

TV-63 Cole's Bayou Marsh Restoration Project

Coastal Wetland Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act PPL 21



30% Design Report

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**Cole's Bayou Marsh Restoration (TV-63)
Preliminary Design Report**

Table of Contents

Section	Title	Page No.
1.0	INTRODUCTION	4
2.0	LANDRIGHTS AND CULTURAL RESOURCES	5
3.0	OYSTER LEASE ASSESSMENT	6
4.0	EXISTING CONDITIONS	7
4.1	Tidal Datum	7
4.2	Hydrologic Monitoring Stations	8
4.3	Percent Inundation Determination	8
4.4	Relative Sea-Level Rise	10
5.0	SURVEYS	11
5.1	Topographic, Bathymetric and Magnetometer Surveys	11
5.2	Horizontal and Vertical Control	11
5.3	Marsh Creation Cell Survey	11
5.4	Healthy Marsh Elevation Survey	12
5.5	Borrow Area Survey	13
5.6	Equipment Access Corridor and Pipeline Alignment Survey	13
6.0	GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING ANALYSIS	14
6.1	Soils Investigation	14
6.2	General Geologic Evaluation	15
6.3	Subsidence	15
6.4	Earthen Containment Dike Slope Stability Analysis	16
6.5	Earthen Containment Dike Settlement Analysis	17
6.6	Marsh Creation Settlement Analysis	17
6.7	Cut-to-Fill Recommendation	20
7.0	HYDRODYNAMIC MODELING	21
7.1	Model Setup	21
7.2	Model Runs	21
7.2.1	Scenario 1- Marsh Creation Only	22
7.2.2	Scenario 2- Marsh Creation and Water control structures (Invert=0.0')	23
7.2.3	Scenario 3- Marsh Creation and Water control structures (Invert=-2.0')	23
8.0	MARSH CREATION DESIGN	24
8.1	Marsh Creation Cell Design	25
8.2	Earthen Containment Dike Design	26
8.3	Borrow Area Design	29
8.4	Equipment Access Corridor Design	31
9.0	HYDROLOGIC RESTORATION DESIGN	32
9.1	Water Control Structure Design	32
9.2	Conveyance Channel	32
10.0	CONSTRUCTION	34
10.1	Duration	34
10.2	Cost Estimate	34

**Cole's Bayou Marsh Restoration (TV-63)
Preliminary Design Report**

11.0	MODIFICATIONS TO APPROVED PHASE 0 PROJECT	34
12.0	REFERENCES	35
13.0	APPENDICES	36

Tables

	Page No.
1. Percent Inundation Levels for TY0	9
2. Percent Inundation Levels for TY20	9
3. Healthy Marsh Elevations	13
4. Earthen Containment Dike Slope Stability	18
5. Summary of Model Runs	22
6. Summary of Fill Acreage and Volume	27
7. Summary of Earthen Containment Dike Design	31

Figures

	Page No.
1. TV-63 Vicinity Map	4
2. Tax Ownership Map	5
3. Active Oyster Leases and Seed Grounds	6
4. Hydrologic Monitoring Station Locations	8
5. Percent Inundation and MHW,MLW with RSLR Comparison	10
6. Pipeline Probe Depths near Proposed Borrow Area	12
7. Soil Boring Locations	15
8. Map of Projected Subsidence Ranges of South Louisiana	16
9. Marsh Creation Settlement	18
10. Settlement Curves for Marsh Creation Areas 1 & 2	19
11. Settlement Curves for Marsh Creation Area 3	20
12. Existing Conditions Percent Inundation Model Run	21
13. Scenario 1 Percent Inundation Model Run	22
14. Scenario 2 Percent Inundation Model Run	23
15. Scenario 3 Percent Inundation Model Run	24
16. Plan View of Project Features	25
17. Earthen Containment Dike Section for Marsh Creation Areas 1 & 2	27
18. Earthen Containment Dike Section for Marsh Creation Area 3	27
19. Earthen Containment Dike Settlement Curves for Marsh Creation Areas 1 & 2	28
20. Earthen Containment Dike Settlement Curves for Marsh Creation Area 3	29
21. Borrow Area Typical Section	30
22. Equipment Access Corridor Typical Section	31
23. Water Control Structure Typical Section	33
24. Conveyance Corridor Plan View	33

**Cole's Bayou Marsh Restoration (TV-63)
Preliminary Design Report**

Appendices

- A. Secondary Monument Data Sheets and CRMS Survey Reports**
- B. Survey Report and Drawings**
- C. Geotechnical Boring Logs**
- D. Preliminary Cultural Resources Determination**
- E. Preliminary Design Drawings**
- F. Calculations Package**
- G. Dynamic Solutions Final Report**

**Cole's Bayou Marsh Restoration (TV-63)
Preliminary Design Report**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Cole's Bayou Marsh Restoration Project (herein referred to as TV-63) is located in the Teche-Vermilion Basin between Little Vermilion Bay and Freshwater Bayou as shown in Figure 1. The Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Task Force designated TV-63 as part of the 21th Priority Project List. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Services (NOAA/NMFS) was designated as the lead federal sponsor with funding approved through the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) of 1990 by the United States Congress and the Wetlands Conservation Trust Fund by the State of Louisiana. The Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) is serving as the local sponsor and will also be providing engineering and design services.

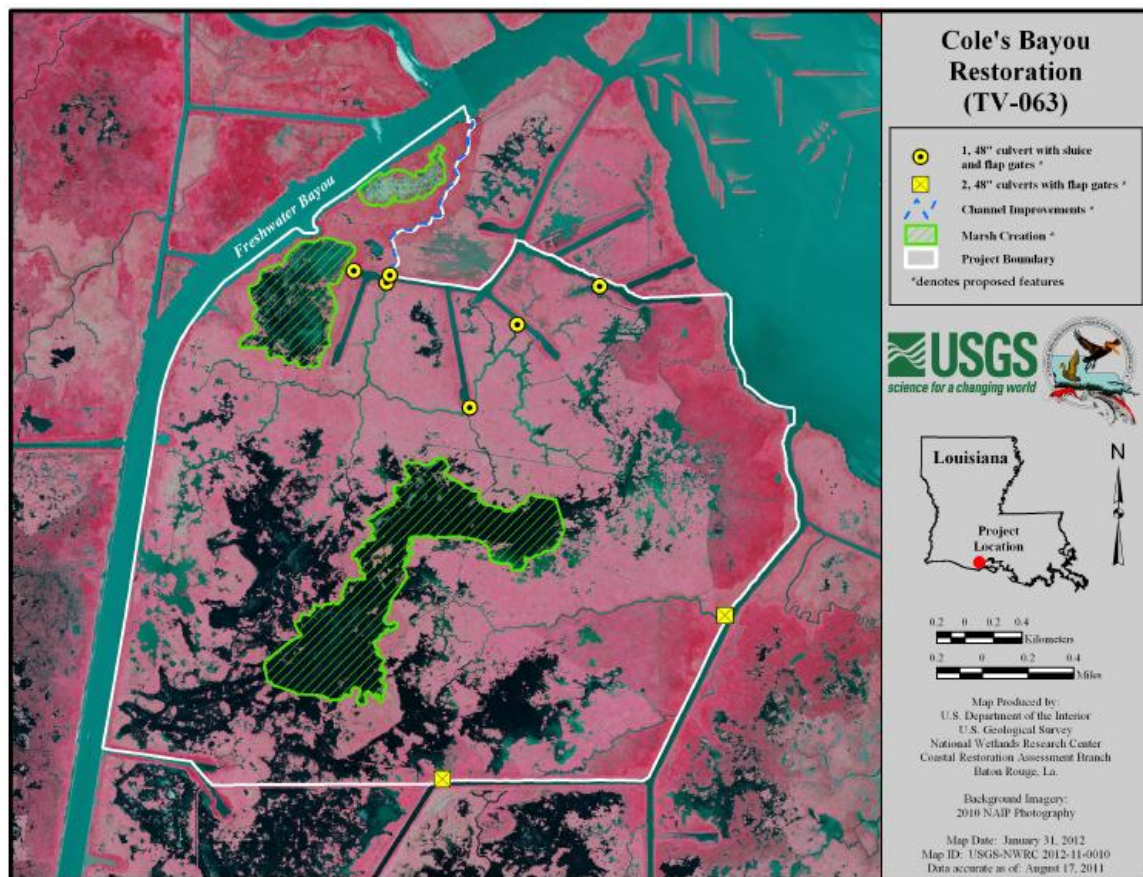


Figure 1: TV-63 Vicinity Map

The primary goals of TV-63 are to create and nourish approximately 430 acres of low salinity brackish marsh in recently-formed shallow open waters adjacent to Cole's Bayou with sediment dredged from Little Vermilion Bay and to improve the project area hydrology by reestablishing the historic freshwater and sediment patterns into the interior wetlands.

The poor condition of this marsh is due to a combination of subsidence, hurricane induced interior ponding, sediment deficiency, and changes in hydrology. The project area has

**Cole's Bayou Marsh Restoration (TV-63)
Preliminary Design Report**

undergone recent hydrologic changes through the construction of navigation channels and oil/gas field channels, resulting in earthen levees, which led to the impoundment of the area. With time, several breaches have occurred along the navigation channels and the oilfield network.

The project team, consisting of members of NOAA/NMFS, CPRA, Vermilion Parish Government, and the McIlhenny Estate, performed an on-site kick-off meeting on April 30, 2012. Based on that meeting, a plan was developed to identify and address all of the project goals and constraints. The engineering and design, environmental compliance, real estate negotiations, operation/maintenance planning, and cultural resources investigation have been completed to the preliminary (30%) design level as required by the CWPPRA Standard Operating Procedures Version 22.

2.0 LANDRIGHTS AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

The project area is mostly situated on land owned by the E. A. McIlhenny Estate. However, the westernmost portion of the project area is owned by Exxon Corporation. The National Audubon Society Rainey Refuge owns the land directly to the South and Southeast of the project area as shown in Figure 2.

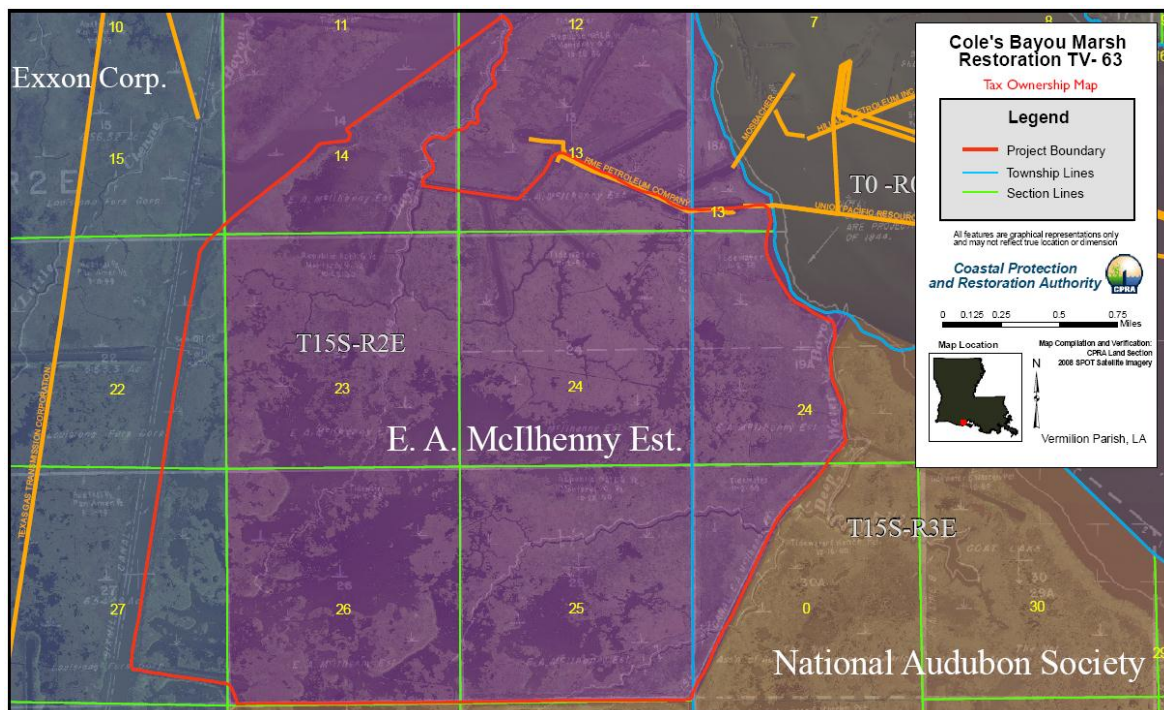


Figure 2: Tax Ownership map.

The NMFS contacted the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) regarding the TV-63 project requesting a determination of effect for any Area of Potential Effects (APE) that might be recorded within the project area, proposed borrow area, and access corridor. After a review of their files, their response was that no known historic properties will be affected by our proposed activities. This response from SHPO is included in Appendix D.

3.0 OYSTER LEASE ASSESSMENT

According to the CPRA Oyster Lease database, no active oyster leases are present in the proposed borrow area and the marsh fill areas. Little Vermilion Bay, however, is an active oyster seed ground as shown in Figure 3. The CPRA Executive Division has started the necessary processes to gather information on the seed ground and is working with T. Baker Smith to appraise the area and to clear the borrow area.

