

AUGUST 27, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. Approves Louisiana Emergency Declaration

Today, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. declared that an emergency exists in the State of Louisiana and ordered Federal assistance to supplement State and local response efforts due to the emergency conditions resulting from Tropical Storm Ida beginning on August 26, 2021, and continuing.

The President's action authorizes the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), to coordinate all disaster relief efforts which have the purpose of alleviating the hardship and suffering caused by the emergency on the local population, and to provide appropriate assistance for required emergency measures, authorized under Title V of the Stafford Act, to save lives and to protect property and public health and safety, and to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe in all 64 Louisiana parishes.

Specifically, FEMA is authorized to identify, mobilize, and provide at its discretion, equipment and resources necessary to alleviate the impacts of the emergency. Emergency protective measures, including direct federal assistance will be provided at 75 percent Federal funding.

Deanne Criswell, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Department of Homeland Security, named John E. Long as the Federal Coordinating Officer for Federal recovery operations in the affected areas.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION MEDIA SHOULD CONTACT THE FEMA NEWS DESK AT (202) 646-3272 OR FEMA-NEWS-DESK@FEMA.DHS.GOV.

###



FEMA

4611-DR-LA Initial Notice



English

Notice Date

August 29, 2021

Billing Code 9111-23-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Federal Emergency Management Agency

[Internal Agency Docket No. FEMA-4611-DR]

[Docket ID FEMA-2021-0001]

Louisiana; Major Disaster and Related Determinations

AGENCY: Federal Emergency Management Agency, DHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This is a notice of the Presidential declaration of a major disaster for the State of Louisiana (FEMA-4611-DR), dated August 29, 2021, and related determinations.

DATE: The declaration was issued August 29, 2021.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dean Webster, Office of Response and Recovery, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C Street, SW, Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646-2833.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given that, in a letter dated August 29, 2021, the President issued a major disaster declaration under the authority of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121 *et seq.* (the “Stafford Act”), as follows:

I have determined that the damage in certain areas of the State of Louisiana resulting from Hurricane Ida beginning on August 26, 2021, and continuing, is of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant a major disaster declaration under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121 *et seq.* (the “Stafford Act”). Therefore, I declare that such a major disaster exists in the State of Louisiana.

In order to provide Federal assistance, you are hereby authorized to allocate from funds available for these purposes such amounts as you find necessary for Federal disaster assistance and administrative expenses.

You are authorized to provide Individual Assistance, assistance for debris removal and emergency protective measures (Categories A and B), including direct Federal assistance, under the Public Assistance program in the designated areas, Hazard Mitigation throughout the State, and any other forms of assistance under the Stafford Act that you deem appropriate subject to completion of Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs).

Consistent with the requirement that Federal assistance is supplemental, any Federal funds provided under the Stafford Act for Public Assistance, Hazard Mitigation, and Other Needs Assistance under section 408 will be limited to 75 percent of the total eligible costs. For a period of 30 days from the start of the incident period, you are authorized to fund assistance for debris removal and emergency protective measures, including direct Federal assistance, at 100 percent of the total eligible costs.

Further, you are authorized to make changes to this declaration for the approved assistance to the extent allowable under the Stafford Act.

The time period prescribed for the implementation of section 310(a), Priority to Certain Applications for Public Facility and Public Housing Assistance, 42 U.S.C. 5153, shall be for a period not to exceed six months after the date of this declaration.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) hereby gives notice that pursuant to the authority vested in the Administrator, under Executive Order 12148, as amended, John E. Long, of FEMA is appointed to act as the Federal Coordinating Officer for this major disaster.

The following areas of the State of Louisiana have been designated as adversely affected by this major disaster:

Ascension, Assumption, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberia, Iberville, Jefferson, Lafourche, Livingston, Orleans, Plaquemines, Pointe Coupee, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Martin, St. Mary, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, Washington, West Baton Rouge, and West Feliciana Parishes for Individual Assistance.

Ascension, Assumption, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberia, Iberville, Jefferson, Lafourche, Livingston, Orleans, Plaquemines, Pointe Coupee, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Martin, St. Mary, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, Washington, West Baton Rouge, and West Feliciana Parishes for debris removal (Category A) under the Public Assistance program.

All 64 parishes for emergency protective measures (Category B), including direct Federal assistance, under the Public Assistance program.

All areas within the State of Louisiana are eligible for assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

The following Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers (CFDA) are to be used for reporting and drawing funds: 97.030, Community Disaster Loans; 97.031, Cora Brown Fund; 97.032, Crisis Counseling; 97.033, Disaster Legal Services; 97.034, Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA); 97.046, Fire Management Assistance Grant; 97.048, Disaster Housing Assistance to Individuals and Households In Presidentially Declared Disaster Areas; 97.049, Presidentially Declared Disaster Assistance - Disaster Housing Operations for Individuals and Households; 97.050, Presidentially Declared Disaster Assistance to Individuals and Households - Other Needs; 97.036, Disaster Grants - Public Assistance (Presidentially Declared Disasters); 97.039, Hazard Mitigation Grant.

/s/

Deanne Criswell,

Administrator,

Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Last updated September 16, 2021

[Return to top](#)

Disasters & Assistance

Grants

Floods & Maps

Emergency Management

About

Work With Us



FEMA

[Contact FEMA](#)



FEMA.gov

An official website of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security

[Accessibility](#)

[Accountability](#)

[Careers](#)

[Civil Rights](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[FOIA](#)

[Glossary](#)

[No FEAR Act](#)

[Plug-Ins](#)

[Privacy](#)

[Report Disaster Fraud](#)

[Website Information](#)

[DHS.gov](#)

[USA.gov](#)

[Inspector General](#)

National Terrorism Advisory System



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT
7400 LEAKE AVENUE
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70118-3651

15 SEP 2021

CEMVN-PD

MEMORANDUM FOR New Orleans District Staff and All Interested Parties

SUBJECT: Unwatering of various areas throughout Southeast Louisiana due to flooding resulting from Hurricane Ida (Environmental Compliance)

1. Extensive damage to critical infrastructure occurred on 29 August 2021, because of extreme flooding associated with Hurricane Ida. It is imperative that flood waters be abated as soon as possible to restore functionality to prevent further damage or loss of life. Failure to accomplish this mission would likely have adverse effects upon resident's health, property, and the local economy.

2. The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has been tasked by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to assist the State and local municipalities in the unwatering of critical infrastructure across Southeast Louisiana. (COE-MVD-02V) USACE activated and deployed the USACE Unwatering Project Delivery Team to coordinate and execute all necessary actions associated with the removal of water from flooded community(s) and their associated infrastructure systems in coordination with FEMA. This includes, but is not limited to, urban areas; various transportation systems; tunnels; water and wastewater treatment; conveyance systems; or any critical needs facility. As of now, the areas being unwatered are listed in Enclosure 1. Additional areas may be involved once further damage assessment is completed. The effort will include pumps, personnel, supplies, and other equipment as required to accomplish the mission. Efforts may include participation from other local, state and federal agencies to accomplish the mission objectives.

