

# THANK YOU FOR JOINING US

Our presentation will begin momentarily

## The Morganza to the Gulf Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) Public Comment Period

### Project Website:

<https://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/About/Projects/Morganza-to-the-Gulf/Documents/>



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# MORGANZA TO THE GULF, LOUISIANA HURRICANE AND STORM DAMAGE RISK REDUCTION PROJECT

## Public Meeting for the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement



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# MEETING PURPOSE AND AGENDA

## Why are we here?

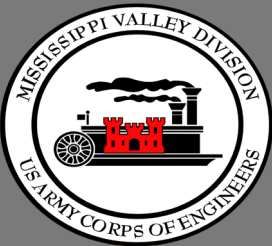
Provide an update on the Morganza to the Gulf, LA Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction Project and receive public feedback on the DSEIS and appendices during the 45-day comment period.

## Agenda

- Rules of Engagement
- Public Meeting Schedule
- Project Details
- Proposed Alternatives
- Environmental Consequences
- Project Timeline
- Opportunities to Comment
- Opportunities for Individual Discussions



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# RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

## In-Person Participation

- Comments will be taken after presentation is completed.
- Avoid interrupting the panel, moderator, or fellow attendees.

## Submit Comments

- Email [mvnenvironmental@usace.army.mil](mailto:mvnenvironmental@usace.army.mil)
- Scan QR Code
- Comment Card
- Court Reporter
- Mail: Mr. Jason Emery; Chief, Environmental Planning Branch  
*U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
New Orleans District, CEMVN-PDS  
7400 Leake Ave. New Orleans, LA 70118*

<https://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/About/Projects/Morganza-to-the-Gulf/Documents>



Reminder - public comment period ends January 23, 2026



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# PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE

## In-Person Meetings

Area: Theriot, LA

Date: Thursday January 8, 2026

Time(s): 2:00 – 4:00 PM; 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Location: Dularge Gym, 1330 Dr. Beatrous Road, Theriot, LA

Area: Houma, LA

Date: Thursday January 15, 2026

Time(s): 2:00 – 4:00 PM; 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Location: Barry P. Bonvillian Civic Center, 346 Civic Center Boulevard, Houma, LA

Area: Lafourche Parish

Date: Tuesday, January 20, 2026

Time(s): 2:00 – 4:00 PM; 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Location: Bollinger Sisters Suite (in Student Union Addition), Nichols State University, 103 Leighton Dr., Thibodaux, LA

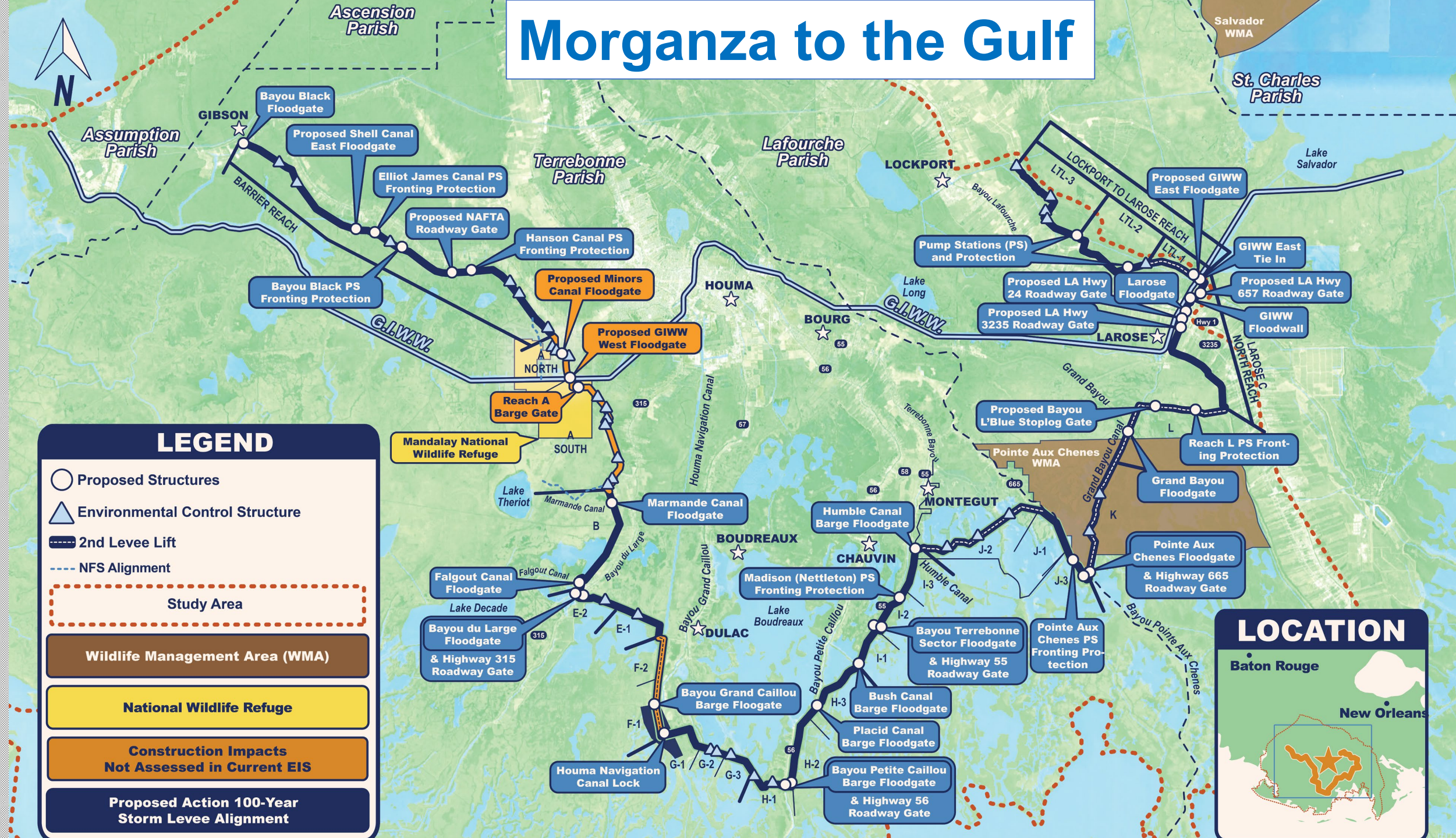


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# Morganza to the Gulf





# PROJECT OVERVIEW

## Problem

- Increasing susceptibility of communities to storm surge due to wetland loss, sea level change, and subsidence.

## Purpose

- Provide risk reduction for more than 200,000 people in the study area for storms up to a 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP)

## Background

- Project most recently authorized in accordance with the 2013 Post-Authorization Change Report/Revised Programmatic EIS (2013 PACR/RPEIS) and updated in the 2021 Engineering Documentation Report (EDR)

## Recent Changes

- Design changes to reduce costs while maintaining the authorized 1% AEP level of risk reduction
- Shifts in the proposed footprint to coincide with existing non-federal levees to reduce the amount of required fill for levee construction and minimize construction impacts to wetland habitat.



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# MORGANZA TO THE GULF LEVEE SYSTEM



## NON-FEDERAL SPONSORS

- Invested over \$1.1B along MTG alignment
  - 80+ miles of levee constructed
  - 25+ structures
  - Houma Navigation Canal Lock Complex
  - Ongoing levee lifts
- Collaborating on current designs
- Benefits demonstrated 99% residential flooding reduction between 2005 (Hurricane Rita) and 2019 (Hurricane Barry) but still vulnerable to greater storms



Covered under different NEPA documents



# MORGANZA TO THE GULF LEVEE SYSTEM FEDERAL WORK UNDERWAY

## FY 2021 New Start

- Humble Canal Preload & PED

## FY 2022 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Design & Construction)

- Reach A Levee portion
- Lockport to Larose Levee portion
- Minors Canal Floodgate
- GIWW West Floodgate
- GIWW East Floodgate
- Humble Canal Floodgate

## FY 2022 Community Fund (Earmark)

- Reach F Design
- Reach J-2 Design
- Shell Canal Floodgate Design

## FY 2023 Community Fund (Earmark)

- Reach L Design
- Reach K Design
- Bayou Terrebonne Floodgate Design

## FY 2024 Community Fund (Earmark)

- Reach A Levee Const. (Contract 1)
- Design of Critical Features
- Environmental Coord.



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**NLLD**

North Lafourche Levee District

Covered under different NEPA documents

# MORGANZA TO THE GULF LEVEE SYSTEM

## FEDERAL WORK UNDERWAY

### Features Under Design by USACE

- Shell Canal Floodgate
- Minors Canal Floodgate\*
- GIWW West Floodgate\*
- Reach A Levee & Env. Control Structures\*
- Reach F Levee\*
- Bayou Terrebonne Floodgate
- Humble Canal Floodgate
- Reach J2 Levee
- Reach K Levee & Env. Control Structures
- Reach L Levee
- Bayou L'Bleu Floodgate
- GIWW East Tie-in/Floodwall
- GIWW East
- Lockport to Larose Reach 1 Levee & Env. Control Structures

### Features Partially Funded for Construction

- Reach A Levee portion\*
- Lockport to Larose Levee portion
- Minors Canal Floodgate\*
- GIWW West Floodgate\*
- GIWW East Floodgate
- Humble Canal Floodgate



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**NLLD**

North Lafourche Levee District

Covered under different NEPA documents



# DSEIS TABLE OF CONTENTS

## SEIS Main Report

Executive Summary  
Section 1- Introduction / Purpose and Need  
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Section 4- Mitigation  
Section 5- Affected Environment  
Section 6- Environmental Consequences  
Section 7- Public and Agency Coordination  
Section 8- Compliance with Laws, Regulations,  
and Executive Orders  
Section 9- List of Preparers and Certifications  
Section 10- References  
Section 11- Acronyms and Abbreviations

## Appendices

Appendix A – Map Books of the Alignment  
Appendix B – Project Description  
Appendix C – Compensatory Habitat Mitigation Plan  
Appendix D – Wetland Value Assessment  
Appendix E – Hydrologic Modeling Reports  
Appendix F – Agency Coordination  
Appendix G – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report  
Appendix H – Induced Flooding Information  
Appendix I – Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Waste  
Appendix J – Cultural Resources  
Appendix K – Water Quality  
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Appendix M – Draft Water Control Plan  
Appendix N – Endangered Species Act Coordination  
Appendix O – Non-Federal Sponsor Construction and Permitting  
Appendix P – Prime and Unique Farmland