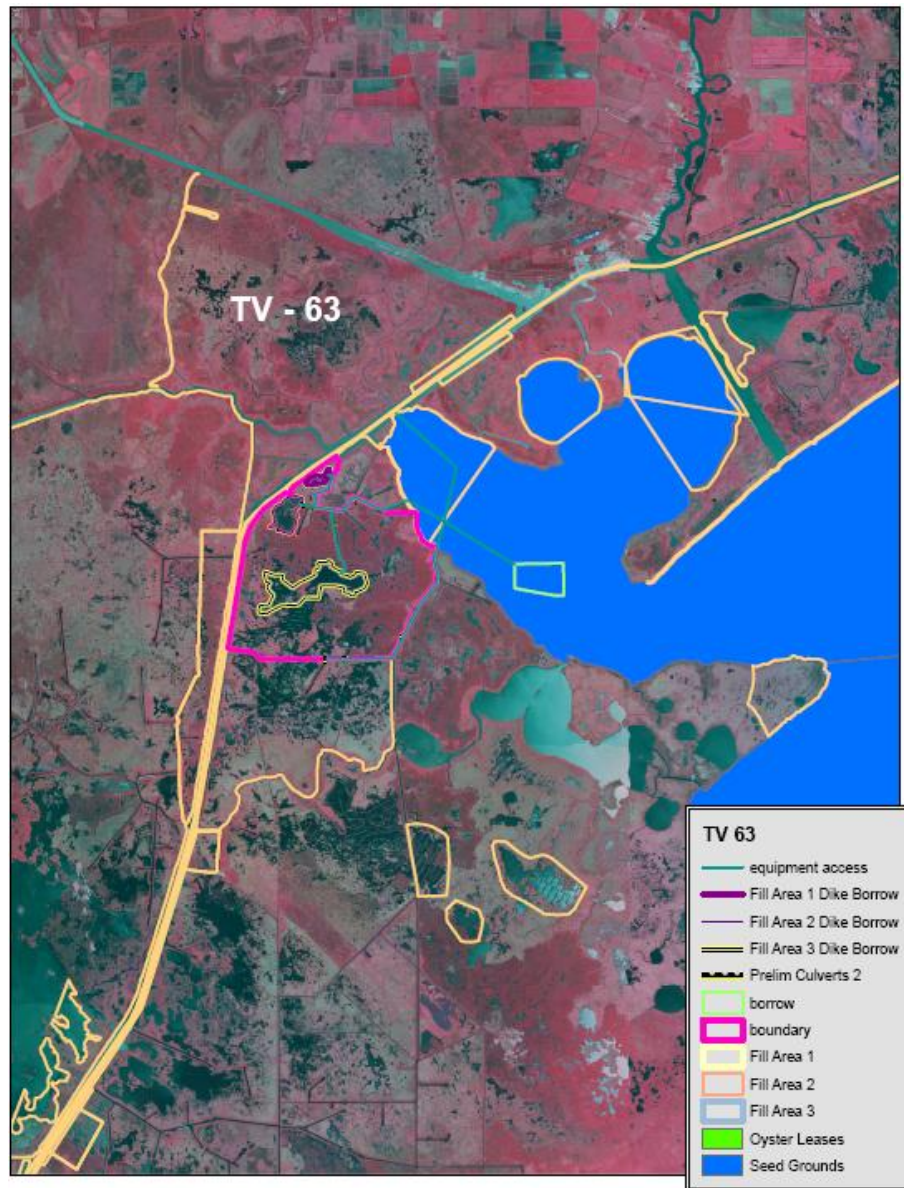


Figure 3: Active oyster leases and seed grounds in the TV-63 project area

4.0 EXISTING CONDITIONS

4.1 Tidal Datum

The tidal datum is a standard elevation defined by a certain phase of the tide and issued to measure local water levels. Establishment of the tidal datum for TV-63 occurred in the early stages of preliminary engineering since it pertains to many aspects of the project design including surveys, geotechnical analysis, and constructability. However, the primary objective for computing the tidal datum is to establish the target construction fill elevation that maximized the duration that the restored marsh will be at intertidal elevations throughout the 20-year project life.

A tidal datum is referenced to a fixed point known as a benchmark and is typically expressed in terms of mean high water (MHW), mean low water (MLW), and mean tidal levels (MTL) over the observed period of time. MHW is the average of all the high water heights observed over one tidal epoch. MLW is the average of all the low water elevations observed over one tidal epoch. MTL is the mean of the MHW and MLW for that time period. A normal tidal epoch lasts approximately 19 years; however, since this project is located near the Gulf of Mexico and has anomalous sea level changes, a modified tidal epoch of 5 years was used. In order to accurately estimate MHW and MLW elevations, a data set which has less than 5 years of data should be correlated to a gage which has data from a full modified tidal epoch using a technique known as the Range-Ratio method¹⁰.

An internal gage (TV63-04) was set up to record the water levels within the project area on an hourly basis. The Coastwide Reference Monitoring System (CRMS) monitoring station CRMS2041 located at 29°45'59.04"N, 92°10'0.48"W was selected as the control station. The period of record used for the modified 5-year tidal epoch was July 17, 2008 to January 17, 2014. A detailed summary of the tidal datum calculations is shown in Appendix F. The results of the tidal datum determination for the TV-63 project area are as follows:

- MHW = 0.68 ft, NAVD88
- MLW = 0.48 ft, NAVD88
- MTL = 0.57 ft, NAVD88

Since the project area is semi-impounded, the tidal range found within the internal marshes is different from the ranges found in Little Vermilion Bay and the surrounding marshes. The tidal range for the area immediately adjacent to the project area in Little Vermilion Bay is as follows:

- MHW= 1.86 ft, NAVD88
- MLW= 1.15 ft, NAVD88
- MTL= 1.51 ft, NAVD88

**Cole's Bayou Marsh Restoration (TV-63)
Preliminary Design Report**

Because of the these tidal variances, an additional water level determination method such as percent inundation determination was used to find the acceptable water level range for determining the target marsh elevation.

4.2 Hydrologic Monitoring Stations

In order to monitor the project area conditions more closely, ENCOS was tasked to install six (6) hydrologic monitoring stations in various locations in and around the project area as shown in Figure 4. These stations collected water level data, salinity data, turbidity, and total suspended solids (TSS) data on an hourly basis for a six month period between April 2013 and October 2013. This data was then used to calibrate the ADH hydrodynamic model (discussed in Section 7.0) and was used to determine the appropriate tidal range for design.

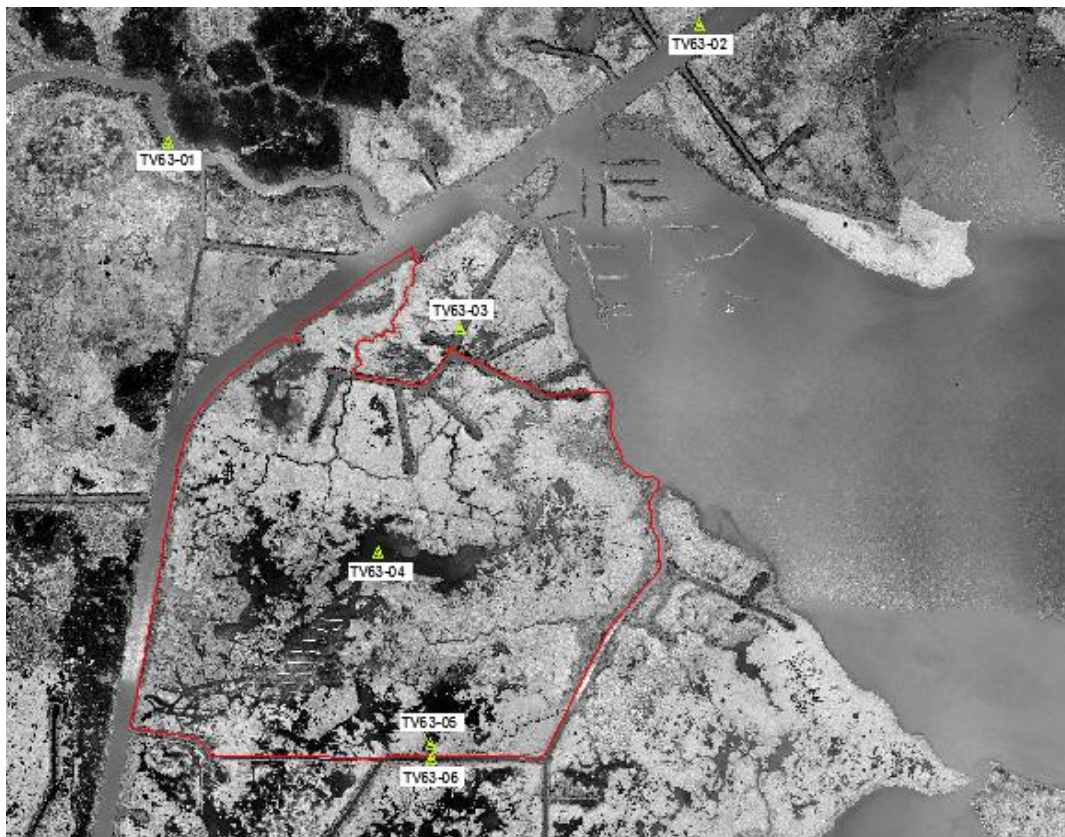


Figure 4: Hydrologic Monitoring Station Locations

4.3 Percent Inundation Determination

The vertical positioning of marsh platforms and the frequency with which the marsh floods, strongly influence plant communities and marsh health^{7, 11}. Historically, tidal range between mean high water (MHW) and mean low water (MLW) has been the accepted range for healthy marsh. This approach has worked well in tidal salt marshes where most of the water level variability is due to astronomical tides. Across Louisiana's coastal wetlands, however, non-tidal influences such as meteorological events, river discharge,

**Cole's Bayou Marsh Restoration (TV-63)
Preliminary Design Report**

and management regimes often have significantly more influence on water levels than astronomical tides. Therefore, we propose using percent inundation rather than tidal range as a proxy for marsh health. Percent inundation refers to the percentage of the year a certain elevation of land would be flooded based on the water levels found in that region. To illustrate the two approaches, Figure 5 shows both MHW and MLW and 10% and 65% inundation levels.

To determine percent inundation the TV63-04 gage was correlated to the CRMS2041 gage by the Direct Method¹⁰. A detailed summary of the percent inundation calculations is shown in the Design Calculations Packet located in Appendix F. The results of the percent inundation determination for TV-63 at TY0 and TY20 are shown in Tables 1 and 2.

Elevation (ft, NAVD88) - TY0 % inundation		Elevation (ft, NAVD88) - % TY20 inundation	
10%	1.26	10%	1.95
20%	0.96	20%	1.65
30%	0.80	30%	1.49
40%	0.68	40%	1.37
50%	0.6	50%	1.29
60%	0.50	60%	1.19
65%	0.43	65%	1.12
70%	0.42	70%	1.11
80%	0.25	80%	0.94
90%	-0.01	90%	0.68

Tables 1 and 2: Table 1 shows the percent inundation elevations for TY0. Table 2 shows the percent inundation elevations for TY20.

Brackish marshes, like those in the TV-63 project area, are most productive when flooded between 10% and 65% of the time⁸. The project team utilized best professional judgment to identify target constructed marsh elevations that would maximize short term and long-term marsh function while taking into account relative sea-level rise (RSLR) (Figure 5).

**Cole's Bayou Marsh Restoration (TV-63)
Preliminary Design Report**

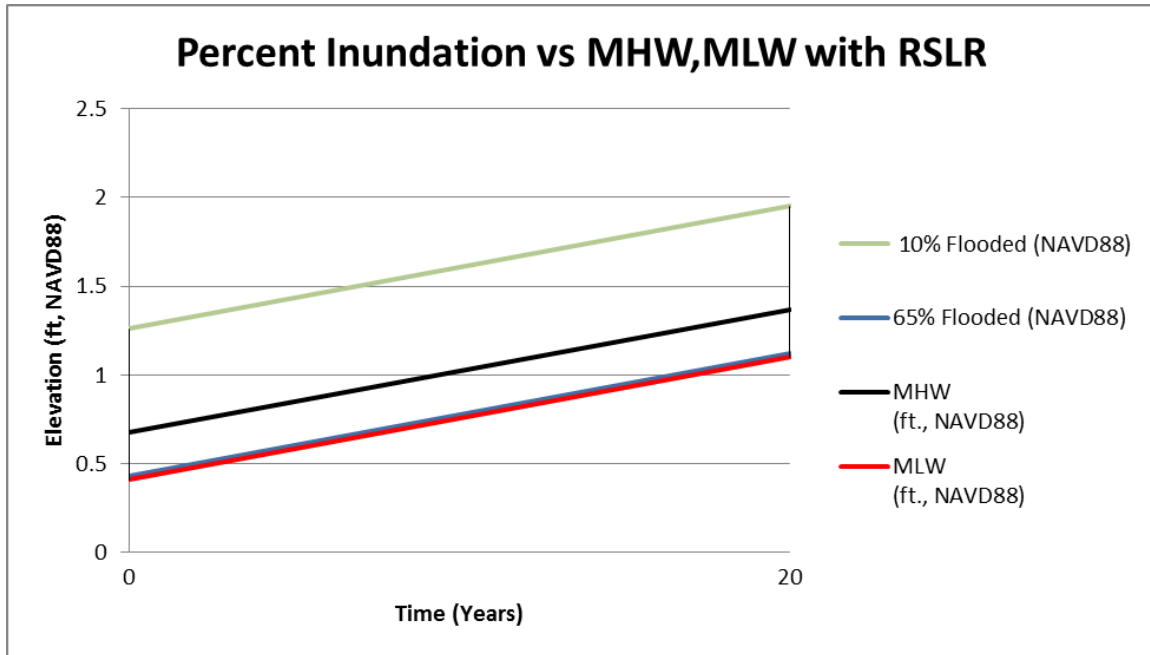


Figure 5: Percent inundation and MHW, MLW comparison.

Short-term accretion measurements collected at nearby CRMS Stations (0501, 0508, 0535, 2041) range from 1mm to 16mm per year. We expect accretion to at least partially offset the impact of RSLR on the relative vertical position of the marsh platform. However, because of spatial and temporal variability and uncertainty about extrapolating short-term accretion data over the project life, we are not representing it in our estimated settlement curves or RSLR calculations.

4.4 Relative Sea Level Rise

Since all projects within the CWPPRA program are built and evaluated based on a 20-year project life, they are expected to continue to perform the objectives mention in Section 1 throughout the design life. Therefore, to properly design the project to meet the 20-year goal, certain natural processes need to be assessed.

