



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Chicago District

# HH&C, Track 4, Session 4G, Modeling, 1:30 pm Aug. 4

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# Little Calumet River Unsteady Flow Model Conversion UNET to HEC-RAS

- **Rick D. Ackerson**
- **Hydraulic Engineer**
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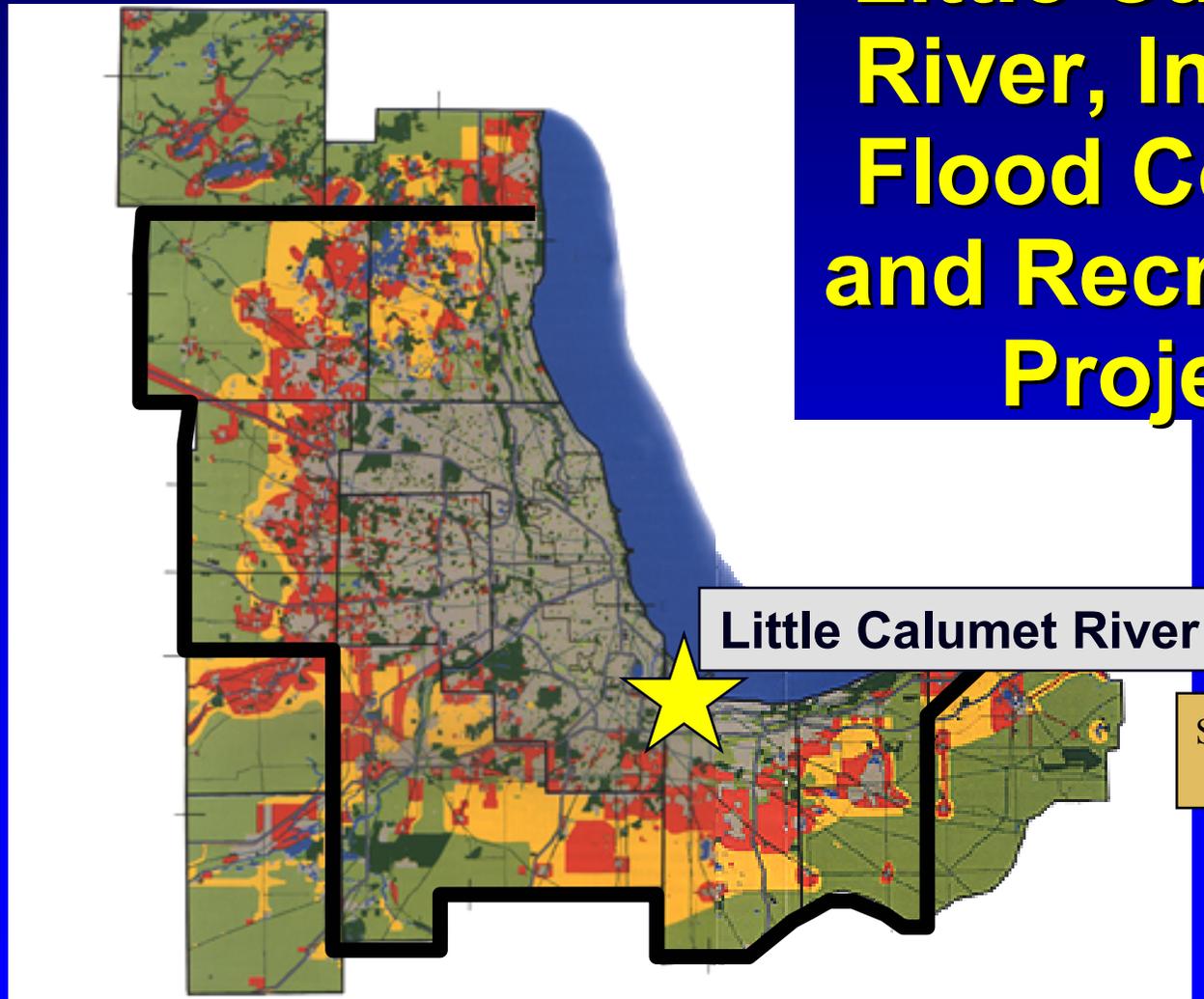




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## Little Calumet River, Indiana Flood Control and Recreation Project



Source: Openlands  
Project





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# Project Description

## Little Calumet River, Indiana

- Construct 22 miles of new urban levees
- Provides 200 year level of flood protection
- Construct 17 miles of hiking trails
- Fish and Wildlife mitigation - 550 acres of wetland
- Local Sponsor: Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission
- Authorization: WRDA 1986





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# History of the Little Cal Models

- **1991 – Little Cal UNET model constructed from existing 1970's vintage HEC-2 and WSP-2 models  
HEC-1 was used to develop inflows**
- **1995 – Deep River reach extended. Model recalibrated**
- **2002 – Model converted from specialized Dr. Barkau version to the HEC version of UNET  
Updated to Bulletin 70/71 precipitation from TP-40 and recalibrated**
- **2005 – HEC-UNET converted to HEC-RAS  
Updated special bridges to more detailed bridges**



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# Reasons for Model Conversions

- **2002 specialized UNET to HEC-UNET**
  - To update to the more standard Bulletin 70/71 precipitation
  - To update to the more accepted standard HEC-UNET (specialized version did not run on the Windows platform)
- **2005 - HEC-UNET to HEC-RAS**
  - City of Gary requested new floodway mapping to reflect the Corps levee construction to date
  - FEMA requested conversion for ease of review and ease of floodway determination
  - State of Illinois showed interest in new floodway mapping to reflect the impacts of the new Thornton reservoir



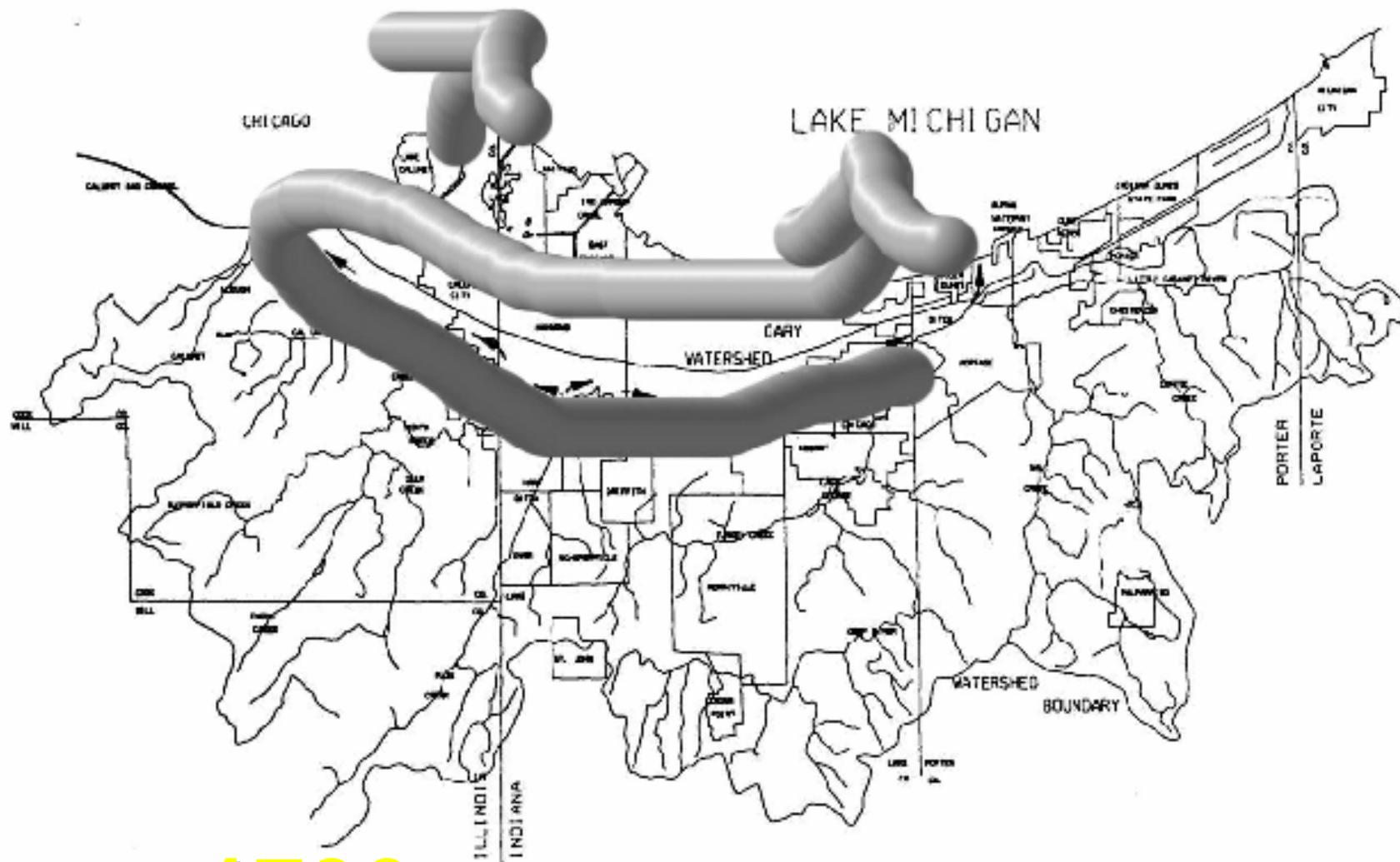


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# Various Uses for Little Calumet River Model

