

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



Commander
Eighth Coast Guard District
Hale Boggs Federal Building

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May 27, 2022

PUBLIC NOTICE (2-22)

BRIDGE PERMIT APPLICATION

TO REPLACE THE BRIDGE OVER OLD BRAZOS RIVER, ALONG FARM-TO-MARKET (FM) ROAD 1495, FROM COUNTY ROAD (CR) 229 TO FOURTH STREET, MILE 3.8, IN FREEPORT, BRAZORIA COUNTY, TEXAS

All interested parties are notified that the Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District, has received application materials from the TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TXDOT) for approval of the enclosed location and plans to construct a replacement fixed highway bridge over a navigable waterway of the United States.

WATERWAY AND LOCATION: Old Brazos River, Mile 3.8, Freeport, Brazoria County, Texas.

CHARACTER OF WORK: TXDOT proposes to replace the existing FM 1495 bridge structure at the Old Brazos River due to structural deficiency. The proposed project would include removal of all portions of the existing bridge structure and the southern timber piling fender system in the navigational channel. The existing northern timber piling navigational fender system has been recently replaced and would not be replaced during the proposed project. Once the construction of the proposed bridge structure is complete the entire fender system would be updated with a new lighting system.

The existing bridge structure consists of a fixed two-lane, continuous steel beam bridge that is 35.25 feet in width, oriented in generally a north-south direction. The existing roadway and bridge are used for local and truck traffic.

The proposed bridge structure would consist of a fixed roadway bridge with two 12-foot travel lanes with 15-foot shoulders, a 6-foot sidewalk on the eastern side of the bridge and 14-inch wide guard rails which would be placed on both exterior edges of the bridge structure. Post-tension concrete U-beams would be constructed on 12 bents; eight would be constructed on land and four would be constructed in the channel of the Old Brazos River.

Both approaches would be redesigned to accommodate the proposed bridge structure. The southern approach would consist of two 12-foot travel lanes with two 12-foot turning lanes on either side of a variable width concrete center median with a 6 inch inside and outside curb. The northern approach would consist of two 12-foot travel lanes with two 10-foot wide outside shoulders, which transition to 15-foot shoulders on the FM 1495 bridge.

Work would be performed from temporary platforms that would be placed on the bank of the Old Brazos River using steel coffer dams at mean high water mark and from barges within the river. Multiple temporary coffer dams would be necessary to remove the old bents and to install proposed bents. Two temporary construction platforms of sheet piling and back fill material would also be necessary to construct the bridge; the platforms are proposed for the west side of the bridge-one on the north bank and one on the south bank. As lead-based paints are present on the bridge an abatement work plan would be completed for this project. The deck would remain in-place during paint removal and then removed with the steel girders. The deck would be removed in its entirety and the piers and footings would be removed to the mud line.

MINIMUM NAVIGATIONAL CLEARANCES:

Existing:

Vertical: 60.0 feet above Mean High Water (MHW)
elevation 0.59 feet, North Atlantic
Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD88)

Horizontal (normal to the axis of the channel): 100.00 feet clear channel

Proposed:

Vertical: 59.27 feet above MHW,
elevation 0.59 feet, NAVD88

Horizontal (normal to the axis of the channel): 100.00 feet clear channel

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS: The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is the lead federal agency for satisfying the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The FHWA is acting on behalf of the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) for all environmental control laws. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between FHWA and TXDOT concerning the State of Texas' Participation in the Project Delivery Program Pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 was approved and signed on December 9, 2019. Under the MOU, FHWA has assigned and TXDOT has assumed all responsibilities for NEPA and consultation and coordination responsibilities with resource agencies for almost all federal aid funded highway projects in Texas. TXDOT has determined that the proposed project requires a categorical exclusion (CE), and a draft CE was prepared in 2016 and signed on October 7, 2016, pursuant to NEPA, as amended, and a subsequent reevaluation was approved on July 28, 2021. Provided that no environmental issues are disclosed by this Public Notice, the Coast Guard will issue a Memorandum for Record for the CE as the final environmental documentation for this project, which satisfies the criteria for such action listed in the Coast Guard's implementation instructions. The Coast Guard's permitting action will be limited to the bridge and its approaches. Documents are available for review electronically or at the above address, Monday through Friday by appointment from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., subject to building rules.

The project is not considered an encroachment on the 100-year floodplain. The proposed bridge project will clear the 100-year flood elevation of 0.99 feet above Mean High Water, elevation 0.59 feet NAVD 88. The low girder elevation of the bridge is 59.86 feet. The project would permanently impact 0.12 acre of jurisdictional wetlands and temporarily impact 1.57 acres of jurisdictional wetlands.

Prior to issuance of a bridge permit decision, a Water Quality Certificate, or exemption therefrom, will be granted from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, as amended, certifying that reasonable assurance has been furnished that the project will be conducted in compliance with water quality standards for the state of Texas. The project is located within the Texas Coastal Zone Management (CZM) area. The applicant has made a determination that the project is consistent with the Texas coastal management program, and the applicant will be required to submit concurrence with this determination prior to issuance of a bridge permit.

