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Public Notice

Notice of Availability of the Draft Programmatic Agreements governing USACE's responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act with regard to the Southwest Coastal Louisiana Study

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, is issuing this public notice as part of its responsibilities under 36 CFR Part 800, the regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended (54 U.S.C. § 306108).

USACE has determined that implementation of the Southwest Coastal Louisiana Study would result in undertakings that have the potential to cause effects to properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, and has elected to fulfill its Section 106 obligations through execution and implementation of two Programmatic Agreements as provided for in 36 CFR § 800.14(b).

Interested persons are hereby notified that USACE, in consultation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Officer, the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Board, and federally-recognized Indian Tribes, has developed two Draft PAs for the SWC Study, one for the National Economic Development Plan and one for the National Ecosystem Restoration Plan.

The Draft PAs contain stipulations to include: Consultation and Coordination; Standards; Identification and Evaluation of Historic Properties; Historic Properties Affected; Resolution of Adverse Effects; Curation; Discovery of Human Remains; Unanticipated Discoveries and Effects; Dispute Resolution; Administration, Effect, and Duration; Comprehensive Review; and Amendment and Termination.

Public notification of the SWC Study has been made along with invitation for public comment in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) Regulations (40 CFR §§ 1500-1508) for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) as reflected in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Engineering Regulation 200-2-2.

The Draft PAs are available online at

http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/About/Projects/SouthwestCoastal.aspx.

Written comments on the Draft PAs may be submitted to USACE for a 30-day period beginning Sunday, September 27, 2015, and may be emailed, mailed, or faxed to the contact information provided below. Mailed comments must be postmarked by October 26, 2015. If no substantive comments are received, the Draft PAs will become final and be presented for signature by the consulting parties.

Email: <u>SWCoastalAdmin@usace.army.mil;</u> Fax: 504-862-1375

Mail: Ms. Rebecca Hill, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, CEMVN-RPEDS-PDN-NCR, P.O. Box 60267, New Orleans, LA 70160