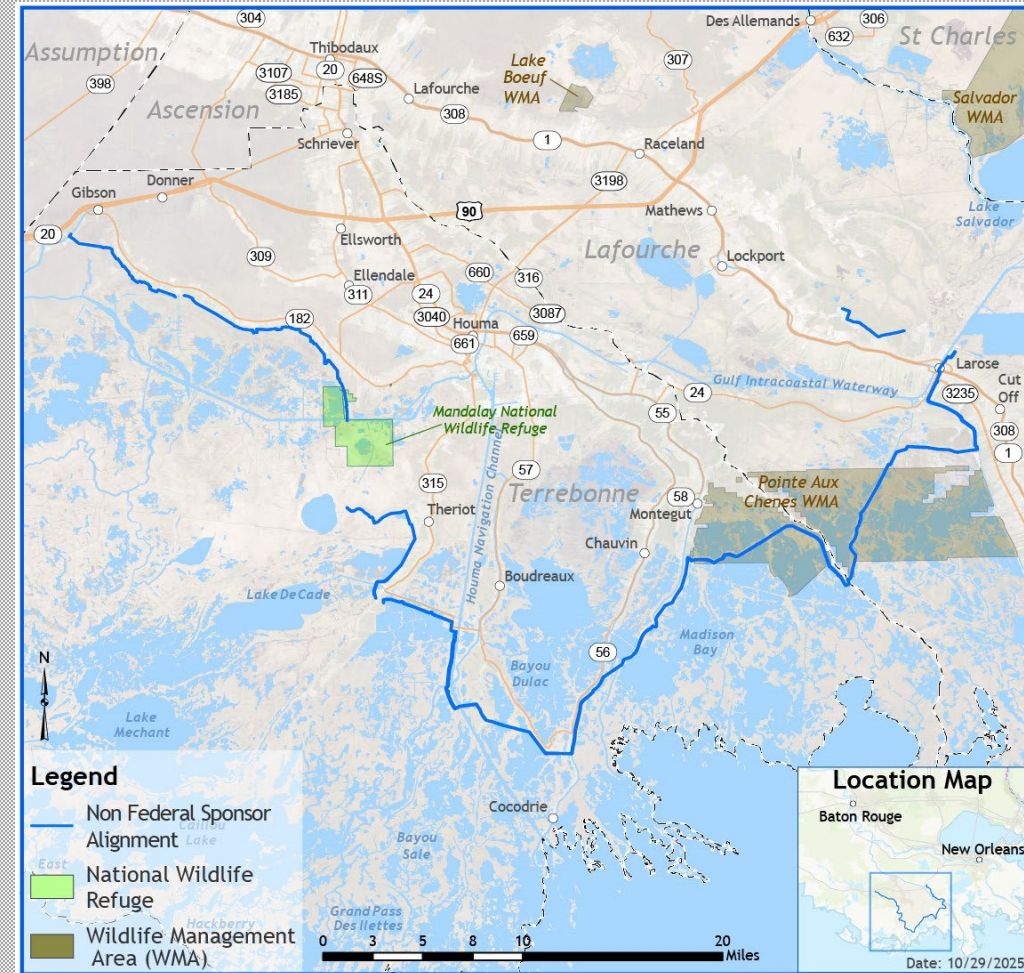


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# ALTERNATIVES: NO ACTION

- No federal action would be implemented
- Includes levees and structures constructed by local entities prior to executing the Project Partnership Agreement as the Non-Federal Sponsors for the Federal project in 2021.
- Non-federal levees range from 5 to 15 feet (NAVD88) in height
- Non-federal levees and structures do provide some risk reduction but not the level of risk reduction needed for catastrophic hurricane and tropical storms as significant as a 1% AEP (100-year storm) event.



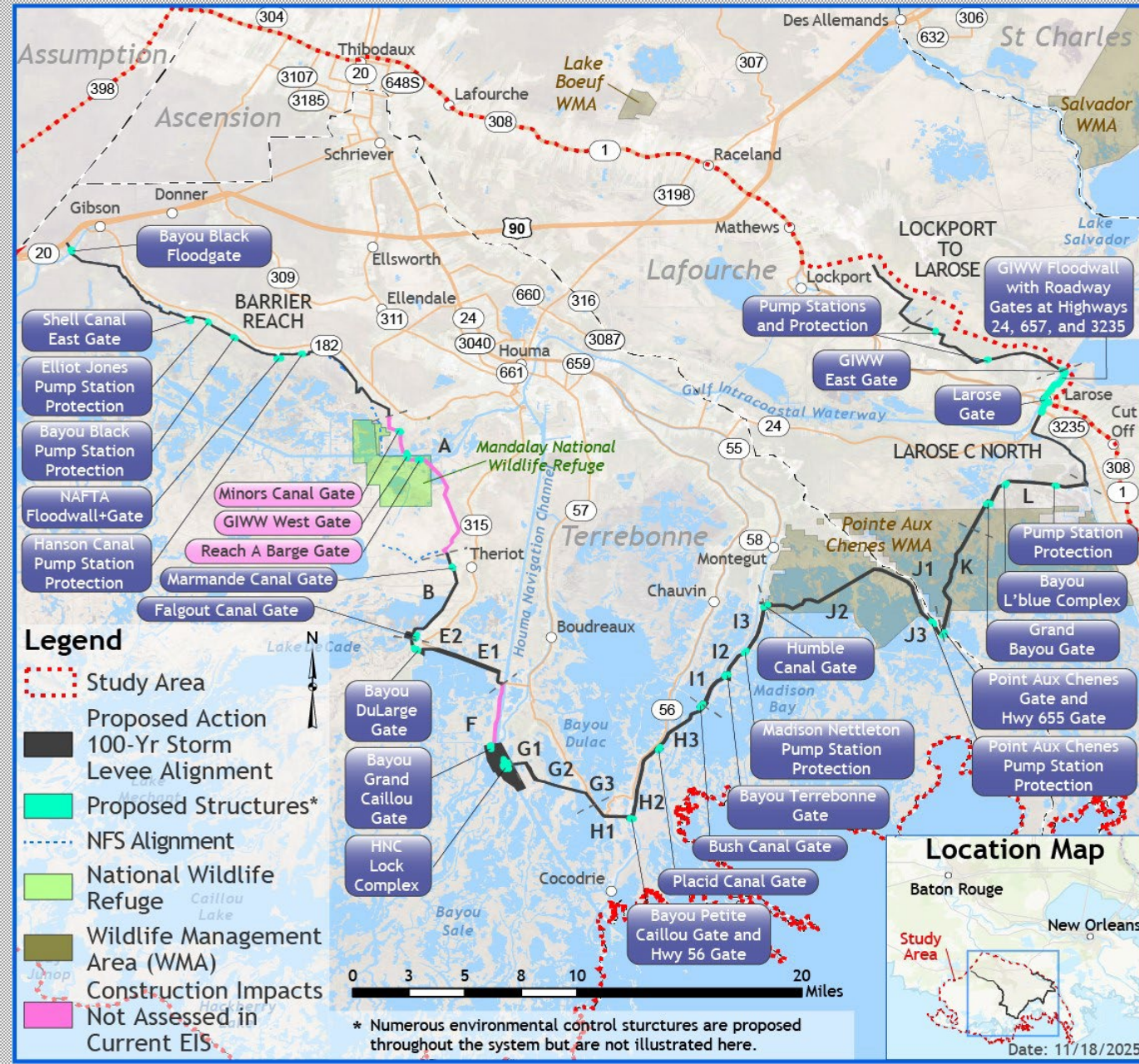
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# PROPOSED ACTION ALTERNATIVE: LEVEE SYSTEM

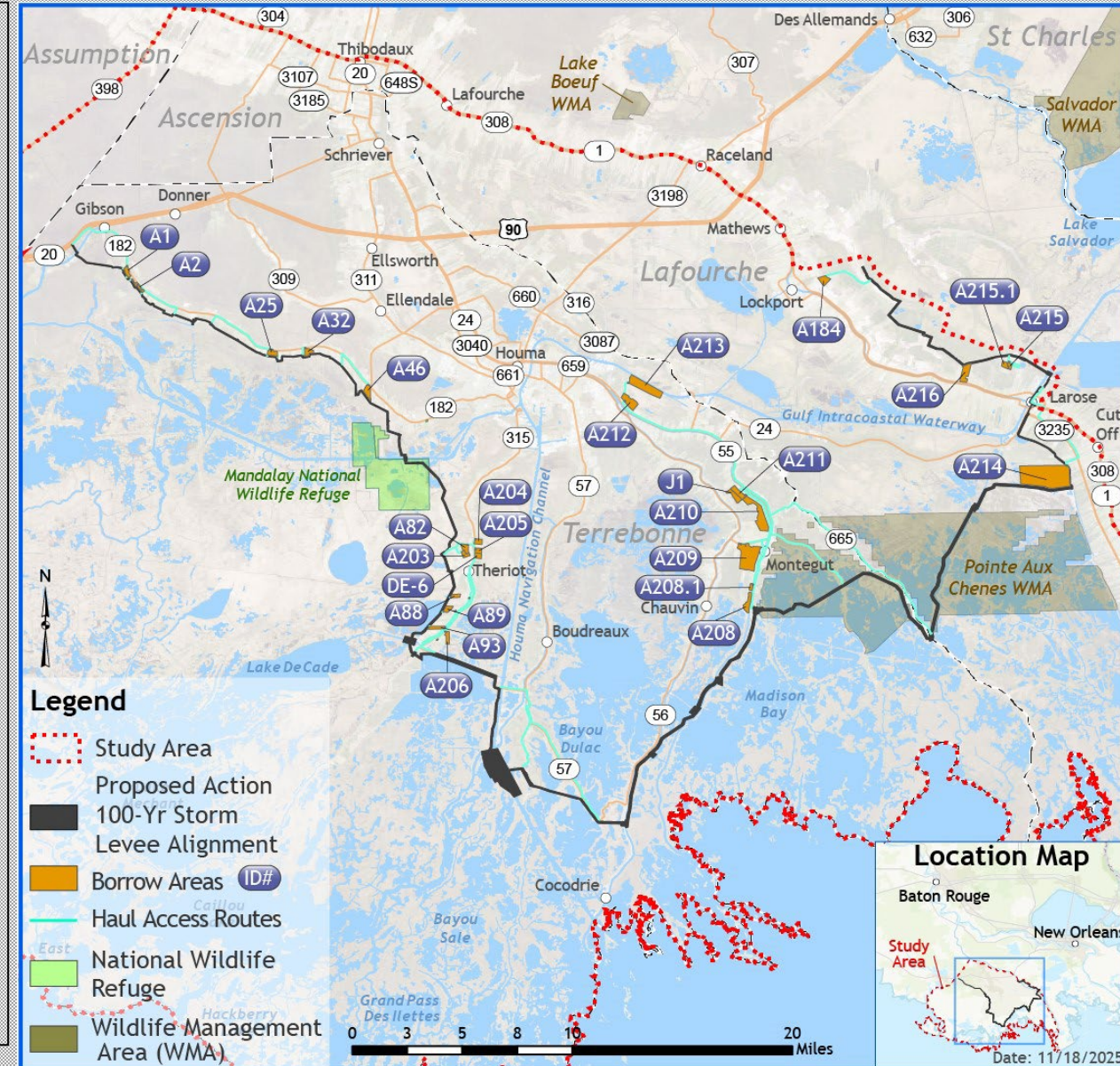
- **86 miles** of levees and structures to heights of **11-26 feet** by year 2085
- **24 environmental control structures, 15 navigable floodgates, 9 floodwalls, and 8 roadway floodgates.**
- **1% AEP (100-year) level of risk reduction** through year 2085
- Does **not** include construction of **Reaches A and F**, which are assessed in separate NEPA documents to allow the USACE to begin constructing these high-priority features in advance of the finalization of this SEIS
- Updates the 2013 PACR/RPEIS alignment with design updates and location shifts to coincide with existing levees and reduce impacts.
- **No further alternative formulation** was conducted for this Draft SEIS. Future design changes will be evaluated per ER 1110-2-1150