The decision as to whether to grant approval of the location and plans for the proposed action rests primarily upon the effect it has on navigation.

SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS:

Mariners are requested to comment on navigational safety issues, including the need for clearance gauges, the need for a bridge protective system and the extent of nighttime navigation passing through the bridge to determine the need for bridge lighting, and other navigational safety issues. Boat owners in the project vicinity are requested to provide information about their vessels including type of vessel, length overall, draft, beam, and height from the waterline to the highest fixed point and to appurtenant structures (e.g., tuna towers, flying bridges, fixed antennas and radar units).

Interested parties are requested to express their views in writing on the proposed bridge project, giving sufficient detail to establish a clear understanding of their reasons for support of or opposition to the proposed work. Comments will be received at the office of the Commander (dpb), Eighth Coast Guard District, Hale Boggs Building, 500 Poydras Street, Room 1313 New Orleans, LA 70130-3310, through June 28, 2022.

We will forward comments of an environmental nature such as those regarding wild life refuges, water fowl refuges, public parks, historic sites, wetlands, floodplain issues, air, water quality, etc. to the FHWA/TXDOT for appropriate handling.

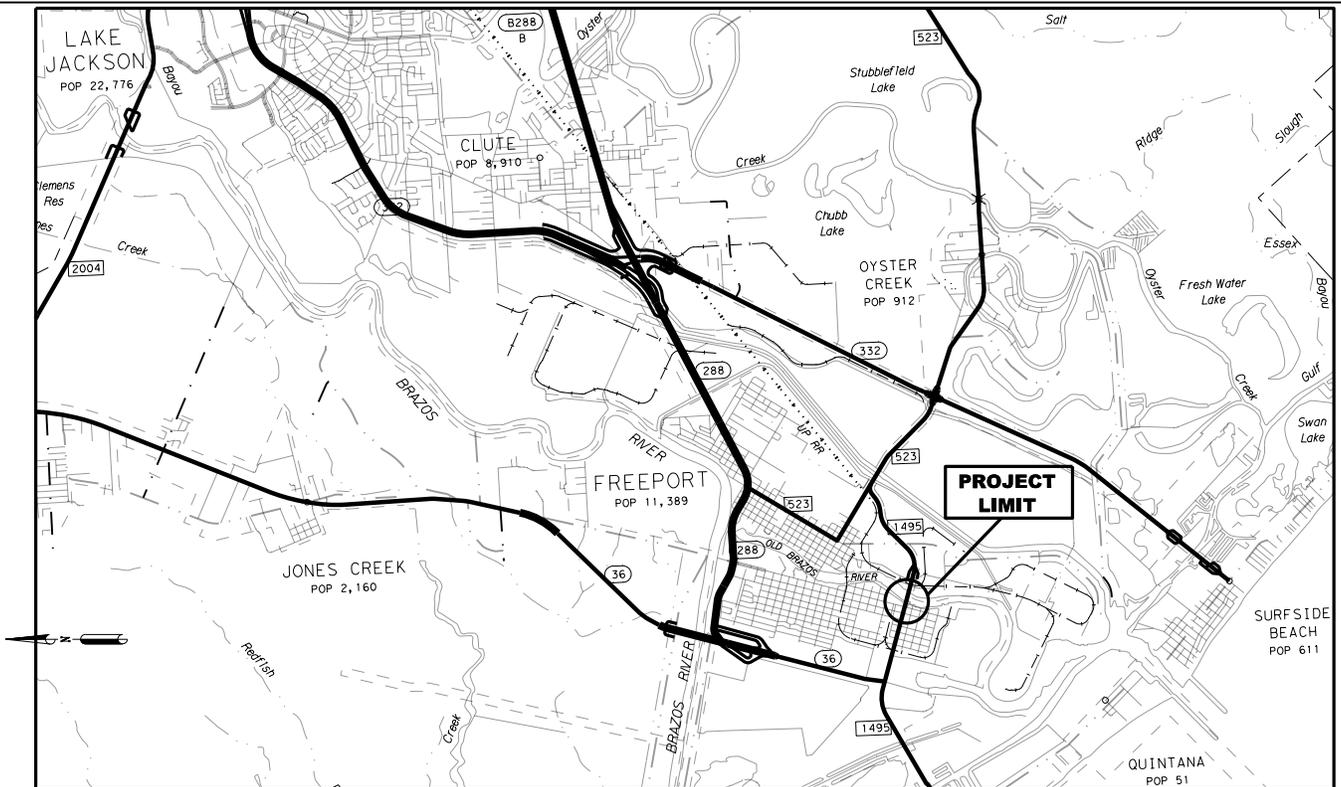
It is requested that this information be brought to the attention of any person having an interest in this, who may not have received a copy of this public notice.

Plans of the proposed project are included in this public notice.

