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

July 14, 2023

Regional Planning and Environment
Division South

Public Notice

Introduction. This Public Notice is issued in accordance with provisions of Title 33 CFR Parts 336.1(b)(1) and 337.1, which establish policy, practices, and procedures to be followed on federal actions involving the disposal of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States. The RDIFR-EIS is prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Council of Environmental Quality regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] §1500-1508), as reflected in the USACE Engineering Regulation (ER) 200-2-2.

Project Authority. Project is authorized by the Subtitle B, Section 1201 (14) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016, as included in the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (P.L. 114-322). The study was authorized in accordance with the annual reports submitted to the Congress in 2015 and 2016, pursuant to Section 7001 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2282d). The study was funded by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-123), Division B, Subdivision 1, Title IV.

Location. The St. Tammany Parish Feasibility Study: Optimized Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) consists of structural and non-structural features including a levee and floodwall system along an alignment in South Slidell, West Slidell, and channelization of a portion of the Mile Branch in Covington, Louisiana

Description of Work. The Optimized Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) as proposed is a comprehensive plan that includes Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM), Flood Risk Management (FRM), and nonstructural features to address flooding in St. Tammany Parish. The Optimized TSP includes the construction of approximately 18.5 miles of levee and floodwall system for West Slidell to South Slidell, 2.15 miles of channel improvements to Mile Branch in Covington, and nonstructural home elevations for 5,583 preliminarily eligible residences and floodproofing for 827 eligible nonresidential structures in St. Tammany Parish. The I-10 road surface would be raised to ramp over the new levee section to stay above the hydraulic design elevation for year 2082, to ensure the entire pavement section remains above the hydraulic design elevation across the interstate by constructing ramps to the preliminary design elevation of 15 feet. The Optimized TSP would reduce flood risk to approximately 26,600 structures in the study area and approximately 70,000 residents.

Discharges by Others. There are no known discharges of fill material at or near the proposed project site.

Other Information. The RDIFR-EIS will begin its public review period on July 21, 2023 and runs through September 6, 2023.

Properties Adjacent to Disposal Sites. Due to the size of the study area (St. Tammany Parish) adjacent landowners to the parish would be too extensive to identify and list.
Evaluation Factors. Evaluation includes application of the Section 404(b)(1) guidelines promulgated by the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, through 40 CFR 230. The Section 404(b)(1) evaluation is in Appendix C, Annex C of the RDIFR-EIS.

Public Involvement. The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public; federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties. The RDIFR-EIS is available online and for download beginning July 14, 2023, at the following weblink: https://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental/NEPA-Compliance-Documents/Bipartisan-Budget-Act-2018-BBA-18/BBA-18-Projects/

Comments on the 404(b)(1) evaluation must be received by September 6, 2023. Interested parties may express their views on the draft document. All comments postmarked on or before the expiration of the comment period will be considered.

Any person who has an interest that may be affected by deposition of excavated or dredged material may request a public hearing. The request must be submitted in writing to the District Engineer within the comment period of this notice, and must clearly set forth the interest that may be affected and the manner in which the identified interest may be affected by the proposed action. You are requested to communicate the information contained in this notice to any parties who may have an interest in the proposed action.

Comments or requests to receive a copy of the document may be submitted by fax to (504) 862-1908, by emailing sttammanyfs@usace.army.mil, or by mail to Mr. Eric Williams; Chief, Environmental Branch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Regional Planning and Environmental Division South; CEMVN–PDC-C; 7400 Leake Avenue; New Orleans, Louisiana 70118.

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ERIC M. WILLIAMS
Chief, Environmental Planning Branch

COMMENT PERIOD FOR THIS PUBLIC NOTICE EXPIRES: SEPTEMBER 6, 2023