



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**

# PUBLIC NOTICE

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Applicant:  
Maureen Anderson  
Hancock County Port & Harbor

Published: December 12, 2025  
Expires: January 12, 2026

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**Vicksburg District**  
**Permit Application No. MVK-2025-00711**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: The Vicksburg 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/or** Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. §403). This public notice will also serve as a joint public notice with The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality for State Water Quality Certification. The purpose of this public notice is to solicit comments from the public regarding the work described below:

**APPLICANT:** Maureen Anderson  
Hancock County Port & Harbor  
14054 Fred and Al Key Road  
Kiln, Mississippi 39556

**AGENT:** Lisa Morrison  
Neel-Schaffer  
772 Howard Avenue  
Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

**WATERWAY AND LOCATION:** The project would affect Waters of the United States associated with Mulatto Bayou. The project/review area is located at the Port of Bienville Intermodal Yard Facility, in Section 19, Township 9S, Range 15W at Latitude 30.239976 and Longitude -89.5369 in English Lookout, Hancock County, Mississippi.

**EXISTING CONDITIONS:** The Project footprint covers approximately 97.7 acres and includes both above and below-ground elements within the Port Bienville Industrial Park. It is characterized by low-lying, previously disturbed land, including a mix of forested wetlands, scrub-shrub wetlands, utility corridors, man-made ditches, compacted access roads, and fill areas.

**PROJECT PURPOSE:**

**Basic:** The basic project purpose is transportation facility development.

**Overall:** The overall project purpose is to alleviate current capacity constraints on the Port Bienville Railroad within the City of Bay St. Louis, Hancock County, Mississippi. The planned project is intended to enable more efficient blocking and transload operations directly within the Port Bienville Industrial Park.

**PROPOSED WORK:** The applicant requests authorization to grade and discharge fill material into 17.1 acres of waters of the United States (forested wetlands) to facilitate the construction of approximately 3,700 linear feet of lead track adjacent to the existing Port Bienville Railroad mainline and 16,310 feet of storage/classification track comprising eight ladder tracks. Above-ground elements include new stoned access roads for construction and maintenance, site drainage ditches, stormwater culverts, and at crossings for access at two points along Lower Bay Road. Below-groundwork includes grading, clearing, stump removal, and over excavation of unsuitable soils (ranging from 6 inches to 3 feet deep), followed by placement of select structural fill (MDOT B7 6 or equivalent) to achieve final elevation of 2 to 5 feet above existing grade.

**AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION:** The applicant has provided the following information in support of efforts to avoid and/or minimize impacts to the aquatic environment: The applicant is looking at several different alternatives with a preferred alternative. With the preferred alternative, construction activities have been limited to the extent practicable to areas previously disturbed or developed, including existing Port Bienville Railroad right-of-way and fill areas. Site access and infrastructure are planned to consolidate construction within a compact footprint, using a single gravel access road and efficient track layout to reduce total disturbance. Drainage will be managed through culverts and side ditches.

**COMPENSATORY MITIGATION:** The applicant offered the following compensatory mitigation plan to offset unavoidable functional loss to the aquatic environment: To compensate for unavoidable impacts, the applicant proposes to purchase appropriate mitigation credits through an approved wetland mitigation bank as required by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

**CULTURAL RESOURCES:** The Federal Railroad Administration is the lead agency. Mississippi Department of Archives & History (MDAH) State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurred that no cultural resources listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places will be affected by the proposed project. The Federal Railroad Administration reached out to Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, with no comments received from any of the listed tribes.

**ENDANGERED SPECIES:** The Federal Railroad Administration is the lead agency. Listed species consultation and conference have been completed. A recommendation from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been received for trapping and relocating “proposed” alligator snapping turtles.

The following species were also considered:

Dusky Gopher Frog (*Rana sevosa*) - Endangered - Not likely to adversely affect (NLAA)  
Eastern Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis* ssp. *jamaicensis*) - Threatened - NLAA  
Gopher Tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) - Threatened - NLAA  
Gulf Sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus* (*oxyrinchus* *desotoi*)) - Threatened - No effect  
Piping Plover (*Charadrius melanotos*) - Threatened - NLAA  
Rufa Red Knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*) - Threatened - NLAA

The project location is not within the known range of the Indiana bat so consultation on this species is not required.

This notice serves as request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for any additional information on whether any listed or proposed to be listed endangered or threatened species or critical habitat may be present in the area which would be affected by the proposed activity.

**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 will be required from the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ).

**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 is, or is 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, Environmental Protection Agency (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.

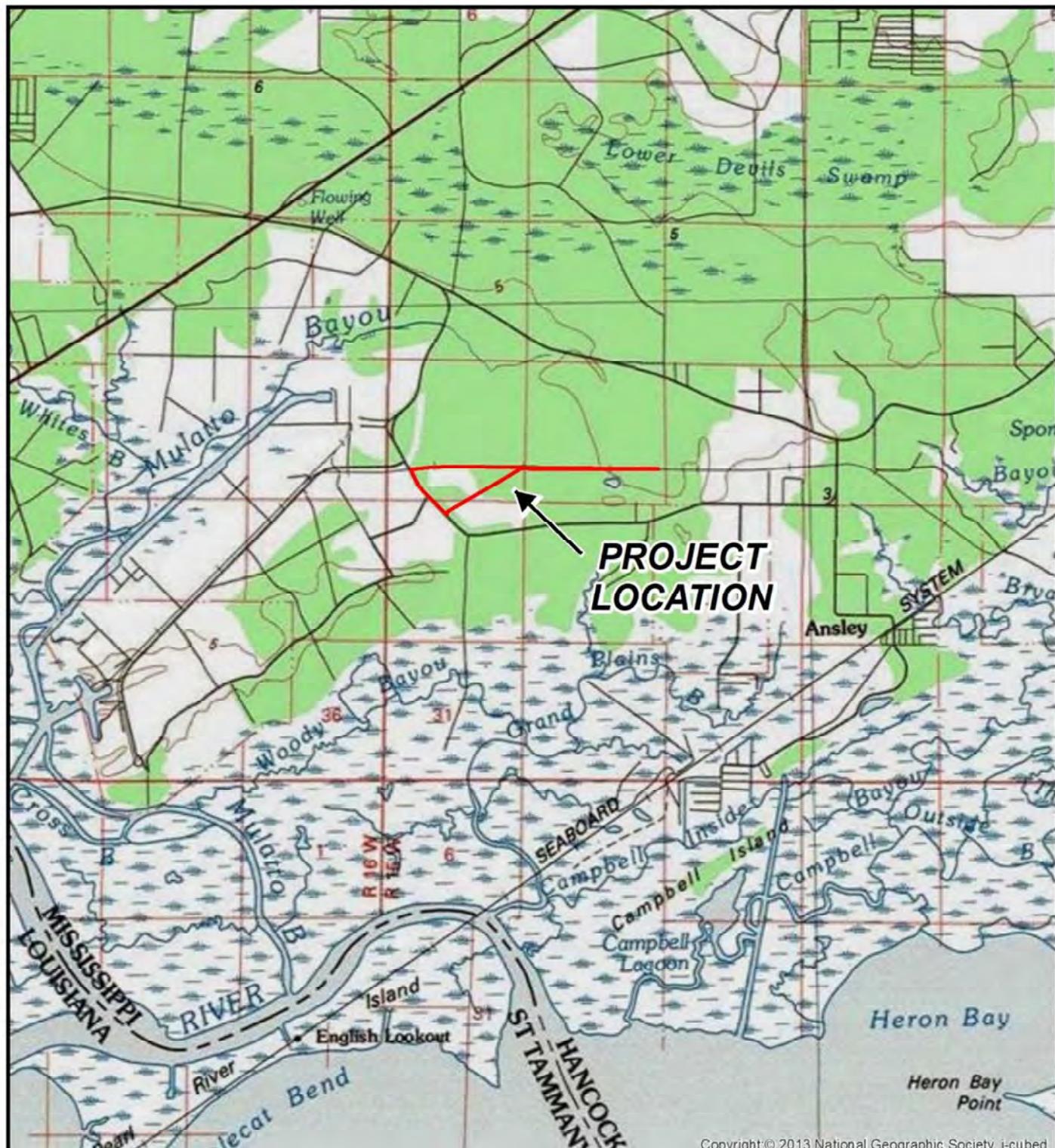
Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

The Vicksburg District will receive written comments on the proposed work, as outlined above, until January 12, 2026. Comments should be submitted electronically via the Regulatory Request System (RRS) at <https://rrs.usace.army.mil/rrs> or to Paul W. Baham at [Paul.W.Baham@usace.army.mil](mailto:Paul.W.Baham@usace.army.mil) and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality at Post Office Box 2261, Jackson, Mississippi 39225-2261. Alternatively, you may submit comments in writing to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, Attention: Paul W. Baham, 4155 Clay Street, Vicksburg, Mississippi 39183. 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.