3. Engineering Regulation (ER) 200-2-2, Environmental Quality, Procedures for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), at paragraph 8, provides that district commanders may respond to emergency situations to prevent or reduce imminent risk of life, health, property, or severe economic losses in advance of compliance with the documentation and procedural requirements of NEPA. Paragraph 8 of the regulation states that NEPA documentation should be accomplished prior to initiation of emergency work if time constraints render this practicable; however, if appropriate, such documentation may be accomplished concurrently or after completion of the emergency work. Paragraph 8 also states that, when possible, emergency actions considered major in scope with potentially significant environmental impacts shall be referred through the division commanders to HQUSACE (CECW-RE) for consultation with the Council for Environmental Quality (CEQ) regarding the utilization of emergency procedures in a manner that is compliant with NEPA requirements and regulations.

CEMVN-PD

SUBJECT: Unwatering of various areas throughout Southeast Louisiana due to flooding resulting from Hurricane Ida (Environmental Compliance)

4. Based on current data and conditions, there is a high likelihood of catastrophic consequences to life and property if the proposed action is not accomplished. Mitigative measures need to be conducted immediately. Therefore, time constraints render the completion of NEPA documentation prior to acting impractical. All work will be conducted to minimize any adverse impacts to the extent practicable. At this time, USACE does not consider the emergency action to be major in scope and hasn't identified any potentially significant environmental impacts. As soon as practical after the emergency actions are completed, appropriate analysis of impacts and NEPA documentation will be completed. The unwatering efforts and all project repairs will be coordinated with appropriate agencies and Native American tribes. This declaration, enclosure, and all enclosure updates will be provided to the agencies and tribes as part of that coordination.

5. Based upon applicable regulations and guidance and upon the facts and circumstances above set forth, I consider the areas impacted by Hurricane Ida to be under an imminent threat and that immediate emergency actions are necessary.

Encl



STEPHEN F. MURPHY
COL, EN
Commanding



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT
7400 LEAKE AVE
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70118-3651

September 14, 2021

Regional Planning and
Environment Division, South
Environmental Planning Branch
Attn: CEMVN-PDS-N

Distributed via email.

RE: Section 106 Notification of Emergency Action Undertaking: Hurricane Ida
Dewatering Critical Infrastructure, Southeast Louisiana

Dear Consulting Parties:

The purpose of this correspondence is to notify your office that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi Valley Division, New Orleans District (CEMVN) has been tasked by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to assist the State and local municipalities in the dewatering of critical infrastructure across Southeast Louisiana caused by extreme flooding associated with Hurricane Ida, which occurred on August 20th, 2021. Dewatering flooded areas as soon as possible will help restore functionality to critical infrastructure and prevent further damage or loss of life and property. In accordance with 36 CFR 800.12 (d), CEMVN has determined dewatering efforts qualify as an "emergency undertaking" because of an "immediate threat to life or property" and thus exempt from the provisions of Section 106.

USACE activated and deployed the USACE Unwatering Project Delivery Team to coordinate and execute all necessary actions associated with the removal of water from flooded communities and their associated infrastructure systems in coordination with FEMA. Based on current data and conditions, initial dewatering efforts include portions of LaPlace (St. John the Baptist Parish), Lafitte (Jefferson Parish), Kraemer and Larose (Lafourche Parish), and both banks of Plaquemines Parish; additional infrastructure systems and communities may be identified once further assessment is completed. Dewatering efforts will focus on, but are not limited to, urban areas, various transportation systems, tunnels, water and wastewater treatment facilities, conveyance systems, and other critical-need facilities. Dewatering efforts will include the installation and operation of temporary pumps, the movement of personnel and equipment, the staging of equipment and supplies, and other actions as required. Participation from Local, State and other Federal Agencies may be required to complete the mission.

After the emergency actions are completed, CEMVN will conduct a post-event series of visits to recorded historic properties impacted by the emergency dewatering operations to document their current conditions. CEMVN will share the post-event site visit summaries with the SHPO and Federally recognized Tribal stakeholders. In addition, CEMVN will provide a notification if

additional infrastructure systems and communities are identified for emergency dewatering operations during the assessment.

The primary POC for environmental issues related to dewatering operations will be Mr. Howard Ladner, howard.w.ladner@usace.army.mil, (504) 862-2021. For all other questions or follow-up to this correspondence, please contact Mr. Eric Williams, eric.m.williams@usace.army.mil, (504) 862-2862; or Mr. Brian Ostahowski, brian.e.ostahowski@usace.army.mil, (504) 862-2188.

Sincerely,



Marshall K. Harper
Chief, Environmental Planning Branch

Notified Consulting Parties:

1. Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office
2. Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas
3. Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana
4. Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana
5. Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
6. Jena Band of Choctaw Indians
7. Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
8. Muscogee (Creek) Nation
9. Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
10. Seminole Tribe of Florida
11. Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana

From: [Chris Daniel](#)
To: [Ostahowski, Brian E MVN](#)
Cc: [Jaime Loichinger](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: (External)FW: RE: Section 106 Notification of Emergency Action - Hurricane Ida Dewatering Critical Infrastructure, Southeast Louisiana
Date: Friday, September 17, 2021 11:57:17 AM

*Ref: Hurricane Ida Dewatering of Critical Infrastructure, Southeast Louisiana
United States Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
ACHPConnect Log Number: 017424*

On September 14, 2021, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) was provided with notice from the US Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District (Corps) regarding the above referenced emergency undertaking.

Based on the information provided, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi Valley Division, New Orleans District (CEMVN) has been tasked by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to assist the State and local municipalities in the dewatering of critical infrastructure across Southeast Louisiana caused by extreme flooding associated with Hurricane Ida, which occurred on August 20th, 2021.

These undertakings as described have the potential to cause effects to historic properties and would require compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, 54 U.S.C. § 306108 (NHPA), and its implementing regulations "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR Part 800). However, the Corps has determined that these undertakings constitute immediate rescue and salvage operations necessary to preserve life and/or property and therefore, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.12(d), the undertakings are exempt from the provision of Section 106 of the NHPA.

We appreciate the Corps notifying us of the emergency undertaking and agree that the determination and plan summarized in its notice is appropriate. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Christopher Daniel (202) 517-0223, or via e-mail at cdaniel@achp.gov.

Christopher Daniel (he/him/his)
Program Analyst
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
202.517.0223 (Office & Mobile)
cdaniel@achp.gov

From: Ostahowski, Brian E MVN [<mailto:Brian.E.Ostahowski@usace.army.mil>]
Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2021 9:06 AM
To: Chris Daniel
Subject: (External)FW: RE: Section 106 Notification of Emergency Action - Hurricane Ida Dewatering Critical Infrastructure, Southeast Louisiana

Good Morning,

Apologies for leaving ACHP off the distribution list yesterday – that was my mistake. Please see the attached notification regarding Hurricane Ida Emergency Dewatering efforts. If you have any questions or comments, please let me know.