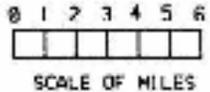
- Design Levee Height Superiority Analysis
- To determine impacts of various project features
- To develop the flood warning plan
- To determine the impact of staged construction
- To develop updated floodplain mapping for the city of Gary
- To develop updated floodplain mapping in Illinois

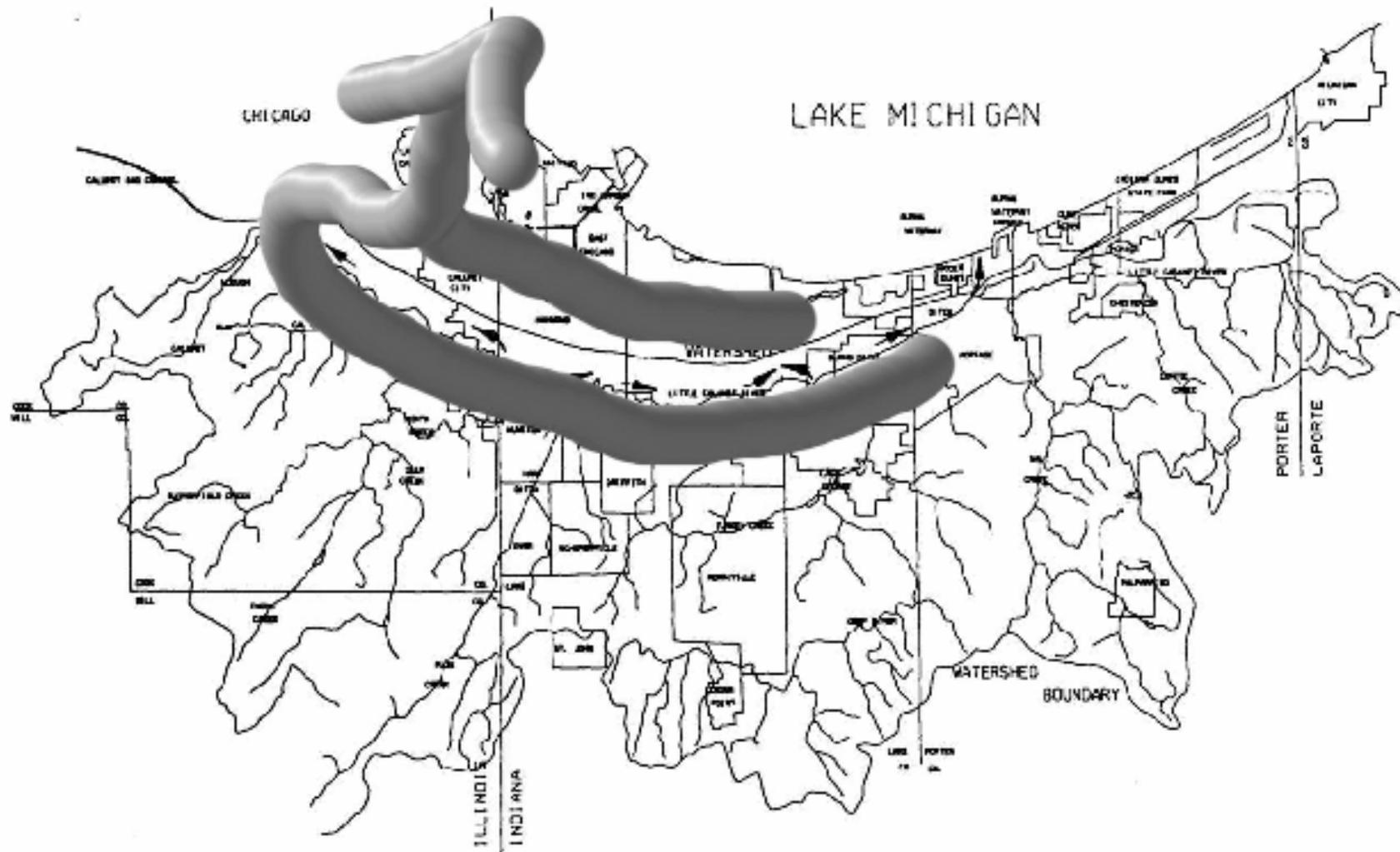




**1790**

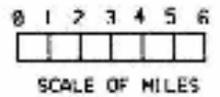
Storm Flow Patterns

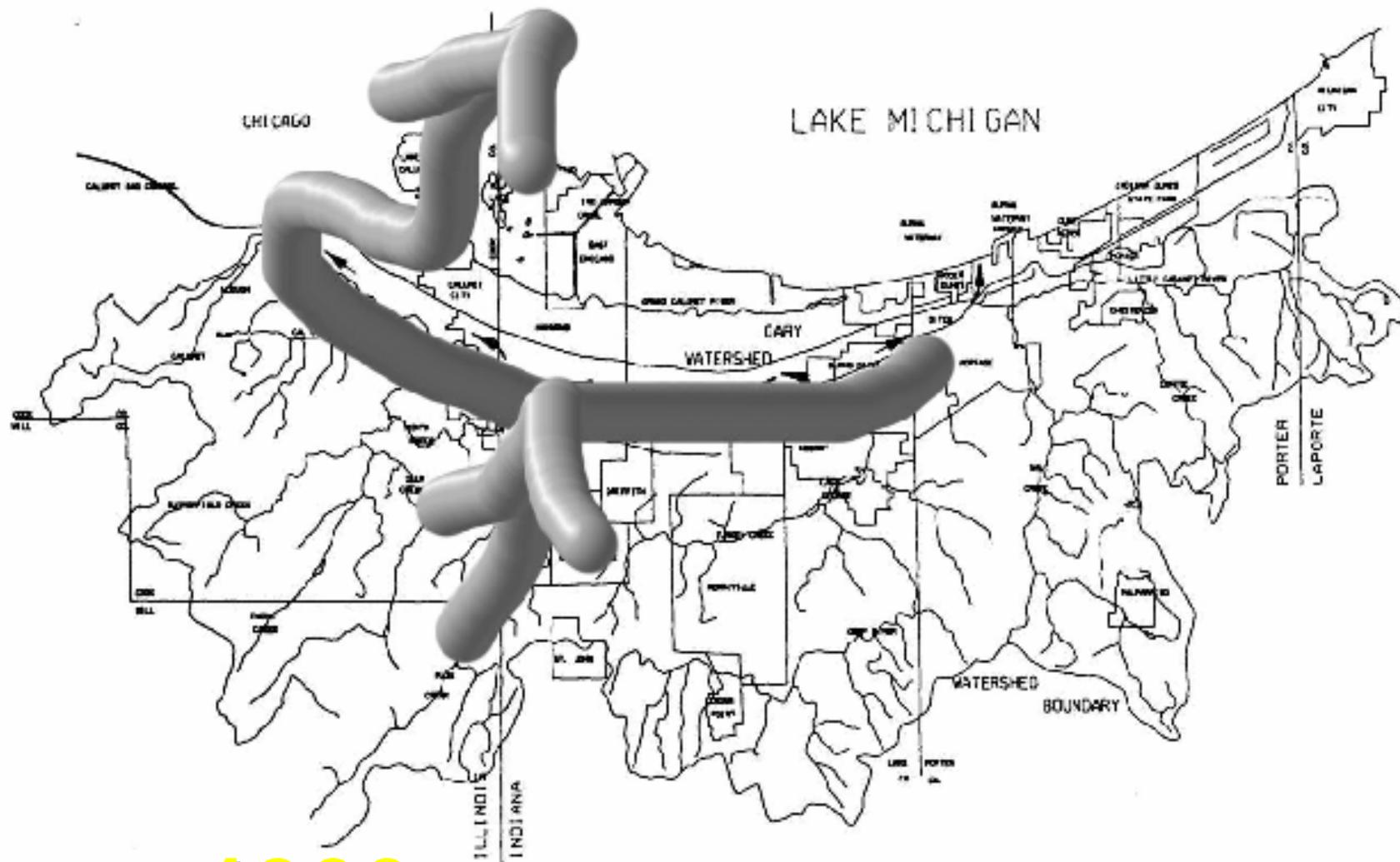




