Convey Atchafalaya River Water to Northern Terrebonne Marshes

January 2013

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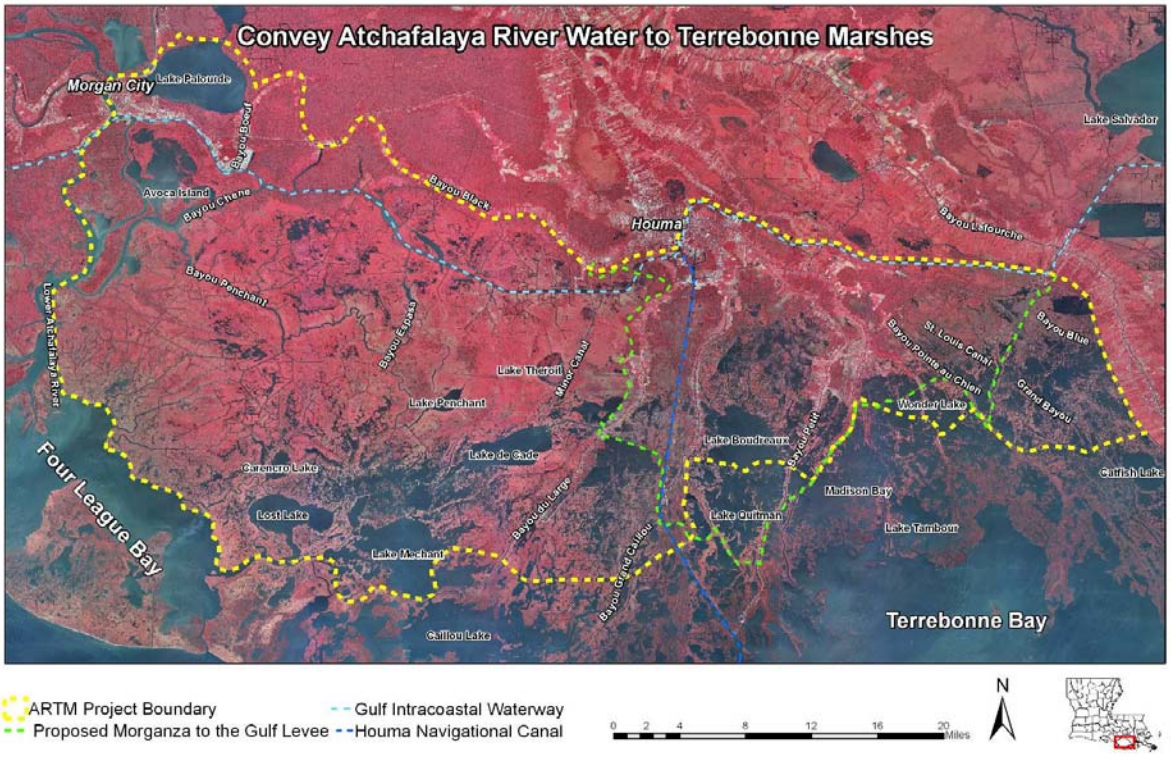

The Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) program focuses on critical, near-term ecosystem restoration projects and studies, as approved in the Water Resources Development Act of 2007. The program goal is to slow the current trend of coast-wide wetland loss and resource degradation.

Several restoration techniques are employed in this program, including river diversions, marsh creation and barrier island restoration. Overall, the program is focused on a systematic approach to coastal restoration using larger projects to restore natural features and ecosystem processes.

The Convey Atchafalaya River Water to Northern Terrebonne Marshes project is a water management project identified in the LCA program. It was authorized under the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 - Section 7006(e)(3)(A) and the State of Louisiana's Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) is the cost-share partner in the development and implementation of this project.

Project Location

The Convey Atchafalaya River Water to Northern Terrebonne Marshes project is located within the Terrebonne marshes, generally south of the Gulf Intracoastal Water Way (GIWW).

Project Goals

The major goal of this project is to reduce the current trend of degradation of the Northern Terrebonne marshes.

Objectives

The objective of the project is to provide additional freshwater, nutrients, and fine sediment to the area to facilitate organic sediment deposition, improve biological productivity, and prevent further deterioration of the marshes.

Project Features

This restoration feature would increase Atchafalaya River influence to the central (Lake Boudreaux) and eastern (Grand Bayou) Terrebonne marshes by routing some Atchafalaya River water into the Bayou Chene/GIWW system. Also, GIWW flow would be introduced into the Grand Bayou basin by enlarging the connecting channel (Bayou L'Eau Bleu) to capture some of the surplus flow that would otherwise leave the Terrebonne Basin.

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The selected plan, as determined by the Feasibility phase, will provide the most benefits, by increasing Atchafalaya River inflows of freshwater and eliminate GIWW constrictions. The project will also use water control structures and measures to control flow into the 3 subunits of Bayou Penchant, Avoca Island and Bayou Chene/GIWW in the west, Lake Boudreaux and the Houma Navigation Canal in the center, and the Grand Bayou Area in the east. The first increment of Preconstruction Engineering and Design (PED) will design features CM2, CM3, CT1, CT2, CT3, CT6, CT7, CT8.

Project Status

The Chief of Engineer's Report for the LCA 6 projects was signed December 30, 2010, accepting the Feasibility Study for the Convey Atchafalaya River Water to Northern Terrebonne Marshes project. The Preconstruction Engineering and Design Project Management Plan was accepted by CPRA on August 24, 2011. The Design Agreement was approved November 14, 2011. Preconstruction Engineering and Design began January 2012.

By request of the State of Louisiana's Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority in August 2012, Preconstruction Engineering and Design for this project has been suspended.

Anyone seeking additional information on the Convey Atchafalaya River Water to Northern Terrebonne Marshes project can visit the Louisiana Coastal Area program website at ***www.lca.gov***.

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