Kind regards,

Brian

Brian E. Ostahowski, RPA, REM
Archaeologist
Cultural & Social Resources Analysis Section (CEMVN-PDS-N)
Regional Planning and Environment Division, South
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Office: 504-862-2862
Mobile: 504-247-4939
Brian.E.Ostahowski@usace.army.mil

From: Ostahowski, Brian E MVN

Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 4:23 PM

To: cmcgimsey@crt.la.gov; Rachel Watson <rwatson@crt.la.gov>; nhmorris@crt.la.gov; Bryan Celestine <Celestine.bryant@actribe.org>; kim@chitimacha.gov; lbilyeu@choctawnation.com; llangley@coushattatribela.org; ken.carleton@choctaw.org; jflynn@jenachoctaw.org; Section106@mcn-nsn.gov; franks.d@sno-nsn.gov; THPOCompliance@semtribe.com; earlii@tunica.org; section106@crt.la.gov

Cc: Williams, Eric M CIV USARMY CEMVN (US) <Eric.M.Williams@usace.army.mil>; Emery, Jason A CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA) <Jason.A.Emery@usace.army.mil>; Harper, Marshall Kevin (Kevin) CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA) <Marshall.K.Harper@usace.army.mil>; Ladner, Howard W CIV CEMVN CEMVD (USA) <Howard.W.Ladner@usace.army.mil>; Brown, Michael T CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA) <Michael.T.Brown@usace.army.mil>; Ostahowski, Brian E MVN <Brian.E.Ostahowski@usace.army.mil>

Subject: RE: Section 106 Notification of Emergency Action - Hurricane Ida Dewatering Critical Infrastructure, Southeast Louisiana

Dear Consulting Parties,

The purpose of this correspondence is to notify your office that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi Valley Division, New Orleans District (CEMVN) has been tasked by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to assist the State and local municipalities in the dewatering of critical infrastructure across Southeast Louisiana caused by extreme flooding associated with Hurricane Ida. In accordance with 36 CFR 800.12 (d), CEMVN has determined dewatering efforts qualify as an “emergency undertaking” and the attached notification provides your office further details regarding the dewatering operations.

The primary POC for environmental issues related to dewatering operations will be Mr. Howard

Ladner, howard.w.ladner@usace.army.mil, (504) 862-2021. For all other questions or follow-up to this correspondence, please contact Mr. Eric Williams, eric.m.williams@usace.army.mil, (504) 862-2862; or Mr. Brian Ostahowski, brian.e.ostahowski@usace.army.mil, (504) 862-2188.

Thank you.

V/r,

Brian

Brian E. Ostahowski, RPA, REM
Archaeologist
Cultural & Social Resources Analysis Section (CEMVN-PDS-N)
Regional Planning and Environment Division, South
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Office: 504-862-2862
Mobile: 504-247-4939
Brian.E.Ostahowski@usace.army.mil



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT
7400 LEAKE AVE
NEW ORLEANS LA 70118-3651

Regional Planning and
Environment Division, South
Environmental Planning Branch
Attn: CEMVN-PDS-N

RE: Post-Operation Site Visit Hurricane Ida Dewatering Operations

Dear Consulting Parties,

The purpose of this notification is to inform you of CEMVN's post-event site visit to Hurricane Ida Dewatering operation areas located in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, which consisted of multiple engineered levee cuts to non-Federal levees. On November 15 and 22, 2021, CEMVN staff surveyed (visually inspected) levee cuts near inventoried cultural resources and areas that have not undergone previous cultural resources investigations (**Figure 1**; e.g., Cuts #6a, 6b, 7a, 7b, 8a, 8b, 9b and 9a). CEMVN did not visit levee cuts where the surrounding lands have been previously surveyed (e.g., Cuts #1a-d, 2a-e, 3, 4 and 5).

As part of the site visits, CEMVN staff surveyed the Woodland Plantation (16PL157) archaeological site and the Ballowe Cemetery to examine for any signs of erosion, scour, and ground disturbance caused by the dewatering actions (**Figure 2**). Site 16PL258, located outside of the levees, was not accessible and not surveyed. In summary, Hurricane Ida Dewatering operations did not appear to impact either Site 16PL157 or the Ballowe Cemetery. Also, no cultural materials were observed within any of the disturbed levee soils or in the surrounding areas that had not been previously surveyed.

Levee cuts were performed by a pontoon hydraulic excavator (see **Figure 3**). After dewatering, the cuts were backfilled and armored with bulk sandbags atop Visqueen sheeting. The engineered levee cuts were approximately 30 meters wide, but the overall area of disturbance measured roughly 100 meters in length at each cut location. When access to the engineered levee cuts was feasible, CEVMN staff conducted a pedestrian surface survey documenting any impacts to the levee and surrounding areas.

CEVMN staff did not observe any cultural materials within any of the disturbed levee soils or surrounding areas at levee cuts #6a, 6b, 7a, 7b, and 8a. **Figure 4** is a representative photo of the levee cuts and vegetation of this area.

Three engineered levee cuts (#8b, 9a, 9b) were placed along the perimeter of the Woodland Plantation site (**Figures 5, 6, 7**). Excavator disturbance was observed to be

generally limited to the levee footprint. CEMVN did not observe any evidence that dewatering activities caused additional erosion, scour or disturbance to Site 16PL157 (**Figure 8**). The Woodland Plantation site has vegetation around its perimeter with ample hurricane debris throughout; the interior of the site is used as an active borrow pit with associated gravel roads and construction staging areas.

The Ballowe Cemetery is located outside of the levee system within a pasture north of Highway 23. The cemetery was visited to assess whether discharging waters from Levee Cut #9a had impacted the site. The cemetery stands in overall poor condition and measures approximately 11 meters long by 5 meters wide. The cemetery is composed of three partial brick and mortar tombs surrounded by portions of fencing intermixed with debris. All three tombs are caved in with only partial walls remaining. Partial headstones were documented laying on two of the tombs. However, further research is needed to confirm their association. **Figure 9** depicts the individual tombs and provides the recorded headstone information. No human remains were observed. Though the cemetery stands in poor condition, CEMVN did not observe any evidence of erosion, scour, or ground disturbance to suggest it was impacted by dewatering actions associated with Levee Cut #9a. Rather, the cemetery and surrounding pasture appear impacted by the floodwaters and debris brought in by Hurricane Ida.

MAP REDACTED – Protected from public disclosure in accordance with Section 304 of the National Historic Preservation Act, 54 U.S.C. 307103, and 36 CFR 800.11 (c)

Figure 1. Overview Map of Engineered Levee Cuts, Previous Cultural Resource Surveys, and Inventoried Cultural Resources

MAP REDACTED – Protected from public disclosure in accordance with Section 304 of the National Historic Preservation Act, 54 U.S.C. 307103, and 36 CFR 800.11 (c)

Figure 2. Overview Map of Dewatering Actions and Inventoried Cultural Resources



Figure 3. Aerial Photograph of Engineered Levee Cut Operations (Levee Cut #9b; taken on 5 Sept 2021).



Figure 4. Overview of Levee cut #7b taken along the levee (view north; 22 Nov 2021).
Excavator track marks were generally restricted to the levee footprint.



