

SCOPING MEETING

Amite River and Tributaries - East of the Mississippi River, LA Feasibility Study

Mississippi Valley Division/New Orleans District/Regional Planning and Environmental Division South

April 24, 2019 Denham Springs and Clinton
April 25, 2019 Prairieville



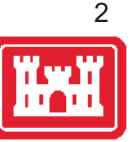
**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED





NEPA SCOPING PROCESS



Due to the potential impacts to significant resources in the region, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being developed for this study

Scoping is an important step in the completion of the EIS

Provides an early opportunity for the public and other interested parties to express concerns and suggest alternatives to be considered in the EIS

Notice of Intent was published in the Federal Register on April 2, 2019

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/04/02/2019-06353/intent-to-prepare-a-draft-environmental-impact-statement-for-the-amite-river-and-tributaries-east-of>



STUDY AUTHORITY



House Document 419, 84th Congress (14 April 1967):

“Resolved by the Committee on Public Works of the United States Senate, That the Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors, created under Section 3 of the River and Harbor Act approved June 13, 1902, be, and is hereby requested to review the report of the chief of Engineers on Amite River and Tributaries, Louisiana, published as House Document Numbered 419, Eighty-fourth Congress. And other pertinent reports, with a view to determining whether the existing project should be modified in any way at this time with particular reference to additional improvements for flood control and related purposes on Amite River, Bayou Manchac, and Comite River and their tributaries.”

Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018

- *(Public Law 115-123), Division B, Subdivision 1, H. R. 1892—13, Title IV, Corps of Engineers-Civil, Department of the Army, Investigations*
- *Limits scope to the flood risk management*

3X3X3 Study

100% Federally Funded

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED



COORDINATION



Non-Federal Sponsor

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development

- Support for engineering and stakeholder management
- Key stakeholder and sponsor on other non USACE collaborations in the project area
- Provided the Amite River Basin Numerical Model

Governmental Stakeholders

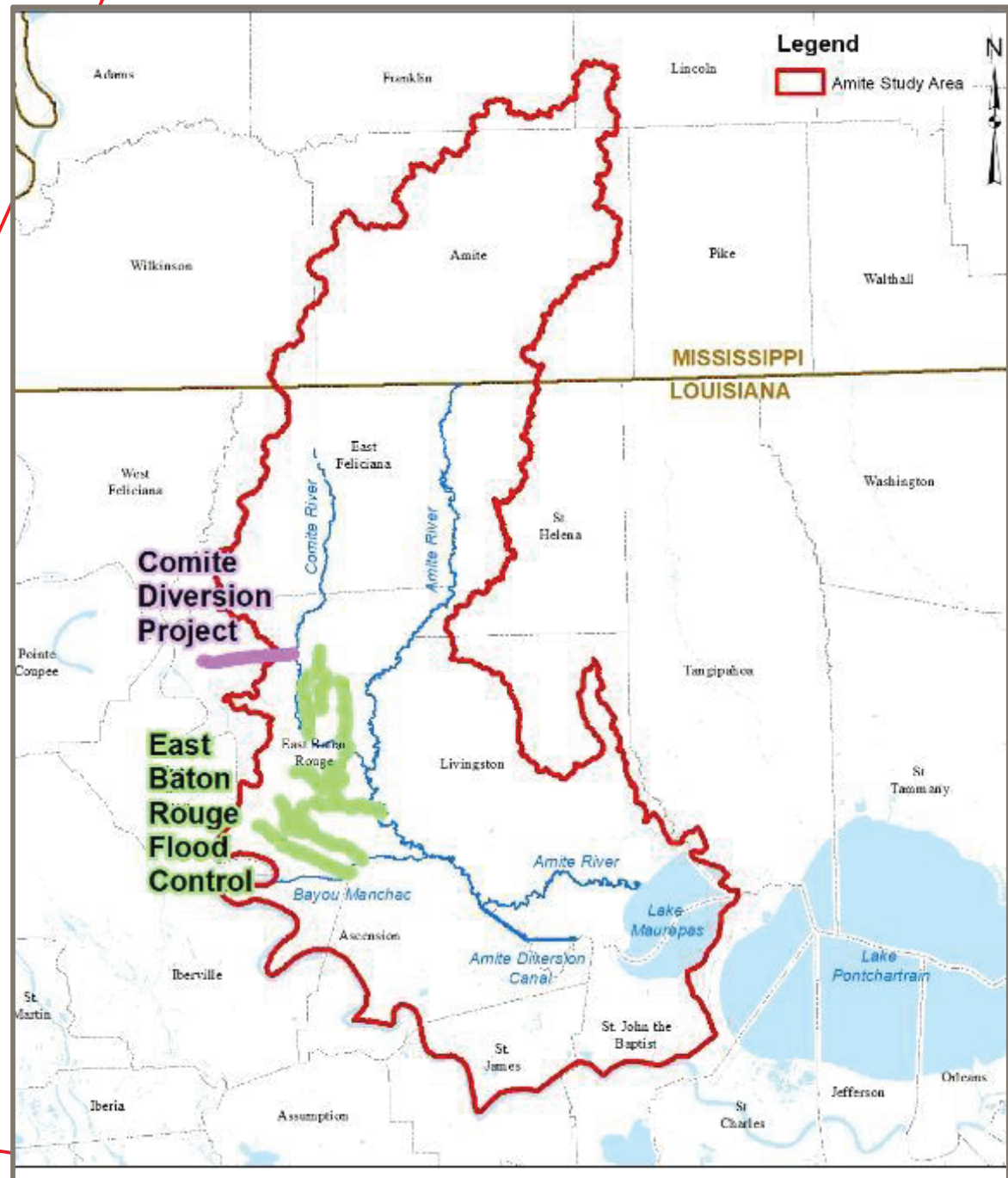
- Tribes
- Natural Resource Agencies
- State of Louisiana and State Agencies
- Parishes
- City Officials



