

**USDA** **NRCS** Natural Resources Conservation Service



*Boutte Field Office*



Date:

9/10/09

To:

Laura Wilkinson

Fax No.:

504-862-2897

Subject:

IER # 9.

Pages:

3, including this cover sheet.

Comments:

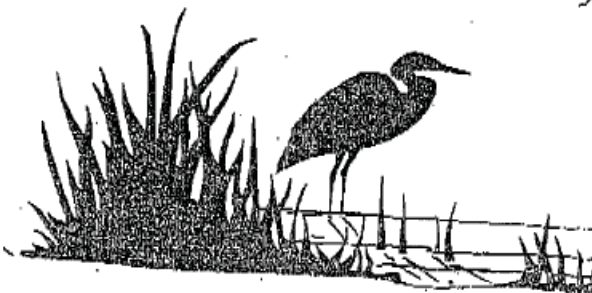
Michael Trusclair, District Conservationist

14246 U.S. Hwy. 90

Boutte, LA 70039

Phone: 985-758-2162 ext. 3

Fax: 985-758-7734



U.S. Department of Agriculture

## FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING

<b>PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>		Date Of Land Evaluation Request <b>9/9/09</b>			
Name Of Project <b>Individual Environmental Report (IER) #9</b>		Federal Agency Involved <b>USACE CEMVN</b>			
Proposed Land Use <b>Flood Control Structures (Floodwalls &amp; Gates)</b>		County And State <b>St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana</b>			
<b>PART II (To be completed by NRCS)</b>		Date Request Received By NRCS			
Does the site contain prime, unique, statewide or local important farmland? (If no, the FPPA does not apply - do not complete additional parts of this form).		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Acres Irrigated	Average Farm Size
					<b>232</b>
Major Crop(s) <b>Soybeans</b>	Farmable Land In Govt. Jurisdiction Acres: <b>19,734 % 6%</b>	Amount Of Farmland As Defined In FPPA Acres: <b>19,734 % 6</b>		Date Land Evaluation Returned By NRCS <b>9/10/09</b>	
Name Of Land Evaluation System Used <b>St. Bernard Parish</b>	Name Of Local Site Assessment System <b>none</b>				
<b>PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>		Alternative Site Rating			
		Site A	Site B	Site C	Site D
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly		10.0			
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly		0.0			
C. Total Acres In Site		10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information</b>					
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland		<b>4</b>			
B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland		<b>0</b>			
C. Percentage Of Farmland In County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted		<b>.0002</b>			
D. Percentage Of Farmland In Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value		<b>100</b>			
<b>PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Criterion Relative Value Of Farmland To Be Converted (Scale of 0 to 100 Points)</b>		<b>88</b>	0	0	0
<b>PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b> Site Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(b))		Maximum Points			
1. Area In Nonurban Use					
2. Perimeter In Nonurban Use					
3. Percent Of Site Being Farmed					
4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government					
5. Distance From Urban Builtup Area					
6. Distance To Urban Support Services					
7. Size Of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average					
8. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland					
9. Availability Of Farm Support Services					
10. On-Farm Investments					
11. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services					
12. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use					
<b>TOTAL SITE ASSESSMENT POINTS</b>		160	0	0	0
<b>PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>					
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)		100	0	0	0
Total Site Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)		160	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)</b>		260	0	0	0
Site Selected:	Date Of Selection	Was A Local Site Assessment Used? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>			
Reason For Selection:					

(See instructions on reverse side)

This form was electronically produced by National Production Services Staff

Form AD-1006 (10-83)



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
3737 Government Street  
Alexandria, LA 71302

(318) 473-7795  
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December 30, 2009

Ms. Joan M. Exnicios  
Chief, Environmental Planning and Compliance Branch  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division  
P.O. Box 60267  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70160-0267

Dear Ms. Exnicios:

RE: **IER # 9 LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN AND VICINITY  
CAERNARVON FLOODWALL  
ST. BERNARD PARISH, LOUISIANA**

In response to your request for NRCS review of the referenced project site location to identify natural resource constraints, if any, that may impact design and permitting, I have reviewed the Farmland and Hydric Soil Classifications.

