



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

# News Release

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## New Orleans District embarks on environmental infrastructure mission

NEW ORLEANS – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers embarked Monday on its first environmental infrastructure mission in Louisiana by signing an agreement for a study to improve sewage treatment in Ascension Parish.

Col. Peter J. Rowan, district engineer, New Orleans District, and parish President Harold Marchand signed the agreement at a ceremony in Gonzales. Costs will be shared 75 percent federal and 25 percent local.

The New Orleans District is implementing project agreements with three parishes for which the Congress has authorized \$20 million for environmental infrastructure, such as sewer and water facilities. Federal planning funding has been provided in the amount of \$150,000 each for Ascension and East Baton Rouge parishes, and \$200,000 for Livingston Parish. These neighboring parishes are one of Louisiana's fastest-growing areas.

Monday's ceremony marked the initial cooperation between the Corps of Engineers and Louisiana's local governments under the authority of Section 219 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992.

The 1992 law provides for water-related environmental infrastructure and resource protection and development projects. These include wastewater treatment and water supply, storage, treatment and distribution facilities.

“The chief of engineers recently issued the Corps’ Environmental Operating Principles. Today’s signing ceremony reaffirms our commitment to sound environmental practices. Together with our partners, we will work to provide a healthy environment to all who call Louisiana home,” Col. Rowan said.

The Ascension Parish project will include an analysis of the parish’s potential acquisition of a privately held sewage treatment plant operated by the Lamar Dixon Exposition

Center in Gonzales. There will also be a study of the feasibility of locating a larger, five million gallon per day treatment plant on grounds provided by the center's owner, the Lamar Dixon Foundation.

“Public benefit will include improved water quality in the state's receiving waters, particularly lakes Maurepas and Pontchartrain, the Mississippi River, and, eventually, the Gulf of Mexico,” Col. Rowan said.

In East Baton Rouge Parish, the Corps will assist with the implementation and construction of the parish's \$420 million Sanitary Sewer Overflow Correction Plan.

And in Livingston, the Corps will provide construction assistance in increasing the capacity of the treatment facility of Sewer District No. 2.

The 1992 act authorizes up to \$90 million of assistance to nine Louisiana parishes and the city of Kenner for water-related environmental infrastructure, including the \$20 million for the three parishes named above.

The other amounts authorized are: \$30 million, St. James and St. John the Baptist parishes; \$30 million, St. Charles, St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes; \$5 million, Iberia Parish, and \$5 million, city of Kenner.