One process is Relative Seal Level Rise (RSLR). RSLR can be broken down into two components, Eustatic (or Global) Sea Level Rise and Subsidence; the latter of which will be described in Section 6.3. Sea Level Rise refers to a global change in water level. The value associated with Sea Level Rise is based on a global average rate of increase of water level that takes into account a number of variables such as thermal expansion, loss of glaciers and ice caps, runoff from thawing permafrost, to name a few. This means of measuring the seal level rise rate is expressed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The latest IPCC evaluation (2007) has determined the global sea level rise to be 0.005576 feet/year⁶.

To determine a most likely change in sea level over time, CPRA utilized its Planning Division to assist with calculating this value. LACES attempted to bracket this rate by

**Cole's Bayou Marsh Restoration (TV-63)
Preliminary Design Report**

providing a lower and higher value to account for uncertainty. The range for possible relative sea-level rise by 2032 calculated by the LACES methodology is 0.5 ft- 0.9 ft⁶.

5.0 SURVEYS

5.1 Topographic, Bathymetric and Magnetometer Surveys

Topographic, bathymetric, and magnetometer survey data was collected within the project area, borrow area, equipment access corridor, and dredge pipeline alignment in order to facilitate the design of the marsh creation fill areas, the water control structures, and the borrow areas. The majority of the design survey effort was performed from April 2013 to June 2013 by HydroTerra, Inc., and additional surveys were performed from October 2014 to November 2014. All horizontal coordinates are referenced to Louisiana State Plane Coordinate System, North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83). All elevations are referenced to North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD 88) GEOID12A².

5.2 Horizontal and Vertical Control

One National Geodetic Survey (NGS) primary monument and two permanent secondary monuments (TV12-SM-01 and CRMSTV-SM-06) exist in the vicinity of Cole's Bayou. NGS monument "57 V 96 LADH" is located at the intersection of LA Hwy 333 and Oyster Lane in Intracoastal City, Louisiana at the coordinates 29°47'4.18"N, 92°9'24.37"W. TV12-SM-01 is located north of Vermilion Bay set in North Buck Point Oil and Gas field, southerly Freshwater Bayou at coordinates 29°45'13.192033" N, 92°12'06.075020" W. CRMSTV-SM-06 is located 0.88 miles southeast of the McKinley Camp on Belle Isle Bayou at coordinates 29°39'48.20505" N, 92°13'10.59914"W. These two secondary monuments were tied to and used to supplement the primary monument and were used as horizontal and vertical controls for the marsh creation fill area surveys, access survey, and perimeter survey. Observations lasting four hours on different days and at different times were conducted to ensure different satellite geometry⁴. The data sheets for these monuments are located in Appendix A.

5.3 Marsh Creation Fill Area Surveys

Survey transects were taken every 250 feet in a grid format, as shown in Appendix B. Transects were taken over open water areas, broken marsh, and across pipeline canals within the proposed project area. Position, elevation, and water depth were recorded every 50 feet along each transect or where elevation changes were greater than 0.5 feet. Topographic and bathymetric survey methods were used as applicable to obtain all transects and were consistent with CPRA Survey Standards. The topographic portions were merged with the bathymetric portions at the land/water interface and were separated by no more than 50 feet. Side shots were taken as necessary to pick up variations in topographic features (highs and lows) such as trenasses, meandering channels, broken marsh areas, or any other existing features such as pipelines, well heads, and warning signs which may affect project design implementation. The use of a fixed height

**Cole's Bayou Marsh Restoration (TV-63)
Preliminary Design Report**

aluminum rod (8' or 10' in length) with a 6" diameter metal plate as the base of the rod was used to prevent the rod from sinking when topographic data was collected.

A magnetometer survey was taken in each of the marsh creation fill areas as well as the proposed dredge pipeline and equipment access access corridors (shown in Appendix B). The survey was used to identify any potential existing pipelines and other obstructions within the project area. A Geometrics 882 cesium magnetometer was utilized and correlated to a position with RTK GPS using the Hypack Navigation Software package. For each magnetic finding, a closed loop path was run with the magnetometer. The path completely enclosed the original finding location, while maintaining a distance of approximately 25 feet from that location.

The magnetometer survey verified the existence of two pipelines within the project area. The first, a 10-inch diameter Acadian line positioned between the two northern cells, across Cole's Bayou, and intersects with the equipment access corridor. This pipeline has a depth of cover of approximately 5 feet on average on land and about 10 feet on average in Little Vermilion Bay. The second pipeline shown is an abandoned pipeline of unknown diameter that bisects the project area. Its depth of cover is on average approximately 5 feet on land and approximately 7.5 feet in Little Vermilion Bay as shown in Figure 6. The magnetometer survey lines and locations of anomalies and intensities are shown on the HydroTerra magnetometer survey drawings in Appendix B.

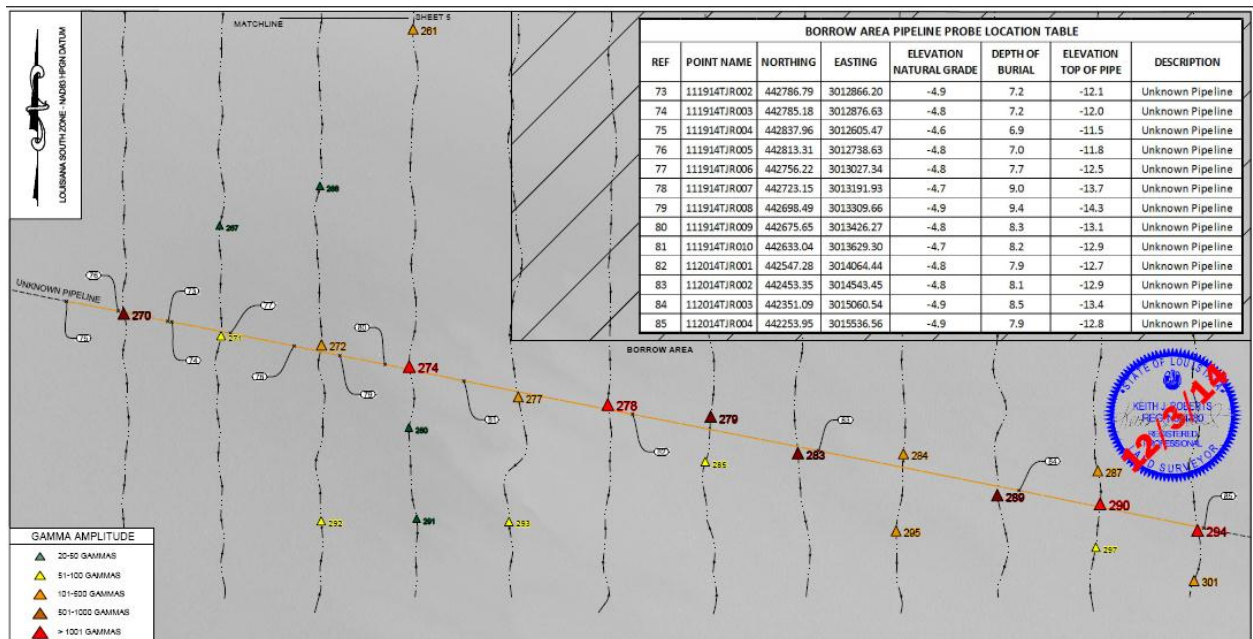


Figure 6: Pipeline probe depths near proposed borrow area.

5.4 Healthy Marsh Elevation Survey

Elevations from points shown in Appendix B that appeared to have healthy marsh were utilized to determine an average elevation of healthy marsh. Table 3 shows the results of the average healthy marsh survey. According to this survey, healthy marsh elevation

**Cole's Bayou Marsh Restoration (TV-63)
Preliminary Design Report**

should be 0.75 ft. However, since the project area is semi-impounded, what is considered healthy within the existing dike surrounding the project area is lower than what is considered healthy outside of the dike. Healthy elevations in the marshes surrounding the project area range from 0.8 to 2.2 ft based on survey data taken during the installation of nearby CRMS stations. Survey reports for the surrounding CRMS stations are located in Appendix A.

Location	Elevation
M-1	0.88
M-2	0.77
M-3	0.71
M-4	0.60
M-5	0.80
Average	0.75

Table 3: Average healthy marsh elevation survey results.

5.5 Borrow Area Survey

Survey transects were taken every 250 feet in the proposed borrow area. Position, elevation, and water depth were recorded every 50 feet along each transect or where elevation changes were greater than 0.5 feet. Bathymetric survey methods consistent with CPRA Standards were used to obtain all transects².

In addition to a bathymetric survey, a magnetometer survey was performed along the same transects as the bathymetric survey. This survey identified any pipelines, well heads, or any other obstructions within the borrow area. Similar equipment that was used on the marsh fill area magnetometer survey was utilized in the proposed borrow area.

The magnetometer survey verified the existence of one pipeline that was the continuation of the pipeline found in the center of the project area, and affected the southwest corner of the proposed borrow area. According to the CPRA Executive Division, the pipeline is an abandoned pipeline of unknown diameter, and depth of cover was found to be approximately 7.5 feet as shown in Figure 6. This was the only significant anomaly found within the proposed borrow area. A 100 foot right of way between the alignment of the pipeline and the southern extent of the borrow area has been placed to ensure the dredge can operate safely.

5.6 Equipment Access Corridor and Dredge Pipeline Alignment Surveys

An additional bathymetric and magnetometer survey was performed from Freshwater Bayou to the McIlhenny Canal and from the offshore borrow area. The purpose of this survey was to identify potential access routes for the dredge pipeline and marine construction equipment.

**Cole's Bayou Marsh Restoration (TV-63)
Preliminary Design Report**

A centerline profile was taken along the equipment access and pipeline alignments respectively. 200 feet long and perpendicular transects were taken along the alignments every 1000 feet. Position, elevation, and water depths were recorded every 50 feet along each transect and centerline profile or where elevation changes were greater than 0.5 feet. Bathymetric and topographic survey methods were used where applicable to obtain all transects along the equipment access corridor and the dredge pipeline alignment. Bathymetric and topographic portions were merged at the land/water interface and were separated by no more than 50 feet.

A magnetometer survey was taken along the alignments and utilized similar methods seen in the borrow area magnetometer survey. The survey verified the existence of two pipelines. The first intersected the equipment access corridor and was a continuation of the 10 inch Acadian line that was present in the project area. This pipeline has a depth of cover of approximately 10 feet. The second pipeline also intersected the equipment access corridor and was a small 2-3 inch Acadian flow line. This pipeline had depth of cover of approximately 5 feet. According to Acadian's representative, the flow line is no longer an active line and is set to be removed. According to the representative for the flow line, a permit has been acquired, and the line will be removed once the water is deep enough to allow equipment access.

6.0 GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING ANALYSIS

In order to determine the suitability and physical characteristics of the soils in the TV-63 project area, a geotechnical subsurface investigation and geotechnical engineering analysis was conducted by Ardaman & Associates, Inc. Ardaman & Associates, Inc. was tasked to collect soil borings, perform laboratory tests to determine soil characteristics, perform global slope stability analysis of the proposed earthen containment dikes, estimate the total settlement of the proposed earthen containment dikes and marsh creation fill areas, determine an adequate cut-to-fill ratio for the dredge and fill operations, and evaluate soil strength conditions at the water control structure locations.

6.1 Soils Investigation

Soil conditions were evaluated in the marsh creation fill areas and the water control structure areas by advancing twenty (20) soil borings to depths ranging from approximately 20 to 80 feet below existing. Six (6) additional soil borings were advanced to an approximate depth of 20 feet below mudline within the confines of the proposed borrow area. The approximate soil boring locations are shown in Figure 7.

The soil borings were performed in 0 to 5 feet of water. Samples were collected continuously in the upper 20-feet of the soil and on 5-foot centers thereafter to boring completion depths. The soil borings were completed between October and November 2013 using an airboat-mounted, rotary-type drilling rig. Soil strength, unit weight, and index properties observed during drilling and laboratory test results are located on the soil boring logs in Appendix C¹.

**Cole's Bayou Marsh Restoration (TV-63)
Preliminary Design Report**

Shelby tube samples were tested for miniature vane shear strength and removed from their tubes. Laboratory tests included soil compressive strength, moisture content, organic content, grain size analysis, specific gravity, consolidation with rebound, and Atterberg limits.

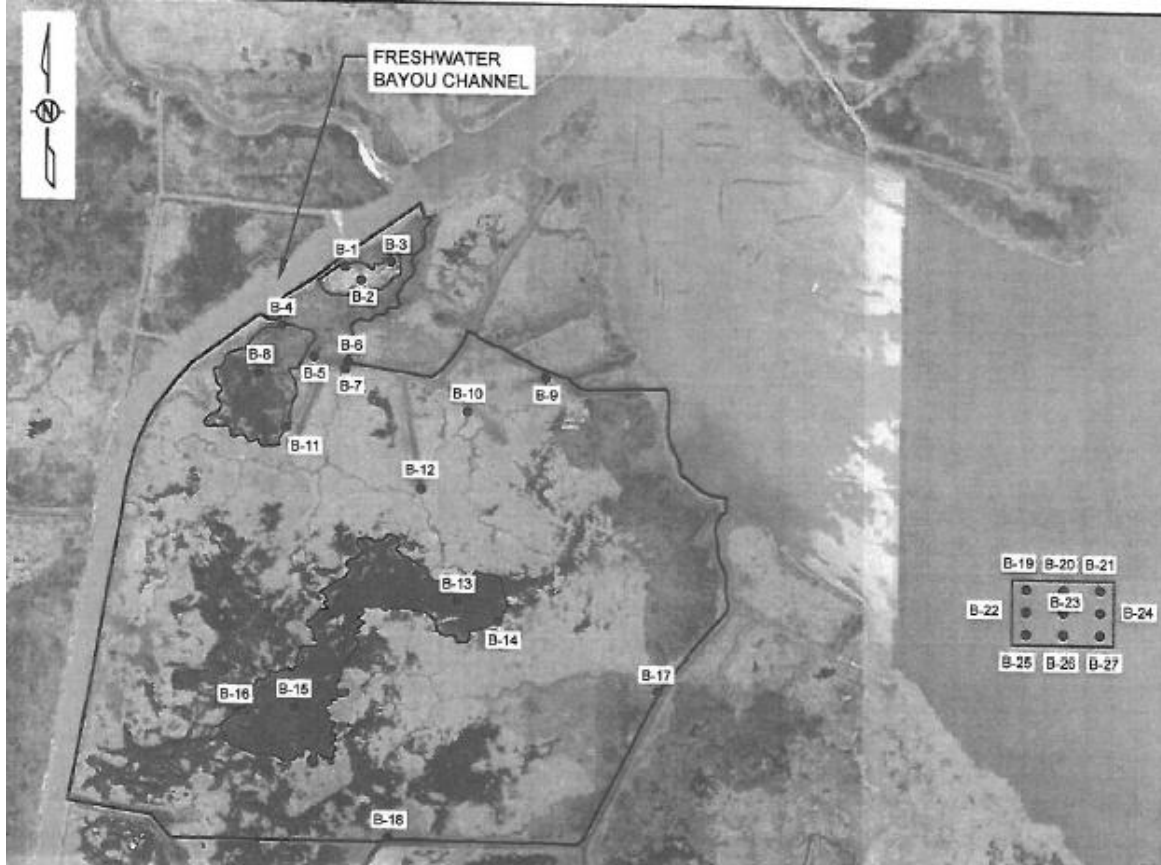


Figure 7: Soil Boring Locations

6.2 General Geologic Evaluation

Subsurface conditions do not vary widely across the project area. Generally there is very soft to soft clay and silty clay with organics to depths ranging from about 10-15 feet below the mudline. Interface depths vary significantly from boring to boring. These soft surficial soils are underlain by medium to stiff clay or silty clay soil.