Doug
Blakemore
DOUG BLAKEMORE
Chief, Bridge Administration Branch
By direction of the Commander
Eighth Coast Guard District

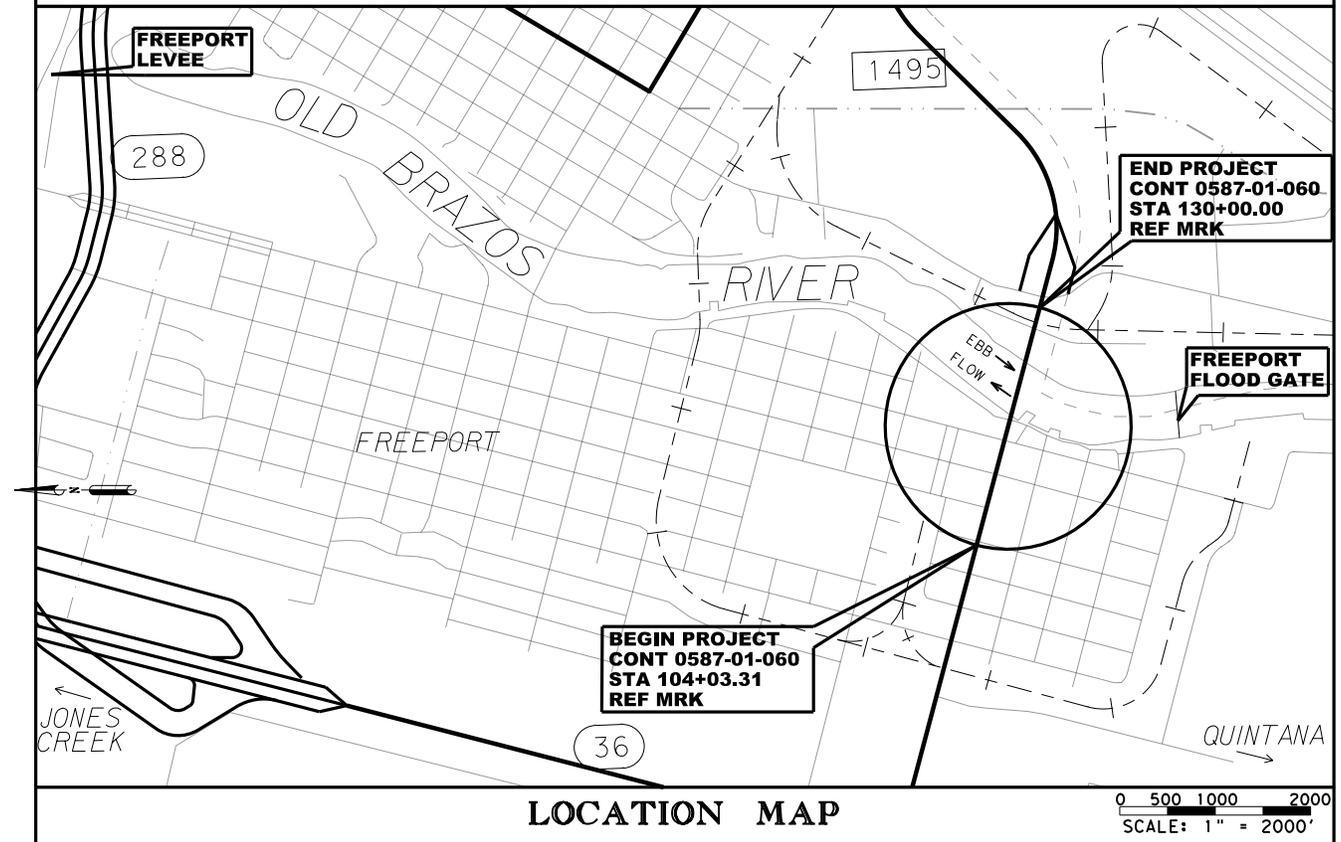
Digitally signed by Doug
Blakemore
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-05'00'

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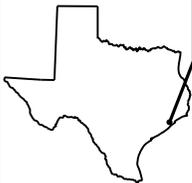
VICINITY MAP

0 1/2 1 2
SCALE: 1" = 2 MI

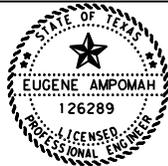


LOCATION MAP

0 500 1000 2000
SCALE: 1" = 2000'



