

## Information for File # (2013-00341-KDZ)

**Applicant:** Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

**Corps Contact:** Kyle Zibung

**Address:** 1314 Contractor's Blvd, Plover, WI 54467

**E-Mail:** kyle.d.zibung@usace.army.mil

**Phone:** (715) 345-7911, ext. 5877

**Primary County:** Marquette

**Section:** 17

**Township:** 15N

**Range:** 10E

**Information Complete On:** February 13, 2013

**Posting Expires On:** March 14, 2013

**Authorization Type:** LOP-06-WI

This application is being reviewed in accordance with the practices for documenting Corps jurisdiction under Sections 9 & 10 of the Rivers and Harbor Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act identified in Regulatory Guidance Letter 07-01. We have made a preliminary determination that the aquatic resources that would be impacted by the proposed project are regulated by the Corps of Engineers under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Our jurisdictional review and final jurisdictional determination could result in modifications to the scope of the project's regulated waterbody/wetland impacts and compensatory mitigation requirements identified above. An approved jurisdictional determination will be made prior to reaching a permit decision, and will be posted on the St. Paul District web page at <http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/>.

**Project** AFTER-THE-FACT APPLICATION? NO

**PROJECT INVOLVES:**

THREATENED OR ENDANGERED SPECIES? YES

TRIBAL TRUST OR OTHER RESOURCES? NO

A LISTED STATE-IMPAIRED WATER? YES

FEMA 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN? YES

COASTAL RIDGE&SWALE CMPLX? NO

MINK, KAKAGON OR BAD RIVER? NO

PLEASANT PRAIRIE ADID? NO

#### PROJECT PURPOSE:

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) has submitted an application for a Department of the Army permit to reconstruct the Montello Dam. The purpose of the Montello Dam reconstruction project is to address deteriorating structural components, ensure public safety, maintain Buffalo Lake levels, and improve public boat launch and shore fishing facilities.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The WDNR owns the Montello Dam near STH 22 in the City of Montello, Wisconsin. The Montello Dam was originally constructed in the mid-1800's to improve navigation between Montello and Portage by raising water levels in the Fox River, thus creating Buffalo Lake. The existing rock-filled timber crib dam and lock were constructed in 1933. In 1968, a six inch thick concrete cap with a six inch high fixed wooden flashboard was added to the crest of the existing timber crib spillway. The embankment (also referred to as the dredge-bank or dike) has been treated with rip-rap on the upstream slope, and trees and brush have been removed at various times. In 1987, the City of Montello constructed a boat landing on the embankment with parking on its adjoining property. On several occasions, the city has also improved the road surface on the dike for access to the boat landing.

The dam's embankment was saturated and damaged during 2008 flooding. Water seeping through the embankment and vehicle traffic on the dike access road contributed to the formation of several sinkholes and slope failures along the embankment. A 2010 report by the WDNR concluded that the embankment, moveable sluice gates/lock structure, and primary spillway were all in need of repair. Buffalo Lake was subsequently drawdown in September 2012 to accommodate repairs to the dam infrastructure.

The Montello Dam has three major components: the primary spillway, the lock channel with upstream sluice gates, and an approximately half mile earthen embankment. The dam's earthen embankment would be fortified to increase its strength and control seepage. The primary spillway would be replaced and a new fish ladder would be added. Gates on the upstream end of the lock channel would be replaced. The existing boat launch and parking lot on the embankment would be reconstructed and expanded. A two-way road with pedestrian path would be constructed from the boat launch parking lot north to Montello Street and a one-lane emergency-vehicle-only road with pedestrian path would be built from the lock channel parking lot north to the boat launch parking lot. Lighting at the Andy Krakow Public Fishing Area and parking lot would be upgraded and an informational kiosk would be added. An existing fishing wharf and pier would be reconstructed and two new fishing wharves would be placed along the embankment to increase recreational opportunities. Minor repairs to the lock channel are also proposed as maintenance activity that would preserve the lock's historic significance and not alter its overall appearance.