STUDY AREA

The present study area includes adjacent sub HUC basins, where Amite River backwater flooding has been a problem

Limited flood risks for the study area within the state of Mississippi have been identified at this time





PROBLEM



Risk of flood damages to industrial, commercial, agricultural facilities, residential and nonresidential structures from the Amite River and its tributaries

Two sources of flooding

- Upper Basin
 - Headwater flooding from rainfall events
- Lower Basin
 - Drainage from headwaters from rainfall events
 - Backwater flooding from tides and wind setup

Critical infrastructure at risk

- I-10 and I-12 transportation system
- Government facilities
- Schools
- Medical facilities

This critical infrastructure could have increased flood risk as flood characteristics change over time



NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE



Future Without Project Condition- Most likely condition of the resources and human environment if no additional actions are taken as a result of this study

Future Development and Change in Floodplain Hydrology

Authorized Construction Projects

- Comite River Diversion
- East Baton Rouge Flood Control Project

Increased flood risk

- Sea level rise
- Changes in geomorphology

Increased storm damages

- Frequency
- Intensity



ALTERNATIVES



14 Developed (includes No Action)

Assembled with management measures using a combination of Concept/Formulation Strategies:

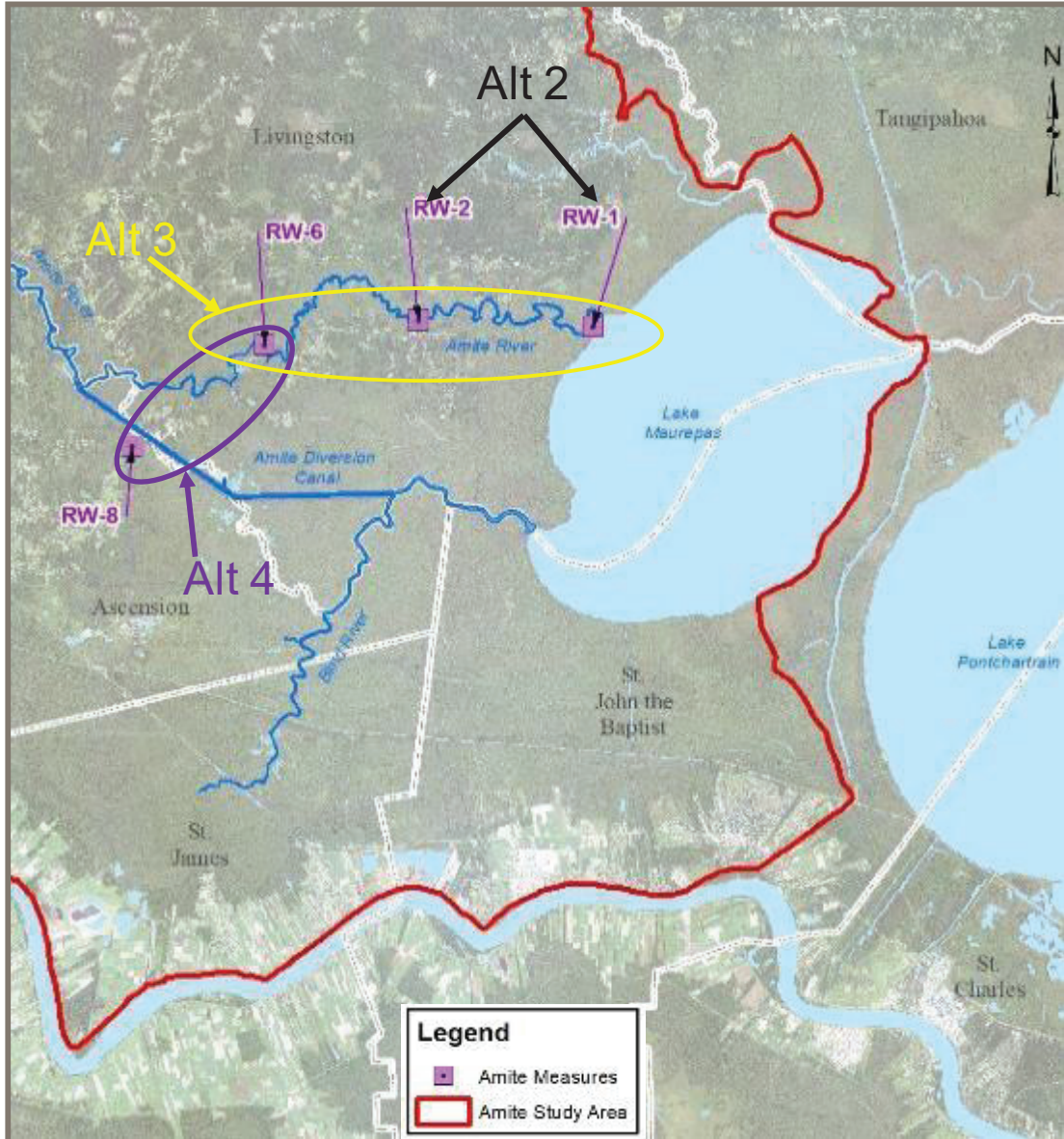
- RW = Remove Water
- HW = Hold Water
- NS = Non-Structural (voluntary, mandatory only used under life safety concerns)
- UL = Upper and Lower Basin
- FS = Focused Structural (Ring Levees around Critical Facilities)

Alternatives focus on 4 Influence Areas

- Lower Amite River Basin near Lake Maurepas
- Central Portion of Amite River Basin
- Upper Amite River Basin
- Upper and Lower Amite River Basin



