



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**

# PUBLIC NOTICE

Applicant:  
Chris Wells  
Mississippi Department of  
Environmental Quality

Published: February 6, 2026  
Expires: March 9, 2026

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**Mobile District  
Permit Application No. SAM-2026-00036-SMP  
Joint Public Notice: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE),  
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality Office of  
Pollution Control (MDEQ), and Mississippi Department of  
Marine Resources (MDMR) (DMR25-000631)**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: The Mobile District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has received an application for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. §1344) and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. §403). The purpose of this public notice is to solicit comments from the public regarding the work described below:

**APPLICANT:** Chris Wells  
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality  
PO Box 2261  
Jackson, Mississippi 39225

**AGENT:** Renee Robertson  
Anchor QEA  
9797 Timber Circle  
Suite B  
Daphne, AL 36527

**WATERWAY AND LOCATION:** The project would affect waters of the United States associated with St. Louis Bay. The project/review area is located adjacent to the Jourdan River Coastal Preserve, 1.2 miles south/southeast of the intersection of Interstate 10 and Yacht Club Drive in 1, 11, 12, 14 Sections, 8S Township, 14W Range; at Latitude 30.351281° North and Longitude 89.372945 ° West; in Bay St. Louis, Hancock County, Mississippi.

**EXISTING CONDITIONS:** The 17-acre project area is located in the northwestern portion of St. Louis Bay and consists of submerged waterbottoms. The surrounding area includes undeveloped marsh and waterbottoms associated with St. Louis Bay. No known SAV or oyster reefs exist in the vicinity of the project area.

## **PROJECT PURPOSE:**

**Basic:** The Corps has determined that the basic purpose of the proposed project is to reduce shoreline erosion and restore benthic secondary productivity through the creation of a breakwater system.

**Overall:** The Corps has determined that the overall purpose of the proposed project is to reduce shoreline erosion and restore benthic secondary productivity and marsh habitat through the creation of a breakwater system in accordance with the Settlement Agreement between BP and the Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Trustees.

**PROPOSED WORK:** The applicant requests authorization to construct an 11,500-foot segmented living shoreline breakwater with a project footprint of approximately 17 acres. The structure would be constructed of approximately 65,200 cubic yards of riprap and/or bioengineered material. Each breakwater segment will be limited to 500 feet in length with a 40-to-60-foot base width and 4-to-6-foot crest width. The final crest height will be +2 to +3 feet MLLW. Breakwater segments will be separated by a 30-foot-long gap.

**AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION:** The applicant has provided the following information in support of efforts to avoid and/or minimize impacts to the aquatic environment: Throughout the design process, every practical attempt will be made to avoid and minimize potentially adverse environmental, social, and cultural impacts. All requirements of the environmental agency consultations will be followed as well as the conservation measures and BMPs outlined for the project in the *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill Final Phase IV Early Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessments.

**COMPENSATORY MITIGATION:** The applicant has provided the following explanation why compensatory mitigation should not be required: There is no loss of wetlands or other special aquatic sites. The only discharge associated with the project is the placement of 65,200 cubic yards of riprap for the construction of breakwater segments in open waterbottoms to protect and restore marsh habitat.

**CULTURAL RESOURCES:** The Department of Interior (DOI) is the lead Federal agency for this project responsible for ensuring compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act. The Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) has assigned the proposed project the Project Log Number # 06-039-24 (04-159-24). MDAH provided concurrence for the proposed project on July 10, 2024.

**ENDANGERED SPECIES:** The Department of Interior (DOI) is the lead Federal agency for this project responsible for ensuring compliance with the Endangered Species Act. USFWS and NMFS provided concurrence for the proposed project on October 22, 2025, and October 2, 2025, respectively.

**ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT:** The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Restoration Center is the lead Federal agency for this project responsible for

ensuring compliance with the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. NMFS provided concurrence for the proposed project on August 4, 2025.

**NAVIGATION:** The proposed structure or activity is not located in the vicinity of a federal navigation channel.

**SECTION 408:** The applicant will not require permission under Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 USC 408) because the activity, in whole or in part, would not alter, occupy, or use a Corps Civil Works project.

**WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION:** Water Quality Certification may be required from the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality. The applicant is responsible for requesting certification and providing required information to the certifying agency.

**NOTE:** This public notice is being issued based on information furnished by the applicant. This information has not been verified or evaluated to ensure compliance with laws and regulation governing the regulatory program. The geographic extent of aquatic resources within the proposed project area that either are, or are presumed to be, within the Corps jurisdiction has not been verified by Corps personnel.

