

**West Bank of the Mississippi River in the
Vicinity of New Orleans, Louisiana
East of Harvey Canal Hurricane Protection Project
Cousins Pumping Station Complex
Jefferson Parish, Louisiana**

**Waterline Support Failure:
A Case Study**

by
ANGELA DeSOTO DUNCAN, P.E.



US Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District

WEST JEFFERSON ENGINEERING SERVICES
- A JOINT VENTURE GROUP -



Jean Baptiste Le Moyne



Sieur de Bienville

Founded New Orleans in 1718







**WEST BANK AND VICINITY,
NEW ORLEANS, LA
HURRICANE PROTECTION PROJECT**

TROPICAL STORM FRANCES SEPTEMBER 1998

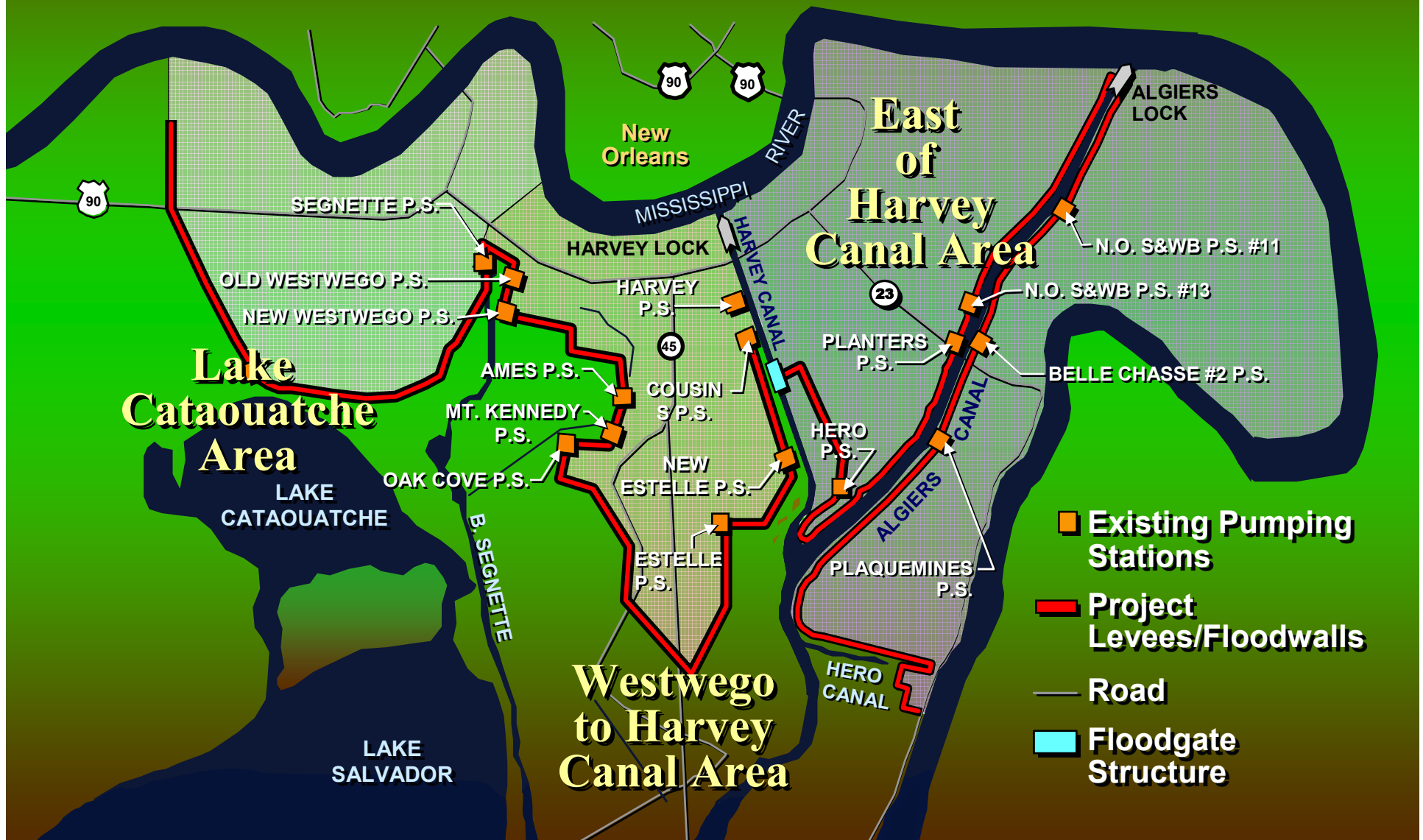
West Bank & Vicinity, New Orleans, LA Facts

- **WRDA 1986**
 - **Authorized Westwego to Harvey Canal**
- **WRDA 1996**
 - **Modified project to add Lake Cataouatche**
 - **Also authorized East of Harvey Canal**
- **WRDA 1999**
 - **Combined the 3 projects into one**
- **Cost shared**
 - **65% Federal / 35% Non-federal**
- **Sponsor**
 - **LADOTD for construction & WJLD for O&M**
- **Current estimated total project cost: \$340M**

West Bank & Vicinity, New Orleans, LA Summary

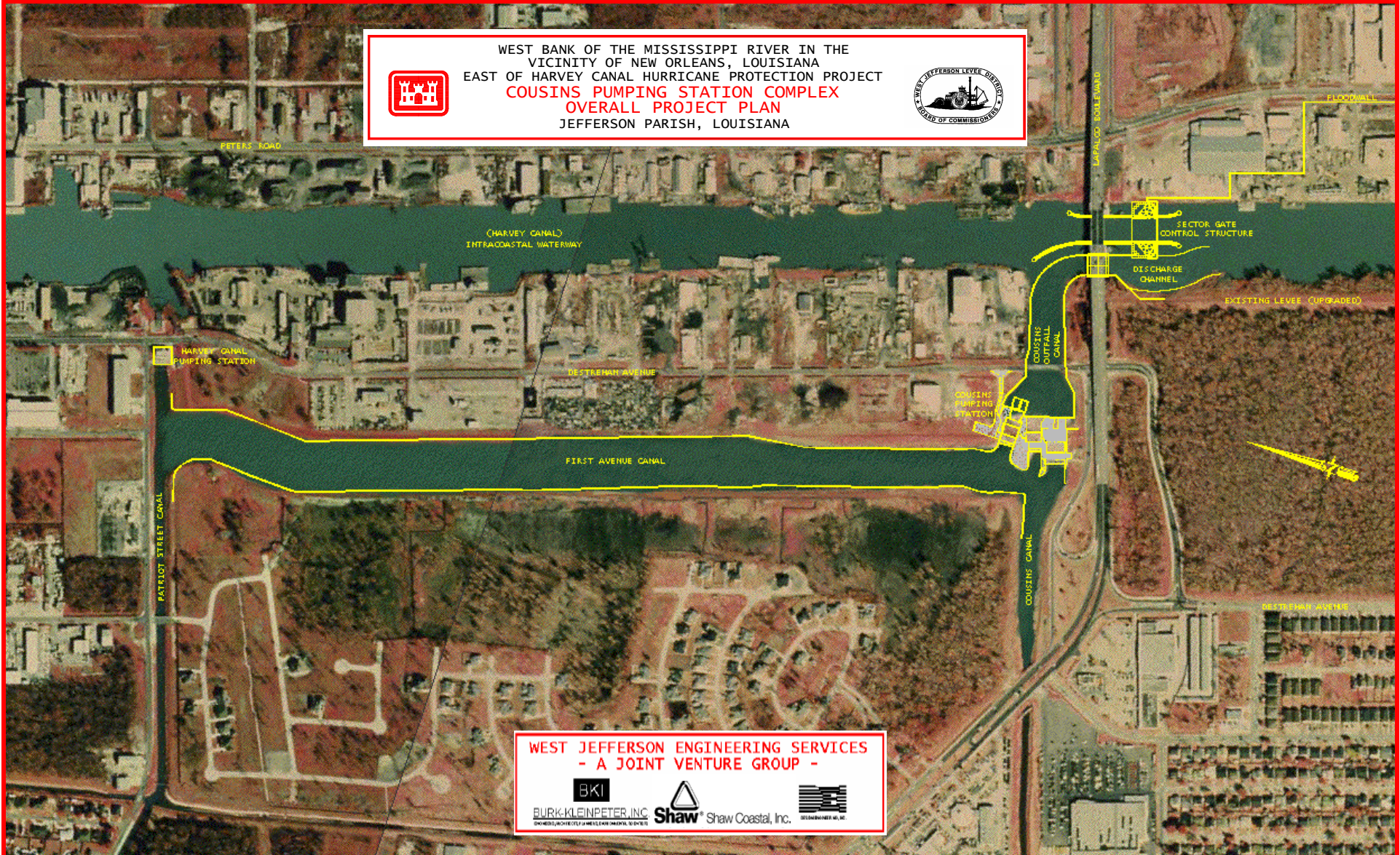
- **Will protect approximately 250,000 citizens**
- **Will protect over 65,000 homes and businesses in Orleans, Plaquemines and Jefferson Parishes**
- **When complete, will cover over 65 miles of levees, floodwalls and floodgates in the tri-parish area**
- **Through the end of 2004, federal & local sources have spent over \$150 million**
- **Project is 38% complete; completion date 2018**