LOWER AMITE NEAR LAKE MAUREPAS



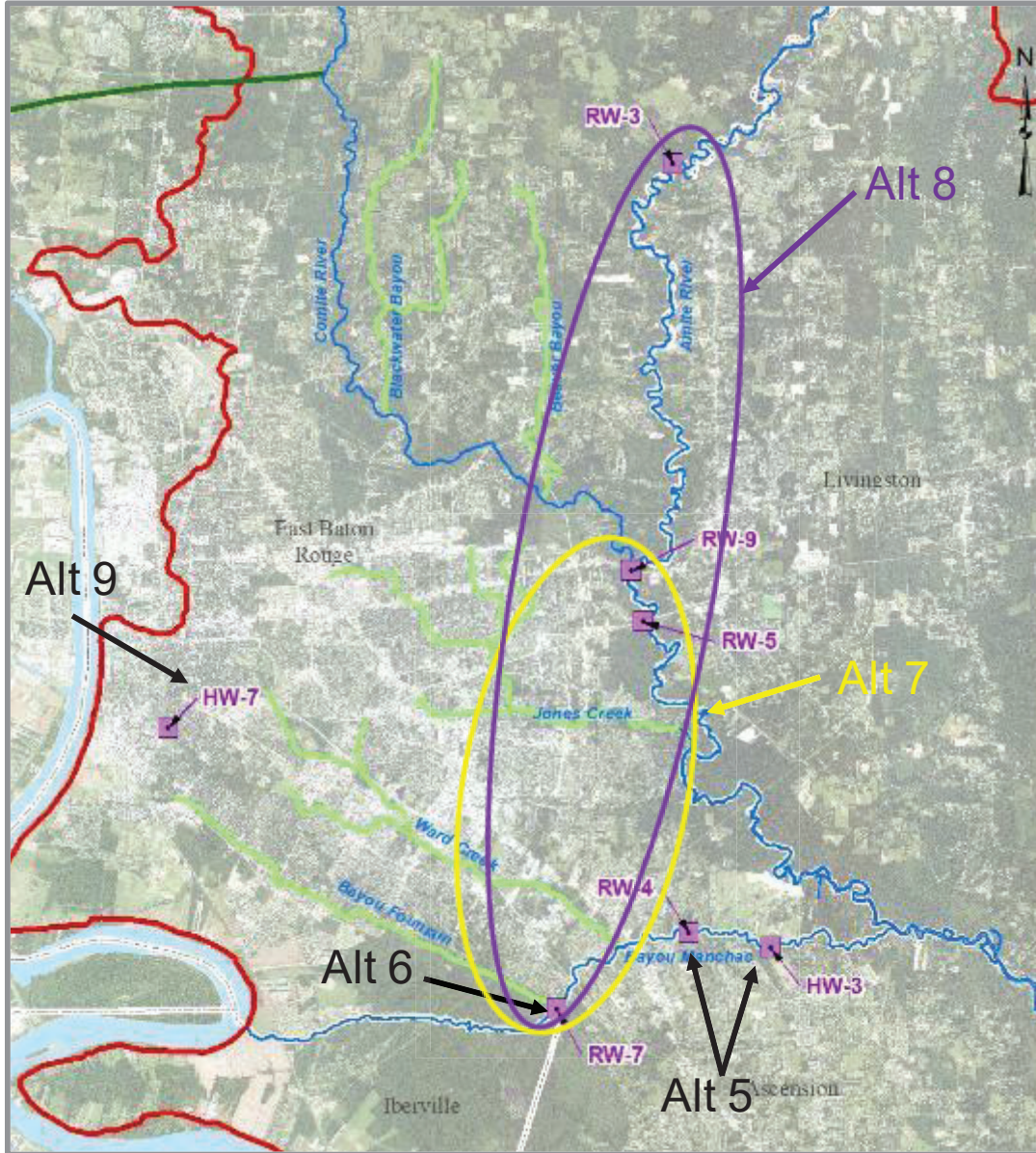
Alt ID	Management Measures	Alternative Description
Alt 2	RW-1+RW-2	Dredging (i.e. clearing/snagging of banks) of the Amite River at the Outfall (RW-1) and in the lower reaches below I-12(RW-2).
Alt 3	RW-1+RW-2+RW-6	Alt 3 is identical to Alt 2 with the addition of the Lower Amite River Channel Bank Gapping (RW-6).
Alt 4	RW-6+RW-8	Lower Amite River Channel Bank Gapping (RW-6) and Hwy 22 drainage improvements (RW-8).

