Sirs,

I am a resident of Coin du Lestro on an island on Bayou-Fonca.

I am thrilled at the Plan. It is great. !!

I and my family have live on the water here for 32 years. Many have left. I love where I live.

Commander Wayne A. Day
USN Retired (40 years)

[redacted]

Wayne and Cheryl Backes
[redacted]

Army Corp of Engineers-New Orleans District
Attn: Ms. Amy Dixon
CEMVN-PMR-C
7400 Leake Ave New Orleans, LA 70118
Sttammanyfs@usace.army.mil

Subject: St.Tammany Parish, Louisiana Feasibility Study

Dear Ms. Dixon:

The purpose of this letter is to express our opposition to the proposed St. Tammany Levee Project, and we would like our objections on the public record. We have lived in St. Tammany parish for 27 years at our current address in French Branch Estates on Rue Juneau. Our home has never flooded, however many of our neighbors have experienced significant property damage due to flood waters from rain and hurricanes. We are concerned that the current TSP will lead to flooding for us and worse flooding for our neighbors who are at lower elevations.

There are a number of reasons for our concern.

- Increased risk of flooding from the Pearl River
    - With a levee wall in place next to our property, we would be located in an area that would retain greater amounts of water should such a flood occur as it has in the recent past.
    - Your modeling does not appear to have taken into account potential flooding from the Pearl River and its impact on those of us outside the proposed protection plan. (Appendix E, Page 80 appears to only acknowledge potential impact inside the levee)
- Climate related increases in flooding potential
    - Sea levels are rising, and Louisiana land levels are dropping. Additionally, there is a loss of wetlands, which have previously served as protection from flood events. These alone increase the threat of flooding to many residences in Louisiana; however, this threat is exacerbated by the construction of a levee that will restrict the flow of water, and confine it to a smaller area.

- Section 5 of the St. Tammany Levee Project states that there would not be significant changes to storm surge levels in the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity system in the Greater New Orleans Hurricane & Storm Damage Risk Reduction System nor would there be an impact to the West Shore Lake Pontchartrain system.
    - The stated regions do not address Northshore areas east or west, and outside of the proposed levee and the potential impact to them during storm surge.
    - Additionally, section 5 states that there are possible increases of 1-3 feet in the 1% AEP water level on the flood side of the levee/wall. Although the claim is for a 1% increase, this is for the entire area. This risk is not equal, but will be much greater for large areas, particularly those in the vicinity of the levee/wall.
- Effects on economy and the community have not been considered.
    - Schools, hospitals and other medical services, local businesses outside of the proposed levee which would be forced to decide if remaining here is viable.
- Loss of home value, increase in flood insurance outside of the levee in the TSP.

Where is the protection for those in our area, many of whom have already previously flooded? As designed, the TSP does not meet the needs of large portions of the St. Tammany Parish community. Our concerns related to increased potential flooding adjacent to and outside of the proposed levee have not been addressed. It seems that there is strong probability that residents located outside of the levee will be significantly harmed by the plan. We will request that the federal government not approve funding for this proposal without significant modifications to protect all of St. Tammany Parish.

Respectfully,

Cheryl R Backes
Wayne L Backes

Wayne and Cheryl Backes

From:	Eric Johnson
To:	Sttammanyfs
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Comment on NOA St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana Feasibility Study, Revised Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and EIS
Date:	Tuesday, July 25, 2023 12:12:49 PM

US Army Corps of Engineers:

Amphibian populations are declining worldwide, and amphibians are experience high extinction rates due to habitat loss, chytrid fungus, pollutants, pesticides, and climate change (see references below). Amphibians are the most threatened class of vertebrates and merit special attention in the St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana Feasibility Study. Amphibians, such as the southern dusky salamander, Fowler's toad and Gulf Coast toad, may be present in freshwater wetlands and forested habitats in the project area. We recommend conducting amphibian monitoring to locate occupied amphibian habitats in the project area. Implement avoidance measures to mitigate impacts to amphibian habitat. Consider establishing protected areas for amphibians.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Eric Johnson
Amphibian Refuge
[redacted]

References:

Catenazzi, A. 2015. State of the World's Amphibians. *Annual Review of Environment and Resources, 40: 91-119.*

Collins, J.P., and M.L. Crump. 2009. *Extinction in Our Times: Global Amphibian Decline.* New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Kolbert, E. 2014. *The Sixth Extinction, an Unnatural History.* New York,NY: Bloomsbury.

McCallum, M.L. 2007. Amphibian Decline or Extinction: Current Declines Dwarf Background Extinction Rate. *Journal of Herpetology, Volume 41, Number 3, pp. 483-491.*

From: BARBARA CASSERLEIGH
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments on study
Date: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 11:58:24 PM

As property owners of an historical home in one of the most beautiful and pristine settings that exists, Ipplease consider our concerns about the St Tammany feasibility study as it currently exists.

The current map location will place a pumping station and flood gate essentially in our front yard, at the junction of Bayous Liberty and Pacquet, and outside the proposed levee protection.

At one of the many meetings we have attended over the past year, an alternate alignment was discussed that would place these structures at a greater distance (200-300 yds, perhaps?) down Bayou Liberty, offering our property not only the protection of being inside the levee , but also preserving the ecological importance and visual aesthetics of this lovely spot. At the least, this change in the proposal would be much more acceptable.

Also, as currently proposed, it seems apparent that the recent successful restoration of the Bayou Bonfouca marsh would be greatly jeopardized. That project cost millions of dollars. I personally helped LDWF in replanting the marsh and strongly feel that it would be a travesty to flush that money down the drain!

Based on many comments made by representatives of the St Tammany Levee Board chairman, Suzanne Krieger, we are greatly concerned that this entire project has been desperately undertaken as a means to spend the available funds somehow, but without proper understanding of all the repercussions to the environmental issues, property values of all concerned, and wishes of the taxpayers…more of a "you don't use it, you lose it" ideology than a careful, sensible plan to provide flood protection to as many as possible.

Additionally, we would strongly suggest that the study include reopening of the discussions of the feasibility of constructing flood prevention mechanisms at the Rigolets.

Our family has had the rare pleasure of enjoying the beauty and serenity of the bayou for over 60 years. Our home was lovingly constructed in the mid 1960s by Henry G. Casserleigh, Sr., our grandfather. He enjoyed a long and successful career as a higher up with the ACOE, eventually heading up the flood protection effort as Director. He built our structure to withstand whatever Mother Nature sent our way, with attention to all structural elements available at that time. The home has stood firm and intact through all flooding events since then, and we have never made a flood claim, even in Katrina! Mr. Casserleigh was an avid environmental activist and advocate and he would be certainly be horrified to know of this proposal!

We appreciate all the efforts put forth as attempts to protect the residents of Slidell from flooding. But there is much work left to do before any current plan is approved to move forward!

Sincerely,

Henry Casserleigh III and Barbara Casserleigh
[redacted]

Sent from my iPad

From: Diane Beaudoin
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [URL Verdict: Neutral][Non-DoD Source] River Gardens
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 9:11:42 AM

Will u b cleaning out Gum Bayou and Pearl River to help with the flooding in our area?

Sincerely

Diane C Beaudoin

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

From: [redacted]
[redacted] Sttammanyfs
Subject: [URL Verdict: Neutral][Non-DoD Source] St Tammany
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 11:25:04 AM
Attachments: Screenshot_20230809_110520_Yahoo Mail.jpg

I'm a lifelong resident of St Tammany and in my 50yrs we have never flooded UNTIL y'all remove EVERY tree to put up a building to sit empty. Our infastructure simply can not handle what has already been done! The tree removal has not caused major flooding it's affected wildlife, some of which is protected. Please see my letter below that I've sent to our parish president and council members.
Thank you,
RRuffino

_____

I request regulations established in the zoning ordinance are intended to preserve and protect the historical architecturally worthy buildings, structure, sights, monuments, streetscapes, squares, and neighborhoods of our historic area. Trees, because of the beneficial services they provide and the character they add to the community, shall be retained and preserved to the maximum extent feasible on all property within the town limits.

Planting trees helps make cities clean and green, but protecting the trees we already have may be even more important: large mature trees provide many more benefits than smaller young trees. Research shows that mature trees capture more carbon, filter more particulate matter to reduce air pollution, capture more storm water, create shade and reduce energy use, and many other environmental and health benefits. Some benefits trees provide:

- Prevent flooding. Rain flows down the trunk into the earth;
- Prevents soil erosion;
- Shield children from ultra-violet rays;
- Increase property value;
- Provides oxygen;
- Cleans the air as they absorb pollutant gases.
- Most importantly PREVENT FLOODING

The unfortunate reality is that the vast majority of trees are not being preserved and cut down. In many cases, trees could have been preserved but were cut down. This causes a massive negative environmental impact. Also, deforestation also destroys much needed habitat for animals, plants and other species. Deforestation has been a tragic disaster for the earth and everyone living on it.

Scores of office buildings sit empty across the parish. Please encourage property owners to renovate vacant buildings or sell them for other uses. I simply ask that you all review buildings on a case-by-case basis and discuss where zoning changes make sense and which new uses might work best in a given location.

True leaders are those that do something different and better. They learn from others mistakes and improve upon it rather than repeating the same mistakes. It takes more years to re-grow trees than it does to build around the tree. In addition to hurting this

generation by cutting trees down, you're hurting your children, grandchildren — those you love dearly. Use your power to make a difference and show other cities, states, countries how to do things better.
Thank you,
Rebecca Ruffino

Sent from AT&T Yahoo Mail on Android

From: [redacted]
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Updated levee system
Date: Tuesday, August 15, 2023 10:06:45 PM

We attended the meeting in Slidell on August 15th. The lack of advertising or educating the public in regards to the meeting,gives me pause to think there is an ulterior motive. Was this done to let this move forward with minimal resistance? Forgive my lack of faith in the Army Corp of Engineers. When will you see you cannot control mother nature? For every action you take there will be further consequences and more damage. Sadder yet is that my taxes go to your wasted projects. To think you can wall off so much of coastal territory is laughable! Your plan will just create new problems for the area.
There are houses currently being built in Turtle creek. So the city/parish has allowed permits knowing this is a possibility. The developer makes his money while the unaware buyer gets taken for a ride.
I realize I am nothing in your plan. But, we moved from a house that flooded in Lake Village subdivision to home that has never flooded. It was a marvel that my daughter , son in law and first grandchild bought the house next door. As people would talk of leaving Slidell we were trying dig roots. But, this plan makes all of our properties worthless. Perhaps, I will sue the Corp, parish or state if my home floods after this wall is built. Because it has never flooded prior. Perhaps, there could be a class action lawsuit from all the new homes built that will be uninsurable. I have worked my entire life, paid my taxes and followed all the rules to be a good citizen only to be bullied by a government I have supported.

Distraught ,
ADRIANNE URBANO
[redacted]

PS Are you planning to buy my property you intend to put the wall on? Or just steal it?

new AOL app for Android

From: Peter O"Connell
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] St Tammany Parish Feasibility Study Comments
Date: Tuesday, August 15, 2023 10:42:18 PM

I live in Oak Harbor and attended the public meeting in Slidell on August 15th.

While I appreciate the effort to solve numerous problems with flooding around the Parish, the proposal for the flood wall at Oak Harbor Drive actually increases the potential for future flooding south of Oak Harbor due to storm surge. That increased risk plus the very limited detail available in the current plan for "Non Structural Implementation", make it extremely difficult to evaluate a future in Slidell. All of the homes in Oak Harbor and Eden Isles are defined by FEMA as 'slab on grade'. While most of the slabs are poured on top of 12ft driven pilings, almost none of these could reasonably be raised without driving new pilings down to the level of the original substrate on which these developments were built and then lifting the structure on top of it. The lack of information about 'non structural implementation' makes it difficult to believe that the process is well thought through or that the quality of what would result would meet the original.

The people who live in this area are likely some of the highest tax payers in the eastern part of the parish not to mention the percentage of income they bring to the area. If they are like me they are very likely to think it is time to plan on a move to a more welcoming community that would appreciate those contributions.

Peter O'Connell
[redacted]

Jeanne A. Stangle, MD (aka Mrs. A. Foster Hebert)
[redacted]

August 16, 2023

sttammanyfs@usace.army.mil
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – New Orleans District
c/o Amy Dixon
CEMVN-PMR-C
7400 Leake Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70118

I OPPOSE St Tammany Parish, Louisiana Feasibility Study CEMVN-PMR-C

To USACE c/o Amy Dixon CEMVN-PMR-C and all concerned with this application for St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana Feasibility Study with a levee proposed in area of Bayous Liberty and Lacombe which are both Louisiana state-designated scenic streams. I live upstream on Bayou Liberty where the bayou is narrow in width but deep, wild, and beautiful, providing vital drainage for a large basin. This property is located in East St Tammany Parish. We do not want "channel improvements". I OPPOSE this St Tammany Parish, Louisiana Feasibility Study.

In 1984, my husband Aynaud Foster Hebert, MD, and I bought our property, at the above address, located on the east bank of Bayou Liberty, and have seen the increasing water levels adversely affect our historic property during subsequent years. I am writing to object to "feasibility study" to build a levee which may hurt us if the wind blows from the wrong direction. I suggest preserving wetlands without change, in their natural state, described for this project for the following reasons:

(1.) Applicants Have Not Shown There Are No Practicable Alternatives to the Wetlands Site.

Contrary to federal law, 40 C.F.R 230.10 (a), applicants have not met their burden of showing there is no practicable alternative to building Levee in the Bayou Liberty basin that is already overwhelmed by development.

Applicants' project is not effective if hurricane blows from certain directions, and practicable alternatives are presumed to be available unless clearly demonstrated otherwise, 40 C.F. R. 230.10(a)(3).

Many failed and empty commercial sites have already been paved over in nearby sites along US Hwy 190 Gause West and both sides of Northshore Blvd, including multiple strip malls and huge Northshore Square Mall with leveled movie theatre site adjacent to I-12. Why not remodel these commercial sites at these already filled and paved sites which include huge paved parking lots?

There are clearly practicable alternative sites for the proposed levee and for this reason the application should be denied.

(2.) Environmental Impact Study is Required.

The altering of wetlands for construction of levee will have a significant negative effect on drainage in the Bayou Liberty basin and will increase flooding of some structures if cut-off from the outflow into Bayou Liberty. Flooding must also be considered for long-standing adjacent residential properties both downstream and on the west bank of Bayou Liberty, the already flood-prone Victoria Park houses.

Cumulative effect of destruction of wetlands must be considered for this proposal in view of previously permitted destruction of wetlands in the Bayou Liberty basin for building of Wal-Mart, Sam's Club, and Target Stirling shopping center for which the US Army Corps of Engineers issued permits for filling of wetlands along Bayou Liberty before Hurricane Katrina.

Combined with the Corps' previous permitting for these stores, alteration of wetlands and Bayou Liberty channel for this proposed levee would be a "major federal action'' significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, and as such triggers the requirement of an environmental impact statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C).

(3) Applicants Have Not Submitted Hydrology Study-plan and Certification That Run-off Will Not Be Increased By the Proposed Levee.

It is particularly important that applicants comply with local law requiring hydrological studies and measures to control runoff because Bayou Liberty's capacity is already exceeded in major storms.

The experience of long-time residents along Bayou Liberty, including families living downstream of the site for which applicants seek a permit, is that water in the Bayou overflows its banks much more regularly in moderate storms and that homes that never flooded in the past are now subject to flooding in heavy storms. This is due to increased development in the Bayou Liberty basin.

The experience of long-time residents is borne out by the only study of drainage problems in the Bayou Liberty basin, the ''Master Drainage Plan, '' dated June 1983, prepared by Burk & Associates for the St. Tammany Police Jury. The 1983 Master Drainage Plan focused on the eastern portion of St. Tammany Parish; the portion of the Plan dealing with the Bayou Liberty basin is included in this mailing. The Plan studied the hydrology of the drainage basins in the eastern portion of the Parish, and evaluated the present capacity of the various drainage channels and the required capacity of the channels in a 10- year rain event in light of projected development patterns over the next 25 years (pages 75-79). The data is summarized in Table 9 (page 80) and the data for Bayou Liberty is as follows:

BAYOU LIBERTY

Design Point (location)	Present Capacity (cfs)	Required Capacity (cfs)
Journey Road	50	2525
Royal Golf Course	410	3059
Scenic Street	1172	3668
North of I-12	972	3692
North of Hwy 190	948	3692
Sylve Road	2198	4165
Oak Ridge Ave.	4004	4462

	Present Capacity (cfs)	Required Capacity (cfs)
Christi Ann Lea Subdivision	2973	4687
Bayou Liberty Road	3054	4812

The data for the Bayou Liberty basin may well underestimate flooding in a 10-year event because the 1983 Master Drainage Plan land use projections for the Bayou Liberty basin do not appear to have anticipated the enormous development in the Bayou Liberty basin north of US Hwy 190 and north of Interstate 12.

There is risk that the proposal may increase flooding if the wind blows from a direction, from which levee does not give protection, rather such a levee may trap water along Bayou Liberty properties. Environmental impact statement is required before a decision is made on this project.

(4) Effect On Historic Properties and Community Must Be Considered.

The Corps must also take into account the adverse effect of proposal on the historic properties and historic community in the lower Bayou Liberty basin.

Physical destruction or damage attributable to increased flooding would have an adverse effect on the historic properties. The oldest homes are located on the highest ground along the Bayou and for the most part have been spared flood waters other than Hurricane Katrina. But with increased development will come further increases in stormwater runoff, particularly in the case of large developments such as the multi-family residential development proposed by applicants. It is only a matter of time, if development continues unchecked, before the historic properties along the Bayou will also flood.

In addition, the development's negative impact on water quality would be an alteration of the historic properties' setting. These historic properties owe their location to the Bayou, and for the Bayou to become polluted due to development adversely affects their character.

As noted in the St Tammany Parish's 1983 Master Drainage Plan, prepared by Burk & Associates, (pages 4-6), the area which is now the City of Slidell was settled in the mid-to-late 1800's, but the lower Bayou Liberty area was settled even earlier, beginning in the first half of the 1700's, shortly after the French founded the City of New Orleans. In fact, ''Bonfouca'' was the first recorded (1740) European place name on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain (see excerpt, sent with this letter, from ''St. Tammany Parish: L'Autre Cote du Lac'' by Frederick s. Ellis, at page 37). The community of Bonfouca was located adjacent to the site of St. Genevieve Church where Highway 433 (Bayou Liberty Road) crosses Bayou Liberty, and in fact this place name is still used on maps of the U.S. Geological Survey. The Diary of Francois Sidoine Pichon (one volume, written in the original French, can be accessed at library of Tulane University) documents life at Bonfouca on Bayou Liberty in the years 1848 to 1886. There are existing homes in the lower Bayou Liberty area dating from the late 1700's and early 1800's, as listed below.

It should be noted that before the arrival of Europeans, Native Americans lived on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain. The Acolapissa preceded the Choctaw. At the St Tammany Parish Library, Covington, Louisiana, The St. Tammany Historical Society's Vol 7, December 1986, ''Chahta-Ima and St. Tammany's Choctaws'', by Blaise C. D'Antoni, documents the presence of Choctaw people on Bayou Liberty in 1736 and notes the site of a Choctaw trading post in the 1760s where the Boy Scouts of America, Camp Salmen, was later located. This old trading post is listed by owner St. Tammany Parish as "Camp Salmen House" on the National Register of Historic Places. This old trading post, also commonly referred to as "Camp Salmen Lodge", is part of Camp Salmen Nature Park, owned and operated by St. Tammany Parish. Obstruction of drainage via Bayou Liberty or tidal surge trapped by proposed levee could this historic Camp Salmen (Lodge) House (trading post) listed on the National Register of Historic Places, part of Camp Salmen Nature Park, and the whole park may be adversely affected.

The focal point of the Bonfouca community was and is the St. Genevieve Church on the west bank of the Bayou Liberty amid enormous old oak trees. The first St. Genevieve Church was a small brick chapel built in 1852-1853 by Madame Anatole Cousin, the former Camille Pichon who was the daughter of Genevieve Dubuisson and Francois Pichon. The famous Abbe (Pere or Rev.) Adrian Rouquette, priest, poet and friend of the Choctaw -- called Chahta-Ima (''like a Choctaw") by the Choctaw -- was a nephew of Anatole Cousin. Rev. Adrian Rouquette often celebrated Mass at St. Genevieve. Among those who attended services at St. Genevieve were Choctaw Indians. The small brick chapel was replaced with a larger wood and brick church in 1914. Both the brick chapel and its graceful replacement faced the Bayou which functioned as a ''road'' in earlier times; people came to church by pirogues and skiffs. In 1958, the third St. Genevieve church was built and reoriented to the land road, now Louisiana Hwy 433;

this 1958 church was badly damaged in Hurricane Katrina. The Archdiocese of New Orleans authorized the building of the current fourth St. Genevieve Church which now stands on the same site, thanks to the contributions of dedicated St. Genevieve parishioners, post-Hurricane Katrina. The brick foundations of the first two St. Genevieve Church structures are visible today beneath the towering oaks between the Parish Hall and a small brick chapel built in modern times. A history of St Genevieve Church and site is included with this letter.

Today, the area around the Church bustles with activity: parishioners attending Church functions, people fishing on the pier maintained by the Church, traffic going over the adjacent Bayou Liberty bridge. The church bells and the horn announcing the opening and closing of the bridge for boats can be heard at homes up and down the Bayou. St. Genevieve Church is located on historic high ground known as La Butte Dominique. Increasingly, as development has taken place upstream, the banks of Bayou Liberty around the Church are littered with trash in the aftermath of heavy rain storms.

The Dubuisson Cemetery, also located on the west bank of Bayou Liberty at the end of West Dubuisson Road, was established in 1821. The inscriptions on many of the oldest tombs are in French. For example, one reads: 11 Ici repose Genevieve Isabelle Dubuisson, Veuve Francois Pichon, nee Pascagoula, le 6 Avril 1783, morte a Bonfouca, le 12 Septembre 1844" (here lies Genevieve Isabelle Dubuisson, widow of Francois Pichon, born in Pascagoula, April 6, 1783, died at Bonfouca, 12 September 1844). All the families who have settled the area for almost two hundred years are represented in the cemetery (Dubuisson, Pichon, Galatas, Faciane, Cousin, Narcisse, Doucette, Madison, etc.) Originally, funeral processions came up the Bayou from St. Genevieve Church by pirogue or other types of boats, including schooners. The cemetery was flooded in May 1995. A few tombs floated loose in a tropical storm in 2001, but many tombs floated far downstream in Hurricane Katrina 2005, with difficult recovery and identification. Long-time residents express concern for her family members' graves due to high water levels flooding the Dubuisson Cemetery, occurring more frequently to the present time July 2020.

The Pena Home on the west side of the Bayou is an Acadian cottage that may date from late 18th century or early 19th. It has been in the Pena family since it was built, and Diane Pena and their children, the current residents, are at least the 5th generations of Penas to live in the house. Several years ago, the Louisiana Historical Society approached the family about taking the house over, but the Penas turned them down. Diane Pena says that the house is located on a high spot but did flood with Katrina. Ms. Pena says that after heavy rains, the quality of the Bayou water has been negatively affected by runoff from development upstream.

The 1760 Carriere-Dubourg House, also called "Bright House", is located just downstream from Camp Salmen on the east bank of Bayou Liberty, and is listed on the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) of the 1930s. The Galatas Home was badly damaged by Hurricane Katrina. The Galatas home was located on the east side of Bayou Liberty at the Bayou end of Faciane Road.

The Francois Cousin House is now owned by Lowry-Collins family; it is located on the west bank of Bayou Liberty off Gwin Road. This historic Francois Cousin House, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is a bayou cottage of brick-between-post construction built between 1787 and 1789 (as documented by the state of Louisiana in records maintained at the Cabildo). The property was deeded to Francois Cousin by Spanish land grant. Cousin was one of the largest landowners in the area, and the site of the Lowry home was once a brickyard and a lumberyard. In more than two-hundred-year history, the Bayou comes closer and closer to the house in major storms. Water in any of these historic homes

can cause sure destruction of interior hand-made bricks as well as bousillage (mud, lime and deer hair). Bricks made on this site were used to build the St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans.

Also listed on the HABS of the 1930s, located on the west bank of Bayou Liberty, is “The Pink House” dating from early 1800's, brick-between-post, made with bousillage.

The Dubuisson-Whitney-Williams Home, ''Kindelwood,'' on the east side of Bayou Liberty off Bayou Liberty Road is a Creole home built between 1800 and 1815. The site was originally a brick factory. The house flooded in May 1995 and Katrina.

The historic Dubuisson land grant site, later owned by descendants of Francois Cousin, is now called “Tranquility” located on the west bank of Bayou Liberty. The main house contains brick-between-post original core dating back to Spanish land grant to Francois Dubuisson in 1788. Dubuisson descendants transferred the property to Cousin descendants, then subsequent succession of owners to present, with increasing frequency of high water levels on Bayou Liberty threatening the historic mansion.

(5) The negative effect of the filling in the wetlands upstream is associated with increased flooding in the Bayou Liberty basin below the proposed site and CANNOT BE COMPENSATED FOR by mitigation payments to purchase or preserve wetlands OUTSIDE OF the BAYOU LIBERTY BASIN.

(6) Applicants have not specified any measures to control ''non-point source pollution'' -- construction runoff, erosion, and post- construction runoff of pollution from the parking lots-~ which if not controlled will damage the water quality of Bayou Liberty.

(7) The water quality of Bayou Liberty has declined as development has taken place in the basin. Long-time residents have seen the waters of the Bayou muddied by development and filled with trash.

If applicants submit significant additional information on any of the issues raised in this comment or any other issue, the Corps should permit the public an opportunity to comment by reissuing the public notice and reopening the comment period, 33 C.F.R. 325.2(a)(1). The issuance of a bare bones public notice and minimal details with respect to the drainage plans and other plans of applicants, without an opportunity to comment on further submissions from applicants relevant to the ultimate decision of the Corps, would deny due process.

Applicants' proposed project will have major effects on the surrounding area, and the Corps should hold a public hearing on the permit application. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Jeanne A. Stangle, MD
(also known as Mrs. Aynaud Foster Hebert)
Bayou Liberty resident

Jeanne A. Stangle, MD (aka Mrs. A. Foster Hebert)
[redacted]

Cell: [redacted]
[redacted]com

August 16, 2023

sttammanyfs@usace.army.mil
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – New Orleans District
c/o Amy Dixon
CEMVN-PMR-C
7400 Leake Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70118

I OPPOSE St Tammany Parish, Louisiana Feasibility Study CEMVN-PMR-C

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There are clearly practicable alternative sites for the proposed levee and for this reason the application should be denied.

(2.) Environmental Impact Study is Required.

The altering of wetlands for construction of levee will have a significant negative effect on drainage in the Bayou Liberty basin and will increase flooding of some structures if cut-off from the outflow into Bayou Liberty. Flooding must also be considered for long-standing adjacent residential properties both downstream and on the west bank of Bayou Liberty, the already flood-prone Victoria Park houses.

Cumulative effect of destruction of wetlands must be considered for this proposal in view of previously permitted destruction of wetlands in the Bayou Liberty basin for building of Wal-Mart, Sam's Club, and Target Stirling shopping center for which the US Army Corps of Engineers issued permits for filling of wetlands along Bayou Liberty before Hurricane Katrina.

Combined with the Corps' previous permitting for these stores, alteration of wetlands and Bayou Liberty channel for this proposed levee would be a "major federal action'' significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, and as such triggers the requirement of an environmental impact statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C).

(3) Applicants Have Not Submitted Hydrology Study-plan and Certification That Run-off Will Not Be Increased By the Proposed Levee.

It is particularly important that applicants comply with local law requiring hydrological studies and measures to control runoff because Bayou Liberty's capacity is already exceeded in major storms.

The experience of long-time residents along Bayou Liberty, including families living downstream of the site for which applicants seek a permit, is that water in the Bayou overflows its banks much more regularly in moderate storms and that homes that never flooded in the past are now subject to flooding in heavy storms. This is due to increased development in the Bayou Liberty basin.

The experience of long-time residents is borne out by the only study of drainage problems in the Bayou Liberty basin, the ''Master Drainage Plan, '' dated June 1983, prepared by Burk & Associates for the St. Tammany Police Jury. The 1983 Master Drainage Plan focused on the eastern portion of St. Tammany Parish; the portion of the Plan dealing with the Bayou Liberty basin is included in this mailing. The Plan studied the hydrology of the drainage basins in the eastern portion of the Parish, and evaluated the present capacity of the various drainage channels and the required capacity of the channels in a 10- year rain event in light of projected development patterns over the next 25 years (pages 75-79). The data is summarized in Table 9 (page 80) and the data for Bayou Liberty is as follows:

BAYOU LIBERTY

Design Point (location)	Present Capacity (cfs)	Required Capacity (cfs)
Journey Road	50	2525
Royal Golf Course	410	3059
Scenic Street	1172	3668
North of I-12	972	3692
North of Hwy 190	948	3692
Sylve Road	2198	4165
Oak Ridge Ave.	4004	4462

	Present Capacity (cfs)	Required Capacity (cfs)
Christi Ann Lea Subdivision	2973	4687
Bayou Liberty Road	3054	4812

The data for the Bayou Liberty basin may well underestimate flooding in a 10-year event because the 1983 Master Drainage Plan land use projections for the Bayou Liberty basin do not appear to have anticipated the enormous development in the Bayou Liberty basin north of US Hwy 190 and north of Interstate 12.

There is risk that the proposal may increase flooding if the wind blows from a direction, from which levee does not give protection, rather such a levee may trap water along Bayou Liberty properties. Environmental impact statement is required before a decision is made on this project.

(4) Effect On Historic Properties and Community Must Be Considered.

The Corps must also take into account the adverse effect of proposal on the historic properties and historic community in the lower Bayou Liberty basin.

Physical destruction or damage attributable to increased flooding would have an adverse effect on the historic properties. The oldest homes are located on the highest ground along the Bayou and for the most part have been spared flood waters other than Hurricane Katrina. But with increased development will come further increases in stormwater runoff, particularly in the case of large developments such as the multi-family residential development proposed by applicants. It is only a matter of time, if development continues unchecked, before the historic properties along the Bayou will also flood.

In addition, the development's negative impact on water quality would be an alteration of the historic properties' setting. These historic properties owe their location to the Bayou, and for the Bayou to become polluted due to development adversely affects their character.

As noted in the St Tammany Parish's 1983 Master Drainage Plan, prepared by Burk & Associates, (pages 4-6), the area which is now the City of Slidell was settled in the mid-to-late 1800's, but the lower Bayou Liberty area was settled even earlier, beginning in the first half of the 1700's, shortly after the French founded the City of New Orleans. In fact, ''Bonfouca'' was the first recorded (1740) European place name on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain (see excerpt, sent with this letter, from ''St. Tammany Parish: L'Autre Cote du Lac'' by Frederick s. Ellis, at page 37). The community of Bonfouca was located adjacent to the site of St. Genevieve Church where Highway 433 (Bayou Liberty Road) crosses Bayou Liberty, and in fact this place name is still used on maps of the U.S. Geological Survey. The Diary of Francois Sidoine Pichon (one volume, written in the original French, can be accessed at library of Tulane University) documents life at Bonfouca on Bayou Liberty in the years 1848 to 1886. There are existing homes in the lower Bayou Liberty area dating from the late 1700's and early 1800's, as listed below.

It should be noted that before the arrival of Europeans, Native Americans lived on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain. The Acolapissa preceded the Choctaw. At the St Tammany Parish Library, Covington, Louisiana, The St. Tammany Historical Society's Vol 7, December 1986, ''Chahta-Ima and St. Tammany's Choctaws'', by Blaise C. D'Antoni, documents the presence of Choctaw people on Bayou Liberty in 1736 and notes the site of a Choctaw trading post in the 1760s where the Boy Scouts of America, Camp Salmen, was later located. This old trading post is listed by owner St. Tammany Parish as "Camp Salmen House" on the National Register of Historic Places. This old trading post, also commonly referred to as "Camp Salmen Lodge", is part of Camp Salmen Nature Park, owned and operated by St. Tammany Parish. Obstruction of drainage via Bayou Liberty or tidal surge trapped by proposed levee could this historic Camp Salmen (Lodge) House (trading post) listed on the National Register of Historic Places, part of Camp Salmen Nature Park, and the whole park may be adversely affected.

The focal point of the Bonfouca community was and is the St. Genevieve Church on the west bank of the Bayou Liberty amid enormous old oak trees. The first St. Genevieve Church was a small brick chapel built in 1852-1853 by Madame Anatole Cousin, the former Camille Pichon who was the daughter of Genevieve Dubuisson and Francois Pichon. The famous Abbe (Pere or Rev.) Adrian Rouquette, priest, poet and friend of the Choctaw -- called Chahta-Ima (''like a Choctaw") by the Choctaw -- was a nephew of Anatole Cousin. Rev. Adrian Rouquette often celebrated Mass at St. Genevieve. Among those who attended services at St. Genevieve were Choctaw Indians. The small brick chapel was replaced with a larger wood and brick church in 1914. Both the brick chapel and its graceful replacement faced the Bayou which functioned as a ''road'' in earlier times; people came to church by pirogues and skiffs. In 1958, the third St. Genevieve church was built and reoriented to the land road, now Louisiana Hwy 433;

this 1958 church was badly damaged in Hurricane Katrina. The Archdiocese of New Orleans authorized the building of the current fourth St. Genevieve Church which now stands on the same site, thanks to the contributions of dedicated St. Genevieve parishioners, post-Hurricane Katrina. The brick foundations of the first two St. Genevieve Church structures are visible today beneath the towering oaks between the Parish Hall and a small brick chapel built in modern times. A history of St Genevieve Church and site is included with this letter.

Today, the area around the Church bustles with activity: parishioners attending Church functions, people fishing on the pier maintained by the Church, traffic going over the adjacent Bayou Liberty bridge. The church bells and the horn announcing the opening and closing of the bridge for boats can be heard at homes up and down the Bayou. St. Genevieve Church is located on historic high ground known as La Butte Dominique. Increasingly, as development has taken place upstream, the banks of Bayou Liberty around the Church are littered with trash in the aftermath of heavy rain storms.

The Dubuisson Cemetery, also located on the west bank of Bayou Liberty at the end of West Dubuisson Road, was established in 1821. The inscriptions on many of the oldest tombs are in French. For example, one reads: 11 Ici repose Genevieve Isabelle Dubuisson, Veuve Francois Pichon, nee Pascagoula, le 6 Avril 1783, morte a Bonfouca, le 12 Septembre 1844" (here lies Genevieve Isabelle Dubuisson, widow of Francois Pichon, born in Pascagoula, April 6, 1783, died at Bonfouca, 12 September 1844). All the families who have settled the area for almost two hundred years are represented in the cemetery (Dubuisson, Pichon, Galatas, Faciane, Cousin, Narcisse, Doucette, Madison, etc.) Originally, funeral processions came up the Bayou from St. Genevieve Church by pirogue or other types of boats, including schooners. The cemetery was flooded in May 1995. A few tombs floated loose in a tropical storm in 2001, but many tombs floated far downstream in Hurricane Katrina 2005, with difficult recovery and identification. Long-time residents express concern for her family members' graves due to high water levels flooding the Dubuisson Cemetery, occurring more frequently to the present time July 2020.

The Pena Home on the west side of the Bayou is an Acadian cottage that may date from late 18th century or early 19th. It has been in the Pena family since it was built, and Diane Pena and their children, the current residents, are at least the 5th generations of Penas to live in the house. Several years ago, the Louisiana Historical Society approached the family about taking the house over, but the Penas turned them down. Diane Pena says that the house is located on a high spot but did flood with Katrina. Ms. Pena says that after heavy rains, the quality of the Bayou water has been negatively affected by runoff from development upstream.

The 1760 Carriere-Dubourg House, also called "Bright House", is located just downstream from Camp Salmen on the east bank of Bayou Liberty, and is listed on the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) of the 1930s. The Galatas Home was badly damaged by Hurricane Katrina. The Galatas home was located on the east side of Bayou Liberty at the Bayou end of Faciane Road.

The Francois Cousin House is now owned by Lowry-Collins family; it is located on the west bank of Bayou Liberty off Gwin Road. This historic Francois Cousin House, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is a bayou cottage of brick-between-post construction built between 1787 and 1789 (as documented by the state of Louisiana in records maintained at the Cabildo). The property was deeded to Francois Cousin by Spanish land grant. Cousin was one of the largest landowners in the area, and the site of the Lowry home was once a brickyard and a lumberyard. In more than two-hundred-year history, the Bayou comes closer and closer to the house in major storms. Water in any of these historic homes

can cause sure destruction of interior hand-made bricks as well as bousillage (mud, lime and deer hair). Bricks made on this site were used to build the St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans.

Also listed on the HABS of the 1930s, located on the west bank of Bayou Liberty, is “The Pink House” dating from early 1800's, brick-between-post, made with bousillage.

The Dubuisson-Whitney-Williams Home, ''Kindelwood,'' on the east side of Bayou Liberty off Bayou Liberty Road is a Creole home built between 1800 and 1815. The site was originally a brick factory. The house flooded in May 1995 and Katrina.

The historic Dubuisson land grant site, later owned by descendants of Francois Cousin, is now called “Tranquility” located on the west bank of Bayou Liberty. The main house contains brick-between-post original core dating back to Spanish land grant to Francois Dubuisson in 1788. Dubuisson descendants transferred the property to Cousin descendants, then subsequent succession of owners to present, with increasing frequency of high water levels on Bayou Liberty threatening the historic mansion.

(5) The negative effect of the filling in the wetlands upstream is associated with increased flooding in the Bayou Liberty basin below the proposed site and CANNOT BE COMPENSATED FOR by mitigation payments to purchase or preserve wetlands OUTSIDE OF the BAYOU LIBERTY BASIN.

(6) Applicants have not specified any measures to control ''non-point source pollution'' -- construction runoff, erosion, and post- construction runoff of pollution from the parking lots-~ which if not controlled will damage the water quality of Bayou Liberty.

(7) The water quality of Bayou Liberty has declined as development has taken place in the basin. Long-time residents have seen the waters of the Bayou muddied by development and filled with trash.

If applicants submit significant additional information on any of the issues raised in this comment or any other issue, the Corps should permit the public an opportunity to comment by reissuing the public notice and reopening the comment period, 33 C.F.R. 325.2(a)(1). The issuance of a bare bones public notice and minimal details with respect to the drainage plans and other plans of applicants, without an opportunity to comment on further submissions from applicants relevant to the ultimate decision of the Corps, would deny due process.