West Bank & Vicinity, New Orleans, LA, Hurricane Protection Project



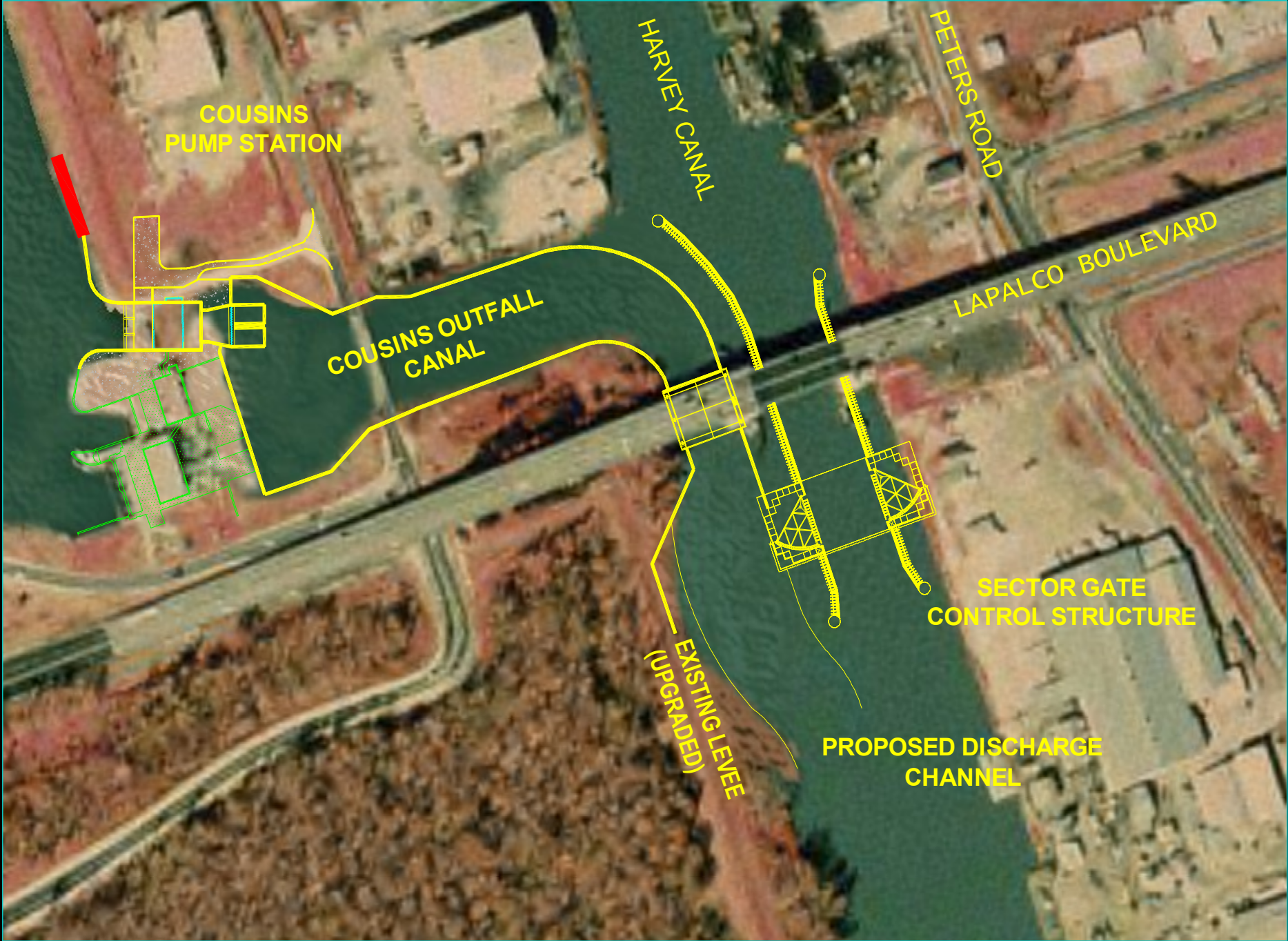


WEST BANK OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER IN THE VICINITY OF NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
 EAST OF HARVEY CANAL HURRICANE PROTECTION PROJECT
COUSINS PUMPING STATION COMPLEX
OVERALL PROJECT PLAN
 JEFFERSON PARISH, LOUISIANA



WEST JEFFERSON ENGINEERING SERVICES
 - A JOINT VENTURE GROUP -





COUSINS
PUMP STATION

HARVEY CANAL

PETERS ROAD

COUSINS OUTFALL
CANAL

LAPALCO BOULEVARD

SECTOR GATE
CONTROL STRUCTURE

EXISTING LEVEL
(UPGRADED)