Figure 5. Overview of Levee cut #8b taken from across a canal within the boundary of Site 16PL157 (view northwest; 22 Nov 2021).



Figure 6. Overview of Levee cut #9a taken from across a ditch/canal within the boundary of Site 16PL157 (view south; 15 Nov 2021).



Figure 7. Overview of Levee Cut #9b taken along the levee (view north; 15 Nov 2021). Excavator track marks extend slightly into the marsh area outside of the levee (tracks on the left side of photo).



Figure 8. Overview of Site 16PL157 (Woodland Plantation) taken from Levee Cut #9a location (view northwest; 15 Nov 2021).



Figure 9. Ballowe Cemetery Close Up (view west; 15 Nov 2021). Headstones were found with Tombs 1 and 2 only.

Tomb 1

Headstone, "...ue Melaine Groleau. Daughter of Auguste Groleau...9th 1849, aged 16 years...ENTINE..."

Tomb 2

Headstone 1, "Louise Booth Gorleau, widow of Jean Marie Groleau, Died September 15th 1907 aged 24 years, and very dearly beloved mother"

Headstone 2, "Clement Groleau, second son of Anguste Groleau, died Oct. 9th 1852. aged 25 years. Jean Marie Groleau, oldest son of Auguste Groleau. died July 16th, 1872. aged 47 years."

Tomb 3

No associated headstone.

From: [David Franks](#)
To: [Ostahowski, Brian E MVN](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: Section 106 Notification of Emergency Action - Hurricane Ida Dewatering Critical Infrastructure, Southeast Louisiana
Date: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 2:02:07 PM

Greetings from the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma

We can determine that No Adverse Effects are associated with the emergency action.

David Frank, DIRECTOR
P.O BOX 1498
WEWOKA, OKLAHOMA 74848

405.220.0289 (C)
405.234.5218 (O)



Historic Preservation Office

-To inspire and empower tribal members for success-

From: Ostahowski, Brian E MVN [mailto:Brian.E.Ostahowski@usace.army.mil]
Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 1:52 PM
To: cmcgimsey@crt.la.gov; Rachel Watson <rwatson@crt.la.gov>; nhmorris@crt.la.gov; Bryan Celestine <Celestine.bryant@actribe.org>; kim@chitimacha.gov; lbilyeu@choctawnation.com; llangleyle@coushattatribela.org; ken.carleton@choctaw.org; jflynn@jenachoctaw.org; Section106@mcn-nsn.gov; David Franks <Franks.D@sno-nsn.gov>; THPOCompliance@semtribe.com; earlii@tunica.org; section106@crt.la.gov; Chris Daniel <cdaniel@achp.gov>
Cc: Williams, Eric M CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA) <Eric.M.Williams@usace.army.mil>; Emery, Jason A CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA) <Jason.A.Emery@usace.army.mil>; Harper, Marshall Kevin (Kevin) CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA) <Marshall.K.Harper@usace.army.mil>; Ladner, Howard W CIV CEMVN CEMVD (USA) <Howard.W.Ladner@usace.army.mil>; Brown, Michael T CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA) <Michael.T.Brown@usace.army.mil>; Ostahowski, Brian E MVN <Brian.E.Ostahowski@usace.army.mil>
Subject: RE: Section 106 Notification of Emergency Action - Hurricane Ida Dewatering Critical Infrastructure, Southeast Louisiana

Dear Consulting Parties,

The purpose of this notification is to provide your office with an update regarding CEMVN's Hurricane Ida emergency dewatering operations. The initial emergency action undertaking notification was electronically distributed on September 14th, 2021 (attached for your reference).

CEMVN's emergency dewatering operations are completed, with limited operations remaining in-place (e.g., temporary pumps) to provide long-term assistance for specific infrastructure impacted by Hurricane Ida. CEMVN will be conducting a series of site visits to recorded historic properties that may have been impacted by the emergency dewatering operations and to document their current conditions. CEMVN will share the post-event site visit summaries with the SHPO and Federally recognized Tribal stakeholders and is planning on preparing an after-the-fact Environmental Assessment (EA) to address CEMVN's dewatering operations.

The primary POC for environmental issues related to dewatering operations will be Mr. Howard Ladner, howard.w.ladner@usace.army.mil, (504) 862-2021. For all other questions or follow-up to this correspondence, please contact Mr. Brian Ostahowski, brian.e.ostahowski@usace.army.mil, (504) 862-2188.

V/r,

Brian

Brian E. Ostahowski, RPA, REM
Archaeologist
Cultural & Social Resources Analysis Section (CEMVN-PDS-N)
Regional Planning and Environment Division, South
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Office: 504-862-2862
Mobile: 504-247-4939
Brian.E.Ostahowski@usace.army.mil

From: Ostahowski, Brian E MVN <Brian.E.Ostahowski@usace.army.mil>

Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 4:23 PM

To: cmcgimsey@crt.la.gov; Rachel Watson <rwatson@crt.la.gov>; nhmorris@crt.la.gov; Bryan Celestine <Celestine.bryant@actribe.org>; kim@chitimacha.gov; lbilyeu@choctawnation.com; llangley@coushattatribela.org; ken.carleton@choctaw.org; jflynn@jenachoctaw.org; Section106@mcn-nsn.gov; franks.d@sno-nsn.gov; THPOCompliance@semtribe.com; earlii@tunica.org; section106@crt.la.gov

Cc: Williams, Eric M CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA) <Eric.M.Williams@usace.army.mil>; Emery, Jason A CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA) <Jason.A.Emery@usace.army.mil>; Harper, Marshall Kevin (Kevin) CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA) <Marshall.K.Harper@usace.army.mil>; Ladner, Howard W CIV CEMVN CEMVD (USA) <Howard.W.Ladner@usace.army.mil>; Brown, Michael T CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA) <Michael.T.Brown@usace.army.mil>; Ostahowski, Brian E MVN <Brian.E.Ostahowski@usace.army.mil>

Subject: RE: Section 106 Notification of Emergency Action - Hurricane Ida Dewatering Critical

Infrastructure, Southeast Louisiana

Dear Consulting Parties,

The purpose of this correspondence is to notify your office that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi Valley Division, New Orleans District (CEMVN) has been tasked by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to assist the State and local municipalities in the dewatering of critical infrastructure across Southeast Louisiana caused by extreme flooding associated with Hurricane Ida. In accordance with 36 CFR 800.12 (d), CEMVN has determined dewatering efforts qualify as an “emergency undertaking” and the attached notification provides your office further details regarding the dewatering operations.

The primary POC for environmental issues related to dewatering operations will be Mr. Howard Ladner, howard.w.ladner@usace.army.mil, (504) 862-2021. For all other questions or follow-up to this correspondence, please contact Mr. Eric Williams, eric.m.williams@usace.army.mil, (504) 862-2862; or Mr. Brian Ostahowski, brian.e.ostahowski@usace.army.mil, (504) 862-2188.

Thank you.