## PROPOSED ACTION ALTERNATIVE: BORROW SITES AND ACCESS ROADS

- Estimated **55 million cubic yards** (cy) of borrow material to construct levees to the 2035 design elevation. Estimated **28 million** more cy to reach 2085 design elevations.
- **27 borrow sites (more than 3,000 acres total)** would be excavated to depths of 20 ft for fill material and hauled via trucks and barges for levee construction.
- USACE used best available data to choose borrow site locations that **avoid significant habitats, cultural sites, and hazardous, toxic, and radioactive waste (HTRW)** concerns.
- Field surveys before construction would confirm the presence or absence of habitats, cultural resources, and HTRW. If present, borrow sites would be re-designed to avoid them or a mitigation plan(s) would be developed.
- Majority of haul/access routes would be on existing roads with exception of a new gravel road constructed along the 40 Arpent Canal for the Lockport to Larose Reach.
- Some material would be delivered using barges on Bayou Terrebonne, Bush Canal, and Bayou Petite Caillou.



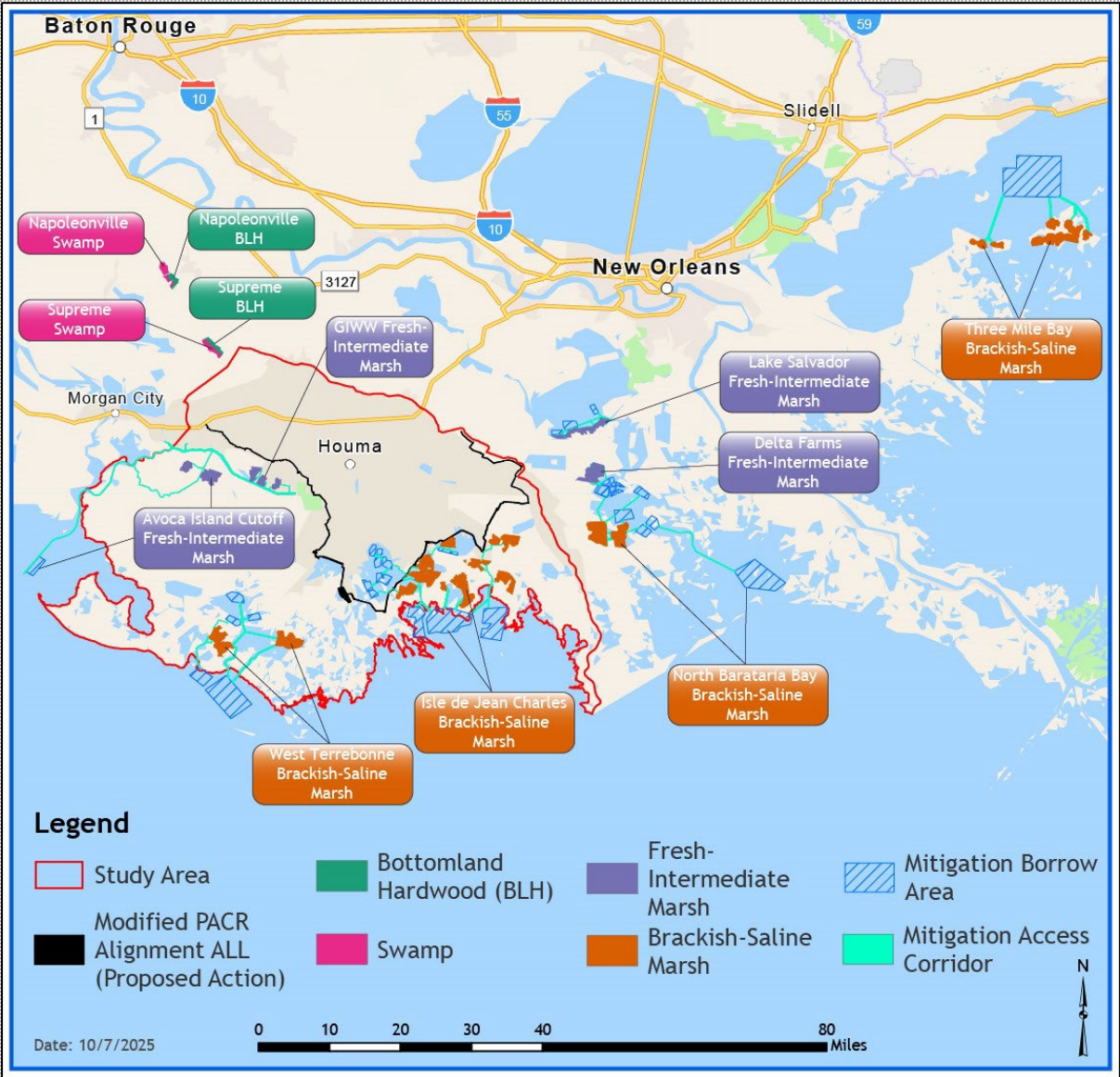


# PROPOSED ACTION ALTERNATIVE: HABITAT MITIGATION SITES

Final Array

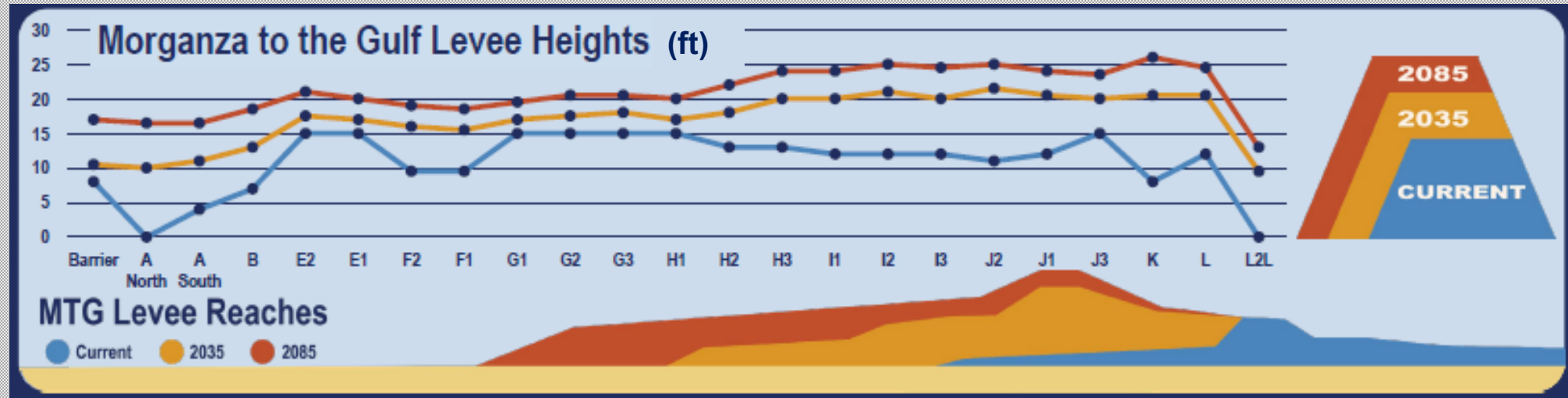
Tentatively Selected Plan

<u>Impacted Habitat Type</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>In-Kind Mitigation Tentatively Selected Plan</u>
BLH	588	Napoleonville
Swamp	1,063	Napoleonville
Fresh/ Intermediate Marsh	2,895	Combo Mitigation Bank/Delta Farms
Brackish/Saline Marsh	6,431	Combo Mitigation Bank/West Terrebonne

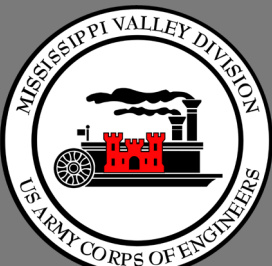


# PROPOSED ACTION IMPLEMENTATION

- Due to its vast size, the project would be constructed in phases in 2026 - 2032
- To maintain the 1% AEP risk reduction in the face of ongoing sea-level change, additional levee lifts are projected to be necessary in 2045 and 2070, with final completion anticipated in 2085.
- Construction would occur from approximately 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. daily, with some levee reaches and structures built concurrently.