Farmland Classification

The Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA)-Subtitle I of Title XV, Section 1539-1549 of PL 97-98, final rules and regulations were published in the Federal Register on June 17, 1994. These rules state that projects are subject to FPPA requirements if they may irreversibly convert farmland (directly or indirectly) to nonagricultural use and are completed by a federal agency or with assistance from a federal agency. For the purpose of FPPA, farmland includes prime farmland, unique farmland, and land of statewide or local importance. Farmland subject to FPPA requirements does not have to be currently used for cropland. It can be forestland, pastureland, cropland, or other land, but not water or urban built-up land.

NRCS policy clarifies the Rule by stating that activities not subject to FPPA include:

1. Federal permitting and licensing
2. Projects planned and completed without assistance of a federal agency
3. Projects on land already in urban development or used for water storage
4. Construction within an existing right-of-way purchased on or before August 4, 1984.
5. Construction for national defense purposes
6. Construction of on-farm structures needed for farm operations
7. Surface mining, where restoration to agricultural use is planned
8. Construction of new minor secondary structures, such as a garage or storage shed.

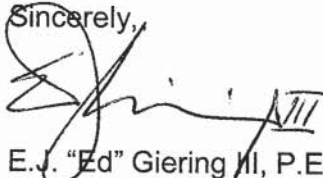


The soils on the proposed Caernarvon Floodwall are in the vicinity of Prime Farmland, however, since the project is within an urban area of St. Bernard Parish and is "built-up", there will be no impact to prime farmland. It appears the project will not impact any NRCS work in the immediate area. Also, this project will not impact any farmland protection efforts in the area.

I have attached the Farmland Classification with this response for your convenience and use.

Should you have any questions regarding the above comments, feel free to contact Mike Trusclair, District Conservationist, in our Boutte Field Office at (985) 758-2162, Ext. 3.

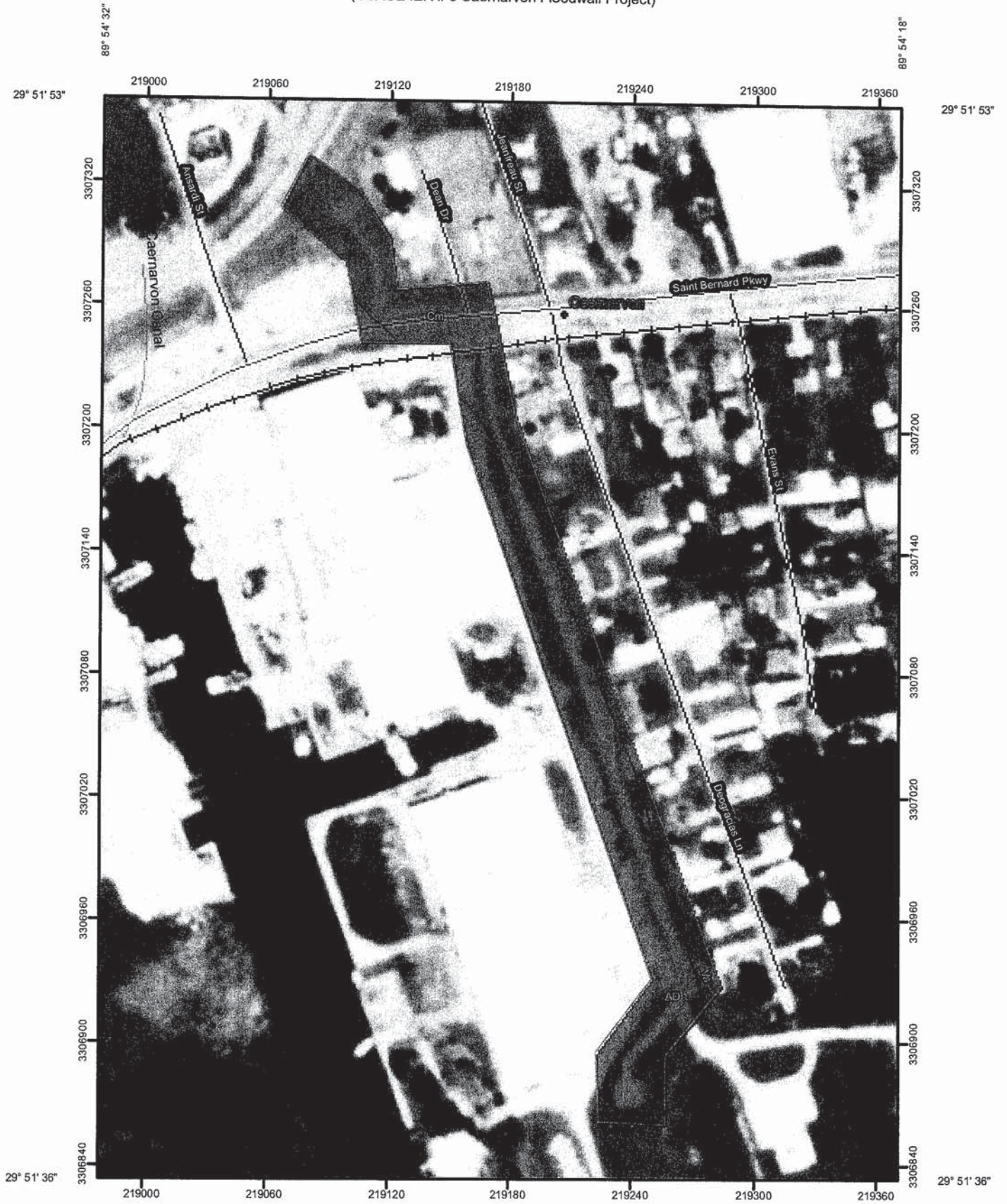
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Giering III". The signature is stylized with a large initial "E" and "G".

