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Corps public meeting to discuss refined plans for St. Charles Parish project

NEW ORLEANS – The Corps is hosting a public meeting to discuss refinements to the plan to upgrade the La Branche Wetlands Levee Project in St. Charles Parish. The public meeting will be Wednesday, Jun. 10, 2009 at the American Legion Post 366 building, 12188 River Rd., in St. Rose.

“The more refined plan proposes upgrading the existing hurricane system and constructing new access routes to expedite the construction schedule,” said Rebecca Huffman, project manager. “The project team also proposed shifting a levee alignment in order to avoid airport safety lighting and relocating a water control structure to further minimize environmental impacts of the project.”

The refinements are described in a document entitled Individual Environmental Report 1 Supplemental, “Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity, La Branche Wetlands Levee, St. Charles Parish, LA,” which is currently available for public review and download at www.nolaenvironmental.gov. Comments received during the public review will become part of the official record for IER Supplemental 1. Comments on IER 1 Supplemental are due by midnight Jun. 13, 2009.

The Jun. 10, 2009 public meeting begins with an open house at 6 p.m. and a presentation and discussion at 7 p.m.

Refinements to the proposed action prompted additional analysis which resulted in the preparation of the supplemental IER document. Overall, the proposed changes, as outlined in the supplemental, would result in fewer impacts to the neighboring wetlands.

Alternative arrangements allow the Corps to expedite the environmental process required of all federally funded projects while fully complying with the intent of the National Environmental Policy Act.

The Corps mailed notices that IER 1 Supplemental was available to parties who previously indicated their interest in reviewing the document. It can also be downloaded at www.nolaenvironmental.gov where written comments may also be submitted.

Questions or comments concerning the Individual Environmental Reports or the Corps' environmental process may be addressed to:

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For more information or to sign up to be on a meeting notification list please visit the Web site at www.nolaenvironmental.gov.

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