6.3 Subsidence

The other natural process that needs to be considered in design of the project to achieve the project goals over the 20-year project life is subsidence. Subsidence is defined as the rate of local vertical land movement and is measured locally. Causes of subsidence include natural processes such as tectonics (faulting) and Holocene sediment compaction, as well as man-related causes such as removal of subsurface fluids. There continues to be much discussion on the dominating cause of subsidence in Louisiana.

Cole's Bayou Marsh Restoration (TV-63) Preliminary Design Report

To calculate subsidence, CPRA Planning Division used the ranges of subsidence values shown in Figure 8. The figure was created using some of the lowest and highest subsidence rates found in those areas by researchers. The Cole's Bayou area has a wide range of subsidence rates (1-15mm/yr) seen in coastal Louisiana^{5, 6}. By combining the range for possible relative sea-level rise by 2032 calculated by CPRA Planning Division (0.5 ft- 0.9 ft) discussed in Section 4.4, this equates to a combined subsidence and sea level rise of approximately 5 to 10 inches over the 20-year design life of this project as shown in Figure 3. This information was included in the marsh creation fill settlement curves to predict water levels at year 20 as shown in Figures 10 and 11 (Section 6.6).

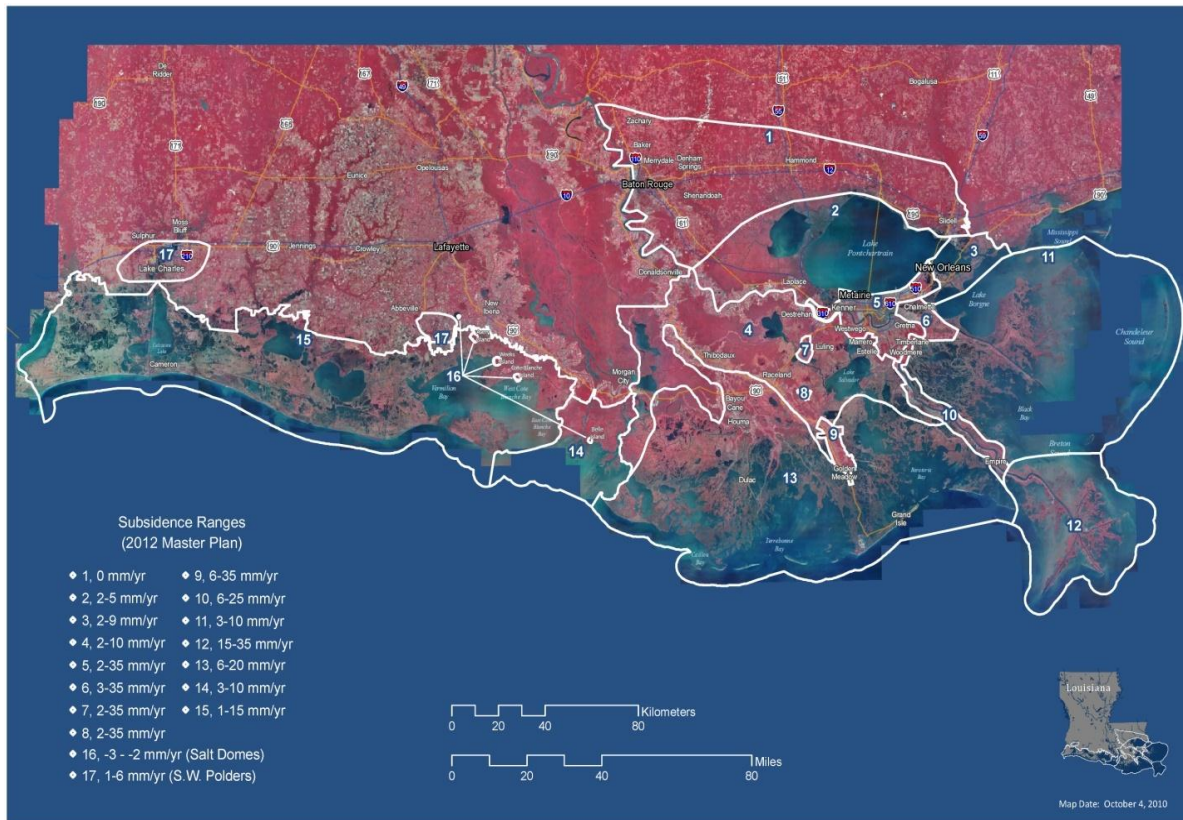


Figure 8: Map of Projected Subsidence Ranges for South Louisiana Generated by the Subsidence Advisory Panel for the Louisiana CPRA Master Plan 2012

6.4 Earthen Containment Dike Slope Stability Analysis

Slope stability analyses were performed on the proposed earthen containment dikes at different elevations and geometries. The slope stability of the earthen containment dike has two types of driving forces: (1) the forces induced by the soil weight, and (2) any seepage forces which tend to cause the soil to slide. In response to these driving forces, the subsurface soils have a resistant force in the form of shear strength, which attempts to keep the slope from sliding. Both the driving forces and the resisting forces are dependent on the geometry of the situation: the "Failure Surface". Ardaman & Associates, Inc. performed a stability analysis that computes factors of safety, against potential failure based on limit equilibrium theory.

**Cole's Bayou Marsh Restoration (TV-63)
Preliminary Design Report**

Table 4 shows the results of slope stability calculations for the earthen containment dikes at elevations that would allow at least one foot of freeboard during the filling of the marsh creation cells. A factor of safety of 1.5 was determined by Ardaman and Associates, Inc. to be acceptable for slope stability purposes. Since all factors of safety were above 1.5, no geo-textile reinforcement is required.

Marsh Area	Estimated Berm Crest El. (ft. NAVD88)	Borrow Excavation Offset (ft.)	Berm Side Slope	Factors of Safety		
				Circular Arc In Berm Slope	Circular Arc Bearing Capacity	Global Sliding Toward Borrow Pit
1	+3.0	20	4H:1V	2.02	2.74	2.66
	+4.0			1.61	2.22	2.18
2	+3.0	20	4H:1V	3.97	4.89	3.31
	+4.0			2.71	2.86	2.62
3	+3.0	20	4H:1V	2.02	3.10	2.65
	+4.0			1.61	2.38	2.08

Table 4: Earthen Containment Dike Slope Stability Results.

6.5 Earthen Containment Dike Settlement Analysis

Settlement of the foundation soils beneath the earthen containment dikes were computed based on the dike geometries determined from the slope stability analyses and the soil properties of the underlying soils. Reducing the crown elevation and width will decrease the amount of settlement under the earthen containment dikes. Settlement factors include regional subsidence, self-weight consolidation, and elastic settlement of the in situ soils. Self-weight consolidation is dependent on several factors, including organic content, natural moisture content, and construction methodology. Elastic settlement of the in situ soils will occur quickly and will likely result in an increase in the quantity of fill required to reach the design construction elevation.

Settlement for the containment dikes was performed using elevations ranging from +3.0 to +4.0 feet NAVD 88. The actual design elevations ranged from +3.0 to +3.5 feet NAVD88 and are shown in Figures 21 and 22 in Section 8.2 Earthen Containment Dike Design.

6.6 Marsh Creation Settlement Analysis

A settlement analysis was performed to determine the construction marsh fill elevation of the marsh creation fill areas and the total volume of fill material. The final elevation of the marsh creation (at year twenty) is governed by two forms of settlement: (1) the settlement of the underlying soils in the marsh creation areas caused by the loading exerted by the placement of the dredged fill material, and (2) the self-weight consolidation of the dredged material (See Figure 9). Data from low pressure consolidation tests were used to estimate the time-rate of settlement of the underlying soils of the marsh creation fill areas. Self-weight consolidation tests were performed on a composite sample from the borrow area

**Cole's Bayou Marsh Restoration (TV-63)
Preliminary Design Report**

material (borings B-19 through B-24) to estimate the self-weight consolidation of the dredged fill material.

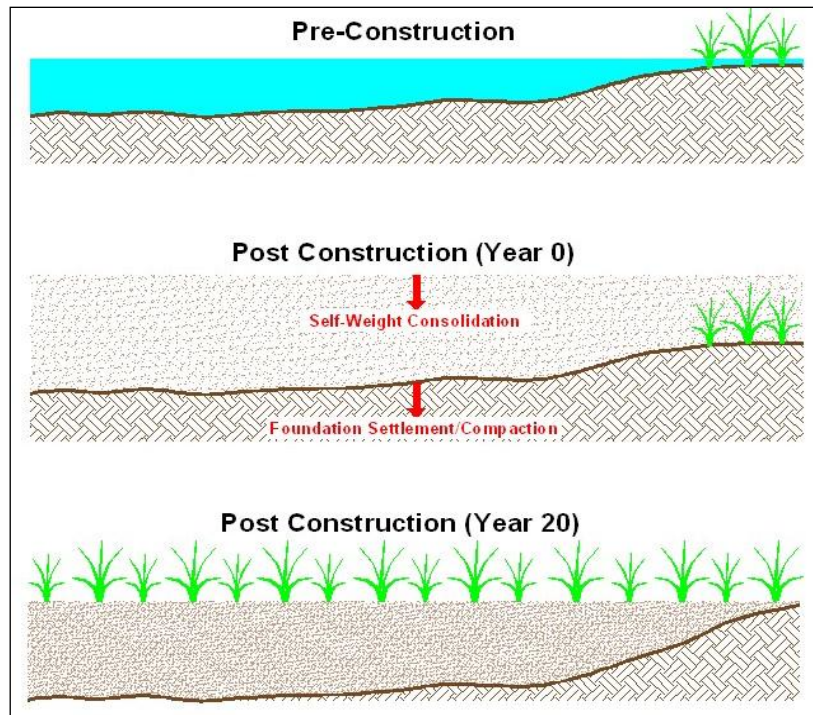


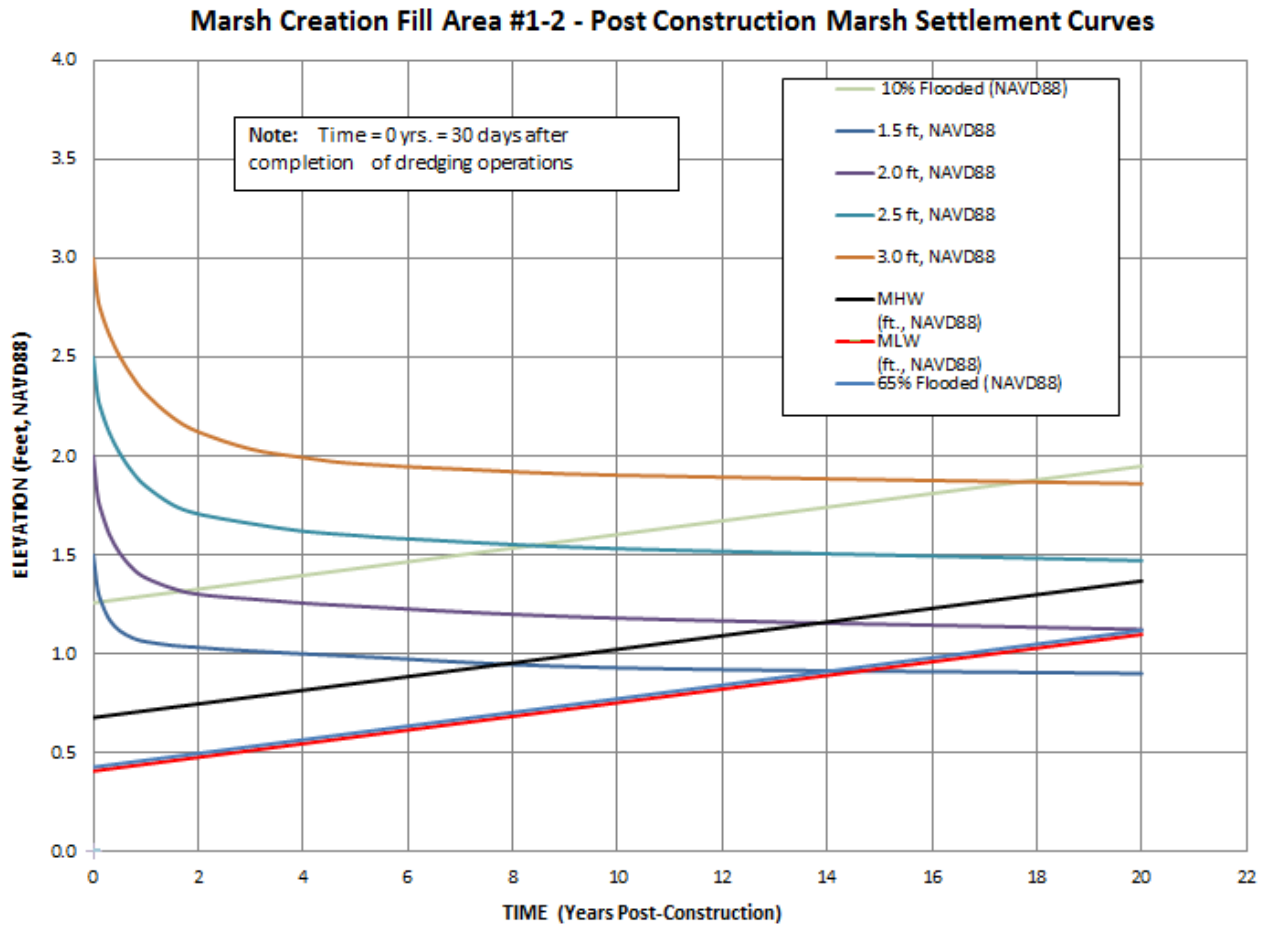
Figure 9: Marsh Creation Settlement

Settlement curves were developed in 0.5ft increments for proposed construction marsh fill elevations ranging from 1.5 feet to 3.0 feet NAVD 88. These settlement curves show the changes in elevation over the 20-year design life of the project and were used to compare different marsh fill elevations.

