

HYDROLOGICAL RESTORATION OF THE BRAZORIA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WETLANDS

Prepared for:

Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

December 17, 2020

Prepared by:

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TEXAS REGISTERED
ENGINEERING FIRM
F-2144

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DKS18637

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has partnered with DU to design and oversee construction of features to improve the ecological structure and function of wetlands in the Chocolate Bay Prairie Unit. In October 2018, Ducks Unlimited, Inc. (DU) authorized Freese and Nichols, Inc. (FNI) to provide professional engineering services in relation to Phase I of the Hydrologic Restoration of the Chocolate Bay Prairie Unit wetlands in the Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge within Brazoria County, Texas.

Under existing conditions, several manmade ditches intercept the natural runoff patterns throughout the Unit and convey it to Chocolate Bay. The purpose of this study is to develop conceptual alternative designs for the Unit that achieve USFWS's desired wetlands restoration goal of improving the site's natural hydro-period, that is, the duration of inundation that remains on the landscape during a typical storm event. To accomplish this, FNI developed a hydrologic model and multiple two-dimensional hydraulic models using HEC-HMS and HEC-RAS software.

FNI developed existing conditions hydrologic and hydraulic models to simulate the 2- and 100-year design storms using NOAA Atlas 14 rainfall depths. Both simulations assume a boundary condition equal to the mean higher high water (MHHW) mark as measured by the NOAA station at San Luis Pass, TX, just south of the site. A smaller historical rainfall event was also simulated using historical rain gauge and tidal data from a 3-inch rainfall that occurred on May 11, 2015. A second 100-year storm was also simulated to incorporate the peak storm surge that occurred during Hurricane Harvey in August 2017. Because storm surge elevations are highly variable, the two 100-year storm simulations bracket low (MHHW) and high (Harvey) boundary conditions that may occur. These 100-year scenarios were modeled to confirm that the modeled alternatives will not cause adverse impacts to adjacent properties during the 100-year event.

FNI prepared three alternative models with various combinations of weirs, culverts, and other features throughout the site to achieve the DU/USFWS goals of restoring the natural hydro-period on the landscape. The efficacy of each alternative was assessed, primarily based upon the historical 3-inch storm, and the results were documented within this report as well as the attached materials. Each modeled alternative improves the natural hydro-period of the site to varying degrees. Alternative 3 achieves a good balance between improving natural drainage south of the manmade ditch system while being easily maintainable by USFWS into the future. In the 3-inch rainfall scenario, Alternative 3 would increase the inundation duration between 2 and 12 hours for 289 acres, between 12 and 24 hours for 240 acres, and greater than 24 hours for 160 acres.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 OVERVIEW AND BACKGROUND

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has partnered with DU to design and oversee construction of features to improve the ecological structure and function of wetlands in the Chocolate Bay Prairie Unit. In October 2018, Ducks Unlimited (DU) authorized Freese and Nichols, Inc. (FNI) to provide professional engineering services in relation to Phase I of the Hydrologic Restoration of the Chocolate Bay Prairie Unit (Unit) wetlands in Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge within Brazoria County, Texas. The authorized services include developing a two-dimensional (2D) hydraulic model to evaluate existing conditions of the project site, create up to three alternative 2D models of the Unit to achieve DU goals, and preparing an existing conditions and alternative conditions engineering report.

1.2 PURPOSE OF STUDY

The purpose of this study is to develop multiple alternative conditions for the Unit that will achieve USFWS's desired wetlands restoration goal of returning the site to its natural hydro-period without adverse impacts to adjacent properties or roadways. For the purposes of this study, an adverse impact is considered any increase in the modeled 100-year water surface on an adjacent property, measured to the hundredth of a foot. To complete this analysis, FNI developed a hydrologic model and a 2D hydraulic model to assess existing conditions along with separate 2D hydraulic models for each design alternative. This report presents the existing and alternatives conditions analysis as well as the process that FNI used to arrive at the results.

The following sections of the report include discussions regarding:

- Field reconnaissance and data collection
- Hydrologic and hydraulic methodology
- Existing conditions hydrologic and hydraulic analysis
- Alternatives conditions hydrologic and hydraulic analysis
- Hydrologic and hydraulic results and recommendations

1.3 PROJECT AREA

Figure 1 shows an overview of the project area and identifies several key areas on the site. The project area is generally bounded by Chocolate Bayou on the east, Farm-to-Market Road (FM) 2004 on the north, Hoskins Mound Road on the west, and West Bay to the south. The extents of the Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge continue west of Hoskins Mound Road, but it was found during this analysis that rainfall west of the road does not contribute to the area of concern for this study.

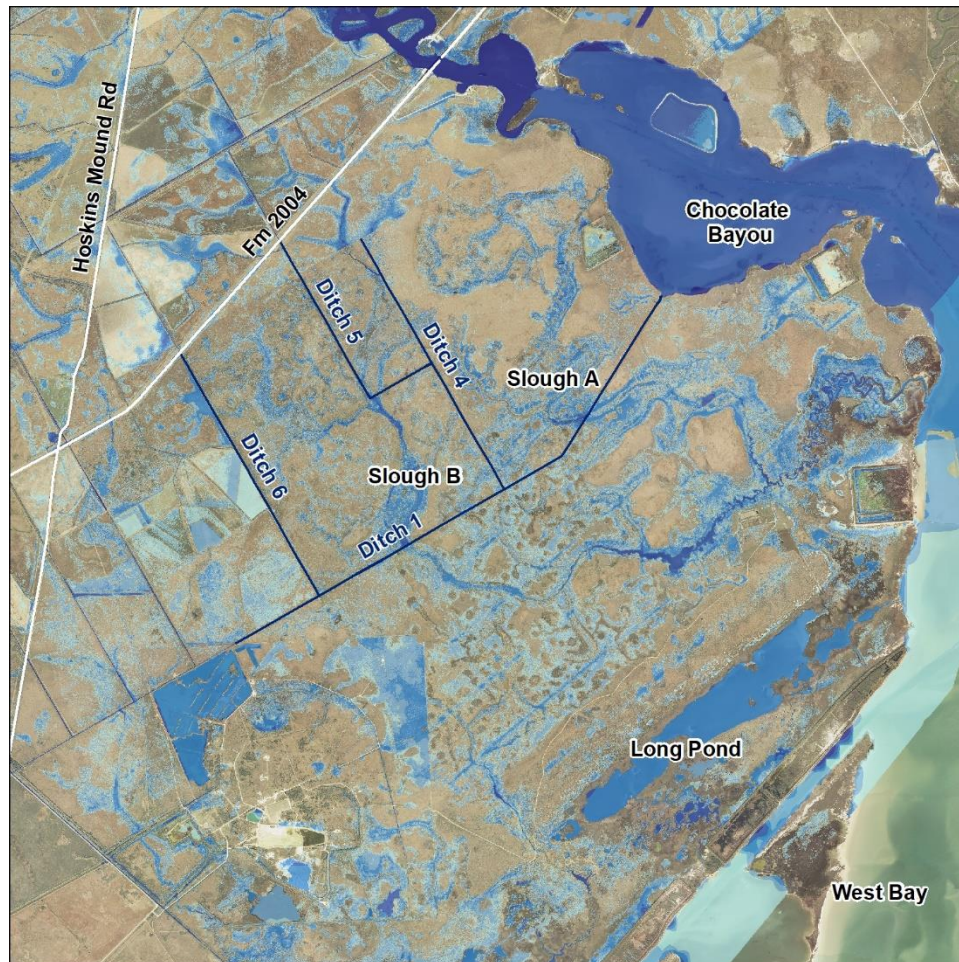
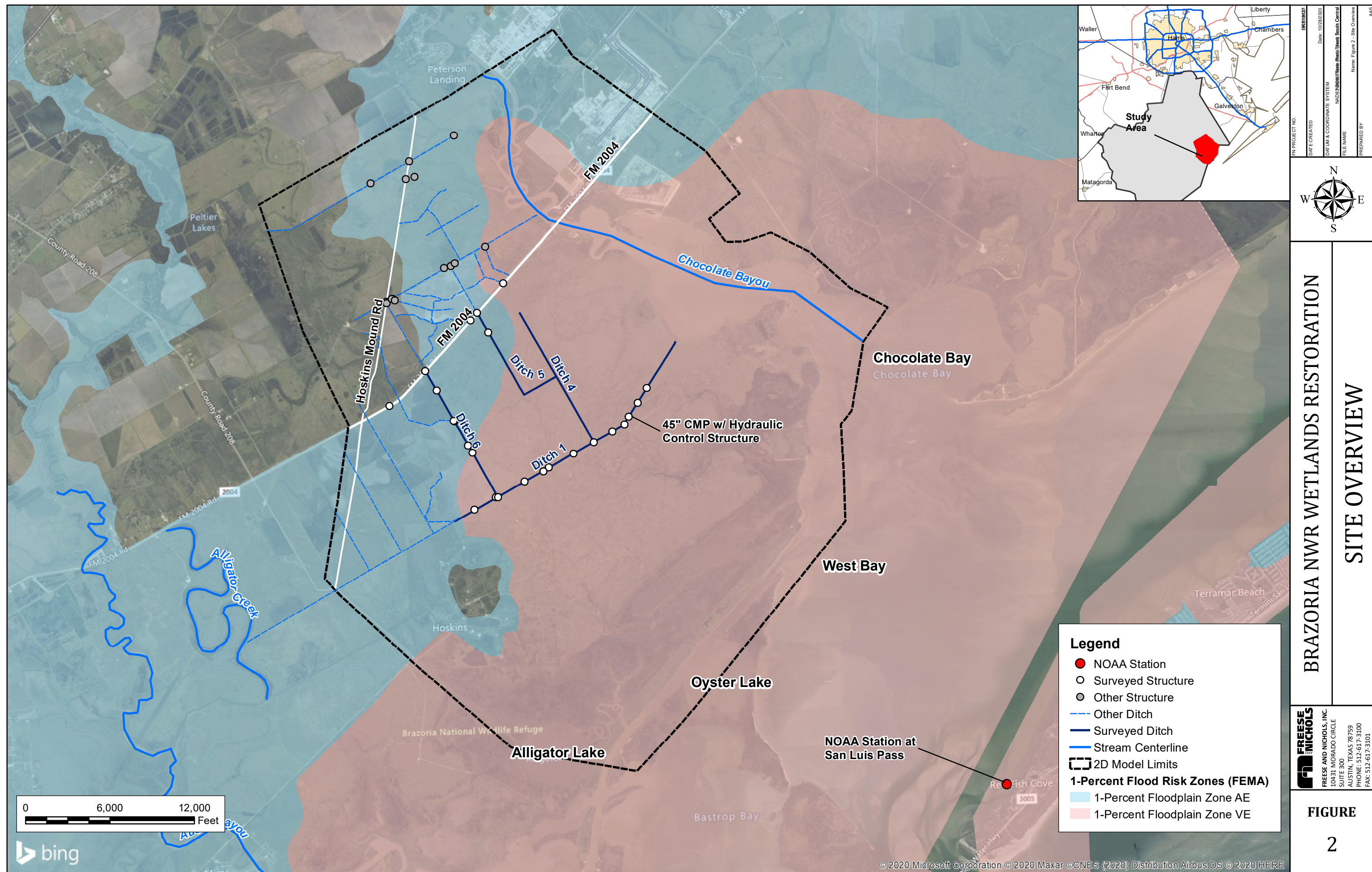


Figure 1: Site Overview

Figure 2 on the next page shows that most of the Unit lies within FEMA's current effective 100-year floodplain. According to FEMA's maps, the Unit falls under two different floodplain zones: Zone AE – Base Flood Elevations determined and Zone VE – Coastal flood zone with velocity hazard (wave action) with Base Flood Elevations determined. **Figure 2** also notes the location of the NOAA tidal station from which tailwater data was obtained.



2.0 DATA COLLECTION

The following sections describe the field reconnaissance and data collection completed for the project.

2.1 SITE VISITS

A site visit was conducted on December 19, 2018, to observe and verify existing conditions for the project area and included project team members Garrett Johnston and David Buzan. The site visit included driving along Ditch 6 to Ditch 1, then east along Ditch 1 to the hydraulic control structure near the steel tank.

Information obtained during the site visits includes existing drainage patterns, land use conditions, and stormwater infrastructure location and conditions.

2.2 DATA OBTAINED FROM DU

FNI received survey data from DU that included elevation data for the drainage ditches within the project site as well as culvert sizes and invert elevations. A high-resolution LiDAR dataset that encompassed the site was also obtained from DU. The survey and lidar datasets, along with all elevations used in this study, are based on the NAVD 88 datum.

The survey was limited to key data necessary for evaluating existing drainage patterns and existing ditch capacity, with the understanding that detailed survey will be required for the design of future alternatives. The collected survey data include select roadway and surface topography, ditches, and reinforced concrete pipe (RCP) and corrugated metal pipe (CMP) culverts. **Figure 3** shows the areas included in the provided survey. The survey data were incorporated into the 2D HEC-RAS terrain.

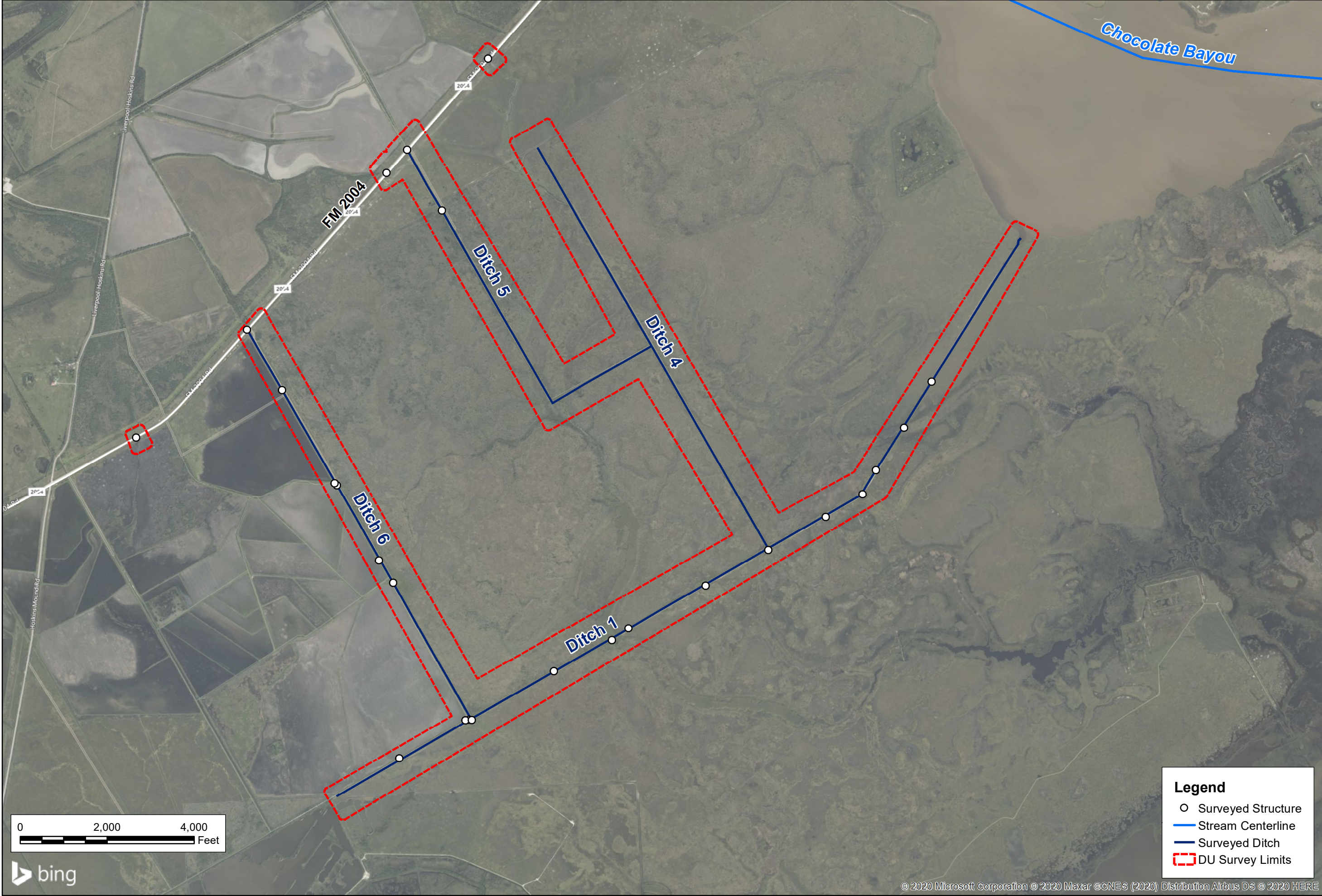

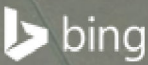


FIGURE 3		BRAZORIA NWR WETLANDS RESTORATION SURVEY LIMITS MAP		DN: 10/26/20
DATE CREATED	DATE			
DATUM & COORDINATE SYSTEM		NAD83 State Plane (feet) Texas South Central		FILE NAME
PREPARED BY		Name: Figure 2 - Survey Limits Map		AAS

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0 2,000 4,000 Feet



Legend
○ Surveyed Structure
— Stream Centerline
— Surveyed Ditch
- - - DU Survey Limits

3.0 METHODOLOGY

FNI developed existing conditions hydrologic and hydraulic models using the HEC-HMS and HEC-RAS software packages, respectively. HEC-HMS utilizes rainfall inputs and infiltration data provided by the user to produce hydrologic outputs such as excess rainfall and flow. HEC-RAS incorporates topographic data and hydrologic outputs from HEC-HMS to model flow patterns. The site is a large overland area without specific flow paths, so the 2D component of HEC-RAS was used to model hydraulic conditions on the site.

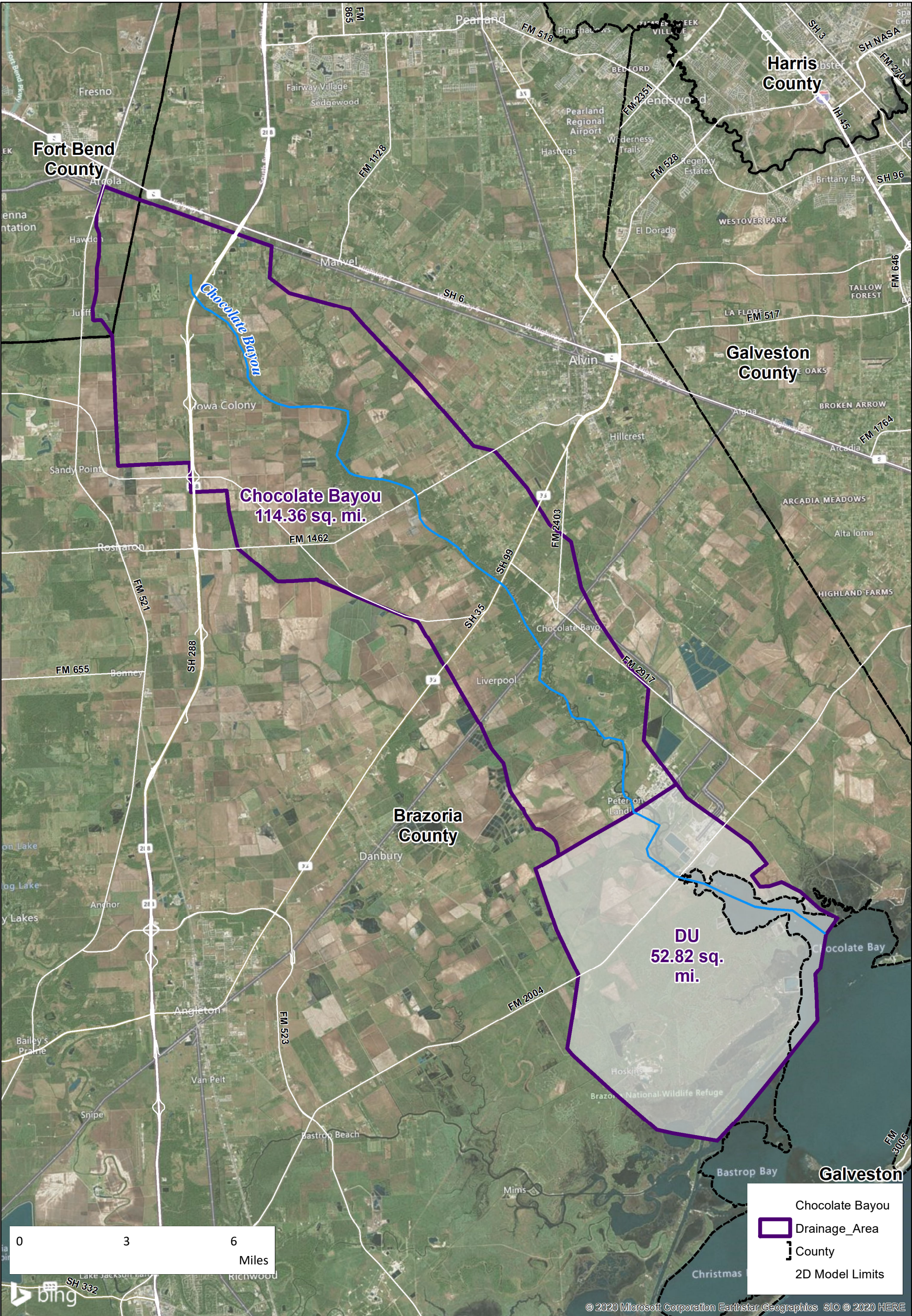
3.1 HYDROLOGIC METHODOLOGY

The existing conditions analysis evaluated the Unit for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Atlas 14 2- and 100-year frequency storm events. One smaller historical storm on May 11, 2015 was also evaluated using precipitation gauge data from the cooperative weather observation project MesoWest. The historical storm will herein be referred to as the “3-inch rainfall”. Because hydrologic conditions on the site are not changing as part of the evaluated alternatives, output from the existing conditions HEC-HMS model was used for both existing and alternatives conditions hydraulic models. Hydrologic parameters were defined according to the Clark unit hydrograph method as outlined in the Brazoria County Drainage Criteria Manual.

3.1.1 Drainage Areas

The FEMA effective hydrologic model for Chocolate Bayou was last updated in 2003 and does not likely reflect conditions that have occurred in the watershed since its development. Therefore, FNI prepared a new hydrologic model of the Chocolate Bayou watershed, analyzing it as a single drainage area based on existing land use as documented in the 2011 National Land Cover Dataset. A review of recent aerial imagery shows that the area is largely undeveloped and minimal development has occurred since the creation of the land cover dataset.

To obtain the excess rainfall over the entire project site, a representative drainage area was set up with its boundaries equivalent to the 2D grid boundary. **Figure 4** shows the two drainage areas delineated for the project. The hydrologic parameters for the two drainage areas are shown in **Table 1**. These required inputs to the Clark unit hydrograph method are outlined in the *Brazoria County Drainage Criteria Manual* and were calculated using ArcGIS measurements based on LiDAR, NLCD Land Cover, and aerial imagery.





FN PROJECT NO. DKS18637		 FREESE AND NICHOLS FREESE AND NICHOLS, INC. 10431 MORADO CIRCLE SUITE 300 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78759 PHONE: 512.617.3100	BRAZORIA NWR WETLANDS RESTORATION			FIGURE 4
DATE CREATED Date: 10/26/2020			DRAINAGE AREA MAP			
DATUM & COORDINATE SYSTEM NAD83 State Plane (feet) Texas South Central						
FILE NAME Name: Figure 4 - Drainage Area Map						
PREPARED BY AAS						

Table 1. Hydrologic Parameters

Parameter	Chocolate Bayou	Brazoria NWR
Area (square miles)	114.36	52.82
Length (miles)	40.58	8.07
Length to Centroid (miles)	27.85	4.51
Channel Slope (feet/mile)	1.48	1.64
Watershed Slope (feet/mile)	5.26	5.00
Percent Urban Development (%)	28.70	12.40
Percent Channel Improvement (%)	100.00	50.00
Percent Channel Conveyance (%)	85.00	20.00
Percent Impervious (%)	27.31	12.40
Watershed Slope Factor (D, unitless)	2.46	2.46
Time of Concentration (TC) (hour)	28.55	6.49
Storage Coefficient (R) (hour)	42.95	20.11
TC+R (hour)	71.50	26.60

3.1.2 Excess Rainfall

Precipitation-on-grid was the primary method used to apply rainfall to the 2D HEC-RAS model. This is a standard boundary condition method for 2D HEC-RAS models as described in Chapter 3 of the *HEC-RAS River Analysis System 2D Modeling User's Manual, Version 5.0*. This method was utilized because the project site does not contain distinct flow patterns, and stormwater runoff is collected into various ditches by overland sheet flow and shallow flow. HEC-HMS was used to generate a proper rainfall time series for each storm. HEC-RAS does not incorporate hydrologic losses in its computations, so HEC-HMS was used to calculate losses. The term excess rainfall is used to describe precipitation that accounts for losses. Losses represent rainfall that does not contribute to stormwater runoff because it is lost to infiltration, depression storage, canopy storage, and evaporation. The relationship between precipitation, losses, and excess rainfall is shown below.

$$\text{Precipitation} - \text{Losses} = \text{Excess Rainfall}$$

Losses were calculated in HEC-HMS according to the methodology outlined in Section 2 of the Brazoria County Drainage Criteria Manual. The loss parameters are shown below in **Table 2**.

Table 2. HEC-HMS Initial and Constant Loss Parameters

Parameter	Value
Initial Range (in)	0.0
Initial Coefficient	0.5
Coefficient Ratio	3.0
Exponent	0.6

3.1.3 Rainfall Data

FNI utilized the NOAA Precipitation Frequency Data Server to obtain Atlas 14 rainfall data for the site. The rainfall frequencies for each storm analyzed were measured at the centroid of the 2D area. For this analysis, the 2- and the 100-year storms were analyzed. As noted previously, a smaller 3-inch rainfall event was also evaluated based on May 11, 2015 gauge data. The 1-hour precipitation data were recorded by gauge BZRT2, a Remote Automatic Weather Stations (RAWS) gauge at the Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge (29.146306° N, 95.303083° W). The inclusion of this storm is intended to model a more common rainfall event the site may encounter outside of the 2- and 100-year design storms. The depths associated with each storm are shown in **Table 3** below.

Table 3. Rainfall Data

Storm	Rainfall Depth by Duration (inches)							
	5-min	15-min	1-hr	2-hr	3-hr	6-hr	12-hr	24-hr
2-year	0.59	1.20	2.29	2.88	3.24	3.87	4.55	5.26
100-year	1.34	2.65	5.15	7.40	9.05	11.90	14.50	17.10
3" rainfall	-	-	1.14	2.07	2.30	2.76	2.89	2.98

For the 2-year and 100-year design storms, FNI created a frequency storm in HEC-HMS. For the 3-inch rainfall event, precipitation gauge data was entered directly as time series data. HEC-HMS produced a 24-hour excess rainfall time series for each storm. The excess rainfall time series were then entered in the 2D HEC-RAS model to create a plan file for each event. **Figure 5** shows the incremental rainfall distribution for the 3-inch rainfall event.

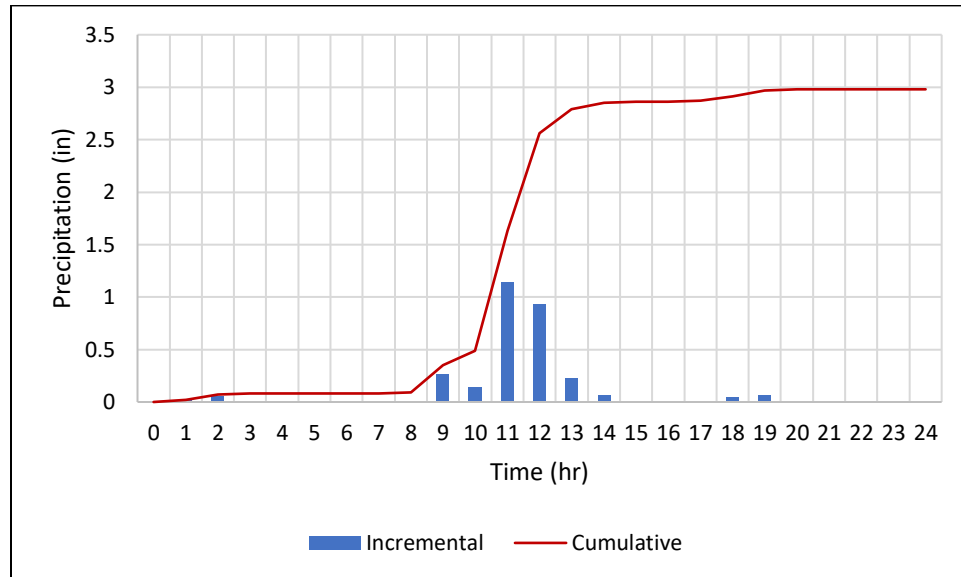
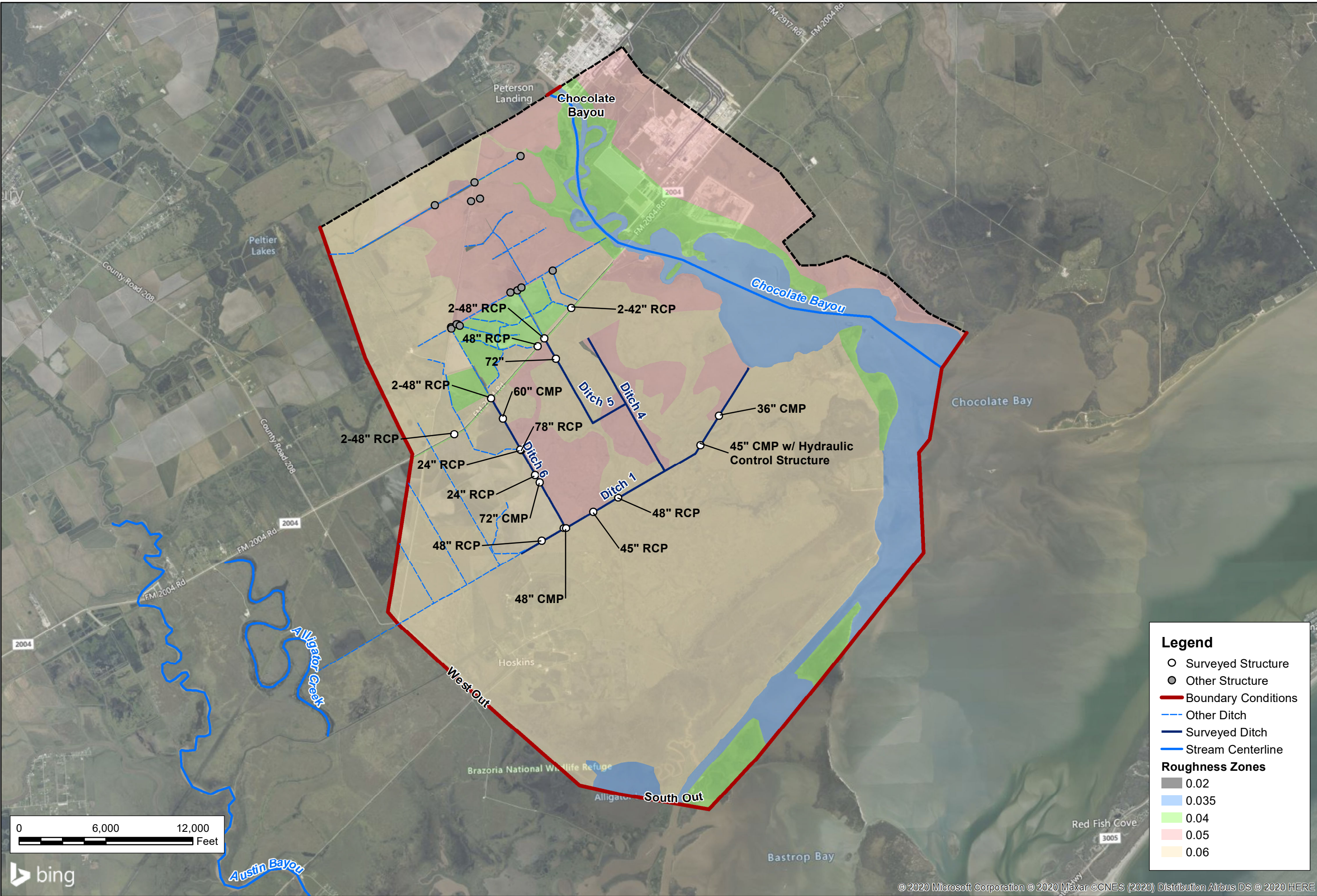


Figure 5. 3-inch Rainfall Incremental Precipitation

3.2 HYDRAULIC METHODOLOGY

The 2D platform of HEC-RAS was used for the hydraulic analysis in order to simulate two-dimensional flow patterns within the project site. In a traditional hydraulic model (e.g., 1D HEC-RAS), a water surface is calculated using gradually varied flow equations, which assume that flow travels in a single downstream direction perpendicular to predefined cross sections. In contrast, 2D HEC-RAS calculates a water surface using the St. Venant shallow-water equations, which assume that flow can travel in two horizontal directions across a predefined 2D grid. The 2D grid boundary, which is shown in **Figure 6**, extends far enough outside the area of interest to determine exactly where overland flow stops contributing to the stormwater runoff of the project site.

In the project area, water flows in many directions before it is collected into various drainage ditches and reinforced concrete pipe (RCP) and corrugated metal pipe (CMP) culverts. These ditches and culverts are also shown on **Figure 6**. Stormwater runoff that is not collected in the drainage ditches either leaves the project area to the west, flows into Chocolate Bayou to the east, or flows into one of multiple bays to the south. The use of 2D modeling allows FNI to evaluate the complex overland flow patterns in more detail than traditional 1D modeling would allow.



BRAZORIA NWR WETLANDS RESTORATION	
EXISTING HYDRAULIC MODEL LAYOUT	
FIGURE 6	
FRESE AND NICHOLS, INC. 10431 MORADO CIRCLE SUITE 300 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78759 PHONE: 512-617-3100 FAX: 512-617-3101	
DATE CREATED: 10/26/2020 DATE: 10/26/2020 DRAFT & COORDINATE SYSTEM: NAD83/StatePlane (Texas) South Central FILE NAME: Figure 6 - Hydraulic Model Layout PREPARED BY: AAS	

3.2.1 Terrain and Hydraulic Structures

The existing conditions 2D terrain was developed using 2018 LiDAR provided by DU on December 19, 2018 and supplemented with survey of the drainage ditches also provided by DU. In some instances, the terrain was modified manually at the culvert inlets and outlets to apply invert elevations from the survey. The existing conditions terrain served as a baseline for the alternative analyses, where minor additions were made for proposed features such as a berm or access road. Changes were localized to proposed features and the baseline terrain remained unchanged.

During the existing conditions analysis, DU raised concerns regarding the accuracy of the bare earth LiDAR data. While LiDAR data is generally acceptable, it struggles to record accurate elevation data in areas where there is standing water or heavy vegetation. This site contains large areas of flat undeveloped land with wetland areas that frequently retain some shallow depth of standing water and vegetation that may obscure the bare earth LiDAR returns. FNI compared the survey points provided by DU to the provided LiDAR data. Over 4,000 survey points were recorded. The differences between the LiDAR data and surveyed elevations were sorted and summarized in **Figure 7** below. Positive values represent areas where the LiDAR elevation is higher than the survey data. Based on this elevation comparison, the baseline LiDAR terrain was uniformly lowered by 1.0 foot before merging it with the provided survey. This uniform lowering did not impact the overall drainage patterns of the site, but did allow for more accurate hydraulic interaction between the surveyed ditches and the immediate surrounding landscape area.

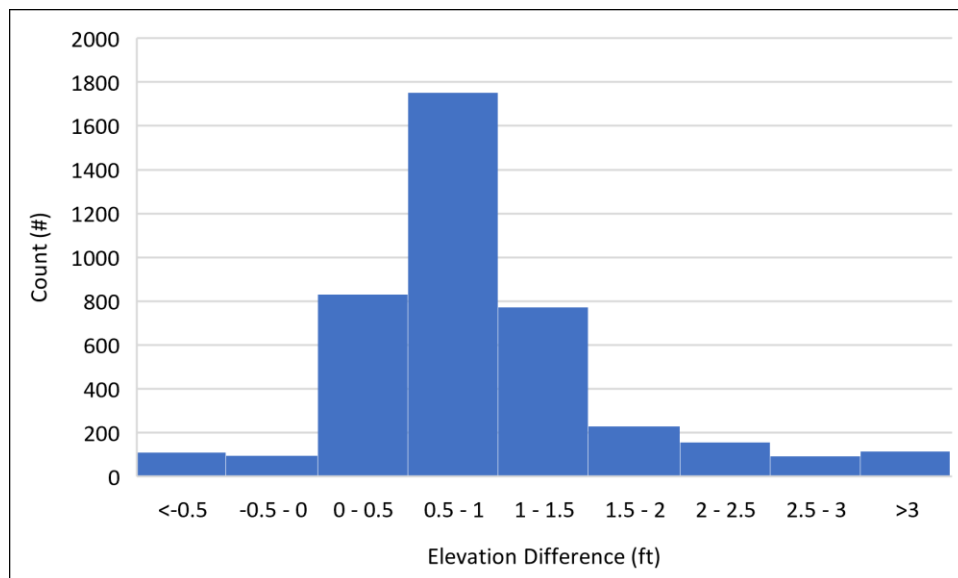


Figure 7: LiDAR vs. Survey Elevation Comparison Summary

The 2D model includes culverts that allow flow to cross FM 2004 as well as several crossings of the surveyed ditches. The culvert sizes, locations, and invert elevations were taken from the survey provided by DU. The culvert locations and sizes are shown on **Figure 6** above.

Figure 6 also shows a hydraulic control structure at the downstream end of Ditch 1 that retains water on the upstream side of the ditch and acts as a saltwater barrier to keep Chocolate Bay from backing up through the ditch system. Survey data provided by DU indicates that this structure has a 4.0' weir length with boards set at elevation 3.40.

3.2.2 Roughness Zones

The 2D grid includes spatially varying roughness elements to capture the increased resistance associated with various types of land use, which affect the ability of water to flow across the surface. Typical roughness values were assigned using aerial photography and data gathered during the field visit. Standard values for 2D RAS modeling are provided in the detailed study *Australian Rainfall and Runoff Revision Projects – Project 15: Two Dimensional Modelling in Urban and Rural Floodplains* (2012). **Figure 6** above shows the roughness zones used in the model, and **Table 4** lists the land use per roughness zone.

Table 4. Manning's Roughness Zone Values

General Land Use	Manning's Roughness Value
Paved Area	0.02
Open Water, High Flow Area	0.035
Open Space, Ditch	0.04–0.05
Open Space, Light Brush	0.05
Medium Brush, Wetland	0.06

3.2.3 Tailwater Conditions and Storm Surge

Two types of tailwater conditions were incorporated into the 2D model: variable stage and fixed stage. Both were based on NOAA Gauge 8771972 in San Luis Pass, TX. A variable stage tailwater changes over time, while a fixed stage tailwater condition remains at a constant elevation throughout the simulation.

A. Variable Stage

A variable stage tailwater condition was used in the analysis of the historic 3-inch rainfall that occurred on May 11, 2015. The tailwater data for this event was pulled directly from the NOAA gauge at San Luis Pass, TX and applied to the 2D model. This stage hydrograph is shown below in **Figure 8**.

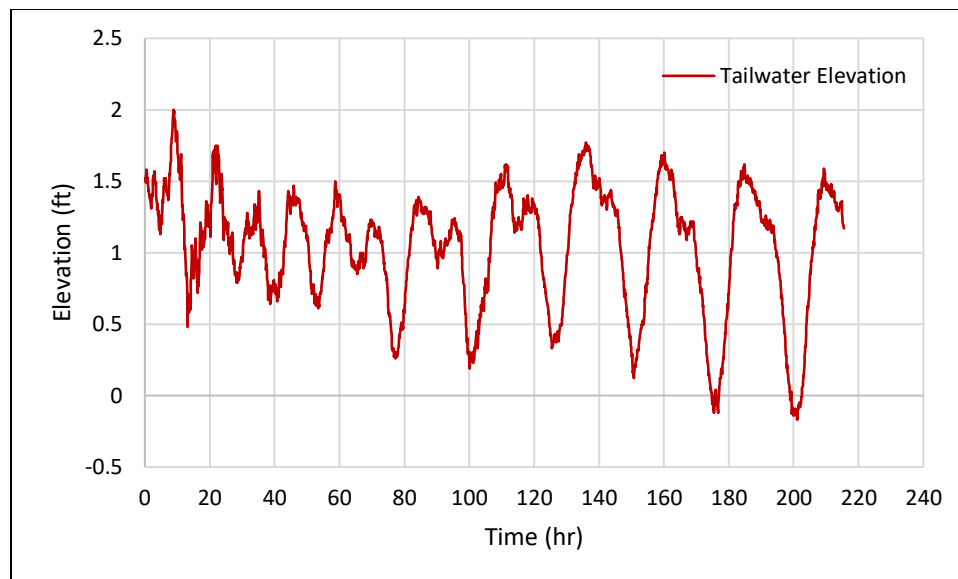


Figure 8: 3-inch Rainfall Tailwater Elevations

B. Fixed Stage

Two fixed stage tailwater conditions were used in the hydraulic analysis, the Mean Higher High Water (MHHW) and the Hurricane Harvey 2017 storm surge. The MHHW elevation was based on the NOAA gauge at San Luis Pass, TX which gives a mean higher-high water elevation of 0.85 feet (NAVD88). The tailwater elevation of 0.85 feet was used in the analysis of the Atlas 14 2-year and 100-year events and represents a conservative average tailwater elevation for the site. The MHHW tailwater elevation does not significantly impact the project area, and it allows for a precise analysis of flow patterns on the site absent the influence of a significant storm surge. **Figure 9** below shows tidal data obtained from the NOAA website regarding the gauge located at San Luis Pass, TX.

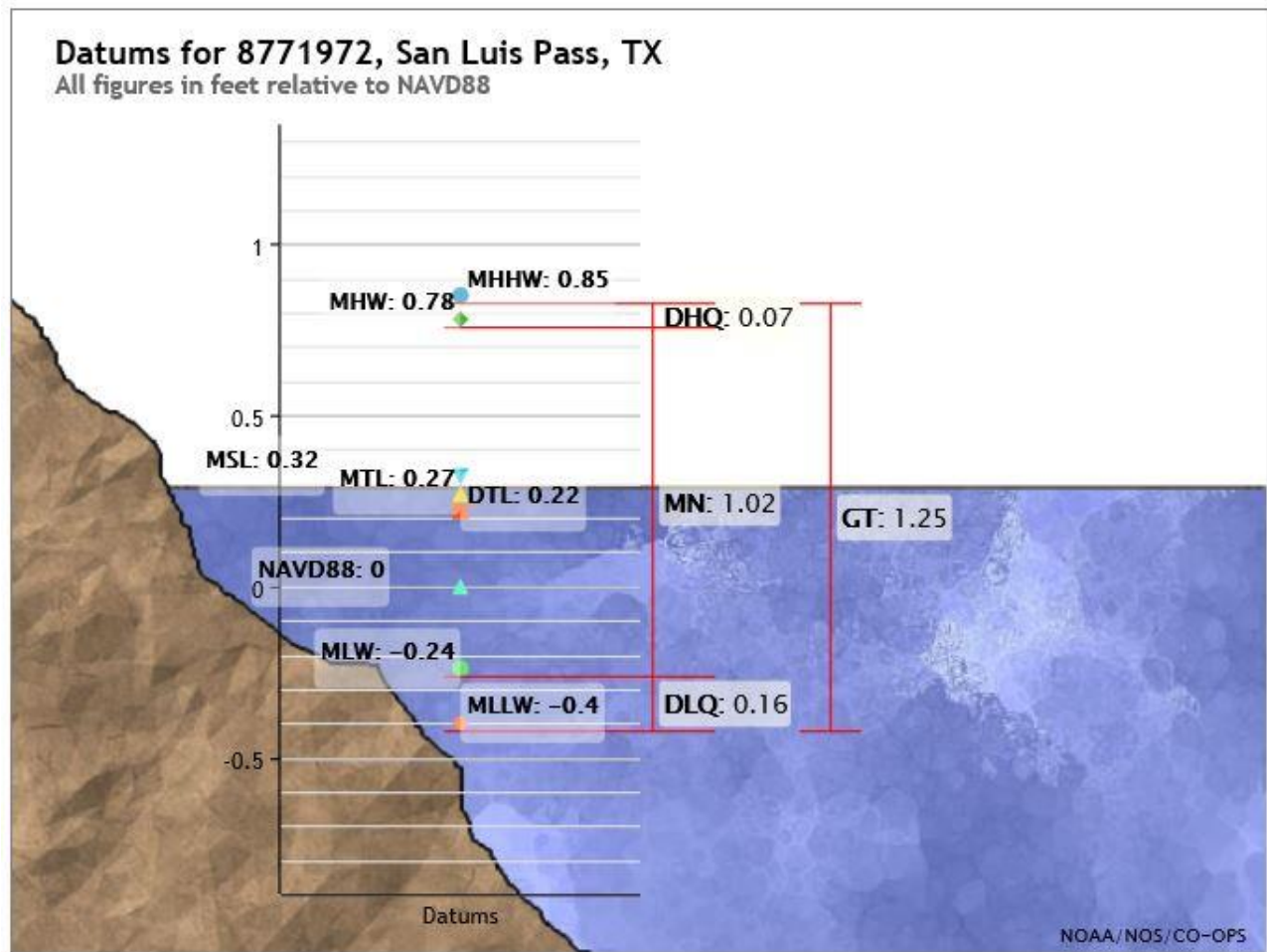


Figure 9: NOAA Tidal Data for San Luis Pass, TX

Other parameters shown on **Figure 9** document additional tidal data recorded by each NOAA station. MTL and MSL refer to mean tide and sea levels, respectively. MLW and MHW each represent the mean of all recorded low and high water elevations, respectively. This differs from MLLW and MHHW, which include only the lower or higher of each diurnal tidal elevation in the average, respectively. DLQ and DHQ calculate one-half the average difference between two low or high waters of each tidal day, respectively. GT represents the difference between MHHW and MLLW. For more information on these parameters, refer to the *NOAA Tidal Datums* website listed in Section 7.0.

An additional 100-year model run was created that uses a tailwater condition which corresponds to a substantial storm surge instead of the MHHW elevation. Because storm surge elevations are highly variable and the modeled 100-year event is a theoretical storm, the storm surge that occurred during

Hurricane Harvey in 2017 was used as a conservative estimate of a high storm surge on the site. **Figure 10** shows the stage hydrograph from the NOAA gauge at San Luis Pass, TX during Hurricane Harvey.

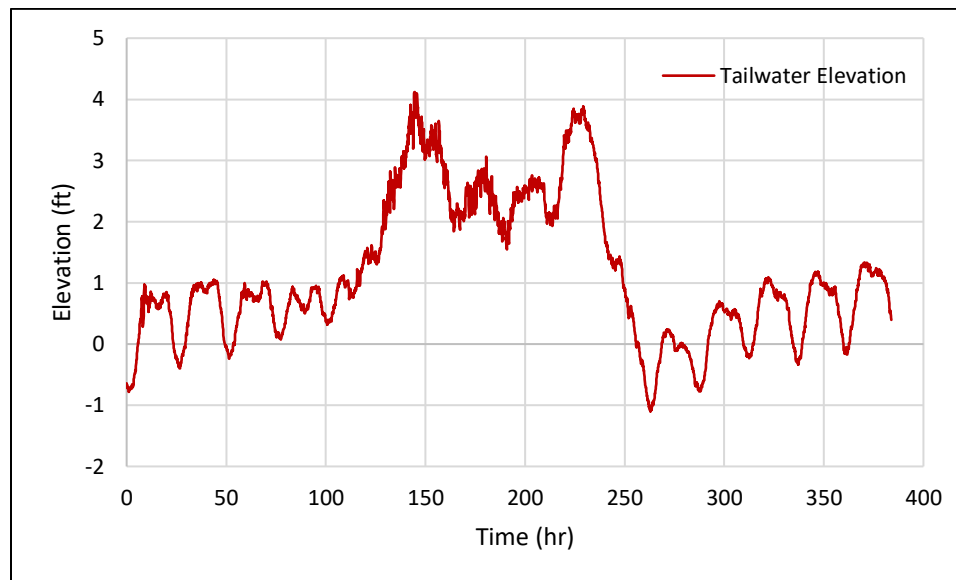


Figure 10: Hurricane Harvey Tailwater Elevations

Based on the Hurricane Harvey data, a fixed stage tailwater elevation of 4.0 feet was used for the additional 100-year model runs. The tailwater elevation of 4.0 feet inundates much of the site south of Ditch 1. By modeling a 100-year event with both a MHHW tailwater and a high storm surge tailwater, the two 100-year simulations will effectively bracket what the results of a 100-year event on the project site could be. The two 100-year runs will also allow for more detailed comparison between existing and proposed conditions when evaluating potential adverse impacts to adjacent property.

3.2.4 Event Summary

The following table summarizes the combination of rainfall events and tailwater conditions modeled as part of this analysis. These combinations were applied to existing conditions and all alternative conditions hydraulic models.

Table 5: Modeled Event Summary

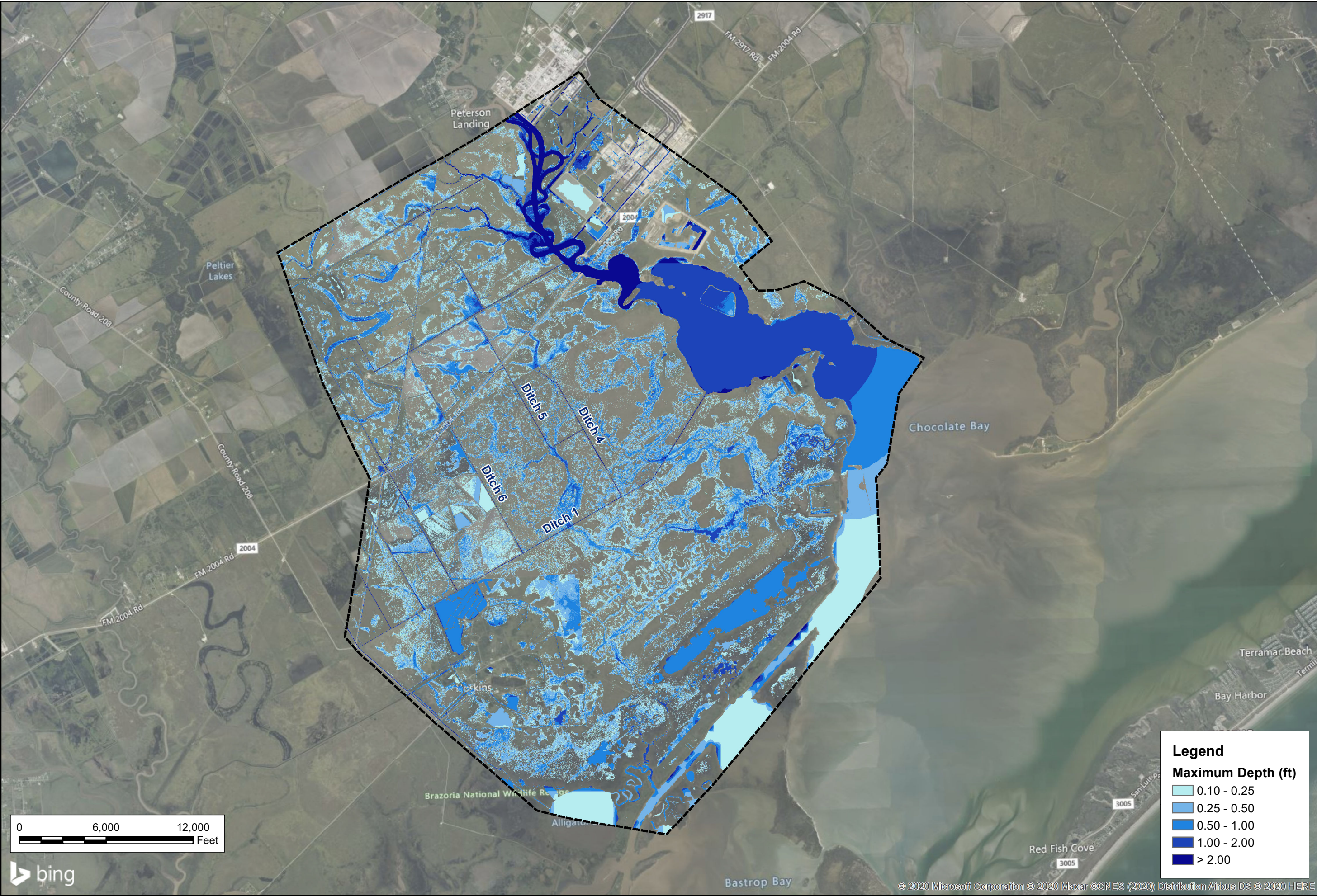
Rainfall Event	Tailwater Type	Tailwater Elevation
2-year	Fixed	MHHW
100-year	Fixed	MHHW
100-year	Fixed	Harvey Peak Surge
Historic 3-inch	Variable	Historic (5/11/2015)

4.0 EXISTING CONDITIONS

FNI used the existing conditions hydraulic model to simulate the 2- and 100-year design storms using Atlas 14 rainfall depths. A 24-hour 3-inch total rainfall storm pulled from historical rain gauge data was also simulated in the existing conditions model. Maximum water surface elevations and depths on the 2D mesh were mapped for each storm. Maximum depth rasters for the 24-hour 3-inch, 2-year, and 100-year (MHHW) events are shown on **Figure 11 – Figure 13**, respectively.

4.1 FLOW PATTERNS

Figure 14 shows flow arrows that represent the general flow patterns throughout the site. Flow that collects into the various ditches throughout the site discharges east into Chocolate Bayou. The ditches within the project site have capacity for small storms and do not show overtopping in the 2-year and 3-inch existing condition runs. In the 100-year run, Ditch 1, which runs west to east across the project site, overtops in multiple locations allowing flow to move across the ditch to the south. Stormwater runoff located south of Ditch 1 moves through wetland features and discharges into the coastal water features that line the project site to the south.



