



US Army Corps
of Engineers[®]
New England District

Engineering/Planning
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742

PUBLIC NOTICE

Date: 10 November, 2015

Comment Period Ends: 10 December, 2015

In Reply, Refer To: Robert Russo

Or by e-mail: Robert.S.Russo@usace.army.mil

30-DAY PUBLIC NOTICE

CHELSEA RIVER, EAST BOSTON MASSACHUSETTS EMERGENCY STREAMBANK PROTECTION PROJECT

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, plans a streambank protection project to stabilize approximately 300 feet of riverbank along Chelsea River at 338 East Eagle Street in East Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts. The Work is being conducted under Section 14 of the Flood Control Act of 1946 (as amended). Section 14 allows the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to participate in the planning and construction of stream bank and shoreline erosion control projects in situations where public facilities (and facilities owned by non-profit organizations that are used to provide public services that are open to all on equal terms) are in imminent threat of damage or failure by natural erosion processes on stream banks and shorelines, and are essential enough to merit federal participation in their protection. These projects are implemented in partnership with a local non-federal sponsor. The City of Boston is the non-federal sponsor of this project. Attachment 1 includes a list of pertinent laws, regulations and directives considered in project planning. Figures 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 include maps of the project area and associated project activities.

Purpose of Work: The purpose of the proposed project is to protect a sewer manhole and its associated 15-inch sewer main line. Erosion from twice daily 9-foot tidal fluctuations has caused a section of the sewer manhole and main line to become exposed and in danger of being undermined and damaged. Continued long-term erosion of the riverbank will continue to endanger other areas at this site that are subject to tides. The need for the project is to ensure the protection of public infrastructure. If not protected from further erosion of the riverbank, the exposed sewer system structures will eventually break down and rupture, resulting in adverse impacts to the surrounding water quality by allowing raw sewage to be discharged into the tidally influenced river.

Description of Recommended Project: Chelsea River (or Chelsea Creek, as it is commonly called) is a short waterway that runs along the shore of Chelsea, Massachusetts and separates that community from the cities of Boston and Revere. The Chelsea Creek is an urban tidal river flowing from the mouth of Mill Creek, which is located between the cities of Chelsea and Revere, where it meanders east for half a mile then takes a sharp turn south and widens

significantly as it runs between Chelsea and the Boston neighborhood of East Boston. The Chelsea River forms the northern boundary for the City of Boston and flows in a southwesterly direction to its confluence with the Mystic River. These two rivers constitute the inner Boston Harbor. The peninsulas of Boston, East Boston, South Boston, and Charlestown all cluster around the inner harbor. The project area lies in East Boston along the Chelsea River in the vicinity of Condor and East Eagle Streets. The area of shoreline erosion is a small inlet near an industrial building (Figure 5). The area is highly urbanized.

The recommended plan consists of placing stone protection along the 300-foot section of eroding bank extending from the toe, to the mid-height of the riverbank. The stone protection would consist of a 24-inch layer of rip-rap on a 1:2 vertical to horizontal slope underlain by a 1 foot layer of gravel bedding. The constructed toe of the slope would be continuous with the bank slope and would also consist of a 24-inch layer of rip-rap underlain by a one foot layer of gravel bedding. A 4-foot high stone berm would be constructed in the river approximately 25 to 30 feet from the riverbank with the crest of the berm extending approximately two feet above the riverbed. An approximate 1-2 foot layer of sand/fine gravel that has been excavated from the bank in order to place the stone protection will be placed in the area of the river between the toe of the bank protection and the two foot high berm (to create intertidal habitat). This intertidal zone will be sloped parallel to the existing shoreline grade to provide suitable substrate for the growth and survival of salt marsh cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*). The *Spartina alterniflora* will help to restore salt marsh habitat that was historically present in the river. The stone berm will contain the substrate that supports the growth of the approximately 25-foot wide strip of salt marsh (Figures 3 and 4).

Additionally, as part of the bank restoration, the sewer manhole will be raised and the frame and grate will be reset by the non-federal sponsor. Construction will require clearing most of the vegetation from the slope. Soil and subsoil will be excavated to provide for a stable bed of gravel fill upon which to place the rock “riprap” slope revetment. The upper slope will be stabilized with turf reinforcement mats with 6 inches of topsoil placed over them, and seeded. Most of the work will be accomplished by a long reach excavator working from the top of bank. Placement of equipment in the channel will be avoided as much as possible but use of a small piece of equipment, during periods of low water, might be needed for work along the base. Approximately 1,500 CY of material will be excavated and 650 CY of gravel fill installed and 1,200 CY of topsoil installed. Approximately 1,600 CY of rip-rap will be placed along the lower base of the riverbank. Work will be contained within a silt curtain. Construction is planned to begin during the fall of 2016 or later, and take several months to complete. A private construction company under contract to the Government will perform the work.

