

2021

Lake Pontchartrain & Vicinity GRR Appendix L – Coordination



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
New Orleans District

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans
District

Non-Federal Sponsor: Coastal Protection and
Restoration Authority

February 2021

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LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN & VICINITY GRR

APPENDIX L - COORDINATION

1 AGENCY MEETINGS

Below are a list of key meetings that were help with interagency partners and cooperating agencies. Full meeting minutes are documented in the project file and available upon request.

Date	Summary
24 October 2018	Webinar with Resource Partners Information gathering, identify additional resource needs, discuss One Federal Decision, Staff from CEMVN, CEMVS, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fish, USGS, CPRA, Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, NOAA, USEPA. Slides from webinar provided below.
6 November 2018	Meeting with State Agencies. Notes provided below
7 November 2018	Meeting with Federal Agencies. Notes provided below.
31 July 2019	USACE and NOAA staff call to discuss how to work through the One Federal Decision Process
13 November 2019	Webinar with Resource Partners Inform the resource partners on the TSP and upcoming public review Staff from CEMVN, CEMVS, Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife of Fish, LDNR, NMFS, and USFWS attended. Slides from webinar provided below.

1.1 24 OCTOBER 2018 – RESOURCE PARTNER WEBINAR

DATA COLLECTION (PROBLEMS, NEEDS, OPPORTUNITIES) MEETING

**LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN & VICINITY
WEST BANK & VICINITY
GENERAL RE-EVALUATION**

"The views, opinions and findings contained in this report are those of the author(s) and should not be construed as an official Department of the Army position, policy or decision, unless so designated by other official documentation."

AGENDA

9:00 Introductions – **Please type in the chat box your name and agency**

9:15 Purpose and Outcome

9:30 Project Overviews (Drouant)

- Lake Pontchartrain & Vicinity
- West Bank & Vicinity

10:00 SMART Planning & NEPA Coordination (McCain)

10:15 One Federal Decision (Runyon)

10:30 Next Steps (Runyon)

10:45 Question/Answer/Open Discussion

File Name

INTRODUCTIONS

Lake Pontchartrain & Vicinity

Project Manager: Bradley Drouant
Environmental Lead: Kip Runyon



West Bank & Vicinity

Project Manager: Bradley Drouant
Environmental Lead: Kat McCain



PURPOSE & OUTCOME

PURPOSE:

- To initiate data collection, identify partners, and discuss needs on supplemental studies for the USACE New Orleans District
- Discuss information needed to make a determination of level of investigation and need for EIS
- Discuss agency participation and expectations

EXPECTED OUTCOME:

- Inform agencies of the upcoming planning charette and needs for ongoing agency coordination moving forward



**FUTURE LEVEE LIFTS GENERAL REEVALUATION
REPORTS FOR LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN & VICINITY
(LPV) AND WEST BANK & VICINITY (WBV)**

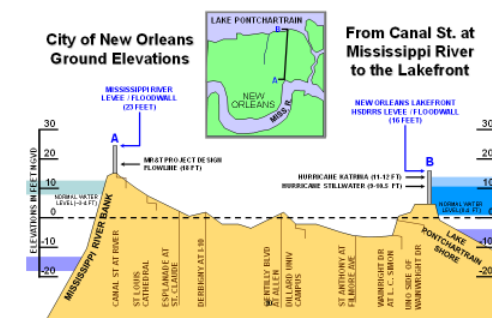


PROJECT OVERVIEWS

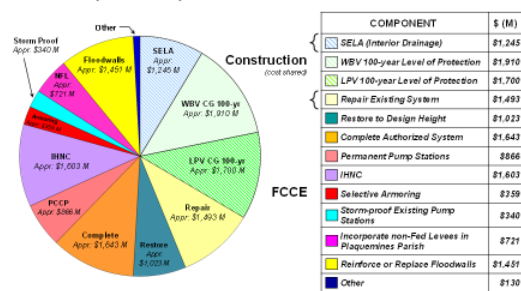
- Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) authorization did not authorize future levee lifts to sustain risk reduction required for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program
- Current studies seek to determine if work necessary to sustain the 1% level of risk reduction is technically feasible, environmentally acceptable, and economically justified.
- General Reevaluation: a study to affirm, reformulate, or modify an existing plan. Similar to a feasibility study.

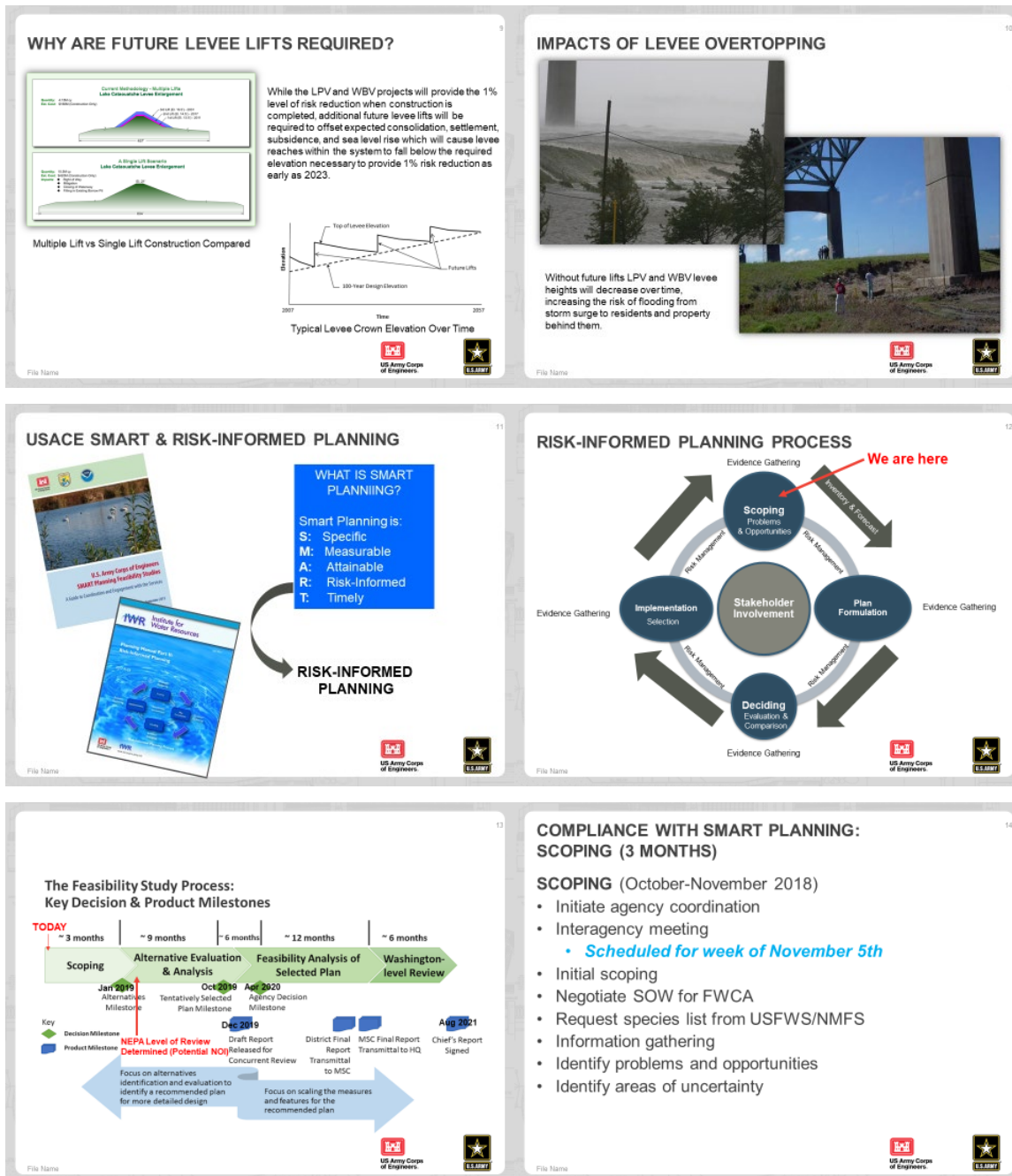


NEW ORLEANS TOPOGRAPHY



**HURRICANE STORM DAMAGE AND RISK REDUCTION
SYSTEM (HSDRRS) FUNDING**







COMPLIANCE WITH SMART PLANNING: SCOPING (3 MONTHS)

SCOPING (November 2018-January 2019)

- Brainstorm solutions to the identified problems
- Invite appropriate agencies and open dialog for FWCA, ESA, Section 106 coordination
- Compile public/agency/tribal concerns
- Identify significant resources to consider
- Identify resources that may require mitigation
- Inventory potential models
- Collaborate on environmental screening criteria
- Develop initial array of alternatives
- Hold Alternatives Milestone [**14 January 2019**]
- Determine level of NEPA investigation/Potential EIS

File Name  

COMPLIANCE WITH SMART PLANNING – ALTERNATIVE EVALUATION & ANALYSIS (9 MONTHS)



Moving towards a Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) (February – October 2019)

- If EIS, publish NOI in Federal Register
- USACE provides Biological Assessment
- Develop EFH Assessment
- 404(b)1 analysis
- SHPO/THPO coordination
- HTRW Phase 1, if needed
- Identify mitigation per alternative
- Describe environmental impacts per alternative

Prior to TSP Milestone

- USFWS provides Draft FWCA Report [**15 Sept 2019**]



Hold TSP Milestone [**15 October 2019**]

File Name  

COMPLIANCE WITH SMART PLANNING – FEASIBILITY LEVEL ANALYSIS (5 MONTHS)

Moving from TSP to Agency Decision (Nov 2019-April 2020)

- Public/agency concurrent reviews (If EIS, NOA) **Dec 2019-January 2020**
 - Release of Draft Integrated Report with draft FONSI (if EA); EIS – File Draft with EPA
 - Release of BA to USFWS/NMFS
 - USFWS/NMFS response to BA (30 days)
 - ESA formal consultation begins, if required
 - Public meetings
- Identify relevant public/agency/tribal comments and develop strategies to resolve
- Conduct cultural resources field investigations, as needed
- Hold Agency Decision Milestone [**April 2020**]



File Name  

COMPLIANCE WITH SMART PLANNING – FINAL REVIEW (15 MONTHS)

Getting to Chief's Report (May 2020-August 2021)

- ESA formal consultation continues, if required
- Final FWCAR incorporated with responses
- NEPA comment/response documented
- NEPA conclusions (FONSI/ROD)
- If EIS, release final (file feasibility report with EPA – Notice of Availability)



Chief's Report [**August 2021**]

File Name  

ONE FEDERAL DECISION



Executive Order 13807 – Establishing Discipline and Accountability in the Environmental Review and Permitting Process for Infrastructure Projects

- Signed 15 August 2017
- Policy...
 - (f) conduct environmental reviews and authorization processes in a coordinated, consistent, predictable, and timely manner...
 - (g) speak with a coordinated voice when conducting environmental reviews and making authorization decisions; and
 - (h) make timely decisions with the goal of completing all Federal environmental reviews and authorization decisions for major infrastructure projects with 2 years.

File Name  

ONE FEDERAL DECISION – USACE IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE – SEPTEMBER 2018

- Coordinated Environmental Review
 - All Federal, Tribal, and State agencies required to conduct or issue a review for the study should be invited to serve as either a cooperating agency or a participating agency for the environmental review process.
 - Use risk-informed decision making to conduct environmental compliance concurrently with feasibility study – Use readily available information to gather only the information necessary for the next decision **based on feedback from coordinating with cooperating and participating agencies...**
- Develop and follow an environmental review and authorization schedule

File Name  

ONE FEDERAL DECISION – USACE IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE (continued)

- Recommends early interagency coordination meeting and initiation of early scoping prior to NOI issuance (if applicable)
- 2-year timeline – from date of publication of NOI (if applicable) to date of District Commander's transmittal of the final feasibility report.

CIVIL WORKS PLANNING PROCESS

USACE Implementation Guidance for Feasibility Studies establishes the EO 13807 timeline within a 3 year feasibility study timeline

NEXT STEPS – NEAR TERM

- Participate in Planning Charette November 5-7
 - Come prepared to discuss problems and possible solutions
 - Data gathering

QUESTIONS??

→ If you haven't done so already, please type in your name and agency in the chat box

1.2 6 NOVEMBER 2018 – STATE AGENCY MEETING

State Resource Agency Meeting Notes

7 November 2018

9:00AM

USACE: Kip Runyon, Monique Savage, Michelle Kniep, Matt Jones, Brian Johnson, Laura Lee Wilkinson, Brad Drouant, Frank Spiess, Terry Birkenstock

LDNR, Consistency Section – Jeff Harris

PHONE:

LWLF – Barry Hebert

LWLF - Dave Butler

LSHPO - Rachel Watson

LWLF - Zack Chain

Kip: Intros

Brad: Study/Project Intro

Kip: 13807-One Federal Decision Details

Kip: Existing NEPA documentation

Data/Coordination Needs:

- Planning Aid report from Fish and Wildlife in the next few months (from yesterday)
- Phone: Dave Butler can provide information on bald eagles and colonial nesting water birds; Zack from Ecological Services can provide information on invasive species
- Jeff: A lot of good information on SONRIS (Strategic Online Natural Resources Information System); www.sonris.com
- Thoughts on borrow sites: if commercial borrow sites are used they will not need coastal zone clearance;;
- Mitigation – if mitigation is necessary, typically DNR goes along with what we propose as long as NEPA compliant
- DNR cares about transportation even if borrow isn't from coastal zone
- If proposed action ends up being similar to what was done before, DNR could handle it as a modification of the existing consistency determinations done for the IERs rather than new determinations – would only work if minor changes; review process is the same for modification minus the requirement for public review
- Process requires that the action be consistent with Coastal Management Program. Consistency determination is typically presented to DNR when plans can still change. Typical review is 60-75 days at DNR. They have an issue with condemnation. As soon as we have the footprint of our potential impact, provide shapefile for consistency determination.
- Submit consistency determination electronically via email
- Mitigation for borrow sites - 3 options: Do it yourself, in lieu fee, or purchase credit at mitigation banks; there is limited availability at mitigation banks currently, more coming online; shouldn't have issues if prior developed, access routes, staging areas to the extent that they impact wetlands – if we can put them in already impacted sites, that would be great
- Zach - Need to avoid and minimize impacts to Salvador WMA in WBV area and Bayou St. John in LPV
- Rachel agreed – Avoid issues around Bayou St. John; bigger cultural issue if uplands are impacted by additional borrow sites. If structures are impacted, it could also be an issue. Coordinate with the tribes... Tribes may have additional concerns.
- Oyster seed grounds and leases: Water Bottom Assessment POC: 225-765-2386
Christy McDonough – only need assessment if in seed ground area; shouldn't be an issue for us – based on information in SONRIS, we aren't likely to impact – closest seed grounds and leases are in Lake Borgne
- Commercial Fisheries: don't impact business any more than you have to
- Recreation: avoid and minimize boat dock impacts, etc.
- LDNR generally accepts WVA results

Monique: Plan Formulation

- CPRA would be the first place to go for what works and what has not worked and what the costs are.
- Making marshes is not difficult if you have sediment. Possible to use existing dredge material from the harbor for marsh creation

- Rachel SHPO: a lot of the remaining high ground has archaeological resources – something to be aware of when considering nature-based features
- (Nonstructural): No major issues...superfund site on the northshore...there are existing projects like diversions we should avoid impacting; unanticipated discovery of human resources (pre-historic or European remains), small family cemeteries, etc. happens more frequently than you might think. 1. Unmarked burial act, 2. Land can't be re-purposed without removing remains.
- Nothing major from DNR Coastal: want to protect people from flooding...make sure to get the material NOT from bottomland hardwoods
- Team would prefer invitation for monthly teleconference meetings to be kept in the loop

Laura Lee will provide LDEQ contact information – we may want to touch

1.3 7 NOVEMBER 2018 – FEDERAL AGENCY MEETING

- a. Attendees
 - i. Corps: Kip Runyon, Brian Johnson, Karla Sparks, Laura Wilkinson Wolfson, Frank Spiess, Michelle Kniep, Matt Jones, Monique Savage, Joe Jordan, Brad Drouant, Elizabeth “Libby” Behrens, Jason Emery, Kevin Harper
 - ii. National Park Service: Kelly Latenhofen, Guy Hughes
 - iii. USFWS: Barret Fortier (web meeting), Dave Walther
 - iv. NMFS: Craig Gothreaux
 - v. USGS: Ann Hijuelos
- b. Other agencies are getting similar guidance on EO 13807
- c. Borrow. For HSDRRS we committed to not impacting wetlands
- i. However, since we don't have alternatives yet, we cannot commit to no wetland impact at this time.
- d. ROW was purchased for future levee lifts
 - i. There is a Planning Aide Letter from 2007
 - ii. Dave (USFWS) said that they are probably going to resubmit a list of ranked borrow sites.
 - iii. Footprint, physical location of the project and then the ROW, built to the ROW. Future mitigation has been identified for the 2057, hierarchy for borrow. Resubmit a new that lays this out. GIS map national landcover and crossed it with soil maps to minimizing impacts to wetlands and forested habitat. Latest information was 2007. May look at with state agencies.
- e. CED estimated impacts of future lifts but only mitigated for actual footprint constructed so far
 - i. Are we considering raises to hard structures?
 - ii. USACE: No.
- f. Foreshore protection on lake front(s)
 - i. Water access and dredging requires NMFS coordination that might take a long time – Lake Pontchartrain east of the Causeway is Critical Habitat for the Gulf Sturgeon. Formal consultation for Gulf Sturgeon impacts would take 12 to 18 months. Construction consideration for water access.
 - ii. Foreshore protection access through the water, dredging was involved. Probably have to put more rock. Not sure whether there is thru land and water.

- g. FWS recommends not using IPAC – use SLOPES instead (Standard Local Operating Procedures for Endangered Species)
- h. Need a new Phase I HTRW
- i. West Shore Lake Pontchartrain project will be using a huge amount of borrow material which may impact us - Will likely use all Bonnet Carre borrow material.
- j. 404c area. Need to try to avoid any more impacts to the Bayou aux Carpes Clean Water Act Section 404c area for WBV.
- i. EPA is contact on 404(c) area
- ii. Guy (National Park Service) will share EPA POC with USACE
- k. Impacts to Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge in NE corner of LPV must be mitigated within the Refuge. In general, desire to keep mitigation for impacts to public lands located on those lands or added to them (stay in public use).
- l. Cultural IER reports for those components, update that with the data LA State historical preservation areas, archeological site. Phase I HTRW all of these to the local sponsors for the whole 150 acres. BMP's for all the critical habitat. Howard Laderner slopes work with compliance.
- m. FWS to provide Planning Aid Letter in advance of NOI, can include Essential Fish Habitat information; Dave will try to provide by end of calendar year.
- n. NMFS would appreciate an early draft version of the EFH analysis – they can then provide suggestions to be included in the public draft document
- o. USGS can help with some maps/data. Land loss analysis.
 - i. Monique (USACE) asked if there are maps with all of the different species and cultural resources
 - ii. Jasen (USACE Cultural) said that we can get updated maps with cultural sites.
- p. Bald Eagles – Tammy Gilmore
- q. Noise concerns along the lake front for local population
 - i. Noise was a major issue. Used a press hammer to push to be less disruptive to the population and to meet the noise ordinance. Historic structures and paths, main roads used for temporary access for school zones and impacts. Construction managers, and CED to evaluate routes.
- r. Look at haul roads from previous construction as possibly acceptable routes.
 - i. Refine during PED, check with prior construction managers
 - ii. CED Phase II did a traffic analysis (still draft)
- s. Levees are used for recreation – walking, biking, access to other sites
 - i. West Jefferson levee board doesn't allow rec
 - ii. Andrew Perez knows where rec is happening
 - 1. Jefferson, Orleans, Bayou Sauvage
- t. Invasive species – Tulane, Xavier, etc.
 - i. Purple loose strife – new location
- u. WVA model – plan on us using; tentatively plan on USACE doing analysis with FWS review, but FWS can likely help with analysis if needed – play by ear as we go through study.
- v. Natural/Nature-based
 - i. Marsh can reduce surge but need a LOT (many square miles) and need to buy land and maintain/rebuild.
 - ii. Marshes in front – high wave energy environments, need to go with least cost alternative; if marshes get blown out will we re-create it. Trees don't work but

- marsh may; 1 mile of marsh yields 3/10 of a foot surge reduction; but higher surges overwhelm marshes; marshes help more with minor surges. Armoring could be a natural feature.
- iii. Any additional project features like marshes could impact the sponsor and their ability to maintain them
- iv. Marshes not tree plantings
- v. Turn open water into land
- vi. Is armoring a natural feature?
- vii. Avoid and Minimize vs. Mitigation
- viii. Change grass species on the levee – potential for biodiversity without impacting protection
- ix. Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation has info on multiple lines of defense
- x. Foreshore protection?
- xi. Need to be able to replace quickly and inexpensively
- xii. Patrick Smith in MVN used to work for Lake Pont Basin Foundation
- w. Lake Pont Foundation website...look up foreshore with reef-balls/oyster barriers “living shore”
- x. Floodwalls wildlife passage 1 every 3 miles, maintain water flow. Stagnant water, BMP for water. Drainage, canal, to a pump – NPS coming back along that the park is interested. 31-34 wildlife passage 404C area. Bayou Sauvage some structures that flow out but not in. Water circulation is better. Pipe of a certain size. Screens in front of it.
- y. 300 ft. buffer for the river
 - i. Break water outside sea grass beds – what was there was good so do we add more and replenish the barrier?
- z. Trees would be okay on the river but not from waves action (but it would maybe work on WBV because of level of current marshes)
- aa. Milton project: earthen bags didn’t work...replaced with rock.
- bb. Remember wildlife passage for floodwalls
- cc. Air quality – all areas currently in attainment
- dd. Maintaining access during construction is important for recreation as well.
- ee. Post-Katrina - Environmental Assessment #433 – Impacts of USACE response to Katrina and Rita – after-the-fact EA due to emergency nature; Murphy oil spill; transportation study on the HSDRSS. LA DEQ and DHH, population Andrew Perez and Joe Musso; other social effects, social/environmental justice in terms of phase construction...populations have moved around, where are the potentially disproportionately affected populations now; CED Phase 2 socio-economic report
- ff. There are some sea-grass beds so maybe put some breakwaters on Lake Pont
- gg. USFWS like a lot of coordination---like updates - don’t wait for a month to let them know what’s going on; supposed to be a member of the PDT per MOA
- hh. Mondays are the worst for meetings...Thursdays seems to work
 - i. National Park Service wants to be involved with WBV - development of the alternatives and then if things change.

1.4 13 NOVEMBER 2019 – RESOURCE PARTNER WEBINAR ON TSP

Attendees:

Monique Savage - USACE MVS

Rachel Mesko, USACE Planning

Hannah Sprinkle, USFWS

Dave Butler La Dept. Wildlife and Fisheries

Frank Spiess, USACE Project Management

Craig Gothreaux, NMFS Habitat
Conservation Division

Elizabeth Barron, LDWF

Cornelius Williams, Louisiana Department
of Wildlife & Fisheries

Dave Butler LA Dept. Wildlife and Fisheries

Barry Hebert-LDWF-Fisheries Habitat

Jeff Harris LDNR

Sara Krupa LDNR

Joe Heublein NMFS SERO

Mark Hogan LDNR

Kip Runyon USACE

Kat McCain USACE

Laura Lee Wilkinson USACE

PROJECT STATUS UPDATE

WEST BANK & VICINITY LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN & VICINITY GENERAL RE-EVALUATION

Kat McCain – WBV Environmental Lead (Kathryn.McCain@usace.army.mil)
Kip Runyon – LPV Environmental Lead (Kip.R.Runyon@usace.army.mil)

13 November 2019

"The views, opinions and findings contained in this report are those of the author(s) and should not be construed as an official Department of the Army position, policy or decision, unless so designated by other official documentation."