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# PROJECT IMPACTS

## Overview

- Storm Surge/Project-Increased Water Levels
- Significant Habitat
- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Essential Fish Habitat
- Wildlife
- Coastal Resources
- Water Quality
- Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Waste (HTRW)
- Recreation/Public Lands
- Farmland
- Traffic & Navigation
- Air & Noise
- Socioeconomics
- Cultural Resources
- Tribal Resources

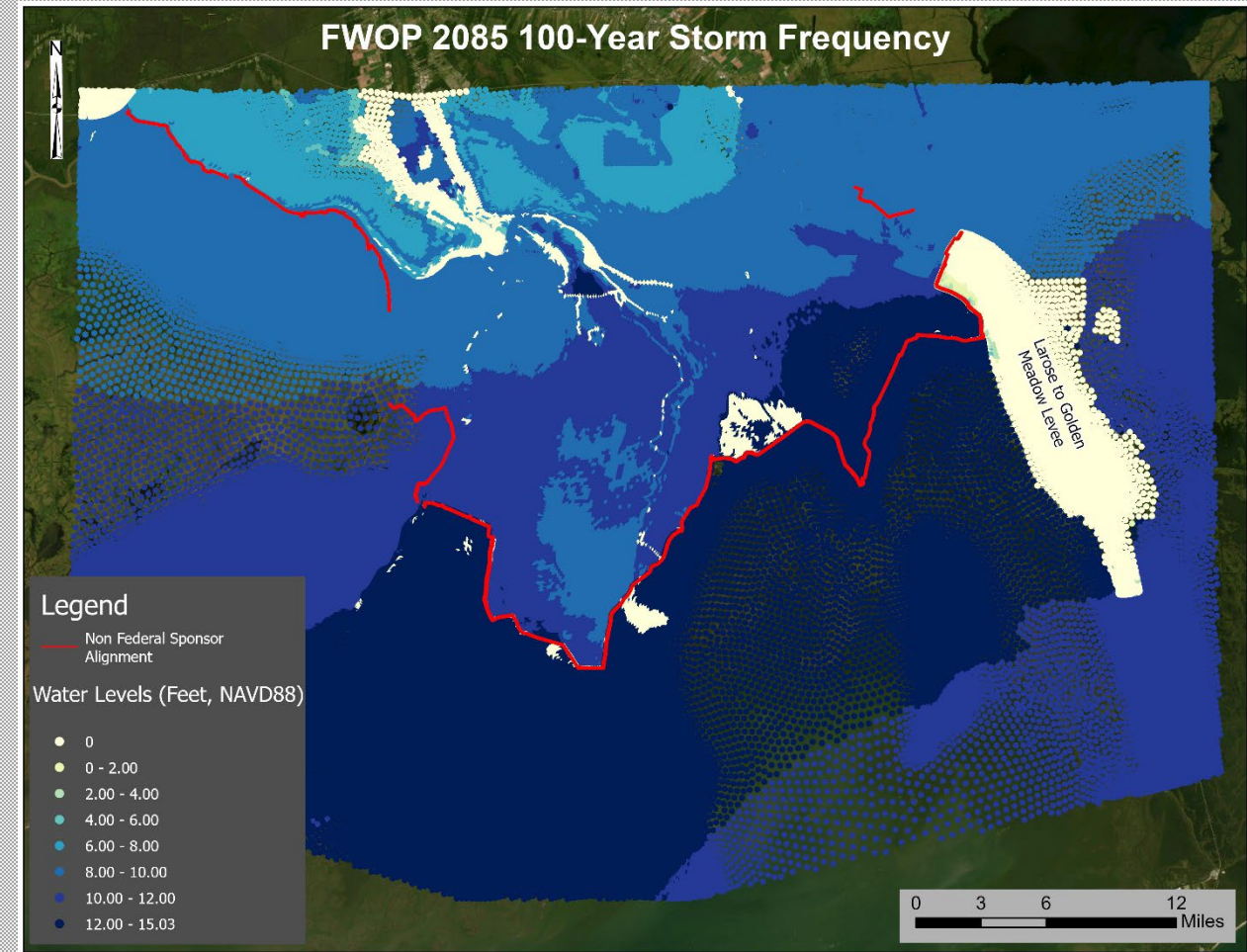




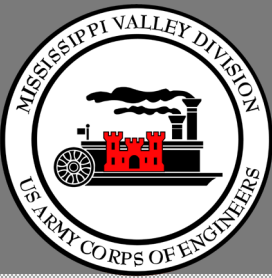
# ASSESSMENT OF CHANGES TO WATER LEVELS

## Storm Surge/Project Increased Water Levels

- Coastal Storm Modeling System CSTORM-MS integrates the Advanced Circulation (ADCIRC) model and the Simulating Waves Nearshore (SWAN) model to simulate storm surge and wave dynamics. Water levels would be reduced inside the system
- Assessed the 1% (100-year), 5% (20-year), and 50% (2-year) Annual Exceedance Probability storm events



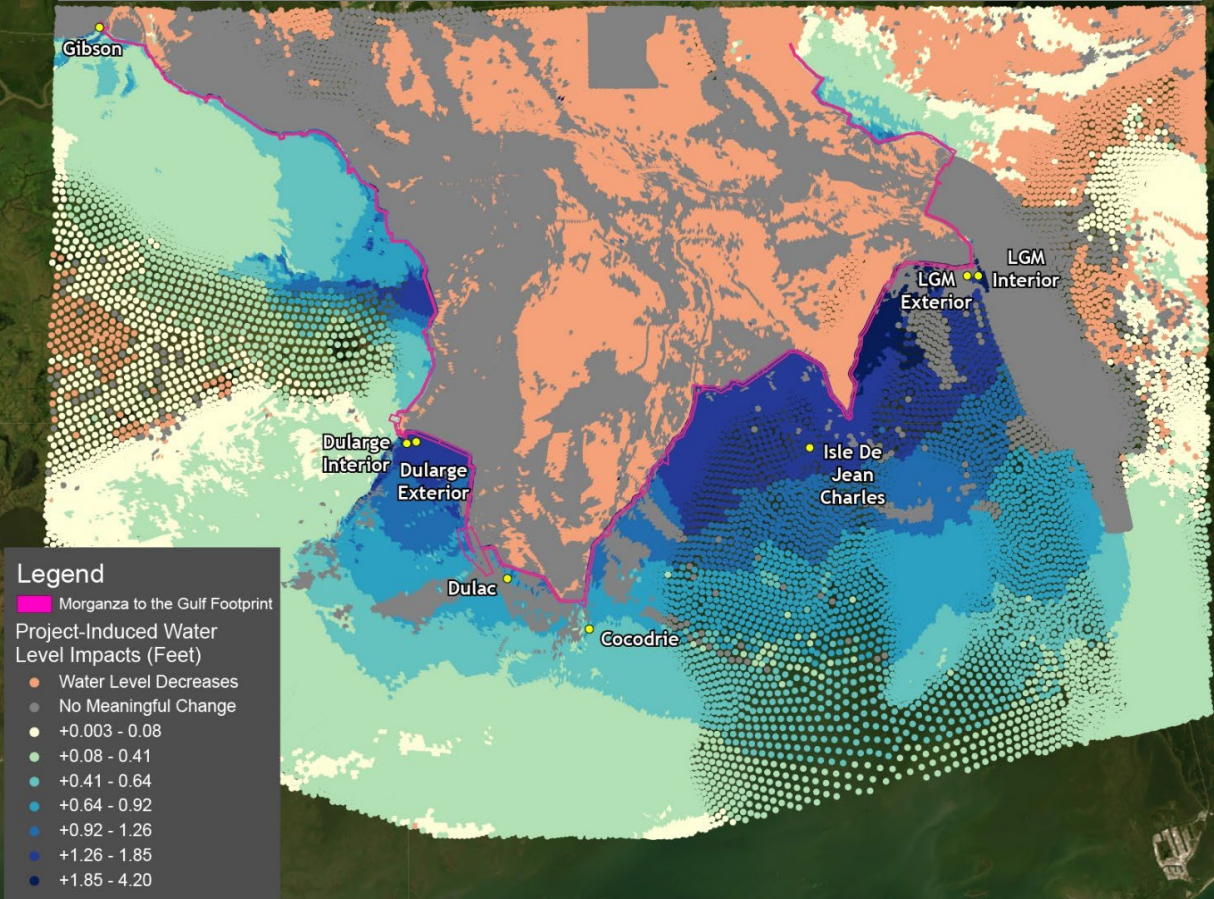
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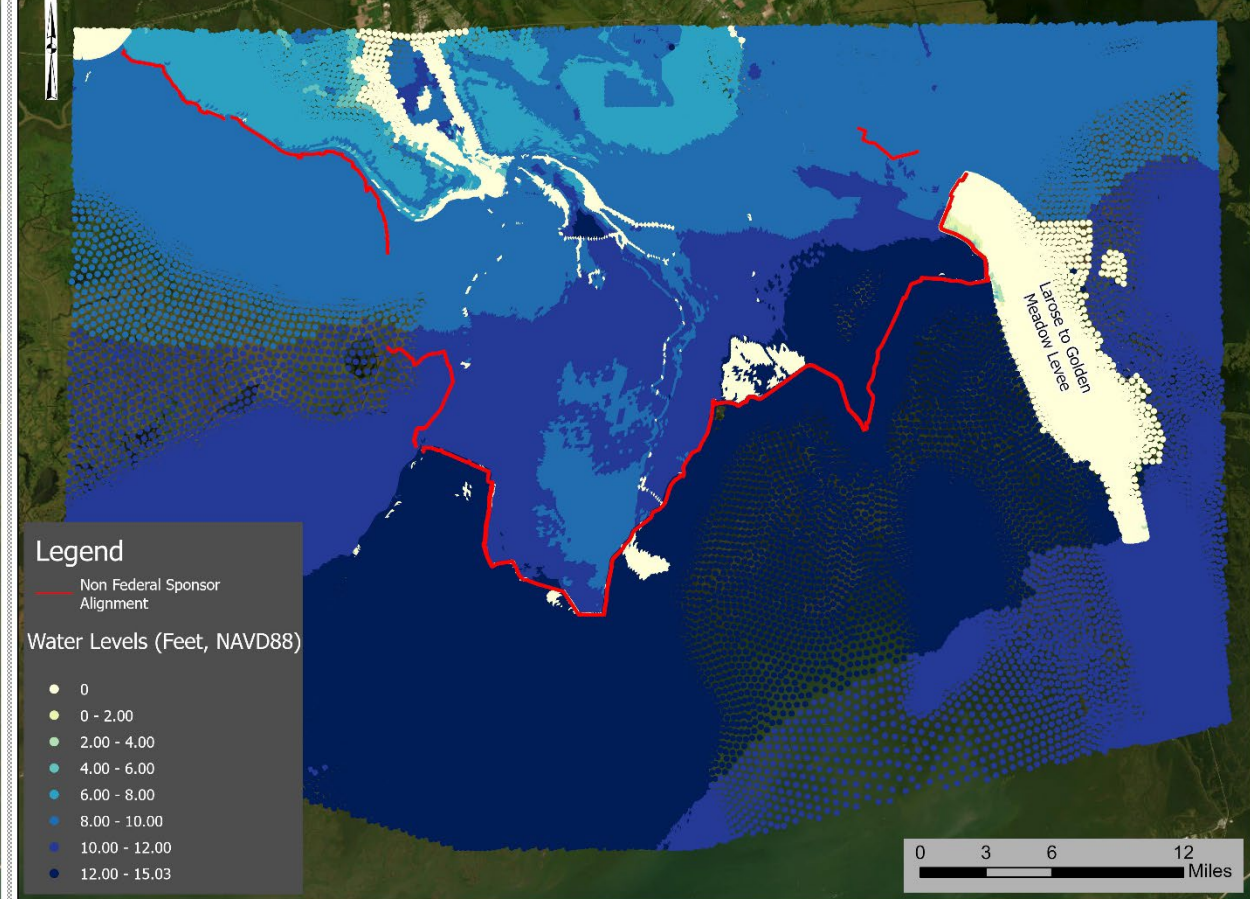