Additional Information: Additional information may be obtained from the Engineering/Planning Division of the New England District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Mr. Robert Russo, the Project Manager, and/or Mr. Kenneth Levitt, of the Environmental Resources Section, at the return address shown below. These individuals may also be reached by phone or email, Mr. Russo at 978-318-8553 or Robert.S.Russo@usace.army.mil; Mr. Levitt at 978-318-8114 or Kenneth.M.Levitt@usace.army.mil.

Coordination: The proposed work is being coordinated with the following federal, state, and local agencies:

Federal

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
National Marine Fisheries Service

State

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
Massachusetts Historical Commission
Tribal Historic Preservation Office, Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah)
Massachusetts Board of Underwater Archeological Resources
Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management

Local

City of Boston Conservation Commission

Environmental Consequences: A draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) has been prepared for this project. These documents are available for public review at the East Boston Branch of the Boston Public Library, located at 365 Bremen Street, East Boston, MA 02128, or at the City of Boston Conservation Commission located at One City Hall Square, Room 709, Boston, MA 02201, or by contacting the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, as noted above. The EA and FONSI will be finalized after consideration of public and agency comments. A preliminary determination has been made that an Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed project is not required under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Endangered Species Act: Coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has indicated that no federally listed threatened or endangered species under their jurisdiction occur in the vicinity of the proposed project. Coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service has indicated that there will be no affects to the federally listed Atlantic sturgeon *Acipenser oxyrinchus*, due to the lower probability of their occurrence in the immediate project area, as well as the fact that a silt curtain will be used to contain the project footprint during construction that is expected to prevent any sturgeon from being affected by construction activities.

Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act: The National Marine Fisheries Service has concurred that the proposed project is not expected to have a negative effect on species managed under the Magnuson Stevens Act, including winter flounder, due to the timing of construction (a no work restriction between February 15th and June 30th of any year) and the use of a silt curtain to contain the project footprint during construction.

Historic and Archaeological Resources: The construction of the proposed emergency streambank protection project should have no effect upon any structure or site of historic, architectural or archaeological significance as defined by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. Coordination was conducted with the Massachusetts Historical Preservation Office as well as the Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources. The Board of Underwater Resources noted that based on a preliminary review of its files and secondary literature sources to identify known and potential submerged cultural resources within the proposed project area that no record of any underwater archaeological resources was found for that location. In addition, a visual inspection of the area was conducted in 2012, and determined no shipwreck resources were present. Therefore, based on these results, the Board expects that this project is unlikely to impact submerged cultural resources. However in the event that unknown submerged cultural resources are encountered during the course of the project, the USACE will take steps to limit adverse effects and notify the Board and the Massachusetts Historical Commission as well as other appropriate agencies immediately, in accordance with the Board's Policy Guidance for the Discovery of Unanticipated Archaeological Resources (updated 9/28/2006).

Floodplain Management: In accordance with Executive Order 11988, the Corps of Engineers has determined that the proposed project will not contribute to negative impacts or damages caused by floods.

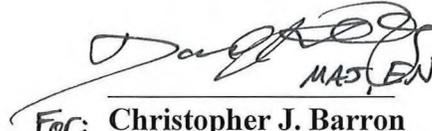
Federal Permit Requirements: A Water Quality Certificate will be acquired from the Massachusetts DEP pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. A Section 404(b)(1) evaluation, pursuant to the Clean Water Act, will be attached to the EA.

Comments: Any person who has an interest that may be affected by the proposed project may request a public hearing. The request must be submitted in writing to me within 30 days of the date of this notice and must clearly set forth the interest that may be affected and the manner in which the interest may be affected by this activity.

The decision whether to perform the work will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, will be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors, which may be relevant to the proposal, will be considered; among these are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, historic values, fish and wildlife values, flood damage prevention, land use classification, and the welfare of the people.