**1820**

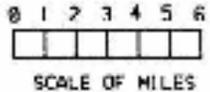
Storm Flow Patterns

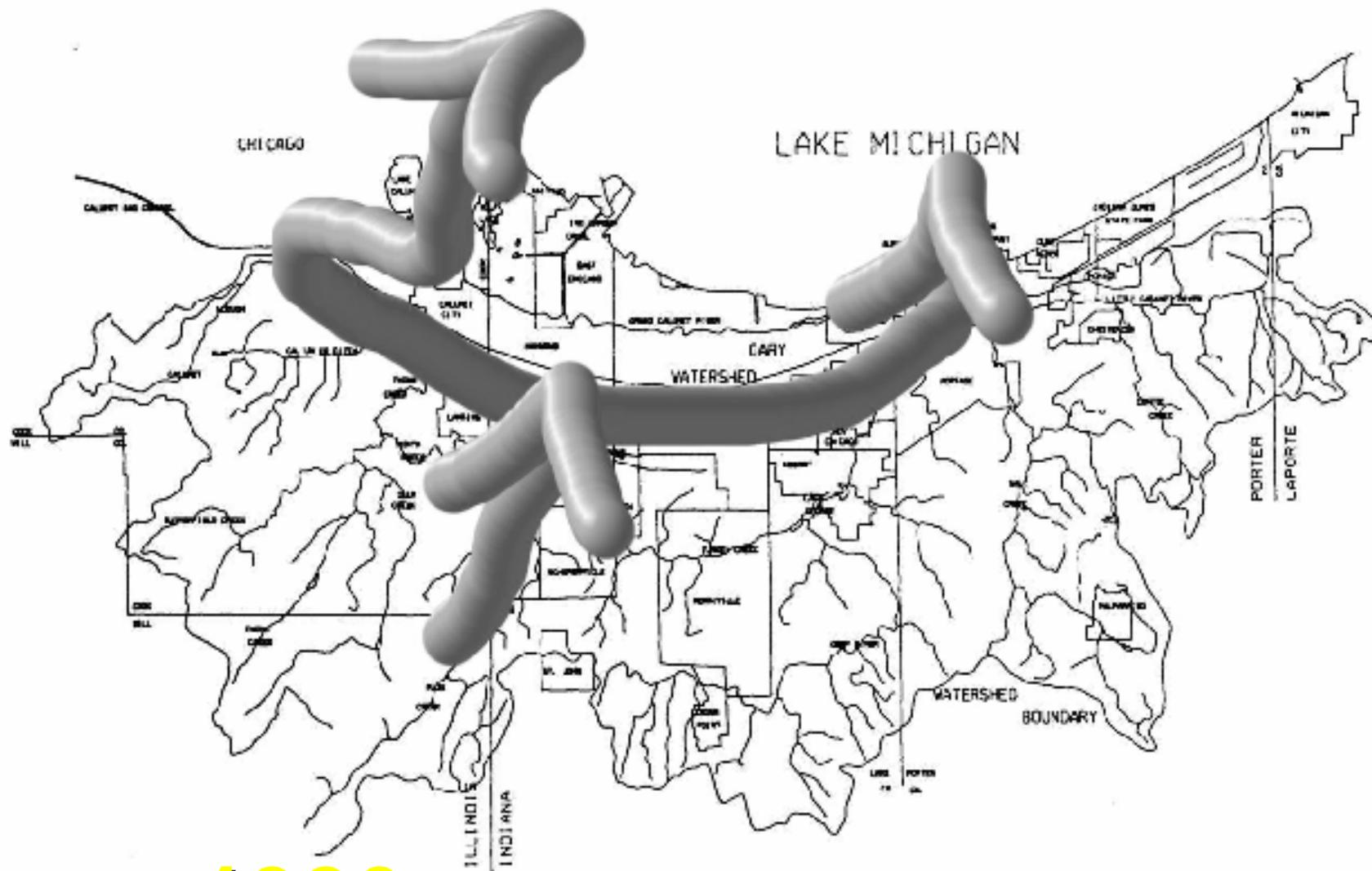




**1900**

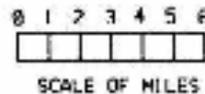
Storm Flow Patterns

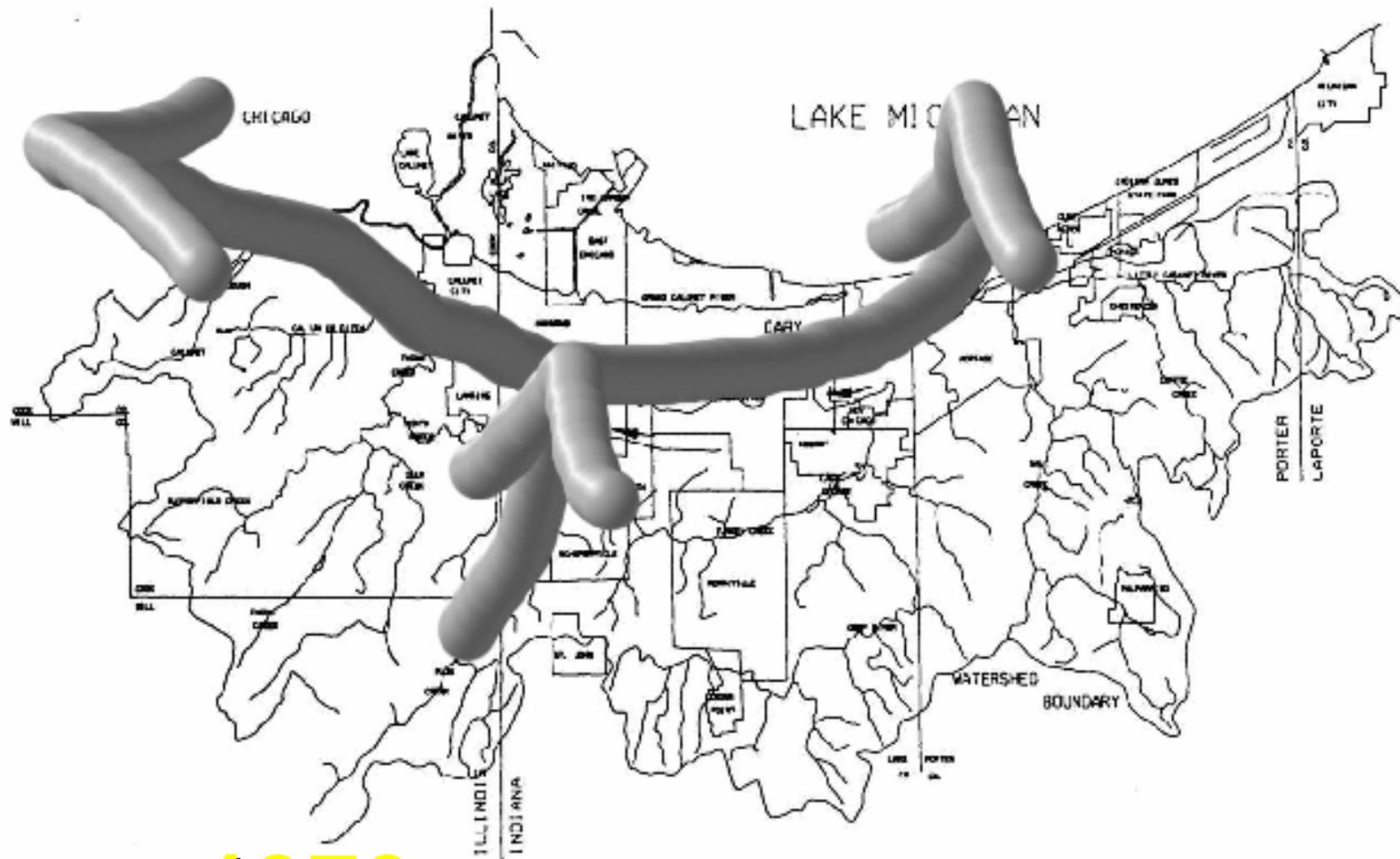




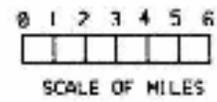
**1930**

Storm Flow Patterns





**1970**



Storm Flow Patterns



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# Little Cal Model





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# Advantages of Unsteady Flow Model versus Steady State Modeling

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- Flow Reversals
- Flow Splits
- Backwater Impacts
- Preferred channel routing technique for very flat channels

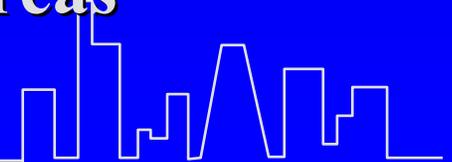




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# Little Cal HEC-RAS Model

- 7 reaches
- 50.3 miles of river
- 493 cross sections
- 85 bridges
- 54 storage areas
- 4 inline structures
- 93 lateral connections
- 18 interconnections between storage areas





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# Boundary Conditions/Storage System

- HEC-DSS for Flow and Stage Hydrograph Storage
- Rating Curves at the Cal-Sag and 10 year level at Lake Michigan
- Inflow Hydrographs at Thorn Creek, Hart Ditch, Deep River and East Arm Little Calumet River





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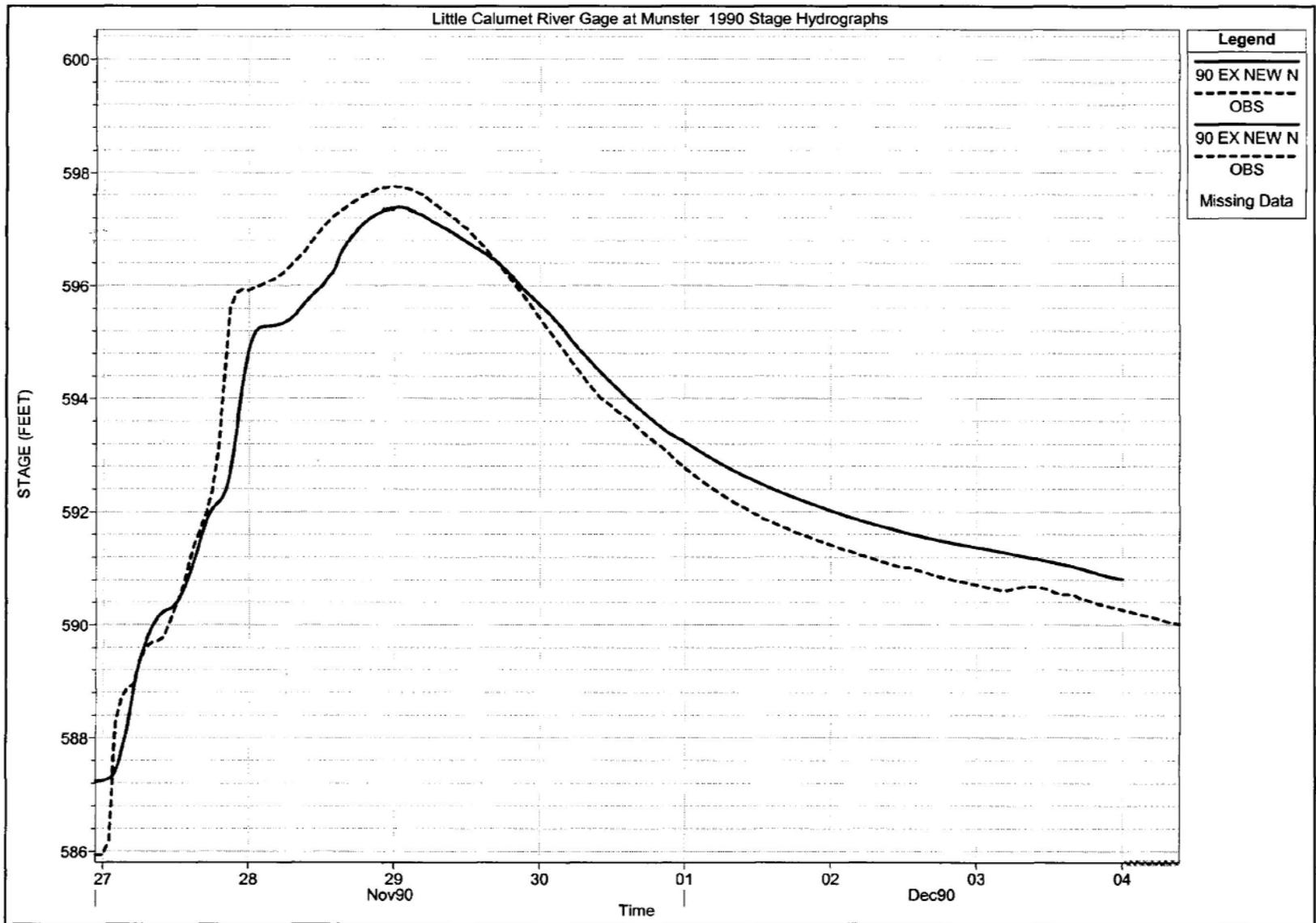
# Little Cal Model Calibration

- Extensive high water data for 1989 and 1990 flood events
- Flow measurements during 1989 and 1990 flood events
- Observed flow and stage for 5 gages
- Observed stage for 2 gages
- Observed flow for 2 gages
- Long period of record (40+ years) for gages to develop stage and flow frequency curves





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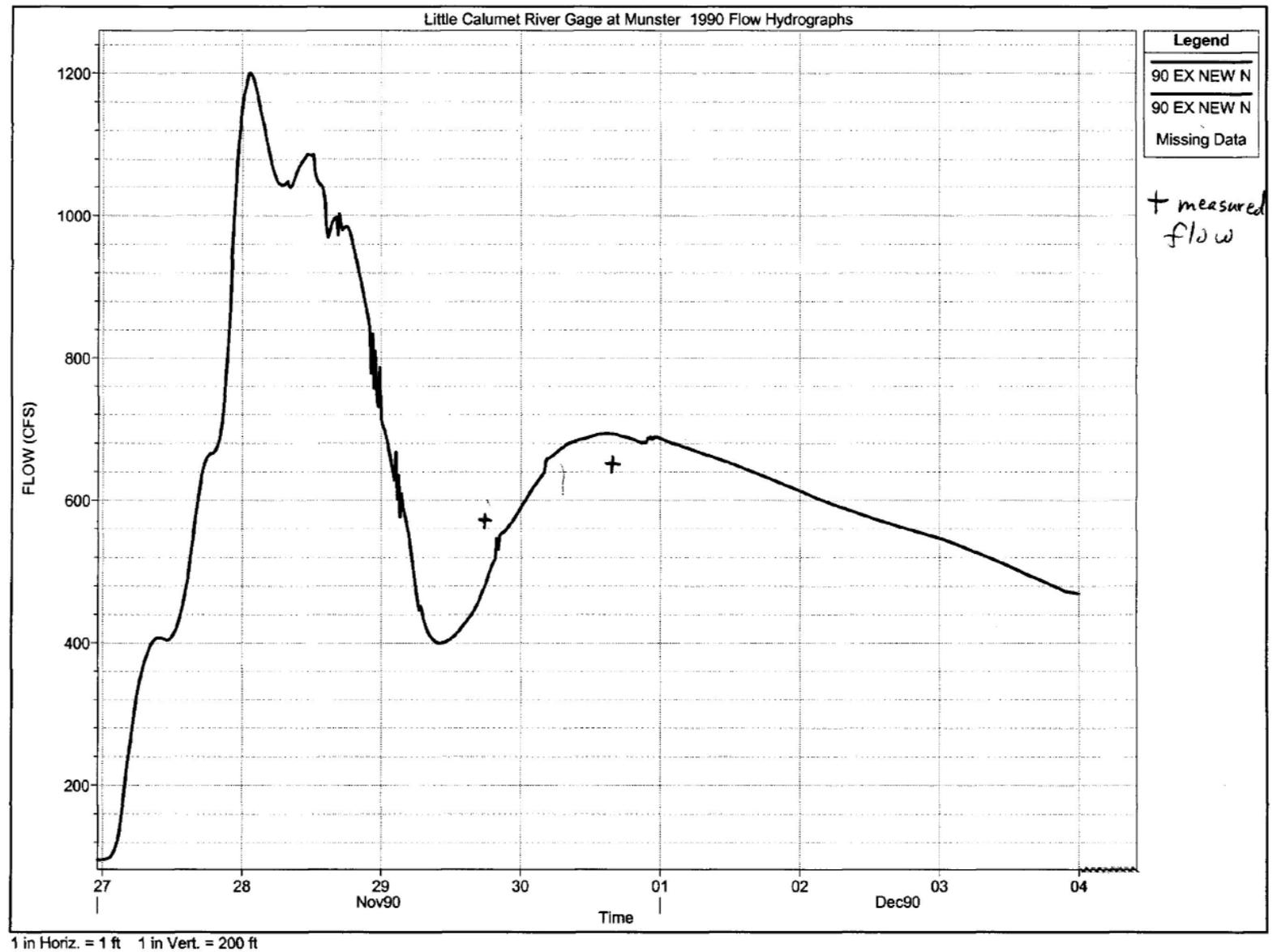


1 in Horiz. = 1 ft 1 in Vert. = 2.5 ft



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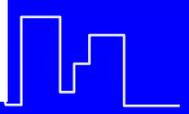
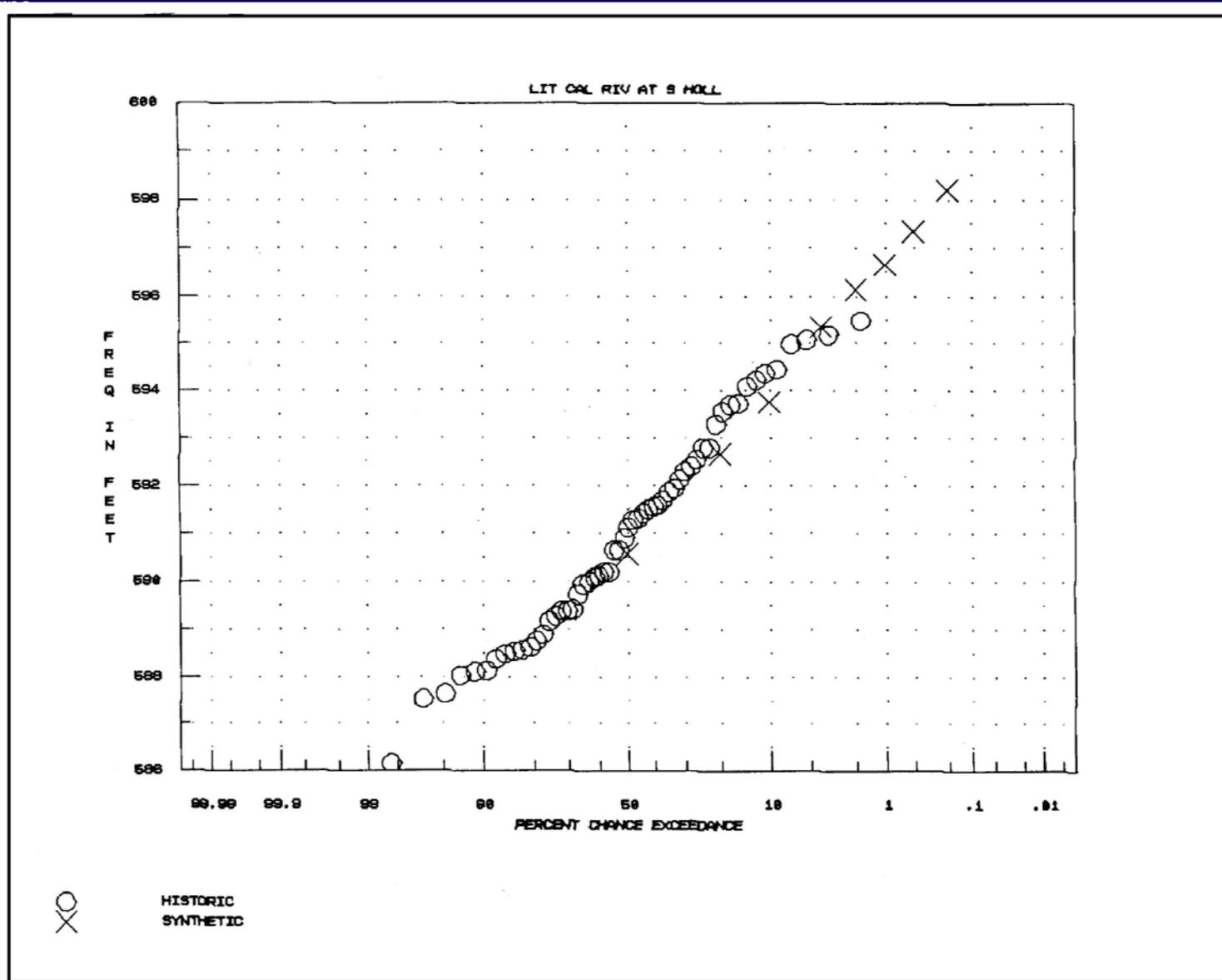
# 1990 Flow Hydrograph for Little Calumet River Gage at Munster





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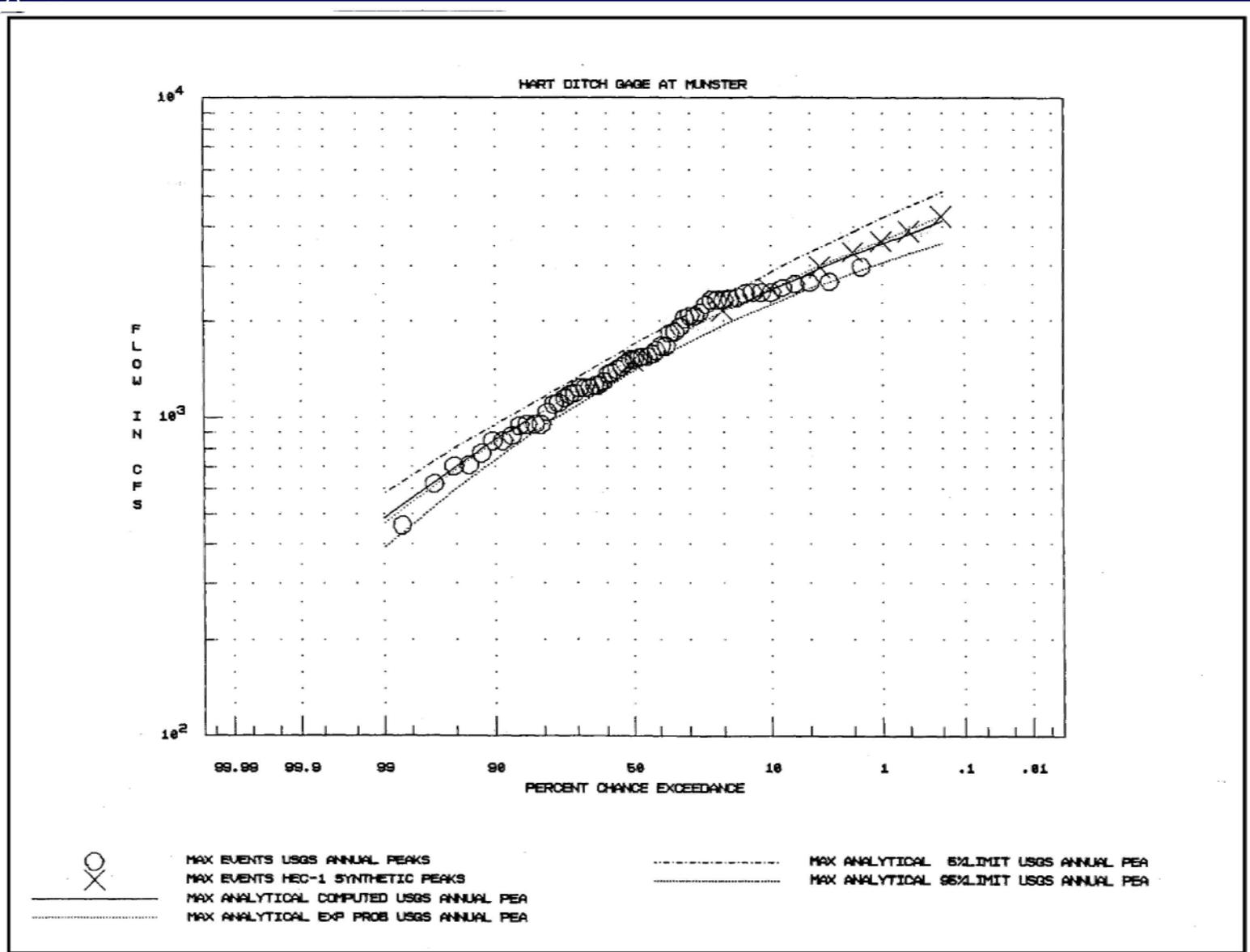
# Little Calumet River at South Holland





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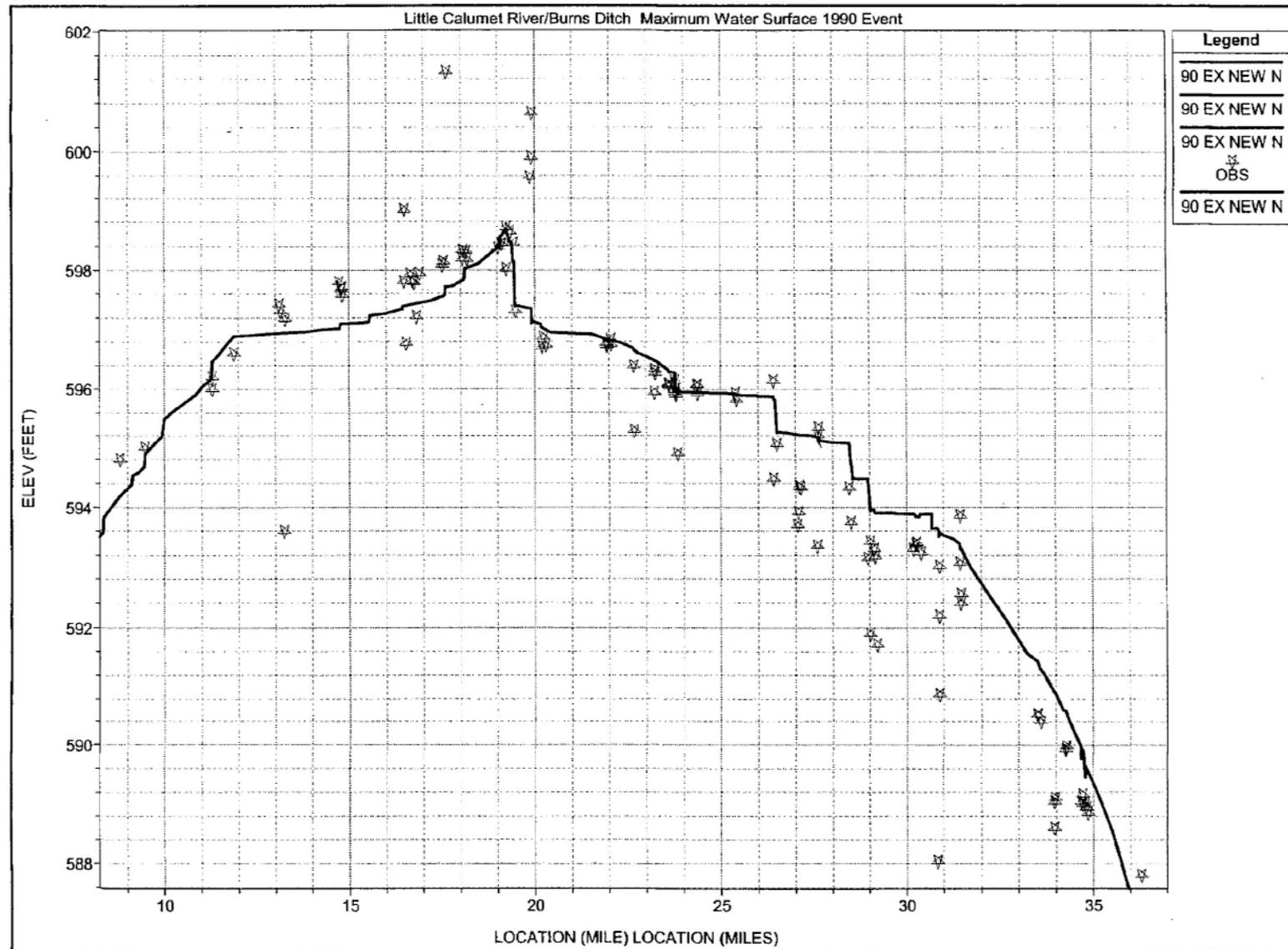
# Hart Ditch Gage at Munster





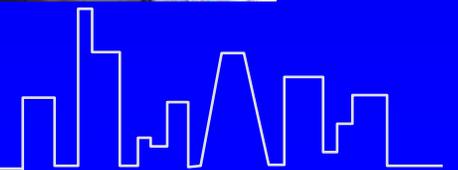
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# 1990 Maximum Water Surface for Little Calumet River/Burns Ditch





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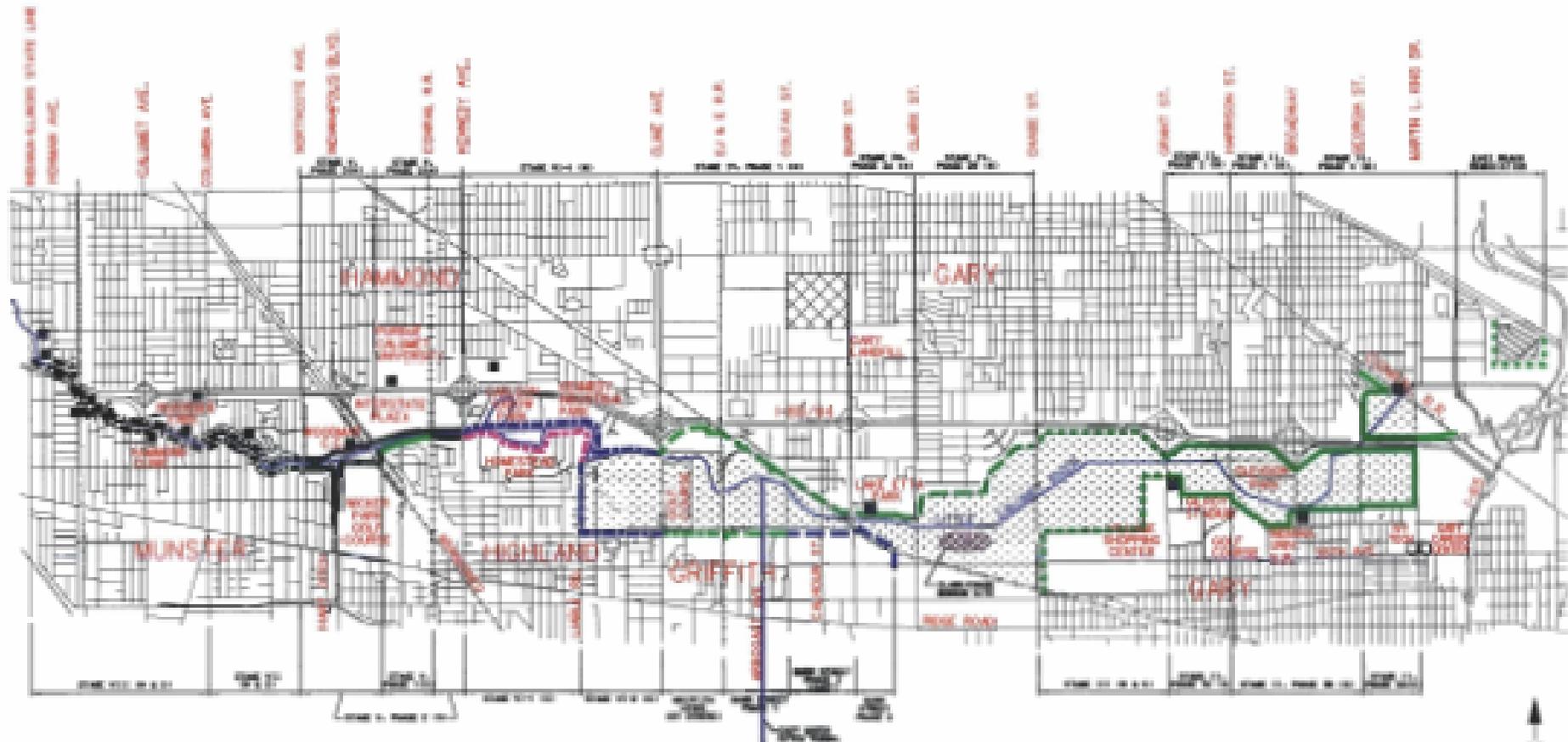
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# Project Conditions

- **Bridge improvements**
- **Corps Levees**
- **Hart Ditch Control Structure**
- **Thorn Creek Reservoir**
- **Cady Marsh Ditch Diversion Tunnel**



# LITTLE CALUMET RIVER, INDIANA FLOOD CONTROL AND RECREATION PROJECT



## TYPE OF WORK LEGEND

- LEVEE/FLOODWALL
- CONTROL STRUCTURE
- EAST BANK PAVING STATIONARY BANK
- WEST BANK PAVING STATIONARY BANK
- OVERSEAS FLOODWATER STORAGE

## CONSTRUCTION STAGE LEGEND

- |           |  |            |  |                         |                       |
|-----------|--|------------|--|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| EAST BANK |  | STAGE I    |  | FIXE CHARTS             |                       |
|           |  | STAGE II   |  |                         | FIXE CHARTS           |
| WEST BANK |  | STAGE III  |  | COMPLETE LEVEE SEGMENTS |                       |
|           |  | STAGE IV   |  |                         | FUTURE LEVEE SEGMENTS |
|           |  | STAGE V    |  |                         |                       |
|           |  | STAGE VI   |  |                         |                       |
| WEST BANK |  | STAGE VII  |  |                         |                       |
|           |  | STAGE VIII |  |                         |                       |