PROPOSED DISCHARGE
CHANNEL



FIRST AVE CANAL

First Ave. Canal & Cousins Pumping Station

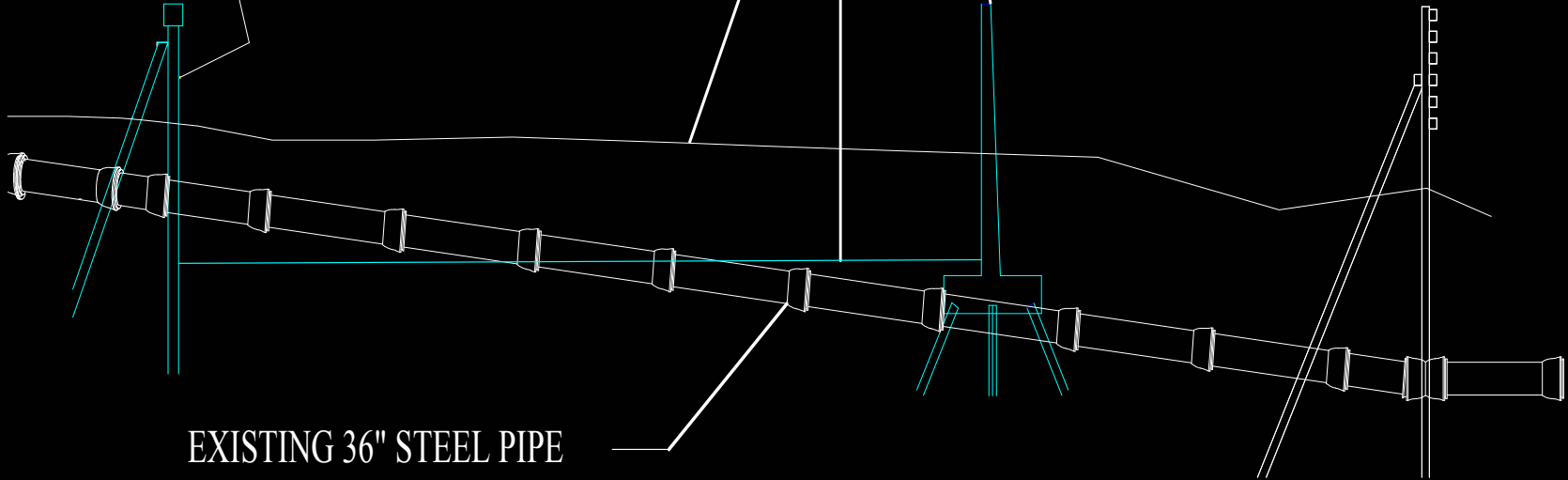
PROPOSED
DISCHARGE CHANNEL
FLOODWALL SEGMENTS

