



GREATER NEW ORLEANS

INC
REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

10 PARISHES
Jefferson
Orleans
Plaquemines
St. Bernard
St. Charles
St. James
St. John the Baptist
St. Tammany
Tangipahoa
Washington

September 5, 2025

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
David Shulman
Project Manager, Projects and Restoration Branch
7400 Leake Ave
New Orleans, LA 70118

Re: Letter of Intent & Proposal Submission – INHC Lock Replacement CIMP

Dear Mr. Shulman,

On behalf of Greater New Orleans, Inc. (GNO, Inc.), I am pleased to submit our Community Impact Mitigation Plan (CIMP) Review & Proposed Framework, along with accompanying budget recommendations. This submission serves as a formal Letter of Intent expressing our capacity to serve as the non-federal implementation partner for the CIMP in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The IHNC Lock Replacement represents a once-in-a-generation investment in maritime infrastructure and regional resilience. While the project brings long-term benefits, we also recognize there will be near- and mid-term impacts in the surrounding neighborhoods of Holy Cross, Lower 9th Ward, Bywater, and St. Claude. Our proposal is designed to mitigate disruption, promote resilience, and expand opportunity for these communities, ensuring that this federal investment strengthens the fabric of local life.

In preparing this proposal, GNO, Inc. has:

- Conducted neighborhood analyses to tailor strategies to each community's strengths and challenges
- Outlined a partnership structure balancing accountability with authentic neighborhood engagement
- Provided a budget framework of \$170 million that reflects community needs in housing stability, small business support, workforce pathways, infrastructure, and resilience projects
- Leveraged our proven track record coordinating complex, multi-stakeholder initiatives, from the \$75 million H₂theFuture federal grant initiative to citywide infrastructure coordination for Super Bowl LIX

GNO, Inc. is uniquely positioned to serve as CIMP partner due to our organizational capacity, established credibility with civic and community leaders, and demonstrated ability to convene and deliver across public, private, and community sectors. We respectfully submit this proposal outlining our capacity to:

1. Formally engage with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as the non-federal CIMP implementation partner
2. Manage community-facing programs with transparency, federal compliance, and accountability
3. Foster community engagement through phased implementation and clear communication

We appreciate your consideration and welcome the opportunity to discuss this proposal further. Together, we can ensure that the IHNC Lock Replacement becomes a model of how major infrastructure investments can enhance communities sustainably. Thank you for your time and commitment to the future of Greater New Orleans.

Sincerely,

Michael Hecht
President & CEO