Applicants' proposed project will have major effects on the surrounding area, and the Corps should hold a public hearing on the permit application. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Jeanne A. Stangle, MD
(also known as Mrs. Aynaud Foster Hebert)
Bayou Liberty resident

From: Jessica Jones
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Flood wall in Slidell
Date: Wednesday, August 16, 2023 6:36:28 PM

I have looked over the plans for this and it seems it barricades all of east Slidell off. Have you ever thought that now our flood insurance will be sky high, not that it already isn't, because we won't be in a so called flood protected area? Also, we pay some of the highest property taxes and our property values are going to go down tremendously.
I don't recall a lot of the areas off East Gause to flood during Katrina, I know the house we are in now didn't and we are in Sterling Oaks. some may have because they are lower and from street flooding. How about we do something about drainage, Gause floods when it rains hard just for a few hours, and not build walls to flood others?

Jessica Jones

From:	Brian Clavin
To:	Sttammanyfs
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Proposed Slidell Flood Levee Plan
Date:	Thursday, August 17, 2023 12:25:29 PM
Attachments:	cidC68BB060-AF26-4E3A-BF4A-4ECD8BABB768.png

I live in Turtle Creek and saw this levee flood plan that has been proposed below.
I am absolutely AGAINST this idea since you will flood everyone in Turtle Creek Subdivision. We have over 300 homes in our subdivision and the subdivision is still growing. Many of us in Turtle Creek survived Hurricane Katrina without flooding and now you want to intentionally flood us out? So your idea of flood protection is to flood all of our homes including the Cross Gates subdivision, French Branch subdivision, Quail Ridge subdivision and many businesses along Gause Blvd.
You must come up with a better plan to protect our homes and include us in that new plan for protection, not exclude us!

Brian Clavin
[redacted]

Sent from my iPad

From: [redacted]
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Subdivision off of Military Road
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2023 9:03:41 AM

Dear Corps,

When I looked at this plan, I was dumbfounded as to how you would leave off the bulk of the tax base of this area. Speaking on this area Old River Road Subdivision, Turtle Creek, The Bluffs, Indian Village, Honey Island, Little Oak schools, Cross Gates etc.

We have lived here for 20 years. My home is PAID for and is large two story, 4100 sq feet with two huge attached garages, with a mother-in-law apartment and a pool. Imagine the destruction to raise this home. Homeowners insurance is forcing me to insure for $820,000 and you're telling me we will be outside the levee protection?? I pay almost $5000 a year in property tax. We are being forced from our homes by the cost of flood and homeowners and now you'll leave us out of protection??

Seems to me, like most government today, you're in bed with the insurance companies. This study is crap and you need to recognize the tax base you're leaving off, the value of our properties and the age of these neighborhoods. We live in a rare area where we all have property and are not on top of each other, beautiful trees and wildlife. It's a way of life and people love it here. Many of us experienced the destruction of Katrina and with HAARP and weather manipulation, it's certain another storm will come this way. 3 feet of water in tour home is not pleasant. Please find a way to include these expensive and important areas in your plan.

Sincerely,

Debbie Hall
[redacted]

From: Melissa Gillespie
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Why was my area of Slidell included in a flood zone?
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2023 12:27:58 PM

Last redrawing, [redacted] was included in the flood zone which meant our insurance went through the roof even though we didn't even flood during Katrina. Citizens wanted $9000 a year for an area that has never flooded and all the mortgage companies are now using these thieves. We had to find our own after most of the insurance companies pulled out. How about removing us from the flood zone?

Melissa Gillespie

From: Camille Philips
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments on St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana feasibility study 2023
Date: Friday, August 18, 2023 12:30:47 PM

Thank you for meeting with public at Slidell Municipal Auditorium 8.15.23. These comments focus on Optimized Tentatively Selected Plan for South Slidell and West Slidell Levee and Floodwall System:
Appendix D Engineering July 2023 (hereafter Appendix D)
Appendix D Annex 10 NS April 2023 (hereafter Appendix D Annex 10)
Appendix D Annex 11 Construction Schedule July 2023 (hereafter Appendix D Annex 11)
Appendix E Hydrologic & Hydraulics July 2023 (hereafter Appendix E)
Appendix F Economics July 2023 (hereafter Appendix F)
Appendix G Real Estate Plan July 2023 (hereafter Appendix G)
Appendix H NS Implementation Plan July 2023 (hereafter Appendix H)

Schneider PS

On a keyword search for "Schneider" in Appendix D and Appendix G, we could not find answer to our question in 6.29.21 email: What is elevation of Schneider Canal PS and levee now?

Everard Baker, then environmental manager, St. Tammany Parish feasibility study in 7.2.21 email timed 9:31am: A response will be provided in the final report. We are accepting public comments on the feasibility study until 26 July 2021.

Appendix E at Section 7.1.3 Alternative 6 – South Slidell (6a & 6b) at 7.1.3.1 [page 54]:

> Schneider Canal Pump Complex: There is a pumping station at the intersection of Schneider Canal and the proposed levee alignment, which was constructed by the City of Slidell. The 1990 USACE Schneider Canal, Slidell, LA Hurricane Protection Reconnaissance Report identified a capacity of 100 cfs. It is important to note that the Schneider Canal pump station was constructed by the City of Slidell at a capacity of 850 cfs. It is unlikely that additional capacity is needed there. The existing pump station does not have fronting protection, but that need has been identified in the ongoing USACE Southeastern Louisiana Project (SELA) Schneider Canal hurricane protection study.

Is answer to our question answered in that study?

What would be elevation of new Schneider Canal PS and levee then?

What's at Old Spanish Trail 433?

Appendix D under Floodwall Elevation and Location:

> For this alignment, elevation of floodwall segments would vary from 13.5 feet to 17 feet.

It notes 300 feet of Old Spanish Trail *Floodwall segment*.

-

Appendix D under Sluicegates, Vehicular Floodgates and Ramps:
It notes a 30-foot *vehicular floodgate* at LA Highway 433 East (Old Spanish Trail).

At several figures, for example, Appendix D figure D:1-14, comment box reads: Old Spanish Trail *Gate* (Hwy 433).

Nonstructural measures

Appendix G Section 13 Zoning Ordinances:

> The [NS] measures are voluntary in nature and would be available only to existing eligible structures as defined within the [OTSP]….The NFS will be required to coordinate these matters with the local planning commissions.
>
> Section R322.2.1; Elevation Requirements of the Louisiana [UCC] states that "Buildings and structures in [FHAs], including [FHAs] designated as Coastal A Zones, shall have the lowest floors elevated to or above [BFE] or the design flood elevation….For residential structures located in flood zone "A," the minimum [FFE] shall be at the [BFE] or 12 inches above the centerline of street or top of curb fronting the home, whatever is greater. For residential lots less than 90 feet wide in all flood zones, structures shall be raised if more than 24 inches of fill is required to satisfy this section. Elevations shall be tied to NAVD88 vertical datum.

Appendix H Section 3.1 Preliminary Eligibility [page 8]:

> 2. The structure must be outside of the area of influence of the structural features recommended in the [OTSP] and not be receiving flood risk reduction benefits from the structural features (i.e., outside of the areas of influence of [OTSP] --the West Slidell and South Slidell Levee and Floodwall System…)

Appendix F figure F:7-1 measures comprising the [OTSP] [page 44], appears to have at least two purple dots inside the OTSP. What would explain this?

Housekeeping ? or otherwise ?

Appendix D:

▪Under Structural Assumptions for Alternative 6c > 2.) Floodwalls: On the east side of the railroad tracks, it reads b…. c…. d…. **b…. e….** Are second **b….** and **e….** correctly included here? Should this string be amended?

Housekeeping

Appendix D:

▪online and printed hard copy, header reads St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana Feasibility Study, no reference to Appendix D

▪online and printed hard copy, page numbers in footers are very hard to read, white numbers on gray background

▪online and printed hard copy, every other page has no number

Appendix D Annex 10:

▪online has no page numbers
▪online has no headers

Appendix D Annex 11:
▪Could this be available as Excel spreadsheet?

Appendix G:
▪online page numbers in footers are very hard to read, white numbers on gray background

From: Mona Prince
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Proposed levee East Slidell
Date: Friday, August 18, 2023 6:09:39 PM

I have to voice my my heartfelt disapproval of this project. Our home of 30 years in Turtle Creek will be outside of the proposed levee. We have never flooded but most certainly will if this project is approved. Our insurance rates would soar and property values plummet! You have to do better and include our neighborhood. We have just retired and will be forced to leave our home if this happens.

Please reconsider

Mona M Prince
[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

From: Christopher Coleman
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Flood plan
Date: Sunday, August 20, 2023 11:44:05 AM

I oppose the ridiculous flood plan being put forth here for St Tammany Parish. It does nothing for the most vulnerable residents, who pay the most taxes, in Eden Isles or Lakeshore Estates. A lot of the damage you cite on the home page after Katrina, over $1billion, is due to the loss in these neighborhoods. It is asinine to devise a plan which doesn't include the most vulnerable in the parish on the front lines. Why not get the other parishes around L Pontchartrain involved and fix the problem once and for all with a flood gate at the Rigolets and Chef Pass?

Sent from my iPhone

From: Jean Cefalu
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Opposition to current flood protection plan
Date: Sunday, August 20, 2023 5:46:43 AM

Dear Sirs,
I am opposed to the current levy protection plan as it leaves out a large area (Old River Road Subdivision) that faces the brunt of any flooding. All of the other properties DRAIN towards us. The current W-14 widening has caused damage and flooding to 1070 Old River Road that never had flooding in the past. Please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,
Dr Jean Cefalu
[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

From:	Crystal Simon
To:	Sttammanyfs
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Formal Notice of Concern - 115 Blackbeard Drive, Slidell, LA 70461
Date:	Monday, August 21, 2023 1:02:56 PM
Attachments:	Map - Sent to Army Corps of Engineers 082123.JPG

To whom it may concern,

I am a homeowner, an active citizen of the Slidell, LA community and the President of the Doubloon Bayou Estates HOA.

After review of the posted levee plan and discussions with my counselman, Mr. Mike Smith, I am sincerely concerned about my neighborhood and home located at [redacted]. Given the current levee plan appears to place my neighborhood outside the levee system, I'm sure you can understand I have many concerns about the future of my property and that of my neighbors.

I completely understand that not everyone can be happy when implementing a project of this magnitude, but I am writing to you in an effort to formally place your offices on notice in regard to any future damages to my property and that of my neighbors' which could possibly be caused by the implementation of this levee plan. I further want to formally express my personal concerns for my own property and to express the concerns of my neighbors in regard to this matter.

From the appearance of the proposed project maps, it appears our neighborhood will be placed outside of levee protection. This is also what was understood at the recent meetings on 08/15 & 08/16. If I am incorrect in this statement, please educate me. With that being said, I formally request an explanation from your offices as to why this project cannot extend out to the Pearl River area in an effort to include the neighborhoods of Doubloon Bayou Estates and Old River Road within levee protection. If this is not feasible, please let me know why another option (other than the one presented) is not possible.

Please understand that I am not an engineer and this information is, quite frankly, a bit over my head, but if an extension of this levee plan to protect my neighborhood cannot be done, I formally request a response to my request for a thorough explanation of what consideration the Army Corps of Engineers took in regard to the protection of my neighborhood, how this levee project/plan will indeed benefit/affect the neighborhoods of Doubloon Bayou Estates and Old River Road, and what plans are currently in place to protect the families and properties residing in this area.

I attach a map of the area of my concern for your quick reference. Please note the area circled in "red".

I look forward to a response to my aforenoted requests at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,
Crystal Simon
[redacted]

From:	Gloria Van Zandt
To:	Sttammanyfs
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Proposed I Levee construction
Date:	Monday, August 21, 2023 1:33:44 PM

To whom it may concern:

It is with great concern that I am writing to voice my opposition to the most recent plans for levee construction.

The areas east of Military Road and south of I-12 are left outside the levee and will be subjected to increased flooding due to levee construction . Waters will pile up against levee in this large area especially with storms that come out of the south. Areas never flooded or only experienced minor flooding will be subjected to greater danger of flooding as a result Ironically, the areas outside of the aforementioned area contain some of the larger, newer and more expensive homes and subdivisions in southeastern St Tammany Parish and the Slidell area specifically.

In the 33 years that we lived in our home in the Old River Road subdivisions, we experienced only minor interior flooding (1") with the major inundation of Hurricane Katrina's waters in 2005. Wind damage was a different situation in our heavily-wooded subdivision. Even through later hurricanes and Pearl River flooding, we remained dry and flood free. I have no doubt that the proposed exclusion of our area outside the levee will result in dangerous flooding. The dispersal of rising water will be stopped by the levee and potentially cause extreme flooding experienced by thousands of inhabitants in the New Orleans & Metairie areas.

I am furthered concerned that there may not be sufficient funding available for homeowners who will need to raise their homes due to increased danger of flooding. Thousands of homes, businesses, and apartments will be in endangered areas outside the proposed levee.

My final worry lies with home and flood protection insurance. Currently fewer companies offer insurance coverage in the state; remaining companies have prohibitively high rates. Will any insurance actually be available for property outside the levee? Home values will potentially drop considerably.

These considerations that I've covered are a definite concern for us, but we are only one family out of the thousands who will be left unprotected and more endangered by this proposed levee construction.

Sincerely,
The Van Zandt Family
[redacted]

[redacted]

From: Margaret Diaz
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] St. Tammany Parish Flood Protection
Date: Monday, August 21, 2023 10:12:03 PM

All -

I tried to understand the document that was presented at the open meeting last week at Slidell Auditorium. While I am thoroughly impressed with the document, it is inconceivable that anyone other than the persons that drafted it understand it: its intimidating, and full of jargon that no one can possibly understand. But your answer will be: 'we presented to the community, and they accepted it'. How fortunate for you and your organizations that you can implement such a drastic program, and the very people whom it affects, cannot even understand how it will affect them.

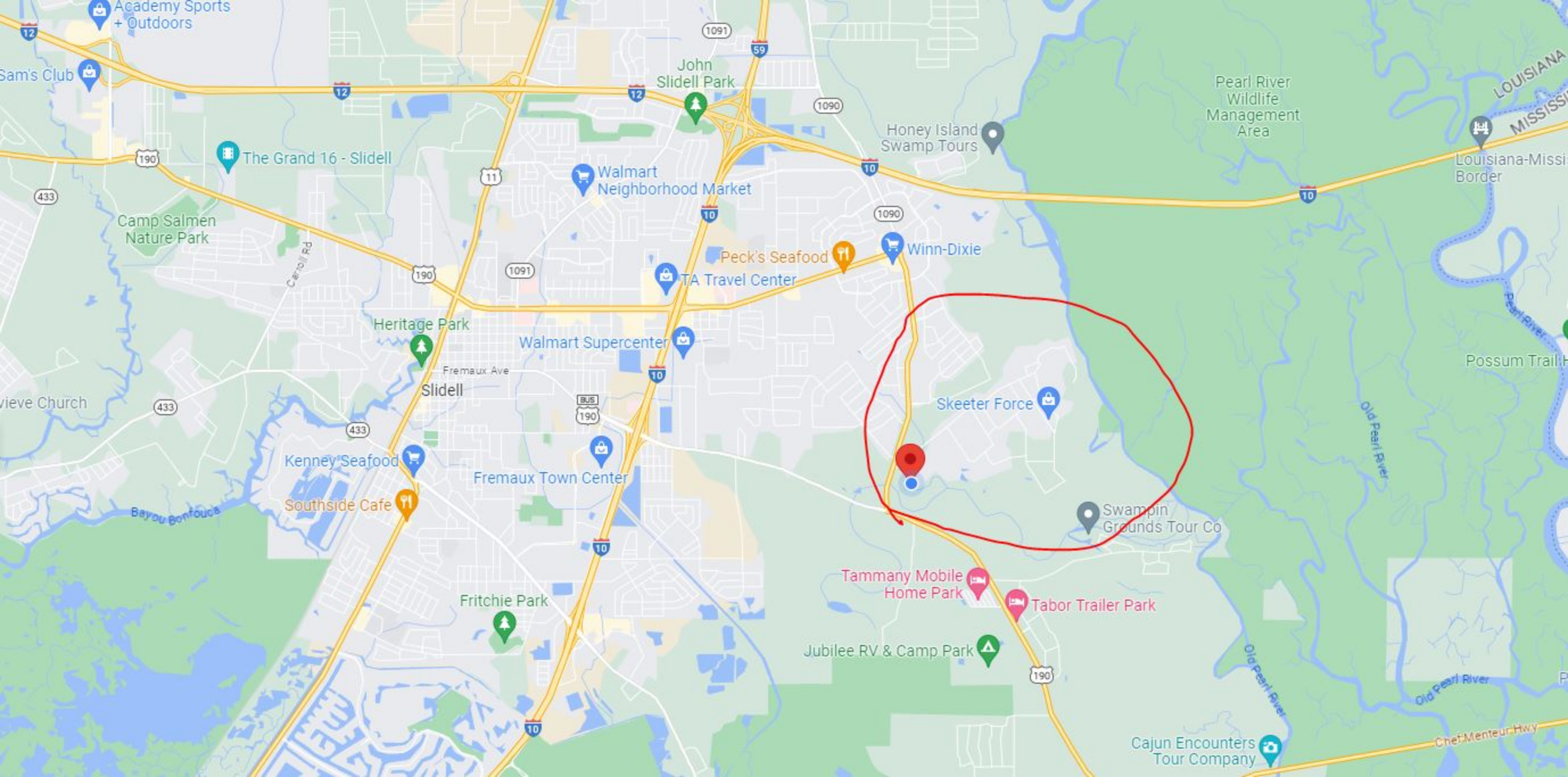
How does it affect those homes that are outside of this protected area? I was wiped out in Katrina and moved to the northshore because of it. Now I will be faced with the possibility of being 'outside the protection' of this proposed levee system. Homes in my and surrounding neighborhoods are appraised at or above $300K. Your proposal just drops the value of all of our homes.

It appears to me this proposal is a 'done deal'. You do not want input from the community, you just want to 'check the box' that it was presented to the community and to move onto the next phase.

I own my home in the [redacted]. What happens to my home, my neighborhood and all those homes and subdivisions the length of Military Road when this levee is built? How does this directly affect me, and my neighbors?

Thank you,

Margaret Diaz
[redacted]


Academy Sports + Outdoors
Sam's Club
John Slidell Park
Pearl River Wildlife Management Area
Honey Island Swamp Tours
LOUISIANA
Louisiana-Missi Border
The Grand 16 - Slidell
Walmart Neighborhood Market
Camp Salmen Nature Park
Carroll Rd
Peck's Seafood
Winn-Dixie
TA Travel Center
Heritage Park
Walmart Supercenter
Fremaux Ave
Slidell
Possum Trail
Skeeter Force
Kenney Seafood
Fremaux Town Center
Southside Cafe
Bayou Bonfouca
Swampin Grounds Tour Co
Tammany Mobile Home Park
Tabor Trailer Park
Fritchie Park
Jubilee RV & Camp Park
Old Pearl River
Cajun Encounters Tour Company
Chef Menteur Hwy

From: Kimberly Hatcher
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] St. Tammany feasibility study
Date: Wednesday, August 23, 2023 3:37:56 PM

I oppose the flood wall not including all of the City Limits of Slidell and populated neighborhoods My home is not currently in a flood zone and I am in the City Limits. I see this structure only limiting the ability for the water to run off and consequently flooding areas that would not normally do so, even with a hurricane. Flood gates and Pumps do not always work, as seen in New Orleans many times over the years. The City and Parish do not and have not maintained the ditches for water to flow freely so why would it be any different with pumps and gates? It is evident that the Corp would like all water front properties to return to its original marsh land state with no protection offered, increased flood and home owners insurance, however that should and would not be the case for homes currently NOT in a flood zone at all. I would like you to reconsider and expand the areas of protection to include all of the City of Slidell. Issues that will likely occur are more flooded homes, increased flood insurance and the vacating of many residents to other areas with a better quality and affordable living thus reducing the tax revenues. I have also observed from your maps that many schools are not included in your plan, I do not comprehend the logic behind that. With another major hurricane and all the schools flood, there will be NO reason for many families to return from evacuation.
Sent from my iPhone

From: TheEngstfeld
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana Feasibility Study
Date: Wednesday, August 23, 2023 10:20:18 AM
Attachments: Residual_bt_with_and_without_levee.PNG

To whom it may concern,

I live in a residence, [redacted] of Slidell, which falls outside of the proposed levee protection location. Examining Figure E:13-6 from Appendix E of the study, which shows the residual between the as-is conditions vs those created by the project, most of my neighborhood and the surrounding ones, such as French Branch, Frenchman's Estates, et al. would be made worse by the project (see the attached figure). I assume this is due to a funneling effect and the piling up of waters along the levee. If I am reading this figure correctly, the storm surge models used for modeling the hydrology show an increase of flood waters by as much as a foot in my immediate area. The graphic is not the best and is much too small of scale to be very useful. It should have only shown the area of impact instead of the broader GOM.

Why are our neighborhoods not inside of the proposed levee system and given the increased risk of flooding to us, what is being done to mitigate our increased chances of flooding?

R/
Paul E. Marin

U.S. Army Corps of Engineer- New Orleans District
c/o Amy Dixon
CEMVN-PDC-C
7400 Leake Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70118

August 26, 2023

Purpose: Conditional Letter of Support for St. Tammany Feasibility Study

Mrs. Dixon,

I am providing a "Conditional" Letter of Support for the St. Tammany Feasibility Study. There are flooding issues throughout the parish and hopefully this project will alleviate some of the storm surge and riverine issues benefiting specific areas of St. Tammany Parish. I do not want to impede these areas from receiving the help they need. The Feasibility Study benefits Eden Isles area residents with non-structural support recommendations, which is insufficient. Our area needs comprehensive protection since we reside in one of the most vulnerable parts of the parish in regards to storm surge. The cost benefit analysis for this area was flawed.

Two large areas that are gaps in the USACE plan include the Eden Isles area and the Military Road area. I am grateful for the commitment made by our Congressional Delegation, St. Tammany Parish and the CPRA for a comprehensive flood protection plan for the Eden Isles area to include a breakwater, flood gates, pumping station, road elevations and barriers. I would expect the USACE to support the efforts of CPRA and St Tammany Parish as they progress toward structural flood protection for the Eden Isles area and not hinder any component of this comprehensive plan.

Sincerely,

Carol Barber

Carol Barber

[redacted]

RE SEND - AUGUST 17, 2023
ORIGINALLY SENT PRIORITY
MAIL ON AUGUST 11, 2023

George E. Burch

[redacted]

Bryan Burch

[redacted]

August 11, 2023

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Attention: Ch. Environmental Branch

CEMVN-PDS, Room 331

7400 Leake Avenue

New Orleans, Louisiana 70118

Re: St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana Feasibility Study

George and Bryan Burch Property at 31344 South tranquility Road, Lacombe, Louisiana 70445

West Slidell Levee Alignment

Dear Madam / Sir,

We have reviewed the St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana Feasibility Study, Revised Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement dated July 2023, and note that we also had reviewed

the St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana Feasibility Study dated June 2021 and a number of other documents which were published regarding the project under consideration.

The proposed alignment of the West Slidell Levee may impact our property which fronts on South Tranquility Road, see Exhibit "A" attached. (We note that we also own property directly North of South Tranquility Road, Exhibit "B" which does not appear to be affected by the Project). The proposed levee alignment appears to cross our property near the West end of the levee, Exhibit "C". This area is the location of buildings and improvements, two houses, a pool and cabana, shops with a great deal of equipment and services installed, storage buildings, water wells (4), buried and overhead electrical lines, buried telephone lines, water lines, a stable, other structures and features, formal gardens, ponds and access roads.

We have not seen a legal description or survey of the alignment as it is proposed. If we can have the alignment super imposed on the survey document attached as Exhibit "A" or a legal description of the proposed levee location we can determine the impact of the proposed alignment on our property, buildings, and other improvements. We are prepared to work with you to mitigate as many issues as possible, such as moving the end of the levee a little to the South and then North and then back to the West.

We also note several other matters that need to be considered as regards our property:

1) The levee will bisect our property restricting access to the Southern part of the tract. We will need access across the levee.

2) The property surface on the Southern and West side drains Southward. Consideration needs to be given to dealing with drainage that may be blocked by the levee. We note that the East side of the property drains into a ditch that connects to Bayou Paquet.

We are available to meet with those concerned with these matters.

Sincerely,

George and Bryan Burch

N

EAST HALF OF LOT 7
SECTION 3, T.9S., R.13E.
ST. TAMMANY PARISH, LA.

AUG. 16, 1989

EXHIBIT "A"

[redacted]

RAN

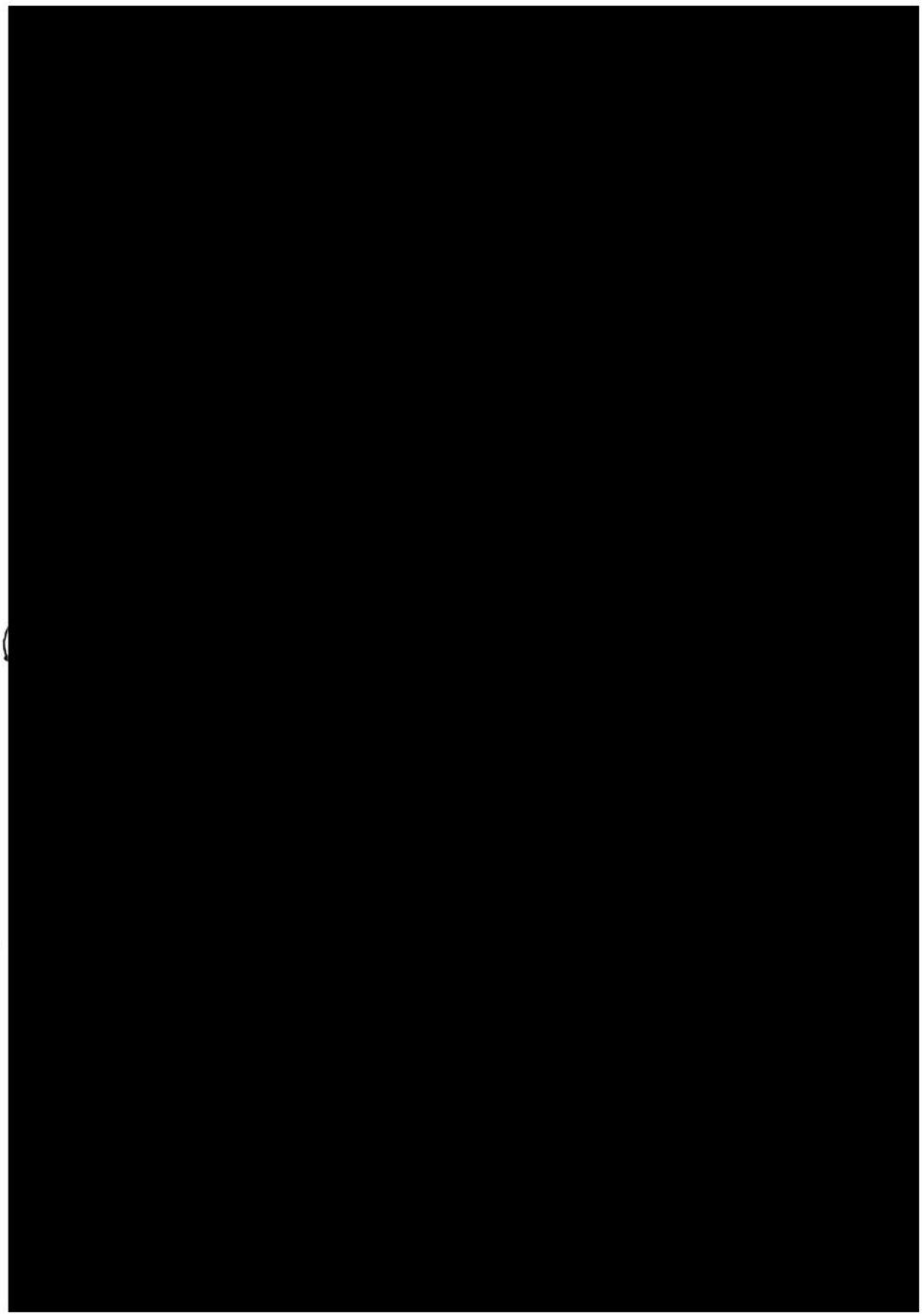
"MAP № 2"

J. J. KREBS & SONS, INC.

ENGINEERS, PLANNERS & SURVEYORS
3013 27TH ST. METAIRIE, LA 70002 (504) 837-9470
131 LEE LANE COVINGTON, LA 70433

JOB NO 895599

KREBS PLAT 2



"MAP N°5"

J. J. KREBS & SONS, INC.

ENGINEERS, PLANNERS & SURVEYORS
3013 27TH ST. METAIRIE, LA 70002 (504) 837-9470
131 LEE LANE COVINGTON, LA 70433

JOB Nº 89 55 99

PLAT 5

St. Tammany Parish Feasibility Study: Bayou Liberty/ Bayou Vincent/ Bayou Bonfouca (Alternative 5)

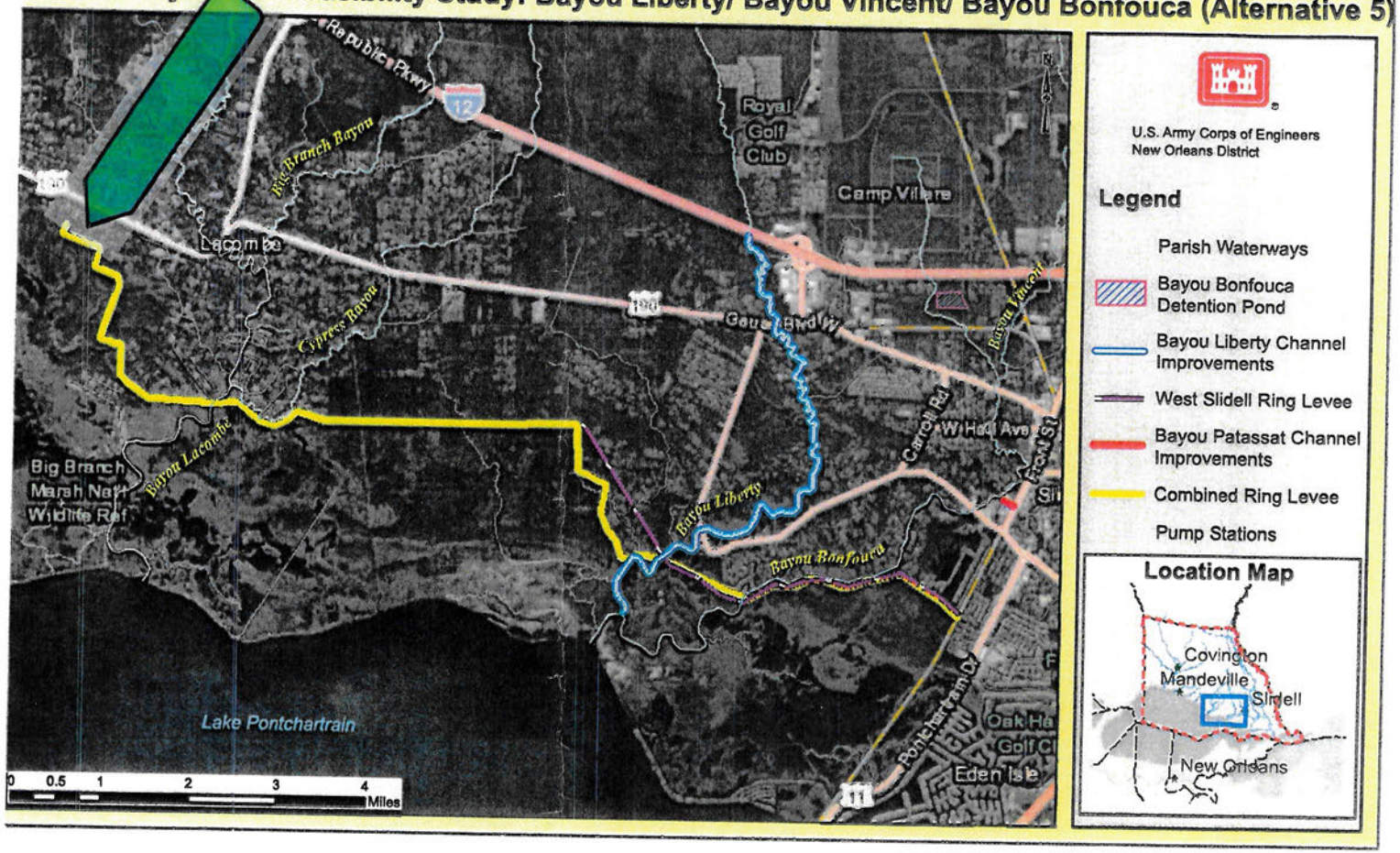


EXHIBIT "C"

Military Road Alliance

P. O. Box 1541
Slidell, LA 70460

The Military Road Alliance (M.R.A.) is an alliance of homeowner associations representing approximately 4,000 residents along Military Road in eastern Slidell.

We were founded in 1979 to address drainage issues in our area and continuously represent our members to local, state and federal agencies to improve and protect the Military Road community.

The M.R.A. has reviewed the July 2023 Corps' St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana Feasibility Study Revised Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and EIS.

We appreciate the Corps' efforts to alleviate flooding in our area. Based on our understanding the Optimized Tentatively Selected Plan including Alternate 6C (TSP), the proposed action will harm residents in the Military Road area.

Because of this, the M.R.A. opposes the Corps' TSP.

The M.R.A. polled its member associations and 29 of 30 delegates, representing almost 4,000 residents, voted to oppose the plan.

The Draft TSP does not provide levee protection to any residents in the Military Road area. Because we are outside the proposed levee, the TSP will likely increase water levels in parts of the Military Road area during storms, harming those residents. The inclusion of Alternate 2 Non-structural, in the TSP will mitigate, but not eliminate, the harm caused by the TSP.

Additional optimization to the TSP could alleviate these problems. We appreciate the Corps holding public hearings on this issue, and look forward to further interactions with the Corps to develop a plan which we can all support.

Sincerely,

Robert Broome

Robert Broome

[redacted]

Jeanne A. Stangle, MD (aka Mrs. A. Foster Hebert) BADON FAMILY

[redacted] [redacted]

August 16, 2023

sttammanyfs@usace.army.mil
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – New Orleans District
c/o Amy Dixon
CEMVN-PMR-C
7400 Leake Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70118

I OPPOSE St Tammany Parish, Louisiana Feasibility Study CEMVN-PMR-C

To USACE c/o Amy Dixon CEMVN-PMR-C and all concerned with this application for St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana Feasibility Study with a levee proposed in area of Bayous Liberty and Lacombe which are both Louisiana state-designated scenic streams. I live upstream on Bayou Liberty where the bayou is narrow in width but deep, wild, and beautiful, providing vital drainage for a large basin. This property is located in East St Tammany Parish. We do not want "channel improvements". I OPPOSE this St Tammany Parish, Louisiana Feasibility Study.

In 1984, my husband Aynaud Foster Hebert, MD, and I bought our property, at the above address, located on the east bank of Bayou Liberty, and have seen the increasing water levels adversely affect our historic property during subsequent years. I am writing to object to "feasibility study" to build a levee which may hurt us if the wind blows from the wrong direction. I suggest preserving wetlands without change, in their natural state, described for this project for the following reasons:

(1.) Applicants Have Not Shown There Are No Practicable Alternatives to the Wetlands Site.

Contrary to federal law, 40 C.F.R 230.10 (a), applicants have not met their burden of showing there is no practicable alternative to building Levee in the Bayou Liberty basin that is already overwhelmed by development.

Applicants' project is not effective if hurricane blows from certain directions, and practicable alternatives are presumed to be available unless clearly demonstrated otherwise, 40 C.F. R. 230.10(a)(3).

Many failed and empty commercial sites have already been paved over in nearby sites along US Hwy 190 Gause West and both sides of Northshore Blvd, including multiple strip malls and huge Northshore Square Mall with leveled movie theatre site adjacent to I-12. Why not remodel these commercial sites at these already filled and paved sites which include huge paved parking lots?

There are clearly practicable alternative sites for the proposed levee and for this reason the application should be denied.

(2.) Environmental Impact Study is Required.

The altering of wetlands for construction of levee will have a significant negative effect on drainage in the Bayou Liberty basin and will increase flooding of some structures if cut-off from the outflow into Bayou Liberty. Flooding must also be considered for long-standing adjacent residential properties both downstream and on the west bank of Bayou Liberty, the already flood-prone Victoria Park houses.

Cumulative effect of destruction of wetlands must be considered for this proposal in view of previously permitted destruction of wetlands in the Bayou Liberty basin for building of Wal-Mart, Sam's Club, and Target Stirling shopping center for which the US Army Corps of Engineers issued permits for filling of wetlands along Bayou Liberty before Hurricane Katrina.

Combined with the Corps' previous permitting for these stores, alteration of wetlands and Bayou Liberty channel for this proposed levee would be a "major federal action" significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, and as such triggers the requirement of an environmental impact statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C).

(3) Applicants Have Not Submitted Hydrology Study-plan and Certification That Run-off Will Not Be Increased By the Proposed Levee.

It is particularly important that applicants comply with local law requiring hydrological studies and measures to control runoff because Bayou Liberty's capacity is already exceeded in major storms.

The experience of long-time residents along Bayou Liberty, including families living downstream of the site for which applicants seek a permit, is that water in the Bayou overflows its banks much more regularly in moderate storms and that homes that never flooded in the past are now subject to flooding in heavy storms. This is due to increased development in the Bayou Liberty basin.

The experience of long-time residents is borne out by the only study of drainage problems in the Bayou Liberty basin, the "Master Drainage Plan, " dated June 1983, prepared by Burk & Associates for the St. Tammany Police Jury. The 1983 Master Drainage Plan focused on the eastern portion of St. Tammany Parish; the portion of the Plan dealing with the Bayou Liberty basin is included in this mailing. The Plan studied the hydrology of the drainage basins in the eastern portion of the Parish, and evaluated the present capacity of the various drainage channels and the required capacity of the channels in a 10- year rain event in light of projected development patterns over the next 25 years (pages 75-79). The data is summarized in Table 9 (page 80) and the data for Bayou Liberty is as follows:

BAYOU LIBERTY

Design Point (location)	Present Capacity (cfs)	Required Capacity (cfs)
Journey Road	50	2525
Royal Golf Course	410	3059
Scenic Street	1172	3668
North of I-12	972	3692
North of Hwy 190	948	3692
Sylve Road	2198	4165
Oak Ridge Ave.	4004	4462

	Present Capacity (cfs)	Required Capacity (cfs)
Christi Ann Lea Subdivision	2973	4687
Bayou Liberty Road	3054	4812

The data for the Bayou Liberty basin may well underestimate flooding in a 10-year event because the 1983 Master Drainage Plan land use projections for the Bayou Liberty basin do not appear to have anticipated the enormous development in the Bayou Liberty basin north of US Hwy 190 and north of Interstate 12.