V/r,

Brian

Brian E. Ostahowski, RPA, REM
Archaeologist
Cultural & Social Resources Analysis Section (CEMVN-PDS-N)
Regional Planning and Environment Division, South
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Office: 504-862-2862
Mobile: 504-247-4939
Brian.E.Ostahowski@usace.army.mil



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT
7400 LEAKE AVE
NEW ORLEANS LA 70118-3651

Regional Planning and
Environment Division, South
Environmental Planning Branch
Attn: CEMVN-PDS-N

RE: Post-Operation Site Visit Hurricane Ida Dewatering Operations

Dear Consulting Parties,

The purpose of this notification is to inform you of CEMVN's post-event site visit to Hurricane Ida Dewatering operation areas located in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, which consisted of multiple engineered levee cuts to non-Federal levees. On November 15 and 22, 2021, CEMVN staff surveyed (visually inspected) levee cuts near inventoried cultural resources and areas that have not undergone previous cultural resources investigations (**Figure 1**; e.g., Cuts #6a, 6b, 7a, 7b, 8a, 8b, 9b and 9a). CEMVN did not visit levee cuts where the surrounding lands have been previously surveyed (e.g., Cuts #1a-d, 2a-e, 3, 4 and 5).

As part of the site visits, CEMVN staff surveyed the Woodland Plantation (16PL157) archaeological site and the Ballowe Cemetery to examine for any signs of erosion, scour, and ground disturbance caused by the dewatering actions (**Figure 2**). Site 16PL258, located outside of the levees, was not accessible and not surveyed. In summary, Hurricane Ida Dewatering operations did not appear to impact either Site 16PL157 or the Ballowe Cemetery. Also, no cultural materials were observed within any of the disturbed levee soils or in the surrounding areas that had not been previously surveyed.

Levee cuts were performed by a pontoon hydraulic excavator (see **Figure 3**). After dewatering, the cuts were backfilled and armored with bulk sandbags atop Visqueen sheeting. The engineered levee cuts were approximately 30 meters wide, but the overall area of disturbance measured roughly 100 meters in length at each cut location. When access to the engineered levee cuts was feasible, CEVMN staff conducted a pedestrian surface survey documenting any impacts to the levee and surrounding areas.

CEVMN staff did not observe any cultural materials within any of the disturbed levee soils or surrounding areas at levee cuts #6a, 6b, 7a, 7b, and 8a. **Figure 4** is a representative photo of the levee cuts and vegetation of this area.

Three engineered levee cuts (#8b, 9a, 9b) were placed along the perimeter of the Woodland Plantation site (**Figures 5, 6, 7**). Excavator disturbance was observed to be

generally limited to the levee footprint. CEMVN did not observe any evidence that dewatering activities caused additional erosion, scour or disturbance to Site 16PL157 (**Figure 8**). The Woodland Plantation site has vegetation around its perimeter with ample hurricane debris throughout; the interior of the site is used as an active borrow pit with associated gravel roads and construction staging areas.

The Ballowe Cemetery is located outside of the levee system within a pasture north of Highway 23. The cemetery was visited to assess whether discharging waters from Levee Cut #9a had impacted the site. The cemetery stands in overall poor condition and measures approximately 11 meters long by 5 meters wide. The cemetery is composed of three partial brick and mortar tombs surrounded by portions of fencing intermixed with debris. All three tombs are caved in with only partial walls remaining. Partial headstones were documented laying on two of the tombs. However, further research is needed to confirm their association. **Figure 9** depicts the individual tombs and provides the recorded headstone information. No human remains were observed. Though the cemetery stands in poor condition, CEMVN did not observe any evidence of erosion, scour, or ground disturbance to suggest it was impacted by dewatering actions associated with Levee Cut #9a. Rather, the cemetery and surrounding pasture appear impacted by the floodwaters and debris brought in by Hurricane Ida.

MAP REDACTED – Protected from public disclosure in accordance with Section 304 of the National Historic Preservation Act, 54 U.S.C. 307103, and 36 CFR 800.11 (c)

Figure 1. Overview Map of Engineered Levee Cuts, Previous Cultural Resource Surveys, and Inventoried Cultural Resources

MAP REDACTED – Protected from public disclosure in accordance with Section 304 of the National Historic Preservation Act, 54 U.S.C. 307103, and 36 CFR 800.11 (c)

Figure 2. Overview Map of Dewatering Actions and Inventoried Cultural Resources



Figure 3. Aerial Photograph of Engineered Levee Cut Operations (Levee Cut #9b; taken on 5 Sept 2021).



Figure 4. Overview of Levee cut #7b taken along the levee (view north; 22 Nov 2021).
Excavator track marks were generally restricted to the levee footprint.





Figure 6. Overview of Levee cut #9a taken from across a ditch/canal within the boundary of Site 16PL157 (view south; 15 Nov 2021).



Figure 7. Overview of Levee Cut #9b taken along the levee (view north; 15 Nov 2021). Excavator track marks extend slightly into the marsh area outside of the levee (tracks on the left side of photo).



Figure 8. Overview of Site 16PL157 (Woodland Plantation) taken from Levee Cut #9a location (view northwest; 15 Nov 2021).



Figure 9. Ballowe Cemetery Close Up (view west; 15 Nov 2021). Headstones were found with Tombs 1 and 2 only.

Tomb 1

Headstone, "...ue Melaine Groleau. Daughter of Auguste Groleau...9th 1849, aged 16 years...ENTINE..."

Tomb 2

Headstone 1, "Louise Booth Gorleau, widow of Jean Marie Groleau, Died September 15th 1907 aged 24 years, and very dearly beloved mother"

Headstone 2, "Clement Groleau, second son of Anguste Groleau, died Oct. 9th 1852. aged 25 years. Jean Marie Groleau, oldest son of Auguste Groleau. died July 16th, 1872. aged 47 years."

Tomb 3

No associated headstone.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT
7400 LEAKE AVE
NEW ORLEANS LA 70118-3651

15 September 2021

Mr. Charles Reulet
Interagency Affairs - LADNR
Field Services Division
P.O. Box 44487, Capital Station
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-4487

Dear Mr. Reulet:

Extensive damage to critical infrastructure in Southeastern Louisiana occurred on 29 August 2021, because of extreme flooding associated with Hurricane Ida. It is imperative that flood waters be abated as soon as possible to restore functionality to prevent further damage or loss of life. The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has been tasked by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to assist the State and local municipalities in the unwatering of critical infrastructure across Southeast Louisiana. (COE-MVD-02V) USACE activated and deployed the USACE Unwatering Project Delivery Team to coordinate and execute all necessary actions associated with the removal of water from flooded community(s) and their associated infrastructure systems in coordination with FEMA. This includes, but is not limited to, urban areas; various transportation systems; tunnels; water and wastewater treatment; conveyance systems; or any critical needs facility. Currently the areas to be unwatered include portions of LaPlace, Lafitte, Kraemer, LaRose, and Plaquemines Parish (east/west bank).

Additional areas may be involved once further damage assessment is completed. The effort will include pumps, personnel, supplies, and other equipment as required to accomplish the mission. Efforts may include participation from other Local, State and Federal Agencies to accomplish the mission objectives.

USACE Engineering Regulation (ER) 200-2-2, Environmental Quality, Procedures for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), at paragraph 8, provides that district commanders may respond to emergency situations to prevent or reduce imminent risk of life, health, property, or severe economic losses in advance of compliance with the documentation and procedural requirements of NEPA. Paragraph 8 of the regulation states that NEPA documentation should be accomplished prior to initiation of emergency work if time constraints render this practicable; however, if appropriate, such documentation may be accomplished concurrently or after completion of the emergency work. Paragraph 8 also states that, when possible, emergency actions considered major in scope with potentially significant environmental impacts shall be referred through the division commanders to HQUSACE (CECW-RE) for consultation with the Council for Environmental Quality (CEQ) regarding the utilization of emergency procedures in a manner that is compliant with NEPA requirements and regulations.

Based on current data and conditions, there is a high likelihood of catastrophic consequences to life and property if the proposed action is not accomplished. Mitigative measures need to be conducted immediately. Therefore, time constraints render the completion of NEPA documentation prior to acting impractical. All work will be conducted to minimize any adverse impacts to the extent practicable. At this time, USACE does not consider the emergency action to be major in scope and hasn't identified any potentially significant environmental impacts. As soon as practical after the emergency actions are completed, appropriate analysis of impacts and NEPA documentation will be completed. The unwatering efforts and all project repairs will be coordinated with appropriate agencies and Native American tribes.

Based on the above information and the 27 August 2021 Public Notice from your Office, we believe the proposed emergency Federal action is consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with the State of Louisiana's approved Coastal Resources Program. USACE will provide your office with additional information as it becomes available. That information will include details of pumping locations and other relevant details.

Please provide USACE with all recommendations your Office believes would help to avoid and minimize impacts from unwatering of these flooded areas. Comments should be provided by email to howard.w.ladner@usace.army.mil. Comments may also be mailed to the attention of Mr. Howard Ladner, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; CEMVN-PDC-C, 7400 Leake Ave, New Orleans, Louisiana 70118. Mr. Ladner may be contacted at (504) 862-2021 if questions arise.

Sincerely,



Edward P. Lambert
Chief, Environmental Compliance Branch



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT
7400 LEAKE AVE
NEW ORLEANS LA 70118-3651

15 September 2021

Mr. Robert Houston
EPA, Region VI – Off. of Planning and
Coord. / Mail Code 6EN-XP
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

Dear Mr. Houston:

Extensive damage to critical infrastructure in Southeastern Louisiana occurred on 29 August 2021, because of extreme flooding associated with Hurricane Ida. It is imperative that flood waters be abated as soon as possible to restore functionality to prevent further damage or loss of life. The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has been tasked by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to assist the State and local municipalities in the unwatering of critical infrastructure across Southeast Louisiana. (COE-MVD-02V) USACE activated and deployed the USACE Unwatering Project Delivery Team to coordinate and execute all necessary actions associated with the removal of water from flooded community(s) and their associated infrastructure systems in coordination with FEMA. This includes, but is not limited to, urban areas; various transportation systems; tunnels; water and wastewater treatment; conveyance systems; or any critical needs facility. Currently the areas to be unwatered include portions of LaPlace, Lafitte, Kraemer, LaRose, and Plaquemines Parish (east/west bank).

Additional areas may be involved once further damage assessment is completed. The effort will include pumps, personnel, supplies, and other equipment as required to accomplish the mission. Efforts may include participation from other Local, State and Federal Agencies to accomplish the mission objectives.

USACE Engineering Regulation (ER) 200-2-2, Environmental Quality, Procedures for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), at paragraph 8, provides that district commanders may respond to emergency situations to prevent or reduce imminent risk of life, health, property, or severe economic losses in advance of compliance with the documentation and procedural requirements of NEPA. Paragraph 8 of the regulation states that NEPA documentation should be accomplished prior to initiation of emergency work if time constraints render this practicable; however, if appropriate, such documentation may be accomplished concurrently or after completion of the emergency work. Paragraph 8 also states that, when possible, emergency actions considered major in scope with potentially significant environmental impacts shall be referred through the division commanders to HQUSACE (CECW-RE) for consultation with the Council for Environmental Quality (CEQ) regarding the utilization of emergency procedures in a manner that is compliant with NEPA requirements and regulations.

Based on current data and conditions, there is a high likelihood of catastrophic consequences to life and property if the proposed action is not accomplished. Mitigative measures need to be conducted immediately. Therefore, time constraints render the completion of NEPA documentation prior to acting impractical. All work will be conducted to minimize any adverse impacts to the extent practicable. At this time, USACE does not consider the emergency action to be major in scope and hasn't identified any potentially significant environmental impacts. As soon as practical after the emergency actions are completed, appropriate analysis of impacts and NEPA documentation will be completed. The unwatering efforts and all project repairs will be coordinated with appropriate agencies and Native American tribes.

Please provide USACE with all recommendations your Office believes would help to avoid and minimize impacts from unwatering of these flooded areas. Comments should be provided by email to howard.w.ladner@usace.army.mil . Comments may also be mailed to the attention of Mr. Howard Ladner, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; CEMVN-PDC-C, 7400 Leake Ave, New Orleans, Louisiana 70118. Mr. Ladner may be contacted at (504) 862-2021 if questions arise.

Sincerely,



Edward P. Lambert
Chief, Environmental Compliance Branch



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT
7400 LEAKE AVENUE
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70118

15 September 2021

David Bernhart
NMFS - Protected Species Division
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

Dear Mr. Bernhart:

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has been tasked by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to assist the State and local municipalities in the unwatering of critical infrastructure across southeast Louisiana. (COE-MVD-02V) Extensive damage to critical infrastructure in southeastern Louisiana occurred on 29 August 2021, because of extreme flooding associated with Hurricane Ida. It is imperative that flood waters be abated as soon as possible to restore functionality to prevent further damage or loss of life. USACE activated and deployed the USACE Unwatering Project Delivery Team to coordinate and execute all necessary actions associated with the removal of water from flooded community(s) and their associated infrastructure systems in coordination with FEMA. This includes, but is not limited to, urban areas; various transportation systems; tunnels; water and wastewater treatment; conveyance systems; or any critical needs facility. Currently the areas to be unwatered include portions of LaPlace, Lafitte, Kraemer, LaRose, and Plaquemines Parish (east/west bank). In most cases large pumps will be installed to pump the water from flooded areas to adjacent Waters of the U.S. We are currently coordinating with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to determine appropriate water quality protection measures. Additional areas may need to be unwatered once further damage assessment is completed. The effort will include pumps, personnel, supplies, and other equipment as required to accomplish the mission. Efforts may include participation from other local, state and federal agencies to accomplish the mission objectives.

USACE Engineering Regulation (ER) 200-2-2, Environmental Quality, Procedures for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), documentation will be accomplished during or after completion of the emergency work. Consultation with the Council for Environmental Quality (CEQ) regarding the utilization of emergency procedures is only required if the emergency action is major in scope or has been identified to have potentially significant environmental impacts. USACE currently finds the proposed action does not meet the above criteria to involve CEQ. As soon as practical after the emergency action(s) are completed, appropriate analysis of impacts and NEPA documentation will be completed. The unwatering efforts will be coordinated with appropriate agencies and Native American tribes.