US Army Corps of Engineers

AGENDA

10:05 Introductions – **Please type in the chat box your name and agency**

- Kat McCain – WBV Environmental Lead
- Kip Runyon – LPV Environmental Lead

10:10 Purpose and Outcome

- Provide project status for WBV and LPV
- Inform agencies of the upcoming public review and needs for ongoing agency coordination moving forward

10:15 Project Overviews - TSPs

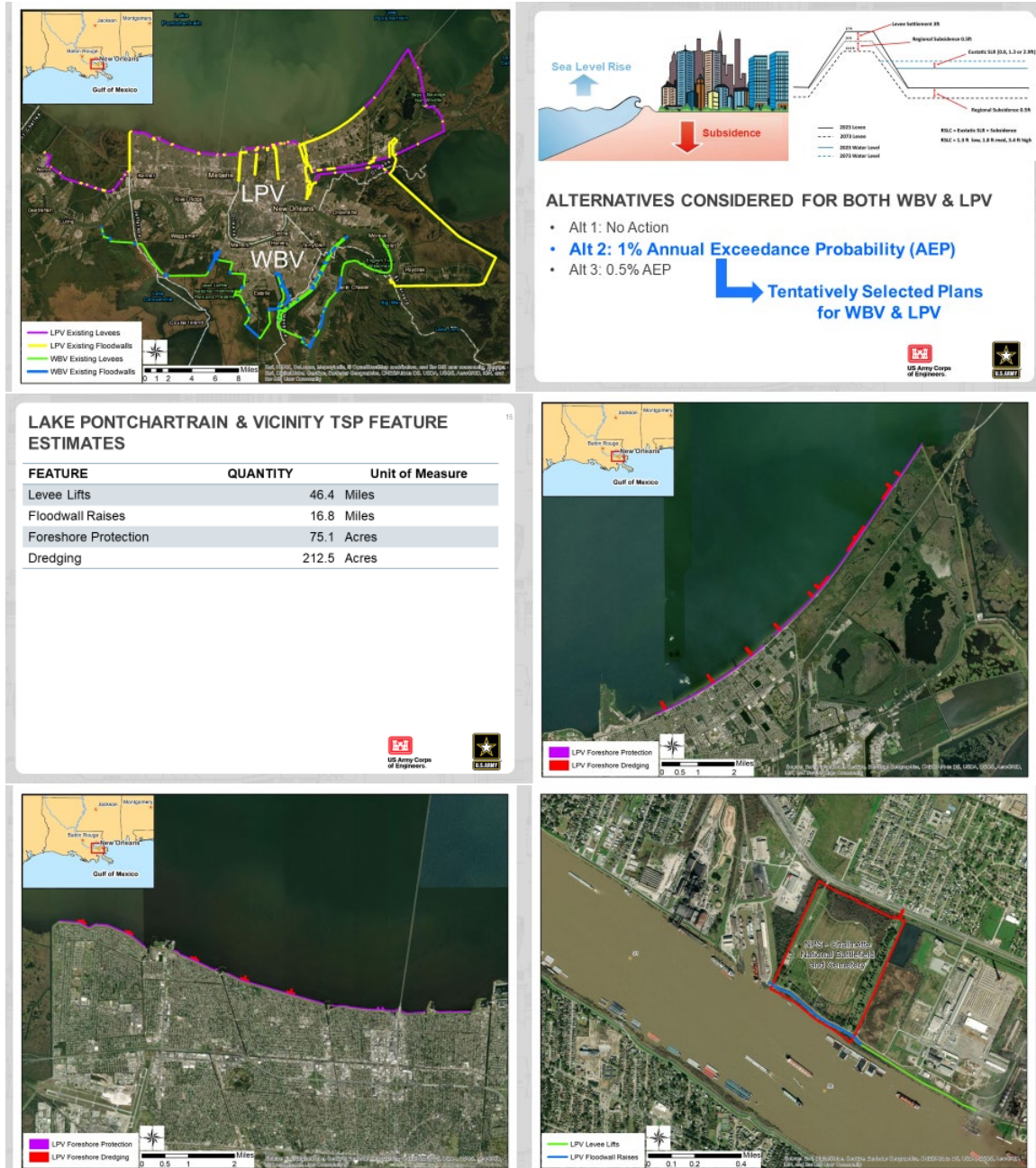
- West Bank & Vicinity
- Lake Pontchartrain & Vicinity
- Mitigation for Both
- Borrow Assumptions for Both

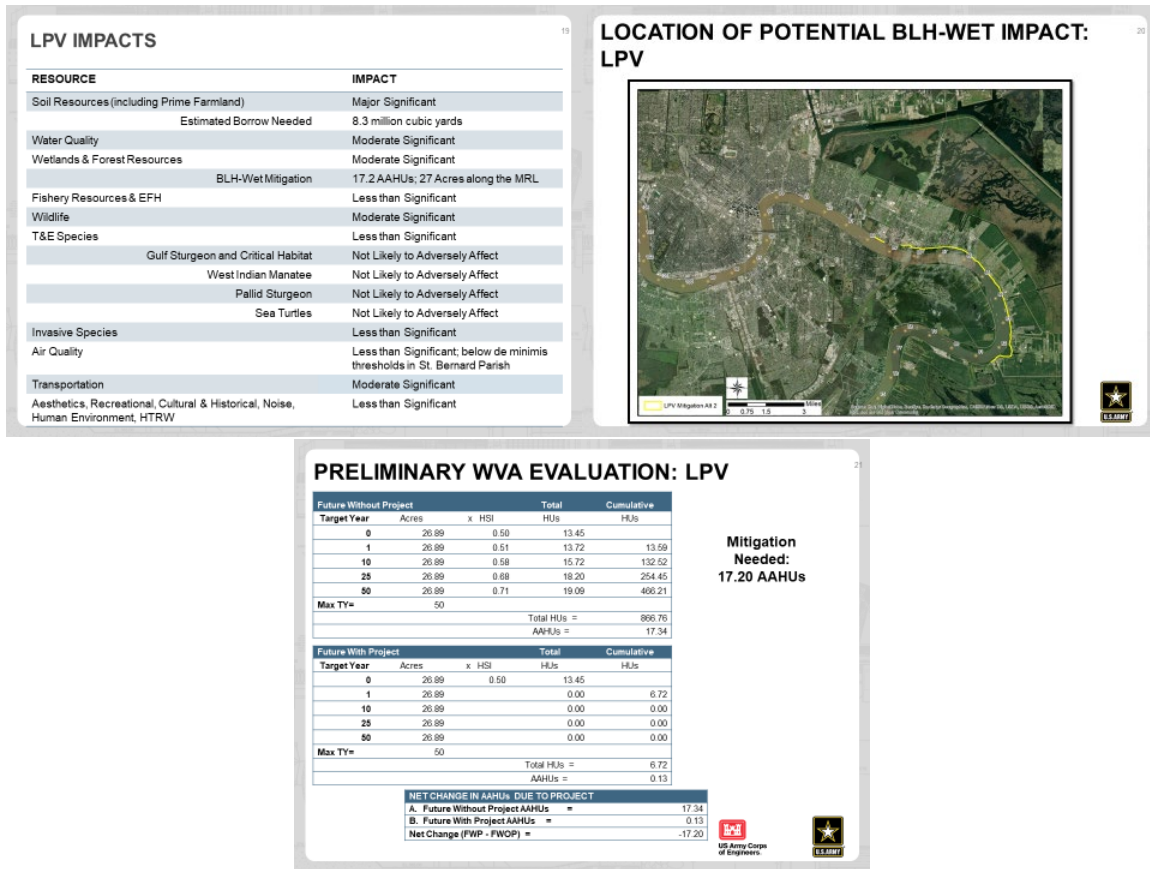
10:45 Schedule & Public Review

10:50 Q/A Discussion

US Army Corps of Engineers









SLIDES ON West Bank & Vicinity Project available upon request

BLH-WET MITIGATION PLAN FOR BOTH WBV & LPV

BLH-WET MITIGATION PLAN FOR BOTH WBV & LPV

➤ Considered Mitigation Projects:


Alternative 1: Mitigation Bank

Alternative 2: Alternative to Mitigation Banks:

- A. Highway 307 Mitigation Project Expansion
- B. 05a.1 Mitigation Project
- C. Combination of Hwy 307 & 05a.1
- D. Combination of Corps Constructed & Mitigation Bank

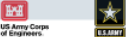
➤ RECOMMENDATION: Mitigation Bank

If, no mitigation bank proposals is feasible in the future, then CEMVN would complete environmental compliance for the Alternative 2 above options




BORROW ASSUMPTIONS FOR WBV & LPV

RESOURCE	ASSUMPTIONS
Location	Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, Jefferson, St. Charles, Lafourche, or St. John the Baptist Parish
Human Environment	Avoid Environmental Justice
Soils	Meet suitable clay material requirements; prime farmland impacts expected
Transportation	Same as HSDRRS
Jurisdictional Wetlands & Non-Jurisdictional BLH	Avoid
Water Quality	BMPs will be used
Wildlife	Habitat conversion expected – moderate impacts
Cultural Resources	Surveys will be conducted
HTRW	Surveys will be conducted
Air Quality	Minor impacts during construction; If in non-attainment then air conformity analysis will be performed
Fisheries, EFH, T&E, Recreation	No impacts
Aesthetics, Noise	Minor impacts during construction




Moving from TSP to Agency Decision (Nov 2019 - March 2020)

- Public/agency/tribal/internal concurrent reviews
 - NOA 13 December 2019
 - Release of Draft Integrated Report with Draft EIS
 - 45-Day Public Review **13 December 2019 – 27 January 2020**
 - Public meetings: **Tentatively week of January 6th**
- Identify relevant public/agency/tribal/internal comments and develop strategies to resolve
- Hold Agency Decision Milestone [**March 2020**]





OVERALL STUDY SCHEDULE

Milestone/Event	Current Schedule
Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement Signed	09 October 2018
Alternatives Milestone	14 February 2019
Tentatively Selected Plan Milestone	09 October 2019
Release of Draft Feasibility Report	13 December 2019
Public Review	13 Dec 2019 – 27 Jan 2020
Agency Decision Milestone	27 March 2020
District Engineer's Transmittal of Final Report Package	10 February 2021
30-Day State & Agency Technical Review Start	April 2021
Chief of Engineer's Report Signed	July 2021



QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

QUESTIONS:

- 1) Will the slides be made available?
 - a. Response: yes

2 ONE FEDERAL DECISION COORDINATION

2.1 USFWS

2.1.1 4 APRIL 2019: USACE COOPERATING AGENCY REQUEST TO USFWS



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT
7400 LEAKE AVE
NEW ORLEANS LA 70118-3651

April 4, 2019

Mr. Joe Ranson
Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
200 Dulles Drive
Lafayette, LA 70506

Dear Mr. Ranson:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), New Orleans District, is initiating preparation of a general re-evaluation report with integrated environmental impact statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, for the proposed Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity Project, located in St. Charles, Jefferson, Orleans, and St. Bernard parishes, Louisiana. The study seeks to determine if the work necessary to sustain the 1% level of hurricane storm damage risk reduction is technically feasible, environmentally acceptable, and economically justified. The non-Federal sponsor is the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority.

Your agency has been identified as an agency that may have an interest in the proposed project based on your jurisdiction by law and/or special expertise. As the lead Federal agency under NEPA, we invite you to be a Cooperating Agency with the Corps in the development of the environmental decision document per the One Federal Decision, Executive Order (EO) 13807, Establishing Discipline and Accountability in the Environmental Review and Permitting Process for Infrastructure Projects, 15 August 2017. Your designation as a cooperating agency does not imply you support the proposed project nor does it diminish or otherwise modify your agency's independent statutory obligations and responsibilities under applicable Federal laws, regulations, and Executive Orders.

Enclosed for your information is one copy of the project fact sheet (ENCL 1). This fact sheet provides a brief project description, relevant background information, and study area information.

In accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) final implementing regulations for NEPA (40 C.F.R. § 1501.6 and § 1508.5); the One Federal Decision (EO 13807) and Corps Implementation Guidance, 26 September 2018 (ENCL 2); and CECW-P Planning Bulletin 2018-01, Feasibility Study Milestones, 26 September 2018 (ENCL 3)), the Corps requests your assistance and participation in the NEPA process in the following ways:

- Invite you to participate and provide input during agency coordination meetings, including pre-scoping and scoping;
- Consult with you on any relevant technical studies that will be required for the project;

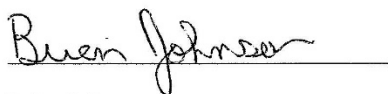
Mr. Joe Ranson

2

- Provide comment and feedback on identifying the overall scope of the project (including project schedule to complete all federal environmental reviews and authorization decisions within two years), study and assessment methodologies, range of alternatives, and important issues and impacts to be evaluated during the environmental review;
- Participate in identifying and eliminating from detailed study the issues which are not important;
- Identify issues related to your agency's jurisdiction by law and special expertise; and
- Review the administrative and public drafts of the Draft and Final environmental impact statement.

Please provide your written acceptance or declination of this invitation on or before May 4, 2019. Should you decline to accept our invitation to be a cooperating agency, we advise that you provide a copy of your response to CEQ as specified at 40 C.F.R. § 1501.6(c). We look forward to working with your agency on the preparation of the environmental decision document. If you have any questions or would like to discuss in more detail the project or our agencies' respective roles and responsibilities during the study, please contact Mr. Bradley Drouant, P.E., the Project Manager (504-862-1516), or Mr. Kip Runyon, the Environmental Manager (314-331-8396).

Sincerely,



Brian Johnson
Environmental Compliance Branch Chief
Regional Planning and Environmental Division North - St Louis
1222 Spruce St.
St. Louis, MO 63103
Brian.L.Johnson@usace.army.mil
314-331-8146

ENCL 1 - Study Fact Sheet

ENCL 2 - Implementation Guidance for Feasibility Studies for Executive Order 13807,
Establishing Discipline and Accountability in the Environmental Review and
Permitting Process for Infrastructure Projects

ENCL 3 - Planning Bulletin PB 2018-01, Feasibility Study Milestones, 26 September 2018

24 Apr 2019: USFWS Cooperating Agency Response Letter



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

200 Dulles Drive
Lafayette, Louisiana 70506

April 24, 2019

Brian Johnson
Environmental Compliance Branch Chief
Regional Planning and Environmental Division North - St Louis
1222 Spruce St.
St. Louis, MO 63103

Dear Mr Johnson:

Please reference your April 4, 2019, letter requesting our participation as a cooperating agency during the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) preparation of a draft general re-evaluation report with integrated environmental impact statement (DGRR-EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, for the proposed Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity Project, located in St. Charles, Jefferson, Orleans, and St. Bernard Parishes, Louisiana. The study seeks to determine if the work necessary to sustain the 1 percent level of hurricane storm damage risk reduction is technically feasible, environmentally acceptable, and economically justified. The non-Federal sponsor is the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the information provided, and offers the following comments in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (83 Stat. 852; 42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

The USACE and the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) have formally committed to work together to conserve, protect, and restore fish and wildlife resources while ensuring environmental sustainability of our Nation's water resources under the January 22, 2003, Partnership Agreement for Water Resources and Fish and Wildlife. Accordingly, the Service would be pleased to serve as a cooperating agency in developing the DGRR-EIS for the proposed project in accordance with applicable NEPA/Council on Environmental Quality guidance. Our participation will include: 1) participation in and providing input during agency coordination meetings, including pre-scoping and scoping; 2) consultation on any relevant technical studies that will be required for the project; 3) providing comment and feedback on identifying the overall scope of the project (including project schedule to complete all federal environmental reviews and authorization decisions within two years), study and assessment methodologies, range of alternatives, and important issues and impacts to be evaluated during the environmental review; 4) participation in identifying and eliminating from detailed study the issues which are not important; 5) identifying issues related to the Service's jurisdiction by law and special expertise; and 6) reviewing the administrative and public drafts of the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statement. The Service will also provide technical assistance in the development of a Biological Assessment describing the impacts of the proposed activity to federally listed threatened or endangered species and/or their critical habitat. Agreeing to be a cooperating agency does not preclude the Service from providing comments on the draft and final SEISs and does not ensure our support of the final selected plan.

We appreciate the opportunity to assist the USACE during the development of the DGRR-EIS. If you require further assistance in this matter, please contact Mr. David Walther (337-291-3122) of this office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joseph A. Ranson", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Joseph A. Ranson
Field Supervisor
Louisiana Ecological Services Office

2.1.2 29 APRIL 2019: RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE DGRR-EIS



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

200 Dulles Drive
Lafayette, Louisiana 70506
April 29, 2019

Mr. Bradley Drouant, P.E.
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
CEMVN-PMO-L, Room 361
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

Dear Mr. Drouant:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the Notice of Intent (ER 19/130) to prepare a Draft Integrated General Reevaluation Report and Environmental Impact Statement (DGRR-EIS) for the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity Coastal Storm Risk Management Project.

The authorization for the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) requires it to provide the 1% level of risk reduction needed for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program at the time of construction. It did not authorize future levee lifts that will be required to sustain the 1% level of risk reduction over the long term. The Future Levee Lifts study was first authorized in WRDA 2014 Section 3017. The authority terminates on 10 June 2024. The act requires a report be provided to Congress in 2019 with recommendations relating to continued need for this authority. The study seeks to determine if the work necessary to sustain the 1% level of hurricane storm damage risk reduction is technically feasible, environmentally acceptable, and economically justified.

The lead agency for this proposed action is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) is the non-Federal sponsor. The USACE is preparing the DGRR-EIS under the authority of Section 3017 of WRDA 2014. Public Law 115-123 (Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018) funded the study as a new start. The study phase is 100% federally funded.

The USACE will evaluate a range of alternatives for the proposed action including structural and nonstructural measures. The USACE will fully evaluate reasonable and practicable alternatives, including the no action alternative. Alternatives may result in avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures to reduce or offset any impacts.

To aid in the planning of that study the Service submits the following comments as

technical assistance in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (83 Stat. 852, as amended; 42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA, 40 Stat. 755, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 703 et seq.), the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (54 Stat. 250, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 668a-d), and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.).

Endangered Species Act and other Acts

Various species protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA), and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) are known to occur in the project vicinity. Protected species that may occur in the coastal parishes of this project study include colonial nesting water/wading birds including the formerly listed brown pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*), various raptors including the formerly listed bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrines*). Forest clearing associated with project features should be conducted during the fall or winter to minimize impacts to nesting migratory birds, when practicable.

Federally-listed threatened and endangered species that could be encountered in the project area are the endangered pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*), the threatened Atlantic Sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi*), and the threatened West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*) and sea turtles. The USACE should consult with the NMFS regarding sea turtles.

The Service recommends that USACE conduct ESA consultation on the DGRR-EIS as soon as plans are developed and impact locations are identified. Following that coordination, the Service recommends that the USACE contact the Service for additional consultation if: 1) the scope or location of the proposed project is changed significantly, 2) new information reveals that the action may affect listed species or designated critical habitat; 3) the action is modified in a manner that causes effects to listed species or designated critical habitat; or 4) a new species is listed or critical habitat designated. Additional consultation as a result of any of the above conditions or for changes not covered in this consultation should occur before those changes are made and or finalized.

National Environmental Policy Act and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act

The President's Council on Environmental Quality defined the term "mitigation" in the National Environmental Policy Act regulations to include: (a) avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action; (b) minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation; (c) rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment; (d) reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action; and (e) compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments. The Service supports and adopts this definition and considers the specific elements to represent the

desirable sequence of steps in the mitigation planning process.

The Service's Mitigation Policy (Federal Register, Vol. 46, pp. 7644-7663, January 23, 1981) has designated four resource categories which are used to ensure that the level of mitigation recommended will be consistent with the fish and wildlife resources involved. The mitigation planning goals and associated Service recommendations should be based on those four categories, as follows:

Resource Category 1 - Habitat to be impacted is of high value for evaluation species and is unique and irreplaceable on a national basis or in the ecoregion section. The mitigation goal for this Resource Category is that there should be no loss of existing habitat value.

Resource Category 2 - Habitat to be impacted is of high value for evaluation species and is relatively scarce or becoming scarce on a national basis or in the ecoregion section. The mitigation goal for habitat placed in this category is that there should be no net loss of in-kind habitat value.

Resource Category 3 - Habitat to be impacted is of high to medium value for evaluation species and is relatively abundant on a national basis. FWS's mitigation goal here is that there be no net loss of habitat value while minimizing loss of in-kind habitat value.

Resource Category 4 - Habitat to be impacted is of medium to low value for evaluation species. The mitigation goal is to minimize loss of habitat value.

The four resource categories are used to ensure that the level of mitigation recommended by Service biologists will be consistent with the fish and wildlife resource values involved. Considering the high value of forested wetlands and marsh for fish and wildlife and the relative scarcity of those habitats they are designated as Resource Category 2, the mitigation goal for which is no net loss of in-kind habitat value. Therefore, the Service recommends to the greatest extent possible, future levee lift features avoid or minimize the destruction of wetlands (see Attachment 1). Scrub-shrub habitat, open water areas with an abundance of submerged aquatic vegetation, and dry bottomland hardwoods are placed in Resource Category 3 due to their relatively reduced value to wildlife, fisheries and degraded wetland functions. The mitigation goal for Resource Category 3 habitats is no net loss of habitat value. Mitigation needs will be evaluated during the feasibility stage and proposed mitigation should comply with the twelve performance standards and criteria (see Attachment 2). For those project impacts that cannot be fully ascertained during the Feasibility Study the Service recommends that adaptive management be employed post construction to correctly identify the extent of such impacts and develop appropriate mitigation. All adaptive management measures should be developed in coordination with the Service and other natural resource agencies.

Public Lands

The Corps should avoid impacts to public lands, if feasible. If not feasible, the Corps should establish and continue coordination with agencies managing public lands that may be impacted by a project feature until construction of that feature is complete and prior to any subsequent maintenance. Points of contacts for the agencies potentially impacted by project features are: Neil Lalonde, Project Leader for the Service's Southeast Louisiana National Wildlife Refuges and Pon Dixon (985) 882-2000, Refuge Manager for the Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge (NWR).

Other comments

The Service assumes this study will evaluate placement of additional earthen fill on existing levees to restore them to target elevations. Other existing project features, such as water control structures, have operational plans in place. All previous Service recommendations in our November 2007 Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report for those existing features are incorporated herein by reference.

For any new access roads or staging areas the Service has the following recommendations:

Culverts should be installed and maintained in construction access roads unless otherwise recommended by the natural resource agencies. At a minimum, there should be one 24-inch culvert placed every 500 feet and one at natural stream crossings. If the depth of water crossings allow, larger sized culverts should be used. Culvert spacing should be optimized on a case-by-case basis. A culvert may be necessary if the road is less than 500-feet long and an area would be hydrologically isolated without that culvert. Additionally, all existing and new drainage structures should be cleared and maintained.

New structural or nonstructural features should avoid impacts to wetlands and fish and wildlife resources. The USACE shall fully compensate for any unavoidable losses of wetland habitat or non-wet bottomland hardwoods caused by project features.

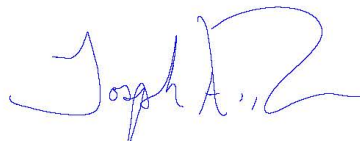
Acquisition, habitat development, maintenance and management of mitigation lands should be allocated as first-cost expenses of the project, and the local project-sponsor should be responsible for operational costs. If the local project-sponsor is unable to fulfill the financial mitigation requirements for operation, then the Corps should provide the necessary funding to ensure mitigation obligations are met on behalf of the public interest.

Any proposed change in mitigation features or plans should be coordinated in advance with the Service, NMFS, LDWF, EPA and LDNR.