**PROPOSED
BRIDGE
REPLACEMENT**



4/4/2022

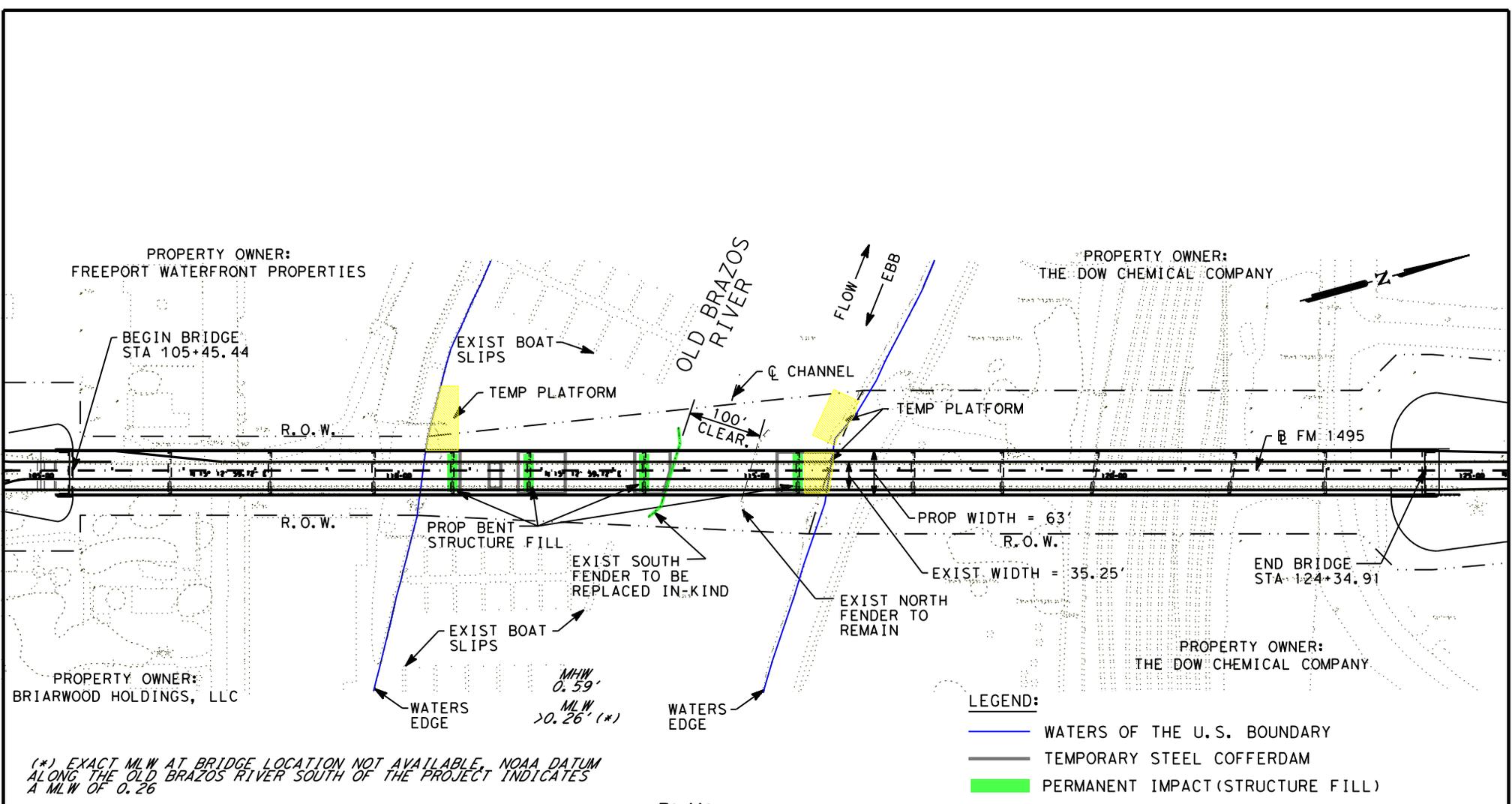
Eugene Ampomah, P.E.



Texas Department of Transportation

APPLICANT: TXDOT
AGENT: CP&Y
REPLACEMENT OF FM 1495 BRIDGE OVER OLD BRAZOS RIVER
MP : 3.80
FREEPORT, BRAZORIA COUNTY, TEXAS
CSJ: 0587-01-060
DATE: 11/23/2020
NOTE: ELEVATIONS BASED ON NAVD88 (GEOID09)

SHEET 1 OF 7



(*) EXACT MLW AT BRIDGE LOCATION NOT AVAILABLE. NOAA DATUM ALONG THE OLD BRAZOS RIVER SOUTH OF THE PROJECT INDICATES A MLW OF 0.26

PLAN

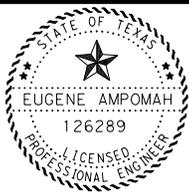
- LEGEND:**
- WATERS OF THE U.S. BOUNDARY
 - TEMPORARY STEEL COFFERDAM
 - █ PERMANENT IMPACT (STRUCTURE FILL)
 - █ TEMPORARY PLATFORM

WATERS OF THE U.S.	TEMPORARY IMPACT		PERMANENT IMPACT		NO IMPACT	TOTAL JURISDICTIONAL AREA	LATITUDE (DECIMAL DEGREES)	LONGITUDE (DECIMAL DEGREES)
	FILL	EXCAVATION	DIRT FILL	STRUCTURE FILL				
OLD BRAZOS RIVER	0.18 AC 681.66 CY	—	—	0.06 AC 356.27 CY	2.28 AC	2.53 AC	28.951475	-95.343731

SCALE:



NOTE: ELEVATIONS BASED ON NAVD88 (GEOID09).