Please bring this notice to the attention of anyone you know to be interested in this project. Comments are invited from all interested parties and should be directed to me at: U.S. Army Corps of the Engineers, New England District, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, Massachusetts, 01742-2751, Attn: Engineering/Planning Division, within 30 days of this notice.

04 Nov 15
Date


For: **Christopher J. Barron**
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer

Attachments

Attachment-1

PERTINENT LAWS, REGULATIONS AND DIRECTIVES

American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978, 42 U.S.C. 1996.

Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.

Clean Air Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 7401 et. seq.)

Clean Water Act, as amended (33 U.S.C. 1251 et. seq.)

Endangered Species Act of 1973 as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq)

Federal Water Project Recreation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460L-12 et. seq.)

Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 472a et. seq.)

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661-667e)

Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460L-4 et. seq.)

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, (16 U.S.C. 1801 et. seq.)

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321-4347)

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.)

Preservation of Historic and Archaeological Data Act of 1974, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 469 et seq. This amends the Reservoir Salvage Act of 1960 (16 U.S.C. 469).

Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.
The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1271 et. seq.)

Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, 24 May 1977

Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands, May 24, 1977

Executive Order 11593, Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment, 13 May 1971

Executive Order 13007, Accommodations of Sacred Sites, 24 May 1996.

Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, 11 February 1994.

Executive Order 13045, Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks, 21 April 1997.

Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments, 6 November 2000.

White House Memorandum, Government-to-Government Relations with Native American Tribal Governments, 29 April 1994.

Figure 1. Locus Map of Proposed Streambank Repair Project in East Boston, MA.

