DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT
7400 LEAKE AVENUE
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70118-3651

DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT
(WATER METER REPLACEMENT)
CITY OF DONALDSONVILLE,
Ascension Parish, Louisiana
Environmental Assessment #585

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New Orleans District (CEMVN), has performed an Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended. The EA addresses the proposed Parish Utilities of Ascension (PUA) system repairs which entails the removal and replacement of 3,265 5/8-inch x ¾-inch water meters, 160 1-inch water meters, 55 2-inch water meters, 10 3-inch water meters, 10 4-inch water meters and provides 4 fixed location data collection devices. USACE is authorized to provide design and construction assistance for environmental infrastructure projects implemented in the parishes of East Baton Rouge, Ascension, and Livingston pursuant to Section 219(f)(21) of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1992 Public Law 102-580, as amended by Section 502, WRDA 1999, Public Law 106-53; and Section 5080, WRDA 2007, Public Law 110-114.

The proposed PUA system repairs entail the removal and replacement of 3,265 5/8-inch x ¾-inch water meters, 160 1-inch water meters, 55 2-inch water meters, 10 3-inch water meters, 10 4-inch water meters and provides 4 fixed location data collection devices. While replacing the existing meters, the PUA proposes to replace the boxes or vaults containing the meters. This would require minor excavation to accomplish. Any existing service lines made of lead or other hazardous material would be replaced as required.

Incidental work includes traffic control and removal and replacement of asphalt drives, concrete drives, and concrete sidewalks. A traffic control plan would be provided for approval and coordinated with Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LDOTD) and Ascension Parish. No servitudes or right-of-way are anticipated as the project is within the public road rights-of-way.

Impacts to water quality are expected to be minimal. During construction, any sediment runoff would be minimized through best management practices (BMPs) such as placement of silt fencing and silt sacks around exposed earth and storm drains.

In addition to the proposed action, a “No Action” alternative was also evaluated. In the future without project condition (a.k.a. no-action), the proposed action would not be

constructed. Without the proposed repairs to the Ascension Parish Water Meter system, the PUA and Ascension Consolidated Utilities District #1 system would continue the need for repairs as required. The Parish would continue to accrue system repair damages and lose money due to under reporting from outdated meters. Expected losses would amount to nearly $1 million over the next 3 years from underreporting usage by nearly 30%. Further, any existing lead pipe would remain and continue to pose a potential health risk to the residents of Donaldsonville, Louisiana.

For the proposed action, the potential effects were evaluated. A summary of the potential effects is listed in Table 1:

Table 1: Summary of Potential Effects of the Proposed Action.

Resource	Insignificant effects	Insignificant effects as a result of mitigation	Resource unaffected by action
Wetlands	☐	☐	☒
Aquatic Resources/Fisheries	☐	☐	☒
Wildlife Habitat	☒	☐	☐
Terrestrial Resources	☒	☐	☐
Threatened/Endangered Species – Critical Habitat	☐	☐	☒
Cultural Resources	☒	☐	☐
Water Quality	☒	☐	☐
Air Quality	☒	☐	☐
Hazardous, Toxic & Radioactive Waste	☒	☐	☐
Tribal Trust Resources	☐	☐	☒

The appropriate application of mitigation is to formulate an alternative that first avoids adverse impacts, then minimizes adverse impacts, and lastly, compensates for unavoidable impacts. All practicable and appropriate means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects were analyzed and incorporated into the proposed action. No impacts requiring compensatory mitigation were identified. The potential effects, which were found to be minimal and insignificant, are briefly discussed below.

As described in Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) #585, which is incorporated herein by reference, no jurisdictional waters of the U.S. (including wetlands) would be impacted. Draft EA #585 evaluates the potential impacts associated with the proposed water meter replacements in Donaldsonville, Louisiana. Potential adverse effects would be avoided and minimized to the fullest extent practical by using the same meter locations and similar sized replacement vaults/boxes. Standard construction BMPs would be utilized to minimize erosion during and post construction.

Pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) concurred with the USACE's determination of "No effect" and issued their office stamp of concurrence, dated 16 August 2021.

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, the USACE has determined that the proposed action constitutes an Undertaking as defined in 36 CFR § 800.16(y). In accordance with responsibilities under Executive Order 13175, NEPA, and Section 106 of the NHPA, CEMVN determined that there are no historic properties as defined in 36 CFR 800.16(l) within the area of potential effect. Accordingly, on 11 August 2021, CEMVN submitted a finding of "No Adverse Effect" for this undertaking to the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Officer of the Department of Culture Recreation and Tourism (SHPO), the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas (ACTT), the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (CNO), the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana (CT), the Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana (CTL), the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians (JBCI), the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI), the Muscogee Creek Nation (MCN), the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma (SNO), the Seminole Tribe of Florida (STF), and the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana (TBTL). The 30-day consultation review period will end on 9 September 2021. CEMVN awaits concurrence with this determination.

The following environmental design commitments are an integral part of the proposed action:

1. Coordinate proposed action with Donaldsonville foreman of Roads and Cultural Activities Department to avoid and minimize impacts to recreational resources.
2. If the proposed action is changed significantly or is not implemented within one year, USACE would reinitiate consultation with the USFWS.
3. All proposed meter box replacements shall be at, or immediately adjacent to, the current meter box location.
4. If during the course of work, archaeological artifacts (prehistoric or historic) are discovered or unexpected effects to historic properties, including architecture, architectural elements, and/or archaeology, are identified, the USACE contractor shall stop work in the general vicinity of the discovery or unexpected effect and take all reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the finds or affected property. The USACE contractor would ensure that the discovery or unexpected effects are secured and stabilized, as necessary, and access to the area is restricted. The USACE contractor shall inform their Operations Division contacts at USACE, who would in turn contact Planning Division (PD) staff. The USACE contractor would not proceed with work until USACE PD completes consultation with the Louisiana SHPO, and others, as appropriate.
5. If human bone or unmarked grave(s) are present within the work area, compliance with the Louisiana Unmarked Human Burial Sites Preservation Act (R.S. 8:671 et seq.) is required. The USACE contractor shall notify the law enforcement agency of the jurisdiction where the remains are located within 24 hours of the discovery. The USACE contractor shall also notify USACE and the LDOA within 72 hours of the discovery. Discoveries of unmarked graves, burials, human remains, or items of cultural patrimony on federal or tribal lands shall be subject to the Native

American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. §3001-3013, 18 U.S.C. § 1170) and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979(16 U.S.C. §470aa – 470mm).

The USACE has evaluated the potential environmental impacts of the proposed action described in EA #585. The proposed action would serve to benefit Ascension Parish from a socio-economic standpoint. The new meters would decrease manpower necessary for meter reading and would allow the meter reading to be done in a much quicker timeframe. These meter types would provide much more accurate water meter usage for customers on the PUA system. The older meters are estimated to underreport usage by nearly 30%, whereas new meter installation is expected to grow revenue by nearly $300,000 annually.

Based on this assessment, a review of the comments made on EA #585, and the implementation of the environmental design commitments listed above, a determination has been made that the proposed action would have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

_____ _____

Date

STEPHEN F. MURPHY
COL, EN
Commanding

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT #585

ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT
(WATER METER REPLACEMENT)
CITY OF DONALDSONVILLE,
ASCENSION PARISH, LOUISIANA

NOVEMBER 2021

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Mississippi Valley Division
Regional Planning and Environment Division South
New Orleans District

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FIGURES

TABLES

APPENDICES

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT #585
ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT
(WATER METER REPLACEMENT)
CITY OF DONALDSONVILLE,
ASCENSION PARISH, LOUISIANA

1. INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Mississippi River Valley Division, Regional Planning and Environment Division South (RPEDS), has prepared this Draft Environmental Assessment #585 (EA #585) for the New Orleans District (CEMVN) to evaluate potential impacts associated with the Environmental Infrastructure Project in the city of Donaldsonville, in Ascension Parish, Louisiana (Project or proposed action) which entails the removal of existing manually read water meters (and related equipment) with new drive-by, remotely read water meters (and related equipment) with data collector units. The Non-Federal Sponsor for the Project is the Ascension Parish Government.

1.0 This EA #585 has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and the Council on Environmental Quality's Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), as reflected in the USACE Engineering Regulation ER 200-2-2. This EA #585 provides sufficient information on the potential adverse and beneficial environmental effects to allow the District Commander, USACE, CEMVN, to make an informed decision on the appropriateness of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

1.1 PROPOSED ACTION

1.1.1 Generally, the proposed action (Alternative 2) entails the removal of existing manually read water meters (and related equipment) with new drive-by, remotely read water meters (and related equipment) with data collector units. Specifically, the proposed action consists of the removal and replacement of three thousand and two hundred and sixty-five (3,265) (quantity) 5/8-inch x ¾-inch water meters, one hundred and sixty (160) (quantity) 1-inch water meters, fifty-five (55) (quantity) 2-inch water meters, ten (10) (quantity) 3-inch water meters, ten (10) (quantity) 4-inch water meters, including the replacement of the boxes or vaults containing the meters, and the provision of four (4) (quantity) fixed location data collection devices. The proposed action would require minor excavation. Any existing service lines made of lead or other hazardous material would be replaced. The proposed action also includes the removal and replacement of asphalt drives, concrete drives, and concrete sidewalks while replacing the meter boxes/vaults.

1.1.2 Incidental work includes traffic control and removal and replacement of asphalt drives, concrete drives, and concrete sidewalks. A traffic control plan would be provided by the USACE contractor for approval and coordinated with Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LDOTD) and the Non-Federal Sponsor (NFS), the Ascension Parish Government.

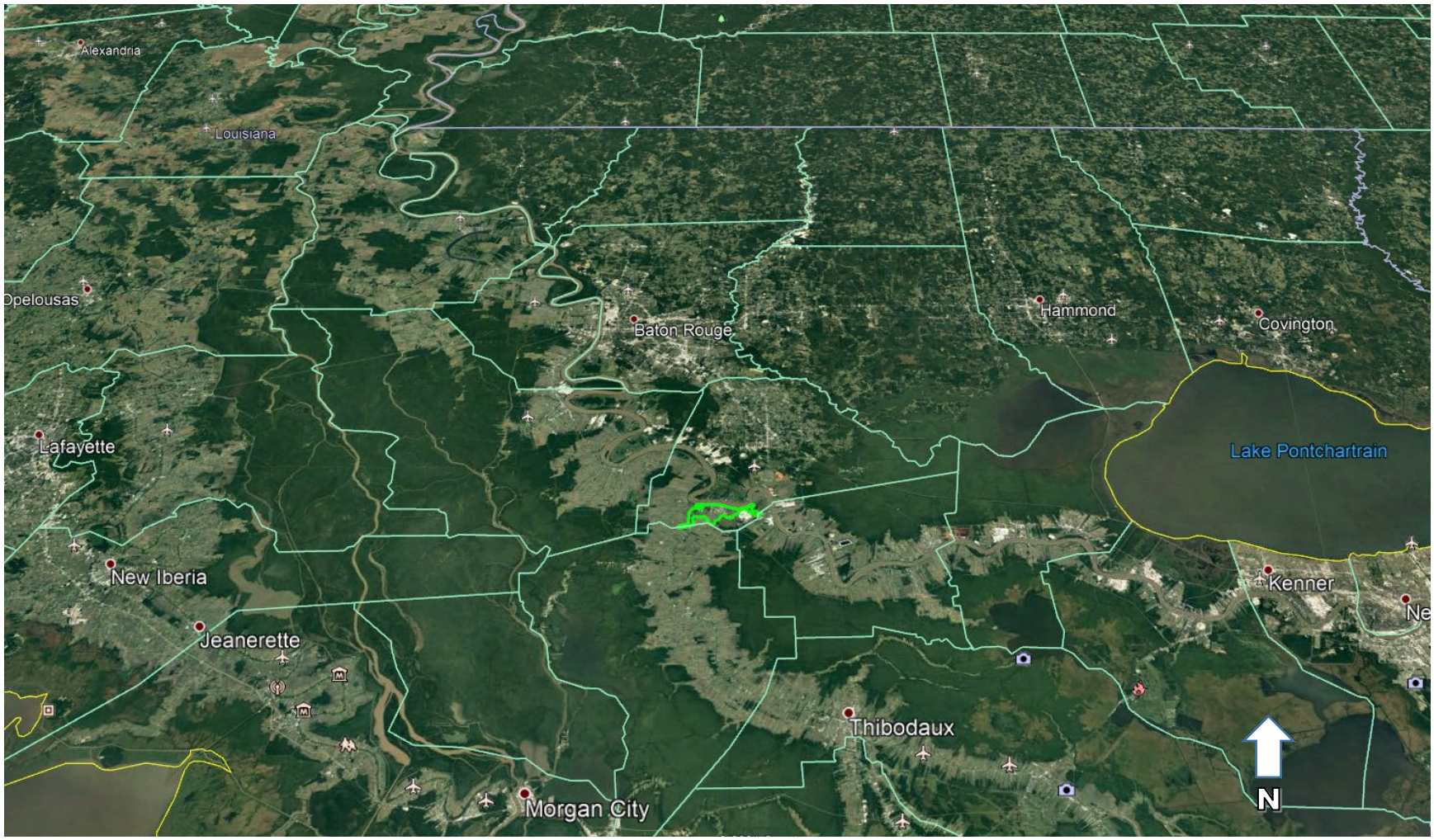

Figure 1: Ascension Parish Water Meter Replacement Project Vicinity Map, Ascension Parish, Louisiana.

