized culverts and widen Longview Canal to eliminate future flooding in this area.

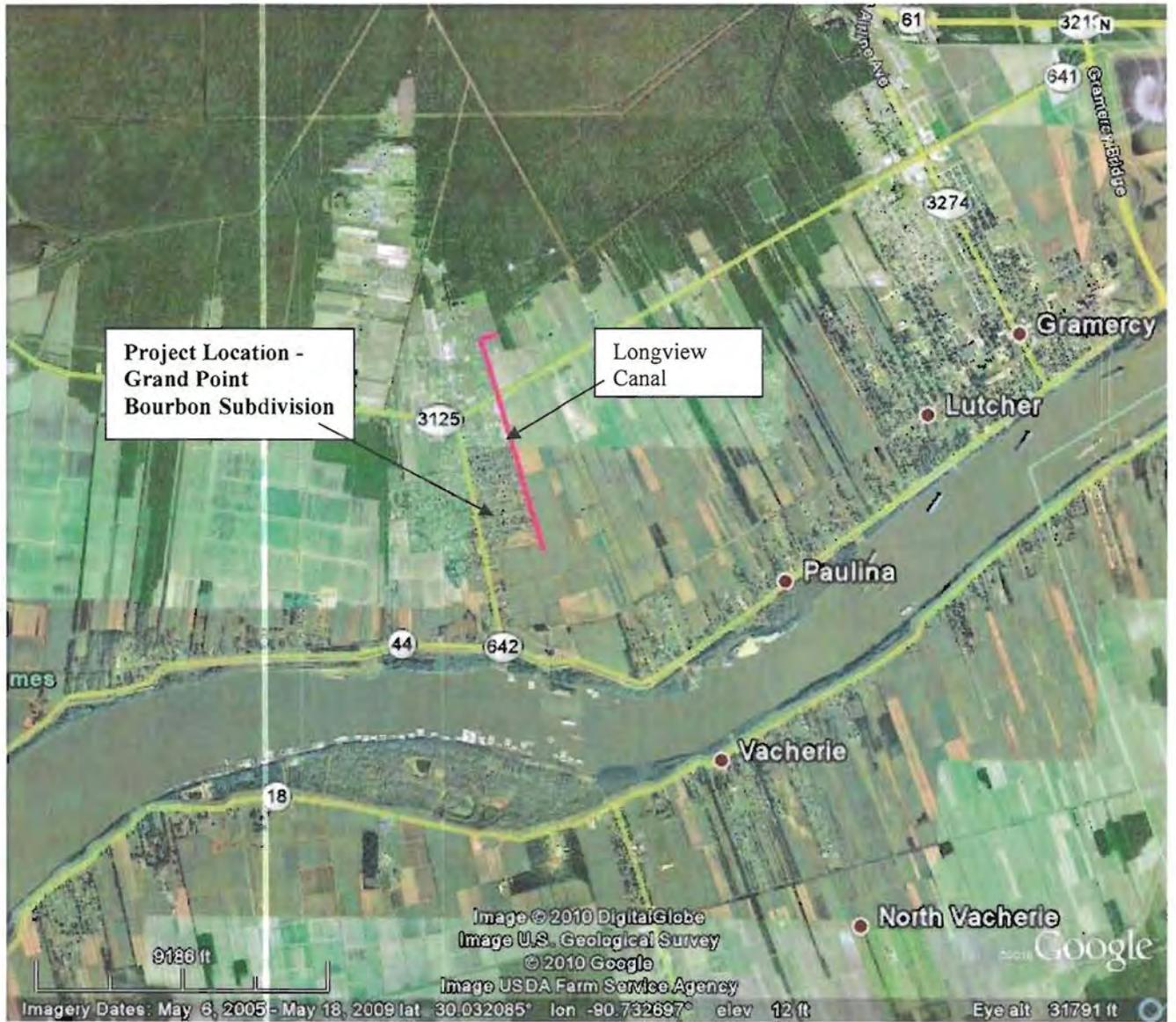
### **Scope of work:**

The proposed scope of work includes enlargement (widening) of Longview Canal on both sides of Highway 3125 to expand its drainage capacity and increase the channel's ability to remove water. The Parish has previously dredged both this channel and the main receiving drainage channels to be able to readily accommodate the increased drainage; therefore, no additional excavation or dredging of the Longview Canal will be necessary for this project. Approximately 7,400 linear feet of Longview Canal, beginning at 30.047554, -90.741838 (north) and ending at 30.028967, -90.737147 (south), will be widened to increase its capacity and provide the proper design flow. The section of Longview Canal that will be widened is depicted on the attached Project Vicinity Map. The Parish plans to purchase an additional 30 feet of right-of-way that will be required to widen the channel by 20 feet to provide future access to the Parish for proper maintenance and grass cutting. The channel will have an 8-foot bottom and 2 to 1 side slopes. All excavation work will occur on the