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New Orleans District

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COASTAL RESTORATION www.lca.gov

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July 7, 2004

Coastal Area Restoration Plan, Draft Environmental Impact Statement available for public review

NEW ORLEANS – The New Orleans District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources announce the availability of the draft Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA), Louisiana-Ecosystem Restoration Study report and Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (DPEIS) for public review and comment.

The DPEIS and draft report are located at www.lca.gov. They are also available, on CD or hard copy, on request to Dr. William P. Klein Jr., 504-862-2540.

The comment period is open for 45 days, from July 9 through Aug. 23, 2004.

Comments should be mailed, postmarked no later than Aug. 23:

On the DPEIS to

Dr. William P. Klein, Jr.

CEMVN-PM-RS

P.O. Box 60267

New Orleans, La. 70160-0267

Questions: 504-862-2540.

On the LCA Study Report to

Tim Axtman

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P.O. Box 60267

New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

Questions: 504-862-1921.

As required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), a series of public meetings requesting comments on the DPEIS and the draft LCA Study Report will also be jointly hosted by the Corps and State during the comment period. Times and locations of the public meetings will be announced in a Public Notice that will be mailed separately. Public meeting details will also be found at www.lca.gov.

The draft report proposes a \$2.0 billion multi-component, near-term and long-term approach to addressing the most critical ecological needs of Louisiana's coast. These critical natural and human ecological needs include: preventing predicted future land loss, restoring connections to river sediment resources in degrading areas, restoring endangered geomorphic structures such as specific barrier island reaches and protecting socioeconomic resources.

The draft LCA report includes a proposal for:

- Programmatic authority for five near-term critical restoration features that would provide significant restoration benefits for the most critical areas of the coast, are presently in the initial design study phase and would cost about \$786 million.
- Authorization of a science and technology program that would provide scientific data and technological tools to facilitate effective program implementation and would cost about \$100 million over the next 10 years.
- Authorization of science and technology demonstration projects to resolve critical scientific and engineering uncertainties and would cost about \$175 million over the next 10 years.
- Programmatic authority for the beneficial use of dredged material to take advantage of on-going maintenance dredging to restore barrier islands and, in some cases, supplement river water reintroductions and would cost about \$100 million over the next 10 years.
- Programmatic authority for modifications to existing structures to achieve cost-effective, expedited restoration benefits and would cost about \$10 million over the next 10 years.
- Approval of an implementation plan of ten additional near-term critical restoration features using the standard authorization process at an estimated cost of about \$730 million.
- Approval of a proposed plan for assessing potentially promising large-scale restoration concepts at an estimated cost of about \$60 million.

The LCA Study report and a final programmatic EIS are scheduled for completion in December 2004. Inclusion of the report's components in the Water Resources Development Act currently under consideration by Congress will give the Corps and State the go-ahead to begin implementation of this critical restoration effort.

More information www.lca.gov