JAY DARDENNE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana

OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM
OFFICE OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

CHARLES R. DAVIS
DEPUTY SECRETARY

PHIL BOGGAN
INTERIM ASSISTANT SECRETARY

21 September 2015

Adrian Chavarria
Environmental Engineer
EPA Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

Re: Draft Report
La Division of Archaeology Report No. 22-5051
Geohazard and Archaeological Assessment for Caminada Headlands Back Barrier Marsh Creation Project, Lafourche, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Chavarria:

We acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 8 September 2015 and two copies of the above-referenced report. We have completed our review of this report and offer the following comments.

Our office concurs that no historic properties will be impacted by construction and use of the West Access Area, and we have no further concerns for this area.

We also concur that in the North Access Area magnetic anomalies M04 through M10 should be avoided by a 300 foot buffer unless they are investigated by a diver to determine the nature of the anomaly. If diver investigations are conducted, we request the opportunity to review the diver's report and evaluate whether the anomaly is a cultural resource or a modern object.

Of greater concern is the potential for the North Access Area to cross a submerged archaeological site. Our office maintains an online GIS with the location of known archaeological sites plotted; site 16LF274 appears to lie within the project area. Furthermore, the "Hard Return" mapped under the Sand Waves on Figure 8 of the Archaeological Analysis report appears to be positioned approximately where the site is reported. This hard return is likely a shell deposit (see page 40 of the report) and may represent a prehistoric shell midden. Numerous artifacts wash up on the modern Caminada beach (site 16LF282), including occasional human remains, and it is our opinion that they are being eroded from a site currently submerged offshore. This is mostly likely 16LF274 situated on a now submerged natural levee of Bayou Moreau. The fact that the hard return lies in close proximity to a buried channel just to the north further suggests the return represents a cultural deposit associated with the former Bayou Moreau. Our office recommends that the North Access Area be moved to avoid the location of 16LF274, or if this is not possible, that additional investigations be undertaken to determine whether the site lies in the project area, if so, whether any intact deposits are present, and whether it is eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

Our office requests a revised report that addresses the location of sites 16LF274 and 16LF282, and their position relative to the proposed North Access Area and to potential archaeological deposits mapped by the sub-bottom profiler data.

We concur with the proposed Unanticipated Discoveries Plan.

We look forward to receiving two copies of the revised report. If you have any questions, please contact Chip McGimsey in the Division of Archaeology by email at cmcgimsey@crt.la.gov or by phone at 225-219-4598.

Sincerely,

Phil Boggan
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS TX 75202-2733

Ms. Pam Breaux
State Historic Preservation Officer
Division of Archeology
Louisiana Office of Cultural Development
P.O. Box 44247
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4247

The proposed undertaking will have no adverse effect on historic properties. This effect determination could change should new information come to our attention.

Pam Breaux 5-26-15
Pam Breaux Date
State Historic Preservation Officer

Dear Ms. Breaux:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 6 is requesting consultation for the proposed fill areas that are to receive sediment dredged from an offshore borrow site for the Caminada Headland Back Barrier Marsh Creation Project (BA-171) provided for under the authority of the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA). The proposed borrow site for BA-171 was previously evaluated for the Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) Barataria Basin Barrier Shoreline Restoration Project.

The primary goal of the project is to create/nourish 430 acres of back barrier marsh behind 3.5 miles of the Caminada beach using material dredged from a previously approved borrow site for the Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) Barataria Basin Barrier Shoreline Restoration Project, located in the Gulf of Mexico. This project will create a platform upon which the beach and dune can migrate, reducing the likelihood of breaching, improving longevity of the barrier shoreline, and protecting wetlands and infrastructure to the north and west of the project area.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) New Orleans District evaluated a 10,345 acre (4,186.62 hectare) of land and water situated between Caminada Pass to the east and Belle Pass to the west, between Louisiana Highway No. 1 (LA 1) on the north and the Gulf of Mexico on the south.

Coastal Environments, Inc. conducted a cultural resource survey within the study area of the Caminada Headlands. A total of 1,006 acres of the 10, 345 acre project area was examined during the survey. The survey began on March 6, 2006 and was completed on April 19, 2006 and included data collection of all relict chenier ridges and natural levees within the marsh creation and ridge restoration portion of the study area, an examination of the study area slated for shoreline restoration and additional marsh creation, and an examination of known sites, possible sites and newly discovered sites in the study area in an effort to acquire information on each site's size, condition and possible cultural affiliation. A total of four new archeological sites 16LF271, 272, 273, and 274, were recorded during the current survey.

A copy of the survey titled *Cultural Resources Survey of the Caminada Headlands Restoration Feasibility Study, LaFourche and Jefferson Parishes, Louisiana*, prepared by Coastal Environments, Inc., has been enclosed for your reference.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. Should you require further information, please feel free to contact me at (214) 665-3103 or email at chavarria.adrian@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

3/27/15

Adrian Chavarria
Environmental Engineer (6WQ-EC)
Marine and Wetlands Section

Enclosures: 2

Chavarria, Adrian

From: David Proctor <Davidp@MCN-NSN.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2017 9:41 AM
To: Chavarria, Adrian
Subject: EPA - Caminada Back Barrier Marsh Creation BA-193, Lafourche Parish, LA [WARNING: SPF validation failed]

Mr. Adrian Chavarria
Environmental Engineer
Marine and Wetland Section
EPA Region 6
1445 Ross Ave, Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

Mr. Chavarria:

Thank you for the correspondence regarding the proposed Caminada Back Barrier Marsh Creation project located in Lafourche Parish, LA. Portions of Louisiana Parishes are within the historic area of interest to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Upon closer review of the specific project location, the location does not lie within our area of interest. We respectfully defer to the other Tribes that have been contacted. If you have any further questions or concerns, please give us a call.

Thank You,

David J. Proctor, Cultural Advisor
Cultural Preservation Office
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
PO Box 580
Okmulgee, Ok 74447
davidp@mcn-nsn.gov
(918) 732-7732

Federal and state agencies, museums, and consulting partners, as of October 1, 2015 please send all Section 106 project notices as well as all NAGPRA notices to our new section106@mcn-nsn.gov. Notices concerning these projects will no longer be sent to individual staff member's emails. We will be accepting and responding using the new Section 106 email. If you have any questions, please give us a call at 918-732-7733.

ALABAMA-COUSHATTA TRIBE OF TEXAS
571 State Park Road 56 • Livingston, Texas 77351 • (936) 563-1100

February 3, 2017

US Environmental Protection Agency
Attn: Adrian Chavarria
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

Dear Mr. Chavarria:

On behalf of Mikko Colabe III Clem Sylestine and the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe, our appreciation is expressed on your efforts to consult us regarding the Environmental Assessment for the Caminada Headland Back Barrier Marsh Creation Increment II in Lafourche Parish.

Our Tribe maintains ancestral associations throughout the state of Louisiana despite the absence of written records to completely identify Tribal activities, villages, trails, or burial sites. However, it is our objective to ensure significances of American Indian ancestry, especially of Alabama-Coushatta origin, are administered with the utmost considerations.

Upon review of your January 5, 2017 submission, Lafourche Parish exists beyond our scope of interest for the state of Louisiana. Therefore, no impacts to cultural assets of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas will occur in conjunction with this proposal.

Should you require further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Bryant J. Celestine
Historic Preservation Officer

Office (936) 563 - 1181 celestine.bryant@actribe.org Fax (936) 563 - 1183

QUAPAW TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA

P.O. Box 765
Quapaw, OK 74363-0765

(918) 542-1853
FAX (918) 542-4694

February 3rd, 2017

Attn: Adrian Chavaria
United States Environmental
Protection Agency Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

Re: EA for the proposed Caminada Headland Back Barrier Marsh Creation Increment II Project

To Whom It May Concern:

This project is outside of the current area of interest for the Quapaw Tribe; therefore, the Quapaw Tribe does not desire to comment on this project at this time. Thank you for your efforts to consult with us on this matter.

Sincerely,

Everett Bandy

Everett Bandy, THPO
Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 765
Quapaw, OK 74363
(p) 918-238-3100

From: Chavarria, Adrian
To: DCRT Section 106
Subject: BA-193 Caminada Headlands Back Barrier Marsh Creation Project #2
Date: Tuesday, November 29, 2016 8:39:09 AM
Attachments: BA-193 Cover Letter (SHPO).pdf
Figure 2_BBBS Caminada Borrow_SHPO Concurrence.pdf
Figure 3_BA-171 SHPO response letter for conveyance channels.pdf
Figure 4_Cam II LA SHPO Letter 5 8 2012.pdf
CAMINADA II SHPO Letter_16LF282 Concurrence.pdf
Figure 1_BA-193 Project Map.pdf

Adrian Chavarria
Environmental Engineer
U.S. EPA - Region 6 (6WQ-EC)
1445 Ross Ave.
Dallas, TX 75202
214-665-3103 - Office
214-665-6689 - Fax
214-310-6197 - Cell

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

November 29, 2016

Mr. Phil Boggan
Interim Assistant Secretary
Louisiana Office of Cultural Development
Division of Archaeology
P.O. Box 44247
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-4247

Dear Mr. Boggan:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 6 is requesting consultation for four proposed features associated with the Caminada Headland Back Barrier Marsh Creation Increment II Project (BA-193): the fill area, the borrow area, the dredge pipeline corridor, and the pipeline location along the Caminada Headland. The BA-193 project is located along the Caminada Headland in Lafourche and Jefferson parishes behind the dune recently constructed by the Caminada Headland Beach and Dune project (BA-143). This project is being funded under the authority of the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act (CWPPRA).

Proposed Fill Area:
The BA-193 project footprint was previously evaluated for the Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) Barataria Basin Barrier Shoreline Restoration Project. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) New Orleans District evaluated 10,345 acres of land and water situated between Caminada Pass to the east and Belle Pass to the west, between Louisiana Highway 1 (LA 1) to the north and the Gulf of Mexico to the south. Coastal Environments, Inc. conducted a cultural resource survey within the LCA study area. The survey was completed between March and April of 2006, which included data collection of all relict chenier ridges and natural levees within the marsh creation and ridge restoration portions of the study area, an examination of the study area slated for shoreline restoration and additional marsh creation, and an examination of known sites, possible sites and newly discovered sites in an effort to acquire information on each site's size, condition, and possible cultural affiliation. A total of four new archaeological sites 16LF271, 272, 273, and 274, were recorded. In 2012, these four sites were grouped with other recorded artifact scatters into a single archaeological site with the trinomial of 16LF282. The proposed fill area is labeled with hatching on Figure 1.

Proposed Borrow Area:
The proposed fill areas for this BA-193 project are to receive sediment dredged from an offshore borrow site approximately 1.5 miles offshore in the Gulf of Mexico. The BA-193 project will be using the eastern half of the borrow area previously identified and surveyed for the BA-171 project. SHPO responded on August 8, 2014 to the BA-171 project's borrow area with a finding of "no known historic properties will be affected by this undertaking" (attached). The proposed borrow area is labeled on Figure 2.

Proposed Dredge Pipeline Corridor:
The proposed dredge pipeline corridor to be utilized for the BA-193 project will connect the proposed offshore borrow area to the proposed marsh creation fill areas located behind the Caminada Headland

beach. This is the same dredge pipeline corridor to be used during construction of the BA-171 project; EPA received a response from SHPO on September 21, 2015 with a finding of "no historic properties will be impacted by construction and use of the West Access Route, and we have no further concerns for this area" For the BA-171 project . The proposed dredge pipeline corridor is labeled on Figure 3.

