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**CULTURAL RESOURCE INVESTIGATIONS
AT THE PROPOSED MONTGOMERY COUNTY
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, TEXAS**



TAC Permit No. 7297

Prepared by:

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Abstract

DESCO Environmental Consultants, LP conducted a cultural resource investigation on behalf of Imperial Promenade, Inc. on a privately owned 4.6 acre tract of land located on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Outlaw Pond Quadrangle 3095-124 in Montgomery County, Texas. The cultural resource investigation was conducted to meet Section 106 requirements as part of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) permitting process for a proposed wastewater treatment plant with a depth ranging from 36 (1 meter) to 48 inches (1.2 meters).

The project area consisted of a pine/mixed hardwood area located on a terrace of the West Fork of the San Jacinto River.

A total of ten shovel tests were conducted on the property. Standard shovel testing was conducted in areas of potential effect not to exceed 36 inches, supplemented by a power auger in the locations with an area of potential effect of up to 48 inches. Three shovel tests were extended to a depth of 48 inches using a power auger. All excavated fill was screened through ¼ inch hardware cloth. All of the investigations were negative and terminated in clay.

I. Definition of Study Area

The project area consists of a privately-owned 4.6 acre (18,615.5 square meter) tract of land located on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Outlaw Pond Quadrangle 3095-124 in southeastern Montgomery County, Texas (Figure 1). It is a heavily wooded area located on a terrace of the West Fork of the San Jacinto River (Figure 2). Construction of a wastewater treatment plant, with a depth ranging from 36 (1 meter) to 48 inches (1.2 meters), is proposed at the site. The cultural resource investigation was conducted to meet Section 106 requirements as part of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) permitting process.