At this time USACE has not identified effects to Endangered Species Act listed species or adverse effects to critical habitat for listed species. Therefore, we believe that entering into consultation on the proposed action is premature at this time due to the lack of information on the potential effects the proposed action. Once we obtain a better understanding of the potential impacts and project scope, we will initiate informal discussions with your office.

Please contact Mr. Howard Ladner, CEMVN, Regional Planning and Environment Division South, CEMVN-PDC-C, 7400 Leake Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana 70118, telephone (504) 862-2021 or fax (504) 862-1375 or by email at Howard.W.Ladner@usace.army.mil if you have any questions concerning this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Edward P. Lambert". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Edward P. Lambert
Chief, Environmental Compliance Branch



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT
7400 LEAKE AVE
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70118-3651

15 September 2021

Mr. Rusty Swafford
NMFS - Habitat Conservation Division
5757 Corporate Blvd. Suite 375
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

Dear Mr. Swafford:

Extensive damage to critical infrastructure in Southeastern Louisiana occurred on 29 August 2021, because of extreme flooding associated with Hurricane Ida. It is imperative that flood waters be abated as soon as possible to restore functionality to prevent further damage or loss of life. The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has been tasked by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to assist the State and local municipalities in the unwatering of critical infrastructure across Southeast Louisiana. (COE-MVD-02V) USACE activated and deployed the USACE Unwatering Project Delivery Team to coordinate and execute all necessary actions associated with the removal of water from flooded community(s) and their associated infrastructure systems in coordination with FEMA. This includes, but is not limited to, urban areas; various transportation systems; tunnels; water and wastewater treatment; conveyance systems; or any critical needs facility. Currently the areas to be unwatered include portions of LaPlace, Lafitte, Kraemer, LaRose, and Plaquemines Parish (east/west bank).

Additional areas may be involved once further damage assessment is completed. The effort will include pumps, personnel, supplies, and other equipment as required to accomplish the mission. Efforts may include participation from other Local, State and Federal Agencies to accomplish the mission objectives.

USACE Engineering Regulation (ER) 200-2-2, Environmental Quality, Procedures for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), at paragraph 8, provides that district commanders may respond to emergency situations to prevent or reduce imminent risk of life, health, property, or severe economic losses in advance of compliance with the documentation and procedural requirements of NEPA. Paragraph 8 of the regulation states that NEPA documentation should be accomplished prior to initiation of emergency work if time constraints render this practicable; however, if appropriate, such documentation may be accomplished concurrently or after completion of the emergency work. Paragraph 8 also states that, when possible, emergency actions considered major in scope with potentially significant environmental impacts shall be referred through the division commanders to HQUSACE (CECW-RE) for consultation with the Council for Environmental Quality (CEQ) regarding the utilization of emergency procedures in a manner that is compliant with NEPA requirements and regulations.

Based on current data and conditions, there is a high likelihood of catastrophic consequences to life and property if the proposed action is not accomplished. Mitigative measures need to

be conducted immediately. Therefore, time constraints render the completion of NEPA documentation prior to acting impractical. All work will be conducted to minimize any adverse impacts to the extent practicable. At this time, USACE does not consider the emergency action to be major in scope and hasn't identified any potentially significant environmental impacts. As soon as practical after the emergency actions are completed, appropriate analysis of impacts and NEPA documentation will be completed. The unwatering efforts and all project repairs will be coordinated with appropriate agencies and Native American tribes. Specifically, notification to the NMFS Protected Resources Division has occurred relative to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

Please provide USACE with all recommendations your Office believes would help to avoid and minimize impacts from unwatering of these flooded areas. Comments should be provided by email to howard.w.ladner@usace.army.mil . Comments may also be mailed to the attention of Mr. Howard Ladner, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; CEMVN-PDC-C, 7400 Leake Ave, New Orleans, Louisiana 70118. Mr. Ladner may be contacted at (504) 862-2021 if questions arise.

Sincerely,



Edward P. Lambert
Chief, Environmental Compliance Branch



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT
7400 LEAKE AVE
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70118-3651

15 September 2021

Mr. Scott Guilliams
Louisiana Dept. of Env. Quality
Administrator of Water Permits Div.
P.O. Box 4313
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4313

Dear Mr. Guilliams:

Extensive damage to critical infrastructure in Southeastern Louisiana occurred on 29 August 2021, because of extreme flooding associated with Hurricane Ida. It is imperative that flood waters be abated as soon as possible to restore functionality to prevent further damage or loss of life. The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has been tasked by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to assist the State and local municipalities in the unwatering of critical infrastructure across Southeast Louisiana. (COE-MVD-02V) USACE activated and deployed the USACE Unwatering Project Delivery Team to coordinate and execute all necessary actions associated with the removal of water from flooded community(s) and their associated infrastructure systems in coordination with FEMA. This includes, but is not limited to, urban areas; various transportation systems; tunnels; water and wastewater treatment; conveyance systems; or any critical needs facility. Currently the areas to be unwatered include portions of LaPlace, Lafitte, Kraemer, LaRose, and Plaquemines Parish (east/west bank).

Additional areas may be involved once further damage assessment is completed. The effort will include pumps, personnel, supplies, and other equipment as required to accomplish the mission. Efforts may include participation from other Local, State and Federal Agencies to accomplish the mission objectives.

USACE Engineering Regulation (ER) 200-2-2, Environmental Quality, Procedures for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), at paragraph 8, provides that district commanders may respond to emergency situations to prevent or reduce imminent risk of life, health, property, or severe economic losses in advance of compliance with the documentation and procedural requirements of NEPA. Paragraph 8 of the regulation states that NEPA documentation should be accomplished prior to initiation of emergency work if time constraints render this practicable; however, if appropriate, such documentation may be accomplished concurrently or after completion of the emergency work. Paragraph 8 also states that, when possible, emergency actions considered major in scope with potentially significant environmental impacts shall be referred through the division commanders to HQUSACE (CECW-RE) for consultation with the Council for Environmental Quality (CEQ) regarding the utilization of emergency procedures in a manner that is compliant with NEPA requirements and regulations.

Based on current data and conditions, there is a high likelihood of catastrophic consequences to life and property if the proposed action is not accomplished. Mitigative measures need to

be conducted immediately. Therefore, time constraints render the completion of NEPA documentation prior to acting impractical. All work will be conducted to minimize any adverse impacts to the extent practicable. At this time, USACE does not consider the emergency action to be major in scope and hasn't identified any potentially significant environmental impacts. As soon as practical after the emergency actions are completed, appropriate analysis of impacts and NEPA documentation will be completed. The unwatering efforts and all project repairs will be coordinated with appropriate agencies and Native American tribes.

Please provide USACE with all recommendations your Office believes would help to avoid and minimize impacts from unwatering of these flooded areas. Comments should be provided by email to howard.w.ladner@usace.army.mil . Comments may also be mailed to the attention of Mr. Howard Ladner, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; CEMVN-PDC-C, 7400 Leake Ave, New Orleans, Louisiana 70118. Mr. Ladner may be contacted at (504) 862-2021 if questions arise.

