



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers** ®  
Fort Worth District

# Public Notice

Applicant: Village of Pleasant Hill, Louisiana

Permit Application No.: SWF-2009-00296

Date: September 28, 2010

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The purpose of this public notice is to inform you of a proposal for work in which you might be interested. It is also to solicit your comments and information to better enable us to make a reasonable decision on factors affecting the public interest. We hope you will participate in this process.

## **Regulatory Program**

Since its early history, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has played an important role in the development of the nation's water resources. Originally, this involved construction of harbor fortifications and coastal defenses. Later duties included the improvement of waterways to provide avenues of commerce. An important part of our mission today is the protection of the nation's waterways through the administration of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Program.

## **Section 10**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is directed by Congress under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 USC 403) to regulate *all work or structures in or affecting the course, condition or capacity of navigable waters of the United States*. The intent of this law is to protect the navigable capacity of waters important to interstate commerce.

## **Section 404**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is directed by Congress under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344) to regulate the *discharge of dredged and fill material into all waters of the United States, including wetlands*. The intent of the law is to protect the nation's waters from the indiscriminate discharge of material capable of causing pollution and to restore and maintain their chemical, physical and biological integrity.

## **Contact**

Name: Mr. Frederick Land

Phone Number: (817) 886-1729

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, FORT WORTH DISTRICT**

**AND**

**LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

**SUBJECT:** Application for a Department of the Army Permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and for water quality certification required in accordance with statutory authority contained in the LRS 30:2074 A(3) and under Section 401 of the CWA to discharge dredged and fill material into waters of the United States associated with a proposal by the Village of Pleasant Hill, Louisiana.

**APPLICANT:** Village of Pleasant Hill  
c/o Patrick Furlong, P.E.  
Balar Associates, Inc.  
631 Milam, Suite 300  
Shreveport, Louisiana 71101

**APPLICATION NUMBER:** SWF-2009-00296

**LOCATION:** The proposed wastewater treatment plant improvements would be located at the intersection of Highway 175 and Elm Street, Pleasant Hill, Sabine Parish, Louisiana. The proposed project would be located approximately at Latitude 31.824°N and -93.514°W on the Pleasant Hill 7.5-minute USGS quadrangle map in the USGS Hydrologic Unit 12010004.

**OTHER AGENCY AUTHORIZATIONS:** Section 401 State Water Quality Certification.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The applicant proposed to discharge approximately 23,600 cubic yards of clay soil into approximately 2.82 acres of non-forested wetlands, a water of the United States, in conjunction with the expansion of the Pleasant Hill Wastewater Treatment Plant (Sheet 1 – 4 of 4). The purpose of the proposed activity is to expand the capacity, operation, and use of the existing treatment plant. Currently, excessive infiltration and inflow in the sewerage collection system inundates the wastewater treatment plant during wet weather and disrupts the biological process in the oxidation ditch as well as the sedimentation/clarification process in the downstream clarifier. An equalization basin for the facility is proposed to be constructed outside of the existing plant on adjacent property.

The project site is located on undeveloped land adjacent to the existing facility. The topography is gently sloping within the floodplain of San Miguel Bayou, approximately 270 feet above mean sea

level (MSL), within the Sabine River Watershed, HUC 12010004. The project site is located entirely within the Guyton-Iuka soil association, is frequently flooded, and rated partially hydric.

Based on a review of aerial photography and field survey reports, two vegetative communities are present within the proposed project area. The communities identified within the project site are an emergent, non-forested wetland, and a forested upland. Dominant species found within the wetland include soft rush (*Juncus effuses*), swamp smartweed (*Polygonum hydropiperoides*), and swamp rosemallow (*Hibiscus grandiflorus*). Dominant species found within the forested upland include sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), winged elm (*Ulmus alata*), Bahia grass (*Paspalum notatum*), and Canada golden-rod (*Solidago canadensis*).

A total of 2.82 acres of emergent, non-forested wetland would be adversely impacted by the construction of an equalization basin with the discharge of approximately 23,600 cubic yards of clay soil (Sheets 3 – 4 of 4).