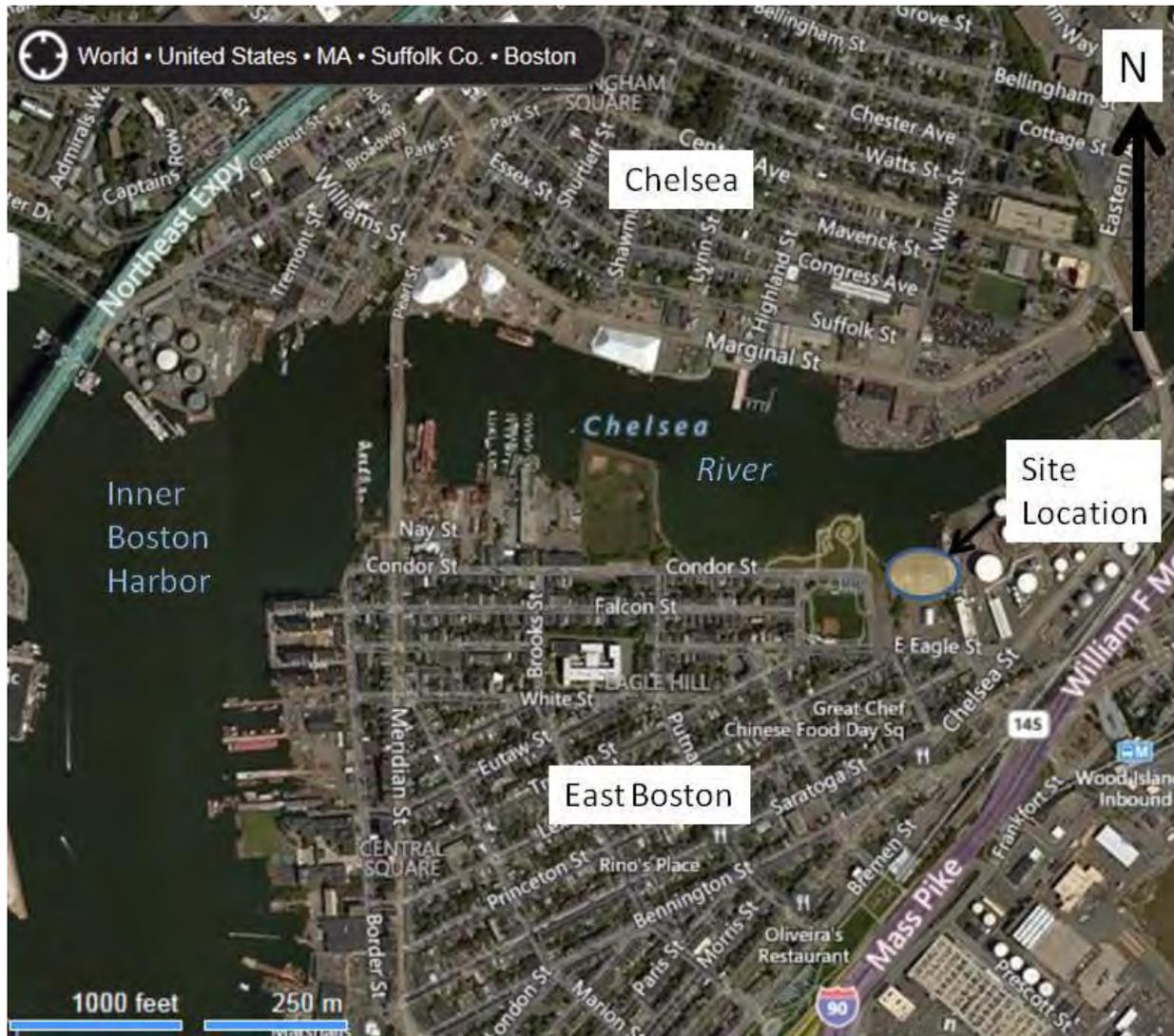


Figure 2. Location of proposed Streambank Repair Project at 338 Eagle Street, East Boston, MA.