The estimated total settlement for Marsh Creation Fill Areas 1 and 2 is shown in Figure 10, and the estimated total settlement for Marsh Creation Fill Area 3 is shown in Figure 11. There is very little settlement after 6 months, which is favorable for the project over the 20-year project life. The elevation of each marsh creation fill area is adjusted to the settlement curves associated with that area.

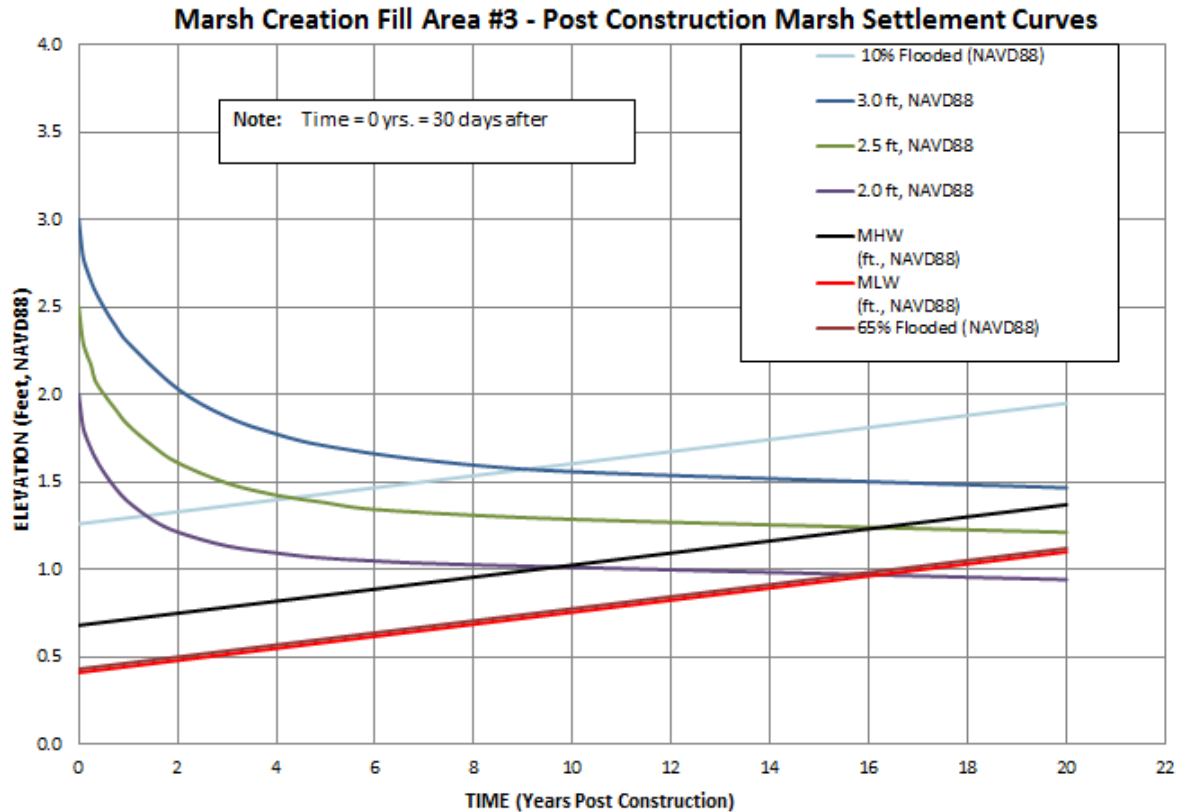
To determine the final constructed marsh fill elevation that would yield the most productive marsh at the end of the 20-year project life, water levels from within the project area, water levels from outside of the project area, water levels from inside the project area, and subsidence and sea level rise were taken into account. Accretion was not taken into account due to the uncertainty in calculating short-term accretion rates.

**Cole's Bayou Marsh Restoration (TV-63)
Preliminary Design Report**



Figures 10: Estimated Total Settlement Curves for marsh creation fill sites 1 and 2 overlaid on the 10% inundated, 65% inundated, MHW, and MLW lines, including RSLR.

**Cole's Bayou Marsh Restoration (TV-63)
Preliminary Design Report**



Figures 11: Estimated Total Settlement Curves for marsh creation fill site 3 overlaid on the 10% inundated, 65% inundated, MHW, and MLW lines including RSLR.

Since the project area is semi-impounded, interior marshes are not exposed to the tidal influences present in Little Vermilion Bay like the surrounding marshes. This is apparent when looking at the Healthy Marsh Elevation Survey results discussed in Section 3.4. Therefore, the final marsh elevation for TV-63 should fall somewhere in the range of what is considered healthy within the project area and what is considered healthy in the surrounding marshes.

The ideal final marsh elevation would fall around the 50% inundated mark at the end of the 20 year project life and would spend the majority of the project life within the functional brackish marsh range (10%-65% inundated). For this project, +1.3 ft, NAVD88 was determined to best fit the criteria for final target marsh elevation.

6.7 Cut to Fill Ratio Recommendations

A cut to fill ratio was determined by Ardaman and Associates in order to account for losses due to dredging, containment, and dewatering. A cut to fill ratio of 1.5 will be applied for all hydraulically dredged marsh fill sediment. Mechanical dredging of the containment dikes has generally yielded a cut to fill ratio approximately between 1.2 and 1.6. For this project a cut to fill of 1.3 will be used for mechanical dredging of the containment dikes.

7.0 HYDRODYNAMIC MODELING

7.1 Model Setup

Dynamic Solutions was tasked to model the hydrodynamics within the project area and help to determine the best course of action to reconnect the system with the surrounding marshes. The Adaptive Hydraulics Model (ADH) was chosen to track changes in water movement and changes in salinity. The ADH model was recommended because of its ability to handle complex domains and simulate flow through hydraulic structures³. The model was then calibrated using data collected by the ENCOS monitoring stations. The Final Hydrodynamic Modeling Report is provided in Appendix G.

7.2 Model Runs

Three scenarios were evaluated to determine the best course of action to reconnect the project area to the surrounding marshes. An existing conditions model run was performed to get an idea of the conditions at the present time. The run showed the majority of the project area being inundated between 50 and 100% of the time. Flow through the project area was limited to the breaches present throughout the northern boundary, and little to no water was exiting the system to the south.

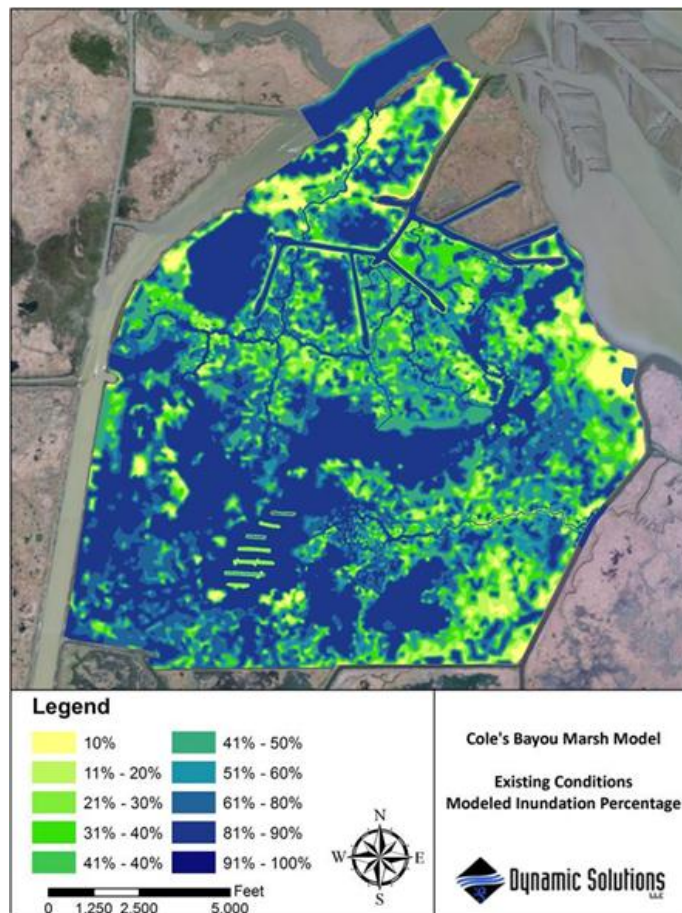


Figure 12: Existing conditions model run.

**Cole's Bayou Marsh Restoration (TV-63)
Preliminary Design Report**

Scenario	Features	Flow In (cfs)	Flow Out (cfs)	Net Flow Out of Marsh(cfs)	Average Water Level (ft)
Existing	-	19.8	23.9	4.1	0.96
1	Marsh Fill at +1.3ft, NAVD88	15.9	19.6	3.7	0.99
2	Marsh Fill at +1.3ft, NAVD88				
	Conveyance Channel around MC3	6.2	10.6	4.4	1.22
	48in Culverts (Invert=0.0ft)				
3	Marsh Fill at +1.3ft, NAVD88				
	Conveyance Channel around MC3	40.5	43.8	3.3	1.02
	48in Culverts (Invert=-2.0ft)				

Table 5: Summary of model runs performed.

7.2.1 Scenario 1-Marsh Creation Only

Scenario 1 looked at the hydrodynamic response of the system to adding the three marsh creation areas. In order to determine how the project area will act at the end of the 20-year project life, the marsh elevation was set to 1.3 ft NAVD88. Flow through the area was reduced in all areas except for the oil field canals. With the introduction of the marsh creation areas, water was no longer able to flow to the southern part of the project area. Since there was no overall increase in the flow, however, there was no significant reduction in inundation throughout the project area with the exception of the new marsh creation areas as shown by Figure 13.

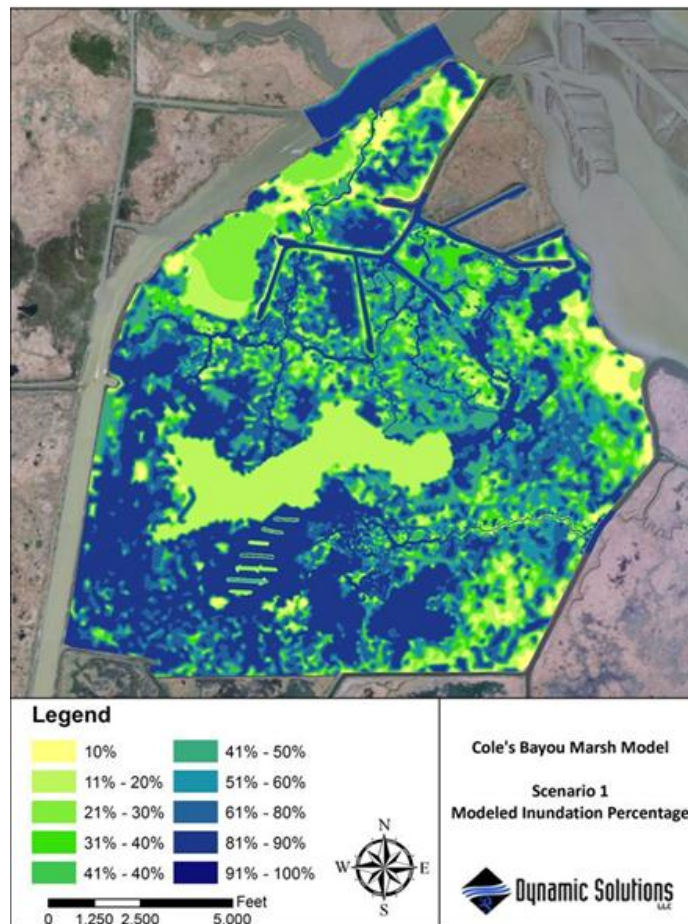


Figure 13: Scenario 1 percent inundation.

**Cole's Bayou Marsh Restoration (TV-63)
Preliminary Design Report**

7.2.2 Scenario 2-Marsh Creation and Water Control Structures (Invert=0.0')

Scenario 2 simulated the response of the system to adding the three marsh creation areas, placing a borrow channel around the outside of the largest fill cell, and adding eight (8) inflow water control structures and two (2) outflow water control structures. The borrow channel around the largest marsh creation area served to reconnect the channels that were cut off after the marsh creation was placed to allow for better flow to the southern areas. All water control structures in the model were 48 inch diameter by 25 ft long one-way flap gated culverts and had an invert of 0.0 ft, NAVD88. The eight northern water control structures allow water to flow into the project area, and the two southern water control structures allow water to flow out of the project area into the surrounding marshes. In this scenario water flowed into the system more but wasn't able to leave the system resulting in larger areas being inundated for longer periods of time as shown in Figure 14.