Pipeline Location along Caminada Headland:
The final project feature is the proposed pipeline location which will be utilized during dredging operations for the BA-193 project. The dredge pipeline will be located along the newly constructed Caminada Headland beach, within the project footprint of the BA-143 project, and will be used to transport dredged material from the borrow area to the proposed fill areas of BA-193 (correspondence for BA-143 attached). The proposed pipeline location corridor is labeled on Figure 4.

Effect Determination
The Areas of Potential Effects (fill area, borrow area, dredge pipeline corridor, and pipeline location along Caminada Headland) are all part of a single undertaking and are identified on the attached figure. A single archaeological site, 16LF282, which has been determined ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) is located within the APE for the fill area. Please note 16LF271, the Feti site, is located adjacent to Bayou Moreau but outside of the fill APE.

We believe no historic properties will be affected by this project as proposed and request your concurrence with this determination. Should you require further information, please feel free to contact me at (214) 665-3103 or e-mail at chavarria.adrian@epa.gov.

Sincerely yours,

Adrian Chavarria
Environmental Engineer (6WQ-EC)
Marine, Analysis and Coastal Section

Enclosures: 5

No known historic properties will be affected by this undertaking. Therefore, our office has no objection to the implementation of this project. This effect determination could change should new information come to our attention.

Phil Boggan
State Historic Preservation Officer

Date

03/02/2017

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TEXAS 75202 – 2733

June 29, 2018

Mr. Joseph A. Ranson
Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Louisiana Ecological Services Office
646 Cajundome Blvd., Suite 400
Lafayette, LA 70506

SUBJECT: Caminada Headlands Back Barrier Marsh Creation project (BA-171) funded by the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA), Endangered Species Act, Section 7 Determination

Dear Mr. Ranson:

The Environmental Protection Agency Region 6 requests the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's concurrence on our determination that the Caminada Headlands Back Barrier Marsh Creation project (BA-171) "may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect" the West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*), Kemp's Ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*), Loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*), Red Knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), and the Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) or its designated critical habitat.

A description of the project, as well as information related to potential impacts to threatened/endangered species or critical habitat, is enclosed. If you require further assistance or have questions regarding our determination, please contact Dr. Sharon L. Osowski (214-665-7506; Osowski.sharon@epa.gov) of my staff.

Sincerely,

for David F. Garcia, P.E.
Acting Director
Water Division

Enclosures

This project has been reviewed for effects to Federal trust resources under our jurisdiction and currently protected by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act). The project, as proposed,
( ) Will have no effect on those resources
(X) Is not likely to adversely effect those resources

Joseph A. Ranson 12 Jul 18
Supervisor Date
Louisiana Ecological Services Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Project Description

BA-171 is a backbarrier marsh creation project funded through CWPPRA where EPA is the federal sponsor and CPRA is the State partner. The Caminada Headland is defined as the area south of Louisiana Highway 1 between Belle Pass and Caminada Pass (Figure 1). The project is located directly behind the Caminada headland beach covering areas in and around Bay Champagne and areas east of Bayou Moreau, in Lafourche Parish, Louisiana. The Caminada Headland consists of a sand dune, beach berm, barrier marshes, and chenier ridges interspersed with mangrove thickets, coastal dune shrub thickets, lagoons, and small bayous.

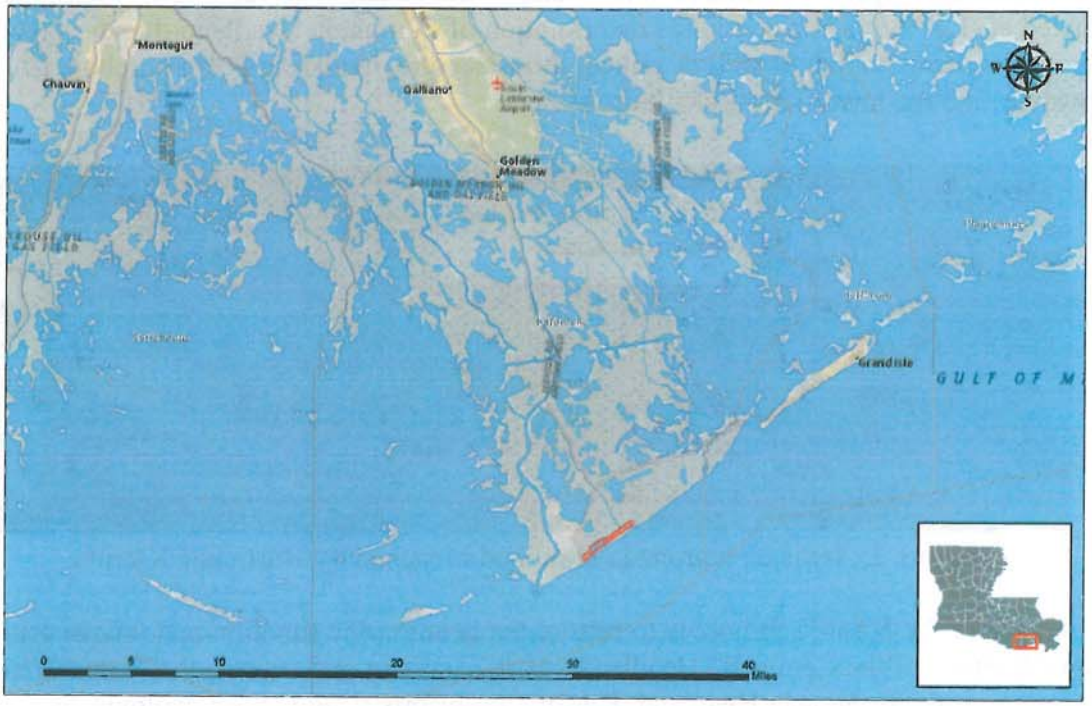


Figure 1. BA-171 project location.

Caminada Beach and Dune Restoration Increment 1 (BA-45), funded through a combination of State Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) and State surplus funds was completed in 2014. It is expected that the restored beach will greatly reduce the likelihood of breaching and reduce historical shoreline migration rates. BA-171 (Figure 2) is designed to work synergistically with BA-45 further decreasing the likelihood of breaches and improving the longevity of the shoreline.

BA-171 is located in an especially dynamic area of the Louisiana Coast. The landward shoreline migration of the beach will significantly impact the project area over the 20-year life of the project. Historic shoreline migration rates average 41.4 ft/year over the last century (Williams et al. 1992; Penland et al. 2005; and Martinez et al. 2009).

The Caminada Headland has experienced some of the highest shoreline retreat rates in Louisiana, measuring between 55 and 65 ft per year from 1998-2010. Historically the shoreline has migrated landward at about 40 ft per year (Penland et al. 2005). Between 2006 and 2011

shoreline migration increased dramatically, exceeding 80 ft per year near Bay Champagne and 110 ft per year in the Bayou Moreau area (CEC 2012). The increased losses occurred in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005 as the breaches remained open for an extended length of time (Figure 2). The losses were exacerbated by Tropical Storm Fay and Hurricanes Gustav and Ike in 2008 (CEC 2012; USACE 2012). Significant prolonged breaches greatly increase the net export of sediment from the headland (CEC 2012).

In addition to the shoreline migration, the area is also experiencing high loss rates of interior marshes. As the beach and dune continue to migrate landward, overwashed sediment will be lost into newly formed open water and land loss rates will increase. The subunit land loss rate is estimated at -1.47%/yr. The continued deterioration of Caminada Headland threatens thousands of acres of wetland habitat as well as critical infrastructure, including Port Fourchon, LA Highway 1, and the lower Lafourche levee system.

Figure 2. Areas of Caminada Headland breached by Hurricane Katrina.

The purpose of the BA-171 project is to restore the geomorphic function and unique critical and essential habitats of the Caminada Headland's barrier system and reverse the current trend of degradation on the Caminada Headland. Restoration efforts would target ecologically distinct, critical, high priority areas that would increase sustainability with essential form and function of the natural barrier ecosystem. The goals and objectives for the BA-171 project restoring the Caminada Headland back barrier marsh include:

- Create 248 acres and nourish 137 acres of emergent back barrier marsh by pumping sediment from a borrow site approximately 1.5 miles offshore
- Create a platform upon which the beach and dune can migrate, reducing the likelihood of breaching, increasing the retention of overwashed sediment, improving the longevity of the barrier shoreline, and protecting wetlands and infrastructure to the north and west.
- Slow the current trend of degradation in the headland.

The marsh creation and nourishment cells were designed to minimize impacts on existing marsh and mangroves. Assuming that there would be some natural recruitment, vegetative plantings are not planned until years 1 and 3 and will be at a density of 50%. Containment dikes will be degraded or gapped by year 3, as needed, to allow access for estuarine organisms. The marsh creation design was broken into four (4) components: the marsh creation fill area, the earthen containment dikes, the dredge borrow area, and the dredge pipeline alignments (Figure 3).

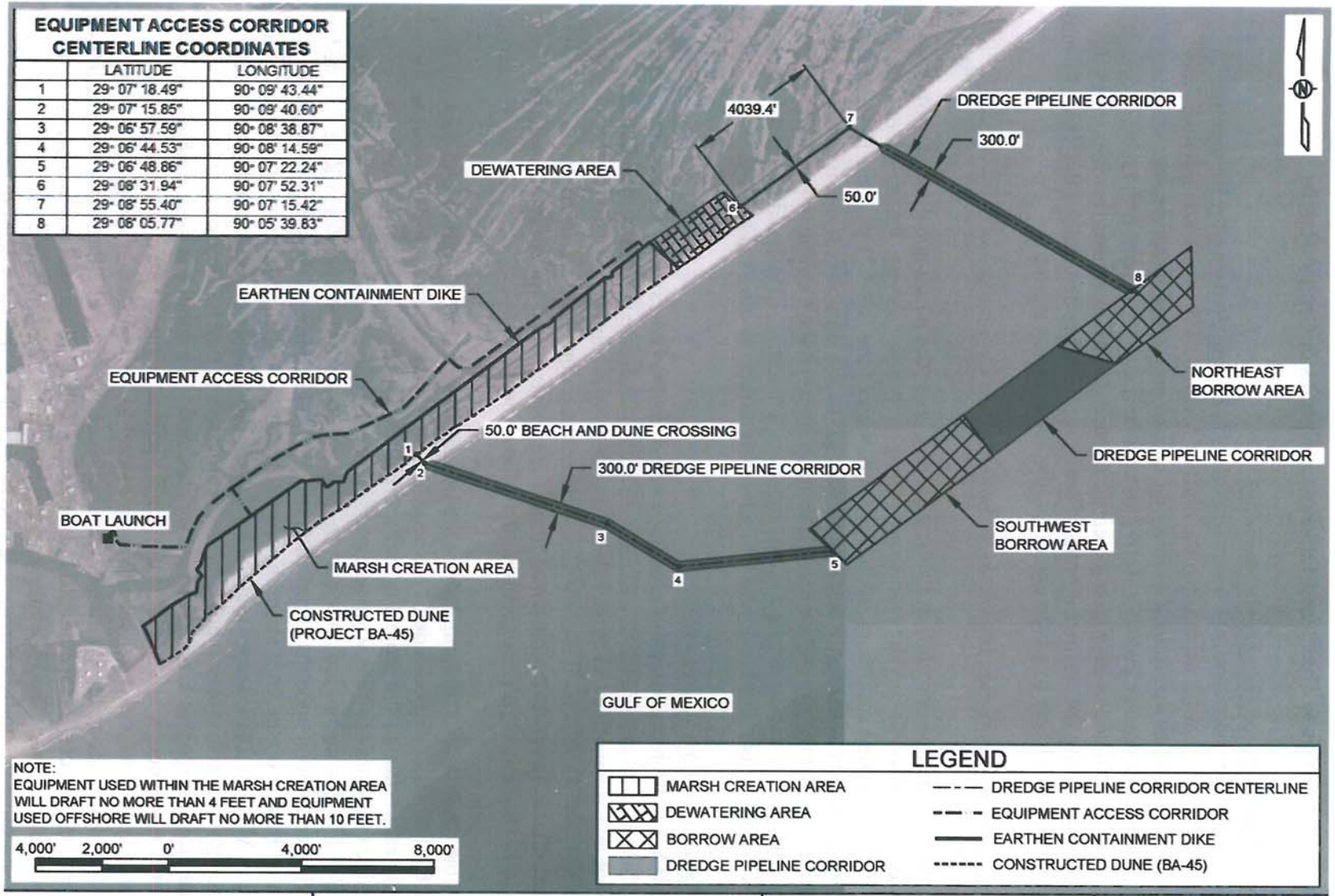


Figure 3. BA-171 Project layout, June 2018.