The applicant considered various alternatives, including a no-build alternative during the proposed project evaluation process. The proposed project was selected after consideration of social, environmental, and engineering factors.

Alternative 1 would involve using another location for the project. Other properties were evaluated by the applicant and it was determined that no other properties were available that would financially meet the project need and purpose. Further, use of alternative sites would require the entire reconstruction of the existing facility, rather than allow for improvement and expansion of the existing facility, resulting in substantially increased costs, increased earth disturbance, and the requirement to abandon the existing facility.

Alternative 2 would involve alternative alignments for the facility on the proposed property. It was determined that other alignments would not meet the necessary engineering constraints, nor would such designs afford any reductions in impacts to the aquatic environment when considering other logistical constraints such as easements, access limitations, aesthetics, and adjacent property considerations.

Alternative 3, the No-Build Alternative, would not involve the construction of the facility. The No-Build Alternative would not meet the goals of the Village of Pleasant Hill by improving wastewater treatment, and therefore, would not meet the need and purpose of the project.

The applicant's preferred alternative would minimize environmental impacts to the maximum extent practicable while still meeting the needs of the community. The applicant believes substantial efforts have been made to avoid and minimize adverse impacts to the aquatic environment. All exposed soil and other fills, as well as any work within waters of the U.S., would be stabilized at the earliest practicable date. Any temporary fills would be removed in their entirety and the affected areas returned to their pre-construction contours. As such, on a preliminary basis, it appears these measures would help to ensure no more than minimal adverse effects to water quality.

The applicant proposes to compensate for unavoidable adverse impacts to waters of the U.S., including wetlands. Both on-site and near-site mitigation possibilities were considered by the applicant for suitability as compensatory mitigation. The applicant believes that a proposal to purchase mitigation banking credits that would support and preserve contiguous, high-quality wetlands would provide higher functional value in comparison to other compensatory mitigation options, especially those that would involve on-site or near-site restoration or enhancement in an area where future development pressure appears to be inevitable. In accordance with 40 CFR part 230 (Compensatory Mitigation for Losses of Aquatic Resources; Final Rule) April 2008, the applicant proposes to purchase mitigation banking credits from a USACE-approved mitigation bank to compensate for the 2.82 acre of unavoidable adverse impacts to waters of the U.S.

#### Sheets

1. Large-scale Project Location Map
2. Location Map
3. Wetland Delineation
4. Cross-section

**PUBLIC INTEREST REVIEW FACTORS:** This application will be reviewed in accordance with 33 CFR 320-332, the Regulatory Program of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and other pertinent laws, regulations, and executive orders. The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impact, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concerns 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 its cumulative effects. Among the factors addressed are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore 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.

The USACE 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 USACE in determining whether to issue, issue with modifications, or conditions, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on 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 and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

**ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES:** The USACE has reviewed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's latest published version of endangered and threatened species to determine

whether any may occur in the project area. The proposed project would be located in a parish where the Red-cockaded Woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*) is known to occur. The Red-cockaded Woodpecker is an endangered species. Our initial review indicates that the proposed work would have no effect on federally-listed endangered or threatened species.

STATE WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LA DEQ), Office of Environmental Services certification is required. Concurrent with USACE processing of this Department of the Army application, the LA DEQ is reviewing this application under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, and in accordance with statutory authority contained in the LRS 30:2074 A(3) and under Section 401 of the CWA to determine if the work would comply with State water quality standards. This public notice is also issued for the purpose of advising all known interested persons that there is pending before the LA DEQ a decision on water quality certification under such act. **Any comments concerning this application may be submitted to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Attention: Water Quality Certifications, Post Office Box 4313, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4313.** The public comment period extends 28 days from the date of publication of this notice. A copy of the public notice with a description of the work is made available for review in the LA DEQ Baton Rouge Office and may be examined during weekdays between 8:00AM to 5:00PM. Copies may be obtained upon payment of costs of reproduction. The LA DEQ may conduct a public hearing to consider all comments concerning water quality if requested in writing. A request for a public hearing must contain the following information: the name, mailing address, application number, or other recognizable reference to the application; a brief description of the interest of the requestor, or of persons represented by the requestor; and a brief description of how the application, if granted, would adversely affect such interest.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES: The USACE has reviewed the latest complete published version of the National Register of Historic Places and found no listed properties to be in the project area. However, presently unknown scientific, archaeological, cultural or architectural data may be lost or destroyed by the proposed work under the requested permit.