The Montello Dam reconstruction project would be implemented in accordance with NR 333, Wisconsin Administrative Code, Dam Safety and Construction.

**NAME, AREA AND TYPES OF WATERS (INCLUDING WETLANDS) SUBJECT TO LOSS:**

The Montello Dam reconstruction project would require the discharge of fill materials into approximately 1.84 acres of lakebed and 0.057 acre of fresh wet meadow wetlands.

**ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:**

1.) Do Nothing. The Do Nothing alternative does not address the deteriorating Montello Dam structure that must be repaired to ensure public safety. This alternative was removed from consideration because it does not accomplish the project purpose nor meet public safety requirements of NR 333, Dam Safety and Design.

2.) Dam Abandonment. The Abandonment alternative would return Buffalo Lake to a riverine system. This alternative was removed from consideration in 2009, at the recommendation of Steering Committee members (local and elected officials, businesses, and residents) who expressed strong concerns about adverse tourism and economic impacts.

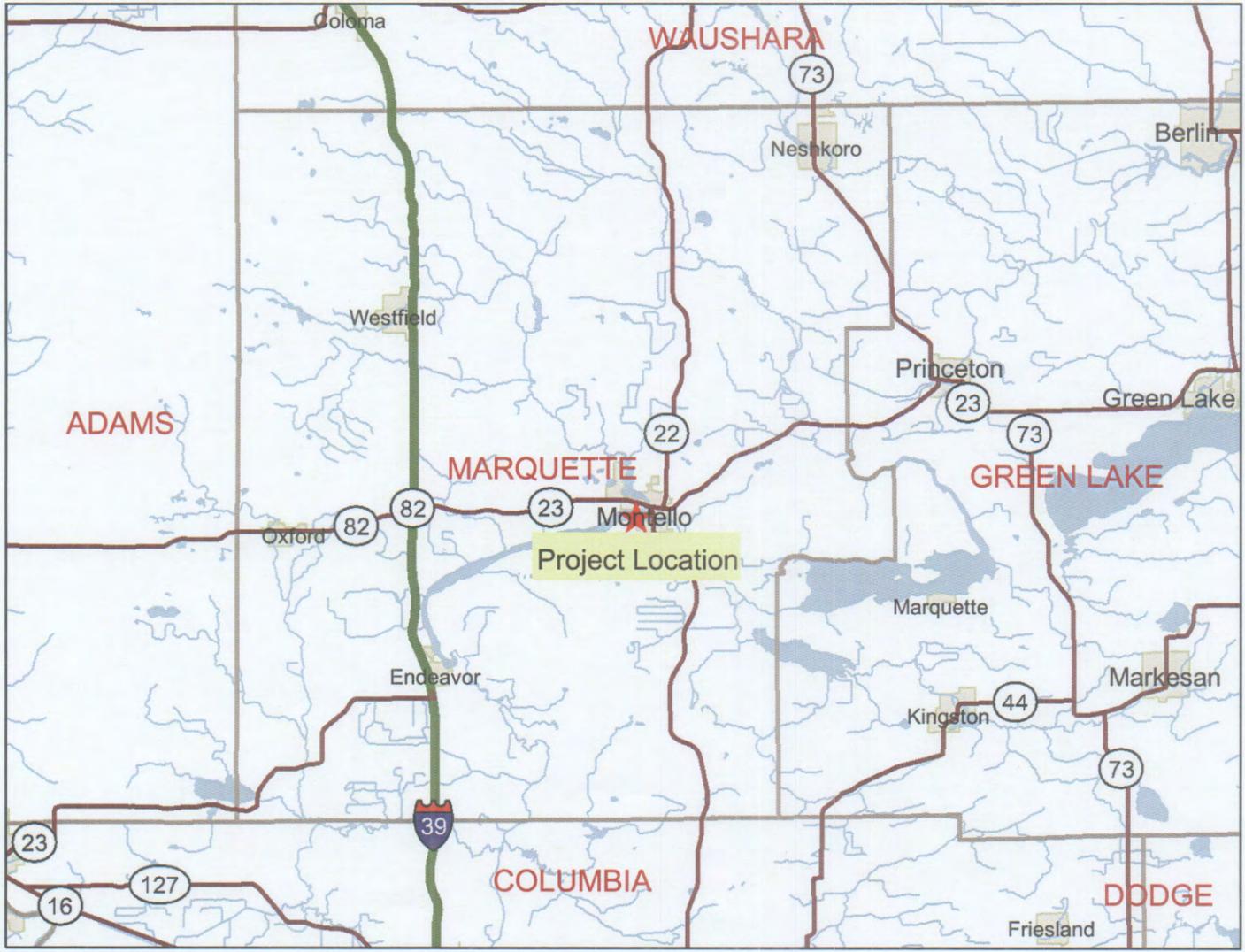
3.) Dam Reconstruction and Facility Development. The WDNR evaluated a number of design alternatives and developed the preferred alternative – Montello Dam Reconstruction and Facility Development to address deteriorating structural components, maintain Buffalo Lake, improve public boat launch and shore fishing facilities to meet NR 1.91 Public Access requirements, satisfy NR 333, Dam Safety and Design requirements and minimize adverse environmental impacts.