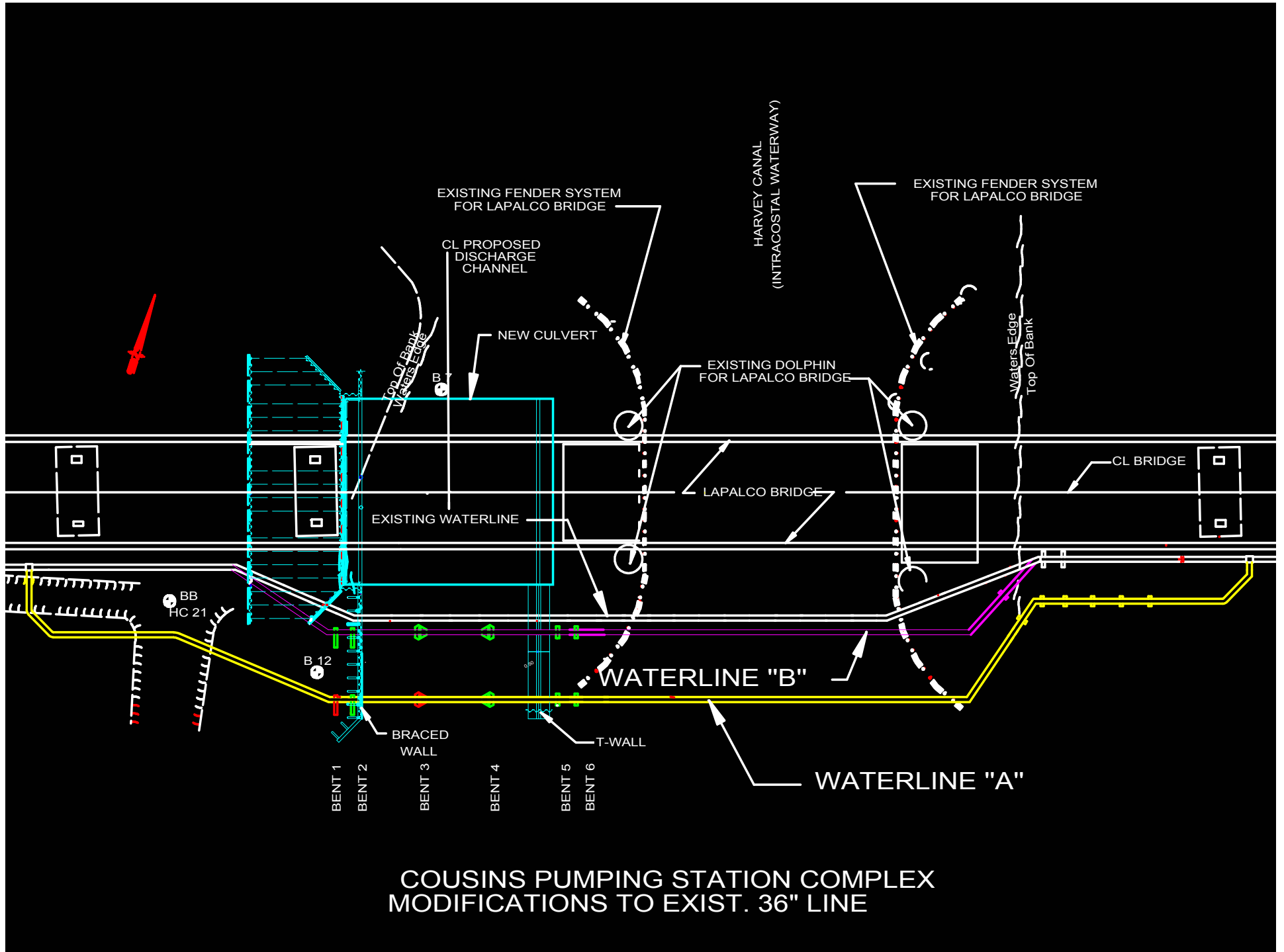
PROPOSED CHANNEL
BOTTOM EL. -12.00

PROPOSED
DISCHARGE CHANNEL
FLOODWALL SEGMENTS

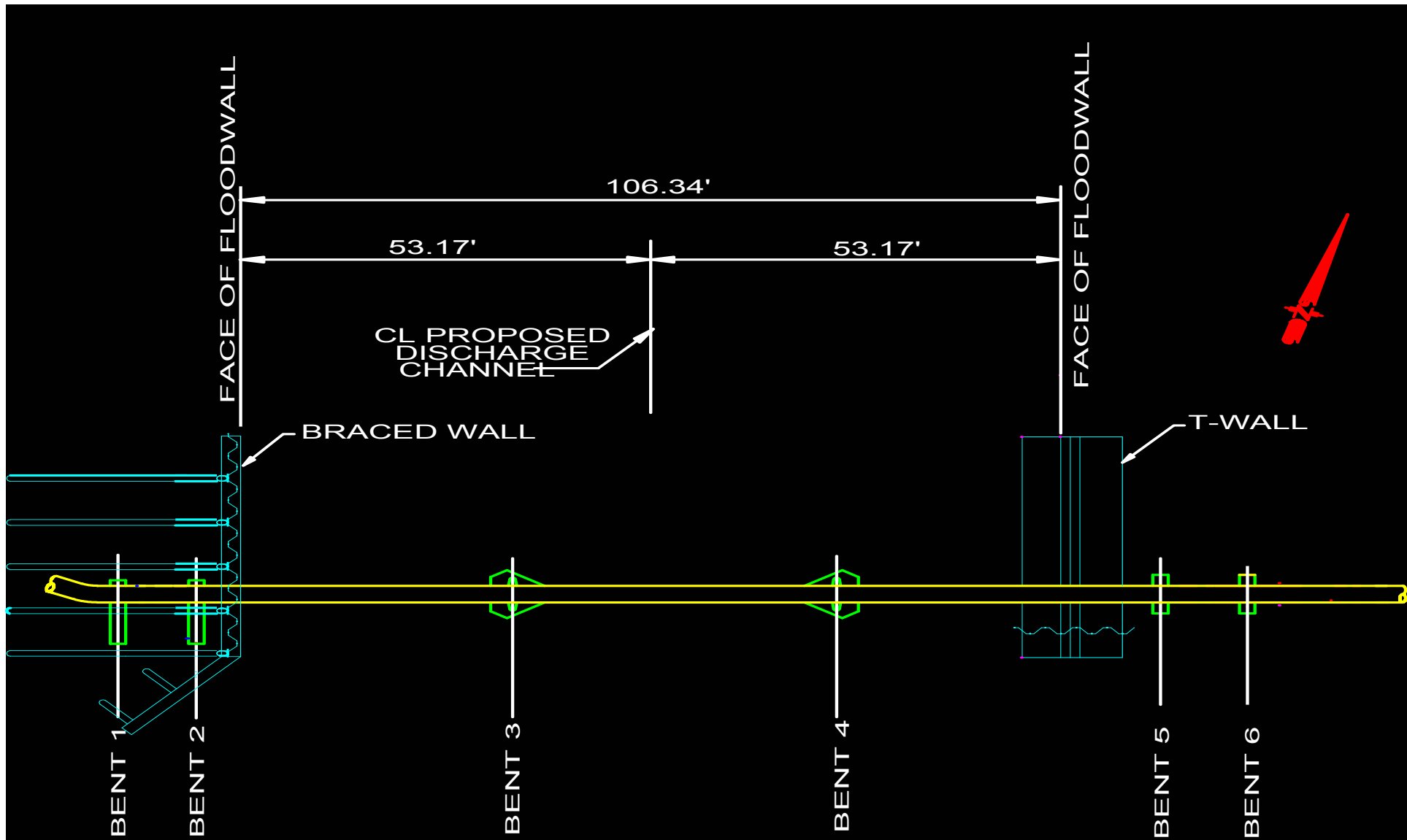
EXISTING GROUND

EXISTING 36" STEEL PIPE



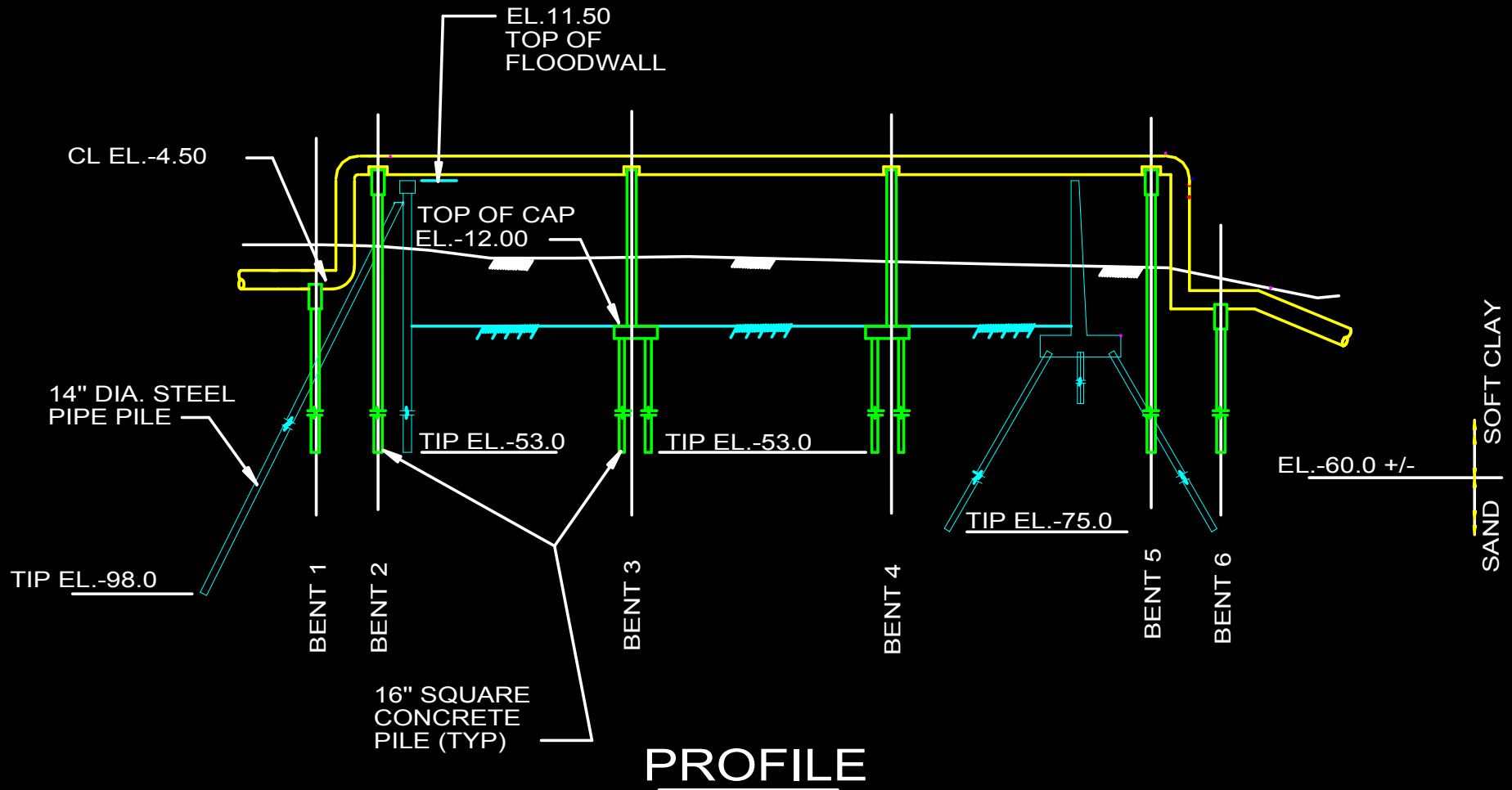


**COUSINS PUMPING STATION COMPLEX
 MODIFICATIONS TO EXIST. 36" LINE**



PLAN