We appreciate the opportunity to review the Notice of Intent and to provide comments during the DGRR-EIS scoping period. We look forward to working with you and your staff as project development continues. If you or your staff have further questions

regarding the above recommendations or would like to meet and discuss our recommendations, please contact David Walther (337-291-3122).

Sincerely,



Joseph A. Ranson
Field Supervisor
Louisiana Ecological Services Office

Enclosure

cc: EPA, Dallas, TX
NMFS, Baton Rouge, LA
LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
LDNR, CMD, Baton Rouge, LA
OCPR, Baton Rouge, LA

ATTACHMENT 1 BORROW PROTOCOL

Through the efforts of Task Force Guardian and HSDRRS, the Corps restored Hurricane Katrina-damaged hurricane/flood protection projects to their authorized or previously permitted/constructed protection levels. Identification of borrow areas needed to complete those repairs utilized a protocol that prioritized selection of those sites in the following order: existing commercial pits, upland sources, previously disturbed/manipulated wetlands within a levee system, and low-quality wetlands outside a levee system. The Service supports the use of such protocols to avoid and minimize impacts to wetlands and bottomland hardwoods within project areas. Avoidance and minimization of those impacts helps to provide consistency with restoration strategies and compliments the authorized hurricane protection efforts. Such consistency is also required by Section 303(d)(1) of the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA).

Accordingly, the Service recommends that prior to utilizing borrow sites every effort should be made to reduce impacts by using sheetpile, deep soil mixing, and/or floodwalls to increase levee heights wherever feasible. In addition, the Service recommends that the following protocol be adopted and utilized to identify borrow sources in descending order of priority:

1. Permitted commercial sources, authorized borrow sources for which environmental clearance and mitigation have been completed, or non-functional levees after newly constructed adjacent levees are providing equal protection.
2. Areas under forced drainage that are protected from flooding by levees, and that are:
 - a) non-forested (e.g., pastures, fallow fields, abandoned orchards, former urban areas) and non-wetlands;
 - b) wetland forests dominated by exotic tree species (i.e., Chinese tallow-trees) or non-forested wetlands(e.g., wet pastures), excluding marshes;
 - c) disturbed wetlands (e.g., hydrologically altered, artificially impounded).
3. Sites that are outside a forced drainage system and levees, and that are:
 - a) non-forested (e.g., pastures fallow fields, abandoned orchards, former urban areas) and non-wetlands;
 - b) wetland forests dominated by exotic tree species (i.e., Chinese tallow-trees) or non-forested wetlands(e.g., wet pastures), excluding marshes;
 - c) disturbed wetlands (e.g., hydrologically altered, artificially impounded).

Notwithstanding this protocol, the location, size and configuration of borrow sites within the landscape is also critically important. Coastal ridges, natural levee flanks and other geographic features that provide forested/wetland habitats and/or potential barriers to hurricane surges should not be utilized as borrow sources, especially where such uses would diminish the natural functions and values of those landscape features.

ATTACHMENT 2 MITIGATION GUIDANCE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

On April 10, 2008, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued regulations governing compensatory mitigation for activities authorized by Department of the Army permits (Federal Register, Vol. 73, No. 70). According to the Federal Register, those regulations establish performance standards and criteria for the use of permittee-responsible compensatory mitigation, mitigation banks, and in-lieu programs to improve the quality and success of compensatory mitigation projects. The following summary outline generally describes the process of developing a mitigation plan as outlined in those regulations (see the Federal Register for a detailed description of each step).

1. Objectives: a description of the resource type(s) and amount(s) that would be provided as mitigation, the method of compensation, and the manner in which the resource functions of the compensatory mitigation project would address the needs of the geographic area of interest.
2. Site Selection: a description of the factors considered during the site selection process.
3. Site Protection Instrument: a description of the legal arrangements and instrument that would be used to ensure long-term protection of the compensatory mitigation project site.
4. Baseline Information: a description of the ecological characteristics of the proposed compensatory mitigation project site.
5. Determination of Credits: a description of the number of credits to be provided, including a rationale for that determination.
6. Mitigation Work Plan: detailed written specifications and work descriptions for the compensatory mitigation project.
7. Maintenance Plan: a description and schedule of maintenance requirements to ensure the continued viability of the resource once initial construction is completed.
8. Performance Standards: ecologically based standards that will be used to determine whether the compensatory mitigation project is achieving its objective.
9. Monitoring Requirements: a description of parameters to be monitored in order to determine if the mitigation project is on track for achieving its performance standards and if adaptive management is needed.
10. Long-term Management Plan: a description of the manner in which the compensatory mitigation project will be managed after the performance standards have been achieved to ensure the long-term sustainability of the resource.
11. Adaptive Management Plan: a management strategy to address unforeseen changes in site conditions or other mitigation project components.
12. Financial Assurances: a description of the financial assurances that would be provided and how they are sufficient to ensure a high level of confidence that the mitigation project will be successfully completed in accordance with its performance standards.

2.1.3 17 OCTOBER 2019: USACE CONCURRENCE LETTER ON TSP REQUEST LETTER



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, ST. LOUIS DISTRICT
1222 SPRUCE STREET
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63103-2833

REPLY TO ATTENTION OF:
Regional Planning and Environmental Division North
Environmental Compliance Section (CEMVP-PD-C)

17 October 2019

SUBJECT: Request for Concurrence on Alternatives to be carried forward and the Preferred Alternative for the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity, Louisiana General Re-evaluation Report

Mr. Joseph A. Ranson
Field Supervisor
Louisiana Ecological Services Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
200 Dulles Drive
Lafayette, Louisiana 70506

Dear Mr. Ranson,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District (CEMVN), is preparing the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity (LPV), Louisiana General Re-evaluation Report with integrated Environmental Impact Statement to re-evaluate the performance of the LPV system given the combined effects of consolidation, settlement, subsidence, and sea level rise over time, and determine if additional actions are recommended to sustain the current 1% level of risk reduction for coastal storms. The measures that have been identified as part of the proposed action include lifts to existing levees, raising of existing flood walls, placement of foreshore protection in existing foreshore protection locations, and construction access dredging for placement of foreshore protection. The non-Federal sponsor is the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Board of Louisiana.

The Executive Order 13807: Establishing Discipline and Accountability in the Environmental Review and Permitting Process for Infrastructure Projects, (also known as One Federal Decision (OFD)), Memorandum of Understanding for Major Infrastructure Projects (MOU) establishes a coordinated and timely process for environmental reviews of major infrastructure projects. It sets forth the agreement under which agencies will cooperate to complete environmental reviews and make authorization decisions for major infrastructure projects. It describes the permitting timetable milestones, roles, and responsibilities for the lead, cooperating, and participating agencies.

The OFD MOU identifies three concurrence points in the environmental review process where the lead Federal agency must request the concurrence of cooperating agencies with authorization decision responsibilities (See Enclosure 1, Section XI). These are 1) Purpose and Need, 2) Alternatives to be Carried Forward for Evaluation, and 3) Preferred Alternative.

The CEMVN recently narrowed its list of feasible alternatives to the final array of alternatives to be carried forward for analysis in the EIS. The final array consists of the following alternatives:

Alternative 1: The No Action Alternative

Alternative 2: System Levee and Floodwall Lifts to the Projected 1% Event at 2073 with Intermediate Relative Sea Level Rise

Alternative 3: System Levee and Floodwall Lifts to the Projected 0.5% Event at 2073 with Intermediate Relative Sea Level Rise

Based on reasonably maximizing the net economic benefits of the alternatives while remaining consistent with the Federal objective of protecting the nation's environment, the CEMVN recently identified the Tentatively Selected Plan (i.e. the Preferred Alternative). Based on the evaluation of net economic benefits and potential environmental impacts, Alternative 2 was identified as the Preferred Alternative.

The CEMVN is seeking your agency's concurrence on the alternatives to be carried forward for analysis in the EIS and on the Preferred Alternative. Please provide your written concurrence within 30 days from the date of this letter. Concurrence, as defined in the MOU, means confirmation by the agency that the information is sufficient for the stage in the NEPA process and the environmental review process may proceed to the next stage. If, after concurrence, the CEMVN determines that changes to the alternatives to be carried forward or the Preferred Alternative are necessary, then the CEMVN and cooperating agencies will review such changes to determine if concurrence should be revisited.

We look forward to continuing to work with your agency on this study and appreciate the working relationship thus far. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this in more detail, please contact the Environmental Manager, Kip Runyon, at 314-331-8396 or kip.r.runyon@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

JOHNSON.BRIAN.L
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Brian Johnson
Chief, Environmental Compliance Branch
Regional Planning and Environmental Division North

ENCL 1 – Memorandum of Understanding Implementing One Federal Decision Under Executive Order 13807

2.1.4 7 NOVEMBER 2019: CONCURRENCE LETTER FROM USFWS ON TSP



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
200 Dulles Drive
Lafayette, Louisiana 70506

November 7, 2019

Colonel Stephen Murphy
District Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118-3651

Dear Colonel Murphy;

Please reference the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity Hurricane Storm Damage and Risk Reduction Re-evaluation Study (LPV) being conducted by the Corps of Engineers' (USACE). This reevaluation addresses levee lifts that will be required to offset expected consolidation, settlement, subsidence and sea level rise and addresses impacts to fish and wildlife resources and public lands.

This letter is transmitted in accordance with the Executive Order 13807: Establishing Discipline and Accountability in the Environmental Review and Permitting Process for Infrastructure Projects, (also known as One Federal Decision (OFD)). This letter is also transmitted under the authority of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA) but does not constitute the final report of the Secretary of the Interior as required by Section 2(b) of that act.

At the current stage of planning USACE has completed preliminary studies to identify alternatives to be carried forward in the study process. Those alternatives have the potential to impact public lands, i.e., Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve, Chalmette National Cemetery managed by the National Park Service (NPS).

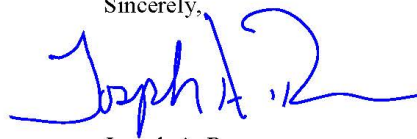
Following a telephone conversation with Kip Runyon, USACE Environmental Manager (October 30, 2019), the Service does not object to the selected alternatives but reserves the right to voice an objection to project features that may impact those public lands. Continued coordination with the Service and the NPS, Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve will be necessary as engineering and design of those features is undertaken. The Service and Park Service will continue to work closely with USACE to identify those alternatives that are least damaging and acceptable.

We appreciate the opportunity to assist in the development of this project and to provide comments and recommendations to the proposed alternatives. However, the Service remains concerned with the lack of information provided in this stage of the feasibility study. If

practicable, the Service recommends the USACE provide project feature details at an earlier phase in the study process. Lack of data limits the ability to fully address impacts to public lands and causes concern in our concurrence of alternatives.

Should you or your staff have any questions, or if you would like to meet with us regarding the content of this letter, please contact Hannah Sprinkle (337-291-3121).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joseph A. Ranson", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Joseph A. Ranson
Field Supervisor
Louisiana Ecological Services Office

2.2 NATIONAL MARINES FISHERIES SERVICE (NMFS)

2.2.1 4 APRIL 2019: USACE COOPERATING AGENCY REQUEST TO NMFS



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT
7400 LEAKE AVE
NEW ORLEANS LA 70118-3651

April 4, 2019

Mr. David Bernhart
NMFS – Protected Species Division
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Dear Mr. Bernhart:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), New Orleans District, is initiating preparation of a general re-evaluation report with integrated environmental impact statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, for the proposed Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity Project, located in St. Charles, Jefferson, Orleans, and St. Bernard parishes, Louisiana. The study seeks to determine if the work necessary to sustain the 1% level of hurricane storm damage risk reduction is technically feasible, environmentally acceptable, and economically justified. The non-Federal sponsor is the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority.

Your agency has been identified as an agency that may have an interest in the proposed project based on your jurisdiction by law and/or special expertise. As the lead Federal agency under NEPA, we invite you to be a Cooperating Agency with the Corps in the development of the environmental decision document per the One Federal Decision, Executive Order (EO) 13807, Establishing Discipline and Accountability in the Environmental Review and Permitting Process for Infrastructure Projects, 15 August 2017. Your designation as a cooperating agency does not imply you support the proposed project nor does it diminish or otherwise modify your agency's independent statutory obligations and responsibilities under applicable Federal laws, regulations, and Executive Orders.

Enclosed for your information is one copy of the project fact sheet (ENCL 1). This fact sheet provides a brief project description, relevant background information, and study area information.

In accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) final implementing regulations for NEPA (40 C.F.R. § 1501.6 and § 1508.5); the One Federal Decision (EO 13807) and Corps Implementation Guidance, 26 September 2018 (ENCL 2); and CECW-P Planning Bulletin 2018-01, Feasibility Study Milestones, 26 September 2018 (ENCL 3)), the Corps requests your assistance and participation in the NEPA process in the following ways:

- Invite you to participate and provide input during agency coordination meetings, including pre-scoping and scoping;
- Consult with you on any relevant technical studies that will be required for the project;
- Provide comment and feedback on identifying the overall scope of the project (including

Mr. David Bernhart

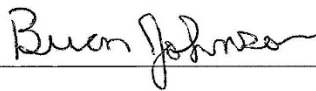
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project schedule to complete all federal environmental reviews and authorization decisions within two years), study and assessment methodologies, range of alternatives, and important issues and impacts to be evaluated during the environmental review;

- Participate in identifying and eliminating from detailed study the issues which are not important;
- Identify issues related to your agency's jurisdiction by law and special expertise; and
- Review the administrative and public drafts of the Draft and Final environmental impact statement.

Please provide your written acceptance or declination of this invitation on or before May 4, 2019. Should you decline to accept our invitation to be a cooperating agency, we advise that you provide a copy of your response to CEQ as specified at 40 C.F.R. § 1501.6(c). We look forward to working with your agency on the preparation of the environmental decision document. If you have any questions or would like to discuss in more detail the project or our agencies' respective roles and responsibilities during the study, please contact Mr. Bradley Drouant, P.E., the Project Manager (504-862-1516), or Dr. Kathryn McCain, the Environmental Manager (314-331-8047).

Sincerely,



Brian Johnson
Environmental Compliance Branch Chief
Regional Planning and Environmental Division North - St Louis
1222 Spruce St.
St. Louis, MO 63103
Brian.L.Johnson@usace.army.mil
314-331-8146

ENCL 1 - Study Fact Sheet

ENCL 2 - Implementation Guidance for Feasibility Studies for Executive Order 13807,
Establishing Discipline and Accountability in the Environmental Review and
Permitting Process for Infrastructure Projects

ENCL 3 - Planning Bulletin PB 2018-01, Feasibility Study Milestones, 26 September 2018

2.2.2 17 MAY 2019: NMFS COOPERATING AGENCY RESPONSE LETTER



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505
<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>

05/17/2019

F:SER/NS

Brian Johnson
Environmental Compliance Branch Chief
Regional Planning and Environmental Division North – St. Louis
1222 Spruce Street
St. Louis, MO 63103

Attention: Bradley Drouant, and Kathryn McCain

Dear Mr. Johnson:

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has received your letter dated April 04, 2019, requesting our participation as a Cooperating Agency on the proposed Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity project. Given that we have special expertise and jurisdiction by law in regards to the Endangered Species Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and Magnuson Stevens Act, NMFS agrees to serve as a Cooperating Agency for this project. Due to staffing and travel constraints, and our heavy involvement in several other USACE One Federal Decision Projects, our participation may be limited to our review and comment on draft National Environmental Policy Act documents, teleconferences, and occasional travel to meetings.

We appreciate your invitation to serve as a Cooperating Agency for the proposed Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity project. Please direct project correspondence related to habitat impacts and/or Essential Fish Habitat consultation to Craig Gothreux, 5757 Corporate Blvd., Suite 375, Baton Rouge, LA 70808; by telephone at (225) 380-0078, or by e-mail at craig.gothreux@noaa.gov. All other project correspondence can be directed to Noah Silverman, at the letterhead address; by telephone at (727) 824-5353, or by email at noah.silverman@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

STRELCHECK AND
REV J.1365863152

Digitally signed by
STRELCHECK ANDREW J.1365
863152
Date: 2019.05.17 12:23:59 -0400

for Roy E. Crabtree, Ph.D.
Regional Administrator

cc:
GCERC, Renshaw, Lipsy
F/SER, Strelcheck, Blough, Silverman,
F/SER3, Bernhart,
F/SER4, Fay, Dale
F/SER45, Wilber, Cooksey



2.2.3 17 OCTOBER 2019: USACE CONCURRENCE ON TSP REQUEST LETTER



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, ST. LOUIS DISTRICT
1222 SPRUCE STREET
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63103-2833

REPLY TO ATTENTION OF:
Regional Planning and Environmental Division North
Environmental Compliance Section (CEMVP-PD-C)

17 October 2019

SUBJECT: Request for Concurrence on Alternatives to be carried forward and the Preferred Alternative for the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity, Louisiana General Re-evaluation Report

Roy E. Crabtree, Ph.D.
Regional Administrator
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701-5505

Dear Dr. Crabtree,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District (CEMVN), is preparing the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity (LPV), Louisiana General Re-evaluation Report with integrated Environmental Impact Statement to re-evaluate the performance of the LPV system given the combined effects of consolidation, settlement, subsidence, and sea level rise over time, and determine if additional actions are recommended to sustain the current 1% level of risk reduction for coastal storms. The measures that have been identified as part of the proposed action include lifts to existing levees, raising of existing flood walls, placement of foreshore protection in existing foreshore protection locations, and construction access dredging for placement of foreshore protection. The non-Federal sponsor is the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Board of Louisiana.

The Executive Order 13807: Establishing Discipline and Accountability in the Environmental Review and Permitting Process for Infrastructure Projects, (also known as One Federal Decision (OFD)), Memorandum of Understanding for Major Infrastructure Projects (MOU) establishes a coordinated and timely process for environmental reviews of major infrastructure projects. It sets forth the agreement under which agencies will cooperate to complete environmental reviews and make authorization decisions for major infrastructure projects. It describes the permitting timetable milestones, roles, and responsibilities for the lead, cooperating, and participating agencies.

The OFD MOU identifies three concurrence points in the environmental review process where the lead Federal agency must request the concurrence of cooperating agencies with authorization decision responsibilities (See Enclosure 1, Section XI). These are 1) Purpose and Need, 2) Alternatives to be Carried Forward for Evaluation, and 3) Preferred Alternative.

The CEMVN recently narrowed its list of feasible alternatives to the final array of alternatives to be carried forward for analysis in the EIS. The final array consists of the following alternatives:

Alternative 1: The No Action Alternative

Alternative 2: System Levee and Floodwall Lifts to the Projected 1% Event at 2073 with Intermediate Relative Sea Level Rise

Alternative 3: System Levee and Floodwall Lifts to the Projected 0.5% Event at 2073 with Intermediate Relative Sea Level Rise

Based on reasonably maximizing the net economic benefits of the alternatives while remaining consistent with the Federal objective of protecting the nation's environment, the CEMVN recently identified the Tentatively Selected Plan (i.e. the Preferred Alternative). Based on the evaluation of net economic benefits and potential environmental impacts, Alternative 2 was identified as the Preferred Alternative.

The CEMVN is seeking your agency's concurrence on the alternatives to be carried forward for analysis in the EIS and on the Preferred Alternative. Please provide your written concurrence within 30 days from the date of this letter. Concurrence, as defined in the MOU, means confirmation by the agency that the information is sufficient for the stage in the NEPA process and the environmental review process may proceed to the next stage. If, after concurrence, the CEMVN determines that changes to the alternatives to be carried forward or the Preferred Alternative are necessary, then the CEMVN and cooperating agencies will review such changes to determine if concurrence should be revisited.

We look forward to continuing to work with your agency on this study and appreciate the working relationship thus far. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this in more detail, please contact the Environmental Manager, Kip Runyon, at 314-331-8396 or kip.r.runyon@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

JOHNSON.BRIAN.L
LOYD.1231330336

Digitally signed by
JOHNSON.BRIAN.LLOYD.1231330336
Date: 2019.10.17 14:24:31 -05'00'

Brian Johnson
Chief, Environmental Compliance Branch
Regional Planning and Environmental Division North

ENCL 1 – Memorandum of Understanding Implementing One Federal Decision Under Executive Order 13807

2.2.4 12 NOVEMBER 2019: CONCURRENCE LETTER FROM NMFS ON TSP



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/region/southeast>

11/12/2019

F:SER/NS

Brian Johnson
Chief, Environmental Compliance Branch
Regional Planning and Environmental Division North
1222 Spruce Street
St. Louis, MO 63103

Attention: Kip Runyon, Regional Planning and Environmental Division North Environmental Compliance Section (CEMVP-PD-C)

Dear Mr. Johnson:

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has received your letter dated October 17, 2019, seeking our concurrence pursuant to the One Federal Decision Memorandum of Understanding on the alternatives to be carried forward for analysis in the EIS and on the Preferred Alternative on the proposed Lake Pontchartrain Vicinity project. After reviewing the information you've provided, including details provided during inter-agency meetings and conference calls, we do not have any concerns with your range of alternatives or tentatively selected preferred alternative, and as such we concur. If project scope changes, and/or new alternatives are added then we would appreciate the opportunity to review those changes/additions.

Sincerely,

STRELCHECK.AND
REW.J.1365863152
Digitally signed by
STRELCHECK.ANDREW.J.1365
2063152
Date: 2019.11.12 16:08:48 -0500

for Roy E. Crabtree, Ph.D.
Regional Administrator

cc:
GCERC, Renshaw, Lipsy
F, Chabot, Youngkin
F/SER, Strelcheck, Blough, Silverman,
F/SER3, Bernhart,
F/SER4, Fay, Dale
F/SER45, Wilber, Cooksey



3 PUBLIC SCOPING AND REVIEW

3.1 FEDERAL REGISTER

3.1.1 NOTICE OF INTENT – 2 APRIL 2019



12598

Federal Register/Vol. 84, No. 63/Tuesday, April 2, 2019/Notices

Decision (ROD) and issue all necessary authorizations within 90 days thereafter, subject to limited exceptions. An essential element of the OFD framework is the development of a schedule, referred to the "Permitting Timetable," including key milestones critical to completion of the environmental review and issuance of a ROD. Cooperating agencies required by law to develop schedules for environmental review or authorization processes should transmit a summary of such schedules to the lead agency for integration into the Permitting Timetable.

To ensure timely completion of the environmental review and issuance of necessary authorizations, OMB and CEQ recommend the Permitting Timetable for major infrastructure projects provide for environmental review according to the following schedule:

(1) Formal scoping and preparation of a Draft EIS (DEIS) within 14 months, beginning on the date of publication of the NOI to publish an EIS and ending on the date of the Notice of Availability of the DEIS;

(2) Completion of the formal public comment period and development of the Final EIS (FEIS) within eight months of the date of the Notice of Availability of the DEIS; and

(3) Publication of the final ROD within two months of the publication of the Notice of Availability of the FEIS. While the actual schedule for any given project may vary based upon the circumstances of the project and applicable law, agencies should endeavor to meet the two-year goal established in E.O. 13807.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) will assist in documenting existing conditions and assessing effects of project alternatives through the Fish and Wildlife Start Coordination Act consultation procedures. Other environmental review and consultation requirements for the proposed project include the need for Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality Clean Water Act Section 401 water quality. In addition, because the proposed project may affect federally listed species, the USACE will consult with the Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in accordance with Endangered Species Act, Section 7. The NMFS will be consulted regarding the effects of this proposed project on Essential Fish Habitat per the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The USACE will also be consulting with the State Historic Preservation Officer under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act concerning properties listed, or potentially eligible for listing. The USACE will also be

coordinating with the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources for Coastal Zone Management Consistency per the Coastal Zone Management Act.

7. *Availability:* The Draft EIS (DEIS) is expected to be available for public comment and review no sooner than December 2019. At that time, a 45-day public review period will be provided for individuals and agencies to review and comment on the DEIS. All interested parties are encouraged to respond to this notice and provide a current address if they wish to be notified of the DEIS circulation.

Brenda S. Bowen,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 2019-06359 Filed 4-1-19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3720-58-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers

Notice of Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity General Re-Evaluation Report, Louisiana

AGENCY: Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District (USACE) intends to prepare a Draft Integrated General Reevaluation Report and Environmental Impact Statement (DGRR-EIS) for the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity Coastal Storm Risk Management Project. The study seeks to determine if the work necessary to sustain the 1% level of hurricane storm damage risk reduction is technically feasible, environmentally acceptable, and economically justified.

ADDRESSES: Questions or comments about the proposed action or requests to be added to the project mailing list should be directed to Mr. Bradley Drouant, P.E., CEMVN-PMO-L, Room 361, 7400 Leake Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70118; CEMVN-LPVGRR@usace.army.mil. For additional information, please visit the following website: <https://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/About/Projects/BBA-2018/studies/>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Bradley Drouant, (504) 862-1516.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The lead agency for this proposed action is the USACE. The Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) is the non-Federal sponsor.

1. *Authority.* The USACE is preparing the DGRR-EIS under the authority of Section 3017 of WRRDA 2014. Public Law 115-123 (Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018) funded the study as a new start. The study phase is 100% federal funding.

2. *Background.* The devastation to New Orleans and the Gulf Coast from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita included the loss of over 1,800 lives, it temporarily and permanently displaced many thousands of residents, and resulted in estimated property damages in excess of \$40 billion in New Orleans and as much as \$100 billion along the Gulf Coast.

After the devastation of the 2005 hurricane season, the U.S. embarked on one of the largest civil works projects ever undertaken, at an estimated cost of \$14 billion. The project included restoration, accelerated construction, improvements, and enhancements of various risk reduction projects within southeastern Louisiana, including the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity, Louisiana Project (LPV) and the West Bank and Vicinity, Louisiana Project (WBV), jointly referred to as the Greater New Orleans Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS). The completion of the levees, floodwalls, gates, and pumps that together form the HSDRRS brought 100-year level of hurricane and storm damage risk reduction to the areas within LPV and WBV.

Southeast Louisiana, including the Greater New Orleans area, is generally characterized by weak soils, general subsidence, and the global incidence of sea level rise that will cause levees to require future lifts to sustain performance of the HSDRRS. The HSDRRS project authority did not provide for future lifts. Engineering analysis indicates the HSDRRS will no longer provide 1% level of risk reduction as early as 2023. Absent future levee lifts to offset consolidation, settlement, subsidence, and sea level rise, risk to life and property in the Greater New Orleans area will progressively increase. USACE will notify FEMA once the system no longer provides the 1% level of risk reduction, which may result in the loss of accreditation required for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program.

The DGRR-EIS seeks to determine if the work necessary to sustain the 1% level of risk reduction is technically feasible, environmentally acceptable, and economically justified. The study will also consider other levels of risk reduction. A positive determination

would make construction of future levee lifts eligible for future budget requests.

The significant issues that are likely to be analyzed in depth in the DGRR-EIS include: Climate; relative sea level rise; levee consolidation and compaction; annual probability of failure; life loss; economic damages; geology and soils; hydrology and hydraulics; water resources; forest and wetland resources; uplands; fisheries; essential fish habitat; wildlife; invasive species; threatened and endangered species; cultural and historical resources; scenic and aesthetic resources; recreation; air quality; noise; transportation; population and housing; employment, business, and industrial activity; public facilities and services; community and regional growth; tax revenue and property values; community cohesion; environmental justice; and hazardous, toxic, and radioactive waste.

3. *Alternatives.* The USACE will evaluate a range of alternatives for the proposed action including structural and nonstructural measures. The USACE will fully evaluate reasonable and practicable alternatives, including the no action alternative. Alternatives may result in avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures to reduce or offset any impacts.

4. *Public Involvement.* Public involvement, an essential part of the NEPA process, is integral to assessing the environmental consequences of the proposed action and improving the quality of the environmental decision making. The public includes affected and interested Federal, state, and local agencies, Indian tribes, concerned citizens, stakeholders, and other interested parties. Public participation in the NEPA process will be strongly encouraged, both formally and informally, to enhance the probability of a more technically accurate, economically feasible, and socially acceptable EIS. Public involvement will include, but is not limited to: Information dissemination; identification of problems, needs, and opportunities; idea generation; public education; problem solving; providing feedback on proposals; evaluation of alternatives; conflict resolution; public and scoping notices and meetings; public, stakeholder, and advisory groups consultation and meetings; and making the EIS and supporting information readily available in conveniently located places, such as libraries and on the world wide web.

5. *Scoping.* Scoping, an early and open process for identifying the scope of significant issues related to the proposed action to be addressed in the

EIS, will be used to: (a) Identify the affected public and agency concerns; (b) facilitate an efficient EIS preparation process; (c) define the issues and alternatives that will be examined in detail in the EIS; and (d) save time in the overall process by helping to ensure that the draft EIS adequately addresses relevant issues.

A Scoping Meeting Notice announcing the locations, dates and times for scoping meetings is anticipated to be posted on the project website, <https://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/About/Projects/BBA-2018/studies/> and through various advertising avenues widely available to the public no later than 15 days prior to the meeting dates.

6. *Environmental Consultation and Review.* The USACE will serve as the lead Federal agency in the preparation of the DGRR-EIS. Other Federal and/or state agencies may participate as cooperating and/or commenting agencies throughout the study process. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will assist in documenting existing conditions and assessing effects of project alternatives through the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act consultation procedures. In addition, because the proposed project may affect federally listed species, the USACE will consult with the USFWS and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in accordance with the Endangered Species Act, Section 7. The USACE will consult the NMFS regarding the effects of the project on Essential Fish Habitat per the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The USACE will also consult with affected Federally Recognized Tribes. Other environmental review and consultation requirements for the proposed project include the need for Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality Clean Water Act Section 401 water quality certification and Clean Air Act coordination. The USACE will also consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act concerning properties listed or potentially eligible for listing. The USACE will also coordinate with the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources for coastal zone management consistency per the Coastal Zone Management Act.

7. *Availability.* The USACE currently estimates that the DGRR-EIS will be available for public review and comment in December 2019. At that time, the USACE will provide a 45-day public review period for individuals and agencies to review and comment.

The USACE will notify all interested agencies, organizations, and individuals of the availability of the draft document at that time.

Brenda S. Bowen,
Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.
[FR Doc. 2019-06354 Filed 4-1-19; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3720-58-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers

Notice of Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the West Bank and Vicinity General Reevaluation Report, Louisiana

AGENCY: Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District (USACE) intends to prepare a Draft Integrated General Reevaluation Report and Environmental Impact Statement (DGRR-EIS) for the West Bank and Vicinity Coastal Storm Risk Management Project. The study seeks to determine if the work necessary to sustain the 1% level of hurricane storm damage risk reduction is technically feasible, environmentally acceptable, and economically justified. **ADDRESSES:** Questions or comments about the proposed action or requests to be added to the project mailing list should be directed to Mr. Bradley Drouant, P.E., CEMVN-PMO-L, Room 361, 7400 Leake Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70118; CEMVN-WBVGRR@usace.army.mil. For additional information, please visit the following website: <https://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/About/Projects/BBA-2018/studies/>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Bradley Drouant, (504) 862-1516.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The lead agency for this proposed action is the USACE. The Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) is the non-Federal sponsor.

1. *Authority.* The USACE is preparing the DGRR-EIS under the authority of Section 3017 of WRRDA 2014, Public Law 115-123 (Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018) funded the study as a new start. The study phase is 100% federal funding.

2. *Background.* The devastation to New Orleans and the Gulf Coast from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita included the loss of over 1,800 lives, it

3.1.2 13 DECEMBER 2019: NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY



Federal Register / Vol. 84, No. 240 / Friday, December 13, 2019 / Notices

68169

Signed in Washington, DC, on November 26, 2019.

John Bashista,
Director, Office of Acquisition Management,
Department of Energy.

[FR Doc. 2019-26908 Filed 12-12-19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[E-R-FRL-9048-4]

Environmental Impact Statements; Notice of Availability

Responsible Agency: Office of Federal Activities, General Information 202-564-5632 or <https://www.epa.gov/nepa/>.

Weekly receipt of Environmental Impact Statements

Filed 12/02/2019 10 a.m. ET Through 12/09/2019 10 a.m. ET

Pursuant to 40 CFR 1506.9.

Notice: Section 309(a) of the Clean Air Act requires that EPA make public its comments on EISs issued by other Federal agencies. EPA's comment letters on EISs are available at: <https://cdxnodenr.epa.gov/cdx-enepa-public/action/eis/search>.

EIS No. 20190288, Draft, USFS, AZ, Pinto Valley Mine, *Comment Period Ends:* 01/27/2020, *Contact:* Judd Sampson 602-525-1914.

EIS No. 20190289, Draft, NOAA, FL, Coral Reef Conservation Program Programmatic Environmental, Impact Statement, *Comment Period Ends:* 01/27/2020, *Contact:* Elizabeth Fahey 301-427-8632.

EIS No. 20190290, Draft, USACE, NE, US-275 West Point to Scribner Expressway, *Comment Period Ends:* 01/27/2020, *Contact:* Phil Rezac 402-896-0896.

EIS No. 20190291, Draft, USFS, AZ, Tonto National Forest Plan Revision, *Comment Period Ends:* 03/12/2020, *Contact:* Kenna Belsky 602-225-5200.

EIS No. 20190292, Draft, USACE, LA, West Bank and Vicinity, Louisiana, General Re-Evaluation Report, *Comment Period Ends:* 02/07/2020, *Contact:* Bradley Drouant 504-862-1516.

EIS No. 20190293, Draft, USACE, LA, Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity Draft General Re-Evaluation Report with Integrated EIS, *Comment Period Ends:* 02/07/2020, *Contact:* Bradley Drouant 504-862-1516.

Amended Notice

EIS No. 20190256, Draft Supplement, NASA, CA, Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for

Soil Cleanup Activities at Santa Susana Field Laboratory, *Comment Period Ends:* 01/08/2020, *Contact:* Peter Zorba msfc-ssfl-information@mail.nasa.gov, Revision to FR Notice Published 10/25/2019; Extending the Comment Period from 12/9/2019 to 1/8/2020.

EIS No. 20190261, Draft, USAF, NM, Special Use Airspace Optimization Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico, *Comment Period Ends:* 01/31/2020, *Contact:* Robin Divine 210-925-2730, Revision to FR Notice Published 11/01/2019; Extending the Comment Period from 12/16/2019 to 1/31/2020.

EIS No. 20190282, Draft, USA, LA, Amite River and Tributaries East of Mississippi River, Louisiana, *Comment Period Ends:* 01/13/2020, *Contact:* US Army Corps of Engineers 504-862-1014, Revision to FR Notice Published 11/29/2019; Correcting Lead Agency from USA to USACE.

Dated: December 9, 2019.

Robert Tomiak,
Director, Office of Federal Activities.

[FR Doc. 2019-26879 Filed 12-12-19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

[Public Notice: 2019-6028]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Comment Request

AGENCY: Export-Import Bank of the United States.

ACTION: Submission for OMB review and comments request.

SUMMARY: The Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM Bank), as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal Agencies to comment on the proposed information collection, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before February 11, 2020 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted electronically on WWW.REGULATIONS.GOV or by mail to Smaro Karakatsanis, Export-Import Bank of the United States, 811 Vermont Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20571.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Export-Import Bank has made changes to the form to reflect an application process decoupled from the SBA's export working capital program. EXIM will also be moving forward to an

electronic application submission process, which results in a stand-alone application versus the previous joint application with the SBA. Therefore, all references and information previously required from the SBA have been removed. There is one material change in the application to reflect EXIM's local cost support on short-term transactions, including working capital. Local costs are costs incurred in the buyer's country (i.e. local delivery, installation, taxes), eligible for EXIM cover, provided that: U.S. content requirements are met; included within the contracts; do not exceed 15% of export contract; and no local goods are included. Therefore, three questions are added to the application: Are local costs to be included under the working capital loan facility; if yes, how much in terms of USD or percentage per contract or invoice; and what is the nature of the local costs to be supported?

The application tool can be reviewed at: <https://www.exim.gov/sites/default/files/pub/pending/eib84-01.pdf>.

Title and Form Number: EIB 84-01 Application for Export Working Capital Guarantee.

OMB Number: 3048-0013.

Type of Review: Renewal.

Need and Use: This form provides EXIM Bank staff with the information necessary to determine if the application and transaction is eligible for EXIM Bank assistance under their export working capital guarantee program.

Affected Public

This form affects entities involved in the export of U.S. goods and services.

EXIM Bank

Annual Number of Respondents: 200.

Estimated Time per Respondent: 2 hours.

Annual Burden Hours: 400 hours.

Frequency of Reporting of Use: Annually.

Government Expenses

EXIM Bank

Reviewing time per year: 300 hours.

Average Wages per Hour: \$42.50.

Average Cost per Year (time * wages): \$12,750.00.

Benefits and Overhead: 20%.

Total Government Cost: \$15,300.00.

Bassam Doughman,
IT Project Manager, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 2019-26516 Filed 12-12-19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6690-01-P

3.2 PUBLIC WEBSITE

Project information, including review plan, public meeting information, presentations, fact sheets, and draft report available online at:

<https://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/About/Projects/BBA-2018/studies/LPV-GRR/>

3.3 OVERVIEW OF PUBLIC MEETINGS

Date	Location	Number of Attendees
30 April 2019 Public Meeting	USACE New Orleans District Office	~20
22 January 2020	6500 Spanish Ft. Blvd New Orleans, LA 70124	~25

3.3.1 PUBLIC MEETING 30 APRIL 2019

Video of public meeting available at:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XtM3tAO2EMk&feature=youtu.be>

3.3.1.1 PRESENTATION SLIDES FROM PUBLIC MEETING

Lake Pontchartrain & Vicinity and West Bank & Vicinity: Levee Lifts GRRs




April 30, 2019

"The views, opinions and findings contained in this report are those of the author(s) and should not be construed as an official Department of the Army position, policy or decision, unless so designated by other official documentation."

CURRENT STATUS



Today, the system provides the 1% level of risk reduction authorized by Congress and USACE is fully confident it will perform as designed and continue to do so for several years without additional lifts. The need for future levee lifts has always been known, but was not authorized along with the system's initial construction.

Study Overview | Planning Steps | Path Forward | Comments

MEETING PURPOSE

- As part of the scoping process, we need your input on:
 - Significant issues/impacts to be addressed in the EIS
 - Potential project features/alternatives
 - Data sources
 - Issues that are not significant and need not be addressed
- As part of the development of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires an early and open process for determining the scope of the issues to be addressed
- General Ree-evaluation Report (GRR): a study to affirm, reformulate, or modify an existing plan. Similar to a feasibility study.





Study Overview | Planning Steps | Path Forward | Comments

AGENCY PARTNERSHIP & COORDINATION




Non-Federal Sponsor

Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA)



- Feasibility cost-share agreement was executed on October 09, 2018.

Permitting & Advisory Agencies:



Study Overview	Planning Steps	Path Forward	Comments
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Study Overview	Planning Steps	Path Forward	Comments
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STUDY AREA TOPOGRAPHY

RISK REDUCTION MEASURES

Structural

- Levee Raise
- Island/Surge Barrier
- New Floodwalls
- Breakwaters standalone/ in combination
- Interior drainage improvements
- Add armoring on the flood side
- Wave Berms

Non-Structural

- Risk Communication with the public/Flood Warning
- Buyouts
- Flood-proofing
- Elevated buildings

Nature-Based

- Marshes
- Dunes/Beaches
- Living Shoreline

Study Overview	Planning Steps	Path Forward	Comments
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Study Overview	Planning Steps	Path Forward	Comments
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OVERALL STUDY TIMELINE

- Nov 2019: Project Initiation, Alternative Development
- Dec 2018 - Oct 2019: Public & Agency Meetings, Alternative Evaluation
- Dec 2019: Tentatively Select Plan, Public Review (anticipated mid-December 2019)
- Apr 2020: Agency Endorsement of Recommended Plan
- June 2021: Approval of Final Report

WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU

- What hurricane event did your community see the most damages?
- Are there risk reduction measures that you would like the planning team to evaluate to address the problems?
- Are there specific things the planning team should consider?
- Is there data/studies that you know of that could help the study?
- Significant issues/impacts to be addressed
- Issues that are not significant and need not be addressed

Study Overview	Planning Steps	Path Forward	Comments
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Study Overview	Planning Steps	Path Forward	Comments
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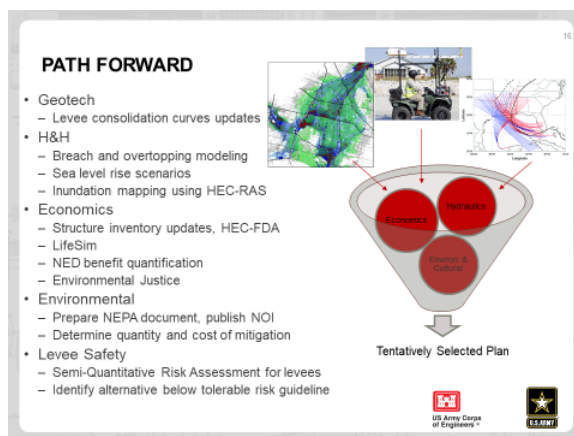
COMMENTS & QUESTIONS

Comments or information can be provided to:
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
 C/O Mr. Bradley Drouart, P.E.
 CEMVN-PMO-L
 7400 Leake Avenue
 New Orleans, LA 70118

Or by email to
CEMVN-WBVGRR@usace.army.mil
CEMVN-LPVGRR@usace.army.mil

PATH FORWARD

- Geotech
 - Levee consolidation curves updates
- H&H
 - Breach and overtopping modeling
 - Sea level rise scenarios
 - Inundation mapping using HEC-RAS
- Economics
 - Structure inventory updates, HEC-FDA
 - LifeSim
 - NED benefit quantification
 - Environmental Justice
- Environmental
 - Prepare NEPA document, publish NOI
 - Determine quantity and cost of mitigation
- Levee Safety
 - Semi-Quantitative Risk Assessment for levees
 - Identify alternative below tolerable risk guideline



3.3.1.2 ATTENDEE LIST

UP Army Corps
of Engineers
New Orleans District

ATTENDANCE RECORD

Date: 22 January 2020

LPV Public Meeting

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

	Name	Organization	City	State	Zip	
1	DANIEL HILL	LAKEFRONT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY	NO	LA		dhil
2	Chris Humphreys	FPA-E	N.O.	La		chu
3	DECK BORSA	FPA-E	N.O.	LA		DBOR
4	John Skinner	LOSID	N.O.	LA		et
5	Jeanie Grogan					a
6	GLEN PICKIE	CITIZEN	N.O.	LA		P
7	ROGER FULLMER		NO	LA		rol
8	Tyler Antrop	SWPNO				te
9						

US Army Corps
of Engineers
New Orleans District

ATTENDANCE RECORD

Date: 22 January 2020

LPV Public Meeting

***PLEASE PRINT CLEAR

	Name	Organization	City	State	Zip
1	Justin Macfield	CPRA			
2	Danahy Landon	RES			
3	Herb Miller	SLFPA - East			
4	JEN BLANCHARD	SCIENTIST - RESIDENT.			
5	Mark Schleifstein	Timon-Dicayune / New Orleans Abate	N.O.		
6	Emily Vignar	CRU			
7	Ann Duffey	Lake Oaks Civic Assoc.			
8	Patricia Fullmer	LVGC			
9	MARY FULLMER	LUPON			
10	BILLY MARONAL	FPA			
11	Wilma Heaton	SLFPA-E			
12	JERRY DEBANKS	RESIDENT			
13	MONTY SHALETT	LVPOA / RESIDENT			
14	STEVE BARNES	LVPOA / RESIDENT			
15	GERRY GILSON	FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY			
16					
17					

3.3.1.3 PHOTOS FROM MEETING





3.3.1.4 PRESENTATION SLIDES

Lake Pontchartrain & Vicinity General Reevaluation Report

Public Information Meeting for the Draft Report

New Orleans District
January 22, 2020

"The views, opinions and findings contained in this report are those of the author(s) and should not be construed as an official Department of the Army position, policy or decision, unless so designated by other official documentation."




PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

Agenda

- FAQs
- Corps Study Process
- Project Background
- Alternatives Considered
- Tentatively Selected Plan
- Next Steps: Project Schedule
- Public Comment Period

Information Posters & Tables

Submitting Comments

- Email: CEMVN-LPVGRR@usace.army.mil
- Court Reporter available tonight





FAQS

- Does the HSDRRS currently provide the 1% level of risk reduction?
- Why weren't the levees/floodwalls built higher to begin with?
- Why didn't this study begin until 2018 when the need for future levee lifts was always known?
- Why is the study important?
- When would construction begin?




MEETING PURPOSE / WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU

- Inform the public
 - Provide background on study
 - Discuss alternatives evaluated
 - Present "Tentatively Selected Plan"
- Solicit your input
 - Issues and concerns
 - Formulation and evaluation of alternatives
 - Tentatively Selected Plan




CORPS STUDY PROCESS

Study Overview	Planning Steps	Path Forward	Comments
Scoping	Alternative Evaluation & Analysis	Feasibility Analysis of Selected Plan	Final Report

- Scoping**
 - Data gathering
 - Request public input on study area issues for consideration
- Alternative Evaluation & Analysis**
 - Evaluate alternatives
 - Recommend a plan
 - Draft report / National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document
 - Opportunity for public review & comment
- Feasibility Analysis of Selected Plan**
 - Additional design refinements & analysis
 - Finalize report and release for public review
- Final Report**
 - Send final report to Congress for approval and funding

Current Stage




AGENCY PARTNERSHIP & COORDINATION

Non-Federal Sponsor

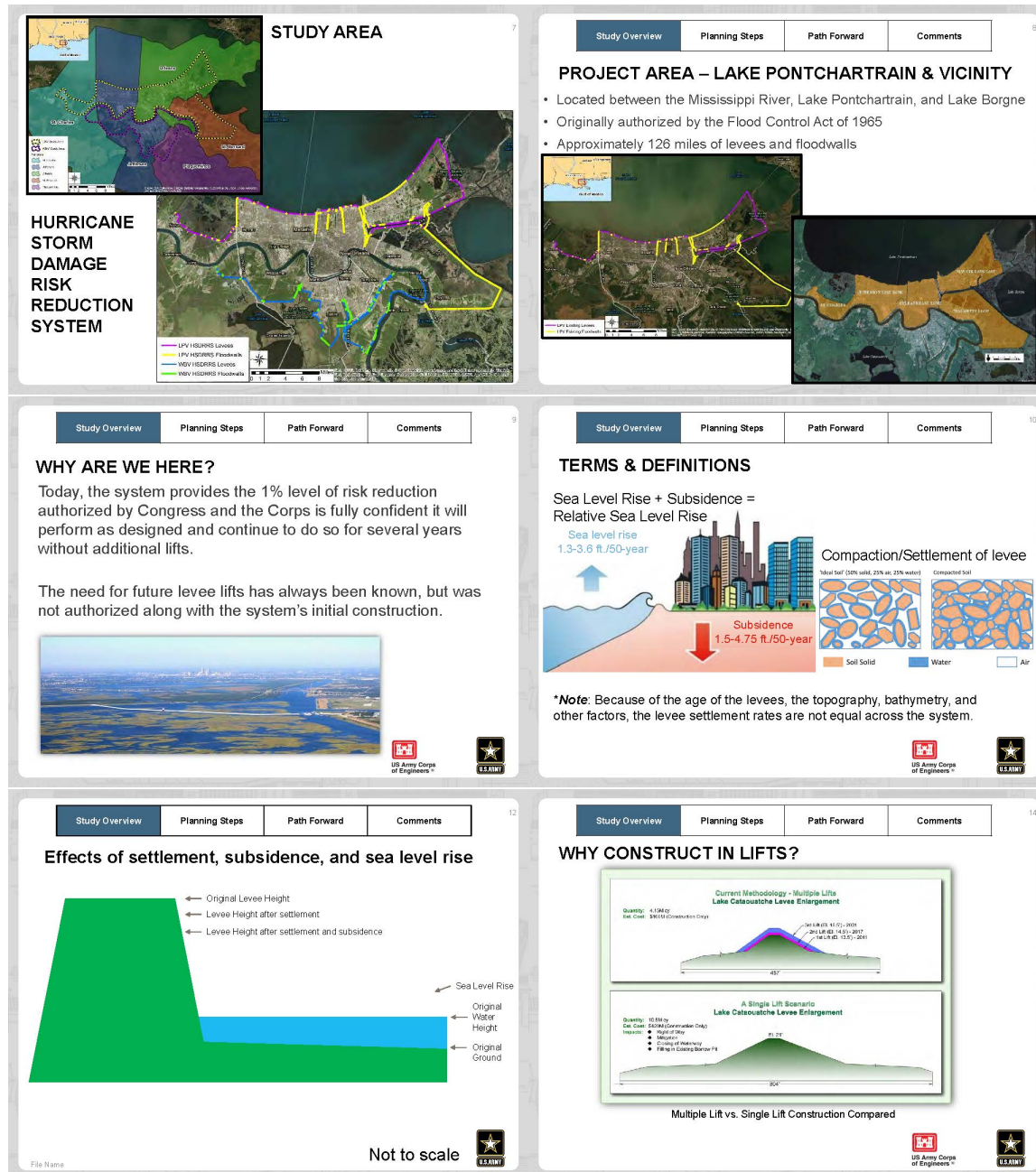
Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA)

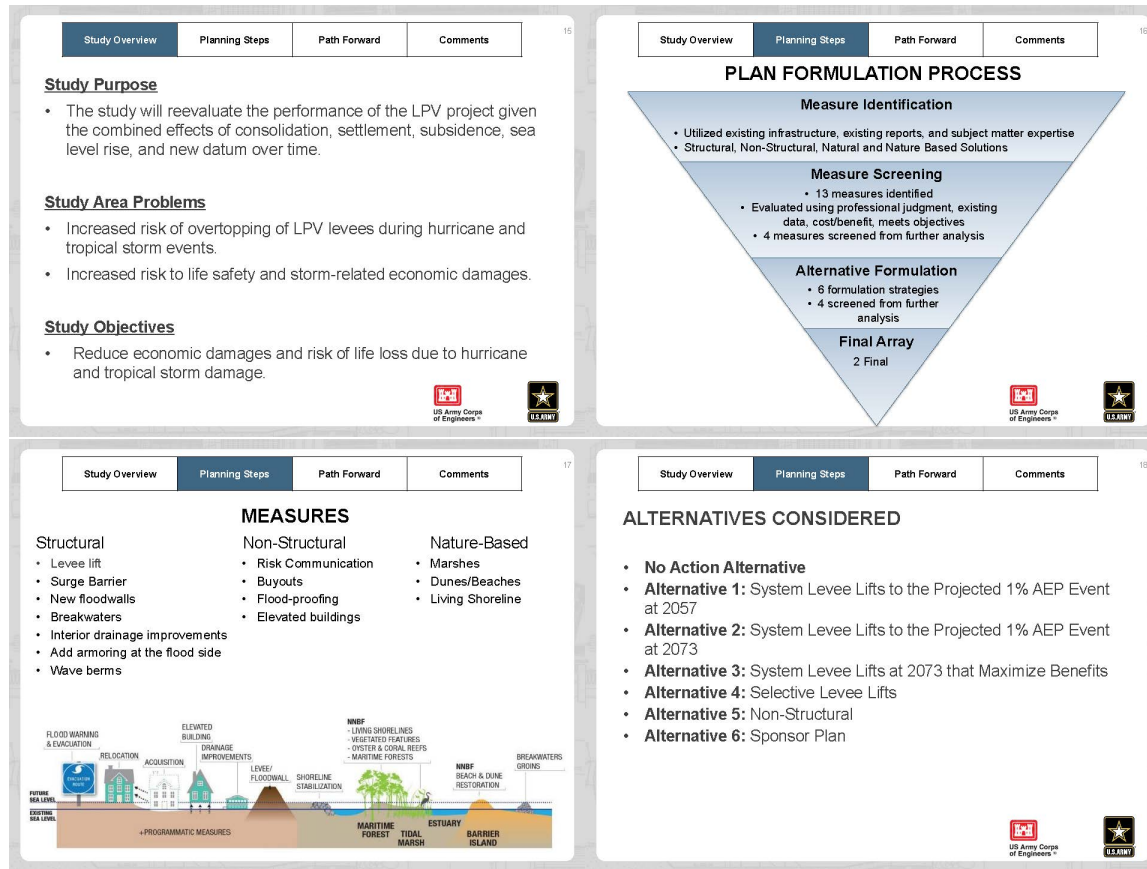


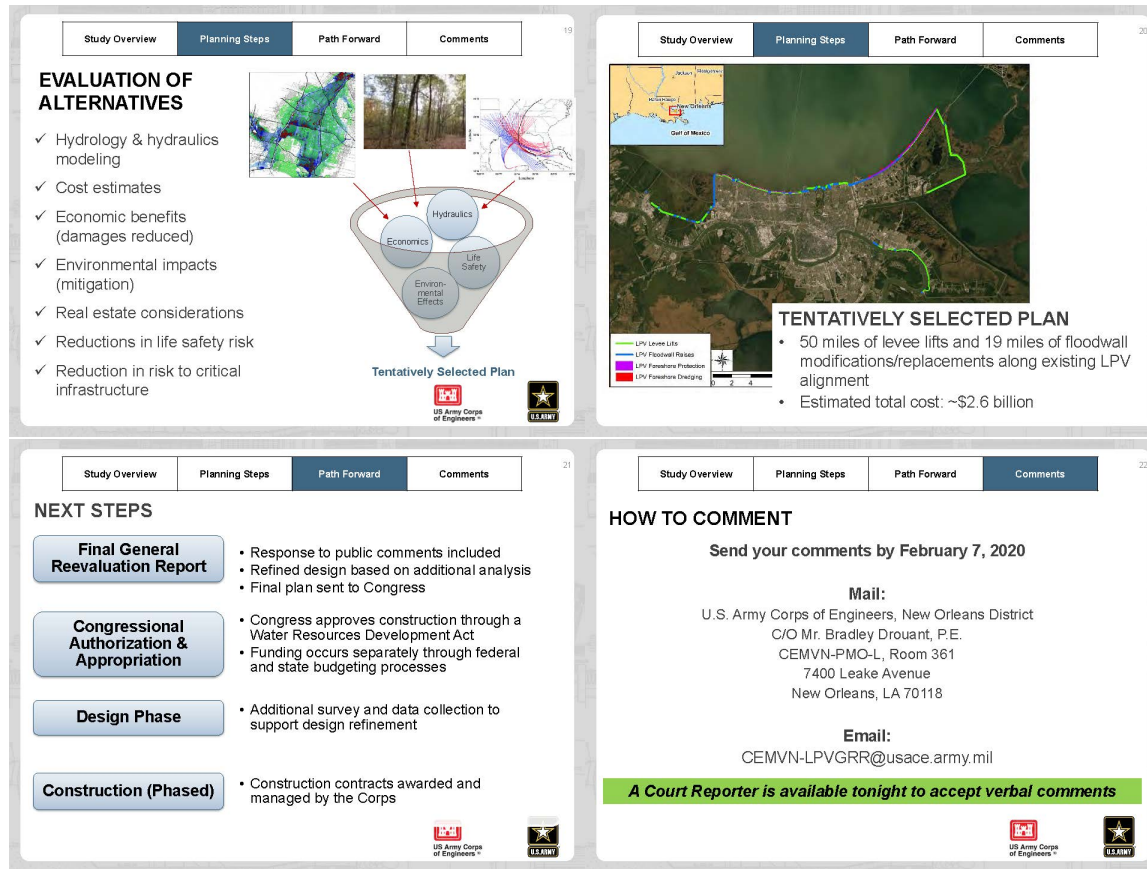
Permitting & Advisory Agencies











3.4 COMMENTS RECEIVED

3.4.1 SCOPING COMMENTS RECEIVED & RESPONSES (APRIL 2019)

The following comments were directed to CEMVN Public Affairs Officer (PAO) and CEMVN PAO and PM responses back to the Times Picayune newspaper are provided in red.

Is there a document/documents that have already been completed that outline where things stand for both? **No.**

Has there been any memo issued outlining the limitations to be required for these two studies?

There is implementation guidance.

Were these two studies requested by CPRA? Regional levee authorities? Are there documents for that?

No, they were authorized by Congress in WRRDA 2014 Sec 3017 and received appropriations from BBA18.

Were these first covered in a HSDRRS study? Since they are a re-evaluation what was the first evaluation?

There was not a HSDRRS study, because Congress authorized and appropriated funds without a report or requiring a benefit/cost analysis.

In 2015, I wrote a story about a corps presentation to the east bank authority that seemed to be about this study for the east bank, at least, and tagged the cost of the study at \$10-20 million, and said it should be finished by 2018 in order to give public, FEMA time to review it, etc, in advance of 2023 recertification.

Do you expect the reviews announced in these notices will include all the provisions discussed in that meeting?

No, the items discussed in that article largely involve re-running the ADCIRC model which does not fit within the smart planning \$3M budget and 3 year schedule of the GRRs. They will utilize the existing ADCIRC models with some modifications. Recertification is a responsibility of the non-Federal Sponsor and is also not part of this effort.

With the language in the notice saying the study may show parts of the system will no longer meet 1 percent requirements by 2023, is it your belief that there will be enough time between its completion and the recertification deadline to address low areas in the system?

The 2023 date is an estimate based on existing data and previous settlement curves. The study is gathering new levee elevation data (to include some work done by the NFS) that may extend the timeline the levees remain above the 1% design elevations. Even if a portion of a levee reach were to fall below the 1% design elevation engineering analysis would be required to determine whether or not the system continued to provide the 1% level of risk reduction.

Are each of the levee systems expecting that present lift efforts associated with armoring will meet that goal? Do you already know other things that need to be done? Or are you expecting this new study to identify those issues and address them as future Corps projects?

The non-Federal sponsor has taken actions to raise some of the levees previously expected to be the first requiring future lifts. No new settlement curves have been generated by USACE at

this time to determine how long those reaches will remain above the 1% design heights. Additional alternatives to sustain the 1% elevation may be identified by the study.

And, Matt, can I get a copy of the engineering analysis that the corps cites in its notice as showing the 1 percent standard might not be met by 2023?

Smart planning relies on the use of existing data to complete studies in a timely and cost efficient matter. The 2023 date is an estimate based on available data at the time the NOI was published.

And if the EIS/study finds additional work must be done, would that be sent to Congress as a proposed project in a chief's report, assuming it's given a positive benefit/cost analysis? And if so, how quickly could work be started/completed to meet flood insurance requirements?

WRRDA 2014 Sec 3017 provides construction authorization provided that the project is found to be technically feasible, environmentally acceptable, and economically justified through 10 June 2024. Potential implementation would be subject to appropriations and the authority's termination date.

Comments Received from private citizen and CEMVN Responses (in red)

As you will be aware, the State of Louisiana is currently in the process of putting out to bid for the Mid-Barataria and Mid-Breton sediment diversion projects. I was wondering whether the Corps will be taking the effects that these structures will undoubtedly have on river flow and volume into account when designing the levee lifts. Further, might these structures function in a similar way to the Bonnet Carre spillway when the river is high, providing additional flood control mechanisms?

The LPV and WBV GRR studies are authorized to consider alternatives related to Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction. I can't speak to what the State may or may not utilize the diversion structures for, but riverine flooding falls under a different Federal project the Mississippi River and Tributaries (MR&T) project (i.e. river levees). The diversions are unlikely to be impacted by this study as they are outside our project area. I would not anticipate the diversions would be used during hurricanes, the details of how they are operated will be reviewed as part of the State's 408 permit request to the Corps seeking to modify the MR&T project.

Back in 2013, architects Waggoner and Ball released The Greater New Orleans Urban Water Plan, which the City of New Orleans adopted in its most recent Master Plan. The plan recommends a significant overhaul of the system of drainage canals that the Sewerage and Water Board currently operates and maintains. Again, will the Corps be taking the Urban Water Plan into account and coordinating with the City to ensure that the plan matches the Corps own objectives?

I have downloaded the Waggoner and Ball reports and shared them with the team for consideration. If in reviewing alternatives with the highest benefits it appears work on the canals may be required we would certainly consult with the S&WB and City of New Orleans, but work on the canals themselves is unlikely to provide the additional benefits that would be required to justify the expense of altering the existing floodwalls.

Additional Information: It should be noted, the interior drainage analysis was performed to determine if interior drainage function was impacted by HSDRRS construction efforts. Analysis results indicate that each basin performs independently of external water levels. Secondly,

HSDRRS construction has no significant impact on interior water levels or drainage during an event that does not overtop the system.

3.4.2 PUBLIC REVIEW OF DRAFT REPORT (9 DEC 2019 – 7 FEB 2020)

3.4.2.1 MEDIA COVERAGE

3.4.2.1.1 9 DECEMBER 2019 TIMES PICAYUNE NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

Available online at:

https://www.nola.com/news/environment/article_a160ff42-1ace-11ea-bd3b-cbcf2a74b089.html

What it'll take to raise New Orleans-area levees: \$3.2 billion, 50-year plan, Corps says

BY MARK SCHLEIFSTEIN | Staff writer

The Army Corps of Engineers has recommended a \$3.2 billion, 50-year plan to elevate both the hurricane-protection levee systems on either side of the Mississippi River and several miles of river levees to keep pace with sinking soils and rising sea level.



In dual reports released Monday, the Corps said its plan, if pursued, would keep levees and floodwalls high enough to reduce flooding caused by storm surges resulting from hurricanes with a 1 percent chance of occurring in any year.

Protection from these so-called 100-year storms was the baseline standard the federal government agreed to provide in building New Orleans' new levee system after Hurricane Katrina.

Keeping the levees that high will guarantee that properties behind the levees would continue to be eligible for flood insurance in the future.

The system must be recertified as meeting those height requirements in 2023, and in announcing it was beginning the study earlier this year, Corps officials said some levees might already be below the 100-year required height by then.

When the study was announced, the Corps initially discounted a more expensive proposal to increase heights of the levee system to protect from a 0.5 percent surge event — a "250-year storm" — as "less efficient" and more costly to build and maintain.

The study was authorized by 2014 congressional legislation aimed at allowing the federal government to pay a portion of the levee lifts if they were found to benefit the national economy. The state will still have to pay 35 percent of the construction costs and all of the costs of operating and maintaining the levee improvements when complete.

When the post-Katrina levee system was built, at a cost of \$14.6 billion, Congress did not include authorization of federal-state cost sharing for elevating the levees to keep up with subsidence and sea level rise.

The east bank and West Bank levee improvement plans are available at the Corps' New Orleans District web site. The agency will schedule public meetings in January to distribute information about the plans and provide opportunities for comments.

According to the Corps, the state Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority will act as the local sponsor for both the east and west bank projects, but construction costs will be shared by the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authorities on the east and west banks; the Pontchartrain Levee District; Jefferson, Plaquemines, Orleans, St. Bernard and St. Charles parishes; and the New Orleans Sewerage & Water Board.

The biggest chunk of improvements would be aimed at levees overseen by the east bank levee authority. That work would cost \$2.6 billion and would reduce estimated annual storm surge flooding damage to \$30 million, compared to \$230 million a year without the improvements. That would result in a benefit-to-cost ratio of 2.6 to 1, according to the Corps report. That ratio is likely to help in getting congressional approval of the construction plan, and, more important, congressional funding.

The damage estimates are based on the potential effects of hurricane surge water overtopping levees and floodwalls for a 100-year storm. However, the damage estimates would likely increase for surges created by larger storms, which would result in more water deposited within the levee system.

For comparison, Hurricane Katrina was considered a 250-year event for the surge it pushed into St. Bernard Parish and a 150-year event for its surge heights along Lake Pontchartrain.

The report pointed out that while the improvements would also result in a significant net safety increase, storms larger than the 100-year event would still pose a high risk to life "due to the extensive population protected by the levee system, even with good evacuation procedures."

The east bank improvements would include 50 miles of levee lifts and 19 miles of floodwall modifications and replacements.

Not requiring additional elevation, according to the report, are the new combined levees and floodwalls along Lake Borgne in St. Bernard Parish, or the Lake Borgne Surge Barrier. But several miles of levees and floodwalls along the Mississippi River in St. Bernard would be elevated, as the study concludes that rising sea levels will increase water heights farther upstream during hurricanes than previously believed.

Part of that stretch of river levee already is considered below the 100-year level of risk reduction.

The Corps estimated that east and west bank earthen levee lifts and floodwall height elevations of between 2 feet and 5.1 feet will be required over 50 years, between 2023 and 2073, which is considered the lifespan of the project. That includes between 0.2 feet and 3.3 feet to account for sinking soils, plus an "intermediate" estimate of 1.8 feet for sea level rise, which includes the effects of human-induced global warming.

The Corps chose the intermediate level for sea rise, rather than a worst-case rise of 3.4 feet, which includes the effects of more potential melting of polar ice caps and glaciers around the world. But the estimate could be revisited during the life of the project.

The east bank work will take place in a series of lifts that would occur by decade, with 11 lifts between 2023 and 2033, four lifts between 2034 and 2043, 15 lifts between 2044 and 2053, and three lifts between 2045 and 2065.

On the West Bank, the elevation work will cost \$613 million, which should reduce estimated annual damages from surge-related flooding to \$8 million, compared to the estimated average \$78 million a year damage cost without the improvements. That damage reduction results in a benefit to cost ratio of 2.4 to 1.

The West Bank levees would require seven lifts totaling 16 miles between 2023 and 2033, 11 lifts for 22 miles between 2034 and 2043, four lifts totaling 14 miles between 2044 and 2053, 13 lifts totaling 27 miles between 2054 and 2064, and two lifts totaling 3 miles between 2065 and 2073.

The West Bank work also would include extending upriver the segment of the Mississippi River in Plaquemines Parish and Algiers that would be elevated to deal with potential storm surges. The Algiers Canal levees also would be raised.

The Corps considered six alternatives in determining its final plan. It dismissed doing nothing as too expensive; including a no-action scenario is a requirement of Corps studies.

It held open an alternative if the state wanted to come up with its own plan, but the state declined to do so. Coastal authority officials did not respond to a request for comment on the Corps plan on Monday.

Also rejected was a proposal to consider only “non-structural” alternatives – such as elevating buildings or relocating businesses or homes. The corps found it was not cost-effective, though some buildings within the two levee systems may still become eligible for such programs in the future to reduce damage costs.

A proposal to simply elevate the system to deal with potential surge height increases through the present life of the levee system, 2056, was rejected as less effective than building to 2073 water height requirements.

Also rejected was a proposal to simply elevate portions of the levee system that seemed most likely to be overtopped in 2073. The report said that would leave a levee system with differing height levels that would be more difficult to manage. Indeed, that would be a throwback to the way the regional levee system was designed and built before Katrina, which a Corps-sponsored forensic investigation said was “a system in name only” that was destined for failure.

A final proposal looked at how to improve the levee system to protect against more dangerous storms. The Corps used the 0.5 percent/250-year surge height alternative to determine whether that alternative would be more cost-effective. The alternative would have increased the construction cost on the east bank by \$348 million and reduced annual damages by \$4 million a year, to \$26 million. But the resulting benefit to cost ratio was less than the 1 percent alternative.

3.4.2.1.2 10 DECEMBER 2019 4WWL-TV

Available online: <https://www.wvltv.com/article/news/local/orleans/army-corps-recommends-32-billion-levee-protection-plan-for-new-orleans/289-6b19c0c8-2365-411b-bfa6-f97d7a9176db>

Army Corps recommends \$3.2 billion levee protection plan for New Orleans: The Army Corps of Engineers' 50-year plan will help New Orleans levees keep pace with rising sea levels and sinking soil.

Author: Paul Murphy / Eyewitness News
Published: 6:18 PM CST December 10, 2019
Updated: 6:19 PM CST December 10, 2019

NEW ORLEANS — In New Orleans, residents just wrapped up the first hurricane season where the Army Corps of Engineers could not guarantee the level of risk reduction it promised in 2007.

This despite the fact that the Corps just completed an 11-year, \$14.6 billion project to repair and restore regional flood protection following Hurricane Katrina.

Of primary concern are the earthen levees. They form the backbone of the 350-mile maze of protection that includes concrete floodwalls, pump stations and gated structures.

Sea-level rise and Southeast Louisiana's soft, subsiding soils have caused earthen levees to sink faster than expected.

The fear is soon the levee system won't be able to protect against a 100-year storm, which it is now designed to do.

The Corps of Engineers has released a draft study showing the need to spend \$3.2 billion to raise the level of the levees on both sides of the Mississippi River over the next 50 years.

The east bank improvements would include 50 miles of levee lifts and 19 miles of floodwall modifications and replacements.

Several miles of levees and floodwalls along the Mississippi River in St. Bernard Parish would also be elevated.

The west bank improvements consist of 66 miles of levee lifts and about a mile of floodwall improvements.

State and local governments would have to pick up 35-percent of the cost of construction.

The corps is now in the process of collecting public comments on the plan.

3.4.2.1.3 10 DECEMBER 2019 WDSU-NEWS

Available online at: <https://www.wdsu.com/article/corps-to-ask-feds-to-fund-billions-in-new-louisiana-flood-protection-projects/30189330#>

Corps to ask feds to fund billions in new Louisiana flood protection projects: Studies in public hearing phase

Updated: 8:22 PM CST Dec 10, 2019

Reporter: Jennifer Crockett

According to the Army Corps of Engineers New Orleans district, the risk of flooding in Louisiana is going up as levees are going down. The Corps is conducting a series of five studies in the region to reduce the flood risk.

Across metro New Orleans, the Corps says levees are sinking as the sea level is rising. It is studying the feasibility of lifting the levees in phases over the next 50 years at an estimated cost of \$3.2 billion. The Corps said the work would maintain protection against a 100-year-flood and meet the requirements for national flood insurance coverage.

“Right now, the levee authorities on the east and west banks are paying for levee lifts out of local tax payer dollars, and what the studies are looking at is – is there an economic justification for the federal government to participate in that going forward,” said Bradley Drouant, with the Corps’ New Orleans district. “The good news is, it looks like there is an economic justification for that work.”

But the work doesn’t stop in New Orleans. The Corps district is spending \$15 million on a series of five studies in our region right now -- all to fight flooding with federal investments.

In St. Charles Parish, the Corps wants to build a new \$500 million levee to extend an existing levee another 18 miles. If approved and funded, the Upper Barataria construction would run from Hahnville to Raceland, across Bayou Des Allemands. The Corps says the new levee would protect 800,000 people from Gulf storm surge in a 50-year storm.

Along the south-central coast of Louisiana, in St. Martinville, St. Mary and Morgan City, another \$1.4 billion is on the table to raise homes and buffer businesses. The Corps said it would protect about 3,400 structures from flooding.

The Corps is currently hosting public hearings on the potential projects. For more information, [click here](#).

The studies are expected to be complete and presented to Congress as early as 2021.