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT: The USACE is sending a copy of this public notice to the local floodplain administrator. In accordance with 44 CFR part 60 (Flood Plain Management Regulations Criteria for Land Management and Use), the floodplain administrators of participating communities are required to review all proposed development to determine if a floodplain development permit is required and maintain records of such review.

SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS: The public notice is being distributed to all known interested persons in order to assist in developing fact upon which a decision by the USACE may be based. For accuracy and completeness of the record, all data in support of or in opposition to the proposed work should be submitted in writing setting forth sufficient detail to furnish a clear understanding of the reasons for support or opposition.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Prior to the close of the comment period any person may make a written request for a public hearing setting forth the particular reasons for the request. The District Engineer will determine whether the issues raised are substantial and should be considered in his permit decision. If a public hearing is warranted, all known interested persons will be notified of the time, date, and location.

**CLOSE OF COMMENT PERIOD:** All comments pertaining to this Public Notice must reach this office on or before October 28, 2010, which is the close of the comment period. Extensions of the comment period may be granted for valid reasons provided a written request is received by the limiting date. If no comments are received by that date, it will be considered that there are no objections. Comments and requests for additional information should be submitted to; Regulatory Branch, CESWF-PER-R; U. S. Army Corps of Engineers; Post Office Box 17300; Fort Worth, Texas 76102-0300. You may visit the Regulatory Branch in Room 3A37 of the Federal Building at 819 Taylor Street in Fort Worth between 8:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Telephone inquiries should be directed to (817) 886-1731. Please note that names and addresses of those who submit comments in response to this public notice may be made publicly available.

DISTRICT ENGINEER  
FORT WORTH DISTRICT  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS

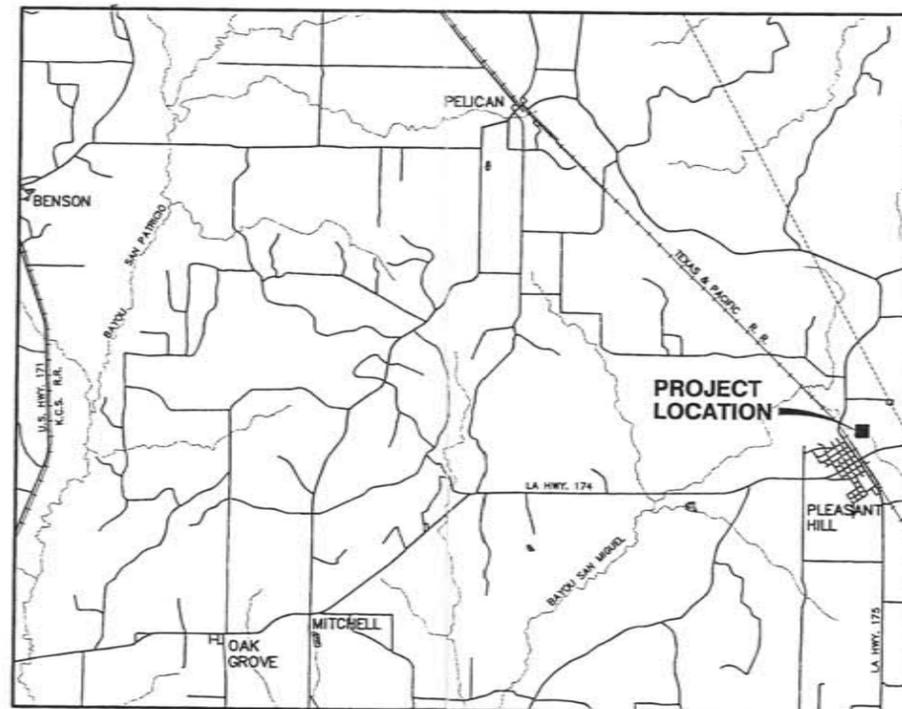
CONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS  
FOR  
**WASTEWATER TREATMENT  
FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS**  
FOR  
VILLAGE OF PLEASANT HILL

