

WATER RESOURCES EVALUATION AND AQUATIC RESOURCES DELINEATION

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PROJECT OVERVIEW

[📍 Southeast Texas](#)

ESE conducted a water resources evaluation and aquatic resources delineation for an approximately 25-acre property in Southeast Texas to support planning for proposed drainage improvements. The evaluation focused on identifying aquatic features and assessing whether any on-site waters could be subject to federal jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act. Field investigations and desktop review were performed to provide the project team with early environmental information needed to guide project design and regulatory planning.

CHALLENGES

The property contains constructed drainage features and modified landscape conditions that required careful evaluation to determine whether the observed features function as jurisdictional waters. In addition, field work occurred during a period of severe drought conditions, requiring additional interpretation of hydrologic indicators and professional judgment to accurately assess aquatic resources and potential regulatory triggers.

ESE'S APPROACH

- Conducted a desktop review of available mapping, aerial imagery, and environmental datasets to identify potential aquatic resources
- Performed a field investigation to evaluate hydrology, soils, and vegetation and to document the ordinary high water mark where applicable
- Delineated aquatic features and prepared mapping to support jurisdictional screening and regulatory coordination

RESULTS

ESE identified two aquatic features within the project area consisting of an excavated pond and a drainage ditch. Based on field observations and regulatory criteria, both features appear to have been excavated in upland areas and are not likely to be considered jurisdictional Waters of the United States. The evaluation provided the project team with clear documentation of site conditions and regulatory considerations to support project planning and permitting decisions.