**EVALUATION:** The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including cumulative impacts thereof; among these are conservation, economics, esthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historical properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food, and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will also include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, EPA, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act or the criteria established under authority of Section 102(a) of the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972. A permit will be granted unless its issuance is found to be contrary to the public interest.

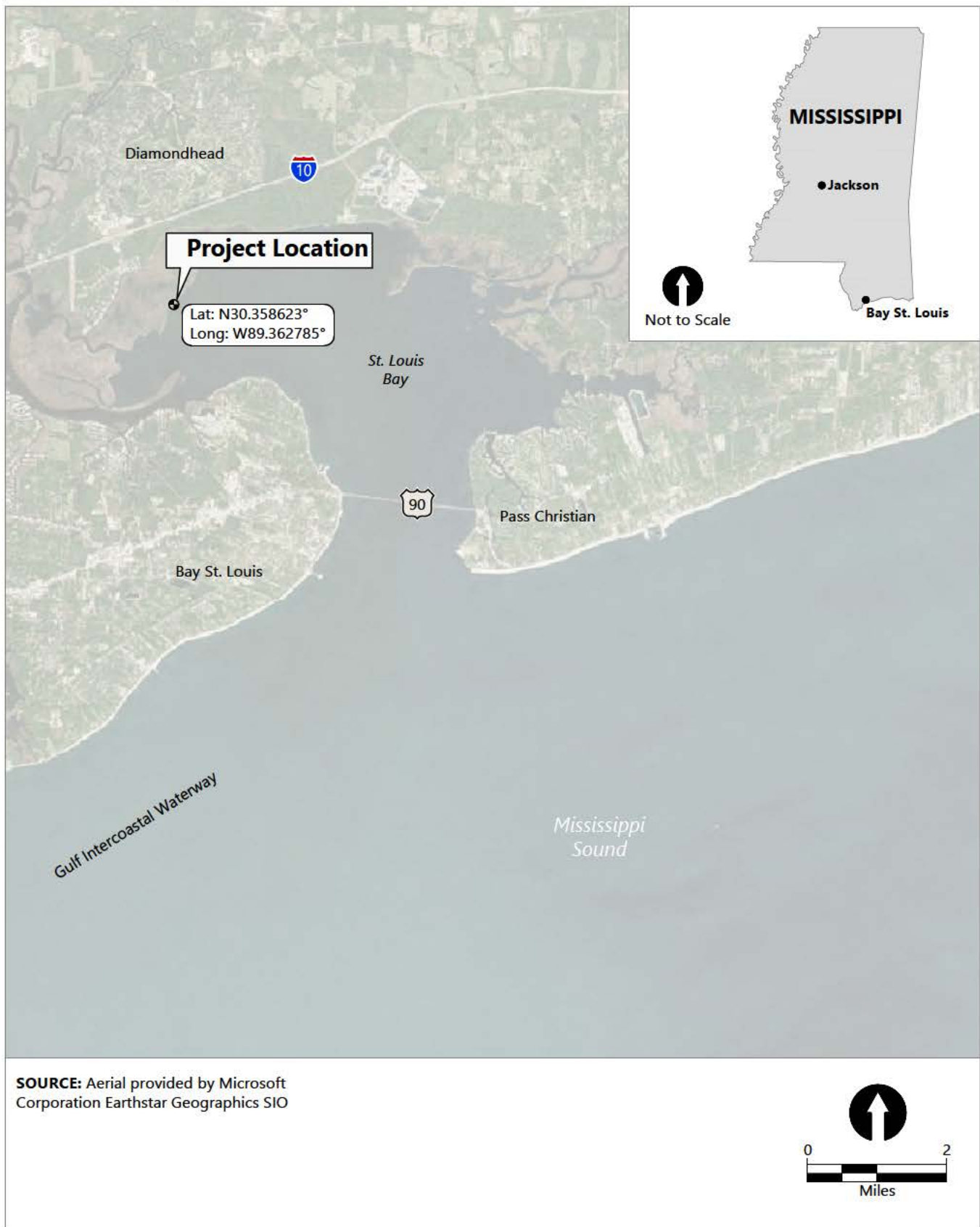
**COMMENTS:** The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other Interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this determination, comments are used to assess impacts to endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the

preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

The Mobile District will receive written comments on the proposed work, as outlined above, until March 10, 2026. Comments should be submitted electronically via the Regulatory Request System (RRS) at <https://rrs.usace.army.mil/rrs> or to Sarah Piesco at [sarah.m.piesco@usace.army.mil](mailto:sarah.m.piesco@usace.army.mil). Alternatively, you may submit comments in writing to the Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, Attention: Sarah Piesco, 100 Canal Street, Mobile, AL 36602. Copies of all comments should be furnished to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Pollution Control, Post Office Box 2261, Jackson, Mississippi 39225, and the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, 1141 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, Mississippi 39530. Please refer to the permit application number in your comments.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. Requests for a public hearing will be granted, unless the District Engineer determines that the issues raised are insubstantial or there is otherwise no valid interest to be served by a hearing.

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**SOURCE:** Aerial provided by Microsoft Corporation Earthstar Geographics SIO

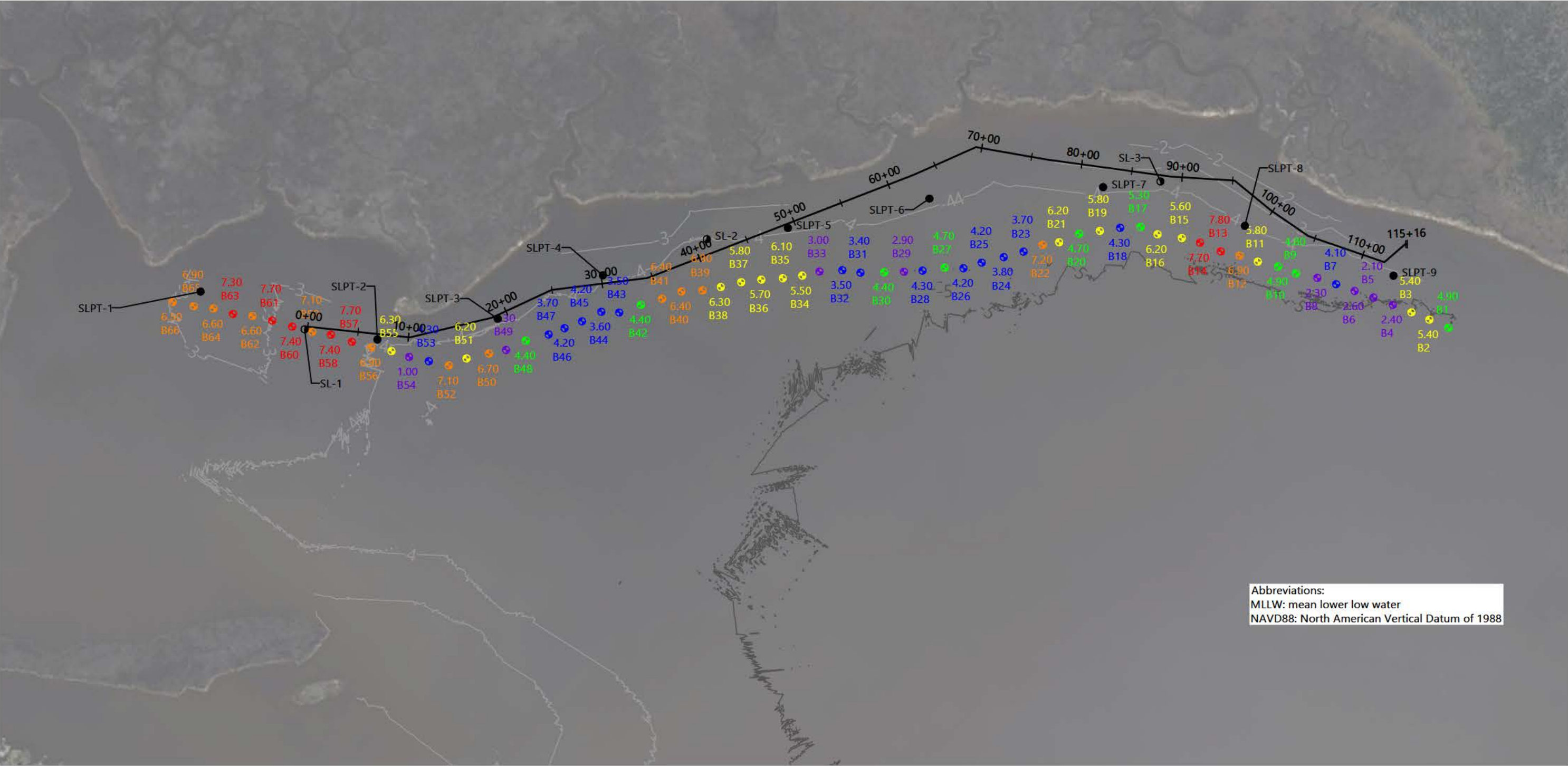
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Filepath: K:\Projects\1232-Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality\St Louis Bay\1232-RP-010-VICINITY\_BODR.dwg Figure 1