SABINE PARISH, LOUISIANA  
L.C.D.B.G. FUNDED PROJECT

BETTY SUE THOMAS  
MAYOR

ALDERMEN  
EDWARD G. ARNOLD  
WALTED C. LEE  
DOROTHY T. SPENCER

SHANNON BURNETT  
CLERK



VICINITY MAP  
SCALE: 1" = 1 MILE

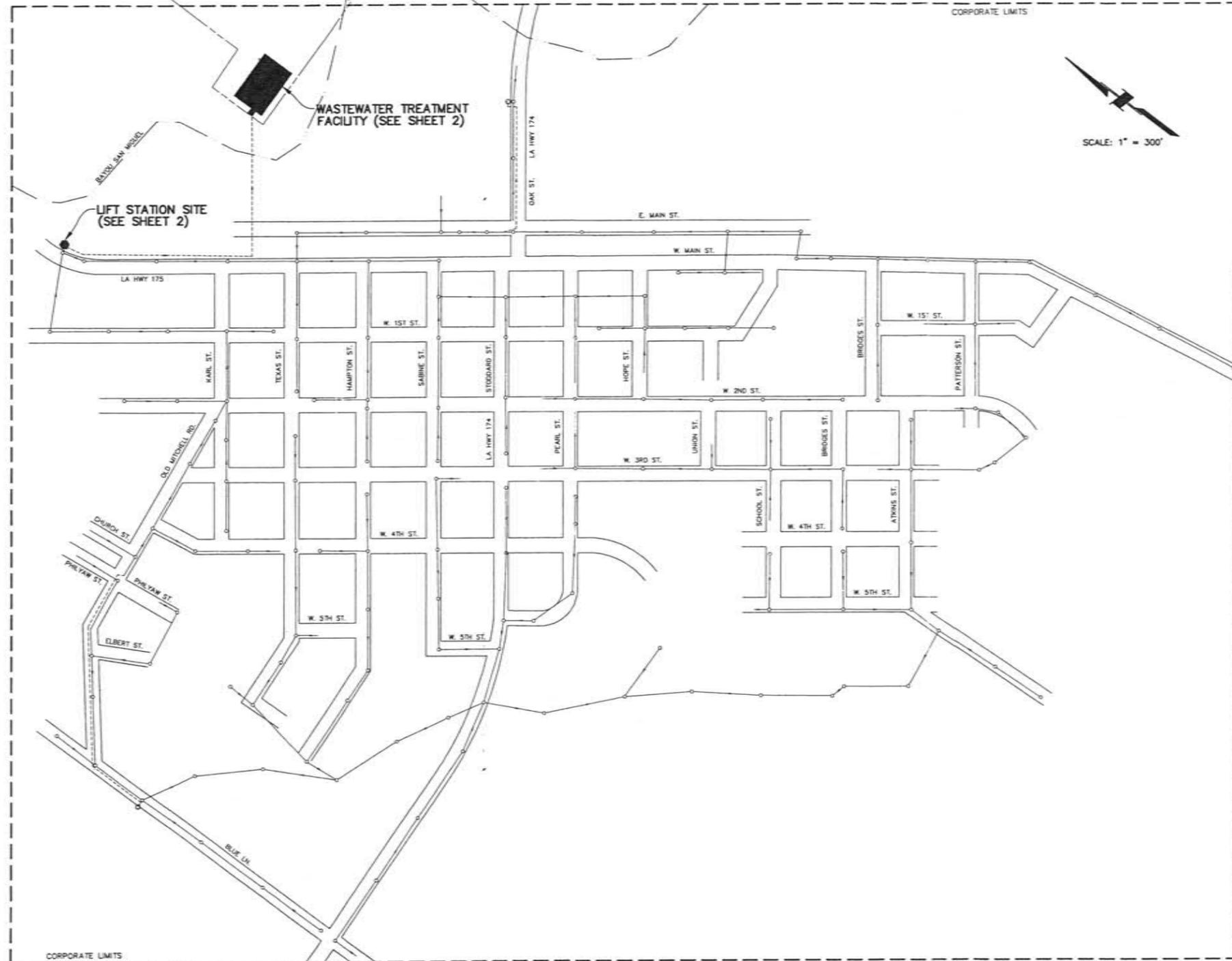
**BALAR**  
ENGINEERS & SURVEYORS

**ACEC**  
Association of Consulting Engineers  
of Louisiana

DECEMBER, 2009

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- LEGEND:**
- PROPERTY LINE
  - - - CORPORATE LIMITS
  - - - EXISTING GRAVITY SEWER MAIN
  - - - EXISTING SEWER FORCE MAIN
  - EXISTING SEWER MANHOLE
  - EXISTING SEWER LIFT STATION
  - SEWER LIFT STATION

T.B.M. No. 1  
600 NAIL IN PP OUTSIDE OF PLANT ELEV. 279.23

T.B.M. No. 2  
600 NAIL IN PP IN FRONT OF PEOPLE'S BANK ELEV. 299.94

- GENERAL NOTES:**
- DISCHARGE OF UNTREATED WASTEWATER INTO THE RECEIVING STREAM IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.
  - CONTRACTOR SHALL OBTAIN ALL LOCAL, PARISH, AND STATE PERMITS AND COMPLY WITH ALL PROVISIONS OF ALL PERMITS.
  - CONTRACTOR SHALL VERIFY LOCATION, TYPE, SIZE, AND DEPTH OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM REQUIRED FOR TIE-IN OF NEW FACILITIES AND PIPING.
  - REMOVED AND ABANDONED EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS ARE THE PROPERTY OF THE OWNER AND SHALL BE DISPOSED OF OFF SITE OR TRANSPORTED TO A STORAGE LOCATION ON SITE AS DESIGNATED BY THE OWNER AT THE CONTRACTOR'S EXPENSE.
  - THE CONTRACTOR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR REPAIRING DAMAGE TO PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY.
  - LOCATIONS OF EXISTING UNDERGROUND UTILITIES UNKNOWN. CONTRACTOR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CONTACTING LOCAL UTILITY COMPANIES FOR FIELD LOCATION OF EXISTING UNDERGROUND UTILITIES. CONTACT "LOUISIANA ONE CALL", 1-800-272-3020.
  - TIE-INS TO EXISTING MANHOLES AND PIPING SHALL BE COORDINATED WITH THE OWNER AND ENGINEER.
  - ANY WATER NEEDED FOR CONSTRUCTION SHALL BE COORDINATED CLOSELY WITH THE VILLAGE OF PLEASANT HILL.
  - CONTRACTOR SHALL KEEP UPDATED "AS BUILT" DRAWINGS DURING ALL PHASES OF CONSTRUCTION. DRAWINGS TO BE DELIVERED TO THE PROJECT ENGINEER AS REQUESTED.
  - PROTECTION OF ALL UTILITIES AND SERVICES SHALL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CONTRACTOR.