BRAZORIA NWR WETLANDS RESTORATION	
EXISTING CONDITIONS	
3-INCH RAINFALL RESULTS (2015-05-11)	
FIGURE 11	
PREPARED BY AAS	
NAME Figure 11 - Existing Conditions Small Storm Results	
FILE NAME NADIS\2015\05\11\Brazoria NWR\Wetlands South Central	
DATE CREATED 10/14/2020	
DATE 10/14/2020	
PROJECT NO. 2917	

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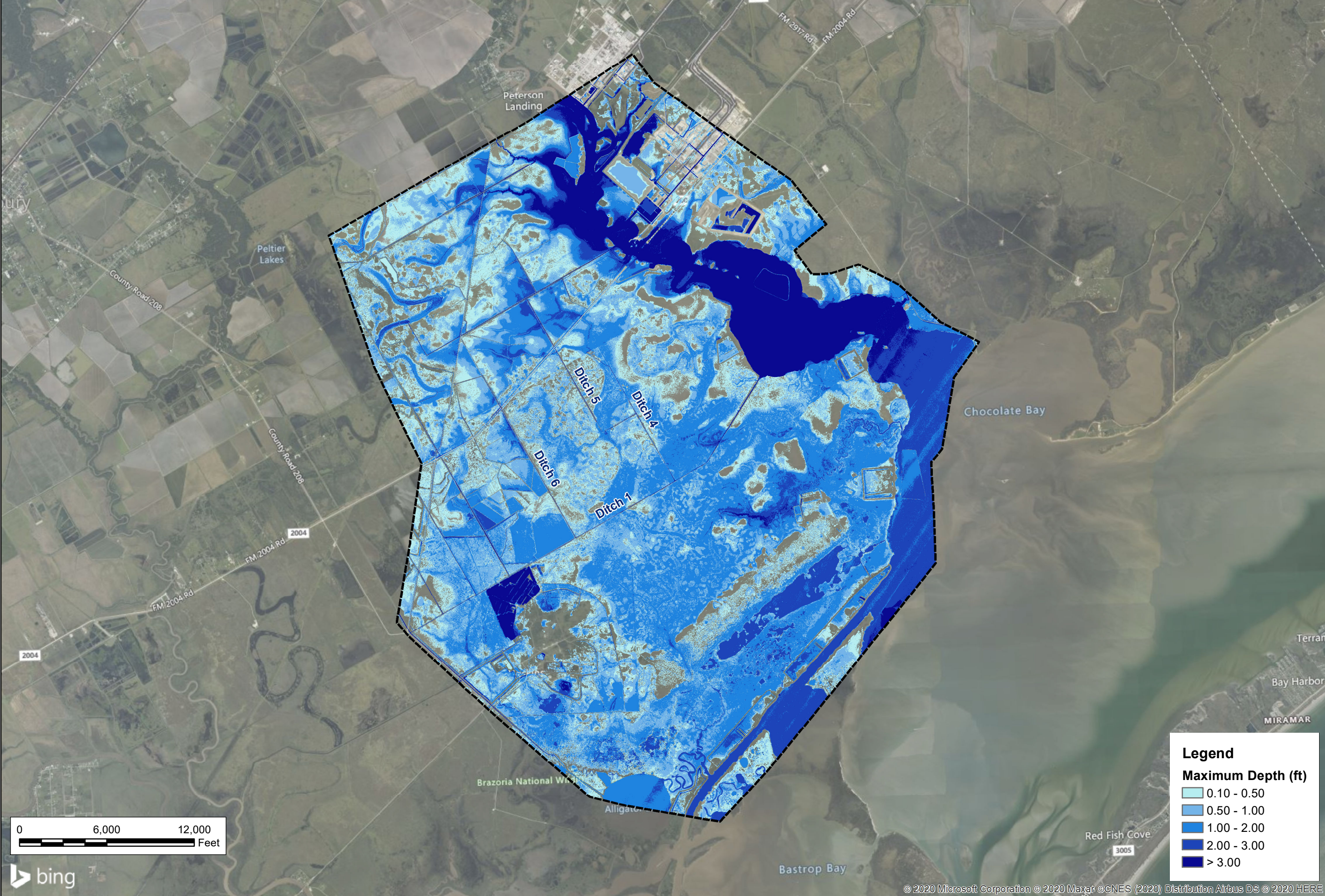
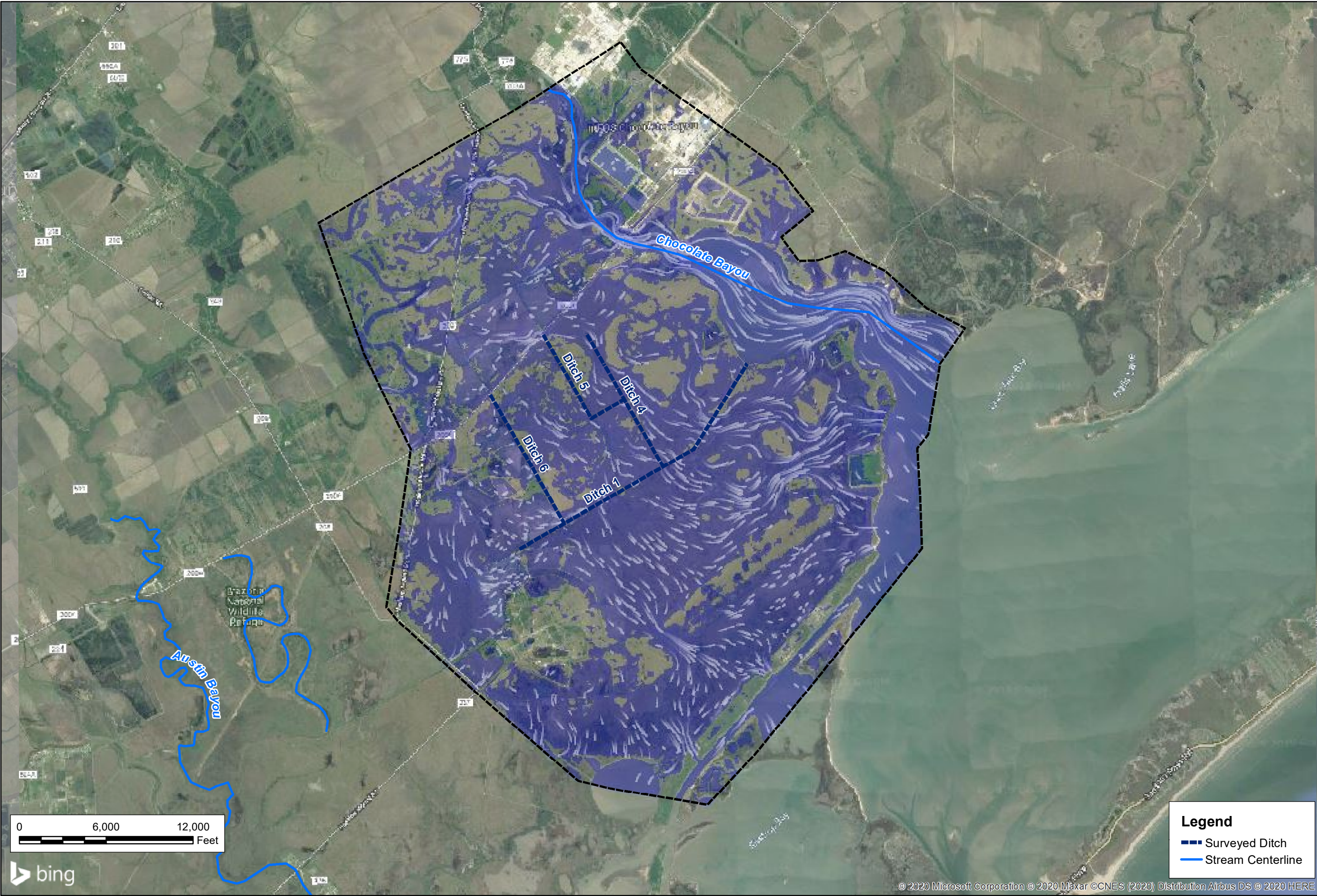
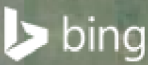




FIGURE 13		BRAZORIA NWR WETLANDS RESTORATION EXISTING CONDITIONS ATLAS 14 100-YEAR MHHW RESULTS	 N S E W	DATE CREATED: 10/26/2020	DATE: 10/26/2020
FREESE AND NICHOLS, INC. 10431 MORADO CIRCLE SUITE 300 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78759 PHONE: 512-617-3100 FAX: 512-617-3101				PROJECT NO.: 10431 MORADO CIRCLE	FILE NAME: 10431 MORADO CIRCLE



0 6,000 12,000 Feet



Legend
— Surveyed Ditch
— Stream Centerline

	BRAZORIA NWR WETLANDS RESTORATION		
	OVERLAND FLOW PATTERNS		
	FIGURE 14		
	 FREESE AND NICHOLS, INC. 10431 MORADO CIRCLE SUITE 300 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78759 PHONE: 512-617-3100 FAX: 512-617-3101		
PROJECT NO. DATE CREATED DATE DTM & COORDINATE SYSTEM FILE NAME PREPARED BY	00000001 10/26/2020 10/26/2020 NAD83/2011 State Plane (Texas) South Central Name: Figure 14 - Overland Flow Patterns AAS		

A review of the existing conditions hydraulic model results identified two disconnected existing sloughs that function as major flow paths through the site. These sloughs will be referred to as Sloughs A and B, which are described below. Alternatives near either of these locations will have the potential to restore natural drainage patterns to the site and move additional stormwater runoff into the wetland area south of Ditch 1.

4.1.1 Slough A

Slough A is located approximately 1,000 feet downstream of the existing riser that separates freshwater in Ditch 1 from saltwater in Chocolate Bay. Overland flow from approximately 1,100 acres contributes to runoff through this slough. **Figure 15** shows the location of the existing slough along with general flow patterns. **Figure 16** compares existing conditions volume accumulation through Slough A upstream of Ditch 1 and downstream of Ditch 1 for the historic small storm, which shows that only 65% of the volume upstream of Ditch 1 moves across Ditch 1 into the wetland areas. Based on this data, Ditch 1 presents a major disruption to the natural flow pattern in this area, intercepting a significant portion of Slough A runoff and conveying it directly into Chocolate Bay.

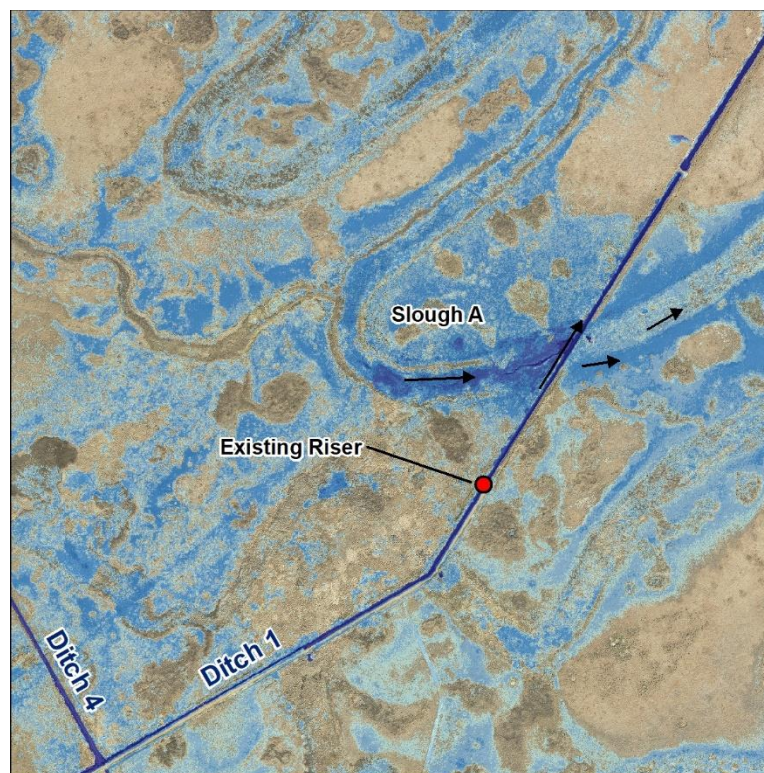


Figure 15: Existing Conditions – Slough A

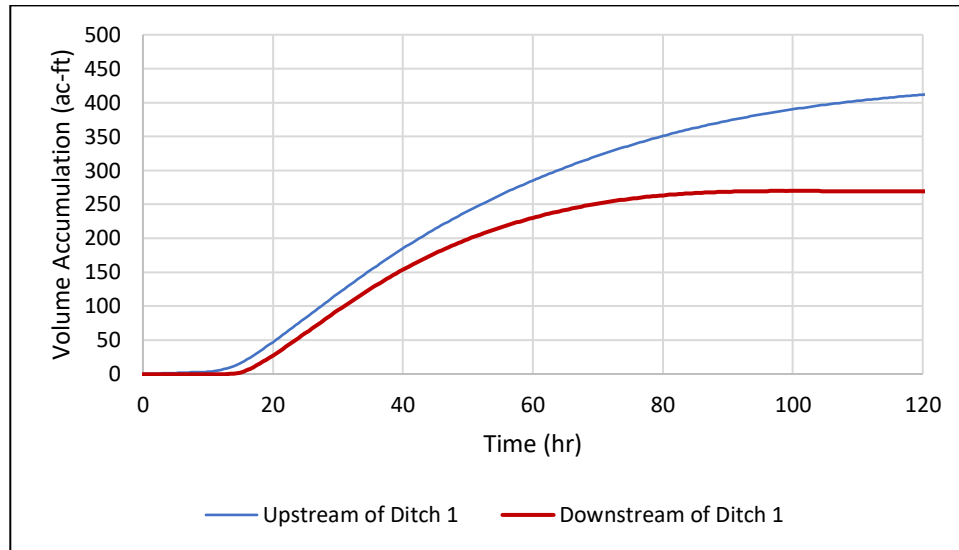


Figure 16: Existing Conditions Slough A Volume Comparison – 3-inch Rainfall

4.1.2 Slough B

Slough B is located midway between Ditch 1's confluences with Ditch 4 and Ditch 6. Approximately 1,500 acres contribute stormwater runoff to this slough. **Figure 17** shows the location of Slough B and its general flow patterns. **Figure 18** compares volume accumulation through Slough B upstream and downstream of Ditch 1, and it demonstrates that none of the volume upstream of Ditch 1 can cross into the wetland area downstream during the 3-inch rainfall event.

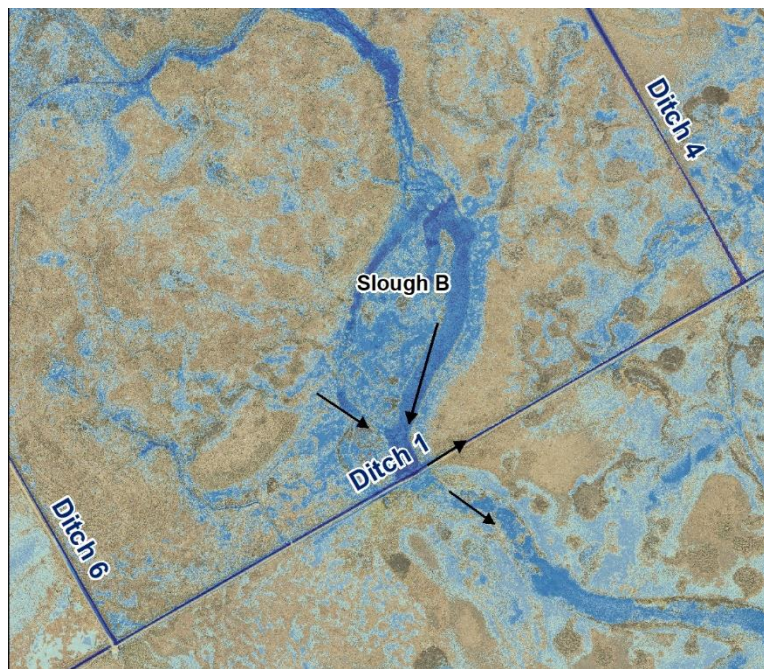


Figure 17: Existing Conditions – Slough B

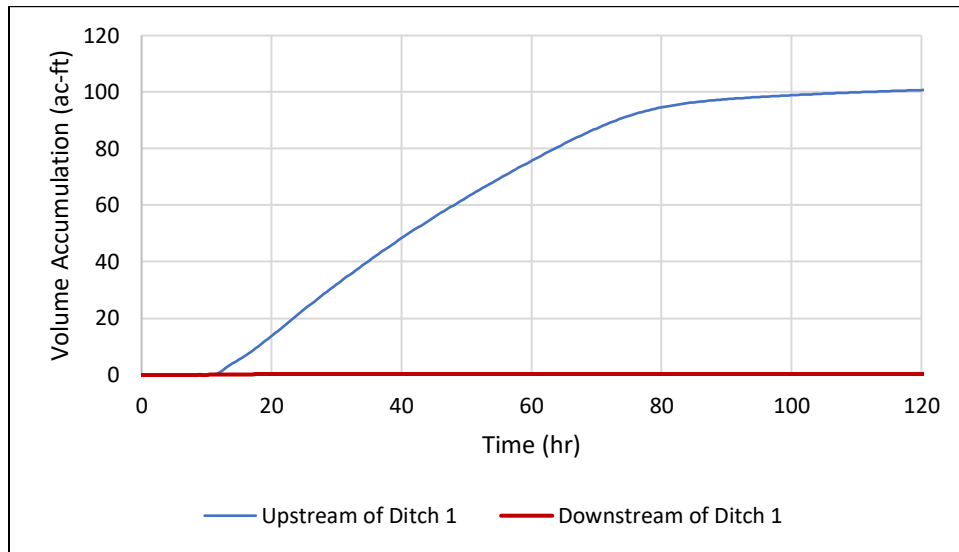


Figure 18: Existing Conditions Slough B Volume Comparison – 3-inch Rainfall

4.2 FM 2004

FM 2004 represents a major drainage divide within the project site. The area north of FM 2004 contains drainage swales with approximately one- to two-foot-tall berms on either side. These berms cause stormwater runoff to pond in open spaces. Runoff gradually flows south where it is collected into ditches that move stormwater runoff under FM 2004 via culverts. FM 2004 overtops in multiple locations in the 100-year storm.

4.3 CHOCOLATE BAYOU

Local stormwater runoff collects into ditches and enters Chocolate Bay long before upstream flows from Chocolate Bayou arrive and significantly impact the project site. The Chocolate Bayou watershed begins approximately 27 miles upstream of the project area just south of Highway 6 near Manvel, Texas. Due to the length of the Chocolate Bayou watershed, the timing of peak flows from Chocolate Bayou compared to local flows from the project site differ significantly. A comparison of the Chocolate Bayou Atlas 14 100-year hydrograph with the Ditch 1 outflow hydrograph from the same storm is shown in **Figure 19**.

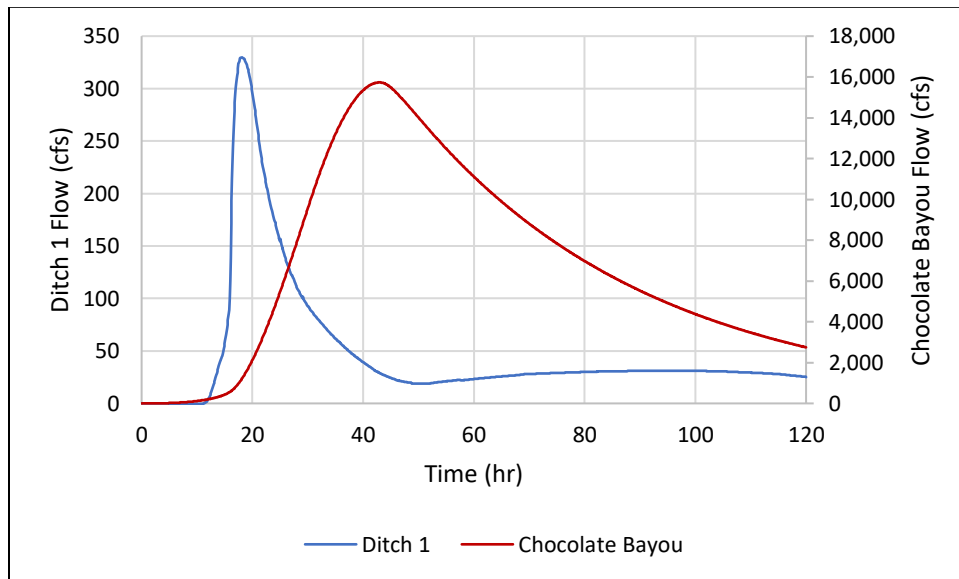


Figure 19: 100-year Hydrograph Timing Comparison

During high flow conditions on Chocolate Bayou, the main channel overtops and flows into the wetland areas south of Ditch 1. The alternatives analyzed for this study do not affect the overflow from Chocolate Bayou through the area south of Ditch 1.

5.0 ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS

The primary goal of the alternatives is to restore the hydro-period on the site to a condition like one before the construction of Ditches 1, 4, 5, and 6. While these ditches do convey stormwater runoff, they also cut off natural drainage patterns that would have previously fed the wetland area south of Ditch 1.

Multiple key locations were identified for potential alternatives through a review of existing conditions model results, terrain data, and aerial imagery. Each alternative was designed to aid in restoring the natural hydro-period of the site. For the purposes of alternatives evaluation, the hydro-period for a given storm at a given location is defined as the number of hours that location remains at a flood depth of more than 3 inches, or 0.25 feet. For the sloughs on this site, a longer hydro-period with a gradual rise and fall indicates a more natural flow condition. A shorter or flashier hydro-period indicates that flow is being diverted or drained by manmade ditches. The three alternatives include several different components, but there are common elements in each. The elements common to each alternative are described below.

5.1.1 Proposed Riser

For each alternative, the existing Ditch 1 riser will be moved approximately 2,500 feet downstream. Moving the riser downstream will allow for more of Ditch 1 to retain water and help facilitate the movement of water across Ditch 1 through the previously disconnected Slough A. The road on the south side of Ditch 1 will also be extended to the new location in order to provide access to the proposed riser.

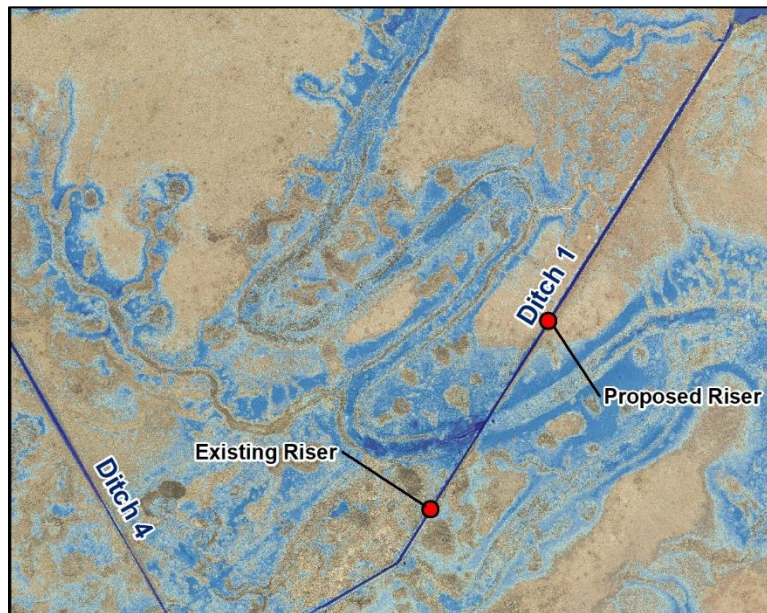


Figure 20: Proposed Riser Location

5.1.2 Ditch 5 Berms

Near the 90-degree bend on Ditch 5, berms on the north and south side of the ditch will be removed along the alignments shown in **Figure 21** below. The existing berms disrupt the natural movement of stormwater runoff between Ditch 4 and Ditch 5 by retaining runoff or diverting it into the ditches. The removal of both berms will allow runoff to move more freely downstream into Slough B. The removal of these berms will be a “cut only” scenario at elevation 5.70, the approximate elevation of natural ground near the berms. Berms with elevations above this value will be cut, while locations below elevation 5.70 will be left at existing elevations. The removal of these berms represents approximately 2,300 CY of cut volume. **Figure 22** demonstrates the “cut only” condition that will be applied to the Ditch 5 berms.

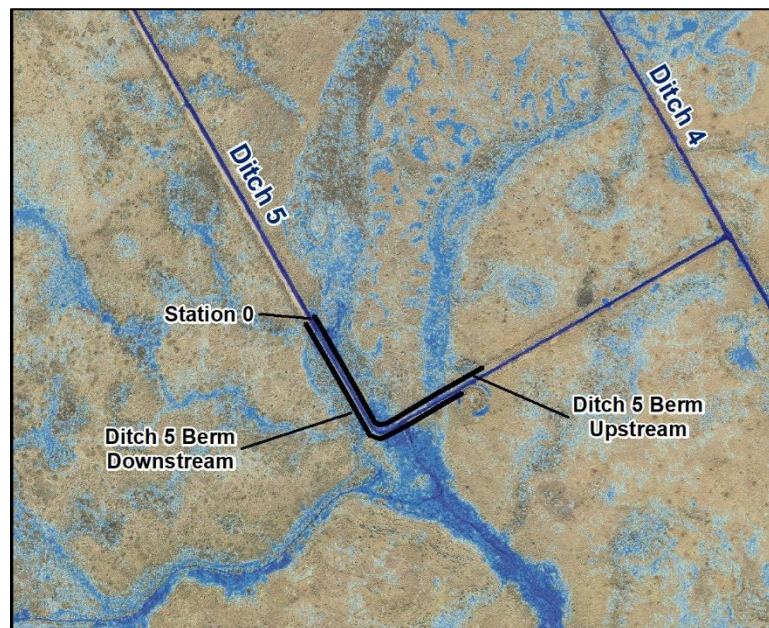


Figure 21: Ditch 5 Berm Removal

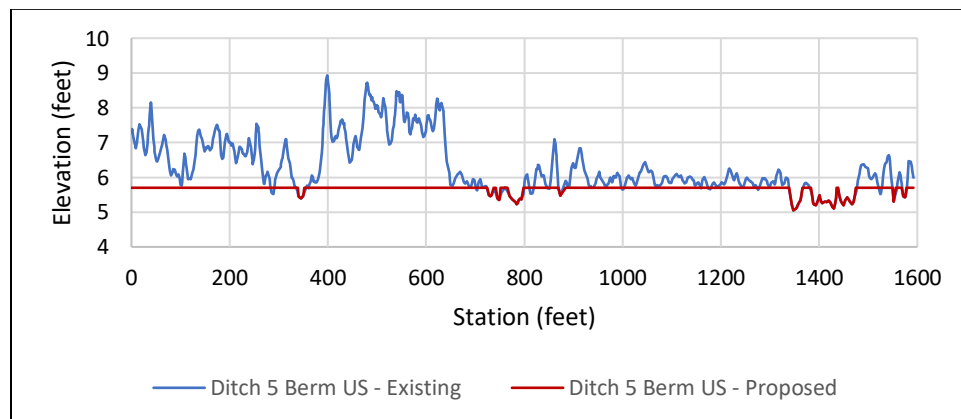


Figure 22: Ditch 5 Berm Removal Profile

5.1.3 Overland Berm Removal

There are several historic berms distributed throughout the overland area that will be removed in all proposed alternatives. The removal of these berms is a simple and cost-effective option that will aid in restoring the natural flow patterns on the site. Cutting the three existing berms to natural elevations represents a total cut volume of approximately 1,300 CY. The location of the berms that will be removed in each alternative is shown in **Figure 23**.

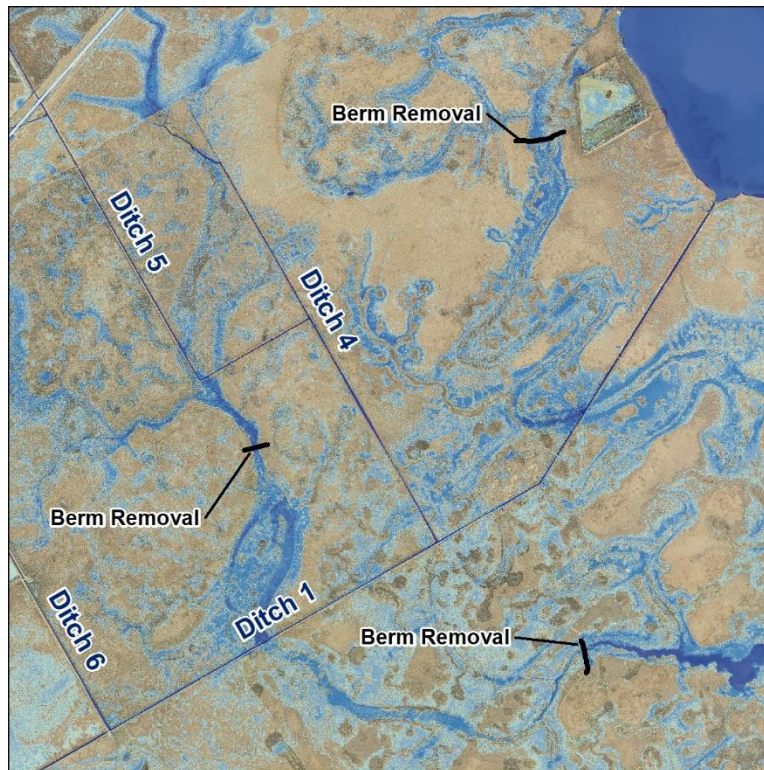


Figure 23: Overland Berm Removal

5.2 ALTERNATIVE 1

In addition to the common elements described above, Alternative 1 will include side weirs that will be constructed along the right bank of Ditch 1, through its south berm near existing Sloughs A and B. The weir elevation and size of the weir was determined through an analysis of existing conditions results and topography. By constructing weirs through the berm along Ditch 1, stormwater runoff will be able to spill out of the ditch and runoff north of the ditch will be able to cross into the wetland area to the south.

Alternative 1 includes Weir 1, a 430' long weir at Slough A cut down to elevation 2.75, and Weir 2, a 245' weir at Slough B cut down to elevation 3.75. The weir notch depths at Weir 1 and Weir 2 are approximately four and two feet, respectively. Each weir will tie in with natural ground via 8:1 side slopes. The weirs will also need to be sufficiently armored to prevent erosion from vehicle access or flooding events. The construction of Weir 2 represents approximately 200 CY of cut volume. The construction of Weir 1 represents approximately 300 CY of cut volume. **Figure 24** and **Figure 25** show the location of each proposed weir. An overview of the complete Alternative 1 layout is shown on **Figure 26**.

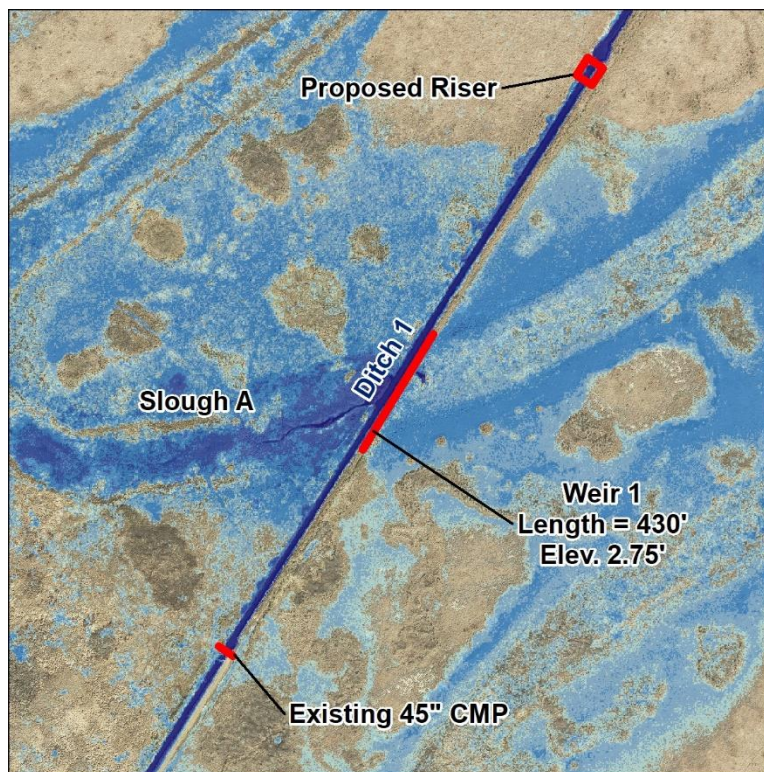


Figure 24: Alternative 1 – Weir 1

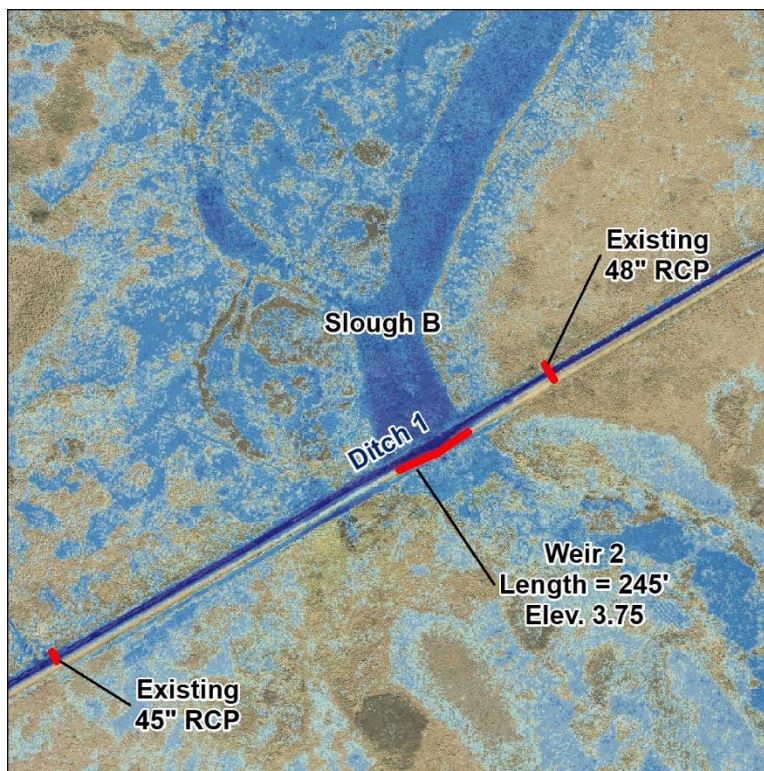


Figure 25: Alternative 1 – Weir 2





PROJECT NO. 00000001

DATE CREATED 12/9/2020

DATE & COORDINATE SYSTEM NAD83/2011 State Plane (Texas) South Central

FILE NAME Name: Figure 27 - Alternative 1 Overview - 2-YR Results

PREPARED BY AAS

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BRAZORIA NWR WETLANDS RESTORATION

ALTERNATIVE 1 OVERVIEW

ATLAS 14 2-YEAR RESULTS

FREESE AND NICHOLS, INC.

10431 MORADO CIRCLE

SUITE 300

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78759

PHONE: 512-617-3100

FAX: 512-617-3101

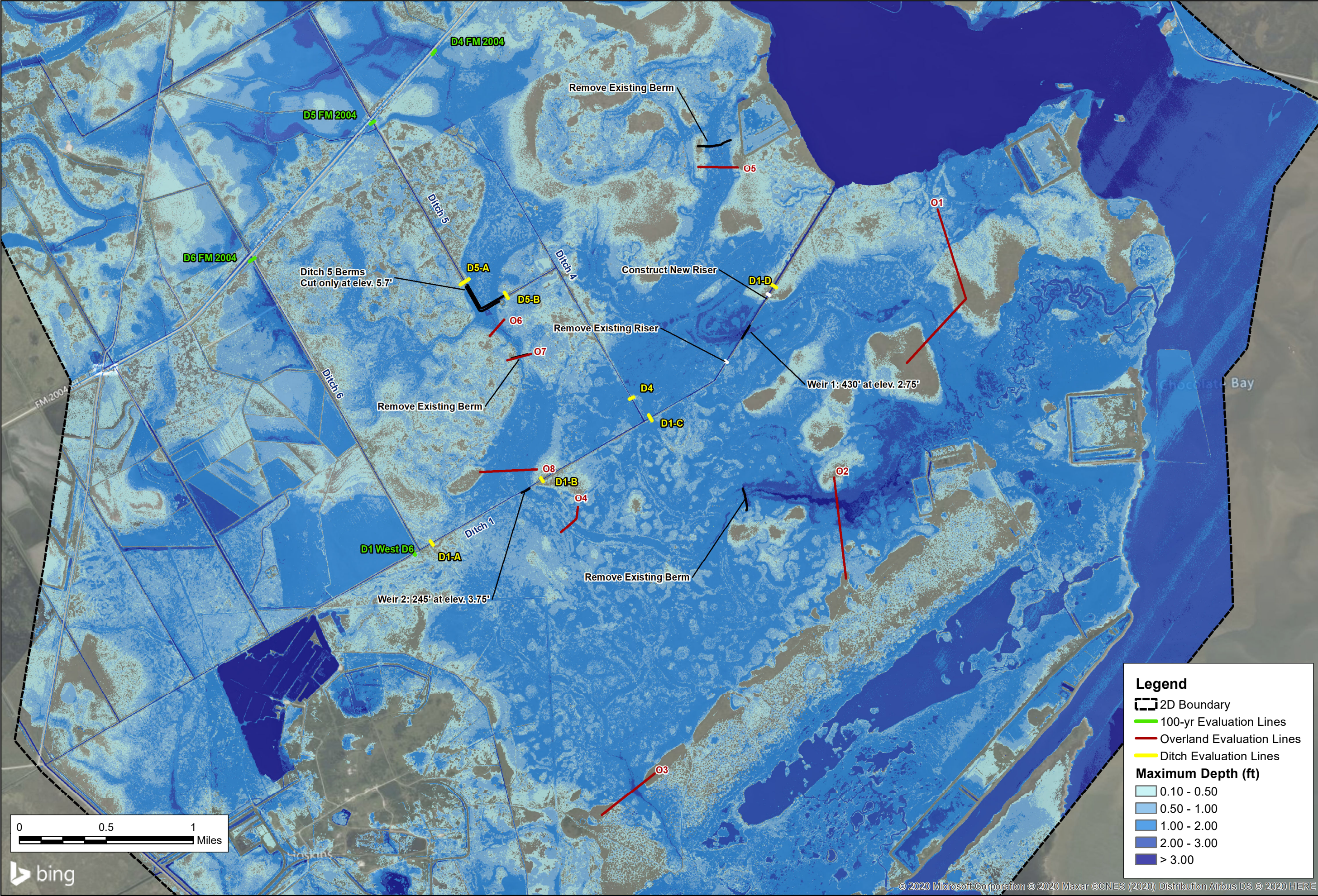
FIGURE

27

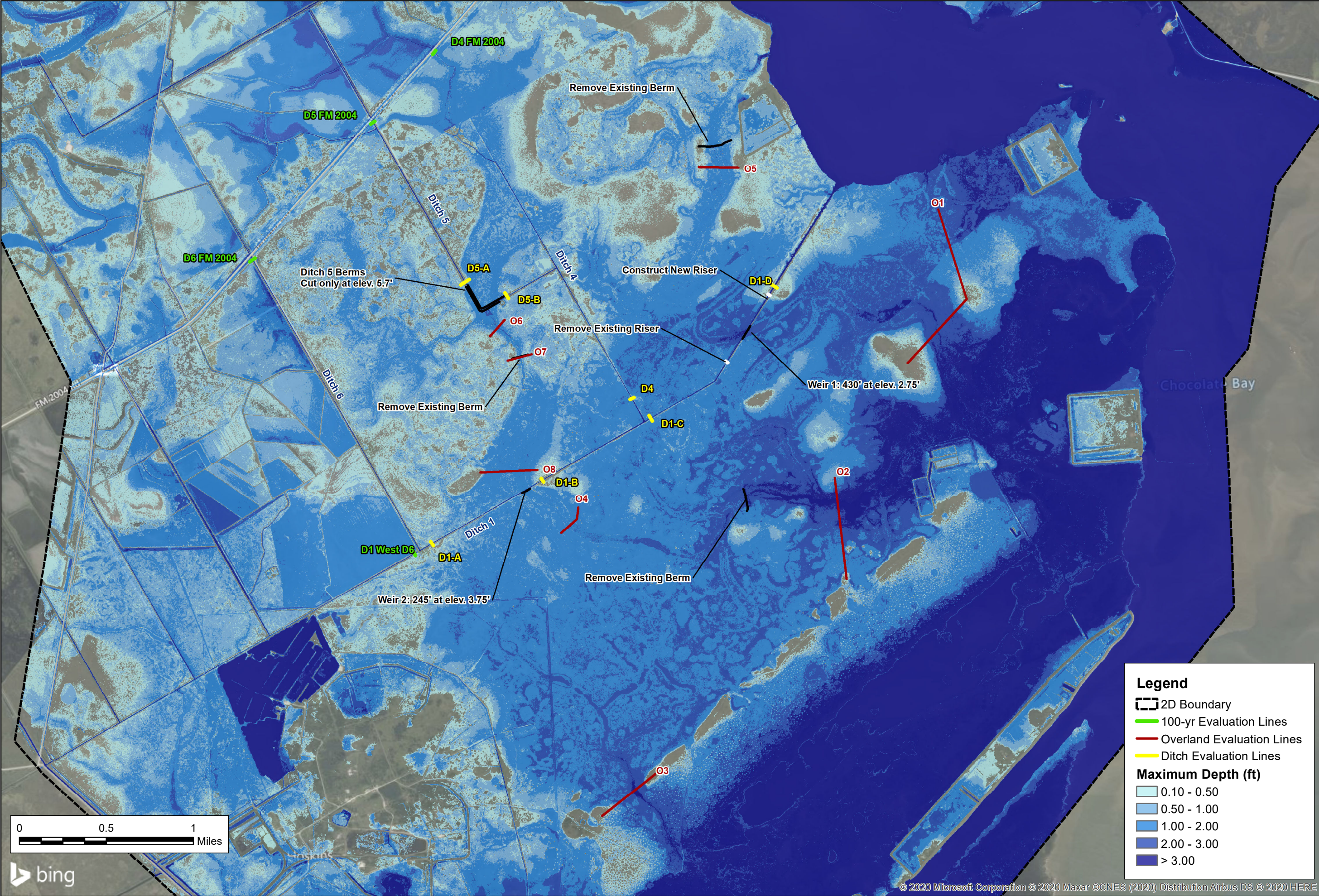
Date Saved: 12/9/2020 10:40:26 AM

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BRAZORIA NWR WETLANDS RESTORATION	
ALTERNATIVE 1 OVERVIEW	
ATLAS 14 100-YEAR MHHW RESULTS	
FIGURE 28	FREESE & NICHOLS, INC. 10431 MORADO CIRCLE SUITE 300 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78759 PHONE: 512-617-3100 FAX: 512-617-3101
Legend [Dashed Line] 2D Boundary [Green Line] 100-yr Evaluation Lines [Red Line] Overland Evaluation Lines [Yellow Line] Ditch Evaluation Lines Maximum Depth (ft) [Light Blue] 0.10 - 0.50 [Medium Blue] 0.50 - 1.00 [Dark Blue] 1.00 - 2.00 [Very Dark Blue] 2.00 - 3.00 [Darkest Blue] > 3.00	
Metadata PROJECT NO.: [Blank] DATE CREATED: 12/9/2020 DATE: 12/9/2020 DATUM & COORDINATE SYSTEM: NAD83/846819 State Plane (North Central) FILE NAME: Name: Figure 28 - Alternative 1 Overview - 100-YR MHHW Results PREPARED BY: AAS	



BRAZORIA NWR WETLANDS RESTORATION	
ALTERNATIVE 1 OVERVIEW	
ATLAS 14 100-YEAR SURGE RESULTS	
FIGURE 29	FREESE AND NICHOLS, INC. 10431 MORADO CIRCLE SUITE 300 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78759 PHONE: 512-617-3100 FAX: 512-617-3101

PROJECT NO. DCS10037

DATE CREATED Date: 12/9/2020

DATUM & COORDINATE SYSTEM NAD83 State Plane (feet) Texas South Central

FILE NAME Name: Figure 29 - Alternative 1 Overview - 100-YR Surge Results

PREPARED BY AAS

5.3 ALTERNATIVE 2

Alternative 2 proposes structures at the same locations as Alternative 1, but it replaces the two proposed weirs with a series of culverts. This includes Culvert 1, constituting ten parallel 18" RCPs at Slough A with an upstream invert elevation of 0.0', and Culvert 2, constituting 4-6'x2' RCB's at Slough B with an upstream invert elevation of 2.0'. Both locations will require localized, limited grading at the downstream end of each culvert to allow for positive drainage. Because of the potential for sediment to accumulate within the proposed culverts, an additional scenario was modeled that assumes the culverts are clogged by a factor of 50%. The clogged scenario presents a more realistic long-term expectation of each culvert's capacity. The location of the two proposed culvert structures is shown below in **Figure 30** and **Figure 31**. An overview of the complete Alternative 2 is shown on **Figure 32**.

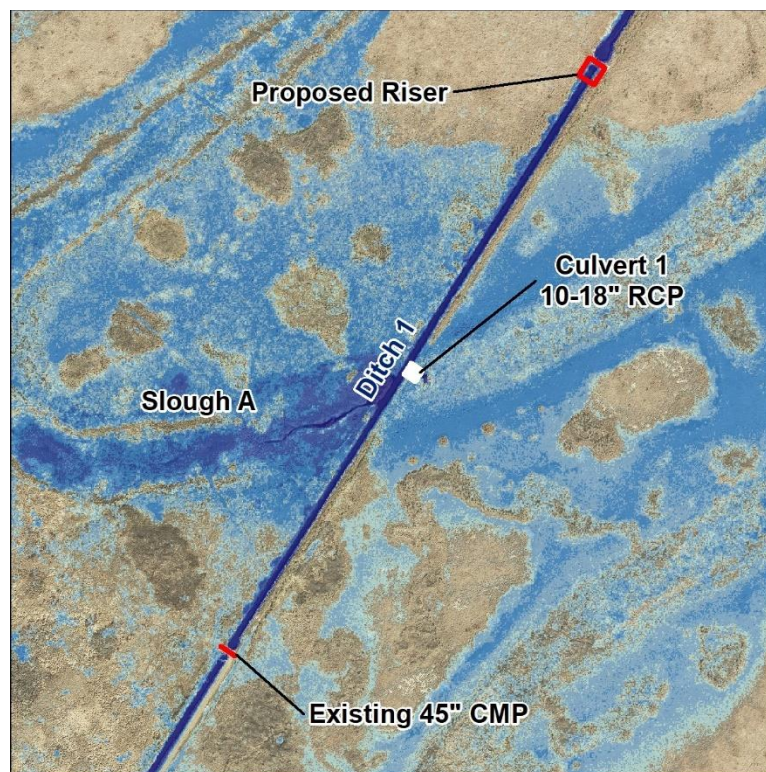


Figure 30: Alternative 2 – Culvert 1

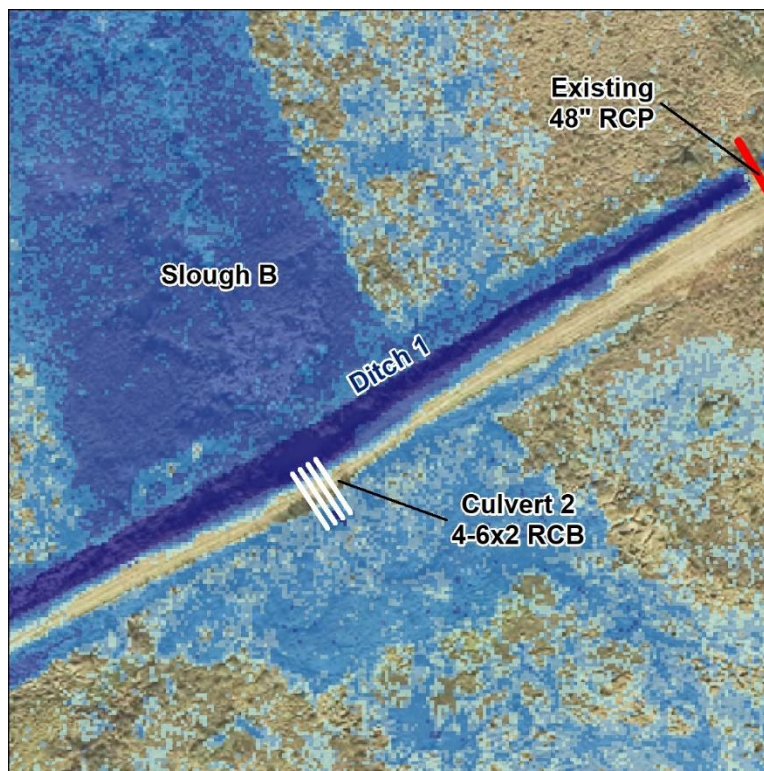


Figure 31: Alternative 2 – Culvert 2





5.4 ALTERNATIVE 3

FNI evaluated the results of Alternatives 1 and 2 with input from DU and USFWS and created Alternative 3 as a hybrid of the most effective pieces of Alternatives 1 and 2. New elements not included in Alternatives 1 or 2 were also considered in Alternative 3 as described below.

Alternative 3 consists of a weir configuration similar to Alternative 1. Weir 1 near Slough A will be identical to the weir proposed in Alternative 1. Weir 2 near Slough B will be constructed with the same crest elevation as Alternative 1, but the weir will be lengthened to the west by an additional 500 feet. This results in a total weir length of 750 feet. The construction of this weir represents approximately 540 CY of cut volume. A summary of Weir 2 is shown below in **Figure 36**.

Multiple other features are also included in Alternative 3 and are described below.

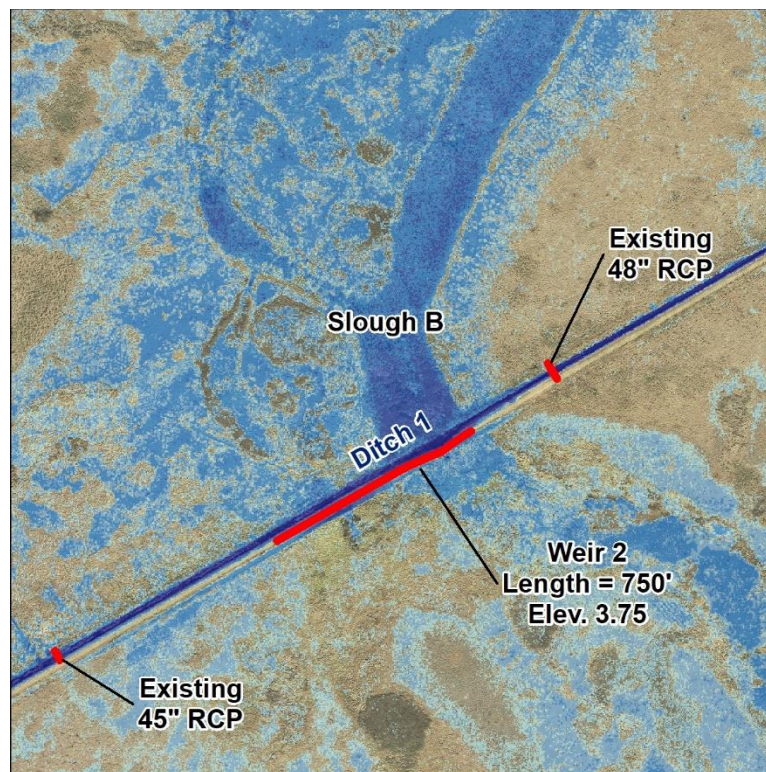


Figure 36: Alternative 3 – Weir 2

5.4.1 Ditch 5 Fill

Alternative 3 will fill the section of Ditch 5 east of the 90-degree bend and west of Ditch 4. This fill will cause additional runoff to flow out of the ditch near the berms along Ditch 5 to be removed. It is assumed that the berms adjacent to the fill location will also be cut. The removal of the berms on either side of Ditch 5 represents approximately 3,500 CY of cut volume. It will require approximately 5,000 CY of fill to fill the portion of Ditch 5 shown below. There are also multiple small breaks along the western berm of Ditch as it nears FM 2004. These will be repaired as part of Alternative 3.

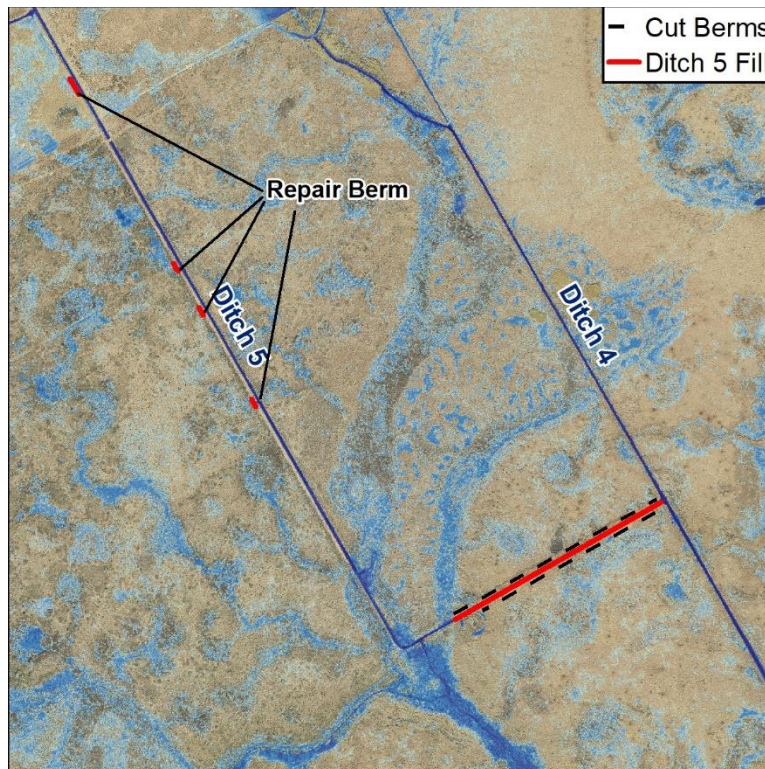


Figure 37: Ditch 5 Fill

5.4.2 Chocolate Bayou Berm

In the northeast portion of the site near Chocolate Bayou, an approximately one- to three-foot-tall berm at elevation 5.5' will be constructed to prevent stormwater runoff from escaping the site into Chocolate Bayou. In existing conditions, approximately 50 ac-ft of volume leaves the site through the drainage feature during the 3-inch event. The design of this berm will be subject to a more detailed preliminary design, but its construction will require approximately 210 CY of compacted fill if constructed with 3:1 side slopes. A small historic berm just south of the proposed location will also be removed as described in **Section 5.1.3**. The removal of the historic berm and construction of the proposed berm will prevent stormwater runoff from leaving the site and increase flow through Slough A.

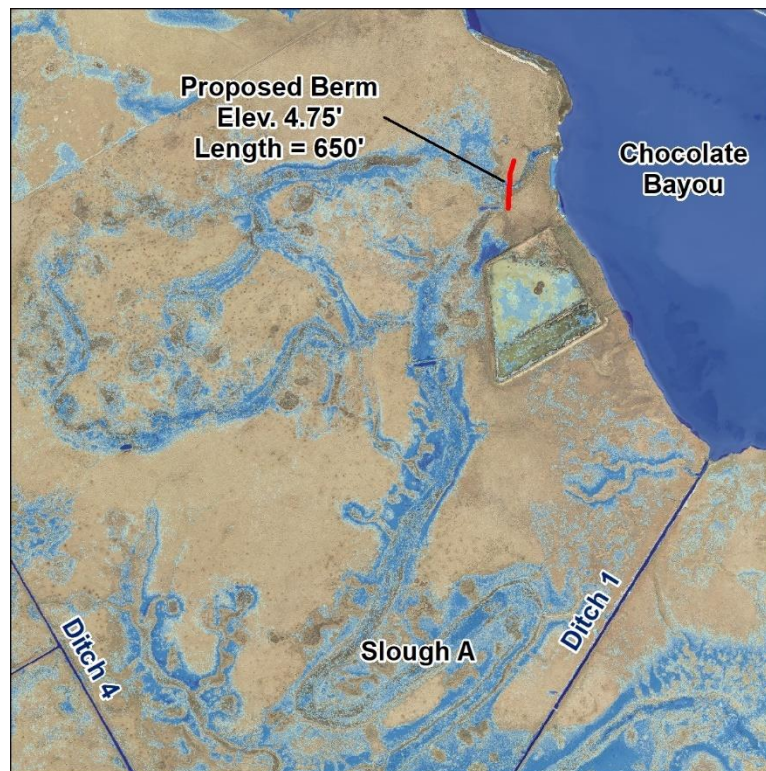


Figure 38: Alternative 3 – Chocolate Bayou Berm

5.4.3 Long Pond Diversion

Just to the west of Long Pond, an approximately 40' wide, 1' deep trapezoidal cut will be made to connect the existing slough with the area that naturally drains to Long Pond. The goal of this diversion is to increase freshwater flow into Long Pond, reducing salinity from tidal exchanges. This cut volume of this diversion is approximately 390 CY. The location of this cut is shown on **Figure 39**.

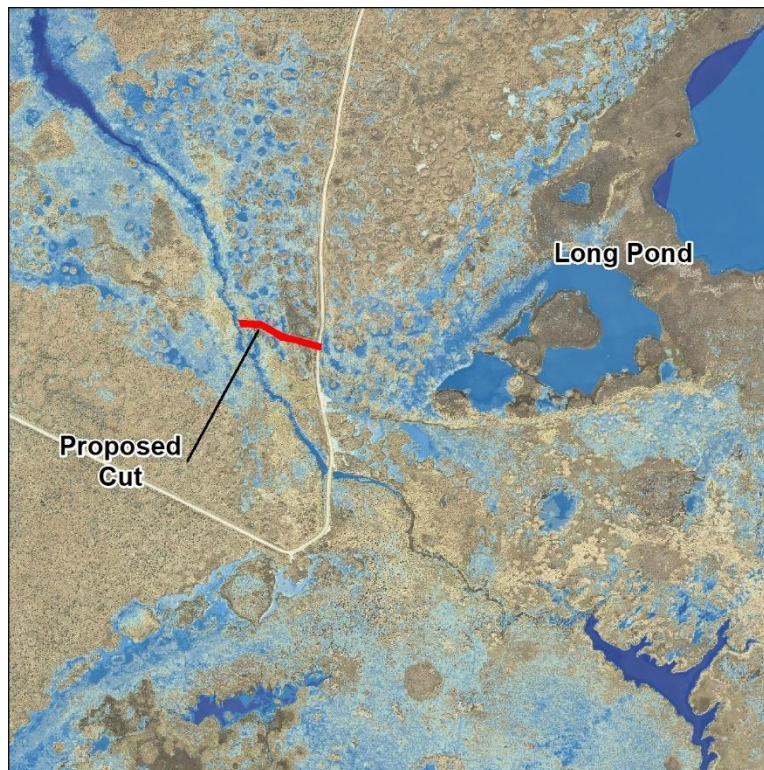
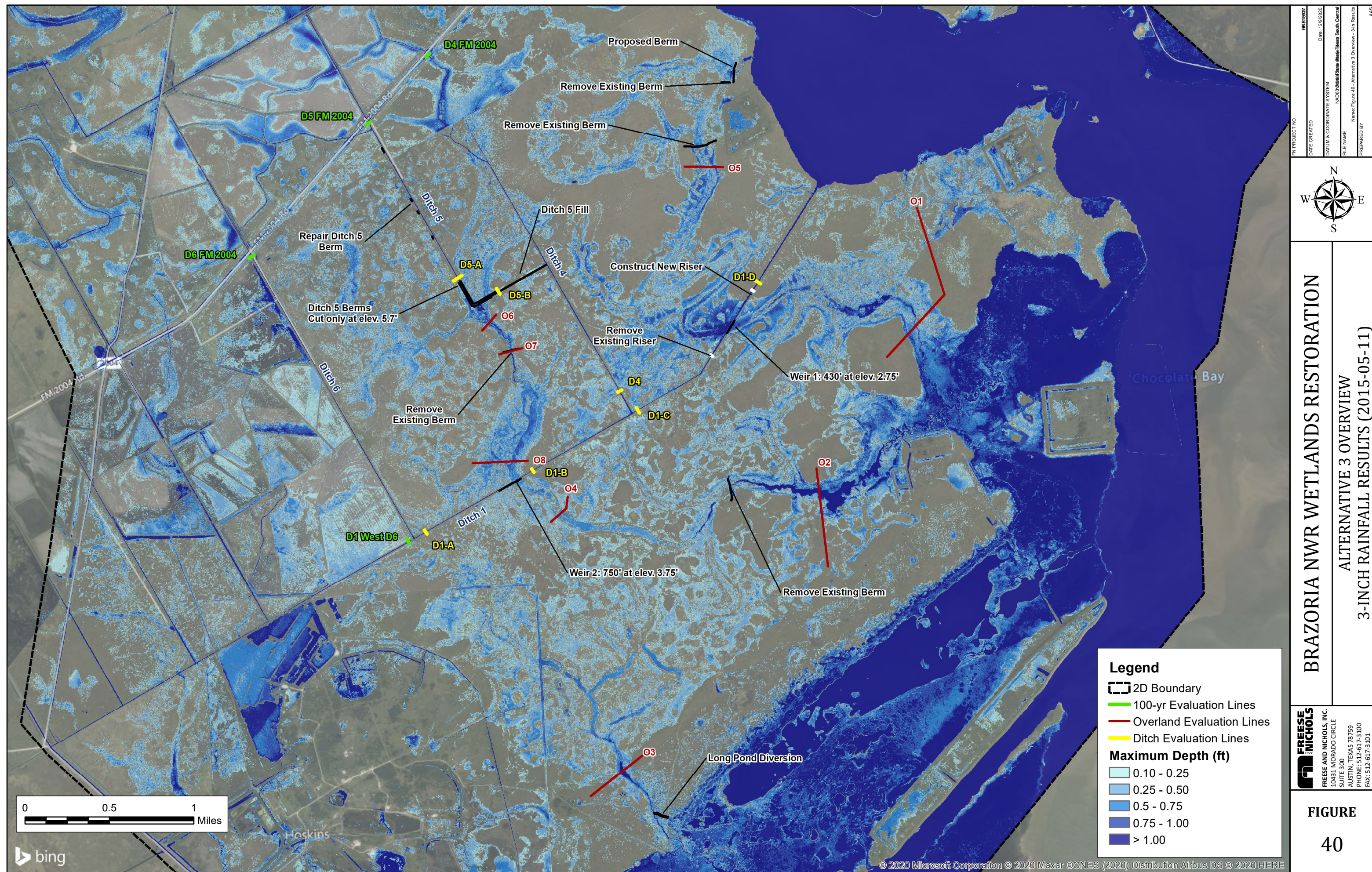
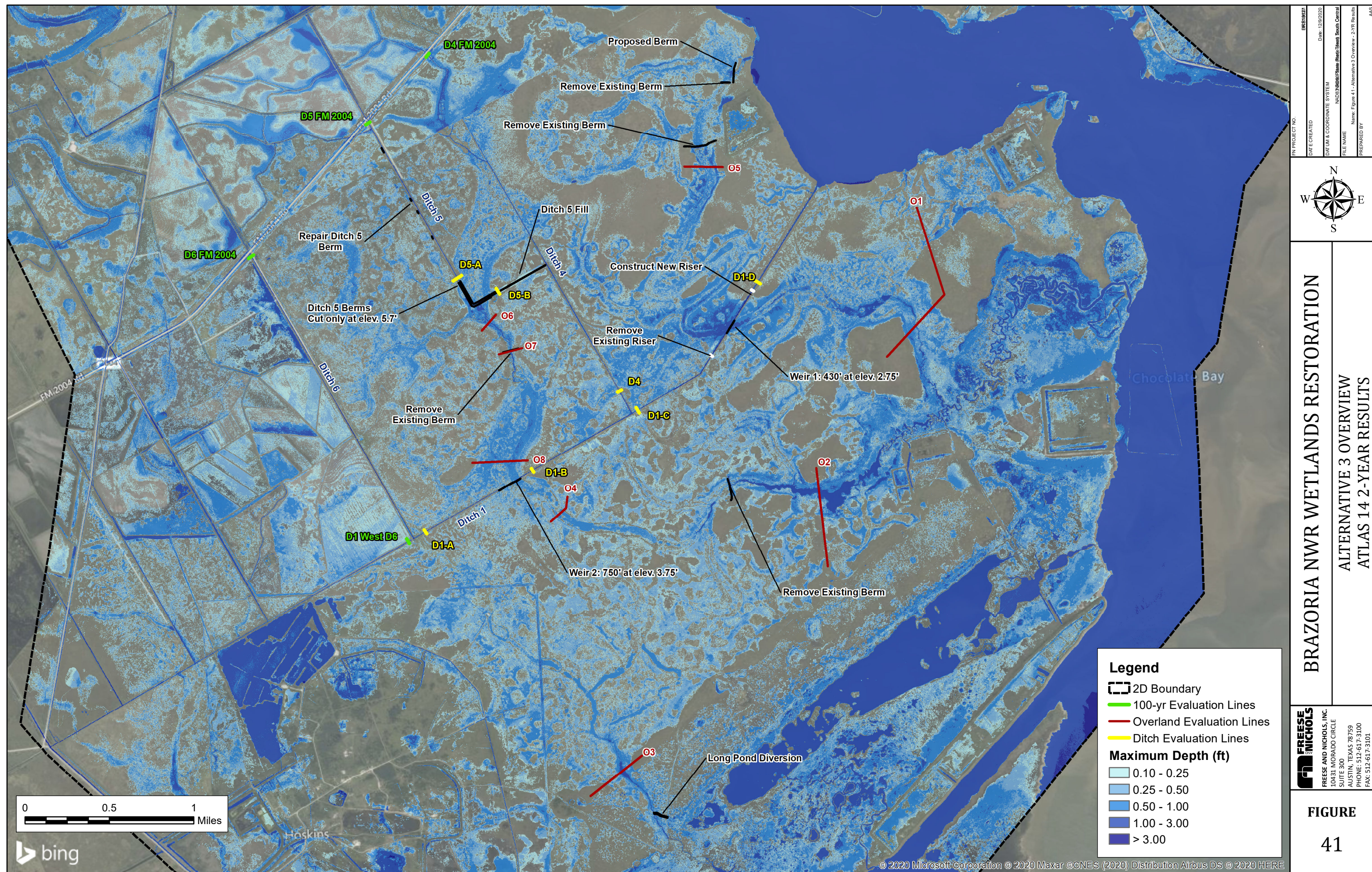


Figure 39: Long Pond Diversion

A complete overview of Alternative 3 is shown on **Figure 40**.







6.0 RESULTS

To evaluate the efficacy of each design alternative, FNI compared multiple types of hydraulic results. A subset of each comparison and an explanation of the results is described in this section. The complete results comparison hydrographs are provided in Appendix A.

6.1 RESULTS HYDROGRAPHS

Three categories of hydrographs were used to compare hydraulic results: ditch, overland, and 100-year. Results for each type were obtained using profile lines in HEC-RAS, which were then used to measure flow and volume accumulation. The location of each profile line is shown on each Alternative Overview map.

Ditch profile lines were drawn across Ditches 1, 4, and 5 to compare flow and volume accumulation. Overland profile lines were drawn across the landscape in locations where alternatives are expected to improve restoration of the natural hydro-period, and were also used to compare flow and volume accumulation and to assess the efficacy of each alternative. Maximum depth along each overland line was also measured from the results. To demonstrate that the proposed alternatives do not cause an adverse impact to adjacent property during the 100-year event, evaluation lines were used to compare flow and peak water surface elevations at Ditches 4, 5, and 6 near FM 2004 and at Ditch 1 just west of Ditch 6, where Ditch 1 flows to the west. A summary of the results hydrographs for each rainfall event is included in the following sections. The full results hydrograph comparisons are included in Appendix A.

6.2 DURATION/HYDRO-PERIOD

To evaluate the cumulative impact of each alternative on the site, FNI utilized the duration feature built into HEC-RAS 2D. This is a raster output that quantifies the total time each terrain cell is inundated at or above a certain depth. For this analysis, a threshold of 0.25 feet was used because it represents meaningful conveyance and because, at lower threshold values, a precipitation-on-grid model shows minimal duration differences between scenarios.

The existing duration raster was subtracted from each alternatives duration raster to produce a difference raster that represents the change in flooding duration for each alternative. The results for the 3-inch rainfall and the 2-year storm event are summarized in the sections below. In general, each alternative that results in increased durations south of Ditch 1 can be considered as working toward achieving DU's wetland restoration goals.

6.3 3-INCH RAINFALL

6.3.1 Ditches

As shown in **Figure A2 – A4** in Appendix A, evaluation lines D1-B, D1-C, and D1-D show that each alternative successfully diverts flow out of Ditch 1 and onto the landscape during the 3-inch rainfall event. This is indicated by decreases in volume accumulation and lower peak flow rates for each alternative. The D1-D hydrographs show that almost no runoff crosses the proposed riser for each alternative, instead moving onto the landscape via Weir 1 or Culvert 1. The other ditch profile lines show small changes compared to existing conditions.

6.3.2 Overland

The incremental impact of the design elements in each alternative can be evaluated using hydrographs through evaluation lines 5–8. For the 3-inch rainfall event, evaluation line 5 shows slightly increased peak flow and volume for each alternative. Evaluation lines 6–8 show flow hydrographs with higher peak flow values and a more gradual shape for each alternative. This indicates that the various proposed options along Ditch 5 successfully move stormwater runoff into Slough B. The fill placed in Ditch 5 as part of Alternative 3 results in an average total volume increase through lines 6–8 of approximately 200%. Alternatives 1 and 2 increase the total volume through lines 6–8 by around 50%. Maximum depths in Slough A and B north of Ditch 1 are slightly decreased by each proposed alternative due to the proposed weirs and culverts. Instead of being backed up by Ditch 1, runoff in these sloughs can pass into the wetland area in a manner similar to the slough's natural condition. An example of this decrease in depth is shown on **Figure 44**.

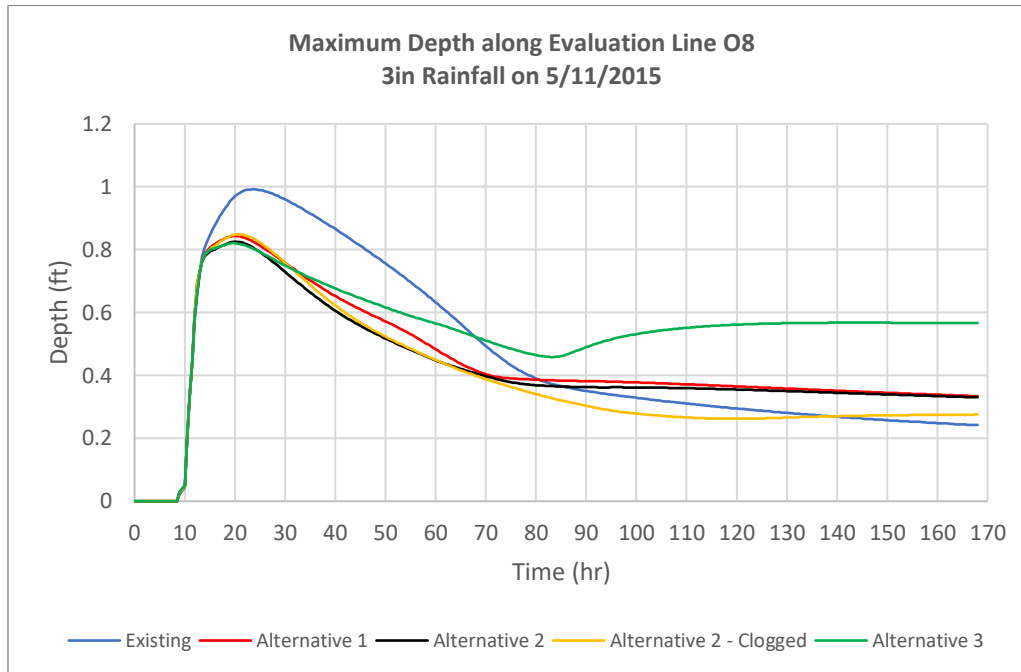


Figure 44: Evaluation Line O8 – 3-inch Rainfall Maximum Depth

The increases in runoff volume through Sloughs A and B is carried into the wetland area south of Ditch 1 in each proposed alternative to varying degrees. **Figure A8** shows evaluation line O1, south of Weir/Culvert 1, shows the differences in performance between weirs and culverts. Because the weirs are more efficient than the culverts, they result in large increases in peak flow and total volume much faster than the culverts. They also produce a more gradually shaped hydrograph compared to existing conditions.

Through line O1, the culverts proposed in Alternative 2 result in lower peak flows than existing conditions, but the hydrographs are much longer than those produced by even the weir alternatives. Through line O1, Alternatives 1 and 3 result in slightly higher total volumes than Alternative 2. In **Figure A11**, evaluation line O4 just downstream of Weir/Culvert 2 shows a similar pattern, with Alternative 2 resulting in slightly longer and more gradual hydrographs that move slightly more volume than Alternative 1 and 3. In **Figure A10**, which shows evaluation line O3 near Long Pond, there are slight increases in total volume for each alternative. Alternative 3 produces the largest increase due to the westward extension of Weir 2.

6.3.3 Duration/Hydro-Period

Figure 45–Figure 48 show the changes in inundation duration for each alternative during the 3-inch rainfall event. In general, each alternative results in more gradually shaped overland hydrographs downstream of the ditch modifications, increasing the hydro-period on the site.

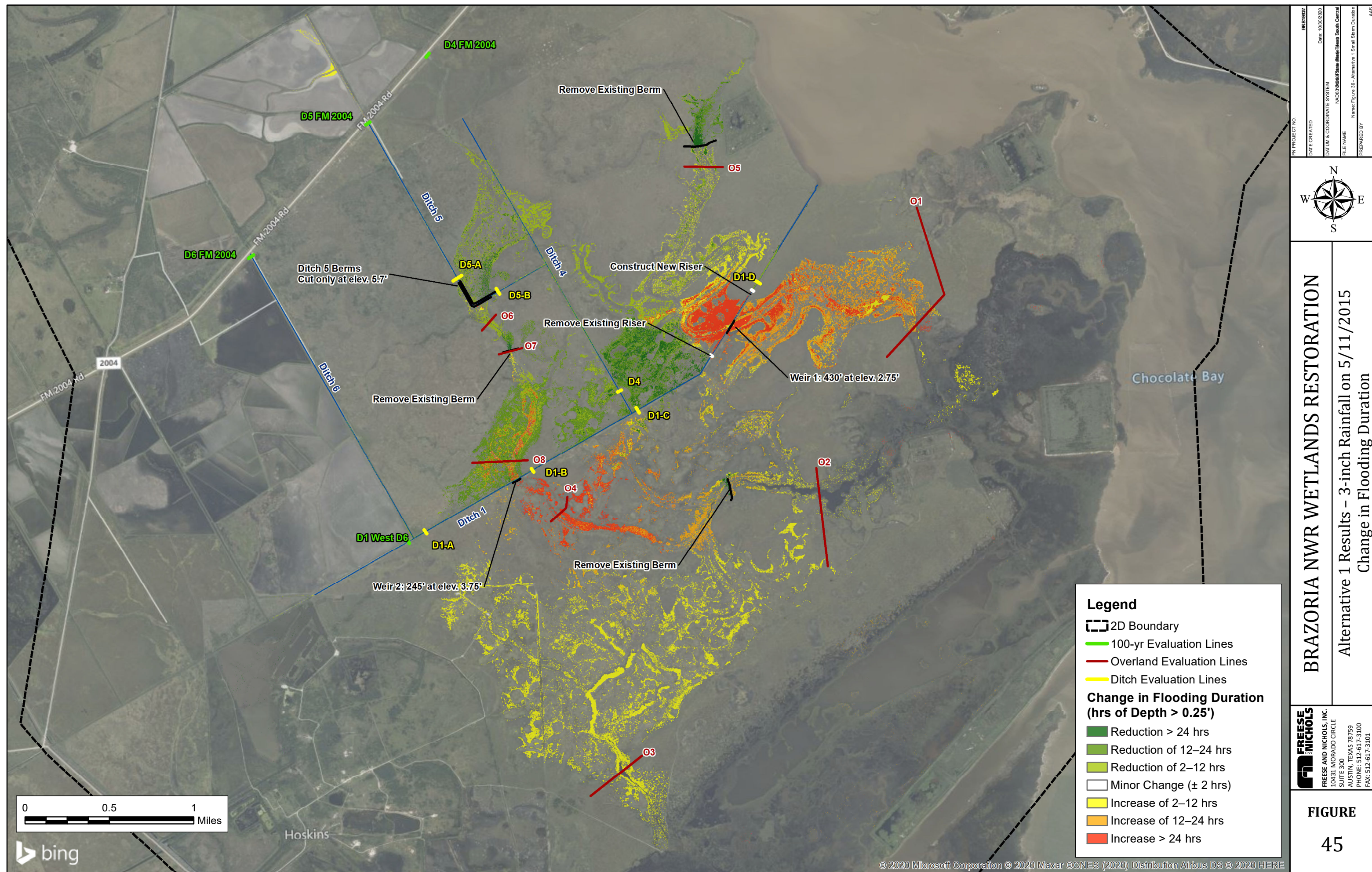
Additional stormwater runoff can move across Ditch 1, resulting in longer periods of inundation because the previously disconnected Sloughs A and B can now feed the wetland area. Durations are increased in much of the area south of Ditch 1. North of Ditch 1, durations generally decrease except just upstream of Weir/Culvert 1. Durations here are increased due to the relocation of the riser.

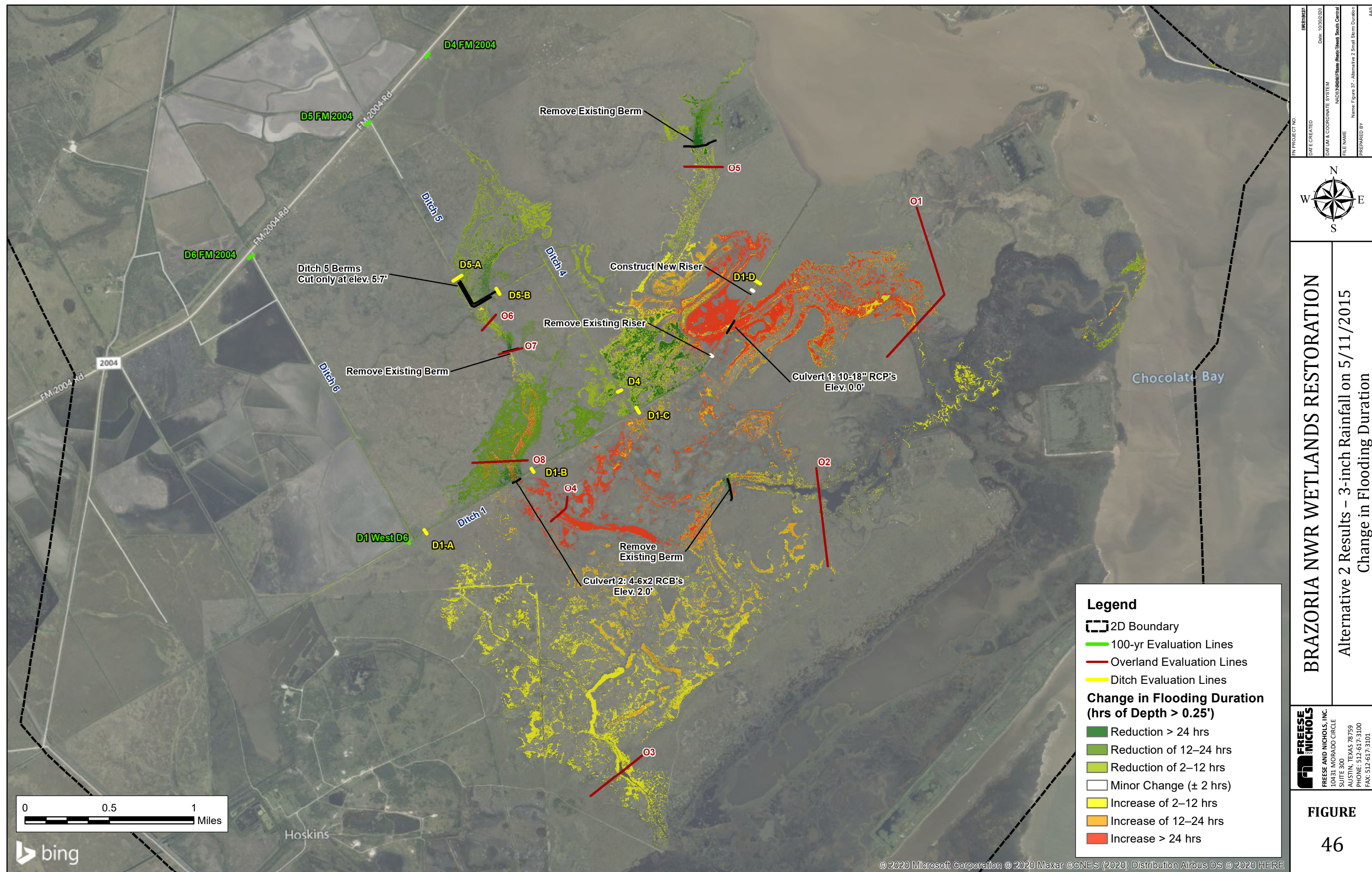
Each alternative also demonstrates that the removal of berms along Ditch 5 allows runoff to flow more freely through Ditch 5. The differences in function between the weir and culvert alternatives is also demonstrated by the slightly larger increases in flooding duration for Alternative 2. Because the culverts are at a lower elevation than the proposed weirs, they convey stormwater runoff for a longer period than the weirs.

Table 6 below summarizes the total area that falls within each duration classification shown on **Figure 45–Figure 48**.

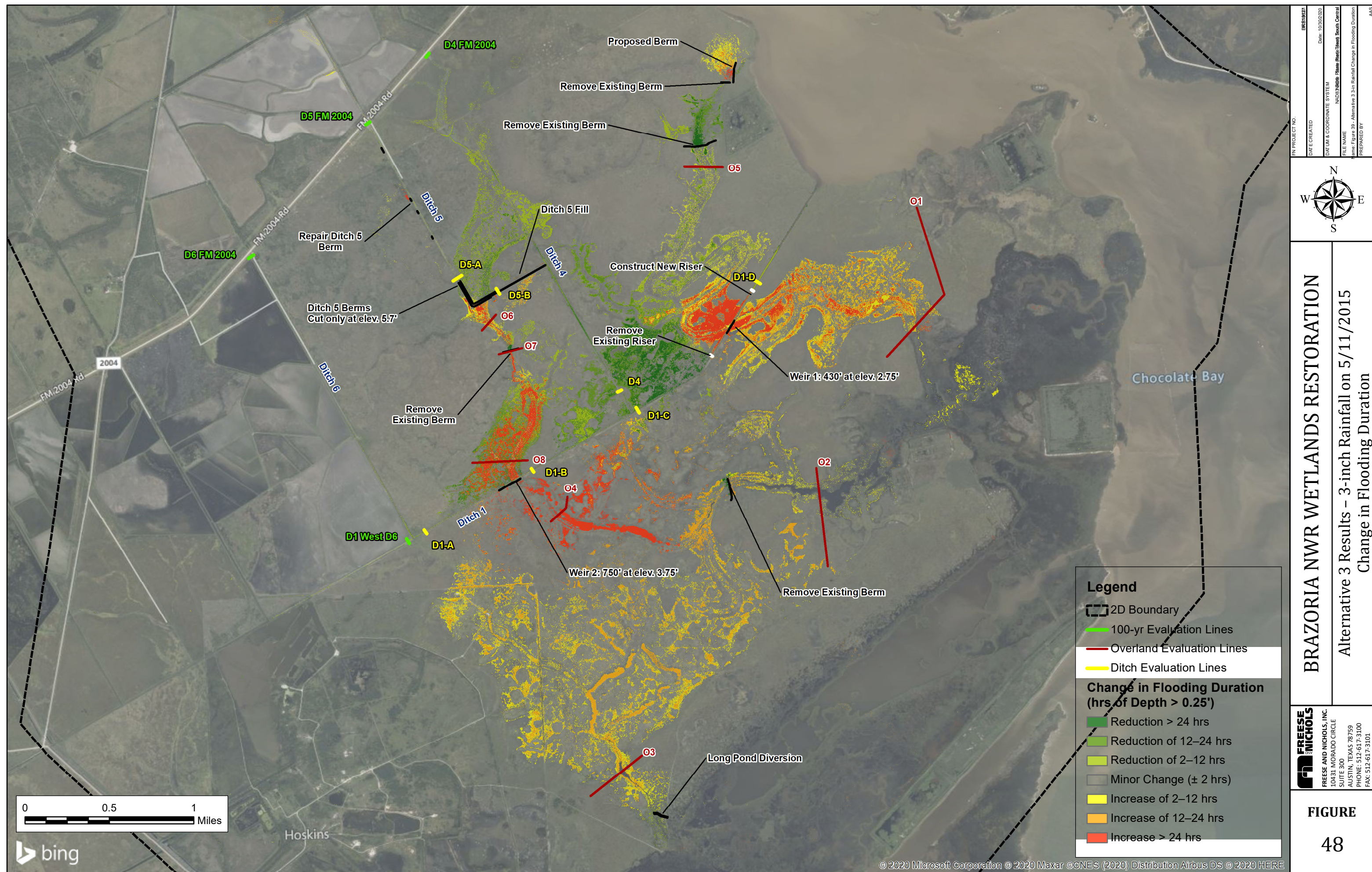
Table 6: Area Summary of Changes in Flooding Duration – 3-inch Rainfall

Change in Flooding Duration (hrs of Depth > 0.25')	Area with Change in Flooding Duration (acres)			
	Alt. 1	Alt. 2	Alt. 2 Clogged	Alt. 3
Reduction > 24 hrs	45	49	41	60
Reduction of 12–24 hrs	164	127	124	131
Reduction of 2–12 hrs	136	141	119	128
Minor Change (±2 hrs)	1,266	1,263	1,263	1,259
Increase of 2–12 hrs	309	287	252	289
Increase of 12–24 hrs	163	134	118	240
Increase > 24 hrs	120	227	298	160









6.3.4 Summary

Table 7–Table 9 summarize peak flow, volume, and duration through each overland evaluation line.

Table 7: 3-inch Rainfall Peak Flow Summary

Evaluation Line	Peak Flow (cfs)				
	Existing	Alt. 1	Alt. 2	Alt 2. Clogged	Alt. 3
O1	76	102	68	62	95
O2	86	87	88	88	87
O3	59	59	59	59	59
O4	17	37	39	35	39
O5	20	41	41	41	41
O6	35	40	40	40	52
O7	25	55	55	55	66
O8	20	56	57	54	67

Table 8: 3-inch Rainfall Volume Summary

Evaluation Line	Volume (ac-ft)				
	Existing	Alt. 1	Alt. 2	Alt 2. Clogged	Alt. 3
O1	337	526	491	446	481
O2	176	232	261	291	243
O3	178	198	203	202	218
O4	11	75	93	94	87
O5	27	37	37	37	37
O6	70	80	80	80	180
O7	60	117	117	117	269
O8	91	137	139	139	218

Table 9: 3-inch Rainfall Duration Summary

Evaluation Line	Duration (hrs)				
	Existing	Alt. 1	Alt. 2	Alt 2. Clogged	Alt. 3
O1	141.5	161.5	165.5	165.5	162.0
O2	157.5	157.5	158.0	158.0	157.5
O3	158.5	158.5	158.5	158.5	158.5
O4	67.5	86.0	105.5	125.0	95.0
O5	129.5	90.5	90.5	90.5	90.5
O6	160.0	160.0	160.0	160.0	160.0
O7	69.0	80.0	80.0	80.0	158.0
O8	147.0	157.5	157.5	157.5	157.5

6.4 2-YEAR STORM

The 2-year rainfall event is a small design storm, with a cumulative rainfall of 5.26 inches. The magnitude of this event is large enough to analyze impacts on the site from a larger storm but not so large as to inundate the entire area like a 100-year event. The complete set of results hydrographs is found in **Figure A16–A30** within Appendix A.

6.4.1 Ditches

Similarly to the 3-inch rainfall event results, the Ditch 1 hydrographs for the 2-year storm show that the proposed alternatives successfully move runoff out of the ditches and into overland areas. Hydrographs D1-B, D1-C, and D1-D on **Figure A17–A19** show decreases in peak flow and volume for each alternative. Even with the slightly larger rainfall total, very little flow passes through D1-D, meaning most of the runoff gets diverted by the weirs and culverts into the wetlands.

6.4.2 Overland

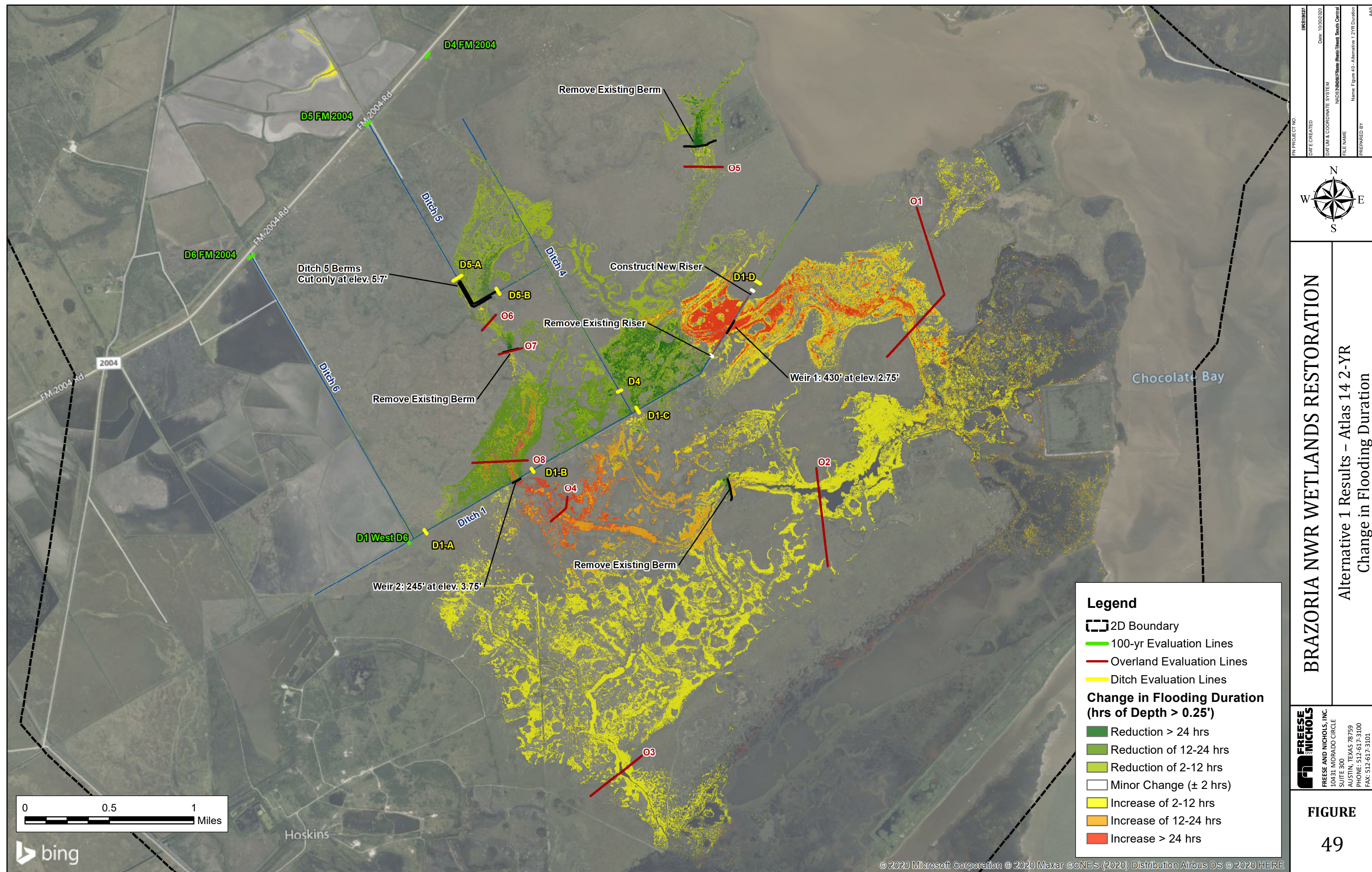
Figure A27–A30 show benefits in the 2-year storm similar to those presented in the 3-inch rainfall event. North of Ditch 1, the various proposed alternatives divert additional runoff out of the ditches and into Sloughs A and B. These comparison hydrographs are provided in Appendix A. **Figure A23–A26** for evaluation lines O1–O4 show significant increases in flow and volume for each alternative. The flow hydrographs through line O1, O2, and O4 are dual-peaked, which is another indication that the proposed weirs and culverts allow runoff north of Ditch 1 to cross into the wetlands. The initial peak represents runoff from the local drainage area near the evaluation line, and the second peak represents runoff from north of Ditch 1 reaching the evaluation line. There is a slight increase in total volume through evaluation line O3 in each alternative, with approximate increases of 15–25%. For Alternative 3, the additional runoff volume has the potential to cross into Long Pond through the proposed diversion described in **Section 5.4.3**.

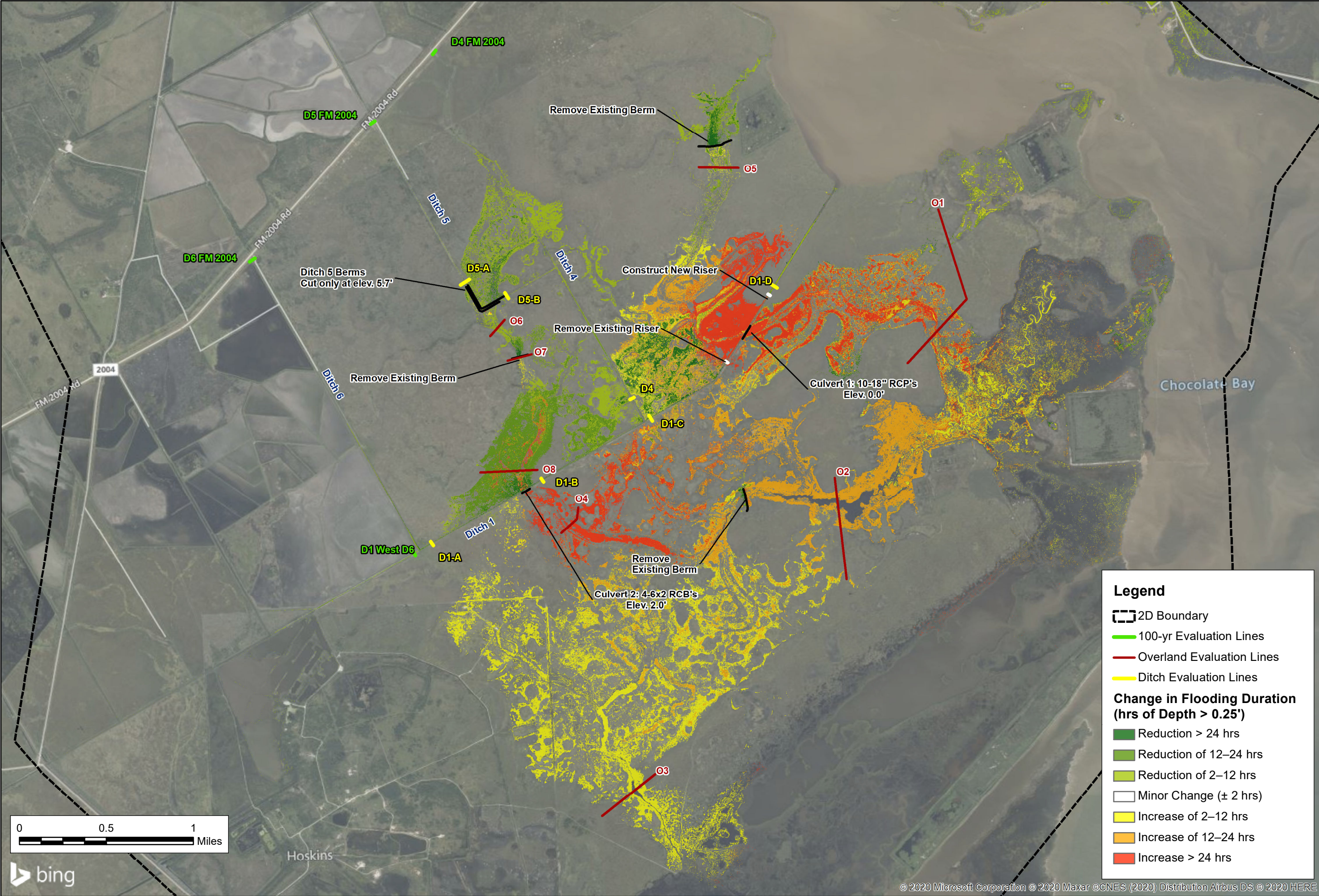
6.4.3 Duration/Hydro-Period

Figure 49–Figure 52 show the differences in inundation duration for the 2-year storm under each alternative. Like the 3-inch rainfall event results, durations during the 2-year storm tend to decrease north of Ditch 1 and increase south of Ditch 1. Due to the higher rainfall associated with the 2-year storm, the improved areas south of Ditch 1 are larger and extend further south when compared to the 3-inch results. The efficiency of the weir alternatives is highlighted in these exhibits. Alternative 2 shows that runoff backs up in Sloughs A and B because the culverts do not have capacity to successfully handle the runoff. The weirs proposed in Alternatives 1 and 3 do not result in runoff backing up near the weirs. **Table 10** summarizes the total area that falls within each duration classification shown on **Figure 49–Figure 52**.

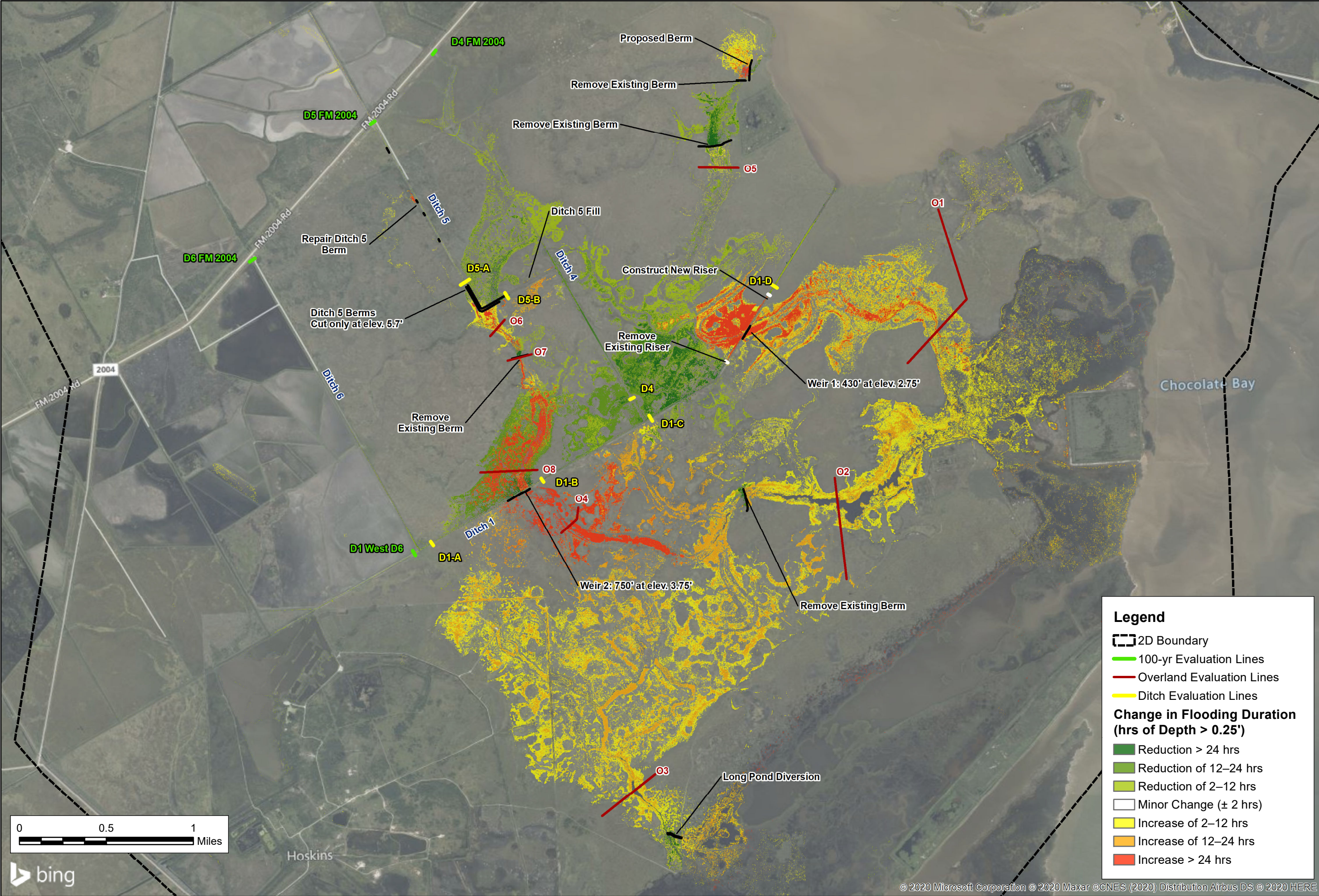
Table 10: Area Summary of Changes in Flooding Duration – 2-year Storm

Change in Flooding Duration (hrs of Depth > 0.25')	Area with Change in Flooding Duration (acres)			
	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 2 Clogged	Alternative 3
Reduction > 24 hrs	41	49	37	51
Reduction of 12–24 hrs	192	153	149	177
Reduction of 2–12 hrs	251	259	272	235
Minor Change (± 2 hrs)	1258	1250	1254	1252
Increase of 2–12 hrs	922	590	513	768
Increase of 12–24 hrs	210	413	301	380
Increase > 24 hrs	118	291	444	168





BRAZORIA NWR WETLANDS RESTORATION	
Alternative 2 Results - Atlas 14 2-YR Change in Flooding Duration	
FIGURE 50	
FRESE AND NICHOLS, INC. 10431 MORADO CIRCLE SUITE 300 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78759 PHONE: 512-617-3100 FAX: 512-617-3101	
PROJECT NO. _____ DATE CREATED _____ DATE 10/20/2020 DUTY & COORDINATE SYSTEM NAD83/830817 State Plane North Central FILE NAME Name Figure 41 - Alternative 2 2-YR Duration PREPARED BY AAS	



Legend

- 2D Boundary
- 100-yr Evaluation Lines
- Overland Evaluation Lines
- Ditch Evaluation Lines

**Change in Flooding Duration
(hrs of Depth > 0.25')**

- Reduction > 24 hrs
- Reduction of 12–24 hrs
- Reduction of 2–12 hrs
- Minor Change (\pm 2 hrs)
- Increase of 2–12 hrs
- Increase of 12–24 hrs
- Increase > 24 hrs

BRAZORIA NWR WETLANDS RESTORATION	
Alternative 3 Results – Atlas 14 2-YR Change in Flooding Duration	
FIGURE 52	FRESE AND NICHOLS, INC. 10431 MORADO CIRCLE SUITE 300 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78759 PHONE: 512-617-3100 FAX: 512-617-3101
<div>PROJECT NO. 10431-001 DATE CREATED 10/28/2020 DATUM & COORDINATE SYSTEM NAD83/StatePlane (Texas) South Central FILE NAME Figure 43 - Alternative 3 2-YR Change in Flooding Duration PREPARED BY AAS</div> <div> N W E S</div>	

6.4.4 Summary

Table 11–Table 13 summarize peak flow, volume, and duration through each overland evaluation line.

Table 11: 2-year Storm Peak Flow Summary

Evaluation Line	Peak Flow (cfs)				
	Existing	Alt. 1	Alt. 2	Alt 2. Clogged	Alt. 3
O1	145	162	100	96	152
O2	147	151	151	151	151
O3	104	104	104	104	104
O4	31	66	60	50	70
O5	40	65	65	65	65
O6	60	64	64	64	74
O7	37	77	77	77	87
O8	28	85	78	66	103

Table 12: 2-year Storm Volume Summary

Evaluation Line	Volume (ac-ft)				
	Existing	Alt. 1	Alt. 2	Alt 2. Clogged	Alt. 3
O1	567	733	659	586	679
O2	318	410	478	528	424
O3	276	318	322	316	348
O4	25	132	150	143	147
O5	40	55	55	55	55
O6	121	134	134	134	238
O7	93	187	188	188	336
O8	102	205	203	193	295

Table 13: 2-year Storm Duration Summary

Evaluation Line	Duration (hrs)				
	Existing	Alt. 1	Alt. 2	Alt 2. Clogged	Alt. 3
O1	120.0	160.0	167.0	167.0	160.5
O2	154.0	154.0	154.5	154.5	154.0
O3	158.5	158.5	158.5	158.5	158.5
O4	25.0	49.0	60.5	64.0	56.5
O5	162.0	162.0	162.0	162.0	162.0
O6	158.0	158.5	158.5	158.5	158.5
O7	39.5	19.5	19.5	19.5	30.5
O8	120.5	152.5	152.5	93.0	152.5

6.5 100-YEAR ADVERSE IMPACT CHECK

To demonstrate that the proposed alternatives do not result in an adverse impact to adjacent property, evaluation lines were used to compare flow and peak water surface elevation. The locations of interest include Ditches 4, 5, and 6 near FM 2004 and Ditch 1 just west of Ditch 6 where Ditch 1 flows to the west.

Because a 100-year event on the site inundates most of the area modeled, only profile lines in ditches were evaluated. The primary purpose of the 100-year scenarios is to check if any proposed alternative is adversely impacting adjacent property. The 100-year MHHW scenario hydrographs mirror the 100-year surge scenario hydrographs closely. Both sets of hydrographs are included and are shown in **Figure A61–A68** of Appendix A. Comparisons of the 100-year MHHW and 100-year surge scenarios show that none of the evaluated alternatives result in adverse impacts relative to existing conditions.

6.5.1 Summary

Table 14–Table 17 summarize peak flows and maximum water surface elevations for both 100-year scenarios. Peak flows and water surface elevations in both 100-year events are generally unchanged for each alternative because the locations of interest are far removed from each design element of the evaluated alternatives. The addition of weirs or culverts along Ditch 1 also slightly increases the capacity of the ditches, allowing for stormwater runoff to spill into the wetlands instead of filling up the ditches.

Table 14: 100-year MHHW Summary – Peak Flow (cfs)

Evaluation Line	Existing	Alt. 1	Alt. 2	Alt 2. Clogged	Alt. 3
D1 West D6	27	27	27	27	27
D4 FM 2004	56	56	56	56	56
D5 FM 2004	74	74	74	74	74
D6 FM 2004	118	118	118	118	118

Table 15: 100-year MHHW Summary – Peak WSE (feet)

Evaluation Line	Existing	Alt. 1	Alt. 2	Alt 2. Clogged	Alt. 3
D1 West D6	5.23	5.23	5.23	5.23	5.23
D4 FM 2004	7.41	7.41	7.41	7.41	7.41
D5 FM 2004	9.36	9.36	9.36	9.36	9.36
D6 FM 2004	11.02	11.02	11.02	11.02	11.02

Table 16: 100-year Surge Summary – Peak Flow (cfs)

Evaluation Line	Existing	Alt. 1	Alt. 2	Alt 2. Clogged	Alt. 3
D1 West D6	28	27	27	27	27
D4 FM 2004	56	56	56	56	56
D5 FM 2004	74	74	74	74	74
D6 FM 2004	118	118	118	118	118

Table 17: 100-year Surge Summary – Peak WSE (feet)

Evaluation Line	Existing	Alt. 1	Alt. 2	Alt 2. Clogged	Alt. 3
D1 West D6	5.23	5.23	5.23	5.23	5.23
D4 FM 2004	7.41	7.41	7.41	7.41	7.41
D5 FM 2004	9.39	9.39	9.39	9.39	9.39
D6 FM 2004	11.02	11.02	11.02	11.02	11.01

6.6 CONCLUSIONS

Using a detailed 2D model, FNI evaluated existing conditions and modeled three alternatives targeted toward restoring the natural hydro-period on the site. The efficacy of each alternative was assessed, and the results have been documented within this report as well as the attached materials. Each alternative evaluated achieves these goals to varying degrees. In general, Alternative 3 provides a substantial increase to periods of inundation in the area south of Ditch 1. The weirs included in Alternative 3 are expected to be less susceptible to clogging compared to the culverts included in Alternative 2 and thus more easily maintainable by DU and USFWS staff into the future.

Two 100-year scenarios were evaluated for each alternative to demonstrate that each shows no adverse impact on adjacent properties relative to existing conditions.

The analysis and alternatives presented in this report are conceptual in nature. The next steps toward implementing any alternative should include additional preliminary engineering design and development of a cost estimate. Additional survey and investigation of relevant environmental permitting requirements may also be required as part of the preliminary engineering effort. If the preliminary design elements (including the riser relocation, weirs, culverts, or grading) deviates significantly from the assumptions described in this report, the models may need to be re-run to verify that the adjusted design provides the hydraulic benefits desired.