**COMPENSATORY MITIGATION:**

The WDNR has proposed to purchase credits from an approved wetland mitigation bank located within the impacted major watershed (Lake Michigan) to offset the lost wetland and aquatic resource functions from this project.

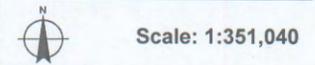
**Drawings**      See attached.

# Location Map



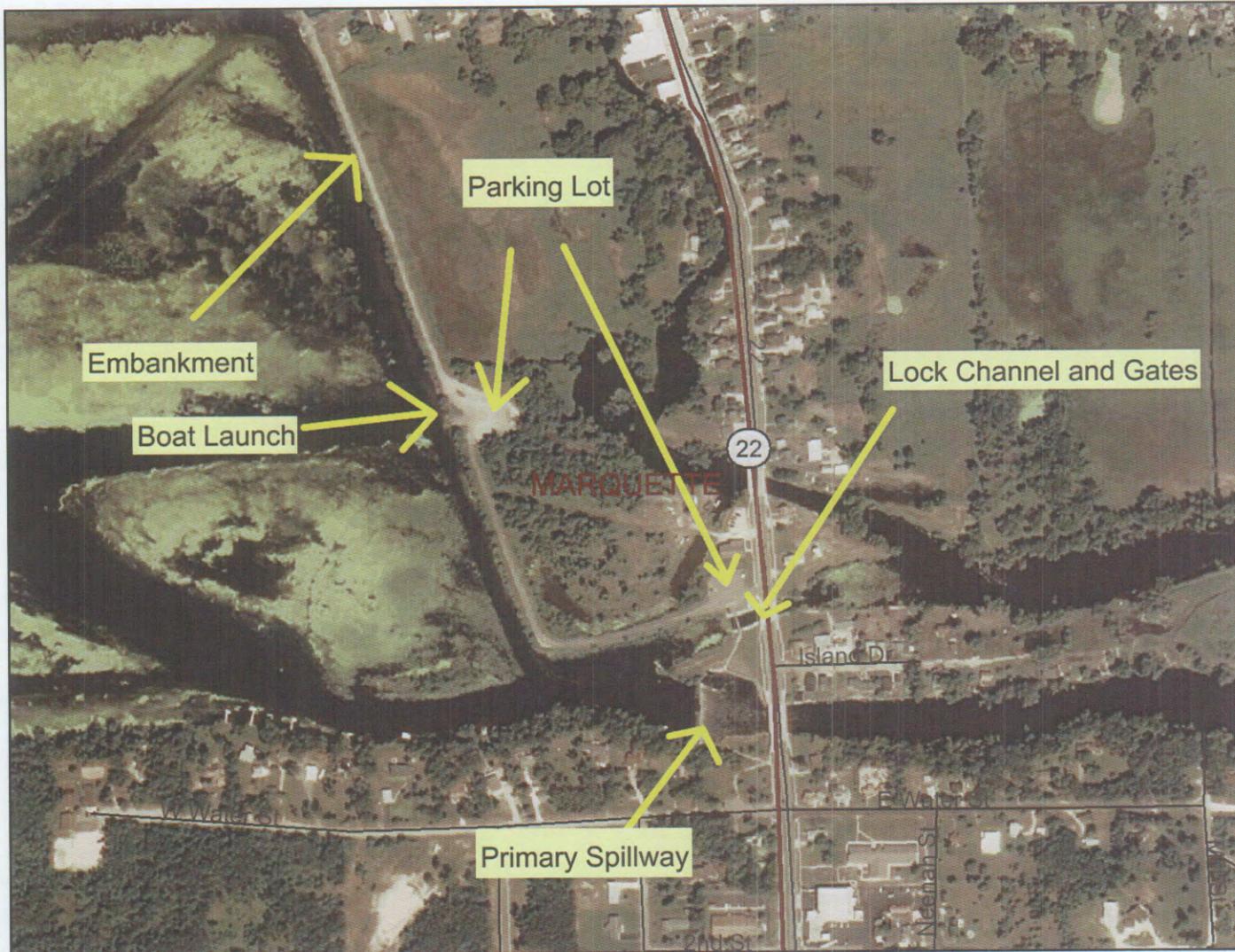
## Legend

- Major Highways**
- Interstate
  - State Highway
  - U.S. Highways
  - 24K County Boundaries
  - 100K Open Water
  - 100K Rivers and Streams
- Cities and Villages**
- Village
  - City



This map is a user generated static output from an Internet mapping site and is for general reference only. Data layers that appear on this map may or may not be accurate, current, or otherwise reliable. THIS MAP IS NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION.

# Detailed Aerial



## Legend

### Major Highways

- Interstate
- State Highway
- U.S. Highways
- County Roads
- Local Roads
- 24K County Boundaries
- Civil Towns
- Civil Town

0 600 1200 1800 ft.



Scale: 1:6,131

This map is a user generated static output from an Internet mapping site and is for general reference only. Data layers that appear on this map may or may not be accurate, current, or otherwise reliable. THIS MAP IS NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION.