Sincerely,



Edward P. Lambert
Chief, Environmental Compliance Branch



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT
7400 LEAKE AVE
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70118-3651

15 September 2021

Mr. Chad Kacir
State Conservationist - NRCS
3737 Government Street
Alexandria, LA 71302

Dear Mr. Kacir:

Extensive damage to critical infrastructure in Southeastern Louisiana occurred on 29 August 2021, because of extreme flooding associated with Hurricane Ida. It is imperative that flood waters be abated as soon as possible to restore functionality to prevent further damage or loss of life. The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has been tasked by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to assist the State and local municipalities in the unwatering of critical infrastructure across Southeast Louisiana. (COE-MVD-02V) USACE activated and deployed the USACE Unwatering Project Delivery Team to coordinate and execute all necessary actions associated with the removal of water from flooded community(s) and their associated infrastructure systems in coordination with FEMA. This includes, but is not limited to, urban areas; various transportation systems; tunnels; water and wastewater treatment; conveyance systems; or any critical needs facility. Currently the areas to be unwatered include portions of LaPlace, Lafitte, Kraemer, LaRose, and Plaquemines Parish (east/west bank).

Additional areas may be involved once further damage assessment is completed. The effort will include pumps, personnel, supplies, and other equipment as required to accomplish the mission. Efforts may include participation from other Local, State and Federal Agencies to accomplish the mission objectives.

USACE Engineering Regulation (ER) 200-2-2, Environmental Quality, Procedures for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), at paragraph 8, provides that district commanders may respond to emergency situations to prevent or reduce imminent risk of life, health, property, or severe economic losses in advance of compliance with the documentation and procedural requirements of NEPA. Paragraph 8 of the regulation states that NEPA documentation should be accomplished prior to initiation of emergency work if time constraints render this practicable; however, if appropriate, such documentation may be accomplished concurrently or after completion of the emergency work. Paragraph 8 also states that, when possible, emergency actions considered major in scope with potentially significant environmental impacts shall be referred through the division commanders to HQUSACE (CECW-RE) for consultation with the Council for Environmental Quality (CEQ) regarding the utilization of emergency procedures in a manner that is compliant with NEPA requirements and regulations.

Based on current data and conditions, there is a high likelihood of catastrophic consequences to life and property if the proposed action is not accomplished. Mitigative measures need to be conducted immediately. Therefore, time constraints render the completion of NEPA

documentation prior to acting impractical. All work will be conducted to minimize any adverse impacts to the extent practicable. At this time, USACE does not consider the emergency action to be major in scope and hasn't identified any potentially significant environmental impacts. As soon as practical after the emergency actions are completed, appropriate analysis of impacts and NEPA documentation will be completed. The unwatering efforts and all project repairs will be coordinated with appropriate agencies and Native American tribes.

Please provide USACE with all recommendations your Office believes would help to avoid and minimize impacts from unwatering of these flooded areas. Comments should be provided by email to howard.w.ladner@usace.army.mil . Comments may also be mailed to the attention of Mr. Howard Ladner, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; CEMVN-PDC-C, 7400 Leake Ave, New Orleans, Louisiana 70118. Mr. Ladner may be contacted at (504) 862-2021 if questions arise.

Sincerely,



Edward P. Lambert
Chief, Environmental Compliance Branch



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT
7400 LEAKE AVE
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70118-3651

September 15, 2021

Mrs. Brigitte Firmin
Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
200 Dulles Drive
Lafayette, Louisiana 70506

Dear Mrs. Firmin:

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has been tasked by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to assist the State and local municipalities in the unwatering of critical infrastructure across southeast Louisiana. (COE-MVD-02V) Extensive damage to critical infrastructure in southeastern Louisiana occurred on August 29, 2021, because of extreme flooding associated with Hurricane Ida. It is imperative that flood waters be abated as soon as possible to restore functionality to prevent further damage or loss of life. USACE activated and deployed the USACE Unwatering Project Delivery Team to coordinate and execute all necessary actions associated with the removal of water from flooded community(s) and their associated infrastructure systems in coordination with FEMA. This includes, but is not limited to, urban areas; various transportation systems; tunnels; water and wastewater treatment; conveyance systems; or any critical needs facility. Currently the areas to be unwatered include portions of LaPlace, Lafitte, Kraemer, LaRose, and Plaquemines Parish (east/west bank). In most cases large pumps will be installed to pump the water from flooded areas to adjacent Waters of the U.S. We are currently coordinating with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to determine appropriate water quality protection measures. Additional areas may need to be unwatered once further damage assessment is completed. The effort will include pumps, personnel, supplies, and other equipment as required to accomplish the mission. Efforts may include participation from other local, state and federal agencies to accomplish the mission objectives.

USACE Engineering Regulation (ER) 200-2-2, Environmental Quality, Procedures for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), documentation will be accomplished during or after completion of the emergency work. Consultation with the Council for Environmental Quality (CEQ) regarding the utilization of emergency procedures is only required if the emergency action is major in scope or has been identified to have potentially significant environmental impacts. USACE currently finds the proposed action does not meet the above criteria to involve CEQ. As soon as practical after the emergency action(s) are completed, appropriate analysis of impacts and NEPA documentation will be completed. The unwatering efforts will be coordinated with appropriate agencies and Native American tribes.

At this time USACE has not identified effects to Endangered Species Act listed species or adverse effects to critical habitat for listed species. Therefore, we believe that entering into consultation on the proposed action is premature at this time due to the lack of information on

the potential effects the proposed action. Once we obtain a better understanding of the potential impacts and project scope, we will initiate informal discussions with your office.

Please contact Mr. Howard Ladner, CEMVN, Regional Planning and Environment Division South, CEMVN-PDC-C, 7400 Leake Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana 70118, telephone (504) 862-2021 or fax (504) 862-1375 or by email at Howard.W.Ladner@usace.army.mil if you have any questions concerning this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Edward P. Lambert". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Edward P. Lambert
Chief, Environmental Compliance Branch



State of Louisiana
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
OFFICE OF COASTAL MANAGEMENT

February 7, 2023

Howard Ladner
Corps of Engineers- New Orleans District
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118
Via email: Howard.W.Ladner@usace.army.mil

RE: **C20210135**, Coastal Zone Consistency
New Orleans District, Corps of Engineers (COE)
Emergency Use Authorization / After the Fact Application – Hurricane Ida dewatering
Lafourche, St. Bernard, Plaquemines and Jefferson Parish

Dear Mr. Ladner:

The above referenced project has been reviewed for consistency with the approved Louisiana Coastal Resource Program (LCRP) as required by Section 307 of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended. The project, as proposed in the application, is consistent with the LCRP.

If you have any questions concerning this determination, please contact Ray Reich of the Consistency Section at (225) 342-7949 or ray.reich@la.gov.

Sincerely yours,

/S/ Charles Reulet
Administrator
Interagency Affairs/Field Services Division

CR/MH/rar

cc: David Day, COE-NOD