

General Reevaluation Report for West Bank and Vicinity

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Overview/Authorization

The authorization for the West Bank and Vicinity project, part of the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS), required it to be designed and constructed to defend against storm surge elevations associated with a storm that has a 1-percent chance of occurring in any given year. During construction of the system, earthen levees were constructed to meet 1-percent elevations for the year 2011 with an additional overbuild of up to 2 feet.

As with any earthen levee system in southeast Louisiana, the HSDRRS levees were expected to require lifts to account for future levee consolidation, land subsidence, and sea level rise. The authorization for construction of the system did not authorize future levee lifts required to sustain the 1-percent level of risk reduction over the long term.

The Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 authorized USACE to carry out measures needed to address consolidation, settlement, and sea level rise if the necessary work is determined to be technically feasible, environmentally acceptable, and economically justified. The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 provided appropriations to conduct the General Re-evaluation Report necessary to inform this determination.

Today, the system provides the 1-percent level of risk reduction for the greater New Orleans area authorized by congress, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is fully confident the system will continue to perform as designed beyond the completion of this study's schedule.

Study Cost and Schedule

The West Bank and Vicinity General Re-evaluation Report was funded by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 with a cost of approximately \$3 million. The partnership agreement to begin the study was signed in October 2018 with a three year timeline. A draft general re-evaluation report with integrated environmental impact statement was published December 13, 2019, and is available at the link below. The final report is due for release in Fall 2021.

For More Information: https://www.mvn.usace.armv.mil/About/Projects/BBA-2018/studies/WBV-GRR/

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS - New Orleans District

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