# ASSESSMENT OF CHANGES TO WATER LEVELS

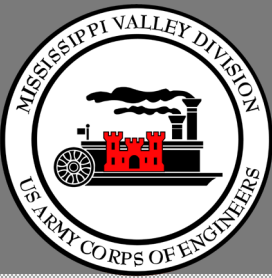
Project-Induced Water Level Differences, 1% AEP (100-Year) Storm Event, 2085



FWOP 2085 100-Year Storm Frequency



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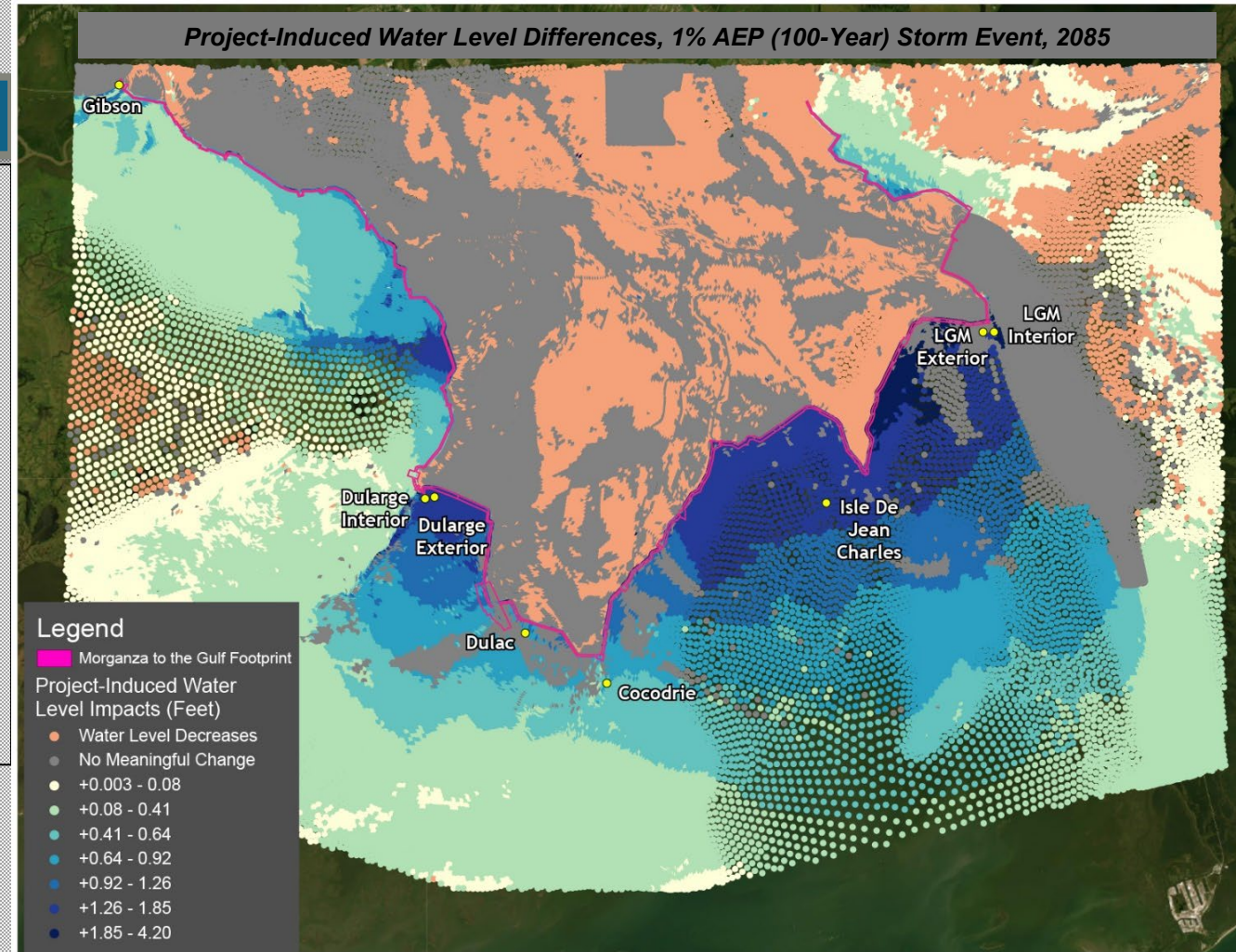




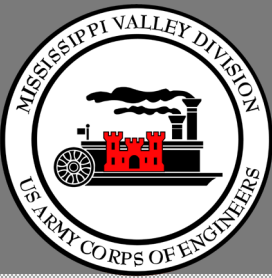
# PROJECT IMPACTS

## Storm Surge/Project Increased Water Levels

- Proposed levee system would block storm surge and waves during storm events – up to and including 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (100-year) storms
- Water levels would be reduced inside the project
- Water levels on the outside of the project is expected to temporarily increase for 12 - 48 hours during and immediately following storm events.



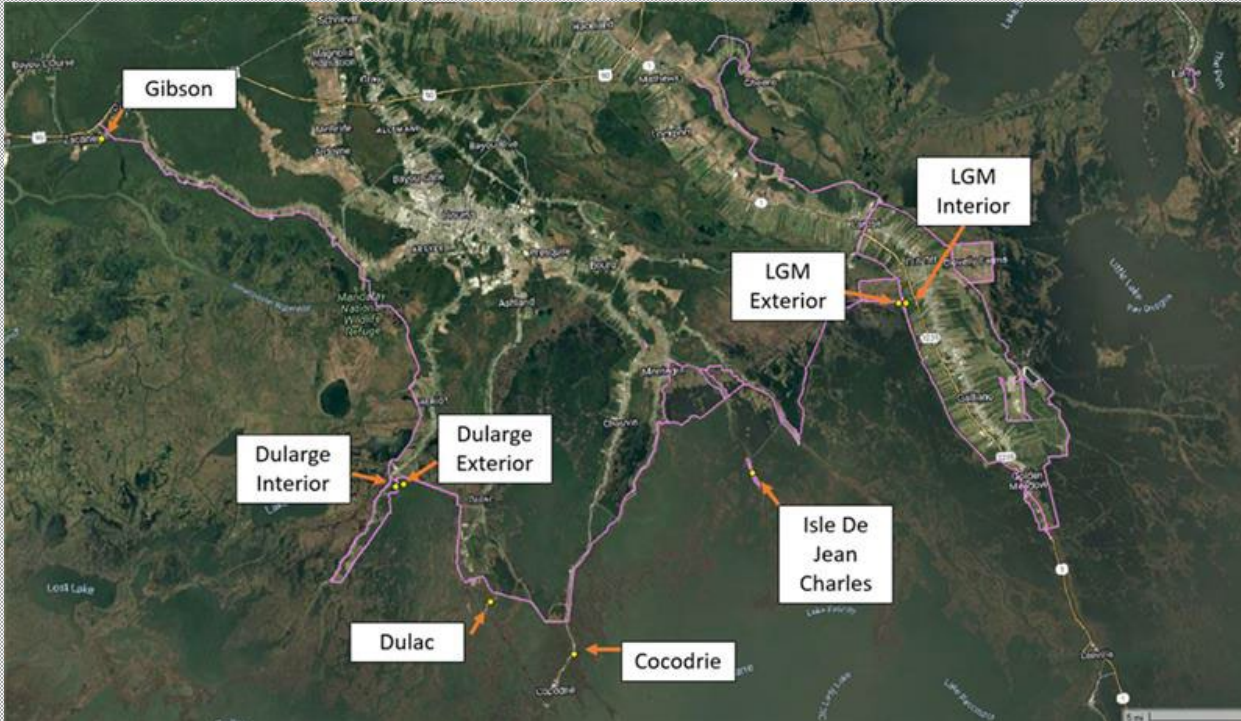
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## PROJECT IMPACTS

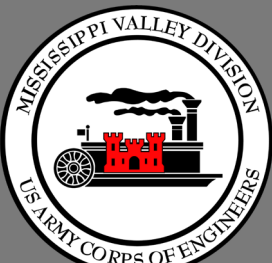
## Storm Surge/Project Increased Water Levels



