

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### UNITED STATES ARMY

#### FINDING OF NO PRACTICABLE ALTERNATIVE FOR TEMPORARY STORAGE AREA FOR MILITARY ASSETS AT THE CENTRAL LOUISIANA REGIONAL PORT IN SUPPORT OF FORT JOHNSON

##### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Central Louisiana Regional Port (CLRP) facility is frequently used as a point of embarkation/debarkation for troops rotating for service at Fort Johnson, Louisiana. The Port facility provides continual easy access to barge transport, and is serviced by a road network that can handle troop movements and support vehicles. The location of the storage area is strategic in that it provides safe, temporary, proximate storage for large numbers of vehicles while maintaining the ability to stage quickly for transport.

The area is adjacent to the riverside toe of the Lower Red River Southbank Levee, which is operated and maintained by the Red River, Atchafalaya & Bayou Boeuf Levee District under Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, 33 U.S.C. 408 (Section 408). A fill and hardening request were submitted to the Vicksburg District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The request was granted as documented in the attached letter dated February 1, 2024. The fill work and some of the stone hardening has been completed. The subject of the proposed action is to complete the stone hardening, and it is anticipated to impact nearly 5 acres of floodplains.

##### 2.0 PROPOSED ACTION

###### 2.1 Proposed Action

The proposed action includes hardening an existing 3.5 acre dirt pad previously prepared to receive the proposed 14" of stone, and placement of additional stone on an existing 1.4 acre stone area to provide a 4.9 acre stone hardened site to temporarily store and stage military vehicles and equipment. The military rotations can have in excess of 1,200 vehicles, with many considered to have heavy axle loads requiring hardened staging areas. The Department of Defense, through the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation, granted CLRP funds to complete this project to support Fort Johnson.

## 2.2 Alternatives Considered

Knowing that the number of vehicles in each military rotation has steadily increased, with more than 1,200 in the most recent event, CLRP evaluated its properties to determine if alternative locations for the proposed action existed. After completing their review and considering other potential non-CLRP owned sites, it was determined that other available sites (located on the land side of the levee with restricted water access) could not accommodate the number of anticipated vehicles and was thus not practicable.

## 3.0 IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

### 3.1 Floodplains

EO 11988, Floodplain Management, requires federal agencies to determine whether a proposed action would occur within a floodplain and to avoid floodplains to the maximum extent possible when there is a practicable alternative. The proposed action will impact 4.9 acres by raising the existing elevation 14". The attached floodplain map EX-1 shows the location of the action (and is labeled), which is located within the floodplain of the Red River. Potential impacts to the volume available for flood management are mitigated through the tradeoff of cleared, aggregate area for a heavily wooded tract which impedes flow through this area during highwater flooding events. At this location on the river, there is an abundance of floodplain area to divert water during a flood event, since the abandoned river channel (Buhlow oxbow) is directly across from the area and remains connected at the lower end to the realigned channel. Other mitigation measures include:

- 1) The geogrid and aggregate design ensure water infiltration during both routine operations and flood events with this approach preserving the natural hydrological balance of the floodplain.
- 2) The hardened surface minimizes erosion and sediment runoff, which is a risk with the current 3.5 acre dirt pad. By stabilizing the area, the project reduces the likelihood of sedimentation in the Red River and surrounding ecosystems, protecting water quality during flood events.

Best management practices (BMPs) included in the proposed action are silt fencing, baled hay ditch filters, and stone filter dikes. These will be implemented and maintained throughout construction. Additionally, low-impact development measures include stone delivery trucks dumping product from the existing stone pad without traversing any dirt areas. These will all help to reduce adverse impacts on the floodplain.

This project adheres to federal floodplain management policies by incorporating flood risk mitigation measures that maintain the floodplain's natural functions. The design prevents impermeable surfaces, reduces environmental impacts, and ensures compliance with requirements under EO 11988 and the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard.

### 3.2 Wetlands

EO 11990, Protection of Wetlands, requires federal agencies to determine whether a proposed action would impact wetlands, and try to avoid or if not practicable, minimize. Potential wetlands have been identified and are shown in blue on Exhibit EX-3 Enlarged Site Map. The proposed action avoids the wetlands and BMP's have been included in the project to reduce any adverse impacts to the wetlands.

