



Morganza to the Gulf

Updated February 2015

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Project Purpose

The primary purpose of the Morganza to the Gulf of Mexico, Louisiana project is hurricane and storm damage risk reduction. The area is significantly affected by tides emanating from the Gulf of Mexico. Deterioration of coastal marshes as a result of saltwater intrusion, land subsidence and the lack of interchanges from the Mississippi River have steadily increased storm surge inundation over time.

The proposed work is located in coastal Louisiana, approximately 60 miles southwest of New Orleans, and includes portions of Terrebonne and Lafourche parishes. The updated plan is described in the Report of the Chief of Engineers (2013 Chief's Report) dated 8 July 2013, (which approved and adopted the recommendations contained in the 2013 Final Post Authorization Change (PAC) Report). The Plan, as described in the 2013 Chief's Report, is bounded by US 90 near the town of Gibson to the west and LA Hwy 1 near Lockport to the east. The southern boundary is the Gulf of Mexico.

Project Features

The updated plan described in the 2013 Chief's Report is a 98-mile alignment consisting of grass-covered earthen levees, 22 floodgates on navigable waterways, 23 environmental water control structures, nine road gates and fronting protection for four existing pump stations. The major project feature is a lock complex on the Houma Navigation Canal consisting of a lock measuring 110-ft wide by 800-ft long, an adjacent sector gate measuring 250 feet wide and a dam closure.



Project Status

No Federal funds have been appropriated for construction of the Morganza to the Gulf project; however, the non-Federal sponsor is using state and local funds to independently construct interim features along the authorized alignment in advance of the Federal project.

Features under construction by Local Sponsor

- Levee Reach J-1, First Lift, complete
- Levee Reach G-1, First Lift, complete
- Levee Reach H-3, First Lift, complete
- Levee Reach H-2, First Lift, complete
- Levee Reach I, First Lift, complete
- Levee Reach J-2, First Lift, under construction
- Levee Reach F, First Lift, under construction
- Bush Canal Interim Barge Gate, complete
- Placid Canal Interim Barge Gate, complete
- Houma Navigation Canal Interim Barge Gate, complete
- Bayou Grand Caillou Interim Barge Gate, complete
- Bayou Petit Interim Barge Gate, under construction



Levee Reach J-1 Construction



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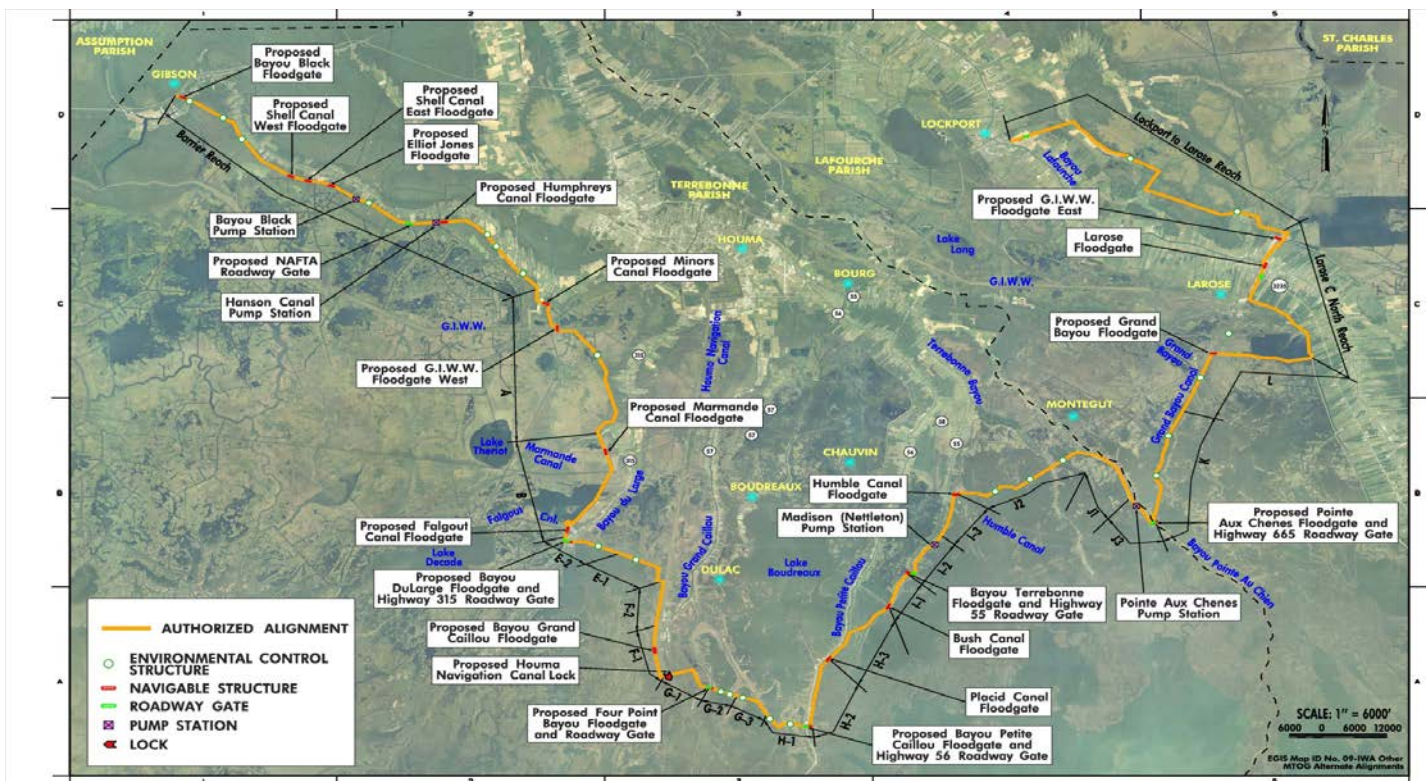
Post Authorization Change (PAC) Report

Morganza to the Gulf of Mexico, Louisiana was authorized in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2007, based on 2002 and 2003 reports of the Chief of Engineers, prior to development and implementation of post-Katrina design criteria. In the interest of public safety, and to be consistent with the design policy established for the Greater New Orleans area, the Corps has now incorporated lessons learned from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita into the designs for Morganza to the Gulf.

Incorporating post-Katrina design criteria into the Morganza project has driven project costs more than 20% higher than the cost authorized in WRDA 2007, thereby exceeding the Section 902 Limit (WRDA 1986) and triggering the need for reauthorization. The Final PAC Report and corresponding Environmental Impact Statement including feasibility-level designs incorporating the post-Katrina criteria, new project costs and updated economic benefits, was completed to seek reauthorization.

The revised, post-Katrina method for storm surge modeling predicts significantly higher water levels than the pre-Katrina method, so higher levees are required to reduce risk. Overall, the levee elevations for the 100-year alternative have increased by an average of 10 feet from the 2002 Feasibility Report to the 2013 PAC report. In accordance with the recommendations of the Interagency Performance Evaluation Task Force (IPET), the robust post-Katrina design criteria allows for less water to overtop the levees, requires higher factors of safety, sets more stringent criteria for levee fill material and implements improved guidelines for soil testing, all contributing to higher project costs.

The Morganza to the Gulf of Mexico, Louisiana project was reauthorized for construction in the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) of 2014.



Morganza to the Gulf Map Showing Authorized Project Features

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