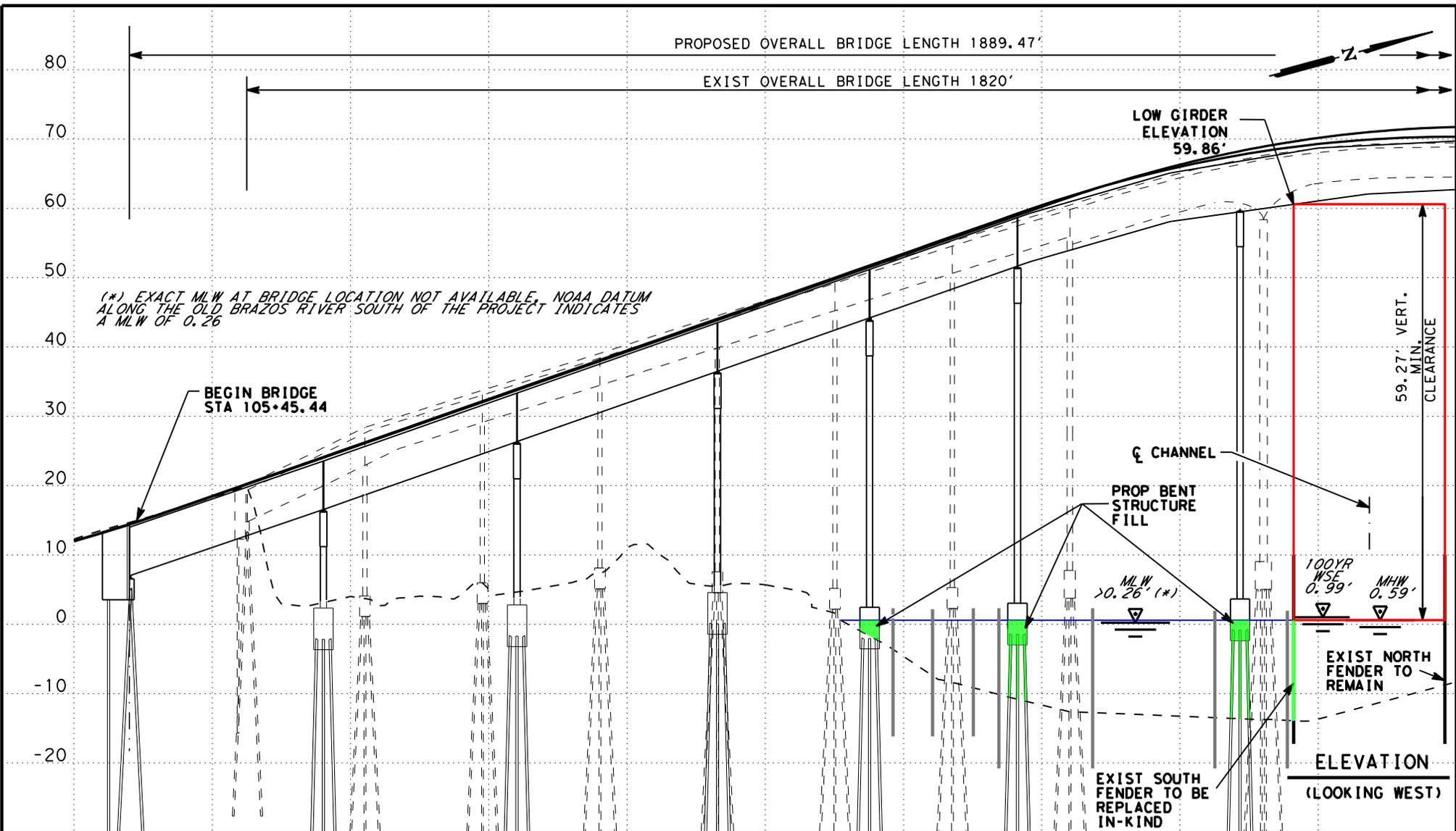


Eugene Ampomah, P.E.
4/4/2022



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105+00 110+00 115+00

	WATERS OF THE U.S.	TEMPORARY IMPACT		PERMANENT IMPACT		NO IMPACT	TOTAL JURISDICTIONAL AREA	LATITUDE (DECIMAL DEGREES)	LONGITUDE (DECIMAL DEGREES)
		FILL	EXCAVATION	DIRT FILL	STRUCTURE FILL				
WATERS OF THE U.S. BOUNDARY	OLD BRAZOS RIVER	0.18 AC 681.66 CY	—	—	0.06 AC 356.27 CY	2.28 AC	2.53 AC	28.951475	-95.343731
TEMPORARY STEEL COFFERDAM									
PERMANENT IMPACT (STRUCTURE FILL)									

SCALE:

HORZ: 1"=100'

FEET

VERT: 1"=20'

FEET

NOTE: ELEVATIONS BASED ON NAVD88 (GEOID09).