Potential Impacts Analysis to Threatened/Endangered Species or Critical Habitat

West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus)*

BA-171 includes both land and water activities, including dredging for fill material approximately 1.5 miles offshore in the Gulf of Mexico. EPA does not anticipate any impacts to manatees due to lack of foraging habitat and a freshwater source. Standard Manatee Conditions for In-water Activities will be included as part of the project design and should avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to any manatees that may enter the project area during the warmer months. Therefore, EPA has determined that BA-171 may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, the West Indian manatee.

Kemp's Ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*) and Loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*)

The dredge pipeline corridors are 50 ft wide and cross the beach and dune area of BA-45 to access the BA-171 marsh creation area from the borrow source. This corridor will be returned to existing conditions upon the completion of the BA-171 project. The area of potential impacts to sea turtle nesting is small, given the limited corridor for the dredge pipeline and that the turtles have access to other areas of the Caminada Headland. Currently, sea turtles do not nest in this location. Therefore, EPA has determined that BA-171 may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, nesting sea turtles.

Red Knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*)

The BA-171 project consists of creating a marsh on the back side of the existing beach and dune habitat created by BA-45. BA-171 will not create additional beach or dune habitat, but is beneficial to those habitats by creating a platform for the beach and dune material to roll back on. Thus, the BA-45 beach and dune material is not lost to open water. Figure 4 depicts the proposed project area where open water areas would be converted to marsh with implementation of the project.

Suitable roosting and foraging habitat are located on the Gulf shoreline, and the only suitable habitat on the bayside of the headland is a relatively small mudflat area in the southwest portion of the project area (Figure 4) (less than 0.25 acres). The dredge pipeline corridors are 50 ft wide and cross the beach and dune area of BA-45 to access the BA-171 marsh creation area from the borrow source. That corridor will be returned to existing conditions upon the completion of the BA-171 project; thus, any impacts to suitable habitat on the Gulf shoreline would be temporary. In addition, a field visit to the area on May 11, 2018, shows that the habitat on the bayside of the created dune (along the length of marsh creation polygon) has vegetated so that it is currently in a successional stage that is not preferred by red knots. The small bayside mudflat would be the only permanently affected area of suitable habitat, which if avoided, would also eventually become vegetated and no longer suitable. Given the abundance of nearby suitable habitat along the Caminada Headland and at West Belle Pass, any birds utilizing the project area could disperse into nearby habitats that are located within normal daily movement patterns. The following conditions exist: 1) the pipeline corridor along the Gulf shoreline would be temporary, 2) the habitat along the bayside of the dune is in a non-preferred successional stage, 3) the small mudflat would eventually become

vegetated (and thus, unsuitable), and 4) birds would not be forced to disperse beyond normal daily movement patterns. Because of these listed conditions, EPA has determined that BA-171 may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, the red knot.

Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) or its designated critical habitat

The BA-171 project consists of creating a marsh on the back side of the existing beach and dune habitat created by BA-45. BA-171 will not create beach or dune habitat, but is beneficial to those habitats by creating a platform for the beach and dune material to roll back on. Thus, the BA-45 beach and dune material is not lost to open water. Figure 4 depicts the proposed project area where open water areas would be converted to marsh with implementation of the project.

Suitable roosting and foraging habitat are located on the Gulf shoreline, and the only suitable habitat on the bayside of the headland is a relatively small mudflat area in the southwest portion of the project area (Figure 4) (less than 0.25 acres). The dredge pipeline corridors are 50 ft wide and cross the beach and dune area of BA-45 to access the BA-171 marsh creation area from the borrow source. That corridor will be returned to existing conditions upon the completion of the BA-171 project; thus, any impacts to suitable habitat on the Gulf shoreline would be temporary. In addition, a field visit to the area on May 11, 2018, shows that the habitat on the bayside of the dune (along the length of marsh creation polygon) has vegetated so that it is currently in a successional stage that is not preferred by piping plovers. The small bayside mudflat would be the only permanently affected area of suitable habitat, which if avoided, would also eventually become vegetated and no longer suitable. Given the abundance of nearby suitable habitat along the Caminada Headland and at West Belle Pass, any birds utilizing the project area could disperse into nearby habitats that are located within normal daily movement patterns. The following conditions exist: 1) the pipeline corridor along the Gulf shoreline would be temporary, 2) the habitat along the bayside of the dune is in a non-preferred successional stage, 3) the small mudflat would eventually become vegetated (and thus, unsuitable), and 4) birds would not be forced to disperse beyond normal daily movement patterns. Because of these listed conditions, EPA has determined that BA-171 may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, the piping plover.

The BA-171 project area occurs within Unit LA-5 of designated critical habitat for the piping plover. Piping plover critical habitat consists of primary constituent elements (PCEs) that provide for piping plover life-history processes and are essential for conservation of the species. PCEs of wintering piping plover critical habitat include sand or mud flats (or both) with no or sparse emergent vegetation. Adjacent unvegetated or sparsely vegetated sand, mud, or algal flats above high tide are also important PCEs for roosting piping plovers. PCEs of the beach/dune ecosystem include surf-cast algae, natural wrack, sparsely vegetated back beach and salterns, spits, and over-wash areas. Over-wash areas are broad, unvegetated zones, with little or no topographic relief, that are formed and maintained by the action of hurricanes, storm surge, or other extreme wave action.

As stated in the earlier paragraph, the only mudflat habitat within the project area is a small area (less than 0.25 acres) (Figure 4) in the southwest portion of the BA-171 marsh creation polygon where current conditions demonstrate that it is vegetating into a successional stage that is not preferred piping plover habitat. In addition, other areas of the polygon (as indicated by the earlier paragraph) are currently in transition to a successional stage of non-preferred habitat because of the increase in vegetation. In this case, the PCEs for piping plover habitat do not exist or are in such small amounts that piping plovers would move to other, more preferred areas of the beach and dune to roost and forage. Effects of the pipeline corridor on the Gulf shoreline would consist of the necessary equipment and personnel required to install the dredge pipeline, maintain it during construction, and then remove it post-construction. Disturbance to natural wrack would be kept to a minimum to maintain the beach in natural conditions. The pipeline corridor would then be returned to pre-project conditions to the maximum extent practicable. Thus, any impacts to the beach and dune would be temporary and would not disrupt or permanently affect the natural coastal processes that maintain PCEs of critical habitat. Therefore, EPA has determined that BA-171 may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, designated critical habitat for the piping plover.

References

Coastal Engineering Consultants, Inc. (CEC) 2012. Caminada Headland Beach and Dune Restoration (BA-45), Headland Restoration Template Alternatives Analysis Report. CPRA Contract No. 2503-10-16. Submitted to the Office of Coastal Restoration and Protection, Jan. 27, 2012.

Martinez, L., S. O'Brien, M. Bethel, S. Penland, & M. Kulp. 2009. Louisiana Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM). Vol. 2: Shoreline Changes and Barrier Island Land Loss 1800's – 2005. USGS and Pontchartrain Institute for Environmental Sciences, University of New Orleans. 32 pp.

Penland, S., P. F. Connor, Jr., A. Beall, S. Fearnley, & S. J. Williams. 2005. Changes in Louisiana's Shoreline: 1855 – 2002. *J. Coastal Research, Special Issue* (44): 7-39.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. (USACE) 2012. "Integrated Construction Report and Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Barataria Basin Barrier Shoreline Restoration" Marsh (BBBS Report). 2012. p3-71

Williams, S. J., S. Penland, & A. H. Sallenger, Jr., (eds.), 1992. Atlas of Shoreline Changes in Louisiana. Reston, Virginia. US Geological Survey, Miscellaneous 1-2150-A. 103 pp.

Figure 4. BA-171 Marsh Creation Polygon. The green circle indicates the approximate location of the mudflat under current conditions as of May 11, 2018.

Endangered Species Act (ESA) Project Review and Guidance for Other Federal Trust Resources Report

Instructions

Based on the information provided, this project requires further review. You may submit your project information to lafayette@fws.gov.

Please include the following information with your submission:

- a copy of this report
- project contact name and number
- project location in latitude and longitude, including staging areas if appropriate
- approximate date for project to begin and end
- full project description of work to be completed
- any other information that may be helpful for our review process

Contact the Louisiana Ecological Services Office at (337) 291-3100 for further assistance.

Project Description: Caminada Headlands Back Barrier Marsh Creation #1 (BA-171)

Requesting Agency: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Project Coordinates: Latitude: Longitude:

Point of Contact: Sharon Osowski

Address: 1445 Ross Ave

City: Dallas **State:** Texas **Zip Code:** 75202

Phone Number 1: 214-665-7506 **Phone Number 2:** _____

Email Address: osowski.sharon@epa.gov

Does the proposed action only involve telecommunication structure(s)?

No

Would the proposed action occur entirely within an existing footprint or rights-of-way (ROW)?

No

Would any portion of the proposed action occur within one of these areas of interest?

Yes

Red Knot

Would the proposed action involve human disturbance or ground disturbance (such as foot traffic, vehicles, tracked equipment, excavating, grading, placing fill material, etc.)?

Yes

Would the proposed action result in impacts to foraging habitat (sandy beaches, tidal mudflats, salt marshes, and peat banks) or roosting habitat (for example reefs, high sand flats, or sites protected from high tides)?

Yes

Would the proposed action result in long-term impacts (effects lasting up to 6 months or more) to foraging or roosting habitat?

Yes

Conclusion:
May affect, send project in for further review

West Indian Manatee

Does the proposed action fall within the manatee consultation zone, excluding the Mississippi River (see map), and involve in-water activities, with depths of at least 2 feet, during the months of June through November?

Yes

Is the proposed action's footprint entirely on land?

No

Would the proposed action involve in-water activities, with depths of at least 2 feet, during the months of June through November?

Yes

Would the following Standard Manatee Conditions for in-Water Activities be included within the project design?

Yes

Standard Manatee Conditions for In-water Activities

During in-water work in areas that potentially support manatees all personnel associated with the project should be instructed about the potential presence of manatees, manatee speed zones, and the need to avoid collisions with and injury to manatees. All personnel should be advised that there are civil and criminal penalties for harming, harassing, or killing manatees which are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 and the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Additionally, personnel should be instructed not to attempt to feed or otherwise interact with the animal, although passively taking pictures or video would be acceptable.

All on-site personnel are responsible for observing water-related activities for the presence of manatee(s). We recommend the following to minimize potential impacts to manatees in areas of their potential presence:

- All work, equipment, and vessel operation should cease if a manatee is spotted within a 50-foot radius (buffer zone) of the active work area. Once the manatee has left the buffer zone on its own accord (manatees must not be herded or harassed into leaving), or after 30 minutes have passed without additional sightings of manatee(s) in the buffer zone, in-water work can resume under careful observation for manatee(s).
- If a manatee(s) is sighted in or near the project area, all vessels associated with the project should operate at "no wake/idle" speeds within the construction area and at all times while in waters where the draft of the vessel provides less than a four-foot clearance from the bottom. Vessels should follow routes of deep water whenever possible.
- If used, siltation or turbidity barriers should be properly secured, made of material in which manatees cannot become entangled, and be monitored to avoid manatee entrapment or impeding their movement.

- Temporary signs concerning manatees should be posted prior to and during all in-water project activities and removed upon completion. Each vessel involved in construction activities should display at the vessel control station or in a prominent location, visible to all employees operating the vessel, a temporary sign at least 8½ " X 11" reading language similar to the following: "CAUTION BOATERS: MANATEE AREA/ IDLE SPEED IS REQUIRED IN CONSRUCTION AREA AND WHERE THERE IS LESS THAN FOUR FOOT BOTTOM CLEARANCE WHEN MANATEE IS PRESENT". A second temporary sign measuring 8½ " X 11" should be posted at a location prominently visible to all personnel engaged in water-related activities and should read language similar to the following: "CAUTION: MANATEE AREA/ EQUIPMENT MUST BE SHUTDOWN IMMEDIATELY IF A MANATEE COMES WITHIN 50 FEET OF OPERATION".
- Collisions with, injury to, or sightings of manatees should be immediately reported to the Service's Louisiana Ecological Services Office (337/291-3100) and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Natural Heritage Program (225/765-2821). Please provide the nature of the call (i.e., report of an incident, manatee sighting, etc.); time of incident/sighting; and the approximate location, including the latitude and longitude coordinates, if possible.

Conclusion:
We have determined that the proposed action is not likely to adversely affect the West Indian Manatee.

_____ _____

Project Representative *Date*

Piping Plover

Would the proposed action involve human disturbance or ground disturbance (such as foot traffic, vehicles, tracked equipment, excavating, grading, placing fill material, etc.)?

Yes

Would the proposed action result in impacts to foraging habitat (intertidal beaches, sand, mud, or algal flats, between annual low tide and annual high tide) or roosting habitat (unvegetated or sparsely vegetated dune systems, sand, mud, or algal flats above high tide)?

Yes

Would all, or portions of, the proposed action be located in piping plover critical habitat (see map)?

Yes

Would the proposed action result in long-term impacts (effects lasting up to 6 months or more) to piping plover critical habitat?

Yes

Conclusion:
May affect, send project in for further review

Sea Turtles

Would the proposed action result in long-term impacts (effects lasting up to 6 months or more) to nesting habitat (sandy beaches)?

No

Would the proposed action be conducted during the sea turtle nesting season (April 15 – October 31)?

Yes

Conclusion:
May affect, send project in for further review

Migratory Bird Conservation Recommendations

Bald Eagle

The proposed project area may provide nesting habitat for the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), which was officially removed from the List of Endangered and Threatened Species as of August 8, 2007. However, the bald eagle remains protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) (54 Stat. 250, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 668a-d) and theMigratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) (40 Stat. 755, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 703 et seq.) The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) has not collected comprehensive bald eagle survey data since 2008, and new active, inactive, or alternate nests may have been constructed within the proposed project area since that time.

The Service developed the National Bald Eagle Management (NBEM) Guidelines to provide landowners, land managers, and others with information and recommendations to minimize potential project impacts to bald eagles, particularly where such impacts may constitute "disturbance," which is prohibited by the BGEPA. A copy of the NBEM Guidelines is available at:

http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/pdf/management/nationalbaldeaglenanagementguidelines.pdf

In southern Louisiana parishes, eagles typically nest in mature trees (e.g., baldcypress, sycamore, willow, etc.) near fresh to intermediate marshes or open water. Bald eagles may also nest in mature pine trees near large lakes in central and northern Louisiana. If a bald eagle nest occurs or is discovered within 660 feet of the proposed project area, then an evaluation must be performed to determine whether the project is likely to disturb nesting bald eagles. That evaluation may be conducted on-line at: https://www.fws.gov/southeast/our-services/eagle-technical-assistance. Following completion of the evaluation, that website will provide a determination of whether additional consultation is necessary.

Colonial Waterbirds

In accordance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (as amended), please be advised should the project area be located in or near wetland habitats which may be inhabited by colonial nesting waterbirds and/or seabirds, additional restrictions may be necessary.

Colonies may be present that are not currently listed in the database maintained by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. That database is updated primarily by (1) monitoring previously known colony sites and (2) augmenting point-to-point surveys with flyovers of adjacent suitable habitat. Although several comprehensive coast-wide surveys have been recently conducted to determine the location of newly-established nesting colonies, we recommend that a qualified biologist inspect the proposed work site for the presence of undocumented nesting colonies during the nesting season because some waterbird colonies may change locations year-to-year. To minimize disturbance to colonial nesting birds please refer to our colonial nesting waterbird guidance on the LESO Webpage https://www.fws.gov/lafayette/Migratory_Birds/MigBird.html.

Additional Migratory Bird Conservation Recommendations

During the project impact analysis process developers should identify project-related impacts to migratory birds and the conservation measures that will be used to mitigate them. For additional Migratory Bird Conservation recommendations, guidance and tools to help reduce impacts to birds and their habitats please visit the LESO webpage https://www.fws.gov/lafayette/Migratory_Birds/MigBird.html and the Service's Migratory Bird Program Webpage (https://www.fws.gov/birds/bird-enthusiasts/threats-to-birds/collisions/communication-towers.php).

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS TX 75202-2733

May 17, 2019

Mr. Joseph A. Ranson
Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Louisiana Ecological Services Office
646 Cajundome Blvd., Suite 400
Lafayette, LA 70506

RE: Modification to the Caminada Headland Back Barrier Marsh Creation project (BA-171) funded by the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA), Endangered Species Act, Section 7 Determination

Dear Mr. Ranson:

On July 12, 2018 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's concurred with the Environmental Protection Agency's determination that the Caminada Headland Back Barrier Marsh Creation project (BA-171) "may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect" the West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*), Kemp's Ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*), Loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*), Red Knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), and the Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) or its designated critical habitat. Since that date the BA-171 project area has been modified to include an additional 543 acres of back barrier marsh from the adjacent Caminada Headland Back Barrier Marsh Creation, Increment 2 project (BA-193) which currently does not contain any suitable habitat for red knots or piping plovers.

Effects of the pipeline corridor on the Gulf shoreline would consist of the necessary equipment and personnel required to install the dredge pipeline, maintain it during construction, and then remove it post-construction. Disturbance to natural wrack would be kept to a minimum to maintain the beach in natural conditions. The pipeline corridor would then be returned to pre-project conditions to the maximum extent practicable. Thus, any impacts to the beach and dune would be temporary and would not disrupt or permanently affect the natural coastal processes that maintain primary constituent elements of critical habitat. Therefore, the EPA has determined that the modified BA-171 project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, critical habitat for the Red Knot and the Piping Plover.

If you require further assistance or have questions regarding our determination, please contact Adrian Chavarria (214-665-3103; Chavarria.adrian@epa.gov) or Dr. Sharon L. Osowski (214-665-7506; Osowski.sharon@epa.gov) of my staff.

This project has been reviewed for effects to Federal trust resources under our jurisdiction and currently protected by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act.) The project, as proposed,

Is not Likely to adversely effect those resources

20 May 19

Supervisor Date
Louisiana Ecological Services Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Sincerely,

Charles W. Maguire
Director
Water Division

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 03, 2018

TO: Caminada Headlands Back Barrier Marsh Creation (BA-171) Project File

FROM: Sharon L. Osowski, Ph.D.; Marine, Coastal, and Analysis Section (6WQ-EC)

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Sea Turtles Near Water Operations for BA-171

The Environmental Protection Agency Region 6 has made the determination, that the Caminada Headlands Back Barrier Marsh Creation project (BA-171) "may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the Kemp's Ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*) and the Loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*).

The Caminada Headlands Back Barrier Marsh Creation project proposes to restore the geomorphic function, essential habitats, and reverse the current trend of degradation. The goals and objectives for BA-171 include:

- Create 248 acres and nourish 137 acres of emergent back barrier marsh by pumping sediment from a borrow site approximately 1.5 miles offshore
- Create a platform upon which the beach and dune can migrate, reducing the likelihood of breaching, increasing the retention of overwashed sediment, improving the longevity of the barrier shoreline, and protecting wetlands and infrastructure to the north and west.
- Slow the current trend of degradation in the headland.

The marsh creation design was broken into four (4) components: the marsh creation fill area, the earthen containment dikes, the dredge borrow area, and the dredge pipeline alignments. This memo addresses potential impacts to sea turtles in or near the dredge borrow area and dredging operations (i.e., using hydraulic cutterhead dredges).

Our determination that BA-171 will not adversely affect the two species of sea turtles is based on information that hydraulic cutterhead dredges have never been implicated in sea turtles "takes" and information found in a NOAA Consultation and Biological Opinion (BO) from 2003 (Number F/SER/2003/01247). EPA believes that the proposed activities associated with BA-171 are consistent with the BO and the "may affect, not likely to adversely affect" determination.

The specific section of the BO that applies to the BA-171 project is found on page 36 of the Consultation/Biological Opinion and is cited below:

> "The primary direct effect of the proposed action is hopper-dredging activities on sea turtles. Hydraulic cutterhead pipeline dredges have never been implicated in turtle takes, presumably because the slow moving cutterhead is readily discerned and easily avoided by these species. Additionally, numerous previous opinions issued by NMFS to the COE since 1991 in both the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico COE districts, hydraulic cutterhead pipeline dredge use has been determined to be unlikely to adversely affect any listed species under NMFS' purview; therefore, hydraulic cutterhead dredges will not be considered further in this opinion. This opinion will only consider hopper-dredging effects on listed species potentially present during the Ship Shoal proposed action.[3]"

Footnote 3: “Hopper dredges, which are frequently used in ocean bar channels and sometimes in harbor channels and offshore sand mining areas, move relatively rapidly and can entrain and kill sea turtles, presumably as the drag arm of the moving dredge overtakes the slower moving turtle. In contrast to hopper dredges, pipeline dredges are relatively stationary, and therefore act on only small areas at any given time. In the 1980s, observer coverage was required by NMFS at pipeline outflows during several dredging projects deploying pipeline dredges along the Atlantic coast.

