



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

News Release

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New Orleans drainage job done

NEW ORLEANS – A \$61.7-million drainage system has been completed in New Orleans just in time to help residents and businesses cope with spring rain floods and the hurricane season.

“The new system will make a dramatic difference in rainfall flood protection in Uptown and Broadmoor, two of our most flood-prone neighborhoods,” said Mayor Ray Nagin, president of the Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans.

“This has been achieved by increasing pump-station capacity and adding new covered canals,” said Col. Peter J. Rowan, district engineer, New Orleans District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

“Second, to harness gravity better once again, the new canals were dug as much as five feet deeper, to compensate for a corresponding loss of elevation over 90 years,” Rowan said.

The system includes four projects. The final project is a covered canal, or underground box culvert, that extends 1,320 feet along South Claiborne Avenue from Jena Street to Louisiana Avenue.

Maximum dimensions of the covered canal are 10 feet deep and 24 feet wide. It cost \$15.2 million.

The Corps of Engineers and the Sewerage & Water Board built the new system. It is part of the SELA rain-flood protection project.

SELA’s full name is Southeast Louisiana Urban Flood Control Project. It is being built by the Corps and local partners in Orleans, Jefferson and

St. Tammany parishes. Costs are shared 75 percent federal and 25 percent local.

The three projects completed earlier provide:

--An increase in the capacity of Pump Station No. 1 on South Broad Avenue by 1,200 cubic feet per second. Total capacity is now 5,900 cfs. Upgrading the station cost \$13.6 million. As a separate project, the S&WB has also added a 1,200 cfs emergency pump.

--Two new, parallel covered canals on Napoleon Avenue. They extend 3,150 feet from South Broad Street to South Claiborne Avenue. Each measures 13 feet high by 19 feet across. The project cost \$22.1 million.

--A new covered canal on South Claiborne Avenue. It extends 1,320 feet from Nashville Avenue to Jena Street and has maximum dimensions of 10 feet deep and 24 feet wide. The cost was \$10.8 million.

While the system is fully functional for drainage, surface work remains to be done in some areas, such as landscaping and lighting.

“We built this system with an eye to the future,” said the Corps’ Stan Green, who is the Corps’ senior project manager for SELA.

“The completed box culverts are designed to tie in to three extensions which have been under design for some time by the S&WB. These extensions would run from South Claiborne to Constance Street along Jefferson, Napoleon and Louisiana avenues.”

SELA project fact sheet.

http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/pao/visitor/SelaFactSheet_current.pdf