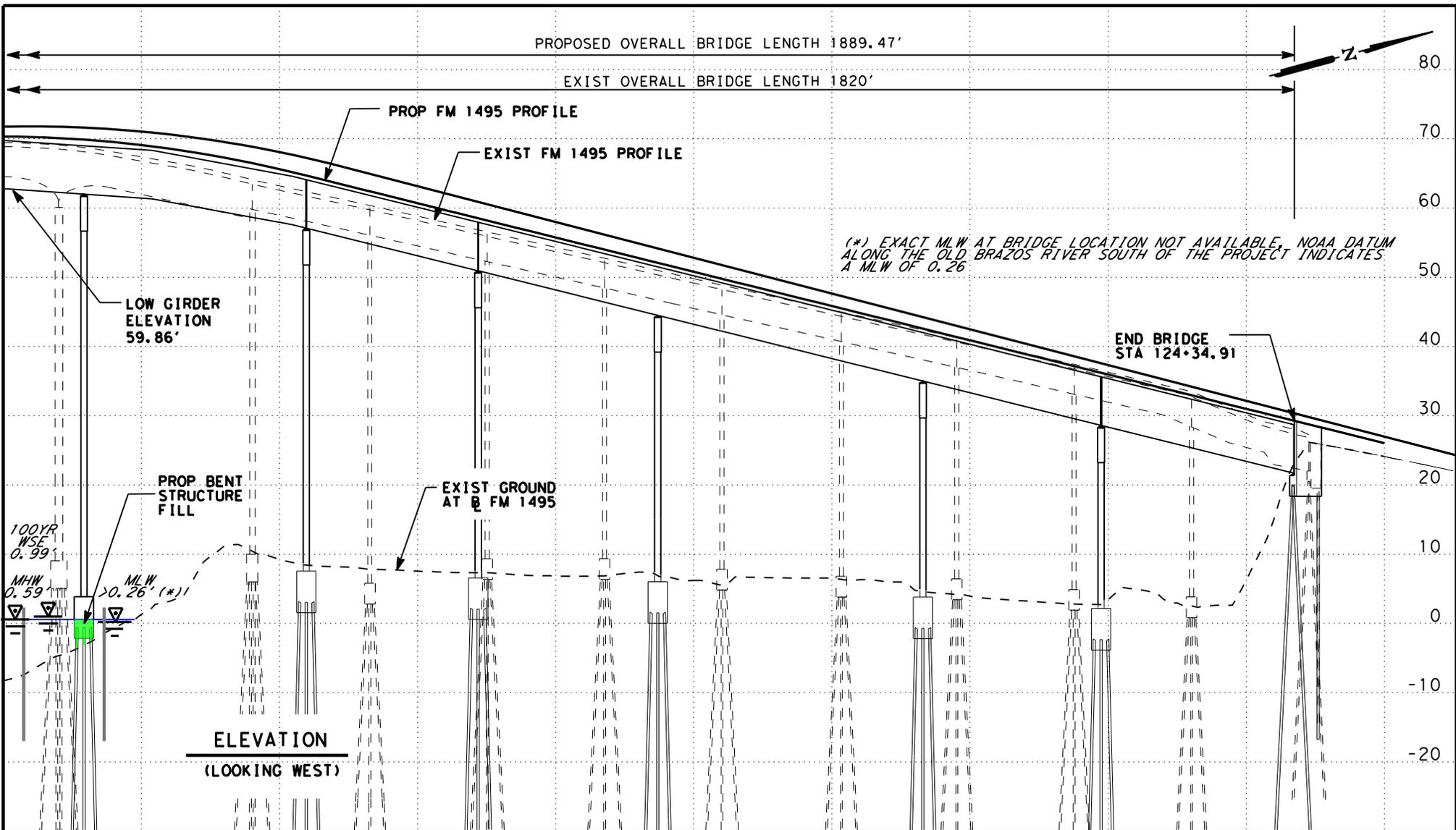
Eugene Ampomah, P.E.

4/4/2022

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SHEET 3 OF 7



115+00 120+00 125+00

	WATERS OF THE U.S.	TEMPORARY IMPACT		PERMANENT IMPACT		NO IMPACT	TOTAL JURISDICTIONAL AREA	LATITUDE (DECIMAL DEGREES)	LONGITUDE (DECIMAL DEGREES)
		FILL	EXCAVATION	DIRT FILL	STRUCTURE FILL				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — WATERS OF THE U.S. BOUNDARY — TEMPORARY STEEL COFFERDAM PERMANENT IMPACT (STRUCTURE FILL) 	OLD BRAZOS RIVER	0.18 AC 681.66 CY	—	—	0.06 AC 356.27 CY	2.28 AC	2.53 AC	28.951475	-95.343731

SCALE:

HORZ: 1" = 100'

VERT: 1" = 20'

NOTE: ELEVATIONS BASED ON NAVD88 (GEOID09).



Eugene Ampomah, P.E.