east side of the canal, within the adjacent sugar cane fields. The widening of Longview Canal will provide not only a quicker means to remove the floodwater, but since the Parish recently re-dredged the primary drainage channel that leads into Blind River and Lake Maurepas, it will allow the subdivision's drainage channel to flow better without causing flooding to another area of the Parish.

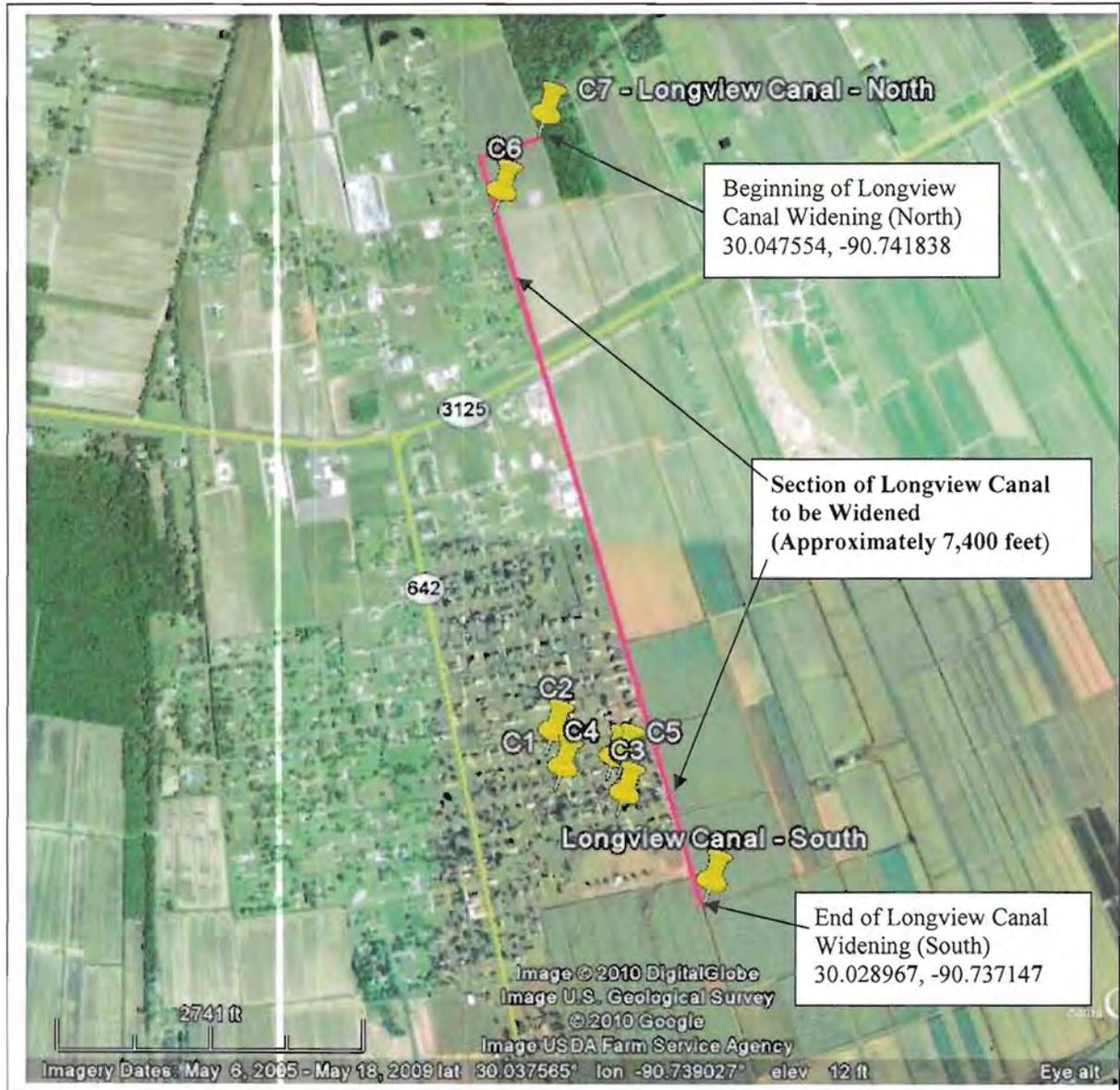
The Parish also proposes to remove seven (7) existing undersized culverts within the subdivision and replace them with larger and more adequate culverts. The proposed culverts will be constructed of arched pipe (CMPA). The culvert removal and replacement will require removal of the asphalt streets over the existing culverts. The Parish will remove the old culverts install the new larger culverts, and make the necessary street repairs. The proposed project will include the redesigning of the appropriately sized culverts to handle the peak flow associated with the 25-year/24-hour rain event and protect 113 structures. The current and proposed dimensions and locations of the replacement culverts are listed in the table below and shown in the attached two Culvert Maps.