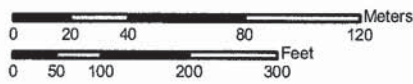
E.J. "Ed" Giering III, P.E.  
State Conservation Engineer

cc: Mike Trusclair, District Conservationist, NRCS, Boutte, Louisiana

Farmland Classification—St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana  
 (USACE IER # 9 Caernarvon Floodwall Project)



Map Scale: 1:2,520 if printed on A size (8.5" x 11") sheet





## MAP INFORMATION

Map Scale: 1:2,520 if printed on A size (8.5" x 11") sheet.  
The soil surveys that comprise your AOI were mapped at 1:24,000.

Please rely on the bar scale on each map sheet for accurate map measurements.

Source of Map: Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Web Soil Survey URL: <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov>  
Coordinate System: UTM Zone 16N NAD83

This product is generated from the USDA-NRCS certified data as of the version date(s) listed below.

Soil Survey Area: St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana  
Survey Area Data: Version 8, Sep 8, 2009  
Date(s) aerial images were photographed: 9/20/2007

The orthophoto or other base map on which the soil lines were compiled and digitized probably differs from the background imagery displayed on these maps. As a result, some minor shifting of map unit boundaries may be evident.

## MAP LEGEND

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <p><b>Area of Interest (AOI)</b><br/>Area of Interest (AOI)</p> <p><b>Soils</b></p> <p><b>Soil Map Units</b></p> <p><b>Soil Ratings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not prime farmland</li> <li>All areas are prime farmland</li> <li>Prime farmland if drained</li> <li>Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season</li> <li>Prime farmland if irrigated</li> <li>Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season</li> <li>Prime farmland if irrigated and drained</li> <li>Prime farmland if irrigated and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prime farmland if subsided, completely removing the root inhibiting soil layer</li> <li>Prime farmland if irrigated and the product of f (soil erodibility) x C (climate factor) does not exceed 60</li> <li>Prime farmland if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium</li> <li>Farmland of statewide importance</li> <li>Farmland of local importance</li> <li>Farmland of unique importance</li> <li>Not rated or not available</li> </ul> <p><b>Political Features</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cities</li> </ul> <p><b>Water Features</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oceans</li> <li>Streams and Canals</li> </ul> <p><b>Transportation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rails</li> <li>Interstate Highways</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>US Routes</li> <li>Major Roads</li> <li>Local Roads</li> </ul> |
|--|--|---|

## Farmland Classification

Farmland Classification— Summary by Map Unit — St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana				
Map unit symbol	Map unit name	Rating	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
AD	Aquents, dredged, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland	2.2	58.2%
Cm	Cancienne silt loam	All areas are prime farmland	1.5	37.8%
Va	Vacherie silt loam, gently undulating	All areas are prime farmland	0.2	4.0%
<b>Totals for Area of Interest</b>			<b>3.8</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### Description

Farmland classification identifies map units as prime farmland, farmland of statewide importance, farmland of local importance, or unique farmland. It identifies the location and extent of the soils that are best suited to food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops. NRCS policy and procedures on prime and unique farmlands are published in the "Federal Register," Vol. 43, No. 21, January 31, 1978.

### Rating Options

*Aggregation Method:* No Aggregation Necessary

*Tie-break Rule:* Lower