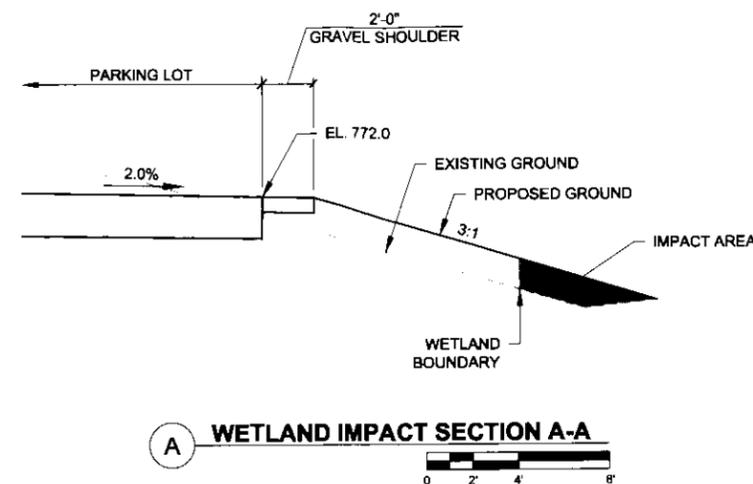
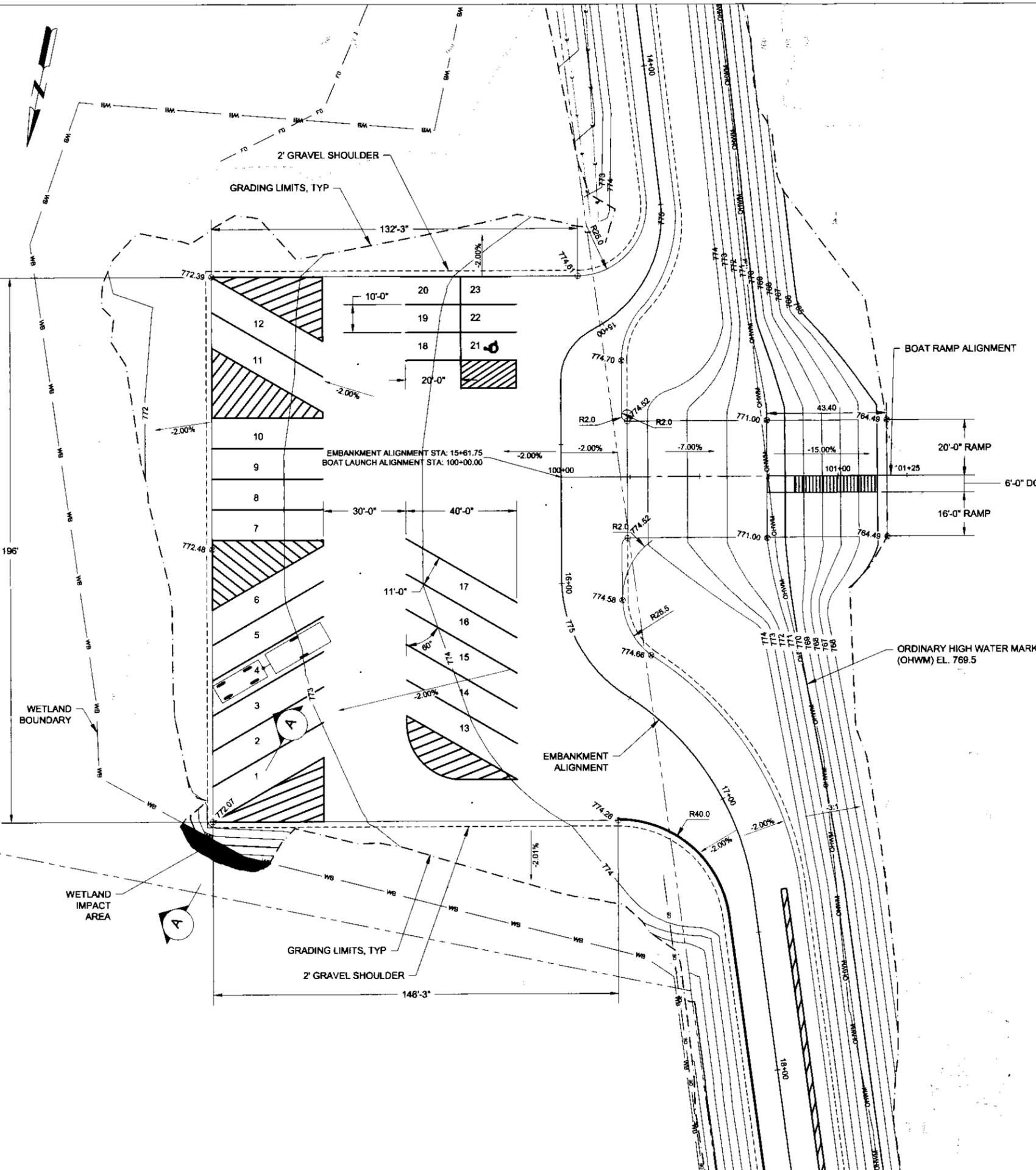




Revisions:

No.	Date	Description
1	00/00/00	Appendum No.

Graphic Scale	0' 10' 20'
DFD Number	10C4L
Set type	FR
Date issued	01/04/2013
Sheet number	C401



X:\P\2013\00341-KDZ\DWG\10C4L.DWG  
1/10/2013 11:12:12 PM