**Figure 1**  
**Project Vicinity Map**

30% Basis of Design Report  
St. Louis Bay Living Shoreline  
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

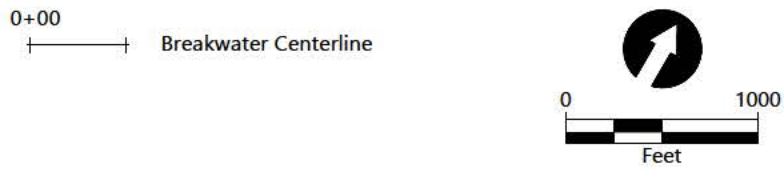




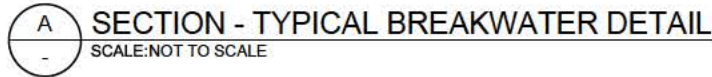
Abbreviations:  
MLLW: mean lower low water  
NAVD88: North American Vertical Datum of 1988

**SOURCE:** Aerial from Bing maps. Bathymetric data provided by DIMCO survey dated August 31, 2023. Cone penetrometer test and boring locations provided by Southern Earth Sciences, dated February 7-9, 2024.  
**HORIZONTAL DATUM:** Mississippi State Plane East Zone, NAD83, U.S. Survey Feet  
**VERTICAL DATUM:** MLLW

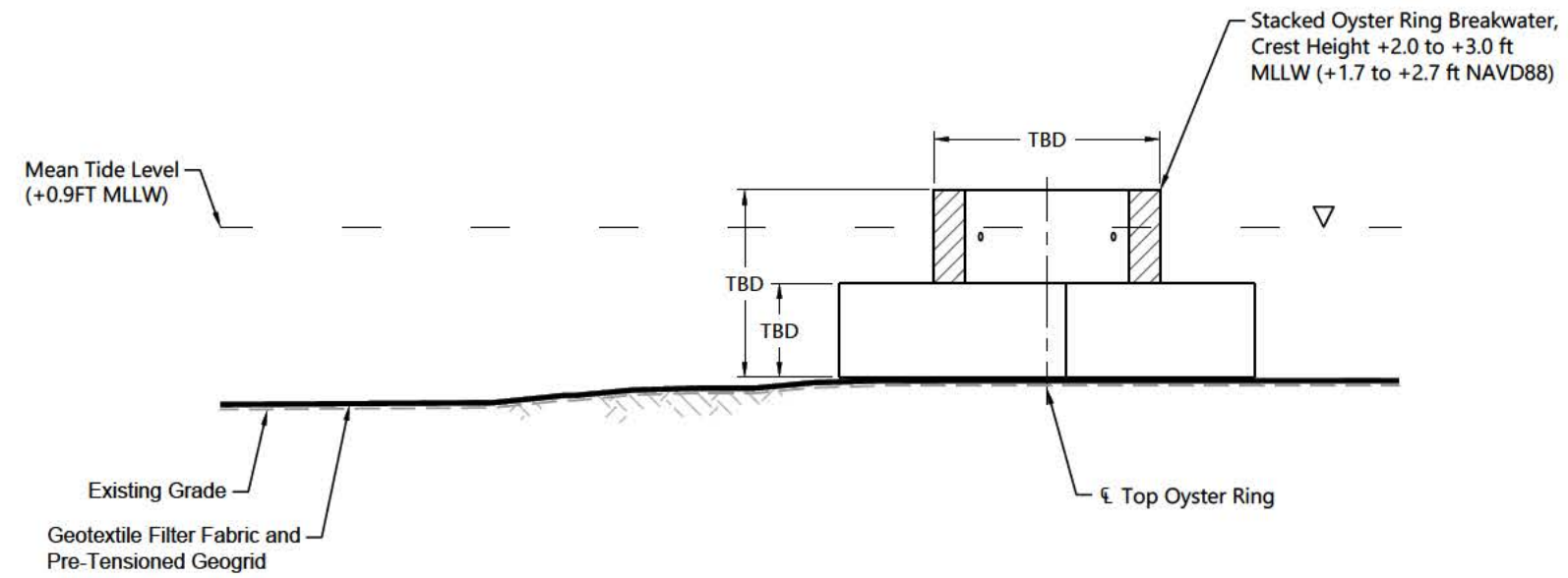
- LEGEND:**
- August Event Results Sediment Probe Location and Depth
- Soft Sediment Thickness 1' to 3.3'
  - Soft Sediment Thickness 3.4' to 4.3'
  - Soft Sediment Thickness 4.4' to 5.3'
  - Soft Sediment Thickness 5.4' to 6.3'
  - Soft Sediment Thickness 6.4' to 7.3'
  - Soft Sediment Thickness 7.3'+
  - Existing Contours (1' and 5')
  - SLPT-# Cone Penetrometer Test Locations
  - SL-# Boring Locations



