



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

# News Release

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## **For Immediate Release**

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## **U.S. Army and State of Louisiana sign Project Partnership Agreement for IHNC Surge Reduction Project**

**NEW ORLEANS** - The Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) and the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) signed a Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) today for construction of the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal (IHNC) Surge Reduction Project, a major milestone in the Greater New Orleans Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System.

This project is the largest design-build civil works project in the history of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with an estimated construction cost between \$500 million and \$1 billion.

As required by law, the Corps of Engineers and the State of Louisiana have entered into a PPA which affirms each organization's commitment to carry out its responsibilities. This signed agreement clears the path for the Corps to award a design-build contract for construction of the IHNC project. The contract, which will be awarded shortly, will include the implementation of advance measures that will reduce the risk from hurricane surge for the people of Orleans Metro, the Lower Ninth Ward, New Orleans East and St. Bernard Parish. The goal is to construct this work for the 2009 hurricane season, prior to completion of the total project for the 2011 hurricane season.

"Together with the State of Louisiana and the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority – East, we have all been working diligently for several months to get to this point, and we are delighted to be moving forward with this project to reduce risk and provide increased safety for the people of Greater New Orleans," said Karen Durham-Aguilera, Director of Task Force Hope. "This project is a key element in the overall 100-year level of protection for the greater New Orleans area.

"We look forward to working every step of the way with our partners, the State of Louisiana, Southeast Flood Protection Authority –East, members of industry and many other stakeholders."

Construction of the IHNC Surge Reduction Project will be 100% federally funded. When completed, the State of Louisiana will be fully responsible for project operation, maintenance, repair, replacement and rehabilitation.