### 4.0 PUBLIC REVIEW

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### 5.0 FINDING OF NO PRACTICABLE ALTERNATIVE

After careful and diligent consideration of alternatives to satisfy the project criteria, the proposed action is the only practicable alternative after determining it is not feasible to completely avoid the floodplains. Accordingly, I find there is no practicable alternative to siting the proposed action entirely outside of floodplains; however, the Army will utilize all practicable measures to avoid and minimize impacts to the greatest extent practicable.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
OMAR J. JONES IV  
Lieutenant General, USA  
Commanding

#### Attachments:

- 1) Letter from Corps of Engineers dated Feb. 1, 2024
- 2) EX-1 Floodplain Map showing proposed action location
- 3) EX-2 Overall Project Area Map
- 4) EX-3 Enlarged Project Area

#### References:

EO 11988, *Floodplain Management*, 24 May 1977.



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, VICKSBURG DISTRICT  
4155 CLAY STREET  
VICKSBURG, MS 39183-3435**

**February 1, 2024**

**SUBJECT: Request of Mr. Ben Russo, on behalf of the Central Louisiana Regional Port, for permission to place select fill material and stone across approximately five acres of land located adjacent to the riverside toe of the Lower Red River Southbank Levee near the National Levee Database (NLD) levee station 1123+00**

**Central Louisiana Regional Port  
ATTN: Mr. Ben Russo  
600 River Port Road  
Alexandria, LA 71303**

**Dear Mr. Russo:**

**The Vicksburg District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has completed its review of your request to place select fill material and stone across approximately five acres of land located adjacent to the riverside toe of the Lower Red River Southbank Levee operated and maintained by the Red River, Atchafalaya & Bayou Boeuf Levee District under Section 14 of the Rivers, and Harbors Act of 1899, 33 U.S.C. 408 (Section 408). The approximate coordinates for the location of this activity are latitude 31.3399° N, longitude -92.4638° W. This evaluation was performed consistent with Engineer Circular (EC) 1165-2-220.**

**Based on this evaluation, the Vicksburg District is granting permission to place two to four feet of select fill material across approximately five acres of land located adjacent to the riverside toe of the Lower Red River Southbank Levee. In addition to the select fill material, fourteen inches of stone will be placed over the select fill material across approximately three of the five acres previously mentioned to serve as a hardstand. All necessary precautions shall be taken to prevent erosion, as specified in your request and subject to compliance with the terms and conditions below and attached. Accordingly, this permission letter does not absolve the need to obtain a permit from the Red River, Atchafalaya & Bayou Boeuf Levee District.**

**Please coordinate with Mr. Rodney Nordby of the Corps of Engineers Red River Project Office at (318) 549-3000, Ext. 3 or Rodney.R.Nordby@usace.army.mil prior to commencement and through completion of any work. Once permission is granted, you must notify the Vicksburg District at least 30 days before work is started so that post-permission oversight can be performed by USACE. You must schedule a final inspection with the Vicksburg District within 30 days after completion of the work. You**

must submit a copy of "as-built" drawings within 30 days of completion of work showing the new work as it relates to identifiable features of the federal project. A copy of this letter is being sent to the local sponsor.

Should you have questions about our determination and requirements, my point of contact is Mr. Chase Gartrell who may be contacted at (601) 634-5013 or [Chase.A.Gartrell@usace.army.mil](mailto:Chase.A.Gartrell@usace.army.mil).