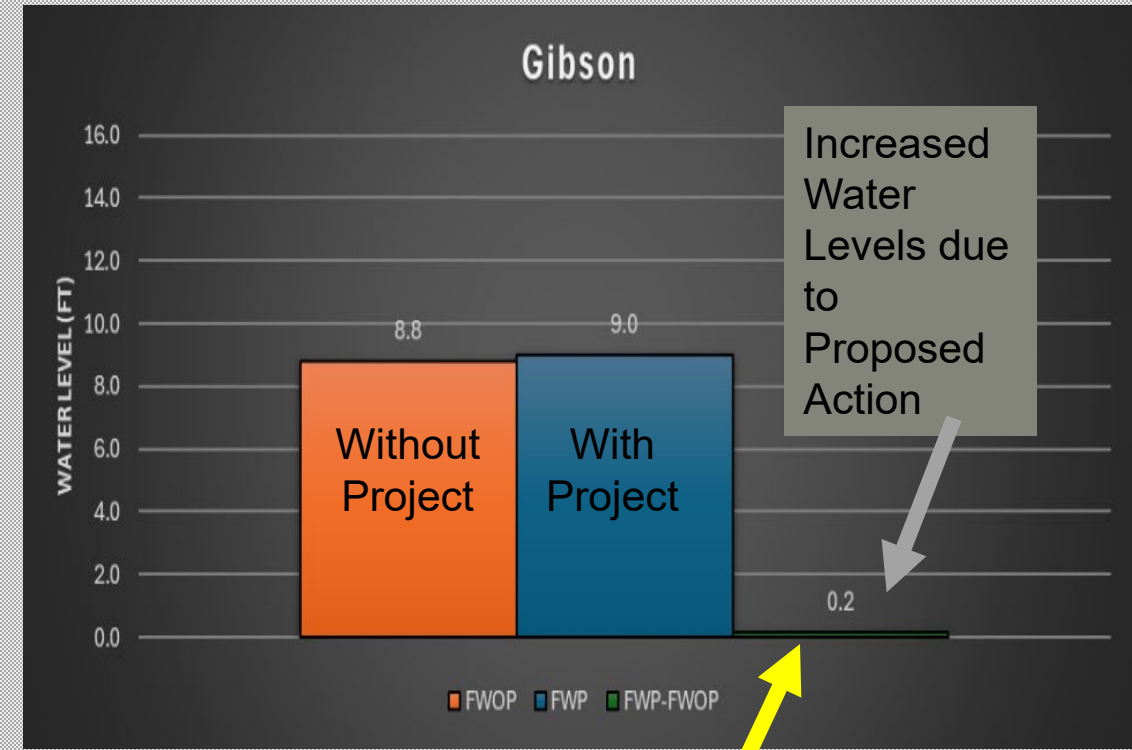
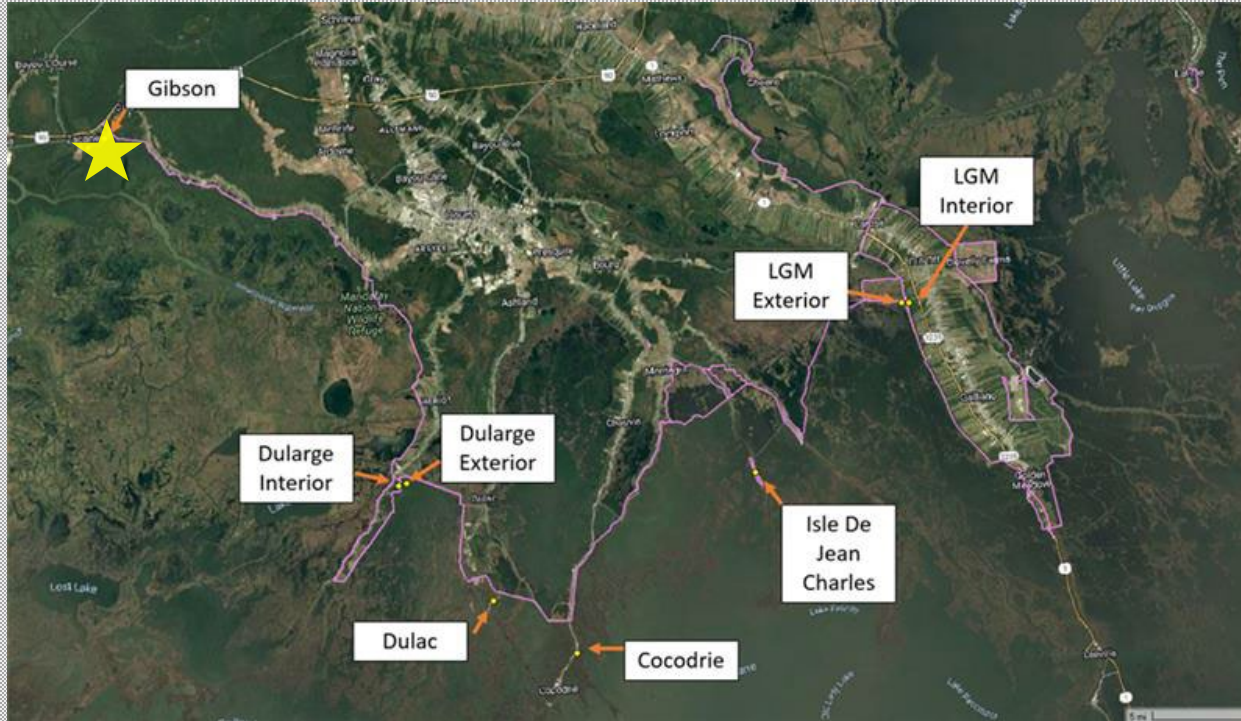
- Selected eight locations to assess FWP, FWOP, and differences in water levels
- Water levels in these locations are projected to be higher under the Proposed Action as compared to the No Action Alternative.
- Gibson is projected to have the lowest difference in water levels of +0.2 feet
- Larose to Golden Meadow Interior is projected to have the largest difference of +2.0 feet.



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# PROJECT IMPACTS – PROJECTED CHANGES TO WATER LEVELS



In **Gibson**, the project would cause a temporary increase of **0.2 foot** in water levels for 12-48 hours during/immediately following 100-year (1% AEP) storm events

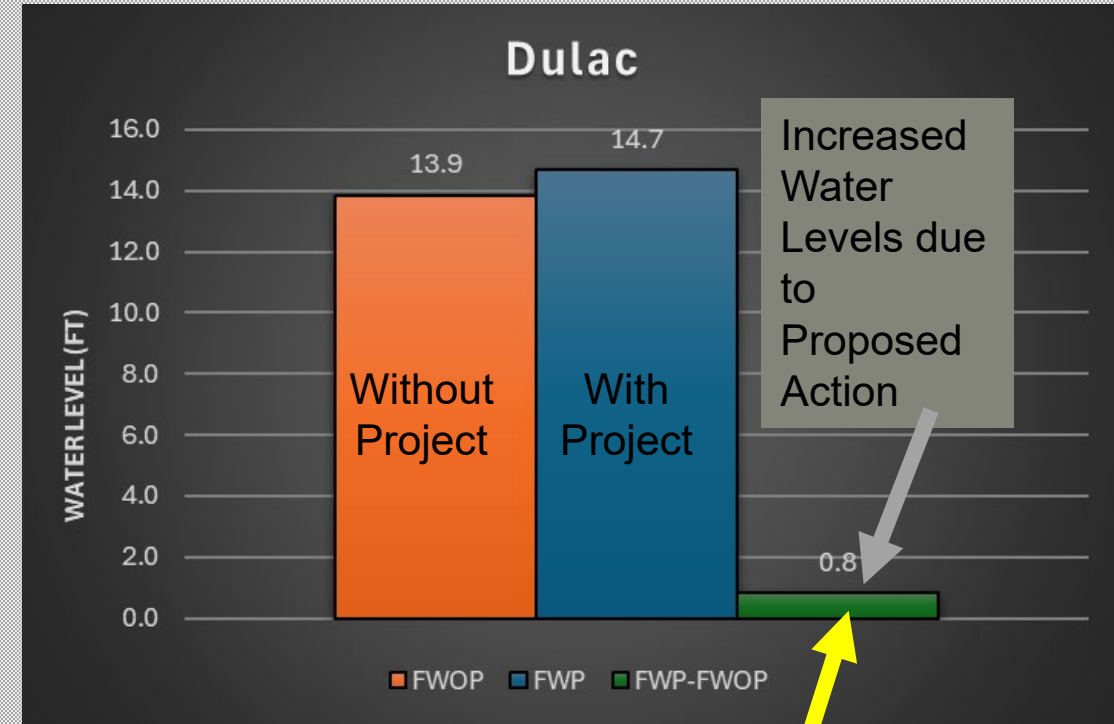
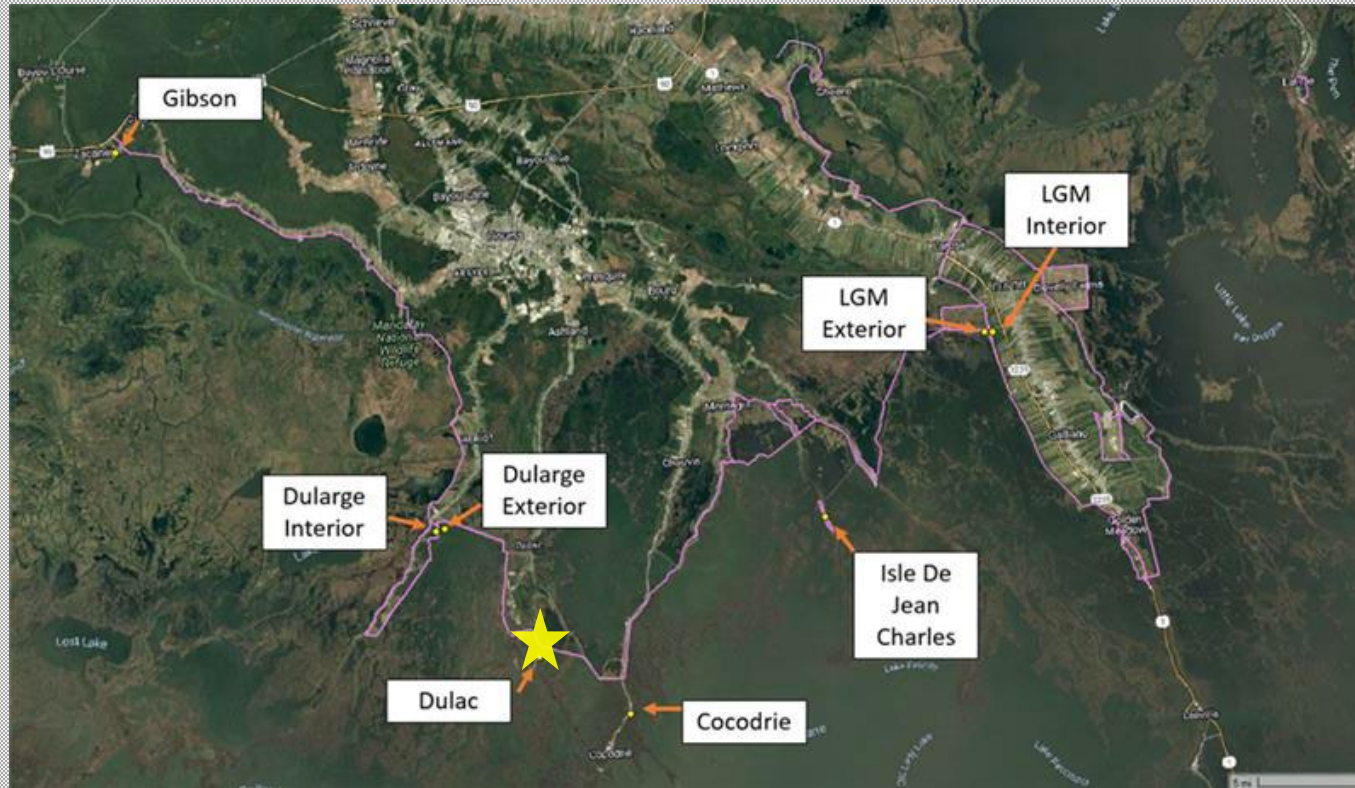


