



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

## Project Fact Sheet

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### **Official Project Name**

Larose to Golden Meadow Hurricane Protection

### **Location**

The project is located in Lafourche Parish, which is about 30 miles southwest of New Orleans.

### **Purpose**

This project aims to reduce the risk of storm surge for the communities located along Bayou Lafourche between Larose and Golden Meadow.

### **Status**

The project was authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1965. Funds to initiate construction were first appropriated in 1972. Levee construction to the authorized grade is nearly complete.

The Leon Theriot Floodgate at Golden Meadow was completed in 1985 and the Ted Gisclair Floodgate at Larose was completed in 1987. Stakeholders subsequently sought to add a navigation lock at Golden Meadow to allow for continual navigation during periods of abnormally high tides when the floodgates would typically be closed. In August 2005, Congress authorized construction of a lock with a chamber 56 feet wide and 400 feet long. The South Lafourche Levee District has initiated construction of the lock and has completed 2 of the 3 phases of construction.

As designed, the Larose to Golden Meadow Hurricane Protection project would provide a 100-year level of flood protection under conditions that existed in 1965 when levee construction began. (A 100-year level of protection would protect the project area from storms that have a 1% chance of occurring in any year.) Since then, subsidence and sea level rise have contributed to changes in elevation. In 2007, Congress passed legislation directing the Corps to provide information regarding what modifications would be necessary to provide 100-year protection under current and/or projected conditions. The time allotted for the creation of the report does not allow the Corps to offer a comprehensive proposal, but cursory estimates indicate that the levee would need to be raised between 4 and 5 feet to achieve current 100-year protection.

### **Benefit to the Community & Project Features**

#### *Benefit to the Community*

This project seeks to protect several communities including Larose, Cutoff, Galliano, and Golden Meadow from hurricane storm surge. The total population of the project area based on the 2000 Census is estimated at approximately 20,000. Approximately 2,300 acres of residential and commercial land and 9,400 acres of agricultural land are within the project area as well as an additional 4,500 acres of mostly undeveloped land.

The storage and distribution center for the Louisiana Offshore Oil Port, Inc. (LOOP) facility is located near Galliano. This 40 million barrel capacity facility is central to the distribution of approximately 1 million barrels of oil per day through pipelines that connect to 50% of the nation's refining capacity. Pumps, meters that measure the crude oil receipts and deliveries, the above ground tanks, and the control center are vulnerable to hurricane damage. Hurricane Katrina closed the distribution center for 4 days. While the control center and generators are elevated to reduce the risk from flooding, major flooding would disrupt the workforce.

### *Features*

- A ring levee approximately 46.5 miles in length protects the areas along the east and west banks of Bayou Lafourche. The base of the levee varies from 150 to 400 ft. wide. The levee's elevations are +9 ft. above sea level on the north end and +13 ft. above sea level on the south end.
- Floodwalls were built in areas where the congested nature of improvements and limited right-of-way prevented the construction of levees.
- Navigable floodgates on Bayou Lafourche were constructed at the upper and lower limits of the project area. The Leon Theriot Floodgate (formerly known as the Golden Meadow Floodgate) has an elevation of 13 ft. The Ted Gisclair Floodgate (formerly the Larose Floodgate) has an elevation of 10 feet. Normally the floodgates remain open to for navigation but are closed, as necessary, to prevent tidal flooding from Bayou Lafourche.
- Eight gravity drainage structures were authorized as part of the project, but the local community opted for pumping stations instead.

### **Sponsors**

South Lafourche Levee District

<http://www.slld.net/>

### **Authority**

Flood Control Act of 1965

### **Scope**

The project consists of a ring levee approximately 40 miles in length protecting the areas along the east and west banks of Bayou Lafourche, extending from Larose to just south of Golden Meadow. Floodwalls were constructed in areas where the congested nature of improvements and limited right-of-way prevented the construction of levees. The project also provides for the construction of navigable floodgates on Bayou Lafourche at the upper and lower limits of the project area. In lieu the eight gravity drainage structures that were authorized as part of the project, the locals chose to pay the additional cost for the pumping stations.