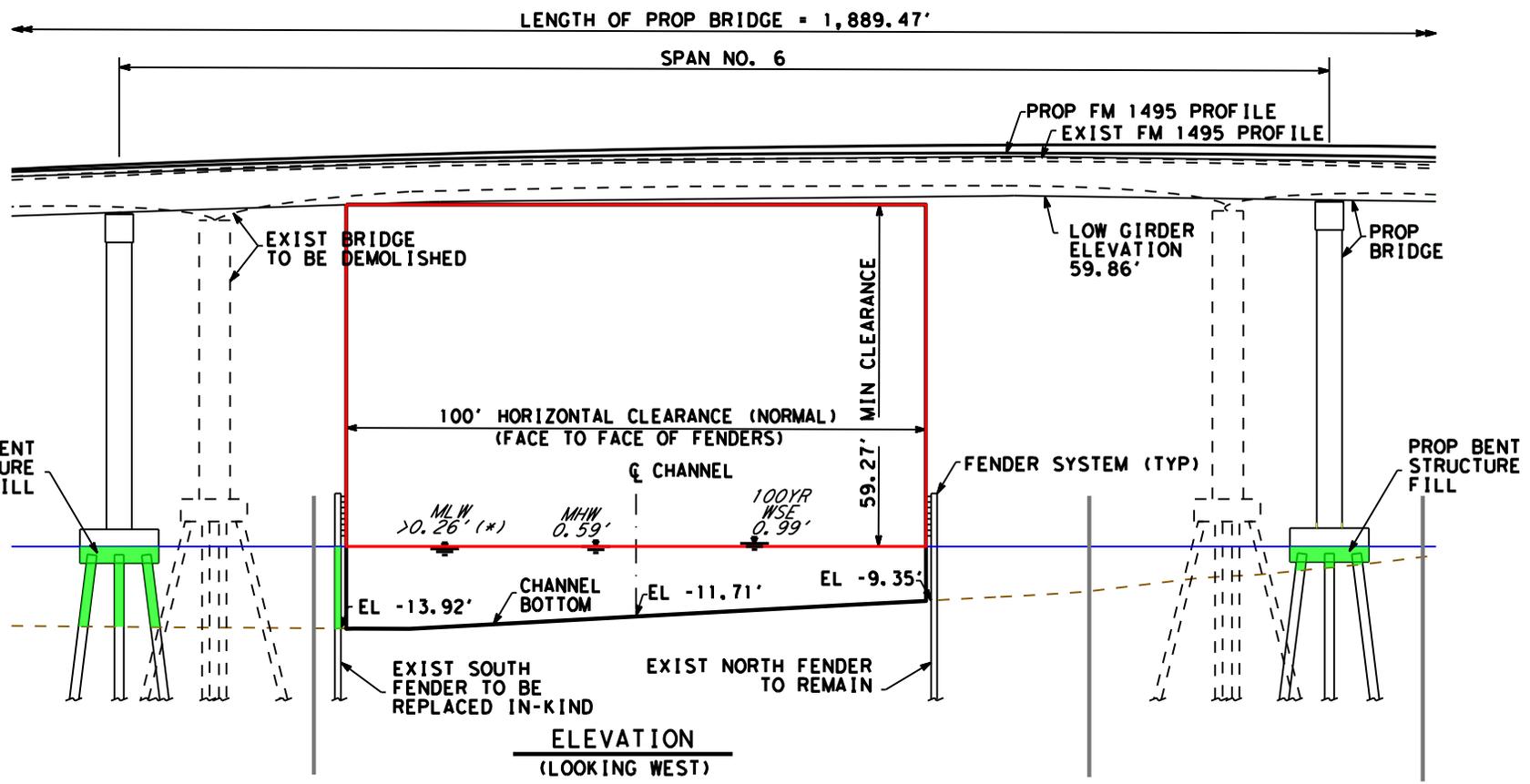
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SHEET 4 OF 7

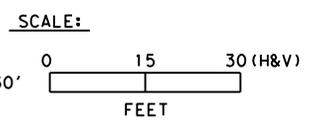


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LEGEND:

- WATERS OF THE U.S. BOUNDARY
- TEMPORARY STEEL COFFERDAM
- PERMANENT IMPACT (STRUCTURE FILL)