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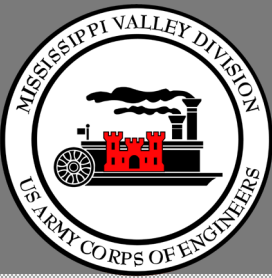
# PROJECT IMPACTS – PROJECTED CHANGES TO WATER LEVELS



In **Dulac**, the project would cause a temporary increase of **0.8 foot** in water levels for 12-48 hours during/immediately following 100-year (1% AEP) storm events

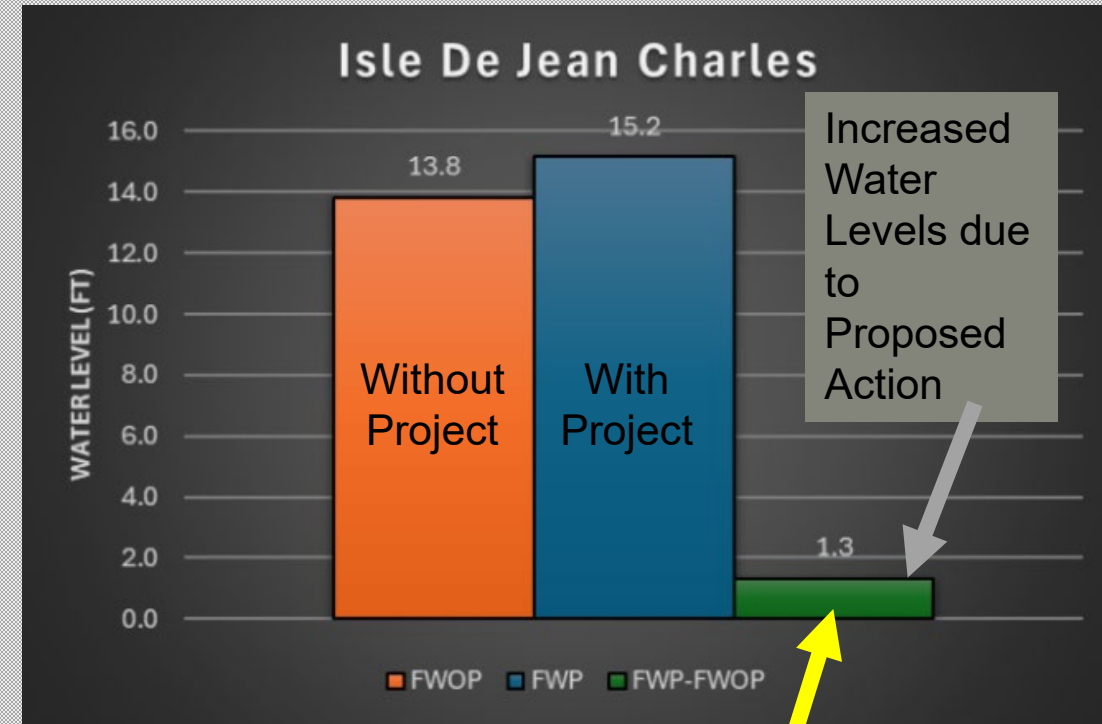
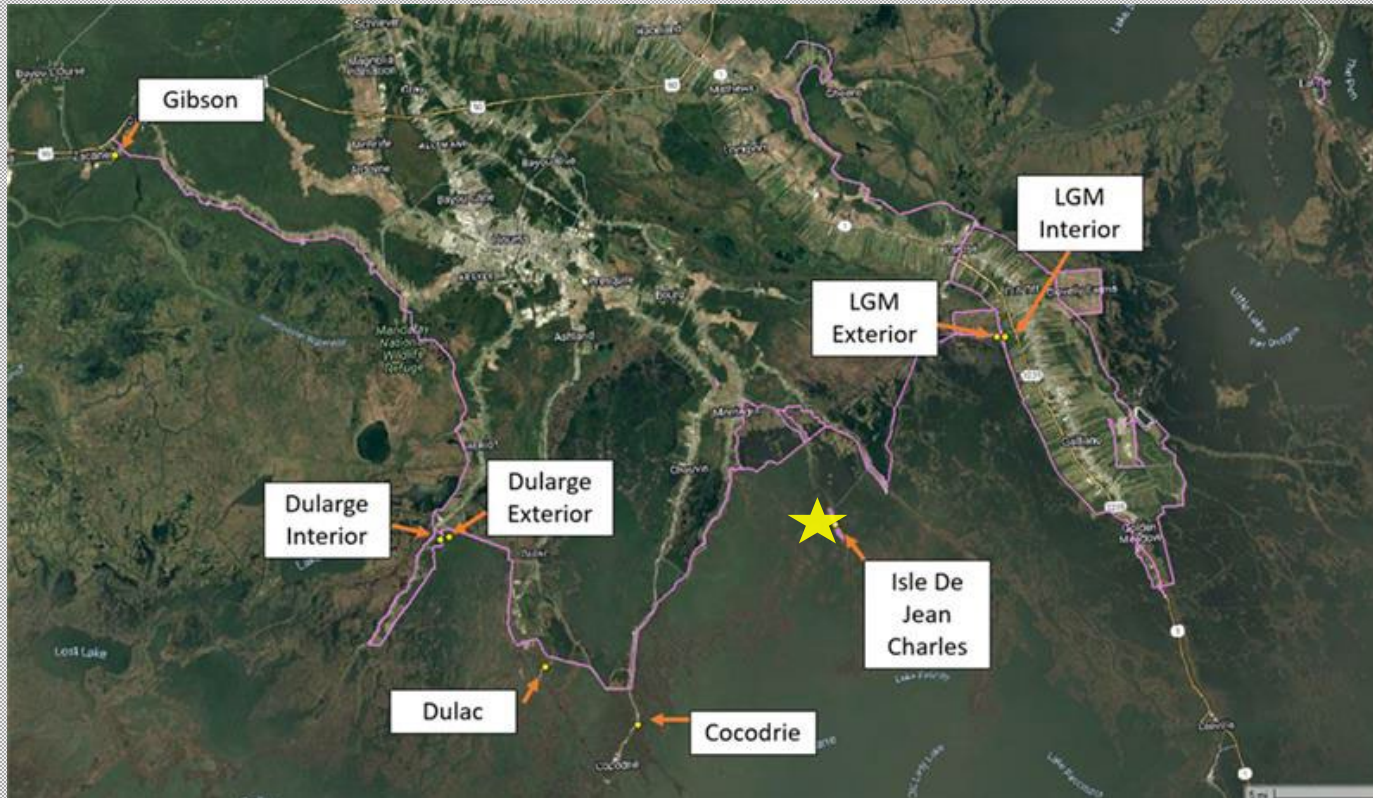


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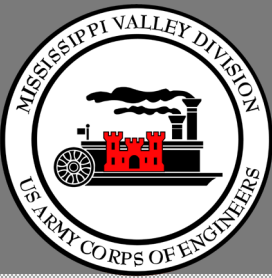
# PROJECT IMPACTS – PROJECTED CHANGES TO WATER LEVELS



In **Isle De Jean Charles**, the project would cause a temporary increase of **1.3 foot** in water levels for 12-48 hours during/immediately following 100-year (1% AEP) storm events



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# PROJECT IMPACTS

## Storm Surge/Flooding Impacts

- In the communities on the outside of the project levee system would increase water levels by:
  - 1 millimeter (0.003 foot) at 752 structures (see Table 1)
  - 6 inches or more at 488 structures (see Table 2)
- Impacts would be limited to 12 – 48 hours during and immediately following 1% AEP (100-year) storm events (year 2085 sea-level change conditions).
- Project-induced flooding impacts (difference between No Action and Action Alternatives) would be less substantial during less severe, more frequent flood events.

Table 1

### Water Level Increases of 1 Millimeter

Occupancy Type	Number of Structures Impacted
Single-family Residential	496
Multi-Family Residential	1
Mobile Home	114
Public	15
Warehouse	118
Retail	2
Professional	4
Grocery	1
Restaurant	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>752</b>

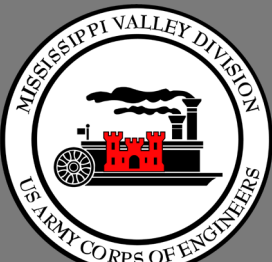
Table 2

### Water Level Increases of 6 Inches or More

Occupancy Type	Number of Structures Impacted
Single-family Residential	344
Multi-Family Residential	1
Mobile Home	76
Public	8
Warehouse	58
Retail	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>488</b>



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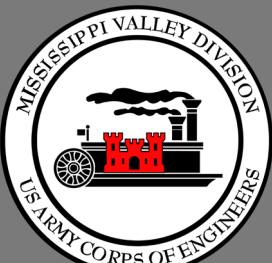
# PROJECT IMPACTS

## Storm Surge/Flooding Impacts

- Mitigation implementation (as appropriate) for induced flooding impacts would be completed prior to construction.
- The U.S. Constitution's Fifth Amendment states that private property cannot be taken for public use without just compensation.
- Engineering-based mitigation measures could include (but would not be limited to) the following, all of which would require further NEPA evaluation:
  - Levees
  - Additional culverts, gravity outlets, and/or environmental control structures
  - Drainage canals
  - Ponding areas
  - Pumps
- Non-engineering-based measures could include (but would not be limited to):
  - Acquisition of easements; and/or
  - Acquisition of fee interests.