  - IT SHALL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CONTRACTOR TO EXAMINE THE PROJECT SITE, AND ANY QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION SHALL BE RESOLVED WITH PROJECT ENGINEER PRIOR TO SUBMITTING BID.
  - THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE TO RESTORE ALL DISTURBED AREAS TO AN EQUAL OR BETTER CONDITION THAN THE EXISTING GROUND COVER PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION. (NO DIRECT PAY)
  - CONTRACTOR SHALL MAINTAIN A SAFE INGRESS AND EGRESS FOR ADJACENT PROPERTIES DURING CONSTRUCTION.
  - CONTRACTOR SHALL CHECK AND RECORD ACTUAL INSTALL ELEVATIONS ON ALL PIPING AND PUMPING EQUIPMENT.
  - ALL TRENCH AND OTHER EXCAVATIONS SHALL BE IN STRICT ACCORDANCE WITH OSHA REGULATIONS AND APPLICABLE LOCAL CODES AND ORDINANCES.
  - CONTRACTOR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING ALL NECESSARY FITTINGS, ADAPTERS, PIPING, ETC. REQUIRED TO COMPLETE TIE-INS.
  - EXISTING DRIVEWAYS DISTURBED SHALL BE REPAIRED IN KIND.
  - THE PROPER DISPOSAL OF ALL MATERIALS AND WASTE PRODUCTS REMOVED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH PERTINENT LOCAL, PARISH, STATE, AND FEDERAL REGULATIONS IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CONTRACTOR.
  - ALL EXISTING DRAINAGE DITCHES, SWALES, ETC. IN THE PATH OF CONSTRUCTION SHALL BE RESHAPED DAILY AS REQUIRED TO ENSURE PROPER DRAINAGE.
  - CULVERTS AND OTHER DRAINAGE STRUCTURES DAMAGED OR DISTURBED DURING CONSTRUCTION SHALL BE REPLACED AT THE PROPER LOCATION AND GRADE TO FACILITATE DRAINAGE.
  - PLANT PIPING AT WWTF SHALL BE CLASS 50 DUCTILE IRON.
  - CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING ALL REQUIRED BYPASS PUMPING.
  - THE CONTRACTOR SHALL CLOSELY COORDINATE THIS WORK WITH THE PLANT SUPERINTENDENT AT ALL TIMES DURING CONSTRUCTION.
  - SPECIAL EFFORT SHALL BE MADE TO AVOID INTERRUPTION OF THE EXISTING PLANT FUNCTIONS AND TO PREVENT CONFLICTS WITH ROUTINE PLANT OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE.
  - WHEN ANY PORTION OF PLANT FLOW IS TO BE INTERRUPTED FOR CONSTRUCTION PURPOSES, IT MUST BE ACCOMPLISHED DURING PERIODS OF MINIMUM FLOW IN FULL COOPERATION WITH PLANT PERSONNEL.