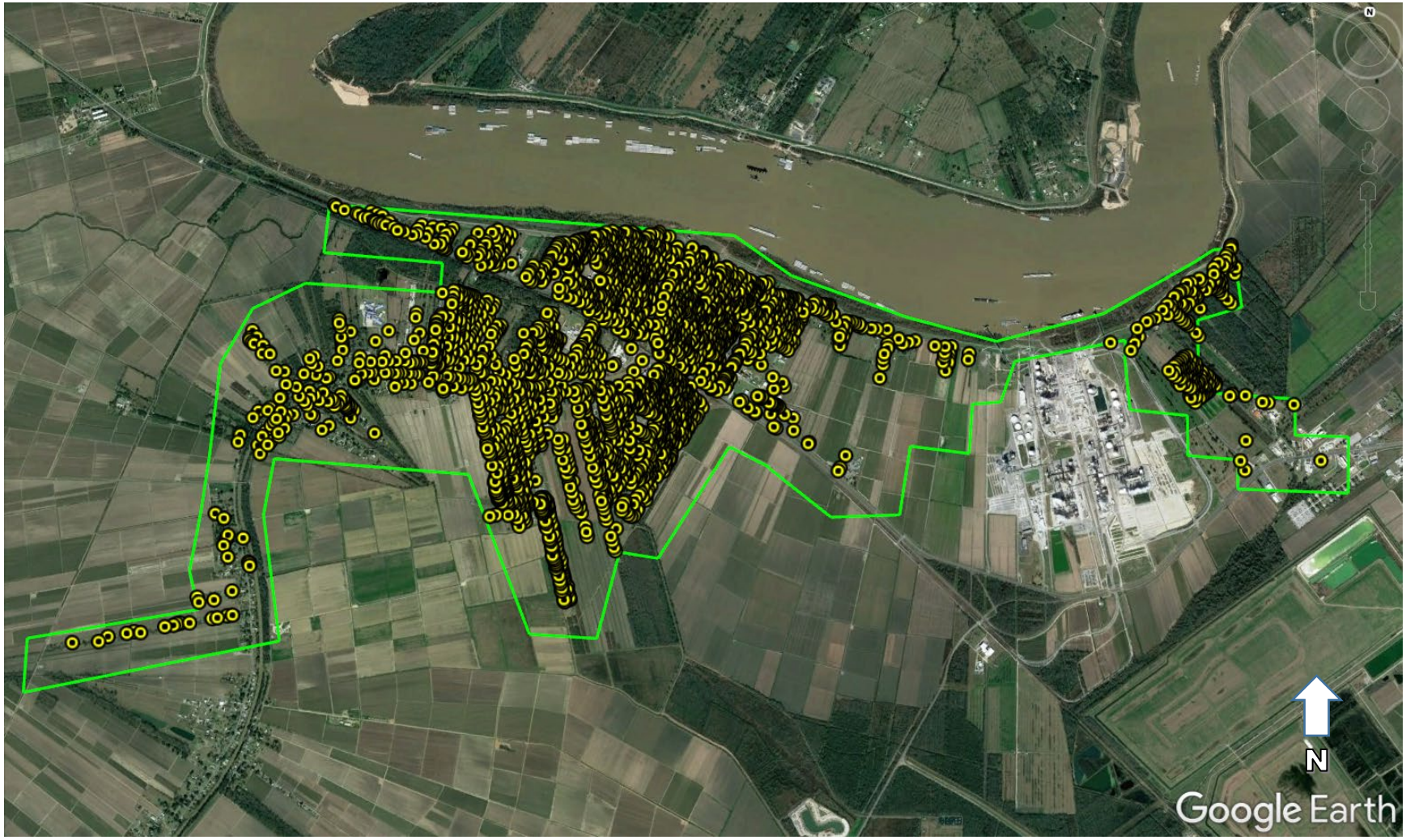

Figure 2: Ascension Parish Water Meter Replacement Project Work Area, Ascension Parish, Louisiana.

Figure 3: Sample of Environmental Infrastructure Improvements Project Area

1.2 AUTHORITY

The provision of design and construction assistance by USACE for the Environmental Infrastructure Project in the city of Donaldsonville, Ascension Parish, Louisiana is authorized by Section 219(f)(21) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992, Public Law 102-580.

1.3 PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

1.3.1 The Donaldsonville water system (water system or system), is the subject of the proposed action. This system was purchased from Peoples Water Service Company in 2016 by the NFS and consists of over 60 miles of piping dating back to the 1900s, ranging in size from 3-inch to 8-inch in diameter, and over three thousand and four hundred and ten (3,410) (quantity) old rotary water meters which require manual reading.

1.3.2 The new drive-by, remotely read water meters (and related equipment) with data collector units will decrease manpower necessary for meter reading and allow meter reading to be done in a shorter timeframe and will provide more accurate water meter usage for customers using the water system. Research conducted by the NFS demonstrated that the older meters are underreporting water consumption/usage by nearly 30%. Underreporting resulted in NFS being underpaid for actual water usage by customers. Installation of the new meters is expected to increase the NFS's annual revenue by nearly $300,000 when considering existing average monthly residential consumption data.

1.4 PRIOR NEPA DOCUMENTS

1.4.1 There are no prior NEPA documents related to the proposed action. There has been no prior federal action related to the subject water system.

1.4.2 Lead Free legislation – All replacement meters shall meet the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) per NSF 372 that became effective in January 2014 and all water meters shall be compliant with NSF/ANSI 61, Annex G and Annex F.

1.5 PUBLIC CONCERNS

Widespread public support exists for the protection of environmental resources and for distribution of clean drinking water. The proposed action was designed to improve service to the residents of Donalsonville. It will result in more accurate readings of water usage ensuring all residents receive fair treatment for services rendered.

2. ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION

2.1 ALTERNATIVE 1 – NO ACTION

2.1.1 In the future without project condition (a.k.a. no-action), the proposed action would not be constructed. Without the proposed action, water usage would likely continue to be under-reported at an estimated 30% annually, with expected losses in revenue to the NFS approximated at nearly $1 million over the next 3 years. Further, any existing lead pipe that remains in the system would continue to pose a potential health risk to the users of this water system.

2.2 ALTERNATIVE 2 – REPLACE EXISTING MANUALLY READ WATER METERS WITH REMOTE READ WATER METERS

2.2.1 Alternative 2 consists of removal and replacement of three thousand and two hundred and sixty-five (3,265) 5/8-inch x ¾-inch water meters, one hundred and sixty (160) 1-inch water meters, fifty-five (55) 2-inch water meters, ten (10) 3-inch water meters, ten (10) 4-inch water meters, including the replacement of the boxes or vaults containing the meters, and the provision of four (4) fixed location data collection devices. The proposed action would require minor excavation. Any existing service lines made of lead or other hazardous material would be replaced. This Alternative includes the removal and replacement of asphalt drives, concrete drives, and concrete sidewalks while replacing the meter boxes/vaults. The new drive-by automatic meter reader model water meters will decrease manpower necessary for meter reading and allow meter reading to be done in a shorter timeframe and provide more accurate water meter usage for all customers using the utility system. Research conducted by the NFS demonstrated that the older meters are underreporting consumer water consumption and usage by nearly 30% annually. This underreporting has resulted in the NFS being underpaid for the costs of actual water usage by customers. Installation of the new meters is expected to increase the NFS's annual revenue by nearly $300,000 when considering average monthly residential consumption data and more accurately reflect the actual costs of consumer water consumption.

3. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

3.1. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT AREA

3.1.1 The Project Area (Figure 2) is located in the city limits of Donalsonville, Louisiana in Ascension Parish, Louisiana. Donaldsonville is situated on the right descending bank of the Mississippi River about 27 miles southeast of Baton Rouge and 30 miles west of Laplace, Louisiana. The areas where the proposed action would occur include the commercial Donaldsonville National Register Historic District as well as rural residential locations. The system consists of over 60 miles of piping dating back to the 1900s, ranging in size from 3-inch to 8-inch in diameter, and over three thousand and four hundred and ten (3,410) (quantity) old rotary water meters which require manual reading.

3.1.2 Ascension Parish is in the southeastern part of Louisiana, approximately 55 miles west of New Orleans. The parish has a total area of 303 square miles, with portions on both the east and west banks of the Mississippi River. Ascension Parish is centrally located between Livingston, Saint John the Baptist, Saint James, Assumption, Iberville and East Baton Rouge. The parish contains a variety of suburban, agricultural, and Industrial development. Suburban areas are situated primarily in the town of Prairieville, which is located at the northern end of the parish approximately 10 miles east of the Mississippi River. Agricultural and industrial developments exist primarily along the Mississippi River. The parish contains three incorporated areas (Donaldsonville, Gonzales and Sorrento), along with eight unincorporated areas (Geismar, Dutchtown, Hobart, Aben, Duplessis, Burnside, Lake and Saint Amant). The Mississippi River meanders across the southwestern corner of the parish and flows from northwest to southeast. Ascension Parish is comprised of two major land resource areas-Southern Mississippi Valley Silty Uplands and Southern Mississippi Valley Alluvium. These areas are mainly woodland, pastureland, and cropland. According to U.S. Census data, Ascension Parish had an estimated population of 128,350 in 2020.

3.2 DESCRIPTION OF THE WATERSHED

3.2.1 A watershed is an area of land drained by a particular set of streams and rivers. Of the twelve major watersheds within Louisiana, the proposed action would be located within the Mississippi River Basin on the right descending bank of the Mississippi River in Ascension Parish, Louisiana (Figure 3). The Mississippi River has the third largest drainage basin in the world, exceeded in size only by the watersheds of the Amazon and Congo Rivers. The entire Mississippi River basin covers more than 1,245,000 square miles and includes all or parts of 31 states and two Canadian provinces. The lower Mississippi River is the portion of the Mississippi River downstream of Cairo, Illinois. From the confluence of the Ohio River and upper Mississippi River at Cairo, the lower Mississippi River flows just under 1,000 miles to the Gulf of Mexico. The lower Mississippi River alluvial valley is generally bounded by bluffs on the eastern side of the river and the valleys of merging tributaries to the west (LDWF-CWCS 2005). Within CEMVN, the Mississippi River is bounded by levees that extend along the west bank from the vicinity of Black Hawk, Louisiana, generally southward to the vicinity of Venice, Louisiana, and on the east bank from Baton Rouge, Louisiana to Bohemia, Louisiana encompassing over 500 miles of levee and associated infrastructure.

Figure 4: Louisiana River Basins (Map provided by Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. The Mississippi River Basin is shown in green. The location of the proposed action is represented by a red star.

3.3 CLIMATE

3.3.1 The climate in the Project Area is humid and subtropical with a strong maritime character. Warm, moist, southeasterly winds from the Gulf of Mexico prevail throughout most of the year, with occasional cool, dry fronts dominated by northeast high-pressure systems. The influx of cold air occurs less frequently in autumn and only rarely in summer. In winter, the average temperature is 53˚F and the average daily minimum temperature is 43˚F. In summer, the average temperature is 82˚F and the average daily maximum temperature is 91˚F. Summer thunderstorms are common, and tornadoes strike occasionally. The total annual precipitation is about 61.6 inches, of this, 23.6 inches usually falls in June through October. The growing season for most crops falls within this period. In 2 years out of 10, the rainfall in April through September is less than 16 inches (Southern Regional Climate Center | Dashboard (tamu.edu)).