The Investigation into the Potential Hydraulic Impacts of Dredging the Lower Amite River for LADOTD by Dewberry Engineers Inc. is being reviewed to help assess the alternatives in the area

RW = Remove Water



CENTRAL PORTION OF BASIN



Alt ID	Management Measures	Alternative Description
Alt 5	HW-3+ RW-4	Combination of storage area along the Bayou Manchac in multiple small reservoirs (HW-3) and dredging of Bayou Manchac (i.e. clearing and snagging of banks) (RW-4).
Alt 6	RW-7+NS-2+FS-1	Storage area at Spanish Lake (RW-7) with the addition of nonstructural measures (NS-2) and ring levees for residential communities and critical infrastructure (FS-1).
Alt 7	RW-4+ RW-5+RW-7 +RW-9+NS-2+FS-1	Combination of Alt 6 with dredging Bayou Manchac (RW-4) and reduction of flow restrictions from bridges at I-12 (RW-5) and above I-12 (RW-9).
Alt 8	RW-3+RW-4+ RW-5+RW-7+RW-9+NS-2+FS-1	Same as Alt 7 with the addition of dredging the Upper Amite Basin (RW-3).
Alt 9	HW-7	LSU lakes as reservoir (HW-7) (Baton Rouge Area Foundation's Baton Rouge Lakes Master Plan)

Legend

- Amite Measures
- Comite Diversion Project
- Amite Study Area
- East Baton Rouge Flood Control

RW = Remove Water

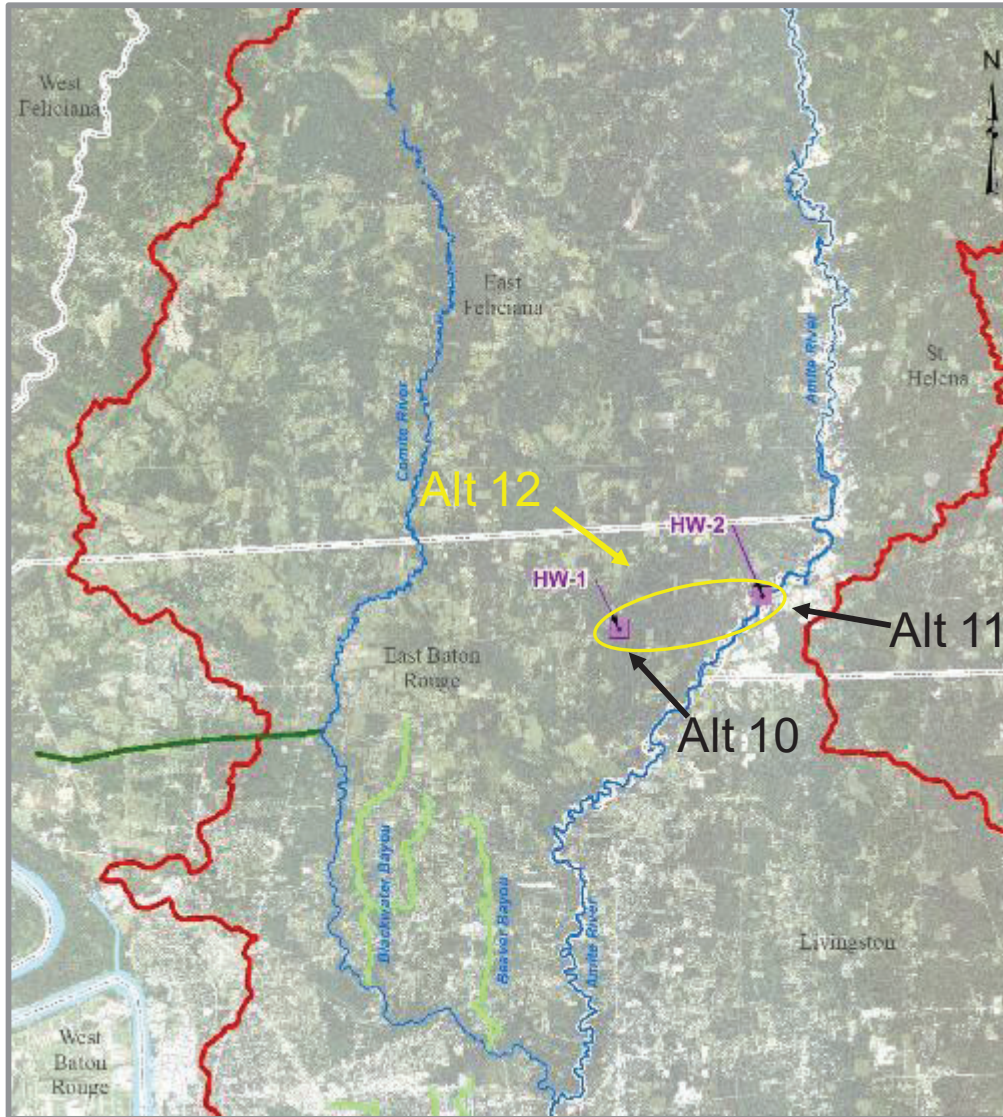
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FS = Focused Structural