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# PROJECT IMPACTS

## Significant Habitat

- Direct impacts: 4,574 acres (1,365 average annual habitat units (AAHUs)) of bottomland hardwoods (BLH), swamp, and marshes would be lost during construction.
- Long-term, indirect impacts due to hydrologic shifts: Up to **1,059 acres** of BLH, swamp, and marshes. WVAs will be completed to quantify AAHUs and included in the Final SEIS.
- Habitat impacts would be **fully compensated** before or concurrent with Proposed Action construction.

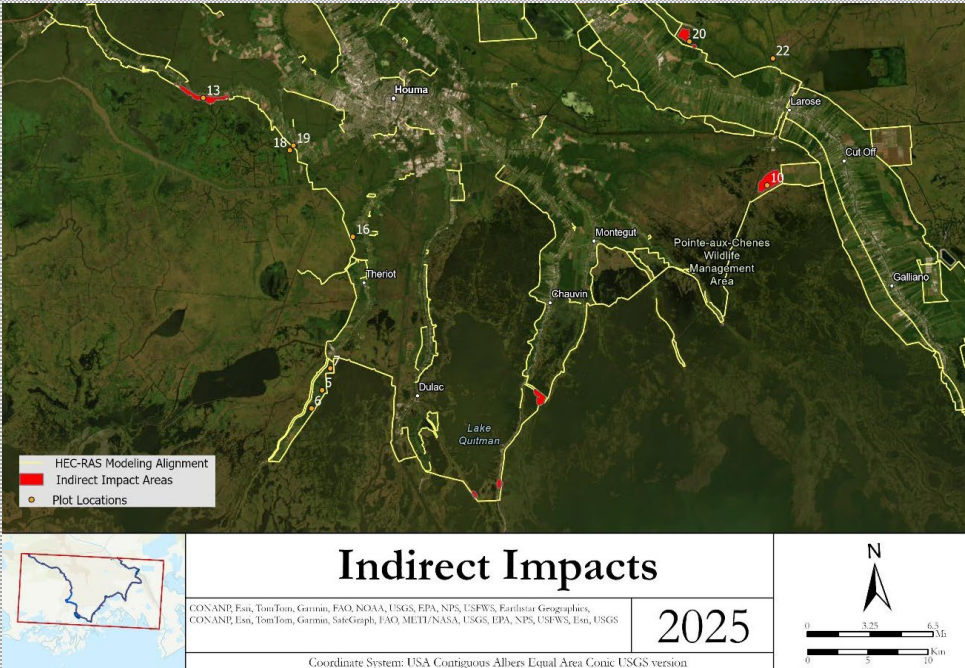
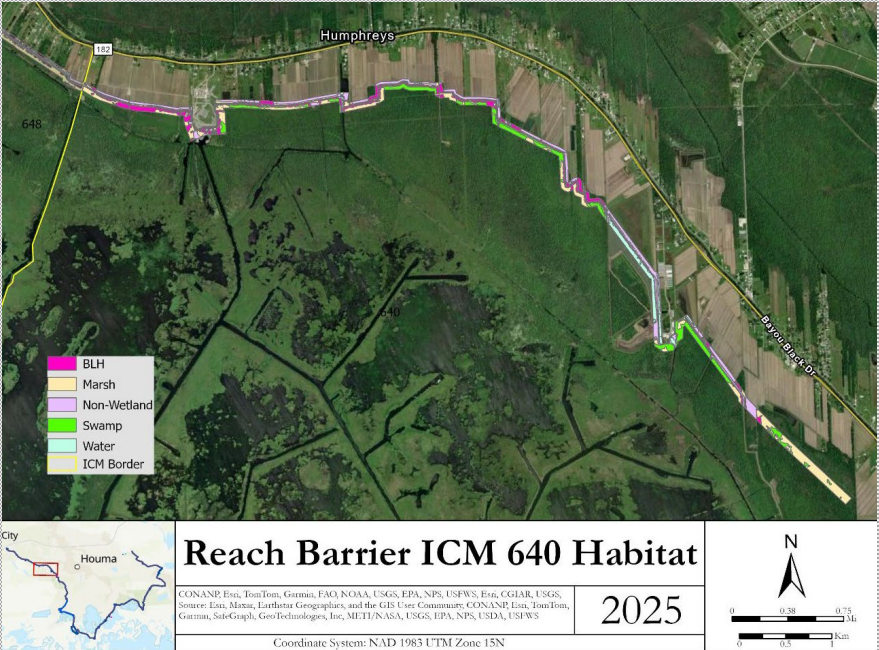
Table 6-5. Wetlands Lost within the Proposed Action Construction Footprint

Wetland Habitat Classification	Acres	AAHUs
BLH	324	-147.3
Swamp	178	-120.4
Fresh/Intermediate Marsh	1,516	-421.6
Brackish marsh	379	-55.8
Saline Marsh	2,177	-620.2
Total	4,574	-1365.3

Note: The numbers in this table have been rounded for presentation purposes. As a result, the totals may not reflect the sum of the addends.

Table 6-8. Indirect Impacts to significant habitat.

Habitat	Acres
Forest (combination of BLH and Swamp)	179
Fresh Marsh	214
Intermediate Marsh	621
Brackish Marsh	23
Saline Marsh	22
Total Marsh	880
Total Habitat	1059





# PROJECT IMPACTS

## Threatened and Endangered Species

- USACE has determined that the project would **not likely adversely affect** the West Indian manatee, tricolored bat, eastern black rail, alligator snapping turtle, monarch butterfly, bald eagle, or colonial nesting water birds.
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has concurred with these findings.
- Informal consultation with National Marine Fisheries Service would be finalized prior to decision making.

## Essential Fish Habitat

- The project would adversely impact estuarine marsh in the study area, which is essential fish habitat (EFH).
- The National Marine Fisheries Service is reviewing the project during the current public review period; their comments will be included in the Final SEIS and their recommendations and required mitigation would be implemented before or during construction.

## Wildlife

- Habitat would be converted to uplands and project features; habitat mitigation sites would work to offset impacts.
- Birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians would relocate to other suitable habitat in the area.
- Non-mobile species would perish.



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# PROJECT IMPACTS

## Coastal Resources

- USACE is coordinating with the Louisiana Department of Conservation and Energy for a Coastal Zone Consistency Determination.
- This coordination and determination would be included in the Final SEIS.

## Water Quality

- Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) analysis and public notice would be included in the Final SEIS.
- Clean Water Act Section 401 water quality certification would be completed prior to decision making.
- A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan and a Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure plan would be implemented during construction.

## Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Waste (HTRW)

- Surveys and desktop analyses have not indicated HTRW concerns in the proposed project footprint.
- Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessments would be completed within 6 months prior to all phases of construction.
- Any HTRW concerns discovered would be relocated or avoided.



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# PROJECT IMPACTS

## Recreation/Public Lands

- The project would widen existing local levees that dissect the Point-Aux-Chenes WMA (in reaches J1, J2, J3, K, and L), which would reduce the contiguous hunting acres.
- LDWF manages the WMA and is a coordinating agency for this SEIS.
- The USACE is coordinating the proposed structure designs with LDWF to accommodate LDWF's operation of existing water control structures.

## Farmland

The project would:

- Irrevocably remove approx. 1,102 acres of prime farmland in the construction footprint.
- Irrevocably utilize approx. 2,631 acres of prime farmland for borrow material, access routes, and staging areas.
- Provide storm surge and flood risk reduction benefits to farmland inside of the levees

## Traffic and Navigation

- The project would have minor, temporary increases in navigation traffic during construction from water-based deliveries of construction material.
- Truck traffic would pass through residential areas throughout construction. Any impacts to roadway infrastructure would be repaired after construction is completed.
- Trucks may pass through school zones during speed-restricted time frames unless prohibited by local laws.



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# PROJECT IMPACTS

## Air and Noise

- The project would have temporary, adverse impacts on air and noise during construction due to the operation of heavy equipment and haul trucks.
- Best Management Practices would be implemented during construction to minimize dust and air emissions.
- Pile driving would be limited to day light hours.

## Socioeconomics

- During construction, communities would be adversely impacted by increased truck traffic and air/noise emissions.
- Over the long-term, businesses, jobs, and community cohesion would benefit from reduced flooding impacts.

## Cultural Resources

- The project may impact Tribal Lands and historic properties in the study area, but effects have not been fully determined due to the project's vast size.
- USACE is negotiating a Programmatic Agreement with the State Historic Preservation Office, Federally recognized Tribal Governments, and other stakeholders to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate adverse effects.
- The Programmatic Agreement will be executed before a Record Of Decision is signed and construction initiated.



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# PROJECT IMPACTS

## Tribal Resources

- Five State-Designated Tribal Statistical Areas (SDTSA) are located within the project watershed: Bayou Lafourche, Grand Cailliou/Dulac/Isle de Jean Charles, Pointe-au-Chien, United Houma Nation
- Tribes have expressed concerns about construction truck traffic that would pass through the SDTSAs
- Isle de Jean Charles would be impacted by water level increases during storms, with water level increases of up to 1.3 feet during 1% AEP (100-year) storm events.
- Induced flooding mitigation would be implemented before construction



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# TIMELINE: NEXT STEPS



Milestone	Date
Draft SEIS Public Review Ends	January 23, 2026
Final SEIS Review Period	August/September 2026



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# SUBMIT YOUR COMMENTS

Comments accepted through January 23, 2026

## 5 Ways to Submit Comments on the DSEIS

1. Email: [mvnenvironmental@usace.army.mil](mailto:mvnenvironmental@usace.army.mil)
2. Scan QR Code →
3. Court Reporter / Comment Card at Table
4. Mail:  
Mr. Jason Emery; Chief, Environmental Planning Branch  
*U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*  
*New Orleans District, CEMVN-PDS*  
*7400 Leake Ave. New Orleans, LA 70118*
5. Project Website:  
<https://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/About/Projects/Morganza-to-the-Gulf/Documents>



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