3.4 GEOLOGY

3.4.1 The Project Area lies within the city limits of Donaldsonville, Louisiana, on the west bank of the Mississippi River, and includes the Donaldsonville National Register Historic District.

Fluvial activity in the proposed action area includes lateral migration and overbank deposition during flood stages. This activity is the dominant geologic process operating on the landscape in this region. The formation of natural levees point bar deposits, and other geomorphic features such as crevasse channels and abandoned river courses has been documented. There are also two major land resource areas-Southern Mississippi Valley Silty Uplands and Southern Mississippi Valley Alluvium. The Southern Mississippi Valley Silty Uplands Major Land Resource Area consists dominantly of well drained, moderately well drained, somewhat poorly drained, and poorly drained loamy soils. The Southern Mississippi Valley Alluvium Major Land Resource Area consists mainly of well drained and somewhat poorly drained loamy soils on natural levees and poorly drained and very poorly drained clayey soils on natural levees and in back swamps.

3.5 RELEVANT RESOURCES

3.5.1 This section contains a description of relevant resources that could be impacted by the proposed action. The important resources described are those recognized by laws, executive orders, regulations, and other standards of national, state, or regional agencies and organizations; technical or scientific agencies, groups, or individuals; and the public. Table 1 provides summary information of the institutional, technical, and public importance of these resources.

3.5.2 The following resources have been considered and found to not be affected by the proposed action: wetlands; aquatic resources/fisheries; essential fish habitat; bottomland hardwood forest; estuarine water bodies; beaches; gulf water bottoms. The objectives of Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management) were considered; however, CEMVN has determined that there would be no floodplain impacts from the proposed action. No portion of the proposed action area has been designated a Louisiana Natural and Scenic River; therefore, a Scenic Rivers permit is not warranted. Finally, the proposed action is located outside the Louisiana Coastal Zone.

3.5.3 The following relevant resources listed in Table 1 are discussed in this EA: wildlife; terrestrial resources; threatened or endangered species; cultural resources; recreation resources; aesthetics; socioeconomic resources; environmental justice; air quality and hydrology & water quality.

Table 1: Relevant Resources.

Resource	Institutionally Important	Technically Important	Publicly Important
Wildlife	Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1958, as amended and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918.	They are a critical element of many valuable aquatic and terrestrial habitats; they are an indicator of the health of various aquatic and terrestrial habitats; and many species are important commercial resources.	The high priority that the public places on their esthetic, recreational, and commercial value.
Terrestrial Resources	Food Security Act of 1985, as amended; the Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981; the Fish and Wildlife Coordination act of 1958, as amended.	The habitat provided for both open and forest-dwelling wildlife, and the provision or potential provision of forest products and human and livestock food products.	The present economic value or potential for future economic value.

Table 1: Relevant Resources.

Resource	Institutionally Important	Technically Important	Publicly Important
Threatened or Endangered Species	The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended; the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972; and the Bald Eagle Protection Act of 1940.	USACE, USFWS, NMFS, NRCS, EPA, LDWF, and LDNR cooperate to protect these species. The status of such species provides an indication of the overall health of an ecosystem.	The public supports the preservation of rare or declining species and their habitats.
Cultural Resources	National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as amended, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990; the Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979; and USACE's Tribal Consultation Policy (2012).	Federal, State, and Tribal stakeholders document and protect cultural resources including archaeological sites, districts, buildings, structures, and objects that are significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and/or sites of religious and cultural significance based on their association or linkage to past events, to historically important persons, to design and construction values, and for their ability to yield important information about prehistory and history.	Preservation groups and private individuals support protection and enhancement of historical resources.
Recreation Resources	Federal Water Project Recreation Act of 1965 as amended, and Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 as amended.	Provide high economic value to local, state, and national economies.	Public makes high demands on recreational areas. There is a high value that the public places on fishing, hunting, and boating, as measured by the large number of fishing and hunting licenses sold in Louisiana; and the large per-capita number of recreational boat registrations in Louisiana.
Aesthetics	USACE ER 1105-2-100, and National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Coastal Barrier Resources Act of 1990, Louisiana Natural and Scenic Rivers Act of 1988, and the National and Local Scenic Byway Program.	Visual accessibility to unique combinations of geological, botanical, and cultural features that may be an asset to a study area. State and Federal agencies recognize the value of beaches and shore dunes.	Environmental organizations and the public support the preservation of natural pleasing vistas.
Socio-Economic Resources	River and Harbor Flood Control Act of 1970 (PL 91-611).	N/A	Social concerns and items affecting area economy are of significant interest to community.
Environmental Justice	Executive Order 12898 and the Department of Defense's Strategy on Environmental Justice of 1995.	The social and economic welfare of minority and low-income populations may be positively or disproportionately impacted by the tentatively selected plans.	Public concerns about the fair and equitable treatment (fair treatment and meaningful involvement) of all people with respect to environmental and human health consequences of federal laws, regulations, policies, and actions.
Air Quality	Clean Air Act of 1963 and the Louisiana Environmental Quality Act of 1983.	State and Federal agencies recognize the status of ambient air quality in relation to the NAAQS.	Virtually all citizens express a desire for clean air.
Hydrology and Water Quality	Clean Water Act of 1977, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, and LA State & Local Coastal Resources Act of 1978.	USACE, USFWS, NMFS, NRCS, USEPA, and State DNR and wildlife/fishery offices recognize value of fisheries and good water quality. The national and state standards established to assess water quality.	Environmental organizations and the public support the preservation of water quality and fishery resources and the desire for clean drinking water.

3.6 WILDLIFE

3.6.1 General Existing Conditions. Wildlife habitat in the vicinity of the proposed action area is limited due to residential and commercial infrastructure associated with the city of Donaldsonville, which the proposed action encompasses. The 3.8 square mile Project Area provides minimal natural wildlife habitat due to the existing infrastructure. Species which have adapted to inhabit developed areas are prevalent with the Project Area. Species which prefer a more natural environment are likely found in low numbers within the Project Area.

3.6.2. Forested areas within the Project Area likely provides habitat for urban wildlife species including raccoons, opossum, rabbits, armadillo, mice, songbirds, owls, raptors, squirrels, and bats. Many species of neotropical migratory and resident birds seasonally utilize this type of habitat for nesting and rearing. In addition, many species of reptiles and amphibians can be found in the Project Area. The open fields and lawns provide forage habitat for various species of songbirds and corridors for movement of other urban wildlife. The asphalt and concrete areas of the Project Area provide no habitat value.

3.7 TERRESTRIAL RESOURCES

3.7.1 General Existing Conditions.

3.7.1 Within the city-limits of Donaldsonville, there are various terrestrial habitat types: ag-crop-grasslands (outside of the construction area), degraded riparian forest, wooded lots, yards, parks, residential and commercial properties consisting of concrete, gravel, and asphalt surfaces. A wide variety of terrestrial invertebrates can be found in the area including arthropods, snails, annelids, nematodes, and protozoans. Terrestrial wildlife found in these areas are addressed in Section 3.6 above.

3.7.2 Within NEPA evaluations, USACE must consider the protection of the nations' significant/important agricultural lands from irreversible conversion to uses that result in their loss as an environmental or essential food production resource. The Farmland Protection Policy Act, 7 USC 4201 et seq., and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's implementing procedures (7 CFR § 658) require Federal agencies to evaluate the adverse effects of their actions on prime and unique farmland, including farmland of statewide and local importance. Based on aerial photography and field investigations, there does not appear to be active commercial farming occurring within the Project Area.

3.8 THREATENED OR ENDANGERED SPECIES

3.8.1 General Existing Conditions. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) lists one endangered species known to occur in Ascension Parish: West Indian Manatee (*Trichechus manatus*, endangered (USFWS 2020)).

3.8.2 The West Indian manatee is an aquatic mammal that inhabits warm coastal waters of not less than 68 °F. They occur along the U.S. Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico coasts, throughout the Caribbean, and as far south as Brazil's Atlantic coastline. This includes the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers in South Louisiana. The West Indian manatee can tolerate saltwater when traveling from site to site but are primarily found in rivers and estuaries. Suitable habitat does not

exist within the Project Area. Manatee could on rare occasion be found in the Mississippi River adjacent to Donaldsonville.

3.9 CULTURAL RESOURCES

3.9.1 General Existing Conditions. Background research and a literature review was conducted by CEMVN staff in July and August 2021. A review of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) database, the Louisiana Division of Archaeology (LDOA), Louisiana Cultural Resources Map (LDOA Website), historic aerial photographs, historic map research, and a review of cultural resources survey reports were analyzed to determine the presence or absence of cultural resources within the Area of Potential Effect (APE). The information regarding historic properties identified within the APE was evaluated by CEMVN staff using the National Register Criteria for evaluation as defined at 36 CFR § 60.4.

3.9.2 Background research identified nine previously completed cultural resource investigations that examined areas within the proposed APE (Table 2). Those investigations included pipeline surveys (22-2148; 22-4595; 22-6231; 22-6411); survey for four proposed revetment areas on behalf of the USACE (22-1306); study for an industrial use project (22-4878); survey for a proposed highway (22-5913); investigations for a proposed pump station (22-6437); and proposed demolition associated with the Lemann Store, individually listed in the NRHP and located within the Donaldsonville National Register Historic District (NRHD). A total of 19 archaeological sites are located within or adjacent to the APE and are presented in Table 3.

Table 2. Cultural resources surveys within the APE.

Report Number	Title	Contractor	Site(s)/Loci/Built Resources
22-1306	Archaeological and Historical Investigations of Four Proposed Revetment Areas Located along the Mississippi River in Southeast Louisiana (Kelley 1989)	Coastal Environments, Inc. (CEI)	6EBR40, 16EBR56, 16EBR70, 16EBR71, 16AN6, 16AN42, 16AN43, 16AN44, 16AN45, 16AN46, 16AN47, 16AN48, 16AN49
22-2148	Phase I Cultural Resources Survey and Inventory of the Proposed Bridgeline Gas Distribution Acadian Extension 6.625 In O.D. Pipeline Project, Ascension and St. James Parishes, Louisiana (Davies et al. 1998)	R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc. (RCG&A)	16AN67; 2 loci recorded found to be in association with existing site 16AN25; locus A2-1
22-4595	Phase I Cultural Resources Survey and Limited Testing of 16AN98 for the Proposed Acadian CFI Lateral Pipeline Project (Schubert et al. 2014)	Atkins North America	16AN97, 16AN98, 16AN99, 16AN100, 16AN101
22-4878	Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of 1,000 Acres (404.69 Hectares) Proposed for Industrial Use, Donaldsonville, Ascension Parish, Louisiana (Shuman et al. 2015)	SURA, Inc.	16AN104, 16AN105, 16AN106
22-5913	A Phase I Cultural Resources Survey for the Proposed Foti Highway 18 Development, Ascension Parish, Louisiana (Carruth and Johnson 2018)	TerraXplorations, Inc. (TerraX)	16AN118
22-6231	Phase I Cultural Resources Survey and Archeological Inventory of the Proposed Boardwalk Louisiana Midstream, LLC, 56.2 km (34.9 mi) Formosa Pipeline Project in Iberville, Ascension, and St. James Parishes, Louisiana (Heller et al. 2019)	R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc. (RCG&A)	22-01054, 16AN101, 16IV8, 16IV37, 16IV124, 16IV164, 16IV229, 16IV230
22-6411	Phase I Archaeological and Historical Architectural Survey: Delta Express Pipeline, Richland, Franklin, Catahoula, Concordia, Avoyelles, St. Landry, Pointe Coupee, West Baton Rouge, Iberville, Ascension, Assumption, Lafourche, Jefferson, and Plaquemines Parishes, Louisiana (Wiginton et al. 2020)	Environmental Resources Management (ERM)	16AN101, 16AN127, 16AS127, 16AV156, 16AV157, 16AV158, 16CO197, 16CO198, 16CO199, 16CO200, 16CO201, 16CO202, 16CO203, 16CO204, 16CO205, 16CO206, 16FR368, 16FR369, 16FR370, 16FR371, 16IV64, 16IV197, 16IV230, 16IV235, 16IV237, 16LF110, 16PC133, 16PC134, 16PC135, 16RI351, 16RI352, 16RI353, 16PL278, 16SL233, 16SL234, 16SL235, 16SL236
22-6437	Phase I and Expanded Phase I Investigations for the Proposed Pump Station, Donaldsonville, Louisiana (Jackson and Seeber 2020)	TerraXplorations, Inc. (TerraX)	16AN36, 16AN130
22-6633	Phase I Archaeological Survey of the Lemann Store Building Project Area, Donaldsonville, Ascension Parish, Louisiana (Smith et al. 2020)	Smith, Parrish, & Atkins Resource Consultants, LLC	Lemann Store (NRHP)

Table 3. Archaeological sites within the APE.

Site Number	Site Name	Site Description	Cultural Affiliation	Field Methodology	NRHP Eligibility
16AN25	Palo Alto Plantation	Plantation; historic scatter	Early to late 19th century	Grab surface, metal detector	Not Eligible; Building Listed
16AN36	Fort Butler	Civil War Era Union fort	Civil War era	Pedestrian survey, shovel testing	Listed
16AN42	Dugas Plantation	Large multicomponent historic site	Late 18th - 19th century	Intensive and auger testing	Not Eligible
16AN43	Aben F	Intact structural remains and buried cultural deposits	19th century	Grab surface collection, auger testing and test units	Undetermined
16AN44	Aben G	Concrete foundation	19th century	Grab surface collection, auger testing	Not Eligible
16AN62	Reynard B	Historic scatter	Late 18th century to late 19th century	Pedestrian survey, metal detection and excavation of three shovel tests	Undetermined
16AN63	Thibault	Dense to moderate historic scatter and ruins of brick wall	Colonial, antebellum, war, and aftermath	Pedestrian survey and metal detection	Undetermined
16AN64	Sleepy Hollow Plantation	Moderate historic artifact scatter; Civil War battlefield	Mid-19th century to Late 19th century	Pedestrian survey and metal detection	Undetermined
16AN65	St. Emma Plantation	Historic scatter; slave cabin remains; plantation house; Civil War battlefield	Mid to late 19th century	Pedestrian survey and metal detection	Undetermined
16AN66	Reynard A	Historic scatter; built resource potentially related to artifacts collected; Civil War battlefield	Late 18th to Late 19th Century	Pedestrian survey and metal detection	Undetermined
16AN67	N/A	Historic scatter	Mid to late 19th century	Pedestrian survey, shovel testing	Not Eligible
16AN101	N/A	Historic scatter	Historic exploration (1541-1803), Antebellum (1803-1860), War & Aftermath (1860-1890)	Pedestrian survey, shovel testing	Undetermined
16AN104	Bon Alliance	Sugar mill; brick foundations	Historic (Unknown, Antebellum, War & Aftermath, Industrial)	Pedestrian survey, shovel testing	Undetermined
16AN105	Schex 18	Historic scatter	Early Antebellum, Colonial	Pedestrian survey, shovel testing	Undetermined
16AN106	SchexGautreau	Historic scatter	Historic (Unknown, Antebellum, War & Aftermath, Industrial)	Pedestrian survey, shovel testing	Not Eligible
16AN118	Viala Plantation	Historic scatter	Antebellum, War & Aftermath, Industrial and Modern	Pedestrian survey, shovel testing	Undetermined
16AN127	N/A	Historic scatter	Post-Contact (unknown)	Pedestrian survey, shovel testing	Not Eligible
16AN130	N/A	Historic scatter; historic ruin	Post-WWII 1945-	Shovel Testing, Trenches, Augering	Undetermined
16AS46	Assumption C	Historic scatter	19th century	Pedestrian survey	Undetermined

3.9.3 CEMVN identified the Donaldsonville NRHD, five individually NRHP listed buildings, and one NRHP listed site within the APE (Table 4). Listed in 1983, the Donaldsonville Historic District includes 635 contributing resources that are significant at the state level under Criterion A in the area of Community Planning and under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The period of significance for the district begins in 1806, the date William Donaldson, the city's founder, hired Bartholomew Lafon to create the street grid, and ends in 1933, the 50-year cutoff date utilized by the National Register at the time the nomination was completed. The individually listed Lemann Store and Landry Tomb are located within the Donaldsonville NRHD. The ca. 1878 Lemann Store was designed by James Freret. The above ground Landry Tomb, located within the Ascension Catholic Cemetery, is a multiple burial granite vault that is significant at the state level for its antebellum Louisiana funerary architecture.

3.9.4 The ca. 1850 Palo Alto Plantation is significant for its Greek Revival architectural detailing while the ca. 1880 Palo Alto Dependency is significant for its Creole influence. The St. Emma Plantation, representative of a mid- nineteenth century Greek Revival plantation house, is located just south of Palo Alto. The ca. 1870 Rome House cottage features a Creole floorplan with Greek Revival and Italianate elements.

Table 4. NRHP listed historic properties within the APE.

Historic Name	Other Names	Property Type	Date Listed
Donaldsonville Historic District		District	1/19/1984
Landry Tomb		Site	8/11/1982
The Lemann Store		Building	8/11/1982
Palo Alto	Palo Alto Plantation	Building	4/13/1977
Palo Alto Dependency		Building	6/4/1992
Rome House		Building	3/16/1990
St. Emma		Building	6/30/1980

3.10 RECREATION RESOURCES

3.10.1 General Existing Conditions. Within the city-limits of Donaldsonville, there is consumptive recreation opportunity in the form of freshwater fishing within Bayou Lafourche and the Mississippi River. Additionally, non-consumptive recreation opportunities within Donaldsonville include playgrounds, picnic pavilions, outdoor courts for basketball, volleyball, and tennis, ballfields, outdoor pavilions, and a multi-use path along the Mississippi River. Greenspace areas also provide opportunities for wildlife viewing and photography. See Table 5 for a listing of public recreation facilities within the City of Donaldsonville.

3.10.2 According to the United States Department of the Interior National Park Service (NPS) Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), nearly $46,000 in LWCF funds has supported 2 recreation projects within the Study Area since 1965. Section 6(f)(3) of the LWCF Act assures that once an area has been funded with LWCF assistance, it is continually maintained in public recreation use unless NPS approves substitution property of reasonably equivalent usefulness and location and of at least equal fair market value.

Table 5. Public Recreation within the City of Donaldsonville.

Name of Public Area	Managing Agency	Non-Consumptive Recreation	LWCF Funding
Abend Community Park & Playground	Ascension Parish	Playground, Picnic Pavilion, Outdoor Basketball Court	none
Floyd Boutte Memorial Stadium	Ascension Parish	Lighted Ballfields, Concessions	none
Frank Sotile, Jr. Pavilion	Ascension Parish	Large Multi-use Pavilion	none
Lemanville Park & Playground	Ascension Parish	Picnic Pavilions, Outdoor Basketball Court, Volleyball Court, Baseball Field, Playground, Restrooms	none
Modeste Park & Playground	Ascension Parish	Playground, 2 Outdoor Basketball Courts, Picnic Pavilions, Lighted Baseball Field	1981 $39,159.45
South Louisiana Fairgrounds and LaLa Regira Field	Ascension Parish	Lighted Ballfields, 3 Tennis Courts, Concessions, Playground	none
Crescent Park	Donaldsonville	Greenspace with Pavilion and proximity to Donaldsonville Riverfront Park	none
Donaldsonville Riverfront Park	Donaldsonville	Lighted Multi-use Path with Seating and proximity to Crescent Park	1972 $6,735.75
Lemann Memorial and Municipal Community Center	Donaldsonville	Multi-use Public Facility	none
Louisiana Square	Donaldsonville	Greenspace	none

Sources: https:// www.donaldsonville-la.gov, https:// www.ascensionparish.net/recreation, https://www.lwcfcoalition.com/map-of-lwcfAccessed August 2021

3.11 AESTHETIC (VISUAL) RESOURCES

3.11.1 General Existing Conditions. Environmental assessments and impact statements for USACE planning studies are supposed to focus on significant environmental considerations as recognized by technical, institutional and public sources. The Visual Resources Assessment Procedure (VRAP) for USACE (Smardon, et al., 1988) provides a method to evaluate visual resources affected by USACE water resources projects. The following VRAP criteria determines if any significant visual resources are in the study area:

- Important urban landscapes including visual corridors, monuments, sculptures, landscape plantings, and greenspace.
- Areas that are easily accessible by a major population center.
- Projects that are highly visible and/or require major changes in the existing landscape.
- Areas that have low scenic quality and limited visibility.

- Historic or archeological sites designated as such by the National Register or State Register of Historic places.
- Parkways, highways, or scenic overlooks and vistas designated as such by a Federal, State, or municipal government agency.
- Visual resources that are institutionally recognized by Federal, State or local policies.
- Tourism is important in the area's economy.
- Area contains parks, forest preserves, or municipal parks.
- Wild, scenic, or recreational water bodies designated by government agencies.
- Public or privately operated recreation areas.

3.11.2 Significant visual resources are primarily described in the Cultural and Recreational Resources sections of this document; specific examples include the Donaldsonville National Register Historic District, the Fort Butler Historic Site, and the Louisiana Square Park.

3.12 SOCIOECONOMIC RESOURCES

3.12.1 Population. Population trends in the region of influence (ROI) are illustrated in Figure 4. Historical data shows that population increased throughout the 1970s and 1980s. There was a slight decline in population in the late 1980s, but population numbers recovered by the late 1990s. From the 1990s onward, population in the ROI grew at a steady pace of about 20,000 every ten years. The largest year over year increase occurred from 2005 to 2006 when evacuees of the Hurricane Katrina disaster moved out of Orleans Parish to other parishes across Louisiana. Most recent population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau (July 2019) estimate that the population in the ROI is 126,604. Over the next 25 years population is expected to increase steadily.

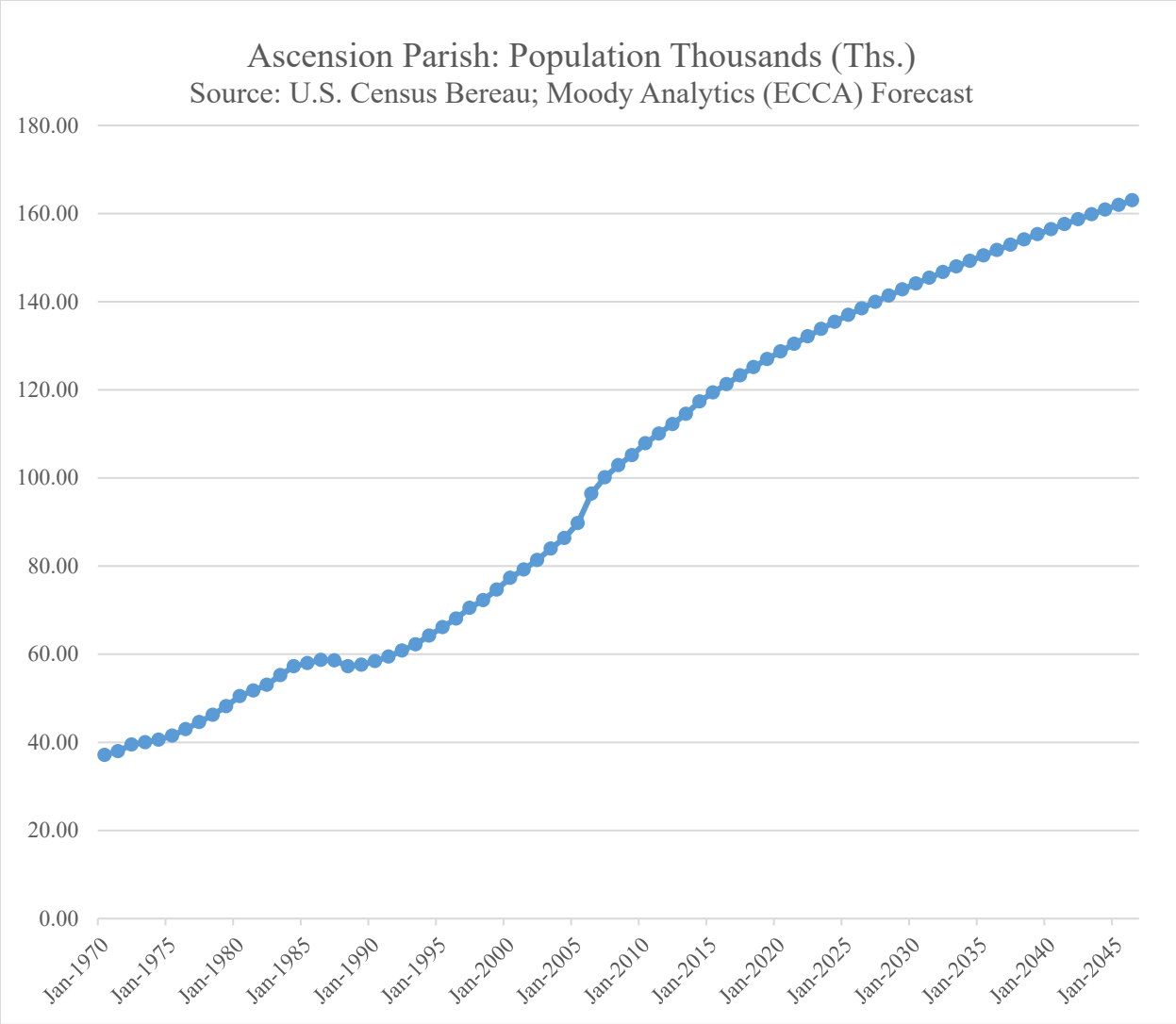

Figure 5: Ascension Parish: Population Thousands (Ths.)

3.12.2 Population Centers. The largest population centers in the ROI are Gonzales and Donaldsonville. Gonzales is geographically located in the center of Ascension Parish. Most recent U.S. Census Bureau estimate a population of 10,957 in Gonzales making it the most populous city in Ascension Parish. Donaldsonville is in the southern region of Ascension Parish, south of the Mississippi River. Most recent U.S. Census Bureau estimate a population of 8,441 citizens in Donaldsonville.

3.12.3 Housing. Housing trends closely mirror population trends in the ROI. Like population trends, there is a slight dip in housing in the late 1980s and significant bump in population post Hurricane Katrina. Most recent data from the U.S. Census Bureau estimates that there are 47,391 households in the ROI. In the past twenty years housing has grown by about 10,000 homes every ten years. Housing is expected to increase at a similar rate over the next 10 years.

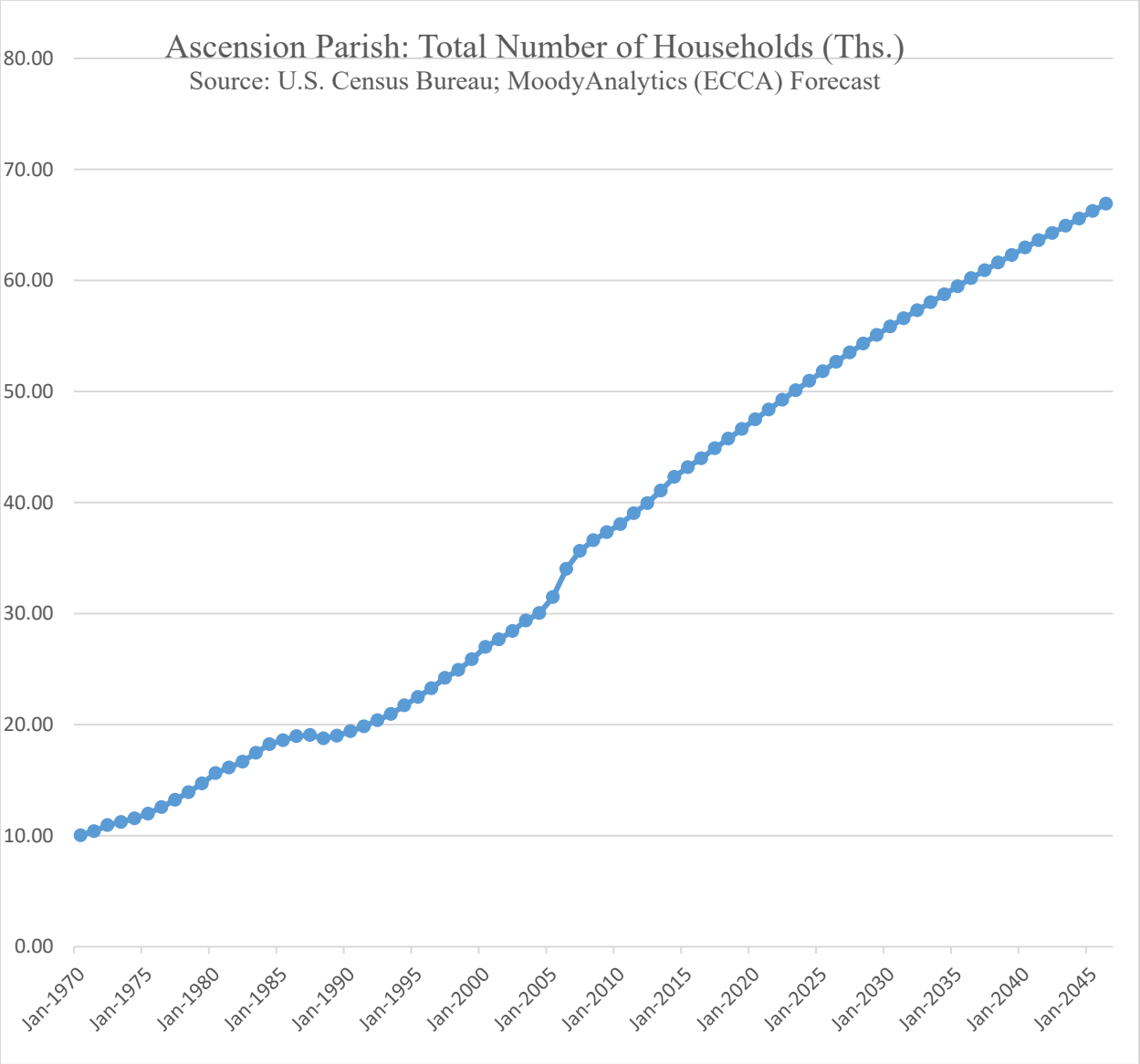

Figure 6: Ascension Parish: Total Number of Households (Ths.).

3.12.4 Economic Activity. The level of economic activity is important in accessing the overall health of the regional economy. This economic profile includes historic trends in per capita income, unemployment, and employment by industry.

3.12.5 Per Capita Income. Historic growth in per capita income for the ROI and the state of Louisiana for comparison are illustrated in Figure 6. In the past 50 years per capita income in the ROI has grown from $2,837 in 1970 to $51,088 in 2019. The rise in income per capita follows national trends in economic growth in the United States over the last fifty years. Per capita income in the ROI has grown a similar rate in comparison to the entire state of Louisiana.

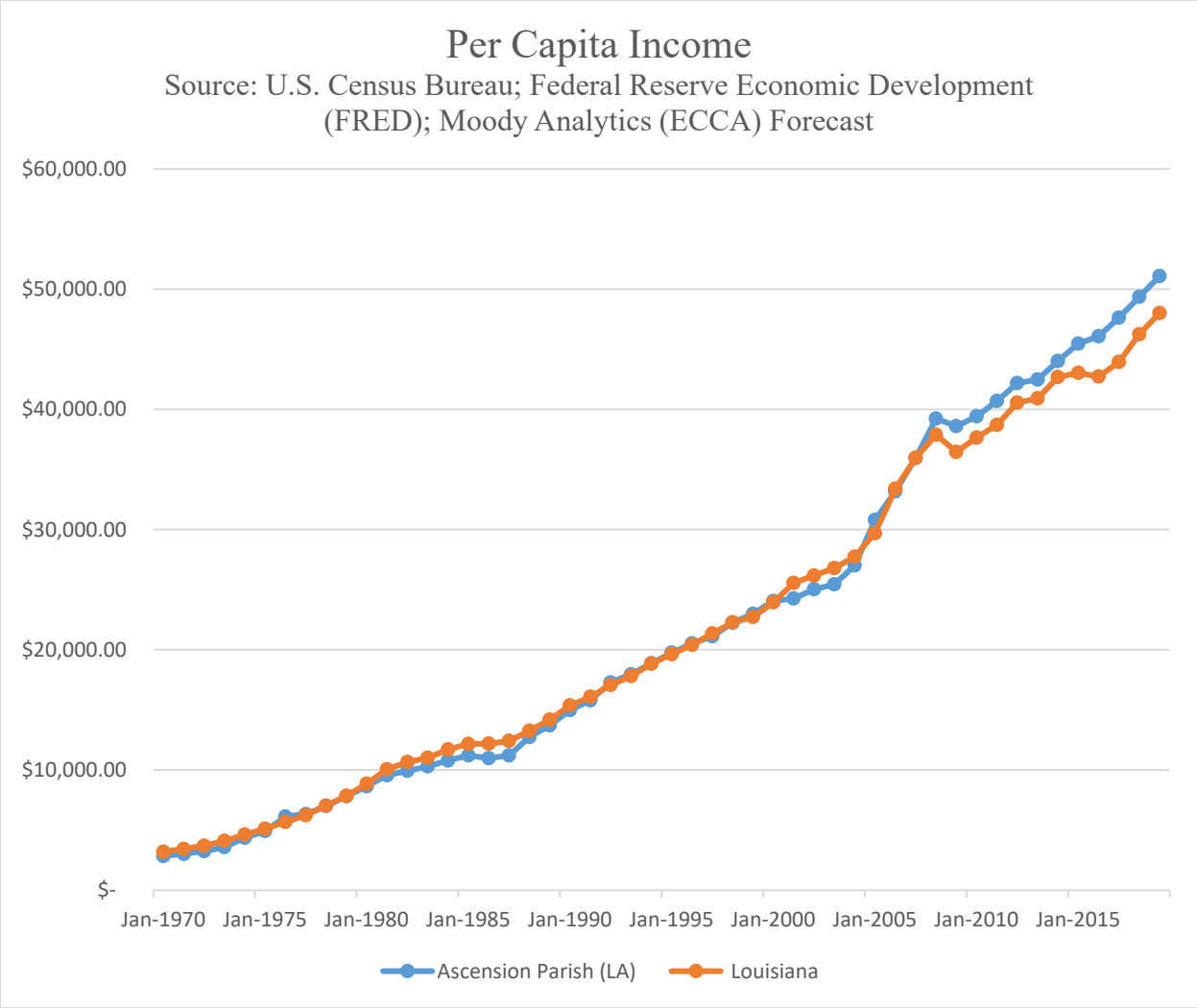

Figure 7: Per Capita Income.

3.12.6 Unemployment Rate. The unemployment rate serves as a proxy for overall health of the local economy. Figure 7 shows historic and projected trends for the unemployment rate for the ROI and the entire state of Louisiana for comparison. Trends in the unemployment rate in the ROI follow national and regional trends in the economy. The unemployment rate spiked in response to economic recessions in the mid-1990s, mid-2000s and in the years following the 2008 financial crisis. As illustrated in Figure 7, the unemployment rate in the ROI closely mirrors the unemployment in Louisiana, however, the unemployment rate in the ROI is consistently lower than that of the unemployment rate of the state of Louisiana.