**COUSINS PUMPING STATION COMPLEX
ORIGINAL WATERLINE CROSSING
(WATERLINES "A" AND "B")**



**COUSINS PUMPING STATION COMPLEX
ORIGINAL WATERLINE CROSSING
(WATERLINES "A" AND "B")**

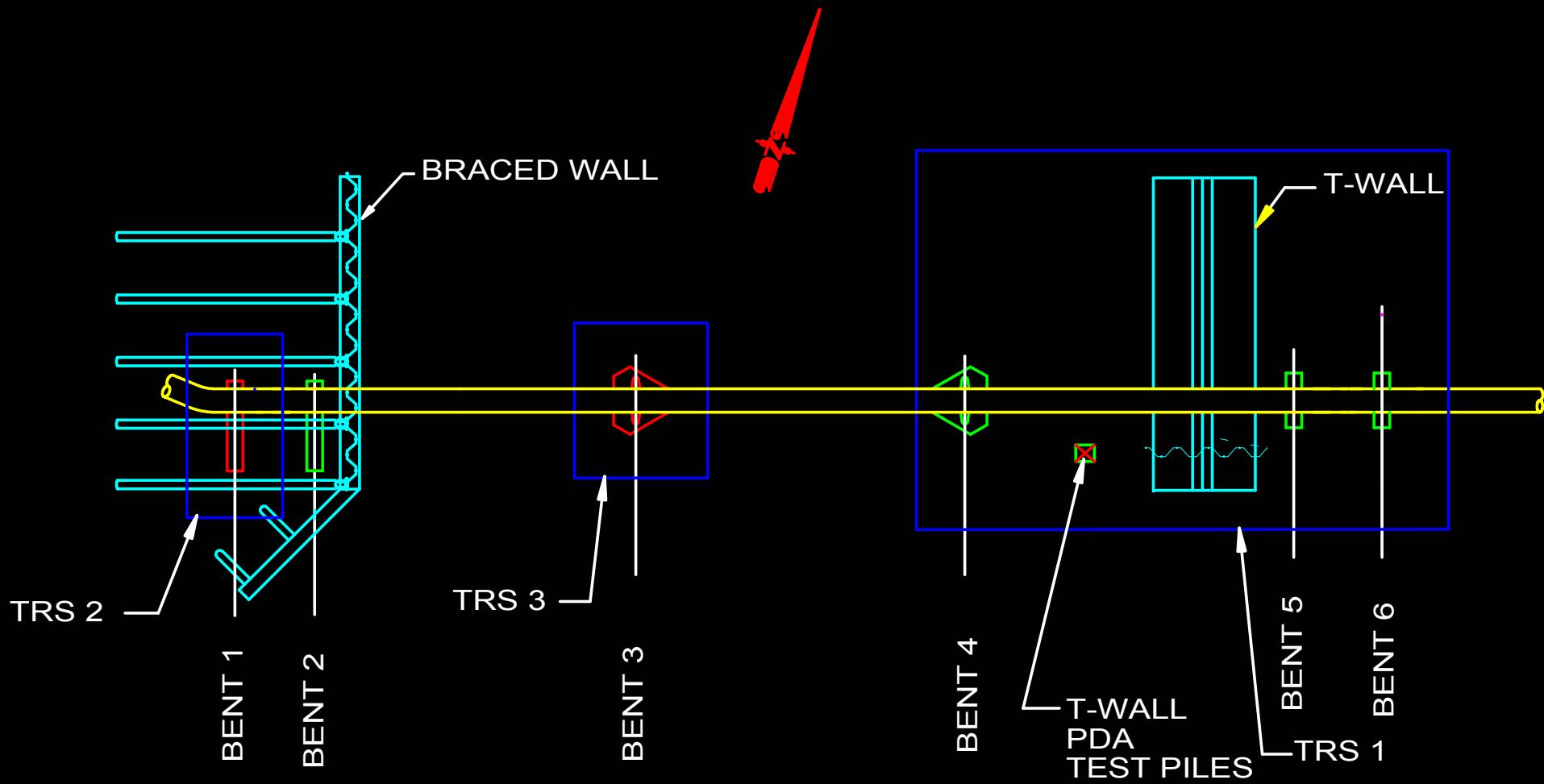


Pile Driving by Waterline "A"



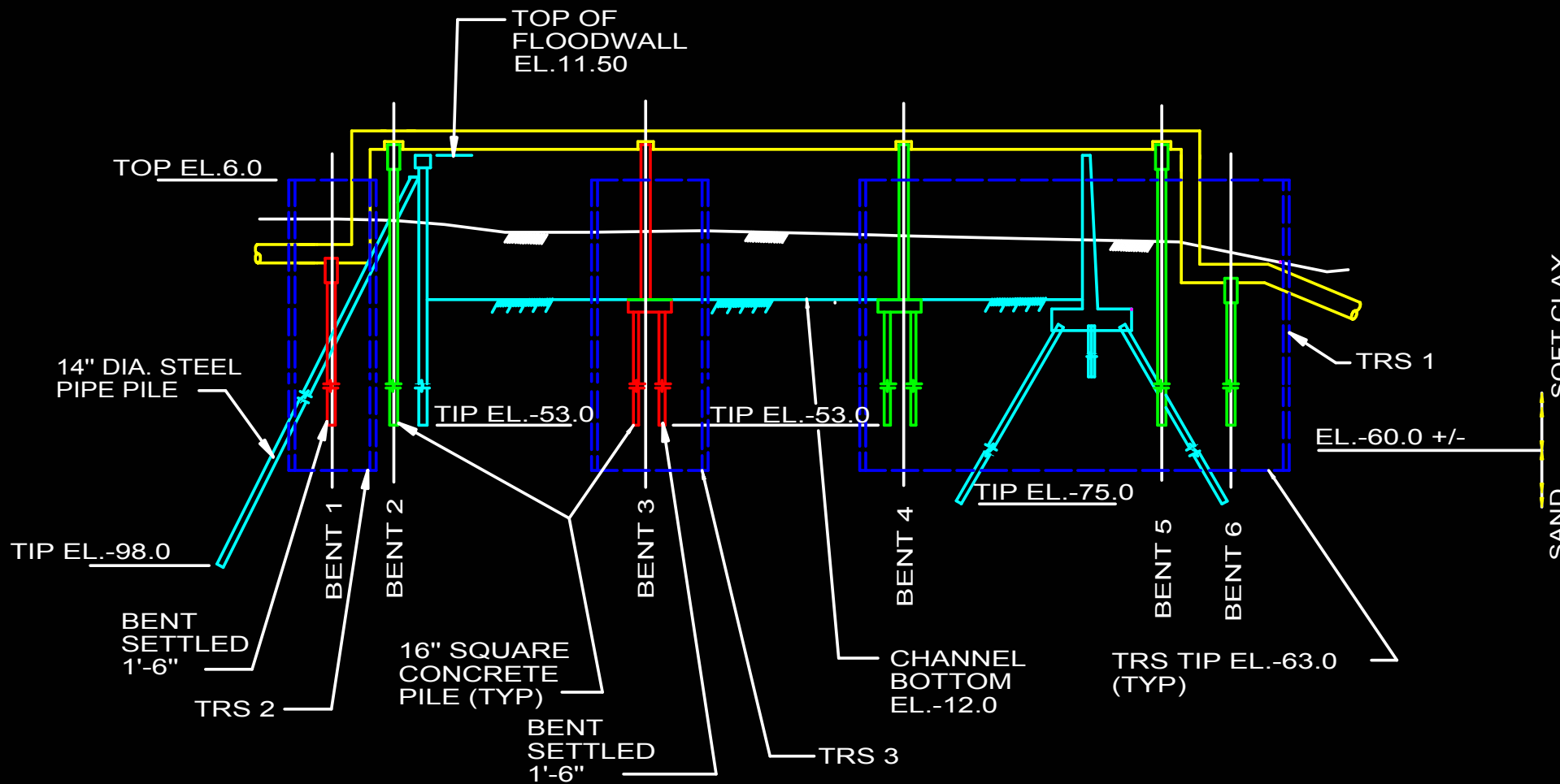
Waterline Segment





PLAN

COUSINS PUMPING STATION COMPLEX WATERLINE CROSSING "A"