No turtles or turtle parts were observed in the outflow areas. Additionally, the COE’s South Atlantic Division (SAD) office in Atlanta, Georgia, charged with overseeing the work of the individual COE Districts along the Eastern Seaboard from North Carolina through Florida, provided documentation of hundreds of hours of informal observation by COE inspectors during which no takes of listed species were observed. Additional monitoring by other agency personnel, conservation organizations, and the general public has never resulted in reports of turtle takes by pipeline dredges (NMFS 1991a).”

From: Daniel R. Ragle
To: Aldridge, Barbara
Subject: RE: Caminada Headland Back Barrier March Creation
Date: Thursday, October 13, 2016 9:56:29 AM
Attachments: image001.gif
image002.jpg

Thank you for the correspondence regarding the above referenced project. Although this project has passed the 30 day response limit and may or may not have already been completed, we ask that our office be contacted if any Native American cultural materials or remains are encountered. If you have any questions, please contact me by email.

Daniel Ragle
Compliance Review Officer
Historic Preservation Dept.
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
(800) 522-6170 Ext. 2727
dragle@choctawnation.com
www.choctawnation.com
www.choctawnationculture.com

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
646 Cajundome Blvd.
Suite 400
Lafayette, Louisiana 70506

November 21, 2016

Ms. Barbara Aldridge
NEPA Coordinator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 6, 6WQ-EC
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75202

Dear Ms. Aldridge:

The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) received the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) October 3, 2016, Solicitation of Views notice on October 11, 2016, regarding the preparation of a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Caminada Headland Back Barrier Marsh Creation – Increment II project (BA-193) in Lafourche Parish, Louisiana. That project is authorized and funded under the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) (104 Stat. 4779; 16 U.S.C. 3951 et seq.). The proposed project would involve creating and nourishing 444 acres of marsh north of and adjacent to approximately 4.5 miles of the Caminada Headland Beach and Dune Restoration Project – Increment II using sediment dredged from an offshore borrow source. The Service has reviewed the information provided and offers the following comments in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (83 Stat. 852; 42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) (40 Stat. 755, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 703 et seq.), the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA) (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.), and the Coastal Barrier Resources Act of 1982 (CBRA) (96 Stat. 1653, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.).

The recently constructed Caminada Headland Beach and Dune Restoration Project – Increments I and II has created habitat that supports federally listed species and nesting migratory birds. The Service recommends that the forthcoming draft EA for the subject marsh creation project include a thorough discussion of potential impacts to federally listed threatened and endangered species, migratory birds, and wetlands, as well as any compensatory mitigation and minimization measures that would be implemented for those resources. The Service provides the following information to aid the EPA in preparing their discussion of potential effects (both unfavorable and beneficial) to those resources.

Federally Listed Species

West Indian manatee

The endangered West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*) is known to regularly occur in Lakes Pontchartrain and Maurepas and their associated coastal waters and streams. It also can be

found less regularly in other Louisiana coastal areas, most likely while the average water temperature is warm. Based on data maintained by the Louisiana Natural Heritage Program (LNHP), over 80 percent of reported manatee sightings (1999-2011) in Louisiana have occurred from the months of June through December. Manatee occurrences in Louisiana appear to be increasing and they have been regularly reported in the Amite, Blind, Tchefuncte, and Tickfaw Rivers, and in canals within the adjacent coastal marshes of southeastern Louisiana. Manatees may also infrequently be observed in the Mississippi River and coastal areas of southwestern Louisiana. Cold weather and outbreaks of red tide may adversely affect these animals. However, human activity is the primary cause for declines in species number due to collisions with boats and barges, entrapment in flood control structures, poaching, habitat loss, and pollution.

During in-water work in areas that potentially support manatees all personnel associated with the project should be instructed about the potential presence of manatees, manatee speed zones, and the need to avoid collisions with and injury to manatees. All personnel should be advised that there are civil and criminal penalties for harming, harassing, or killing manatees which are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 and the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Additionally, personnel should be instructed not to attempt to feed or otherwise interact with the animal, although passively taking pictures or video would be acceptable.

- All on-site personnel are responsible for observing water-related activities for the presence of manatee(s). We recommend the following to minimize potential impacts to manatees in areas of their potential presence:

- All work, equipment, and vessel operation should cease if a manatee is spotted within a 50-foot radius (buffer zone) of the active work area. Once the manatee has left the buffer zone on its own accord (manatees must not be herded or harassed into leaving), or after 30 minutes have passed without additional sightings of manatee(s) in the buffer zone, in-water work can resume under careful observation for manatee(s).

- If a manatee(s) is sighted in or near the project area, all vessels associated with the project should operate at "no wake/idle" speeds within the construction area and at all times while in waters where the draft of the vessel provides less than a four-foot clearance from the bottom. Vessels should follow routes of deep water whenever possible.

- If used, siltation or turbidity barriers should be properly secured, made of material in which manatees cannot become entangled, and be monitored to avoid manatee entrapment or impeding their movement.

- Temporary signs concerning manatees should be posted prior to and during all in-water project activities and removed upon completion. Each vessel involved in construction activities should display at the vessel control station or in a prominent location, visible to all employees operating the vessel, a temporary sign at least 8½ " X 11" reading language similar to the following: "CAUTION BOATERS: MANATEE AREA/ IDLE SPEED IS REQUIRED IN CONSRUCTION AREA AND WHERE THERE IS LESS THAN FOUR FOOT BOTTOM CLEARANCE WHEN MANATEE IS PRESENT". A second

temporary sign measuring 8½ " X 11" should be posted at a location prominently visible to all personnel engaged in water-related activities and should read language similar to the following: "CAUTION: MANATEE AREA/ EQUIPMENT MUST BE SHUTDOWN IMMEDIATELY IF A MANATEE COMES WITHIN 50 FEET OF OPERATION".

- Collisions with, injury to, or sightings of manatees should be immediately reported to the Service's Louisiana Ecological Services Office (337/291-3100) and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Natural Heritage Program (225/765-2821). Please provide the nature of the call (i.e., report of an incident, manatee sighting, etc.); time of incident/sighting; and the approximate location, including the latitude and longitude coordinates, if possible.

Should a proposed action directly or indirectly affect the West Indian manatee, further consultation with this office will be necessary.

Piping Plover

Both the threatened piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*) and its designated critical habitat occur along the Caminada headland within and/or in the vicinity of the proposed project area. The piping plover is a small (7 inches long), pale, sand-colored shorebird that winters in coastal Louisiana and may be present for 8 to 10 months annually. Piping plovers arrive from their northern breeding grounds as early as late July and remain until late March or April. They feed on polychaete marine worms, various crustaceans, insects and their larvae, and bivalve mollusks that they peck from the top of or just beneath the sand. Piping plovers forage on intertidal beaches, mudflats, sand flats, algal flats, and wash-over passes with no or very sparse emergent vegetation. They roost in unvegetated or sparsely vegetated areas, which may have debris, detritus, or micro-topographic relief offering refuge to plovers from high winds and cold weather. They also forage and roost in wrack (i.e., seaweed or other marine vegetation) deposited on beaches. In most areas, wintering piping plovers are dependent on a mosaic of sites distributed throughout the landscape, because the suitability of a particular site for foraging or roosting is dependent on local weather and tidal conditions. Plovers move among sites as environmental conditions change, and studies have indicated that they generally remain within a 2-mile area. Major threats to this species include the loss and degradation of habitat due to development, disturbance by humans and pets, and predation.

On July 10, 2001, the Service designated critical habitat for wintering piping plovers (Federal Register Volume 66, No. 132); a map of the seven critical habitat units in Louisiana can be found at http://criticalhabitat.fws.gov/crithab. Their designated critical habitat identifies specific areas that are essential to the conservation of the species. The physical and biological features (PBFs) for piping plover wintering habitat are those habitat components that support foraging, roosting, and sheltering and the physical features necessary for maintaining the natural processes that support those habitat components. The PBFs are found in geologically dynamic coastal areas that contain intertidal beaches and flats (between annual low tide and annual high tide), and associated dune systems and flats above annual high tide. Important components of intertidal flats include sand and/or mud flats with no or very sparse emergent vegetation. Adjacent

unvegetated or sparsely vegetated sand, mud, or algal flats above high tide are also important, especially for roosting plovers.

Further consultation with this office will be necessary if the proposed action may directly or indirectly affect the piping plover and/or its designated critical habitat.

Red Knot

The threatened red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*) also occurs along the Caminada headland within and/or adjacent to the proposed project area. The red knot is a medium-sized shorebird about 9 to 11 inches in length with a proportionately small head, small eyes, short neck, and short legs. The black bill tapers steadily from a relatively thick base to a relatively fine tip; bill length is not much longer than head length. Legs are typically dark gray to black, but sometimes greenish in juveniles or older birds in non-breeding plumage. Non-breeding plumage is dusky gray above and whitish below. The red knot breeds in the central Canadian arctic but is found in Louisiana during spring and fall migrations and the winter months (generally September through May).

During migration and on their wintering grounds, red knots forage along sandy beaches, tidal mudflats, salt marshes, and peat banks. Observations along the Texas coast indicate that red knots forage on beaches, oyster reefs, and exposed bay bottoms, and they roost on high sand flats, reefs, and other sites protected from high tides. In wintering and migration habitats, red knots commonly forage on bivalves, gastropods, and crustaceans. Coquina clams (*Donax variabilis*), a frequent and often important food resource for red knots, are common along many gulf beaches. Major threats to this species along the Gulf of Mexico include the loss and degradation of habitat due to erosion, shoreline stabilization, and development; disturbance by humans and pets; and predation.

If implementation of the proposed action has the potential to directly or indirectly affect the red knot or its habitat, further consultation with this office will be necessary.

Sea Turtles

There are five species of federally listed threatened or endangered sea turtles that forage in the near shore waters, bays, and estuaries of Louisiana. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is responsible for aquatic marine threatened or endangered species that occur in the marine environment. Please contact Kelly Shotts (727-824-5312) at the NMFS Regional Office in St. Petersburg, Florida, for information concerning those species in the marine environment.

When sea turtles leave the marine environment and come onshore to nest, the Service is responsible for those species. Two species, the threatened loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*) and the endangered Kemp's ridley *(Lepidochelys kempii*) could potentially nest in Louisiana during the summer months (i.e., May through November). Historical records indicate that loggerheads nested on the Chandeleur Islands and recent data indicate rare nesting attempts along Fourchon Beach in Lafourche Parish. The Kemp's ridley is known to nest in coastal Texas and Alabama; thus, nesting attempts could possibly occur in Louisiana as that species achieves recovery. The primary threats to nesting beaches include coastal development and construction,

placement of erosion control structures and other barriers to nesting, beachfront lighting, vehicular and pedestrian traffic, sand extraction, beach erosion, beach nourishment, beach pollution, removal of native vegetation, and planting of non-native vegetation (Service 2007). We recommend that you contact this office if your activities would occur on coastal beaches during the summer months (i.e., May through November).