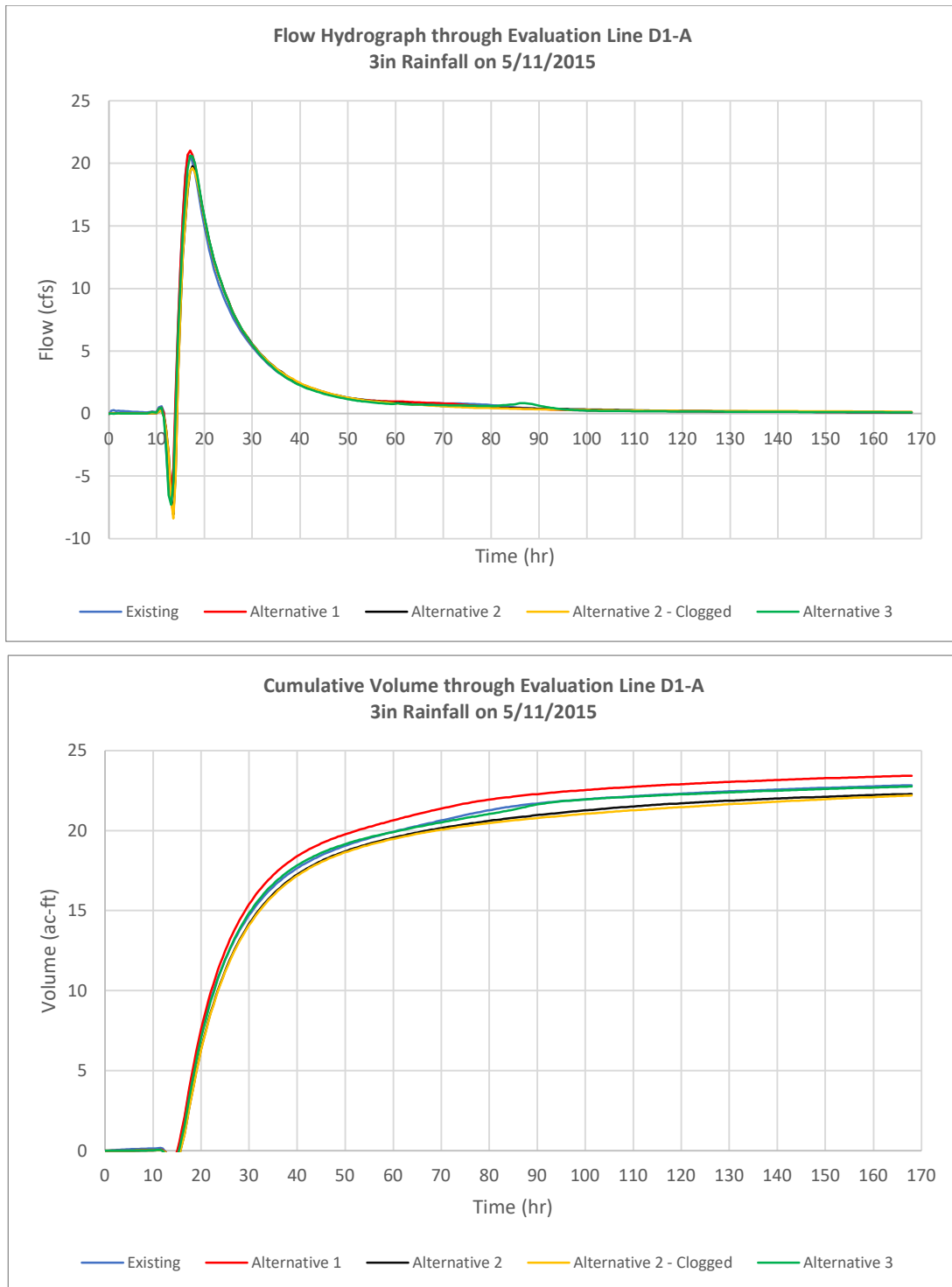
7.0 REFERENCES

- *Australian Rainfall and Runoff Revision Projects – Project 15: Two Dimensional Modelling in Urban and Rural Floodplains* (2012). <http://arr.ga.gov.au/arr-guideline/revision-projects/project-list/projects/project-15>
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- *HEC-RAS River Analysis System, 2D Modeling User's Manual, Version 5.0* (2016). <https://www.hec.usace.army.mil/software/hec-ras/documentation/HEC-RAS%205.0%202D%20Modeling%20Users%20Manual.pdf>
- *MesoWest RAWS Station Data for BZRT2*. https://mesowest.utah.edu/cgi-bin/droman/meso_base_dyn.cgi?stn=BZRT2&unit=0&timetype=LOCAL
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https://www.nws.noaa.gov/oh/hdsc/PF_documents/Atlas14_Volume11.pdf
- *NOAA Tidal Datums*. https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/datum_options.html

APPENDIX A

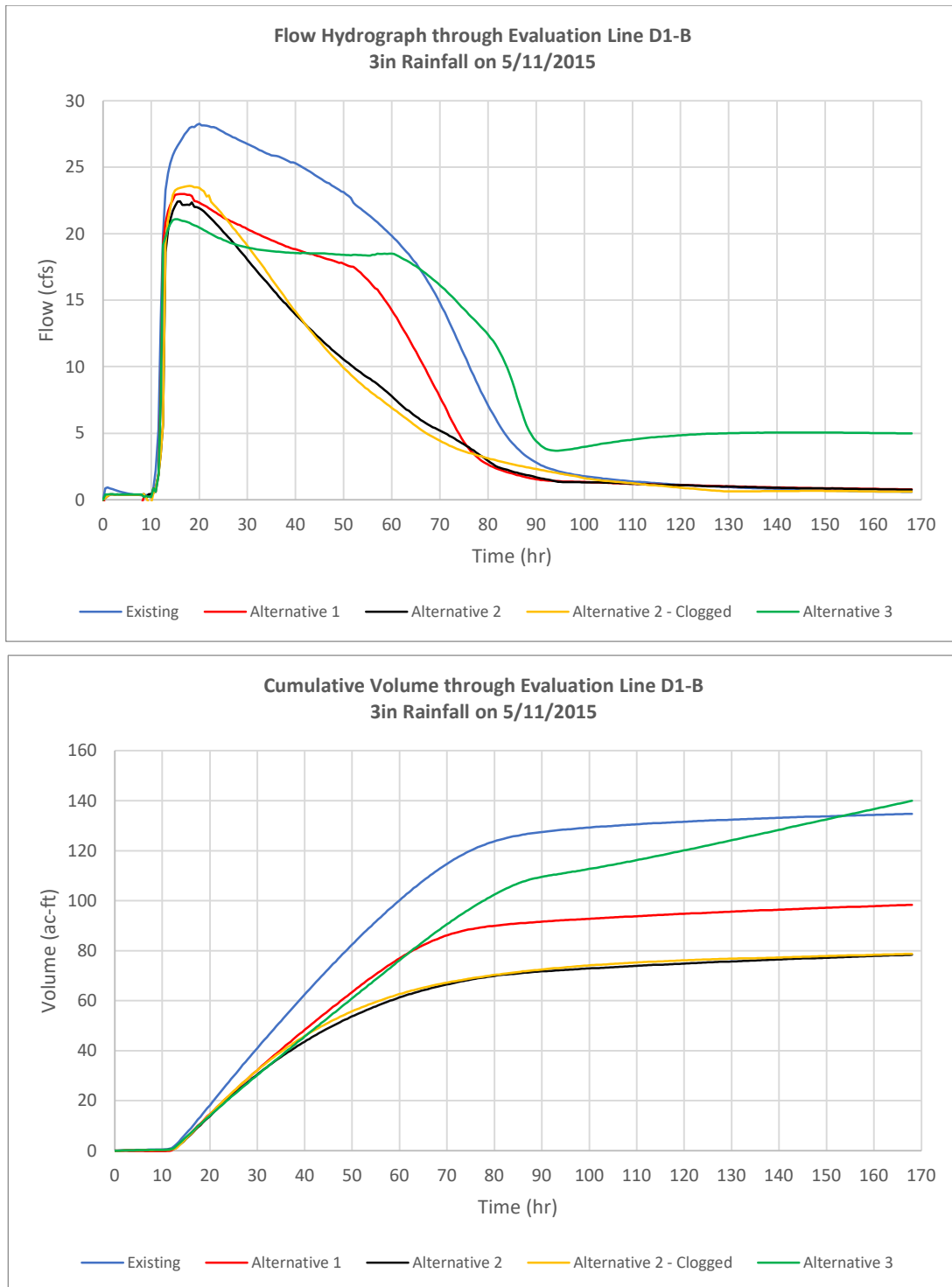
Results Hydrographs

Figure A1



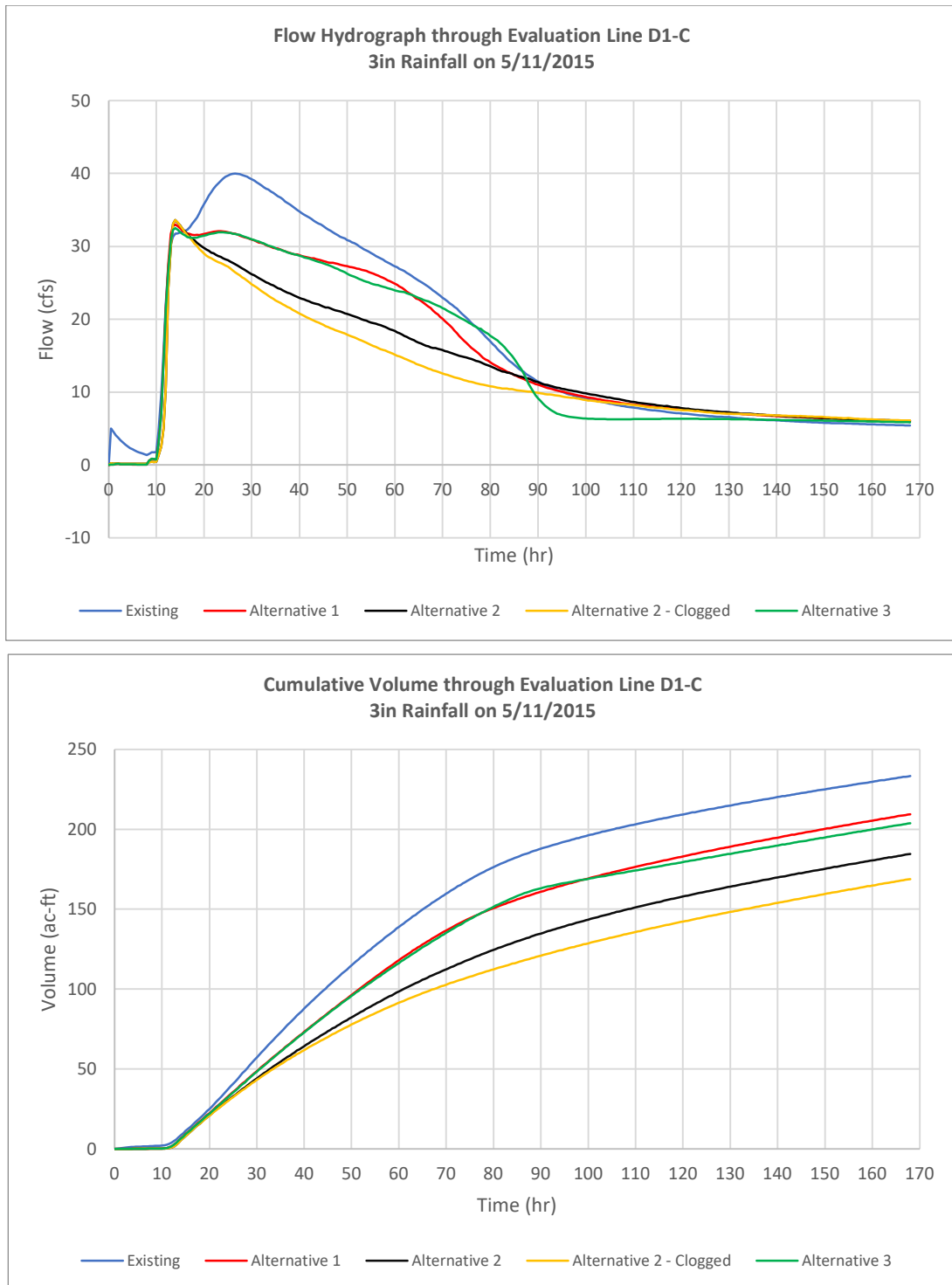
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A2



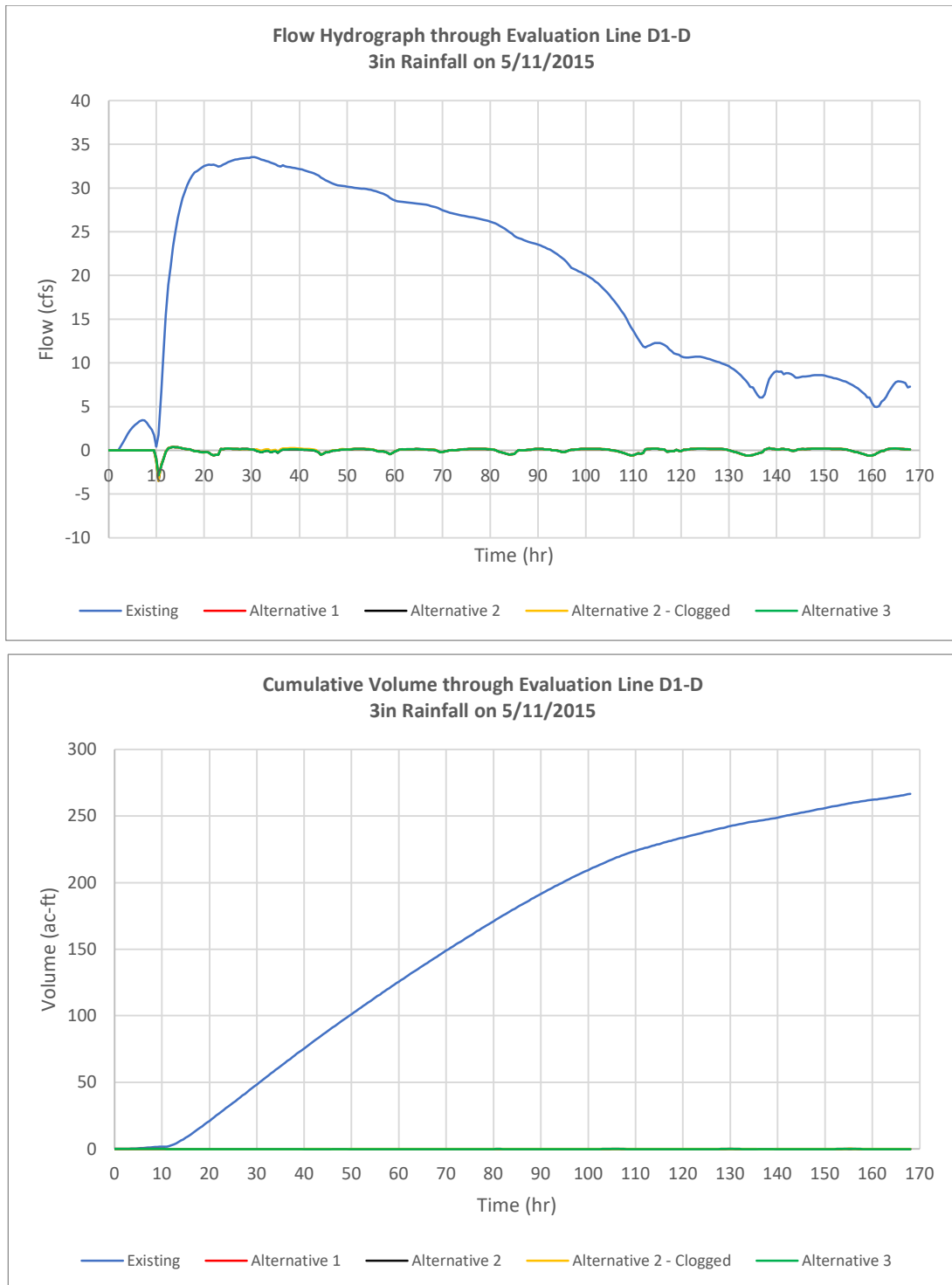
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A3



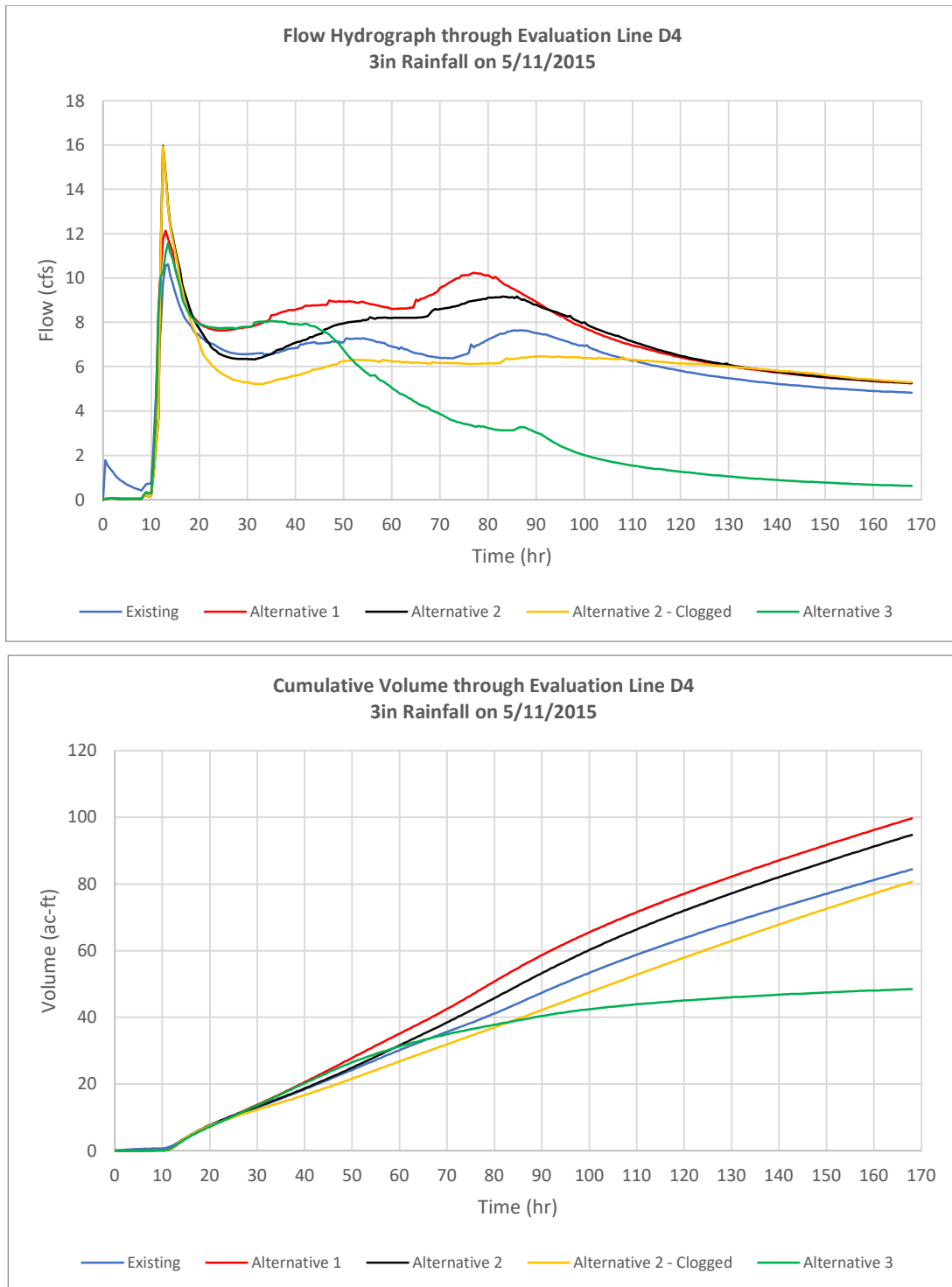
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A4



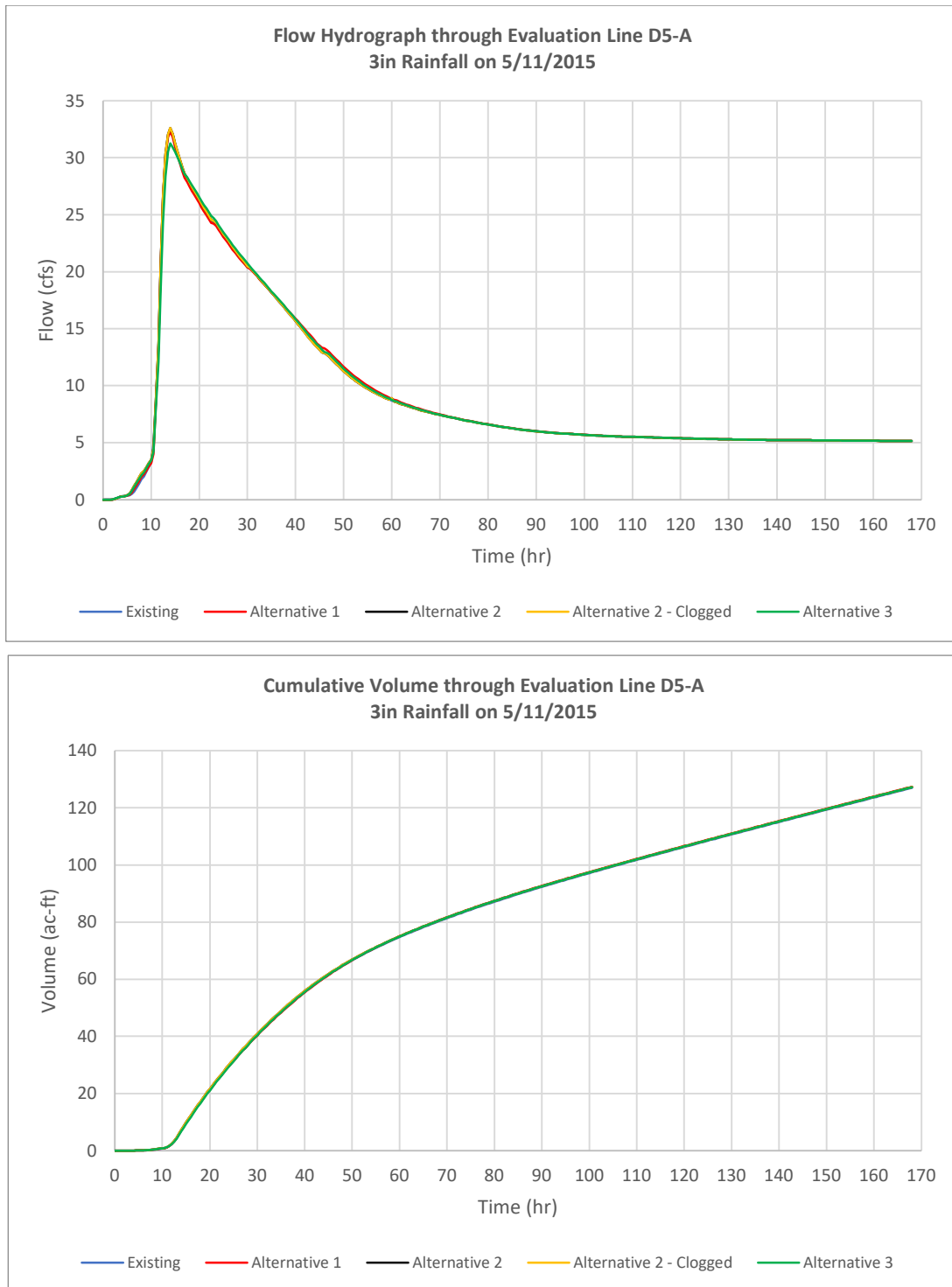
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A5



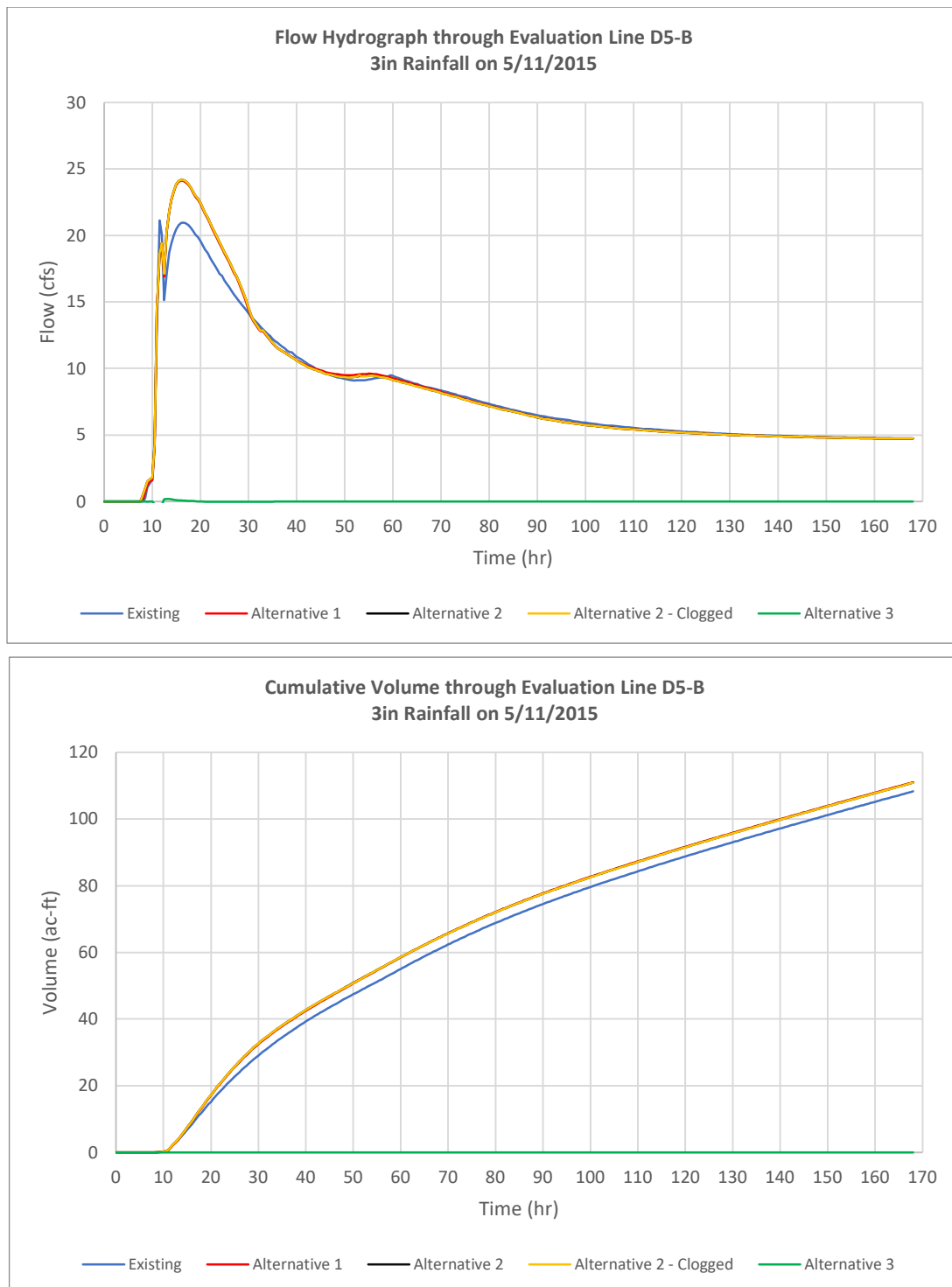
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A6



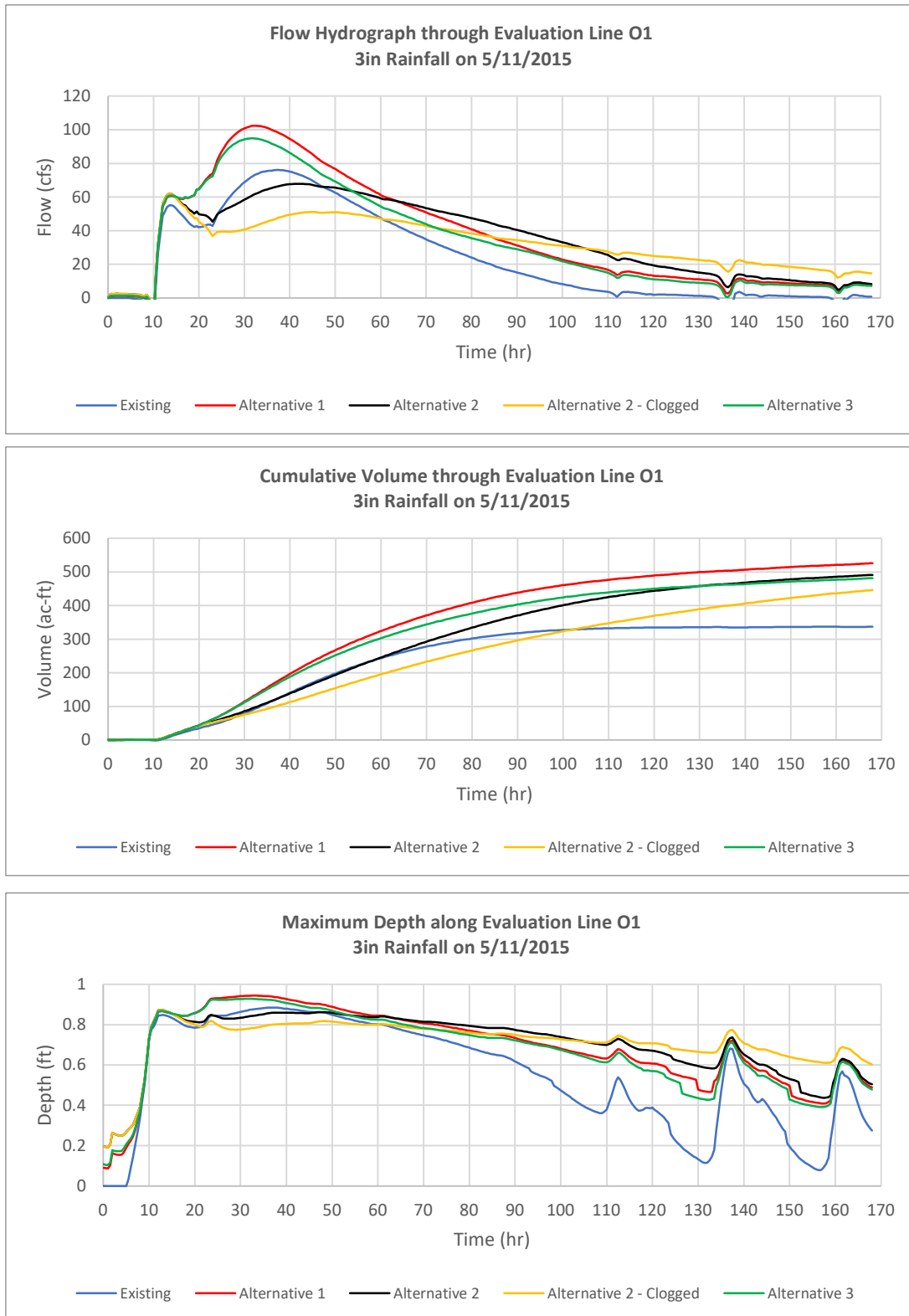
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A7



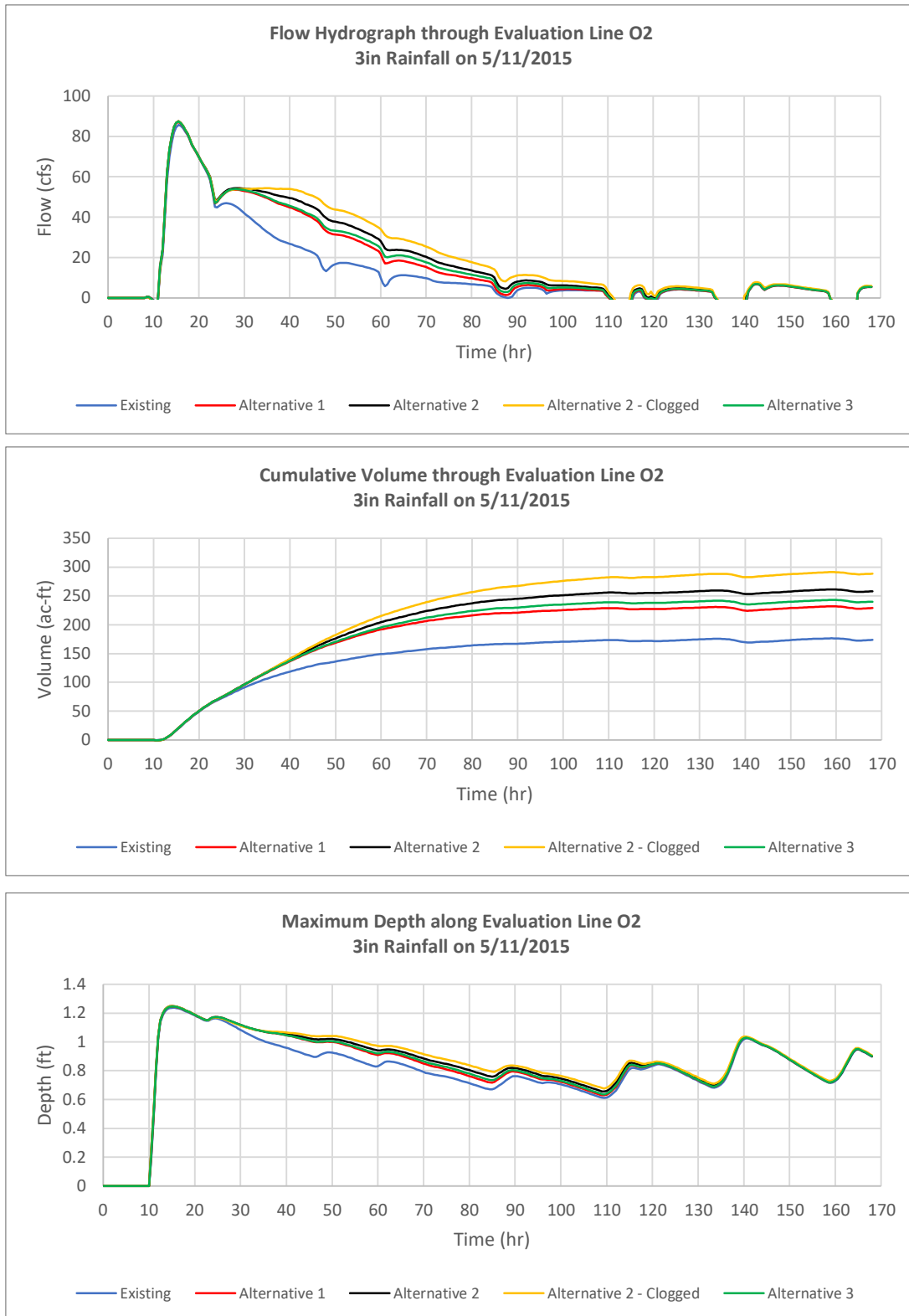
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A8



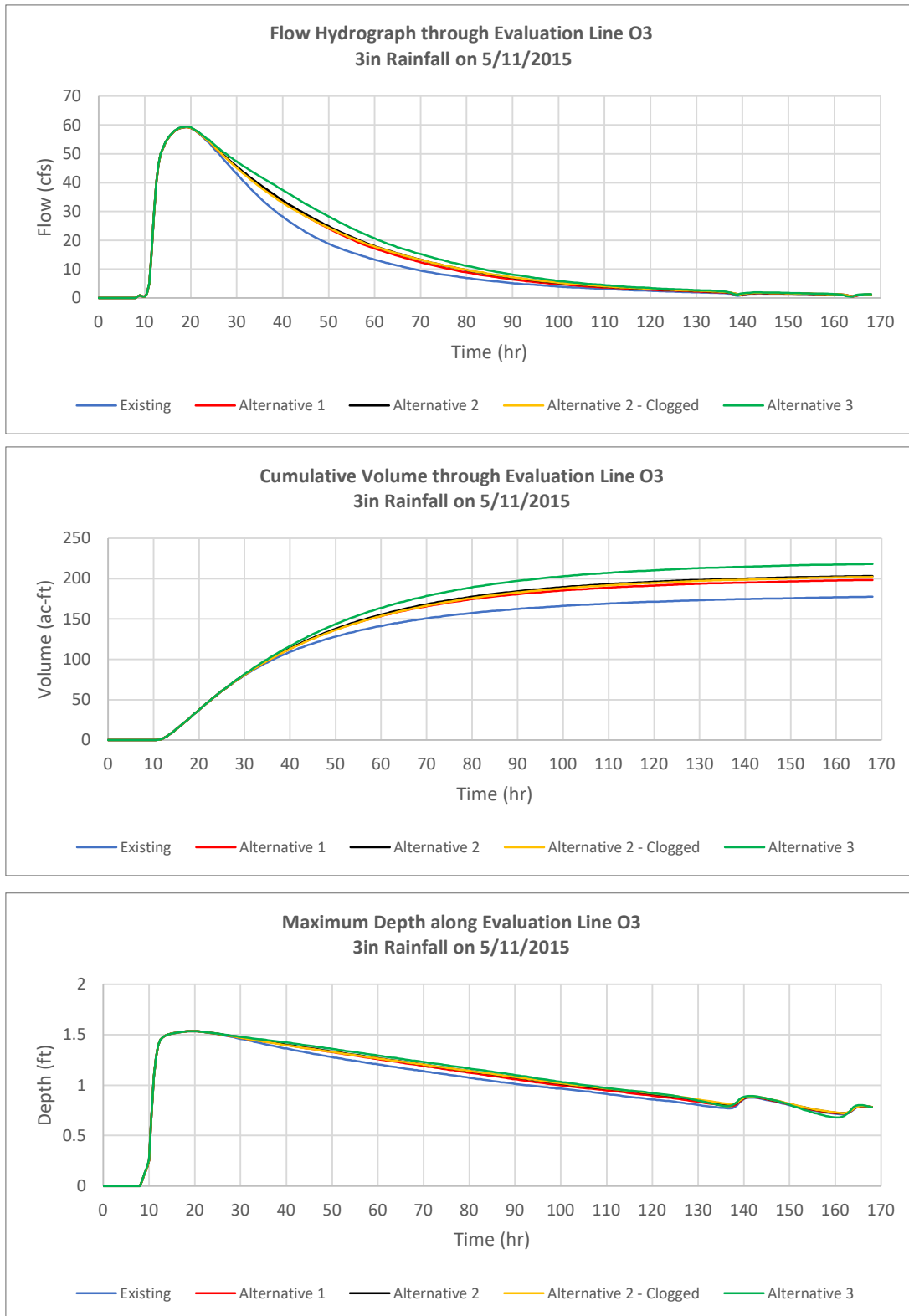
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A9



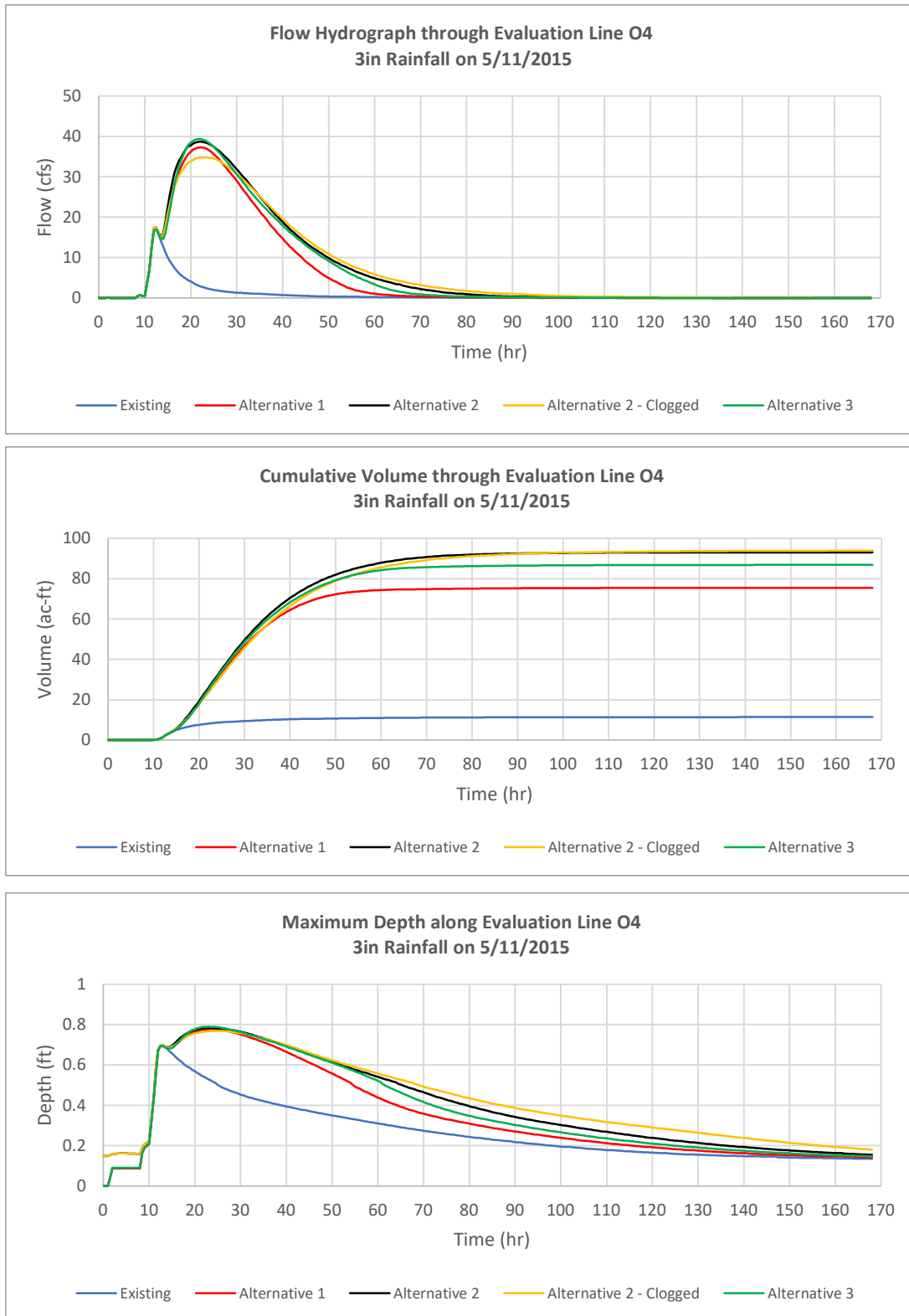
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A10



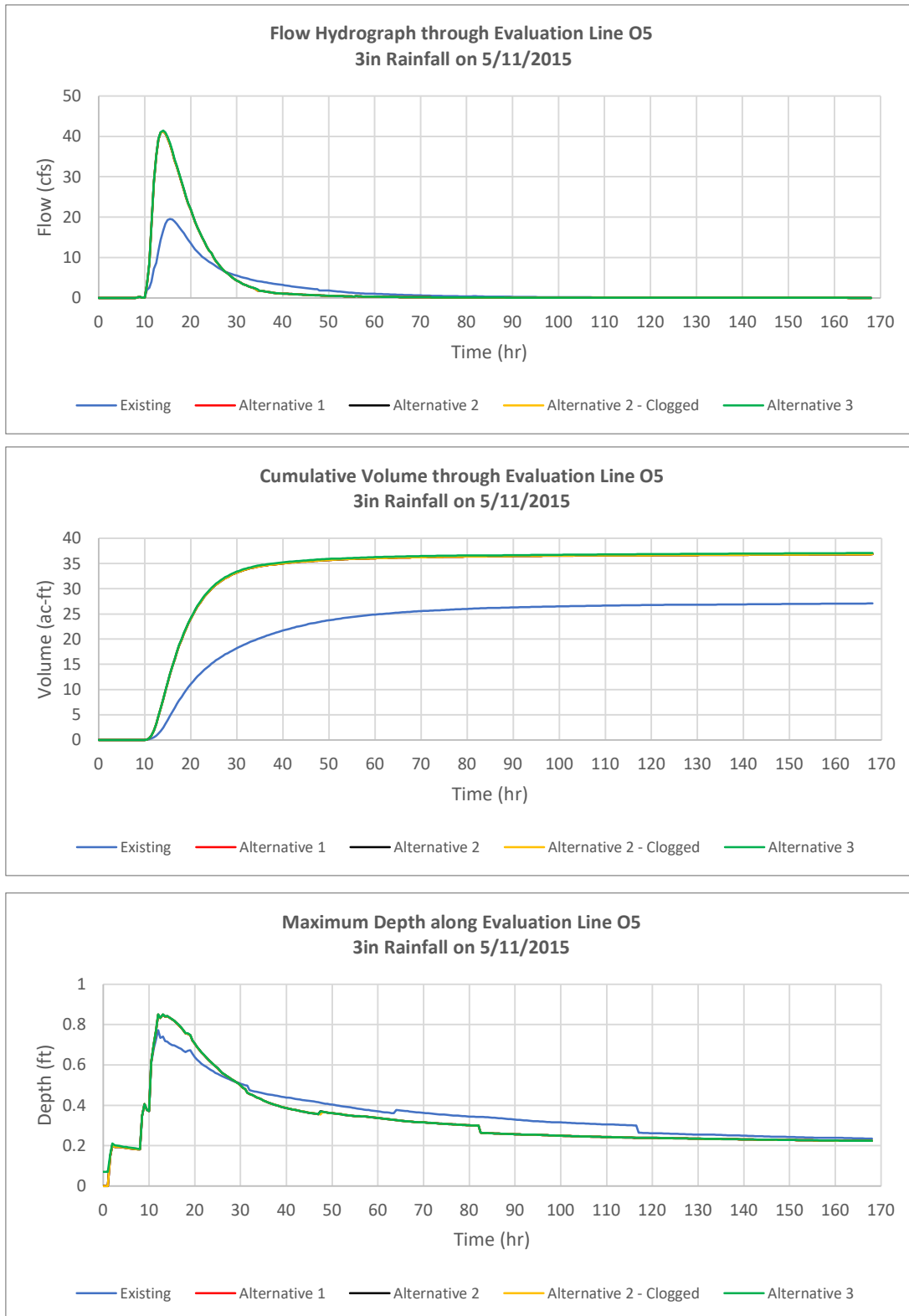
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A11



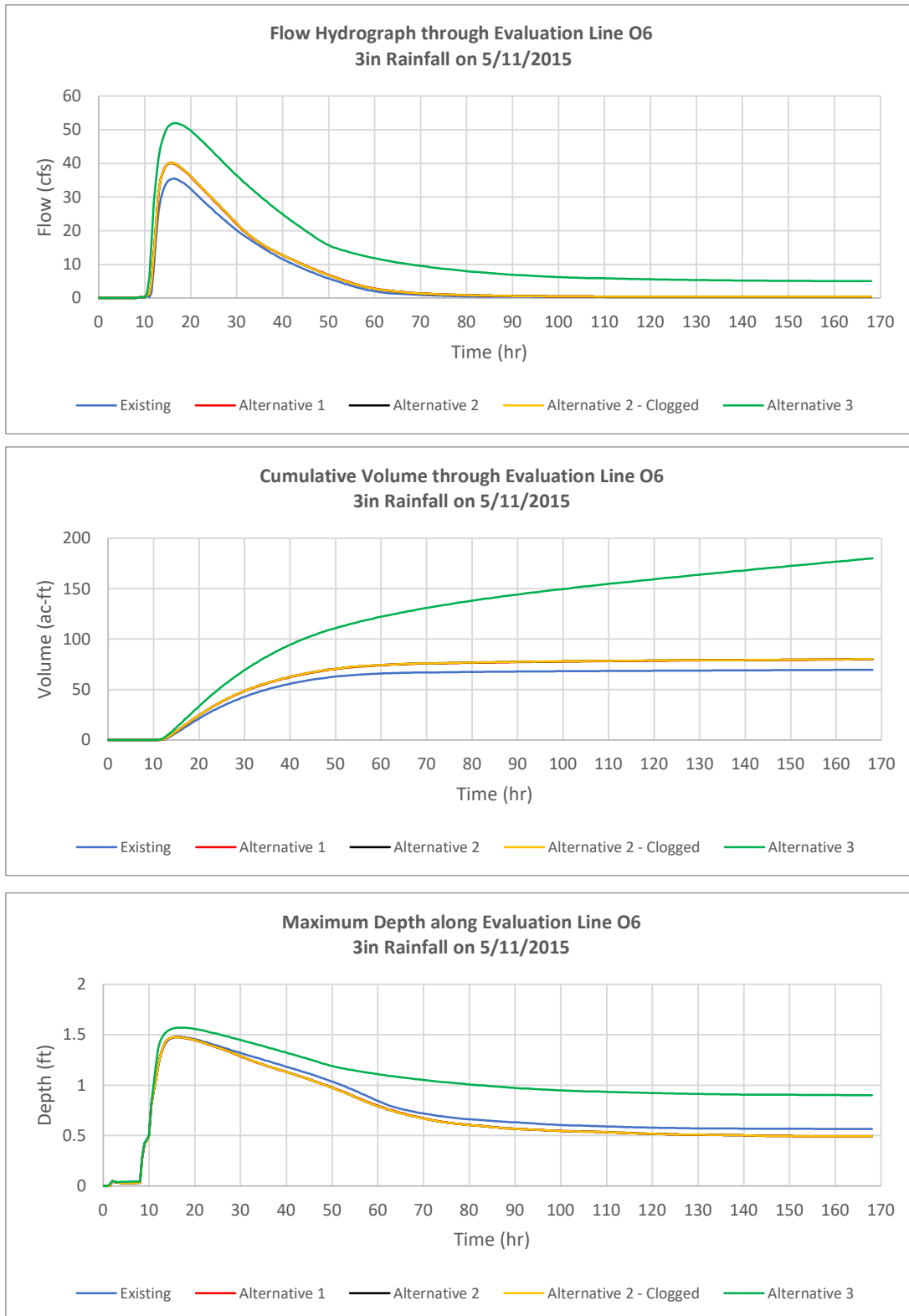
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A12



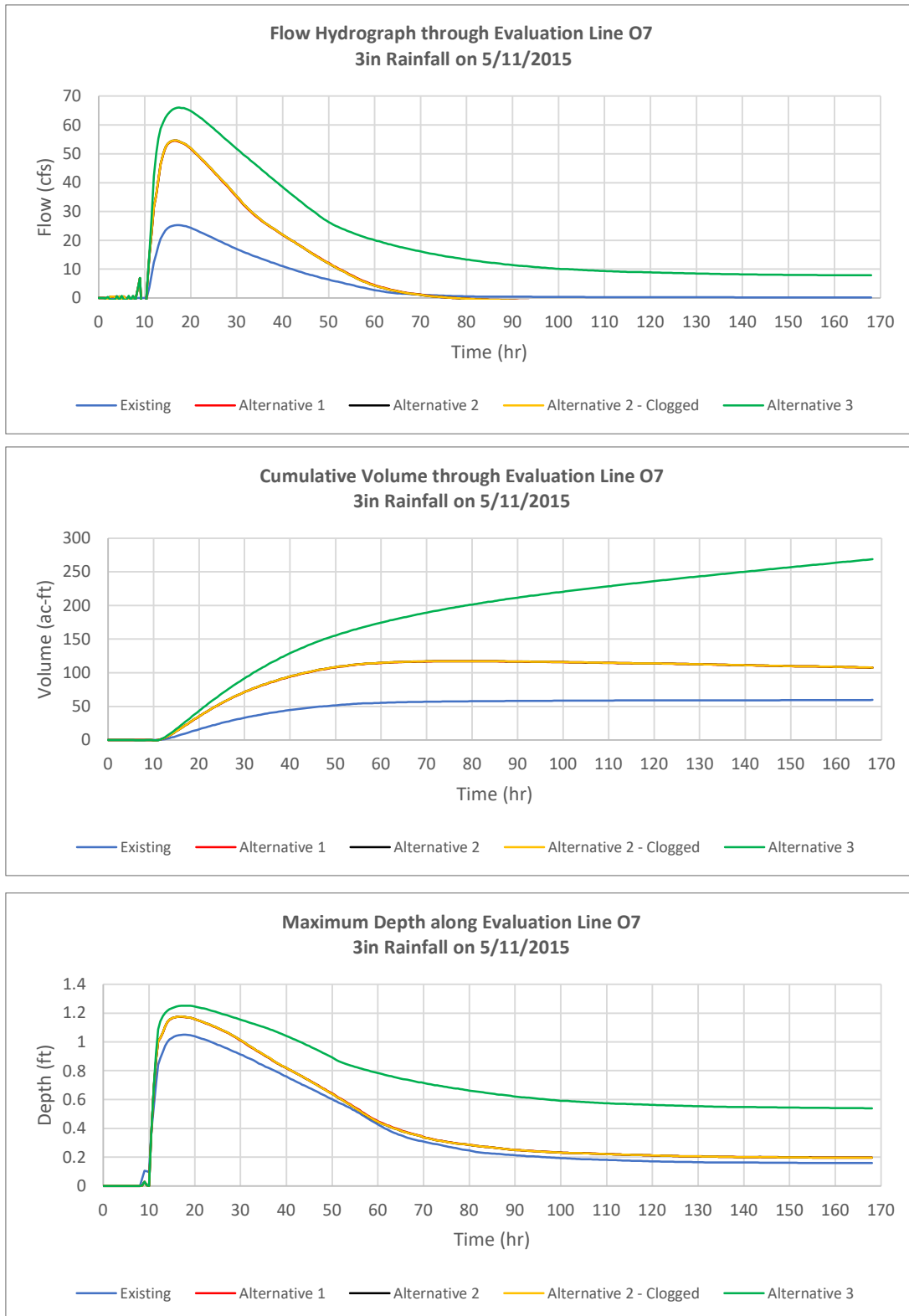
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Figure A13



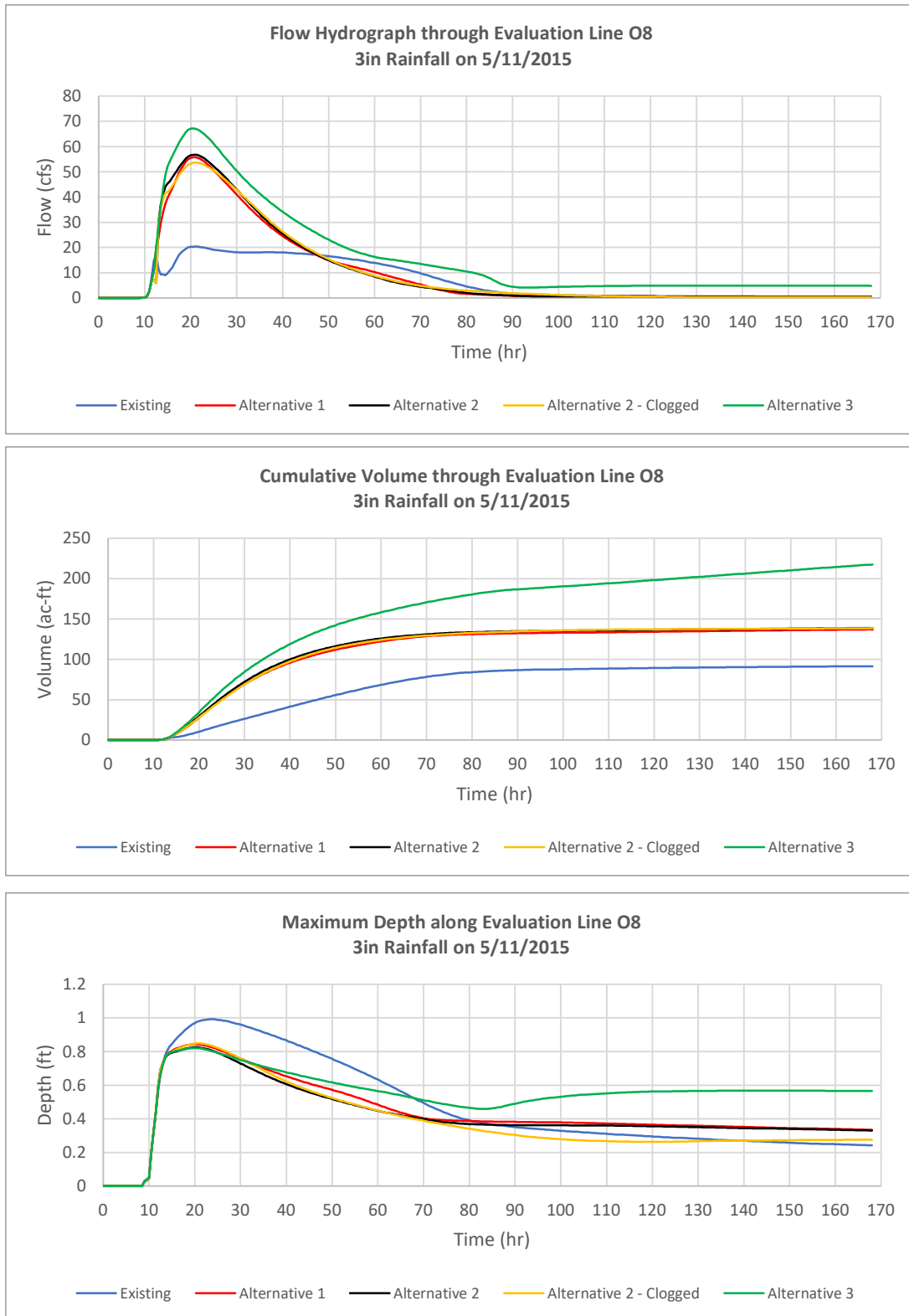
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Figure A14