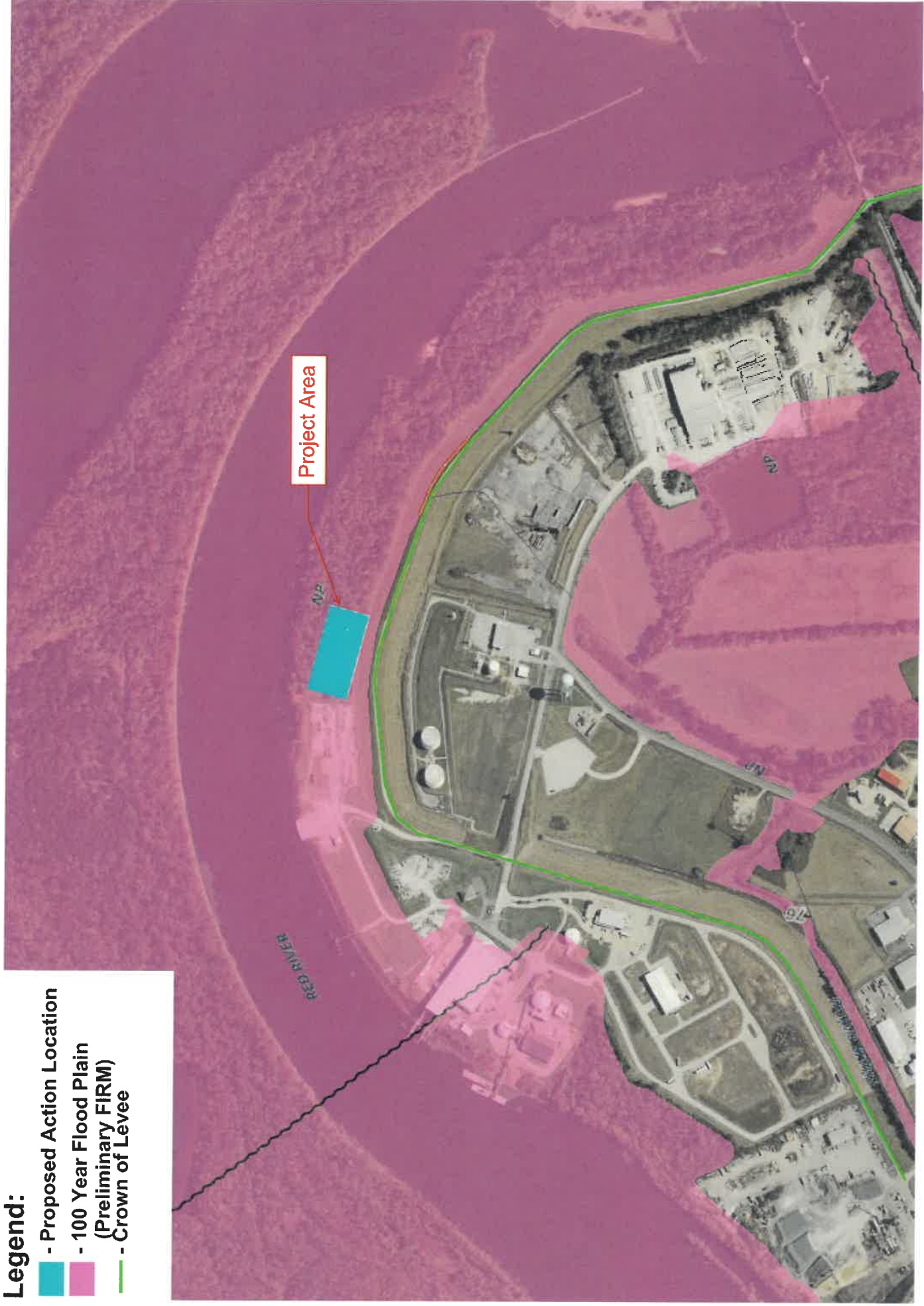
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Vignes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Julie Vignes**  
Chief, Operations Division  
USACE, Vicksburg District

**Legend:**

- Proposed Action Location
- 100 Year Flood Plain (Preliminary FIRM)
- Crown of Levee





# DOD HARDSTAND EXTENSION

OVERALL MAP

## LEGEND



PROPOSED ACTION  
LOCATION



HIGHWATER DIVERSION

HIGHWATER  
DIVERSION POTENTIAL

RED RIVER

PROJECT AREA

HIGHWATER  
DIVERSION

Google Earth  
Image © 2025 Airbus

EX-2

1000 ft



Red River

FLOW

FLOW

FLOW

BUHLOW  
OXBOW

Levee Park

Levee Park

Levee Park

Levee Park

Levee Park

Levee

Central Louisiana Regional Port

Riverport Rd

Storage

Avant Organics

Alexandria Terminal

Riverport Rd

Levee Park

Levee Park

Levee Park

Levee



Meyer, Meyer, LaCroix & Hixson, Inc.  
 Engineers & Land Surveyors  
 100 Engineer Place, Alexandria, LA 71303  
 Phone: (318) 448-0888 - Fax: (318) 448-0885

CENTRAL LA REGIONAL PORT  
 ALEXANDRIA, LA  
 ENLARGED SITE MAP

PROJECT NO. 785E  
 DATE: FEBRUARY 2022  
 DESIGNED BY: DHA  
 CHECKED BY: DHA  
 DRAWN BY: DHA  
 SCALE: 1" = 100'-0"

EX3

REVISION NO. 1 X

Scale 1" = 100'



**LEGEND**

POTENTIAL JURISDICTIONAL WETLANDS

PROPOSED ACTION LOCATION

**1 ENLARGED SITE MAP**

EX3 SCALES: 1" = 100'-0"

**NOTICE**

48 HOURS BEFORE DIGGING  
 CALL 1-800-272-3220  
 TO LOCATE UTILITY LINES

SCALE: 0 50'-0" 100'-0" 200'-0"

SCALE: 1" = 100'-0"

This drawing, specification and other documents are preliminary and are not to be used for construction. The engineer and contractor shall be responsible for their own work and shall not rely on this drawing for construction. The engineer and contractor shall be responsible for their own work and shall not rely on this drawing for construction. The engineer and contractor shall be responsible for their own work and shall not rely on this drawing for construction.

NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION