



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, MOBILE DISTRICT  
P.O. BOX 2288  
MOBILE, ALABAMA 36628-0001**

CESAM-RD-M

May 2, 2013

**PUBLIC NOTICE  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
MOBILE DISTRICT**

**SCOPING MEETING  
FOR THE  
PROPOSED PORT OF GULFPORT EXPANSION PROJECT, HARRISON COUNTY,  
MISSISSIPPI  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:**

Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Mobile District, in coordination with the Mississippi State Port Authority (MSPA), has scheduled a public open house and scoping meeting on May 21, 2013, at the Courtyard Marriott Gulfport Beachfront Hotel, 1600 East Beach Boulevard, Gulfport, MS. The open house will begin at 5:30 pm followed by a formal presentation at 6:30pm. Comments will be accepted at the meeting until 8:00 pm.

The purpose of the meeting is to receive public input concerning the scope and alternatives to be considered in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Department of the Army Permit Application **SAM-2009-1768-DMY** for the Port of Gulfport Expansion Project, Harrison County, Mississippi. The USACE is the lead federal agency with the responsibility of evaluating the environmental impacts of the proposed project for the applicant, the Mississippi State Port Authority, and is preparing the EIS in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act requirements. The Mississippi Development Authority and the National Marine Fisheries Service are cooperating agencies for the preparation of the EIS. A Department of the Army permit is required for the proposed project, pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, and Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act.

The proposed project as described in the permit application which was filed on March 17, 2010, included filling approximately 700 acres of open-water benthic habitat. Since submitting the application, Mississippi State Port Authority has modified the proposed project footprint to reduce the overall potential fill required for implementation (see attached figure). The revised proposed project involves impacting up to 200 acres of open-water bottom in the Mississippi Sound from the construction of wharfs, bulkheads, terminal facilities, container storage areas, intermodal container transfer facilities, dredging and dredged material disposal and infrastructure, and construction of a breakwater of approximately 4,000 linear feet. The proposed expanded port facility will be elevated 25 feet above sea level to provide protection against future tropical storm surge events. The permit application modification for the proposed project includes deepening and possible widening of the existing Gulfport Harbor Federal Navigation Channel (FNC) from the federally authorized dimensions. These modifications will include the navigation channel from the Gulf to the port facilities to support a navigable channel depth of up to 47 feet in the Mississippi Sound and up to 49 feet in the Bar Channel plus advance maintenance and allowable over depth requirements. Widening the channel may be

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requested based on results of planned ship simulations. The federally authorized turning basin would also be modified, as would the proposed adjacent turning basin expansion. The depth of these features will be appropriate to the deeper navigation channel. Final channel design and associated environmental impacts will be addressed during the permitting and EIS process.

According to the MSPA, this project will contribute to the long-term economic development of Mississippi and the Gulf Coast region by expanding the Port footprint and facilities to increase cargo throughput, provide additional employment opportunities, and to increase the economic benefits produced by the Port. Specific alternatives are being developed as part of the EIS process and feedback provided during the additional scoping meeting will be taken into consideration.

The proposed project could result in both beneficial and negative environmental impacts. These impacts will be evaluated in the EIS in accordance with applicable environmental laws and policies. Environmental characteristics that may be affected by the proposed project include geological, chemical, biological, physical, socioeconomic, and commercial and recreational activities.

The meeting agenda includes an open house with opportunities for discussions with project personnel, followed by staff presentations and a comment session. Verbal and written comments may be made at the meeting, or written comments may be provided via mail through the end of the official comment period (see below). All interested individuals are invited to attend. The scoping meeting will be conducted in English. If hearing impaired or language translation services are needed, please contact Mr. Damon M. Young, P.G., at the USACE (251) 694-3781, or at [Port.GulfportEIS@usace.army.mil](mailto:Port.GulfportEIS@usace.army.mil), or at the mailing address provided below by May 14, 2013.

Written comments can also be emailed to the project at [port.gulfporteis@usace.army.mil](mailto:port.gulfporteis@usace.army.mil), or mailed to: Mr. Damon M. Young, P.G. USACE - Mobile District, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628. To comment online, visit the project website at <http://www.portofgulfporteis.com/>. The deadline for submitting scoping comments is June 17, 2013.

It is anticipated that a Draft EIS will be made available for public review in early 2014. A public hearing will be held during the public comment period for the Draft EIS.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For information about this project, to be included on the mailing list for future updates and meeting announcements, or to receive a copy of the draft EIS when it is issued, contact Mr. Damon M. Young, P.G., at the USACE (251) 694-3781 or the address provided above. Mr. Ewing Milam, at the MDA can also be contacted for additional information at Post Office Box 849, Jackson, Mississippi, 39205-0849, telephone (601) 359-2157 or by electronic mail at [emilam@mississippi.org](mailto:emilam@mississippi.org).

For additional information about our Regulatory Program, please visit our web site at: <http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx> and please take a moment to complete our customer satisfaction survey while you're there. Your responses are appreciated and will allow us to improve our services.

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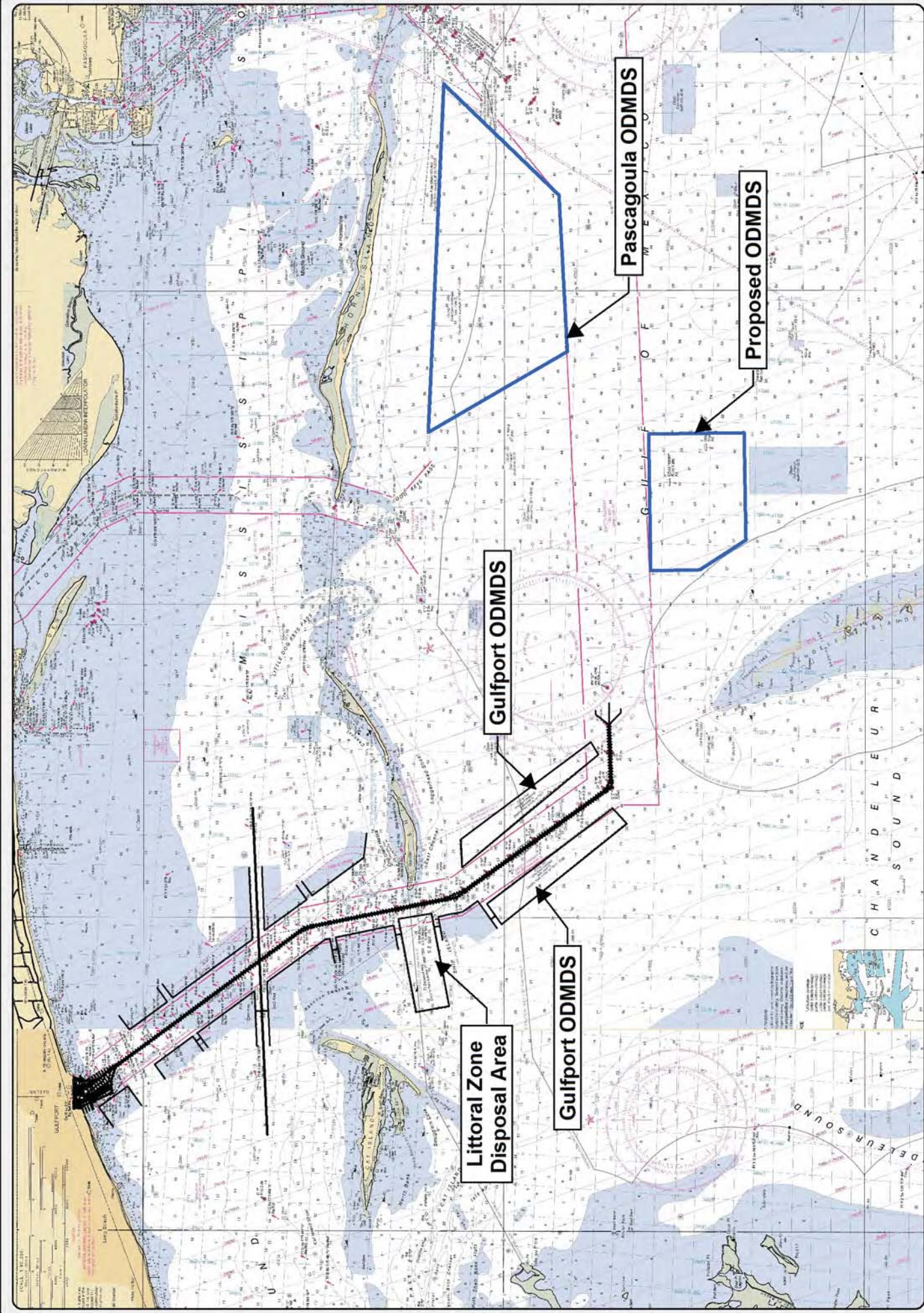
MOBILE DISTRICT  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

**CESAM-RD-M**

**SUBJECT: SAM-2009-1768-DMY, Mississippi State Port Authority**

**May 2, 2013**





**Figure 6**  
**Ocean Dredge Material Disposal Sites**  
**and Littoral Zone Disposal Area**

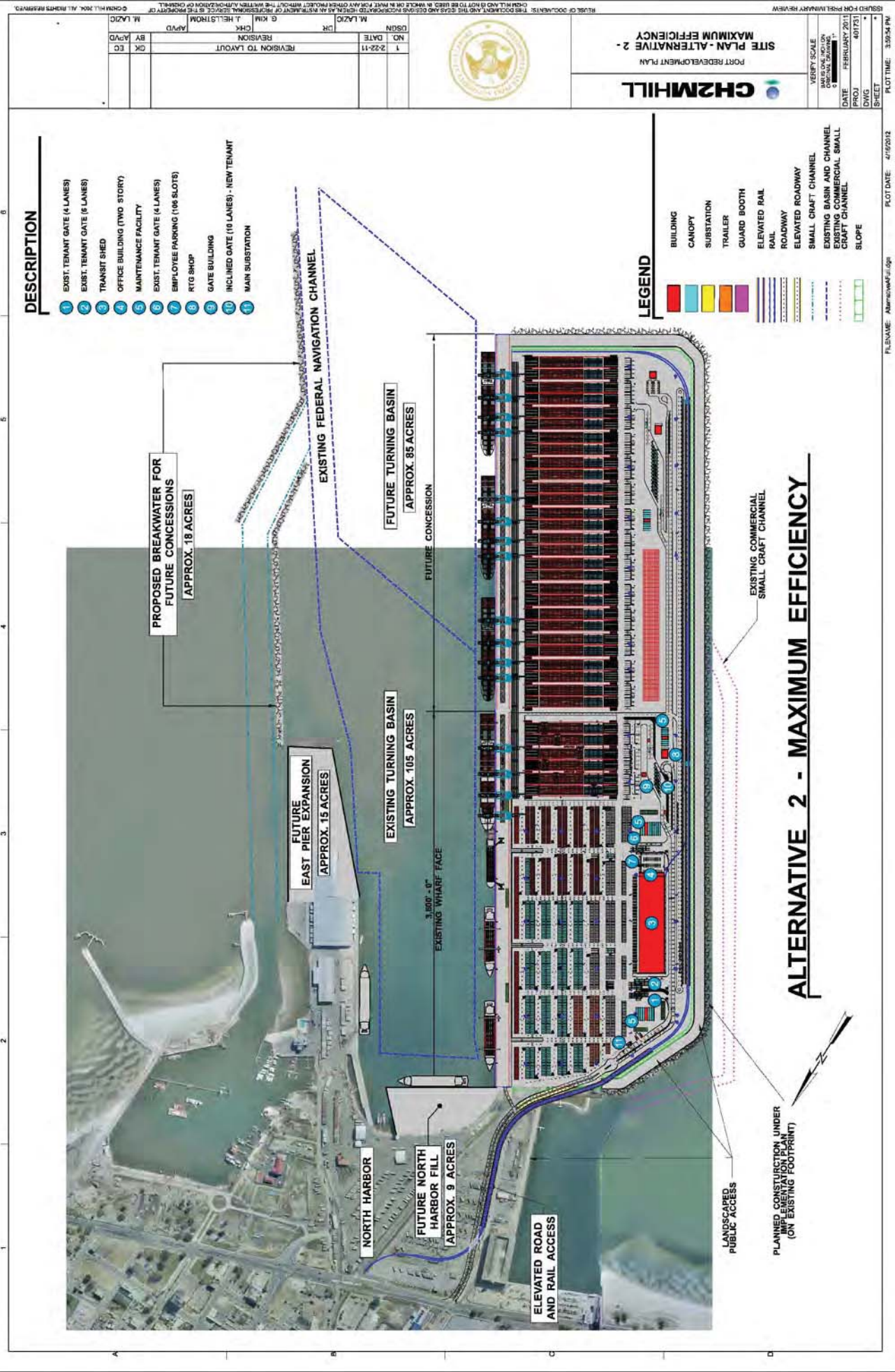
Note: This map is for presentation use only and not to be used for construction purposes.

**REVISED FIGURE**



**VOLKERT**





FILE NAME: Alternative2.dwg  
 PLOT DATE: 4/16/2012  
 PLOT TIME: 3:55:44 PM

CH2MHILL  
 PORT REDEVELOPMENT PLAN  
 SITE PLAN - ALTERNATIVE 2 -  
 MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY



NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY	CHK	APP'D	M. LAZIO	G. KIM	L. HELSTROM
1	2-28-11	REVISION TO LAYOUT	BR	AP/D				

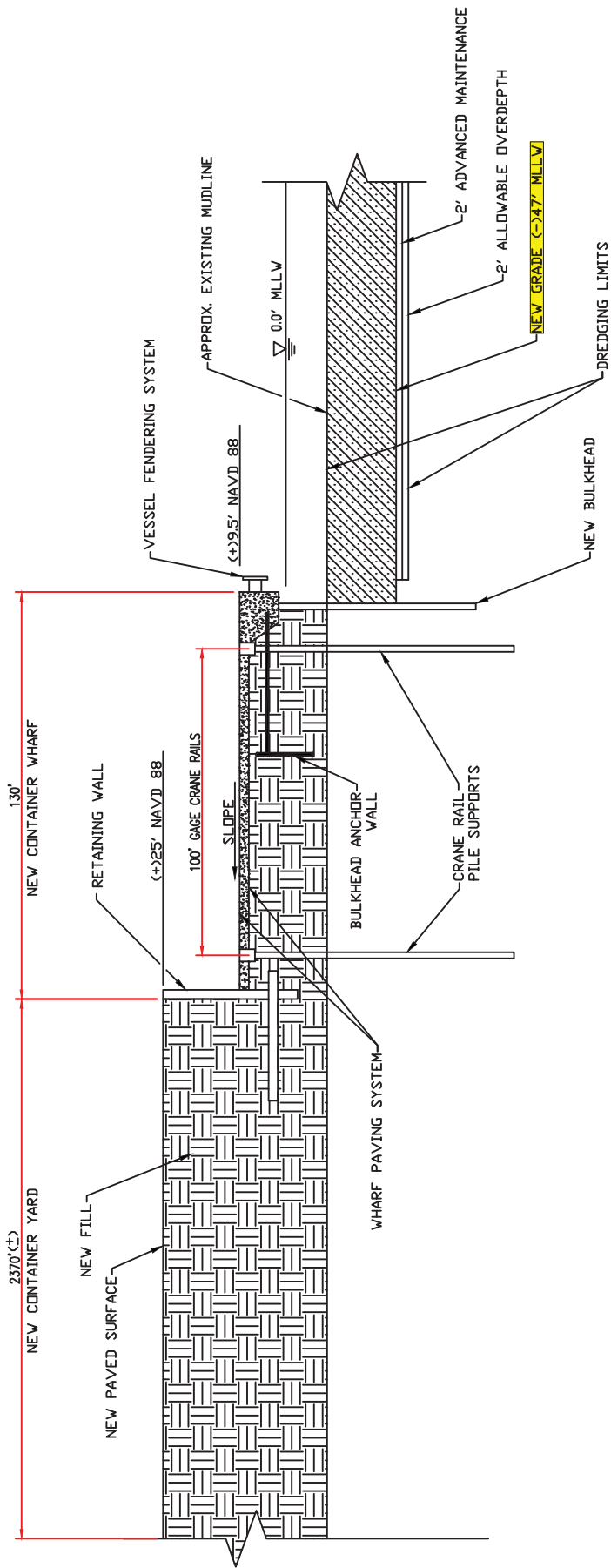
### DESCRIPTION

- 1 EXIST. TENANT GATE (4 LANES)
- 2 EXIST. TENANT GATE (6 LANES)
- 3 TRANSIT SHED
- 4 OFFICE BUILDING (TWO STORY)
- 5 MAINTENANCE FACILITY
- 6 EXIST. TENANT GATE (4 LANES)
- 7 EMPLOYEE PARKING (106 SLOTS)
- 8 RTG SHOP
- 9 GATE BUILDING
- 10 INCLINED GATE (10 LANES) - NEW TENANT
- 11 MAIN SUBSTATION

### LEGEND

- BUILDING
- CANOPY
- SUBSTATION
- TRAILER
- GUARD BOOTH
- ELEVATED RAIL
- RAIL
- ROADWAY
- ELEVATED ROADWAY
- SMALL CRAFT CHANNEL
- EXISTING BASIN AND CHANNEL
- EXISTING COMMERCIAL SMALL CRAFT CHANNEL
- SLOPE

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REVISED FIGURE

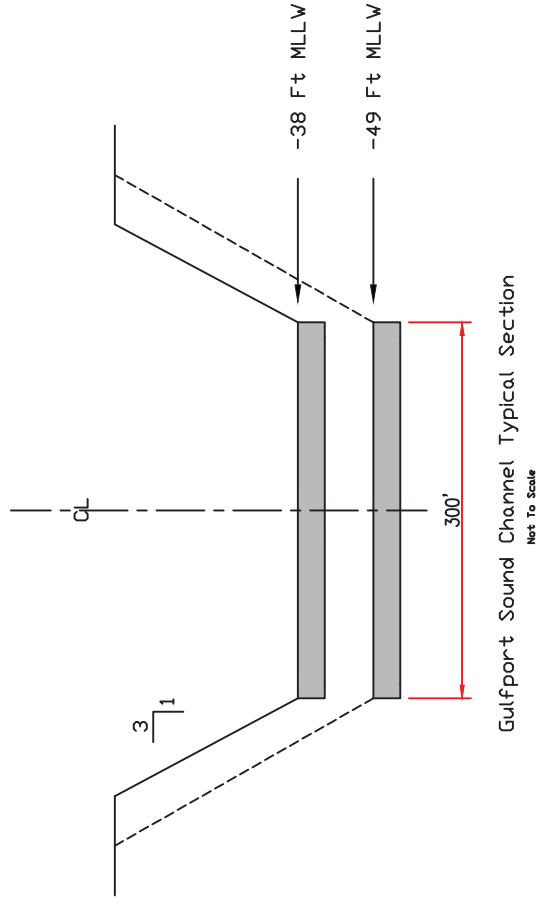


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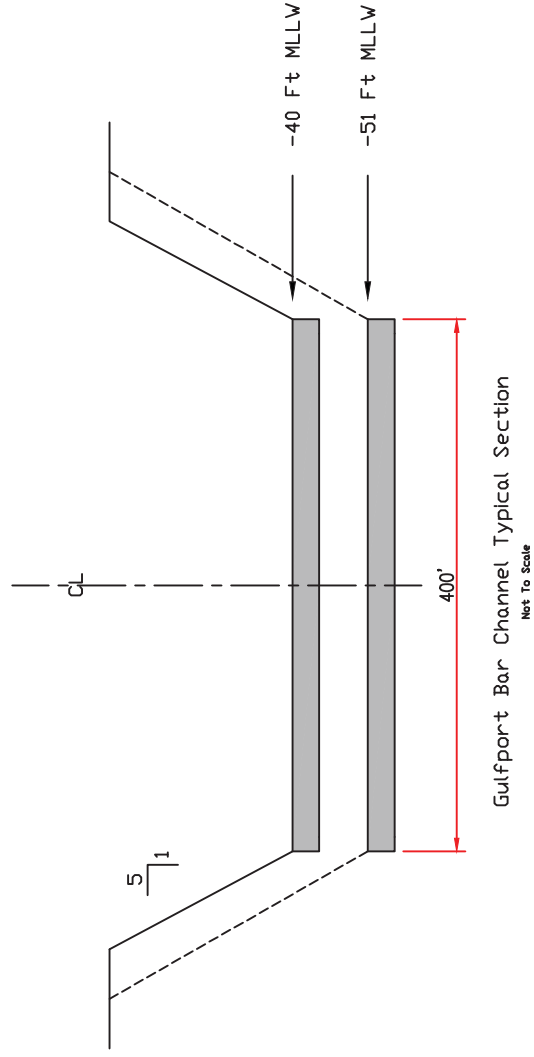
**VOLKERT**

**LEGEND**

-  2 Ft Allowable Overdepth
-  Existing Required Dredging Prism
-  Proposed Dredging Prism



Gulfport Sound Channel Typical Section  
Not To Scale



Gulfport Bar Channel Typical Section  
Not To Scale

**NOTE:**

1. Required dredging depth equals the project depth plus two feet of advance maintenance.
2. Channel widths vary from 300 feet in the Gulfport Sound Channel to 400 feet in the Gulfport Bar channel.

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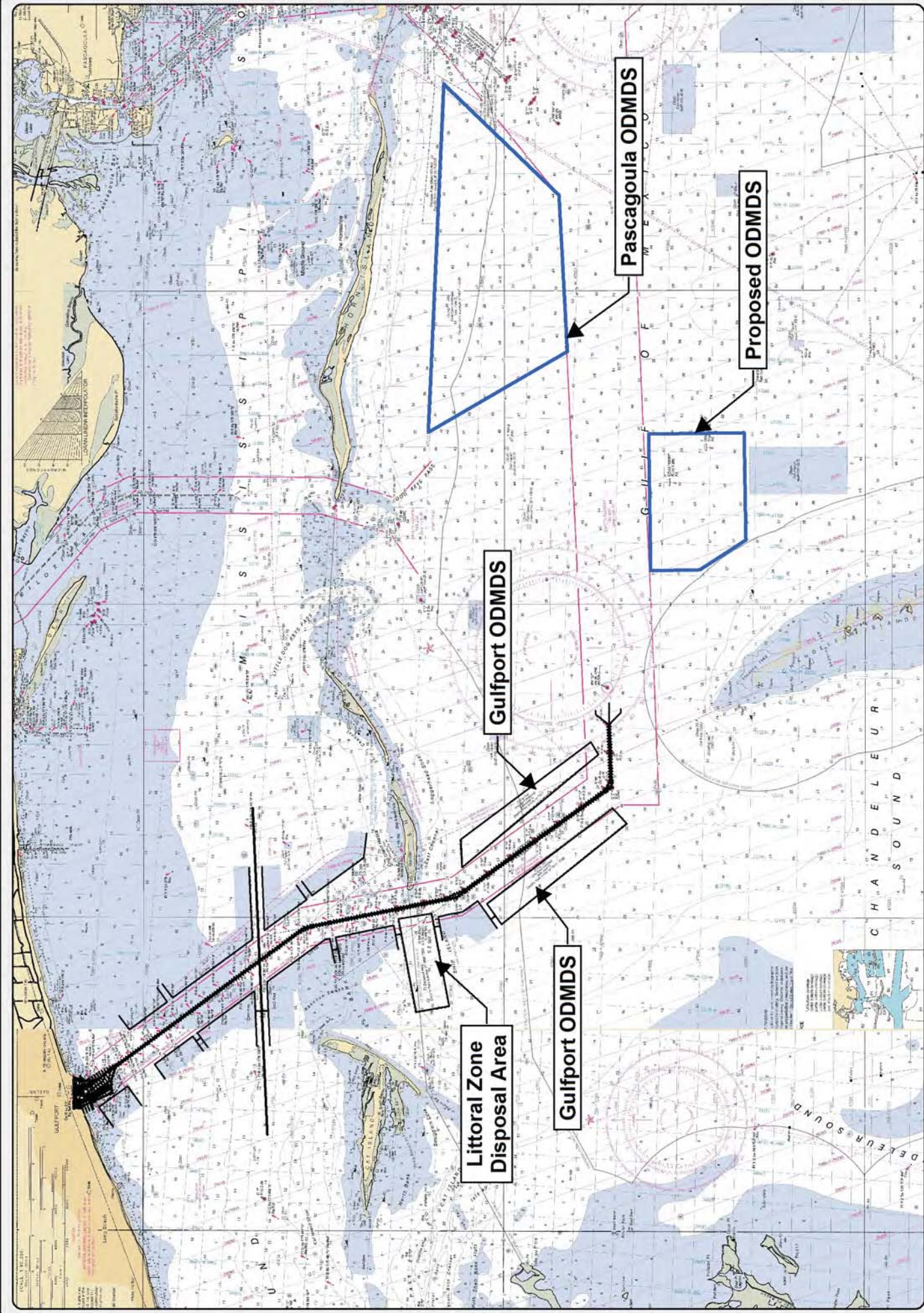


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**Figure 6**  
**Ocean Dredge Material Disposal Sites**  
**and Littoral Zone Disposal Area**

Note: This map is for presentation use only and not to be used for construction purposes.

**REVISED FIGURE**

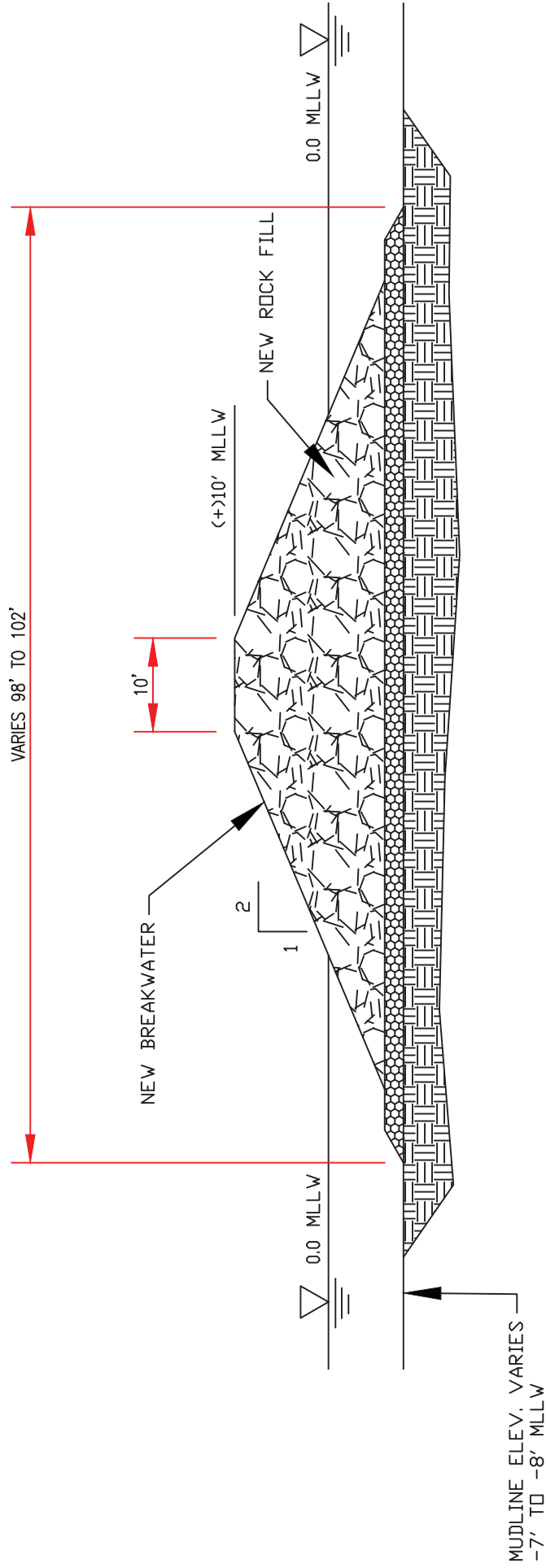


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NOTE:

APPROXIMATELY 4,000 LF OF NEW BREAKWATER REQUIRED.



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REVISED FIGURE



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**Figure 8**  
**Potential Beneficial Use Sites**