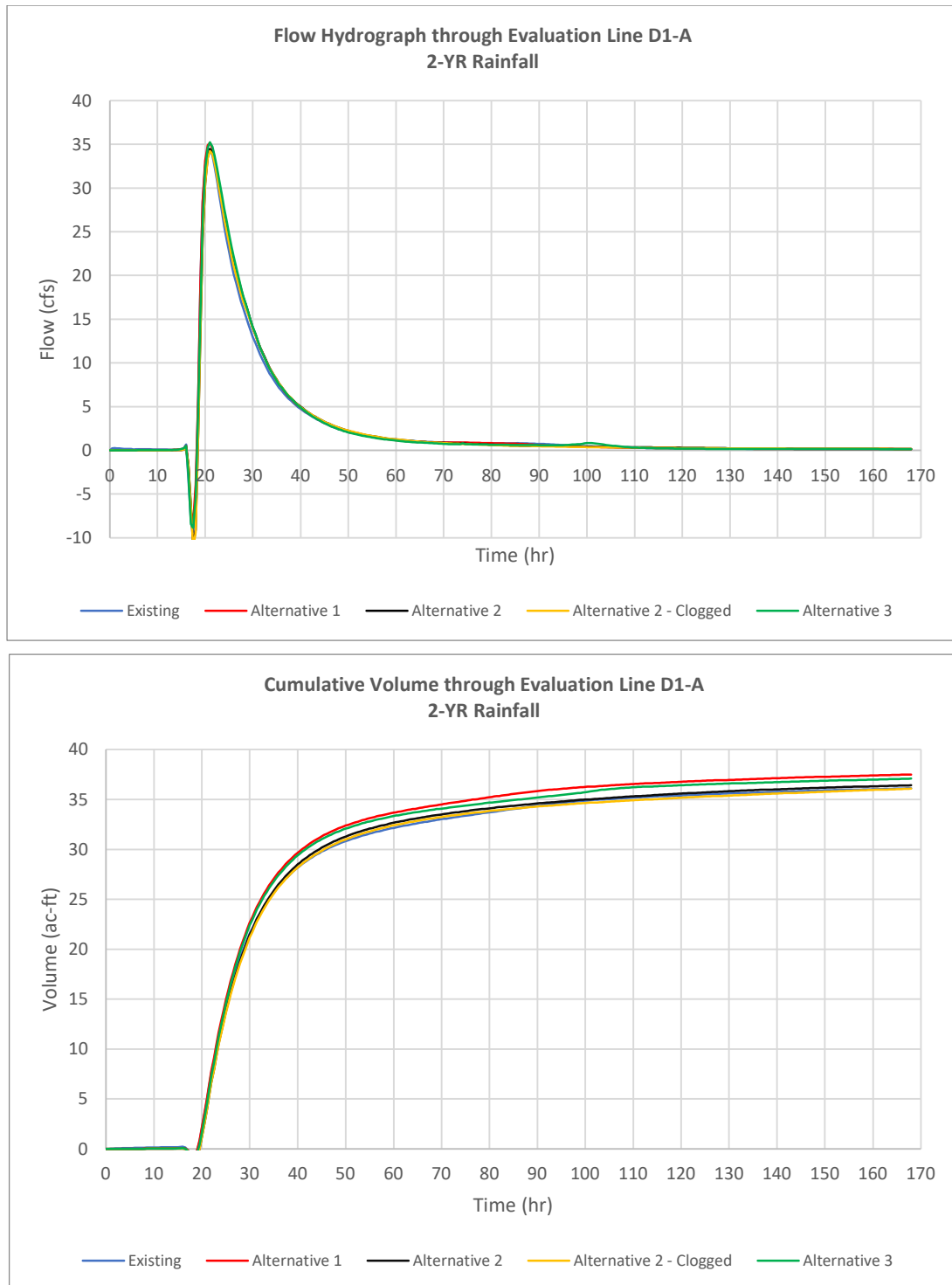
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Figure A15



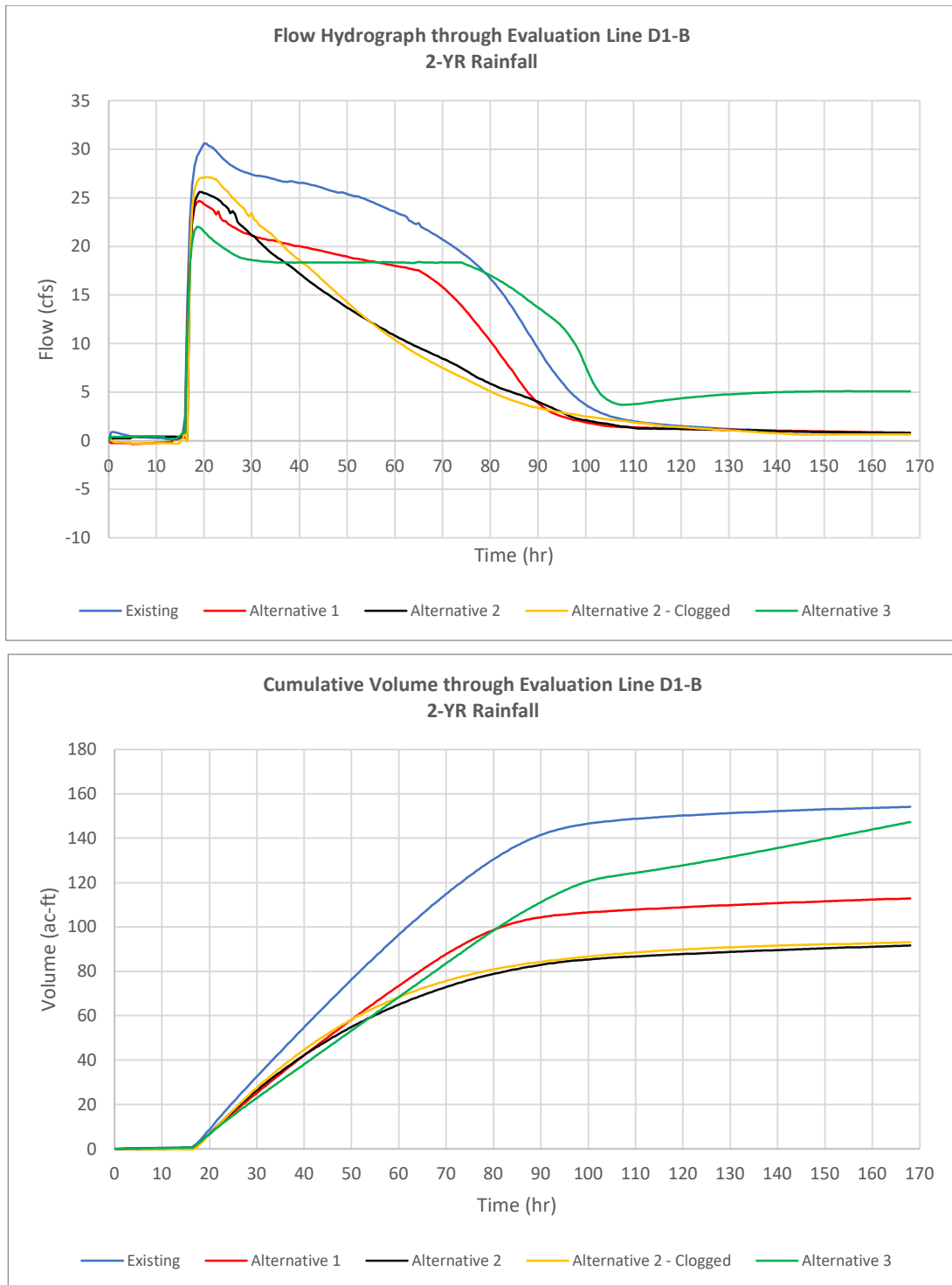
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A16



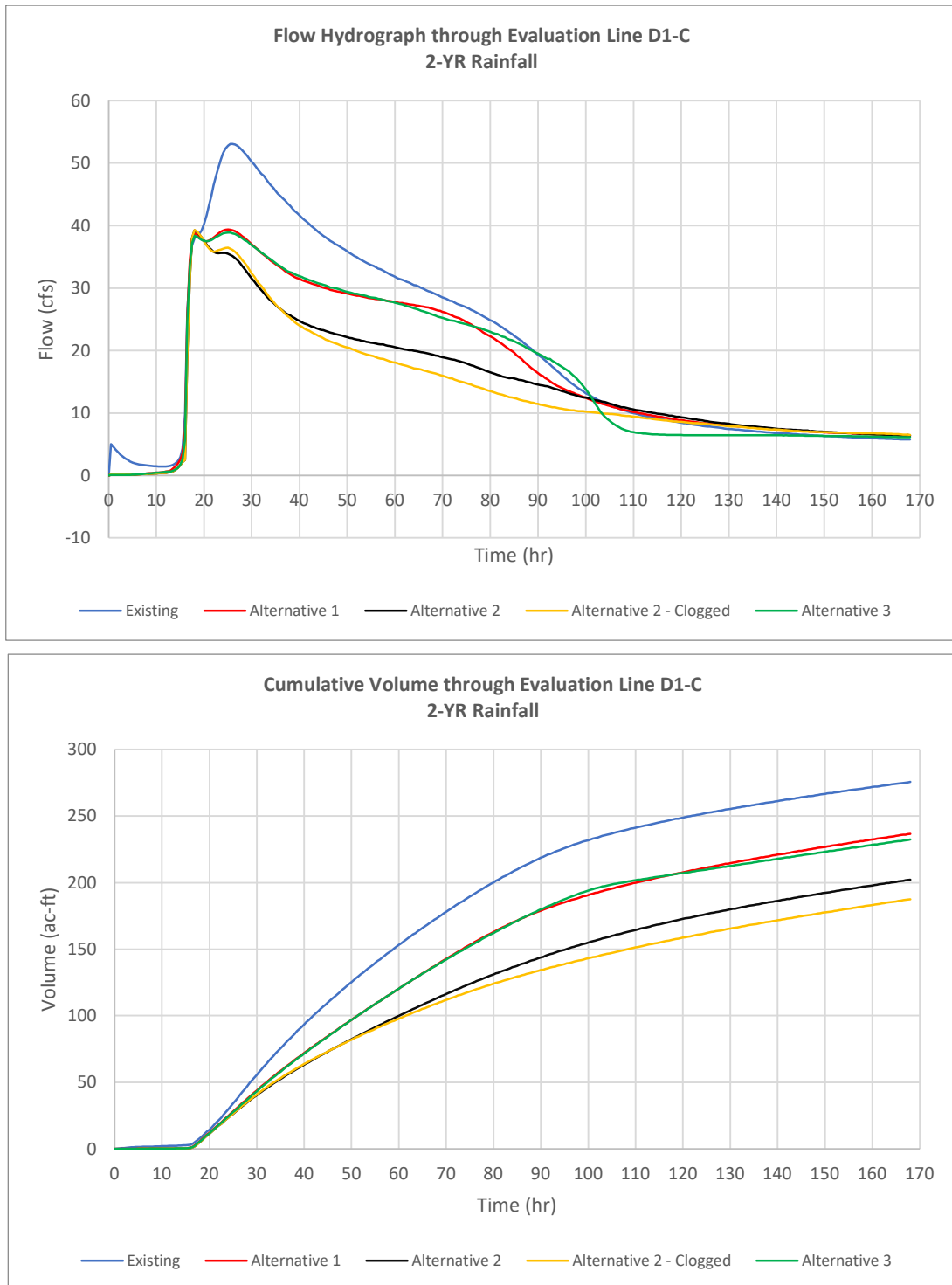
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Figure A17



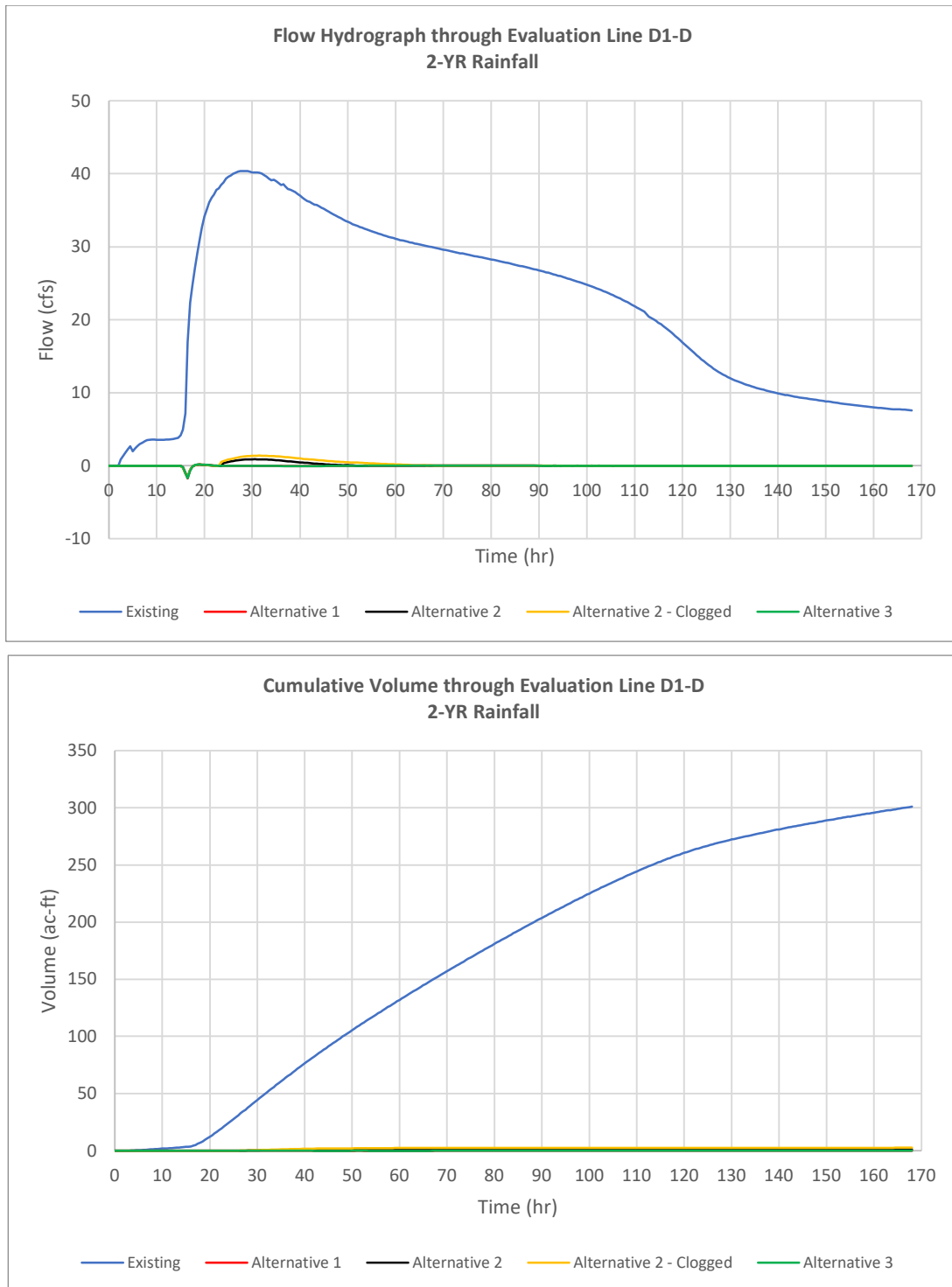
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Figure A18



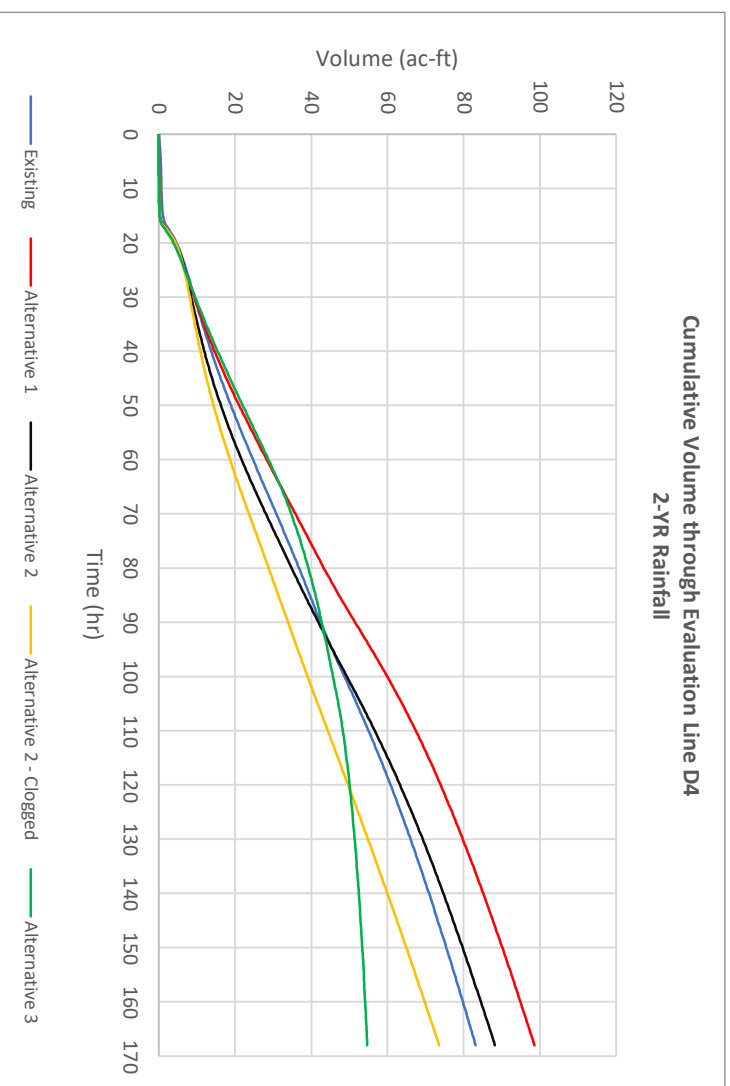
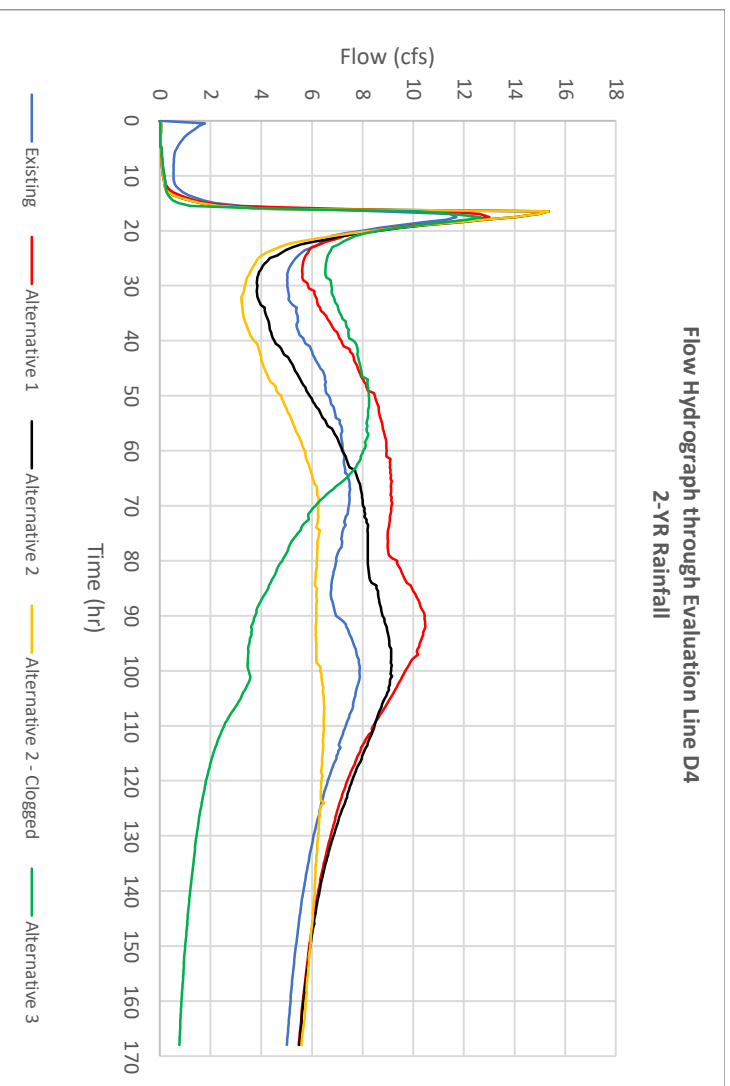
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A19



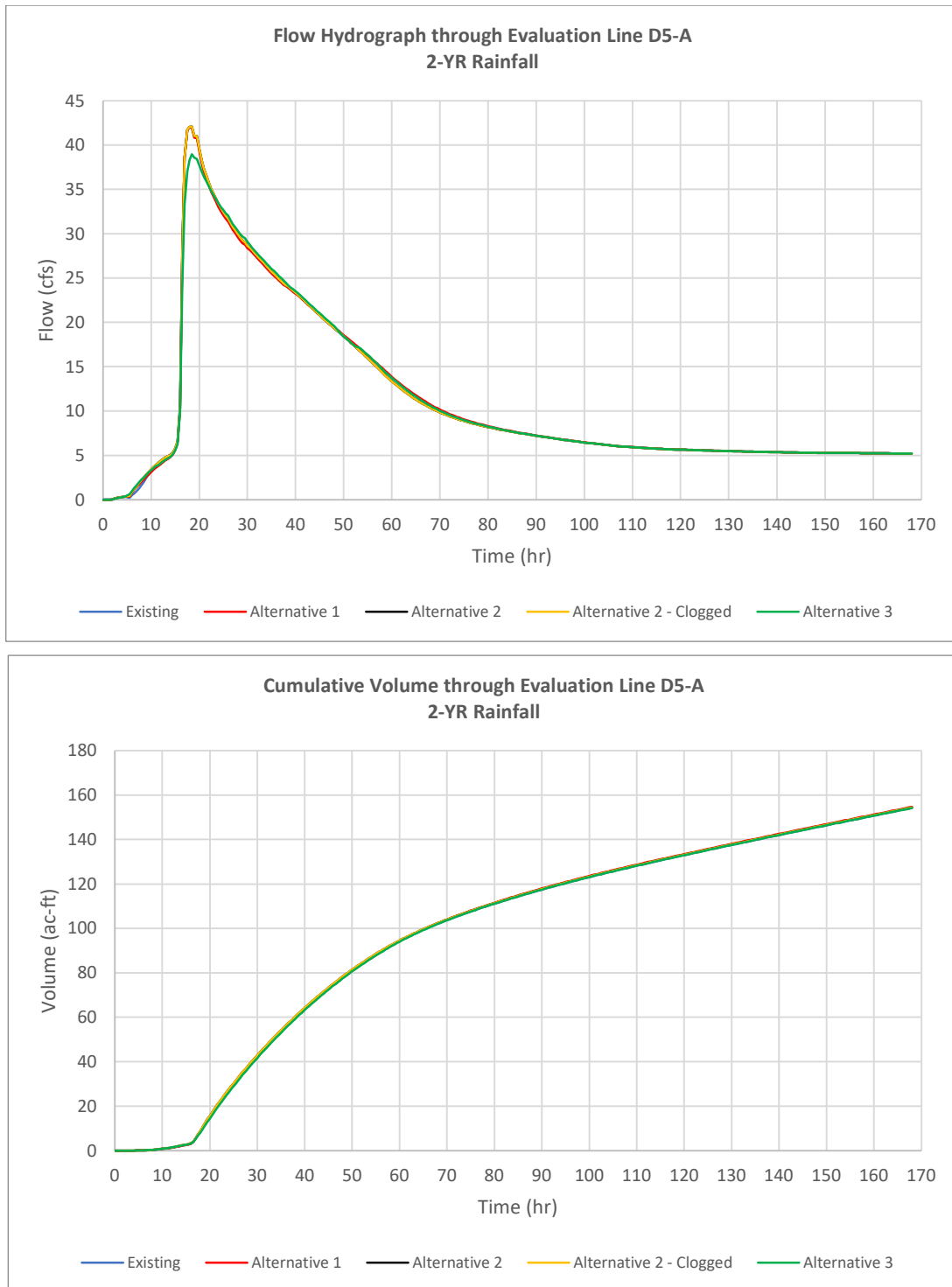
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Figure A20



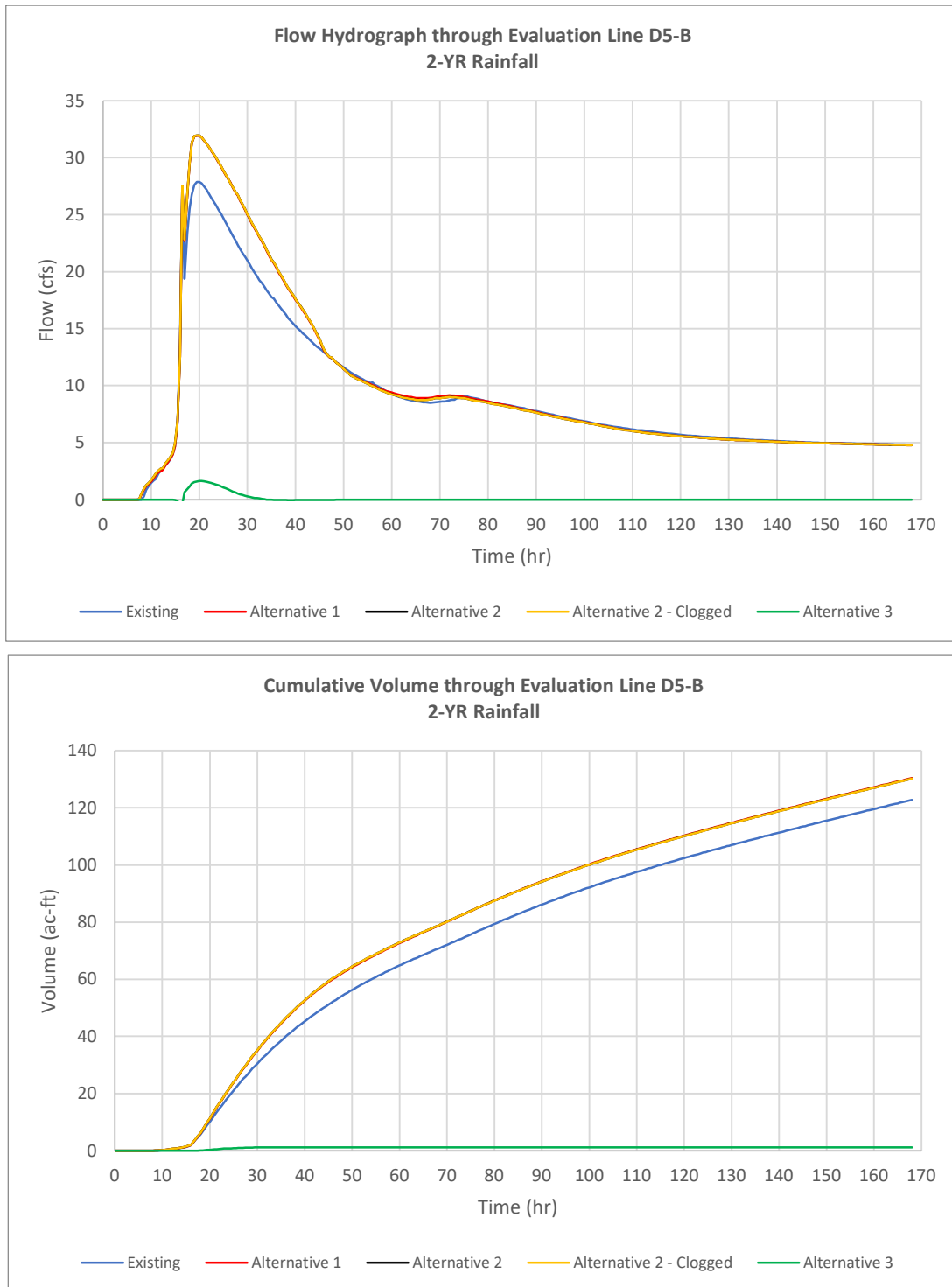
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A21



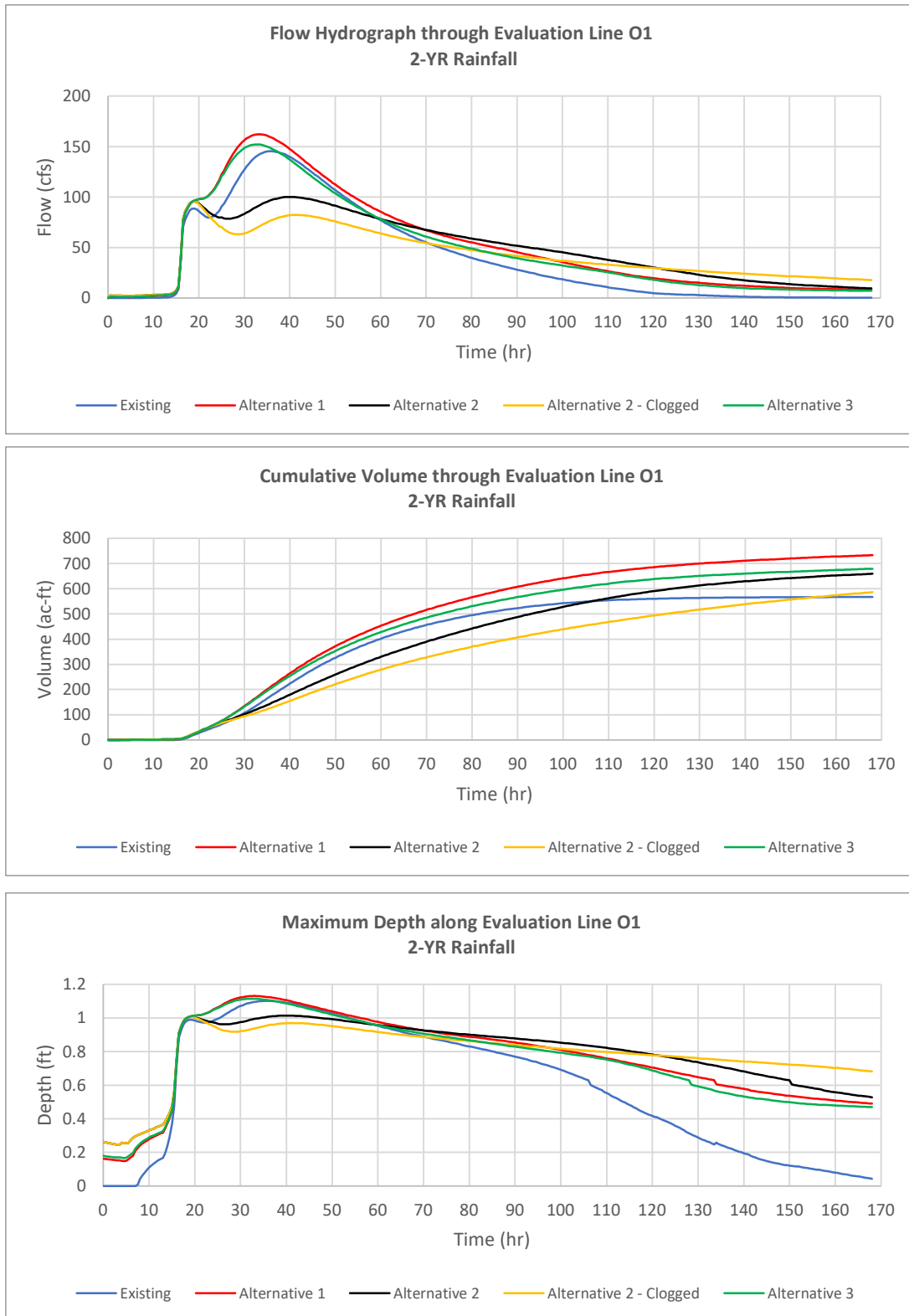
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A22



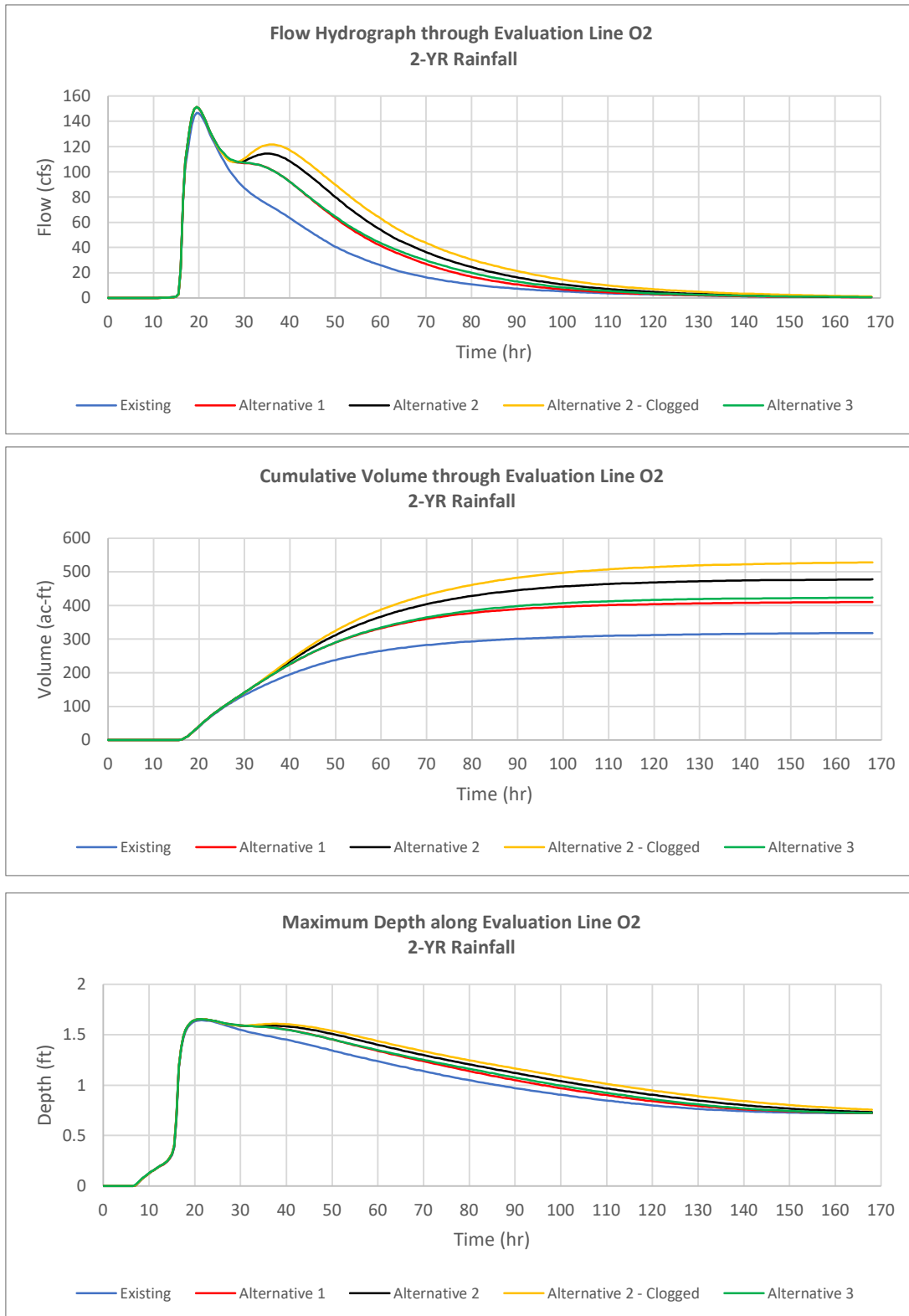
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A23



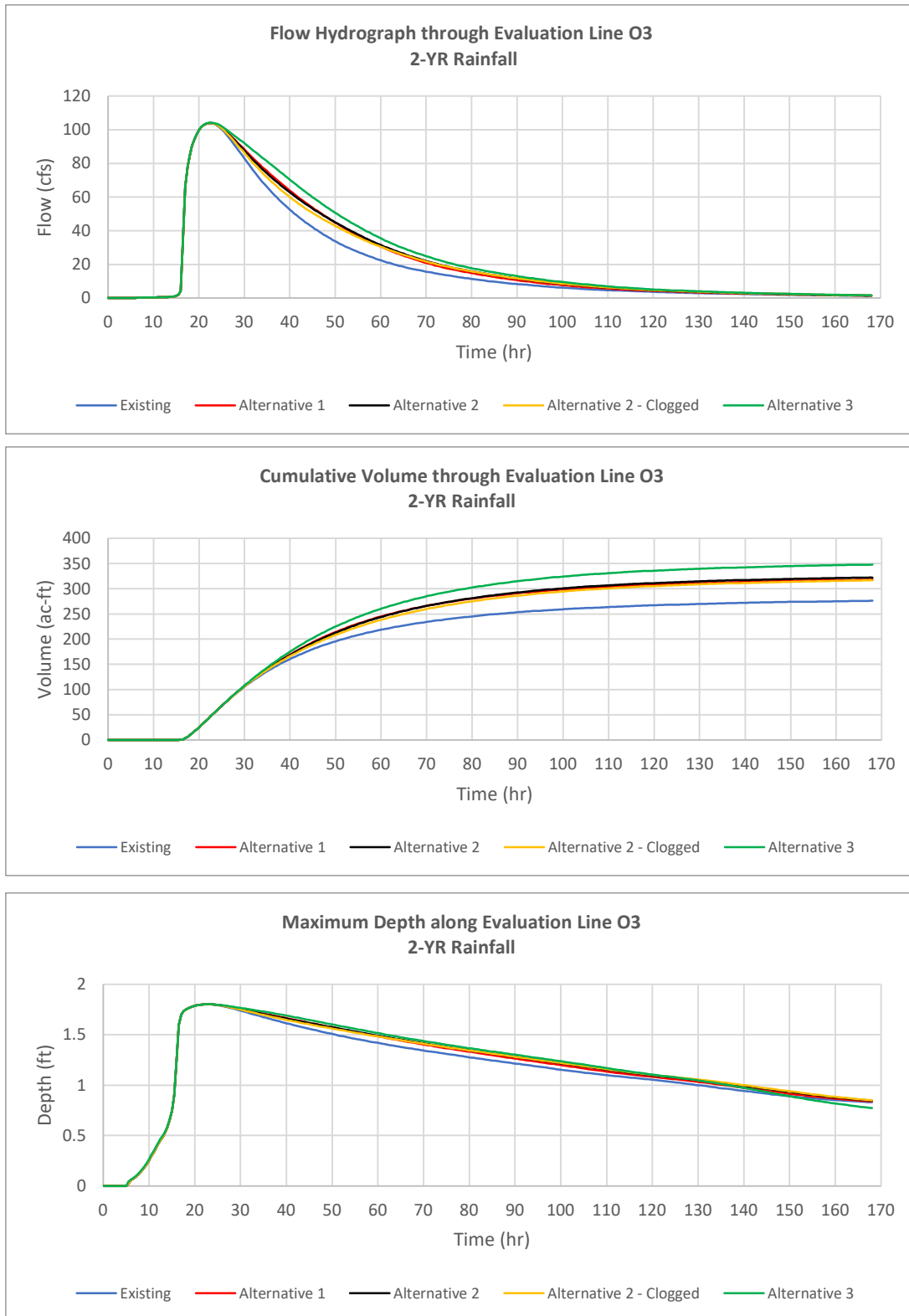
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A24



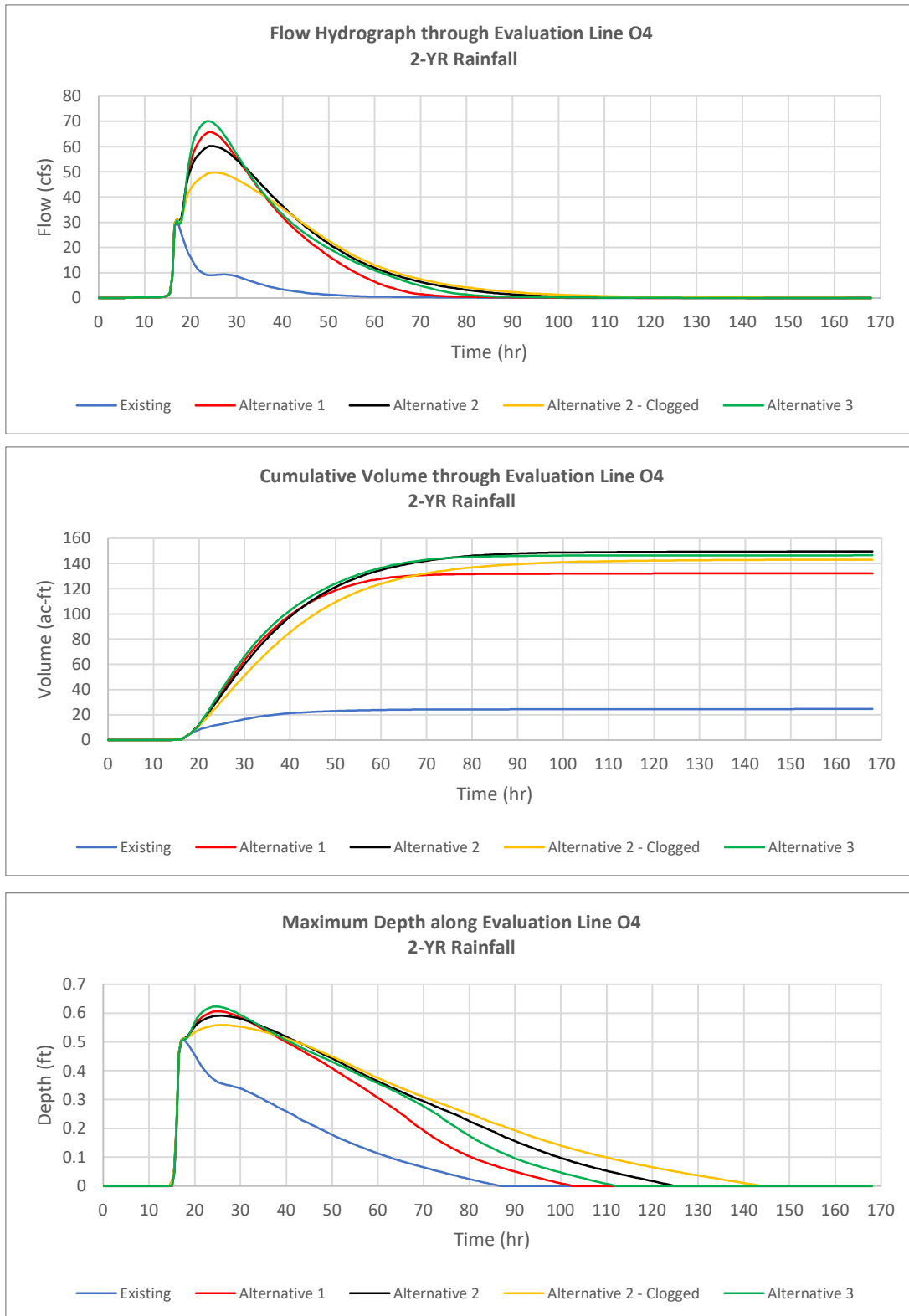
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A25



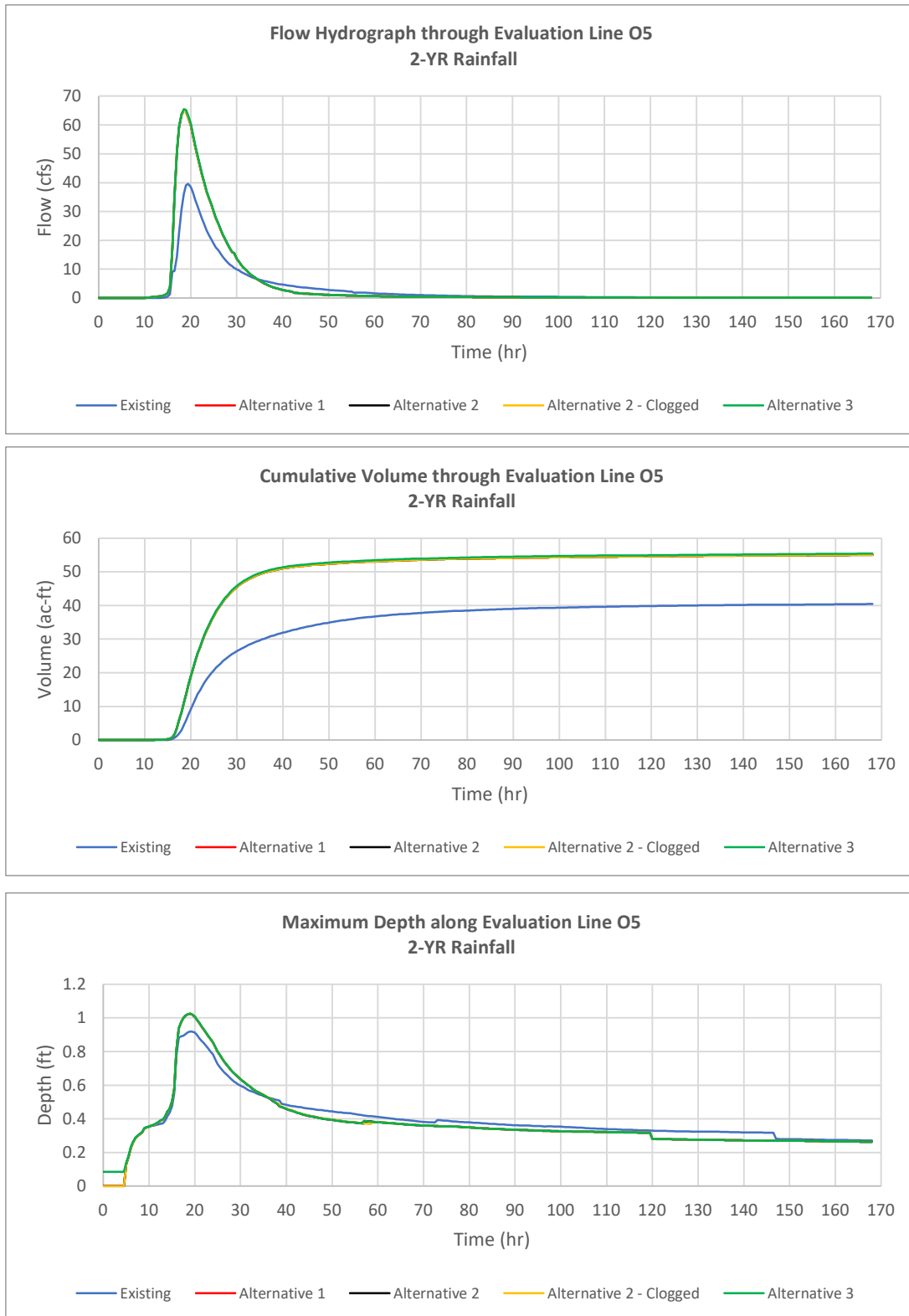
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A26



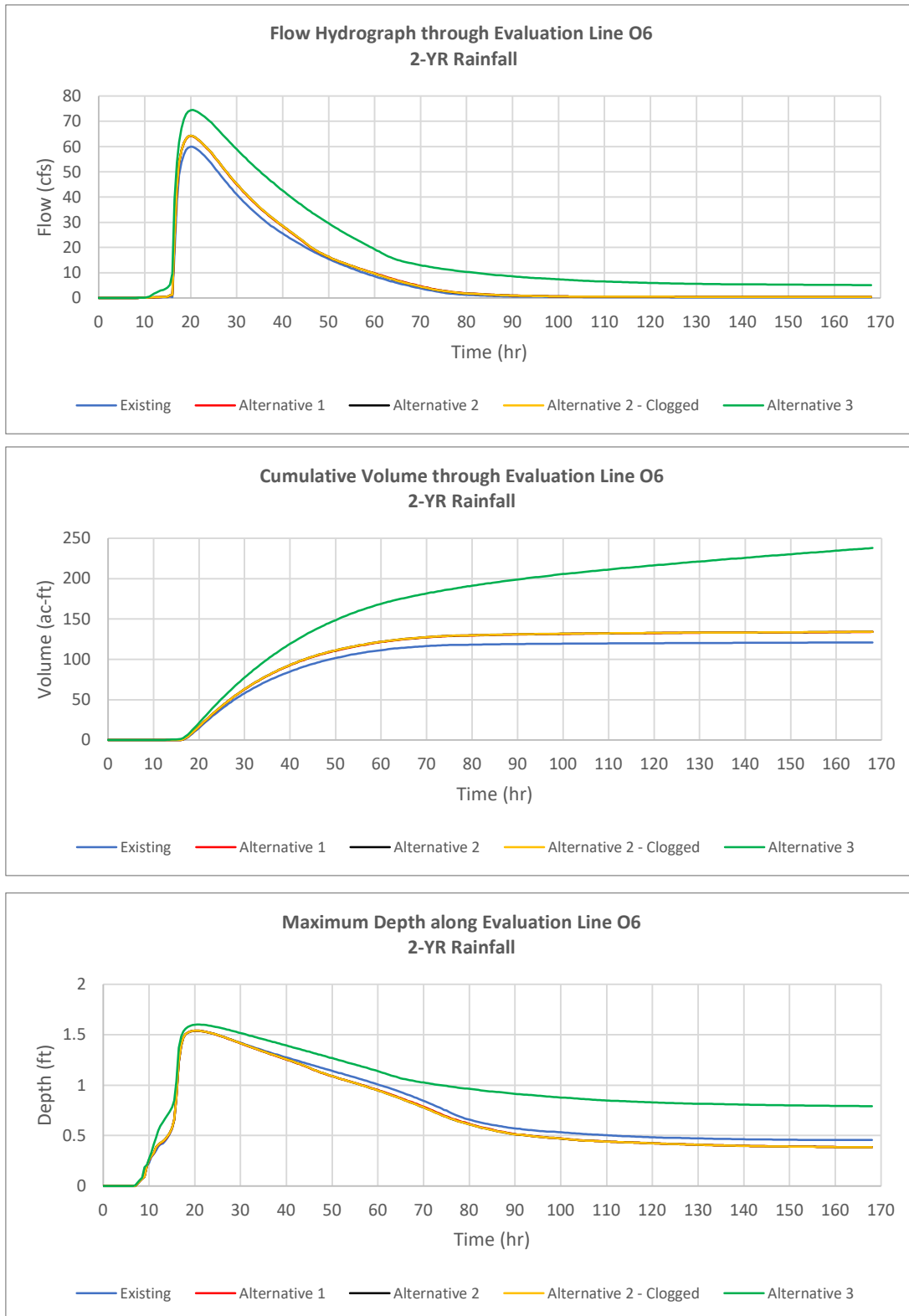
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A27



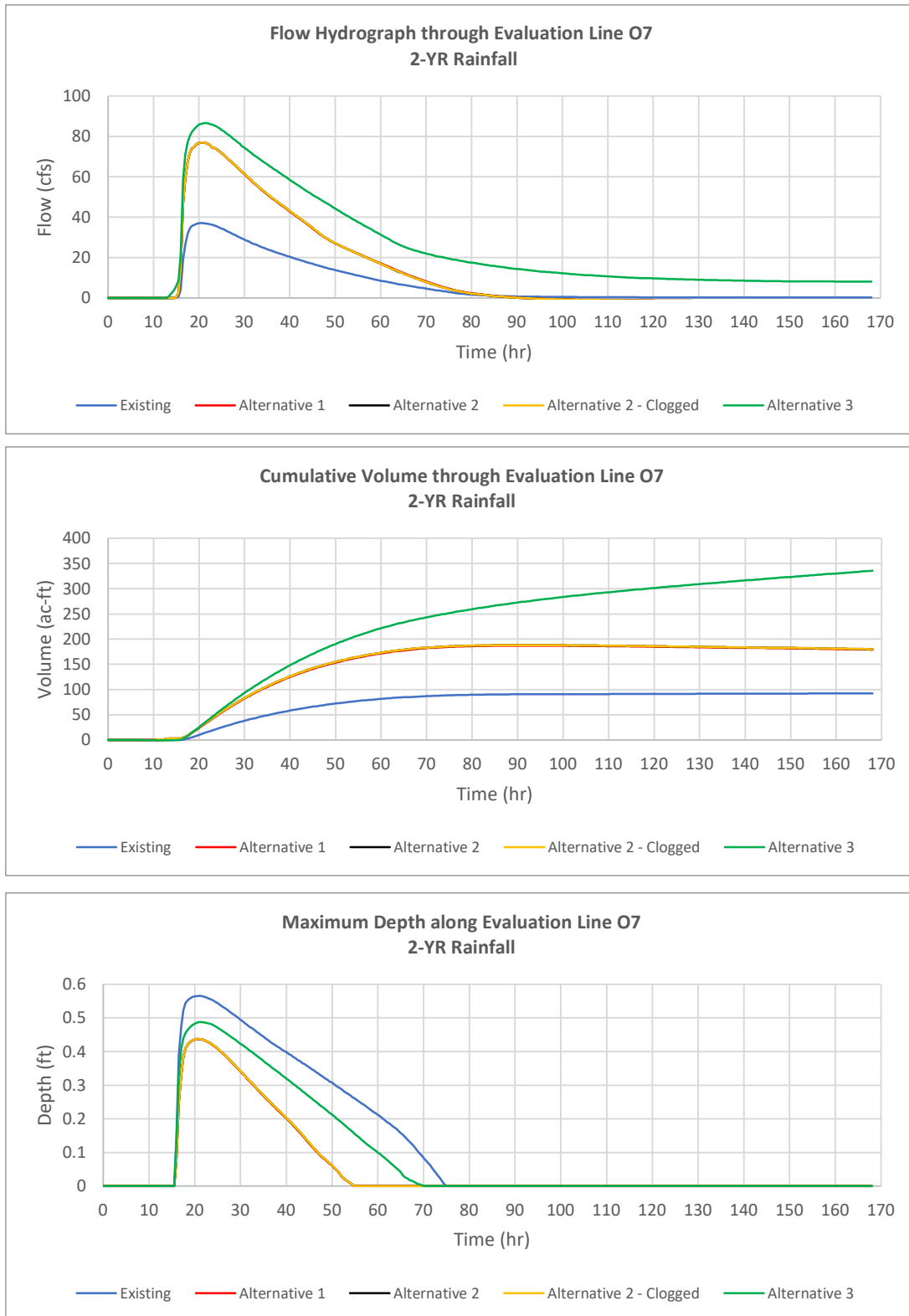
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A28