**Figure 2**  
**Geotechnical Investigation and Probing Locations**  
30% Basis of Design Report  
St. Louis Bay Living Shoreline  
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality



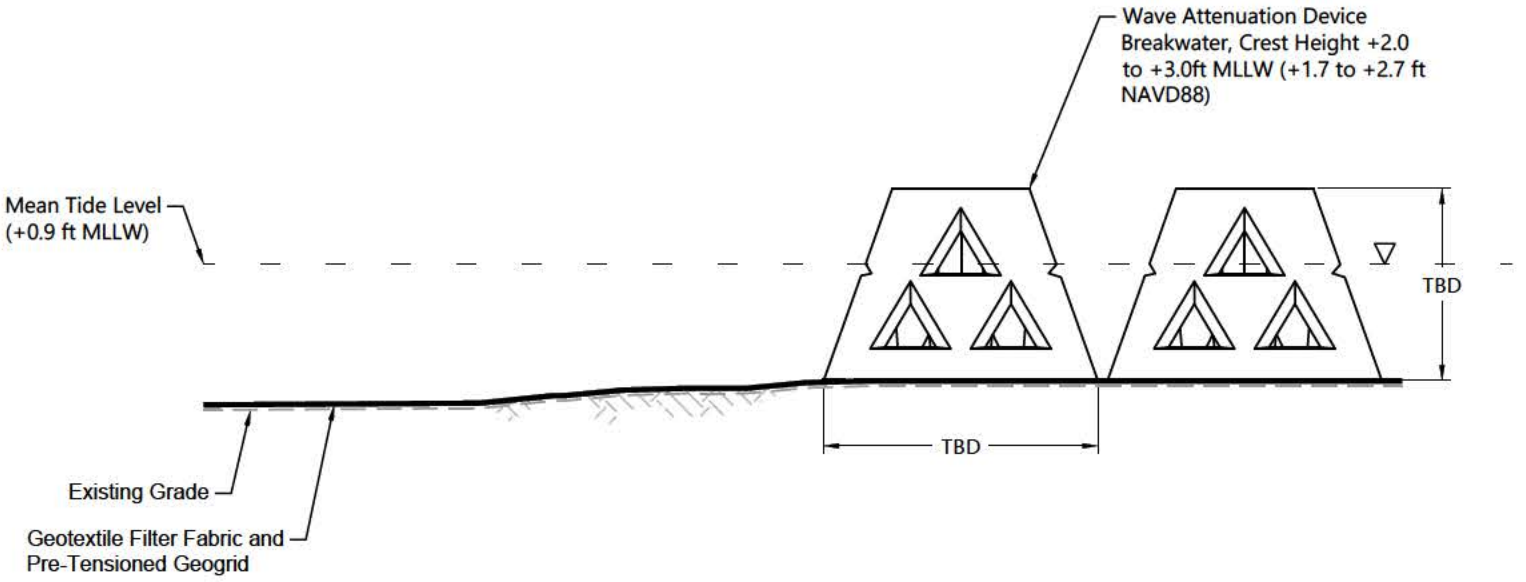
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**Typical Section Oyster Ring Breakwater**  
Not to Scale

Abbreviations:  
ft: foot  
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TBD: to be determined





**Typical Section – Wave Attenuation Device**  
Not to Scale

Abbreviations:  
ft: foot  
MLLW: mean lower low water  
NAVD88: North American Vertical Datum of 1988  
TBD: to be determined