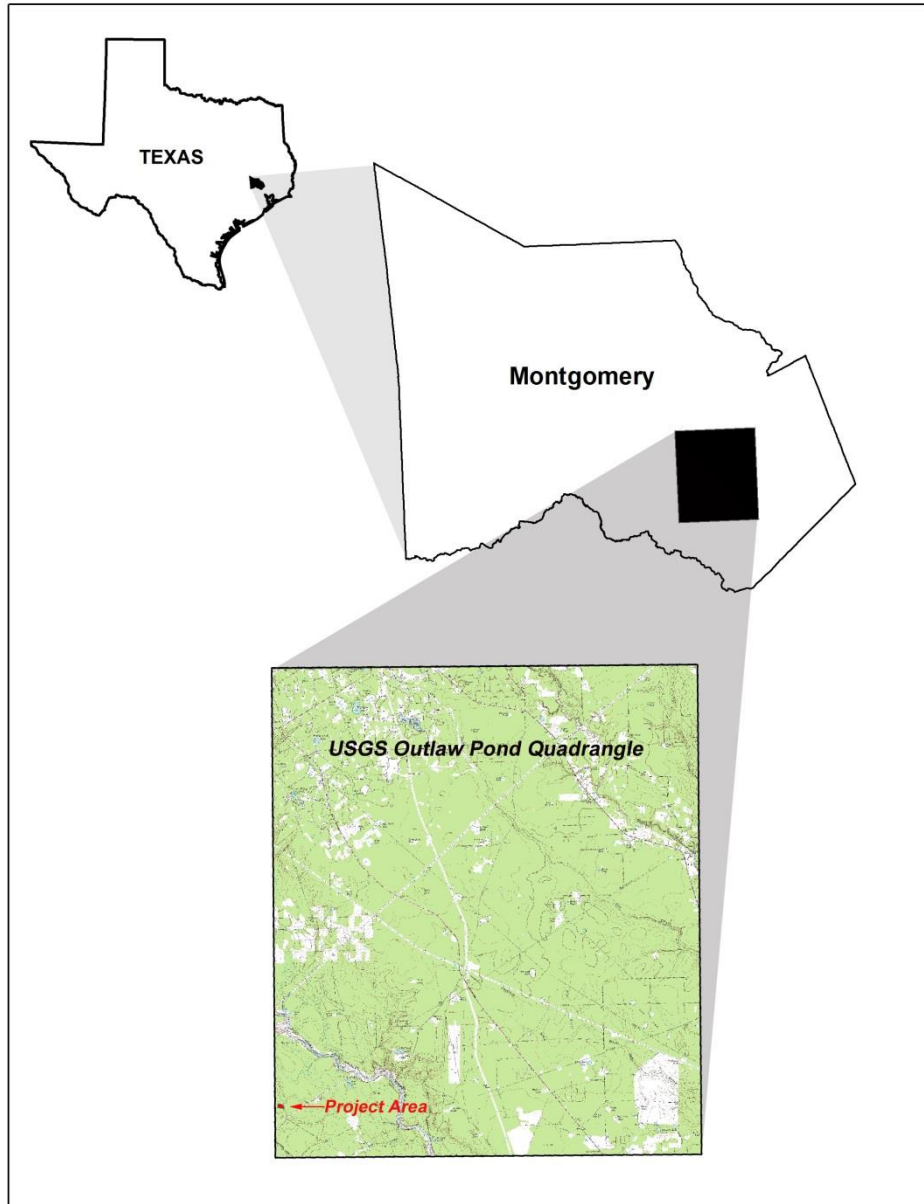


Figure 1. Project Area Location Map

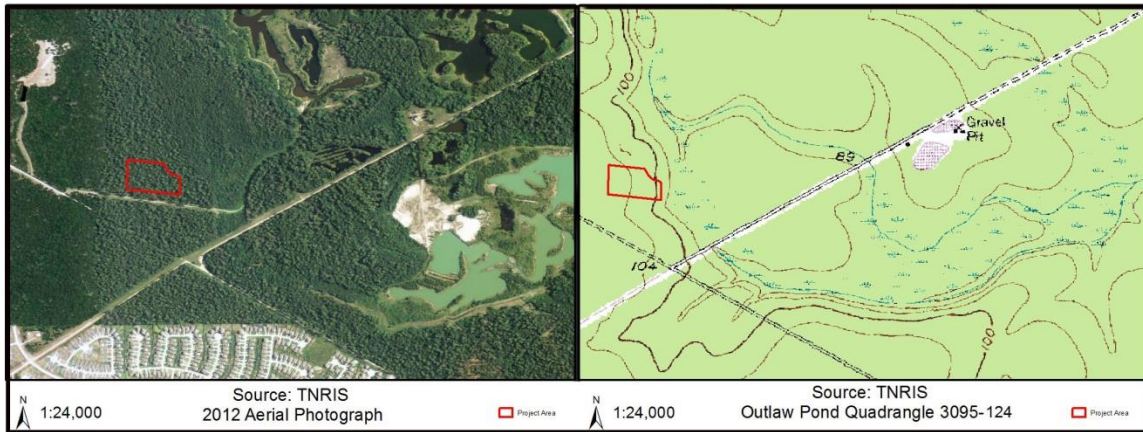


Figure 2. Project Area on Aerial Photograph and Topographic Map

II. Management Summary

DESCO conducted a cultural investigation on behalf of Imperial Promenade, Inc. on a privately-owned 4.6 acre tract of land located on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Outlaw Pond Quadrangle 3095-124 in Montgomery County, Texas. Trevor Seekamp served as Principal Investigator. The field effort was accomplished on April 24, 2015. The cultural investigation found no evidence of cultural resource sites.

III. Background Research

A review of the Texas Historical Commission (THC), Texas Archaeological Sites Atlas (Atlas) (<http://atlas.thc.state.tx.us/>) was performed to obtain data relating to previously recorded archaeological sites, National Register Properties, and surveys. The search indicated that no previous formal archaeological surveys had been conducted and no previously recorded archaeological sites had been recorded at the location. Two sites were previously recorded southeast of the project area during PBS&J's survey of the Grand Parkway. These were 41MQ198, an open prehistoric campsite and 41MQ199, a historic homestead.