There is risk that the proposal may increase flooding if the wind blows from a direction, from which levee does not give protection, rather such a levee may trap water along Bayou Liberty properties. Environmental impact statement is required before a decision is made on this project.

(4) Effect On Historic Properties and Community Must Be Considered.

The Corps must also take into account the adverse effect of proposal on the historic properties and historic community in the lower Bayou Liberty basin.

Physical destruction or damage attributable to increased flooding would have an adverse effect on the historic properties. The oldest homes are located on the highest ground along the Bayou and for the most part have been spared flood waters other than Hurricane Katrina. But with increased development will come further increases in stormwater runoff, particularly in the case of large developments such as the multi-family residential development proposed by applicants. It is only a matter of time, if development continues unchecked, before the historic properties along the Bayou will also flood.

In addition, the development's negative impact on water quality would be an alteration of the historic properties' setting. These historic properties owe their location to the Bayou, and for the Bayou to become polluted due to development adversely affects their character.

As noted in the St Tammany Parish's 1983 Master Drainage Plan, prepared by Burk & Associates, (pages 4-6), the area which is now the City of Slidell was settled in the mid-to-late 1800's, but the lower Bayou Liberty area was settled even earlier, beginning in the first half of the 1700's, shortly after the French founded the City of New Orleans. In fact, ''Bonfouca'' was the first recorded (1740) European place name on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain (see excerpt, sent with this letter, from ''St. Tammany Parish: L'Autre Cote du Lac'' by Frederick s. Ellis, at page 37). The community of Bonfouca was located adjacent to the site of St. Genevieve Church where Highway 433 (Bayou Liberty Road) crosses Bayou Liberty, and in fact this place name is still used on maps of the U.S. Geological Survey. The Diary of Francois Sidoine Pichon (one volume, written in the original French, can be accessed at library of Tulane University) documents life at Bonfouca on Bayou Liberty in the years 1848 to 1886. There are existing homes in the lower Bayou Liberty area dating from the late 1700's and early 1800's, as listed below.

It should be noted that before the arrival of Europeans, Native Americans lived on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain. The Acolapissa preceded the Choctaw. At the St Tammany Parish Library, Covington, Louisiana, The St. Tammany Historical Society's Vol 7, December 1986, ''Chahta-Ima and St. Tammany's Choctaws'', by Blaise C. D'Antoni, documents the presence of Choctaw people on Bayou Liberty in 1736 and notes the site of a Choctaw trading post in the 1760s where the Boy Scouts of America, Camp Salmen, was later located. This old trading post is listed by owner St. Tammany Parish as "Camp Salmen House" on the National Register of Historic Places. This old trading post, also commonly referred to as "Camp Salmen Lodge", is part of Camp Salmen Nature Park, owned and operated by St. Tammany Parish. Obstruction of drainage via Bayou Liberty or tidal surge trapped by proposed levee could this historic Camp Salmen (Lodge) House (trading post) listed on the National Register of Historic Places, part of Camp Salmen Nature Park, and the whole park may be adversely affected.

The focal point of the Bonfouca community was and is the St. Genevieve Church on the west bank of the Bayou Liberty amid enormous old oak trees. The first St. Genevieve Church was a small brick chapel built in 1852-1853 by Madame Anatole Cousin, the former Camille Pichon who was the daughter of Genevieve Dubuisson and Francois Pichon. The famous Abbe (Pere or Rev.) Adrian Rouquette, priest, poet and friend of the Choctaw -- called Chahta-Ima (''like a Choctaw") by the Choctaw -- was a nephew of Anatole Cousin. Rev. Adrian Rouquette often celebrated Mass at St. Genevieve. Among those who attended services at St. Genevieve were Choctaw Indians. The small brick chapel was replaced with a larger wood and brick church in 1914. Both the brick chapel and its graceful replacement faced the Bayou which functioned as a ''road'' in earlier times; people came to church by pirogues and skiffs. In 1958, the third St. Genevieve church was built and reoriented to the land road, now Louisiana Hwy 433;

this 1958 church was badly damaged in Hurricane Katrina. The Archdiocese of New Orleans authorized the building of the current fourth St. Genevieve Church which now stands on the same site, thanks to the contributions of dedicated St. Genevieve parishioners, post-Hurricane Katrina. The brick foundations of the first two St. Genevieve Church structures are visible today beneath the towering oaks between the Parish Hall and a small brick chapel built in modern times. A history of St Genevieve Church and site is included with this letter.

Today, the area around the Church bustles with activity: parishioners attending Church functions, people fishing on the pier maintained by the Church, traffic going over the adjacent Bayou Liberty bridge. The church bells and the horn announcing the opening and closing of the bridge for boats can be heard at homes up and down the Bayou. St. Genevieve Church is located on historic high ground known as La Butte Dominique. Increasingly, as development has taken place upstream, the banks of Bayou Liberty around the Church are littered with trash in the aftermath of heavy rain storms.

The Dubuisson Cemetery, also located on the west bank of Bayou Liberty at the end of West Dubuisson Road, was established in 1821. The inscriptions on many of the oldest tombs are in French. For example, one reads: 11 Ici repose Genevieve Isabelle Dubuisson, Veuve Francois Pichon, nee Pascagoula, le 6 Avril 1783, morte a Bonfouca, le 12 Septembre 1844" (here lies Genevieve Isabelle Dubuisson, widow of Francois Pichon, born in Pascagoula, April 6, 1783, died at Bonfouca, 12 September 1844). All the families who have settled the area for almost two hundred years are represented in the cemetery (Dubuisson, Pichon, Galatas, Faciane, Cousin, Narcisse, Doucette, Madison, etc.) Originally, funeral processions came up the Bayou from St. Genevieve Church by pirogue or other types of boats, including schooners. The cemetery was flooded in May 1995. A few tombs floated loose in a tropical storm in 2001, but many tombs floated far downstream in Hurricane Katrina 2005, with difficult recovery and identification. Long-time residents express concern for her family members' graves due to high water levels flooding the Dubuisson Cemetery, occurring more frequently to the present time July 2020.

The Pena Home on the west side of the Bayou is an Acadian cottage that may date from late 18th century or early 19th. It has been in the Pena family since it was built, and Diane Pena and their children, the current residents, are at least.the 5th generations of Penas to live in the house. Several years ago, the Louisiana Historical Society approached the family about taking the house over, but the Penas turned them down. Diane Pena says that the house is located on a high spot but did flood with Katrina. Ms. Pena says that after heavy rains, the quality of the Bayou water has been negatively affected by runoff from development upstream.

The 1760 Carriere-Dubourg House, also called "Bright House", is located just downstream from Camp Salmen on the east bank of Bayou Liberty, and is listed on the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) of the 1930s. The Galatas Home was badly damaged by Hurricane Katrina. The Galatas home was located on the east side of Bayou Liberty at the Bayou end of Faciane Road.

The Francois Cousin House is now owned by Lowry-Collins family; it is located on the west bank of Bayou Liberty off Gwin Road. This historic Francois Cousin House, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is a bayou cottage of brick-between-post construction built between 1787 and 1789 (as documented by the state of Louisiana in records maintained at the Cabildo). The property was deeded to Francois Cousin by Spanish land grant. Cousin was one of the largest landowners in the area, and the site of the Lowry home was once a brickyard and a lumberyard. In more than two-hundred-year history, the Bayou comes closer and closer to the house in major storms. Water in any of these historic homes

can cause sure destruction of interior hand-made bricks as well as bousillage (mud, lime and deer hair). Bricks made on this site were used to build the St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans.

Also listed on the HABS of the 1930s, located on the west bank of Bayou Liberty, is "The Pink House" dating from early 1800's, brick-between-post, made with bousillage.

The Dubuisson-Whitney-Williams Home, "Kindelwood," on the east side of Bayou Liberty off Bayou Liberty Road is a Creole home built between 1800 and 1815. The site was originally a brick factory. The house flooded in May 1995 and Katrina.

The historic Dubuisson land grant site, later owned by descendants of Francois Cousin, is now called "Tranquility" located on the west bank of Bayou Liberty. The main house contains brick-between-post original core dating back to Spanish land grant to Francois Dubuisson in 1788. Dubuisson descendants transferred the property to Cousin descendants, then subsequent succession of owners to present, with increasing frequency of high water levels on Bayou Liberty threatening the historic mansion.

(5) The negative effect of the filling in the wetlands upstream is associated with increased flooding in the Bayou Liberty basin below the proposed site and CANNOT BE COMPENSATED FOR by mitigation payments to purchase or preserve wetlands OUTSIDE OF the BAYOU LIBERTY BASIN.

(6) Applicants have not specified any measures to control "non-point source pollution" -- construction runoff, erosion, and post- construction runoff of pollution from the parking lots-~ which if not controlled will damage the water quality of Bayou Liberty.

(7) The water quality of Bayou Liberty has declined as development has taken place in the basin. Long-time residents have seen the waters of the Bayou muddied by development and filled with trash.

If applicants submit significant additional information on any of the issues raised in this comment or any other issue, the Corps should permit the public an opportunity to comment by reissuing the public notice and reopening the comment period, 33 C.F.R. 325.2(a)(1). The issuance of a bare bones public notice and minimal details with respect to the drainage plans and other plans of applicants, without an opportunity to comment on further submissions from applicants relevant to the ultimate decision of the Corps, would deny due process.

Applicants' proposed project will have major effects on the surrounding area, and the Corps should hold a public hearing on the permit application. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Jeanne A. Stangle, MD
(also known as Mrs. Aynaud Foster Hebert)
Bayou Liberty resident

We also oppose the LFS. CEMVN-PMR-C for the same reasons!
Marta Bedon
[redacted]

William Bedon
[redacted]

September 4, 2023

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

We oppose the current levee plan for Slidell. It does not provide levee protection for our subdivision, Willow Wood or other Military Road residents. This levee plan will increase water levels in our area and will harm us flooding our homes.

If a levee is built, we must be included.

Sincerely,
Ronda & Carlos Castillo

Willow Wood Subdivision

[redacted]

Wayne and Cheryl Backes
[redacted]

Army Corp of Engineers-New Orleans District
Attn: Ms. Amy Dixon
CEMVN-PMR-C
7400 Leake Ave New Orleans, LA 70118
Sttammanyfs@usace.army.mil

Subject: St.Tammany Parish, Louisiana Feasibility Study

Dear Ms. Dixon:

The purpose of this letter is to express our opposition to the proposed St. Tammany Levee Project, and we would like our objections on the public record. We have lived in St. Tammany parish for 27 years at our current address in French Branch Estates on Rue Juneau. Our home has never flooded, however many of our neighbors have experienced significant property damage due to flood waters from rain and hurricanes. We are concerned that the current TSP will lead to flooding for us and worse flooding for our neighbors who are at lower elevations.

There are a number of reasons for our concern.

- Increased risk of flooding from the Pearl River
    - With a levee wall in place next to our property, we would be located in an area that would retain greater amounts of water should such a flood occur as it has in the recent past.
    - Your modeling does not appear to have taken into account potential flooding from the Pearl River and its impact on those of us outside the proposed protection plan. (Appendix E, Page 80 appears to only acknowledge potential impact inside the levee)
- Climate related increases in flooding potential
    - Sea levels are rising, and Louisiana land levels are dropping. Additionally, there is a loss of wetlands, which have previously served as protection from flood events. These alone increase the threat of flooding to many residences in Louisiana; however, this threat is exacerbated by the construction of a levee that will restrict the flow of water, and confine it to a smaller area.

- Section 5 of the St. Tammany Levee Project states that there would not be significant changes to storm surge levels in the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity system in the Greater New Orleans Hurricane & Storm Damage Risk Reduction System nor would there be an impact to the West Shore Lake Pontchartrain system.
    - The stated regions do not address Northshore areas east or west, and outside of the proposed levee and the potential impact to them during storm surge.
    - Additionally, section 5 states that there are possible increases of 1-3 feet in the 1% AEP water level on the flood side of the levee/wall. Although the claim is for a 1% increase, this is for the entire area. This risk is not equal, but will be much greater for large areas, particularly those in the vicinity of the levee/wall.
- Effects on economy and the community have not been considered.
    - Schools, hospitals and other medical services, local businesses outside of the proposed levee which would be forced to decide if remaining here is viable.
- Loss of home value, increase in flood insurance outside of the levee in the TSP.

Where is the protection for those in our area, many of whom have already previously flooded? As designed, the TSP does not meet the needs of large portions of the St. Tammany Parish community. Our concerns related to increased potential flooding adjacent to and outside of the proposed levee have not been addressed. It seems that there is strong probability that residents located outside of the levee will be significantly harmed by the plan. We will request that the federal government not approve funding for this proposal without significant modifications to protect all of St. Tammany Parish.

Respectfully,

Cheryl R Backes
Wayne L Backes

Wayne and Cheryl Backes

Patricia Henderson
[redacted]

September 5, 2023

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – New Orleans District
c/o Amy Dixon
CEMVN-PMR-C
7400 Leake Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70118

Dear Ms. Dixon:

My name is Patricia Henderson. I have lived in Slidell, Louisiana since 1983, and during those years I have lived in various locations around the city, both in the incorporated and unincorporated areas. My current residence is 204 Leeds Drive in the Turtle Creek subdivision. I write to you today to express my concerns with the proposed levee construction that is currently in the planning stage for east Slidell. Since I live in the area that will be outside the proposed levee, I am quite anxious about the impact that future storm surges and river flooding will have on my place of residence.

I have witnessed the devastation of newsworthy floods and hurricanes that struck Slidell over the years: the flood of May 1995; Hurricane Katrina in 2005; Tropical Storm Claudette and Hurricane Ida in 2021.

So here are my concerns:
1). The proposed levee looks good on paper to those residents within its protection, but have there been studies on levee construction that demonstrate a worsening flood impact in areas outside the levee? And for the residents within the levee's protection, will heavy rainfall diminish the capacity for adequate drainage?
2). In the last 50 years, Slidell has increased in size and population from a small town to a mid-sized city. The eastern area of Slidell is comprised of middle to upper class residents, who diligently care for their properties with the expectation that their value will increase over the coming years. Will our properties be devalued because we will be outside the proposed levee, or if not devalued, will we be required to pay the increasingly high flood insurance premiums and/or pay for home elevation?
3). I only just heard about the proposed levee last week, through social media. Can the Corps work with the representatives of our state, parish and city government to better inform the residents of Slidell about this important matter?

Thank you for your attention and consideration,

Patricia Henderson

Patricia Henderson

Army Corp of Engineers-New Orleans District
C/O Amy Dixon
CEMVN-PMR-C
7400 Leake Ave
New Orleans, LA 70118
Sttammanyfs@usace.army.mil

Subject: Concerns and Recommendations Regarding the St. Tammany Parish Levee Project

Dear Ms. Amy Dixon,
I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my deep concerns and provide recommendations regarding the St. Tammany Parish Levee Project, specifically concerning the exclusion of my property from its protection. As a concerned resident, I believe it is vital to address various issues related to this project to ensure the safety, well-being, and fairness for all members of our community.

1. Accelerate and Improve Fritchie Marsh Restoration
I strongly recommend accelerating and enhancing the ongoing Fritchie Marsh restoration project, as it holds significant potential to reduce storm surge. Proper restoration of the marsh could result in a substantial drop in surge levels, providing some degree of storm surge protection. You can find detailed information about this project in the source.

2. Collaboration with DOTD and CPRA for Surge Mitigation
I urge you to collaborate with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) and the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) to explore surge mitigation strategies using Hwy 90 and 190 East. A similar study for surge mitigation using Hwy 11 and Lakeshore Drive (Rat's Nest Road) is already underway. The Hwy 190 restoration and bridge replacement project should be activated soon, presenting an opportunity to maximize further reductions in storm surge through structural changes to highway and bridge design.

3. Change Funding Allocation for Residential Protection Strategies
I propose a change in funding allocation language within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) budget. Currently, the focus is primarily on home slab elevation, which may not be the most cost-effective or efficient strategy. I suggest amending the language to allow for a range of residential protection strategies, similar to the options available for businesses. Such a change would align with the USACE study's recommendations and could lead to more effective and affordable solutions for homeowners.
4. Consider Alternative Levee Sites
I request a thorough evaluation of alternative levee sites, including alignments that extend along Hwy 190 and/or Military Road. All proposed alignments currently leave some residents outside of protection, which raises concerns about the fairness and equity of the project.

5. Collaboration on a Surge Barrier Plan

I strongly recommend joining the Lake Coalition to explore the feasibility of using the CSX railroad as a surge barrier. This plan has the potential to close five openings, preventing surges of up to 10 feet. While it may require extensive coordination, including involvement at a Cabinet level, it could offer a cost-effective and efficient solution to protect our community.

6. Full Upfront Coverage of Home Elevation Costs
All costs associated with the elevation of homes due to the levee placement and changes in water flow should be covered upfront, as it is unreasonable to expect residents to bear these costs before qualifying for grants. In visiting with my local community the FEMA rules on elevation should be removed. My house is huge and in sections with a pool just feet from my home.

7. Impact on Local Schools
An assessment of the impact on local schools, particularly those in areas excluded from the levee, must be conducted. The disregard for property, community, and the tax base could have long-term negative consequences for our education system which is directly related to jobs and thus a core responsibility of the army Corp of engineer to address as part of this and any other proposal.

8. Oversight Entity for Funding Allocation:
The creation of an independent entity, separate from St. Tammany Parish and Louisiana, to ensure fair and transparent allocation of project funds, free from potential biases or political influence and diversion of funds to other programs, interests etc.... Funds would be managed for Education, Vocation, Elevation, Relocation, Mitigation, levee maintance etc...

9. Options for Affected Residents:
Total Buyout: Offer a total buyout of property by the federal government, including relocation costs. These buyouts should be fair market value as of 2021 when the project was started. Offers such as those made for Avery Estates have shown that many will be unable to find new housing, move themselves, elevate their property or secure insurance/funding for new homes if homeowners are not adequately compensated. Additionally addressing this early with homeowners living in their single family homes would prevent unnecessary delays, lawsuits etc... by current residents who've had buy-in to a process that has not been transparent.
Home Value - approx $600,000.00

10. Moratorium on Building:
Implement a moratorium on all new building in the area and within 50 minutes of the levee to protect existing residents. This would insure that all monies earmarked for elevation and based on numbers from 2021 should be applied only to homes owned at time of project completion by private homeowners who owned homes a the time of project inception and completion.

11. Local Job Training:
Creation of a training program for Louisiana residents to participate in the levee's construction, providing long-term, family-wage job opportunities that are long term and local hires.

12. Tax Refunds:

Provide tax refunds to homeowners in single-family dwellings outside the levee as compensation for project costs that they will not benefit from.

13. Impact on local healthcare
Creation of a healthcare fund to protect healthcare access to the community that will be impacted by the levee location and changes in access to hospitals and clinics that may be close but with significant changes in roads and community will change.

14. Relocation costs for religious institutions and their congregations
Churches, synagogue, temples must receive funding and help in maintaining traditions, services, and access to their community. Costs should not increase for churches that will be responsible for caring for a community that will be impacted monetarily by the loss of good paying jobs that pay taxes in an area that will be negatively impacted. Additionally, Churches and religious organization spend large sums of money during disaster relief and should be compensated for all money increases that are passed on to them (and their members) for care of their congregations in providing disaster relief, food and labor due to placement of the levee.

15. Compensation to homeowners and small businesses for additional costs of flood insurance
In visiting with our neighbors there are multiple strings attached to FEMA and other money including but not limited to a requirement to hold certain levels of insurance. Many small businesses, start up businesses and home businesses are struggling in this community. With a potential exodus of residents who are well paid and technically advanced (thus able to leave Louisiana) small businesses will be impacted. Compensation must be considered for those businesses who may shutter without the needed customer base which will change with the levee.

Additional Information and Questions for Clarification

To better understand the project and its implications, I kindly request the following information and answers to the following questions:

1. Which Flood Control Act authorizes this levee project, and what are the specific provisions of this act?
2. Has a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review been conducted for this project? If so, what were the findings regarding environmental impacts?
3. What are the engineering standards being used for the levee's construction, and is there a projected timeline for the project's milestones?
4. What is the projected economic impact of the levee on major local employers, such as military and space complexes?
5. Is there a plan for long-term maintenance of the levee, and who will be responsible for it? It is well known that upkeep is expensive and necessary.
6. How can residents access updates or changes to the project plans to ensure transparency and public input?
7. How/When will St Tammany residents vote on a levee tax? Who will pay for the levee?

8. Has a plan been established for movement or removal of sacred burial sites including family sites and religious or traditional rites? What costs have been set aside for this?
9. Has an evaluation been done on the new representation of taxpayers with this project?

I believe that addressing these concerns and questions will lead to a more equitable and effective levee project that prioritizes the safety and well-being of all residents. I look forward to your response and hope for a constructive dialogue on this matter.
Sincerely,

Debra J. Hall

Debra F. Hall [redacted]

From: H Tate [redacted]
Subject: REVISED EMAIL of 9/2/23 PUBLIC COMMENTS RE: STP FEASIBILITY STUDY
Date: Sep 2, 2023 at 8:28:39 PM
To: sttammanyfs@usace.army.mil
Cc: Helene Tate [redacted] Kim Ipad [redacted]

I attended the public meeting in Slidell, LA on 8/15/23. While there were multiple displays of maps showing potential placement of the proposed levee, there were no maps that showed the 5 potential borrow sites for the required 7,079,000 cubic yards of fill. Additionally, there was no verbal mention of borrow sites in the ACE presentation.
I have reviewed the STP Feasibility Study and have attached copies of pages from that report concerning the borrow sites; specifically the expansion of borrow site STP-9, Robert Road Detention Pond, which borders my home and property. I respectfully request to be contacted and provided more sufficient information prior to the October 2023 finalized report.

Thank you,

[redacted]

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Attribute	South Slidell and West Slidell Levee and Floodwall System
Total Length of alignment/improvements	18.5 miles (97,700 feet)
Length of Floodwall	3.5 miles (18,200 feet)
Length of earthen Levee	15 miles (79,500 feet)
Hydraulic Design Elevation Range (Dependent on location)	13.5 to 16 (year 2032) 17.5 to 20 (year 2082) (depending on location)
Pump Stations	8
Culverts/ Sluice Gates/ Life Gates	13
Number of Vehicular Floodgates	18
Number of Pedestrian Floodgates	1
Number of Railroad Gates	1
Number of Road Ramps	6 (includes the I-10 near Oak Harbor)
Fill (Borrow Material) Required	7,079,000 cubic yards (initial construction plus future lifts) 3,000,000 cubic yards for initial construction only
Temporary Acres of Construction Impacts	238 acres (3.34 net acres)
Permanent Construction Impacts	352 acres (224 net acres)

- River Glen Drainage-in progress
- Abita River Regional Detention Pond
- Riverwood and Country Club Estates Drainage Improvements-completed
- Magnolia Drive Drainage
- Orleans Avenue Drainage
- Trinity Lane Drainage
- Lamarque St Drainage
- Little Bayou Castine Drainage Improvements
- Labarre St. Detention Pond and Channel Improvements-completed
- Chevreuil St Drainage
- Frenchmen Dr. & Lafitte Ct Drainage Improvements
- N. Pontchartrain Dr. Drainage
- Erindale Drainage
- Cypress Park Drainage Improvements-completed
- Ozone Woods Drainage Improvements-ongoing
- Oak Manor Drainage Feasibility-ongoing
- Ben Thomas Road Detention Pond
- Ben Thomas Rd. Subsurface & Sidewalk
- Robert Road Detention Pond Expansion
- Forest Brook and Quail Creek storage facilities and channel Improvements-completed
- Whisperwood pond excavation-~~complete~~

Is there a proposed map of the expansion

	Site 21- Tax Free	St. Tammany Parish	1.7	41,433	Screened- Available quantity/ too small	PDT-NRCS Soil layer and public property	1.5
	Site 22- Tax Free	St. Tammany Parish	38.4	956,259	Screened-Impacts BLH, Bayou Castine and Fontainebleau State Park	PDT-NRCS Soil layer and public property	10
	Site 23- Tax Free	Mandeville, LA	1.0	24,775	Screened- Available quantity/ too small	PDT-NRCS Soil layer and public property	10.5
	Site 24- Tax Free	Mandeville, LA	1.3	33,366	Screened- Available quantity/ too small	PDT-NRCS Soil layer and public	11
STP-5	**Cleared Site 5**	**Lacombe, LA**	**73**	**1,817,700**	**Carried Forward- barren, land with no vegetation, existing retention pond- potential to increasing the retention capacity at this site-beneficial location, falls within defined soil/environmental parameters, and already has a similar land use**	**PDT identified based on previously cleared lands and available soil data**	**2**
STP-6	**Cleared Site 6**	**Slidell, LA**	**10**	**249,000**	**Carried Forward, cleared barren land with no vegetation**	**PDT identified based on previously cleared lands and available soil data**	**3.5**
STP-9	**Cleared Site 9**	**Slidell, LA**	**17**	**423,3 00**	**Carried Forward, previously cleared land with no vegetation**	**PDT-cleared lands**	**3**
MS-1	**Pearlington**	**Hancock County, MS**	**326**	**8,000,000**	**Carried forward- 3 potential sites at location (2 approved). Potential commercial site. Remaining borrow available at each needs to be determined. Pearlington Phase 3 site has wetlands but wetland areas would be avoided**	**HSDRRS IER 19 and IER 23 (2008)**	**9.5**
MS-2	**Port Bienville**	**Hancock County, MS**	**677**	**16,857,300**	**Carried Forward- HSDDRS approved site- Potential commercial site previously planted in pine for commercial harvesting, mixture of overgrown pine habitat and cleared areas. Remaining borrow available needs to be determined, potential commercial site**	**HSDRRS IER 31 (2010)**	**11**

Borrow Sources: Borrow sites MS-01 (Pearlington) and MS-02 (Bienville) in Mississippi are not currently listed as having prime and unique farmlands. These sites are operating as commercial businesses selling sell borrow material. Borrow site STP-5 would impact approximately 62 acres, STP-6 would impact less than one acre, and STP-9 would impact approximately 5 acres. Impacts to prime and unique farmlands would require coordination with the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Table 5-3 lists the potential borrow sources and the specific borrow needs from each site.

Table 5-3. Potential Borrow Site Identification for the St. Tammany Parish Feasibility Study

Site #	Site Name	Location	Estimated Borrow Pit Acreage	Estimated Fill Volume (cubic yards)	Prime and Unique Farmland Soil
STP-5	Cleared Site 5	Lacombe, LA	73	1,817,700	62 acres
STP-6	Cleared Site 6	Slidell, LA	10	249,000	<1 acre
STP-9	Cleared Site 9	Slidell, LA	17	423,300	5 acres ← where
MS-1	Pearlington Dirt, Pearlington Dirt Phase II (IER 19,23)	Hancock County, MS	326	8,000,000	None
MS-2	Port Bienville (IER 31)	Hancock County, MS	677	16,857,300	None

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www.mvn.usace.army.mil

acquire the necessary land, easements and ROW to construct the project. Because project features cannot be advertised for construction until the appropriate real estate interests have been acquired, obtaining the necessary real estate in a timely fashion is critical to meeting the project schedule.

A revised construction schedule was developed for the Optimized TSP. For the nonstructural component, construction would occur from 2025-2032. See Appendix H: Nonstructural Implementation Plan for additional information regarding implementation of the nonstructural component of the Optimized TSP. For the levee and floodwall system, construction would occur from 2025-2076. Additional levee lifts would occur three times post initial construction at 5-7 years, 15-20 years, and 30 years. For the Mile Branch Channel Improvements, construction would occur from 2025-2032. See Appendix D: Engineering for additional information regarding implementation of the structural components of the Optimized TSP. At the completion of construction of the project, or functional portions thereof, the NFS would be fully responsible for OMRR&R.

6.5.1 Real Estate required for construction of the structural measures of the Optimized TSP

A real estate plan (REP) was prepared to conform with the requirements of ER 405-1-12, dated 1 May 1998. The REP describing the real estate requirements and costs for the TSP is contained in Appendix G: Real Estate Plan. The REP was prepared with estimated ROW requirements based on available information. The structural measures will impact an estimated [redacted] The nonstructural measures will include 5,583 residential elevations and 827 non-residential floodproofing measures. Descriptions of the estates required for implementation of the structural measures of the TSP are included in Appendix G Real Estate Plan. The total estimated real estate cost for structural features including contingencies, borrow sites and mitigation sites, is estimated as $81,476,240. The total estimated real estate cost for nonstructural measures including contingencies is $170,763,762. The REP and real estate cost estimates may require revisions during PED if the project is approved.

Am I affected?

6.5.2 Real Estate required for implementation of the nonstructural measures of the Optimized TSP

The dry floodproofing of eligible structures would require that the NFS acquire a Right of Entry for Survey and Exploratory Work, Right of Entry for Construction, and a permanent easement with restrictive covenants (for OMRR&R). A standard Temporary Work Area Easement will be acquired for the duration of construction on any improvements. For non-residential flood proofing of structures, a separate non-standard easement would be required, which provides the necessary rights and restrictions to protect the federal investment. The draft easement language would be submitted through CEMVD to USACE CEMP-CR as a request for approval of a Non-Standard Estate.

The elevation of eligible residential structures will require the NFS to acquire a standard right of entry for survey and exploratory work and a standard right of entry for construction. A standard temporary work area easement will be acquired for the duration of construction on

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When is final selection?

be approximately 500 acres. See Appendix B: Plan Formulation for additional information regarding the borrow site investigation and Section 5 for environmental resource analysis for the five borrow sites. Final selection of the borrow source would be conducted prior to acquisition of the site by the NFS.

6.5.4 Relocations

6.5.4.1 Relocations West Slidell and South Slidell Levee and Floodwall System

Based on the research and investigations conducted as part of the project effort, multiple facilities or utilities are located within the project area of the STPFS alignment. The STPFS levee and floodwall system crosses the Norfolk Southern Railroad. A floodgate in this area would affect the railroad itself and a transmission corridor running parallel to the eastern side of the railroad tracks. USACE would have to meet criteria around these transmission lines to provide necessary clearance for pile driving activity associated with construction of the floodgate and adjacent floodwall. Possible underground utilities servicing the railroad (i.e., communication lines) would be impacted as well.

Entergy Louisiana, LLC has right-of-way use requirements pertaining to USACE work around their existing transmission lines, electrical distribution lines and power poles within the project area, that would have to be met to provide clearance for construction activities (i.e., pile driving).

6.5.4.2 Relocations Mile Branch

Based on the research and investigations conducted as part of the study effort, multiple facilities or utilities are located within the project area of the Mile Branch Waterway. See Appendix D: Engineering for additional information regarding relocations.

6.5.5 Operations, Maintenance, Repair, Rehabilitation, and Replacement- Obligations of the NFS

The NFS's obligation to OMRR&R the project at no cost to the Government shall be set forth in an OMRR&R manual prepared and issued by USACE in accordance with ER 1110-2-401 "*Operation, Maintenance, Repair, Replacement and Rehabilitation Manual for Projects and Separable Elements Managed by Project Sponsors*" dated 30 September 1994, the executed PPA, and applicable USACE regulations. The NFS shall conduct its OMRR&R responsibilities in a manner compatible with the authorized purpose of the project and in accordance with applicable Federal laws and specific directions prescribed by the Government in the OMRR&R manual. The purpose of OMRR&R is to sustain the constructed project. The assumed OMRR&R included items such as routine maintenance, routine clearing and snagging, periodic inspection, machinery and gate replacements, and minor and major repairs. The estimated costs were annualized and included in the economic analysis to determine the BCR. The project specific OMRR&R activities and associated costs were estimated for the levee and channel improvements and will be done further refined in PED.

See IER 19, 20 and 31 for sites MS-1 and MS-2 and SHPO report # s 22-0720, 22-3040 and 22-3151 for the St Tammany sites. For additional information regarding environmental resource borrow evaluation see Section 5 of the RDIFR-DEIS. These five potential borrow site options contain approximately 27.3 million cubic yards of borrow where only approximately7 million cubic yards is estimated to be needed for construction of the Optimized TSP and follows environmental operating principles to reduce impacts. The potentially affected resources included wetlands, uplands, prime and unique farmland, fisheries, wildlife, T&E species, cultural resources, recreational resources, noise, and aesthetics. The five borrow sites avoid impacts to wetlands and are not expected to require compensatory mitigation. A Phase I ESA will be conducted by the CEMVN on the proposed borrow sites. Any additional potential borrow sites will require supplemental environmental evaluations in accordance with the NEPA.

When?

The final borrow sources will be selected prior to acquisition and may include borrow material from all sites, from just one of the identified sites or a combination of sites depending on the suitability of the sites. The necessary right of entry and onsite surveys to get the additional information needed for site selection including geologic profiles, borings, and Cone Penetration Test would be obtained.

Transportation routes and mechanisms for the delivery of borrow material have been examined and can be achieved using highways including Interstate-10, Highway 190, Highway 433 and Highway 11. Sensitive areas such as schools and hospital would be avoided. These actions are expected to avoid and minimize transportation, noise and socioeconomic impacts. Staging areas and haul roads would be contained within the borrow site and construction footprints.

The final borrow site(s) design would include slopes, depths, drainage, environmental design considerations. Best management practices would be developed and would address the installation of signage, construction fencing and gates, and erosion control. A stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) would be prepared in accordance with EPA and state regulations. The SWPPP will outline temporary erosion control measures, such as silt fences, retention ponds, and dikes. The construction contract will include permanent erosion control measures, such as turfing and placement of riprap or filter material.

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Section 4
Borrow Site investigations

4.1 INTRODUCTION

The term "borrow" is used in the fields of construction and engineering to describe material that is dug in one location for use at another location. The term borrow material is used to describe soil or sediment taken from a site for use in structure construction, such as sandy sediment dredged and pumped to restore an eroded beach, or clay taken to build a levee or dike. The term borrow pit is used to describe the site remaining after borrow material has been removed (EM 1110-2-5026).

The intent of this initial investigation was to provide a level of detail sufficient to support the TSP decision, demonstrate that there are sufficient available options for borrow for the Optimized TSP and provide NEPA clearance on selected potential borrow sites, STP-5, STP-6, STP-9, MS-1, and MS-2. These sites are detailed further in Table B:4-1 and shown on Figure B:4-1. The only measure of the Optimized TSP that require borrow material are West and South Slidell levees and floodwalls which would require approximately 7,239,000 million cubic yards of suitable clay fill (See Section 6 of the main report and Appendix D for additional details regarding the Optimized TSP for borrow).

any improvements. Also, the NFS will be required to obtain subordinations and releases for all rights required for project implementation, including the temporary ROW easements.
In addition, a non-standard estate in the form of a permanent easement for restrictions and access (permanent easement), will likely be proposed by CEMVN and submitted in accordance with USACE regulations with a request for approval later in the study process. It is anticipated that such an easement will be imposed in, on, over, and across the land on which the residential structure(s) has been or will be elevated in connection with this project. The contemplated easement will perpetually prohibit the grantors, heirs, successors, assigns, and all others from: (1) using any portion of the ground level of the elevated structure for human habitation; (2) constructing or placing any enclosure or permanent obstruction that would impair the flow of water on the ground level of the elevated structure; and (3) engaging in other uses of the elevated structure or the land that would impair, contravene, or interfere with the integrity of the elevated structure. There would be a reservation of rights and privileges in favor of the grantors, heirs, successors, and assigns to use the land in such a manner so as not to interfere with, or abridge, the rights, easement, prohibitions, and restrictions contained in the easement. The easement would also include a right of ingress and egress over and across the land by the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Board of Louisiana, its representatives, agents, contractors, and assigns, for the purpose of inspecting and monitoring the elevated residential structures and land in order to enforce the rights and prohibitions contained in the easement. A similar nonstandard estate (permanent easement) to that described above, may also be required for manufactured, modular and mobile homes that are to be elevated as part of the Nonstructural Plan. The draft easement language would be submitted through CEMVD to USACE CEMP-CR as a request for approval of a Non-Standard Estate.

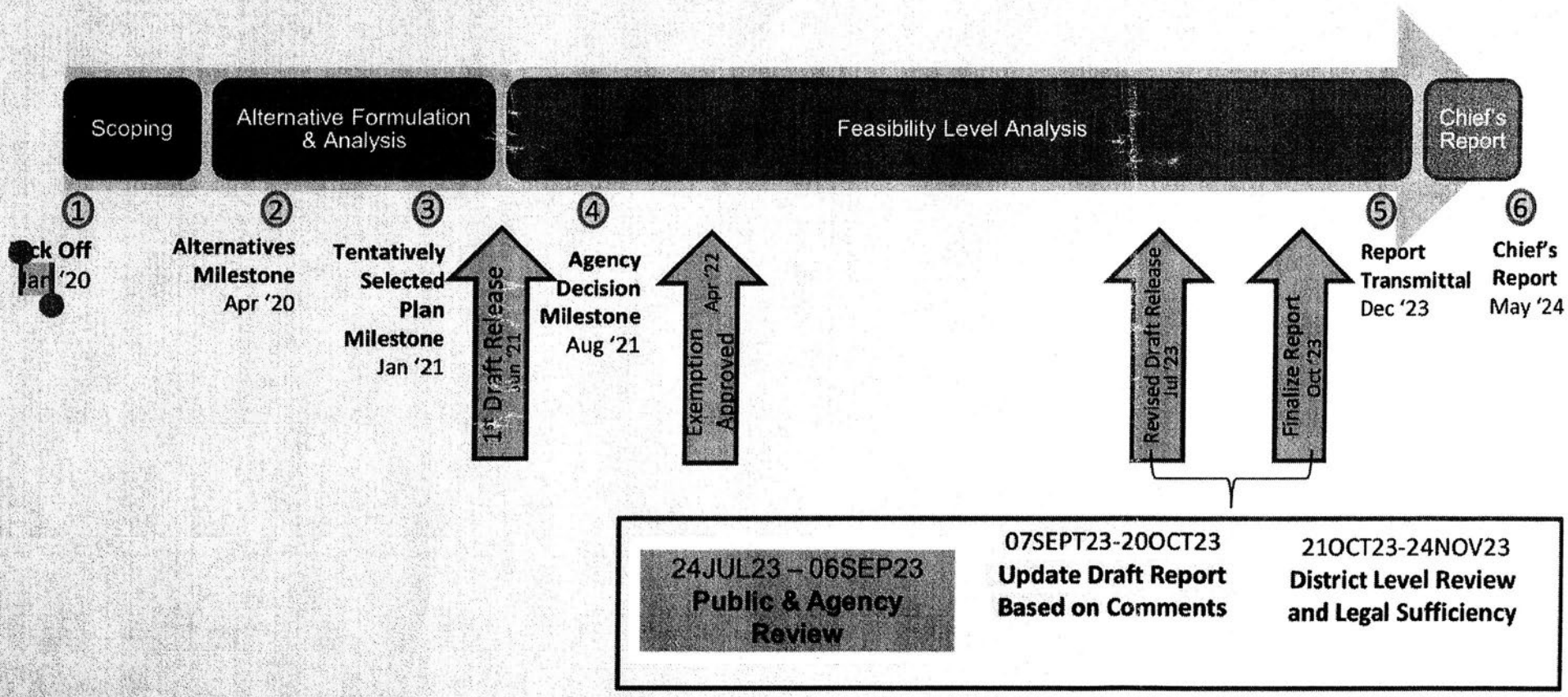
Additionally, the NFS would obtain subordination agreements for any outstanding encumbrances that would interfere with the rights obtained in the permanent easement or that would interfere with the project.