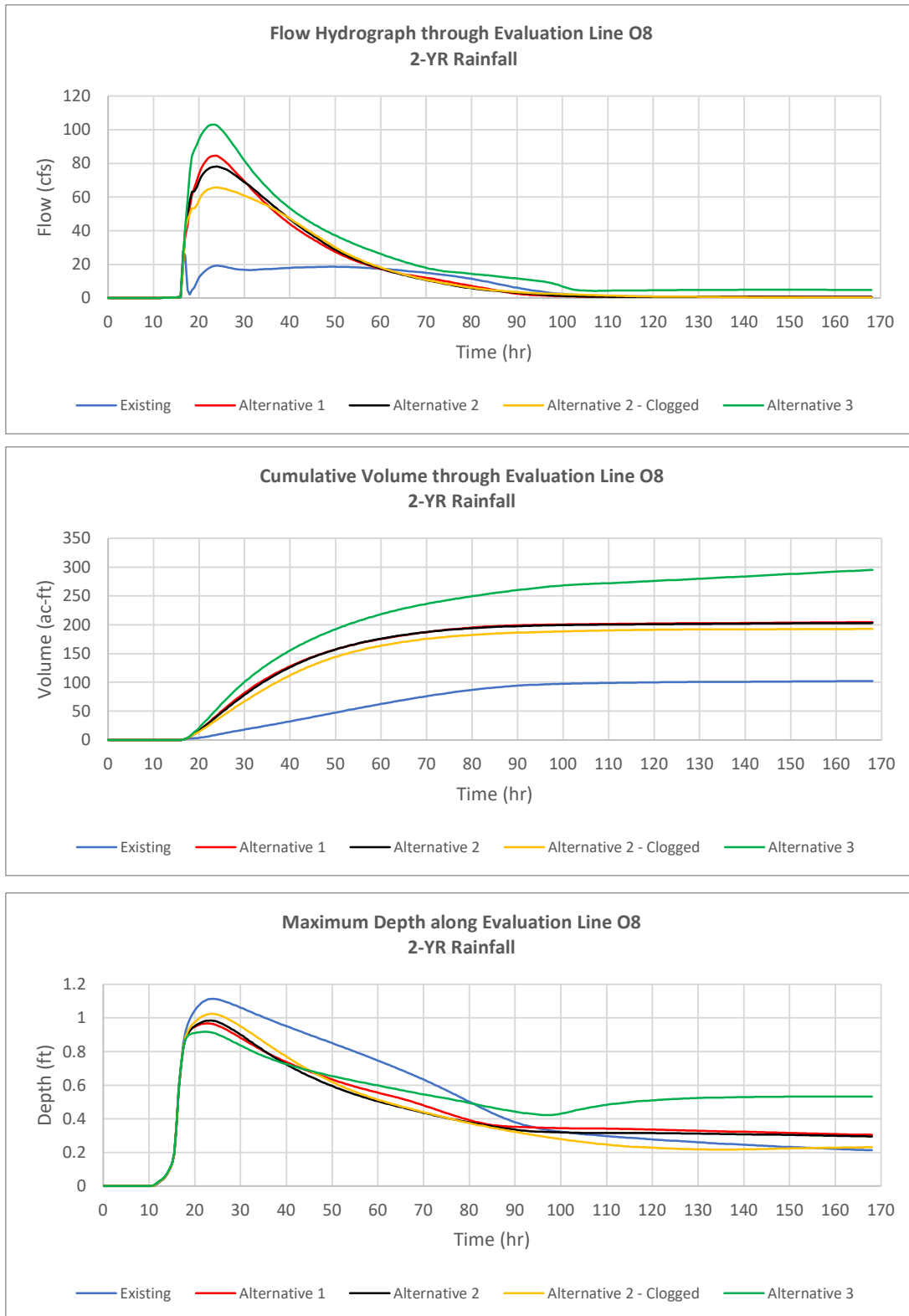
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A29



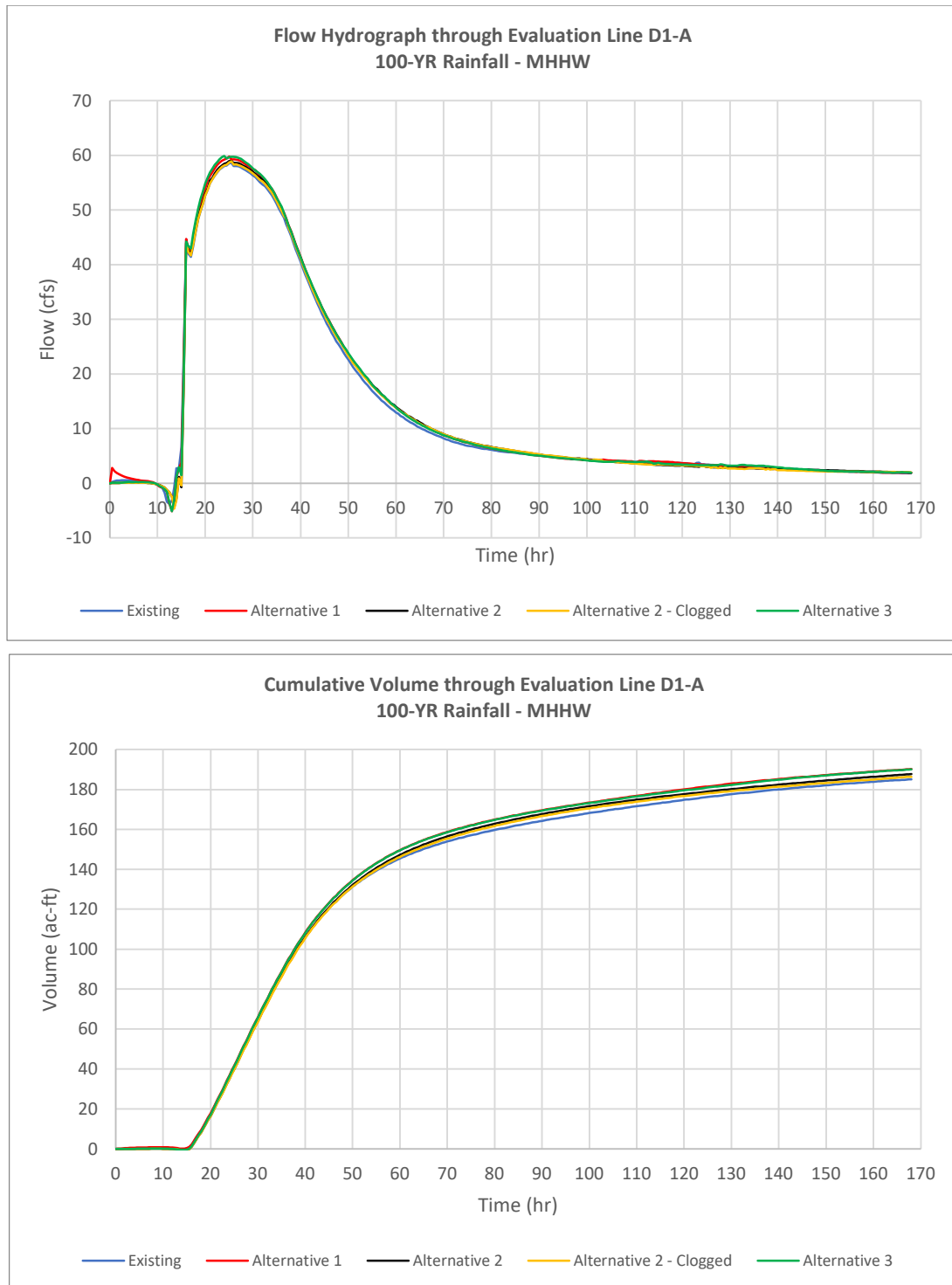
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A30



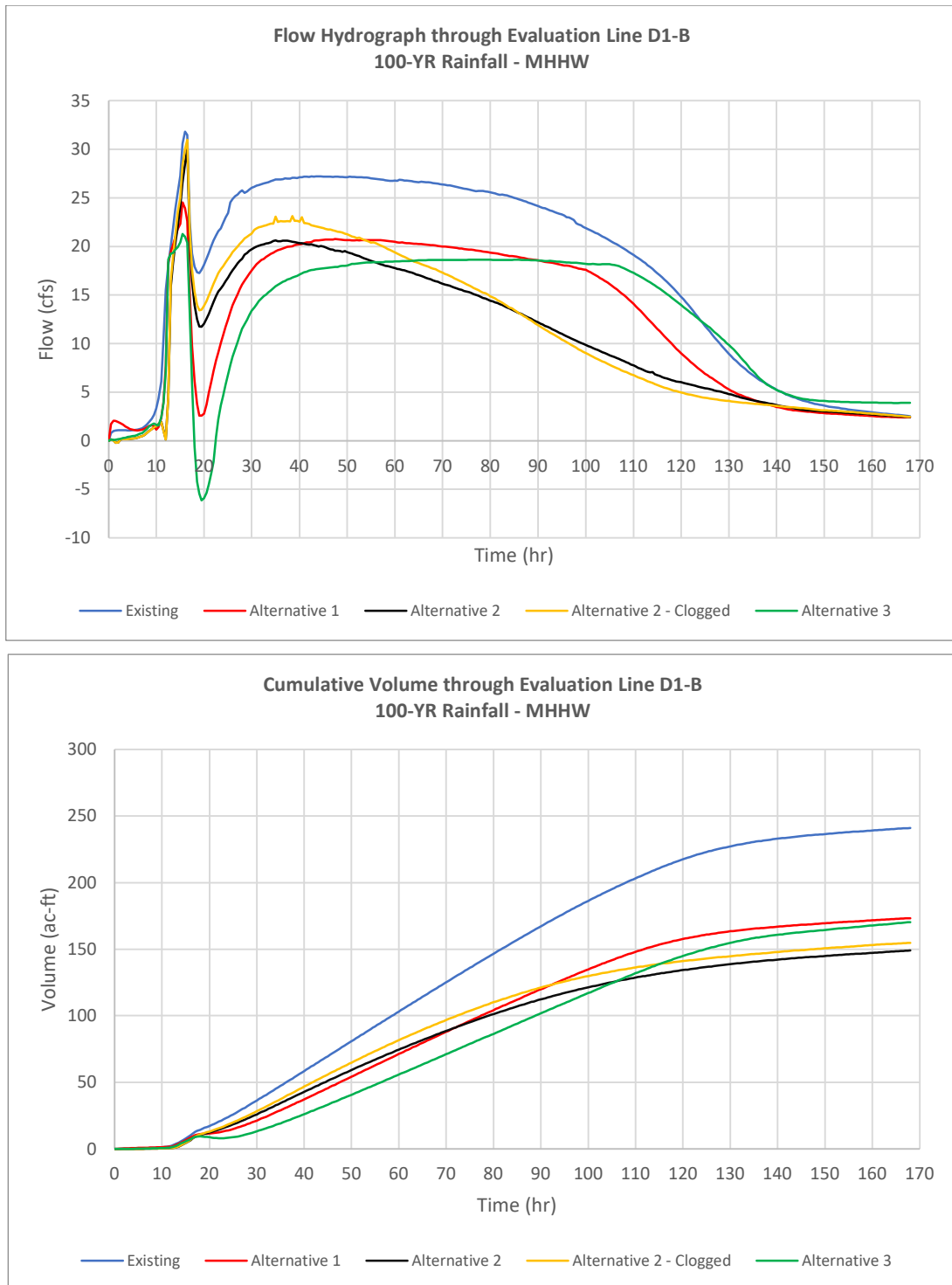
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A31



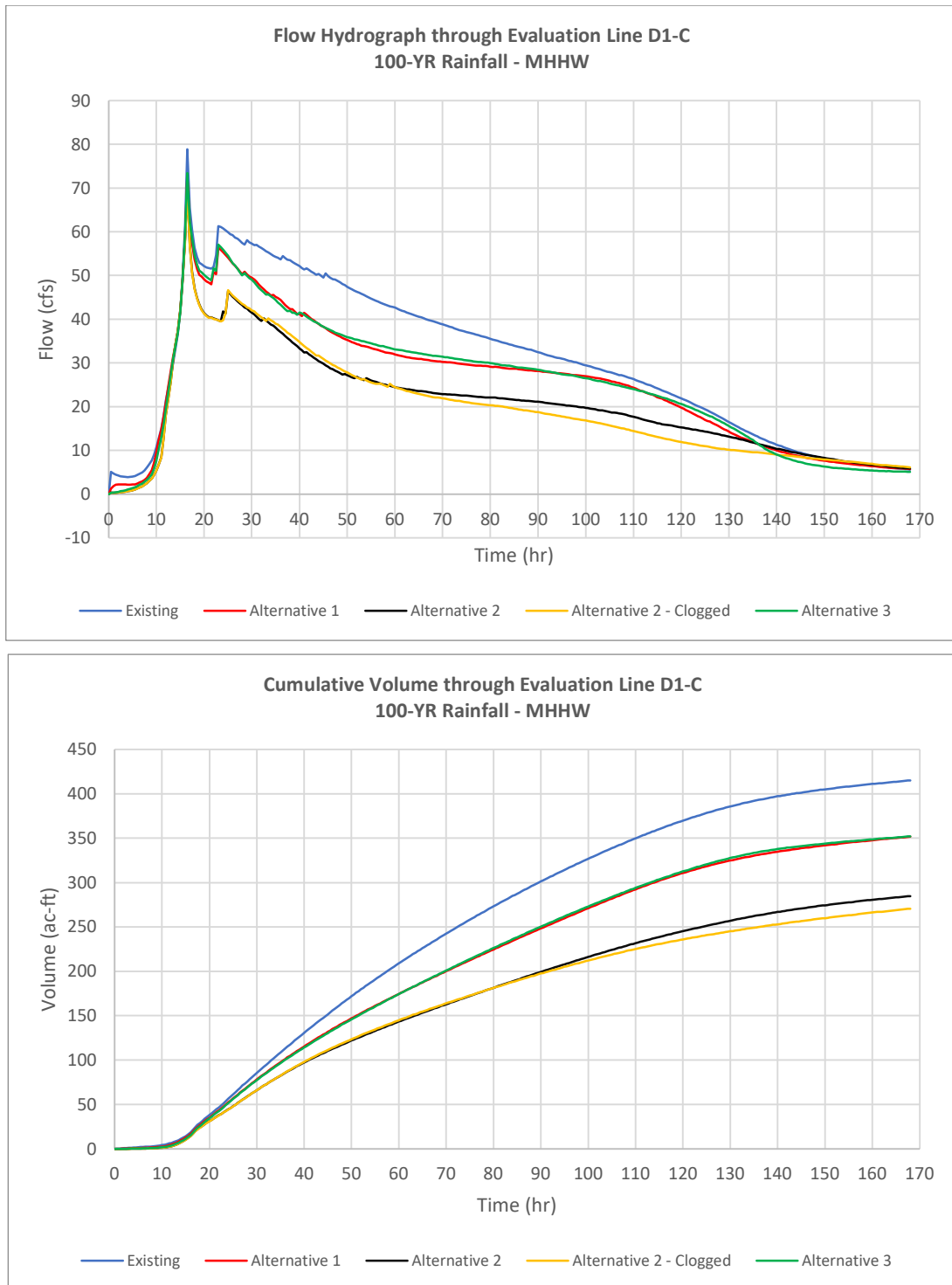
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A32



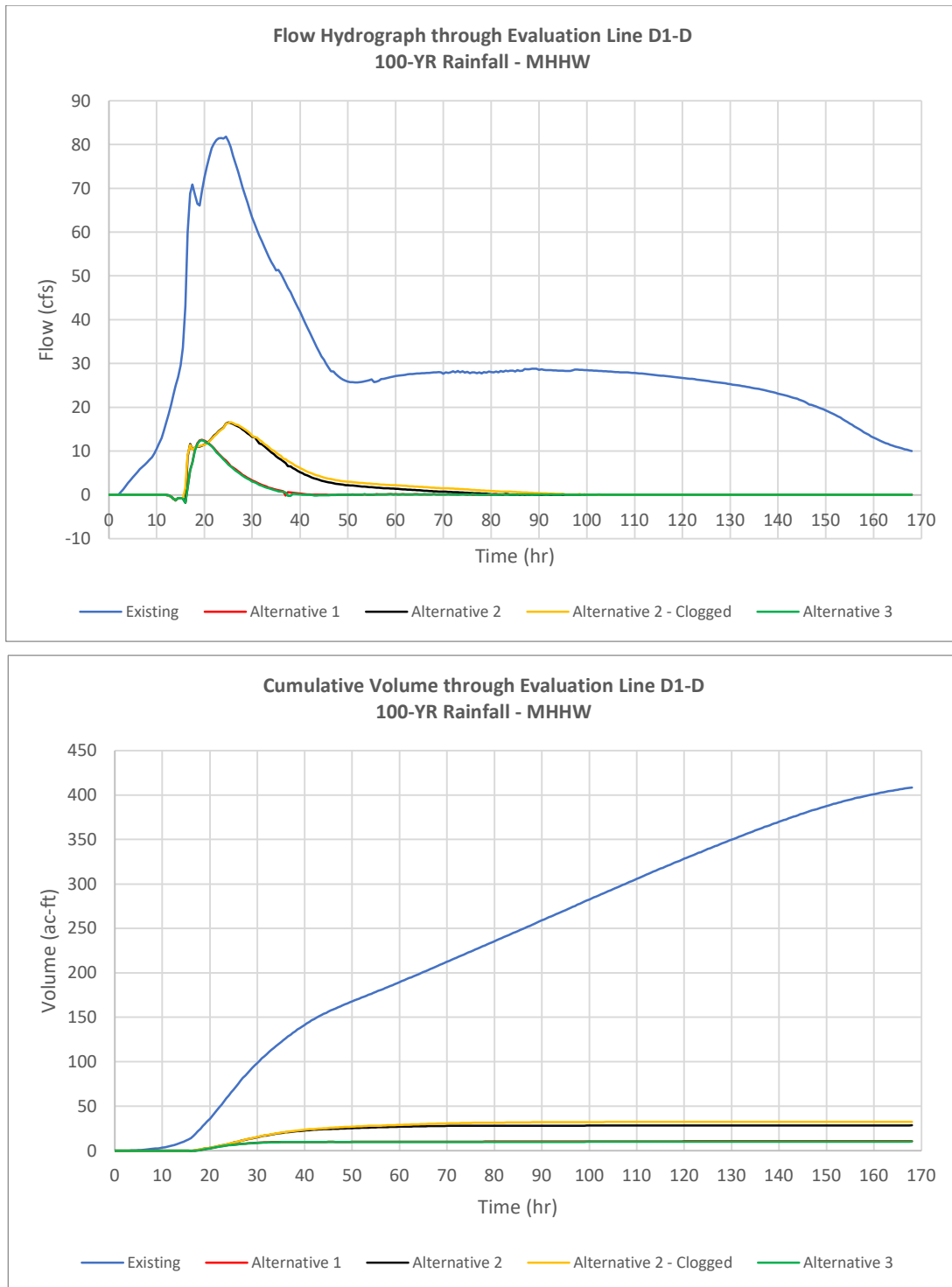
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A33



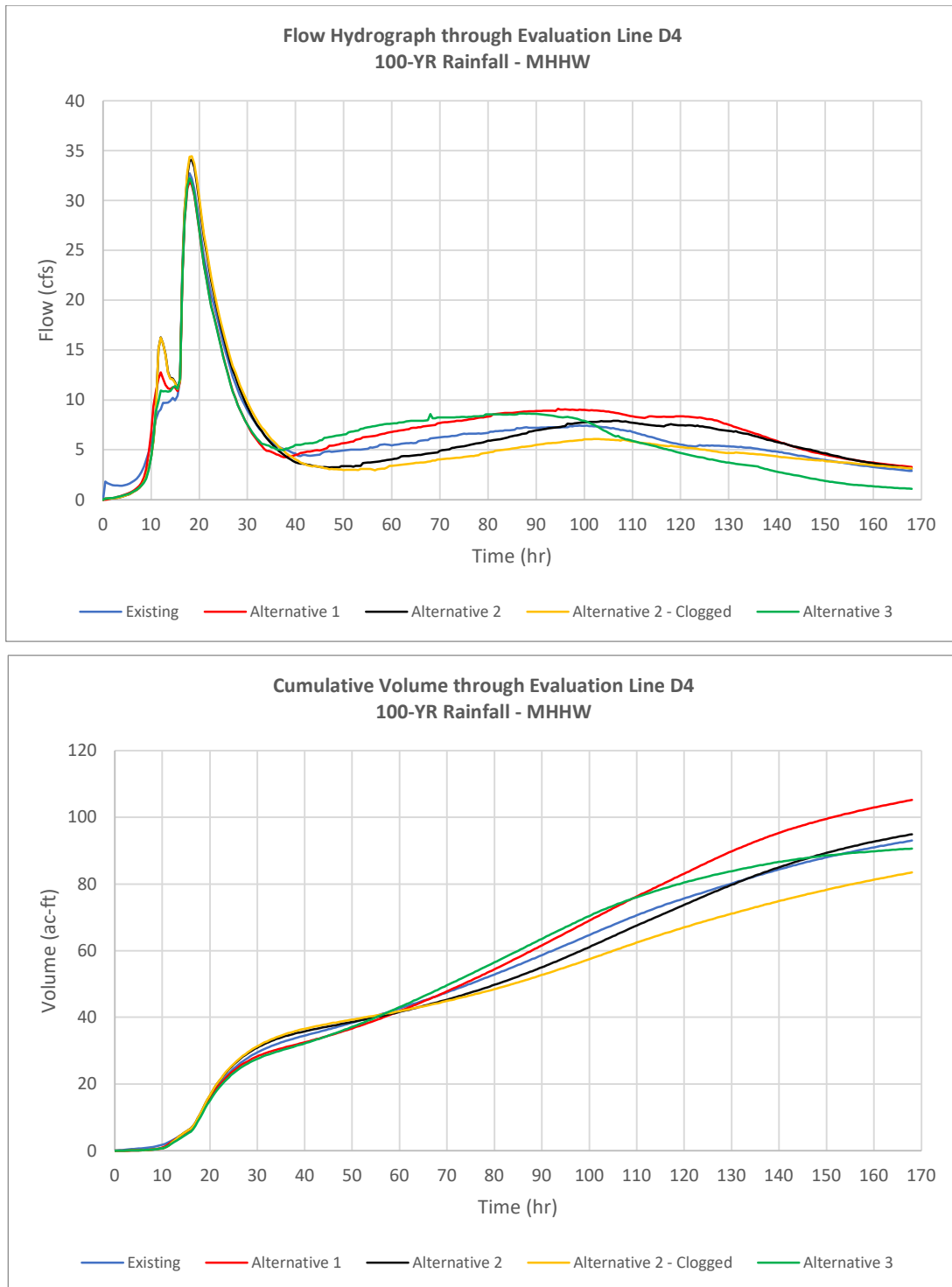
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A34



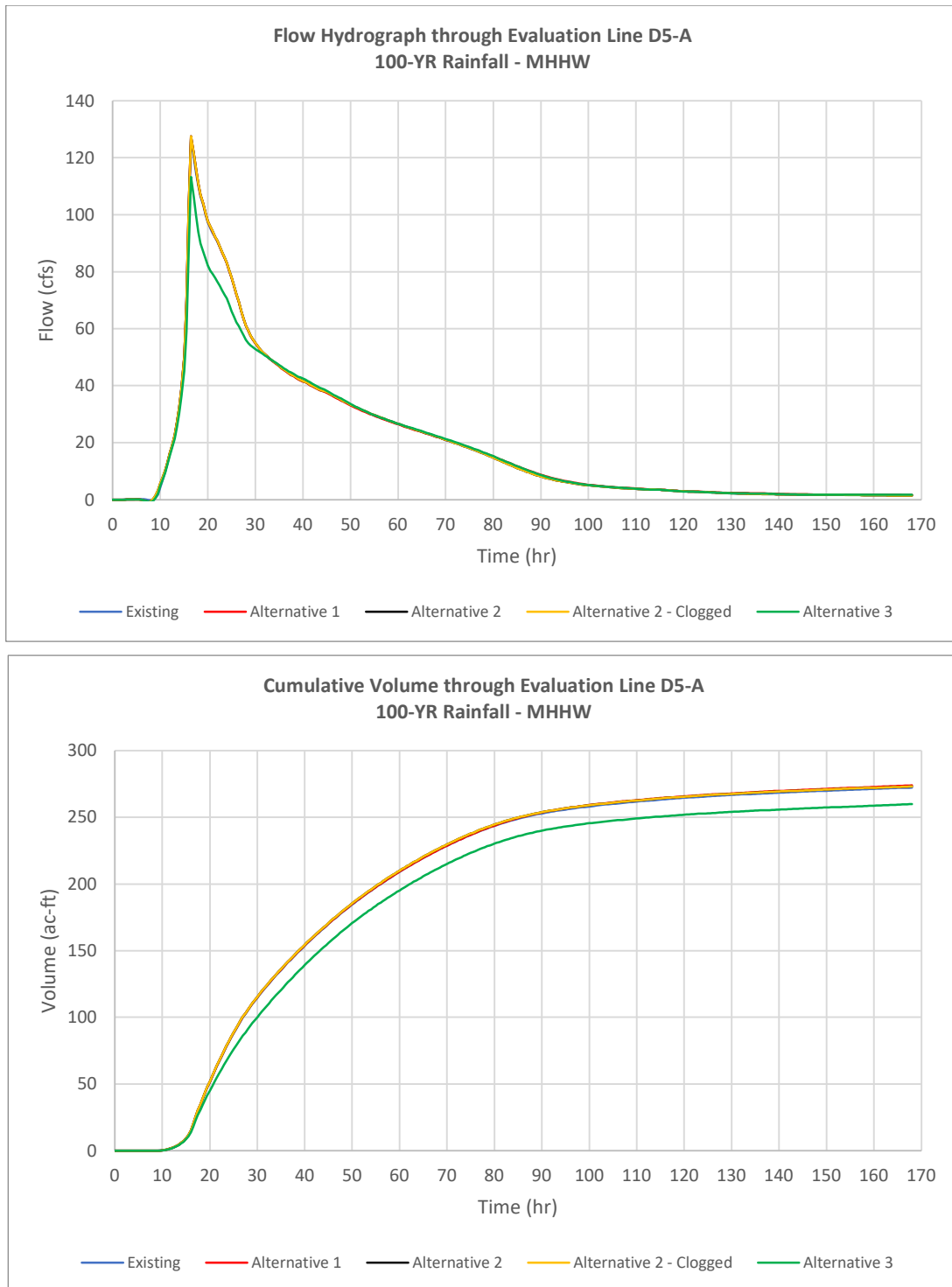
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A35



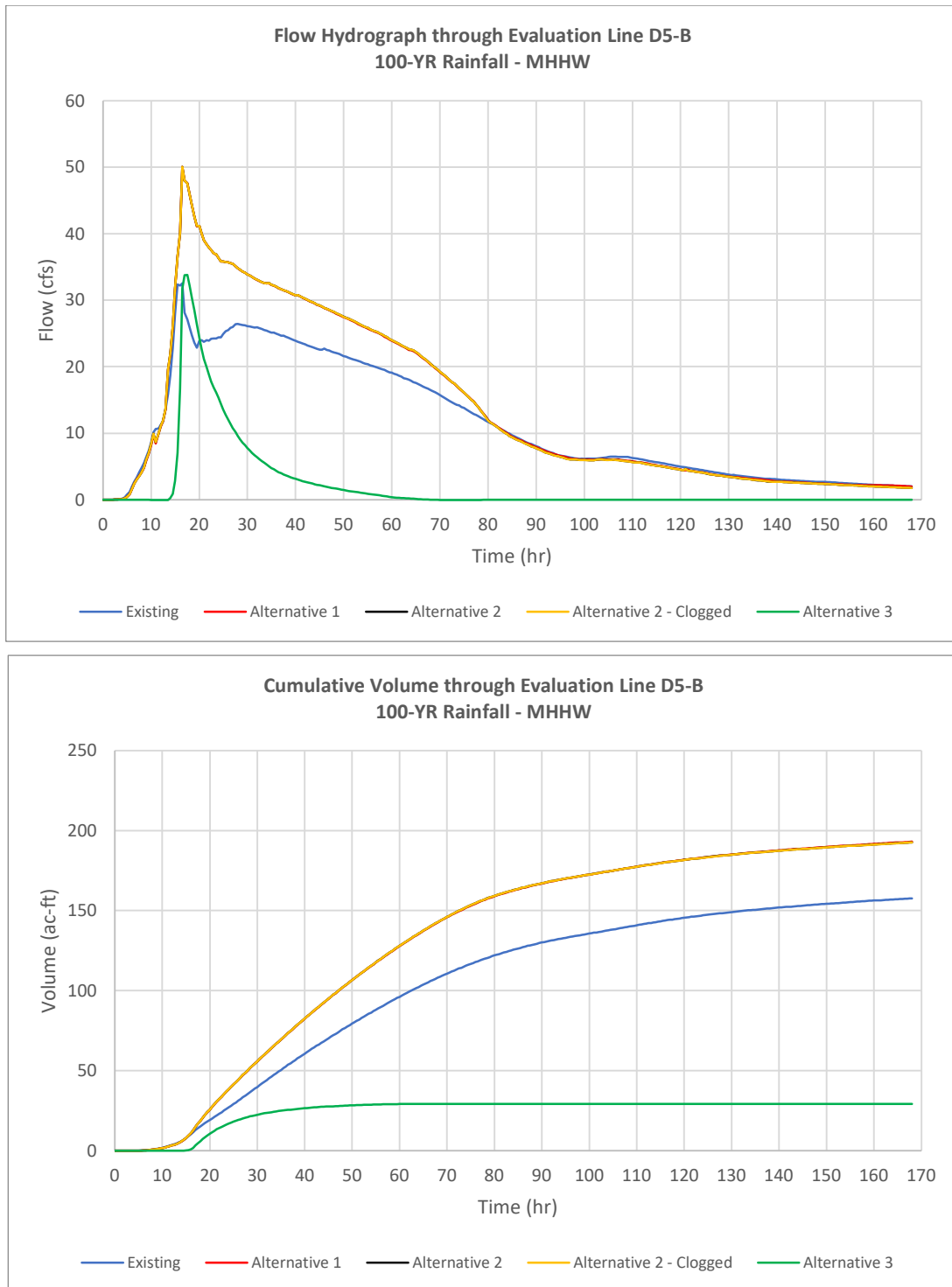
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A36



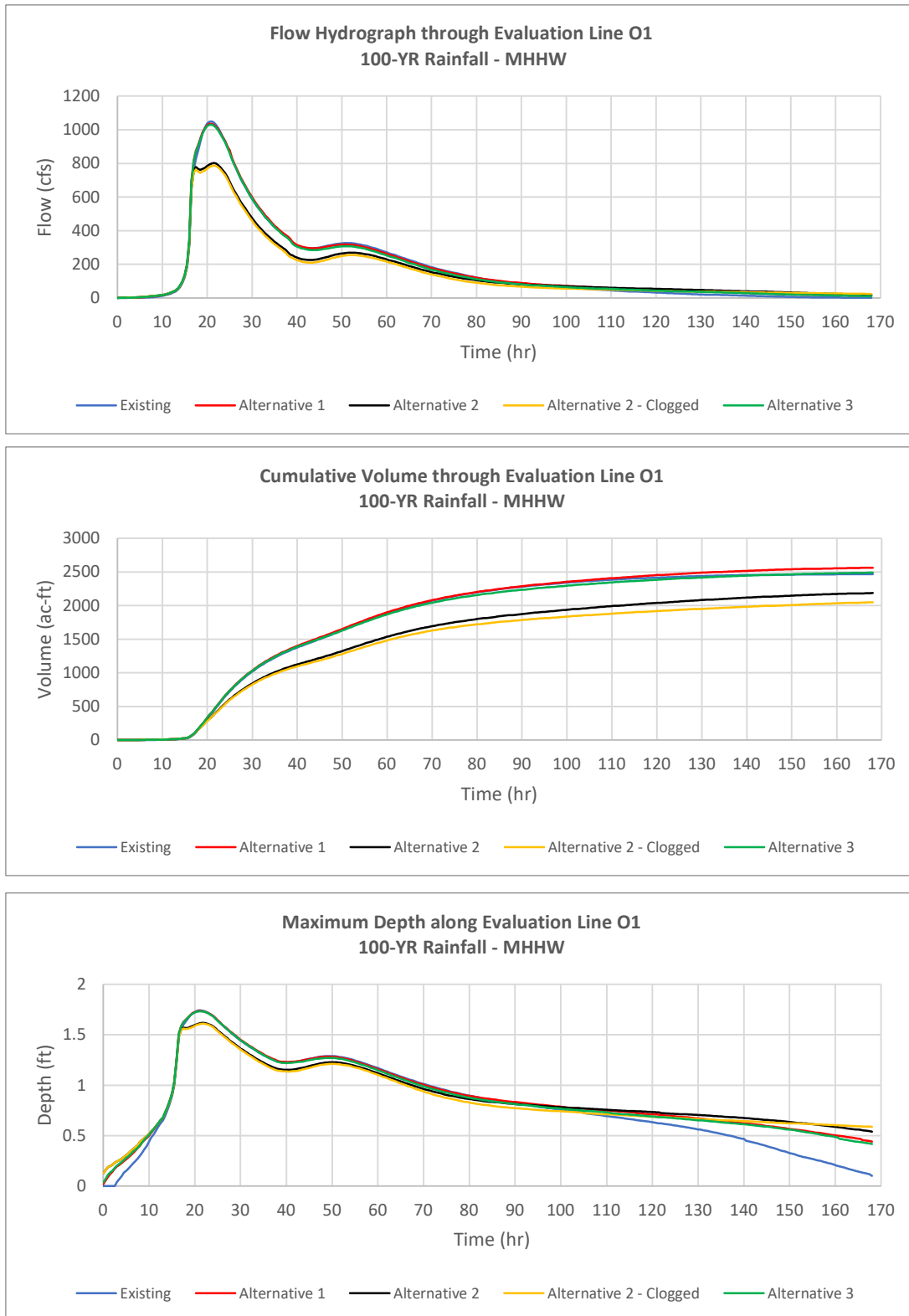
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A37



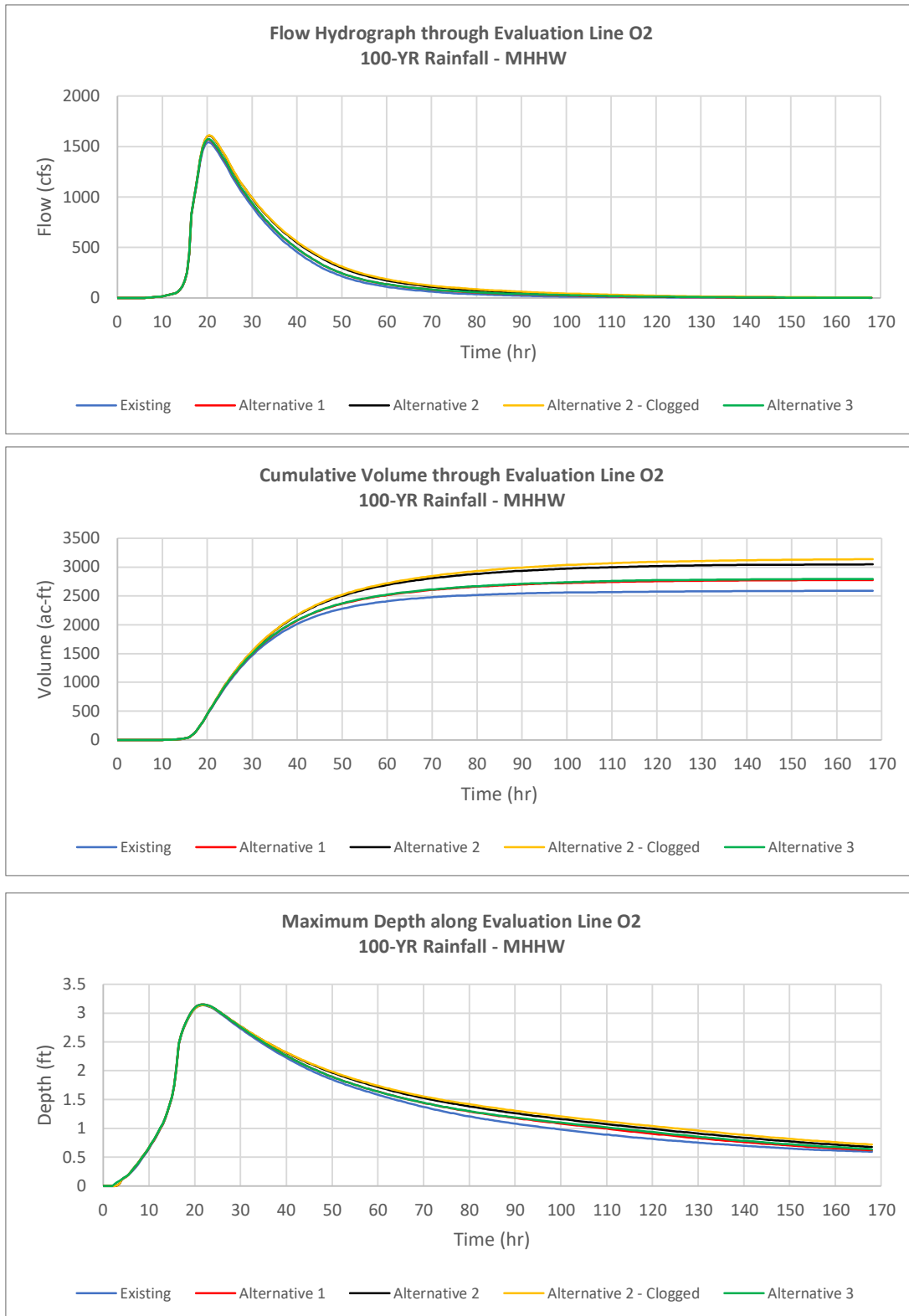
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A38



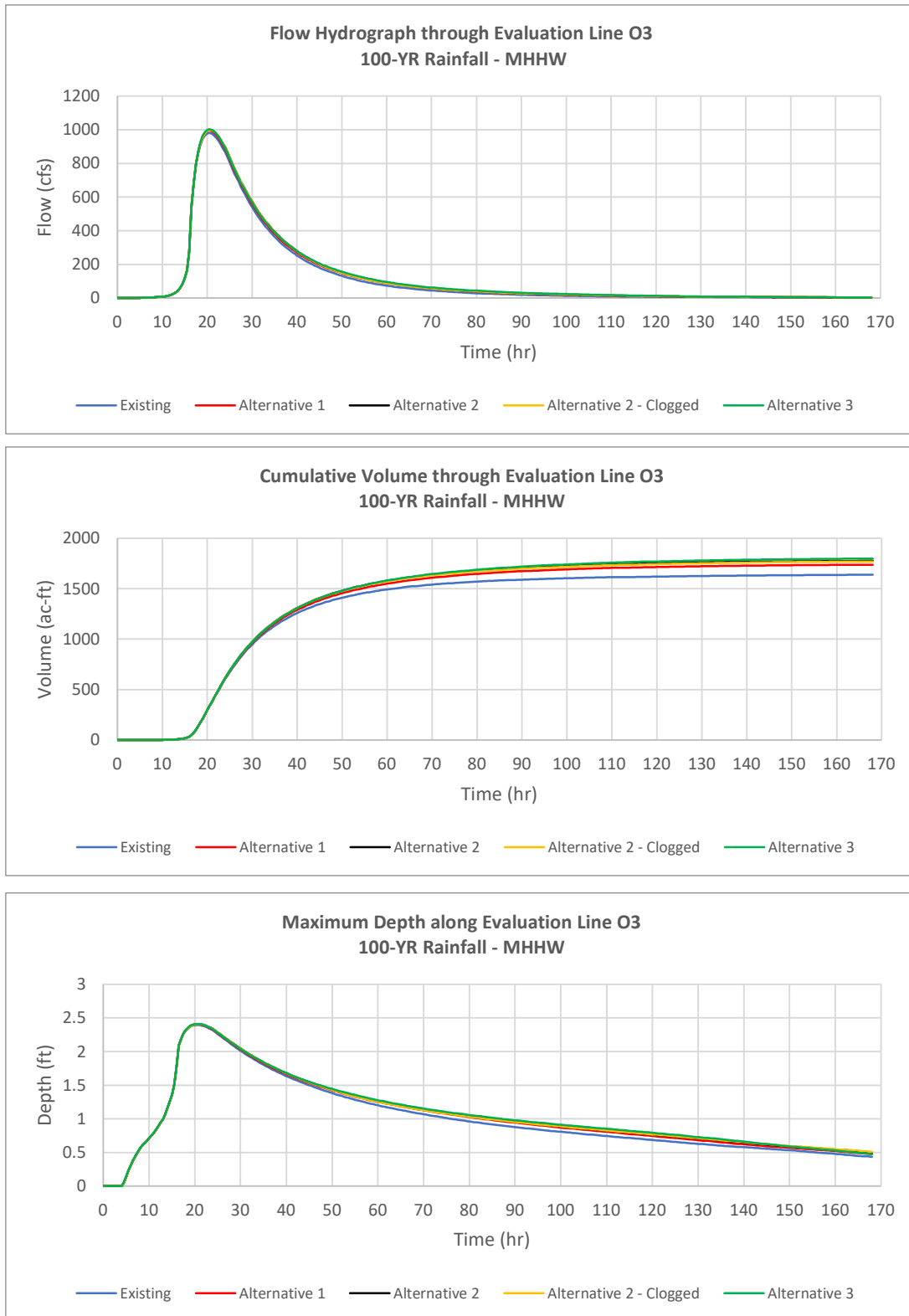
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A39



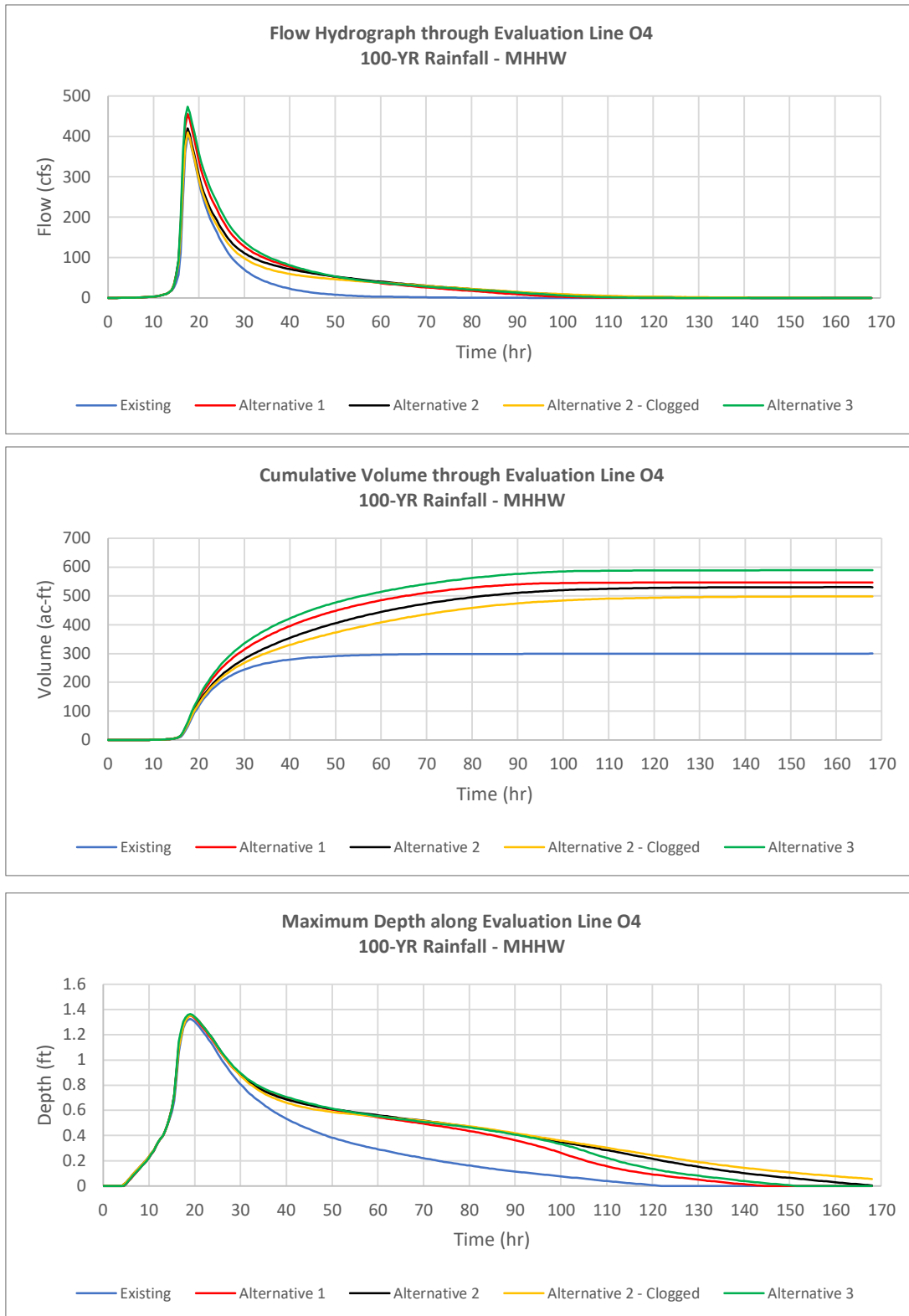
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A40



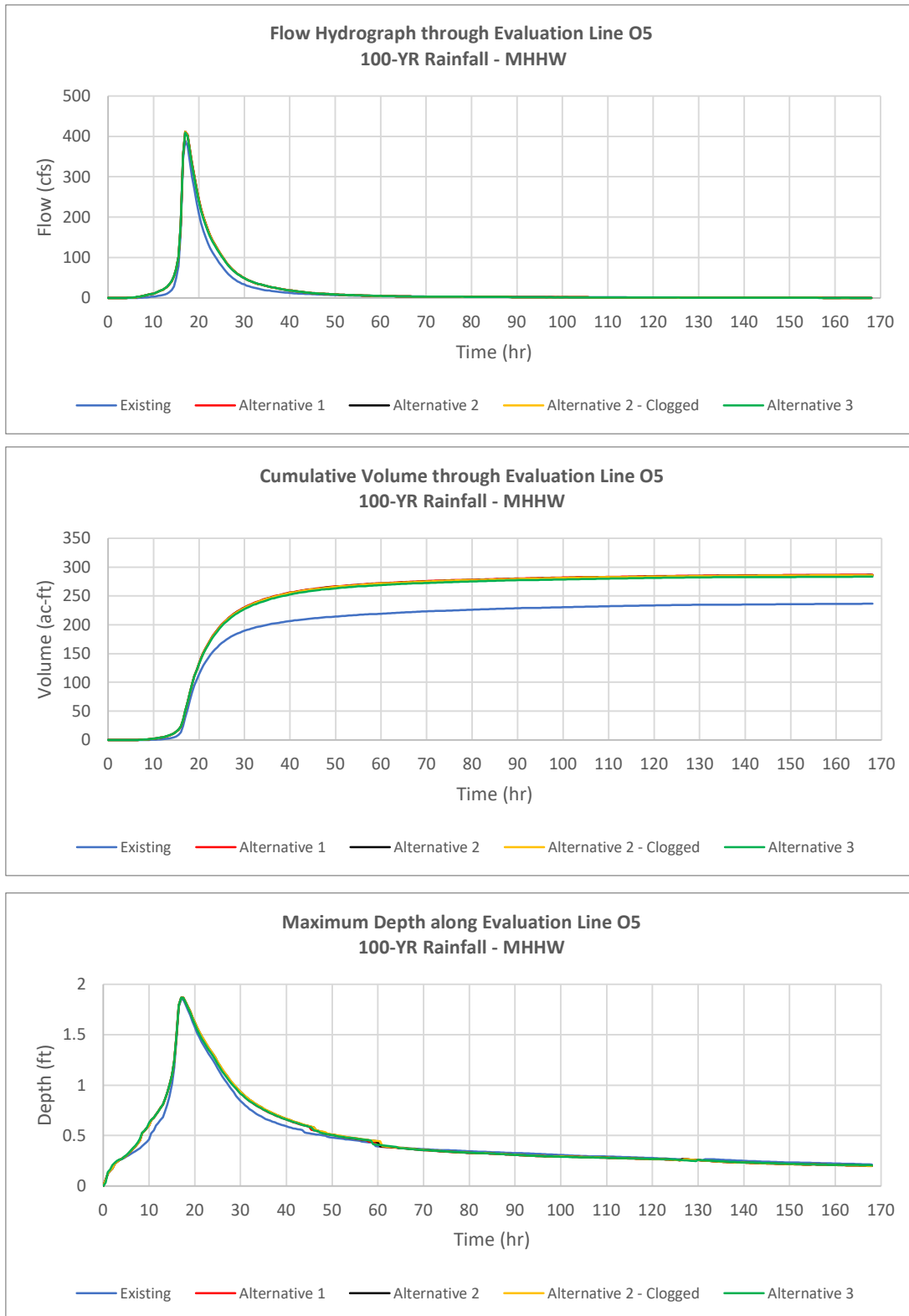
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A41



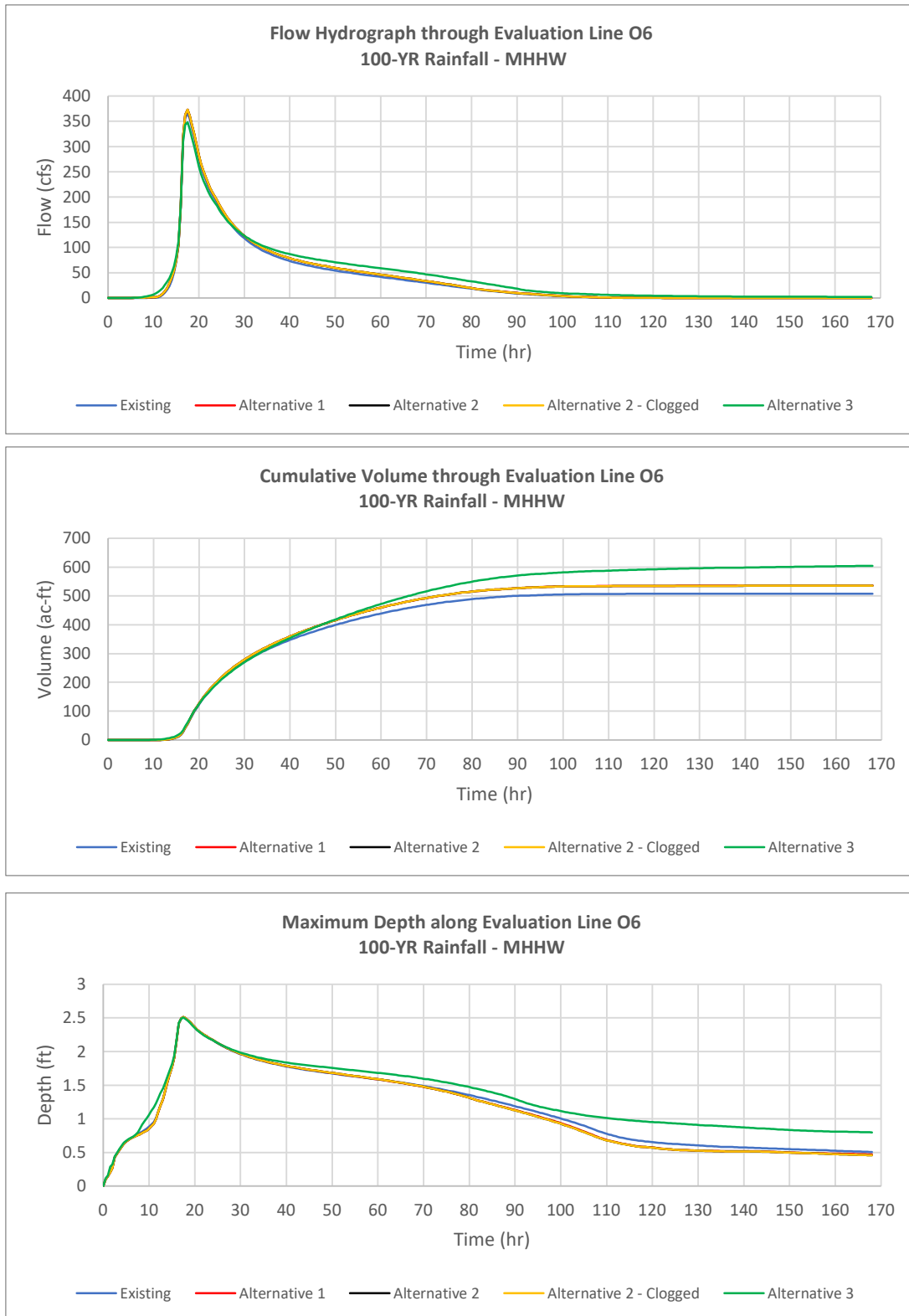
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A42



