



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 60267
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70160-0267

July 20, 2009

Planning, Programs, and
Project Management Division
Environmental Planning
and Compliance Branch

Mr. Scott Hutcheson
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Cultural Development
Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism
P.O. Box 44247
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

RE: Request to Continue Consultation Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for the West Bank and Vicinity Project, Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS), Harvey – Westwego, Individual Environmental Report #14, Jefferson Parish, Louisiana.

Dear Mr. Hutcheson:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi Valley Division, New Orleans District (CEMVN), is amending the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the project currently being studied under the West Bank and Vicinity Project, HSDRRS, Harvey -Westwego, Individual Environmental Report #14, Jefferson Parish, Louisiana. The project APE is being expanded to include an additional area on the flooded side of the existing levee alignment at the northern end of the project area (see enclosed maps). Proposed construction activities in the expanded APE included vegetation clearing and activities related to earthen levee construction.

In a letter dated April 9, 2007, CEMVN initiated Section 106 consultation for the West Bank and Vicinity Hurricane Protection Project. In a second letter dated December 12, 2007, the CEMVN provided project documentation and a finding of "no historic properties affected" for the original IER #14 APE. Your office concurred with our effect determination in a letter dated January 23, 2008. Copies of these letters are attached herein.

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the District, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and Indian Tribes, will determine if the amended area of potential effects (APE) established for the IER #14 project area contains historic properties. The expanded area extends outside of the original APE right of way

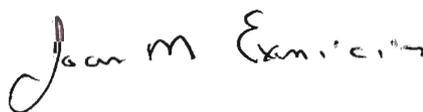
on the flooded side of the levee alignment in an area measuring approximately 100 feet wide and 3.6 miles long. This new area contains approximately 44 acres (see enclosed maps).

In the initial cultural resources investigation conducted by Coastal Environments, Inc., researchers utilized background research, previous cultural resources investigation review, soil and topographic analyses, field reconnaissance data and Phase 1 investigations to identify and assess historic structures and high potential areas for archaeological resources in the IER #14 study area. This study identified three high probability areas within the expanded APE (Wells 2008).

Phase 1 investigations did not identify any cultural resources in these three high probability areas (Wells 2009). Based on the information provided in the attached management summary, it is our view that proposed project activities in the amended APE will have no impact on historic properties. However, in the event that cultural resources are encountered during construction activities, work will be halted and your office will be contacted for further consultation. Any cultural resources encountered will be recorded and documented, and state archaeological site forms will be provided.

Please review the enclosed project documentation and provide this office with your opinion regarding our "no historic properties affected" finding within 30 days of receipt of this letter. If you have any questions and/or concerns, please contact Mr. Michael Swanda at (504) 862-2036.

Sincerely,



Joan M. Exnicios
Chief, Environmental Planning
and Compliance Branch

Enclosures

CF: Reid, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Rivet, Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office
Varnado, Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office

References Cited

Wells, Douglas C.

- 2007 *Management Summary: Cultural Resources Assessment of the Harvey-Westwego Segment (IER14), West Bank and Vicinity Hurricane Protection Levee, Jefferson Parish, Louisiana.* Coastal Environments, Inc. Submitted to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District.
- 2009 *Management Summary: Reconnaissance Survey of the Redesigned Harvey-Westwego Segment (IER #14), West Bank and Vicinity Hurricane Protection Levee, Jefferson Parish, Louisiana.* Coastal Environments, Inc. Submitted to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District.