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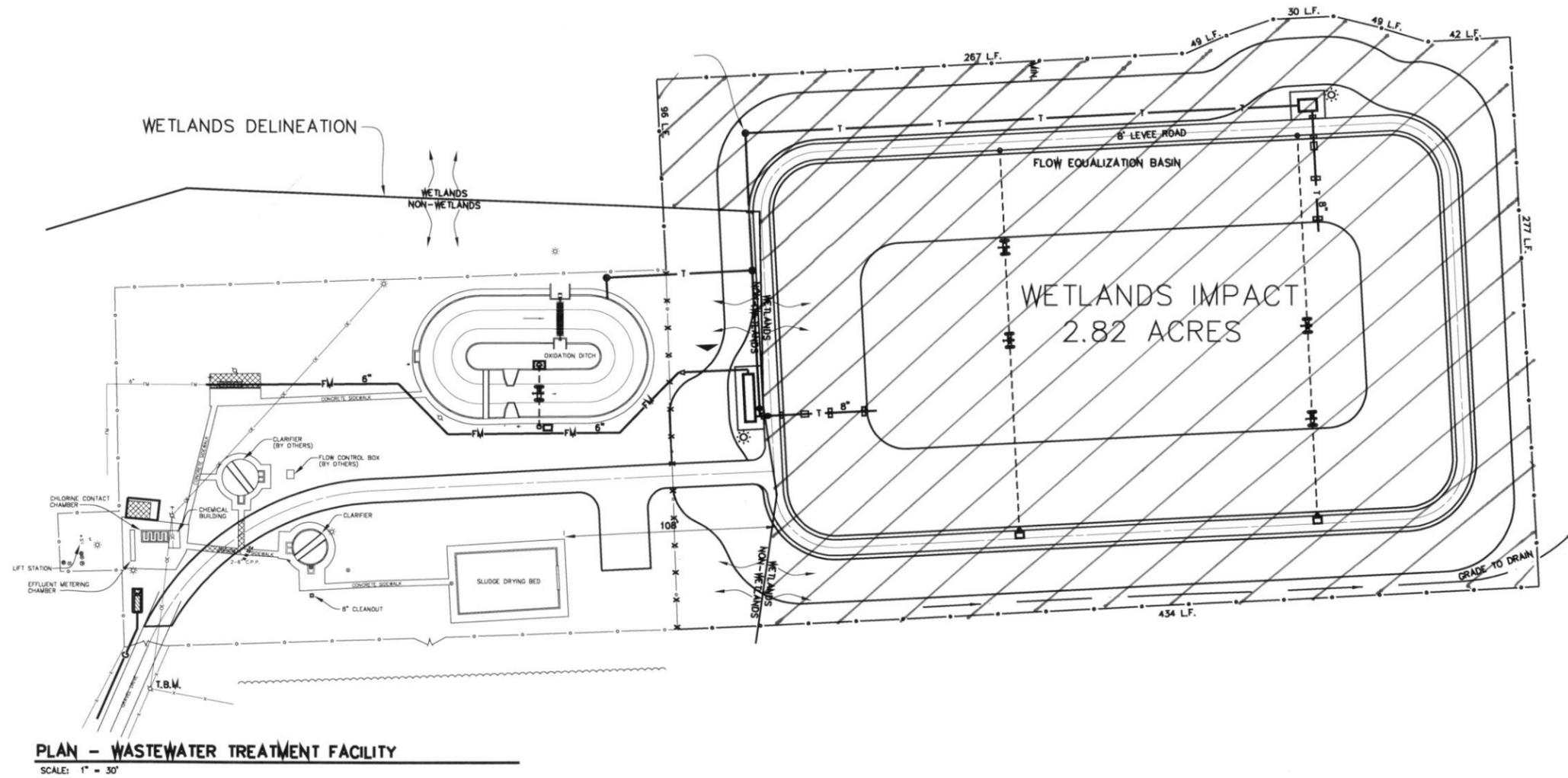
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checked: D. E. K.  
date: DECEMBER, 2009  
project: 09050