Migratory Birds

In accordance with the MBTA, please be advised that the project area is located adjacent to and contains habitats which are commonly inhabited by colonial nesting waterbirds and/or seabirds. Colonies may be present that are not currently listed in the database maintained by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. That database is updated primarily by (1) monitoring previously known colony sites and (2) augmenting point-to-point surveys with flyovers of adjacent suitable habitat. Although several comprehensive coast-wide surveys have been recently conducted to determine the location of newly-established nesting colonies, we recommend that a qualified biologist inspect the proposed work site for the presence of undocumented nesting colonies during the nesting season because some waterbird colonies may change locations year-to-year. To minimize disturbance to colonial nesting birds, the following restrictions on activity should be observed:

1. For colonies containing nesting brown pelicans, all activity occurring within 2,000 feet of a rookery should be restricted to the non-nesting period (i.e., September 15 through March 31). Nesting periods vary considerably among Louisiana's brown pelican colonies, however, so it is possible that this activity window could be altered based upon the dynamics of the individual colony. Brown pelicans are known to nest on barrier islands and other coastal islands in St. Bernard, Plaquemines, Jefferson, Lafourche, and Terrebonne Parishes, and on Rabbit Island in lower Calcasieu Lake, in Cameron Parish.

2. For colonies containing nesting wading birds (i.e., herons, egrets, night-herons, ibis, and roseate spoonbills), anhingas, and/or cormorants, all activity occurring within 1,000 feet of a rookery should be restricted to the non-nesting period (i.e., September 1 through February 15, exact dates may vary within this window depending on species present).

3. For colonies containing nesting gulls, terns, and/or black skimmers, all activity occurring within 650 feet of a rookery should be restricted to the non-nesting period (i.e., September 16 through April 1, exact dates may vary within this window depending on species present).

In addition, we recommend that on-site contract personnel be trained to identify colonial nesting birds and their nests, and avoid affecting them during the breeding season (i.e., the time period outside the activity window).

Given the nature of the project and potential issues with timing and logistics, the Service realizes that the EPA may not be able to ensure that the nesting season is avoided during project construction. If that situation occurs the EPA should develop an abatement plan, in coordination with the Service, to discourage birds from nesting in proposed construction areas. Please note

that the abatement measures would need to begin prior to the nesting season and/or as soon as breeding behaviors are noticed (generally prior to February 15).

Wetlands

While the Service supports the proposed project and marsh creation using dredged material in general, we recommend that every effort be made to minimize impacts to nearby wetlands to the maximum extent practicable when planning the design and location of pipeline corridors, access corridors, and staging areas for construction equipment and personnel. Should unavoidable impacts to wetlands be anticipated, we recommend that the EPA include in the draft EA a discussion of how those unavoidable impacts would be mitigated, whether through additional project acreage onsite or through other methods.

CBRA

The CBRA is intended to protect fish and wildlife resources and habitat, prevent loss of human life, and preclude the expenditure of Federal funds that may induce development on coastal barrier islands and adjacent near-shore areas. The proposed project area would be located in CBRA Caminada Unit S03. We recommend that the EPA submit a request for our determination as to whether the proposed project would qualify for an exemption under the CBRA. The results of that determination should be included in the draft and/or final EA.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide scoping comments on the proposed project, and we look forward to continuing to work with the EPA as the NEPA process continues. If you have any question regarding the content of this scoping letter, please contact Ms. Brigette Firmin (337-291-3108) of the Service's Louisiana Ecological Services Office.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey D. Weller
Program Supervisor
Alabama, Arkansas,
Louisiana, and Mississippi

cc: NMFS, St. Petersburg, FL (Attn: Kelly Shotts)
NMFS, Baton Rouge, LA (Attn: Rick Hartman)
LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA (Attn: Kyle Balkum)
LDWF, Natural Heritage Program, Baton Rouge, LA (Attn: Beau Gregory)
CPRA, Baton Rouge, LA (Attn: Renee Bennett)

Literature Cited

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service). 2007. Loggerhead sea turtle (Caretta caretta) 5 year review: summary and evaluation. Jacksonville, FL.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505
http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov

November 2, 2016 F/SER46/RH:jk
225/389-0508

Ms. Barbara Aldridge
NEPA Coordinator
Environmental Protection Agency
Region 6, 6WQ-EC
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75202

Dear Ms. Aldridge:

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has received the October 3, 2016, Solicitation of Views (SOV) pertaining to the preparation of a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Caminada Headlands Back Barrier Marsh Creation, Increment 2 Project (BA-193). This wetland restoration project was funded for engineering and design under the auspices of the Coastal Wetlands Planning Protection and Restoration Act. The purpose of the project is to create and nourish 444 acres of marsh using sediments dredged from the Gulf of Mexico. This letter provides our recommendations on issues and resources NMFS believes should be addressed in the draft EA for the project.

To fully address essential fish habitat (EFH) and estuarine-dependent fisheries of the project area, we recommend the draft EA include sections entitled "Essential Fish Habitat" and "Fishery Resources" which describe the potential impacts and benefits of the project on the various categories of EFH and on marine fishery species within the project area. The EFH section should analyze the potential impacts and benefits of the project on federally managed species and life stages utilizing these categories of EFH and fully evaluate alternative measures to avoid, minimize, and offset adverse impacts to EFH and marine fishery species. Descriptive and analytical information, coupled with a statement of the agency's conclusions regarding the effects of the action on EFH and marine fishery species would provide the basic details necessary for an EFH assessment pursuant to the requirements of 50 CFR 600.920(e).

While NMFS supports the use of dredged material to create marsh, we are concerned about the potential for project implementation to result in the conversion of water bottoms and water column categorized as EFH to upland habitats. Such a loss of EFH would occur if supratidal elevations resulted from fill placement. The draft EA should identify initial and final elevations which are based on geotechnical analyses of site conditions from both borrow and marsh creation areas. The draft EA should provide a general description of the methodology supporting the geotechnical analysis. Additionally, the draft EA should discuss adaptive management actions which may be taken if fill placement results in elevations exceeding those of the target elevations.

The draft EA also should discuss the temporal loss of EFH resulting from the construction of containment dikes around the marsh creation area or the initial placement of dredged material to

supratidal elevations. The NMFS is not opposed to the initial creation of supratidal elevations if such is necessary to ensure the project maintains marsh for a reasonable length of time. However, the creation of supratidal elevations result in a temporal loss of EFH which should be described in the draft EA. Regarding the construction of the containment dikes, the document should identify the design and method of construction of containment dikes and discuss how, when, and where the dikes would be breached to restore tidal influence to the project area.

Please note that our Protected Resources Division is responsible for all issues regarding threatened and endangered species and marine mammals for which NMFS is responsible. Given the project and borrow source location, there may be potential issues related to sea turtles or marine mammals. The draft EA should analyze the potential impacts of the proposed project on endangered species and fully evaluate alternative measures to avoid adverse impacts to those species. For information regarding those resources and alternatives to minimize adverse impacts, please coordinate with Mr. David Bernhart of the NMFS' Protected Resources Division at (727) 824-5312.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this SOV. If you wish to discuss our comments further, please contact Richard Hartman of our Habitat Conservation Division, Baton Rouge Office at (225) 389-0508, ext. 203.

Sincerely,

Virginia M. Fay
Assistant Regional Administrator
Habitat Conservation Division

c:
FWS, Lafayette, Clark
EPA, Dallas, McCormick
NRCS, Paul
F/SER46, Swafford
LDNR Consistency, Haydel
Files

USDA

United States Department of Agriculture

July 31, 2018

Mr. Brad Crawford, P.E.
Environmental Engineer
Marine, Coastal and Analysis Section
US EPA (6WQ-EC)
1445 Ross Ave.
Dallas, Texas 75202

Dear Mr. Crawford:

RE: Caminada Headland Back Barrier Marsh Creation, Increment 2" BA-193

I am in receipt of your request for an overgrazing determination for the Caminada Headland Back Barrier Marsh Creation, Increment 2" BA-193. I contacted our local district conservationist to discuss the grazing in the project area. Currently, livestock are not grazing in the area, nor do we see a potential for grazing once the project is installed. Therefore, it is our opinion, overgrazing is not a problem in this project area. If you have any questions please let me know.

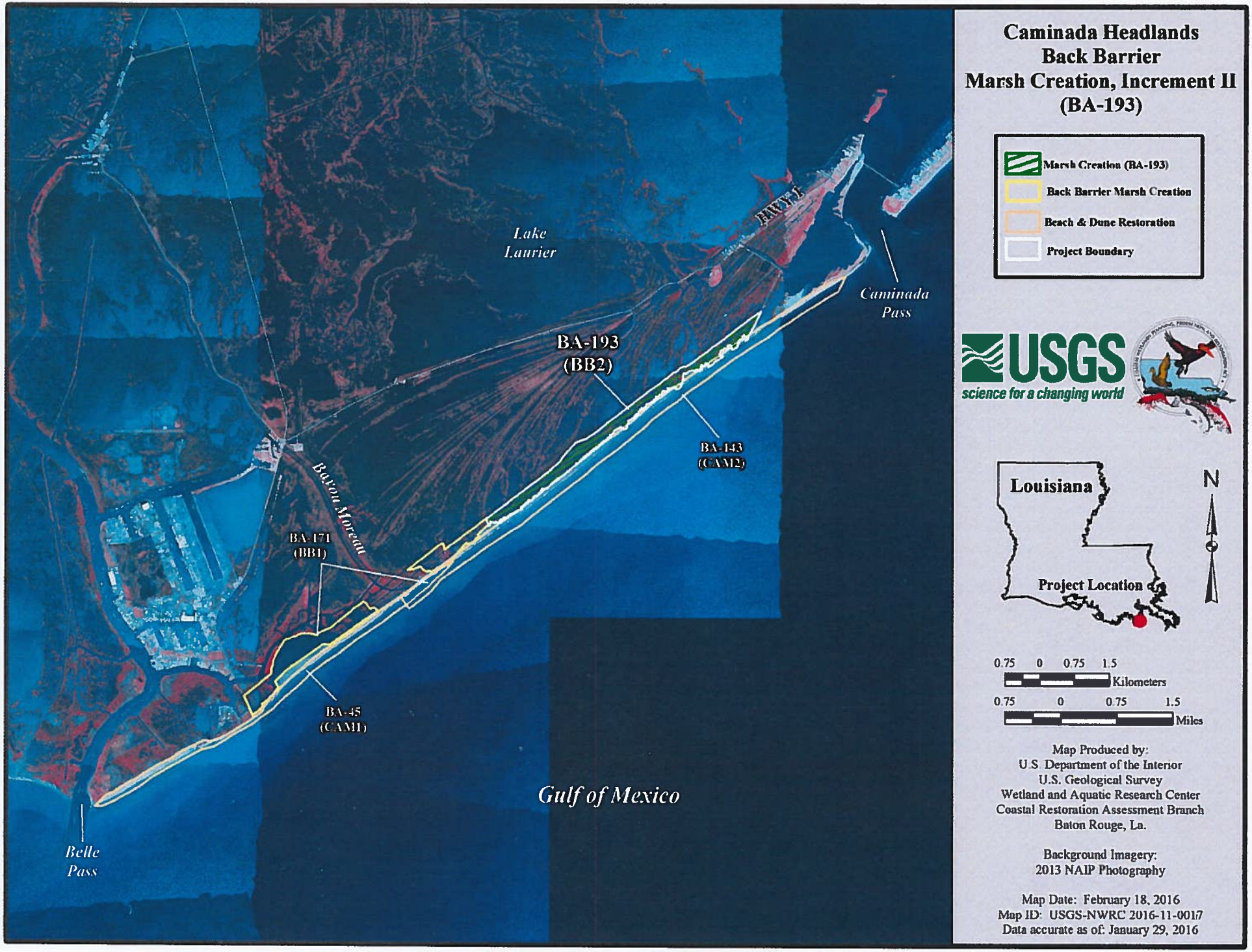
Sincerely,

W PAUL Digitally signed by W PAUL Date: 2018.07.31 07:39:53 -05'00'