WATERS OF THE U.S.	TEMPORARY IMPACT		PERMANENT IMPACT		NO IMPACT	TOTAL JURISDICTIONAL AREA	LATITUDE (DECIMAL DEGREES)	LONGITUDE (DECIMAL DEGREES)
	FILL	EXCAVATION	DIRT FILL	STRUCTURE FILL				
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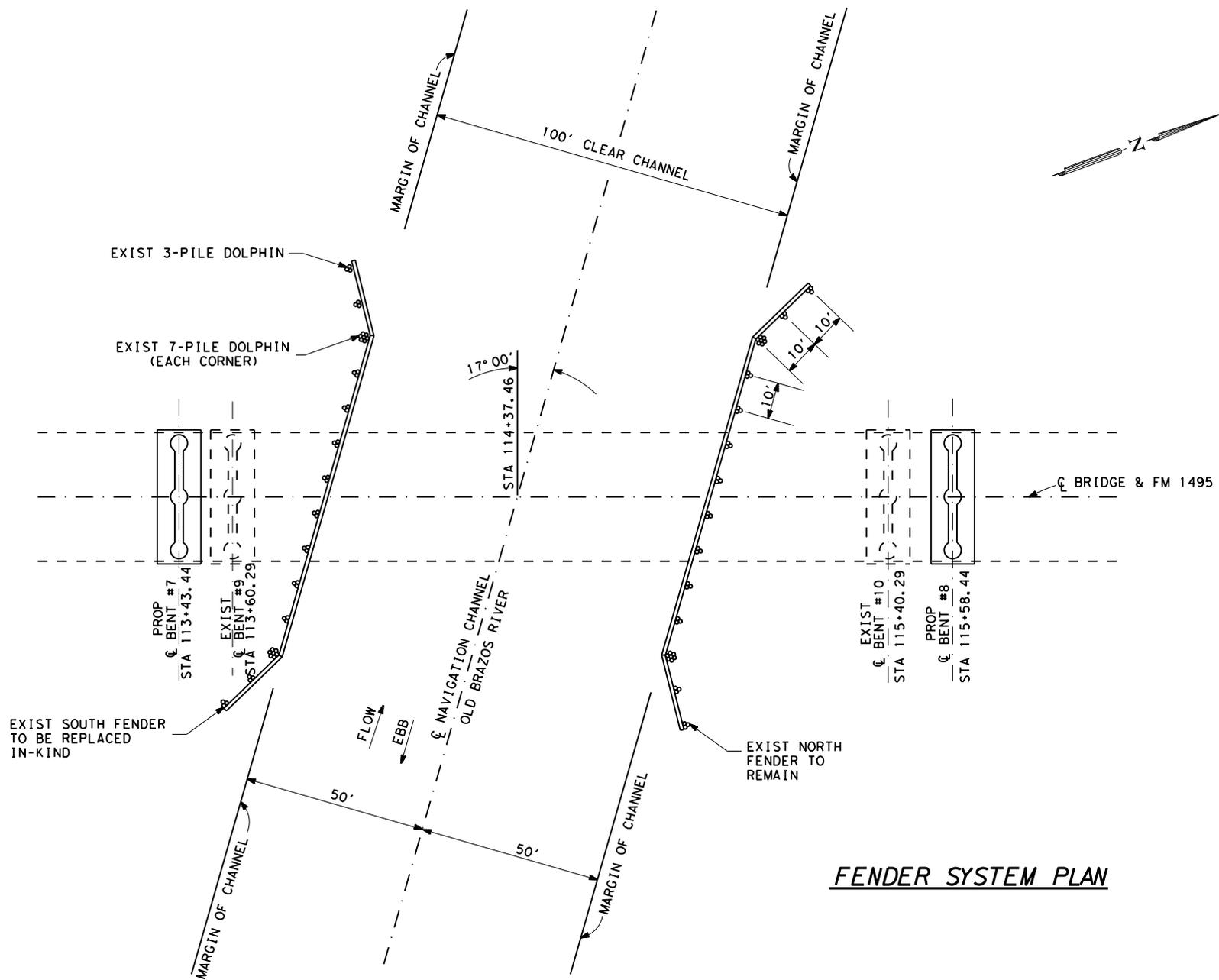


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FENDER SYSTEM PLAN



NOTE: ELEVATIONS BASED ON NAVD88 (GEOID09).

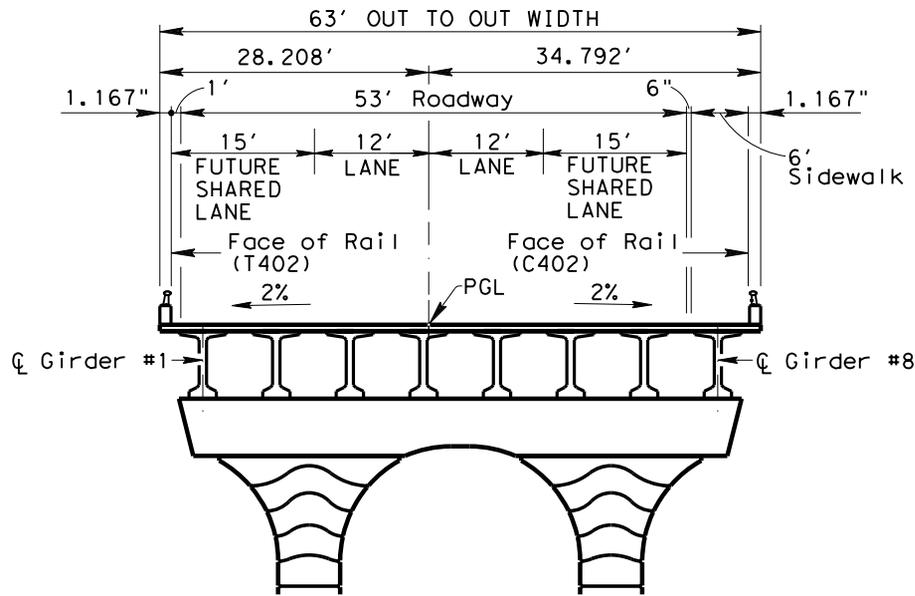


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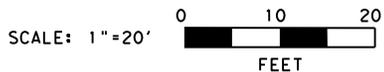


Texas Department of Transportation

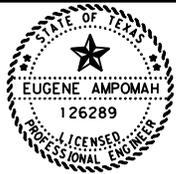
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TYPICAL SECTION



NOTE: ELEVATIONS BASED ON NAVD88(GEOID09).



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SHEET 7 OF 7