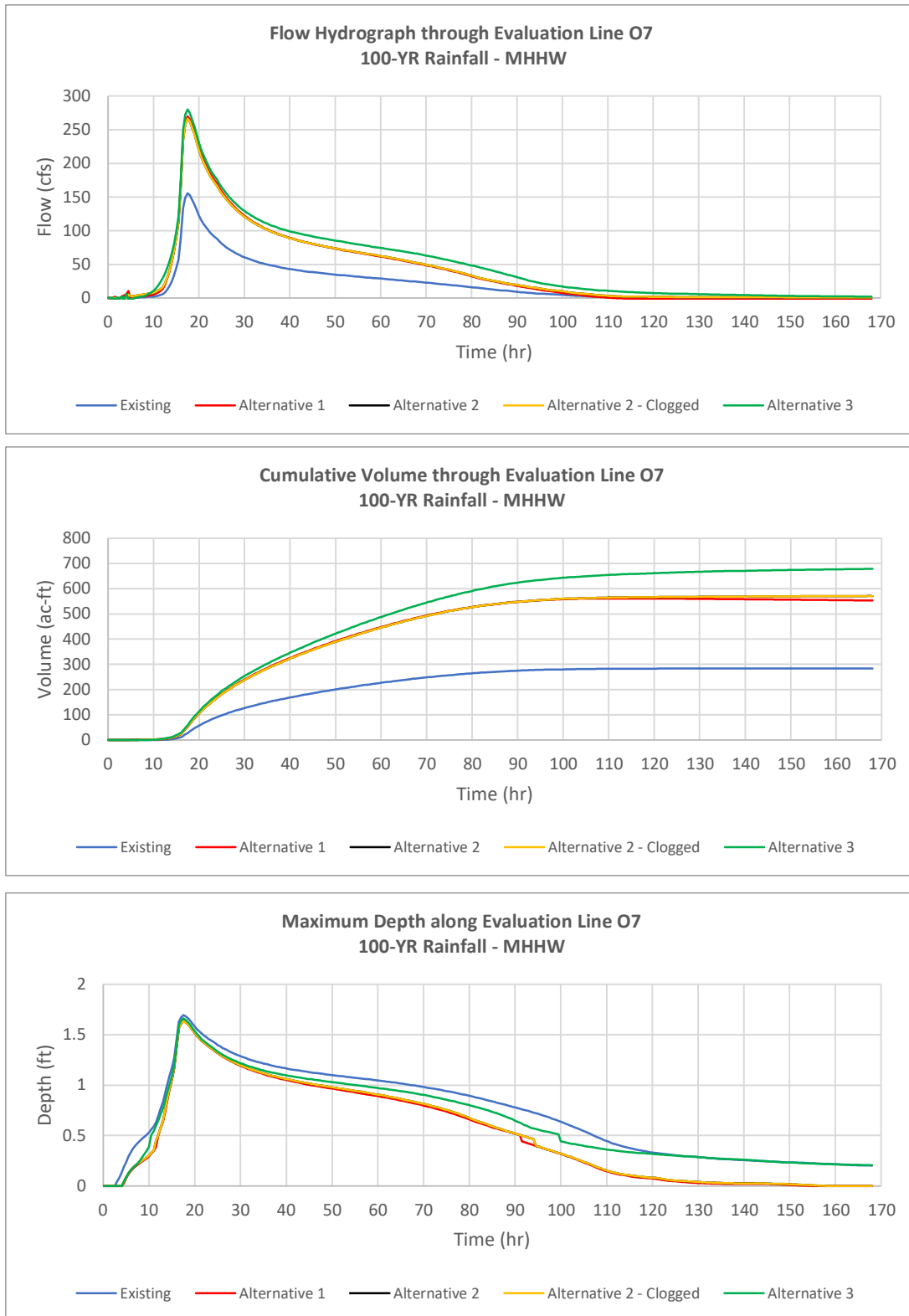
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A43



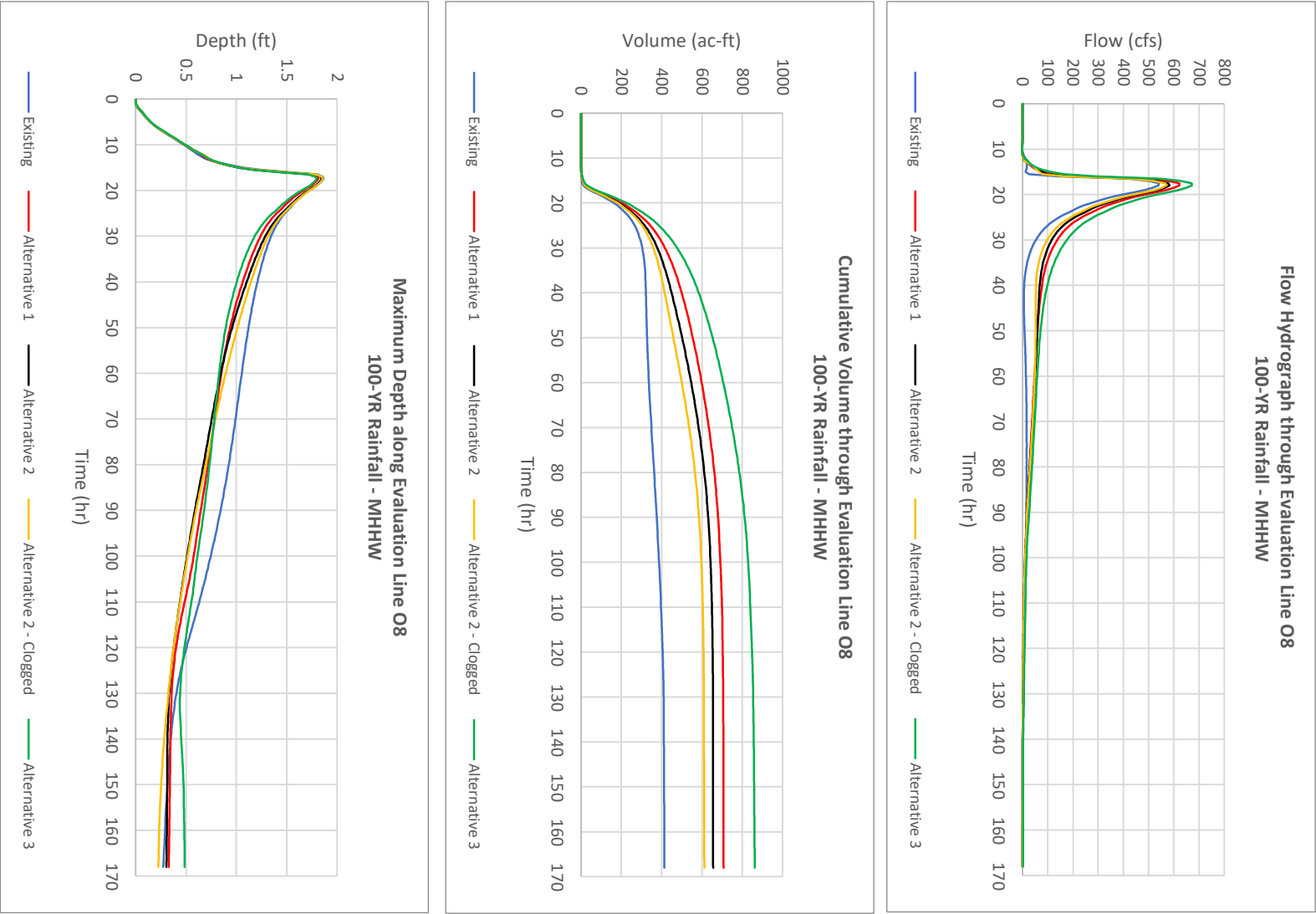
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A44



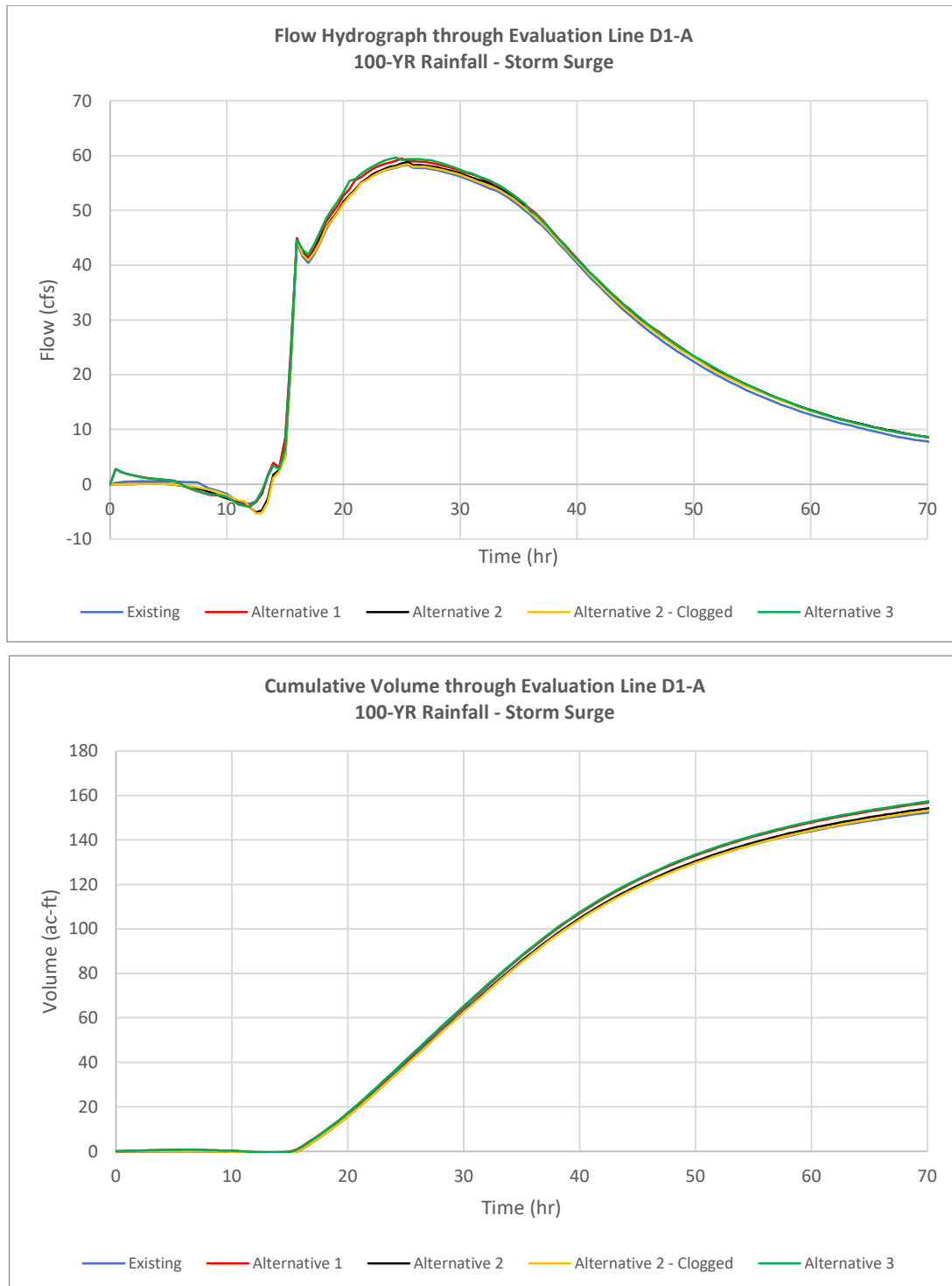
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A45



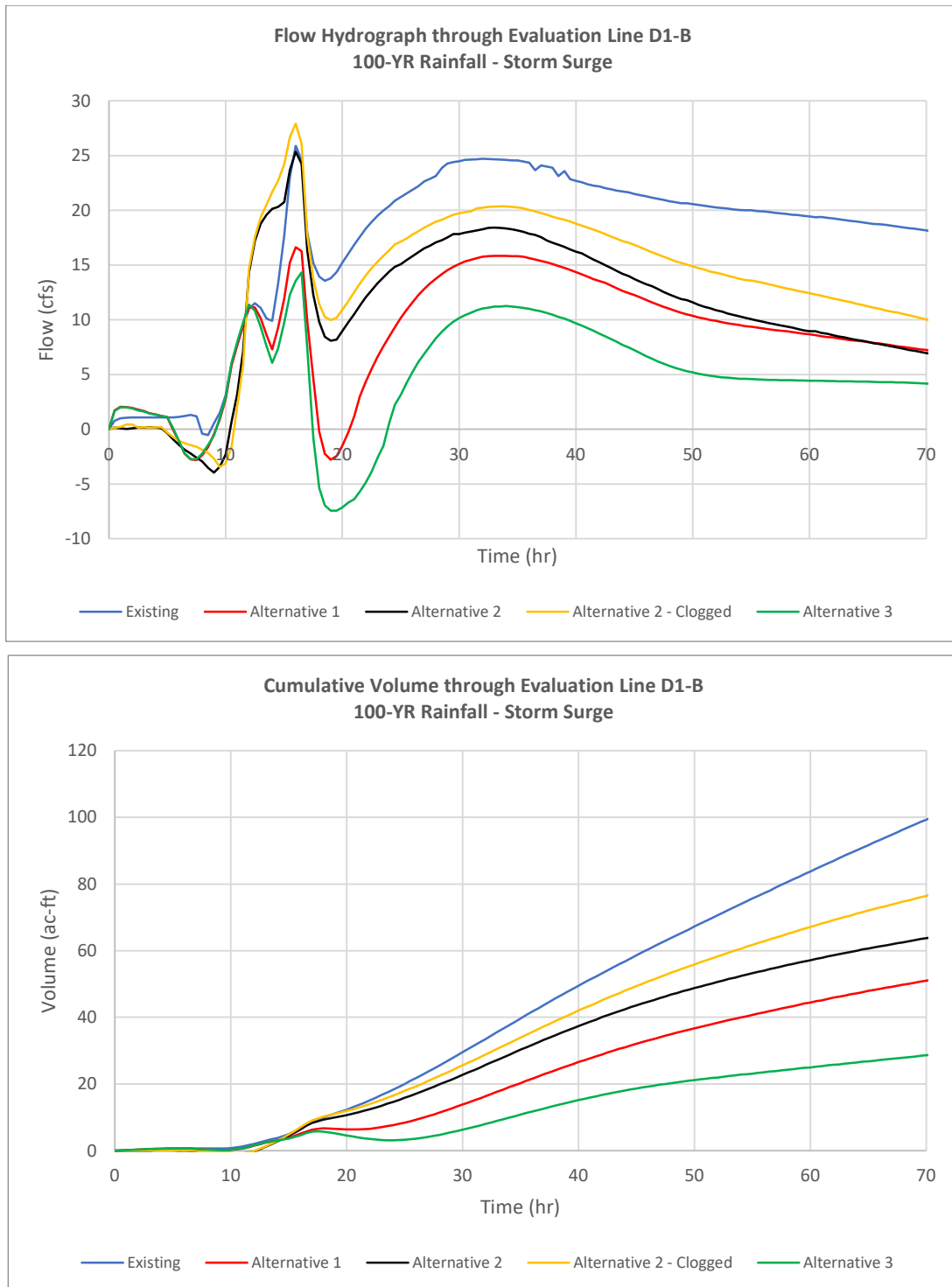
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A46



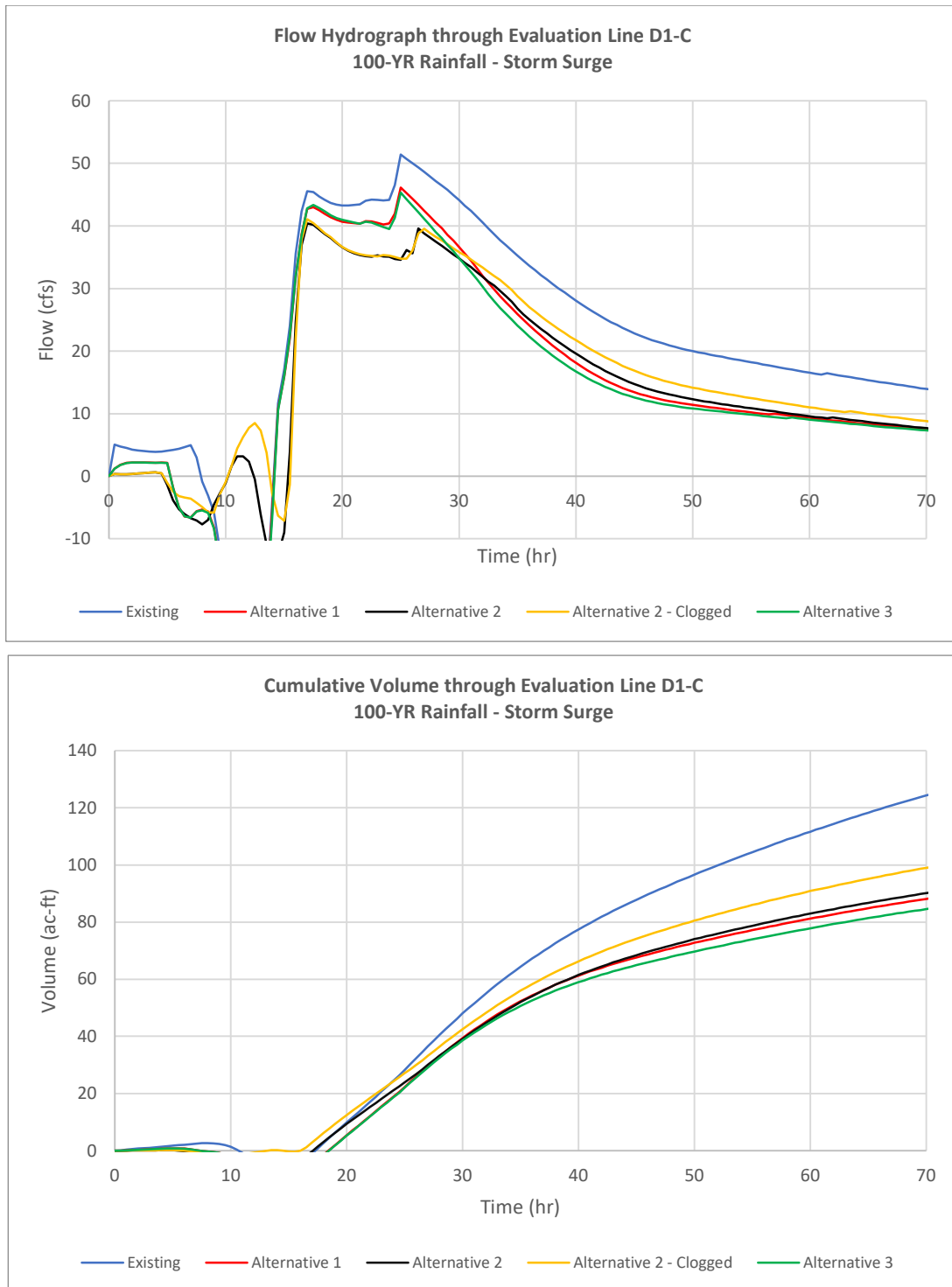
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A47



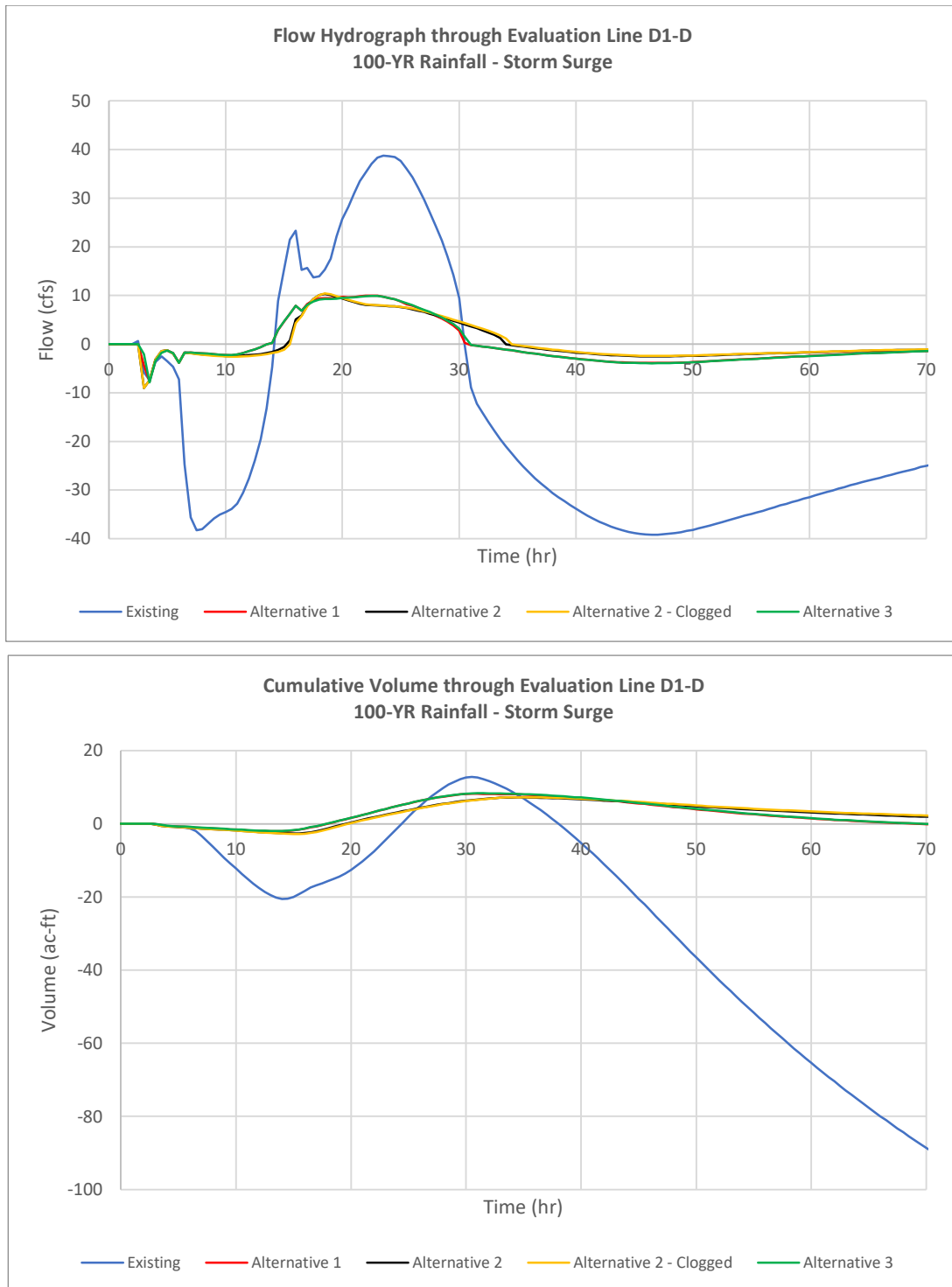
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A48



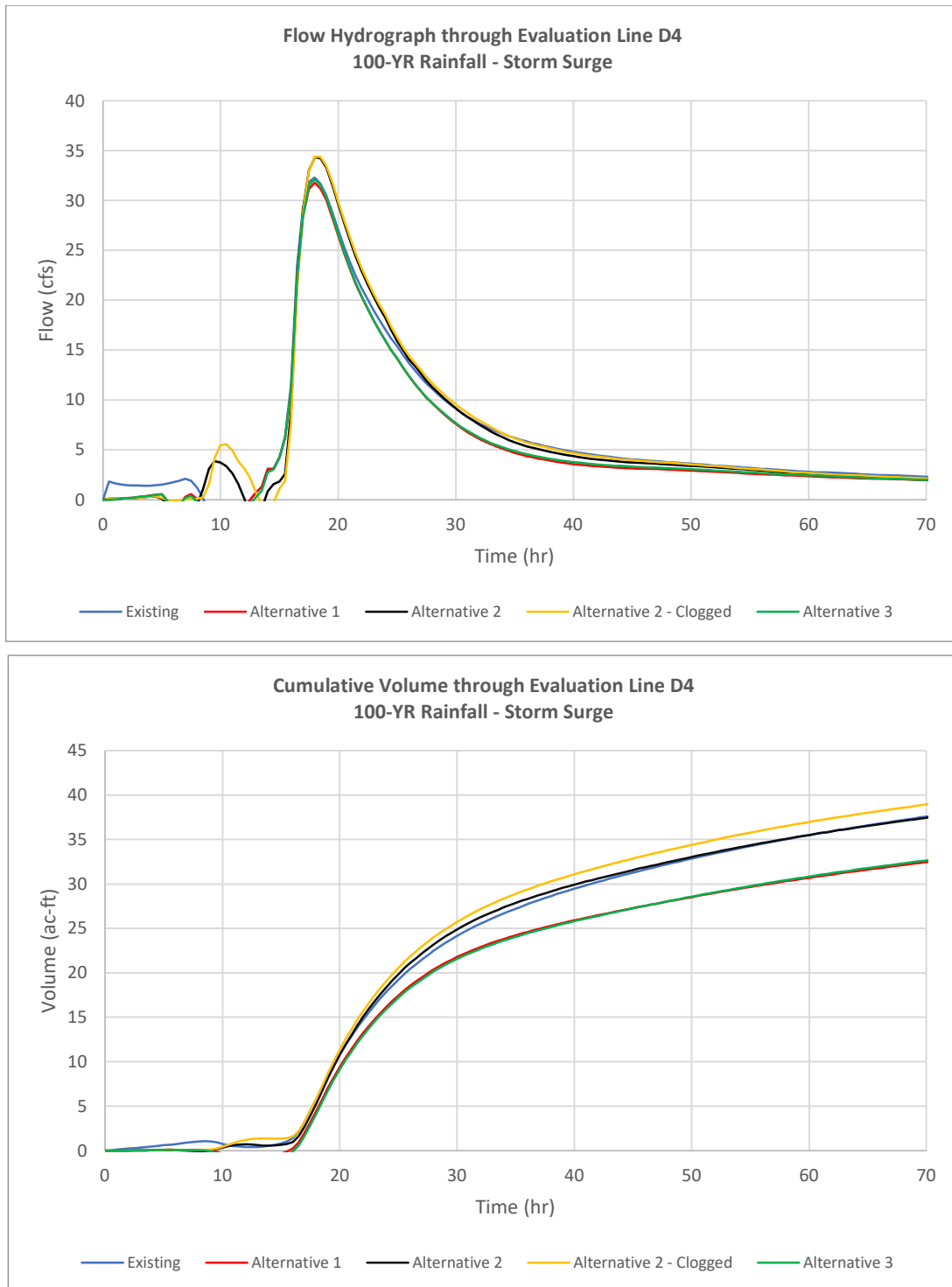
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A49



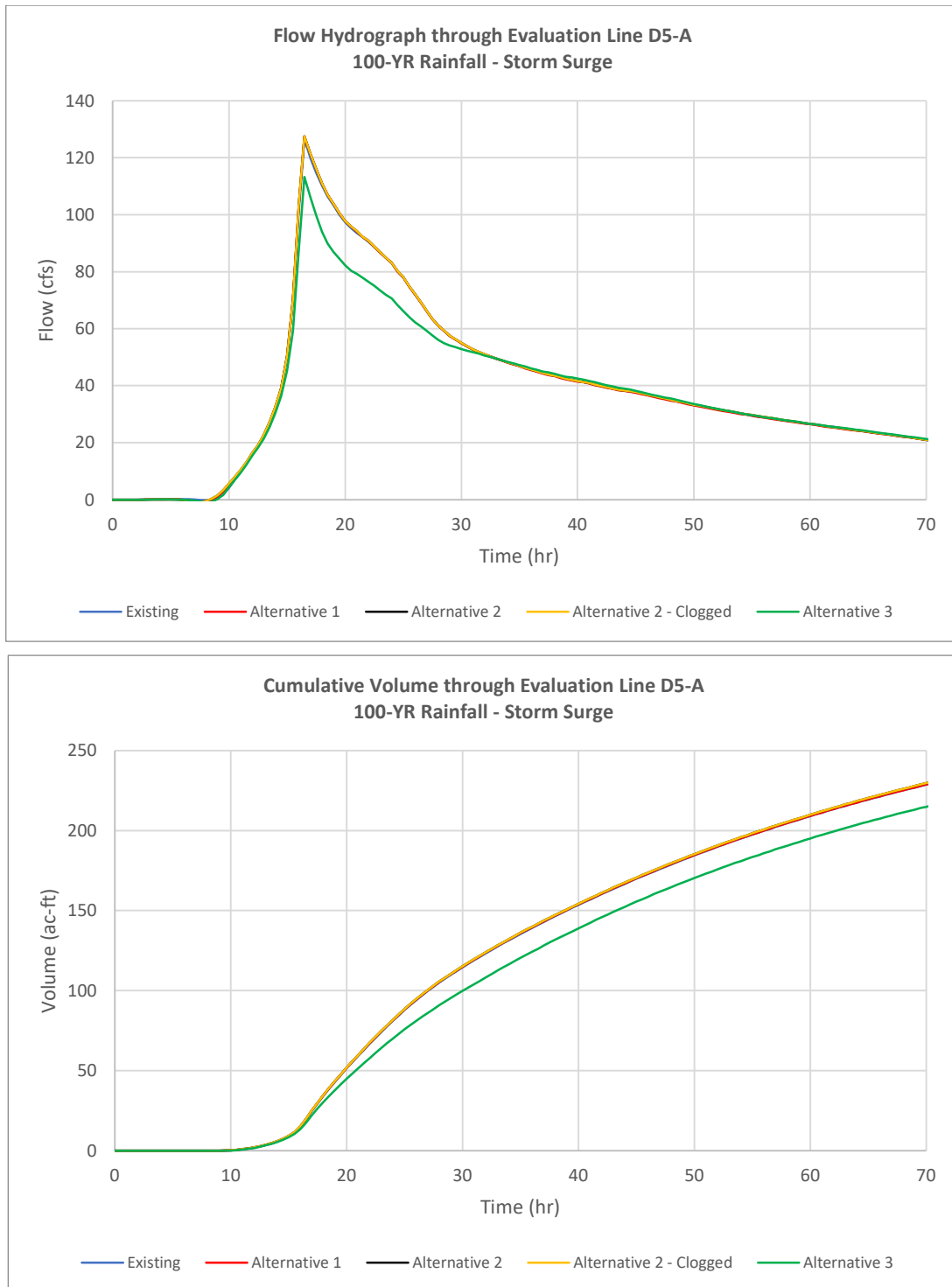
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A50



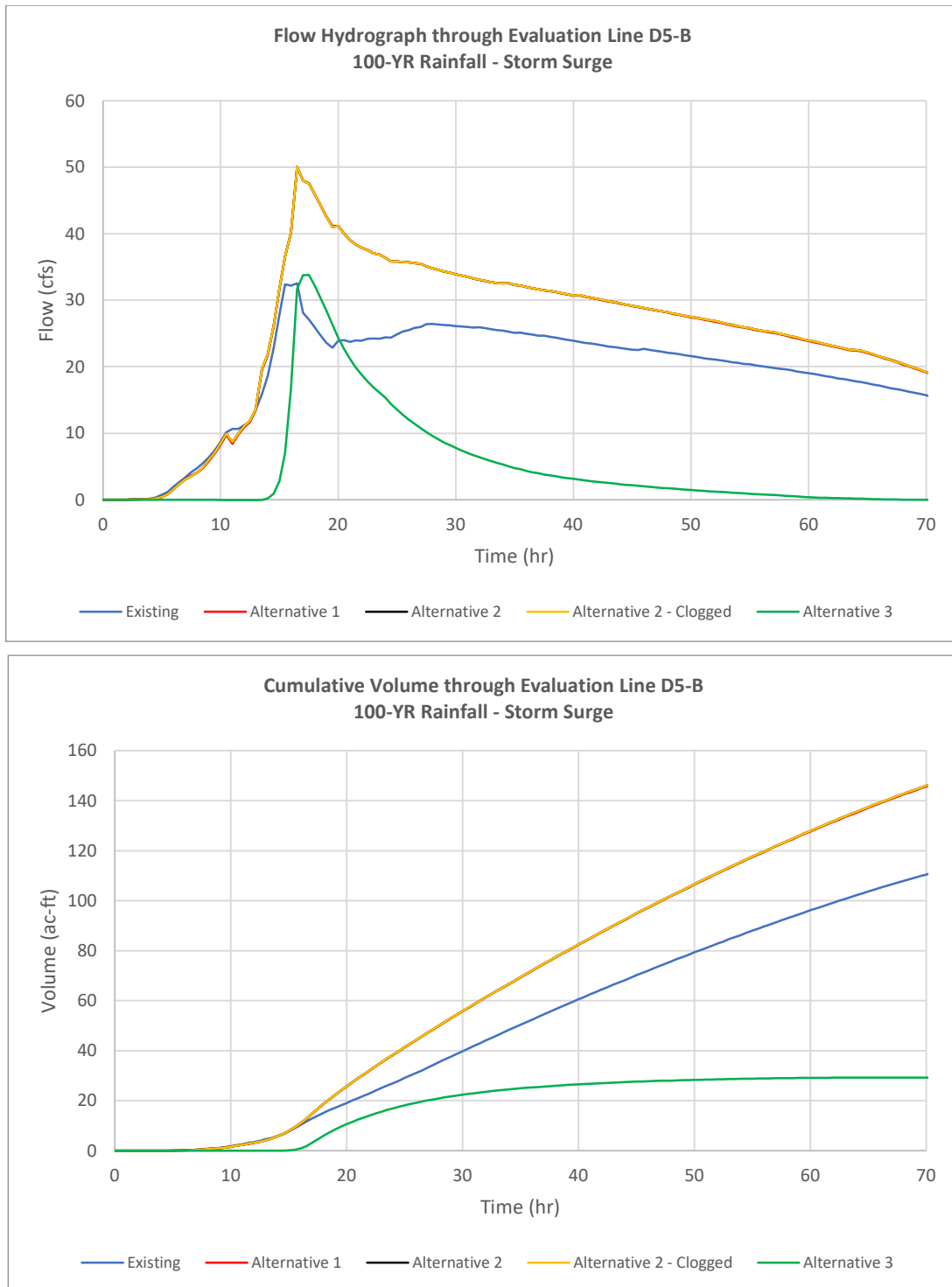
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A51



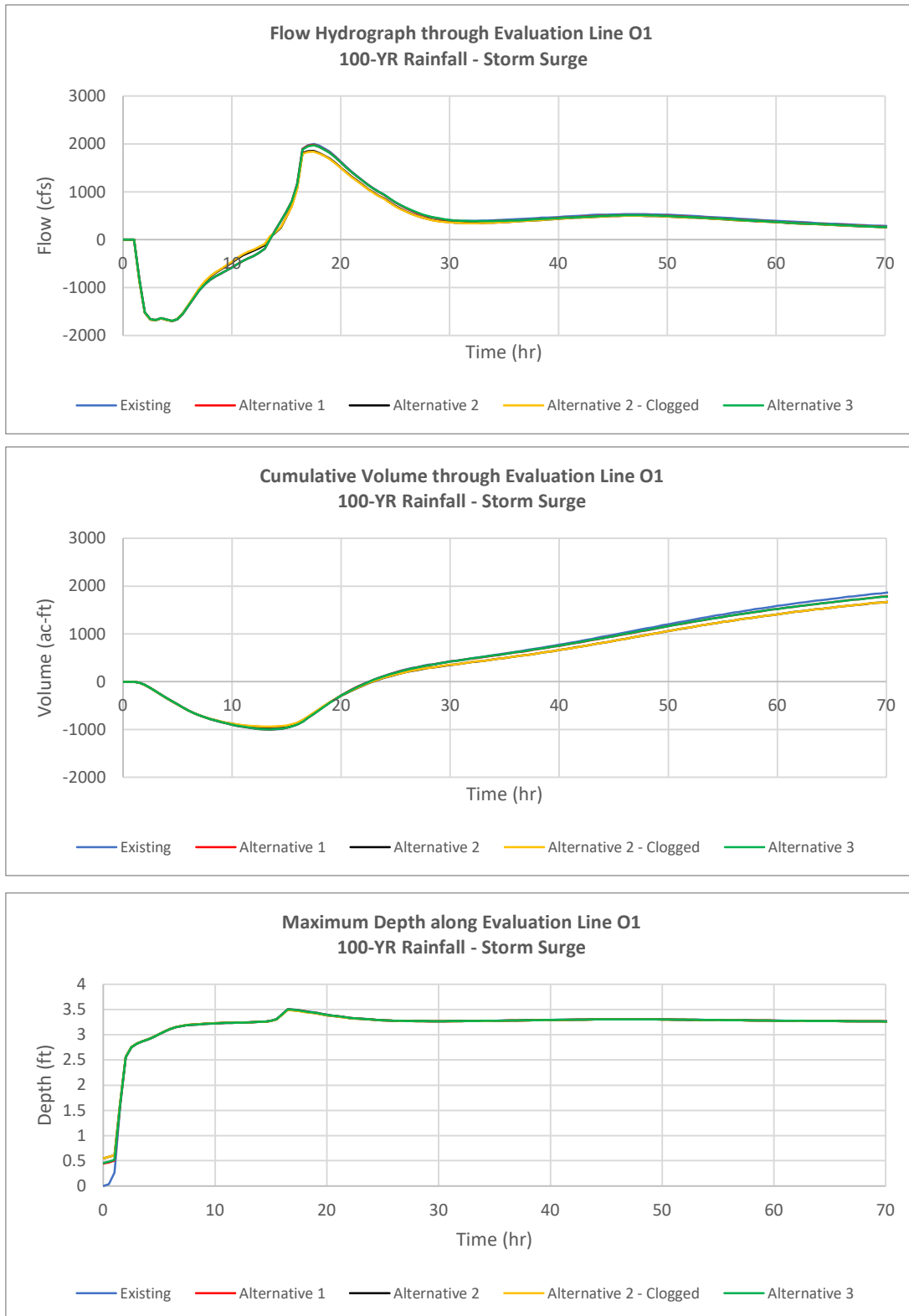
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A52



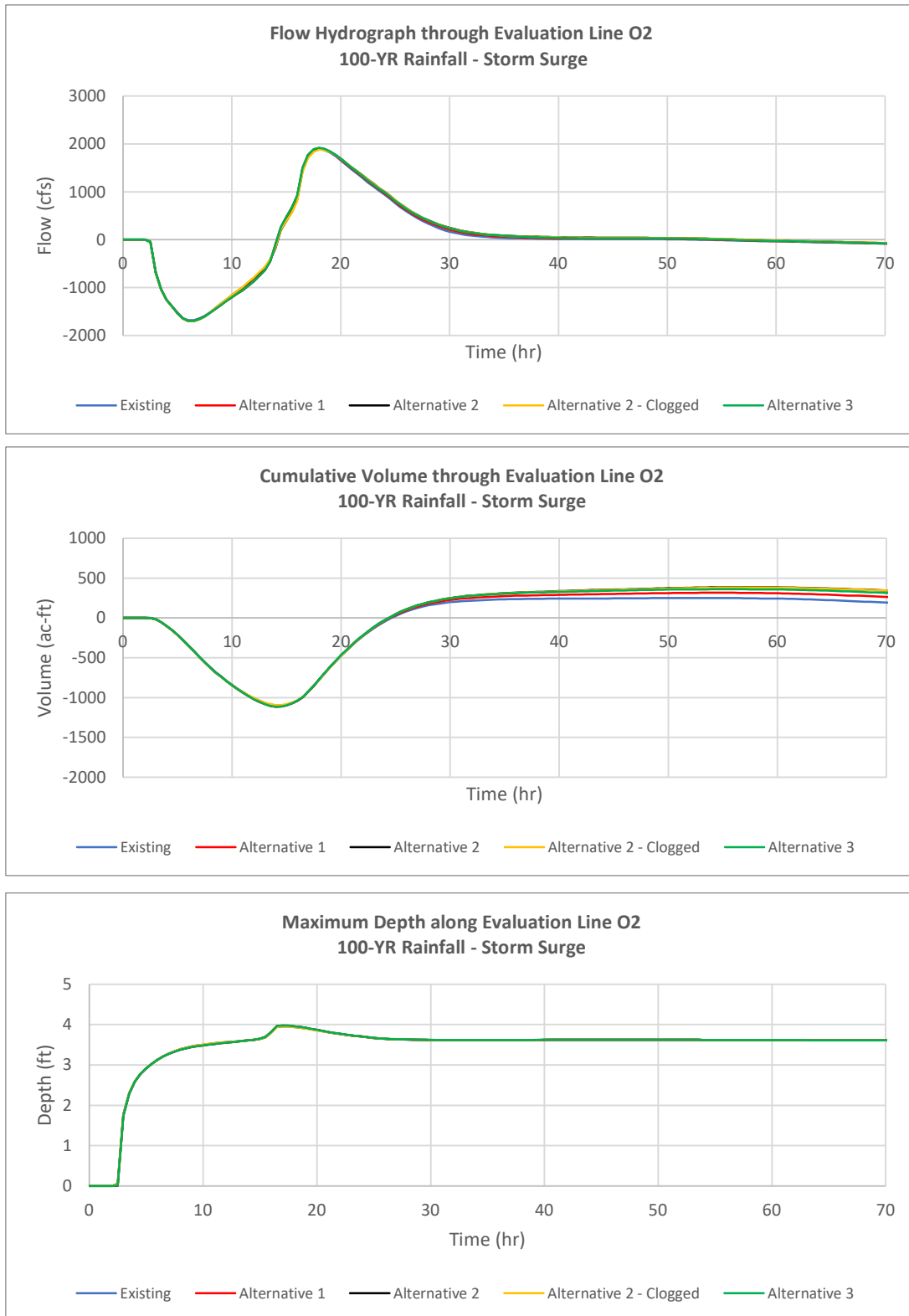
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A53



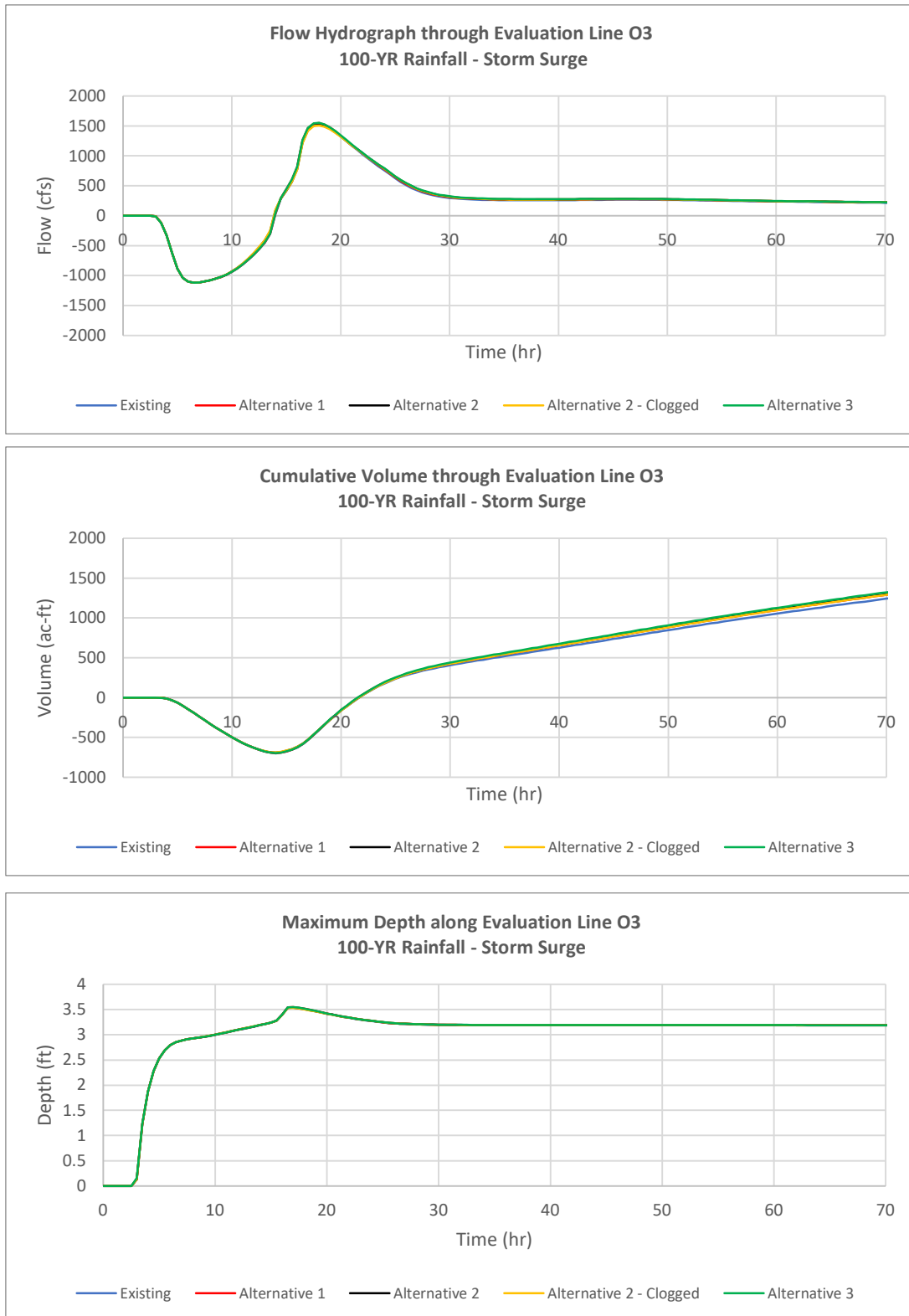
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A54



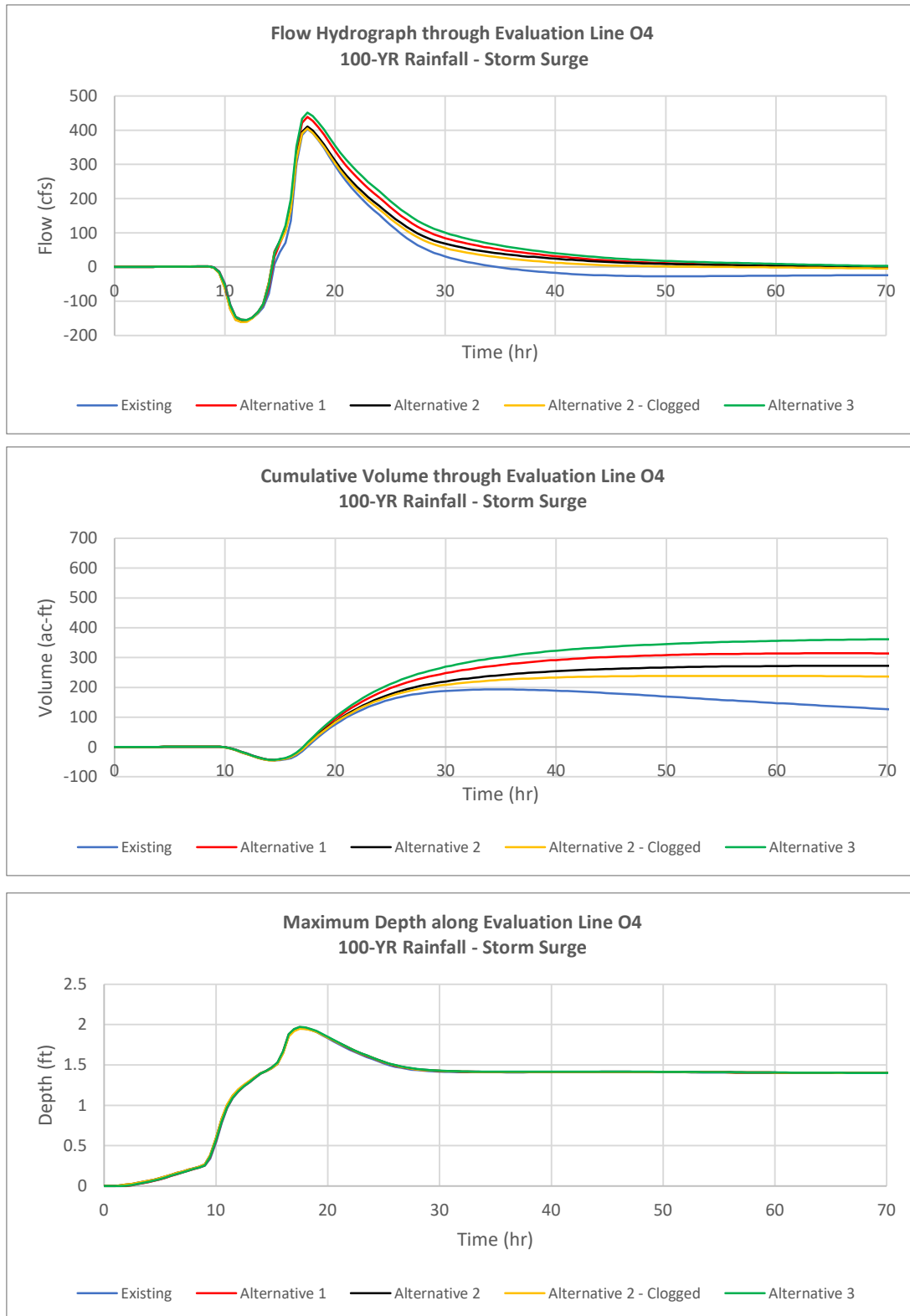
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A55



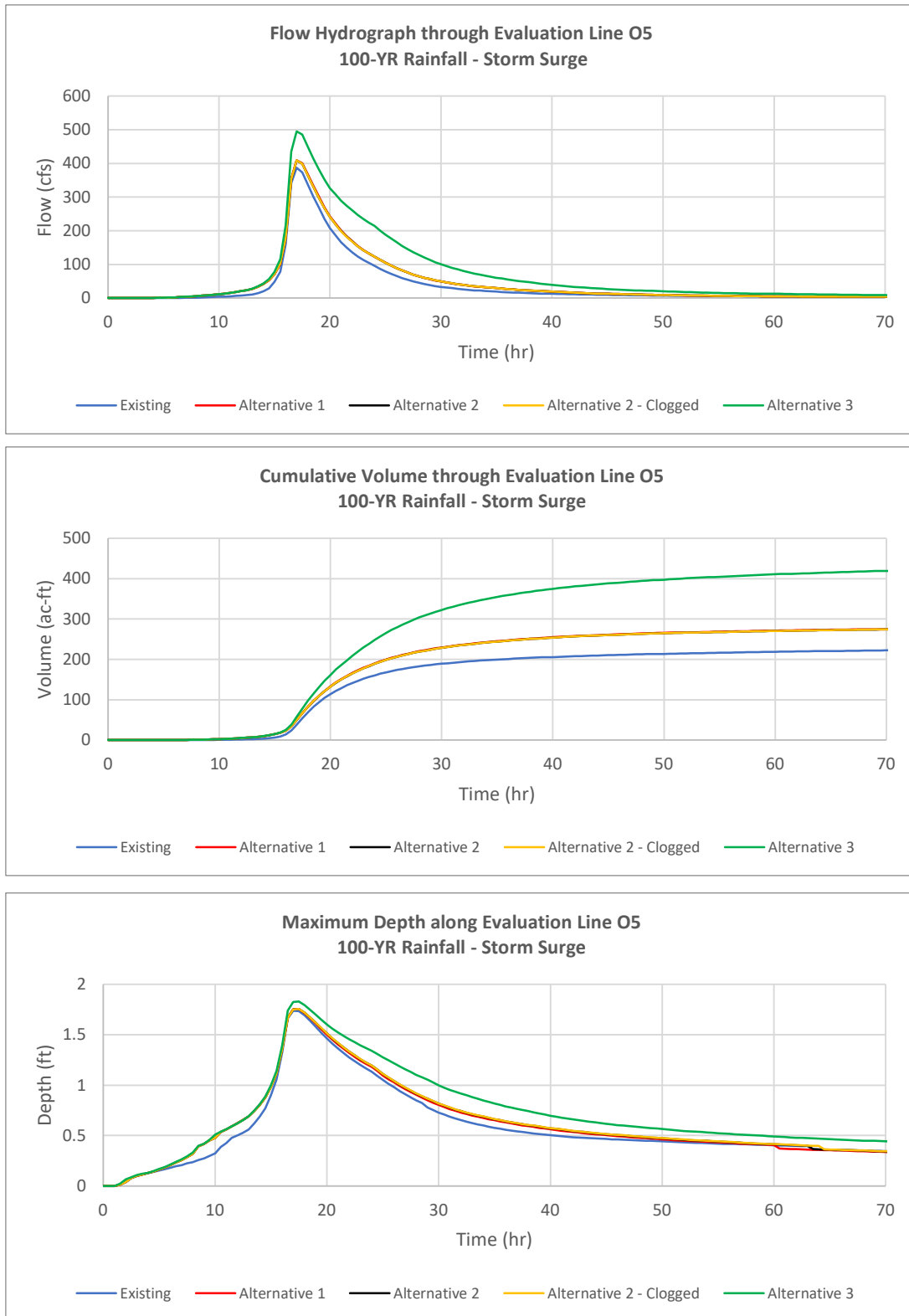
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A56



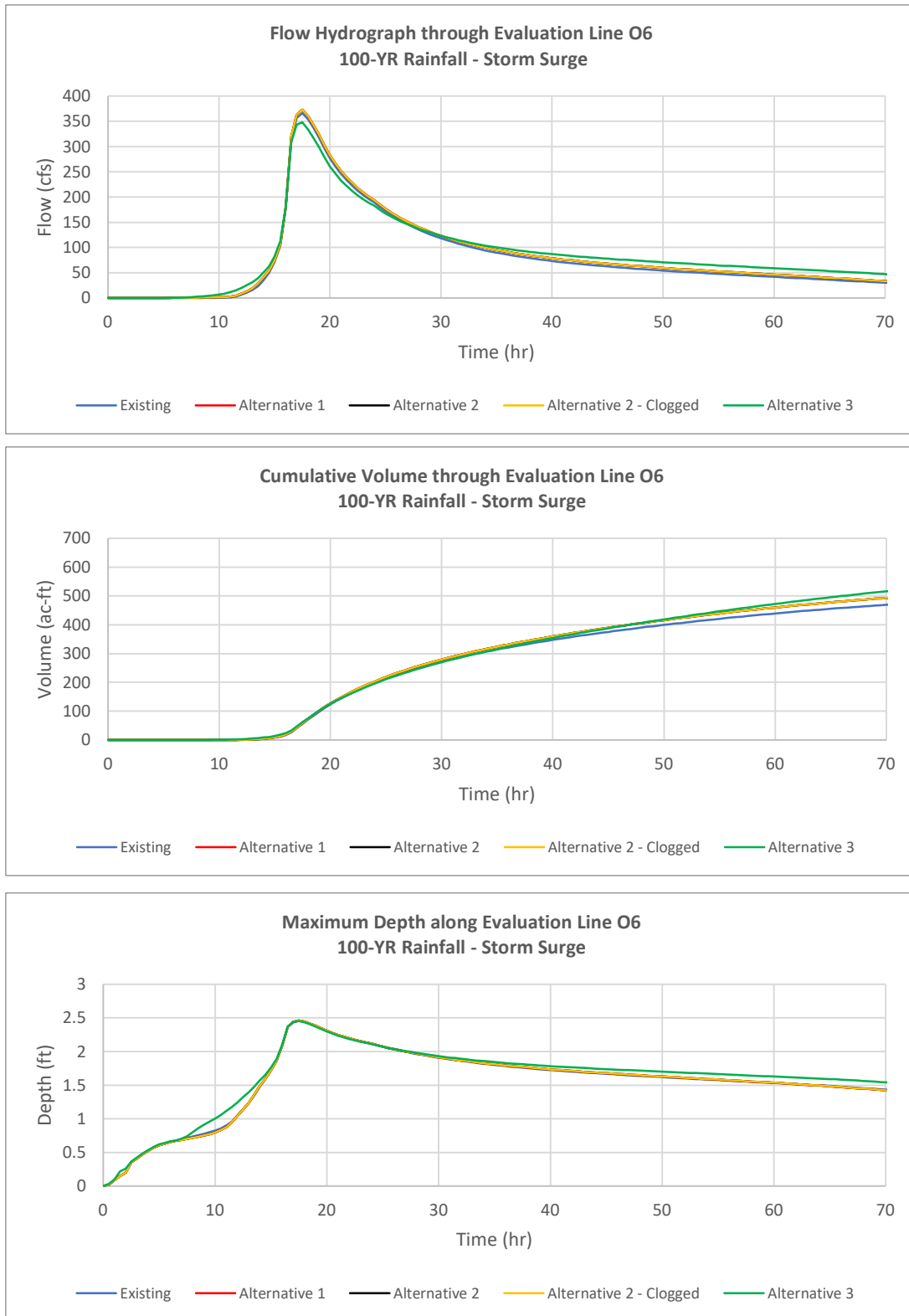
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A57