A review of known cemeteries was conducted using files from the THC, ESRI ArcView data files, and historic and modern USGS quadrangles. None were present in the immediate vicinity.

IV. Project Area Description

The project area consists of a pine/mixed hardwood mesic 4.6 acre tract consisting of loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*), southern red oak (*Quercus falcata*), overcup oak (*Quercus lyrata*), sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), yaupon holly (*Ilex vomitoria*), parsley hawthorn (*Crataegus marshallii*) dwarf palmetto (*Sabal minor*), other mixed hardwoods, and a sparse layer of common grasses/herbs. This tract is located on a terrace of the West Fork of the San Jacinto River. The tract is located approximately 1 mile (1.6 kilometer) southwest of the West Fork of the San Jacinto River. The eastern portion of the project area was situated on a higher area of the terrace and was

drier/less mesic than the western portion (Figure 3). The proposed wastewater treatment plant will occupy the southeast portion of the project area with a 150 foot (45.7 meter) buffer of natural vegetation along the northern and western sides.



Figure 3. Overview of Project Area.

Soils of the project area include three soil types (Figure 3). Atasco Fine Sandy Loam (AtaC), 2 - 5 % slopes, makes up 3.5 acres or 76.1 % of the project area. It is found on terraces and has a typical profile of A - 0 to 6 inches: fine sandy loam, E - 6 to 14 inches: very fine sandy loam, Bt - 14 to 48 inches: clay, Btg - 48 to 80 inches: sandy clay loam. Belrose loamy fine sand (BelB), 0 - 3 % slopes, makes up 0.2 acres or 4.3 % of the project area. It is found on terraces and has a typical profile of E - 5 to 20 inches: loamy very fine sand, Bt/E1 - 20 to 63 inches: loamy very fine sand, Bt/E2 - 63 to 80 inches: loamy fine sand. Sorter-Tarkington complex (SosA), 0 to 1 % slopes, makes up 0.9 acres or 19.6 % of the project area. It is found on flats and has a typical profile of A - 0 to 3 inches: very fine sandy loam, Bg - 3 to 24 inches: very fine sandy loam, Btg/Eg1 - 24 to 78 inches: very fine sandy loam, and Btg/Eg2 - 78 to 80 inches: very fine sandy loam.

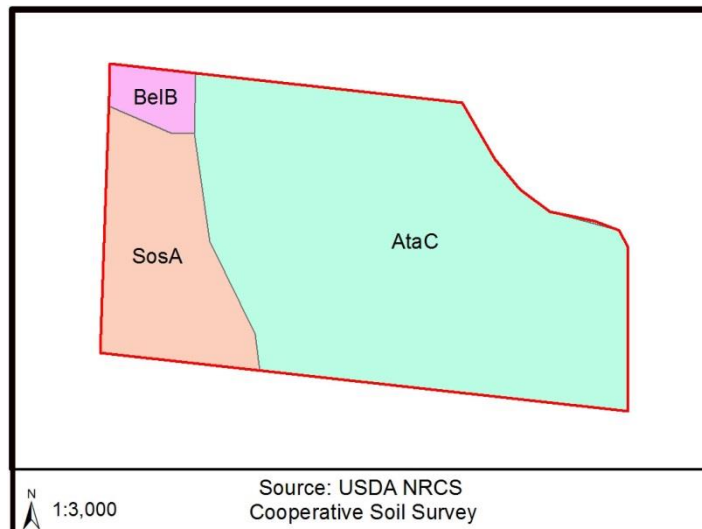


Figure 4. Project Area Soils

V. Research Design

Fieldwork followed the Council of Texas Archaeologists (CTA) and THC guidelines. The planned construction depth of 36 to 48 inches was tested through standard shovel testing in areas of potential effect not to exceed 36 inches, supplemented by a power auger in three locations with an area of potential effect of up to 48 inches. A total of ten shovel/auger tests were excavated and the fill passed through ¼ inch hardware cloth.

