



South Central Coastal LA Flood Risk Management Study

December 2019

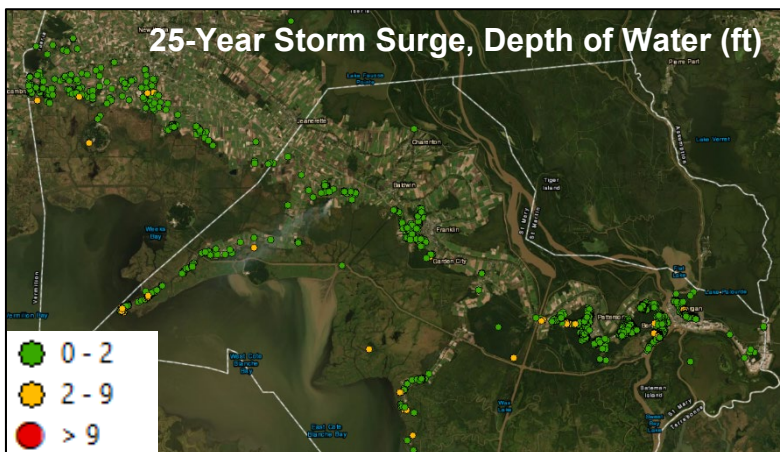
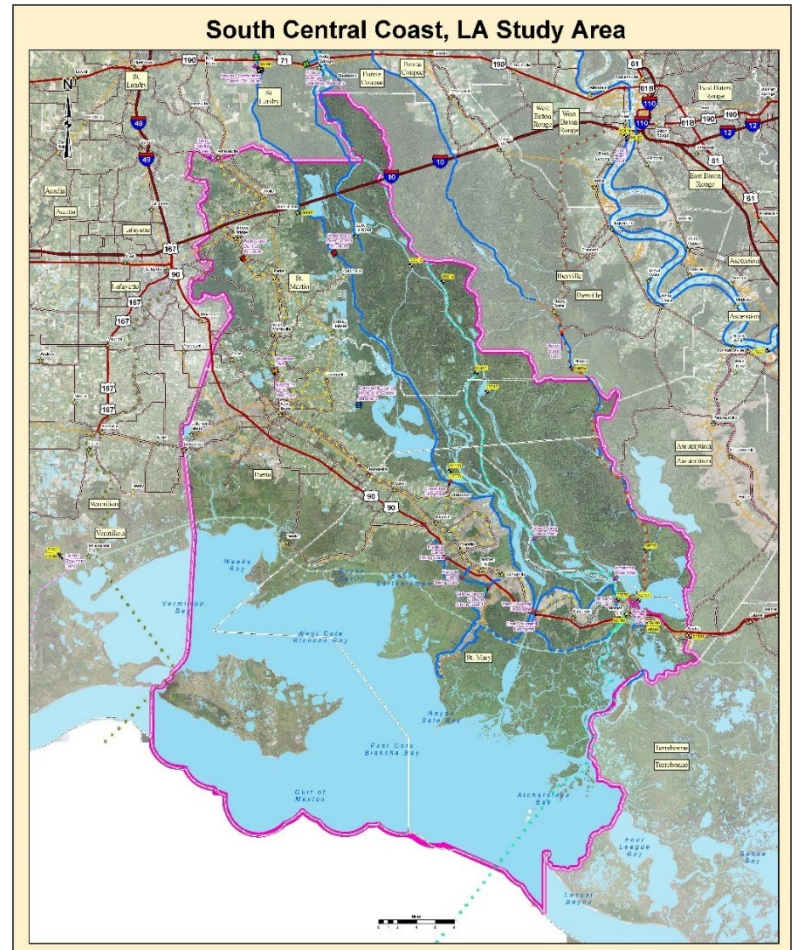
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Study focus: The US Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) South Central Coast Louisiana Draft Feasibility Study with Integrated Environmental Impact Statement Study) investigated potential structural and nonstructural solution sets in terms of coastal storm risk management in St. Mary, St. Martin, and Iberia Parishes.

Study Area Problems: The area encompassing St. Mary, St. Martin, and Iberia Parishes has high levels of risk and vulnerability to coastal storms, intensified by a combination of sea level rise and climate change. The combined effect of the low elevation of the area, its proximity to the Gulf of Mexico, subsiding lands, and rising seas will continue and increase risk of overtopping levees. This in turn increases:

- Risk of life safety of ~175,000 residents
- Risk of damage to property, infrastructure, cultural heritage, and other social effects
- Regional economic impacts, including impacts to a broad range of oil and gas production facilities, sugar cane manufacturing, as well as processing and regional transportation of agriculture, fishing, and mining products
- Risk of environmental damages such as costal wetland loss and human health safety impacts from industrial flooding



Existing flood risk management and navigation projects traverse the entire study area, including the Atchafalaya Basin West Floodway. The Gulf Intracoastal Waterway is located along the coastline of St. Mary and Iberia parishes.

Tentatively Selected Plan: The tentatively selected plan will provide reduced flood risk for structures in the study area with a First Floor Elevation at or below the 25 year storm surge flood stage. This will be achieved by elevating residential structures and dry floodproofing non-residential structures. Residential structures will be elevated to the base flood elevation predicted to occur in the year 2075. Non-residential structures will have

floodproofing measures applied generally up to 3 feet above ground level. The completely voluntary project has the potential to reduce flood damage risks for a total of 3,463 structures (2,629 residential structures, 597 commercial

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structures, 71 public buildings, and 166 warehouses). The estimated total project cost is \$1.42 billion with average annual net benefits of \$20.89 million (fiscal year 2019 price level).

Other Alternatives Considered: The Corps developed hurricane and storm damage risk reduction measures and screened them based on their ability to meet the project objectives, avoid constraints, and to maximize benefits provided over the 50-year period of analysis from 2025-2075. Alternatives were further evaluated if the preliminary cost/benefits exceeded 1.0. Only two measures, both nonstructural, met threshold criteria with a cost/benefit ratio greater than 1.0.



Next Steps: Concurrent review of this Study includes public, technical, legal, and policy reviews, as well as an Independent External Peer Review. The Corps will consider the evaluation of the significant comments on the tentatively selected plan and other alternatives to determine the endorsement of a recommended plan and proposed way forward to complete feasibility-level design and the final report.

The final feasibility report is anticipated to be submitted Fall 2020 to Corps Headquarters where a Report will be developed for review and approval by the Chief of Engineers. The Chief of Engineers Report will be sent to Congress and the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works for review by the Administration.

Project Authority: This study was authorized under H.R. Docket 2767 (20 Sep 2006) to determine the feasibility of providing hurricane protection and storm damage reduction and related purposes Southeast Coastal Louisiana, LA.

Project Sponsor: Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Board (CPRAB) is the non-federal sponsor. The Corps has, and will continue to, coordinate with the CPRAB throughout the Study. The CPRAB supports the tentatively selected plan, but final approval and letters of support are subsequent to concurrent review of the draft report.

Send your comments on the Draft Study by January 6, 2020!

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