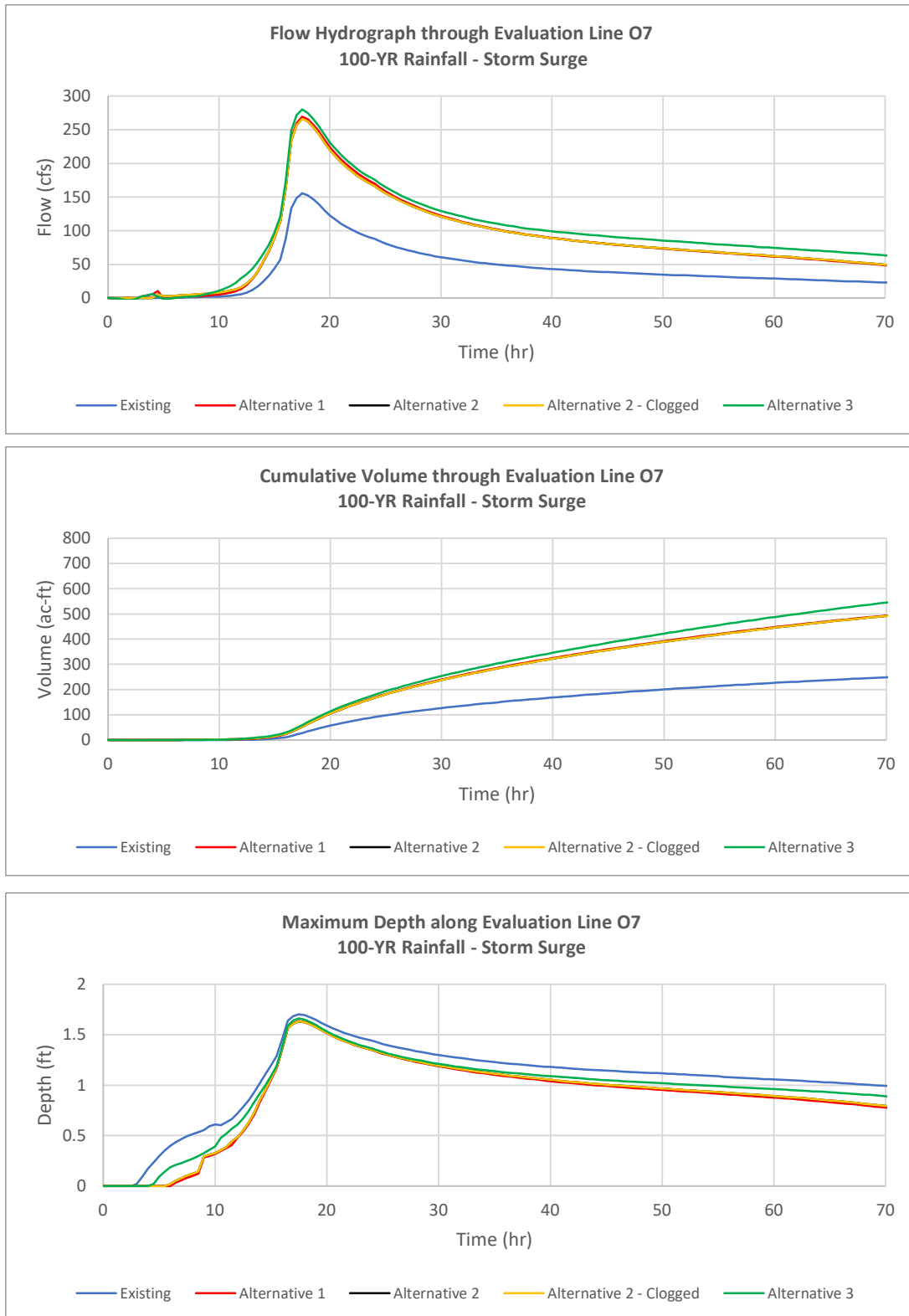
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A58



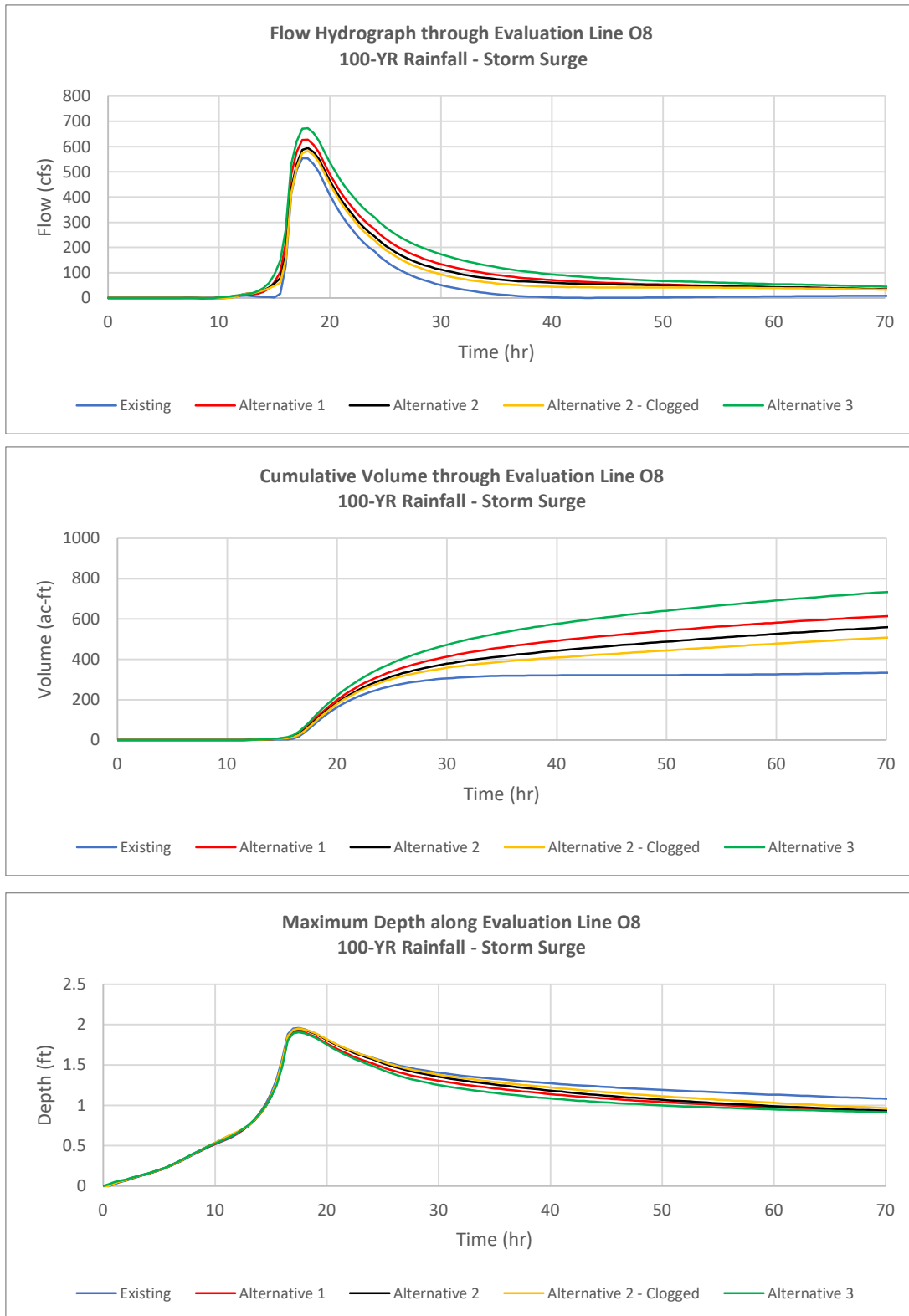
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A59



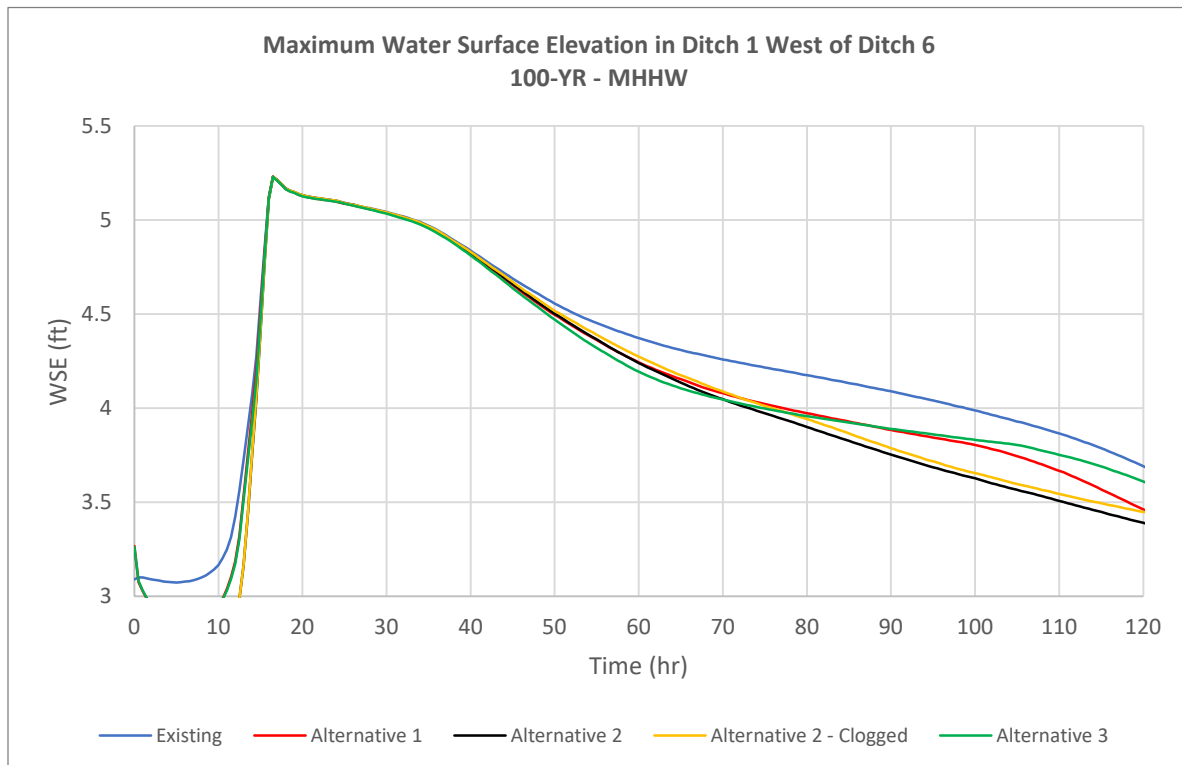
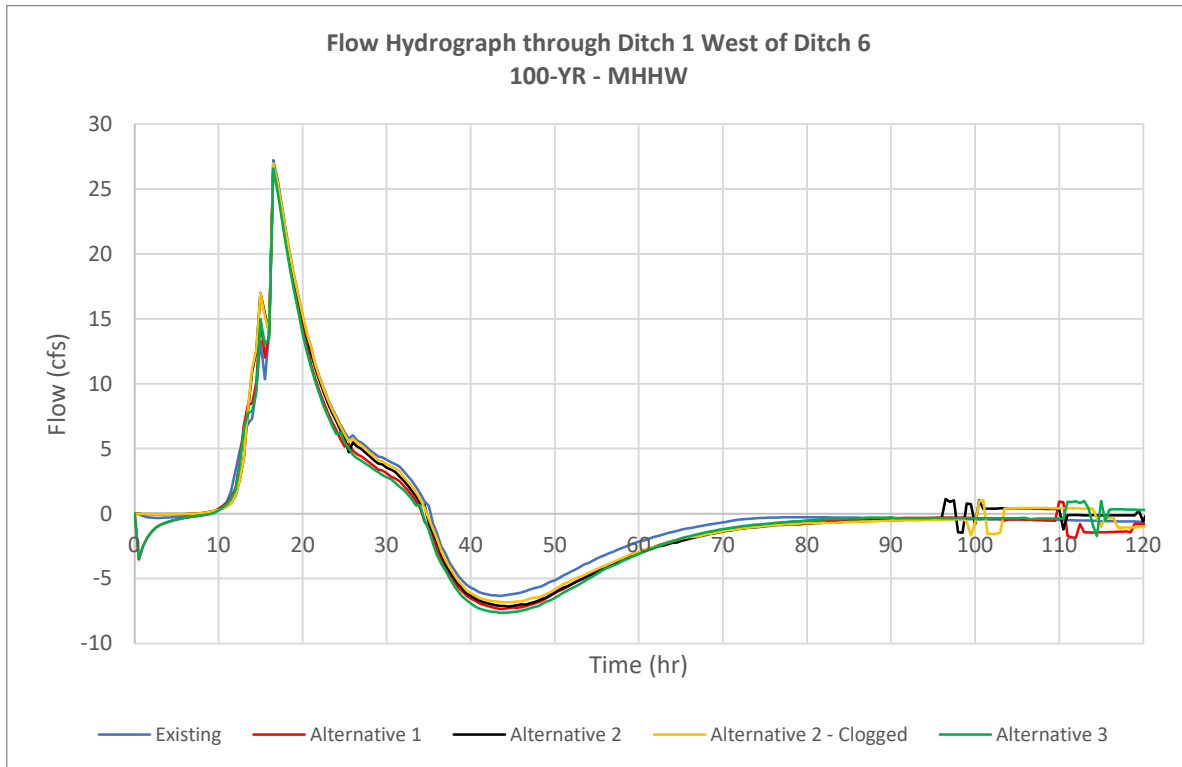
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A60



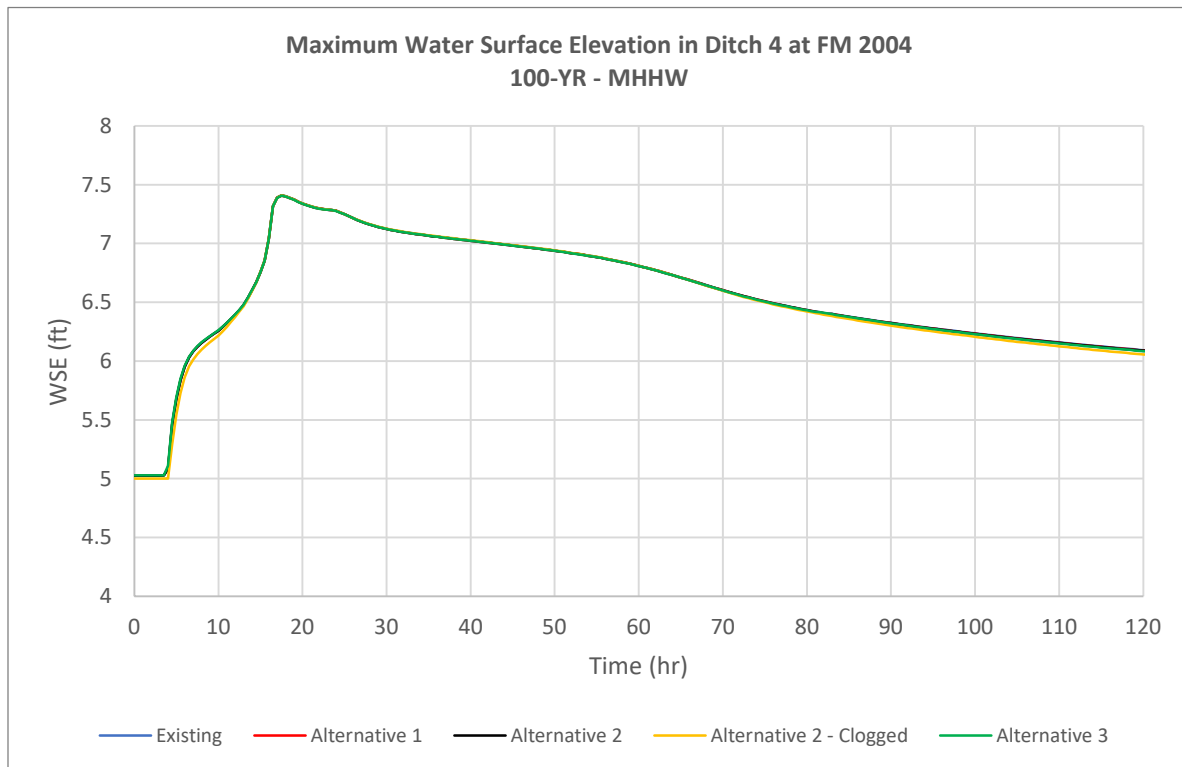
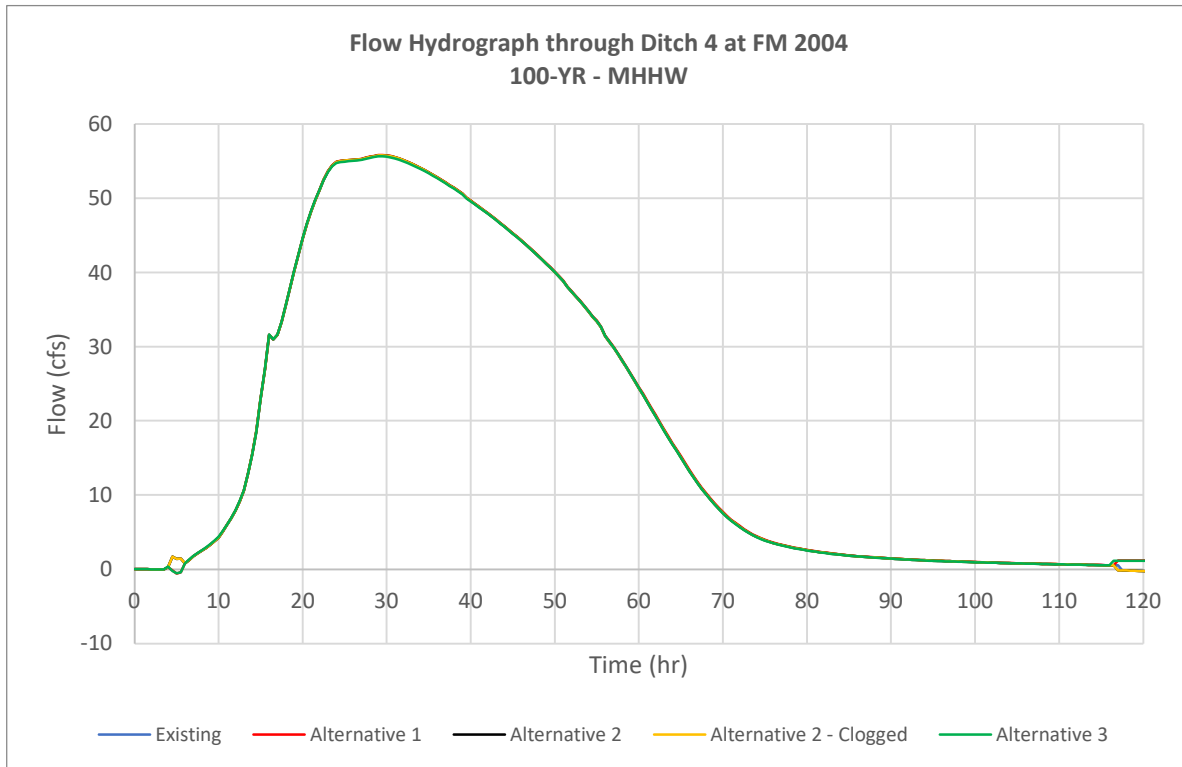
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A61



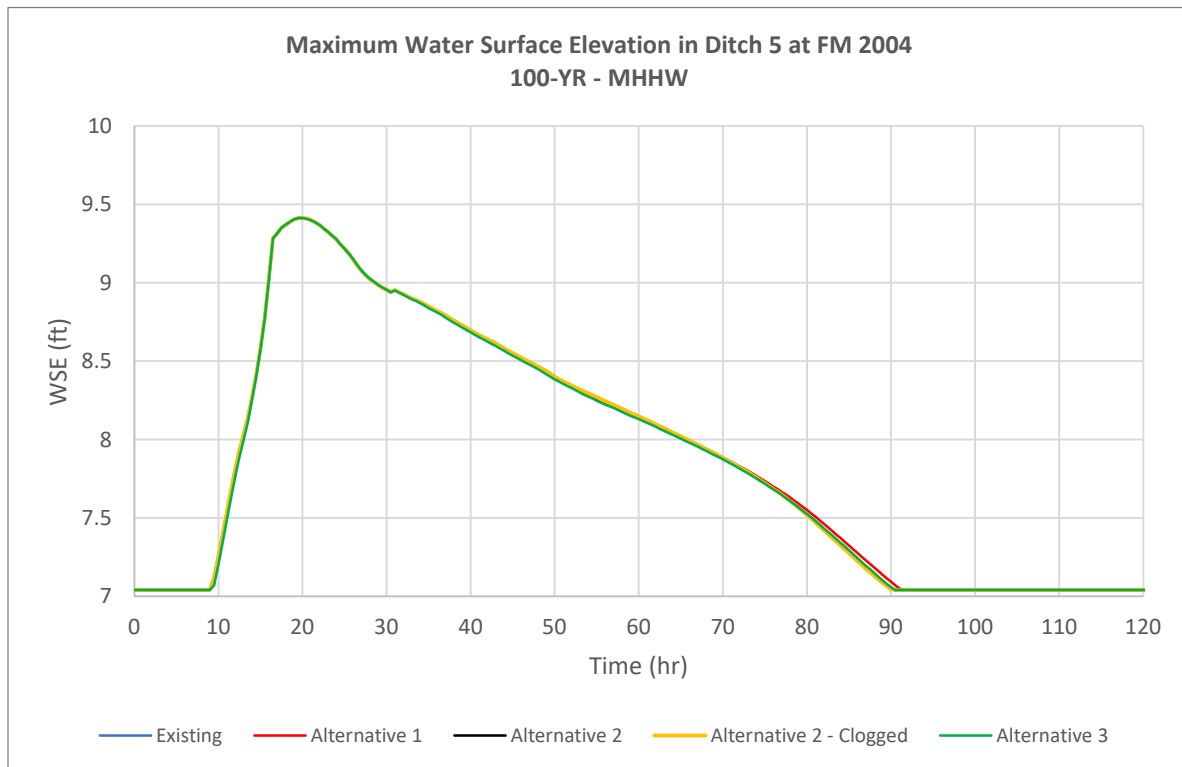
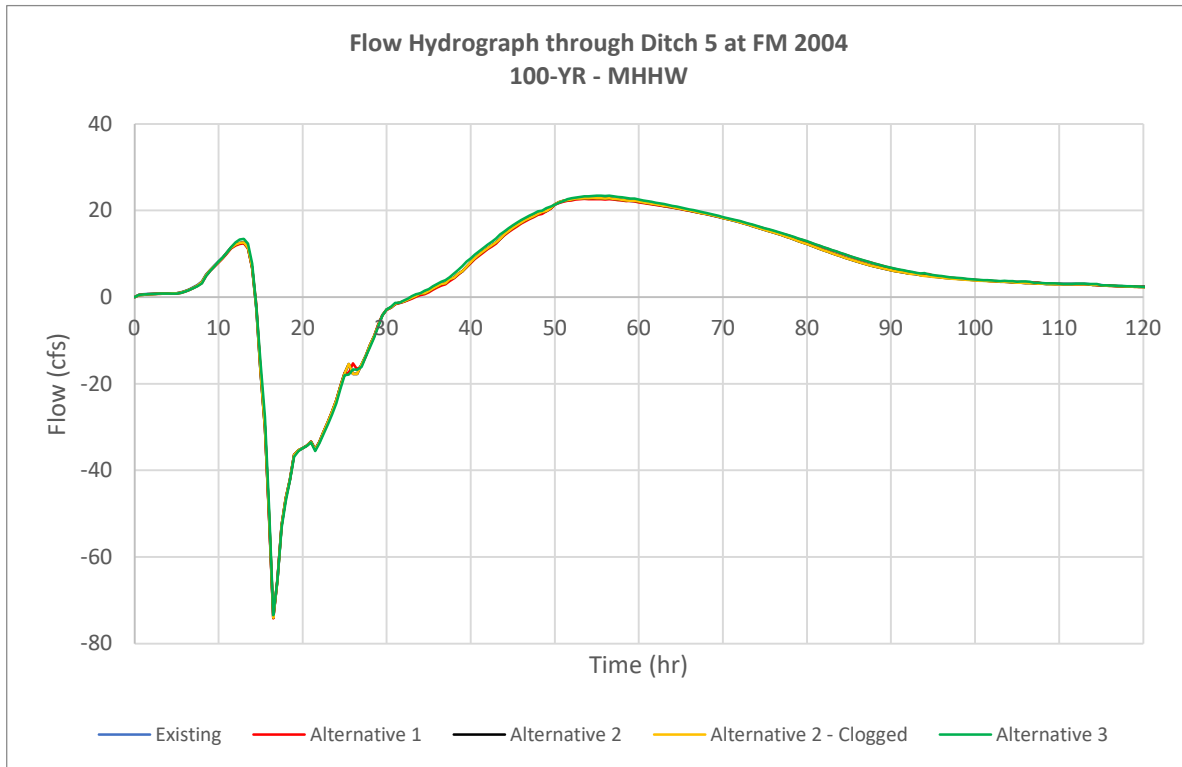
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A62



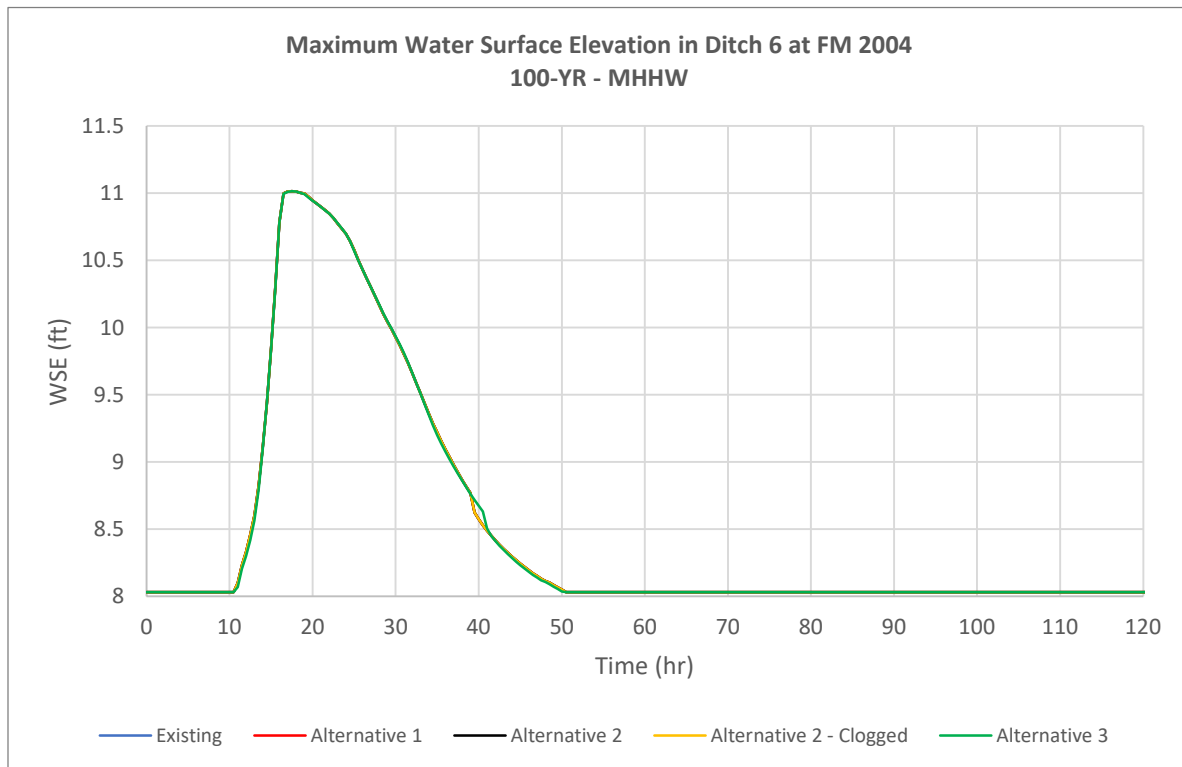
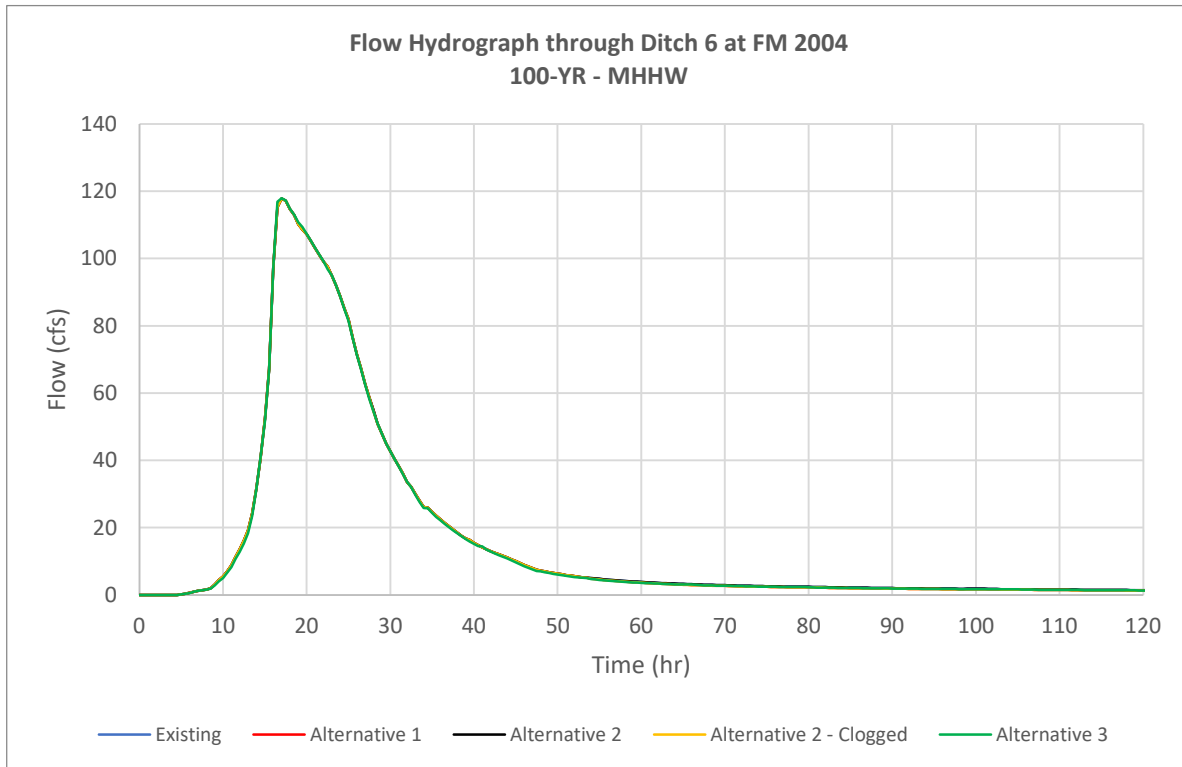
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A63



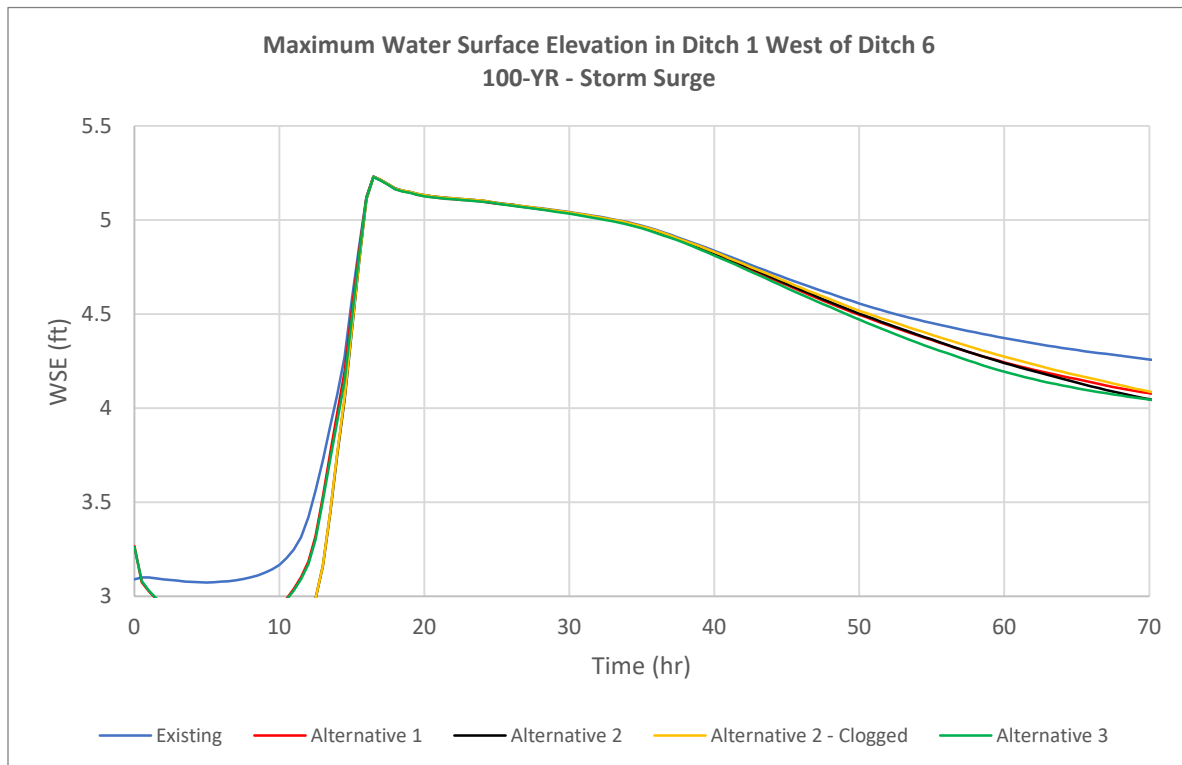
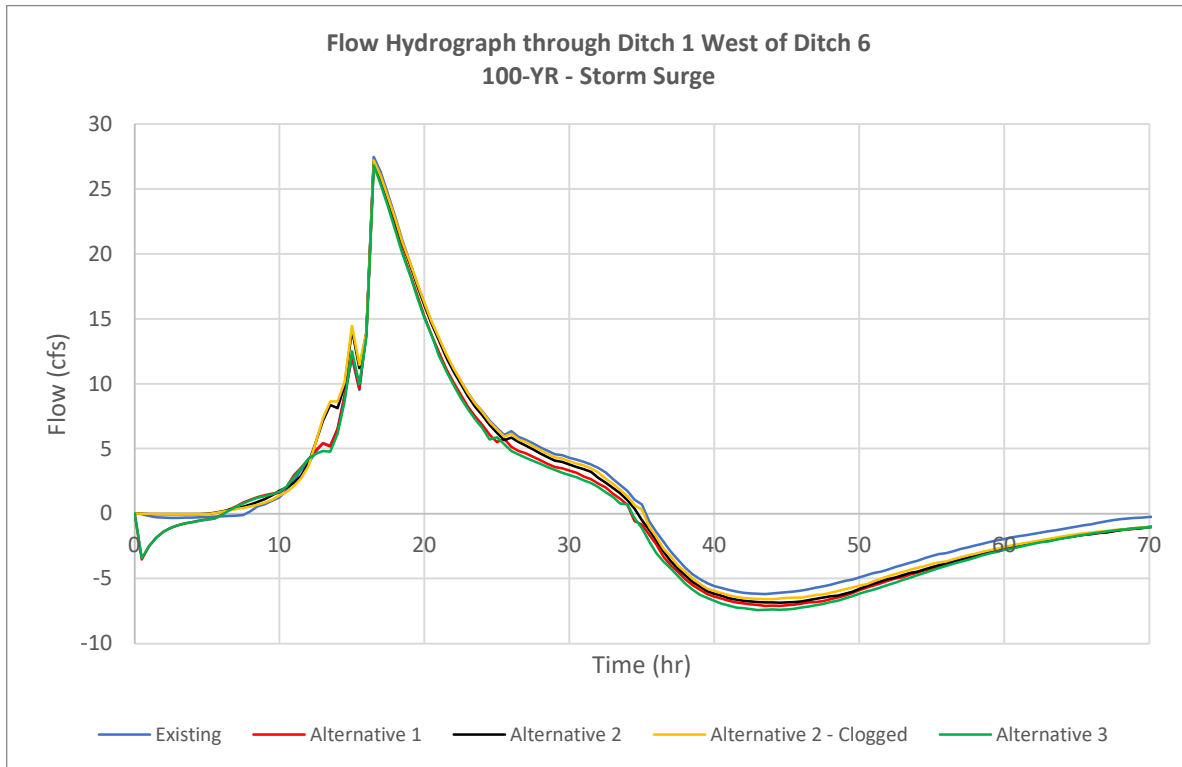
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A64



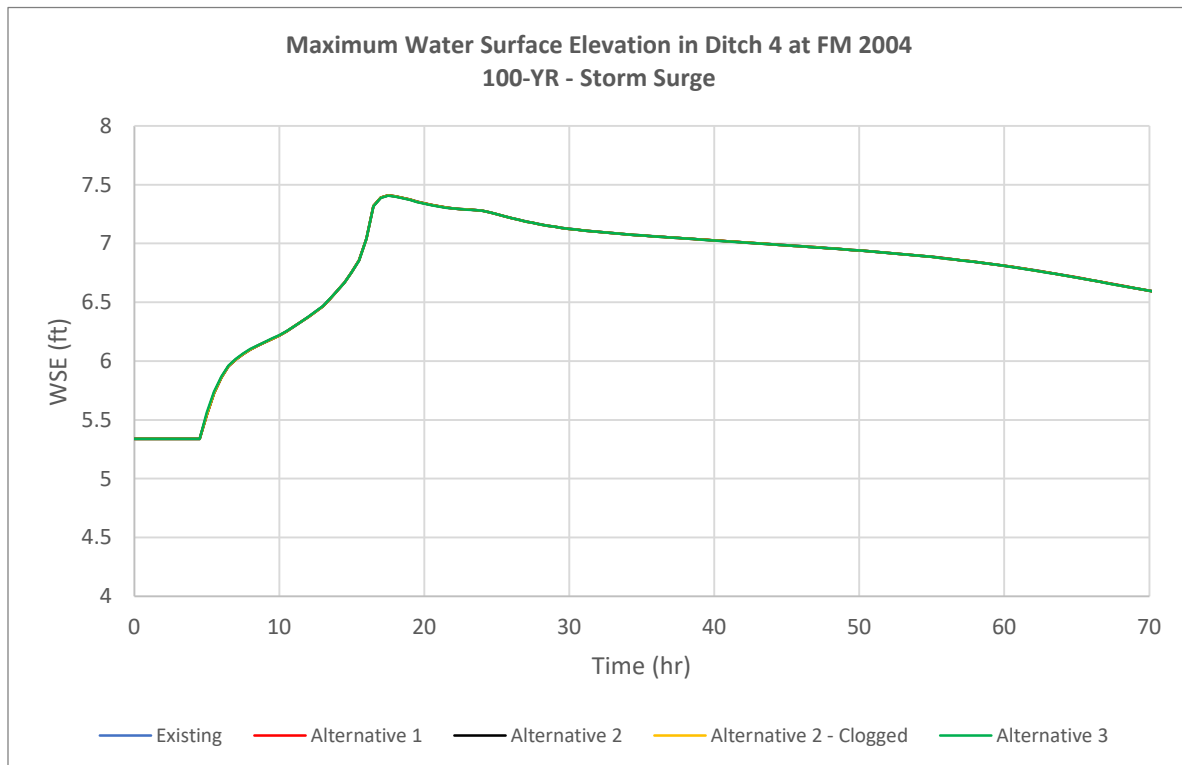
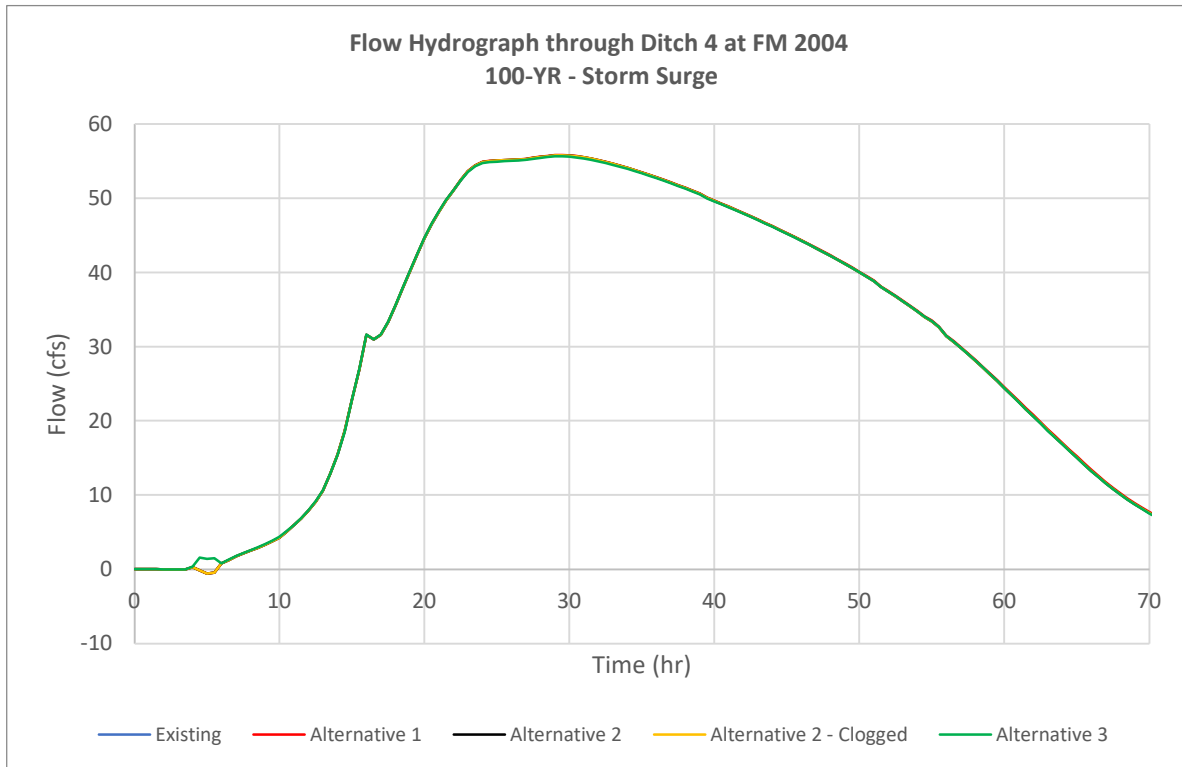
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A65



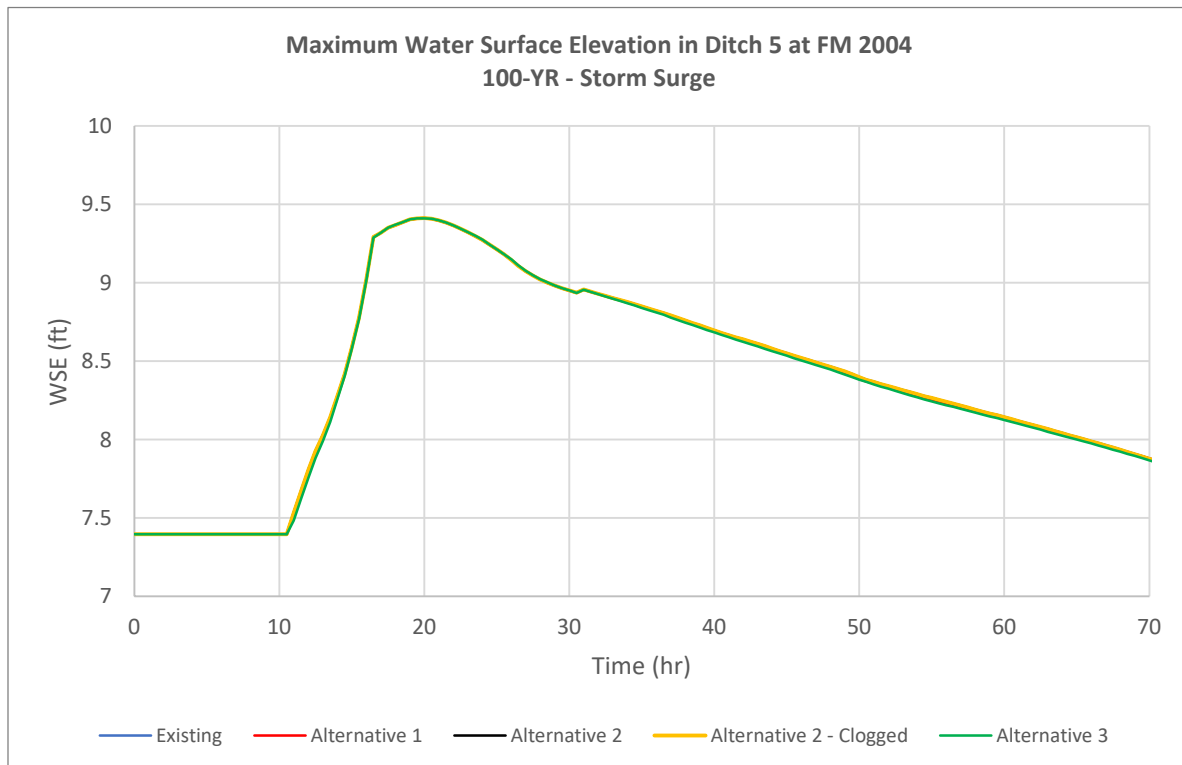
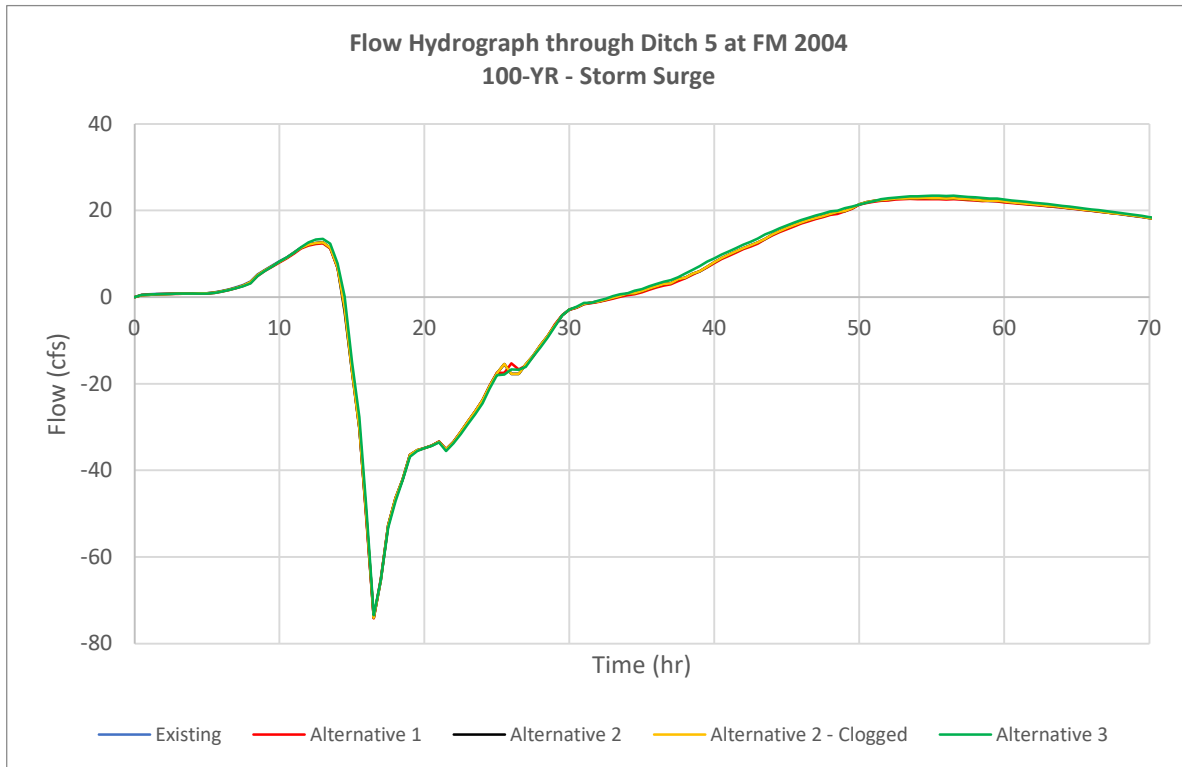
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A66



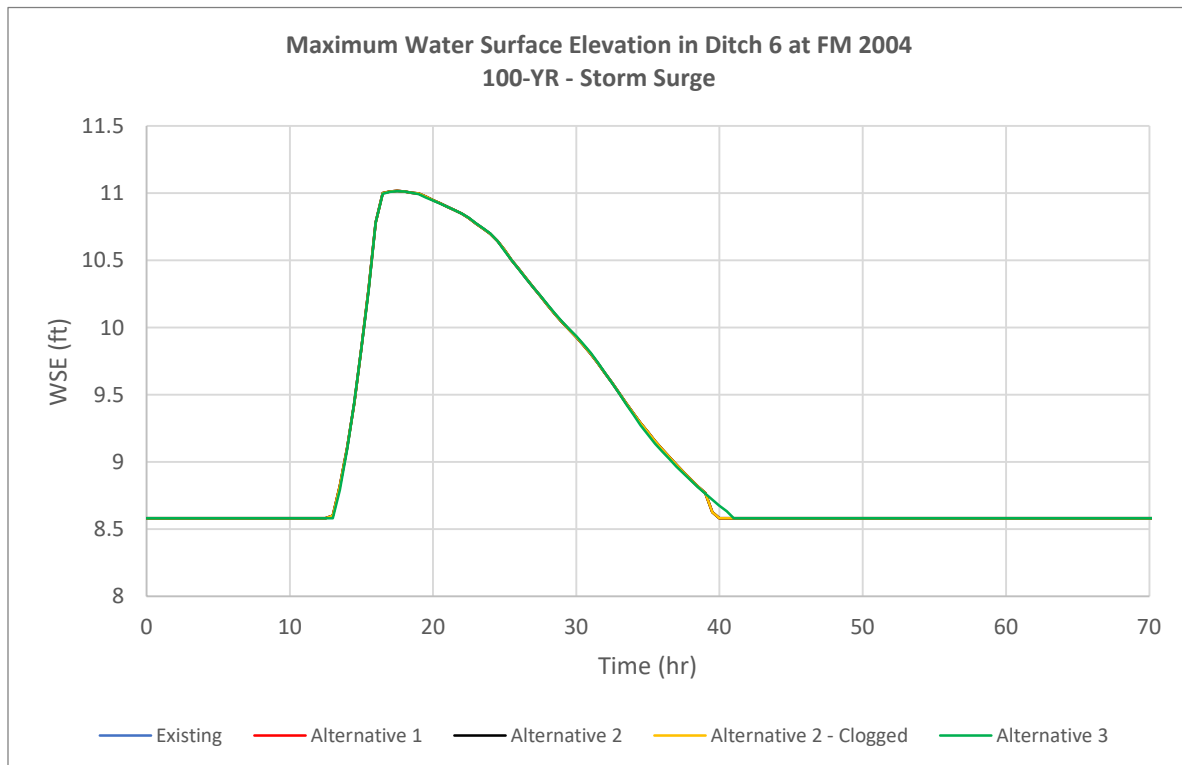
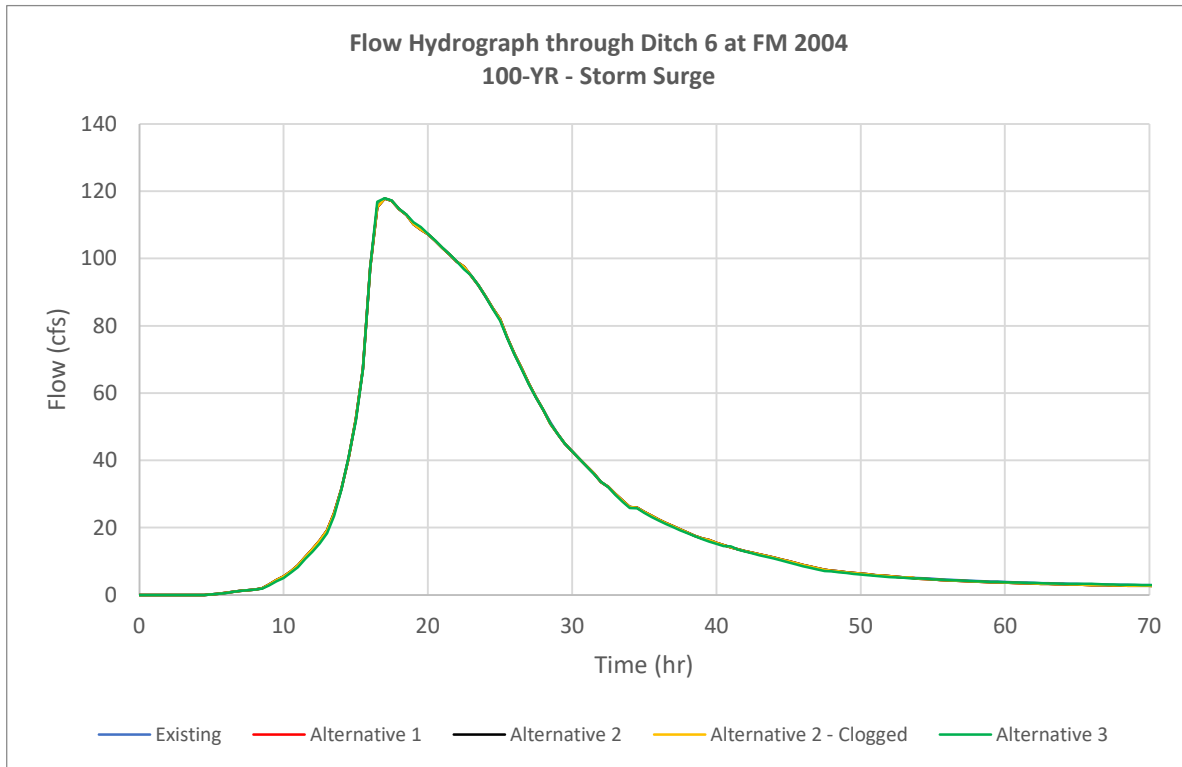
Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A67



Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.

Figure A68



Note: Each plot shows hydrographs for all five hydraulic conditions. Plots that appear to show fewer than five hydrographs indicate overlapping hydrographs with minimal to no difference.