6.5.3 Borrow required for construction of the structural components of the TSP

The construction of the TSP is estimated to require approximately 7 million cubic yards of fill or borrow material. The only features of the TSP that require borrow material are West and South Slidell levees and floodwalls. Borrow material for construction will come from sites estimated to be within no more than 17 miles of the levee and floodwall system. A total of 3,000,000 cubic yards of soil is needed for initial construction and a grand total of 7,239,000 cubic yards is needed over the entire authorized 50-year period to sustain the 1 percent AEP design elevations out to year 2082.

Existing Government borrow sites were not available within the designated distance. Feasibility level borrow site investigations were conducted to confirm there were available borrow quantities within the vicinity to support the TSP decision and evaluate the anticipated impacts associated with the potential borrow sites. A total of 34 potential sites were identified and evaluated and narrowed down to five borrow sites in the vicinity STP-5, STP-6, STP-9, MS-1, and MS-2. It was assumed that between 200,000-17,000,000 cubic yards of usable material could be found in these sites. The borrow pit needed for the quantity of soil would

STUDY SCHEDULE



Mentab, Inc.

[redacted]

August 31, 2023

By Mail
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attention: Chief, Environmental Branch
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70118

By Email: sttammanyfs@usace.army.mil

Re: Request for Public Comment

Mentab, Inc. (Mentab), a corporate entity, along with its respective shareholders, hereby submits this public comment in **opposition to the Optimized Tentatively Selected Plan (OTSP) for West Slidell** proposed in the St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana Feasibility Study – Revised Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement (RDIFR-EIS "Report") prepared July 2023 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). We are opposed to the natural environment impacts and the economic and real estate impacts of the proposed levee placement to Mentab's land and other rural land lying between Slidell and Lacombe.

Background

The land on which the West Slidell levee ties into high ground is property owned by Mentab. Mentab is a family corporation owning land passed down through family members for over 200 years. The proposed levee in West Slidell - west of Bayou Paquet and south of So. Tranquility Road - runs through the middle of our property. **Mentab's property represents approximately 11% or 2 miles of the 18.5 miles of levee and floodwall**. Likely, there are no other private landowners whose land is as materially impacted by this levee placement.

The levee path, as drawn in both 2021 and 2023, cuts through our land in a line following So. Tranquility Road and CC Road rendering 700 +/- acres of our land on the unprotected side of the levee. In addition, the levee as re-routed in 2023 was placed on top of our existing historical homestead built in 1829. The alignment change which placed the levee on our homesite can be seen by referring to Figure 4-6 page 141 of the

Main Report pointed to by the marker labeled “Reroute Alignment in Bayou Paquet Watershed”.

During the feasibility study process in 2020 and 2021, Mentab was not considered a stakeholder or informed of the numerous alternative paths being drawn through our property. In late July 2021 **after the first public comment period**, the USACE made a Request of Entry and Mentab became aware of the USACE plans for our private property. We were finally allowed a meeting with the USACE in July 2022. Nevertheless, the USACE has not addressed the ill-advised placement through this rural residential area or the issue of taking our land and the undesired consequences to the land west of the levee in the latest OTSP. The expropriation of our private land is unacceptable when alternative paths including Federal land are available and alternative nonstructural solutions are possible.

Adverse Economic Impact on Mentab Land Value

Our unimproved rural land that does not have major flood issues and which is good land available for future expansion of West Slidell is adversely affected by the proposed levee placement. Notwithstanding the undeniable negative impact of a structural levee on the natural land ecology, a levee in this location will have significant real estate and economic consequences. 80% of our landholdings will forever lie immediately outside the proposed levee system. Insurance on this land will be unobtainable, land resale value will decrease, and the future economic growth of this old established low density residential area with expansion potential in West Slidell will be damaged.

The taking of 2 miles or 50 +/- acres of land to construct the levee puts the adjacent 700 acres of Mentab’s land (80% of our acreage) out of commerce for St. Tammany Parish future development. It may be the USACE preference to construct the levee in the present alignment, but it does irreparable damage to all landowners’ properties south of Highway 190 and west of the proposed levee, rendering that land a flood plain.

Comments on Benefit-to-Cost (BCR) Analysis

The cost-benefit analysis (also referred to as the benefit to cost ratio (BCR)) used by the USACE has resulted in an adverse alignment for Mentab. For example, the land and homes west of the levee extending to Lacombe are being ‘screened out’ because of a low BCR. If this land is not screened out, the levee would not be running through our property.

Likewise, throughout the selection process the USACE has avoided placement on Federal Wildlife Refuge Land due to the higher cost of acquiring federal land and

mitigation requirements. Table 4-17 on page 142 quantifies the alignment cost impacts to the Refuge and Mitigation. If a levee system ran parallel to the Lake through Federal land, then the levee would not be running through our property.

Using parameters such as the BCR may not result in the best placement or meet the intended objectives of the plan for protection. The current placement merely hugs existing homesites on the West Slidell leg as evidenced by the floodwalls placed on the sides of homes at 32365 Bayou Paquet Road, 32271 Dumas Road, 32147 West Doucette Road, and 32060 and 32068 CC Road. It is our opinion that a well thought out placement based on topography has not been achieved in this proposal.

Conclusion

The current West Slidell levee placement, the desire to avoid building on adjacent Federal land, and the USACE's deferral of placement adjustments until the Pre-Construction Engineering and Design (PED) stage, only serves to increase our concern that the USACE is inflexible and resistant to public engagement. Statements regarding public sentiment in West Slidell are misleading in saying that the structural levee is well received in West Slidell.

There is an unpredictable reality of levee protection, and of hurricane and storm systems, and of the resulting damage to adjacent property. The impact of surge flooding in Slidell can be as much a result of levee protection across the Lake in New Orleans, or the absence of protection at the Rigolets, as it is of the surge event itself. For this reason, Mentab recommends and supports efforts such as the Lake Pontchartrain Barrier project which aims to protect the entire lake, its ecosystems, and all surrounding parishes.

Mentab also recommends and supports increasing natural protections and expending resources for water management – bayou clearing and dredging, channel improvements, culverts, restoration of marshland, etc. - so that placement of a structural levee does not run through this West Slidell area. The cost benefit analysis of using Natural Resources for protection has not been fully considered. There is an opportunity to protect the function and increase the resiliency of the ecosystem in West Slidell to reduce flood damage. For this reason, we recommend that a levee for East and South Slidell be designed separate from the plans for West Slidell.

In summary, we strongly oppose the proposed OTSP placement of the West Slidell Levee across our property without our input and without consideration of the environmental and economic impacts to Mentab's property.

If a levee is inevitable, we suggest two alignments for consideration in the PED phase.

1. West Slidell to Lacombe along Bayou Paquet Road – starting at Bayou Liberty and Keller Road, run the levee south of Keller Road and then parallel with the Lake south of and in line with Bayou Paquet Road. This levee placement would address the flooding on Bayou Paquet Road and protect residents on Keller Road and Bayou Paquet Road, in addition to the Pine Ridge Subdivision, Mayfield School, and other residents lying west of the OTSP. This placement would also protect future development plans for the North Shore corridor and Lacombe. A levee through Federal Wildlife Refuge Land is possible in this area.

2. The Local Landowner Alternative suggested earlier this year to the USACE – this alternative is the West Slidell 2021 alignment modified for neighbor concerns. The alignment places the levee south of Keller Road on the Refuge border and travels to high ground across the southern border/acreage of Mentab's property turning north on the west side of our property to the west side of the Pine Ridge Subdivision and further as deemed necessary.

Please direct any questions that you may have to Bob Menard or Leslie Sharkey. Amy Dixon has our contact information.

Sincerely,

LMSharkey

Leslie Menard Sharkey
Mentab, Inc.

Copies via email to:

- Colonel Cullen A. Jones, PMP, P.E. - Commander New Orleans District - USACE
- John Bel Edwards – Governor of Louisiana
- Steve Scalise - U.S. Congress District 1
- Bill Cassidy - U.S. Senator
- John Kennedy - U.S. Senator
- Paul Hollis - Louisiana House District 104
- Sharon Hewitt - Louisiana Senate District 1
- Arthur Laughlin - St. Tammany Parish District 11 Councilman
- Suzanne Krieger – St. Tammany Levee, Drainage, and Conservation District

Bryan Beyer
[redacted]

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.

Hello. My name is Celeste Silbernagel. I live in Holiday Acres. As I understand, a proposed levee is going to go through our neighborhood. So part of the neighborhood will be protected and part will not. I fail to understand how this will work so I am totally against this levee unless the proposition isn't as I understand. Please enlighten me. Thank you [redacted]

August 2023

Public Comment

to the

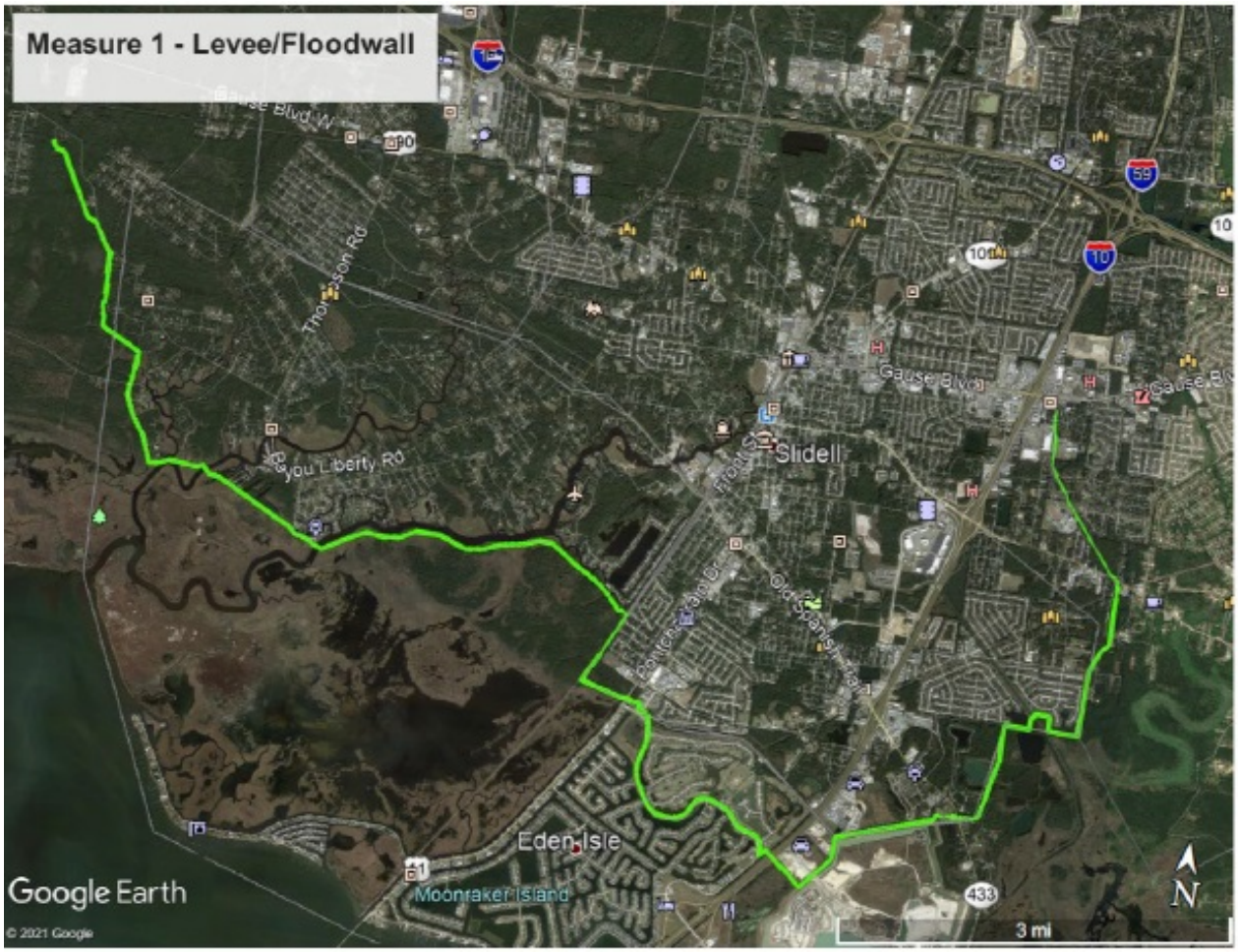
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District (CEMVN)
St. Tammany Parish Feasibility Study
July 2023 Revised Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement

sttammanyfs@usace.army.mil

Submitted
By

Thomas Nolan Thompson

[redacted]



Request realigning proposed levees to provide structural protection for coastal communities south and east of Slidell

Executive Summary

The residents of St. Tammany Parish support USACE's effort to provide storm surge protection for St. Tammany Parish, but it must be equitable and comprehensive.

Additional alternative alignments are needed to meet the plan's stated objectives and requirements to reduce risk to public health and safety requirements by reducing flood impacts to structures, evacuation routes, and critical infrastructure. Also, the plan, as written, does not Increase resiliency (to sustain a community's available resources before, during, and after coastal storm events).

Issues:

- Coastal communities south and east of Slidell have the greatest storm surge risk while receiving the plan's lowest level of coastal protection
- A non-structural elevation plan may be appropriate for low-density flood plain areas, but not for high-density, non-flood plain communities with vital infrastructure and evacuation routes at risk
- 50-year structural protection for Eden Isles is preferable to 50-year nonstructural protection; it provides greater protection with a high cost benefit ratio, and must be added as an approved alternative plan
- The decision not to study a 50-year structural plan for Eden Isles is a major flaw in the St. Tammany feasibility study
- Coastal Slidell community's surge risk has increased significantly as a result of HSDRRS' ongoing construction. USACE policy requires mitigation when their projects harm communities. The St. Tammany Parish Feasibility Study is the ideal venue to take corrective action to compensate coastal Slidell communities impacted by HSDRRS

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50-Year Elevation Plan Does Not Provide St. Tammany Parish Adequate, Equitable or Comprehensive Protection

The residents of St. Tammany Parish support USACE's effort to provide comprehensive storm surge protection for St. Tammany Parish. This plan provides significant protection for much of the parish. However, the plan is not comprehensive and creates additional problems for coastal communities south and east of Slidell that must be addressed.

The plan provides communities west of Slidell 100-year levee protection, and the coastal communities of Lacombe, Mandeville, and Madisonville, 100-year nonstructural elevation protection. In contrast, the coastal communities south and east of Slidell only receive 50-year nonstructural elevation protection and no infrastructure protection.

This is not adequate, equitable or comprehensive protection.

It is requested that the south Slidell levee system be realigned to include coastal communities south and east of Slidell.

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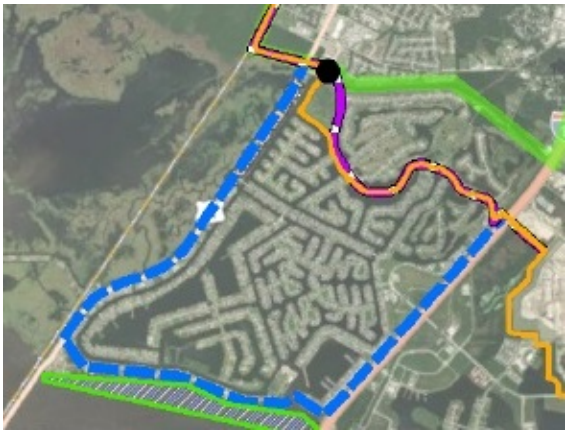
USACE Only Studied Two Equally Unacceptable Eden Isles Alternatives

1. A 100-year structural levee surrounding Eden Isles was studied and rejected:



Local and state agencies studied and rejected 100-year structural protection around Eden Isles (Alternant 6b) years ago. Local and state agencies determined a 100-year structural plan too costly and unacceptable to local residents.

USACE had access to the local and state's 100-year structural plan findings, and knew a 100-year structural plan was not feasible before their study began. USACE was asked to study a lower and less expensive 50-year structural alternative, that has the support of the Eden Isles community, the St. Tammany Parish levee board, parish government and the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA).

The feasibility study states:

"Eden Isles levee is cost effective, but the cost benefit is not high enough?"*

However, the only levee USACE studied was the $700,000,000, 100-year levee not the $32,000,000, locally preferred 50-year structural alternative plan for Eden Isles (See page 14).

2. USACE selected a 50-year nonstructural elevation plan for Eden Isles:

The 50-year elevation plan for Eden Isles assumes only 300 of the 3,000+ homes in Eden Isles will qualify for elevation. The plan does not protect the underground electrical grid, water, sewer, fire protection, infrastructure and 320 miles of roads from storm surge.

Eden Isles residents, along with local and state government submitted their concerns with the 50-year elevation plan. Although, USACE agreed to an 18-month feasibility study extension to address concerns, no additional consideration was given to replace the 50-year nonstructural elevation plan, with a 50-year structural plan as requested.

The only revision USACE made to the Eden Isles elevation plan was to reduce the number of homes eligible for elevation from 400 to 300.

The decision not to study a 50-year structural plan for Eden Isles is a major flaw in the feasibility study.

USACE's study states:

> *"Although the Eden Isles measures were not selected as part of the NED plan under this study authorization, State or local government entities may consider Eden Isles risk reduction features for implementation under other Non-Federal authorizations or programs."*

After USACE chose not to evaluate the locally preferred 50-year structural plan, local and state entities conducted a Gap Study to identify locations where USACE's plan did not provide adequate surge protection.

The Gap Study determined the densely populated community of Eden Isles as "protection priority one", and the CPRA has authorized a scoping study of the 50-year structural plan for Eden isles. (See locally preferred 50-year structural plan - page 14)

The Eden Isles community is grateful for CPRA's recognition that the USACE's elevation plan for Eden Isles does not provide adequate protection and the CPRA has taken action to correct this gap in protection.

However, the Eden Isles community and the USACE cannot rely entirely on Louisiana to fill-in protection gaps contained within the USACE's plan. It is necessary for USACE to include an alternate Eden Isles 50-year structural plan that will:

1. Give the USACE a cost effective alternative to the 50-year elevation when it fails to meet the cost benefit ratio during the Pre-construction Engineering and Design (PED) phase of the project.

2. Give additional support to CPRA's structural plan, increasing its ability to remain a top CPRA priority and obtain funding.

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50-Year Elevation Plan for Eden Isles Puts Lives and Infrastructure at Risk

As stated on page 6 of the USACE Review Plan for St. Tammany, dated Aril 26, 2020, there is limited gauge data needed to provide a warning system necessary to evacuate vulnerable populations. This was evident when Ida changed from a tropical storm into a category 4 hurricane as it came on shore. This rapid intensification did not allow for advance evacuation notices, trapping thousands in flood conditions, including Eden Isles residents.

USACE's 50-year nonstructural elevation plan, with an estimate elevation of 8.5', puts Eden Isles streets under 4 ½' of water, preventing evacuation, trapping 7,000 residents, and restricting emergency response agencies access to Eden Isles. This certainly raises life safety concerns and does not comply with USACE plan requirements.

The USACE Plan for St. Tammany also requires evaluating water velocity and the increased damage it may cause. As demonstrated during hurricane Katrina, when wind and surge velocity caused significant debris damage, along with dead animals, marsh grass and mud that polluted properties and waterways, creating a health risk that lasted for weeks.

The USACE planning objectives, as stated on page 3 of the Main Report, list the following plan "requirements":

- *Reduce the risk to public health and safety by reducing flood impacts to structures, evacuation routes, and critical infrastructure.*
- *Increase community resiliency, which is the sustained ability of a community to use available resources before, during, and after significant rainfall and/or coastal storm events.*

The 50-year nonstructural elevation plan for Eden Isles fails to meet the plan's stated objectives and requirements.

In contrast, the locally preferred 50-year structural plan would satisfy life safety concerns by:

- Keeping roads open, allowing time to evacuate and save lives
- Reducing surge velocity and destructive debris that damage structures
- Protecting vital evacuation roads and infrastructure including all the underground utilities (electrical grid, internet, phone, water, and sewer system), thereby increasing community resiliency and ability to use community resources before, during, and after coastal storm events.

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Eden Isles 50-Year Flood Plain Elevation Is Not Correct; Therefore, the Cost Benefit Analysis Is Not Correct

The estimated still-water elevation of 8.5', used for the Eden Isles 50-year flood plain nonstructural cost benefit analysis is not correct, therefore, the cost benefit analysis based upon the flood plain elevation is not correct.

USACE stated, it would reevaluate and correct the 50-year flood plain elevation by adding wave run-up, adjacent projects and projected 50-year climate change impacts to revised site-specific modeling elevations during the PED phase of the project.

In 2022, the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA), using site-specific models, determined the Eden Isles average existing 50-year flood plain is +10.89', this average increased to +13.29' factoring in sea level rise in 50-years.

Eden Isles Flood stage (ft NAVD88)

		Existing Conditions (2022)		Projected flood levels in 50 years, Lower Scenario FWOA	
Location	**Grid Cell**	**100-yr. flood**	**50-yr. flood**	**100-yr. flood**	**50-yr. flood**
A	91627	14.33	12.35	16.64	14.69
B	105723	12.99	11.05	15.23	13.43
C	73585	12.19	10.23	14.31	12.63
D	74234	12.04	9.94	14.2	12.42

Eden Isles residents, along with local and state government, submitted their concerns with the flood plain elevation used in the cost benefit analysis. Although USACE agreed to an 18-month feasibility study extension to address concerns, the cost benefit analysis did not use corrected flood plain elevations with wave run-up and projected 50-year climate change impacts.

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Eden Isles Elevation Cost Estimates

Eden Isles residents, along with local and state government submitted their concerns with the initial estimated elevation cost used in the cost benefit analysis. A Flood Risk Management Economics Overview was conducted during the USACE 18-month feasibility extension to address concerns. Subsequently, the estimated unit cost to elevate homes was increased, and the estimated number of homes qualifying for elevation was reduced from 400 to 300.

Using USACE's Flood Risk Management Economics Overview, dated January 24, 2023, and using its elevation example cost tables to estimate the cost of elevating 300 on slab homes in Eden Isles at today's cost provided the following results:

> Assuming all the homes selected for elevation are at the maximum estimated qualification elevation of 8.5', and will be elevated 9.5' to meet the 18' 100-year requirement.
>
> Assuming 200 of the 300 homes are single-story and average 2200 sf,

To elevate a single-story, 2200 sf home on slab, 9.5 ft @ $125/sf, will cost <u>$398,500/home</u>.

To elevate 200 single-story homes in Eden Isles will cost <u>$79,700,000:</u>

> $125 x 2200 = $275,000
> + a 34% contingency = $368,500
> + $30,000 real estate cost = <u>$398,500</u> to elevate one single-story home in Eden Isles
> x 200 homes = <u>$79,700,000</u> to elevate 200 single-story homes in Eden Isles

Assuming 100 of the homes are two-story and average 2600 sf

To elevate a two-story 2600 sf home on slab, 9.5 ft @ $142/sf, will cost $524,728/home.

To elevate 100 two-story homes in Eden Isles will cost $5,2472,800:

$142 x 2600 = $369,200
+ a 34% contingency = $494,728
+ $30,000 real estate cost = $524,728 to elevate one two-story home in Eden Isles
x 100 homes = $52,472,800 to elevate 100 two-story homes in Eden Isles

The combined estimated cost to elevate 300 homes in Eden Isles = $132,172,800*, at today's cost.

*Elevation cost will increase significantly after PED's reevaluation includes wave run-up and projected 50-year climate change, which increases the number of qualifying homes. The elevation cost benefit analysis will decrease accordingly.

The locally preferred 50-year structural plan on page 12, has an estimated cost estimate of $132,000,000.

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Logistics of Raising and Flood Proofing 6,410 Structures

Tens of thousands of homes in Louisiana are qualifying for elevation plus tens of thousands more throughout the United States. This project alone has identified an additional 5,583 residential structures for elevation.

According to the Flood Mitigation Industry Association, there are only six licensed elevation contractors in Louisiana with a large backlog to elevate the current number of qualified homes. The association also stated the number of elevation contractors may not increase without a significant investment in technical training programs to provide the next generation of elevation contractors.

It is not reasonable to consider home elevation as a viable surge protection plan that:

- May take decades to complete
- Requires multiple qualification requirements
- Requires thousands of dollars in uncovered cost
- Protects a fraction of the structures
- Does not reduce the risk to public health and safety by reducing flood impacts to structures, evacuation routes, and critical infrastructure
- Does not protect from surge debris damage
- That puts elevated homes at higher risk to wind loads
- Does not provide sustainability of community resources before, during, and after significant coastal storm events

The Eden Isles elevation plan is not practical.

This is especially true when 50-year structural protection takes a fraction of the time, for less cost, and provides comprehensive protection to all residents and infrastructure.

Eden Isles residents, along with local and state government submitted their concerns with the time it takes to elevate and flood proof 6,410 structures. During the 18-month feasibility study extension, USACE, acknowledged the concern and would explore ways to help increase the number of contractors qualified to elevate and flood proof structures.

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USACE Policy Obligates Inclusion of Structural Protection Alternatives for Coastal Slidell Communities

The feasibility study states:

> *"St. Tammany Parish is...part of the New Orleans Metropolitan area. Levees in St. Tammany Parish were proposed as part of the New Orleans levee system...as far back as the 1960s in Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity."*

The purpose of the Greater New Orleans Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) is to protect the entire New Orleans metropolitan area, not just the south shore of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin. USACE cannot not separate HSDRRS components when evaluating its collective impact on the Lake Pontchartrain Basin.

The feasibility study states:

> *"Human Environment is part of the environmental impact"*

USACE policy:

> *"If it is determined that structures outside of the proposed levee and floodwall alignment are impacted, a Takings Analysis would be prepared to assess the impacts and a plan would be developed to mitigate the potential impacts."*

The USACE policy was verified on November 14, 2012, when Colonel Fleming, Commander of the Corps' New Orleans District Office stated USACE policy requires mitigation for communities impacted by their projects.

2007, Association of State Floodplain Managers, (ASFPM)
White Paper recommendations:

> *"The cumulative impacts of levees within a system or watershed should be evaluated before any levees are permitted, so those impacts are considered and mitigated, including increasing the design height to account for increased flood levels."*

The St. Tammany Parish Feasibility Study is the ideal venue to take corrective action to compensate coastal Slidell communities impacted by HSDRRS. A request was made to adjust the cost benefit ratio requirements, if necessary, to provide structural protection to compensate coastal Slidell communities impacted by HSDRRS.

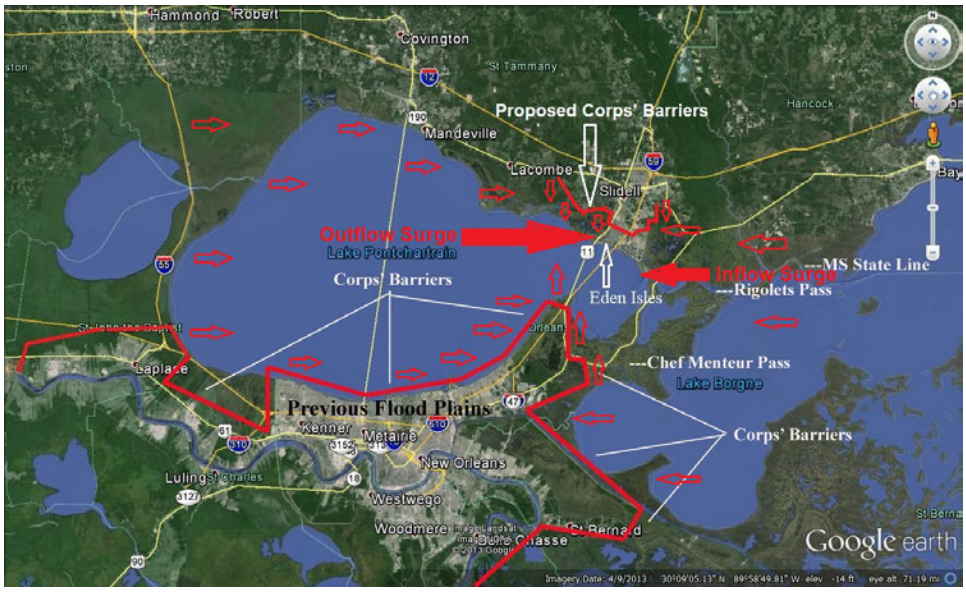
USACE's response was:

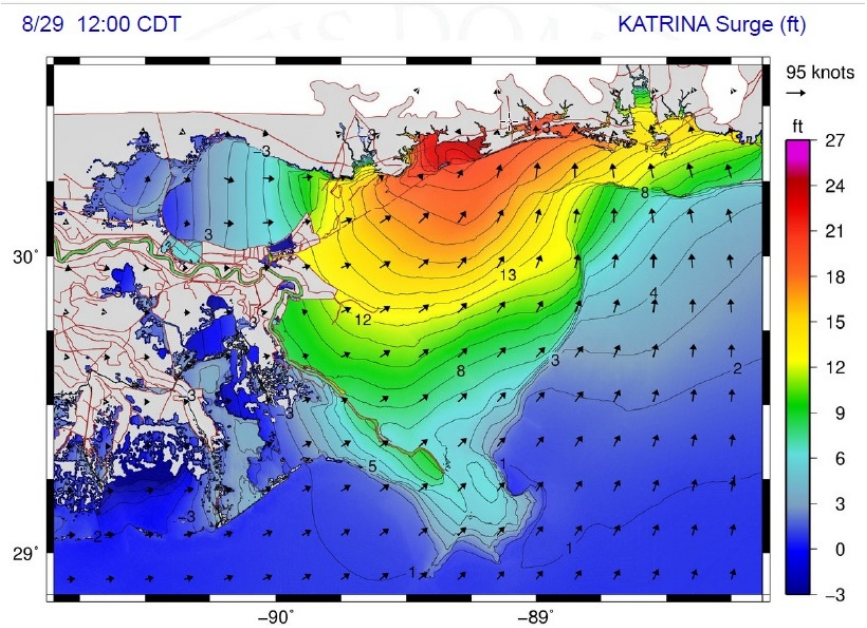
> *"... potential inducement of flooding in Eden Isles from levees elsewhere around the greater Lake Pontchartrain ecosystem, including the Westshore Lake Pontchartrain Project in Laplace, Louisiana. These comments were assessed by leadership and Project Delivery Team members as falling outside the area of this feasibility study."*

USACE's response reflects poorly on the culture, integrity and professionalism of the USACE.

USACE models show HSDRRS has significantly increased surge risk to coastal Slidell. USACE policy requires corrective action to resolve the damage HSDRRS created.

HSDRRS impact to coastal Slidell communities





HSDRRS' impact on surrounding communities:

- In 2012, in response to hurricane Isaac's damage, Senator Dave Vitter's requested a study to determine HSDRRS' impact on surrounding communities. In 2013, USACE released their Isaac specific evaluation finding; HSDRRS had little impact on surrounding communities. The findings were challenged when USACE admitted only 40% of the HSDRRS was evaluated for impact.

- In 2013, USACE agreed to study an array of storms (not just Isaac), to determine the entire "comprehensive" HSDRRS impact to surrounding communities. The HSDRRS comprehensive impact report showed a surge increase of approximately 2" for Eden Isles. However, USACE refused to release their report for public evaluation, despite multiple requests, including a FOIA request.
- In 2018, after an FOIA appeal, USACE released their study for review, and significant errors were found in the pre-HSDRSS topography used in the modeling. USACE acknowledged the errors and agreed to make corrections.
- In 2019, USACE released their corrected study; however, the revision did not correct all the errors found in the pre-HSDRSS topography. USACE acknowledged the additional errors and agreed to make additional corrections.
- In 2020, USACE released their third study revision showing HSDRRS increased surge by approximately 5" at Eden Isles and roughly 8 to 10" for Slidell's coastal communities east of Eden Isles.

It should be noted: the latest revised impact study of 2020, only evaluated impact through 2012, it still contains errors and is not a true study of the entire "comprehensive" HSDRRS impact.

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Integrating Unsanctioned South Slidell and Oak Harbor Levees into Project Requires a Cumulative 533(d) Study

The USACE Review Plan for St. Tammany dated Aril 26, 2020, states:

> *"Additional investigations are underway to acquire additional data on uncertified Slidell levee to assess the incremental risks. This study is likely to propose alternatives that build upon these existing features and will need to assess the risk for these already existing features."*

The south Slidell levee (AKA Schneider Canal levee) and the Oak Harbor Levee were built and elevated without models or studies to evaluate impact on the Eden Isles community. There is no doubt that the south Slidell and Oak Harbor Levees increase surge risk. Before the levees are incorporated into USACE's plan, their "existing elevation", not simply the proposed elevation lift, must be assessed to determine their cumulative flood risk to the Eden Isles community.

2010, email from Ms. Donna Urban, USACE's SELA Project Manager for St. Tammany Parish:

> *"The Schneider Canal project has not been approved for construction by the Corps of Engineers; in fact, it has not yet entered upon the detailed study phase."*
>
> *"We are presently working to develop an acceptable project management plan for a 533(d) study for the project. The study would have to demonstrate that the Schneider Canal project is technically sound, environmentally acceptable, and economically viable in order for the project to be approved for construction. As part of the study effort, we would determine what effects the work would have on surrounding areas."*
>
> *"We anticipate that the 533(d) study would take at least three years to complete; however, funding for the study is not currently available. Initiation of the study is dependent on completion of the project management plan and on appropriation by Congress of the necessary funds. The only information we have for the Schneider Canal project is the twenty-year-old reconnaissance report."*
>
> *Donna M. Urban*
> *Protection and Restoration Office*
> *Regional Projects Branch*
> *Project Manager, SELA, St. Tammany Parish*
> *504-862-1249*
> *FAX: 504-862-2108*

A 533(d) study must be completed to determine the additional surge risk created by the existing, unsanctioned, Slidell and Oak Harbor levees before the CPRA or the St. Tammany levee board assumes responsibility and liability of this segment of the USACE project.

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Locally Preferred 50-Year Structural Protection Plan for Eden Isles

In response to major protection gaps in USACE's plan, the CPRA is evaluating the locally preferred 50-year structural protection plan for Eden Isles.

The locally preferred 50-year structural plan for Eden Isles has been in existence since 2013, and has the support of the St. Tammany Levee, Drainage and Conservation District, St. Tammany Parish Government and the CPRA.

The CPRA's evaluation incorporates a low-level, multilayer protection concept; utilizing the existing railroad embankment, a lake breakwater, roadway elevation, a gate with pump station, and a 900 acre retention/reservoir to provide maximum comprehensive structural protection with a high cost benefit ratio.

Southside (facing Lake Pontchartrain):

- A lake breakwater, to reduce wave action and debris (now in design as a parish project)
- Elevating Lakeview Dr. (now in the state's Master Plan scope of work)
- A marine floodgate & pump station (now in the state's Master Plan scope of work)
- Construct an earthen berm/levee from Marina Dr. to Interstate 10, with a bridge shoulder elevation of 15'

Westside:

- Utilize the existing railroad embankment west of Highway 11, (elevation 7 feet) as a breakwater
- Elevating Highway 11 (now in the state's Master Plan scope of work). The Regional Planning Commission completed its environmental study in 2016, for widening & elevating Highway 11

East side:

- Utilize the existing lanes of Interstate 10, with an elevation from 10 to 15 feet

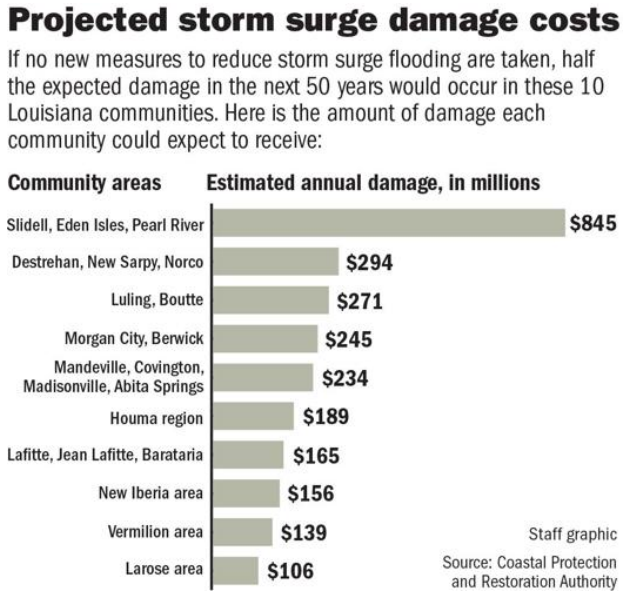
Interior line of defense:

- Eden Isles has 900 acres of interior waterways with a retention/reservoir capacity of 39 million cubic feet of water for every one foot of depth. By pumping the waterways down to mean sea level, in advance of a surge, the waterways can store over 200 million cubic feet of water before streets flood.

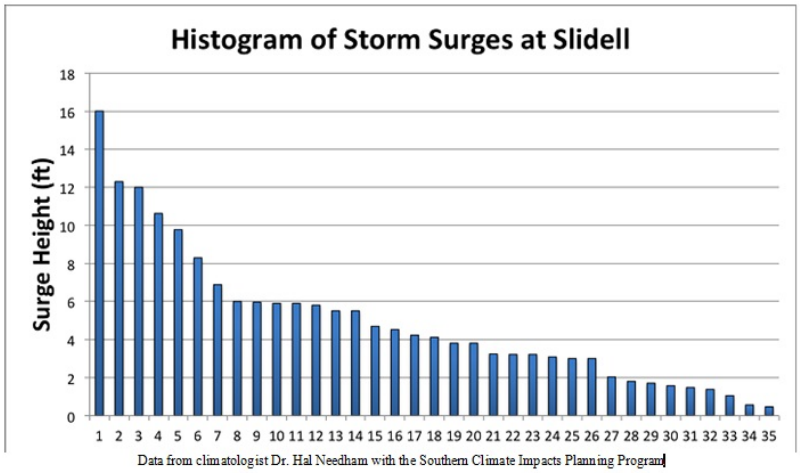
Advantages of the locally preferred 50-year structural plan for Eden Isles

- The locally preferred 50-year structural plan keeps evacuation roads from flooding and accessible for emergency response agencies to service all 7,782, residents
- The locally preferred 50-year structural plan increases resiliency by protecting all structures and infrastructure, keeping underground utilities operational, reducing recovery cost, and expediting recovery time during most storm surge events

- The locally preferred 50-year structural plan provides greater protection with a shorter construction timeframe than the proposed elevation plan
- The locally preferred 50-year structural plan alternative for Eden Isles has a cost estimate of $132 million, providing greater protection, with a high cost benefit ratios than USACE's elevation plan
- The locally preferred 50-year structural plan alternative for Eden Isles protects the economic interest of the state's highest at risk community



- Storm surge history verifies the rational for low-level structural protection



- The locally preferred 50-year structural plan alternative for Eden satisfies the USACE's policy to compensate communities damaged by HSDRRS and fulfills USACE's commitment to provide comprehensive flood risk reduction to St. Tammany Parish

Therefore, the locally preferred 50-year structural plan for Eden Isles must be added as an approved alternate to the USACE's elevation plan.