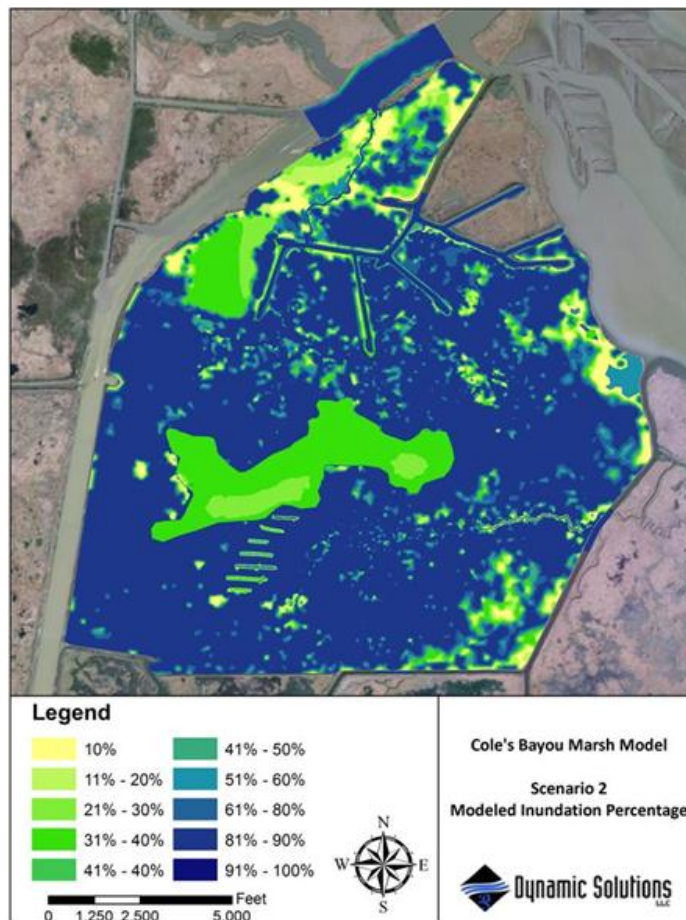


Figure 14: Scenario 2 percent inundation.

**Cole's Bayou Marsh Restoration (TV-63)
Preliminary Design Report**

5.2.3. Scenario 3- Marsh Creation and Water Control Structures (Invert=-2.0')

Scenario 3 simulated the response of the system to adding the three marsh creation areas, placing a borrow channel around the outside of the largest fill cell, and adding eight (8) inflow and eight (8) outflow water control structures. This scenario differs from Scenario 2 by adding six more outflow water control structures and by dropping the inverts for all of the water control structures to -2.0' NAVD88. Water control structure dimensions and specifications were the same between scenarios 2 and 3. Flow throughout the system was increased from Scenario 2 and allowed for lesser inundation times throughout the project area as shown in Figure 17. The combination of increasing the number of outflow structures and setting the invert at a -2.0' allowed for better ingress and egress of water throughout the system.

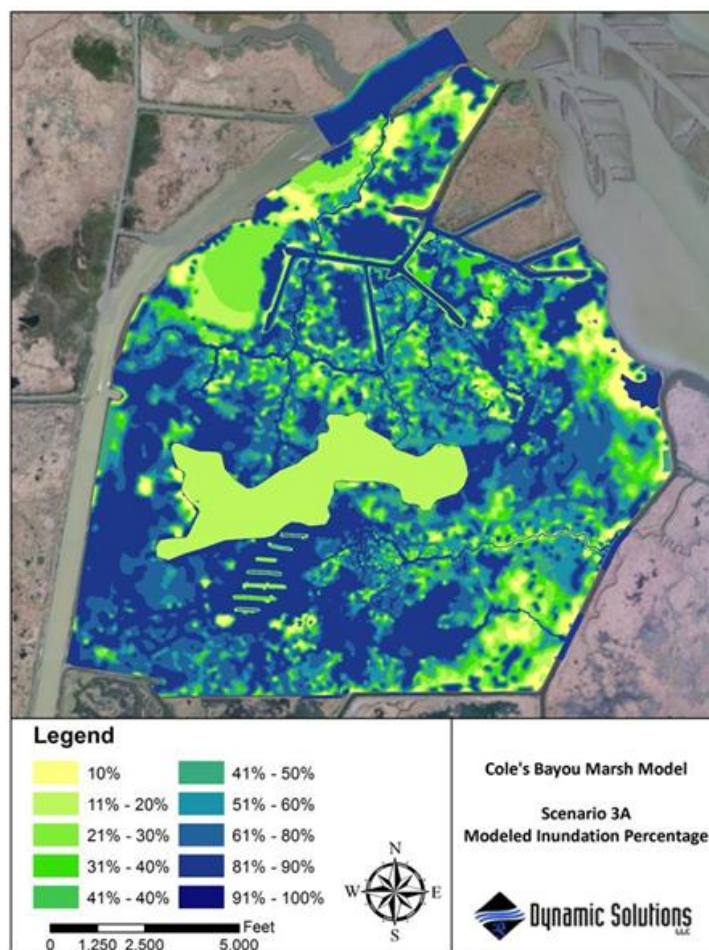


Figure 15: Scenario 3 percent inundation.

8.0 MARSH CREATION DESIGN

The project proposes to create marsh by dredging material from a borrow site located in Little Vermilion Bay for placement into the designated marsh creation fill areas shown in Figure 16. The marsh creation design was broken into four (4) components: the marsh creation fill areas, the earthen containment dikes, the dredge borrow area, and the

Cole's Bayou Marsh Restoration (TV-63) Preliminary Design Report

equipment access corridor. The design of each component is discussed in the sections below.

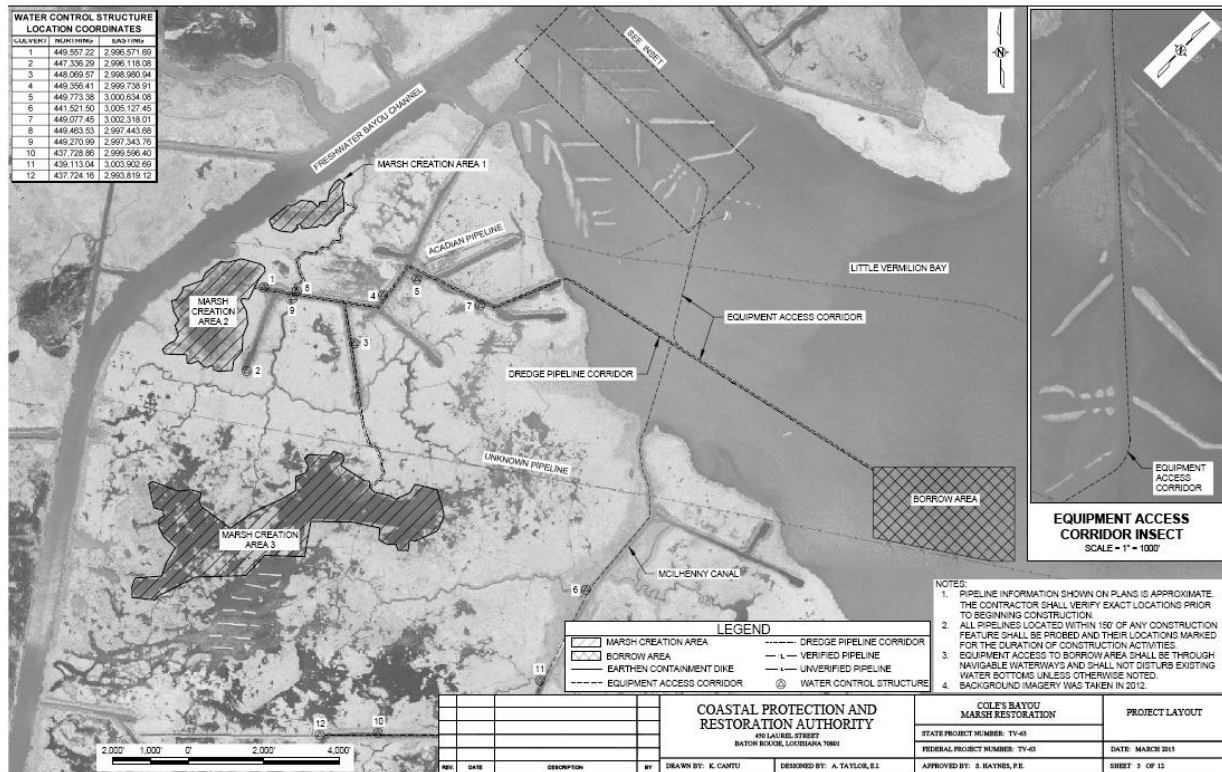


Figure 16: Plan views of the project design features.

8.1 Marsh Creation Fill Area Design

The primary goals of the marsh creation fill area features are to address the land loss in this area. These goals governed the configuration of the marsh creation fill areas. The main design component of TV-63 involves the calculation of the marsh fill volumes. Before this could be accomplished, a constructed marsh fill elevation had to be determined. This elevation was governed by several factors including the final target marsh elevation considering healthy marsh elevations obtained, percent inundation, the physical properties of the borrow material, and the bearing capacity of the existing soils in each marsh creation area.

Determination of the construction marsh fill elevation is based on consideration of the average marsh elevation over the life of the project with respect to intended functioning of the marsh from both a habitat perspective and meeting the project goals and objectives. One element of the marsh design is to maximize the time period that the marsh platform has an elevation within the functional brackish marsh inundation range (10%-65% inundated) and maximize the time period spent in the range that most closely correlates to MHW and MLW (40%-70% inundated). Over the 20-year project life, and with a relative sea level rise rate of 0.005576 feet/year (as discussed in Section 4.4), the 40% to 70% inundation range is expected to rise from +0.42 feet to +0.68 feet, NAVD88 and from +1.11 feet to +1.37 feet, NAVD88, respectively. As discussed in Section 6.6, the final

**Cole's Bayou Marsh Restoration (TV-63)
Preliminary Design Report**

target fill elevation is +1.3 ft, NAVD88. To achieve the desired final elevation, the marsh platform will initially have to be pumped to a constructed marsh fill elevation outside of the functional brackish marsh range (10%-65% inundated) and settle into the range over the design life.

For Marsh Creation Areas 1 and 2, the two northernmost marsh creation cells, an initial constructed marsh fill elevation of +2.0 feet will be sufficient to reach the final target marsh elevation. For Marsh Creation Area 3, an initial constructed marsh fill elevation of +2.5 feet will be sufficient to reach the final target marsh elevation.

After determining the constructed marsh fill elevations, the total volume of each marsh creation fill area is calculated by using AutoCAD Civil software. The software creates a 3-Dimensional surface based on XYZ coordinate data from the survey cross-sections. This surface is known as a Triangulated Irregular Network (TIN). The TIN model represents a surface as a set of contiguous, non-overlapping triangles. Both a TIN surface containing the 2013 survey data from HydroTerra and a flat TIN surface at the creation construction elevation was generated by AutoCAD. AutoCAD then uses the XYZ differences of each surface to calculate the volume of each marsh creation area. Since the containment borrow must be refilled in cells 1 and 2, the volume required to build containment dikes plus a cut-to-fill ratio of 1.3 for the dikes is then added to the volume required to fill the marsh creation areas. The cut-to-fill ratio of 1.5 is then applied, resulting in a final estimate of volumes for each marsh creation area. Table 6 summarizes the fill volumes for each marsh creation area within the TV-63 project.

Marsh Creation Area	Fill Height (ft)	Area (Acres)	Cut to Fill	Volume of Fill (yd ³)	Volume of Cut (yd ³)
1	2.0	28	1.5	85,288	127,932
2	2.0	108	1.5	318,163	477,244
3	2.5	282	1.5	1,373,450	2,060,175
Totals		418		1,776,901	2,665,352

Table 6: Summary of Creation Acreage and Volume

8.2 Earthen Containment Dike Design

The primary design parameters associated with the earthen containment dike design include crown elevation, crown width, and side slopes. One foot of freeboard will be used to contain the dredge slurry within the marsh creation areas. Therefore, the earthen containment dikes will be constructed to an elevation between 3.0 and 4.0 ft NAVD88.

The width of the crown of the earthen containment dikes provide a minimum factor of safety of 1.5 in regards to bearing capacity. All outer earthen containment dikes will be constructed using crown width of 5 feet. A side slope of 4 feet horizontal for every foot of vertical rise (4H:1V) was utilized for containment of the marsh creation areas.

**Cole's Bayou Marsh Restoration (TV-63)
Preliminary Design Report**

The earthen containment dikes for marsh creation areas 1 and 2 will be constructed using in-situ material from inside the marsh creation areas. A 2:1 side slope will be necessary in the earthen containment dike borrow area for cells 1 and 2. For slope stability purposes, the dike borrow pits will be located a minimum of 20 feet from the toe of the containment dike. The containment borrow pit for marsh creation sites 1 and 2 have a maximum bottom elevation of -5.0 ft, NAVD88. The earthen containment dikes for marsh creation area 3 will be constructed using in-situ material from outside the marsh creation area for reasons discussed in Section 7.2.2. Similarly, for the purposes of slope stability the dike borrow pit will be located at a minimum of 20 feet from the toe of the dike. For all marsh fill cell containment, a berm of larger than the minimum 20 feet from the toe of the dike may be used if the equipment has the allowable reach. A 4H:1V side slope will be used in the earthen containment dike borrow area with a maximum bottom elevation of -5.0 ft, NAVD88. Typical sections of the marsh creation containment dikes are shown below in Figures 17 and 18.

