



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Mississippi Field Office
6578 Dogwood View Parkway, Suite A
Jackson, Mississippi 39213



July 7, 2023

IN REPLY REFER TO:
2023-0102077

Benjamin Frater
Department of the Interior
United States Fish and Wildlife Service - Gulf Restoration Office
341 N. Greeno Road
Fairhope, AL 36532

Dear Mr. Frater:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Mississippi Ecological Services Office (Mississippi ES Office) has reviewed your email dated June 5, 2023, and Biological Evaluation Form, requesting section 7 consultation for the Back Bay-Biloxi Davis Bayou Nutrient Reduction Project. The project is located in Harrison and Jackson Counties of Mississippi. Our comments are submitted in accordance with the Endangered Species Act (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

The Mississippi ES Office concurs with the effects determinations you have made for species and critical habitat areas outlined in the Biological Evaluation Form (BEF) for this project. Additionally, we concur with the conditions and protective measures outlined in the BEF to minimize impacts to species and habitats found within the project area. Further, our office supports the proposed project, and its intent to improve water quality in the watershed. The future benefits of the project may be beneficial for fish and wildlife for many years.

Consultation should be reinitiated with our office if the scope of the proposed work changes, or new information reveals that the effects of the proposed action may affect listed species in a manner or to an extent not considered, or a new species or critical habitat is designated that may be affected by the proposed action. This concludes consultation on this project. If you have any questions, please contact Paul Necaie in our office, telephone: (228) 493-6631.

Sincerely,

James Austin
Field Supervisor