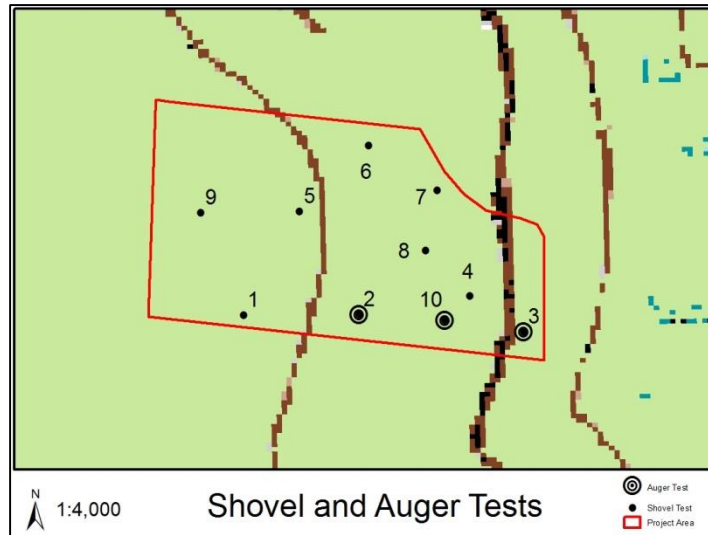


Figure 5. Shovel and Auger Test Location Map.

Table 1: Survey Shovel/Auger Tests				
Montgomery County, TX				
Recorder: <u>Ed Baxter</u>			Date: <u>April 24, 20-5</u>	
Sequential Number	Recorder Initials	Positive Level	Total Depth (cmbs)	Comments/Reason for Termination:
1	EB	-	50	0-5 organic, 5-15 sandy loam, 15-50 clay and water
2	EB	-	120	0-5 organic, 5-40 clay, Auger- 40-120 clay
3	EB	-	120	0-3 organic, 3-15 clay, Auger- 15-120 clay
4	EB	-	30	0-3 organic, 3-30 clay
5	EB	-	30	0-3 organic, 3-30 clay
6	EB	-	30	0-20 silty loam, 20-30 clay

7	EB	-	40	0-40 clay
8	EB	-	30	0-10 clay loam, 10-30 clay
9	EB	-	20	0-10 sandy clay, 10-20 clay
10	EB	-	120	0-3 organic, 3-30 clay, Auger- 30-120 clay

Table 1. Survey Shovel/Auger Tests

VI. Results

All ten survey tests were negative. All tests were terminated in clay or at the water table. Visual inspections revealed no cultural resources.

VII. Recommendations

The field investigation found that no historic or prehistoric cultural resource sites will be impacted by the proposed project. The project should be allowed to continue as planned.

VIII. References

Google Earth

Historic images accessed April 18, 2015.

Texas Historical Commission (THC)

Texas Archeological Sites Atlas (Atlas), located at: <http://atlas.thc.state.tx.us/>,
Accessed on April 17, 2015.

USDA-NRCS

USDA Web Soil Survey Online. Located at: <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm>. Accessed on April 17, 2015.

USGS Quadrangle Maps

Modern and Historic USGS Quadrangle Maps. Located At:

[http://store.usgs.gov/b2c_usgs/usgs/maplocator/\(ctype=areaDetails&xcm=r3standardpitrex_prd&care=%24ROOT&layout=6_1_61_48&uiarea=2\)/.do](http://store.usgs.gov/b2c_usgs/usgs/maplocator/(ctype=areaDetails&xcm=r3standardpitrex_prd&care=%24ROOT&layout=6_1_61_48&uiarea=2)/.do). Accessed on April 17, 2015.