UPPER AMITE RIVER BASIN



Alt ID	Management Measures	Alternative Description
Alt 10	HW-1	Dry Retention Ponds in Upper Amite River located along smaller tributaries north of I-12 (HW-1).
Alt 11	HW-2	Small retention dam in Upper Amite River located above I-12 at 3 potential locations: North of Greenwell Springs and the St Helena/Livingston Parish Boundary (HW-2).
Alt 12	HW-1+HW-2	Alt 11 is a combination of Alt 9 and Alt 10. The alternative allows flexibility of using dry retention ponds (HW-1) and possibly dams (HW-2).

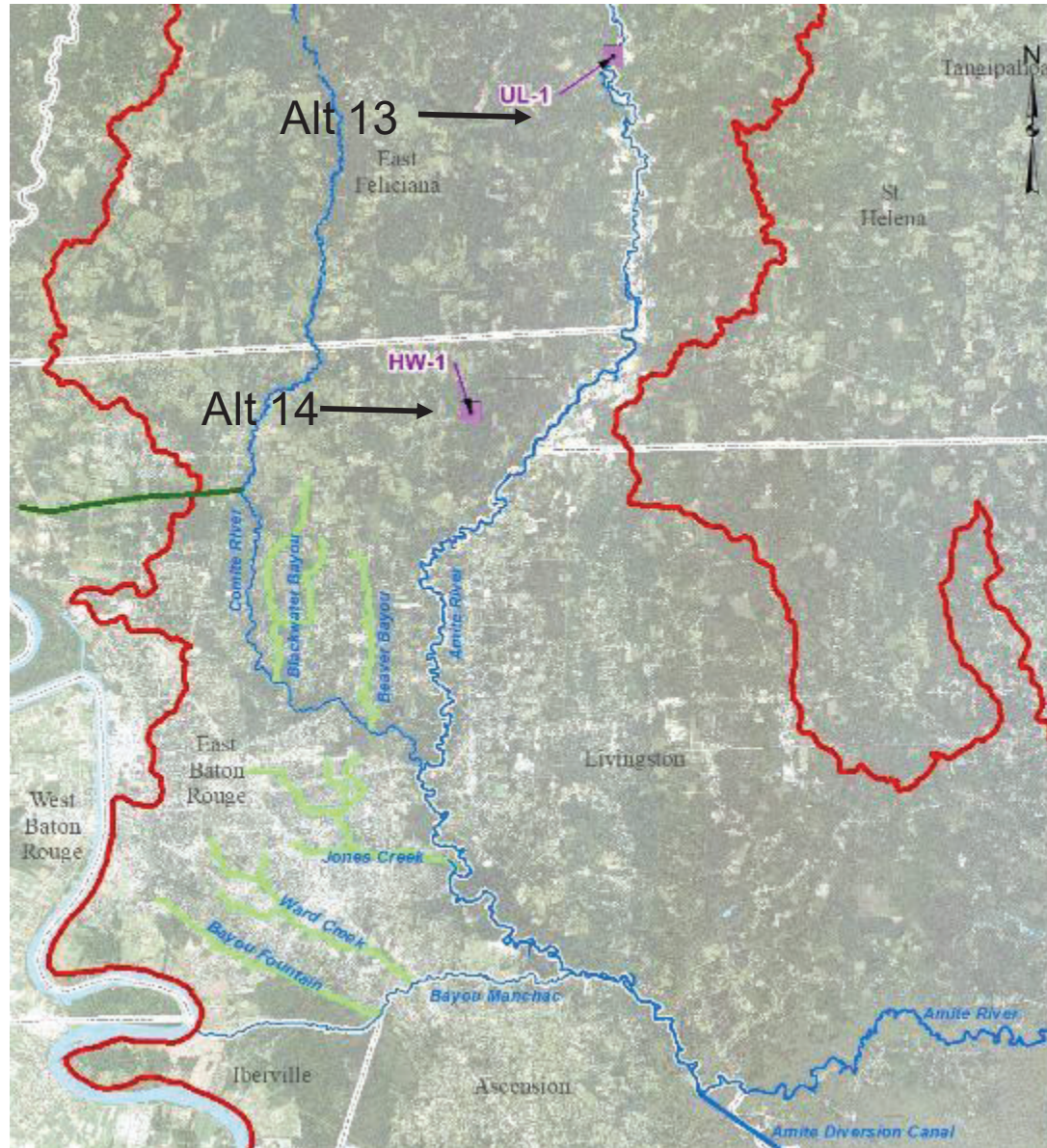
Legend

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HW = Hold Water



UPPER AND LOWER AMITE RIVER BASIN



Alt ID	Management Measures	Alternative Description
Alt 13	UL-1	Large scale dam (i.e. Darlington) located in East Feliciana and St. Helena Parishes (UL-1).
Alt 14	HW-1, UL-2 +NS-2+FS-1	Combination of dry detention ponds in the Upper Amite River(HW-1) along tributaries, dredging (ie. clearing/snagging) (UL-2), potential non-structural(NS-2) and ring levees (FS-1). Not shown on figure.

Legend

- Amite Measures
- Comite Diversion Project
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UL = Upper and Lower Basin

HW = Hold Water

NS = Non-Structural

FS = Focused Structural



RESOURCES TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE EIS



Natural Environment

- Wetlands
- Coastal Zone
- Bottomland Hardwoods
- Cultural Resources
- Fisheries
- Wildlife
- Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)
- Hazardous and Toxic Waste
- Water Quality
- Air Quality
- Threatened and Endangered Species (T&E)
- Hydrology

Human Environment

- Noise
- Recreation
- Storm-water Runoff
- Socio-Economics





SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS IDENTIFIED



Avoid or minimize negative impacts to

- Threatened and endangered species and protected species
 - 5 listed Federal T&E Species with potential to be in the area
