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News Release

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Contacts: E. Patrick Robbins (251) 690-2512
ervin.p.robbins@usace.army.mil

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Lisa Coghlan (251) 690-2505
lisa.a.coghlan@usace.army.mil

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Corps Announces Decision on Alabama Motor Sports Park

Mobile, Ala. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, announced they have reached a decision to issue a permit to Gulf Coast Entertainment, LLC for the Alabama Motor Sports Park to be built in Prichard, Ala.

“The decision to issue the permit was made after a finding of no significant impacts to the environment in the Environmental Assessment,” said E. Patrick Robbins, Public Affairs Officer, Mobile District.

The applicant, Gulf Coast Entertainment, LLC, submitted their initial permit application in May 2007. The initial request was for a Department of the Army permit to impact 177-acres of wetlands and 16,350 linear feet of streams in order to develop an estimated \$625 million major motor-sports and entertainment park. The original proposal included development of a 1-mile asphalt oval speedway, a 3-mile road course, a 1/4 mile drag strip, a 3/8 mile dirt track, KART track, a motor-cross track, 220-acres of retail/commercial space, 140-acres of RV/residential space, and 44-acres of industrial space.

“As the process moved forward there were many comments

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received from various Federal and state agencies, interested organizations and the general public,” said Robbins. “Due to the concerns raised in these comments, the applicant made major revisions to the request which resulted in a dramatic drop in impacts to wetlands and streams. The permit will authorize impacts to 84-acres of wetlands and approximately 3,119 linear feet of streams.”

The Corps regulatory process has three simple principles. They are: avoid impacts to wetlands/streams, minimize unavoidable impacts, and then mitigate for impacts that have occurred.

“The applicant, in response to the concerns raised, followed these three principles in reconfiguring the development layout to avoid and minimize. They also eliminated several of the development proposals to further reduce or avoid impacts,” said Robbins.

The Final Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) may be requested by calling the Corps’ Mobile District Regulatory Division at 251-690-2658.