Army Corp of Engineers- New Orleans
C/O Amy Dixon
7400 Leake Ave
New Orleans, LA 70118

sttammanyfs@usace.army.mil

9/4/2023

To whom it may concern;

I am writing to state my concerns with regards to the proposed Levee project that excludes much of unincorporated Slidell. I am deeply disturbed by the lack of transparency surrounding this project. This affects not only my personal home on Old River Road that my dad built for me, but also my family home, which we have owned and lived in since 1974. My family purchased the first home built in the French Branch in 1973, and we have resided here since.

I believe this levee would cause lasting and far reaching repercussions way beyond the currently estimated 20 percent loss of assessed value of our homes, which is already a matter of substantial harm for tens of thousands of us who would find ourselves outside the levee.

There are too many factors that I don't see being taken into consideration, such as reasonable studies on the effects of a very limited levee breaking up an integrated drainage system which could potentially lead to a bowl effect in incorporated areas and increased flooding in areas outside the levee. There is the matter of massively accelerating flood and insurance costs that are already at all time highs for most of us. There is the concern of fairness in excluding a vast portion of this area's residents – and primarily those most in need of flood mitigation and protection-resulting in serious and lasting future harm for generations to come, while boosting the values and assets of those within the proposed limited wall, which largely seems to benefit the town of Slidell and a select amount of residents included within that circle.

I would like to see the time taken to thoroughly consider and study alternatives, including levees that would extend protection to all of Military road and the surrounding subdivisions. I personally feel the use of the existing rail way bed/modifying roadways/ bridges/highway 90 provides maximum potential for at least some valuable protection for all, while also providing increased property safety, value to assets, and fair treatment of everyone.

This levee as currently proposed, would cause lasting and permanent damage to this community in the form of personal loss for many thousands of residents, affected job market and growth, education quality and opportunities, decreased values of long time assets, and the health and well being of some of Slidell's longest term residents, that I believe would extend far beyond what has currently been mentioned or discussed.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,
Ray Adams
Ray Adams

Army Corp of Engineers-New Orleans District
C/O Amy Dixon
CEMVN-PMR-C
7400 Leake Ave
New Orleans, LA 70118
Sttammanyfs@usace.army.mil

Subject: Concerning the proposed levee plan as it stands

I'm writing with grave concerns about the proposed plans from the United States Army Corp of Engineers. This is people's lives. I moved here in 2012 to help care for my husband's ailing mother. I fell in love and the rest is history. My husband's whole family lived here and lives here. We don't leave for hurricanes. This is our way of living. This makes me sick to see that our lives, property will be devalued. Our homes and way of life cannot be replaced. These homes are where families were born, grew up and built community. What has been done to research the impacts on commerce and industry when people that are committed to this way of life can no longer have community? This isn't a transient population. Many of these people have been here for generations.

There is said to be a 20% hit on property value however, loss of the natural barriers has caused this problem. French Branch did not cause this problem. The continued building has caused these problems. The development has taken away not only the protections of the area but also much of the beauty and now will take away our culture, traditions and livelihoods.

There has been limited communication from our HOA. Supposedly the Army Corp, St Tammany and MRA have been in contact with organizations. As a resident here I would say between COVID and the shutdowns there was more of a need for better communications. We didn't hear about this in 2020, 2021, 2022. We heard about a meeting happening at a local home and as soon as we heard we started educating ourselves and our neighbors. We would therefore ask that the education and open comment period be reopened, and meetings be held with ample and plentiful notification that are led by Army Corp of Engineers. This is not only reasonable but also the responsible way to act.

We would ask that you implement a moratorium on all new building in the area. The continued building that has happened since the beginning of the studies change the numbers, impact and topography of the neighborhoods impacted and "non-impacted". Subdivisions have been built, homes have sold, businesses have gone in. The numbers that the Army Corp is using are not valid anymore. We need to make sure that community members and taxpayers who are here and have been here are taken care of first. I am not against building but the building that is being done knowing that this levee was being planned is irresponsible and unreasonable.

Historical and traditional communities and families need to know that we can continue our livelihoods. How does the Army Corp of Engineers plan accomplish this? Is there any reference or consideration for generations of families and traditions etc. Is there money earmarked to help protect families and traditions? Churches? Communities? Schools? What types of programs will be enacted?

Priority elevation funding for homes currently in existence. Not grant funding, not reimbursement. We cannot afford the money nor can many of our neighbors afford to to elevate their homes and update to code. Retireded, disabled persons will be disapporitaely impacted. We implore upon youto have money set aside for people who currently own homes. This would insure that all monies earmarked for elevation and based on numbers from 2021 should be applied only to homes owned at time of project completion by private homeowners who owned homes a the time of project inception and completion.

There will be loss of life according to your own report. According to the life safety risk assessment 8.0 (Your proposal) the current alternative would be medium/high for life loss, LLR-Life Loss Risk. What kind of money will be set aside for life insurance, extended care and families who are relocated due to this plan? What a horrific way to have to be impacted at the end of your life. To have to leave your home, your family, your church and your community. Some folks have lived in this neighborhood 40 or more years.

Creation of an unbiased oversight and monitoring committee over the distribution of any money that comes to St Tammany/Louisiana. This may seem pessimistic but what I have seen since moving here is it is about 'who you know' not 'what you know'. People need to be treated fairly. This money needs to be specifically for this purpose and MAY NOT be diverted or changed.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Jenn Adams

[redacted]

Lisa P. Molero
[redacted]

September 4, 2023

Re: Proposed Flood Wall behind French Branch

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you with concerns regarding the United States Army Corps of Engineering (USACE) St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana Feasibility Study: Alignment for East Slidell Opmizaon Plan. I have looked at the whole plan in its entity. It appears that our local government is very supportive of this levee. Over the past several years, these local governments have allowed people/contractors to build in areas that should have remained as wetlands, buffer regions, etc. Why don't we STOP allowing more homes to be built in newly developed subdivisions in St. Tammany Parish causing drainage issues!!!!! As a concerned citizen, I cannot and will not support the decisions the governments are making on my behalf.

Will the "inside the wall" protect me if we have another catastrophic rainfall as in 1995? Look at the amount of flooding that today's rains have caused in French Branch and other subdivisions outside of the proposed wall! I can only imagine the flooding if we received this amount of rain with a "wall"!!! Our houses will be floating off of their slabs! I would think that the homeowners in French Branch and surrounding area, pay several thousand dollars of yearly taxes. I know my 2023 Property Taxes are over $3,000.00. Will my tax dollars go to maintaining the levee/wall, pumps and flood gates? Will a mileage have to be placed on the ballet for approval by the Citizens of St. Tammany Parish? As of now, St. Tammany Parishioners pay the highest property taxes in the State of Louisiana. I can assure you, the majority of the residents here do not want this proposed levee. It will result in tax dollars to maintain a system that could diminish their homes, personal properties, cars, etc. which ultimately will increase both our homeowners' insurance, as well as flood!

The concerns of the community for building a levee and being left out of the governments Alignment for East Slidell Opmizaon Plan be DENIED!!! It is my understanding that the benefit to rebuild the wetlands have been destroyed by United States Army Corps of Engineering, hurricanes, coastal erosion, and other human involvement. The rebuilding of the wetlands is the only plan backed up by sound scientific research that our community can bear.

My home has been here for 26 plus years. The only time that my house at 244 Rue Jonathan has flooded was due to the Pearl River rising as the tidal surge pushed water into the river during Hurricane Katrina resulting in approximately 8 inches of water which came in and out within a few hours. The levee will do nothing for this act of nature, but improving our natural buffers will decrease the effects of these events. What the proposed levee does is allow insurance companies to further discriminate who they will cover thus making home values plummet due to lack of affordability of insurance companies astronomical Rates. If I knew that our local governments were going to propose a wall being built right outside of French Branch, I would have never moved here.

Re: Levee Wall

How will this levee wall effect our schools? There are several schools that will be outside of the protective wall. Where will these thousands of kids go to school if a major hurricane comes through causing massive flooding destroying their schools? Make the children priority!!!!!!

On a final note, can someone answer the following questions?

- Is the government trying to push us out of our homes?
- Is the government getting a kick back in their pockets as a result of this plan?
- Is anyone in our local government's houses in this proposed levee wall?
- Where will the children attended school should we receive massive flooding outside of the protective wall?
- If this proposal goes through, will my house value go from $550,000 to $200,000?
- If this proposal goes through, will my Property Taxes go down?
- If this proposal goes through, will the government pay for the increase of our homeowner's and flood insurance?
- If this proposal goes through, who will absorb the cost of raising our houses, as well as raising our driveways to protect our vehicles?
- If this proposal goes through, will my tax dollars go to maintaining the levee/wall, pumps and flood gates at the current mileage?
- If this proposal goes through, will a mileage have to be placed on the ballet for approval by the Citizens of St. Tammany Parish?

As a concerned citizen, I hereby respectfully request that the plan to build this levee wall be DENIED!!!!!!!!

Sincerely,

Lisa P. Molero

From: Michelle Grout
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: St. Tammany Levee
Date: Monday, September 4, 2023 2:35:53 PM

Dear, Ms. Dixon,

I wanted to write again. What funding will be available for homes outside the levee? Will the homes outside the levee be taken care of before the levee is built? Please advise what is being done for the unprotected homes?

Michelle

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

[redacted]

> Dear Ms. Amy Dixon,
>
> My name is Michelle Grout, I live at [redacted] in Slidell and have lived in my home for 13 years. I have concerns about my home not being included in the currently proposed levee plan for St. Tammany. I don't understand why our government would build a levee and exclude many of the neighborhoods. I request that the plan be revisited to include all the neighborhoods including French Branch which I live in.
>
> Michelle Grout
> [redacted]

Neil Van de Voorde

[redacted]

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – New Orleans District
Attn: Ms. Amy Dixon
CEMVN-PMR-C
7400 Leake Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70118

Subj: St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana Feasibility Study

Dear Ms. Dixon,

I am writing to request the USA COE reconsider their Optimized TSP for St Tammany and specifically Eastern Slidell. The *Revised Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement* dated July 2023 states as a Final Array of Alternatives for Eastern Slidell was not included in the Optimized Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP).

The modeling methodology used to select alternatives does not adequately reflect the current nor future conditions in Eastern Slidell. It also fails to incorporate actual flooding events that Slidell has faced since the 1980s.

Appendix F contains the Economics modeling. The region my house is located at is within #20 of the Study Area Reaches (see Figure F:3-1). The TSP uses Expected Annual Damages (EAD) as the primary basis for alternative selection. The underlying assumptions for damages may not be relevant to the area and Eastern Slidell in particular. Section 1.5 states that "(the) Optimized TSP would not induce development, but would rather reduce the risk of the population being displaced after a major flood event." It is my contention and others in Eastern Slidell that this plan INCREASES the risk of flooding and displacement. Section 2 contains the Asset Inventory discussion. In Section 2.2 Structure Value Uncertainty, it states:

> "The most-likely depreciated value was based on the average construction class and a 20 percent depreciation rate (consistent with an observed age of a 20-year old structure in average condition)"

There is no supporting citation for this assertion. Home values in Eastern Slidell have continue to rise year after year since I have lived here since approximately 1990. Eastern Slidell has a mixture of large subdivisions as well as smaller more semi-custom homes. A better approach would have been to aggregate the average home values with each of the Study Area Reaches that form Eastern Slidell (i.e. 20, 21 and 22). Additionally, the home values are not depreciating over time, but either appreciating or remaining stable.

Since displacement is a large factor in the study, Vehicle Value Uncertainty is included to model and capture potential damages:

> "The most likely value was $8,269, which is the average value of a used vehicle, $27,564, adjusted for the 70 percent evacuation rate. The maximum value used was

> $14,484, which is the average value of a new vehicle, $48,281, adjusted for the evacuation rate. The minimum value used was $1,448, which is the average 10-year depreciation value of a vehicle, $4,828, adjusted for the evacuation rate."

There is no supporting citation for this assertion. The Eastern Slidell region is a fairly affluent portion of the parish. In order for a model to be an accurate representation of the phenomenon under study, the data must reflect the region under consideration and not a "typical" number. These values may have come from the cited report: "Depth-Damage Relationships for Structures, Contents, and Vehicles and Content-To-Structure Value Ratios (CSVRS) In Support Of the Jefferson and Orleans Flood Control Feasibility Studies, June 1996 Final Report." This report appears to be unavailable. It was conducted almost 30 years ago using cities across Lake Ponchartrain. Its applicability to St. Tammany Parish in 2023 is highly suspect.

Section 4.2 discusses the methodology used (emphasis added):

> "The model also used the number of years that stages were recorded at a given gage to determine the hydrologic uncertainty surrounding the stage-probability relationships. The **possible occurrences of each variable were derived using Monte Carlo simulation,** which used **randomly selected numbers to simulate the values of the selected variables from within the established ranges and distributions**. ... The resulting mean value and probability distributions formed a comprehensive picture of all possible outcomes."

This seems to imply that the Monte Carlo simulation assumed that the variables used were independent and thus could be selected individually. This is not the case, the variables within an environmental model are Bayesian in that there is joint-probability for many of the variables. Not properly modeling the probability relationships within the model's variables does not result in a "comprehensive picture of all possible outcomes."

Finally in terms of the economic modeling, once Eastern Slidell is excluded from the TSP there appears to be no further modeling done. Specifically as flood waters are blocked or diverted, the water will flow elsewhere. Appendix G discusses the Real Estate Plan and provides a detailed discussion of the routing used for the flood wall in Section 2.3. Using the elevation maps from the LSU AgCenter (http://maps.lsuagcenter.com/floodmaps/?FIPS=22103) the area to the east of the proposed floodwall south of Gause Blvd is Breckenridge Subdivision at an elevation of 13 ft. To the east is Military Rd and further is the Pearl River. Due north is Pearl River, LA. The entire area from Breckenridge to the Pearl River and north to Pearl River, LA is essentially all shown to be at the same elevation of 13 ft. The elevation to the south of Breckenridge increase to 16 to 18 ft. The proposed levee and floodwall system could reasonably be expected to increase either the storm surge moving up the Pearl River or add water to the Pearl River. In either case increase water will enter the Pearl River area in the eastern portion of Slidell – the lower elevation will result in increased flooding for Eastern Slidell. This NEGATIVE impact and INCREASED risk is not accounted for in the economics modeling and MUST be. Section 2.3 of Appendix G – Real Estate Plan, Section 8 Induced Flooding brushes this problem aside with a statement that ADCIRC showed an increase of 1 to 3 inches for a 1% Annual Exceedance Probability and that induced flooding would be further investigated during the planning, engineering, and design (PED) phase. This is AFTER the project is authorized. Modeling of induced flooding should be occurring now during the initial design phase of the project before seeking Congressional Authorization.

We have discussed some concerns during the most recent public meetings. In one meeting I asked about two significant flooding/rain events – the 1983 Pearl River Flood and the May 1995 Extreme Rain Event. In April 1983, the Pearl River, at Pearl River LA river gauge measured 21.05 above flood stage, (https://water.weather.gov/ahps2/probability_information.php?wfo=lix&gage=perl1&graph_id=2) and since then there have been 3 events exceeding 19 ft above flood state (i.e. (20.35 ft on 03/14/2016, 19.6 ft on 01/30/1990 and19.18 ft on 04/01/2009). The National Weather Service (NWS) shows the 19 ft flood state is a 3% probability. Additionally A 48-hour plus extreme rain event occurred in the Slidell area between 09 and 10 May 1995. Eight to 10 inches of rain was experienced during each 24-hour period. The 100-yr Average Recurrence Interval is between 10 to 15 inches per 24 hour period (https://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/qpf/ari/qpf_vs_ari.php). You reached out to the modelers who informed you that these two events were not used. There were issues with the consistency of the data across selected gauges used in the modeling domain. While I understand the need to calibrate a model before using it with accurate and consistent data (as discussed above) these two events should be modeled to better understand the increased risks that Eastern Slidell will be facing should they occur again. These real-world events are in sharp contrast to the ADCIRC-predicted 1 to 3 inch induced flooding noted above.

Appendix C Annex M provided information on the Habitat Evaluation Procedures (HEP) assumptions. The section labeled "Land Loss/ Sea Level Rise Effects" discusses Relative Sea Level Rise (RSLR) for the overall modeling. Modeling was done using only one tide gauge on the far western side of the parish (Lake Ponchartrain at Mandeville, number 85575). A more appropriate one to have used is Gauge 85700 (Rigolets near Lake Ponchartrain). Examination of the time series for Gauge 85700 shows a gap at 1985. After 1985, the trend of the gauge changes to what appears to be < 1 mm/yr ground subsidence. This is in large contrast to the Mandeville gauge's (#85575) value of 4.99 mm/yr. This change could result in large changes to the Economic benefits calculated for the eastern side of St. Tammany parish.

I strongly encourage the US Army Corps of Engineers New Orleans District personnel to review and update their models to reflect current environmental and economic data for all of St. Tammany Parish.

Regards,

Neil Van de Voorde

Army Corp of Engineers-New Orleans District
C/O Amy Dixon
CEMVN-PMR-C
7400 Leake Ave New Orleans, LA 70118
Sttammanyfs@usace.army.mil

Subject: Concerns and Recommendations Regarding the St. Tammany Parish Levee Project

Dear Ms. Amy Dixon,

I appreciate your time in considering my thoughts in this letter. I am writing to express my deep concerns regarding the St. Tammany Parish Levee Project, specifically concerning the exclusion of my property from its protection. I have been a resident of Slidell for over 30 years. We raised our children here and most of them are now also tax paying, involved citizens in our community. As a concerned resident, I believe it is vital to address various issues related to this project to ensure the safety, well-being, and fairness for all members of our community.

I bought my house because of the flood plain it was in, the businesses nearby, doctors offices, large hospital etc. We bought into a community. Now, without me knowing, this plan has been put into place to hurt those of us outside of the levee. This decision was supposed to make sure it would not hurt the environment or the people outside of this proposed levee. But instead, I have not seen anything yet that can assure us on the outside of the planned levee that we will not be hurt by this levee instead.

I have many questions and concerns that cannot possibly be addressed based on the studies done as the true impact of these studies will not be realized for many years.

Whole neighborhood houses will have to be raised at our expense first to bring anything to code before being raised and after to actually get it raised. This will in turn call for lots of changes in pipes and sewer, electrical wiring, gas lines etc etc etc. Our neighborhood would completely change as far as esthetics. I bought my house in my neighborhood because I liked the neighborhood feel. I didn't want a raised house area.

Who is going to pay for my raised flood insurance or the fact that I might eventually not even be able to get any at all? Who is going to pay to compensate me for my now much lowered property value as my whole neighborhood is being forced into a situation for which we didn't ask for? My home value is dropping now with the knowledge of this levee. It is too late for us to sell at full value.

What studies have been done on water flow around this proposed levee on damages now caused to the "outside " areas? What changes will be caused to the environment, marshes, bayous, waterways, and the birds and animals who live there? Will there be damage to native trees, plants etc as a result of this levee? How will it affect how the wild animals move from one area to

another? Will they be shut off from food and water? Will the levee system affect fishing, crabbing or shrimping in the area?

What studies have been done to consider the schools and churches outside the levee? What is the impact on the community as they close or struggle to find the means to rebuild within the levee system? What will be the compensation to those religious organizations that are typically the ones who have cared for the communities in times of devastation if they too are under water?

Why are new subdivisions and houses being allowed to continue to build outside of this proposed levee system? Streets are being paved as we speak 3 blocks from my home which is far outside of this levee. A moratorium on building should be implemented now to protect existing residents from the losses we are about sure incur.

I appreciate you time in reading my letter and I am hopeful the Corp will reconsider this plan.

Pamela C. Flucke, CPA

Army Corp of Engineers-New Orleans District
C/O Amy Dixon
CEMVN-PMR-C
7400 Leake Ave
New Orleans, LA 70118
Sttammanyfs@usace.army.mil

Ted and Theresa Harmon
[redacted]

Subject: Concerns and Recommendations Regarding the St. Tammany Parish Levee Project

Dear Ms. Amy Dixon,

You do not know me, but I was given your name by another concerned citizen you have spoken to on the above subject. I am writing to express my deep concerns, displeasure, and provide recommendations regarding the St. Tammany Parish Levee Project, specifically concerning the exclusion of my property from its protection. As a concerned resident, I believe it is vital to address various issues related to this project to ensure the safety, well-being, and fairness for all members of our community.

1. Accelerate and Improve Fritchie Marsh Restoration
I strongly recommend accelerating and enhancing the ongoing Fritchie Marsh restoration project, as it holds significant potential to reduce storm surge. Proper restoration of the marsh could result in a substantial drop in surge levels, providing some degree of storm surge protection. You can find detailed information about this project in attachment (A) Fritchie Marsh Creation and Terracing (PO-173) source.

2. Collaboration with DOTD and CPRA for Surge Mitigation
I urge you to collaborate with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) and the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) to explore surge mitigation strategies using Hwy 90 and 190 East. A similar study for surge mitigation using Hwy 11 and Lakeshore Drive (Rat's Nest Road) is already underway. The Hwy 190 restoration and bridge replacement project should be activated soon, presenting an opportunity to maximize further reductions in storm surge through structural changes to highway and bridge design.

3. Change Funding Allocation for Residential Protection Strategies
I propose a change in funding allocation language within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) budget. Currently, the focus is primarily on home slab elevation, which may not be the most cost-effective or efficient strategy. I suggest amending the language to allow for a range of residential protection strategies, similar to the options available for businesses. Such a change would align with the USACE study's recommendations and could lead to more effective and

affordable solutions for homeowners, especially homeowners who are on fixed- and/or retirement incomes.

4. Consider Alternative Levee Sites
I request a thorough evaluation of alternative levee sites, including alignments that extend along Hwy 190 and/or Military Road. All proposed alignments currently leave some residents outside of protection, which raises concerns about the fairness and equity of the project.

5. Collaboration on a Surge Barrier Plan
I strongly recommend joining the Lake Coalition to explore the feasibility of using the CSX railroad as a surge barrier. This plan has the potential to close five openings, preventing surges of up to 10 feet. While it may require extensive coordination, including involvement at a Cabinet level, it could offer a cost-effective and efficient solution to protect our community.

6. Full Upfront Coverage of Home Elevation Costs
All costs associated with the elevation of homes due to the levee placement and changes in water flow should be covered upfront, as it is unreasonable to expect residents to bear these costs before qualifying for grants. In visiting my local community, the FEMA rules on elevation should be removed.

7. Impact on Local Schools
An assessment of the impact on local schools, particularly those in areas excluded from the levee, must be conducted. The disregard for property, community, and the tax base could have long-term negative consequences for our education system which is directly related to jobs and thus a core responsibility of the army Corp of engineer to address as part of this and any other proposal.

8. Oversight Entity for Funding Allocation:
The creation of an independent entity, separate from St. Tammany Parish and Louisiana, to ensure fair and transparent allocation of project funds, free from potential biases or political influence and diversion of funds to other programs, interests etc.... Funds would be managed for Education, Vocation, Elevation, Relocation, Mitigation, levee maintenance, etc....

9. Options for Affected Residents:
Total Buyout: Offer a total buyout of property by the federal government, including relocation costs. These buyouts should be fair market value as of 2021 when the project was started. Offers such as those made for Avery Estates have shown that many will be unable to find new housing, move themselves, elevate their property or secure insurance/funding for new homes if homeowners are not adequately compensated. Additionally addressing this early with homeowners living in their single-family homes would prevent unnecessary delays, lawsuits etc... by current residents who've had buy-in to a process that has not been transparent. The buy-out process should also be handled by a dedicated, non-affiliated entity as described above in paragraph 8, ensuring that the fair-market price is fair to both sides, not just the federal government. The reality is that the homeowner is always unduly compensated in buy-out programs, leaving them in a much poorer state than they anticipated.

10. Moratorium on Building:
Implement a moratorium on all new building in the area and within 50 minutes of the levee to protect existing residents. This would ensure that all monies earmarked for elevation and based on numbers from 2021 should be applied only to homes owned at time of project completion by private homeowners who owned homes at the time of project inception and completion.

11. Local Job Training:
Creation of a training program for Louisiana residents to participate in the levee's construction, providing long-term, family-wage job opportunities that are long term and local hires. Provide programs for residents who can no longer work in their current employment due to the hardships brought upon by increased and excess travel, higher medical insurance, and taxes brought about by the levee systems.

12. Tax Refunds:
Provide tax refunds to homeowners in single-family dwellings outside the levee as compensation for project costs that they will not benefit from.

13. Impact on local healthcare
Creation of a healthcare fund to protect healthcare access to the community that will be impacted by the levee location and changes in access to hospitals and clinics that may be close by, but with significant changes in roads and community will change.

14. Relocation costs for religious institutions and their congregations
Churches, synagogue, temples must receive funding and help in maintaining traditions, services, and access to their community. Costs should not increase for churches that will be responsible for caring for a community that will be impacted monetarily by the loss of good paying jobs that pay taxes in an area that will be negatively impacted. Additionally, Churches and religious organization spend large sums of money during disaster relief and should be compensated for all money increases that are passed on to them (and their members) for care of their congregations in providing disaster relief, food, and labor due to placement of the levee.

15. Compensation to homeowners and small businesses for additional costs of flood insurance. In visiting with our neighbors there are multiple strings attached to FEMA and other money including but not limited to a requirement to hold certain levels of insurance. Many small businesses, startup businesses and home businesses are struggling in this community. With a potential exodus of residents who are well paid and technically advanced (thus able to leave Louisiana) small businesses will be impacted. Compensation must be considered for those businesses who may shutter without the needed customer base which will change with the levee.

Additional Information and Questions for Clarification
To better understand the project and its implications, I kindly request the following information and answers to the following questions:

1. Which Flood Control Act authorizes this levee project, and what are the specific provisions of this act?

2. Has a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review been conducted for this project? If so, what were the findings regarding environmental impacts?
3. What are the engineering standards being used for the levee's construction, and is there a projected timeline for the project's milestones?
4. What is the projected economic impact of the levee on major local employers, such as military and space complexes?
5. Is there a plan for long-term maintenance of the levee, and who will be responsible for it? It is well known that upkeep is expensive and necessary.
6. How can residents access updates or changes to the project plans to ensure transparency and public input?
7. How/When will St Tammany residents vote on a levee tax? Who will pay for the levee?
8. Has a plan been established for movement or removal of sacred burial sites including family sites and religious or traditional rites? What costs have been set aside for this?
9. Has an evaluation been done on the new representation of taxpayers with this project?
10. Will the communications between levee entities and communities be transparent henceforth? It is my firm opinion that the lack of information flow and invited citizen participation is negligent, appalling, and breeds mistrust between both sides; and only open communication from the powers will negate the mistrust and educate neighbors.

My biggest complaint is as a resident in my neighborhood for more than 5 years, I have received NO communications for these plans, nor invitations to meetings to voice my concerns. If not for the sharp diligence of several concerned citizens, these issues would have blind-sighted me and many of my neighbors. All which is causing my biggest complaint that the entire plan has the feel of deception by the powers-to-be, quite like having "the wool pulled over one's eyes." We choose our home after I worked for over 48 years and my husband nearly 60 years, to live in for our "golden years." This plan has us seriously reexamining our plan to see if other options are better for us—in another state. Since most of our children and grandchildren are also residents here, the thought breaks our hearts. But if the Parish, State, and Levee boards proceed with the plan as written, we will not have any other viable option.

I believe that addressing these concerns and questions will lead to a more equitable and effective levee project that prioritizes the safety and well-being of all residents. I look forward to your response and hope for a constructive dialogue on this matter.

Sincerely,

Ted W Harmon

Theresa M Harmon

Ted and Theresa Harmon

Bonnie Clements

[redacted]

September 5, 2023

VIA EMAIL: sttammanyfs@usace.army.mil
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – New Orleans District
c/o Amy Dixon, CEMVN-PMR-C
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70118

RE: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) St. Tammany Parish, Feasibility Study (the "Study") released in July 2023 – 45 day Public Comment Period

Comments about the Proposed Slidell Levee:

- The proposed Slidell Levee, an industrial project, would create visual blight within our bayous with pump station complexes, flood gates and flood walls. This requires the downgrade of the bayous' natural and scenic designations and water quality protections. It would have an irreversible, destructive impact on the ecology, on the marshlands that have provided centuries of flood protection, and on our cultural heritage.
- The areas outside of the proposed Slidell Levee (e.g., Lacombe, Eden Isles, Military Road) will experience increased flooding, property value diminution and property loss.
- The proposed Slidell Levee will not protect against rain or riverine flooding. To that end, the 2016 no-name storm is said to have dumped 3 times as much rain on Louisiana as Hurricane Katrina.
- The Slidell Levee is proposed to be 14-ft. high thus would be unable to protect against a hurricane like Katrina. The NOAA reported Katrina storm surge of 10-20 ft. above normal tide levels. In parts of the Slidell area it's believed that the Katrina storm surge topped 21-ft. Residents living on the "protected" side of the Levee are at risk of having a false sense of security, not evacuating as needed.
- St. Tammany Parish would be tasked with maintaining and operating the Slidell Levee, requiring an increase in parish taxes for this proposed $2.6 billion project just for Slidell.
- The numbers on the proposed Slidell Levee just don't add up. A simple google search shows the population of the greater Slidell area is just under 28,000. Drop out areas placed outside of the Slidell Levee, such as Eden Isles and Military Road area households, those on the "protected" side are much fewer. The cost cannot be substantiated.
- The proposed Slidell Levee represents a disjointed, discrete project that would not be in the best interests of the whole area and population.

Alternatives:

- Re-initiation of the Corps' Barrier Plan to control flood waters at the Rigolets and Chef Menteur Pass areas for the benefit of all parishes under threat of storm surge flooding.
- Marsh restoration and creation through dredging, increasing volume capacity for improved water retention and using bed sediment for lasting sustainability. As an example, the $28M post-Katrina Bayou Bonfouca Marsh Creation project (posed to be diminished by the Slidell Levee as located outside of it) restored historic marsh ponds, and created 604 acres of marshland plus nourished another 310 acres of marshland with sediment pumped from Lake Pontchartrain.
- Elimination of unbridled development destroying wetlands and increasing harmful flooding. The Corps can prevent any development in wetlands.
- Elevating homes for those who opt to.
- Ditch clearing, maintenance and widening as needed, to minimize water back up onto private property and roads.

Concerns about the Process:

Many members of the affected public remain ill-informed or uninformed. Absent in the public feedback to the Corps will be comments from those who remain unaware their properties would be placed at greater risk of flooding or potential ruin from the proposed Slidell Levee by being outside of it or in the middle of its alignment.

It is a concern that the public only has 45 days to comment on this 5,000+ page Study. So voluminous no one is able to fully read it within this very limited 45-day time period, which compromises the effectiveness and importance of public input.

The focus on Slidell is disproportionate. The Slidell Levee is almost 60% of the Corps' estimated $4.5 billion cost of its proposed flood control measures in the Study. Slidell is already bordered by marshland protection, which the Levee ironically would diminish as a vast amount of the marshland would be located outside of it. So why is Slidell even being singled out?

Finally, the Corps' eleventh hour drop of 2,000 homes previously eligible to be elevated, resulted in the last minute adjustment of the obscure cost/benefit ratio to a number needed to allow Congress to consider a feasibility study. This action suggests the Corps is pushing or being pushed to substantiate the Slidell Levee, which is hard to substantiate as not beneficial and harmful to the environment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Bonnie Clements

[redacted]

To: Army Corp of Engineers - New Orleans District
C/O Amy Dixon
CEMVN-PMR-C
7400 Leake Ave
New Orleans, LA 70118
Re: St Tammany Levee Proposal
Date: September 5, 2023

Dear Ms. Dixon,

My name is David Cougle and I am writing in opposition to the Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) for St. Tammany parish. In addition to being a candidate for parish council, District 9, I am of course, a resident of District 9. Myself and my fellow residents are quite concerned about the possibility of flooding and other related issues, as you can imagine, so we have been following the USACE's work on this quite closely and are at a loss as to why our district is being excluded from protection by this proposal.

There are many other ideas that would offer more protection, including that of raising HWY 90/190, to our district, but it seems those are not being sufficiently considered in this particular proposal. Instead, we have something that excludes a large amount of homes, leaves a large amount of the parish unprotected, and would leave my entire district exposed and possibly make things even worse for us.

I appreciate the plan's attention to the greater Slidell area, but I ask that you consider the fact that this plan simply does not work for us. We, as taxpayers and residents, deserve protection by any plan that is proposed and expect the same. The overwhelming majority of us have lived here during some of the worst storms in the last several decades, and we know how critical it is that our area be protected.

Thank you for your time and prompt attention to this matter.

David Cougle

[redacted]

[redacted]

RE: St. Tammany Parish Feasibility Study

To Whom It May Concern:

We respectfully request that the ACE reconsider and reject the proposed Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement specifically for Eastern Slidell.

We chose to live in the French Branch neighborhood because of its natural environment, community values, and excellent schools. It was a place where children could have many adventures fishing in ponds, talking nature walks and planning scavenger hunts.

We fear the prospect of the degradation of the once nationally recognized schools in our district. Families invested in the school district not only with our tax dollars and volunteerism, but also through time and fundraising efforts to improve the district schools by adding playgrounds and lights for night baseball games. All of these are examples of the ways the people invested into the community to make it a vibrant and aspirational living area. We feel, if the feasibility study was implemented, the results would drastically change our community and make it unrecognizable in a few years.

Additionally, we fear that if the plan is implemented by the ACE, it would change the attitude of the community. As consequences of the plan, our natural environment would be less protected, our homes and schools would lose value and unfortunately, our property taxes and insurance would increase dramatically. Most of the homeowners living in French Branch would not be able to afford the higher property and tax rates. As a result, this plan would leave an inferior community in its wake.

Sincerely,
Mary Lambert
Lonnie Lambert

[redacted]
E-Mail: [redacted]
[redacted] Subdivision Homeowner

September 6, 2023

Army Corp of Engineers – New Orleans District
CEMVN-PMR-C
7400 Leake Ave
New Orleans, LA 70118

Subject: St Tammany Levee Project Concerns

Dear Ms. Dixon,

I hope you and your family are doing well. Unfortunately, we live in a hectic world. I know your work at the Corp of Engineers can be challenging. Therefore, I hope that this note can help you and your organization to make the best decision possible as you develop the levee project plans for our area. As I understand it, your levee project plans will impact all of the residents and property owners of east St. Tammany Parish and not just properties located in the city limits of Slidell. I am asking for your organization to re-evaluate your levee plans by considering the needs of all the residents living in east St Tammany Parish.

I am a resident in a Slidell subdivision located off military road. We have lived in this area since 1998 and love living here. My home is located in a beautiful subdivision next to two outstanding elementary schools and not far from two outstanding high schools. However, I have been made aware that a proposed levee project will not meet our needs and may even create harm to all of us living and working in this part of the parish. Many of us have not had any flooding in our neighborhoods in the past. We, including my family as my daughter also lives in my same neighborhood, want the Corp of Engineers to improve our hurricane protection defenses and not make them worst. We want a peace of mind. As I understand it, the properties along both sides of military road, homes, schools, businesses, etc. are located outside the current proposed levee protection plans. I hope that is not the case, but if it is, those plans need to be changed to include our properties.

The levee project, as it stands, could potentially create a greater risk of flooding and property damage from storms that occasionally hit our area than exists today. Is that fair to the people living here? Is it fair to adversely impact our property values? Is it fair to treat our taxpayers differently than those families whose properties are being protected?

In closing, I hope you and your organization will consider our needs. I believe that in dealing with the public, if there is a will, there is a way!

May GOD bless you and our country,

Ed and Rhonda Hetherington

CC: The Honorable Senator John Kennedy
21490 Koop Dr. Building A
Mandeville, LA 70471

The Honorable Representative Steve Scalise
21454 Koop Drive Suite 2C
Mandeville, LA 70471

Dr. Jessica Barker
[redacted]

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District
% Amy Dixon
CEMVN-PMR-C
7400 Leake Ave
New Orleans, LA 70118
Sttammanyfs@usace.army.mil

Subject: St. Tammany Parish Feasibility Study

Dear Ms. Amy Dixon,
I am writing to express my opposition to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District's (CEMVN) recently released *Revised Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement* (RDIFR-EIS) for the St. Tammany Parish Louisiana, Feasibility Study. I am gravely concerned that the project scope and plan formulation was based on a vast number of assumptions and further manipulated through erroneous calculations utilizing outdated, incomplete, and inaccurate data. At best, the CEMVN failed to exercise methodological due diligence throughout the project. However, the omissions and errors are significant enough that they bring into question the CEMVN's true intent.

Appendix B - Plan Formulation identifies the project scope through identified problems, opportunities, and related objectives. Table B:1-1. St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana Feasibility Study, Problems, Opportunities, and Objectives cites specific evidence for the defined objectives, including: "3500 residential structures are on the FEMA repetitive and severe repetitive loss list." Clearly, these structures should be prioritized in any plan set forth. However, there is no data presented to indicate the Optimized Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) will address this stated problem. Has the CEMVN analyzed which of these residences will be protected through the structural and/or non structural plans? Of those residences that will only be eligible for non structural measures, it appears doubtful many will meet all of the eligibility criteria (i.e. future damage risk, reduction in damage costs, cost to elevate related to value of home, physical inspection, floodplain elevation level) as set forth in the Optimized TSP. How will the proposed cost to benefit ratio be affected when homes do not meet criteria for elevation and are left unprotected? It is critical to understand this relationship before seeking funding, as a reduction in cost to benefit ratios will decrease the impact and efficacy of the Optimized TSP.

Another identified problem in Table B:1-1 is stated:

> "Critical infrastructure throughout the region including the I-10, I-12, and I-59 transportation system and evacuation routes, Government facilities, hospitals, and schools is expected to become more at risk of damage from potential floods."

