# FACT SHEET

MID-BARATARIA SEDIMENT DIVERSION ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

# What is the proposed project?

The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion (MBSD), a project being proposed by the Coastal Protection and

Restoration Authority (CPRA), would be located on the west bank of the Mississippi River at Rivermile 60.7 above Head of Passes and south of Alliance, LA.

Some proposed project details include:

- A controlled conveyance structure installed through the MR&T levee and the NOV-NFL levee that would convey sediment, freshwater, and nutrients to the mid-Barataria Basin
- Modification to NOGC rail line and State Highway 23
- Drainage for northwestern portion of the project site area
- Erosion protection for the levees
- Utility relocations and pipeline protection
- Direct impacts to approximately 53 acres of jurisdictional wetlands and approximately 18 acres of jurisdictional waters

## What is the NEPA Process?

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires all federal agencies to evaluate major federal actions and inform decision makers and the public of



the likely environmental consequences of proposed actions and alternatives. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) permit evaluation is a major federal action under federal law.

A federal agency must prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) if a major federal action may significantly affect the quality of the human environment. An EIS is a detailed study that analyzes the potential effects, both positive and negative, that a proposed project or action may have on the environment and local community. The EIS will look at the possible impacts on wetlands, navigation, fisheries, flooding, and other resources.

CPRA has submitted applications to USACE for Department of the Army permits and permissions to construct, maintain, and operate the proposed MBSD Project. In addition to informing USACE decisions, the EIS may be used to inform decisions under any additional regulatory or permit processes, including the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). The Deepwater Horizon (DWH) Natural Resource Damage Assessment Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group (NRDA LA TIG) is supporting the development of this EIS with the potential for it to serve as the EIS in future restoration planning.

## What alternatives will be considered?

CPRA's proposed MBSD Project will be compared to a no-action alternative and other alternatives that the USACE is developing for consideration in the EIS. The scoping process is a chance for the public to suggest alternatives for USACE to consider.



# What is the purpose of the proposed project?

The purpose of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion is to reconnect and re-establish the natural or deltaic sediment deposition process between the Mississippi River and the Barataria Basin; the project is needed as a long-term resilient, sustainable strategy to reduce land loss rates and sustain [Deepwater Horizon] injured wetlands through the delivery of sediment, freshwater, and nutrients.

## Who/How to contact us

Your comments and concerns are important. Please submit your comments in one of the ways listed below:

Written comments should reference: Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00 Please submit comments by September 5, 2017.

## **Ways to Comment**

#### Submit a comment card at a public meeting

Collection boxes are located throughout the room

#### Mail comment card or letter to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00 7400 Leake Avenue New Orleans, LA 70118

#### **Email your comments to:**

CEMVN-Midbarataria@usace.army.mil

#### **Speak with a Court Reporter**

Dictate your comment to a court reporter at a public meeting.

Vietnamese translation will be available at all meetings.

#### Visit the Project Website:

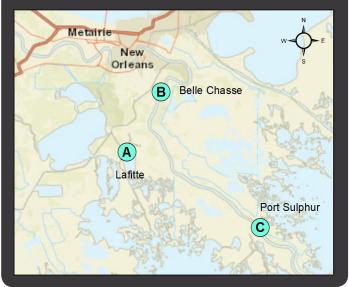
www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/ Permits/Mid-Barataria-Sediment-Diversion-EIS/

### **Public Meeting Locations**

A. July 20, 2017 5 PM - 8 PM Leo Kerner City Park Multipurpose Complex, 235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, Louisiana

B. July 25, 2017 5 PM - 8 PM Belle Chasse Auditorium, 8398 Highway 23, Belle Chasse, Louisiana

C. July 27, 2017 5 PM - 8 PM Port Sulphur Community Center, 278 Civic Drive, Port Sulphur, Louisiana



## **The NEPA Process Timeline**

## We Are Here

This is the earliest opportunity for the public to formally participate in the NEPA process. During the scoping process, public input is gathered to assist with the identification of issues and alternatives to be addressed in the EIS.

A public comment period with a public hearing will be held at this time. All comments received will be reviewed to determine whether revisions to the EIS are needed. In addition, responses to all comments will be included in the Final EIS.

There will be two USACE Records of Decision, one for the decision regarding whether to issue a permit and one for the decision regarding whether to issue a permission.

Spring/Summer 2021 Final EIS Formal Comment Period

April 2017 Supplemental Notice of Intent (NOI) to Prepare an Scoping EIS was published in the Federal

Register

Summer 2017 Public

Alternatives analysis and evaluation of impacts

Spring 2020 Draft EIS Formal Comment Period

The Final EIS will then be published for agency and public review and comment. This will be the final opportunity to submit formal comments. Comments submitted will be addressed in the Records of Decision.

Resolution of regulatory compliance with cooperating agencies.

Fall 2022 Records of Decision (RODs)