

PUBLIC NOTICE: SCOPING MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

**WEST SHORE-LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN, LOUISIANA
HURRICANE AND STORM DAMAGE RISK REDUCTION
FEASIBILITY STUDY**

Meeting:

January 21, 2009, 6:00 pm -10:00 pm
St. John the Baptist Parish Community Center
2900 Highway 51, LaPlace, Louisiana 70068

Introduction. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District (Corps), in cooperation with the local sponsor, the Pontchartrain Levee District (PLD), will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to determine the feasibility and assess the impacts of providing hurricane and storm damage risk reduction measures to the study area. The study area is bounded by the Bonnet Carre Spillway to the east, the Mississippi River to the south, Lakes Pontchartrain and Maurepas to the north, and the St. James Parish/Ascension Parish line to the west. Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Corps and the local sponsor invite your participation to determine the scope of significant issues related to the Draft EIS for the West Shore-Lake Pontchartrain Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction Feasibility Study.

Proposed Action and Reasonable Alternatives. The Corps proposes to investigate the feasibility of providing hurricane and storm damage risk reduction to residents living in the area west of the Bonnet Carre Spillway between the Mississippi River and Lakes Pontchartrain and Maurepas. Previous investigations have identified four preliminary levee alignments. In general, each alignment would extend protection from the west guide levee of the Bonnet Carre Spillway to the vicinity of the Hope Canal. One preliminary alignment would extend the levee into Ascension Parish and tie into an existing non-federal levee. The Draft EIS will consider these and other reasonable alternatives and recommendations from the public and other interested parties for providing hurricane and storm damage risk reduction. A No-Action Alternative will also be evaluated and retained throughout the study.

Request for Scoping Comments. The Corps invites scoping input concerning the following scoping focus questions: Question #1: What are the critical natural and human environmental problems and needs that should be addressed in the Draft EIS? Question #2: What are the significant resources that should

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NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT, CORPS
OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 60267
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70160-0267

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be considered in the Draft EIS? Question #3: What are the reasonable alternatives that should be considered in the Draft EIS? Interested parties are encouraged to provide their input and recommendations for all significant issues of the study. Scoping comments will be compiled, analyzed, and utilized in the plan formulation process. A Scoping Report, summarizing the comments, will be made available to all scoping participants and published on the internet. Scoping comments will be accepted throughout the scoping comment period.

Comment Period. The scoping comment period extends from December 5, 2008 until January 30, 2009. The scoping meeting will be conducted during the scoping comment period, on January 21, 2009. Scoping comments will be accepted up to January 30, 2009.

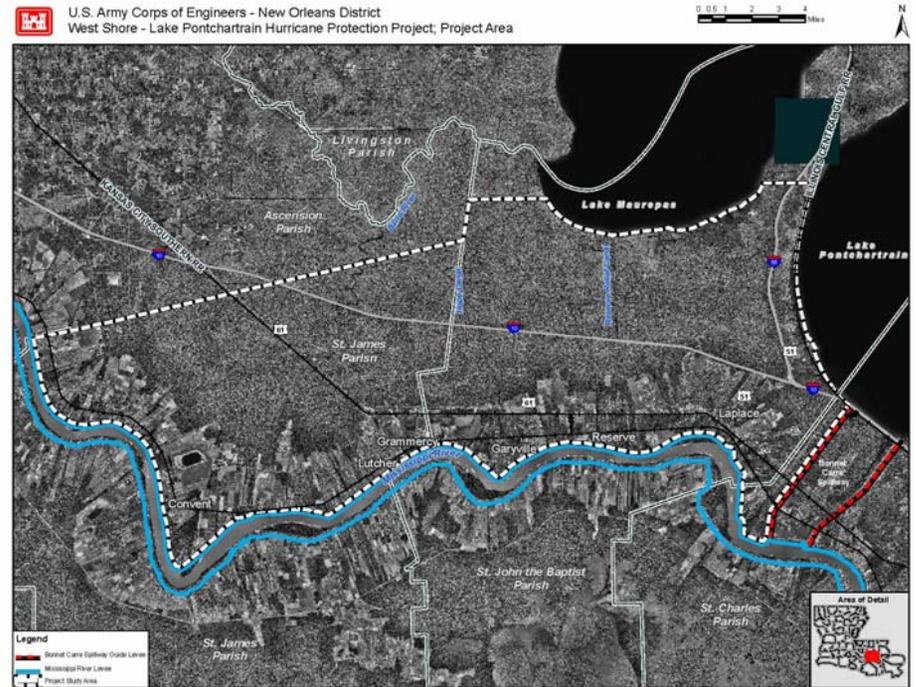
Providing Scoping Comments on the Draft EIS. Scoping comments regarding the Draft EIS for the West Shore-Lake Pontchartrain Feasibility Study may be provided orally or in writing at the scoping meeting; or sent via letter postmarked not later than the close of the scoping comment period to Dr. William P. Klein, Jr., CEMVN-PM-RS, P.O. Box 60267, New Orleans, LA 70160-0267. Letters of comment on the scope of the EIS must be postmarked no later than January 30, 2009.

Scoping Meeting Format:

- 6:00 - 6:30 pm: Open House (general information).
- 6:30 - 7:15 pm: Overview of the proposed West Shore-Lake Pontchartrain Feasibility Study followed by a question and answer session.
- 7:15 pm - until completed: Accept formal public scoping comments via facilitators, comment cards, and/or use of a court reporter.

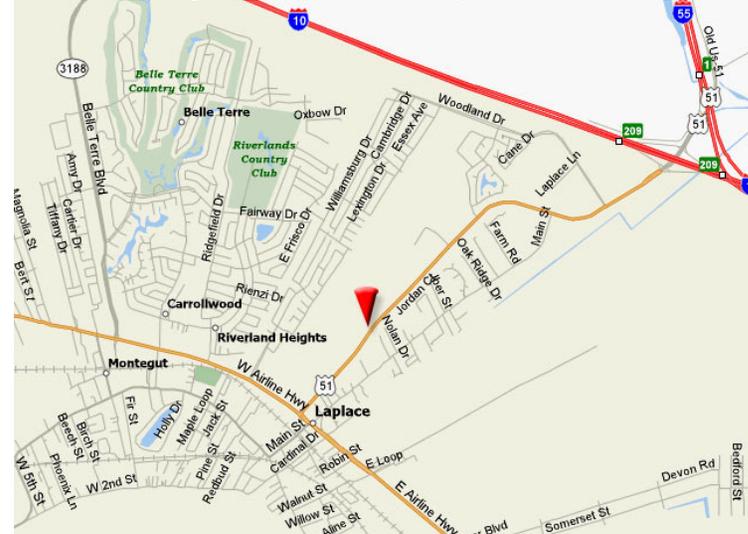
Additional Information: Requests for additional information may be made to Dr. William P. Klein, Jr., at 504-862-2540.

Project Study Area Map:



Location of Public Scoping Meeting

St. John the Baptist Parish Community Center, 2900 Hwy 51, LaPlace, LA:



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Date

Elizabeth Wiggins
Elizabeth Wiggins
Chief Environmental Planning and
Restoration Branch