



PERMIT APPLICATION

Permit # 898 (Assigned by Department)

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' Scenic Rivers program is authorized by LRS title 56, Chapter 9 Part II. This law requires permits authorizing activities in or affecting rivers that have been designated by the Louisiana Legislature as Natural and Scenic. Information provided on this form will be used in evaluating the application for a permit. Information in this application is made a matter of public record through issuance of a public notice. Disclosure of the information requested is voluntary, however, the data requested are necessary in order to communicate with the applicant and to evaluate the permit application. If necessary information is not provided, the permit application cannot be processed nor can a permit be issued.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name of Applicant <u>ST CHARLES PARISH</u>	Name of Agent (if any) <u>JOHN E CAMPO, AIA</u>
Address <u>90 EARL MATHERRE LEM COORD.</u>	Address <u>CAMPO DESIGNS - ARCHITECTS</u>
Address <u>P. O. BOX 302</u>	Address <u>105 DUCAYET DRIVE</u>
City, State, Zip <u>HAHNVILLE, LA 70057</u>	City, State, Zip <u>DESTREHAN LA 70047</u>
Phone <u>985 783-5060</u>	Phone <u>985 764-8959</u>

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY

Brief summary of the description and purpose of the proposed activity (details to be attached as a separate document)
RESTORE APPROXIMATELY 195' OF SHORELINE OF BAYOU LABRANCHE (WEST BANK AT LAKE PONCHARTRAIN) DUE TO EROSION FROM WAVE ACTION OF WINTER STORM, JANUARY 2014.

Is any portion of the activity complete? YES **NO** (If yes indicate month and year of completion)

LOCATION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY

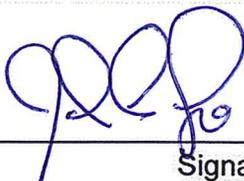
Stream Name	Parish	Section	Township	Range	Latitude/Longitude	Names, Addresses, Phone Numbers of Adjacent Property Owners
<u>BAYOU LABRANCHE</u>	<u>ST CHARLES</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>11 SOUTH</u>	<u>8 EAST</u>	<u>30 3 20.970</u> <u>90 22 4.610</u>	<u>U.S. CORPS OF ENGINEERS</u> <u>P.O. BOX 60267, NEW ORLEANS, LA 70166</u> <u>LA DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION</u> <u>1201 CAPITAL ACCESS RD., B.R., LA 70802</u> <u>PONCHARTRAIN LEVEE DISTRICT</u> <u>P.O. BOX 426 LUTCHER LA 70071</u> <u>ST. CHARLES LAND SYNDICATE (MONTELEONE TR)</u> <u>214 ROYAL STREET N.O., LA 70116</u>

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Must be a separate document. See the attached instruction sheet for completing the assessment.

CONFIRMATION OF INFORMATION ACCURACY

Application is hereby made for a Scenic River Use Permit to authorize the activities described herein. I certify that I am familiar with the information contained in this application, and that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, such information is true, complete, and accurate. I further certify that I possess the authority to undertake the proposed activities, or I am acting as the duly authorized agent of the applicant.



Signature

5/2/14

Date



Campo Designs

A R C H I T E C T S

John E. Campo, Architect
105 Ducayet Drive
Destrehan, LA 70047
(985) 764-8959

April 30, 2014

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Natural and Scenic Rivers System
P. O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-4045

Re: Shoreline Repairs at the mouth of Bayou
Labranche Wetland Watchers Park
St. Charles Parish Norco, LA

Description of Proposed Project

This project includes 195' of shoreline repairs and restoration at the mouth of Bayou Labranche at Lake Pontchartrain. This area has received much damage this past winter with a series of winter storms that has eroded the wetlands that form the mouth of this bayou. Protection of the shoreline along Lake Pontchartrain as part of the Wetland Watchers Park has protected the reclaimed shoreline once lost to storms of the past. A new rock jetty, installed along the shoreline East of the mouth of Bayou Labranche, has protected those wetlands located on the East bank of the bayou. As wave action pounds the South shore of Lake Pontchartrain, the vulnerable West shoreline of Bayou Labranche receives the most damage. This project would create a permanent, more durable barrier to protect this shoreline and allow the natural vegetation to grow back to its natural condition.

I have attached a dimensioned site plan and cross section of the proposed repairs and restoration. Also attached is a satellite view of the mouth of the bayou at the lake.

Related Permits

Attached are the Dept. of Natural Resources Coastal Use Permit modification approval (which includes a number of letters of no objection from various agencies) and the Corps of Engineers Jurisdictional Determination. A letter of no objection from the Pontchartrain Levee District is also attached.

Statement of Compliance History

The applicant, St. Charles Parish, has had a good history of compliance with scenic streams and has no violations issued under the Scenic Rivers Act that could be tracked or recalled.

Listing of Steps to Minimize impacts to this Bayou

This project is about protecting this part of the shoreline from future damage, minimizing storm impacts on this vulnerable area of this scenic stream. The low concrete embankment will take the brunt of wave impact, protecting the natural vegetation that is found along the shoreline.

Alternatives

Bayou Labranche takes a turn towards the West at it hits Lake Pontchartrain. This turn adds to the natural look and feel of this area. If the mouth of this bayou were to be straightened to enter perpendicular to the lake, it could reduce the wave action deterioration but would also appear very unnatural. This alternative was discussed but rejected in favor of the proposed corrections.

CAMPO DESIGNS – ARCHITECTS



John E. Campo, AIA

cc: Earl Matherne, CZM Administrator
Barry Guillot



State of Louisiana

BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

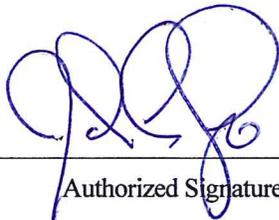
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

ROBERT J. BARHAM
SECRETARY

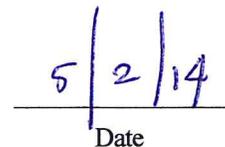
Dear Scenic River Permit Applicant:

Please review and concur on the following statement regarding the issuance of permits by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. This agreement must be signed and returned before a Scenic River Permit can be issued.

"I have been advised and do understand that by applying for and accepting a Scenic Rivers permit issued by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, I am being allowed to engage in an activity which would otherwise be prohibited by law or for which a permit is required. I understand that the permit is not a license and confers no property right upon me. I specifically agree to abide by all State and Federal fish and wildlife laws and regulations, and all State and Federal laws and regulations which relate to this permit or the permitted activity, and by all other terms and conditions of this permit. I understand that the permit for which I am applying may be suspended, annulled, withdrawn or revoked and that I may be assessed civil penalties, all in accordance with the provision of the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act, and that I may be denied future permits as a consequence of my failure to fully and completely comply with the terms and conditions of the permit, as well as other laws and regulations pertinent thereto. If served with or notified of a cease and desist order signed by the Scenic Rivers Administrator, I agree to immediately and without delay cease all activities and operations which relate to the permitted activity or which are impacting the Scenic River, until such time as the matter can be resolved in an adjudicatory hearing pursuant to the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act. I understand and agree that any permit issued to me by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is in the nature of a privilege which is being voluntarily extended to me by the Department and the failure on my part to cooperate with the Department can result in the loss of the privilege conferred and the denial of future requests for permits. By accepting this permit, I evidence my agreement to be bound by all conditions and stipulations set forth herein."



Authorized Signature



Date

REV. 12/7/98



April 30, 2014

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Natural and Scenic Rivers System
P. O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

Re: Shoreline Repairs at the mouth of Bayou
Labranche Wetland Watchers Park
St. Charles Parish Norco, LA

Environmental Assessment

Existing Land Use

This project (Wetland Watchers Park) started over 14 years ago with the reclaiming of lost shoreline of Lake Pontchartrain on the South shore, adjacent to the East side of the Bonnet Carre Spillway. Over three acres were reclaimed and filled. This cleared site is the location of the public Wetland Watchers Park, constructed in 2009 with parking, picnic pavilions, a large feature pavilion, shoreline improvements, benches and a dock into Lake Pontchartrain. This has provided critical protection for the remaining wetlands, so ecologically vital to this lake.

This park is adjacent to 7 additional acres of virgin coastal wetlands which includes cypress trees and tree-form palmettos. Approximately 1,200' of 5' elevated walkway was constructed along with the Palmetto Outdoor Classroom in 2009 for use by middle school science students, high school students (from across the country) and college students from UNO.

These students have been involved in a continuous coastal restoration project, which includes the planting of a number of cypress trees. These trees are maturing throughout the park and an impressive grove stand 18' high in a low area adjacent to the proposed Bayou Outdoor Classroom and overlook. The last 16 acres of this park, all owned by St. Charles Parish, sets on the opposite bank of Bayou Labranche at the lake. That portion of land is currently inaccessible by foot or vehicle. The exclusive use of the current park is for recreational use (on the 3 acres) and educational use in the 7 acre wetland attached portion.

Historical/Archeological Sites

The State has conducted many studies on historical and archeological aspects of this property. They have determined it is on aboriginal homelands of the Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana. All significant findings occurred approximately 1,200' off of the shoreline (the original shoreline) and no findings have occurred on the proposed project areas. Most of this proposed project sets on the old Hammand Hwy. roadbed and is 5' higher in elevation. This project affects only the mouth (West bank) of Bayou Labranche on the park side. It only intends to put back a natural stream bank eliminating the severe erosion (as seen in the photos).

Economic Impact of the Project

The economic impact is relatively low for this phase (construction dollars and some sales tax). The larger picture for the entire park has had a greater impact with out-of-town students (as far away as Massachusetts) traveling to observe and learn from these outdoor teaching sites. Once access improvements are made (C.O.E. paving the East guide levee), greater numbers of park visitors are expected.

Wilderness/Rural Quality

The location of this park is unique, as it puts public access and shoreline access (Lake Pontchartrain) to both recreational use and true wetland observation (up close). It has been a wonderful educational tool, used by many schools in St. Charles Parish as well as regional and national schools. Access to virgin wetlands combined with a recreational use (walking trail, fishing and crabbing pier, canoe access, picnic sites) is not found anywhere else in St. Charles Parish.

Scenic/Aesthetic Value

The aesthetic value lies with the surrounding wetland vegetation. This project gives access to the Bayou for observation, fishing and canoeing. The scenic value is the real plus. Close-up access to wetlands, waterways and a true, living wetland environ provides the optimum vista to view. Although the scenic value has been compromised by the erosion, this project seeks to restore that 195' back to its original look.

Recreational Use/Opportunities

The main public park provides shoreline access to Lake Pontchartrain. A pier provides fishing and crabbing opportunities for those without watercraft. The proposed canoe launch will provide a safe means to launch shallow watercraft (2' average depth of lake at this end). Canoeing up the bayou and a dock to exit and explore the wetlands is a truly unique opportunity for many.

Ecological Systems Present

This working wetland area has good tidal flow, keeping it vibrant and flourishing. The abandoned old Hammond Highway road bed has grown over (for the past ninety years) with majestic Oaks, Palmettos and Willows that grow adjacent to the true wetland environment. It is quite a contrast of environs and a perfect teaching venue as example.

Fish and Wildlife in the Area

Fish of many types are plentiful in this area of the lake. Flounder, speckle trout and even gar fish can all be found in this immediate area. Crabs are plentiful year round. Gaming has been observed including boar, squirrels, nutria, raccoon, rabbit and deer. Snakes and some alligator have also been observed.

Botanical Elements (vegetation)

This environ is home to wild Louisiana Iris, bald cypress, tree-form palmettos, Oak trees, Weeping Willow trees, Roseau cane and swamp reed. The planting of saline resistant cypress has been successful over the past ten years, bring a new, vibrant looks to some areas of the land.

Geological Features

The main park averages 5' above sea level in elevation. The wetlands averages less than 2'. The shore and approximately 1,500' out into the water has a hard sand base (old shoreline). The old Hammond Highway is also approximately 5' above sea level and is comprised of clay soils that support numerous tree types. The restoration of the shoreline proposed in this project will stay at the 2' level (at the waterline) to keep the natural bank look.

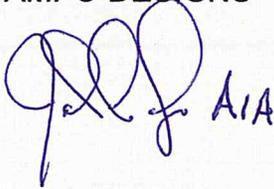
Hydrological Features

As a working wetland, the tidal flow is an important condition that keeps this wetland alive. The normal range is less than one foot except when fronts move through and push the water in. The opposite effect occurs during certain wind events. The 195' length of the bayou bank in question in this project has received significant damage this past winter during a series of winter storms. Erosion has increased tremendously (as evidenced in the photos) and will remain vulnerable if not protected against the wave action of the lake.

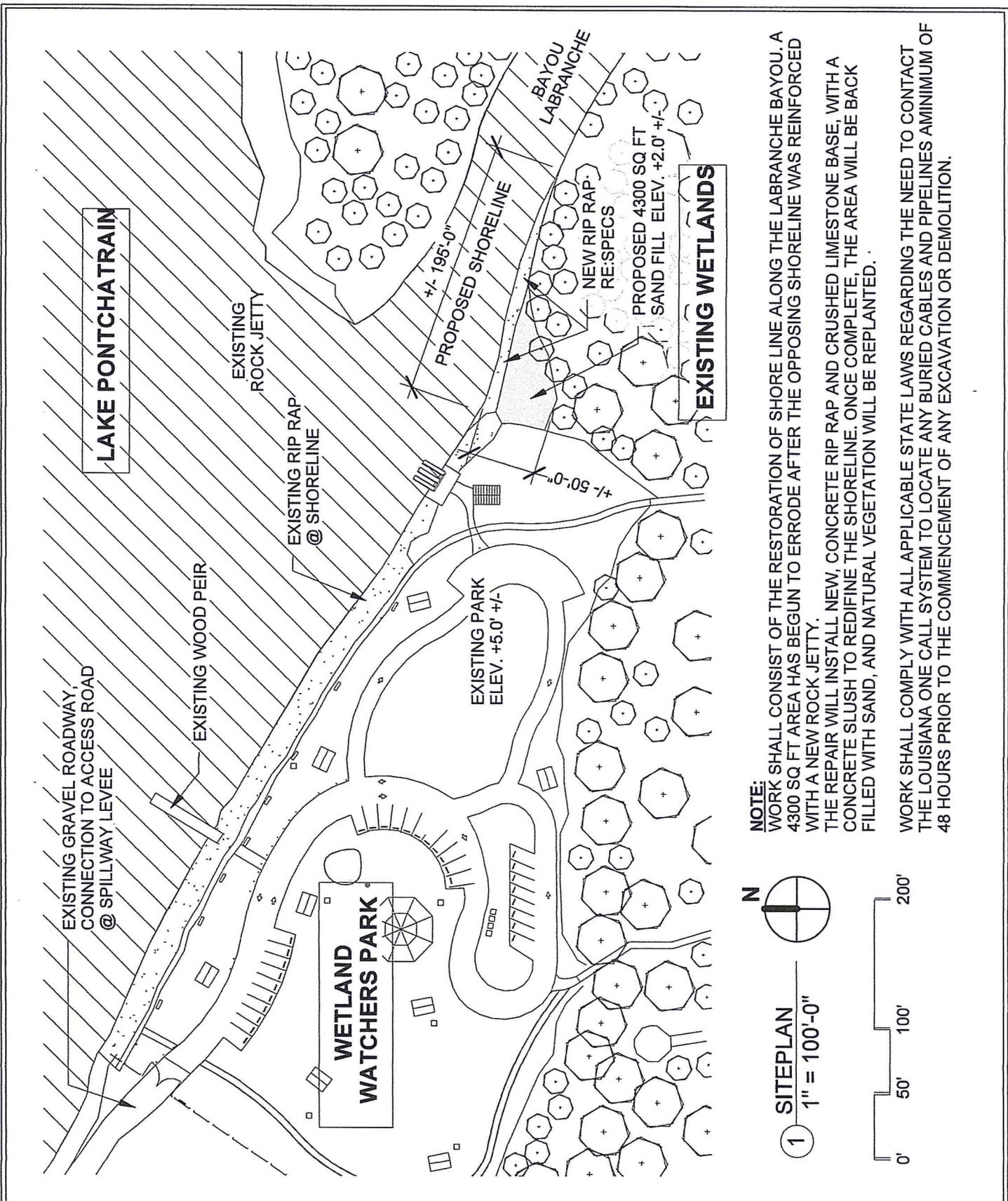
Water Quality/Quantity

This bayou has been tested and monitored for years due to its location to Shell Refinery in Norco. A good flow exist as it drains the wetlands from US Hwy 61 North towards the lake. Several hunting camps coexist along this wetland area and provide a good "watchdog" for the quality of water.

CAMPO DESIGNS – ARCHITECTS

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of stylized initials 'JC' followed by 'AIA'.

John E. Campo, AIA
cc: Earl Matherne, CZM Administrator

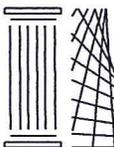


NOTE:

WORK SHALL CONSIST OF THE RESTORATION OF SHORE LINE ALONG THE LABRANCHE BAYOU. A 4300 SQ FT AREA HAS BEGUN TO ERRODE AFTER THE OPPOSING SHORELINE WAS REINFORCED WITH A NEW ROCK JETTY. THE REPAIR WILL INSTALL NEW, CONCRETE RIP RAP AND CRUSHED LIMESTONE BASE, WITH A CONCRETE SLUSH TO REDFINE THE SHORELINE. ONCE COMPLETE, THE AREA WILL BE BACK FILLED WITH SAND, AND NATURAL VEGETATION WILL BE REPLANTED.

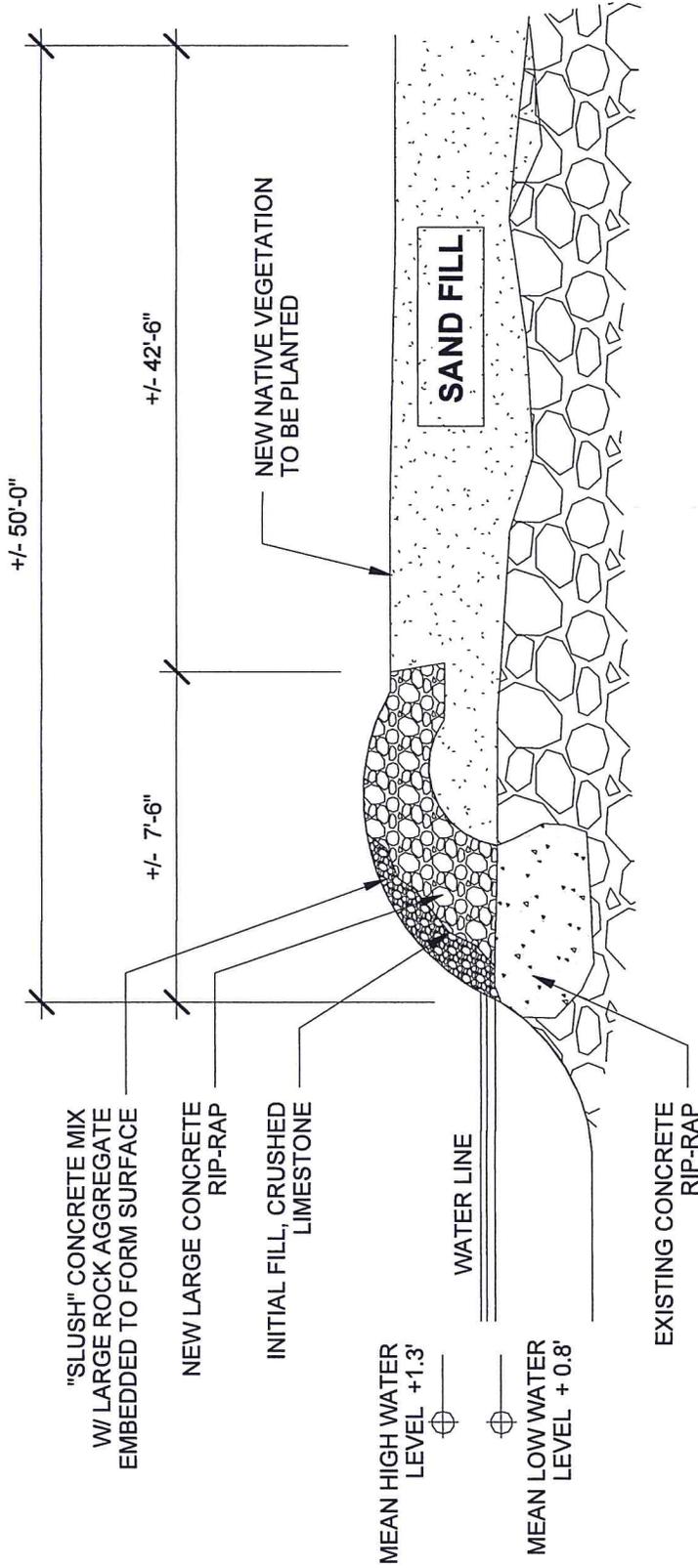
WORK SHALL COMPLY WITH ALL APPLICABLE STATE LAWS REGARDING THE NEED TO CONTACT THE LOUISIANA ONE CALL SYSTEM TO LOCATE ANY BURIED CABLES AND PIPELINES AMINIMUM OF 48 HOURS PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF ANY EXCAVATION OR DEMOLITION.

SHORELINE REPAIRS AT MOUTH OF BAYOU LABRANCHE
WETLAND WATCHERS PARK
 BONNET CARRE SPILLWAY AT LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN



Campo Designs
 ARCHITECTS

SK01
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 CD # 2202

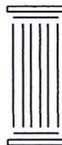


1 DIAGRAMMATIC SITE SECTION

1/4" = 1'-0"

@ WATER FRONT

SHORELINE REPAIRS AT MOUTH OF BAYOU LABRANCHE
WETLAND WATCHERS PARK
 BONNET CARRE SPILLWAY AT LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN



Campo Designs
 ARCHITECTS

SK02

DATE: 3-8-14

CD # 2202



Mouth of Bayou Labranche at Lake Pontchartrain View of eroded bank that faces the lake (North) 2014