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**PROJECT MAP**

DATE: OCTOBER 1988

PROJECT: FCRFP

LITTLE CALUMET 5

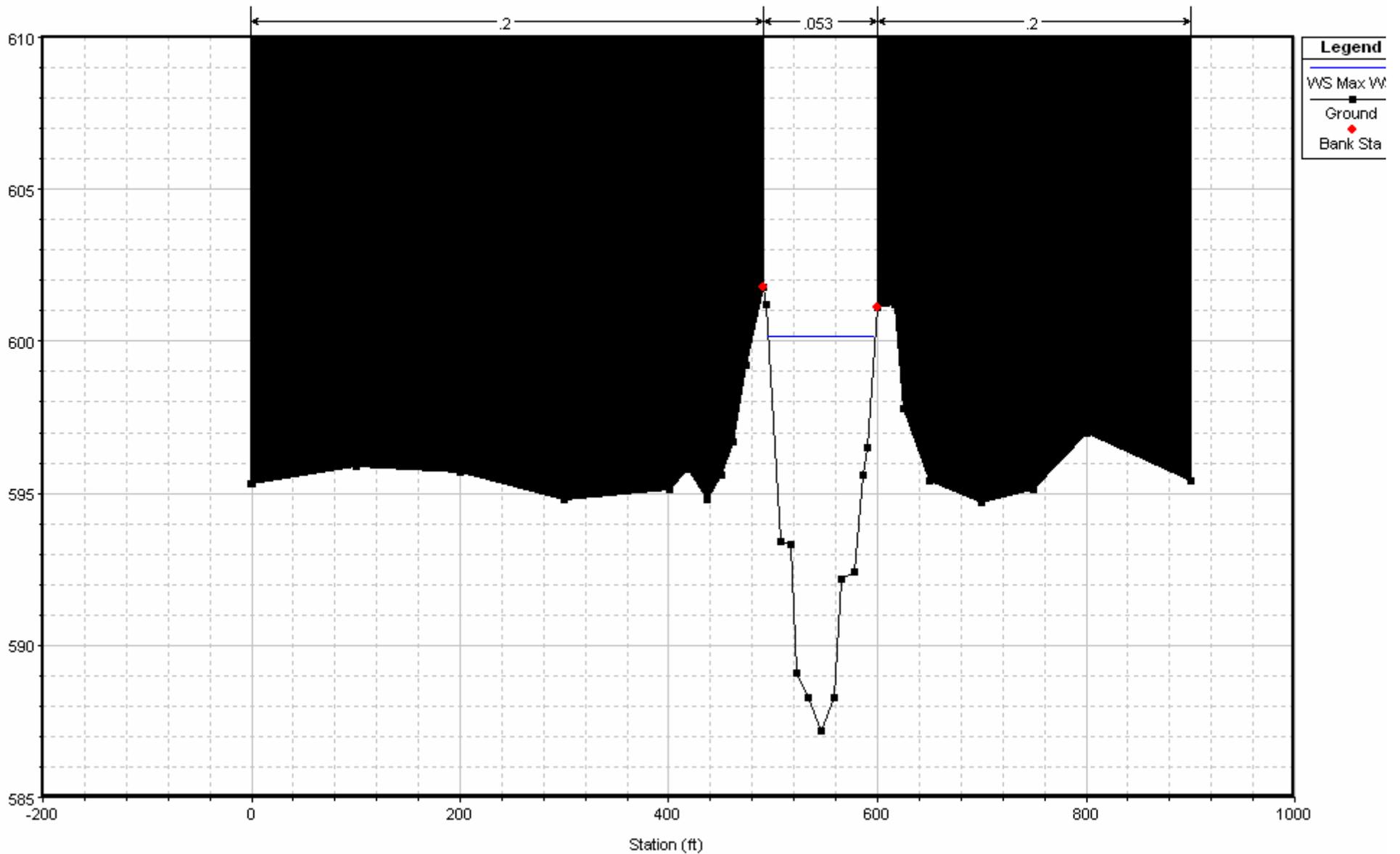
386.85, 590.85

Reload

REACH # 5

River Sta.: 19.089

lcrhecras Plan: ex500 5/12/2005





# Linear Routing Connection

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Lateral Structure Editor - exsyn-rcgtA

File View Options Help

River: LITTLE CALUMET 5

Reach: REACH # 5 River Sta.: 19.237

Description:

Position: Next to right bank station

Tailwater Connection

Flows into: Storage area: UNET\_SA #13

Distance to upstream XS (Blank=midway):

Position: Left overbank

All Culverts: do not have flap gates

Structure Type: Linear Routing

Linear Routing

$$Q = k (A \text{ available Storage}) / \text{hour}$$
$$A \text{ available Storage} = \Delta Z (S \text{urface Area})$$

River Channel

Storage Area

Start | \\155... | Micro... | illcent... | HEC... | Geom... | Later... | 4:53 PM



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# Illinois Central Railroad Bridge

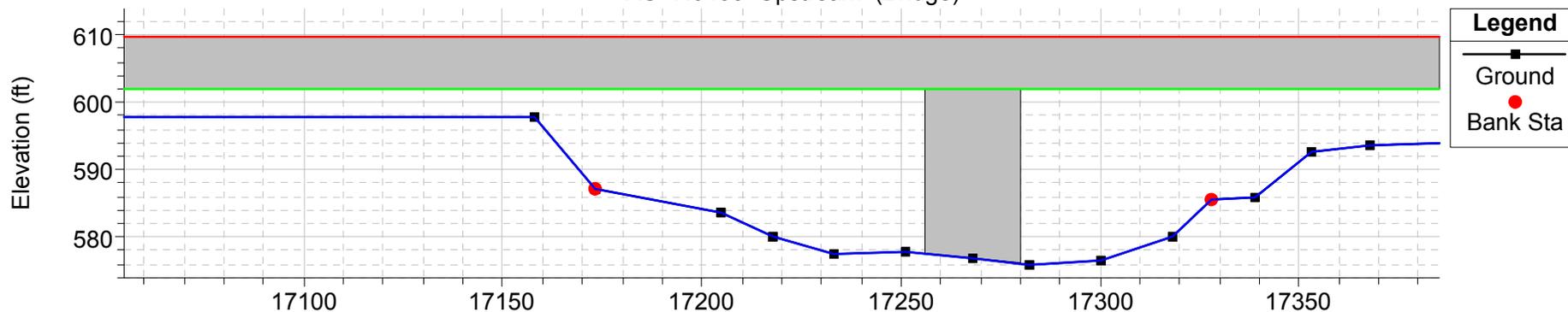




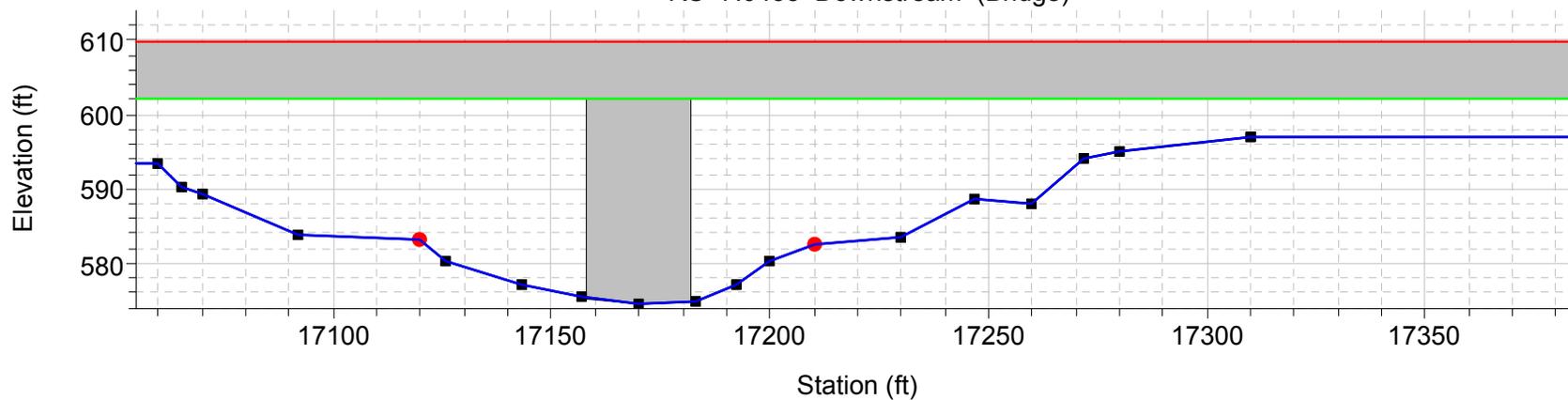
# Illinois Central Bridge (UNET)

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RS=7.0435 Upstream (Bridge)



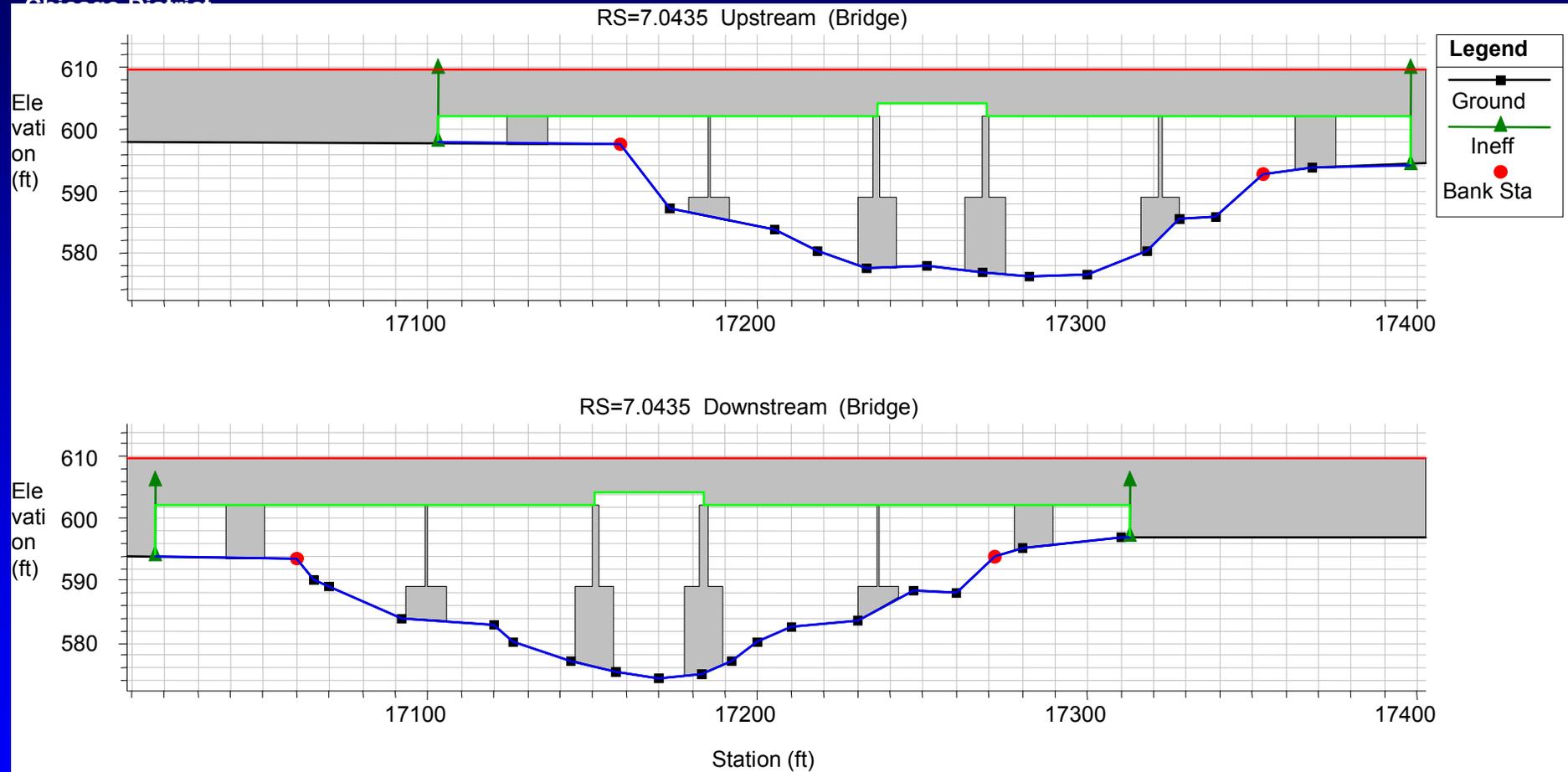
RS=7.0435 Downstream (Bridge)





# Illinois Central Bridge (HEC-RAS)

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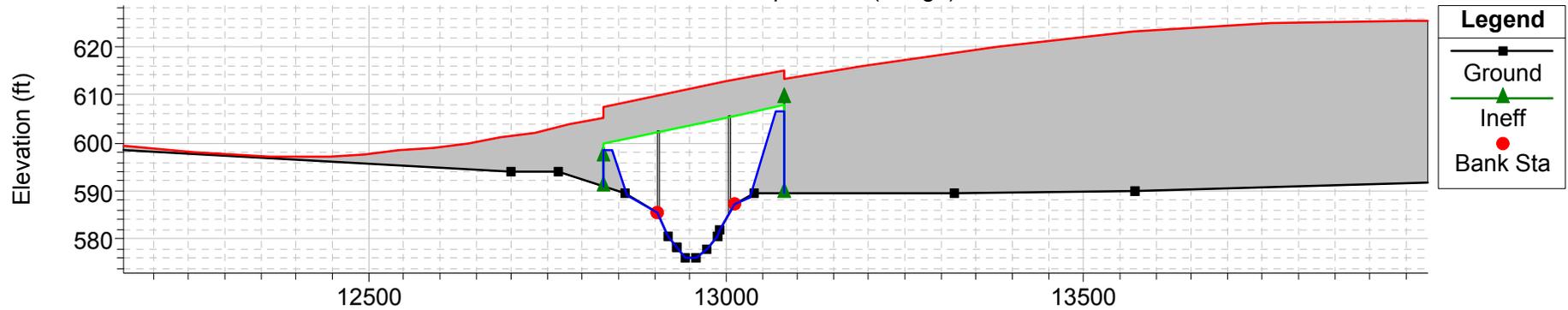




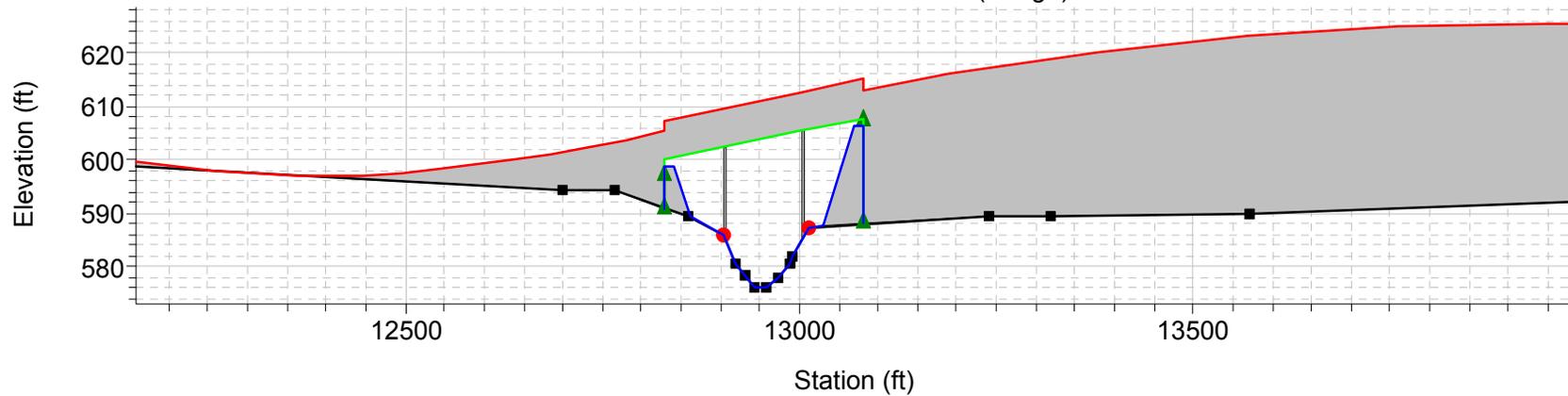
# Calumet Expressway (HEC-RAS)

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RS=10.8285 Upstream (Bridge)



RS=10.8285 Downstream (Bridge)





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# UNET to HEC-RAS Model Conversion Challenges

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- Automatic conversion did not work
- River miles renumbered (also channel relocation, differing river miles for project condition)
- Storage areas renumbered so reconnection and relabing required
- Linear Routing connections needed to be broken up
- Manual conversion of boundary condition file