**BALAR**  
ENGINEERS & SURVEYORS

**LOCATION MAP & GENERAL NOTES**  
WASTEWATER FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS  
VILLAGE OF PLEASANT HILL  
SABINE PARISH, LOUISIANA

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of 4 sheets

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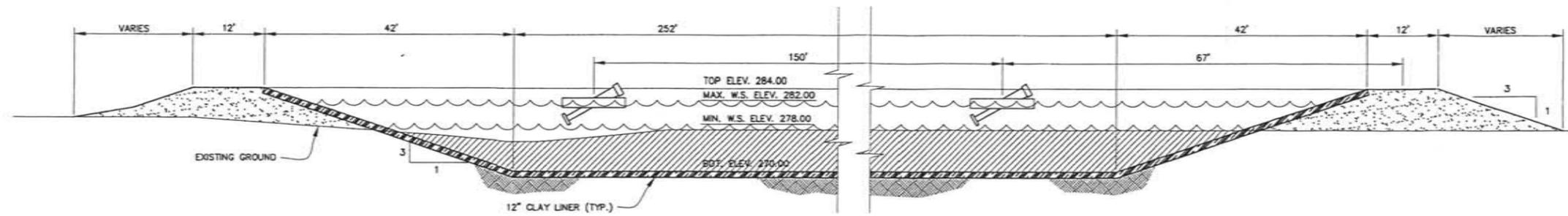
631 MILAM STREET, SUITE 300  
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA 71101  
PHONE: 318-221-8312  
FAX: 318-424-6508  
E-MAIL: balar@balar-engineers.com  
WEB: www.balar-engineers.com