PROFILE

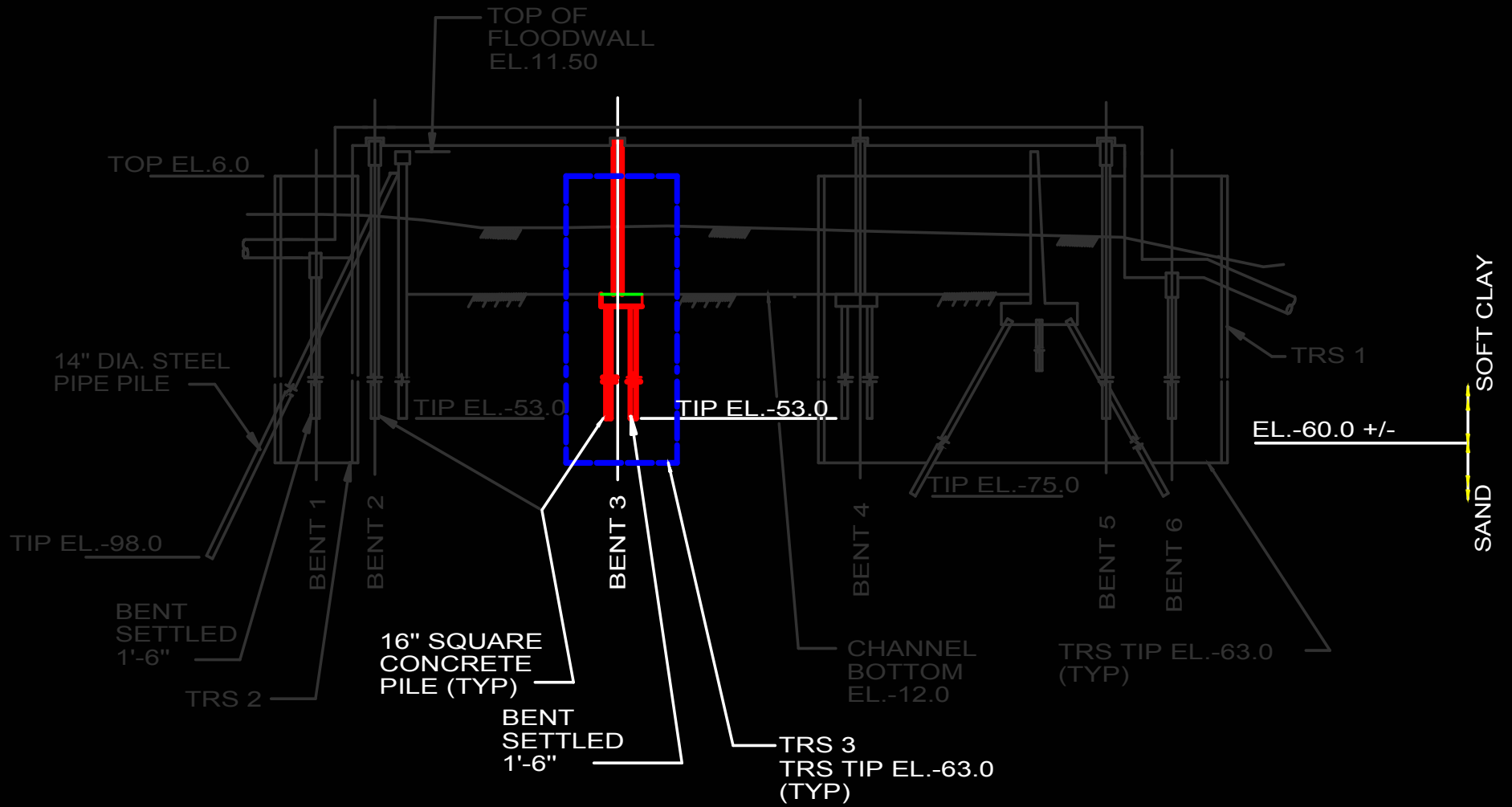
COUSINS PUMPING STATION COMPLEX WATERLINE CROSSING "A"

Event Timeline - 2004

- **Jan 8 & 9 – Contractor pulls cofferdam sheet piling around bent A-3**
- **Jan 12 – Contractor reports settlement of bent A-3. Bent surveyed. Settlement = 1'-6"**
- **Jan 26 – First Modification issued**

Potential Cause

- **Soil Wedge Filled the Void Caused by Cofferdam Removal**
- **Permanent Piles were COMPLETELY in the Soil Wedge that Moved**