3.4.3 COMMENTS RECEIVED & RESPONSES ON DRAFT REPORT

3.4.3.1 COURT REPORTER COMMENTS RECEIVED AT PUBLIC MEETINGS 22 JAN 2020

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LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN & VICINITY
GENERAL REEVALUATION REPORT

Public Information Meeting for the Draft Report
New Orleans District

Lake Vista Community Center
6500 Spanish Fort Boulevard
New Orleans, Louisiana 70124

Wednesday, January 22, 2020

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Public Comments

COMMENTS

MS. JENNIFER BLANCHARD:

All right, let's start with number one: Where do levee overtoppings result in the loss of life during Hurricane Katrina? Number two: Please identify on a map where levees and/or flood walls were overtopped in Hurricane Katrina. Number three: Why spend 3.2 billion adding sediment to the tops of levees rather than spend the funding to repair and maintain Morganza, the old river control structure to relieve Mississippi River flood stage or hydraulic pressure on the downstream levees?

Number four: Where is the highest percentage of lifts located? Number five: Is the highest percentage of lifts located on the river or lake? Six: Where was the location of the highest percentage of overtopping of levees/flood walls during Katrina? Number seven: Where did the highest percent of loss of life occur during Hurricane Katrina?

Number eight: Was the loss of life a result of overtopping? Number nine: Did the levee/flood wall breach in the lower ninth ward as a result of overtopping? Number ten: Where did overtopping occur on the levee flood wall in the

1 lower ninth ward? Number 11: If overtopping was
 2 not the cause of loss of life during Katrina, why is
 3 the Corps using it as a justification for this
 4 project? Number 12: How will levee lifts inhibit
 5 or prevent levee flood wall breaches caused by
 6 hydraulic lifting leading to lateral instability?
 7 Number 13: Why did you change the
 8 format of the public meeting to prevent oral public
 9 comments from being shared and heard during the
 10 meeting? Number 14: Was the subsidence rate and
 11 sea-level rise rate included in the proposal for the
 12 HSDRRS post-Katrina when the 14 billion was
 13 requested and authorized? Number 15: If so, what
 14 was the justification for not including lifts as
 15 part of the levee flood wall continuing repair and
 16 maintenance plan?
 17 Number 16: When you state that the
 18 lifts will be federally funded, where will these
 19 federal funds be sourced? Number 17: Is federally
 20 funded synonymous with taxpayer dollars? Will these
 21 funds be sourced from tax revenue? That's kind of
 22 the same.
 23 Number 18: When did you file the
 24 need for levee lifts with the national register?
 25 Number 19: If subsidence and sea-level rise are the

1 cause leading to the need for levee lifts, why was
2 this not identified prior to 2018 when it was filed
3 with the national register? 20: Are you certain
4 that the material under armored levees is clay? 21:
5 What will happen if you remove the armor and the
6 levee is not constructed of clay? What will happen
7 to the un-armored levees if a Mississippi River
8 flood or storm surge from a hurricane happen while
9 the construction is in progress?

10 Let's see. Hold on, let me just make
11 sure I got everything. Okay. I guess I have to ask
12 these questions too. So I'm going to ask kind of a
13 new set.

14 In Katrina, where does overtopping
15 over the levees lead to loss of life? What is the
16 amount of property damages in Katrina that resulted
17 from overtopping of the levee system? Please
18 provide the number of people who died in Katrina as
19 a result of overtopping of the levee system. Please
20 provide the number of people that died in the lower
21 ninth ward as a result of the north breach and the
22 south breach on Jordan Avenue. Number five: When
23 did the north breach and the south breach fully
24 develop, what time? When was -- what time was storm
25 surge at its maximum height?

1 (CONTACT: Ms. Jennifer Blanchard| 504-729-0991|510
2 Slidell Street, New Orleans, LA 70114|
3 jennifer@nolapotter.com)
4 * * * *
5 MR. STEVE BARNES:
6 I have a suggestion for where to get
7 some fill. It's the unused levees along Bayou Saint
8 John between Robert E. Lee and the new flood gates
9 they put up which makes the rest of the levees on
10 both sides of the Bayou not needed and it would be
11 nice to, I thought, save some money to use existing
12 levee material to do -- because it's right there
13 where you are doing levees. And then it would also
14 open up the Bayou and make it more a recreational
15 and a better ability and hopefully encourage people
16 to get together to try and restore Spanish Fort
17 which levees run through part of anyone. So that's
18 my comment.
19 (CONTACT: Mr. Steve Barnes|53 Egret Street, New
20 Orleans, LA 70124|504-319-8134| thesteve4@yahoo.com)
21 ----end of comments
22
23
24
25

C-E-R-T-I-F-I-C-A-T-E

This certification is valid only for a transcript accomplished by my original signature and original required stamp on this page.

I, TAMMY LeBLANC JOSEPH, CCR, in and for the State of Louisiana, as the officer before whom these comments were taken, do hereby certify that comment was made as hereinbefore set forth in the forgoing pages; that these comments were reported by me in the stenograph writing method, was prepared, transcribed by me or under my personal direction and supervision; that the transcript has been prepared in compliance with the transcript format guidelines required by statute or by rules of the board, as described on the website of the board; that I have acted in compliance with the prohibition on contractual relationships, as defined by LA Code of Civil Procedure, Art 1434, and in the rules and advisory opinions of the board; that I am not related to counsel or to the parties herein, nor am I otherwise interested in the outcome of this matter.

Tammy LeBlanc Joseph, CCR

State of Louisiana

3.4.3.2 USACE RESPONSES TO COMMENTS RECEIVED AT PUBLIC MEETING ON 22 JANUARY 2020 (TRANSCRIBED BY COURT REPORTER)

Jennifer Blanchard Number 1: Many levees in both New Orleans east and St. Bernard Parish were overtopped causing erosion on the protected side that resulted in their failure. Additional information on the location of Hurricane Katrina levee overtoppings can be found in the Interagency Performance Evaluation Taskforce Report located at <https://biotech.law.lsu.edu/katrina/ipet/ipet.html>.

Jennifer Blanchard Number 2, 6, 8, 9, 10 and response to questions in last paragraph: Information on the performance of the project during and after Hurricane Katrina can be found in the Interagency Performance Evaluation Taskforce Report located at <https://biotech.law.lsu.edu/katrina/ipet/ipet.html>.

Jennifer Blanchard Number 3: The Corps has been directed by Congress to specifically evaluate the LPV and WBV systems in these studies. The Congressional authority and appropriations for this Study found in WRRDA 2014 Section 3017 and Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 only apply to LPV and WBV, so the Corps is not authorized or funded to evaluate or construct repairs for other projects in the region through the LPV/WBV authority. The structures you mention fall under the Mississippi River and Tributaries project, which is a separate authority. Additional information about the Morganza to the Gulf of Mexico Project is located at <https://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/About/Projects/Morganza-to-the-Gulf/>.

Jennifer Blanchard Number 4: This information is available in Appendix A, Enclosure 1 and 2.

Jennifer Blanchard Number 5: Overall, the highest percentage of lifts is located along Lake Pontchartrain.

Jennifer Blanchard Number 7: USACE does not have information regarding the number of deaths as a result of Hurricane Katrina by location. The LPV and WBV studies themselves include a life safety component that assesses life safety risk within each polder of the project area.

Jennifer Blanchard Number 11: The study's authority and USACE planning policy require us to select a coastal storm risk management alternative with positive net economic benefits compared to costs. The evaluation of alternatives and selection of a recommended plan is informed by a risk analysis which includes a life safety component.

Jennifer Blanchard Number 12: All levees and floodwalls in the LPV and WBV projects were reviewed and completed, improved or replaced as necessary to meet the new design criteria that were developed post-Katrina. Those designs and design criteria were subject to a third party Independent External Peer Review (IEPR). The work proposed in this study would offset the ongoing effects of subsidence, sea level rise, consolidation, and datum change to sustain the 1% level of risk reduction through 2073. A copy of the IEPR performed on the design criteria can be found at:

<https://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/About/Offices/Programs-Project-Management/Project-Review-Plans/>

<https://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Portals/56/docs/PAO/Matt/Final%20IEPR%20Report.pdf>

<https://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Portals/56/docs/PAO/Matt/USACE%20IEPR%20Response%20Report.pdf>

Jennifer Blanchard Number 13: Broadcasting oral comments to all attendees during the public meeting is not a requirement of NEPA. A court reporter was present to take official comments on the draft report and EIS and USACE personnel were available to answer questions one-on-one following the presentation. Your comments were recorded by the court reporter. A record of all comments and responses will be included as an Appendix of the Final GRR/EIS.

Jennifer Blanchard Number 14: Yes, a relative sea level rise rate (which includes both subsidence and sea level rise estimates) of 1 ft between 2007 and 2057 was included in the floodwalls design and constructed under the supplemental appropriations.

Jennifer Blanchard Number 15: The authority in PL 109-234 did not provide authorization for future levee lifts. Maintenance is a non-Federal responsibility but, in this particular situation, did not include future levee lifts. An excerpt of the authorizing language in PL 109-234 follows:

...to raise levee heights where necessary and otherwise enhance the existing Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity project and the existing West Bank and Vicinity project to provide the levels of protection necessary to achieve the certification required for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program under the base flood elevations current at the time of this construction. (emphasis added)

Jennifer Blanchard Number 16: The work proposed in this study would be cost shared 65% Federal and 35% by the local sponsor subject to future Congressional authority and appropriations. Congress generally funds the civil works activities of USACE in annual Energy and Water Development appropriations acts.

Jennifer Blanchard Number 17: Federally-funded refers to the portion of the project that would be paid for with Federal funds as opposed to local or State funds. Congress generally funds the civil works activities of USACE in annual Energy and Water Development appropriations acts. USACE does not have specific information regarding the sources of federal or state funds; taxes are one source of revenue. See, e.g., <https://datalab.usaspending.gov/americas-finance-guide/revenue/categories/> **Jennifer Blanchard Number 18:** The Notice of Intent was published in the Federal Register on April 2, 2019.

Jennifer Blanchard Number 19: Due to subsidence and other factors affecting levee heights over time, the need for future levee lifts has been known since work began in 2007; however, authorization and appropriations to begin the study were not provided until late 2018 which lead to the Notice of Intent issued April 2, 2019.

Steve Barnes Number 1: All embankment used in construction of the levees must meet geotechnical specification requirements to be considered appropriate clay material for levee construction.

Steve Barnes Number 2: USACE is experienced with constructing levees both during Hurricane season and high river flows. USACE contract requirements include provisions for sealing levees with steel rollers and taking other actions to ensure their integrity is maintained should a storm approach or the river rise during construction.

3.4.3.3 USEPA 27 JANUARY 2020



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6
1201 ELM STREET, SUITE 500
DALLAS, TEXAS 75270-2102

January 27, 2020

Mr. Bradley Drouant, P.E.
Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District (CEMVN-PMO-L)
7400 Leake Avenue, Room 361
New Orleans, LA 70118

Dear Mr. Drouant:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500 – 1508), and our NEPA review authority under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity General Re-evaluation Report with Integrated Environmental Impact Statement (CEQ No. 20190293).

In the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity coastal storm risk management system in St. Charles, Jefferson, Orleans, and St. Bernard Parishes, Louisiana. The Draft EIS analyzes environmental impacts for the alternatives considered.

On page 52 in Appendix G Section 4 Air Quality Conformity Analysis, the Draft EIS correctly identifies sulfur dioxide (SO₂) as the pollutant of concern for St. Bernard Parish, however, Tables 3 and 6 of this section are titled "Annual VOC and NOx Emissions Totals". As appropriate, EPA recommends the title of the Tables reflect content.

We appreciate the opportunity to review the Draft EIS. We look forward to the receipt of the Final EIS. If you have any questions, please contact Kimeka Price of my staff at (214) 665-7438 or by e-mail at price.kimeka@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arturo J. Blanco", is placed over the typed name and title.

Arturo J. Blanco
Director

Office of Communities, Tribes and
Environmental Assessment

Corps Response: Tables updated to reflect content.

3.4.3.4 LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

**JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR**



**JACK MONToucET
SECRETARY**

PO BOX 98000 | BATON ROUGE LA | 70898

January 23, 2020

Charles Reulet, Administrator
Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
Office of Coastal Management
P.O. Box 44487
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4487

RE: Application Number: ~~C20180178~~ **C20190215**
Applicant: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-New Orleans District
Notice Date: December 11, 2019

Dear Mr. Reulet:

The professional staff of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) has reviewed the above referenced notice for the proposed Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity (LPV) Levee Project and West Bank and Vicinity (WBV) Levee Project. For the LPV levee project, 27 acres of bottomland hardwood are anticipated to be impacted. For the WBV levee project, 63 acres of bottomland hardwood wetlands are anticipated to be impacted. For both levee projects, the applicant proposes to mitigate for these impacts. The following recommendations have been provided by the appropriate biologist(s):

Ecological Studies:

Scenic Rivers Program

These projects are located in the vicinity of several Louisiana designated Natural and Scenic Rivers. The applicant must obtain authorization from LDWF Scenic Rivers Program prior to initiating any of the proposed activities within or adjacent to the banks of any Scenic River. Scenic Rivers Coordinator Chris Davis can be contacted at 225-765-2642 regarding this issue. For information on the Scenic Rivers Program, you can visit our website at: <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/scenic-rivers>.

Compensatory Mitigation

LDWF concurs with the applicant's proposed plans for compensatory mitigation to offset wetland impacts associated with these projects.

Wildlife Diversity Program:

Manatee

Manatee (*Trichechus manatus*) may occur in the surrounding water bodies of the Lake Pontchartrain & Vicinity and West Bank & Vicinity project areas. Manatees are large mammals inhabiting both fresh and salt water. Although most manatees are year round residents of Florida or Central America, they have been known to migrate to areas along the Atlantic and Gulf coast during the summer months. Manatee is a threatened species protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 and the Federal Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972. In Louisiana, taking or harassment of a manatee is in violation of state and federal law. Critical habitat for manatee includes marine submergent vascular vegetation (sea-grass

2000 QUAIL DRIVE

BATON ROUGE, LA 70808

225-765-2800

WLF.LOUISIANA.GOV

Page 2

Application Number: C20180178

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beds). Areas with sea-grass beds should be avoided during project activities if possible. Report all manatee sightings to LDWF at 337-735-8676 or 1-800-442-2511.

Nesting Birds

Our database indicates the presence of bird nesting colonies within one mile of the Lake Pontchartrain & Vicinity and West Bank & Vicinity project areas. **Please be aware that entry into or disturbance of active breeding colonies is prohibited by LDWF. In addition, LDWF prohibits work within a certain radius of an active nesting colony.**

Nesting colonies can move from year to year and no current information is available on the status of these colonies. If work for the proposed project will commence during the nesting season, conduct a field visit to the worksite to look for evidence of nesting colonies. This field visit should take place no more than two weeks before the project begins. If no nesting colonies are found within 1000 feet (2000 feet for Brown Pelicans) of the proposed project, no further consultation with LDWF will be necessary. If active nesting colonies are found within the previously stated distances of the proposed project, further consultation with LDWF will be required. In addition, colonies should be surveyed by a qualified biologist to document species present and the extent of colonies. Provide LDWF with a survey report which is to include the following information:

1. qualifications of survey personnel;
2. survey methodology including dates, site characteristics, and size of survey area;
3. species of birds present, activity, estimates of number of nests present, and general vegetation type including digital photographs representing the site; and
4. topographic maps and ArcView shapefiles projected in UTM NAD83 Zone 15 to illustrate the location and extent of the colony.

Please mail survey reports on CD to: Wildlife Diversity Program
La. Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries
P.O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

To minimize disturbance to colonial nesting birds, the following restrictions on activity should be observed:

- For colonies containing nesting wading birds (i.e., herons, egrets, night-herons, ibis, Roseate Spoonbills, Anhingas, or cormorants), all project activity occurring within 1000 feet of an active nesting colony should be restricted to the non-nesting period (i.e., September 1 through February 15).

- For colonies containing nesting gulls, terns, or Black Skimmers, all project activity occurring within 650 feet (2000 feet for Brown Pelicans) of an active nesting colony should be restricted to the non-nesting period (i.e., September 16 through April 1).

Bald Eagle

Our records indicate that the Lake Pontchartrain & Vicinity portion of the proposed project may impact nesting Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). This species is protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668c) and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-712) and is protected by the State of Louisiana. This proposed project is less than 1,000 ft. away from the Bald Eagle nest(s) of concern. All Bald Eagle nests (active, inactive or seemingly abandoned) should be protected, and no large trees should be removed. No major activities should occur within the nesting period

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and no large trees should be removed. No major activities should occur within the nesting period (September 1 – June 1). Please refer to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Bald Eagle Management Guidelines for more information on avoiding impacts to this species including suggested buffer distances: <http://www.fws.gov/southeast/es/baldeagle/> & <https://www.fws.gov/southeast/our-services/eagle-technical-assistance/>

Gulf Sturgeon

The Lake Pontchartrain & Vicinity portion of the proposed project may impact the gulf sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi*) and its designated critical habitat. The gulf sturgeon is listed as threatened on both the federal and state species list. Major population limiting factors are thought to include barriers to spawning habitats and habitat loss associated with the construction of water control structures, including dams and sills. Other threats identified include modification to habitat associated with dredged material disposal and poor water quality associated with contamination.

Pallid Sturgeon

The pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*) may occur in water bodies near the West Bank & Vicinity project area. The pallid sturgeon is listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531-1544) and occur in the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers in southern Louisiana, and the Red River. This species requires large, turbid, free-flowing riverine habitat and is adapted to living close to the bottom of large rivers with sand and gravel bars. Pallid sturgeon typically spawn from May-August, but successful reproduction has been severely reduced due to habitat modification. This includes the loss of habitat through the construction of dams that have modified flows, reduced turbidity and lowered water temperatures. We advise you to take the necessary measures to avoid the breeding season and any degradation of water quality in the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers. If you have any questions, please contact Keri Lejeune 337-735-8676.

Blue Sucker

Our records also indicate Blue sucker (*Cycleptus elongatus*) may occur in water bodies within the West Bank & Vicinity project area. This species is considered rare in Louisiana with an S3 state rank. Blue sucker is a fresh water fish found in channels and flowing pools with moderate currents and is occasionally found in impoundments. Cited causes of decline include depletion of surface water, poor water quality stemming from sewage effluent and agricultural runoff, interruption of migrations by dams, and stranding in irrigation canals. If you have any questions, please contact Keri Lejeune 337-735-8676.

Live Oak Forest

The database indicates that Live Oak Forest record is located within and adjacent to the West Bank & Vicinity project area. This community is considered critically imperiled in Louisiana with an S1 state rank. In southeast Louisiana, this forest type can form on ridges of stranded deltaic sediments deposited by the (formerly) constantly shifting Mississippi River. These ridges are composed primarily of sand and shell and are approximately 4 to 5 feet above sea level. This forest type is an important storm barrier, limits salt water intrusion, and acts as a critical staging and stopover site for Neotropical migratory birds. We advise you to take the necessary measures to avoid any impacts to this ecological community.

General Comment

No other impacts to rare, threatened or endangered species or critical habitats are anticipated from the proposed project. The Wildlife Diversity Program (WDP) reports summarize the existing information known at the time of the request regarding the location in question. WDP reports should not be considered final statements on the biological elements or areas being considered, nor should they be substituted for

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on-site surveys required for environmental assessments. If at any time WDP tracked species are encountered within the project area, please contact our biologist at 225-765-2643.

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries appreciates the opportunity to review and provide recommendations to you regarding this proposed activity. Please do not hesitate to contact LDWF Permits Coordinator Dave Butler at 225-763-3595 should you need further assistance.

Sincerely,



Randell S. Myers
Assistant Secretary

eb/cd/cm/bh

3.4.3.5 USACE RESPONSES

- No impacts to state-designated scenic rivers are anticipated.
- USACE will comply with notification and avoidance requirements regarding manatees, nesting birds, bald eagles, Gulf sturgeon, pallid sturgeon, blue suckers, and live oak forest as requested to the maximum extent practicable.

3.4.3.6 LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES 24 JANUARY 2020

From: [McCain, Kathryn N CIV USARMY CEMVP \(USA\)](#)
To: [jeff.harris \(jeff.harris@la.gov\)](#)
Cc: [Runyon, Kip R CIV USARMY CEMVP \(USA\)](#); [McCain, Kathryn N CIV USARMY CEMVP \(USA\)](#)
Subject: C20190215 LPV levee lift and mitigation plan (UNCLASSIFIED)
Date: Tuesday, February 4, 2020 7:24:55 AM
Attachments: [LPVMRL6 BLH WVA v1.2.pdf](#)

Jeff,

View in rich text. Below in the blue are the responses for LPV. Attached is the preliminary WVA model spreadsheet too.

Let me know if you need anything else.

Thanks you
Kat

-----Original Message-----

From: Jeff Harris [mailto:Jeff.Harris@LA.GOV]
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2020 2:20 PM
To: Runyon, Kip R CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA) <Kip.R.Runyon@usace.army.mil>; McCain, Kathryn N CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA) <Kathryn.Mccain@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] C20190215 LPV levee lift and mitigation plan

Kip, Kat--

I've completed an initial review of the consistency determination for the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity General Re-Evaluation Report, and there are a few questions and clarifications that need to be addressed.

Please provide:

- Locations and dimensions of borrow sites within and outside of Lake Pontchartrain
[Specific borrow sites have not yet been identified. Section 7.1.4 of the EIS provides a generalized description of how borrow sites will be identified in the future in the vicinity of the study area.](#)

From the draft EIS:

1.1.1 GENERALIZED BORROW AREA IMPACT ANALYSIS

Extended construction windows throughout the 50-year period of analysis would be required for implementation of the multiple levee lifts associated with the project. Borrow areas available for use now may not be available when future levee lifts are needed. Accordingly, an analysis of borrow area impacts has been conducted on a "typical" borrow pit that could be chosen for use. Anticipated impacts of excavation and use of such "typical" borrow areas for the action alternatives were evaluated using the below assumptions. The assumptions are based on extensive borrow area impact assessments performed for HSDRRS implementation. The quantities of borrow that would be needed for each lift are estimates. Specific borrow areas would be identified during pre-

construction engineering and design for each segment of project construction. Borrow area acquisition requirements will continue to be evaluated during feasibility design to determine whether temporary or permanent easements are most advantageous to the Government. Additional NEPA documentation and associated public review would be conducted, as necessary, to address impacts associated with those borrow areas. Additionally, if a proposed borrow area contains upland bottomland hardwood forests or another significant resource that requires mitigation, a mitigation plan would be prepared in compliance with WRDA 1986, Section 906 (33 U.S.C. §2283). See Appendix A for construction schedule and estimated borrow quantity for each levee lift.

Table 7-4. Borrow Area Assumptions and Requirements Incorporated into Borrow Area Analysis

Resource	Assumptions and Requirements
Locations	<p>Borrow sites would be located within one or more of the following parishes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orleans Parish • Plaquemines Parish • Jefferson Parish • St. Charles Parish • Lafourche Parish • St. John the Baptist Parish
Socioeconomics	Borrow sites with potential EJ impacts or potential impacts to sensitive receptors would be avoided.
Soils	<p>Based on the estimated 8.3 million cubic yards of material needed for construction and based on an assumed 20-ft depth of borrow areas, Alternative 2 would require approximately 320.9 acres of borrow area. Based on the estimated 9.3 million cubic yards of material needed for construction, Alternative 3 would require approximately 361.5 acres of borrow area.</p> <p>Suitable clay material would meet the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soils classified as fat or lean clays are allowed • Soils with organic content greater than 9% are NOT allowed • Soils with plasticity indices less than 10 are NOT allowed • Soils classified as silts are NOT allowed • Clays will NOT have more than 35% sand content <p>Significant impacts to prime farmland soils would be anticipated given the strong correlation between suitable borrow soils and prime farmland soils.</p>
Transportation	The same transportation corridors used during HSDRRS would be used, as described in <i>Transportation Report for the Construction of the 100-year Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System</i> prepared in 2009 and incorporated by reference (USACE, 2009) ^[1] .
Jurisdictional Wetlands	Suitable borrow areas that avoid jurisdictional wetland impacts would be used.
Non-Jurisdictional (i.e. upland) Bottomland	Suitable borrow areas that avoid non-jurisdictional bottomland hardwood (BLH-dry) impacts would be used.

Hardwoods	
Water Quality	Water quality impacts would be minimized through the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs).
Fisheries/Essential Fish Habitat	No impacts to fisheries or EFH would be anticipated due to the use of inland sites
Wildlife	Some permanent impacts to wildlife would be anticipated due to permanent removal of habitat.
Threatened and Endangered Species	No impacts to T&E species would be anticipated as no T&E species are present in upland areas in the target parishes.
Cultural Resources	Cultural resource surveys would be conducted on potential borrow sites; sites with cultural resources would be avoided; no impacts to cultural resources would be anticipated.
Recreational Resources	No impacts to recreational resources would be anticipated as borrow sites would likely be located on private property away from recreational areas
Aesthetics	Minor impacts to aesthetics would be anticipated due to conversion of habitat.
Air Quality	Minor impacts during construction would be anticipated, dissipating upon completion; borrow areas would avoid non-attainment areas
Noise	Minor impacts during construction would be anticipated and minimized through compliance with local noise ordinances; temporary impacts to wildlife in adjacent habitat would be anticipated during construction; avoidance of construction areas may cause carrying capacity of adjacent habitats to be temporarily exceeded.
HTRW	HTRW surveys would be conducted on potential borrow sites; sites with HTRW would be avoided; no impacts would be anticipated.

During scoping, the USFWS provided a recommended protocol for identifying borrow sources. The recommendations in descending order of priority are:

1. *Permitted commercial sources, authorized borrow sources for which environmental clearance and mitigation have been completed, or non-functional levees after newly constructed adjacent levees are providing equal protection.*
2. *Areas under forced drainage that are protected from flooding by levees, and that are:*
 - a. *non-forested (e.g., pastures, fallow fields, abandoned orchards, former urban areas) and non-wetlands;*
 - b. *wetland forests dominated by exotic tree species (i.e., Chinese tallow-trees) or non-forested wetlands(e.g., wet pastures), excluding marshes;*
 - c. *disturbed wetlands (e.g., hydrologically altered, artificially impounded).*
3. *Sites that are outside a forced drainage system and levees, and that are:*
 - a. *non-forested (e.g., pastures fallow fields, abandoned orchards, former urban areas) and non-wetlands;*
 - b. *wetland forests dominated by exotic tree species (i.e., Chinese tallow-trees) or non-forested wetlands(e.g., wet pastures), excluding marshes;*
 - c. *disturbed wetlands (e.g., hydrologically altered, artificially impounded).*

Notwithstanding this protocol, the location, size, and configuration of borrow sites within the landscape is also critically important. Coastal ridges, natural levee flanks, and other geographic features that provide forested/wetland habitats and/or potential barriers to hurricane surges should not be utilized as borrow sources, especially where such uses would diminish the natural functions and values of those landscape

features.

USACE would follow this recommended protocol to the extent practicable during borrow area selection. In addition, USACE will select borrow areas in the parishes listed in Table 7-4 that fall within the areas provided by USFWS that contain suitable soils and avoid potential mitigation (see Figure 7-2). Once borrow areas are identified, additional NEPA and environmental coordination for those sites would occur and, if necessary, a mitigation plan would be prepared to compensate for any significant resources existing on those borrow sites.

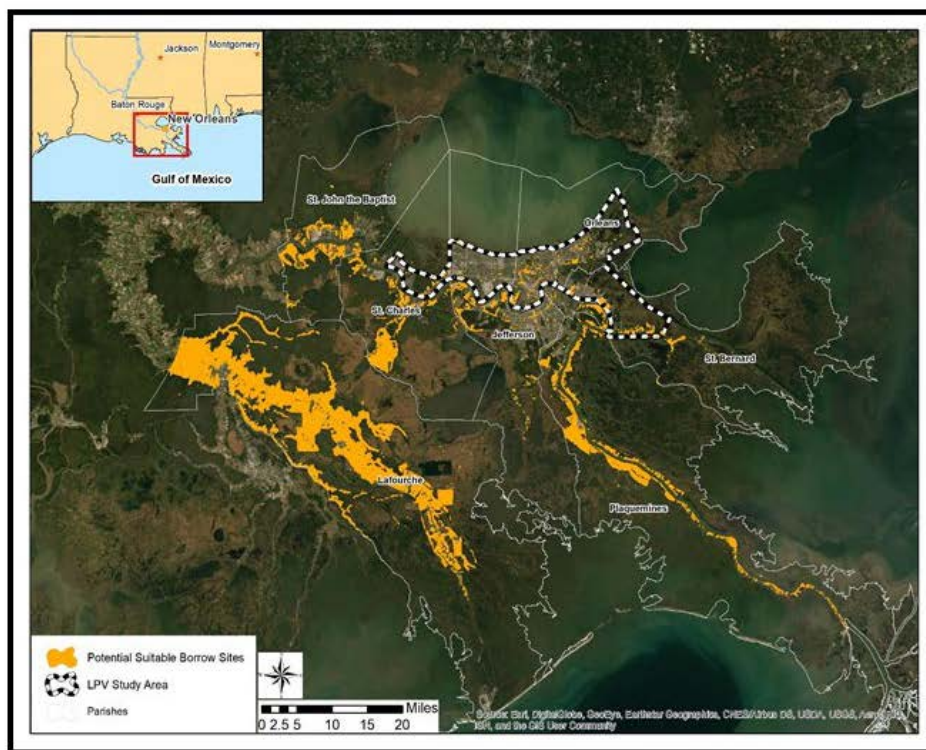


Figure 7-2. Potential Suitable Borrow Sites Based on Soil Types and Avoidance of Potential Mitigation

(data provided by USFWS, 2019; based on 2016 National Land Cover Database and National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) soil surveys)

- Volume of material to be dredged

2.4 Million Cubic yards of material would be dredged in Lake Pontchartrain for construction access.

- Locations and dimensions of all access routes and staging and laydown areas

Material would be dredged from the bed of Lake Pontchartrain to provide construction access channels. Construction access channels would consist of parallel channels at the shoreline in areas where rock would be placed as well as perpendicular access channels to allow access to the shoreline channels (see Figure 2 and Figure 3). The dimensions required for barge access channels would be approximately -7 feet depth with 100-foot bottom width. Perpendicular access channels

would begin at the elevation -7 ft contour of the lake and extend 400 to 1600 ft. Adjacent dredged material stockpile sites would be 150 ft wide. The total acreage of lake bottom impacted by dredging temporary construction access channels and associated temporary stockpiling would be 213 acres. A maximum of 2.4 million cubic yards of material would be dredged for construction access.



- Please clarify whether compensatory mitigation, as described in Appendix K, is or is not part of the proposed action (it is not included in the Description of the Proposed Action)

BLH-Wet mitigation is part of the proposed action.

- Please confirm that the eligibility requirements for mitigation banks will include provisions that the banks are OCM approved, and are within the same CWPPRA-defined hydrologic basin as the impacts, or an adjacent basin

Confirmed. If bank credits are purchased they will be from in-basin mitigation banks. If credits are purchased from a mitigation bank, the mitigation bank must be in compliance with the requirements of the USACE Regulatory Program and its MBI, which specifies the management, monitoring, and reporting required to be performed by the bank. The following text has been added to the mitigation appendix: The solicitation for mitigation bank bids will include requirements that the banks are OCM-approved, and within the same or adjacent CWPPRA-defined hydrologic basin as the impacts.

Also, please review the attached comment letter from the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and confirm that the Corps of Engineers will:

- Obtain authorization from the LDWF Scenic Rivers Program for any activities adjacent to any Scenic River
Concur. Shouldn't be any issues

- Comply with LDWF notification and avoidance requirements regarding Manatees, Nesting Birds, Bald Eagles, Gulf Sturgeon,

Pallid Sturgeon, Blue Suckers, and Live Oak forest

Concur.

In a broader sense, it does not appear that the plans for this project are mature enough to completely describe all of the work, and potential coastal impacts, at this time. For example, the need for future lifts is mentioned. OCM may be able to concur that the project, at this phase of development, is consistent with our coastal management program, but we'll need to arrive at some statement that additional CZM review will be obtained as the project is finalized.

Agreed. Feasibility level of design will be ongoing for the next year or so and will continue to coordinate as final feasibility designs are developed.

And last, our Mitigation staff is still reviewing the proposed mitigation. I'm hoping to get their comments by the end of next week.

Please let me know if there are any questions.

--Jeff

Jeff Harris

Consistency Section

Office of Coastal Management

Louisiana Department of Natural Resources

(225) 342-7949

PS- you will shortly be receiving an identical message regarding the review of the West Bank and Vicinity project

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CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

^[1] Available online in Appendix F at <https://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Portals/56/Users/194/42/2242/CED%20Volume%20II%20Compiled.pdf>, accessed 4 December 2019

3.4.3.7 DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR 3 FEBRUARY 2020



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance
1001 Indian School Road NW, Suite 348
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87104

ER-19/0578

February 3, 2020

Mr. Bradley Drouant, P.E.
CEMVN-PMO-L, Room 361
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

Re: Review of the Draft Integrated Feasibility Study and Draft Environmental Impact Statements (DEIS) for the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity General Hurricane Storm Damage and Risk Reduction Re-Evaluation Report, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Drouant:

The U.S. Department of the Interior (Department) has reviewed the DEIS by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity General Re-Evaluation Report, Louisiana, and offers the comments in this letter for your consideration in preparing the final EIS. This re-evaluation addresses levee lifts to offset expected consolidation, subsidence, and sea level rise, including impacts to fish and wildlife resources and public lands. At the current stage of planning USACE has completed preliminary studies to identify alternatives to be carried forward in the study process and has identified a tentatively selected plan.

This letter has been prepared under the authority of and in accordance with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 USC 4321 et seq.), the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (54 USC 300101 et seq.), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA, as amended; 16 USC 703 et seq.), the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) (16 USC 668a-d), Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 USC 661-667), and the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended (16 USC 1531 et seq.), and other authorities mandating the Department's concern for environmental and historic preservation values. Comments from the National Park Service (NPS) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) are provided below.

National Park Service

The scope of the proposed action is assumed to include elevation of the I-wall on the levee within NPS lands of the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve (Chalmette Battlefield and Chalmette National Cemetery unit). If this is not the case, then it should be stated

as outside the scope of the action. If it is the case, the Battlefield and Cemetery should be acknowledged as part of the Affected Environment discussion in Section 4.11, Cultural and Historical Resources; and Section 4.13, Recreational Resources; as well as in the Environmental Effects chapter, Sections 7.11 and Section 7.13, respectively, including the potential temporal or physical impacts to visitor use or the Cemetery and Battlefield. NPS requests that USACE consult with them regarding the latter; data on visitor use for your assessment can then be provided.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Page 188, Section 7.22, Compliance with Environmental Statutes, Table 7-10. In the fourth column please remove the word “nongame” from the phrase, “Conserve and promote conservation of non-game fish and wildlife and their habitats,” as the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act applies to both game and nongame species.

Page 189, Section 7.22, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. FWS appreciates the USACE’s incorporation of the recommendations provided in our October 9, 2019, draft Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report. However, in achieving compliance with the FWCA, Engineer Regulation (ER) 1105-2-100 (page G-50, section J(c)) states that each FWS recommendation should be specifically addressed and reasons should be provided for adoption or non-adoption.

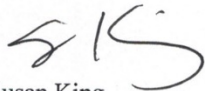
Appendix K, Page 19, Mitigation Plan. For variable V5, planted trees should be not be classified as forest until they are 20 years old, rather than the 10 years stated in text; this should be changed within the main document as well.

Page 29, Table 1C, Preliminary Planting List BLH-Wet Habitat – Midstory Species. FWS recommends the removal from this table of the following species: saltbush, rough leaf dogwood, honey locust, and dwarf palmetto. Our recommendation for removal is due to factors such as site suitability, likelihood of natural regeneration, value to wildlife, and commercial availability of seedlings.

Concluding Remarks

The Department appreciates the opportunity to assist in the development of this project and to provide comments and recommendations to the DEIS. Should you have any questions about NPS comments, please contact Guy Hughes (504.589.3882 x 128), guy_hughes@nps.gov, and for FWS comments, Hannah Sprinkle (337.291.3121), hannah_sprinkle@fws.gov.

Sincerely,



Susan King
Regional Environmental Officer
Albuquerque, New Mexico
Interior Regions 6 and 7

3.4.3.8 USACE RESPONSES

- Information on the Chalmette Battlefield and Cemetery has been added as requested to Sections 4.11, 4.13, 7.11, and 7.13.
- “Non-game” has been removed from Table 7-10 as requested.
- Section 7.22 has been updated with responses to each Service recommendation as requested.
- Information on variable V5 has been updated in the mitigation plan as requested.
- Table 1C in the mitigation plan has been updated as requested.

3.4.3.9 SE LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY 6 FEBRUARY 2020

Brad

On behalf of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority -East, please see below (same comments are attached in a word document) the SLFPAE official comments on the draft LPV GRR. Note I have sent them to you directly as well as the official LVPGRR USACE email. Please let me know if you have any questions, or if there are any other actions I need to take for our official comments to be submitted.

Thank you,

Derek

The Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority – East (FPA) is responsible for the Operations and Maintenance of the Lake Ponchartrain & Vicinity (LPV) project and the Mississippi River Levee (MRL) project in East Jefferson, Orleans and St. Bernard Parishes. Together these systems protect over 570,000 people and over \$79 Billion of infrastructure from hurricane and riverine flooding.

The FPA appreciates the Corps of Engineers' efforts to study flood protection in the greater New Orleans area, and provide a plan for long-term risk reduction. As the local sponsor likely to be required to pay the sponsor share of future work, the FPA has the following comments:

- The FPA's locally preferred plan is Alternative 3: System Levee Lifts at 2073 That Maximizes Benefits.
- Alternative 3 indicates significantly positive net economic benefit at only slightly greater cost than Alternative 2, along with similarly positive safety risk levels.
- The Total Project First Cost for Alternative 3 is only 9.6% greater than Alternative 2 for a 200 - year level of risk reduction compared to 100 Year Level for Alternative 2.
- We note that there exists some level of uncertainty in predicted rates of sea level rise, subsidence and settlement and that the evaluation incorporated the Intermediate Value of Average Relative Sea Level Rise of 1.8 feet. Greater rates may be realized which could make levee and floodwall design elevations in Alternative 2 at risk of being deficient for the 100 - year risk reduction level which is the minimum required to maintain FEMA Accreditation. Alternative 3 reduces the consequences of underestimated relative sea level rise and greater assurance of not falling below a 100-year level of risk reduction.
- We also note that the damages reduced (benefits) are similar for both Alternative 2 and 3 with the reduction only \$4M greater for Alternative 3. Considering the floodwall heights for Alternative 3 would be up to 3 feet higher than Alternative 2 the increase in benefit for Alternative 3 appears understated.
- We believe the Corps should further evaluate the benefits provided by Alternative 3.
- We note that the General Footprint is the same for both Alternative 2 and 3 with the primary difference between Alternative 2 and 3 being the height of the levees and floodwalls to be lifted and the amount of co-located levee to be added to the project.
- If Alternative 3 is not the final recommended plan, then the FPA supports Alternative 2.

The Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority - East commends the USACE on this study and supports the findings of the Draft Re-Evaluation Report, subject to our comments and preference for Alternative 3.

Derek E. Boese
Chief Administrative Officer
Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority – East

Email: dboese@floodauthority.org

Office: 504-286-3100

Please be advised any information provided to the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East, or its member districts (Orleans Levee District, East Jefferson Levee District and Lake Borgne Basin Levee District) may be subject to disclosure under the Louisiana Public Records Law. Information contained in any correspondence, regardless of its source, may be a public record subject to public inspection and reproduction in accordance with the Louisiana Public Records Law, La. Rev. Stat. 44:1 et seq. If you have received this electronic mail transmission in error, please delete it from your system without copying it, and notify the sender by reply e-mail, so that our address record can be corrected.

Derek,

Thanks, nothing more you need to do to have it in the record. Are ya'll coordinating with CPRA on the topic of LPP? As the sponsor the request has to come through them to be official, though the attached will be recorded in the report's public comments.

Bradley Drouant, P.E.
Senior Project Manager
CEMVN-PMO-L
New Orleans District

3.4.3.10 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PONTCHARTRAIN LEVEE DISTRICT 6 FEBRUARY 2020

-----Original Message-----

From: Monica Salins Gorman [<mailto:mgorman@leveedistrict.org>]
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 4:49 PM
To: Drouant, Bradley W CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA) <Bradley.W.Drouant@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity Draft Report Available

PLD would prefer Alternative 3.

Monica Salins Gorman, Executive Director Pontchartrain Levee District~ Comprised of 6 East Bank Parishes Mailing Address~ P.O. Box 426~Lutcher~ LA~70071 Office 225-869-9721~Fax 225-869-9723~Direct line 225-258-4369

Please be advised any information provided to the Pontchartrain Levee District may be subject to disclosure under the Louisiana Public Records Law. Information contained in any correspondence, regardless of its source, may be a public record subject to public inspection and reproduction in accordance with the Louisiana Public Records Law, La. Rev. Stat. 44:1 et seq. If you have received this electronic mail transmission in error, please delete it from your system without copying it, and notify the sender by reply e-mail, so that our address record can be corrected.

-----Original Message-----

From: Drouant, Bradley W CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA) <Bradley.W.Drouant@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Monday, December 09, 2019 1:53 PM
To: Monica Salins Gorman <mgorman@leveedistrict.org>
Subject: FW: Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity Draft Report Available

Monica,

You should have gotten this email already, but I wanted to make sure you saw that the draft report for future levee lifts is out.

Bradley Drouant, P.E.
Senior Project Manager
CEMVN-PMO-L
New Orleans District
504-862-1516

3.4.3.11 CHOCTAW NATION 31 JANUARY 2020

[Non-DoD Source] RE: Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity General Re-Evaluation Report and Integrated Draft EIS (LPV GRR-DEIS)



Lindsey Bilyeu <lbilyeu@choctawnation.com>
Fri 1/31, 10:09 AM
LPV GRR

Reply all

Good Morning,

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma thanks the USACE, New Orleans District, for the correspondence regarding the above referenced project. This project lies in our area of historic interest. The Choctaw Nation Historic Preservation Department has no comments regarding the document at this time. However, we request to be consulted under the Section 106 process.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Thank you,
Lindsey D. Bilyeu, MS
Senior Compliance Review Officer
Historic Preservation Department
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 1210
Durant, OK 74702
580-924-8280 ext. 2631



This message is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure. If you have received this message in error, you are hereby notified that we do not consent to any reading, dissemination, distribution or copying of this message. If you have received this communication in error, please notify the sender immediately and destroy the transmitted information. Please note that any view or opinions presented in this email are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the Choctaw Nation.

3.4.3.12 GENERAL PUBLIC

22 January 2020

[Non-DoD Source] Integrated General Re-evaluation Report and Environmental Impact Statement (DGRR-EIS)



LPV GRR

Thomas, Thank you for your request and I will get you added to our distribution list.

Today, 1:52 PM



Thomas Thompson

Today, 12:18 PM
LPV GRR

Reply all

Request that I be added to the mailing list for the Integrated General Re-evaluation Report and Environmental Impact Statement (DGRR-EIS) for the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity Coastal Storm Risk Management Project.

Thank You,

Thomas Nolan Thompson

22 January 2020, 11:18 AM

LPV GRR

It was not immediately obvious to me that the ACE was accounting for climate change (more storms) and projected relative sea level rise during the NEXT 50 years or simply catching up on the problem of sinking levees since the improvements implemented post Katrina. Could you please clarify how you have accounted for the changing climate in your projections and plans.

Thank you,

Julie S. Denslow
Adjunct Professor
Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
Tulane University

RESPONSE:

Ms. Denslow,

Thank you for your comment. It has been documented. Please see Appendix C, Hydraulics for information on the 152 simulated synthetic storm scenarios used and RLSR for forecasting to year 2073.

thank you

Good evening. My name is Herbert Miller and I am the President of the Board of Commissioners of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East. The FPA has responsibility for operating and maintaining the levees and flood control structures on the East Bank of Jefferson and Orleans Parishes and the Lake Borne Basin Levee District.

First, let me thank the Corps of Engineers for their work to date on this master plan for flood protection covering the next 50 years. I and senior staff members of the Authority met with Colonel Murphy and his key staff at the Corps a few weeks ago to discuss this report, and the meeting was very successful. We requested a few additional pieces of information be included in the final version, all of which were minor, yet we felt would add to a more complete report. The Corps was receptive to our comments.

We are pleased that the Corps is taking a hard look at the two most promising alternatives, the 1 percent and 0.5 percent alternatives, commonly referred to as the 100 and 200-year levels of protection. We noted that the benefit: cost ratios of

these two alternatives were quite close. While the preliminary analysis indicated that the 100-year alternative had a slightly higher benefit: cost ratio, we understand that the Corps is doing a more detailed analysis than initially performed of both costs and benefits to determine if the 200-year level of protection may actually have a greater benefit: cost ratio upon a more detailed analysis, and thus become the recommended plan.

I have been on the Board of Commissioners now for about 3.5 years. During that time, I have been impressed by the close working relationship established between our agency and Corps. Whenever we have an issue that involves both agencies, it is always handled amicably and professionally by both parties. It is a pleasure working with the Corps staff. We are looking forward to the final report.

Thank you.

4 PROJECT DELIVERY TEAM MEETINGS

The Project Delivery Team (PDT) consists of USACE team members and team members from the non-federal sponsor (CPRA) and federal cooperating agencies (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service). Below is a list of key PDT meetings. The PDT met weekly. Only key meetings are summarized below. Full meeting minutes are documented in the project file and available upon request.

Date	Summary
10-14 September 2018	Initial PDT Kick-Off Meeting, Rapid Iteration #1, Site Visits
20 September 2018	Environmental PDT CEMVS & CEMVN: Call to discuss GRR NEPA documentation considerations moving forward
4 October 2018	Environmental, Tribal & OC PDT CEMVS & CEMVN: Call to discuss cooperating agency and coordinating with agency partners.
5-8 November 2018	Rapid Iteration #2, Site Visits
14 February 2019	Alternatives Milestone Meeting: MSC Planning and Policy Chief affirmed the PDT's preliminary analysis of the Federal Interest, and problems, opportunities, objectives, constraints, existing and future without project conditions, status of environmental compliance and initial array of alternatives for evaluation.
30 April 2019	PDT meeting to discuss plan formulation and screen measures
3 October 2019	Environmental and USFWS – Initial Wetland Value Assessment Discussion; Discussion with CEMVN Environmental on Mitigation Planning
9 October 2019	Tentatively Selected Plan Milestone Meeting: MSC Planning and Policy Chief affirmed the PDT's recommendation of the TSP
10 December 2019	Agency Technical Review Kick-off Meeting: District team and technical review team met to discuss the charge for reviewers and answer any questions.
11 December 2019	Independent External Peer Review (IEPR) Kick-off Meeting: District team and the IEPR team met to discuss the charge to reviewers and answer any questions.

5 DISTRIBUTION LIST

5.1 DRAFT REPORT PUBLIC REVIEW DISTRIBUTION LIST 9 DECEMBER 2019

The District sent emails to elected officials, state and Federal agencies, interested citizens and parties announcing the project report's availability. The District sent out a press release to the New Orleans and regional media before the public review period and public meetings. Additionally, information about the public review and meetings was posted on the District's Facebook and Twitter accounts. 178 letters were sent to interested parties who have requested to be in the CEMVN District stakeholder and NEPA mailing lists notifying them where to download the draft report and information on the public meetings. This mailing list is maintained as a database and contains personal information, and therefore not provided here.

U.S. Elected Officials

Senator John Kennedy	U.S. Senator
Senator "Bill" Cassidy	U.S. Senator
Steve Scalise	U. S. Representative - 1 st Congressional District
Cedric Richmond	U. S. Representative – 2 nd Congressional District
Clay Higgins	U. S. Representative – 3 rd Congressional District
"Mike" Johnson	U. S. Representative – 4 th Congressional District
Ralph Abraham	U. S. Representative – 5 th Congressional District
Garret Graves	U. S. Representative – 6 th Congressional District

State Elected Officials

Senator Sharon Hewitt	Dist 1
Senator Jean-Paul J. Morrell	Dist 3
Senator Wesley Bishop	Dist 4
Senator Karen Carter Peterson	Dist 5
Senator Mack White, Jr.	Dist 6
Senator Troy Carter	Dist 7
Senator John A. Alario, Jr.	Dist 8
Senator Conrad Appel	Dist 9
Senator Daniel "Danny" Martiny	Dist 10
Senator Jack Donahue, Jr.	Dist 11
Senator Gary Smith	Dist 19
Rep Jerry Gisclair	Dist 54
Rep Gregory A Miller	Dist 56
Rep Kirk Talbot	Dist 78
Rep Julie Stokes	Dist 79
Rep Polly Thomas	Dist 80
Rep J. Cameron Henry, Jr.	Dist 82
Rep Robert E Billiot	Dist 83
Rep Patrick Connick	Dist 84
Rep Joseph Marino III	Dist 85
Rep Rodney Lyons	Dist 87
Rep Reid Falconer	Dist 89
Rep Walt Leger, III	Dist 91
Rep Joseph Stagni	Dist 92
Rep Royce Duplessis	Dist 93

Rep Stephanie Hilferty	Dist 94
Rep Terry Landry	Dist 96
Rep Joseph Bouie	Dist 97
Rep Neil Abramson	Dist 98
Rep Jimmy Harris	Dist 99
Rep John Bagneris	Dist 100
Rep Gary Carter	Dist 102
Rep Raymond Garofalo	Dist 103
Rep Paul Hollis	Dist 104
Rep Christopher Leopold	Dist 105

Local Elected Officials

Mayor, City of Kenner	Mayor, City of Gretna
Mayor, City of Jean Lafitte	
Mayor, City of Westwego	President and Council, St. Bernard Parish
Mayor, City of New Orleans	President and Council, Orleans Parish
Mayor, City of Harahan	President and Council, Jefferson Parish
Mayor, Town of Grand Isle	President and Council, St. Charles Parish

Federal Agencies

Joe Ranson	US Fish and Wildlife Service
David Walther	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Hannah Sprinkle	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Cathy Breaux	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
John Boatman	Natural Resources Conservation Service
Kevin Norton	Natural Resources Conservation Service
David Bernhardt	NOAA – National Marine Fisheries Service
Patrick Williams	NOAA – National Marine Fisheries Service
Craig Gothreaux	NOAA - National Marine Fisheries Service
Noah Silverman	NOAA - National Marine Fisheries Service
Kelly Shotts	NOAA - National Marine Fisheries Service
Joe Heublein	NOAA – National Marine Fisheries Service
Raul Gutierrez	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Reg 6
Robert Houston	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Reg 6
Guy Hughes	National Park Service
Jami Hammond	National Park Service
Kelly Altenhofen	National Park Service
Tomma Barnes	US Geological Survey
Ann Hijuelos	US Geological Survey
Michelle Meyers	US Geological Survey
Gary Zimmerer	FEMA, Region VI

State Agencies

Jack Montoucet	Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Dave Butler	Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Barry Hebert	Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Elizabeth Barron	Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Mathew Weigel	Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Kyle Balkum	Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Charles Reulet	Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
Jeff Harris	Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
Mark Hogan	Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
Sara Krupa	Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
Hannah Pitts	Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
Bren Haase	Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
James Bondy	Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
Don Haydel	Louisiana Department of natural Resources
Kyle R “Chip” Kline, Jr.	Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
Michael Ellison	Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
Alexis Rixner	Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
Wes Leblanc	Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
Justin Merrifield	Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
Jonathan Bridgeman	Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
James Waskom	Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness
Casey Tingle	Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness
Scott Guilliams	Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality – Water Permit Division
Diane Hewitt	Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
Mr. Kristin P. Sanders	Louisiana State Historic Preservation Officer Office of Cultural Development

Interested Parties

The Nature Conservancy of Louisiana	Grand Isle Independent Levee District
Avoyelles Parish Library	Orleans Levee District
Jefferson Parish Library	Associated Press
River Parishes Guide	Bonnet Carre’ Rod and Gun Club
Times Picayune	WDSU-TV
Evans and Associates	WNOE-AM-FM
Stantec	WQUE-FM
Ford Construction Company	WWL-TV, Channel 4
Ducks Unlimited	WVUE-TV
Luhr Bros Inc	WWOZ
Alberici	WCKW-AM
Massaman Construction Company	Port of New Orleans
Kansas City Southern Railway Company	Pontchartrain Material Corp
St. Charles Grain Elevator	J H Menge & Co.
Circle, Inc.	AUX LLC
Crescent River Port Pilots Association	Berry Brothers Gen Contractors Inc
Plaq Port Harbor and Terminal District	Grand Isle Shipyard Inc
Plaquemines Newspaper	Plaisance Dragline & Dredging Co Inc
Entergy	South Central Planning & Development
Crucial, Inc.	Lafourche Telephone Co Inc
Union Carbide/Dow Chemical	Diamon Services Corporation
Kenner Star	Journal of Commerce
C&M Contractors, Inc	WHC Inc
West Jefferson Levee District	CF Bean Corporation
Lafourche Basin Levee District	CI Jack Stelly & Associates Inc
Lake Borne Basin Levee District	White Castle Times

Port of Greater Baton Rouge
CB&I
Hydro Consultants Inc
Nicholls State University
Port Aggregates, Inc
Louisiana State University
State-Times/Morning Advocate
State Library of Louisiana
DHH-OPH
Terracon
The Waterways Journal
SOL Engineering, LLC
Louisiana Audubon Council
Tulane University Library
Coalition to Restore
Earl K. Long Library
Gulf Restoration Network
Coalition of Coastal Parishes

Tribal Distribution List

Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas
Caddo Nation
Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana
Jena Band of Choctaw Indians
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
Seminole Tribe of Florida
Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana

5.2 DRAFT REPORT PUBLIC REVIEW LETTER 9 DECEMBER 2019 – Sent to Distribution List provided in Section 5.1 above



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
7400 LEAKE AVENUE
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70118

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

December 9, 2019

Regional Planning and Environment
Division South

Dear Sir or Madam:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, has prepared a draft report entitled “Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity General Re-Evaluation Report with Integrated Draft Environmental Impact Statement (LPV GRR-DEIS).” You are receiving this letter because you may be interested in this project. The draft report and appendices are available online for your review and comment at the below website:

<https://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/About/Projects/BBA-2018/studies/LPV-GRR/>

This GRR-DEIS will reevaluate the performance of the LPV system given the combined effects of consolidation, settlement, subsidence, sea level rise, and new datum over time, and determine if additional actions are recommended to address the economic and life safety risks associated with flooding due to hurricanes and coastal storms.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is using this DEIS to initiate consultation for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and with Federally-recognized Tribes. No determination of effect under the NHPA is being made at this time. Consultation will follow the standard Section 106 process. The determination of effect and any conditions will be documented in the Final Record of Decision (ROD) before it is signed.

Please review the documents at the link above and provide comments by February 7, 2020. A public open house will be held the week of January 20th and details will be posted on the New Orleans District website: <https://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Media/Public-Meetings/>

Interested parties may express their views on the proposed action. All comments postmarked on or before the expiration of the comment period will be considered and addressed as appropriate in the final report.

Comments should be mailed to the attention of Mr. Bradley Drouant; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; New District; CEMVN-PMO-L; Room 361; 7400 Leake Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana 70118. Comments may also be provided by email to CEMVN-LPVGRR@usace.army.mil. Mr. Drouant may be contacted at (504) 862-1516 if questions arise.

HARPER.MARSHALL
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Marshall K. Harper
Chief, Environmental Planning Branch
Regional Planning and Environment
Division South

5.3 DRAFT REPORT TRIBAL/SHPO REVIEW LETTERS



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
7400 LEAKE AVENUE
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70118

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

December 9, 2019

Regional Planning and
Environment Division South

Cecilia Flores, Tribal Council Chairperson
Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas
571 State Park Rd 56
Livingston, TX 77351

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, has prepared a draft report entitled "Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity General Re-Evaluation Report with Integrated Draft Environmental Impact Statement (LPV GRR-DEIS)." This GRR-DEIS reevaluates the performance of the LPV system given the combined effects of consolidation, settlement, subsidence, sea level rise, and new datum over time, and determine if additional actions are recommended to address the economic and life safety risks associated with flooding due to hurricanes and coastal storms.

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<https://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/About/Projects/BBA-2018/studies/LPV-GRR/>

The USACE is initiating consultation for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and with Federally-recognized Tribes with this letter for the referenced project. No determination of effect under the NHPA is being made at this time. Consultation will follow the standard Section 106 process.

NHPA consultation will address the Area of Potential Effects for portions of the project that are outside of the undertakings previously reviewed under Individual Environmental Reviews (IER) and Comprehensive Environmental Documents available at (<https://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental/NEPA-Compliance-Documents/HSDRRS-Projects/>). The LPV study includes the actions described in IERs #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, #7, #8, #9, #10, #11, and #27. The Section 106 consultation will provide the results of any Phase I Cultural Resources Survey (if necessary), and USACE's determination of effect to historic properties. This will provide an opportunity to for consulting parties to review NHPA specific documentation, per 36 CFR 800.11. The determination of effect and any conditions will be documented in the Final Record of Decision (ROD) before it is signed.

For purposes of understanding the undertaking, please review the documents at the link above. Should your tribe or agency want to provide comments upon the NEPA document, please provide comments by February 7, 2020. All comments postmarked on or before the expiration of the comment period will be considered and addressed as appropriate in the final report. A public open house will be held the week of January 20th and details will be posted on the New Orleans District website: <https://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Media/Public-Meetings/>

Comments should be mailed to the attention of Mr. Bradley Drouant, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District; CEMVN-PMO-L; Room 361; 7400 Leake Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana 70118. Comments may also be provided by email to CEMVN-LPVGRR@usace.army.mil. Mr. Drouant may be contacted at (504) 862-1516 if questions arise.

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Date: 2019.12.05 15:56:24 -06'00'

Marshall K. Harper
Chief, Environmental Planning Branch

CC: An electronic copy of this letter with enclosures will be provided to Mr. Bryant J. Celestine, Historic Preservation Officer, Alabama Coushatta Tribe of Texas, celestine.bryant@actribe.org.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
7400 LEAKE AVENUE
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70118

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

December 9, 2019

Regional Planning and
Environment Division South

Tamara Francis-Fourkiller, Chairman
Caddo Nation of Oklahoma
117 Memorial Lane
P.O. Box 487
Binger, OK 73009

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, has prepared a draft report entitled "Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity General Re-Evaluation Report with Integrated Draft Environmental Impact Statement (LPV GRR-DEIS)." This GRR-DEIS reevaluates the performance of the LPV system given the combined effects of consolidation, settlement, subsidence, sea level rise, and new datum over time, and determine if additional actions are recommended to address the economic and life safety risks associated with flooding due to hurricanes and coastal storms.

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Comments should be mailed to the attention of Mr. Bradley Drouant; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; New Orleans District; CEMVN-PMO-L; Room 361; 7400 Leake Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana 70118. Comments may also be provided by email to CEMVN-LPVGRR@usace.army.mil. Mr. Drouant may be contacted at (504) 862-1516 if questions arise.

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.KEVIN.1536114358

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4358
Date: 2019.12.05 15:57:01 -06'00'

Marshall K. Harper
Chief, Environmental Planning Branch

CC: An electronic copy of this letter will be provided to Mr. Derrick Hill, THPO, Caddo Nation of Oklahoma, dhill@caddo.xyz



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
7400 LEAKE AVENUE
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70118

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

December 9, 2019

Regional Planning and
Environment Division South

Gary Batton, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
Attn: Choctaw Nation Historic Preservation Department
P.O. Box 1210
Durant, OK 74702-1210

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, has prepared a draft report entitled "Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity General Re-Evaluation Report with Integrated Draft Environmental Impact Statement (LPV GRR-DEIS)." This GRR-DEIS reevaluates the performance of the LPV system given the combined effects of consolidation, settlement, subsidence, sea level rise, and new datum over time, and determine if additional actions are recommended to address the economic and life safety risks associated with flooding due to hurricanes and coastal storms.

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Comments should be mailed to the attention of Mr. Bradley Drouant; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; New Orleans District; CEMVN-PMO-L; Room 361; 7400 Leake Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana 70118. Comments may also be provided by email to CEMVN-LPVGRR@usace.army.mil. Mr. Drouant may be contacted at (504) 862-1516 if questions arise.

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Date: 2019.12.05 15:57:40 -06'00'

Marshall K. Harper
Chief, Environmental Planning Branch

CC: An electronic copy of this letter with enclosures will be provided to Dr. Ian Thompson, Director/Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, ithompson@choctawnation.com and Ms. Lindsey Bilyeu, NHPA Section 106 Reviewer, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, lbilyeu@choctawnation.com.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
7400 LEAKE AVENUE
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70118

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

December 9, 2019

Regional Planning and
Environment Division South

David Sickey, Chairman
Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana
P.O. Box 818
Elton, LA 70532

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, has prepared a draft report entitled "Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity General Re-Evaluation Report with Integrated Draft Environmental Impact Statement (LPV GRR-DEIS)." This GRR-DEIS reevaluates the performance of the LPV system given the combined effects of consolidation, settlement, subsidence, sea level rise, and new datum over time, and determine if additional actions are recommended to address the economic and life safety risks associated with flooding due to hurricanes and coastal storms.

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Date: 2019.12.05 15:58:18 -06'00'

Marshall K. Harper
Chief, Environmental Planning Branch

CC: An electronic copy of this letter with enclosures will be provided to Dr. Linda Langley, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, llangley@coushattatribela.org.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
7400 LEAKE AVENUE
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70118

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

December 9, 2019

Regional Planning and
Environment Division South

Melissa Darden, Chairman
Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana
P.O. Box 661
Charenton, LA 70523

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, has prepared a draft report entitled "Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity General Re-Evaluation Report with Integrated Draft Environmental Impact Statement (LPV GRR-DEIS)." This GRR-DEIS reevaluates the performance of the LPV system given the combined effects of consolidation, settlement, subsidence, sea level rise, and new datum over time, and determine if additional actions are recommended to address the economic and life safety risks associated with flooding due to hurricanes and coastal storms.

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Marshall K. Harper
Chief, Environmental Planning Branch

CC: An electronic copy of this letter with enclosures will be provided to Mrs. Kimberly Walden, M. Ed., Cultural Director/Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana, kim@chitimacha.gov.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
7400 LEAKE AVENUE
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70118

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

December 9, 2019

Regional Planning and
Environment Division South

B. Cheryl Smith, Principal Chief
Jena Band of Choctaw Indians
P.O. Box 14
Jena, LA 71342

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, has prepared a draft report entitled "Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity General Re-Evaluation Report with Integrated Draft Environmental Impact Statement (LPV GRR-DEIS)." This GRR-DEIS reevaluates the performance of the LPV system given the combined effects of consolidation, settlement, subsidence, sea level rise, and new datum over time, and determine if additional actions are recommended to address the economic and life safety risks associated with flooding due to hurricanes and coastal storms.

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Date: 2019.12.05 16:01:38 -06'00'

Marshall K. Harper
Chief, Environmental Planning Branch

CC: An electronic copy of this letter with enclosures will be provided to Mrs. Alina Shively, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Jena Band of Choctaw Indians, ashively@jenachoctaw.org.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
7400 LEAKE AVENUE
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70118

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

December 9, 2019

Regional Planning and
Environment Division South

Cyrus Ben, Chief
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
P.O. Box 6257
Choctaw, MS 39350

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Date: 2019.12.05 16:02:36 -06'00'

Marshall K. Harper
Chief, Environmental Planning Branch

CC: An electronic copy of this letter with enclosures will be provided to Mr. Kenneth H. Carleton, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer/Archaeologist, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, kcarleton@choctaw.org.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
7400 LEAKE AVENUE
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70118

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

December 9, 2019

Regional Planning and
Environment Division South

Mr. James Floyd, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Attn: Historic and Cultural Preservation Office
P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, OK 74447

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, has prepared a draft report entitled "Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity General Re-Evaluation Report with Integrated Draft Environmental Impact Statement (LPV GRR-DEIS)." This GRR-DEIS reevaluates the performance of the LPV system given the combined effects of consolidation, settlement, subsidence, sea level rise, and new datum over time, and determine if additional actions are recommended to address the economic and life safety risks associated with flooding due to hurricanes and coastal storms.

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Date: 2019.12.05 16:03:44 -06'00'

Marshall K. Harper
Chief, Environmental Planning Branch

CC: An electronic copy of this letter with enclosures will be provided to Ms. Corain Lowe-Zepeda, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, section106@mcn-nsn.gov.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
7400 LEAKE AVENUE
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70118

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

December 9, 2019

Regional Planning and
Environment Division South

Greg Chilcoat, Principal Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 1498
Wewoka, OK 74884

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, has prepared a draft report entitled "Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity General Re-Evaluation Report with Integrated Draft Environmental Impact Statement (LPV GRR-DEIS)." This GRR-DEIS reevaluates the performance of the LPV system given the combined effects of consolidation, settlement, subsidence, sea level rise, and new datum over time, and determine if additional actions are recommended to address the economic and life safety risks associated with flooding due to hurricanes and coastal storms.

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Date: 2019.12.05 16:06:29 -06'00'

Marshall K. Harper
Chief, Environmental Planning Branch

CC: An electronic copy of this letter with enclosures will be provided to Mr. Theodore Isham, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, isham.t@sno-nsn.gov.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
7400 LEAKE AVENUE
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70118

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

December 9, 2019

Regional Planning and
Environment Division South

Marcellus W. Osceola, Chairman
Seminole Tribe of Florida
6300 Sterling Road
Hollywood, FL 33024

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Date: 2019.12.05 16:09:40 -06'00'

Marshall K. Harper
Chief, Environmental Planning Branch

CC: An electronic copy of this letter with enclosures will be provided to Dr. Paul N. Backhouse, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Seminole Tribe of Florida, THPOCompliance@semtribe.com.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
7400 LEAKE AVENUE
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70118

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

December 9, 2019

Regional Planning and
Environment Division South

Joey Barbry, Chairman
Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana
P.O. Box 1589
Marksville, LA 71351

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, has prepared a draft report entitled "Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity General Re-Evaluation Report with Integrated Draft Environmental Impact Statement (LPV GRR-DEIS)." This GRR-DEIS reevaluates the performance of the LPV system given the combined effects of consolidation, settlement, subsidence, sea level rise, and new datum over time, and determine if additional actions are recommended to address the economic and life safety risks associated with flooding due to hurricanes and coastal storms.

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Date: 2019.12.05 16:10:38 -06'00'

Marshall K. Harper
Chief, Environmental Planning Branch

CC: An electronic copy of this letter with enclosures will be provided to Mr. Earl J. Barbry, Jr., Cultural Director, Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana, earlji@tunica.org.



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Regional Planning and
Environment Division South

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
7400 LEAKE AVENUE
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70118

December 9, 2019

Kristin Sanders, SHPO
LA State Historic Preservation Officer
P.O. Box 44247
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4241

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, has prepared a draft report entitled "Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity General Re-Evaluation Report with Integrated Draft Environmental Impact Statement (LPV GRR-DEIS)." This GRR-DEIS reevaluates the performance of the LPV system given the combined effects of consolidation, settlement, subsidence, sea level rise, and new datum over time, and determine if additional actions are recommended to address the economic and life safety risks associated with flooding due to hurricanes and coastal storms.

The draft report and appendices are available online for your review and comment at the below website:

<https://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/About/Projects/BBA-2018/studies/LPV-GRR/>

The USACE is initiating consultation for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and with Federally-recognized Tribes with this letter for the referenced project. No determination of effect under the NHPA is being made at this time. Consultation will follow the standard Section 106 process.

NHPA consultation will address the Area of Potential Effects for portions of the project that are outside of the undertakings previously reviewed under Individual Environmental Reviews (IER) and Comprehensive Environmental Documents available at (<https://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental/NEPA-Compliance-Documents/HSDRRS-Projects/>). The LPV study includes the actions described in IERs #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, #7, #8, #9, #10, #11, and #27. The Section 106 consultation will provide the results of any Phase I Cultural Resources Survey (if necessary), and USACE's determination of effect to historic properties. This will provide an opportunity to for consulting parties to review NHPA specific documentation, per 36 CFR 800.11. The determination of effect and any conditions will be documented in the Final Record of Decision (ROD) before it is signed.

For purposes of understanding the undertaking, please review the documents at the link above. Should your tribe or agency want to provide comments upon the NEPA document, please provide comments by February 7, 2020. All comments postmarked on or before the expiration of the comment period will be considered and addressed as appropriate in the final report. A public open house will be held the week of January 20th and details will be posted on the New Orleans District website: <https://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Media/Public-Meetings/>

Comments should be mailed to the attention of Mr. Bradley Drouant; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; New District; CEMVN-PMO-L; Room 361; 7400 Leake Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana 70118. Comments may also be provided by email to CEMVN-LPVGRR@usace.army.mil. Mr. Drouant may be contacted at (504) 862-1516 if questions arise.

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Date: 2019.12.05 16:05:22 -06'00'

Marshall K. Harper
Chief, Environmental Planning Branch

CC: An electronic copy of this letter with enclosures will be provided to the Section 106 Inbox, section106@crt.la.gov.

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT *of* ARCHIVES AND HISTORY



HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION
P. O. BOX 571
Jackson, MS 39205-0571
Phone 601-576-6940 Fax 601-576-6955
Website: mdah.ms.gov

December 14, 2020

Mr. John Thron
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District
4155 Clay Street
Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435

RE: The Final Supplement II (Final SEIS II) to the 1976 Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS),
Mississippi River and Tributaries (MR&T) Project, Mississippi River Mainline Levees (MRL)
(MDAH Project Log 11-065-20)

Dear Mr. Thron:

We have reviewed the Final Supplement II (SEIS) for the above referenced project, in accordance with our responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and 36 CFR Part 800. After review of the information provided, MDAH concurs that the proposed undertaking will have an impact on historic resources. MDAH has been a participant in the negotiations for the *Programmatic Agreement Among the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Memphis, New Orleans, and Vicksburg Districts, the Chickasaw Nation; the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma; the Osage Nation; the Quapaw Nation; the Arkansas State Historic Preservation Officer; the Illinois State Historic Preservation Officer; the Kentucky State Historic Preservation Officer; the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Officer; the Mississippi State Historic Preservation Officer; the Missouri State Historic Preservation Officer; the Tennessee State Historic Preservation Officer; and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Regarding the Mississippi River and Tributaries Project: Mississippi River Levee Features*. MDAH anticipates signing the agreement once the execution document is sent out for signature. Thus, MDAH has no further comment at this time.

If there are any changes to the scope of work, or should unexpected cultural materials be encountered during the project, MDAH requests that our office be notified so that we can provide comment in accordance with 36 CFR 800.13.

If you have any questions, please contact us at (601) 576-6945.

Sincerely,

Barry White
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

FOR: Katie Blount
State Historic Preservation Officer