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

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

July 14, 2023

Regional Planning and Environment
Division South

Dave Bernhart
NMFS – Protected Species Division
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

DELIVERED VIA EMAIL: DAVID.BERNHART@NOAA.GOV

Dear Mr. Bernhart:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District (CEMVN) has prepared a Revised Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement (RDIFR-EIS) for the St. Tammany Parish Louisiana, Feasibility Study.

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.

CEMVN will host public meetings to provide information on the RDIFR-EIS, and to receive public comments. Times and meeting details will be posted in subsequent media releases and advertisements. Information about public meetings will be posted to the New Orleans District website: https://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Media/Public-Meetings/

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/

CEMVN will accept written comments on the RDIFR-EIS beginning on July 21, 2023, through September 6, 2023. All comments received during the public review period

Comments on the RDIFR-EIS, or requests for hard copies, should be sent by mail to Mr. Eric Williams, Environmental Branch Chief, USACE, New Orleans, 7400 Leake Ave, New Orleans, Louisiana 70118-3651 or by e-mail to sttammanyfs@usace.army.mil.

For further project specific information, contact Ms. Amy Dixon, Project Manager at (504) 862-1193.

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ERIC M. WILLIAMS
Chief, Environmental Planning Branch