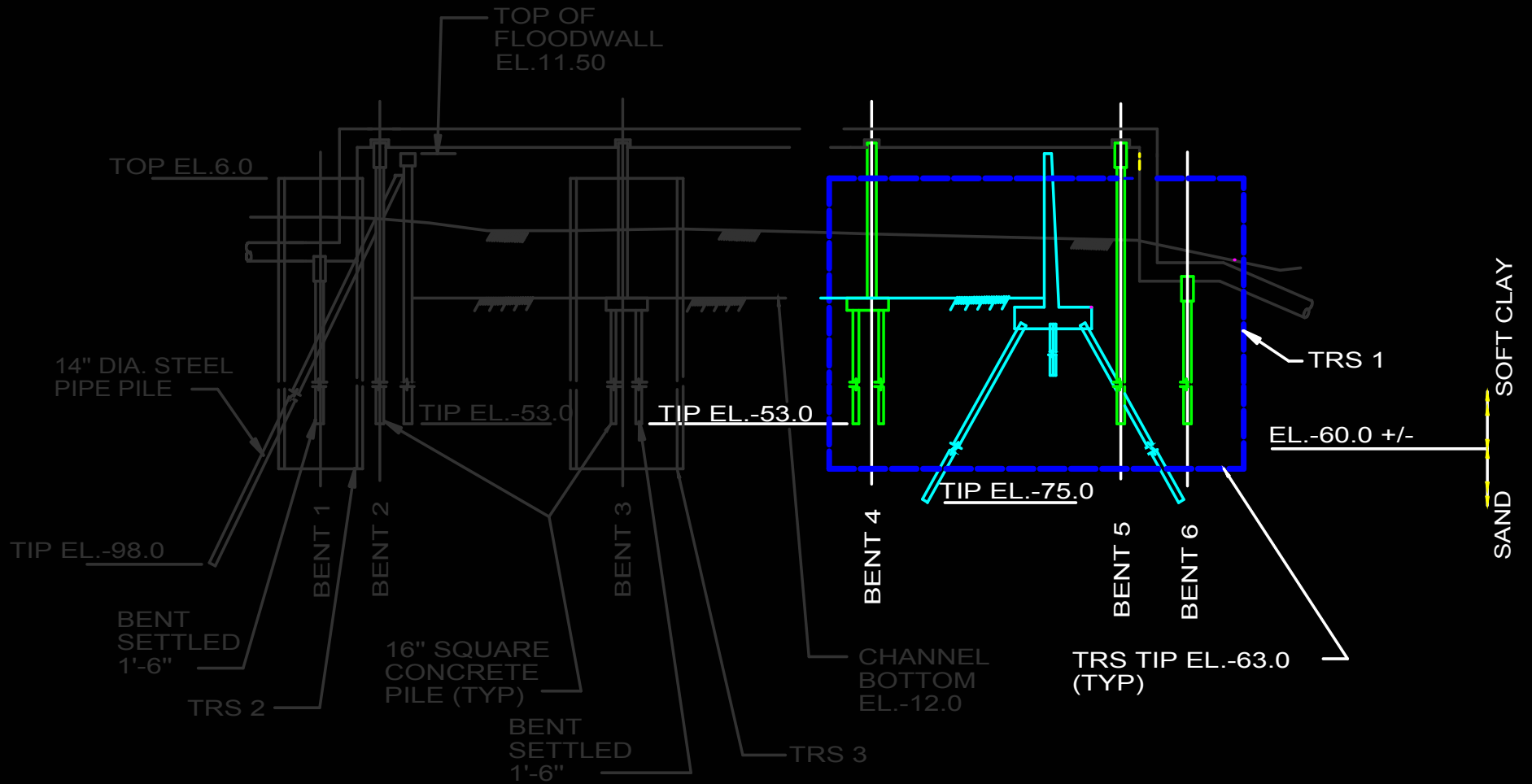


TRRS 3

COUSINS PUMPING STATION COMPLEX WATERLINE CROSSING "A"

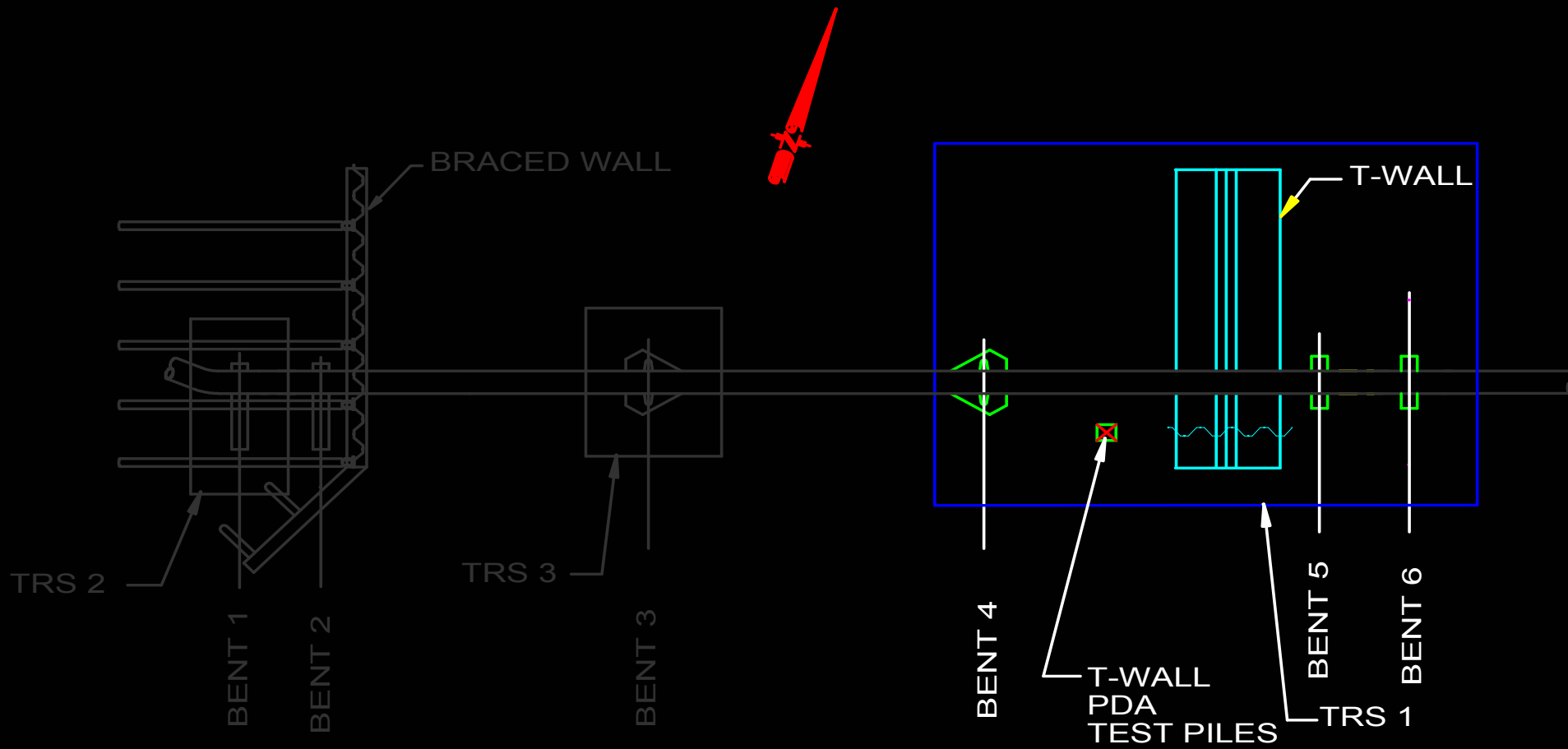






TRS 1

COUSINS PUMPING STATION COMPLEX
 WATERLINE CROSSING "A"



PLAN

COUSINS PUMPING STATION COMPLEX
WATERLINE CROSSING "A"