The Optimized TSP fails to address most of this stated problem. With the exception of the City of Slidell government offices and a small portion of I-10 contained within the proposed levee, there is no firm evidence provided to indicate protection of key infrastructure and resources throughout the parish. I assert that the area of Eastern Slidell outside of the proposed levee will have more floodwater pushed into the area, thus CAUSING an INCREASED risk for flooding, INCREASED risk of damage to structures, INCREASED loss of life, and INCREASED disruption in services, including four schools my children attend, the closest and largest hospital and medical complex in Slidell, and several large churches that serve the greater community through welfare programs and disaster recovery (e.g. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, located just off Military Road). Further linking the levee design to I-10 as proposed will CAUSE and INCREASE in transportation and evacuation interruptions if the levee is breached.

Yet another problem statement listed in Table B:1-1 is that there is an "increasing risk to people from catastrophic flooding events". Again, the Optimized TSP does not address this problem. Appendix D - Annex 4 - Preliminary Life Safety Risk Assessment, Section 8.1 includes a matrix summarizing the life safety risk analysis. The proposed levee included in the Optimized TSP is listed in the Section 8.1 matrix to INCREASE annual life loss and INCREASE incremental risk, even with the unfortunate stated omission of unavailable inundation map data.

Appendix B - Plan Formulation also includes Figure B:1-3 Types of Measures Evaluated Under the St. Tammany Feasibility Study. This figure uses a scoring methodology to determine which proposed actions met the project objectives and would be kept in the plan for further review. No data is cited as a basis for these scores, therefore the scoring methodology can't be assessed for appropriateness, nor can it be replicated. Since the generated scores determined if actions were kept as feasible solutions or removed from consideration, **the entire validity of the plan formulation is highly suspect.**

Appendix D – Annex 4 - Preliminary Life Safety Risk Assessment illustrates weaknesses and ethically irresponsible approaches in the methodology. Concerning statements (emphasis added) include:

> Section 1.0 - "The *life safety assessment is qualitative* and prepared prior to completion of the engineering appendix and *without consequence modeling*." (No sources or methodology for qualitative data collection are noted.)
>
> Section 2.5 - "The South Slidell is a combination of levees and pump stations, which are *proposed to reduce risk of storm surge flooding*." (Data is not cited for this assumption of reduced risk.)
>
> Section 3.0 - "*Limited modeling has been done to inform the potential benefits and consequences* of the flood reduction alternatives." (Data on benefits and consequences needs to be accurately and thoroughly modeled to inform appropriate decision-making.)

Section 4.3 - "*Sea level rise and subsidence considerations must be investigated* for both design and the future condition risk assessment." (Sea level rise data should be considered critical in appropriate flood mitigation plan formation.)

Section 8.2 - "*Significant uncertainties and unknowns are incorporated into this assessment*. The engineering unknowns, particularly the lack of geotechnical data *resulting in major assumption in the foundation design, result in uncertainty with the potential long-term performance of the levees and floodwalls* as currently presented. In addition, no life consequence data was available to the team for the assessment. *Assumptions were made about the performance and the potential consequences.*" (It is grossly negligent to repeatedly justify the use of assumptions instead of data where data is obtainable.)

I am concerned about the overall cost to benefit ratio of the Optimized TSP. Per the study overview, "Hurricane Katrina damaged over 48,000 residential structures causing 1.45 billion in damages." In today's dollars, this amounts to 2.3 billion in damages, approximately half of the proposed project cost. Hurricane Katrina was an anomaly. Since a significant number of St. Tammany homes will not be protected by the levee and can not eligible to be raised without repairs or modifications to meet code (per stipulations outlined in Appendix H - Nonstructural Implementation Plan), it can be assumed that any storm impacting St. Tammany Parish will still result in substantial damages and repair costs for these omitted structures in addition to the excessive cost of the Optimized TSP. *It is possible that the area would need to experience 3 storms causing similar damages to Hurricane Katrina before recouping the cost of the project.* Without data regarding how many homes will qualify for elevation, it is impossible to accurately determine a cost to benefit ratio. While a reduction in homes eligible for elevation may improve projected costs, it will definitely reduce the beneficial impacts of the Optimized TSP. How these reductions will affect the stated cost to benefit ratio is unknown.

Appendix D - Annex 5 - Cost Engineering cites that cost data was "supplemented with estimating information from…quotes, bid data, and Architect-Engineer estimates" and further states "historical Government and Commercial bid data" and "other available historical cost data sources" were utilized. This supplementation is problematic from a modeling perspective in that *no details are given of the ratio of supplemented estimated data to the actual cost data used, nor is there any accounting for the relevance or validity of the collected quotes, bids, and estimates* used in representing project costs for St. Tammany Parish. Therefore, **the resulting cost modeling may be invalid**.

The discussion in Appendix D - Annex 5 also states:

> "The cost of each structure was then escalated to 4th Quarter 2020 pricing to develop new costs for all structures".

Is there a reason the costs were not updated to reflect inflation before the *Revised Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement* (RDIFR-EIS) dated July 2023 was released to the public? The Bureau of Labor Statistics CPI Inflation Calculator shows a 17% inflation rate from December 2020 to July 2023

(https://data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/cpicalc.pl?cost1=1.00&year1=202012&year2=202307). Excluding such significant inflation greatly skews any calculations.

The Executive Summary, Non-structural Elevations and Flood Proofing states "the cost to raise homes cannot exceed the anticipated damages caused by flood water". The vast majority of homes in Eastern Slidell that will be outside of the proposed levee are large homes that will be expensive to raise. This may lead to an excessive number of homes in Eastern Slidell being eliminated from elevation consideration, **greatly reducing the projected positive impacts of the Nonstructural Plan**. Other factors that will reduce participation and actual benefit derived from the Optimized TSP Nonstructural Plan include the *incredible financial burden this plan places on individual homeowners*, including bringing homes up to current codes (my neighbors have received estimates totaling over $200,000 to update their homes for elevating), projected loss of property use and displacement costs during raising (45 days or longer), unidentified/unforeseen issues uncovered during the elevation process (e.g. asbestos, termite damage, wood rot, mold, roof leaks, structural damage, etc), loss of aesthetic value and marketability, etc. (See Appendix H - Section 3.)

Further challenging homeowner participation is the proposed timeline of initial eligibility and secondary eligibility. At this time, CEMVN has not collected individual data on residences that will be protected under the Optimized TSP Nonstructural Plan. This will be done after funding is received. I contend that this is too late, as part of eligibility requirements set forth are dependent on the cost to elevate not exceeding the determined value of the residence (Appendix H, Section 3). The actual market values of residences in Eastern Slidell will DECREASE as soon as the Optimized TSP is funded. This DECREASED market value will be used to assess a further depreciated value of homes. The proposed formula for valuation of residences is problematic in that it is, again, based upon an assumption that home values in St. Tammany Parish have depreciated over 20 years. This assertion is not based on fact, and data that supports appreciating home values is easily obtainable. Choosing to omit this fact is negligent at best and may prove critically harmful to homeowners as well as the success of this plan. By using already devalued property amounts in formulas that further reduce the home value, CEMVN is effectively reducing the number of homes that will qualify for elevation per the set criteria that costs to elevate can not exceed the determined value of the property. In addition, CEMVN has stated that no other alternatives will be offered to homeowners outside of the limited areas protected by the Structural Plan. *What will happen to any unclaimed/ unused nonstructural funds?* I and others contend that the majority of unprotected homes will fail to meet criteria for raising, due to stipulations and processes set forth by CEMVN. I highly recommend that a sampling of residences representative of the actual homes in each zone be assessed by the elevation eligibility criteria to model pass/fail ratios BEFORE this plan is funded.

Homeowner participation in the nonstructural plan is voluntary and buy in will be challenging due to the financial burden this plan places on the homeowner. Additionally, **the community lacks trust in CEMVN and government entities, both from experiences with previous project failures and known corruption** (e.g. Hurricane Katrina levee failures and community

responses, St. Tammany Utilities mismanagement). Improvements in transparency, accountability, and stakeholder involvement are greatly needed moving forward for the non structural plan to have meaningful impact. For example, I recently attended the Slidell Public Meeting regarding the St. Tammany Parish Feasibility Study on 8-15-2023 after a neighbor invited me to attend. This was the first information I received about the project in 3 years of living here. The meeting was not advertised directly to the community by CEMVN or the local and state governments. Is there a reason for this communication failure?

I also must request that the management and maintenance of any structural plan be given to an entity different from St. Tammany Parish. They have failed to properly maintain and manage pumps, retention pond levels, and drainage canals throughout the parish on multiple occasions within just the past 3 years. They also struggle to maintain the ditches in the parish. These failures have caused notable flooding events in Eastern Slidell and other areas. Should you wish to receive more information on these failures, I would be happy to provide details.

Lastly, **in addition to CEMVN's extensive use of assumptions throughout the approach and development of the TSP, it appears CEMVN is taking liberties in their jurisdiction**. Per the USACE International Boundary Map and Address Locator (https://usace.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7344e62432694199af7790aa47a32fdd), my home and others in Eastern Slidell are not within the CEMVN district and instead reside within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Vicksburg, MS District. Through a phone conversation with the Vicksburg District Office, I was informed they are unaware of this proposal and had not been invited to participate at any level. Can you give reason for the exclusion of the USACE - Vicksburg District Office in development of a project directly impacting homes within their jurisdiction? Furthermore, will homes outside of the USACE - New Orleans District (CEMVN) be eligible to receive any funds as part of the Optimized TSP Nonstructural home elevations?

I urge you to review the methodological weaknesses I have discussed and revisit the planning and decision-making process. A proposal for 4+ billion dollars should be developed from facts, utilizing thorough data reviews and robust modeling BEFORE funding is obtained.

Sincerely,

Jessica F. Barker, Ph.D.

Lisa Pilet

[redacted]

September 5, 2023

Army Corp of Engineers New Orleans District
C/O Amy Dixon
CEMVN PMR C
7400 Leake Ave
New Orleans, LA 70118
Sttammanyfs@usace.army.mil

Subject: Concerns and Recommendations Regarding the St. Tammany Parish Levee Project

Dear Ms. Amy Dixon,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my deep concerns and provide recommendations regarding the St. Tammany Parish Levee Project, specifically concerning the exclusion of my property [redacted] and many other fellow citizens from its protection. As a concerned resident, I believe it is vital to address various issues that will impact those of us who are outside of the levee to ensure the safety, well being, and fairness of all members of our community.

1. The existing drainage issues on Jacob Rd and along I 10
    a. Please see the attached email thread between our previous parish councilman and the DOTD regarding this issue.

From: Mary K. Bellisario [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, June 08, 2016 9:45 AM
To: Charles E. Williams [redacted]
Cc: Michael J. Noto [redacted] >; Shannon Davis [redacted]
[redacted] >>; Pruett; Bill [redacted] net>>; Pruett; Vicki [redacted]
[redacted] >>; Macaluso; Peter [redacted]
Subject: Jacob Road Issue
Importance: High

Eddie:

At least a year ago there was a meeting on Jacob Road to correct a long term drainage problem. It was decided that Engineering was to write a letter to the LA DOTD that would allow us the construct a drainage ditch to take the Jacob Road flow to the LA DOTD ROW and that they would approve this project.

Has the letter been sent to the LA DOTD? The reason I'm asking is that there is another resident, Peter Macaluso is concerned about this issue.

I need a response for this man and for Bill and Vickie Pruett who brought the complaint to the Parish.

Please advise,

E. L. "Gene" Bellisario
Parish Council - District 9
985-788-8186

From: "Donna S. O'Dell" <[redacted]
Date: June 9, 2016 at 12:15:43 PM CDT
To: "Gene Bellasario (External Email)" <[redacted]
Cc: "Michael J. Noto" <[redacted] Shannon Davis <[redacted]>, "Charles E. Williams" <[redacted]>, "Pruett; Bill " [redacted] Pruett; Vicki " <[redacted], "Macaluso; Peter" <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Jacob Road Issue

Gene,

Extensive regrading of the ditch along the exit ramp and interstate is needed for stormwater to flow that way. DOTD will allow us to do a project through a permit, but we do not want to take on the liability of working along the interstate nor do we have funding for the work. Since this will not be a benefit to DOTD, they will not do the regrading for us.

Donna O'Dell, P.E.

Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) 1.jpg

Assistant Director, Engineering Dept. **St.**

Tammany Parish Government 620 N. Tyler St. Covington, LA 70434 p: 985-898-2552 e: dsodell@stpgov.org www.stpgov.org

"Disclaimer: Any e-mail may be construed as a public document and may be subject to a public records request. The contents of this e-mail reflect the opinion of the writer and are not necessarily the opinion or policy of St. Tammany Parish Government. "

2. The USACE plan causes harm to both residents and the natural ecosystem with the introduction of this levee s stem.

3. Change Funding Allocation for Residential Protection Strategies.

4. Collaboration with DOTD and CPRA for Surge Mitigation
   I urge you to collaborate with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) and the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) to explore surge mitigation strategies using Hwy 90 and 190 East. A similar study for surge mitigation using Hwy 11 and Lakeshore Drive (Rat's Nest Road) is already underway. The Hwy 190 restoration and bridge replacement project should be activated soon, presenting an opportunity to maximize further reductions in storm surge through structural changes to highway and bridge design.

5. CSX Railroad Surge Barrier Considered:
   I strongly recommend joining the Lake Coalition to explore the feasibility of using the CSX railroad as a surge barrier.

6. Full Upfront Coverage of Home Elevation Costs:
   All costs associated with the elevation of homes due to the levee placement and changes in water flow should be covered upfront, as it is unreasonable to expect residents to bear these costs before qualifying for grants. The FEMA rules on elevation should be removed.

7. Options for Affected Residents:
   Total Buyout: Offer a total buyout of property by the federal government, including relocation costs. These buyouts should be fair market value as of 2021 when the project was started. Many will be unable to find new housing, move themselves, elevate their property, or secure insurance/funding for new homes if homeowners are not adequately compensated.

8. Oversight Entity for Funding Allocation:
   The creation of an independent entity, separate from St. Tammany Parish and Louisiana, to ensure fair and transparent allocation of project funds, free from potential biases or political influence and diversion of funds to other programs, interests, etc.… Funds would be managed for Education, Vocation, Elevation, Relocation, Mitigation, levee maintenance, etc…

9. Moratorium on Building:
   Implement a moratorium on all new buildings in the area and within 50 minutes of the levee to protect existing residents. This would ensure that all monies earmarked for elevation and based on numbers from 2021 should be applied only to homes owned at the time of project completion by private homeowners who owned homes a the time of project inception and completion.

10. Tax Refunds:
    Provide tax refunds to homeowners in single family dwellings outside the levee as compensation for project costs that they will not benefit from.

11. Compensation to homeowners for additional costs of flood insurance

<u>Additional Information and Questions for Clarification</u>

To better understand the project and its implications, I kindly request the following information and answers to the following questions:

1. 6,500 homes to be elevated:
   a. Is my home one of the 6,500 that are to be raised
   b. Is there a list or a map identifying the homes that qualify for elevation
   c. Is there a list or a map identifying the homes that DO NOT qualify for elevation
   d. What is the plan for houses that are not up to code to be raised, or are unable to be raised
   e. What is the timeline for homes being elevated outside of the levee protection
2. How can residents access updates or changes to the project plans to ensure transparency and public input?

3. How/When will St. Tammany residents vote on a levee tax? Who will pay for the levee?

I believe that addressing these concerns and questions will lead to a more equitable and effective levee project that prioritizes the safety and well being of all residents. I look forward to your response and hope for a constructive dialogue on this matter.

Sincerely,

Lisa Pilet

Lisa Pilet

[redacted]

Gmail

Lisa Pilet [redacted] **Fwd: Jacob Road Issue**

Lisa Pilet <[redacted]> Wed, Sep 6, 2023 at 3:38 PMDraft

From: "Donna S. O'Dell"[redacted]
Date: June 9, 2016 at 12:15:43 PM CDT
To: "Gene Bellasario (External Email)" <[redacted]>
Cc: "Michael J. Noto" <[redacted]>, Shannon Davis <[redacted]>, "Charles E. Williams" <[redacted]>, "Pruett; Bill " <[redacted]>, "Pruett, Vicki " <[redacted]>, "Macaluso, Peter " <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Jacob Road Issue

Gene,

Extensive regrading of the ditch along the exit ramp and interstate is needed for stormwater to flow that way. DOTD will allow us to do a project through a permit, but we do not want to take on the liability of working along the interstate nor do we have funding for the work. Since this will not be a benefit to DOTD, they will not do the regrading for us.

Donna O'Dell, P.E.

Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) 1.jpg

Assistant Director, Engineering Dept. **St.**

Tammany Parish Government 620 N. Tyler St;. Covington, LA 70434 p: [redacted]

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From: Mary K. Bellisario [mailto[redacted]
Sent: Thursday, June 09, 2016 10:19 AM
To: Donna S. O'Dell <[redacted]
Cc: Michael J. Noto <[redacted] Shannon Davis <[redacted]>; Charles E. Williams <[redacted] Pruett; Bill <[redacted]>; Pruett; Vicki <[redacted]>; Macaluso; Peter <[redacted]>
Subject: Jacob Road Issue
Importance: High

Donna:

I'm surprised that the solution was to drain to the LA DOTD ROW is no longer an option. What caused the change by the LA DOTD?

Please advise,

E. L. "Gene" Bellisario
Parish Council – District 9
985-788-8186

-----Original Message-----
From: Donna S. O'Dell [[redacted]]
Sent: Wednesday, June 08, 2016 1:56 PM
To: Gene Bellasario (External Email) <[redacted]>
Cc: Michael J. Noto <[redacted]>; Shannon Davis <[redacted]>; Charles E. Williams <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Jacob Road Issue

Gene,

We have investigated the drainage problem on Jacob Rd. and, unfortunately, have come to an impasse. The low area at the south end obviously has no outlet, since the property owner to the east blocked drainage into their pond for contamination reasons.

Putting a pipe across at the end of the road to let more drain to the west is also not feas ble, because I'm told by the barn when that pond fills up after a rain, it overflows to the Jacob Rd.

The only other alternative is to drain to the DOTD r/w; however, that involves extensive interstate ditch re-grading and we do not want to take that liability on for our workers or for a contractor. We can block the DOTD exit ramp drainage from flowing toward Jacob Rd. There may be

less ponding water, though it could be more concentrated with sewer since the exit ramp drainage is probably diluting it now.

[cid:image001.png@01D0FD2B.01748960]

Donna O'Dell, P.E.
Assistant Director, Engineering Dept.
St. Tammany Parish Government
620 N. Tyler St;. Covington, LA 70434
p: 985-898-2552 e: dsodell@stpgov.org<mailto:dsodell@stpgov.org>
www.stpgov.org<http://www.stpgov.org/>

"Disclaimer: Any e-mail may be construed as a public document and may be subject to a public records request. The contents of this e-mail reflect the opinion of the writer and are not necessarily the opinion or policy of St. Tammany Parish Government. "

From: Michael J. Noto
Sent: Wednesday, June 08, 2016 11:34 AM
To: Donna S. O'Dell <[redacted]
Subject: FW: Jacob Road Issue
Importance: High

You may want to fill Gene in since you are more familiar with the project. Thanks.

[cid:image001.png@01D0FD2B.01748960]

Michael J. Noto
Assistant Director of Public Works
St. Tammany Parish Government
620 N. Tyler Street, Covington, LA 70433
p: 985-898-2557 e: mjnoto@stpgov.org<mailto:mjnoto@stpgov.org>
www.dpw@stpgov.org<http://www.dpw@stpgov.org>

Any e-mail may be construed as a public document, and may be subject to a public records request. The contents of this e-mail reflect the opinion of the writer, and are not necessarily the opinion or policy of St. Tammany Parish Government.

From: Mary K. Bellisario [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, June 08, 2016 9:45 AM
To: Charles E. Williams <[redacted]>>
Cc: Michael J. Noto <[redacted]>>; Shannon Davis <[redacted] <[redacted]>>; Pruett; Bill <[redacted]t>>; Pruett; Vicki <[redacted] <[redacted]>>; Macaluso; Peter <[redacted]
Subject: Jacob Road Issue
Importance: High

Eddie:

At least a year ago there was a meeting on Jacob Road to correct a long term drainage problem. It was decided that Engineering was to write a letter to the LA DOTD that would allow us the construct a drainage ditch to take the Jacob Road flow to the LA DOTD ROW and that they would approve this project.

Has the letter been sent to the LA DOTD? The reason I'm asking is that there is another resident, Peter Macaluso is concerned about this issue.

I need a response for this man and for Bill and Vickie Pruett who brought the complaint to the Parish.

Please advise,

E. L. "Gene" Bellisario
Parish Council - District 9
985-788-8186

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September 6, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

I and my family for whom I speak, oppose the massive Slidell Levee Project described in the St. Tammany Parish Flood Control Feasibility Study which is currently the subject of public comment.

By way of introduction, my grandfather, Jacques Mossler, purchased approximately 600 acres of timberland one hundred years ago to the west of Slidell in the community of Bonfouca. In 1928, he hired an architect to design a Spanish Creole home on Bayou Pacquet, now located at 32272 Bayou Pacquet Road. He and my grandmother raised their four daughters, including my mother, spending full summers there. The house and adjacent property have remained in our family through five generations. Approximately twenty years ago, we rejected the overtures of commercial development and sold all but approximately 40 acres to the Conservation Fund. That property is now the Big Branch Preserve, managed by the U.S. Wildlife and Fisheries Agency.

My family has been committed to preserving the peace and beauty of the timber, wetlands, and scenic waterways of the area. We continue to maintain and enjoy the home my grandfather built, as a gathering place for generations of family. Our family has paid taxes in St. Tammany Parish for almost 100 years.

Our home has flooded once, in Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Within days of the storm, family members made their way to the property, camped out without power or running water, and began to clear the property and repair the home. We have returned it to its pre-storm majestic condition. Our home has survived the Great Depression, Betsy, Camille, Katrina and all the storm of the last 100 years. We now fear that we will not survive the United States Government.

Several months ago, we stumbled on the Slidell levee plans, by word of mouth from a neighbor. Family members began attending St. Tammany Parish Levee Board meetings, which consisted of little more than pep rallies for "flood control". Almost no details were presented and, accordingly, we made FOIA requests and contacted USACE representatives, and Congressman Scalise's office. We attended many meetings.

Early in this process, we learned that the initial plan was to build a levee running north-south on the east side of Bayou Pacquet directly across from our home. This would have a devastating effect on us, but we then received the comfort of an apology from a spokesperson from the USACE for this design. Thereafter, vague representations were made, but never an actual commitment that any levee would not be built in such a manner as to destroy our property. At a small meeting we attended which included USACE representatives, the St. Tammany Parish Levee Board Chairwoman, and private property owners, a Neel-Shaffer engineer consultant for the Board presented a drawing of an alternate levee alignment to the west of (and sparing) our property. Nevertheless, in the last iteration of the levee alignments documented in the Feasibility Study now before the public, the design has reverted to that for which only several months ago we received an apology. It is the design that would destroy our property. The irony is that we would remain outside of the alleged flood protection and be left to the forces of nature of any storm in which the new levee system would actually divert storm surge onto us.

We oppose this project for the following reasons.

The proposed project unnecessarily destroys private property.

The levee alignment described above, could easily be placed to the west of existing homes, including my family's, in property which is undeveloped and uninhabited. The current alignment can be expected to destroy homes on Bayou Pacquet Road, Keller Road and elsewhere. I have heard comments from the government that this would increase the cost due to mitigation required for the loss of wetlands. This concern rings hollow for a project which most believe would exceed $6 billion.

The proposed project would destroy marsh and wetlands.

Post-Katrina, the Louisiana Coastal Protection Restoration Authority successfully saved and replenished the Bayou Bonfouca marsh, with dredging from Lake Pontchartrain. I understand that the project cost $28 million. That same marsh would now be outside of the Slidell levee circle, vulnerable to every storm, and eventually lost. The same would be true of other wetlands which presently serve as a buffer from storm surge. The effect on the environment, fish and wildlife would have to be detrimental.

The proposed project would adversely impact the St. Tammy population west of Slidell.

Levees do not eliminate flood waters, they just move it elsewhere. The St. Tammany population west of Slidell, from Lacombe to Lake Maurepas, would fall victim to the diversion of flood waters westward. There is no representation on the St. Tammany Levee Board of residents outside of Slidell. I have to question whether those residents to the west have any meaningful knowledge of this planned project, and I doubt they have been provided, much less read, the Feasibility Study. Parenthetically, after its release several months ago, I copied it in its entirety, and it is just shy of five thousand pages long.

The remedy proposed by this plan is for the government to pay to elevate all occupied homes in the areas which, post-levee construction, would more than ever before, be exposed to flooding as a consequence of the levees they are outside of. Do they really want their homes raised? How disruptive would that be, how long would it take, how would it look, and who would do it? I have seen no answers to these questions in the five-thousand-page study.

The proposed project would still not provide complete protection for those inside the levee.

The levee design purports to create 14 feet maximum flood protection. At its highest, Katrina was almost twice that height. A 14-foot levee may be formidable, but not eliminate the risk from the worst storms.

The proposed project would exact too high a price to the quality of the environment and the beauty of the area.

Many are drawn to St. Tammany Parish for its scenic waterways and natural beauty. My family has, for five generations, enjoyed the peace of bayous such as Pacquet, Liberty, and Bonfouca. The Feasibility Study shows massive pumping stations, flood walls and flood gates, in addition to levees running through marsh and wetlands. Collectively, they are a scar and blight on the environment.

The proposed project would consume billions of dollars to protect Slidell in lieu of pursuing the remedy which would serve all of the Parishes in the Lake Pontchartrain and Lake Maurepas basin.

As far back as the aftermath of Hurricane Betsy in 1965, area engineers have opined that the best solution to protect the most people from flooding from natural disasters would be to erect barriers at the Rigolets and Chef Passes. Storm surge measures and structures to serve as barriers to waters which would otherwise enter Lake Pontchartrain might be expensive, one might guess even more than the $6 billion required for the Slidell levee circle, but the cost-benefit ratio would prove such a project to be more advantageous considering the vast number of residents in cities and towns around Lake Pontchartrain. Today, engineers continue to comment that the Barrier Plan which initially emerged with the USACE in the 1970s, should be resurrected. It is believed to have been defeated then due to perceived environmental damage. But environmental damage is, in any event, very much a factor in what is now proposed in Slidell.

We hope that these comments will be considered and acted upon in a responsible manner.

Sincerely,

Miles P. Clements

Miles P. Clements

From: [redacted]
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Slidell Levee Project Concerns
Date: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 1:27:40 AM

Hello,

My name is Timur Bolukbas, I live at [redacted] and I go to Nortshore High School. I am concerned about this levee project because my home st the end of Yorktown Drive is excluded.

My life is spent on the Doubloon Bayou and Pearl River. Everyday after I come home, I fish, and kayak. I love taking my boat out there as well, it is amazing to have this ability. I am concerned that this levee project will take that ability away from me, and my future generations. My parents spent years on their very large garden, if we are excluded, and we flood, that will all be taken away. The dynamics of a bayou are very complex, I feel creating this levee can cause concern with it either drying up, or heavily flooding.

In one of the project photos, specifically alternative E in phase IV, it cuts right through my road, and excludes my home from the flood wall. Wrapping this around the homes at the end of Yorktown would be a good option, splitting the road and excluding 2 beautiful homes and many properties doesn't sound like a great idea.

Thanks,
Timur Bolukbas

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Adam Bowers [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 1:03 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] ring levee slidell

good afternoon,

I find it very disturbing that a levee will be built to protect all but some of highest value neighborhoods in eastern st tammany parish. we pay property taxes just like anyone inside your proposed levee system. why leave out our neighborhoods and homes? please redraw this levee to include all homes on eastern slidell as it was meant to be.

thanks

--
Adam Bowers
Operations
[redacted] our dispatch
(please update your address book on file for me, as we have changed email addresses)

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Anthony Evett [redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 11:35 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Cc: erin
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Tentatively Planned Slidell Levee

To Whom It May Concern (Army Corps of Engineers/ Ms. Amy Dixon):

My name is **Anthony Evett**, I live at [redacted]
Our home is located in a flood-prone area along the French Branch. Our home has recently been designated as a severe repetitive loss property. The parish recently undertook two multimillion-dollar flood mitigation projects along the French Branch to reduce flood impacts in our area. I have concerns that the proposed Slidell Levee project will adversely impact our area rendering the recent French Branch Drainage project improvements useless. The Slidell Levee Project will increase our overall flood risk during hurricane events. Please ensure that the Slidell Levee Project cannot begin or receive federal funding until all impacted properties have been adequately mitigated.

Thank you, Anthony Evett

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Anne Galiano [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 5:19 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] St. Tammany Levee Project Concerns

Dear Ms. Dixon,
We are writing to express deep concerns with the proposed levee project. Our property is excluded from the protection of the levee system as proposed. it is vital that issues regarding safety, lives, and property be addressed to ensure fairness to all and especially ensure well-being of our residents.
Upon educating ourselves on the proposed project, we also have several thoughts and recommendations:

1. Full upfront coverage of all home elevation costs. It is not reasonable, feasible, or fair to expect residents to pay out of pocket for these costs while they apply for grants that they may or may not qualify for. The FEMA rules on elevation should be removed.
2. Nearby district schools will also go unprotected with this plan. An assessment on the impact on these large, in demand, public schools must be done. We are shocked this has not been done already. The disregard for the impact on the families, children, education, property, and community is shocking.
3. Options for fair market buyouts for affected residents should be made a priority. Offers made to neighbors in Avery Estates show with such unfair offers make it impossible for them to relocate, elevate, or secure insurance or buy new homes.
4. Compensation for additional costs of flood insurance to homeowners and business owners.
5. Moratorium on building to protect existing residents.
6. Collaborating with DOTD and CPRA for surge mitigation strategies using Hwy 90 and 190 East, to reduce storm surge with structural changes and bridge design.
7. Collaboration with the Lake Coalition to explore a surge barrier plan using the railroad as a surge barrier.
8. Consider alternative levee sites; first by doing a thorough evaluation of alternative levee sites, especially considering persons left outside of levee protection as proposed, as this project has shown to not be fair and equitable to all residents.
9. Provide tax refunds to residents outside of any project from which they will not benefit.

We are certain you are receiving more deatiled letters and requests, so we will keep this short. We area absolutely not in favor of this proposed levee project as it endangers lives and property to those outside of its protection as it is drafted currently.

Please prioritize lives, safety and well-being of the residents, and surely a more equitable and effective levee project could be developed.

We await your response and hope that this matter is addressed immediately for the safety of all.

Sincerely,
Anne & Edward Galiano

[redacted]
Slidell, LA 70461

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Alan Houlihan [redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 8:50 PM
To: Sttammanyfs; [redacted]
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] St Tammany Parish Feasibility Study Levee Project

Army Corp of Engineers - New Orleans District
C/O Amy Dixon
CEMVN-PMR-C
7400 Leake Ave
New Orleans, LA 70118

Dear Ms. Dixon,

The purpose of my communication is to advise you of my opposition to the St Tammany Parish, Louisiana Levee Feasibility Study as it is currently proposed. The goal of the study was to reduce the severity of flood damages and risk to public health and safety, caused by heavy rainfall, riverine flooding, tropical storms and hurricanes. I feel that this proposal has fallen short of its goals for the following two reasons, which I understand to be qualifiers to proceed.

- The USACE plan causes harm to both residents and the natural ecosystem with the introduction of this levee system.
- The Cost / Benefit Analysis of the proposal shows at 2.4. I would like a better understanding of the factors utilized in this equation. This appears to be the economic impact reduction for a disaster scenario. I would like to know what your findings were for the economic downturn of property value for the area outside of the protection system and the overall economic impact would be for cost of insurance and lack of protected infrastructure. I would like to see what the economic impact outside of the levee would be as it correlates to the life of the levee. My opinion is that the economic downturn would be incurred by the residents outside of the levee, not the USACE, which in turn does financial harm to the residents.

I have additional questions for the proposal to spend approximately half of the funds to raise houses.
1) What is the plan for houses that are not up to code to be raised, or are unable to be raised?
2) What is the timeline for completion of raising the houses outside of the levee protection?
I estimated 6500 homes with 7 qualified contractors to complete this task with each contractor completing 3 homes a year to take a total of 309.5 years to raise all of the homes. I am hopeful that I am wrong here - please advise.

Additional concerns -
3) What is the process used when the levee will go over personal property? Will the landowner be compensated, or will they just lose the property?
4) What is the impact for the people inside of the levee in the event of a heavy rain event? For example, the Baton Rouge flood in Aug, 2016 which produced 20+ inches of rain over 4 days and left 75% of homes in total loss. It seems as if the levee designed to protect from storm surge would have opposite effect in a rain event.
5) Can you please detail the cost to maintain the levee over time and where will those funds originate?
6) What is the environmental impact of the proposed levee on the Pearl River Ecosystem? The West Pearl River continues to silt over from lack of flow and is currently incurring a $2.2 million dollar dredging project in St Tammany Parish on a very small segment of it. On top of its natural beauty, it is necessary for drainage for the area outside of the proposed levee and it continues to decline.

Opposed to putting together patchwork of levee systems and being hopeful to add on the them in broken segments at a future date, has surge mitigation been evaluated? It appears that if the CSX railroad were raised on the coastline, that it would act in the same way as a levee, except that it would protect us all and satisfy your requirement to do no harm.

Respectfully,

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Ashlea May [redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 4:23 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] STP Levee Project Concerns

Army Corp of Engineers-New Orleans District
C/O Amy Dixon
CEMVN-PMR-C
7400 Leake Ave
New Orleans, LA 70118

Ms. Dixon,

I am writing this letter to express my concern regarding the St. Tammany Parish Levee Project. I am concerned that the proposed levee will not protect my home or my neighborhood, as I will be outside of levee protection, even though we are Slidell residents. The Corps job is supposed to protect residents, but I am a resident and this does not protect me or my family. I am very worried about being excluded. I don't understand how a levee can be built that leaves entire sections of Slidell's population out, including schools, churches, hospitals, businesses, and neighborhoods. How is this fair or equitable?

If my neighborhood will be impacted adversely, will raising my home be paid for in full by the government, because I sure can't afford to pay for it. If a levee is built I want whoever is building it to raise my house for me, ALL accompanying costs included. How much will this lower the value of my home? How will I be compensated for this? How will this affect my flood and homeowners insurance costs/coverage, which I can barely afford as it is now? Who will cover the increase in costs? What will happen if they will no longer cover my home at all? I would like to know what the Corps will do for me if I have no insurance? What will they do for me if I can no longer live in my house and I can't sell it either? How much will this cost us as taxpayers? Do I not only have to watch the value of everything I hold dear drop, but pay for it out of my own pocket as well?!?!

What studies have been done to show where the water will go now? How much water will now divert to the unprotected areas, like my neighborhood? How much water can I expect in my neighborhood, at my children's schools, at the hospital I use, and the church I go to (all outside the levee)? How will the levee change the environment around it? What effect will it have on wildlife/vegetation, etc?

What about putting a greater emphasis on things like marsh improvements, such as the Fritchie Marsh restoration project? What about alternate levee sites that include ALL of the residents, businesses, schools, etc? What about mailing out information to every household, business, church and school that will be left unprotected that includes what we can expect to happen, when it will happen, how much it will take from us, how much it will cost us, etc?

I appreciate your time and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,
Ashlea and Ryan May
Homeowners in [redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: lsu2277[redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 12:55 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Proposed Levee Opposition

I'd like to voice concerns over the proposed levee that will run through Slidell LA/St Tammany Parish. Under the current proposal, my newly purchased home in Turtle Creek along with my childhood home where my mother resides in Quail Ridge will not be protected. In fact, we will be at risk for greater losses during future weather events. I implore you to reconsider this decision and reconfigure this levee to protect the good taxpaying citizens along Military Road. Schools, businesses and beautiful homes are at risk under the current plan. If it must be built, a better contingency for the thousands of citizens needs to be in place to raise the impacted homes, supplement home equity losses and lower the insurance premiums that are bound to increase above the already astronomical levels already in place. Thank you for reconsidering this detrimental plan. I look forward to hearing a better, more inclusive plan in the near future.

Amanda McNeil
[redacted]
Slidell, LA 70461

Sent from my iPhone

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Brian Caruso [redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 8:04 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Concerns Regarding the St. Tammany Parish Levee Project

Dear Ms. Dixon,

I am writing to express our deep concerns pertaining to the subject project, especially the exclusion of our residence from it's protection and the adverse impacts the project will have on our security.

My wife and I are retired seniors who have resided in our home for 23 years in the Turtle Creek subdivision on Military Road. While we have maintained flood insurance on our property since it was built, fortunately we have never had to file a flood claim.

However, in its current iteration, the plan would create a significantly enhanced chance of flooding in our subdivision that has never existed before due to waters being channeled from protected areas into unprotected areas such as ours outside the protective levee. Additionally, the value of our home would decrease drastically, and the costs of homeowners and flood insurance would skyrocket. As retired seniors on a fixed income, we cannot afford any of these adverse consequences of the plan. To impose these potential adverse consequences on us and others outside of the protection, while the security of those within is increased, is simply an exceptionally unfair tradeoff which we cannot accept.

For all of the foregoing reasons, we strongly oppose your plan.

Best regards,

Brian Caruso

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Bob <bob_[redacted].com>
Sent: Saturday, September 2, 2023 8:11 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] St Tammany Levee

I want to thank you for everything you are doing. I have been attending these meetings for 2 years. The levee will have a positive effect on our subdivision, Coin du Lestin. It's amazing the negativity coming from the uninformed public. I for one am not one of them. Keep up the good work.
Bob Goodwin
[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: bettyguillot[redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 3, 2023 7:56 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] A Levy

Greetings , Army Corps,

My name is Betty Guillot. My husband, Don Guillot, and I are Homeowner in [redacted] Subdivision, Slidell, La. My address is [redacted]. Can you tell me if my property is protected from future hurricanes, in your proposed study? Or will we be negatively affected by the proposed levee direction you will be sending the floods. My neighbors are also concerned and talking about the Project leaving out Military Road area. Any information you can send to us would be appreciated. Let me know.

Thank you,

Betty Guillot

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: bonderalia@[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 10:31 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Eastern Slidell Levee Project

To Whom this shall concern:

If this project in eastern Slidell moves forward it will harm so many people, including myself and family who will not be within the levee/flood system as it has been drawn up currently. The area that is scheduled to not be included is a huge part of the Slidell/eastern St Tammany community. Many including myself and family will lose the homes and property we have worked hard for everyday. Losing this huge sector of homes, businesses, schools, hospitals, and community agencies will halt financial and community support for the entire Slidell area. This will be felt across our community.