W. Britt Paul
Assistant State Conservationist/Water Resources

Cc: (electronic distribution only)
Randolph Joseph, Assistant State Conservationist/Field Operations, Lafayette, Louisiana
John Boatman, District Conservationist, New Orleans, Louisiana
Quin Kinler, Resource Conservationist, Denham Springs, Louisiana

Natural Resources Conservation Service
State Office
3737 Government Street
Alexandria, Louisiana 71302
Voice: (318) 473-7751 Fax: (318) 473-7626


Caminada Headlands
Back Barrier
Marsh Creation, Increment II
(BA-193)
Marsh Creation (BA-193)
Back Barrier Marsh Creation
Beach & Dune Restoration
Project Boundary
Lake
Laurier
HWY 1
Caminada
Pass
BA-193
(BB2)
BA-143
(CAM2)
Bayou Moreau
BA-171
(BB1)
BA-45
(CAM1)
Gulf of Mexico
Belle
Pass
USGS
science for a changing world
Louisiana
Project Location
N
0.75 0 0.75 1.5
Kilometers
0.75 0 0.75 1.5
Miles
Map Produced by:
U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey
Wetland and Aquatic Research Center
Coastal Restoration Assessment Branch
Baton Rouge, La.
Background Imagery:
2013 NAIP Photography
Map Date: February 18, 2016
Map ID: USGS-NWRC 2016-11-0017
Data accurate as of: January 29, 2016

STATE OF LOUISIANA
COASTAL PROTECTION AND RESTORATION AUTHORITY

BA-193 CAMINADA HEADLAND BACK BARRIER MARSH CREATION PROJECT INCREMENT 2

EPA and Chitimacha Tribe Meeting Notes

Tuesday, February 13, 2018

A conference call between the EPA and Chitimacha Tribe Representative, Kim Walden occurred on February 13, 2018. CPRA was unable to attend since it was a State Holiday. The following information documents Ms. Walden in her February 13, 2018 e-mails. The permit being referred to is the USACE permit for geotechnical data collection dated May 10, 2017.

From: Kimberly Walden [mailto:kim@chitimacha.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2018 2:36 PM
To: Chavarria, Adrian <Chavarria.Adrian@epa.gov>
Cc: Renee Bennett (CPRA) <renee.s.bennett@la.gov>; Elizabeth Davoli <Elizabeth.Davoli@LA.GOV>
Subject: Re: BA-193 Caminada Headlands Back Barrier Marsh Creation #2 - repatriation of cultural site 16L271

Good afternoon,
Thank you for this afternoon's call regarding work near cultural site 16L271. As I stated, we also approve of the 100 ft. buffer (radius of the site) which was a condition of the permit.

In addition, we would like to have fencing installed between the site and the work area, establishing a no work zone which will hopefully prevent use of heavy equipment or any other potentially damaging activity from occurring in this important area. We would appreciate that the reason for the no work zone not be written on signage or provided to contractors. Please keep this information confidential and provide it on a need to know basis only.

I appreciate your willingness to provide on location oversight at critical points in the project as work occurs near the buffer zone. I would be happy to be onsite as well. As we get closer, we should look at making a schedule so that this request is not the responsibility of only one entity.

The Chitimacha Tribe appreciates your commitment to protecting this, and other, resources. We fully support this project which is desperately needed. The amount of land loss that we witnessed in the years after the BP oil spill and associated clean up was staggering.

Please let me know if you all need anything else. I look forward to hearing from you once the project is underway and construction nears the site.

Thanks again,
Kim Walden

On Feb 13, 2018, at 1:24 PM, Chavarria, Adrian <Chavarria.Adrian@epa.gov> wrote:

Kim,
I've attached the letter that I sent to the Louisiana Office of Cultural Development through their DCRT Section 106 email and they signed off stating that "*No known historic properties will be affected by this undertaking. Therefore, our office has no objection to the implementation of this project. This effect determination could change should new information come our way*".

Adrian Chavarria
Environmental Engineer
U.S. EPA - Region 6 (6WQ-EC)
214-665-3103 - Office
214-310-6197 - Cell

From: Kimberly Walden [mailto:kim@chitimacha.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2018 9:56 AM
To: Renee Bennett (CPRA) <renee.s.bennett@la.gov>
Cc: Chavarria, Adrian <Chavarria.Adrian@epa.gov>; Elizabeth Davoli <Elizabeth.Davoli@LA.GOV>
Subject: Re: BA-193 Caminada Headlands Back Barrier Marsh Creation #2 - repatriation of cultural site 16L271

Questions for this afternoon's call: What has the LA Division of Archaeology said regarding proximity of your project to this site? What about landowner concerns?

From: Chavarria, Adrian
To: DCRT Section 106
Subject: BA-193 Caminada Headlands Back Barrier Marsh Creation Project #2
Date: Tuesday, November 29, 2016 8:39:09 AM
Attachments: BA-193 Cover Letter (SHPO).pdf
Figure 2_BBBS Caminada Borrow_SHPO Concurrence.pdf
Figure 3_BA-171 SHPO response letter for conveyance channels.pdf
Figure 4_Cam II LA SHPO Letter 5 8 2012.pdf
CAMINADA II SHPO Letter_16LF282 Concurrence.pdf
Figure 1_BA-193 Project Map.pdf

Adrian Chavarria
Environmental Engineer
U.S. EPA - Region 6 (6WQ-EC)
1445 Ross Ave.
Dallas, TX 75202
214-665-3103 - Office
214-665-6689 - Fax
214-310-6197 - Cell

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

November 29, 2016

Mr. Phil Boggan
Interim Assistant Secretary
Louisiana Office of Cultural Development
Division of Archaeology
P.O. Box 44247
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-4247

Dear Mr. Boggan:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 6 is requesting consultation for four proposed features associated with the Caminada Headland Back Barrier Marsh Creation Increment II Project (BA-193): the fill area, the borrow area, the dredge pipeline corridor, and the pipeline location along the Caminada Headland. The BA-193 project is located along the Caminada Headland in Lafourche and Jefferson parishes behind the dune recently constructed by the Caminada Headland Beach and Dune project (BA-143). This project is being funded under the authority of the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act (CWPPRA).

Proposed Fill Area:
The BA-193 project footprint was previously evaluated for the Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) Barataria Basin Barrier Shoreline Restoration Project. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) New Orleans District evaluated 10,345 acres of land and water situated between Caminada Pass to the east and Belle Pass to the west, between Louisiana Highway 1 (LA 1) to the north and the Gulf of Mexico to the south. Coastal Environments, Inc. conducted a cultural resource survey within the LCA study area. The survey was completed between March and April of 2006, which included data collection of all relict chenier ridges and natural levees within the marsh creation and ridge restoration portions of the study area, an examination of the study area slated for shoreline restoration and additional marsh creation, and an examination of known sites, possible sites and newly discovered sites in an effort to acquire information on each site's size, condition, and possible cultural affiliation. A total of four new archaeological sites 16LF271, 272, 273, and 274, were recorded. In 2012, these four sites were grouped with other recorded artifact scatters into a single archaeological site with the trinomial of 16LF282. The proposed fill area is labeled with hatching on Figure 1.

Proposed Borrow Area:
The proposed fill areas for this BA-193 project are to receive sediment dredged from an offshore borrow site approximately 1.5 miles offshore in the Gulf of Mexico. The BA-193 project will be using the eastern half of the borrow area previously identified and surveyed for the BA-171 project. SHPO responded on August 8, 2014 to the BA-171 project's borrow area with a finding of "no known historic properties will be affected by this undertaking" (attached). The proposed borrow area is labeled on Figure 2.

Proposed Dredge Pipeline Corridor:
The proposed dredge pipeline corridor to be utilized for the BA-193 project will connect the proposed offshore borrow area to the proposed marsh creation fill areas located behind the Caminada Headland

beach. This is the same dredge pipeline corridor to be used during construction of the BA-171 project; EPA received a response from SHPO on September 21, 2015 with a finding of "no historic properties will be impacted by construction and use of the West Access Route, and we have no further concerns for this area" For the BA-171 project . The proposed dredge pipeline corridor is labeled on Figure 3.

Pipeline Location along Caminada Headland:
The final project feature is the proposed pipeline location which will be utilized during dredging operations for the BA-193 project. The dredge pipeline will be located along the newly constructed Caminada Headland beach, within the project footprint of the BA-143 project, and will be used to transport dredged material from the borrow area to the proposed fill areas of BA-193 (correspondence for BA-143 attached). The proposed pipeline location corridor is labeled on Figure 4.

Effect Determination
The Areas of Potential Effects (fill area, borrow area, dredge pipeline corridor, and pipeline location along Caminada Headland) are all part of a single undertaking and are identified on the attached figure. A single archaeological site, 16LF282, which has been determined ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) is located within the APE for the fill area. Please note 16LF271, the Feti site, is located adjacent to Bayou Moreau but outside of the fill APE.

We believe no historic properties will be affected by this project as proposed and request your concurrence with this determination. Should you require further information, please feel free to contact me at (214) 665-3103 or e-mail at chavarria.adrian@epa.gov.

Sincerely yours,

Adrian Chavarria
Environmental Engineer (6WQ-EC)
Marine, Analysis and Coastal Section

Enclosures: 5

No known historic properties will be affected by this undertaking. Therefore, our office has no objection to the implementation of this project. This effect determination could change should new information come to our attention.

Phil Boggan
State Historic Preservation Officer

Date

03/02/2017

From: Chavarria, Adrian
To: DCRT Section 106
Subject: BA-193 Caminada Headlands Back Barrier Marsh Creation Project #2
Date: Tuesday, November 29, 2016 8:39:09 AM
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Adrian Chavarria
Environmental Engineer
U.S. EPA - Region 6 (6WQ-EC)
1445 Ross Ave.
Dallas, TX 75202
214-665-3103 - Office
214-665-6689 - Fax
214-310-6197 - Cell

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

November 29, 2016

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Interim Assistant Secretary
Louisiana Office of Cultural Development
Division of Archaeology
P.O. Box 44247
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-4247

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Sincerely yours,

Adrian Chavarria
Environmental Engineer (6WQ-EC)
Marine, Analysis and Coastal Section

Enclosures: 5

No known historic properties will be affected by this undertaking. Therefore, our office has no objection to the implementation of this project. This effect determination could change should new information come to our attention.

Phil Boggan
State Historic Preservation Officer

Date

03/02/2017

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

December 16, 2016

Ms. Kim Walden
Cultural Director/ Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Chitimacha Cultural Department
Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana
P.O. Box 661
Charenton, LA 70523

Dear Ms. Walden:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 6 is preparing an Environmental Assessment for the proposed Caminada Headland Back Barrier Marsh Creation Increment II Project (BA-193) provided for under the authority of the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA).

