Bryan Beyer
[redacted]
Slidell, Louisiana 70461

September 4, 2023

Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District
% Amy Dixon
CEMVN-PMR-C
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70118
sttammanyfs@usace.army.mil

Subject: Concerns regarding proposed St Tammany Parish Levee Project

Dear Ms. Dixon,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the proposed St Tammany Parish Levee Project, and specifically the exclusion of my property from the tentatively selected plan (TSP) for South Slidell. I am homeowner residing in the Turtle Creek subdivision in eastern St Tammany Parish.

Upon reviewing the Feasibility report and the modeling used to determine your TSP, the data shows my property at increased risk for surge flooding following the construction of the proposed floodwall and levees. Your non-structural mitigations in Appendix H make a number of assumptions that are not reasonable and are not justified in the document, to include the availability of contractors, the number of simultaneous projects each contractor can handle, and the separation of costs to be borne by the homeowner or non-federal partner. It also provides a time period of 12 years for the non-structural mitigations to be enacted, a time frame that is based very loosely on the assumptions previously mentioned, and, even if the optimistic time period is achieved, still occurs after the structural changes are constructed. Even in the best-case scenario, impacted properties will be at increased risk before non-structural mitigations can be completed.

The report as provided does not clearly provide justification for the location of the TSP, nor why only an array of 13 alternatives were considered, given the varied nature of the flood risk in the study area.

Furthermore, the effort of public outreach on this venture, considering the significant impact to thousands of homes, in addition to the NEPA requirements, was minimal.

GIven these concerns, I respectfully request the following:

- An understanding of the method and rigor used in developing the non-structural approach, to include market research conducted, cost estimating, and schedule

estimation tools, and a determination that all eligible non-structural mitigations can be completed prior to the construction of levees and the subsequent increase in flood risk.

- A consideration for how the non-eligible excluded local government or public service structures (schools, fire stations, water utilities) will be resourced and restored following a flood event.
- An explanation on why the area bounded by both the TSP and the non-selected Alternative 7 in southeast St Tammany Parish was not included in any structural alternative analysis.
- Information on how the TSP will impact flood insurance premiums for excluded properties.
- A tentative construction schedule with more granularity using an accepted method (Critical-Path Method, Gantt, MS Project, etc).
- A clear statement on the increased flood risk for excluded properties as a result of the enactment of the TSP.
- What is your public outreach plan as this effort continues to move forward?

Thank you for your time, and I believe that addressing these concerns, which are shared by my neighbors, will lead to a more equitable project and increased buy-in from the local community. look forward to your responses and continued engagement with the community by your project team. I can be reached at [redacted]

Sincerely,

Bryan Beyer, P.E.