If this project is allowed to proceed, this piece of heaven of a place to live, work and raise a family will no longer exist. I moved into my current home with my family 9 years ago for one huge reason of it had never flooded even during Katrina, and it never has since, there is no doubt in my mind if this project proceeds that my safe haven from floods will be no longer. My husband and I once our kids all graduate within two more years will leave our home we love and move elsewhere and most likely not within Slidell area if his project moves forward.

I urge you to reconsider this project and what it will do to not only the areas outside the wall but the area within the wall that get much financial gain and community support from those that have been left behind in this current plan. I urge you to put as much energy into more natural protection barriers then putting my family and my neighbors in an area outside the protection plan that will no doubt have huge consequences in the numbers it will hurt and the way those hurt will no longer be here to financially support the community within the walls.

Please consider the other options that will not be exclusive and will be in greater interest of the community as a whole.

Thank you,
Bonnie Suckow
French Branch Subdivision

Sent from my iPhone

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Carmine Costantini <[redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 9:37 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Cc: Carmine Costantini; Debbie Costantini
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Response to proposed levee St Tammany

I am a life long resident of St Tammany/Slidell.
We currently reside in French Branch Estates (28 years).
We are currently in flood zone x, which previously was c, flood insurance not required. At no time did our property flood.
The proposed levee is within the Cleco right of way 25ft from our property line. The proposed study would in fact place our home on the Non Protected side of levee.
The exposure to this proposal also places additional subdivisions on the wrong side, Meadowlake, New Cross Gates, Cross Gates, Quail Ridge, Turtle Creek and Honey Island school.
Your proposed drawing shows tie in at Kingspoint levee and crossing over US Hwy 190 connecting into Cleco right of way. This may be the path of least cost but it as I mentioned causes problems to other communities.
I believe what you are trying to achieve is in good faith but the results will cause greater flooding.
If you extended the Kingspoint levee down about 1 mile further east and build the levee near Indian Village Rd closer to the wet lands it would be a better deterrent to prevent flooding without having a negative impact on the previous communities mentioned.
I await your response.
Sincerely,

Carmine/Debra Costantini
[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Craig Flucke <[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 1, 2023 1:21 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] St. Tammany Parish Feasibility Study

To whom it may concern,

Another disastrous plan from USACE. Diversions and levees will be the birth of man made disasters and flood events in subdivisions where there has been NO FLOODING to date. One needs to look no further than Laplace, LA for the kind of results eastern Slidell can look forward to from this plan. If it ain't broke, don't fix it. This plan delivers more problems than solutions. Levees to keep water out of areas that don't currently flood will result in trapped water inside the levee system and CAUSE FLOODING. Now along with screwing the home owners outside of the levees, which are some of the most affluent subdivisions in Slidell, you are also screwing the people inside the levees where it currently DOES NOT FLOOD from rivers or lakes or the Gulf. Having been a resident of Slidell for 22 years now I can tell you that the Palm Lake and Bayou Liberty area floods from the lake, not the Military rd area. Leave us out of your plan.

Craig Flucke

[redacted]

NEVER FLOODED but I will when you're done.

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: cathy jones <[redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 2:00 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] proposed levy

I am responding to your proposed flood wall that will have a major impact to two homes that I own in [redacted] and [redacted] sub divisions. I have endured two floods in French Branch in 2021flood insurance does not pay for the misery that it creates in your life needless to say a disaster such as Katrina with all your personal possessions such as countless children and wedding pictures with relatives whom a deceased. Please use the railroad proposed levy protection wall that has been studied by Loyola which will stimulate growth and prosperity in our region and will not have an impact on our infer structure

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: chrismottinger76@[redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 5:03 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Cc: Suzanne Krieger; Bob Menard; christine mottinger
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Corp Letter - concerning Levee on Kellar Road area attached
Attachments: Bayou Paquet and Kellar Rd Levee letter to Corp of Engineers.pdf

To whom it may concern:

Please see the attached letter in support of the levee in my area.

Regards,
Don Mottinger, Jr.
Christine S. Mottinger
[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Candy Piehet [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 7:30 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Concerns and Recommendations Regarding the St. Tammany Parish Levee Project

Amy Dixon,

Please register my emphatic disapproval of any form of artificial levee that would be constructed along Military Road ostens bly for the purpose of protecting coastal properties. While I agree that protection is needed, a levee system that may be outwardly simple and therefore relatively inexpensive to construct would, in my opinion based on study and observation, cause utterly intolerable disruption on every poss ble level.

Paralyze transport due to the construction equipment in the area while at the same time trying to upgrade (long overdue). Destroy thriving communities, local businesses and tourism industries, and their rising tax bases. Permanently altering the ecosystem for the worse, after first being mired in expenses. Sacrifice properties "for the greater good" to the first major surge with no ability to be recovered due to being uninsurable. Commit to years of negotiations and legal expenses to resolve imminent domain suits with property owners in the path of the dike, as surely as with the expansion project. These are just the first requirements that come to mind with the implementation of this type of proposal.

While this proposal offers some protection to many properties, it leaves a very large proportion completely unprotected and essentially under greater risk than currently assumed. Hidden costs lurk at every turn. Exposure of municipalities can become crippling liabilities.

I urge extreme caution in your planning of our future. The impact of your decisions will be historic and will outlive all of us living today.

Sincerely yours,

Candy Piehet

[redacted]

On Sep 5, 2023, at 12:29 PM, Sttammanyfs <sttammanyfs@usace.army.mil> wrote:

Good afternoon Ms. Piehet,

I am unable to open the attachment. Please try to copy and paste your comments into the body of the email for inclusion into the public comments of the report.

Thank you,

Amy Dixon
Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District
Work: 504-862-1193
Cell: 504-289-9330

From: Candy Piehet <cpiehet@[redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 10:25 AM
To: Sttammanyfs <sttammanyfs@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Concerns and Recommendations Regarding the St. Tammany Parish Levee Project

Candy Piehet
Concerned citizen

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Candy Piehet <cpiehet[redacted]>
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 10:25 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Concerns and Recommendations Regarding the St. Tammany Parish Levee Project
Attachments: Concerns and Recommendations Regarding the St. Tammany Parish Levee Project.pages

Candy Piehet
Concerned citizen

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Chenee Roheim <ccroheim@[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 1, 2023 4:41 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Levee

The St. Tammany Levee District's initial meeting on this subject roughly 3 years ago and again the one last Wednesday where they discussed the ACOE flood protection plan for the south Slidell area. This proposed plan did not change significantly in that time, Although, they did do several feasibility studies during that time. Unfortunately, the reality of living in the Military Road area of Slidell is that the current belief of the various parties studying the issue of flooding in our area is that any affordable plan for levee construction to protect those of us in a Military Road Subdivision, would also destroy the wetlands. So, we are forced to decide on a plan spending billions of federal dollars to protect areas further north and west of us. We will indirectly benefit by having the City of Slidell, businesses, friends and relatives that are inside the levee, protected. However, not only will we not directly benefit from this plan, but WE WILL BE HARMED in several ways.
Our area is one of the few areas that pay the higher taxes in in East St. Tammany! But where is our protection.
1) The plan expects those who live outside of the levee system to flood more frequently and at higher levels.
2) We would have to expect our property values to drop as a result of this. This is NOT something a new widowed person wants to see! WE ARE ONE OF THE AREAS IN EAST ST. TAMMANY PAYING HIGHER TAXES!
3) We would have to expect insurance rates to increase as a result of this. Again not something a new widowed person wants to see!
4) The cost benefit analysis that what was done, and is the basis for the ACOE's decision to move forward, only included the cost of constructing the levee system and did not consider the cost of #2 and #3 above (since it is not coming out of their funding) and it did not consider the full cost to mitigate those residents and businesses left out of the levee protection system through buy-outs, home and business structure elevations, waterproofing structures, etc. (which at this point is understated in the ACOE plan (6,500 out of 28,000 structures), and we would have to find funding for it elsewhere for the structures that are left out)
5) We should expect St. Tammany taxes to go up in order to pay for the maintenance and repair of the new levee system, which will be turned over to the parish. Will the parish place these funds where they need to be placed. Will we end up like Orleans Parish ie Lakeview?

As a young widowed person with two children it is again something, I don't want to hear: TAX INCREASE

I wish I could support this plan because I would like to see those people in the protected areas benefit, but the cost to those thousands of residents who are left out is just too much. I am against supporting this plan.

Thank you
CCRoheim

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Tipton, Cameron P. <Cameron.Tipton[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 3:18 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Cc: Jabbia, Frank J.
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comment on Revised Draft Integrated Feasibility Report St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana

Importance: High

Please accept this email as a comment and request for information concerning the proposed "Optimized TSP (Tentatively Selected Plan) " for St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana dated July 2023.

While we appreciate that it appears that considerable research and study has occurred to determine the location of the proposed TSP, the proposed structures obviously do not include all areas of Slidell, LA.

Was study made as to what affect the proposed system of structures including floodwalls and levees will have on the areas remaining outside of the proposed protected area; Will flooding potential be more likely in those areas with the addition of the proposed structures?

Also, was the location of public facilities such as schools reviewed when determining the location of the proposed TSP? Will schools outside of the system of structures receive any assistance with flood-proofing?

Sincerely,

Cameron Tipton
[redacted]

STPPS adheres to the equal opportunity provisions of federal and civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, or disability.

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Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Diane Calico <[redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 10:52 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Flood protection plan

I feel not being included in the flood protection plan can cause harm to us and the two nearby schools. The adjacent subdivision, La Chenier has only elderly residents which can cause them great harm.
Sent from my iPhone

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Deborah Carlson <[redacted]t>
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 1:59 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Cc: Deb Carlson
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Levee in East St. Tammany Parsh

Deborah & Steven Carlson
[redacted]

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers- New Orleans District Attn: Ms. Amy Dixon CEMVN-PMR-C
7400 Leake Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70118

I attended a meeting a few years ago regarding the flooding on this side of the parish and remember an exchange I had with a parish employee that told me we did not have a flooding issue in our area, [redacted], because there were no flood claims after the 2016 flood event nor Hurricane Issac. The fact that there are no flood claims is not indicative of there not being a flooding problem. During Hurricane Isaac, the 2016 Flood event and Hurricane Ida we were water locked into our homes and neighborhood. All of the streets in and out were flooded and our homes were like little islands in the area. These homes were built based on the Elevation rules in place in 2004 and now that has been changed by the Army Corp of Engineers yet I cannot see that any of that information has been considered in this plan. Why are we left out of the plan along with the Military Road area including Cypress Cove and Honey Island? I have so many questions.

We moved here from East Moline, IL an area known as the Quad Cities, which is located beside the Mississippi River, (there is a Corp of Engineers office in Rock Island, IL, part of the Quad Cities). The Mississippi River has a long history of flooding and many cities along the way have built levees and then areas nearby that had not had a flooding issue suddenly have a problem during the next flood event. (Steven is a career Fire Fighter/Emergency Disaster Director and Emergency Preparedness Director, we have seen some flooding living along the Mississippi in Illinois.) Developers come in and are allowed to fill in low lying and wetland areas as long as they replace it with a similar area nearby, this does not historically work because the natural flow of water is being altered and now it flows to an area not previously having water issues based on water always seeking the lowest and easiest point. The computer generated models do not seem to take into consideration on what will happen to all the water flow with the levees in place. Where will it have a tendency to go based on the elevation levels and the directions the canals flow or do not flow in the case of a surge from Lake Ponchartrain? When the Pearl floods what will happen? What about the project in Jackson MS, if that proceeds there will be many more problems in this area.

I have heard it discussed that those left out of the plan would have their homes raised, what if they cannot be raised? How can you compensate us for loss of value on our homes when the insurance rates will change based on the levee location. Who will make sure that proper compensation happens based on values now before the levee? What if what you say is proper compensation and the actual sale price of the property after the levee are vastly different? Are you going to enter into a legal and binding contract with all of us to raise our homes or pay for loss of value? Will the government fund this project to pay for our homes to be raised or is there the potential to not fund that part? How are we to trust this when this study has left out so many areas in the process and decision?

The Parish had the ability to alert all of the home owners this process was happening yet they chose not to, the information could have been provided to you as well, we receive mail from the Parish thru the post office when they want to communicate something to us. This makes me wonder why no communication? The locals have information on their specific area that might not be known by those behind a desk on the opposite side of the parish. We know where the water is pushing in from and where it goes when it leaves based on Pearl River flooding or surge pushing in, insurance claims do not tell the whole story!

Levees are always a hot topic and engineers want to solve problems. Some problem solving creates even more problems and leaving out information to make the model fit what one entity wants to happen is not good problem solving. I do not wish to see this plan to proceed as written at this point, there needs to be more information provided with concrete proof of the governments commitment to follow thru with promises. The parish has allowed the development in these areas to occur, collect the taxes and now are pulling the rug out from under us or land so to speak.

Sincerely,

Deborah Carlson
[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 1, 2023 2:23 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Proposed flood protection plan for St Tammany

Dear Sirs,

I reside in Turtle Creek subdivision, Slidell, LA in the Parish of St Tammany. The way I understand the current revised plan, I would not be protected by the project. I live too close to the West Pearl and I ask that you reconsider plans for East Slidell to include subdivisions along the Military Road in Slidell.

I did flood for Hurricane Katrina, although it was only a few inches. I do not want to do that again!

Diane Douglas
[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Dana Foret <[redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 6:02 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Levee

Good afternoon I'm writing a letter for the levee.
I live on the corner of your pond, and I would like to know what actually will happen to my house since it's like right here. I'm not happy with the situation of a big wall coming up between my house.
I am opposed

Dana Kollatt

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Dorothy Fulton [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 2:17 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Levee Project

I have just found out about this project today ... I would like to know my personal impact as it looks like I will fall outside the Levee borders. I have tried to understand the material. Please advise me what steps this would cause me to take. Would I have to raise my home? I live in a neighborhood named The Landings. The address of my home is 532 Dockside Dr. Slidell.

I do not want this project to move forward as I purchased it at this location for the Flood Zone C area. There has NOT been enough communication about this project.

Dorothy Fulton

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Dorothy Greene [redacted] >
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 7:58 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Cc: Tim Greene
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Concerns and Recommendations Regarding the St. Tammany Parish Levee Project

Army Corp of Engineers-New Orleans District
C/O Amy Dixon
CEMVN-PMR-C
7400 Leake Ave
New Orleans, LA 70118
Sttammanyfs@usace.army.mil

Subject: Concerns and Recommendations Regarding the St. Tammany Parish Levee Project

Dear Ms. Amy Dixon,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my deep concerns and provide recommendations regarding the St. Tammany Parish Levee Project, specifically concerning the exclusion of my property from its protection. As a concerned resident, I believe it is vital to address various issues related to this project to ensure the safety, well-being, and fairness for all members of our community.

1. Accelerate and Improve Fritchie Marsh Restoration
I strongly recommend accelerating and enhancing the ongoing Fritchie Marsh restoration project, as it holds significant potential to reduce storm surge. Proper restoration of the marsh could result in a substantial drop in surge levels, providing some degree of storm surge protection. You can find detailed information about this project in the source.

2. Collaboration with DOTD and CPRA for Surge Mitigation
I urge you to collaborate with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) and the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) to explore surge mitigation strategies using Hwy 90 and 190 East. A similar study for surge mitigation using Hwy 11 and Lakeshore Drive (Rat's Nest Road) is already underway. The Hwy 190 restoration and bridge replacement project should be activated soon, presenting an opportunity to maximize further reductions in storm surge through structural changes to highway and bridge design.

3. Change Funding Allocation for Residential Protection Strategies
I propose a change in funding allocation language within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) budget. Currently, the focus is primarily on home slab elevation, which may not be the most cost-effective or efficient strategy. I suggest amending the language to allow for a range of residential protection strategies, similar to the options available for businesses. Such a change would align with the USACE study's recommendations and could lead to more effective and affordable solutions for homeowners.

4. Consider Alternative Levee Sites
I request a thorough evaluation of alternative levee sites, including alignments that extend along Hwy 190 and/or Military Road. All proposed alignments currently leave some residents outside of protection, which raises concerns about the fairness and equity of the project.

5. Collaboration on a Surge Barrier Plan

I strongly recommend joining the Lake Coalition to explore the feasibility of using the CSX railroad as a surge barrier. This plan has the potential to close five openings, preventing surges of up to 10 feet. While it may require extensive coordination, including involvement at a Cabinet level, it could offer a cost-effective and efficient solution to protect our community.

6. Full Upfront Coverage of Home Elevation Costs
All costs associated with the elevation of homes due to the levee placement and changes in water flow should be covered upfront, as it is unreasonable to expect residents to bear these costs before qualifying for grants. In visiting with my local community the FEMA rules on elevation should be removed.

7. Impact on Local Schools
An assessment of the impact on local schools, particularly those in areas excluded from the levee, must be conducted. The disregard for property, community, and the tax base could have long-term negative consequences for our education system which is directly related to jobs and thus a core responsibility of the army Corp of engineer to address as part of this and any other proposal.

8. Oversight Entity for Funding Allocation:
The creation of an independent entity, separate from St. Tammany Parish and Louisiana, to ensure fair and transparent allocation of project funds, free from potential biases or political influence and diversion of funds to other programs, interests etc.… Funds would be managed for Education, Vocation, Elevation, Relocation, Mitigation, levee maintance etc…

9. Options for Affected Residents:
Total Buyout: Offer a total buyout of property by the federal government, including relocation costs. These buyouts should be fair market value as of 2021 when the project was started. Offers such as those made for Avery Estates have shown that many will be unable to find new housing, move themselves, elevate their property or secure insurance/funding for new homes if homeowners are not adequately compensated. Additionally addressing this early with homeowners living in their single family homes would prevent unnecessary delays, lawsuits etc… by current residents who've had buy-in to a process that has not been transparent.

10. Moratorium on Building:
Implement a moratorium on all new building in the area and within 50 minutes of the levee to protect existing residents. This would insure that all monies earmarked for elevation and based on numbers from 2021 should be applied only to homes owned at time of project completion by private homeowners who owned homes a the time of project inception and completion.

11. Local Job Training:
Creation of a training program for Louisiana residents to participate in the levee's construction, providing long-term, family-wage job opportunities that are long term and local hires.

12. Tax Refunds:
Provide tax refunds to homeowners in single-family dwellings outside the levee as compensation for project costs that they will not benefit from.

13. Impact on local healthcare
Creation of a healthcare fund to protect healthcare access to the community that will be impacted by the levee location and changes in access to hospitals and clinics that may be close but with significant changes in roads and community will change.

14. Relocation costs for religious institutions and their congregations
Churches, synagogue, temples must receive funding and help in maintaining traditions, services, and access to their community. Costs should not increase for churches that will be

responsible for caring for a community that will be impacted monetarily by the loss of good paying jobs that pay taxes in an area that will be negatively impacted. Additionally, Churches and religious organization spend large sums of money during disaster relief and should be compensated for all money increases that are passed on to them (and their members) for care of their congregations in providing disaster relief, food and labor due to placement of the levee.

15. Compensation to homeowners and small businesses for additional costs of flood insurance
In visiting with our neighbors there are multiple strings attached to FEMA and other money including but not limited to a requirement to hold certain levels of insurance. Many small businesses, start up businesses and home businesses are struggling in this community. With a potential exodus of residents who are well paid and technically advanced (thus able to leave Louisiana) small businesses will be impacted. Compensation must be considered for those businesses who may shutter without the needed customer base which will change with the levee.

Additional Information and Questions for Clarification

To better understand the project and its implications, I kindly request the following information and answers to the following questions:

1. Which Flood Control Act authorizes this levee project, and what are the specific provisions of this act?
2. Has a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review been conducted for this project? If so, what were the findings regarding environmental impacts?
3. What are the engineering standards being used for the levee's construction, and is there a projected timeline for the project's milestones?
4. What is the projected economic impact of the levee on major local employers, such as military and space complexes?
5. Is there a plan for long-term maintenance of the levee, and who will be responsible for it? It is well known that upkeep is expensive and necessary.
6. How can residents access updates or changes to the project plans to ensure transparency and public input?
7. How/When will St Tammany residents vote on a levee tax? Who will pay for the levee?
8. Has a plan been established for movement or removal of sacred burial sites including family sites and religious or traditional rites? What costs have been set aside for this?
9. Has an evaluation been done on the new representation of taxpayers with this project?

I believe that addressing these concerns and questions will lead to a more equitable and effective levee project that prioritizes the safety and well-being of all residents. I look forward to your response and hope for a constructive dialogue on this matter.

Sincerely,

Tim and Dorothy Greene
Slidell, LA residents
[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Dixon, Amy A CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 1:14 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: FW: [Non-DoD Source] Reply to proposed USACE slidell levee

Amy Dixon
Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District
Work: 504-862-1193
Cell: 504-289-9330

-----Original Message-----
From: David LeBlanc [redacted] >
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 11:49 AM
To: Dixon, Amy A CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA) <Amy.Dixon@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Reply to proposed USACE slidell levee

Please forward for public replies to plan.
I would never support this plan unless it were amended to include all flood prone areas of St Tammany. We live in Lacombe off of Lake Rd. and if this plan were implemented, it would reduce the size of the floodplain and increase the flooding in our area. Protecting one area at the expense of the other taxpaying citizens while requiring them to financially support its maintenance is not a valid plan.
Put floodgates at the Rigolets and solve the problem once and for all. Keep the surge out of Lake Pontchartrain and all these intermediate levees become unnecessary.
Just my opinion.

David LeBlanc

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: deb lombard <[redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 11:57 AM
To: Sttammanyfs; deb lombard; Jessica Dandridge; Rebecca Malpass; Debra Lombard
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Public Comments due today on USACE Flood Prevention Study

Hello USACE,

My comments below are based on me being a Civil Engineer EI and being the 1st St. Tammany Parish Project Manager on the 31 mile long Tammany Trace Project.

Are permeable paving parking lots required for all new commercial projects over 2000 SF? If not, that should be required in all areas in south 1/2 of st. Tammany parish including all towns too similar, but needs to be more stringent, than whats required in Orleans Parish. The biggest two problems in STP today in order is the flooding and congested roads.

Thank you!
Debra Lombard, EIT LEED AP

[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Don or ChrisAnn McKinney [redacted] >
Sent: Friday, September 1, 2023 6:05 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comment Re: JULY 2023 Revised Draft St. Tammany Parish Integrated Feasibility Report & Environmental Impact Statement

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing to you after reviewing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's JULY 2023 Revised Draft St. Tammany Parish Integrated Feasibility Report & Environmental Impact Statement.

We are residents of St. Tammany Parish and live in Slidell, LA in the Turtle Creek neighborhood off of Military Road. Our home address is referenced below.

We are very concerned that this proposed flood protection project **1) <u>will not protect our house and our neighbors' houses in the Turtle Creek neighborhood and</u> 2) <u>could increase the risk for flooding and the loss of property in our area</u>**. As of this date, there are currently 323 homes in the Turtle Creek neighborhood with 88 additional homes to be built in our subdivision in the next development phase. We have lived in our home for 23 years and have never flooded. However, there were homes in the Turtle Creek neighborhood that did flood during Hurricane Katrina so the neighborhood is very susceptible to flooding. If the flood wall is built as proposed, the Turtle Creek subdivision along with several other subdivisions, the two public elementary schools (Cypress Cove and Honey Island), and numerous businesses off of Military Road will be on the wrong side of the flood wall and outside the protected area. As a result, we fear if the proposed flood wall is built that during a hurricane/tropical storm there will be an increased risk for flooding as more water will flow towards us than before the flood wall was built.

We are also very concerned if this proposed project is implemented, we **3) <u>will experience a significant decrease in our home's market value and an increase in our flood insurance premiums</u>**.

<u>In summary, we think this proposed project will cause more harm. Please reconsider.</u>

Sincerely,

Don & ChrisAnn McKinney
[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Deborah Roberts [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 8:53 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Levee

To who it may concern,

I am writing to talk about the levees that they are talking about adding to St Tammany and how the neighborhood I live in will suffer. We already have the biggest water issue in slidell and now you want to add a levee that would not project us. Do you realize how many already suffering people would suffer in more. Most are loving on a fixed income and can not afford to do up grades. With property taxes going up and homeowners prices going up how can we keep afford to live. We need someone to stand up for what is right. Please lives and homes will be in danger.

Deborah Roberts
Rodan+Fields Consultant

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Darla Socarras [redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 6:08 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Levee inquiry Slidell

Hello.

I am a current home owner in Slidell and would more information as to why my home would not be included in the proposed levee.

I live at [redacted]. I have lived here for 12 years. We are an AE flood zone. My rates for FEMA have increased significantly…about 1200 dollars a year for flood insurance alone.

We need to be protected as well and cannot afford to be outside of the levee. Please send your information on my area and why I would not be included.

Thank you
[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Elizabeth Brennan [redacted] >
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 6:03 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Proposed Levee - Slidell/Eastern St. Tammany Parish

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my concerns over the proposed levee system affecting Eastern St. Tammany Parish/Slidell. It seems this levee will benefit some and hurt others. The determination as to what properties will remain outside the levee system seems unfair as all will be paying for the levee via taxes.

As a homeowner outside the levee whose property is literally located six houses away from the proposed wall, I have no doubt my property value will be severely deflated while my flood insurance will increase significantly.

Reconsideration should be given to include more residential and commercial areas, especially on the eastern end of Gause Boulevard, eastern end of Fremaux and areas around Military Road. If these areas remain excluded, the property values will decline and the tax basis for the parish will decrease thus hurting everyone within the parish.

Again, I beg you to please consider EVERYONE when making your final decision.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Brennan
[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: erin [redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 9:56 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Cc: Anthony Evett; Jennymreed [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Tentatively Planned Slidell Levee

To Whom It May Concern (Army Corps of Engineers/ Ms. Amy Dixon):

My name is **Erin Evett**, I live at [redacted].

I have lived in my home for 14 years.

I want to make sure that I am on public record with the federal government with regard to this project.

I have the following questions that I do not believe have been addressed... I have the following concerns: This will severely increase our risk of flooding! We flooded twice recently - (TS Claudette and Hurrincane Ida). We applied for the elevation grant and have not been approved.

I have the following requests of the federal government: Please reconsider the plan! This will put ours, as well as all of our surrounding neighbors' properties, in jeopardy.

Thank you, Erin Evett

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Emerson Loga [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 2, 2023 2:28 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Concern regarding St. Tammany Parish Levee project

Dear Ms. Amy Dixon

My name is Emerson P. Loga IV. I am a current resident of [redacted] subdivision. My address is [redacted], Slidell, LA 70461. I am writing this email to express my concerts with the St. Tammany Levee Project. The large number of homes excluded from levee protection concerns me. I do not wish for the value of my property to decrease. Also, I am worried about the negative impact this will cause me financially due to the possible increase in cost of my flood insurance.

I would like USACE to consider one of the alternative plans which include protections for the homes west of Military road.

Regards,

Emerson Loga

[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Ehren Malone [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 3, 2023 11:27 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Cc: JennyMReed [redacted]
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] St Tammany Levee

Hello,
I am writing regarding the proposed levee in St Tammany Parish—specifically Slidell. I live near Military Road. My husband and I just built a beautiful wheelchair accessible home in The Landings (he is a wheelchair user). I am very concerned about my area of town being excluded from the levee plan. This is will increase the chance that our neighborhood would flood (the water has to go somewhere if it is deterred by a wall). Here are the potential impacts to our family:

1. If our home were to flood, it would be VERY difficult for us to relocate during repairs —we searched for a wheelchair accessible rental when we built this house and were not able to find any.
2. Elevating our home is not feasible. Of course, there are options for a ramp or elevator, but both options make my husband less independent and would cause a financial burden for upkeep.
3. I'm concerned about the financial impacts to us with the shift in our property value and flood insurance.
4. My daughter's school will also be in an area outside of the flood protection. This is quite concerning to me that if we had a flood event we would be displaced and so would the school operations.

I know that when you are dealing with a massive situation such as this, you must make difficult decisions, but please consider all of the tax-paying families who will shoulder the burden of this decision. Thank you for your time

Ehren Malone

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Elizabeth Sleeper <[redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 12:44 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Slidell Levee

Hello,

I am writing out of serious concern for the levee plans in Slidell. The current plan has our home just outside the levee. It will leave our home at greater risk of flood damage and make acquiring and affording home owners insurance nearly impossible. My husband and I purchased our home two years ago. We were first time homebuyers and relocated from San Diego to raise our family in our dream home. We have four children at home. Two of which are special needs. We are also foster parents. The current levee plans could seriously effect our ability to keep our home. It wouldn't just be a matter of moving for us. It would massively effect our childrens lives. Occupational therapy, speech therapy, behavioral health, Autism, psychologists, schools. Please consider other options.
Thank you,
Elizabeth Sleeper
[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Frank Maggio [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 12:59 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Levee Plan for Slidell area

I attended the St. Tammany Levee Distric's initial meeting on this subject about 3 years ago and again the one last Wednesday where they discussed the ACOE flood protection plan for the south Slidell area. Their proposed plan did not change significantly in that time, Although, they did do several feasibility studies during that time. Unfortunately, the reality of living in the Military Road area of Slidell is that the current belief of the various parties studying the issue of flooding in our area is that any affordable plan for levee construction to protect those of us in a Military Road Subdivision, would also destroy the wetlands. So, we are forced to decide on a plan spending billions of federal dollars to protect areas further north and west of us. We will indirectly benefit by having the City of Slidell, businesses, friends and relatives that are inside the levee, protected. However, not only will we not directly benefit from this plan, but we will be harmed in several ways.

1) The plan expects those who live outside of the levee system to flood more frequently and at higher levels.
2) We would have to expect our property values to drop as a result of this.
3) We would have to expect insurance rates to increase as a result of this.
4) The cost benefit analysis that what done, and is the basis for the ACOE's decision to move forward, only included the cost of constructing the levee system and did not consider the cost of #2 and #3 above (since it is not coming out of their funding) and it did not consider the full cost to mitigate those residents and businesses left out of the levee protection system through buy-outs, home and business structure elevations, waterproofing structures, etc. (which at this point is understated in the ACOE plan (6,500 out of 28,000 structures), and we would have to find funding for it elsewhere for the structures that are left out)
5) We should expect St. Tammany taxes to go up in order to pay for the maintenance and repair of the new levee system, which will be turned over to the parish.

I wish I could support this plan because I would like to see those people in the protected areas benefit, but the cost to those thousands of residents who are left out is just too much. I am against supporting this plan.

Frank Maggio
[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Gayle Klein <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 10:17 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] "RE: St. Tammany levee proposal"

10:16 AM Tue Sep 5

Aa

September 2, 20

RE: St. Tammany levee proposal

ATTN: Ms. Amy Dixon

Dear Ms. Dixon,

My name is Gayle Klein and I live at
resided in this house for 30 years. I ha
and have many concerns about it. As
some of Slidell/St. Tammany areas but

Sent from my iPad

On Sep 5, 2023, at 7:34 AM, Sttammanyfs <sttammanyfs@usace.army.mil> wrote:

Ms. Klein,

I am unable to open the link provided. Is it possible for you to copy and past into a reply to this email? Thank you,

Amy Dixon
Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District
Work: 504-862-1193
Cell: 504-289-9330

From: Gayle Klein <[redacted]>
Sent: Saturday, September 2, 2023 8:31 AM
To: Sttammanyfs <sttammanyfs@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] "RE: St. Tammany levee proposal"

Open my shared note:

RE: St. Tammany levee proposal
Notes

Sent from my iPad

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Gayle Klein [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 2, 2023 8:31 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] "RE: St. Tammany levee proposal"

Open my shared note:

RE: St. Tammany levee proposal
Notes

Sent from my iPad

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Adele Graham <[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 1, 2023 5:15 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] STORM PLAN

THE PLAN LOOKS GOOD EXCEPT FOR THE EXTENDED TIME DUE TO BUDGET CONSTRAINTS, WE LIVE ON THE RIVER SIDE OF SOUTH MILITARY ROAD AND CLOSE TO US 190; SO WE ARE INTERESTED IN OURS FIRST, NATURALLY. THE PLAN RIGHTLY POINTS OUT THAT NO ONE IS COMPLY COVERED UNTIL IT IS FINISHED,

RICHARD GRAHAM
[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Holli Oatis <[redacted]>
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 4:28 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Levee

I live in Slidell and am completely against the levee protection program! It will destroy my neighborhood

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: H Tate [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 2, 2023 8:05 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Cc: Helene Tate; Kimmtate[redacted]
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Public comments RE: ST. TAMMANY PARISH FEASIBILITY STUDY

I attended the public meeting in Slidell, LA on 8/15/23. While there were multiple displays of maps showing potential placement of the proposed levee, there were no maps that showed the 5 potential borrow sites for the required 7,079,000 cubic yards of fill. Additionally, there was no verbal mention of borrow sites in the ACE presentation.
I have reviewed the STP Feasibility Study and have attached copies of pages from that report concerning the borrow sites; specifically the expansion of borrow site STP-9, Robert Road Detention Pond, which borders my home and property. I respectfully request to be contacted and provided more sufficient information prior to the October 2023 finalized report.

Thank you,
Helene Holmes Tate
[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Judy Heinrich [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 6:47 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Levee by Holiday Acres and French Branch subdivisions in Slidell, Louisiana

Attn: Amy Dixon

This is Frank and Judy Heinrich / [redacted] Slidell, LA 70461 / [redacted]. We oppose the levee.

Thank you.

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: jojo [redacted] >
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 11:53 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Levee/Wall??

After writing & rereading this letter, I came back to add … please forgive my feelings showing through in this letter – if you put yourself in my shoes, I think you can understand why I am upset.

My name is Joanne Astredo and I own the property at 125 Rue Holiday in French Branch. This has been my home since August 2003 when my children were 13, 12 & 6. Less than 18 months after we moved here, my daughter was diagnosed with Leukemia and went through 2 ½ years of chemotherapy, then fought (and is still living with) avascular necrosis due to side effects from the chemo. Shortly after all of this, I divorced. My daughter did not want to leave the home where she went through so much and the wonderful people that have supported us throughout her treatment. She knew I could not afford the house on my own and she offered to help financially. With her help and the fact that we had never flooded, not even for Katrina (which was during my daughter's chemo treatment) I managed a way to buy out my ex so we could stay in the home and area we love.

Now I hear about a levee wall. I do realize that hearing things through the grapevine that it is not always accurate, but from what I have heard, the wall will basically go through neighborhoods and my neighborhood will not be protected. I find it hard to believe because I have never heard or seen anywhere a levee wall in a neighborhood, and I can't believe anyone would consider putting a wall in a neighborhood or anywhere near peoples' homes. I am all about protecting peoples' homes and definitely feel for the people that have flooded in the past. I have also heard that we will be taxed to help pay for this levee wall – so basically I will be paying to have my home flood, not to mention we probably will not be able to afford flood insurance if anyone will even insure us.

I've also heard there may be assistance to raise our homes. I did not buy a raised or multi-level home because I planned to live out my life here and I did not want to deal with stairs. Plus, I've heard we will need to bring our homes to current code in order to get this assistance and this is not something I can afford to do. My partner and I own 2 businesses and were beginning to get to where we weren't robbing Peter to pay Paul until Covid hit. With the debt we are in, including 2 SBA loans, we probably can't even get SBA loans. We are bringing money into Slidell and St Tammany between 2 occupancy licenses we are paying due to having a home office for 2 businesses (one business was primarily in NO but Ida flooded that office and insurance has yet to pay for damage), as will sales tax we bring in for 5 fireworks locations (and we are continuously looking for new locations in the area). There are several other businesses and some of the best schools around that will be left out of this current plan I am just recently hearing about.

I'm sure there must be other options. I heard something about the railroad line – wouldn't this also improve the railroad? If so, wouldn't the railroad assist financially? Has this even been considered?

I'm already high anxiety and this surely is not helping. I have also heard this has been in the plans for several years. Why haven't we been notified? Why are we just now hearing about it? Some are saying it is a done deal. How can it be a done deal when so many people that are being negatively impacted still do not know exactly what is going on?

Last thoughts – please put yourself in our shoes and consider other options such as the railroad.

On my knees!!
Joanne Astredo

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: JennyBrennan [redacted] >
Sent: Wednesday, August 30, 2023 12:39 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Cc: Jenny Brennan; Ronnie Brennan
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Levee

I am a home owner off of Indian Village! I feel that I have no representation in this matter! I feel that we are being discriminated against because we are being left out of the levee plans ! We pay the most taxes in the state but yet are being left out of adequate protection of storm surge and in turn after the levee is built the burden of ALL the surge will be on us!!!
I own my home and feel that the value will depreciate!! I do not have the finances to elevate my home! I have already looked into that possibility years ago!
I do not understand why you are protecting one area and the detriment of another!

Sincerely, Home Owner, Tax Payer,
Jenny Brennan
Sent from my iPhone

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Jena Castaing [redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 2:15 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Concerns about the Proposed St Tammany Parish Levee Project

Army Corps of Engineers -New Orleans
7400 Leake Ave
New Orleans, La 70118
C/O Amy Dixon

Ms Dixon,
I am writing this letter along with many other concerned citizens in regards to the Corps proposed Levee project in St Tammany Parish.
We had a meeting with the Levee board this past week in our neighborhood to learn about the plans and were left with several concerns and not many answers. Since then there has been a page created (Good levee for all) to better explain and address issues, gaining many new members daily.
As a home owner in this area, we have valid concerns about what this could do to the value of our homes, insurance rates and general safety.
Our home at 124 Rue Holiday 70461 could be adversely affected in the French Branch Subdivision along with many other homes and subdivisions that would be left out of the Military Rd area. if this happens. We would like to know what other alternative plans are on the table and what studies have been done to back them up? Will there be compensation to all homeowners who are left out of this project that will negatively impact our property values, force us to raise homes, and be in grave danger of flooding?
A perfect example to draw from would be the catastrophic flooding in Laplace caused by the New Orleans flood gate diversion of water.
We would like to know how much money is ear marked for this project, and what would be the proposed millages?
I'm sure I can speak for every homeowner being left out and unprotected, that will strongly oppose any taxes related to this project.

We hope you will seriously consider our concerns along with thousands of other families affected in the Slidell East St Tammany.

Sincerely Yours,
Jena and Scott Castaing
[redacted]

--
[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: John Champaign [redacted] >
Sent: Saturday, September 2, 2023 3:06 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Proposed South/West St Tammany levee protection

I want to voice my opposition to the proposed levee protection for Slidell, it will place many homes and businesses outside the levee protection wall to increased chances of flooding from storms if constructed. Either expand the wall to include a more of the unprotected area or dont build it all.

