



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

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Corps to acquire lands for Comite project

NEW ORLEANS – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will begin later this month acquiring real estate interests for the long-awaited Comite River Diversion Project in Baton Rouge. Initially, properties will be acquired west of Highway 61 (Airline Highway) and north of Irene Road, where the Lilly Bayou Control Structure will be constructed.

Concerned property owners in the Lilly Bayou Control Structure area recently attended a meeting to discuss acquisition and construction of the structure. A second meeting will be held in the future for those interested in the Comite project east of Highway 61. A date has not been scheduled.

The Corps, along with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, the city of Baton Rouge and parish of East Baton Rouge, and the Amite River Basin Drainage and Water Conservation District signed a project cooperation agreement earlier this month, paving the way for real estate acquisition and contract awards to begin.

The Lilly Bayou Control Structure will be built in two phases: Phase 1, excavation, and Phase II, actual construction. The Phase 1 contract is scheduled for award in April 2002 at a cost range of \$1 million to \$5 million. The structure will convey floodwaters from the diversion channel into Lilly Bayou and ultimately the Mississippi River via Profit Island Chute.

The Comite River Diversion project will provide flood protection for residents in the lower part of the Comite River Basin. The project provides for construction of a 12-mile-long diversion channel from the Comite River north of Baker to the Mississippi River south of Zachary.

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Add 1 – Corps to acquire land for Comite project

Work will be separated into about 12 contracts to be constructed over a period of seven to 10 years. The \$153 million project also includes: a diversion structure, four structures to handle drainage, three pumps to supplement flows downstream of the diversion channel, as well as improvements to Baton Rouge, White and Cypress bayous and provision for project mitigation areas.

Visit the Corps' Web site at <http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil>, then click on Projects, New Orleans District project maps, Flood Control Act Projects, Comite River Diversion, and View for information on the status of the project.

Additional information can be obtained from:

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*Clyde Martin, La. Dept. of Transportation and Development, 225-274-4346

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