**Notification of Final Permit Actions:** Each month, the final permit actions from the preceding month are published on the Vicksburg District Regulatory web page. To access this information, you may follow the link from the Regulatory web page, <http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx>.

**Bryan Williamson  
Chief, Mississippi Branch/Deputy  
Regulatory Division**



Base Map: ESRI USA Topo Maps  
 Source: USGS, NGS & i-cubed  
 Map Date: August 10, 2022



0 0.4 0.8 1.2 1.6  
 Miles

### SUBJECT LOCATION MAP



ECOLOGICAL  
ASSET  
MANAGEMENT, LLC

### Wetland Delineation for +/- 97.7 ac Railroad Facility Expansion Area

Location: Port Bienville  
 Portion of Sections 19, 20 & 30  
 Township 9-S, Range 15-W  
 County: Hancock County, MS

Figure 1: Project Location of the +/- 97.7-acre HCPHC Intermodal project area; Port Bienville, Hancock County, MS.



Figure 1. Proposed Port Bienville Intermodal Expansion Site with Delineated Wetlands and Waters in Bay St. Louis, Hancock County, MS

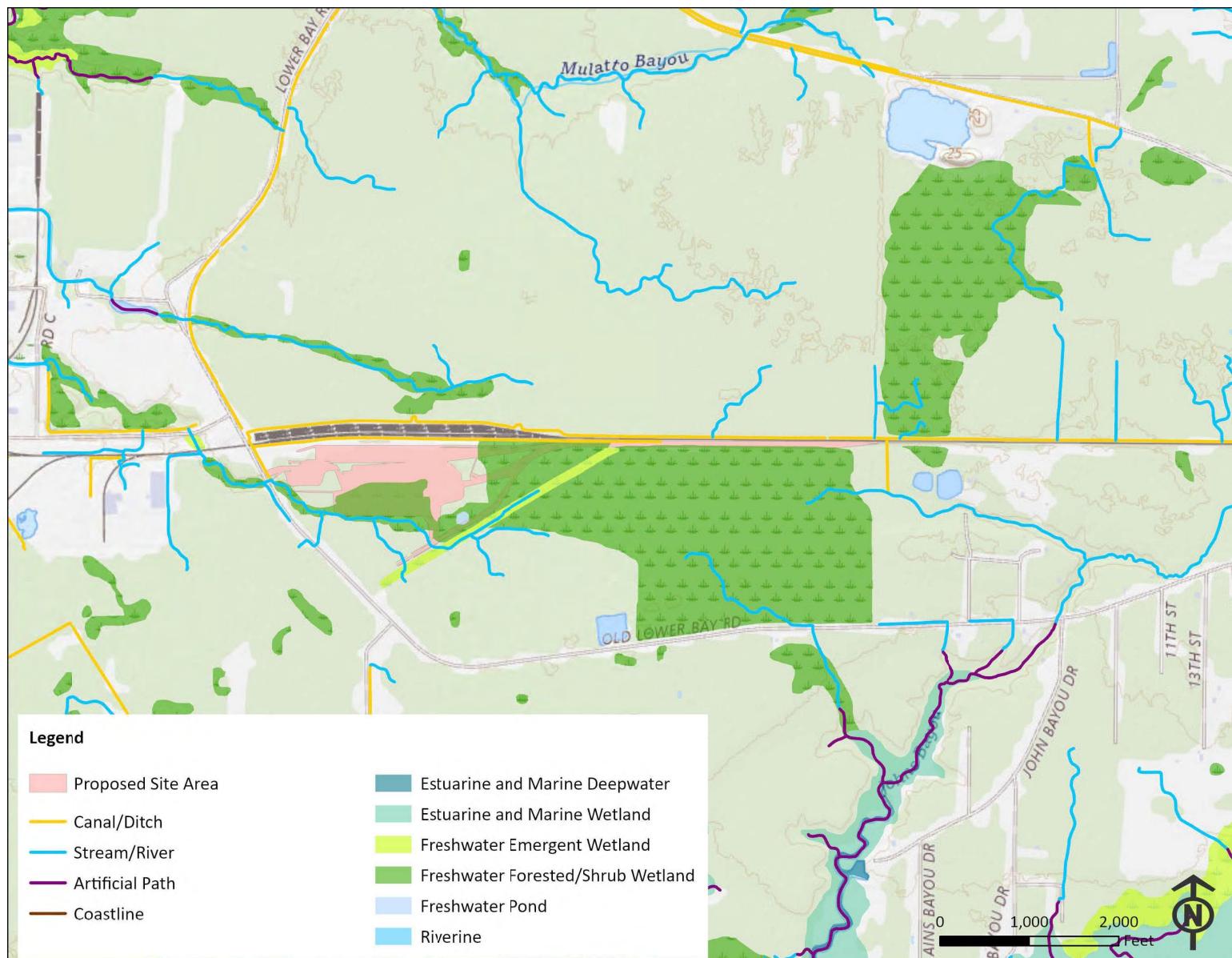
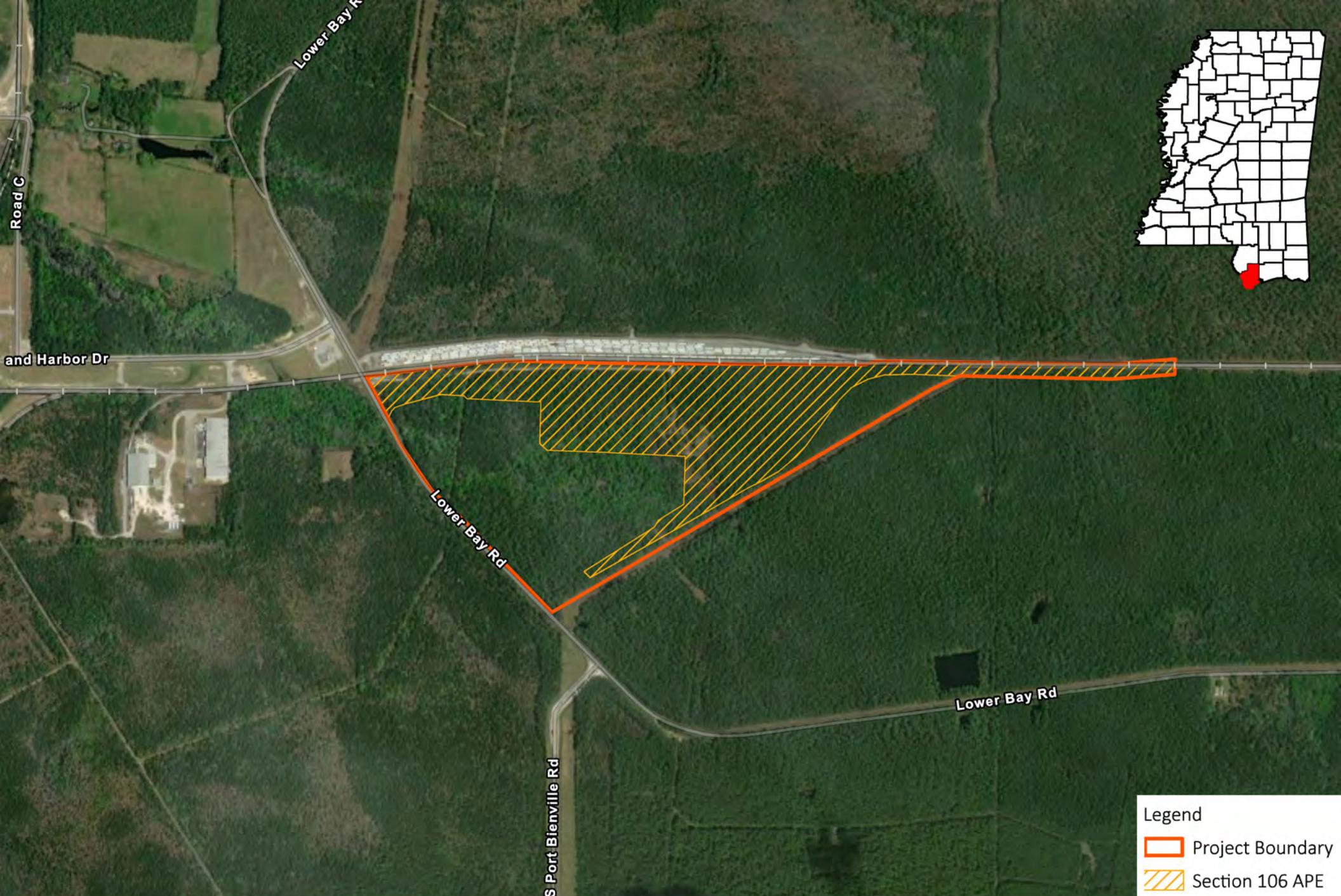


Figure 2. Proposed Site Area with USFWS National Wetland Inventory (NWI) and USGS National Hydrography Dataset Layers



## Project Boundary and Section 106 Area of Potential Effects

Port Bienville Intermodal Expansion Project  
Bay St. Louis, Hancock County, MS