Pile Integrity Test – Bent A-6

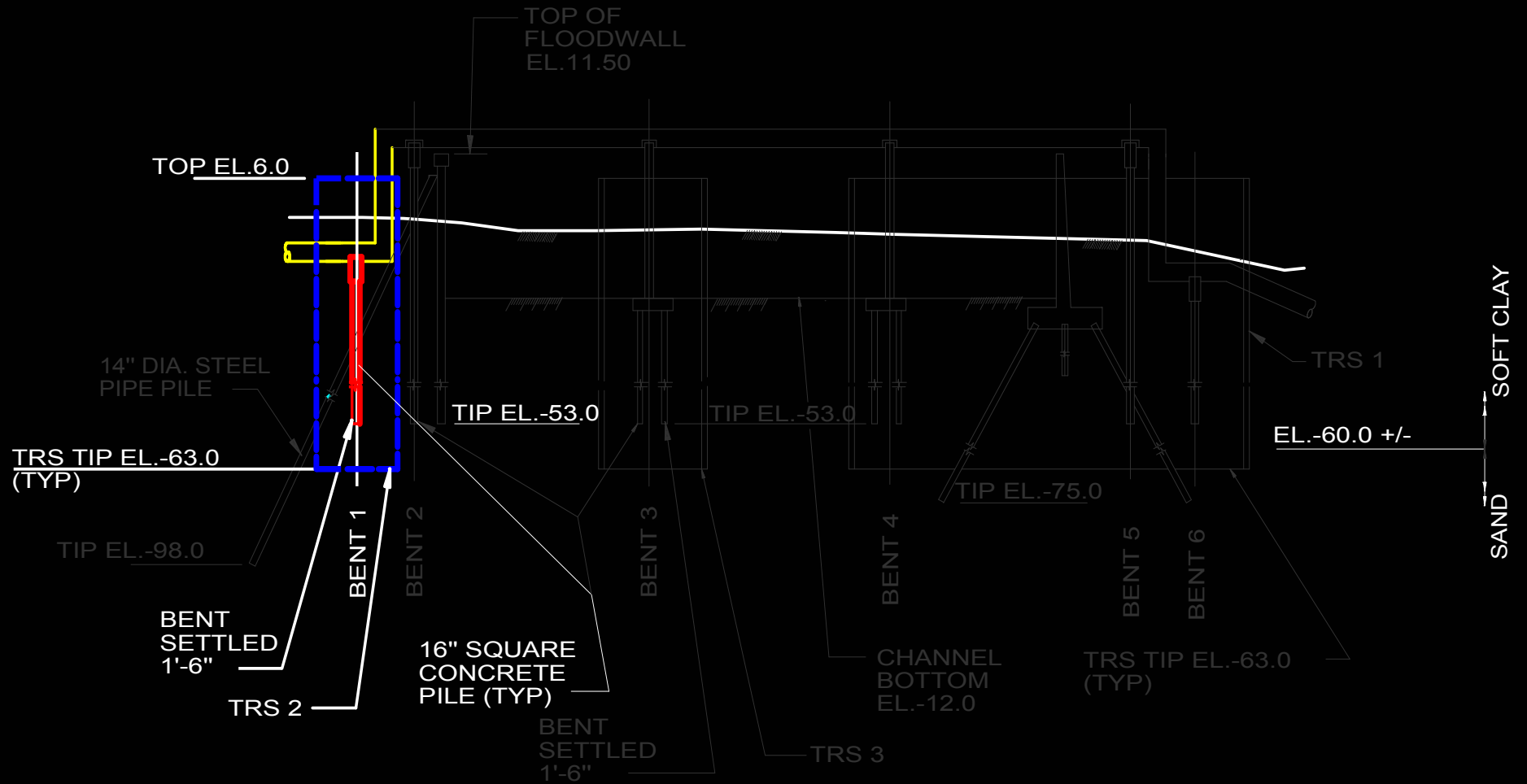


Event Timeline - 2004

- **Late Nov 2003 – Contractor pulls TRS-2 cofferdam sheet piling.**
- **Dec-Jan – Contractor drives permanent sheet piling and battered pipe piles for the braced wall.**
- **Jan 22 – Contractor reports waterline pipe on bent A-1 out of alignment**
- **Feb 4 – Contractor exposes and surveys bent A-1. Settlement = 1'-6"**
- **Mar 10 – Pile Integrity Test performed on bents A-1 and A-6**
- **Mar 19 – Second Modification issued**
- **May – First Waterline Complete and In Service**

Potential Causes

- **Soil Wedge Filled the Void Caused by Cofferdam Removal.**
- **Permanent Piles were COMPLETELY in the Soil Wedge that Moved.**
- **Vibrations from Driving the Adjacent Permanent Sheet Piling and Steel Pipe Piles for the Braced Wall.**



TRS 2

COUSINS PUMPING STATION COMPLEX
WATERLINE CROSSING "A"

Bent A-1



Bent A-1

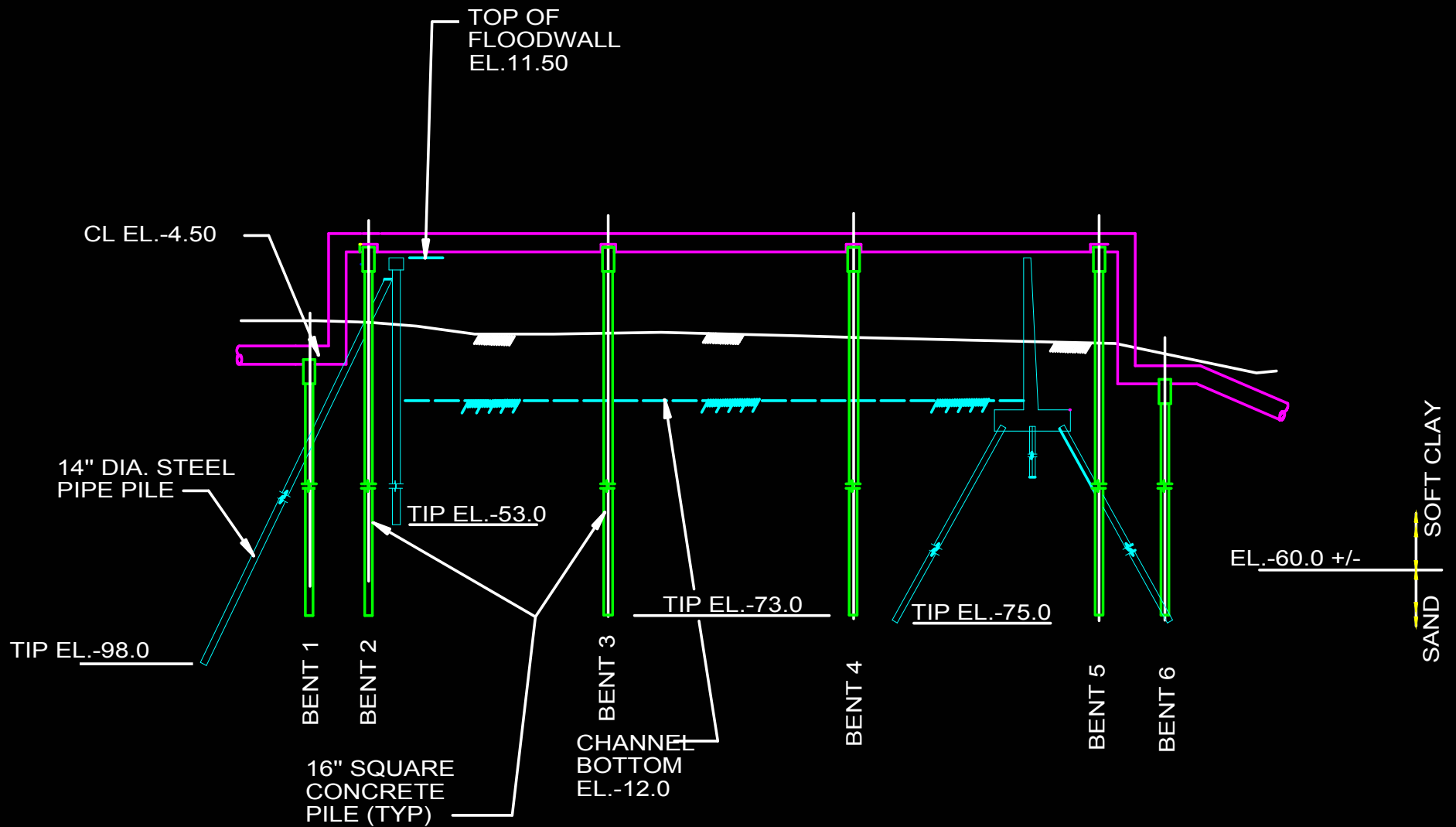


Pile Integrity Test – Bent A-1



Bent A-2





PROFILE

COUSINS PUMPING STATION COMPLEX WATERLINE CROSSING "B"

Waterline "A"







12 11 2004 12:40

Lessons Learned

- **During Pile Design, Carefully Consider the Effects of Adjacent Construction, INCLUDING Temporary Construction.**
- **Compare Tip Elevations of Permanent Piles and Temporary Piles.**
- **Permanent Pile Tip Elevations Should ALWAYS be Lower than the Active Wedge of Temporary Piles.**
- **Don't Design with Blinders On.**
- **Communicate, Communicate, Communicate!**





01 06 2005





*United States
Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District*

Angela DeSoto Duncan, P.E.

Angela.L.DeSoto@myn02.usace.army.mil

(504)862-2733

THANKS...

