

Appendix E:
Cultural and Historical Resources Coordination



REGION 6

DALLAS, TX 75270

July 16, 2024

Ms. Kristin Sanders
State Historic Preservation Officer
Louisiana Office of Cultural Development
Division of Archaeology
Post Office Box 44247
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-4247

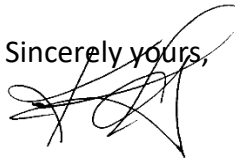
Dear Ms. Sanders:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 is requesting consultation with your office for the proposed Port Fourchon Marsh Creation Project (TE-0171) features, including the marsh creation fill area and the dredge material borrow area. TE-0171 is located west of Belle Pass and southwest of Port Fourchon within Lafourche Parish, Louisiana. Sediment will be hydraulically dredged from the 303-acre, 4.26-mile long borrow area within the corridor of Belle Pass extending into the Gulf of Mexico. Belle Pass is a federal navigation channel in which maintenance dredging already occurs by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Dredge materials will be used to create 507 acres and nourish 88 acres of coastal wetlands. This project is being funded under the authority of the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act. The EPA is the federal sponsor.

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) [i.e., the “geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause changes in the character of or use of historic properties, if any such properties exist” (36 C.F.R. § 800.16(d))] for TE-0171 includes all terrestrial and marine areas of disturbance (i.e., the dredge material borrow area). Archeological sites 16LF82 and 16LF84, located on the west bank of Belle Pass, are ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Site 16LF7, shown on the Louisiana Cultural Resources Map as within the Belle Pass Channel, is ineligible for the NRHP.

ELOS Environmental, LLC completed the cultural resources investigation for TE-0171 in April 2024, which consisted of an intensive marine remote sensing survey of the Borrow Area A APE within Belle Pass. ELOS’s interpretation of the magnetometer, side-scan sonar, and sub-bottom profiler data identified 411 magnetic anomalies and 48 side-scan targets. All anomalies and side-scan targets were interpreted as modern ferrous debris, pipelines and submerged pilings and no anomalies represent significant cultural resource findings. No sub-bottom paleofeatures nor evidence of buried cultural resources were identified within the remote sensing data. No further work on the magnetic anomalies is recommended and the report concluded that the project undertaking (Borrow Area A) would have no adverse effects on historic properties.

No evidence of cultural resources, cultural material, or cultural features were identified during the examination of Borrow Area A and we believe no historic properties will be affected by this project as proposed. We request your concurrence with this determination. Should you require further information, please feel free to contact Patricia Taylor, Ph.D., P.E. at (214) 665-6403 or email at Taylor.Patricia-A@epa.gov.

Sincerely yours,


Karen McCormick, Section Supervisor
Marine, Coastal and Nonpoint Source Section

Attachment:

1. Maritime Phase I Cultural Resource Remote Sensing Survey of the Proposed Port Fourchon Marsh Creation Project, Lafourche Parish, Louisiana

ecc: Dustin White, CPRA
Elizabeth Davoli, CPRA



BILLY NUNGESSER
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM
OFFICE OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF ARCHAEOLOGY

CARRIE BROUSSARD
INTERIM ASSISTANT SECRETARY

3 September 2024

Karen McCormick
Marine, Coastal and NonPoint Source Section
EPA Region 6
Dallas, TX 75270

Re: Draft Report
La Division of Archaeology Report No. 22-7627
Maritime Phase I Cultural Resources Remote Sensing Survey of the Proposed Fort Fourchon Marsh Creation Project, Lafourche Parish, Louisiana

Dear Karen McCormick:

We acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 16 July 2024 and one copy of the above referenced report.

In the Results section, please clearly state that the survey addressed only Borrow Area A. It would be helpful to include a map showing the extent of the area surveyed as well. Please include maps showing the location of the magnetic anomalies and the side-scan anomalies. It is also important to note that no evidence of site 16LF7 was identified in the APE.

In the Conclusions and Recommendations, it is important to note the mapped presence of 16LF7 in the APE, that no evidence of it was identified during the survey, and that it is recommended Not Eligible for nomination to the National Register as it is presumed destroyed by shoreline erosion as supported by previous investigations (give references). We believe the site is as correctly plotted as possible given its position on the original 15 minute quad map, and the amount of shoreline erosion that has occurred since its documentation in 1952.

Based upon the description of the Area of Potential Effect (APE), the proposed ground-disturbing activities, and the identification of historic properties within the APE, our office concurs with the assessment that no historic properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places will be affected by this project. Our office has no further concerns for this project.

Consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office does not constitute consultation with Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, other Native American tribes, local governments, or the public. If archaeological materials are encountered during construction, the procedures codified at 36 CFR 800.13(b) will apply. Archaeological materials consist of any items, fifty years old or older, which were made or used by man. These items include but are not limited to, stone projectile points (arrowheads), ceramic sherds, bricks, worked wood, bone and stone, metal, and glass objects. The federal agency or the applicant receiving federal assistance should contact our office immediately. If human remains are encountered, the provisions of the Louisiana Unmarked Human Burial Sites Preservation Act (Revised Statute 8:671-681) should be followed.

We look forward to receiving a copy of the bound, double-sided final report and the pdf copy. If you have any questions, please contact Chip McGimsey at cmcgimsey@crt.la.gov or 225-219-4598.

Sincerely,

Carrie Broussard

Carrie Broussard
State Historic Preservation Officer



REGION 6
DALLAS, TX 75270
September 25, 2024

The Final Report has been
reviewed and accepted.
Report # 22-7627

Ms. Carrie Broussard
Interim Assistant Secretary
Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism
Office of Cultural Development
P.O. Box 44247, Capitol Station
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Carrie Broussard
State Historic Preservation Officer
Date

Subject: La Division of Archaeology Report No. 22-7627
Maritime Phase I Cultural Resources Remote Sensing Survey of the Proposed Port Fourchon Marsh
Creation (TE-0171) CWPPRA Project, Lafourche Parish, Louisiana

Dear Ms. Broussard:

A final version of Report No. 22-7627 was requested in correspondence from your office dated September 3, 2024. Enclosed for your files are one hard copy and one electronic copy on CD of the final report titled, " Maritime Phase I Cultural Resource Remote Sensing Survey of the Proposed Port Fourchon Marsh Creation Project, Lafourche Parish, Louisiana " prepared by GIS Engineering, LLC. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is the Federal sponsor for engineering and design (E&D) of this Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) project; and the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) is the State sponsor. Should the CWPPRA Task Force approve Phase 2 CWPPRA funds for this project in January 2025, construction would likely begin in late 2026 or early 2027.

Should you require further information, please feel free to contact Patricia Taylor, Ph.D., P.E. at (214) 665-6403 or email at Taylor.Patricia-A@epa.gov.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen McCormick".

Karen McCormick
Section Manager
Marine, Coastal and Nonpoint Source Section

RECEIVED

SEP 26 2024

ARCHAEOLOGY