The primary goal of the project is to create/nourish 444 acres of back barrier marsh behind the Caminada beach using dredged material from the Gulf of Mexico and to create a platform upon which the beach and dune can migrate, reducing the likelihood of breaching, improving longevity of the barrier shoreline, and protecting wetlands and infrastructure to the north and west of the project area. We are currently in the conceptual design phase and are requesting your comments regarding any potential issues in the vicinity of this project by February 28, 2017.

As illustrated in the enclosures, the project area for BA-193 is located in LaFourche Parish, south of Highway 1 between Belle Pass and Caminada Pass and includes the area east of Bayou Moreau and west of Elmer's Island. Construction activities are expected to occur in and around the servitude area as seen in the enclosure titled Caminada Back Barrier Marsh Creation – Increment 2 BA-193 – Project Overview Map.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. Should you require further information, please feel free to contact me at (214) 665-3103.

Sincerely,

Adrian Chavarria
Environmental Engineer (6WQ-EC)
Marine and Wetlands Section

Enclosures: 2

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

December 16, 2016

Mr. Paul Backhouse
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Seminole Nation of Florida
30290 Josie Billie Hwy
PMB 1004
Clewiston, FL 33440

Dear Mr. Backhouse:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 6 is preparing an Environmental Assessment for the proposed Caminada Headland Back Barrier Marsh Creation Increment II Project (BA-193) provided for under the authority of the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA).

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Thank you for your assistance in this matter. Should you require further information, please feel free to contact me at (214) 665-3103.

Sincerely,

Adrian Chavarria
Environmental Engineer (6WQ-EC)
Marine and Wetlands Section

Enclosures: 2

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

December 16, 2016

Mr. Everett Bandy
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 765
Quapaw, OK 74363

Dear Mr. Bandy:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 6 is preparing an Environmental Assessment for the proposed Caminada Headland Back Barrier Marsh Creation Increment II Project (BA-193) provided for under the authority of the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA).

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Sincerely,

Adrian Chavarria
Environmental Engineer (6WQ-EC)
Marine and Wetlands Section

Enclosures: 2

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

December 16, 2016

Ms. Natalie Harjo
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 1498
Wewoka, OK 74884

Dear Ms. Harjo:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 6 is preparing an Environmental Assessment for the proposed Caminada Headland Back Barrier Marsh Creation Increment II Project (BA-193) provided for under the authority of the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA).

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Sincerely,

Adrian Chavarria
Environmental Engineer (6WQ-EC)
Marine and Wetlands Section

Enclosures: 2

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

December 16, 2016

Ms. Linda Langley
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana
Heritage Department
P.O. Box 10
Elton, LA 70352

Dear Ms. Langley:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 6 is preparing an Environmental Assessment for the proposed Caminada Headland Back Barrier Marsh Creation Increment II Project (BA-193) provided for under the authority of the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA).

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Thank you for your assistance in this matter. Should you require further information, please feel free to contact me at (214) 665-3103.

Sincerely,

Adrian Chavarria
Environmental Engineer (6WQ-EC)
Marine and Wetlands Section

Enclosures: 2

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

December 16, 2016

Mr. Ian Thompson
Director Historic Preservation Department
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Tribal Archeologist, NAGPRA Specialist
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 1210
Durant, OK 74702

Dear Mr. Thompson:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 6 is preparing an Environmental Assessment for the proposed Caminada Headland Back Barrier Marsh Creation Increment II Project (BA-193) provided for under the authority of the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA).

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Sincerely,

Adrian Chavarria
Environmental Engineer (6WQ-EC)
Marine and Wetlands Section

Enclosures: 2

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

December 16, 2016

Ms. Alina Shively
Deputy Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Jena Band of Choctaw Indians
P.O. Box 14
Jena, LA 71342

Dear Ms. Shively:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 6 is preparing an Environmental Assessment for the proposed Caminada Headland Back Barrier Marsh Creation Increment II Project (BA-193) provided for under the authority of the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA).

The primary goal of the project is to create/nourish 444 acres of back barrier marsh behind the Caminada beach using dredged material from the Gulf of Mexico and to create a platform upon which the beach and dune can migrate, reducing the likelihood of breaching, improving longevity of the barrier shoreline, and protecting wetlands and infrastructure to the north and west of the project area. We are currently in the conceptual design phase and are requesting your comments regarding any potential issues in the vicinity of this project by February 28, 2017.

As illustrated in the enclosures, the project area for BA-193 is located in LaFourche Parish, south of Highway 1 between Belle Pass and Caminada Pass and includes the area east of Bayou Moreau and west of Elmer's Island. Construction activities are expected to occur in and around the servitude area as seen in the enclosure titled Caminada Back Barrier Marsh Creation – Increment 2 BA-193 – Project Overview Map.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. Should you require further information, please feel free to contact me at (214) 665-3103.

Sincerely,

Adrian Chavarria
Environmental Engineer (6WQ-EC)
Marine and Wetlands Section

Enclosures: 2

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

December 16, 2016

Mr. Ken Carleton
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
107 Annex Circle
Choctaw, MS 71342

Dear Mr. Carleton:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 6 is preparing an Environmental Assessment for the proposed Caminada Headland Back Barrier Marsh Creation Increment II Project (BA-193) provided for under the authority of the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA).

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Sincerely,

Adrian Chavarria
Environmental Engineer (6WQ-EC)
Marine and Wetlands Section

Enclosures: 2

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

December 16, 2016

Ms. RaeLynn Butler
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Muscogee (Creek) Tribe
P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, OK 74447

Dear Ms. Butler:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 6 is preparing an Environmental Assessment for the proposed Caminada Headland Back Barrier Marsh Creation Increment II Project (BA-193) provided for under the authority of the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA).

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Sincerely,

Adrian Chavarria
Environmental Engineer (6WQ-EC)
Marine and Wetlands Section

Enclosures: 2

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

December 16, 2016

Ms. Kim Penrod
Acting Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Caddo Nation
P.O. Box 487
Binger, OK 73009

Dear Ms. Penrod:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 6 is preparing an Environmental Assessment for the proposed Caminada Headland Back Barrier Marsh Creation Increment II Project (BA-193) provided for under the authority of the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA).

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Sincerely,

Adrian Chavarria
Environmental Engineer (6WQ-EC)
Marine and Wetlands Section

Enclosures: 2

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

December 16, 2016

Mr. Earl J. Barbry, Jr.
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Tunica-Biloxi Tribal Historic Preservation Office
Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana
P.O. Box 1589
Marksville, LA 71351

Dear Mr. Barbry:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 6 is preparing an Environmental Assessment for the proposed Caminada Headland Back Barrier Marsh Creation Increment II Project (BA-193) provided for under the authority of the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA).

The primary goal of the project is to create/nourish 444 acres of back barrier marsh behind the Caminada beach using dredged material from the Gulf of Mexico and to create a platform upon which the beach and dune can migrate, reducing the likelihood of breaching, improving longevity of the barrier shoreline, and protecting wetlands and infrastructure to the north and west of the project area. We are currently in the conceptual design phase and are requesting your comments regarding any potential issues in the vicinity of this project by February 28, 2017.

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Sincerely,

Adrian Chavarria
Environmental Engineer (6WQ-EC)
Marine and Wetlands Section

Enclosures: 2

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

December 16, 2016

Mr. Bryant Celestine
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas
571 State Park Road 56
Livingston, TX 77351

Dear Mr. Celestine:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 6 is preparing an Environmental Assessment for the proposed Caminada Headland Back Barrier Marsh Creation Increment II Project (BA-193) provided for under the authority of the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA).

The primary goal of the project is to create/nourish 444 acres of back barrier marsh behind the Caminada beach using dredged material from the Gulf of Mexico and to create a platform upon which the beach and dune can migrate, reducing the likelihood of breaching, improving longevity of the barrier shoreline, and protecting wetlands and infrastructure to the north and west of the project area. We are currently in the conceptual design phase and are requesting your comments regarding any potential issues in the vicinity of this project by February 28, 2017.

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Thank you for your assistance in this matter. Should you require further information, please feel free to contact me at (214) 665-3103.

Sincerely,

Adrian Chavarria
Environmental Engineer (6WQ-EC)
Marine and Wetlands Section

Enclosures: 2

QUAPAW TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA

P.O. Box 765
Quapaw, OK 74363-0765

(918) 542-1853
FAX (918) 542-4694

February 3rd, 2017

Attn: Adrian Chavaria
United States Environmental
Protection Agency Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

Re: EA for the proposed Caminada Headland Back Barrier Marsh Creation Increment II Project

To Whom It May Concern:

This project is outside of the current area of interest for the Quapaw Tribe; therefore, the Quapaw Tribe does not desire to comment on this project at this time. Thank you for your efforts to consult with us on this matter.

Sincerely,

Everett Bandy

Everett Bandy, THPO
Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 765
Quapaw, OK 74363
(p) 918-238-3100

ALABAMA-COUSHATTA TRIBE OF TEXAS
571 State Park Road 56 • Livingston, Texas 77351 • (936) 563-1100

February 3, 2017

US Environmental Protection Agency
Attn: Adrian Chavarria
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

Dear Mr. Chavarria:

On behalf of Mikko Colabe III Clem Sylestine and the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe, our appreciation is expressed on your efforts to consult us regarding the Environmental Assessment for the Caminada Headland Back Barrier Marsh Creation Increment II in Lafourche Parish.

Our Tribe maintains ancestral associations throughout the state of Louisiana despite the absence of written records to completely identify Tribal activities, villages, trails, or burial sites. However, it is our objective to ensure significances of American Indian ancestry, especially of Alabama-Coushatta origin, are administered with the utmost considerations.

Upon review of your January 5, 2017 submission, Lafourche Parish exists beyond our scope of interest for the state of Louisiana. Therefore, no impacts to cultural assets of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas will occur in conjunction with this proposal.

Should you require further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Bryant J. Celestine
Historic Preservation Officer

Office (936) 563 – 1181 celestine.bryant@actribe.org Fax (936) 563 – 1183

USDA

United States Department of Agriculture

October 13, 2016

Ms. Barbara Aldridge
EPA Region 6
6WQ-EC
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, TX 75202

RE: Solicitation of Views (SOV)
Caminada Headlands Back Barrier Marsh Creation
Increment 2 (BA-193)

Dear Ms. Aldridge:

I have reviewed the above referenced project for potential requirements of the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) and potential impact to Natural Resource Conservation Service projects in the immediate vicinity.

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 can be forest land, pastureland, cropland, or other land, but not water or urban built-up land.

The project map submitted with your request indicates that the proposed construction areas will not impact prime farmland and therefore is exempt from the rules and regulations of the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA)—Subtitle I of Title XV, Section 1539-1549. Furthermore, we do not predict impacts to NRCS work in the vicinity.

For specific information about the soils found in the project area, please visit our Web Soil Survey at the following location: http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/

Please direct all future correspondence to me at the address shown below.

Respectfully,

Acting for:
Kevin D. Norton
State Conservationist

Attachment

Natural Resources Conservation Service
State Office
3737 Government Street
Alexandria, Louisiana 71302
Voice: (318) 473-7751 Fax: 1-844-325-6947
An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer