

Commander's Desk

It was a good year for USACE New Orleans

I hope that you all enjoyed the holiday season celebrating with family and friends. During my time away, I had an opportunity to reflect upon the considerable progress that the New Orleans District made in 2012, as well as some of the challenges ahead in 2013.

We have an aggressive schedule for the \$2 billion Southeast Louisiana Urban Flood Risk Reduction

We have an aggressive schedule for the \$2 billion SELA program

(SELA) program, which primarily focuses on improvements to storm water drainage systems in Orleans, Jefferson and St. Tammany parishes.

The SELA program is a particularly unique mission, as it allows the New Orleans District team to work alongside the non-federal sponsor and local partners with designing and constructing features such as covered box culverts, pump stations and related drainage infrastructure - different from the traditional levees, floodwalls and water control structures.

The SELA Orleans team is progressing with extensive improvements to the underground box culverts in the Uptown area of Orleans Parish. Construction contractors are mobilized and work is well under way on Napoleon and Claiborne Avenues;

we expect to award the Jefferson Avenue contract this quarter.

The SELA Jefferson team has recently started construction of Harahan Pump to River. The work is moving ahead on the new pump station, and we also

expect to award the contract for the discharge structure at the river this quarter.

The SELA St. Tammany team recently received approval for the W-14 Canal Improvements 533(d) Report for Slidell (the first SELA feature approved in St. Tammany Parish) and is supporting the local partners with their efforts to obtain funding to initiate design and construction.

There are currently seventy-nine approved and funded contracts in the SELA project and nearly seventy percent of those contracts are fully complete and providing storm damage risk reduction benefits. The majority of the final twelve contracts will be awarded this year, and all of these fully funded projects will be completed in 2018.

- Col. Ed Fleming
*Commander,
New Orleans District*



Photos by G. A. Volb/USACE

USACE New Orleans District Commander Col. Ed Fleming explains the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System to New York City officials, in December 2012, during their visit following the devastation suffered by the Northeast from Hurricane Sandy. At far right, and below, is New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu, who provided the group with the city's perspective on storm measures being taken.

N.Y. officials visit New Orleans, HSDRRS



New York City officials visited the New Orleans area in December to gain better insight on what the state of Louisiana and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers do to help mitigate the risks associated with storms that hit the area.

USACE New Orleans District Commander Col. Ed Fleming briefed visitors at the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal Surge Barrier, providing a visual for the structures now in place and how they work together in reducing risk due to storm surge.

The New York City contingent is looking at methods regarding, not only recovery following Sandy, but for risk reduction options as well.



US Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District

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