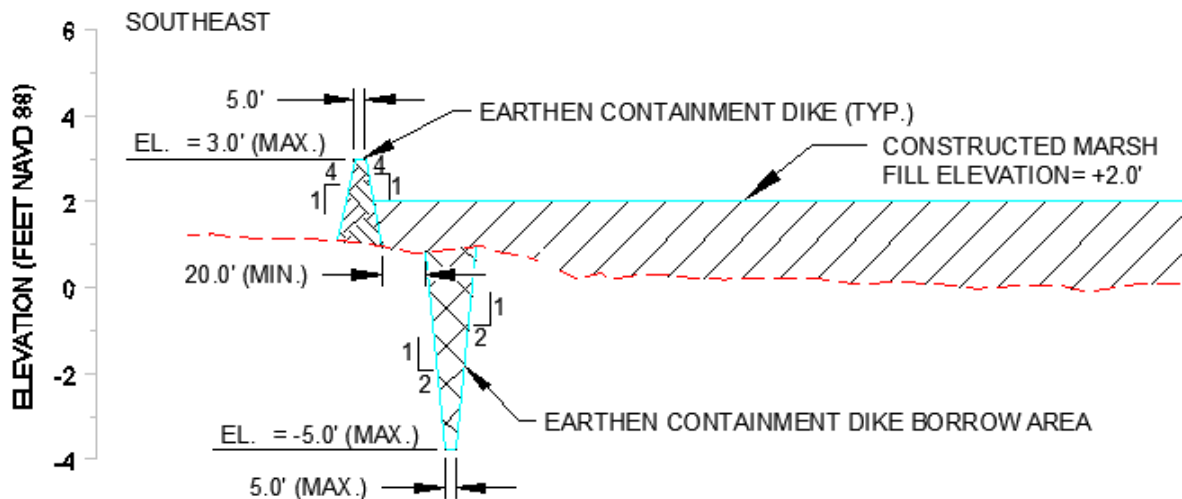


Figure 17: Typical earthen containment dike section for Marsh Creation Fill Areas 1&2.

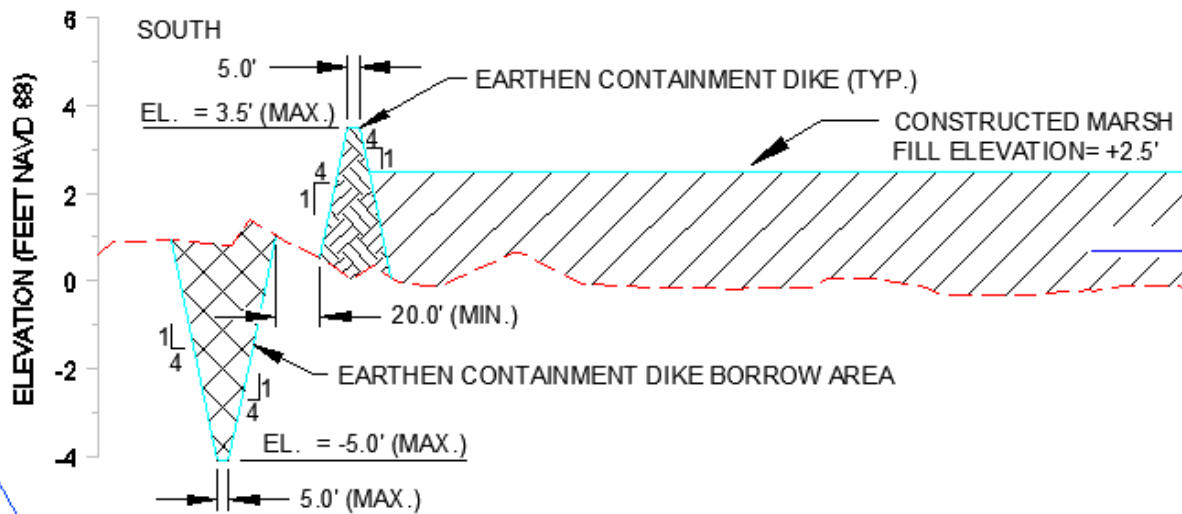
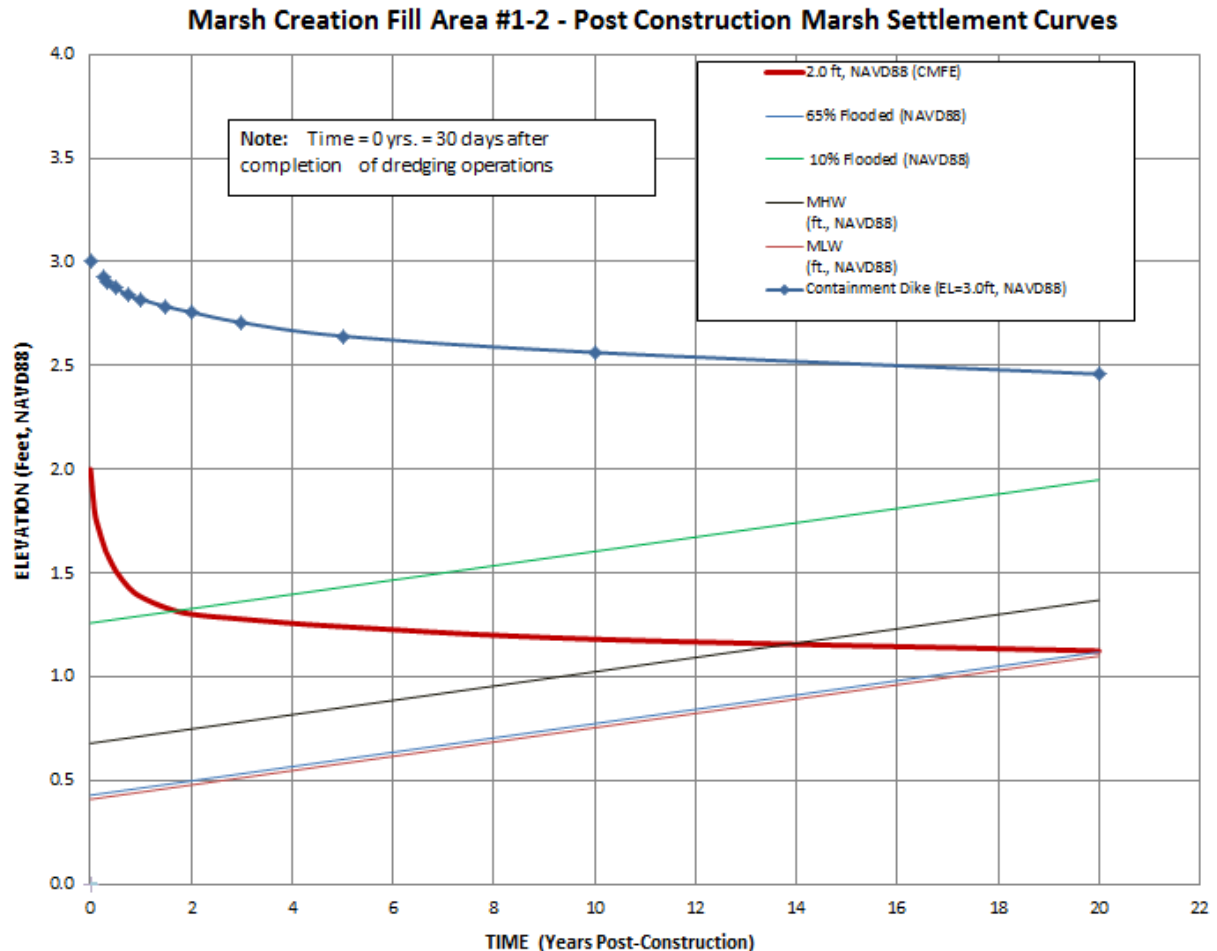


Figure 18: Typical earthen containment dike section for Marsh Creation Fill Area 3.

**Cole's Bayou Marsh Restoration (TV-63)
Preliminary Design Report**

As discussed in Section 6.5, settlement of the soils beneath the earthen containment dikes was computed based on the dike geometries. The settlement curves for the final dike geometries and elevations are shown in Figures 19 and 20. The results show that a minimum of one (1) foot of freeboard will be present at all times during construction and throughout the 20 year project design life.



Figures 19: Earthen Containment Dike estimated settlement curve.

**Cole's Bayou Marsh Restoration (TV-63)
Preliminary Design Report**

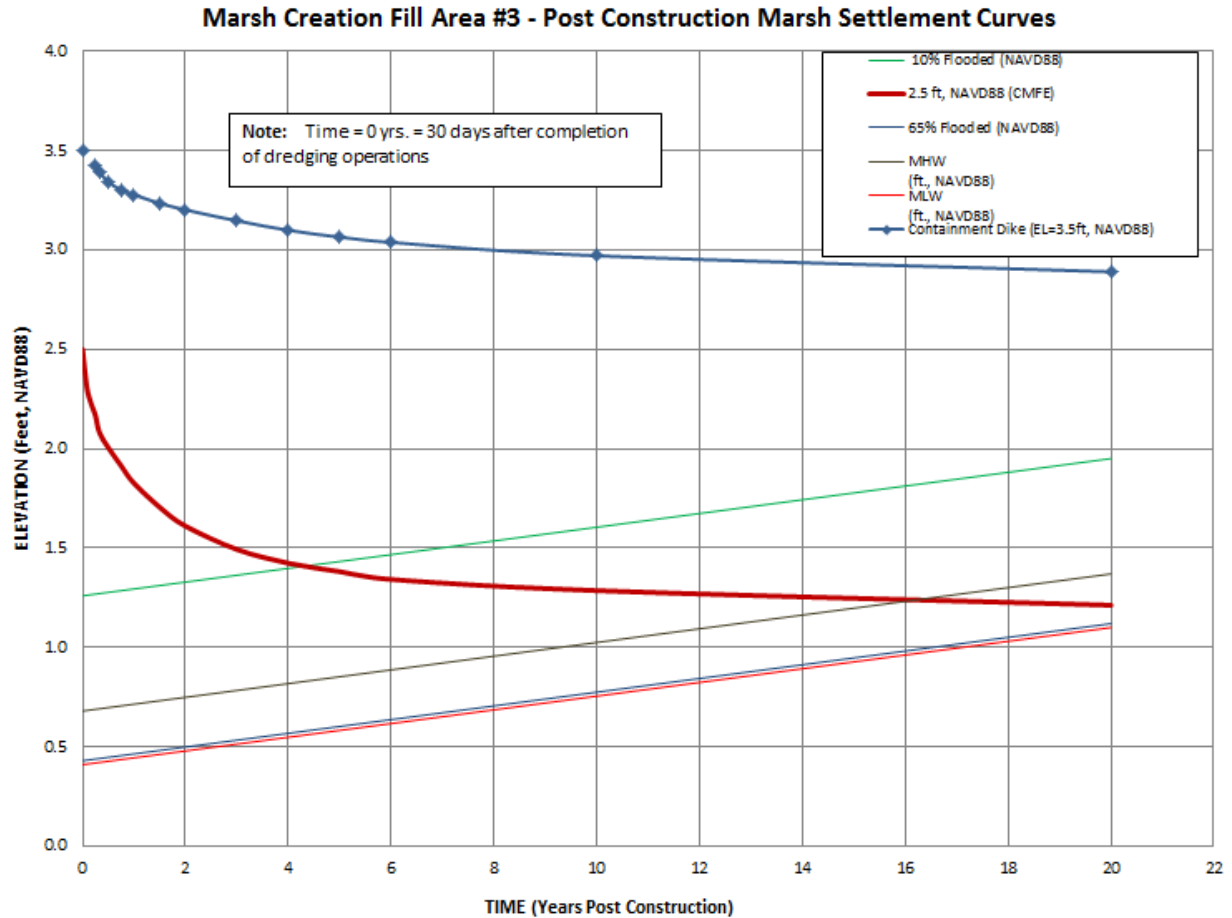


Figure 20: Earthen containment dike estimated settlement curve.

Table 7 details the design aspects of the earthen containment dikes.

Marsh Creation Area	Design Height (ft)	Side Slopes	Crown Width (ft)	Factor of Safety	Minimum Offset (ft)	Cut to Fill	Volume of Fill (yd ³)	Volume of Cut (yd ³)
1	3.0	4H : 1V	5	2.02	20	1.3	7,244	9,417
2	3.0	4H : 1V	5	3.97	20	1.3	9,226	11,994
3	3.5	4H : 1V	5	1.61	20	1.3	62,614	81,398
Total							79,084	102,809

Table 7: Summary of Earthen Containment Dike Design

8.3 Borrow Area Design

The controlling factors in the proposed borrow area design are the location, size, and depth. It is preferred that the borrow area be located in close proximity to the marsh creation fill areas in order to minimize the pumping distance of material. It is also

**Cole's Bayou Marsh Restoration (TV-63)
Preliminary Design Report**

preferred that the borrow area be clear of any existing oyster leases or pipelines. The borrow area chosen during the Phase 0 stage of the project satisfies these criteria.

The size of the borrow area is determined by the total volume of marsh fill required for the project and provide sufficient latitude for the contractor to select the most effective area to dredge and move within. A cut to fill ratio should be applied when placing hydraulically dredged material. This is to account for any lost material during the dredging and dewatering processes of construction. Under normal circumstances, it takes approximately 1.3 to 1.5 cubic yards of hydraulically removed material to fill 1.0 cubic yards in the placement area. For TV-63, a 1.5:1 cut to creation ratio was applied to determine the cut volume in the borrow area. A summary of in-place fill and cut volumes for each marsh creation area is found in Table 5 in Section 8.1.

An elevation of -15 feet, NAVD88 was chosen to be the maximum bottom elevation to ensure there would be enough material available. The borrow area chosen during the Phase 0 stage of the project has an area of 193 acres. Due to finding the unknown pipeline discussed in Section 5.5 in such close proximity to the borrow area, the geometry of the borrow area was changed to the shape reflected in Figure 18. The new geometry maintained the 193 acres of borrow area by offsetting the southwest quadrant 100 feet from the unknown pipeline and extending the western edge. Cross-sectional areas of each transect in the borrow area were calculated using the data collected in the borrow area survey to compute average end area. The available volume of material within this borrow area was then calculated using these areas. The chosen borrow area has approximately 3.2 million cubic yards of material. For additional information refer to the detailed soil boring logs for B19-B24 in Appendix C.