<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Latitude</b>	<b>Longitude</b>	<b>Current Dimensions (Inches)</b>	<b>Proposed Dimensions (Inches)</b>
C1 - Link 188	Wendy Street at Middle Channel	Paulina	30.031729	-90.741377	49 x 33	64 x 43
C2 - Link 185	Amy Street at Middle Channel	Paulina	30.032591	-90.741634	42 x 29	64 x 43
C3 - Link 204	Maura Street at East Channel	Paulina	30.031099	-90.739614	24	64 x 43
C4 - Link 96	Wendy Street East of East Channel	Paulina	30.032006	-90.739607	15	28 x 20
C5 - Link 202	Wendy Street at East Channel	Paulina	30.031981	-90.739905	49 x 33	64 x 43
C6 - Link 252	Humble Street at Longview Canal	Paulina	30.045672	-90.743095	68	87 x 63
C7 - Link 239	Longview Canal North of Humble Street at Secondary Drainage Canal	Paulina	30.047554	-90.741838	60 x 54	87 x 63

# Project Location Map



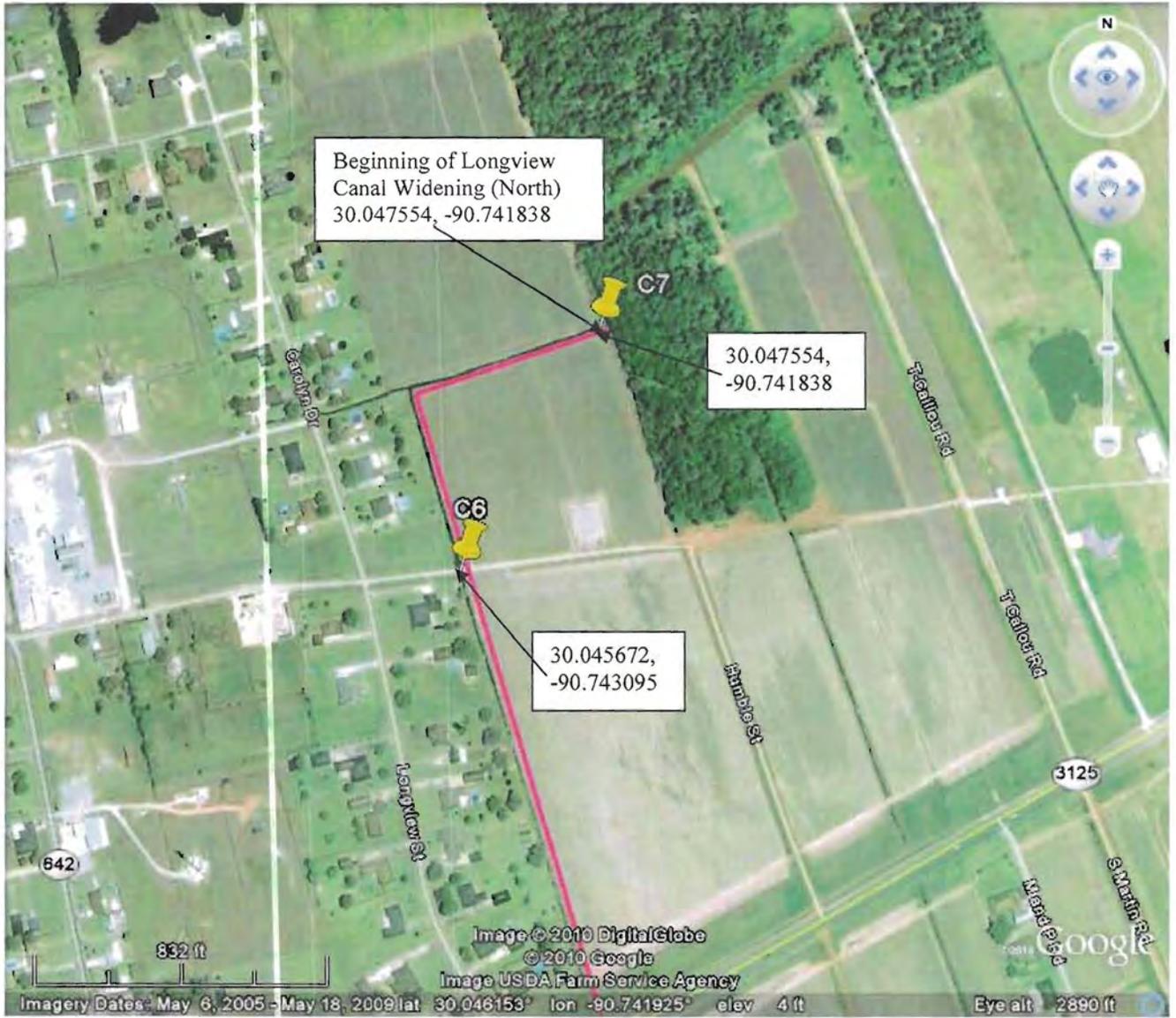
Project Vicinity



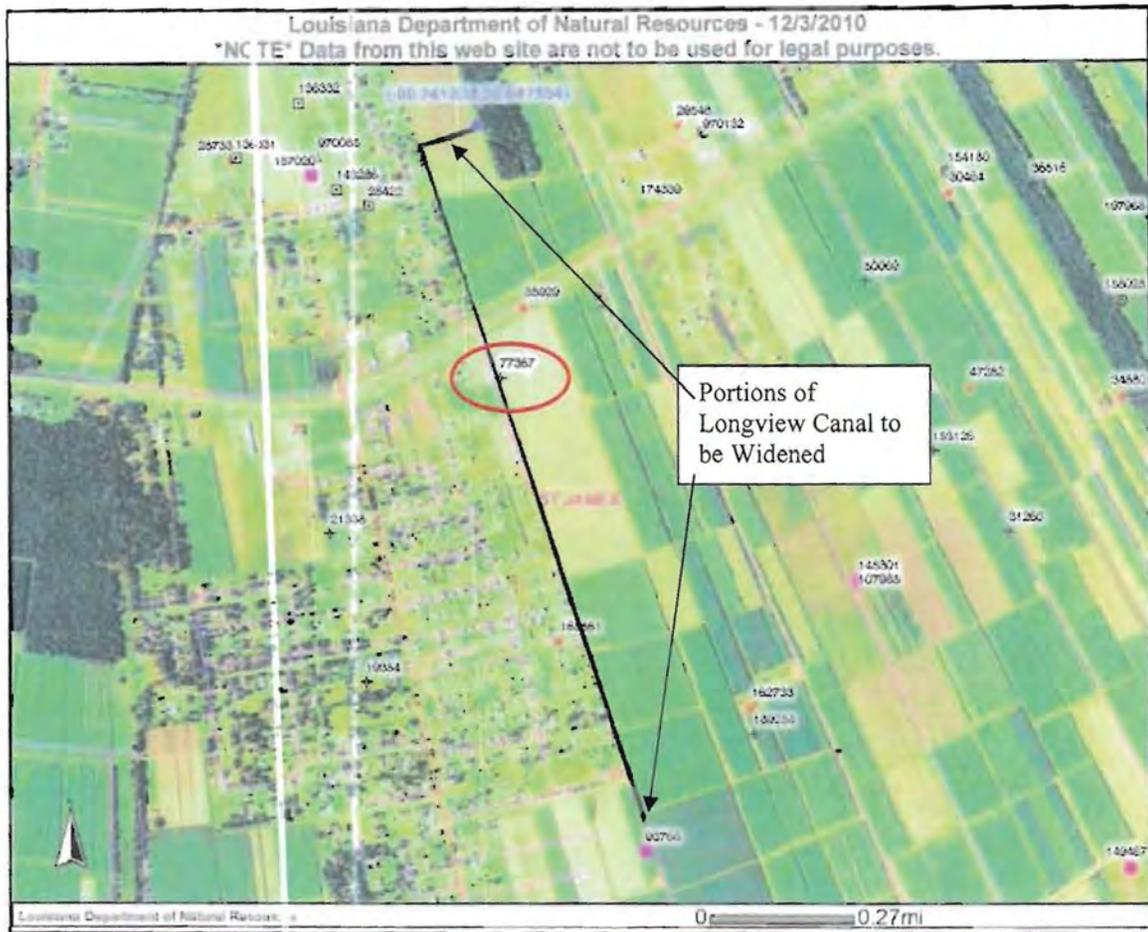
Culverts 1 through 5 (To be replaced)



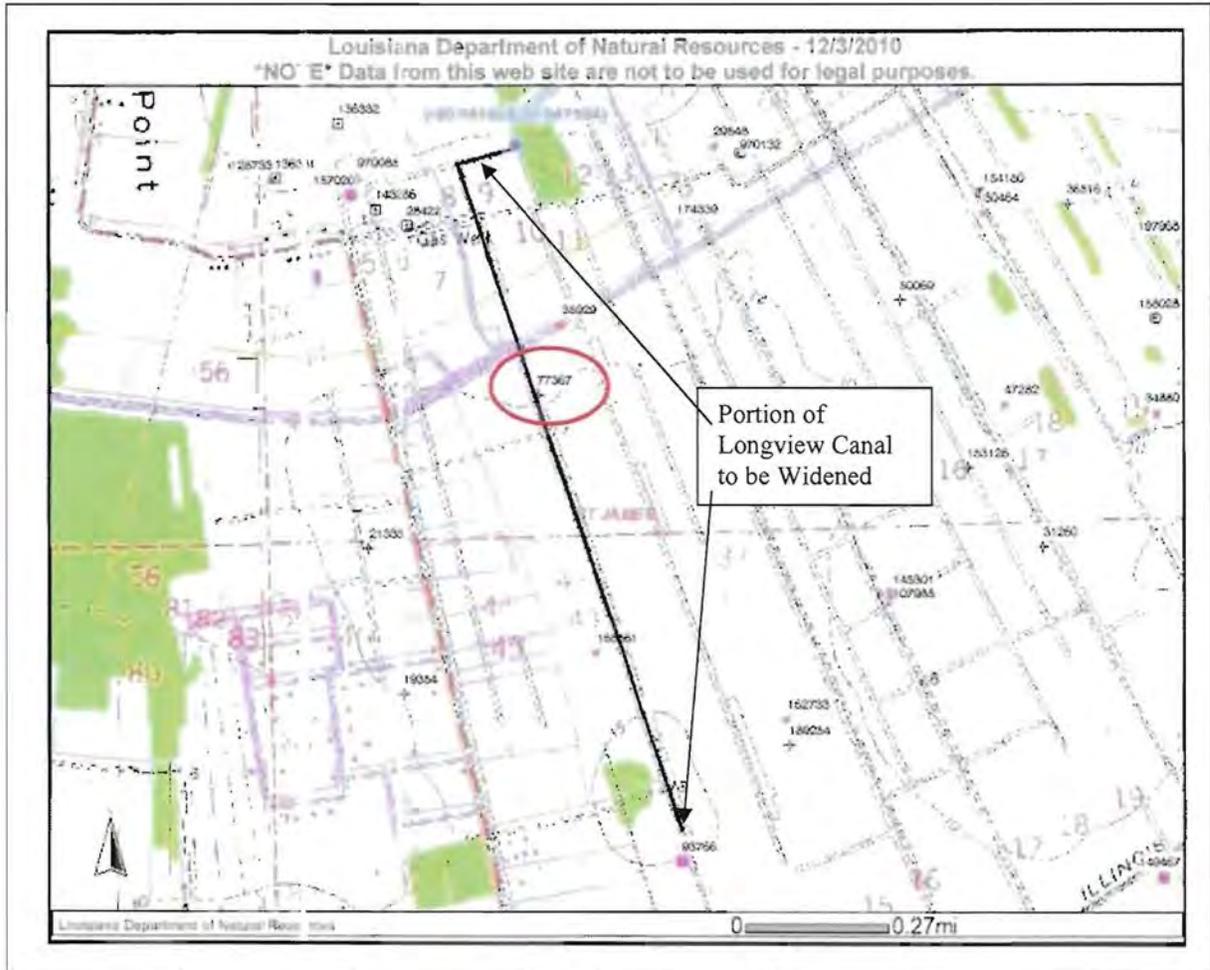
**Culverts 6 and 7 (To be replaced)**



# Aerial Photo of Project Area Showing Gas Wells



# Topo Map of Project Area Showing Gas Wells





**BOBBY JINDAL**  
GOVERNOR

**State of Louisiana**  
**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**  
**OFFICE OF CONSERVATION**

**SCOTT A. ANGELLE**  
SECRETARY  
**JAMES H. WELSH**  
COMMISSIONER OF CONSERVATION

December 13, 2010

TO: Ms. Laurel Rohrer  
Environmental Specialist, FEMA  
1 Seine Court, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New Orleans, LA 70114

RE: St. James Parish Government  
Paulina, Louisiana  
Grand Point Bourbon Subdivision Drainage Improvement/Longview Canal  
Widening Project  
NEMIS # 1603-0221 FEMA-1603-DR-LA

Dear Ms. Rohrer:

This is in response to Ms. Tiffany Spann's letter dated December 3, 2010, addressed and emailed to Mr. Jeff Wells, concerning the referenced matter. Dr. M. B. Kumar of our office has already contacted you during the course of the review of this matter. Please be advised that the Office of Conservation collects and maintains many types of information regarding oil and gas exploration, production, distribution, and other data relative to the petroleum industry as well as related and non-related injection well information, surface mining and ground water information and other natural resource related data. Most information concerning oil, gas and injection wells for any given area of the state, including the subject area of your letter can be obtained through records search via the SONRIS data access application available at:

<http://www.dnr.state.la.us/CONS/Conserv.ssi>

A review of our computer records for the referenced project area indicates the existence of one old plugged oil/gas well (Serial No.77367) located in the project area. The available plug and abandon report on this well does not state that the well was cut below the ground level and a 3/8" steel plate was welded on top of the well; however, it is believed that the 3/8" steel plate is welded on top of the 10 3/4" casing (steel pipe) that

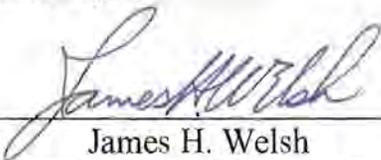
extends down to a depth of 2,000 feet. This pipe near the surface could be hazardous to construction machinery; moreover, the pipe could harbor migrated hydrocarbon gas and, if damaged, could cause explosion. Furthermore, although the LADOTD database indicates no registered water wells in the vicinity of the project area, unregistered water wells may be located in the area.

The Office of Conservation maintains records of all activities within its jurisdiction in paper, microfilm or electronic format. These records may be accessed during normal business hours, Monday through Friday, except on State holidays or emergencies that require the Office to be closed. Please call 225-342-5540 for specific contact information or for directions to the Office of Conservation, located in the LaSalle Building, 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. For pipelines and other underground hazards, please contact Louisiana One Call at 1-800-272-3020 prior to commencing operations. Should you need to direct your inquiry to any of our Divisions, you may use the following contact information:

<u>Division</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Phone No.</u>	<u>E-mail Address</u>
Engineering	Jeff Wells	225-342-5638	<a href="mailto:jeff.wells@la.gov">jeff.wells@la.gov</a>
Pipeline	Steven Giambrone	225-342-2989	<a href="mailto:steven.giambrone@la.gov">steven.giambrone@la.gov</a>
Injection & Mining	Laurence Bland	225-342-5515	<a href="mailto:laurence.bland@la.gov">laurence.bland@la.gov</a>
Geological	Mike Kline	225-342-3335	<a href="mailto:mike.kline@la.gov">mike.kline@la.gov</a>
Environmental	Tony Duplechin	225-342-5528	<a href="mailto:tony.duplechin@la.gov">tony.duplechin@la.gov</a>

If you have difficulty in accessing the data via the referenced website because of computer related issues, you may obtain assistance from our technical support section by selecting Help on the SONRIS tool bar and submitting an email describing your problems and including a telephone number where you may be reached.

Sincerely,



James H. Welsh

*JH* Commissioner of Conservation

JHW:MBK

# Well Information

## Review Well Information

**WELLS**

SERIAL WELL NAME WELL NUM ORG ID FIELD PARISH PROD TYPE SEC TWN RGE EFFECTIVE DATE API NUM  
 77367 CANAL ASSETS INC 001 9999 4481 47 00 009 115 05E 12/01/1976 17093001090000

PRMT DATE SPUD DATE STAT DATE ST CD

11/09/1959 11/22/1959 12/17/1959 29

**WELL SURFACE COORDINATES**

Surface Longitude Surface Latitude Lambert X Lambert Y Ground Elevation Zone Datum  
 90-44-28.32 30-2-25.8 2187355 500070 0 5 NAD-27

**WELL SURFACE COORDINATES GENERATED BY DNR**

UTMX 83 UTM Y 83 LONGITUDE 83 LATITUDE 83  
 717786.26330691 3325445.01165989 -90.741295 30.04070026

**BOTTOM HOLE COORD**

EFFECTIVE DATE	END DATE	PLUGBACK TOTAL DEPTH	TRUE VERTICAL DEPTH	MEASURED DEPTH	LAT DEG	LAT MIN	LAT SEC	LONG DEG	LONG MIN	LONG SEC	COORDINATE SOURCE	LAMBERT X	LAMBERT Y	ZONE	COORDINATE SYSTEM
12/01/1976		0	9600	9600	00	0	0	00	0	0	00	0	0	00	00

**WELL HISTORY**

SERIAL WELL NAME WELL NUM ORG ID FIELD ST CD PT WELL CLASS EFF DATE END DATE STAT DATE  
 77367 CANAL ASSETS INC 001 9999 4481 29 00 12/01/1976 12/17/1959

**SCOUT INFO**

REPORT DATE WELL STATUS MEASURED DEPTH TRUE VERT DEPTH DETAIL

**PERFORATIONS**

SERIAL NUM COMPLETION DATE UPPER PERF LOWER PERF SANDS RESERVOIR

**WELL TESTS**

RPT TYP	TEST DATE	RPT DATE	OIL POT	COND	GAS DEL	WATER BSW%	FLOW PRES	SHUTIN PRES	CHOKE	UPPER PERF	LOWER PERF	BOT HOLE PRES

**WELL ALLOWABLES**

EFFECTIVE DATE END DATE LUW CODE LUW TYPE CODE ALLOWABLE ESTIMATED POTENTIAL CURRENT ALLOWABLE TYPE

**LEASE/UNIT/WELL PRODUCTION**

RPT DATE LUW CODE STORAGE FAC DOU USE WELL CNT OPENING STK OIL PROD(BBL) GAS PROD(MCF) DISPOSITION CLOSING STK PARISH

**CASING**

COMPLETION DATE	CASING SIZE	WELLBORE SIZE	CASING WEIGHT	UPPER SET DEPTH	LOWER SET DEPTH	CEMENT SACKS	TEST PRESSURE	HOURS UNDER PRESSURE	TEST DATE	CASING PULLED	CREATION PROCESS
12/14/1959	00									0	PLUG AND ABANDON
12/14/1959	1034									0	PLUG AND ABANDON
12/14/1959	1034	1500	40.5	0	2000	1200	2000	.5	11/25/1959		ABANDON CASING TEST

**PLUG AND ABANDON**

P and A DATE LOCATION TYPE CASING CUT TYPE CASING CUT DEPTH MUD WEIGHT LEFT COMMENTS

12/14/1959

**PLUGS**

PLUG TYPE	UPPER PLUG DEPTH	LOWER PLUG DEPTH	SACKS OF CEMENT	SLURRY WEIGHT
2000	2100	50		
9100	9200	50		

**TUBING AND PACKERS**

COMPLETION DATE	TUBING SIZE	TUBING LOWER DEPTH	TUBING UPPER DEPTH	PACKER DEPTH
12/14/1959	00600/00	0	0	0

BOBBY JINDAL  
GOVERNOR



ROBERT D. HARPER  
SECRETARY

State of Louisiana  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
OFFICE OF COASTAL MANAGEMENT

11/10/2010

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY - FEMA  
1 SEINE CT.  
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70114

**RE: P20101395, Solicitation of Views**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY - FEMA**

**Description:** Proposed drainage improvements for the Grand Point Bourbon Subdivision. Project includes the widening of 7,400' of Longview Canal by approximately 20', increasing the depth to 8', and replacement of five culverts within the subdivision.

**Location:** POB: Lat 30° 02' 51.19" N / Long -90° 44' 30.62" W; POE: Lat 30° 01' 44.28" N / Long -90° 44' 13.73" W; Grand Point Bourbon Subdivision, Paulina, LA.

**Saint James Parish, LA**

Dear Laurel Rohrer:

We have received your Solicitation of Views for the above referenced project, which has been found to be inside the Louisiana Coastal Zone. In order for us to properly review and evaluate this project, we require that a complete Coastal Use Permit Application packet (Joint Application Form, locality maps, project illustration plats with plan and cross section views, etc.) along with the appropriate application fee be submitted to our office. Using your complete application, we can provide you with an official determination, and begin the processing of any Coastal Use Permit that may be required for your project. You may obtain a free application packet by calling our office at (225) 342-7591 or (800)-267-4019, or by visiting our website at <http://www.dnr.state.la.us/crm/coastmgt/cup/cup.asp>.

We recommend that, during your planning process, you make every effort to minimize impacts to vegetated wetlands. As our legislative mandate puts great emphasis on avoiding damages to these habitats, in many cases the negotiations involved in reducing such disturbances and developing the required mitigation to offset the lost habitat values delay permit approval longer than any other factor.

Should you desire additional consultation with our office prior to submitting a formal application, we recommend that you call and schedule a pre-application meeting with our Permit Section staff. Such a preliminary meeting may be helpful, especially if a permit application that is as complete as possible is presented for evaluation at the pre-application meeting.

If you have any questions, would like to request an application packet or would like to schedule a pre-application meeting, please call Jim Holcombe or Chris Melton or Dana Pennington or Regina Staten at the phone numbers provided above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karl L. Morgan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Karl L. Morgan  
Acting Administrator

**Karl L. Morgan/sm**

Attachments

**Final Plats:**

1) [P20101395](#)      [Final Plats](#)      [11/03/2010](#)

cc: Pete Serio, COE w/plats  
Dave Butler, LDWF w/plats  
Peggy Rooney, OCM w/plats  
Craig Leblanc, CMD/FI w/plats  
Saint James Parish w/plats