 - USACE has begun coordination with USFWS and LDWF on T&E species and has established best management practices to address avoidance of impacts to any species present
- Essential fish habitat (EFH)
- Cultural and historic resources
 - Preliminary analysis has indicated the potential for a high density of archeological sites in the study area.
 - Cultural resources surveys are likely
 - USACE will work closely with the Tribes and with the State Historic Preservation Office to avoid and minimize impacts
- Recreational use in the basin
- Water quality
- Scenic Rivers





SCOPING REPORT



- Scoping Report will be written that summarizes the significant issues, alternatives and concerns of the public
- Report used to focus the EIS study on the significant issues and to inform the public
- A copy of the report will be posted on the project website



MILESTONE SCHEDULE



Milestone	Baseline
Execute FCSA	Complete
Alternatives Milestone	Complete*
TSP Milestone	Fall of 2019
Release of Draft Feasibility Report for Public Review	Winter of 2019
Agency Decision Milestone	Spring 2020
District Submit Final Feasibility Report to MVD	Spring 2021
Division Engineer's Transmittal Letter	Spring 2021
Chief's Report Milestone	Fall 2021



SCOPING QUESTIONS



QUESTION #1: What are the most important issues, resources, and impacts that we should consider in the EIS?

QUESTION #2: Are there any other alternatives or modifications to the existing proposals that we should consider in the EIS?



QUESTIONS?



The USACE encourages full public participation to promote open communication on the issues surrounding the study. Official written comments may be provided by the following methods:

- Written comments at the end of each meeting
- E-mail: AmiteFS@usace.army.mil
- Mail: CEMVN–PMR, Room 331, 7400 Leake Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70118

Information about the study is available online for public review at:
<https://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Amite-River-and-Tributaries/>