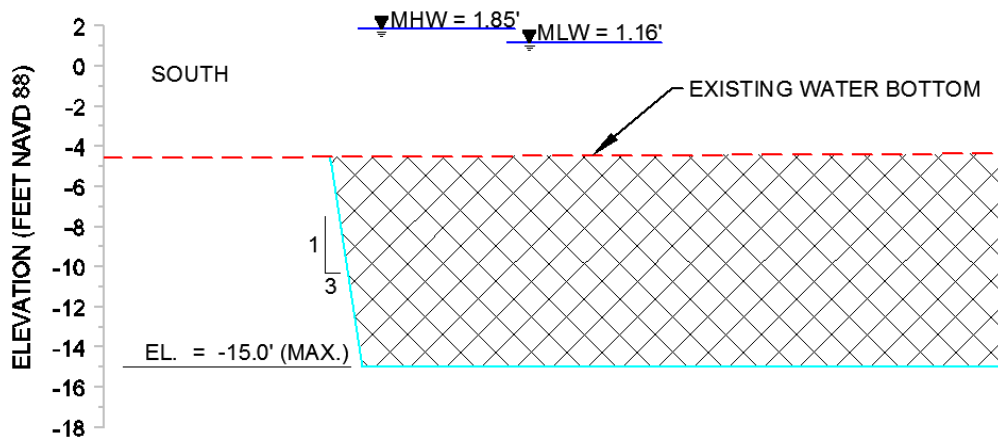


Figure 21: Borrow Area typical section.

A borrow area wave refraction analysis has not been performed for this borrow area because of the location in Little Vermilion Bay. If required to secure a construction permit, all necessary data has been collected to run the analysis.

8.4 Equipment Access Corridor Design

Since the bottom elevations in Little Vermilion Bay are approximately -3.0 ft to -4.0 ft, NAVD88 on average, equipment access dredging will be needed to get the necessary equipment to the borrow area. Figure 18 shows the route for access starting from Freshwater Bayou and continuing down the centerline of the TV-12 (Little Vermilion Bay Terraces) CWPPRA project into Little Vermilion Bay. Once in Little Vermilion Bay, oil and gas infrastructure and previously dredged routes dictated the alignment of the corridor.

A dredge having a discharge diameter of no bigger than 27 inches was assumed to be the size necessary to perform this work. With this in mind, the maximum bottom elevation will be dredged to a -9 ft, NAVD88 with a 3:1 side slope and a 70 ft maximum bottom width as shown in Figure 22. A maximum bottom elevation of -9 ft, NAVD88 would result in approximately 10 ft of draft. Approximately 220,000 CY of dredged material will be placed as temporary spoil and backfilled upon the completion of the project. The spoil placement will start no closer than 25 feet from the edge of cut for slope stability purposes.

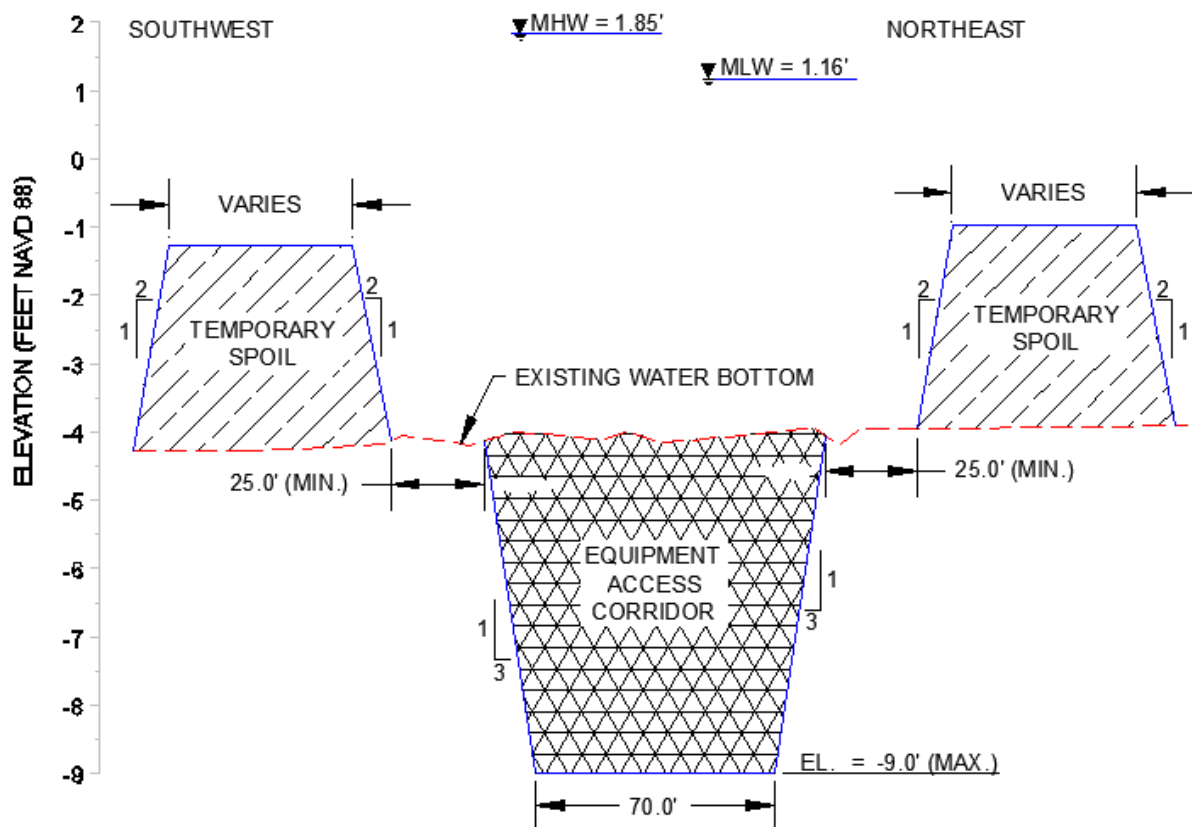


Figure 22: Typical section for the equipment access corridor.

9.0 HYDROLOGIC RESTORATION DESIGN

The project proposes to restore the hydrology in the project area by installing water control structures on the northern and southern boundaries as shown in Figure 18, and dredging a conveyance channel around the largest marsh creation cell. The hydrologic restoration design was broken into two (2) components: the water control structures and the conveyance channel. The design of each component is discussed in the sections below.

9.1 Water Control Structure Design

The primary goal of the water control structures is to control the volume of water getting into the project area and to facilitate the egress of the water to the south. These goals governed the placement and configuration of the water control structures. Though the project area is largely enclosed by a levee, there are many breaches found in the northern boundary of the project area that allow water to get into the system. These breaches are not found in the southern boundary, so water gets trapped and forms large open water areas. The locations of the breaches, existing channels, and larger ponding areas were the basis for the locations of the water control structures.

Scientists for both CPRA and NMFS were concerned with ensuring the flow would only be north to south to prevent any backflow into the marsh. To accomplish this, the water control structures will be fitted with a check valve that allows water to only flow South through the water control structure.

Different check valve (or flap gate) options were considered including check valves that were hinged at the top and duck bill check valve. Both options could be functional with a very small head differential, which is optimal for this location, and both impeded back flow into the marsh. The duck bill check valve was determined to be more favorable because it requires less maintenance than the hinged gate while still allowing only one directional flow.

Since the breaches ranged in widths of 5 feet to 30 feet across and the area is home to many species of wildlife, the water control structures needed to be sized in a way so as to accommodate these factors. Forty-eight (48) inch corrugated HDPE water control structures were determined to be the most favorable to achieve this goal. Corrugated HDPE was chosen over metal because it is lower in cost while still being structurally sound. Since the HDPE pipe and the duck bill check valves are both lightweight, the structures will not need to be pile supported, which will make any necessary future maintenance easier.

In order to make the water control structures effective over the entire water level range, an invert of -2.0 feet, NAVD88 was determined during modeling. In-situ material will be used to encase the water control structures and bring the levees back to existing grade. The Contractor will be required to compact the in-situ soil prior to placing the water control

**Cole's Bayou Marsh Restoration (TV-63)
Preliminary Design Report**

structures to help limit any differential settling. Figure 23 shows a typical of the water control structure in place. The method of construction will vary based on whether or not the structure will be placed through an existing levee or in a breach. Water control structures being placed in a breach will utilize in-situ material mechanically dredged from a nearby borrow pit on the outfall side of the structure to reconnect the banks of the levee. Structures being placed through an existing levee will utilize excavated material to backfill structure.

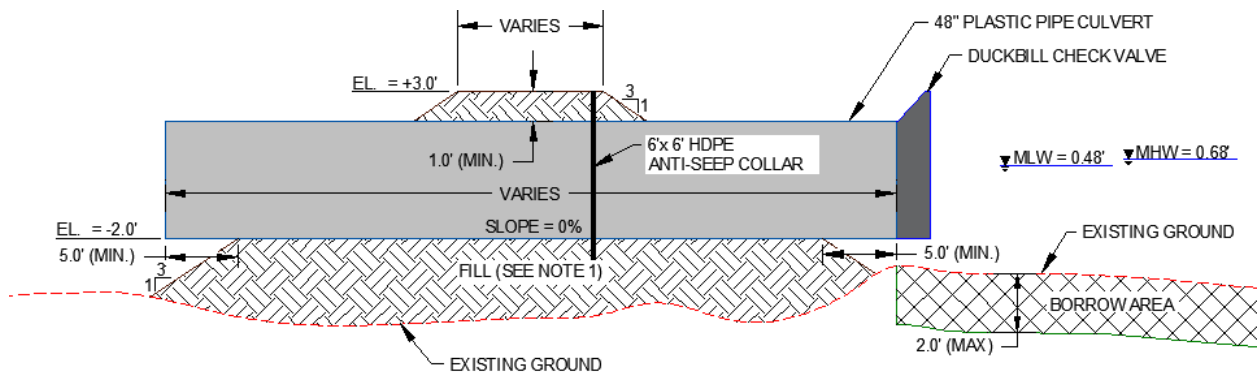


Figure 23: Water control structure typical with duck bill check valve attached.

9.2 Conveyance Channel

As stated in Section 8.2 (Earthen Containment Dike Design), the borrow material for the containment dike of the largest marsh creation fill area (Marsh Creation Fill Area 3) will be taken from outside of the marsh creation fill area. This will help to reconnect existing trenasses and channels that will be cut off once the marsh fill is placed. Dimensions for the conveyance channel are 25 ft wide top width by 5 ft deep, and a typical can be found in Figure 20 in Section 8.2. It will utilize the 4:1 side slope prescribed by Ardaman and Associates for slope stability purposes.

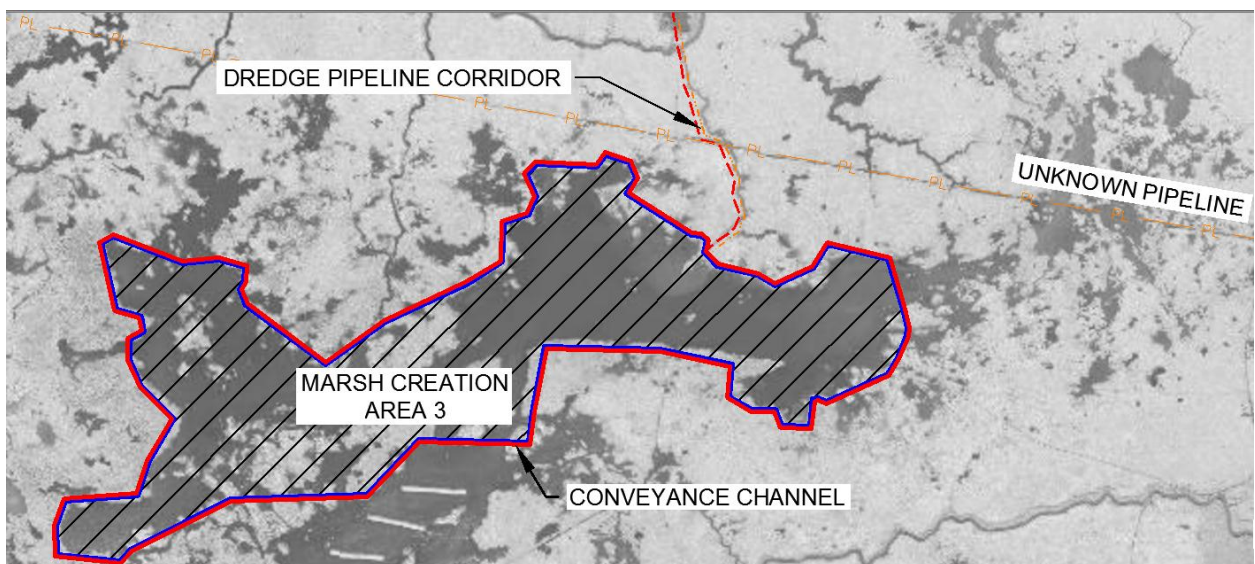


Figure 24: Plan view of the conveyance channel around marsh creation fill area 3.

10.0 CONSTRUCTION

10.1 Duration

An approximate construction duration was developed using the CDS Dredge Production and Cost Estimation Software and Microsoft Project. Assuming construction of the containment dikes will be completed prior to dredging, the time to complete containment dike construction and to fill marsh creation cells would be approximately 6 months using a 27 inch dredge and incorporating weather days. Water control structure installation including earthwork and weather days would be approximately 2 months.

10.2 Cost Estimate

An Engineers Estimate of Probably Construction Cost was prepared for this project using the CWPPRA PPL 24 spreadsheet. The estimated construction cost including a 25% contingency is \$20,692,584.

11.0 MODIFICATIONS TO APPROVED PHASE 0 PROJECT

As a result of Phase 1 activities, the features originally approved in Phase 0 have been modified to present a more cost effective and competitive project for consideration of Phase II funding. Specifically, the northern reach of Cole's Bayou was intended to be dredged to promote north of south flow through the project area. However, the input into the system provided by the oilfield canals is greater than previously estimated based on subsequent hydrodynamic modeling. Therefore, dredging Cole's Bayou would create an unnecessary expense for the project and is no longer included as a project feature. Additionally, 22 acres of proposed terraces were eliminated in exchange for increasing the marsh creation fill area from 337 to 418 acres.

12.0 REFERENCES

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**Appendix A:
Secondary Monument Data Sheets and
CRMS Survey Reports**

Appendix B: Survey Report and Drawings

Appendix C: Geotechnical Boring Logs

**Appendix D:
Preliminary Cultural Resources
Determination**

Appendix E: Preliminary Design Drawings

Appendix F: Calculations Package