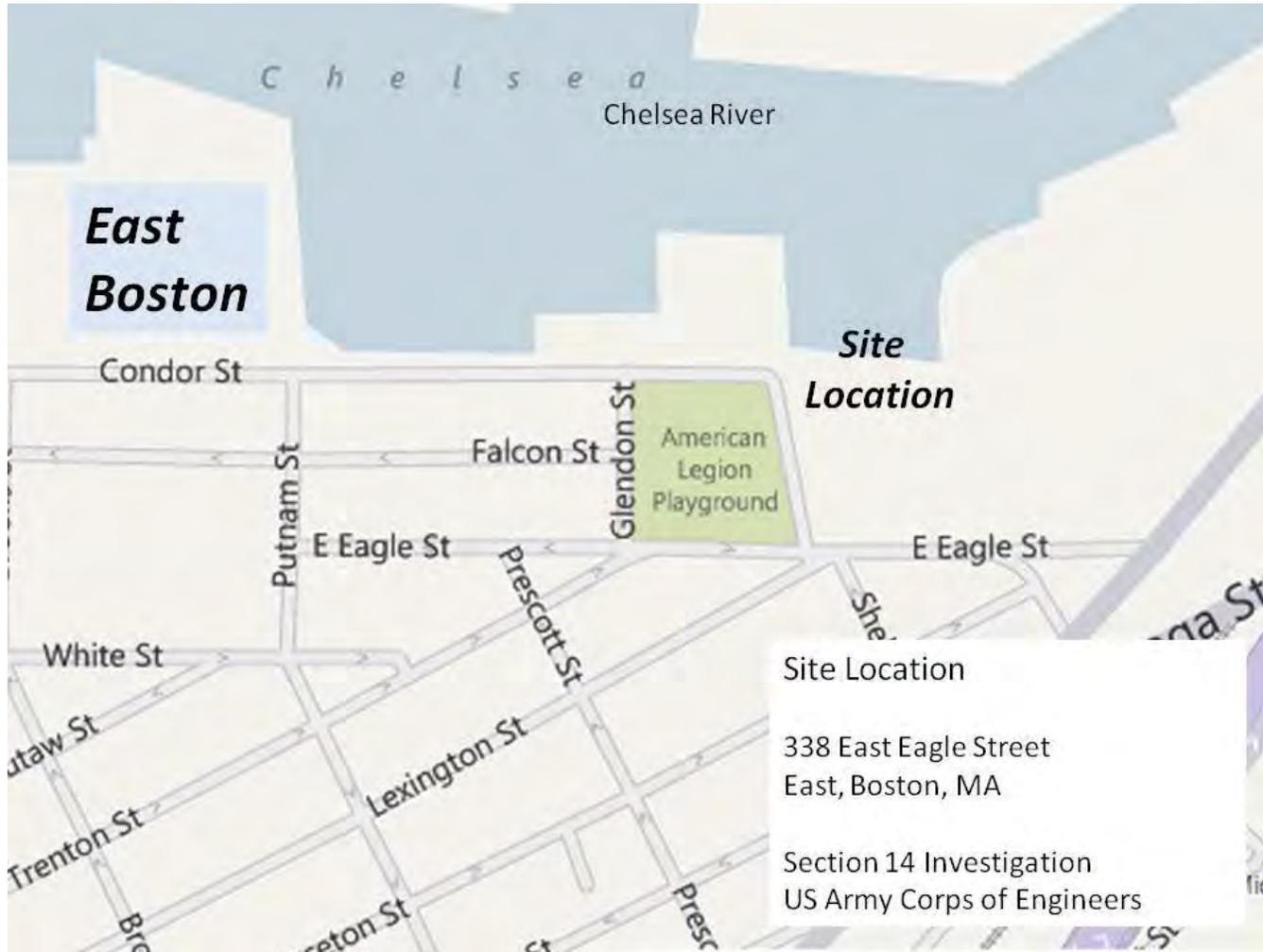


Figure 3. Section Plan of Proposed Streambank Repair Project at East Boston, MA.