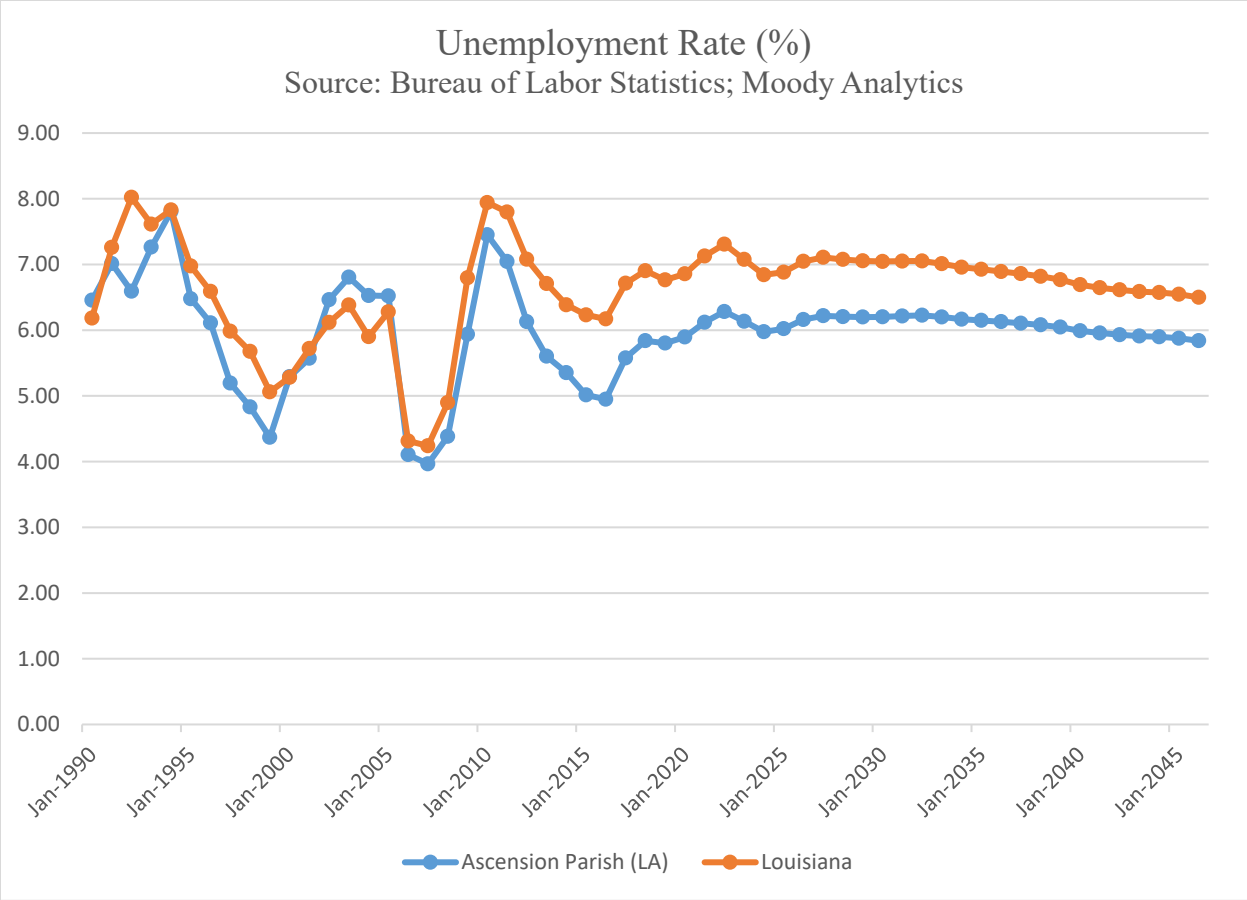

Figure 8: Unemployment Rate (%).

3.12.7 Employment by Industry. Figure 8 shows trends in the employment by industry in the ROI. Historically construction; trade, transportation, and utilities; manufacturing were the largest industries in the ROI. The mid-1980s the ROI saw a large-scale loss of jobs in the manufacturing sector; a trend that was happening all over the United States. The trade, transportation, and utilities; government; and professional business industries grew replacing the jobs that were lost in the manufacturing industry. As it stands the trade, transportation, and utilities and construction industry are the two largest industries. Over the next 25 years growth these top industries would continue to employ the largest number of citizens in the ROI and the professional business and leisure, and hospitality industries are expected to grow as well.

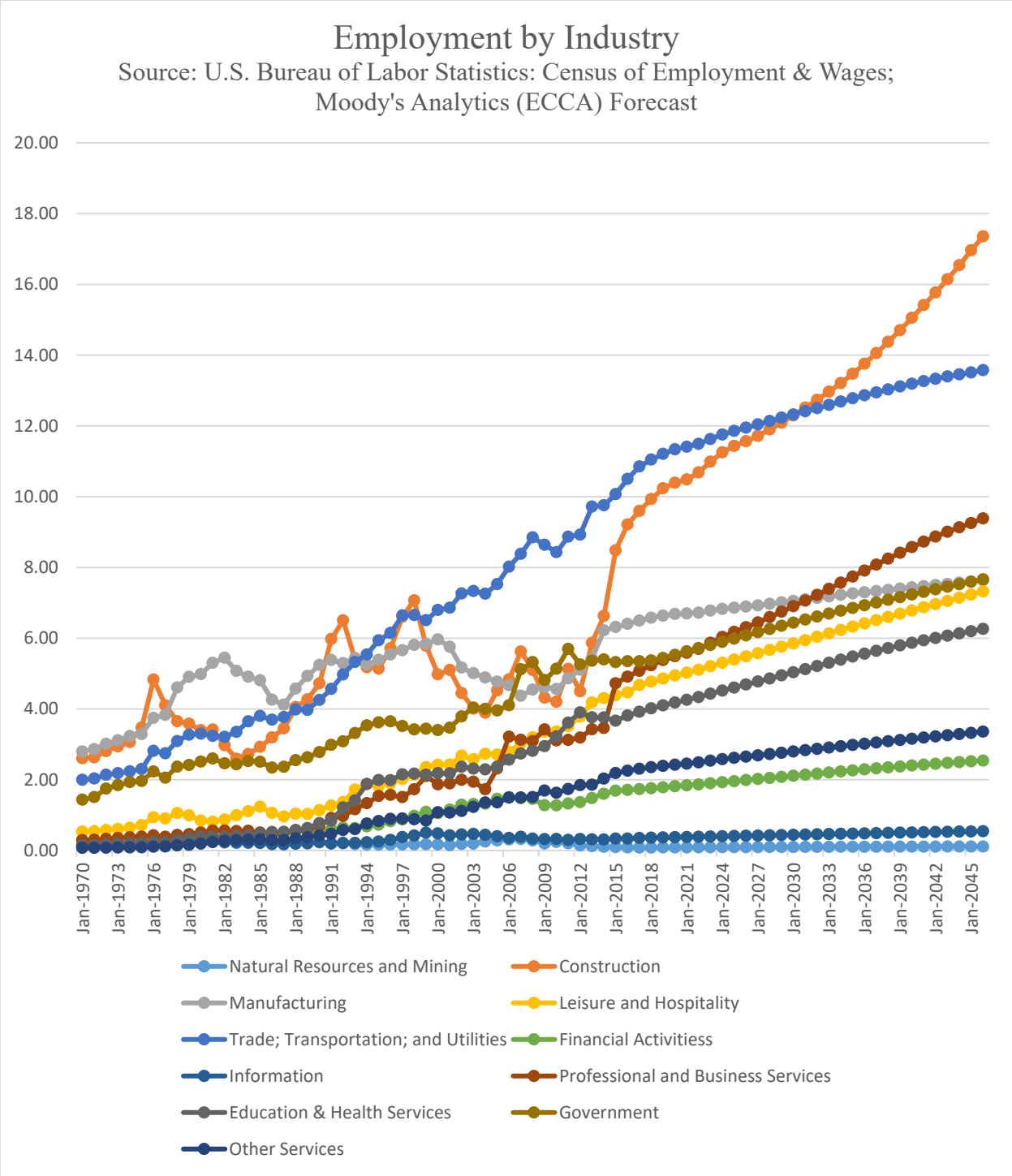

Figure 9: Employment by Industry.

3.12.8 Education. The level of education is important to a socioeconomic profile because it illustrates the potential vulnerability of a population. According to the U.S. Census 2019 American Community Survey, the percent of citizens over the age of 25 with at least a high school diploma was 88.6%. The national percentage of citizens over the age of 25 with at least high school

diploma on this same survey was 88%. The population in the ROI is not any more vulnerable than the average U.S. citizen. According to the same survey, the percentage of citizens in the ROI with a bachelor's degree or higher was 26.4%. The percentage of citizens in the whole United States with a bachelor's degree or higher was 32.1%.

3.12.9 Transportation. Major transportation routes in the ROI include LA state highway 61 (Airline Highway), Interstate 10, and LA highway 22. Numerous other city streets and parish roads make up the transportation infrastructure of the Donaldsonville area. The majority of the meter replacements are found alongside those secondary streets within commercial and residential areas.

3.13 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

3.13.1 Environmental Justice. Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice for Minority and Low-Income Populations, directs all federal agencies to determine whether a proposed action would have a disproportionately high and adverse impact on minority and low-income populations. Disproportionate effects refer to circumstances where there exists significantly higher and more adverse health and environmental effects on minority populations and low-income populations. The objective of the environmental justice policy is to ensure that minority and low-income populations are fully and equitably considered during the project development process.

3.13.2 Minority Status. According to the United States Census Bureau (USCB), minority populations are those persons who identify as Black, Hispanic, Asian American, American Indian/Alaskan Native, and Pacific Islander. A minority population is present where the percentage of minorities within the affected area exceeds 50 percent or is significantly greater than in the general population. Tables 6 and 7 show the minority populations of areas within the Project Area including Ascension Parish and the city of Donaldsonville, Louisiana. According to USCB data for 2019, approximately 28% of Ascension Parish residents identify as a minority. This figure is below the State of Louisiana minority rate of 38%. The majority of residents in the city of Donaldsonville identify as Black with 77% identifying as a minority. This figure is significantly higher than the parish minority percentage.

Table 6. Minority Populations in Ascension Parish.

RACE	MINORITY POPULATION
Black	26,779
White	88,833
Asian	1,297
Two or More Races	3,837
Other	2,419
Native American	96
Pacific Islander	43
TOTAL POPULATION	123,114
PERCENTAGE Minority	**27.9%**
Percent Hispanic	5.6%
State of Louisiana Percentage Minority	**38.0%**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2015-2019

Minority populations according to USCB data for 2019 for each race in Donaldsonville, LA are shown in Table 7.

Table 7. Minority Populations in Ascension Parish.

RACE	Donaldsonville Minority POPULATION
Black	6,190
White	1,871
Asian	0
Two or More Races	164
Other	12
Native American	0
Pacific Islander	0
TOTAL POPULATION	8,237
PERCENTAGE MINORITY	**77.2%**
Hispanic Percentage	1.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2015-2019.

3.13.3 Low-Income Status. Low-income populations are those that fall below the poverty threshold determined by the USCB. According to EPA's EJ Promising Practices document, a population living below poverty is meaningful and an EJ focus is necessary when the percentage of people living below poverty within the affected area exceeds 20 percent or is significantly greater than in the general population.

3.13.4 Poverty rates in Donaldsonville are approximately 2 to 3 times greater than the poverty rates in Ascension Parish and the State of Louisiana, with approximately 38%, 11%, and 19% of residents living below the poverty level, respectively. The percent of residents living below poverty in Ascension Parish is about half that of the State of Louisiana, approximately 11% and 19%, respectively.

Table 8. Poverty populations in Ascension Parish compared to the region, the state, and U.S.

LOCATION	PERCENT LIVING IN POVERTY
Donaldsonville	**38.5%**
Ascension Parish	**10.6%**
State of Louisiana	**19.2%**
United States	**13.4%**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2015-2019.

3.14 AIR QUALITY

3.14.1 General Existing Conditions. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), under the requirements of the Clean Air Act, has established National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for six contaminants, referred to as "criteria" pollutants (40 CFR 50). These are 1) carbon monoxide (CO), 2) nitrogen dioxide (NO2), 3) ozone (O3), 4a) particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter (PM10), 4b) particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter (PM2.5), 5) lead (Pb), and 6) sulfur dioxide (SO2). The NAAQS standards include primary and secondary

standards. The primary standards were established at levels sufficient to protect public health with an adequate margin of safety. The secondary standards were established to protect the public welfare from the adverse effects associated with pollutants in the ambient air.

3.14.2 Effective December 15, 2016, Ascension Parish was designated by the Environmental Protection Agency as a maintenance area for ozone under the 8-hour standard. This classification is the result of area-wide air quality modeling studies, and the information is readily available from Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ), Office of Environmental Assessment and Environmental Services. Ozone is the only parameter not directly emitted into the air but forms in the atmosphere when three atoms of oxygen (03) are combined by a chemical reaction between oxides of nitrogen (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOC) in the presence of sunlight. Motor vehicle exhaust and industrial emissions, gasoline vapors, and chemical solvents are some of the major sources of NOx and VOC, also known as ozone precursors. Strong sunlight and hot weather can cause ground-level ozone to form in harmful concentrations in the air.

3.14.3 The Clean Air Act General Conformity Rule (58 FR 63214, November 30, 1993, Final Rule, Determining Conformity of General Federal Actions to State or Federal Implementation Plans) dictates that a conformity review be performed when a Federal action generates air pollutants in a region that has been designated a non-attainment or maintenance area for one or more NAAQS. A conformity assessment would require quantifying the direct and indirect emissions of criteria pollutants caused by the Federal action to determine whether the proposed action conforms to Clean Air Act requirements and any State Implementation Plan (SIP).

3.14.4 The general conformity rule was designed to ensure that Federal actions do not impede local efforts to control air pollution. It is called a conformity rule because Federal agencies are required to demonstrate that their actions “conform with” (i.e., do not undermine) the approved SIP for their geographic area. The purpose of conformity is to (1) ensure Federal activities do not interfere with the air quality budgets in the SIPs; (2) ensure actions do not cause or contribute to new violations, and (3) ensure attainment and maintenance of the NAAQS.

3.14.5 Federal activities proposed in Ascension Parish may be subject to the state’s general conformity regulations as promulgated under LAC 33:III.14.A, Determining Conformity of General Federal Actions to State or Federal Implementation Plans. A general conformity applicability determination is made by estimating the total of direct and indirect volatile organic compound (VOC) and nitrogen oxide (NOX) emissions caused by the construction of the work. Prescribed de minimis levels of 100 tons per year per pollutant are applicable in Ascension Parish. Projects that would result in discharges below the de minimis level are exempt from further consultation and development of mitigation plans for reducing emissions.

3.15 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

3.15.1 General Existing Conditions. This resource is institutionally important because of the Clean Water Act of 1977, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Coastal Zone Mgt Act of 1972, and La State & Local Coastal Resources Act of 1978. Hydrology and water quality are publicly important of the USACE, USFWS, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), USEPA, and State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and wildlife/fishery offices recognize value of fisheries and good water quality, and the national and state standards established to assess water quality. Hydrology and water quality are publicly

important because environmental organizations and the public support the preservation of water quality and fishery resources and the desire for clean drinking water. Bayou Lafourche transects the Project Area and serves as the main drainage for the city of Donaldsonville. The Project Area is bounded on the north by the Mississippi River. No construction activities are proposed in these waterways or other waters of the U.S.

3.15.2 Water quality in the Project Area is affected by both point source and non-point source discharges. Point sources include mainly agricultural discharges from outside the Project Area. Non-point sources include storm water runoff, landscape maintenance activities, and natural sources. However, no waters of the U.S. are found within the actual construction footprint of the proposed action.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

4.1 WILDLIFE

4.1.1 Future Conditions with No-Action. With no action, no change to the wildlife resources in the vicinity of the proposed action is expected to occur.

4.1.2 Future Conditions with the Proposed Action. With implementation of the proposed action, no significant effect to wildlife would occur as the proposed action would be located within developed road rights-of-way (ROW), yards, driveways, sideways, etc. Any wildlife that may be present in those areas are highly mobile and would likely relocate to adjacent suitable habitat during construction activities. Upon completion of construction, it is anticipated that any temporarily displaced wildlife species would return to the Project Area.

4.2 TERRESTRIAL RESOURCES

4.2.1 Future Conditions with No-Action Alternative. With no action, no change to the terrestrial resources in the vicinity of the proposed action is expected to occur.

4.2.2 Future Conditions with the Proposed Action. With implementation of the proposed action, there would be no effect to the terrestrial resources as the proposed action would be located within developed road ROW, yards, driveways, sideways, etc.

4.2.3 With the proposed action, aquatic and fisheries resources that inhabit the adjacent Mississippi River and Bayou Lafourche would not be impacted from the proposed action. During construction, any groundwater seeping into the pit would be pumped out into adjacent areas and would likely drain into Bayou Lafourche. It is expected that there would be a temporary increase in turbidity within the bayou directly surrounding any areas of runoff or groundwater pumping operations. Any increases in turbidity would likely be diminished by the moving currents of the bayou, and any free-floating sediment would likely settle downstream. Impacts to adjacent existing aquatic and fisheries resources resulting from any proposed action activities would not be expected to pose any long-term adverse effects.

4.3 THREATENED OR ENDANGERED SPECIES

4.3.1 Future Conditions with No-Action. With no action, there would continue to be "no effect" to any listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat.

4.3.2 Future Conditions with the Proposed Action. With implementation of the proposed action, the CEMVN has determined that the proposed action would have "no effect" to listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat as the Project Area does not contain suitable habitat for listed species. The USFWS concurred with CEMVN's determination via a letter dated August 16, 2021 (Appendix A).

4.4 CULTURAL RESOURCES

4.4.1 Future Conditions with No Action. With no action, the proposed undertaking would not occur; therefore, CEMVN has no further responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and no new direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts to cultural resources would be incurred.

4.4.2 Future Conditions with the Proposed Action. With implementation of the proposed action, CEMVN has determined that there are seven historic properties, as defined in 36 CRF 800.16 (l), within the APE (Table 4). The undertaking is not anticipated to affect any built resources. The proposed meter replacements provide the same basic functionality. Additionally, the proposed meter replacements would occur in the same approximate locations, which are below a pedestrian's line of sight and do not obstruct open views. Furthermore, the replacement box colors are typically black, dark gray, or dark green, and as a result, the historic character of the Donaldsonville NRHD, Landry Tomb, and five individually listed buildings would be retained and preserved. The undertaking would not adversely affect any of the characteristics of these historic properties that qualify them for inclusion in the NRHP; the seven historic properties would still convey their historic significance. Additionally, the proposed undertaking would occur primarily in previously disturbed areas adjacent to buildings, driveways, sidewalks and within existing ROW in developed urban and suburban areas. Therefore, the likelihood of encountering intact portions of any previously unrecorded archaeological deposits is low. CEMVN finds the implementation of the undertaking would have an effect on these historic properties; however, the effect would not be adverse.

4.4.3 Accordingly, on August 11, 2021, CEMVN submitted a finding of "No Adverse Effect" for this undertaking to the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Officer of the Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism (SHPO), the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas (ACTT), the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (CNO), the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana (CT), the Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana (CTL), the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians (JBCI), the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI), the Muscogee Creek Nation (MCN), the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma (SNO), the Seminole Tribe of Florida (STF), and the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana (TBTL). LA SHPO concurred with CEMVN's determination via a letter dated September 8, 2021 (Appendix C).

4.5 RECREATION

4.5.1 Future Conditions with No-Action. Without the proposed action, recreation resources within Donaldsonville would persist at present use levels. The recreational value of public facilities would continue to evolve from existing conditions because of both land use trends and natural

processes over the course of time. Ageing infrastructure without regular maintenance could render public facilities unsafe or inaccessible to recreation users.

4.5.2 Future Conditions with the Proposed Action. The location of the proposed action will be adjacent to and could have minimal and temporary adverse direct and indirect impacts to recreational resources. Access to and use of public recreation facilities could be interrupted during construction. Non-consumptive recreation such as birding and wildlife observation, may be temporarily impacted. These impacts are temporal in nature and would be minimized through coordination of the proposed action with the Donaldsonville foreman of Roads and their Cultural Activities Department.

4.6 AESTHETIC (VISUAL) RESOURCES

4.6.1 Future Conditions with No Action. With no CEMVN action, there would be no direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts to visual resources.

4.6.2 Future Condition with the Proposed Action. Direct, indirect or cumulative impacts to visual resources caused by this alternative are based on the proposed action's impacts to cultural and recreational resources that are described elsewhere in this document. No direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts to the viewsheds of cultural or recreational resources were identified with the proposed action.

4.7 SOCIOECONOMIC RESOURCES

4.7.1 Future Conditions with No-Action. Under the no action alternative, there would be no direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts to Socio-Economic resources.

4.7.2 Future Conditions with the Proposed Action. Incidental work to the implementation of the proposed action includes traffic control and removal and replacement of asphalt drives, concrete drives, and concrete sidewalks. Construction duration (including cleanup) will last no longer than 300 days. The affected population will have limited access to sidewalks and concrete drives during construction. This will cause temporary adverse impacts to populations with limited mobility. Additionally, the incidental work activities associated with the replacement of the existing water meters may cause temporary, minor indirect impacts such as noise and transportation associated detours. The human environment would return to pre-construction conditions after activities are completed. All homes in Donaldsonville would be equally subject to having their existing manually read water meters replaced with the new remotely read water meters, therefore, there would be no adverse direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts to Socio-Economic resources.

4.8 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

4.8.1 Future Conditions with No-Action. Under the no action alternative, there would be no direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts to environmental justice (EJ) communities.

4.8.2 Future Conditions with the Proposed Action. The incidental work activities associated with the implementation of the proposed action may cause temporary, minor indirect impacts such as noise and transportation associated detours. The human environment would return to pre-construction conditions after activities are completed. All homes in Donaldsonville would be

equally subject to having their existing manually read water meters replaced with the new remotely read water meters, therefore, there would be no adverse direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts to EJ communities.

4.9 AIR QUALITY

4.9.1 Future Conditions with No-Action. The no action alternative would have no effect on the air quality status within Ascension Parish.

4.9.2 Future Conditions with the Proposed Action. With implementation of the proposed action, on-site construction activities would be expected to produce less than two tons per year of VOC and less than twenty tons per year of NOX emissions (less than the de minimis level of 100 tons per year per pollutant). Thus, the ambient air quality in the city of Donaldsonville in Ascension Parish would not change from current conditions. The status as a maintenance area for the parish would not be altered and there would be no lasting direct or indirect impacts resulting from the associated construction activities. As emissions from the construction activities would be below de minimis levels for both VOC and NOx emissions, the proposed action is in compliance with the state's general conformity regulations as promulgated under LAC 33:III.14.A (Appendix G).

4.10 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

4.10.1 Future Conditions with No-Action. With no action, there would be no changes to hydrology or water quality as no construction activities would occur.

4.10.2 Future Conditions with the Proposed Action. With implementation of the proposed action, impacts to water quality are expected to be minimal. During construction, any sediment runoff would be minimized through best management practices such as placement of silt fencing and silt sacks around exposed earth and storm drains.

4.11 HAZARDOUS, TOXIC, AND RADIOACTIVE WASTE

4.11.1 The USACE is obligated under Engineer Regulation (ER) 1165-2-132 to assume responsibility for the reasonable identification and evaluation of all Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Waste (HTRW) contamination within the vicinity of proposed action. ER 1165-2-132 identifies that HTRW policy is to avoid the use of project funds for HTRW removal and remediation activities. A Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment (ESA), HTRW 21-05, dated August 9, 2021, has been completed by CEMVN for the Project Area. A copy of the Phase 1 ESA will be maintained on file at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District Headquarters. Based on the initial site assessments and the ESA, the probability of encountering HTRW for the proposed action is moderately low.

4.12 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

4.12.1 The Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508) implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) define cumulative effects as "the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or

person undertakes such other actions (40 CFR 1508.7)". Cumulative Effects can result from individually minor, but collectively significant, actions taking place over a period of time.

4.12.2 While the proposed action would result in minor impacts as previously noted, no significant adverse cumulative impacts are anticipated to occur as a result of implementation of the project. The proposed action may combine with other infrastructure work to cumulatively effect traffic and access to recreational resources during construction. However, those effects would be temporary and minimized through coordination with local governmental agencies.

4.12.3 The proposed action (Alternative 2) would modernize the 40+ year old system of meters, accomplish manpower reduction objectives, and would provide more accurate water meter data while enabling the removal of lead pipes. Installation of water meter replacements in Donaldsonville is expected to increase annual water revenues by nearly $300,000 annually. No wetland impacts or other significant environmental impacts were identified during this evaluation. No secondary or indirect impacts were identified in association with the proposed action. The cumulative impacts of the proposed action are not expected to result in long-term adverse impacts.

5. COORDINATION AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Preparation of this draft EA #585 and draft FONSI were coordinated with appropriate Congressional, Federal, State and local interests, as well as environmental groups and other interested parties.

6. MITIGATION

6.1 No impacts requiring compensatory mitigation were identified. As previously stated herein, the potential for adverse effects would be avoided and minimized to the fullest extent practical by utilizing the same meter locations and using similar sized replacement vaults/boxes. Standard construction BMPs would be practiced to minimize erosion during and post construction. Wetlands would not be impacted and therefore compensatory wetland mitigation is not required.

7. COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Environmental compliance for the proposed action would be achieved based upon coordination of this EA and FONSI with all appropriate agencies, organizations, and individuals for their review and comments.

- Copies of draft EA #585 and associated FONSI are being distributed to the public and relevant agencies requesting comments.
- Application of Information for Planning and Consultation, developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), resulted in a determination of "no effect" under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 providing a concurrence letter dated August 16, 2021 (Appendix A).
- In accordance with responsibilities under Executive Order 13175, NEPA, and Section 106 of the NHPA, CEMVN determined that there are no historic properties as defined in 36 CFR 800.16(l) within the APEs. Accordingly, on August 11, 2021, CEMVN submitted a finding of "No Adverse Effect" (Appendix C) for this undertaking to the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Officer of the Department of Culture Recreation and Tourism

(SHPO), the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas (ACTT), the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (CNO), the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana (CT), the Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana (CTL), the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians (JBCI), the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI), the Muscogee Creek Nation (MCN), the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma (SNO), the Seminole Tribe of Florida (STF), and the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana (TBTL). LA SHPO concurred with CEMVN's determination via a letter dated September 8, 2021 (Appendix C). The Tribes did not respond within the regulatory timeframes; therefore, CEMVN has fulfilled its NHPA Section 106 responsibilities to consult with Tribes.

- Coordination with LDEQ is not required under the Clean Water Act as no jurisdictional waters of the U.S. would be adversely affected.
- The proposed action is located outside the Louisiana Coastal Zone and therefore a Coastal Zone consistency determination is not required.
- No essential fish habitat is present within the Project Area.
- No prime or unique farmlands would be adversely affected by the proposed action.
- Additionally, USACE, requires that its agents understand and acknowledge the following conditions, required as a result of Section 106 consultation for ground disturbing activities, that provide for the protection of and notification protocols for, unexpected discoveries or unexpected effects to historic properties and human remains:

    - Inadvertent Discovery and Unexpected Effects: If during the course of work, archaeological artifacts (prehistoric or historic) are discovered or unexpected effects to historic properties, including architecture, architectural elements, and/or archaeology, are identified, the contractor shall stop work in the general vicinity of the discovery or unexpected effect and take all reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the finds or affected property. The contractor would ensure that the discovery or unexpected effects are secured and stabilized, as necessary, and access to the area is restricted. The USACE contractor shall inform the Operations Division at CEMVN, who would in turn will contact RPEDS staff at CEMVN. The contractor shall not proceed with work until CEMVN completes consultation with the Louisiana SHPO and others, as appropriate.

    - Louisiana Unmarked Human Burial Sites Preservation Act: If human bone or unmarked grave(s) are present within the proposed action area, compliance with the Louisiana Unmarked Human Burial Sites Preservation Act (R.S. 8:671 et seq.) is required. The contractor shall notify the law enforcement agency of the jurisdiction where the remains are located within 24 hours of the discovery. The contractor shall also notify CEMVN and the Louisiana Division of Archaeology within 72 hours of the discovery. Discoveries of unmarked graves, burials, human remains, or items of cultural patrimony on federal or tribal lands shall be subject to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) (25 U.S.C. §3001-3013, 18 U.S.C. § 1170) and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (ARPA) (16 U.S.C. §470aa – 470mm).

8. CONCLUSION

This Office has assessed the environmental impacts of the proposed action and has determined that the proposed action would have no effect on threatened or endangered species and would not adversely affect cultural resources. Minor impacts would occur to both air quality and water

quality for the duration of construction. Impacts to terrestrial resources and wildlife habitat would be insignificant. No significant adverse impacts to the human environment were identified.

9. PREPARED BY

Environmental Assessment #585 and the associated Finding of No Significant Impact were prepared by Mr. Mario Price, Biologist with relevant sections and contributions prepared by: Mr. Joe Musso (HTRW & Air Quality); Ms. Jill Enersen (Cultural Resources); Mr. Jack Milazzo (Recreation Resources); Mr. Richard Radford (Aesthetics); Grace Weiland (Socioeconomic Resources); Mr. Eric Williams (Environmental Justice) The address of the preparers is: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District; Regional Planning and Environment Division South, CEMVN-PDC-C; 7400 Leake Avenue; New Orleans, Louisiana 70118.

10. REFERENCES

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ). 1996. State of Louisiana Water Quality Management Plan, Water Quality Inventory. Appendices A and B. Baton Rouge, LA.

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ). 2018. 2018 Louisiana Water Quality Inventory: Integrated Report. Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Assessment, Water Quality Assessment Division, Baton Rouge, LA. 194 p. + appendices.

Saucier, R. T. 1974. Geomorphology and Quaternary Geologic History of the Lower Mississippi Valley. Arkansas Archeological Survey Research Series No. 6.

Smardon, R.C., Palmer, J.F., Knopf, Alfred, Grinde, Kate, Henderson, J.E., and Peyton-Dove, L. 1988. “Visual Resources Assessment Procedure for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,” Instruction Report EL-88-1, prepared by State University of New York, Syracuse, for U.S. Army Engineer Waterways Experiment Station, Vicksburg, MS.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2020. Information for Planning and Consultation. Online address: https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/

APPENDIX

APPENDIX A

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Louisiana Ecological Services Field Office
200 Dulles Drive
Lafayette, LA 70506
Phone: (337) 291-3100 Fax: (337) 291-3139

IPaC Record Locator: 390-104805187 August 16, 2021

Subject: Consistency letter for the project named 'PARISH UTILITIES of ASCENSION & ASCENSION CONSOLIDATED UTILITIES DISTRICT #1 DRINKING WATER INFRASTR' for specified threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location pursuant to the Louisiana Endangered Species Act project review and guidance for other federal trust resources determination key (Louisiana DKey).

Dear Mario Price:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) received on August 16, 2021 your effects determination(s) for the 'PARISH UTILITIES of ASCENSION & ASCENSION CONSOLIDATED UTILITIES DISTRICT #1 DRINKING WATER INFRASTR' (the Action) using the Louisiana DKey within the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system. The Service developed this system in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (87 Stat.884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

Based on your answers, and the assistance in the Service's Louisiana DKey, you made the following effect determination(s) for the proposed Action:

Species	Determination
Threatened West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*)	No Effect

Your agency has met consultation requirements for these species by informing the Service of the "no effect" determinations. No further consultation for this project is required for these species. This consistency letter confirms you may rely on effect determinations you reached by considering the Louisiana DKey to satisfy agency consultation requirements under Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.; ESA).

The Service recommends that your agency contact the Service or re-evaluate the project in IPaC 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. If any of the above conditions occurs,

APPENDIX B

United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Louisiana Ecological Services Field Office
200 Dulles Drive
Lafayette, LA 70506
Phone: (337) 291-3100 Fax: (337) 291-3139

In Reply Refer To: August 16, 2021
Consultation Code: 04EL1000-2021-SLI-2217
Event Code: 04EL1000-2021-E-06043
Project Name: PARISH UTILITIES of ASCENSION & ASCENSION CONSOLIDATED UTILITIES DISTRICT #1 DRINKING WATER INFRASTR

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

***Due to the Louisiana Governor's mandatory quarantine order for the coronavirus (COVID-19), and in order to keep our staff and the public safe, we are unable to accept or respond in a timely manner to consultation request or project review/concurrence that we receive through the U.S. Mail. Please submit your request electronically to lafayette@fws.gov or call 337-291-3100.**

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered and candidate species, as well as designated and proposed critical habitat that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and may be affected by your proposed project. The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is providing this list under section 7 (c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). Changes in this species list may occur due to new information from updated surveys, changes in species habitat, new listed species and other factors. Because of these possible changes, feel free to contact our office (337/291-3126) for more information or assistance regarding impacts to federally listed species. The Service recommends visiting the ECOS-IPaC site or the Louisiana Ecological Services website (www.fws.gov/lafayette) at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updated species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the habitats upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of Federal trust resources and to determine whether projects may affect Federally listed species and/or designated critical habitat.

APPENDIX C

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

August 9, 2021

The proposed undertaking will have no adverse effect on historic properties. This office does not object to the implementation of this project. This office concurrence could change should new information come to our attention.

Kristin P. Sanders, Deputy
State Historic Preservation Officer

Date 08/10/2021

Regional Planning and
Environment Division, South
Environmental Planning Branch
Attn: CEMVN-PDS-N

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

RE: Section 106 Review Consultation
Undertaking: Drinking Water Infrastructure Improvements – Water Meter Replacement, Ascension Parish, LA
Project Coordinates: Ascension Parish, LA
Determination: **No Adverse Effect**

Dear Ms. Sanders:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New Orleans District (CEMVN), is assisting Ascension Parish in the design and construction of environmental infrastructure projects to replace potable water meters in the Donaldsonville area. USACE is authorized to provide design and construction assistance for environmental infrastructure projects implemented in the parishes of East Baton Rouge, Ascension, and Livingston pursuant to Section 219(f)(21) of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1992 Public Law 102-580, as amended by Section 502, WRDA 1999, Public Law 106-53; and Section 5080, WRDA 2007, Public Law 110-114. As part of CEMVN's evaluation and in partial fulfillment of responsibilities of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), CEMVN offers you the opportunity to review and comment on the potential of the proposed action to affect historic properties. Documentation in this letter is consistent with the requirements in 36 CFR § 800.11(e).

Background
The Donaldsonville water system, which is owned by Ascension Parish, currently consists of the Parish Utilities of Ascension (PUA) system and the Ascension Consolidated Utilities District (ACUD) #1 system. The construction of the ACUD #1 system began in the 1990s and is much newer than the PUA system. Ascension Parish purchased the PUA system from Peoples Water Service Company in 2016. This PUA system consists of over 60 miles of piping dating back to the 1900s, ranging in size from 3" to 8" in diameter, and uses old rotary water meters which require manual reading by water department personnel.

The water lines on the PUA system have continued to be repaired as required throughout the years, but many of the meters on the PUA system are over 40 years old. As a result, the older meters will be replaced with automatic reading water meters. These meter types will decrease the manpower necessary for meter reading and will allow the meter reading to be done in a

APPENDIX D

Donaldsonville Infracstructure Improvements
Water Meter Replacement Project
Donaldsonville, Ascension Parish, Louisiana

Table 1
Combustible Emissions

Assumptions for Combustible Emissions					
Type of Construction Equipment	Number of Units	HP Rated	Hrs/day	Days/yr	Total hp-hrs
Diesel Backhoe	3	87	7	44	80388
Diesel Dump Truck	8	260	4	44	366080
Diesel Bucket Truck	1	250	6	2	3000
Diesel Paver Machine	1	125	3	15	5625
Diesel Roller/Compactor	1	50	2	15	1500
Diesel Concrete Truck	2	425	10	41	348500
Diesel Skid Steer	1	43	4	21	3612
Diesel Crew Truck	10	240	6	230	3312000

Assumptions for Combustible Emissions for Non-Handheld Gasoline Engines					
Type of Construction Equipment	Number of Units	HP Rated	Hrs/day	Days/yr	Total hp-hrs
Concrete Saw	1	6	4	70	1680

Table 2
Emission Factors

Type of Construction Equipment	VOC g/hp-hr	NOx g/hp-hr	VOC lbs/hp-hr	NOx lbs/hp-hr
Diesel Backhoe	0.367	4.700	0.0008	0.0103
Diesel Dump Truck	0.309	4.000	0.0007	0.0088
Diesel Bucket Truck	0.309	4.000	0.0007	0.0088
Diesel Paver Machine	0.338	4.100	0.0007	0.0090
Diesel Roller/Compactor	0.367	4.700	0.0008	0.0103
Diesel Concrete Truck	0.167	4.340	0.0004	0.0095
Diesel Skid Steer	0.279	4.730	0.0006	0.0104
Diesel Crew Truck	0.309	4.000	0.0007	0.0088

Emission Factors for Non-Handheld Gasoline Engines				
Type of Construction Equipment	VOC g/bhp-hr	NOx g/bhp-hr	VOC lbs/bhp-hr	NOx lbs/bhp-hr
Concrete Saw	38.990	2.000	0.0858	0.0044

Convert grams to pounds: (g)x(.0022) = lbs

Emission Factors derived from the EPA's Exhaust and Crankcase Emission Factors for Nonroad Engine Modeling -- Compression-Ignition, July 2010

Emission Factors for Non-Handheld Small (Gasoline) Engines derived from the EPA's Exhaust Emission Factors for Nonroad Engine Modeling -- Spark-Ignition, July 2010