**BALAR**  
ENGINEERS & SURVEYORS

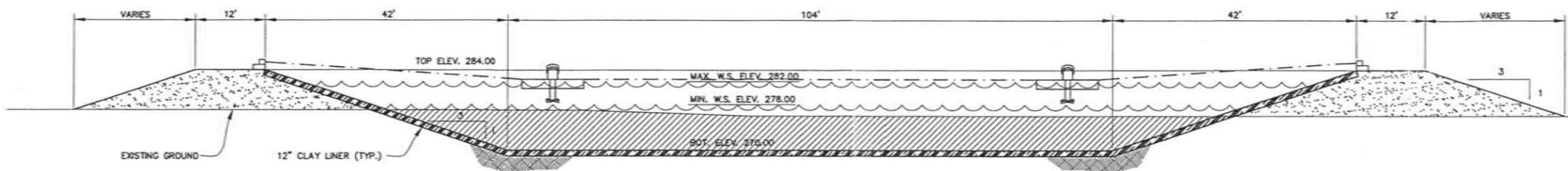
**WETLAND DELINEATION  
WASTEWATER FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS  
VILLAGE OF PLEASANT HILL  
SABINE PARISH, LOUISIANA**

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of 4 sheets

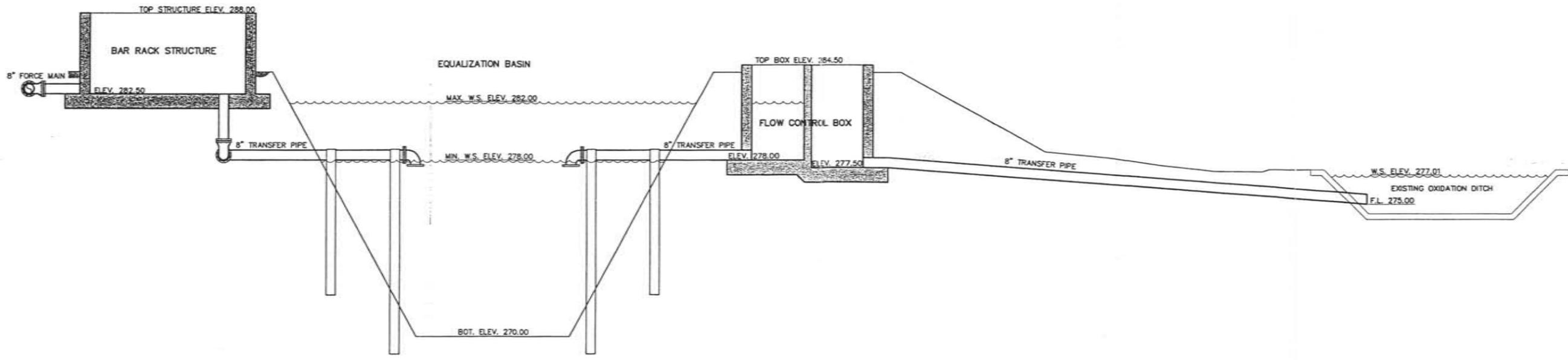
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date: DECEMBER, 2009  
project: 09050



1 SECTION  
2 3 SCALE: 1" = 10'



2 SECTION  
2 3 SCALE: 1" = 10'



HYDRAULIC PROFILE  
NO SCALE

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	revisions		

Drawn: D. A. R.  
 Checked: P. K. F.  
 Date: DECEMBER, 2009  
 Project: 09050

631 MILAM STREET, SUITE 300  
 SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA 71101  
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 FAX: 318-424-6508  
 E-MAIL: balar@balar-engineers.com  
 WEB: www.balar-engineers.com

**BALAR**  
 ENGINEERS & SURVEYORS

BASIN - SECTIONS & HYDRAULIC PROFILE  
 WASTEWATER FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS  
 VILLAGE OF PLEASANT HILL  
 SABINE PARISH, LOUISIANA

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