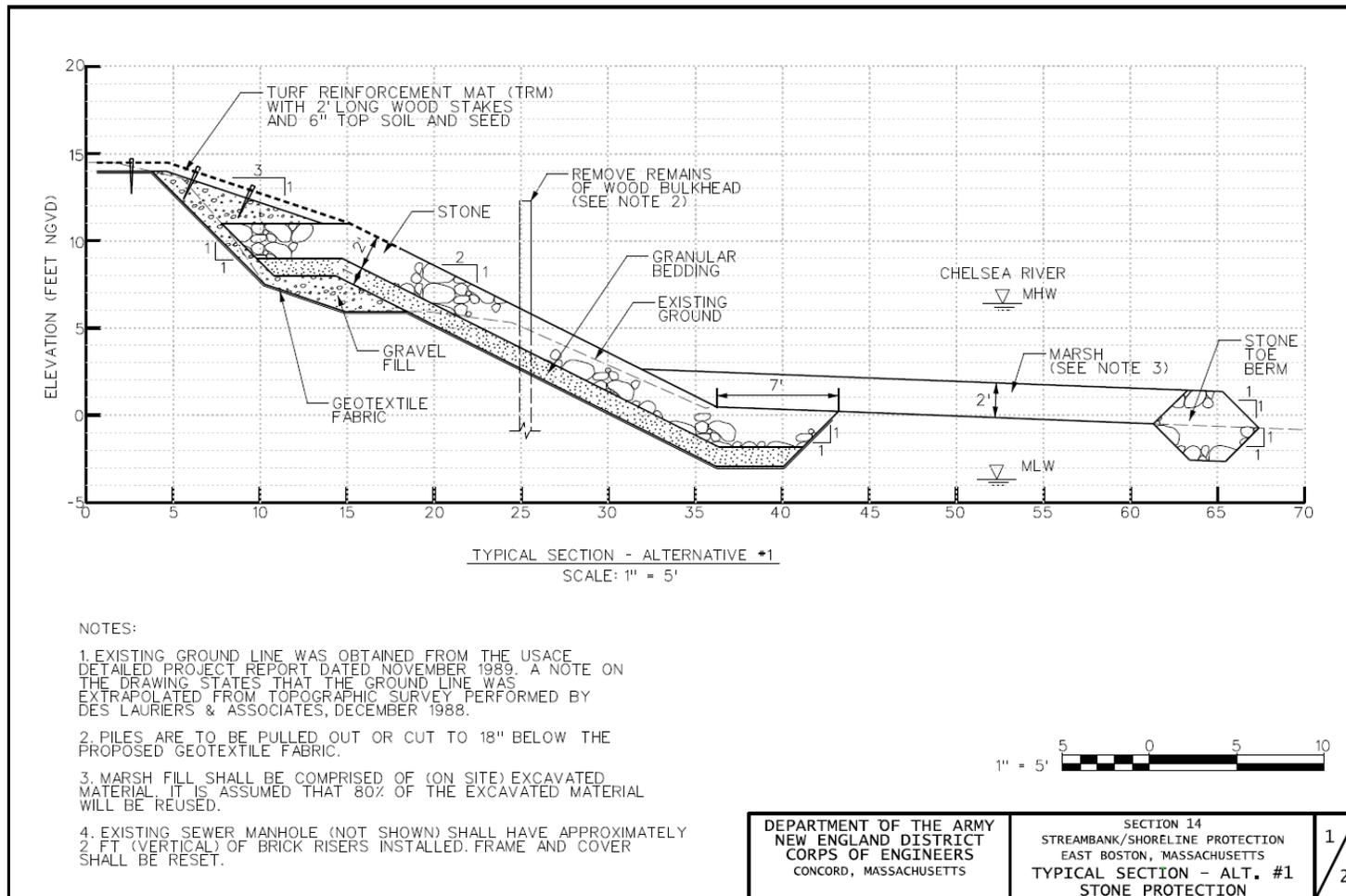


Figure 4. Site Plan of Proposed Streambank Repair Project at East Boston, MA

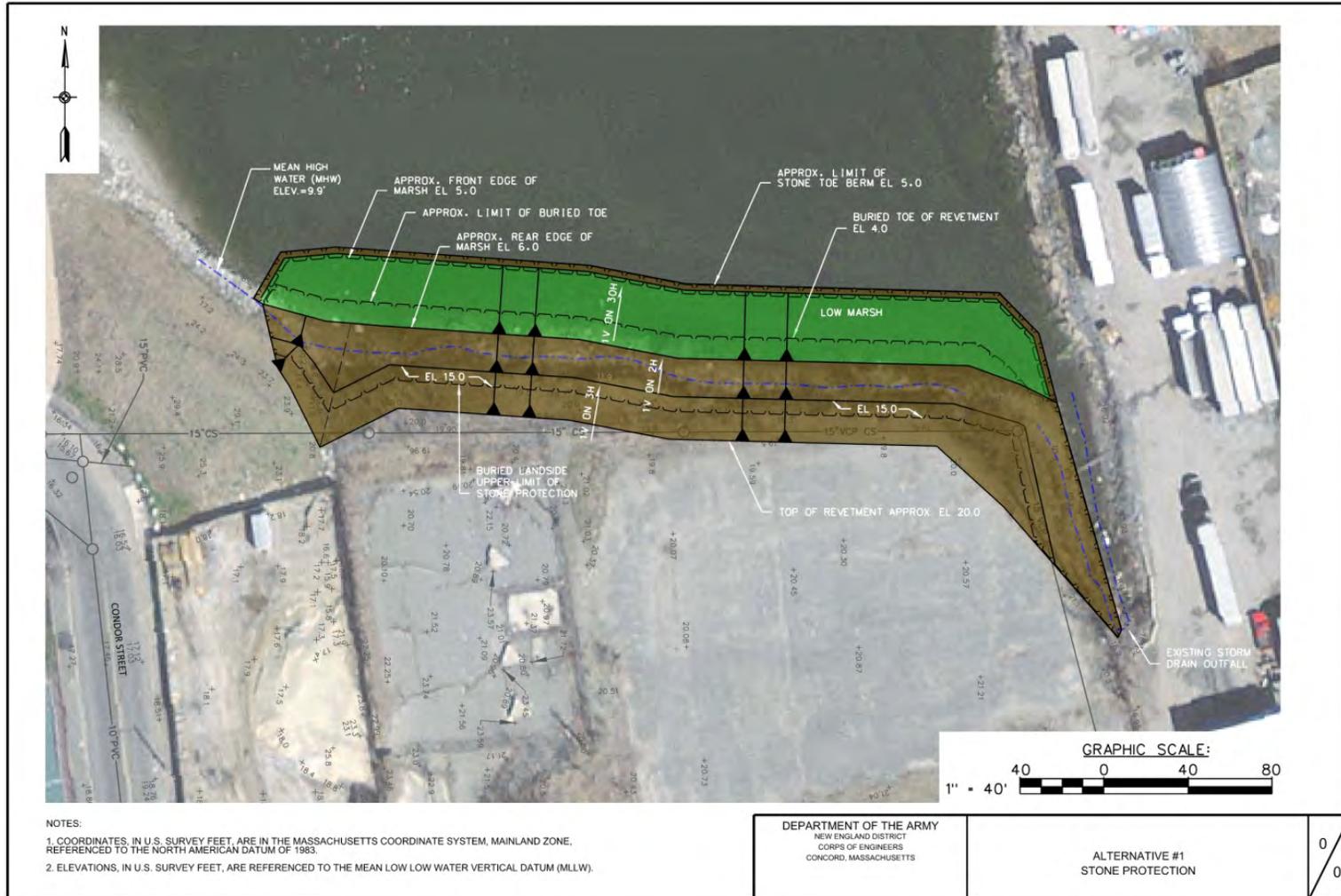


Figure 5. Photo of shoreline near upstream end of proposed project along Chelsea River in East Boston.