Thank You

John Champaign
[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Jamie and Tracy Domingues [redacted] >
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 8:36 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Concerns and Recommendations Regarding the St. Tammany Parish Levee Project

Army Corp of Engineers-New Orleans District

C/O Amy Dixon

CEMVN-PMR-C

7400 Leake Ave

New Orleans, LA 70118

Sttammanyfs@usace.army.mil

Subject: Concerns and Recommendations Regarding the St. Tammany Parish Levee Project

Dear Ms. Dixon,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my deep concerns and provide recommendations regarding the St. Tammany Parish Levee Project, specifically concerning the exclusion of my property from its protection. My family and I have resided at this property for 15+ years. We have (and still are) raised our children in this home. As a concerned resident, I believe it is vital to address various issues related to this project to ensure the safety, well-being, and fairness for all members of our community.

1. Accelerate and Improve Fritchie Marsh Restoration

I strongly recommend accelerating and enhancing the ongoing Fritchie Marsh restoration project, as it holds significant potential to reduce storm surge. Proper restoration of the marsh could result in a substantial drop in surge levels, providing some degree of storm surge

protection. You can find detailed information about this project in the source.

2. Collaboration with DOTD and CPRA for Surge Mitigation

I urge you to collaborate with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) and the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) to explore surge mitigation strategies using Hwy 90 and 190 East. A similar study for surge mitigation using Hwy 11 and Lakeshore Drive (Rat's Nest Road) is already underway. The Hwy 190 restoration and bridge replacement project should be activated soon, presenting an opportunity to maximize further reductions in storm surge through structural changes to highway and bridge design.

3. Change Funding Allocation for Residential Protection Strategies

I propose a change in funding allocation language within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) budget. Currently, the focus is primarily on home slab elevation, which may not be the most cost-effective or efficient strategy. I suggest amending the language to allow for a range of residential protection strategies, similar to the options available for businesses. Such a change would align with the USACE study's recommendations and could lead to more effective and affordable solutions for homeowners.

4. Consider Alternative Levee Sites

I request a thorough evaluation of alternative levee sites, including alignments that extend along Hwy 190 and/or Military Road. All proposed alignments currently leave some residents and most schools outside of protection, which raises concerns about the fairness and equity of the project.

5. Collaboration on a Surge Barrier Plan

I strongly recommend joining the Lake Coalition to explore the feasibility of using the CSX

railroad as a surge barrier. This plan has the potential to close five openings, preventing surges of up to 10 feet. While it may require extensive coordination, including involvement at a Cabinet level, it could offer a cost-effective and efficient solution to protect our community.

6. Full Upfront Coverage of Home Elevation Costs

All costs associated with the elevation of homes due to the levee placement and changes in water flow should be covered upfront, as it is unreasonable to expect residents to bear these costs before qualifying for grants. In visiting with my local community the FEMA rules on elevation should be removed.

7. Impact on Local Schools

An assessment of the impact on local schools, particularly those in areas excluded from the levee, must be conducted. The disregard for property, community, and the tax base could have long-term negative consequences for our education system which is directly related to jobs and thus a core responsibility of the army Corp of engineer to address as part of this and any other proposal.

8. Oversight Entity for Funding Allocation:

The creation of an independent entity, separate from St. Tammany Parish and Louisiana, to ensure fair and transparent allocation of project funds, free from potential biases or political influence and diversion of funds to other programs, interests etc.… Funds would be managed for Education, Vocation, Elevation, Relocation, Mitigation, levee maintance etc…

9. Options for Affected Residents:

Total Buyout: Offer a total buyout of property by the federal government, including relocation costs. These buyouts should be fair market value as of 2021 when the project was started.

Offers such as those made for Avery Estates have shown that many will be unable to find new housing, move themselves, elevate their property or secure insurance/funding for new homes if homeowners are not adequately compensated. Additionally addressing this early with homeowners living in their single family homes would prevent unnecessary delays, lawsuits etc… by current residents who've had buy-in to a process that has not been transparent.

10. Moratorium on Building:

Implement a moratorium on all new building in the area and within 50 minutes of the levee to protect existing residents. This would ensure that all monies earmarked for elevation and based on numbers from 2021 should be applied only to homes owned at time of project completion by private homeowners who owned homes a the time of project inception and completion.

11. Local Job Training:

Creation of a training program for Louisiana residents to participate in the levee's construction, providing long-term, family-wage job opportunities that are long term and local hires.

12. Tax Refunds:

Provide tax refunds to homeowners in single-family dwellings outside the levee as compensation for project costs that they will not benefit from.

13. Impact on local healthcare

Creation of a healthcare fund to protect healthcare access to the community that will be impacted by the levee location and changes in access to hospitals and clinics that may be close but with significant changes in roads and community will change.

14. Relocation costs for religious institutions and their congregations

Churches, synagogue, temples must receive funding and help in maintaining traditions, services, and access to their community. Costs should not increase for churches that will be responsible for caring for a community that will be impacted monetarily by the loss of good paying jobs that pay taxes in an area that will be negatively impacted. Additionally, Churches and religious organization spend large sums of money during disaster relief and should be compensated for all money increases that are passed on to them (and their members) for care of their congregations in providing disaster relief, food and labor due to placement of the levee.

15. Compensation to homeowners and small businesses for additional costs of flood insurance

In visiting with our neighbors there are multiple strings attached to FEMA and other money including but not limited to a requirement to hold certain levels of insurance. Many small businesses, start up businesses and home businesses are struggling in this community. With a potential exodus of residents who are well paid and technically advanced (thus able to leave Louisiana) small businesses will be impacted. Compensation must be considered for those businesses who may shutter without the needed customer base which will change with the levee.

Additional Information and Questions for Clarification

To better understand the project and its implications, I kindly request the following information and answers to the following questions:

1. Which Flood Control Act authorizes this levee project, and what are the specific provisions of this act?

2. Has a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review been conducted for this project? If so, what were the findings regarding environmental impacts?

3. What are the engineering standards being used for the levee's construction, and is there

a projected timeline for the project's milestones?

4. What is the projected economic impact of the levee on major local employers, such as military and space complexes?

5. Is there a plan for long-term maintenance of the levee, and who will be responsible for it? It is well known that upkeep is expensive and necessary.

6. How can residents access updates or changes to the project plans to ensure transparency and public input?

7. How/When will St Tammany residents vote on a levee tax? Who will pay for the levee?

8. Has a plan been established for movement or removal of sacred burial sites including family sites and religious or traditional rites? What costs have been set aside for this?

9. Has an evaluation been done on the new representation of taxpayers with this project?

I believe that addressing these concerns and questions will lead to a more equitable and effective levee project that prioritizes the safety and well-being of all residents. I look forward to your response and hope for a constructive dialogue on this matter.

Sincerely,

Tracy Domingues

Sent from Outlook

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Jessica French [redacted] >
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 6:35 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Slidell Levee Project Feedback
Attachments: ArmyCorps 2.pdf

September 6, 2023

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – New Orleans District
c/o Amy Dixon
CEMVN-PMR-C
7400 Leake Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70118
sttammanyfs@usace.army.mil

Dear Ms. Amy Dixon
My name is Jessica M. French. I live at 515 Cross Gates Blvd, Slidell, LA. I have lived in my home for one year. I want to make sure that I am on public record with the federal government with regard to this project.

I have the following questions that I do not believe have been addressed.

1. I live in an area that drains fairly well at the current time. I am no engineer, but it seems to be that putting up a levee to the west of my home would increase the likely hood of flooding. How is creating a problem for a large number of residents fixing the currently non-existent problem?
2. The time frame of gathering public comment is absolutely atrocious. How can you guarantee that affected voices have been heard when no one knows about the possibility of this levee? I am a college-educated individual and I STILL had a very difficult time understanding the scope of this project and exactly how this will affect my home, subdivision, etc.

I have the following concerns

1. This project seems to be creating more problems than it is solving. The levee as proposed will leave out a HUGE portion of East Slidell. This huge portion is a very large tax base. Without the tax base, this project will most certainly destroy the community. It is my understanding that destroying communities is not the goal, but I don't see how the proposed alignment of the levee can do anything but destroy the entire Gause/Military Road area. It is a large, bustling area with numerous schools, subdivisions, retail establishments, medical offices, restaurants, gyms, etc.

I have the following requests of the federal government.

1. TRANSPARENCY. It seems that this was rammed through on a very short time frame with little public awareness. Thank goodness there are citizens on the ground attempting to inform people of this project.
2. I would like better educational materials regarding this project. Like stated above, I am a college-educated individual, but the report is heavily written in jargon, engineering speak. How can the people properly advocate for themselves if no one understands the problem at hand?

Thank you for your time. This is just the tip of the iceberg of my concerns, but there wasn't exactly a great time frame to work with.

Sincerely,
Jessica French, [redacted] Slidell, LA 70461

[redacted]

Attached is a PDF version of this e-mail to include in the public comment

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Judy Jenkins <[redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 8:47 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Levee Wall in Slidell, LA

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed levee wall. I live in French Branch Estates, an area just outside the levee wall and have only recently been made aware of a proposed levee which will impact my home as well as hundreds of other homes, schools, and businesses.

It is my understanding that the levee, if built as it is presented, will result in lost home values and higher insurance rates. The levee will not protect my home; instead, it could cause more flooding in our neighborhoods.

Please reevaluate the proposed levee plans to include protection for hundreds of homes, churches, schools, and businesses in dozens of neighborhoods in Slidell.

Hal and Judy Jenkins
[redacted]
Slidell, LA 70461
[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: James Jones <[redacted]>
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 2:20 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Cc: Jenny Jones
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Slidell Levee Public Feedback - James R Jones

To the Army Corp of Engineers,

I have reviewed your July 2023 St. Tammany Parish Feasibility Study Main Report. I appreciate the balancing of cost vs benefit of the Slidell levee ALT6 proposal. The proposal will protect Sidelle but increases the risk to areas East of the proposed Slidell levee. The current proposal leaves 7,000 parcels at extreme safety and financial risks with ineffective mitigation options. The proposal is unacceptable and puts an unfair burden of East St Tammany citizens in unprotected areas.

The plan unfairly burdens East St Tammany unprotected structures. Eminent Domain policies are offering 50-65% less than property appraisals in Avery Estates . Nonstructure elevation modifications pay for only a portion of the total expenses necessary to restore a property to a functional and aesthetic level equal to that prior to being raised. East St Tammany has very developed structures with brick veneer, landscaping and large structures that make a complete structure elevation project very costly.

Recurrence of even minor flooding will result in immense financial burdens to cover gaps between disaster relief funding and actual restoration costs. Hardships to both the structures and owner's financial liability will result in incomplete restoration of the community. Unprotected areas will become another Lower Nine story if this plan is allowed to proceed.

The levee proposal will all but isolate East St Tammany to financial devastation. This plan must provide homeowners a complete nonstructure elevation modification that will restore the property to its original condition prior to elevation. The plan must compensate for increased flood insurance and property taxes that results from the proposed levee location. Lastly, a documented Eminent Domain policy must be included in the levee plan to protect property values at level prior to levee approval.

Your plan Objective: 4 "Increase community resiliency ….. before, during and after significant rainfall and or coastal event…." has not been achieved for East St Tammany citizens in the current levee proposal. I object to the levee proposal and am extremely offended about the lack of consideration to protecting safety and structures of East St Tammany citizens.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

James R Jones

[redacted]

[redacted]

Slidell, LA 70461.

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Orillion, Jeffrey - OCFO-FMS, New Orleans, LA [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 1, 2023 10:19 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Concerns about Levee planned for Slidell, LA

Amy Dixon,

My name is Jeff Orillion. I live at [redacted] Slidell, LA 70461 in [redacted] e subdivision with my wife Jessica Orillion and our 4 children. We have lived in this house for 8 years.

I am writing to share my concern with the Levee planned for Slidell, LA which appears to exclude my personal residence. I am concerned that the project will not protect my home and will in fact increase the risk for flooding. I am also concerned that the project will negatively impact the value of my home and increase my insurance costs which are already almost unaffordable.

It seems that the project has not been widely publicized and that you are trying to sneak this past residents. I only heard about this alarming news when I was invited to join the Facebook group – Good Levee for All- Slidell/St Tammany Parish.
It appears that I would be responsible for upgrading and raising my home at my own expense. That is ridiculous and unreasonable. If the government decides to jeopardize my safety, my home value, and my insurance protection, then the government needs to pay residents that are negatively impacted.

The public needs more information!

Jeff Orillion
[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Jeffrey Protzel <[redacted]
Sent: Thursday, August 31, 2023 8:19 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] St. Tammany Parish flood protection plan

I am a resident of the [redacted] subdivision in East St. Tammany Parish. I want to submit this public comment against the proposed flood protection plan.

We are being forced to decide on a plan spending billions of federal dollars to protect areas further north and west of my home. We will indirectly benefit by having the City of Slidell, and associated homes and businesses protected that are inside the levee. However, not only will we not directly benefit from this plan, but we will be harmed in several ways.

1) The plan expects those who live outside of the levee system to flood more frequently and at higher levels.
2) We would have to expect our property values to drop as a result of this.
3) We would have to expect insurance rates to increase as a result of this.
4) The cost benefit analysis that was done, and is the basis for the ACOE's decision to move forward, only included the cost of constructing the levee system and did not consider the cost of #2 and #3 above (since it is not coming out of their funding) and it did not consider the full cost to mitigate those residents and businesses left out of the levee protection system through buy-outs, home and business structure elevations, waterproofing structures, etc. (which at this point is understated in the ACOE plan (6,500 out of 28,000 structures), and we would have to find funding for it elsewhere for the structures that are left out.
5) We should expect St. Tammany taxes to go up in order to pay for the maintenance and repair of the new levee system, which will be turned over to the parish.

I do not believe this is an equitable plan for all residents and we should not institute a plan in the interests of getting "something" done, while leaving out a large segment of the population of St. Tammany parish.

Jeff Protzel

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Johnny Rayner [redacted] >
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 8:23 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Levee Inquiry.

So the program will fund the home being raised?

Sent from my iPhone

> On Sep 5, 2023, at 7:29 AM, Sttammanyfs <sttammanyfs@usace.army.mil> wrote:
>
> Good morning Mr. Rayner,
>
> If the St. Tammany Parish Feasibility Study is authorized and funded by Congress, USACE will continue to design the West/South Slidell levee. This does not relate to homes being brought up to code.
>
> If your home is eligible to be raised under the Nonstructural Plan, it will be inspected and be required to meet certain criteria to be raised as a part of the program. Please see the Nonstructural Implementation Plan (Appendix H) page 8 for further information on home eligibility criteria.
> Blockedhttps://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental/NEPA-Compliance-Documents/Bipartisan-Budget-Act-2018-BBA-18/BBA-18-Projects/St-Tammany-Parish-Feasibility-Study/
>
> Thank you,
>
> Amy Dixon
> Project Manager
> U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
> New Orleans District
> Work: 504-862-1193
> Cell: 504-289-9330
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Johnny Rayner [redacted] >
> Sent: Friday, September 1, 2023 2:31 PM
> To: Sttammanyfs <sttammanyfs@usace.army.mil>
> Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Levee Inquiry.
>
> I'm being told of this levee is approved I'll have to raise my home to be up to code. This cant be true?
>
> Sent from my iPhone

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Johnny Rayner [redacted] >
Sent: Friday, September 1, 2023 2:31 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Levee Inquiry.

I'm being told of this levee is approved I'll have to raise my home to be up to code. This cant be true?

Sent from my iPhone

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Jerry Solomon [redacted] >
Sent: Tuesday, August 29, 2023 7:37 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Proposed Northshore Hurricane Protection Levee

I am writing to express my grave concerns with my understanding of the latest plans for the proposed hurricane protection levee that would be constructed on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain. I am a resident of the French Branch Estates subdivision located off of Military Road in Slidell, LA. My understanding of the latest plan would have the levee running essentially E/W between Lacombe and Slidell and then turning north and terminating in the general area of the Gause Blvd. and I-10 interchange. This positioning of the levee would leave thousands of homes, businesses, schools, and other buildings on the east side of I-10 unprotected. It could even increase the flooding potential for these excluded buildings by containing any rising seawater in a significantly smaller area. This seems to be an unwise choice. If the eastward run of the levee were continued a relatively short additional distance and then starting the northward turn at a point that would include most, if not all, of the Slidell-East housing and businesses, very few areas would be excluded. It would seem that taking this route, while it would marginally increase the project cost, it might be less expensive when the additional cost of some of the "other measures" are considered. There will also likely be a significant negative impact on other issues such as flood insurance cost and property resale values for excluded property. Please reconsider this plan and institute revisions that would protect most or all of the residential, municipal, and commercial property on the east side of Slidell. Thanks in advance for your thoughtful consideration of my inquiry.

Jerry Solomon
[redacted]

Sent from Mail for Windows

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Dixon, Amy A CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)
Sent: Thursday, September 7, 2023 6:49 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: FW: public letter stpfs
Attachments: public letter stpfs09-07-2023-061949.pdf

Attached received via USPS

Amy Dixon
Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District
Work: 504-862-1193
Cell: 504-289-9330

-----Original Message-----
From: Amy.Dixon@usace.army.mil <Amy.Dixon@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Thursday, September 7, 2023 6:20 AM
To: Dixon, Amy A CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA) <Amy.Dixon@usace.army.mil>
Subject: public letter stpfs

public letter stpfs

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Kathy Arseneaux <[redacted]>
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 4:38 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source]

Why would you want to flood your votes out???

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Kat Lurver [redacted] >
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 6:22 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Regarding the St. Tammany Parish flood wall in Slidell, LA

To Whom It May Concern,

My husband and I own our home located at [redacted], Slidell, LA [redacted]. This lovely home of ours is a couple of blocks away and outside of the proposed flood wall to be built. Our home is over 6,000 square feet and has never flooded, but surely will once this wall redirects floodwaters back onto our property. Our neighborhood has had some flooding prior, but our home, being on a small ridge, has kept it dry. Our home is worth about $790,000 in the current market. Our real estate taxes and homeowner's insurance costs are hefty. Your floodwall will surely plummet the value of our property, while increasing our insurance costs, and the cost of trying to raise a 2.5 story, >6K sq ft home would be out of reach. How could this plan have gone forward, leaving out such a substantial area of neighborhoods, businesses, medical facilities, and schools? The east side of Slidell has most of the high-end neighborhoods in town, and property values have only gone up in the last 20 years. We have no idea why your plan assumes these huge custom homes would depreciate, when we have yet to see that happen in decades. I have a beautiful home and do not want it to flood, do not want my property value to plummet, do not want my insurance costs to soar further, and do NOT want my tax dollars to pay for a wall that will do HARM to us and our neighbors. Your wall will DESTROY my home!

Please reconsider this plan and include the eastern side of Slidell or revamp the plan altogether to perhaps take a different approach. We have had two major flood events in Slidell that were not included in your models, specifically the 1983 Pearl River Flood Event and the 1995 Extreme Rain Event. These events were devastating to our town and the proposed plan you have would not help, but could potentially hurt us during similar events. All I see are the areas in other parishes where floodwall protections have only caused areas that never flooded to now flood often. I don't understand why you would propose to build a wall right behind my neighborhood and knowingly cause all of our houses to flood. What compensation is the government offering to us for the destruction we will surely endure?

Respectfully,
Kathryn R. Camp

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Kristie Guidry <[redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 7:36 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Concerns Regarding the St. Tammany Parish Levee Project

Army Corp of Engineers-New Orleans District C/O Amy Dixon CEMVN-PMR-C
7400 Leake Ave
New Orleans, LA 70118
Sttammanyfs@usace.army.mil

Dear Ms. Dixon,

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to express my deep concerns regarding the St. Tammany Parish Levee Project, specifically concerning the exclusion of my property from its protection. As a concerned resident, I believe it is vital to address various issues related to this project to ensure the safety, well-being, and fairness for all members of our community.

When I purchased my property in November 2020 it was classified as a Flood Zone C. We specifically searched for homes that were classified as such. After we purchased our home, the FEMA flood maps changed and our flood zone was downgraded. Fast forward another year, and here we are facing a proposed levee project that leaves my largest investment unprotected. This project is going to flood families out of their homes, which have otherwise never flooded. According to the previous owners of this house, we were high and dry for Hurricane Katrina, which was the largest flooding event in this area.

Will FEMA, or some other federal agency, provide full grants to raise our homes above the flood risk level in advance of the completion of this levee? Has anyone thought about the impact to the schools and hospital that will now fall outside of this levee? Where will thousands of children attend school during the years it will take to rebuild these schools from a major flood? My uneducated estimate is that 2 elementary schools, 1 middle school, 1 junior high and 1 high school will be directly impacted by this decision.

I truly hope that this plan will be revisited, and a new plan drawn up that protects all citizens of our community.

Sincerely,
Kristie Guidry
[redacted]
Slidell, LA 70461
[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Karmen Karraker [redacted] >
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 5:16 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Slidell Levee

Hello,
I am writing to voice my concerns over the proposed St. Tammany/Slidell levee. As a resident of [redacted]) my home, along with countless others would be left outside of the levee protection system.
I am worried as to how this will affect flooding in my area. One of the major selling points when I bought my home 2 years ago was that it had never flooded and was zoned X.
Please consider an alternative plan that would benefit all residents.
Thank you,
Karmen Karraker
[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Karen Lamastus [redacted] >
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 9:36 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Proposed levee for Quail Ridge off Military Road in Slidell

My name is KAREN LAMASTUS
My address is [redacted] Slidell, LA 70461 in [redacted] Subdivision.

I would like to state my objection to the proposed levee plan that will put the homes along Military Road outside of protection.

I ardently request that you reconsider this plan and include ALL of the homes within the levee system. We have beautiful homes and pay a great deal of taxes and would greatly appreciate some protection from the hurricanes.

Thank you
Karen Lamastus

Sent from my iPhone

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Kristy Neal [redacted] >
Sent: Friday, September 1, 2023 12:35 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Proposed Slidell project

I am writing today with concerns about the levee proposals in my area.

I am greatly concerned that the proposed levees will not protect all of the homes in the area. This will make flooding in my area more prevalent. My neighbors and I live in homes which flooded twice in 2021. We are already so vulnerable to flooding that anything that will make flooding worse in this area is a grave concern for us. I don't understand this plan. It doesn't seem to do anything to help protect the most vulnerable in the area. The Corp's job is to protect people, I thought, not increase the chances of our flooding. What will we do? Our homes will be worth absolutely nothing. We have worked hard all of our lives to be able to have a nice home, and this proposal really scares us.
I thank you for your time in reading this,
Kristy Neal
[redacted]
Slidell, LA 70461

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Kim Tate <[redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 3, 2023 3:27 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Cc: Helene Tate; Kim Tate
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Public Comments Regarding STP Feasibility Study

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Kim Tate and I own the home/property located at [redacted] in Slidell, La [redacted]. My property line abuts the Robert Road Detention Pond, also known as STP-9. I have plans to build an outdoor kitchen and equipment shelter near my property line. Please contact me and let me know if the enlargement of the Robert Road Detention Pond will interfere with my plans. I can be reached via email (kimmtate@hotmail.com) or mobile phone ([redacted]).

Respectfully submitted,

Kim H Tate

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Kathleen Wilkin [redacted] >
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 6:27 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Objection to Levee in Slidell

Please accept my objection to the proposed Slidell levee. It will push flood waters into the Military Road subdivisions flooding thousands of homes. It will devastate our schools, commerce and properties. Please re-evaluate the proposed plan.

Kathleen Wilkin
[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: kmz5151 [redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 5:16 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Levee Project concerns about St Tammany

To Whom It May Concern:

I am requesting a thorough evaluation of alternative levee sites along Hwy 190 and Military Rd. According to proposed levee sites, many residents are left outside of the levee protection. This appears to be a dangerous situation in view of possible flooding during heavy rainstorms and hurricanes. These homes should be protected as much as the others. Please consider reevaluating the proposed levee sites. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Kathy Zweifel
[redacted] Slidell

Sent from my Galaxy

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Lisa Aldridge [redacted] >
Sent: Friday, September 1, 2023 4:27 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Cc: Apple Apple
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Proposed Levee System for St. Tammany Parish

To Whom It May Concern:

I live in a subdivision off of Military Road and am not included in the proposed levee system. My address is [redacted] Slidell, LA 70461.

I am very concerned that the proposed corps project will negatively impact my home and my neighbors' homes as the location of the levee will cause water to be deferred from protected neighborhoods and flow into our neighborhood. Since the job of the corps is to protect all of the people and this proposal does not protect all of the people, I feel the decisions made concerning locations of the levee are unjust and unfair. The proposed levee and flood wall alignments will cause flooding in our area.

I do not understand nor agree with the proposal concerning the levee system where a large portion of the city will be left out of the system. I am a tax payer of the parish yet I will not benefit from the taxes paid towards the enhancement of current levees and building of new levees. I have lived in Slidell all of my life and would hate to have to move because of the location of the levees and the increase risk for flooding in my neighborhood. I feel certain if this plan comes to fruition I will be forced to move. And I also feel strongly that my home value, along with all others in my neighborhood, will decrease significantly in value. I do not see how your decisions made about the levee will protect me and my ability to stay in my home and in my neighborhood. This is not an example of the corps protecting the people.

Sincerely,

Lisa K Aldridge

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: LOUIS CAULEY <[redacted]t>
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 12:30 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attention Amy Dixon

Dear Ms. Dixon,

My name is Peggy Cauley. I have lived at [redacted] Slidell, La. 70461 for 40+ years. Learning about the levee has left me broken. My husband and I are elderly. He is disable. At a time where we should be enjoying the fruits of our labor, we now wonder, "Where are we going to go? What are we going to do?" How sad it is to know that only some of the people of St. Tammany Parish matter. Currently we get about 21/2 foot of water during a storm. What is the projected height of the flood water going to be after the levee is built? I live in a modest home. Currently my homeowners/flood insurance is around $6,600. How much will it increase? What adds insults to injury in not knowing about the levee until after the fact. Why wasn't we informed? How ironic it is to know that the residents of Avery Estates aren't allowed to get fill dirt due to concern of flooding our neighbors, but the parish is constantly approving projects that results in flooding our neighborhood.

Sadly,.
Peggy Cauley

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: LOUIS CAULEY [redacted] >
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 8:07 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Levee

My name is Peggy Cauley. I reside at [redacted] Slidell, La. [redacted]. I have lived at this address for 40 years. I strongly oppose the levee! The levee with no only cause hardships to those outside the levee protection, it will place people's lives in danger. -- Prove me wrong.

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Lisa Eaton [redacted] >
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 12:31 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Amy Dixon

I live in Slidell Louisiana of military Road and none of us are protected from y'all so-called levee protection plan. We are a flood zone and my neighbors insurance just went up $1000 on her mortgage every month. This is not OK with y'all are trying to do and excluding most of district 13

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Lana Houlihan <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 2:38 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Proposed Levee concerns

Good Day,

I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to a levee in Slidell, Louisiana. I am a lifelong resident of Slidell, Louisiana. Thru my adult years I have prided myself in protecting and cherishing our unique and prized ecosystem, culture and community. In addition to being an Administrative Coordinator at our local hospital, I am a charter and recreational fisherman. It is without question, obvious that a levee would have countless detrimental effects on our delicate ecosystem and economy. Restricting natural waterways will impact the seafood industry, our swamp and marsh lands. This is what we are known for.

I am one of over 25,000 homes that will be excluded from the levees protection. A levee of such will lead to sky rocketing insurance rates due to an increased risk of flooding. Keep into mind, my insurance has increased from $3200 a year to $11,800 over the past couple of years as it is. I could only imagine how my homes value will dramatically decrease should this levee proposal become active. Home owners such as myself are already struggling to pay an inflated and unfair increased insurance rates.

Businesses, schools, churches and religious sites will also be at an increased risk of flooding when a levee is erected. How can anyone think this is fair or logical?

It is my understanding that my tax dollars will be spent to erect and maintain this levee. How will I be compensated and will I be compensated fairly?

The St. Tammany levee board discreetly held 2 public meeting that were not publicized effectively. Residents were not given the opportunity to fairly object to this levee. It is only thru word of mouth and social media that this proposal came to light which prompted people to reach out. I attended one of the two meeting and at the meeting no one mentioned that we could express opposition. I found out by searching on your website that I could express concerns via email.

YOUR “project goals” to “reduce the severity of flood damages and risk to public health and safety” contradict just what a levee would do to District 13 residents and all those outside of the levee parameter. A levee will increase the severity of flood damages and risk to public health and safety. Hurricane Katrina was a

Our homes, culture, ecosystem and way of life are worth CONSERVING. We knew the risk of flooding when we moved into a flood zone, what we did not anticipate was an astronomical inflated insurance rate and a compounded risk of flooding with the construction of a levee. It is absurd to implement what some see as detrimental 18 years AFTER the fact…Katrina.

For the sake of all those to be impacted, I kindly ask you to reallocate the funds to coastal protection.

Lana Houlihan
[redacted]

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This electronic message, including any attachments, is intended to be privileged and confidential information for the sole use of the intended recipient. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you have received this electronic mail transmission in error, notify the sender by reply e-mail and delete all copies from your system. Any personal comments may not necessarily reflect the views of Slidell Memorial Hospital.

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Wondèr Travel [redacted] >
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 10:37 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Proposed Levee

To:The Head of the Slidell Levee project.

Excuse my ignorance. Not knowing the proper person to address our concerns. Only information being posted on social media is by my neighbors and many residents of St. Tammany parish. These residents have names and they use them..

The glaring fact is this doesn't. To me a glaring show of disrespect to evey taxpayers and homeowners in the mapped area set for this levee plan. There isn't concise information nor has the trust been established that is imperative before a project of this size is underway. ..
The plans with its demand of certain stipulations and added expectations & requirements to raise homes at homeowners expense is incredulous.
These actions will cause severe financial hardship to 1000's of homeowners. Many of these homes currently aren't in a flood zone nor an area that floods. The current information as it' written will impose extar taxes plus extar homeowners cost to raise their home with the staggering high cost of flood and homeowners insurance this is . Our state's leadership has failed to fight for homeowners fair insurance cost. Our parish government has allowed poorly designed development without proper drainage that causes more street flooding. The levee plan seems like a blind. With another plan not disclosed to taxpayers vote. We want more solid information. And the funds to raise our homes have to be accounted into the leeve buget. Facts please. .

Lola Huelster
[redacted] Slidell, LA 7[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Liz [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 9:23 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Proposed levee for Slidell, La/ St. Tammany parish

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – New Orleans District c/o Amy Dixon CEMVN-PMR-C
7400 Leake Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70118

sttammanyfs@usace.army.mil

Dear Ms. Amy Dixon

My name is Elizabeth Stoltz, my husband is Darryl Stoltz, We live at [redacted] es subdivision off of East Gauze. I have lived in my home since June 2004 when we moved back home from Houston, Texas. I want to make sure that I am on public record with the federal government with regard to this project.

I have the following questions that I do not believe have been addressed or if addressed Awww seems to have been concluded with old or incomplete information.

I have the following concerns and many more which my husband and I would like answered. We would like another meeting face to face with all involved in the decision to build this levee and exclude us. Also we would like clear updated answers and proof that this levee will not hurt or change our environment in any way.

I have the following comments and requests of the federal government.

Very scary. I bought my house because of the flood plain it was in, the businesses nearby, doctors offices, large hospital etc. I was careful to consider all things before we bought our home. Now unbeknownst to us, this plan has been put into place to hurt those of us outside of the levee. This decision was supposed to make sure it would not hurt the environment or the people outside of this proposed levee. But instead, I have not seen anything yet that can assure us on the outside of the planned levee that we will not be hurt by this levee instead. Whole neighborhood houses will have to be raised at our expense first to bring anything to code before being raised and after to actually get it raised. This will in turn call for lots of changes in pipes and sewer, electrical wiring, gas lines etc etc etc. One change causes another change and it doesn't seem like much thought was given to this. Plus the fact that our neighborhood would COMPLETELY change as far as esthetics and usable land for growing our own food etc. I bought my house in my neighborhood because I liked the neighborhood feel. I didn't want a raised house area. Not to mention the fact that some if us weren't even approved to be raised. So shall we sit and wait for the water to come around that levee to us?
Who is going to pay for my raised flood insurance or the fact that I might eventually not even be able to get any at all? I didn't ask for this problem either and yet it becomes my problem? Who is going to pay to compensate me for my now much lowered property value as my whole neighborhood is being forced into a situation for which we didn't ask for.
What studies have been done on water flow around this proposed levee as far as damages now caused to the "outside " areas? What changes will be caused to the environment, marshes, bayous, waterways, and the birds and animals who live there? Will there be damage to native trees, plants etc as a result of this levee? How will it affect how the wild animals move from one area to another? Will they be shut off from food and water? Will the levee system affect fishing, crabbing or shrimping in the area? If the engineers are wrong and the "outside" areas /homes are flooded as a direct result of the levee, will the people who live there be bought out at prices before the levee was proposed as I am hearing talk that property value has already been affected/lowered in outside areas. Because if people are looking for a home they certainly are not going to buy a home in a

possible flood area caused by a levee. We have all seen other places where levees have caused significant flooding in the outside areas.

Who will compensate businesses? How will churches/faith formations be compensated? Where will people go to the doctor or hospital, get their meds, shop for groceries, or send their kids to school if they are flooded on the outside!!

I am proposing these questions and muchhhh more!!!!

We would like to speak to all involved in decision/law/plan making. Please give us all a chance to do that before the decision is made. We have these questions and many more.

Respectfully,

Elizabeth and Darryl Stoltz

[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Adam Bowers <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 1:03 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] ring levee slidell

good afternoon,

I find it very disturbing that a levee will be built to protect all but some of highest value neighborhoods in eastern st tammany parish. we pay property taxes just like anyone inside your proposed levee system. why leave out our neighborhoods and homes? please redraw this levee to include all homes on eastern slidell as it was meant to be.

thanks

--
Adam Bowers
[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Anthony Evett [redacted] >
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 11:35 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Cc: erin
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Tentatively Planned Slidell Levee

To Whom It May Concern (Army Corps of Engineers/ Ms. Amy Dixon):

My name is **Anthony Evett**, I live at [redacted].
Our home is located in a flood-prone area along the French Branch. Our home has recently been designated as a severe repetitive loss property. The parish recently undertook two multimillion-dollar flood mitigation projects along the French Branch to reduce flood impacts in our area. I have concerns that the proposed Slidell Levee project will adversely impact our area rendering the recent French Branch Drainage project improvements useless. The Slidell Levee Project will increase our overall flood risk during hurricane events. Please ensure that the Slidell Levee Project cannot begin or receive federal funding until all impacted properties have been adequately mitigated.

Thank you, Anthony Evett

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Anne Galiano <[redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 5:19 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] St. Tammany Levee Project Concerns

Dear Ms. Dixon,
We are writing to express deep concerns with the proposed levee project. Our property is excluded from the protection of the levee system as proposed. it is vital that issues regarding safety, lives, and property be addressed to ensure fairness to all and especially ensure well-being of our residents.
Upon educating ourselves on the proposed project, we also have several thoughts and recommendations:

1. Full upfront coverage of all home elevation costs. It is not reasonable, feasible, or fair to expect residents to pay out of pocket for these costs while they apply for grants that they may or may not qualify for. The FEMA rules on elevation should be removed.
2. Nearby district schools will also go unprotected with this plan. An assessment on the impact on these large, in demand, public schools must be done. We are shocked this has not been done already. The disregard for the impact on the families, children, education, property, and community is shocking.
3. Options for fair market buyouts for affected residents should be made a priority. Offers made to neighbors in Avery Estates show with such unfair offers make it impossible for them to relocate, elevate, or secure insurance or buy new homes.
4. Compensation for additional costs of flood insurance to homeowners and business owners.
5. Moratorium on building to protect existing residents.
6. Collaborating with DOTD and CPRA for surge mitigation strategies using Hwy 90 and 190 East, to reduce storm surge with structural changes and bridge design.
7. Collaboration with the Lake Coalition to explore a surge barrier plan using the railroad as a surge barrier.
8. Consider alternative levee sites; first by doing a thorough evaluation of alternative levee sites, especially considering persons left outside of levee protection as proposed, as this project has shown to not be fair and equitable to all residents.
9. Provide tax refunds to residents outside of any project from which they will not benefit.

We are certain you are receiving more deatiled letters and requests, so we will keep this short. We area absolutely not in favor of this proposed levee project as it endangers lives and property to those outside of its protection as it is drafted currently.

Please prioritize lives, safety and well-being of the residents, and surely a more equitable and effective levee project could be developed.

We await your response and hope that this matter is addressed immediately for the safety of all.

Sincerely,
Anne & Edward Galiano

[redacted]
Slidell, LA [redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Alan Houlihan [redacted] >
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 8:50 PM
To: Sttammanyfs; [redacted]
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] St Tammany Parish Feasibility Study Levee Project

Army Corp of Engineers - New Orleans District
C/O Amy Dixon
CEMVN-PMR-C
7400 Leake Ave
New Orleans, LA 70118

Dear Ms. Dixon,

The purpose of my communication is to advise you of my opposition to the St Tammany Parish, Louisiana Levee Feasibility Study as it is currently proposed. The goal of the study was to reduce the severity of flood damages and risk to public health and safety, caused by heavy rainfall, riverine flooding, tropical storms and hurricanes. I feel that this proposal has fallen short of its goals for the following two reasons, which I understand to be qualifiers to proceed.

- The USACE plan causes harm to both residents and the natural ecosystem with the introduction of this levee system.
- The Cost / Benefit Analysis of the proposal shows at 2.4. I would like a better understanding of the factors utilized in this equation. This appears to be the economic impact reduction for a disaster scenario. I would like to know what your findings were for the economic downturn of property value for the area outside of the protection system and the overall economic impact would be for cost of insurance and lack of protected infrastructure. I would like to see what the economic impact outside of the levee would be as it correlates to the life of the levee. My opinion is that the economic downturn would be incurred by the residents outside of the levee, not the USACE, which in turn does financial harm to the residents.

I have additional questions for the proposal to spend approximately half of the funds to raise houses.
1) What is the plan for houses that are not up to code to be raised, or are unable to be raised?
2) What is the timeline for completion of raising the houses outside of the levee protection?
I estimated 6500 homes with 7 qualified contractors to complete this task with each contractor completing 3 homes a year to take a total of 309.5 years to raise all of the homes. I am hopeful that I am wrong here - please advise.

Additional concerns -
3) What is the process used when the levee will go over personal property? Will the landowner be compensated, or will they just lose the property?
4) What is the impact for the people inside of the levee in the event of a heavy rain event? For example, the Baton Rouge flood in Aug, 2016 which produced 20+ inches of rain over 4 days and left 75% of homes in total loss. It seems as if the levee designed to protect from storm surge would have opposite effect in a rain event.
5) Can you please detail the cost to maintain the levee over time and where will those funds originate?
6) What is the environmental impact of the proposed levee on the Pearl River Ecosystem? The West Pearl River continues to silt over from lack of flow and is currently incurring a $2.2 million dollar dredging project in St Tammany Parish on a very small segment of it. On top of its natural beauty, it is necessary for drainage for the area outside of the proposed levee and it continues to decline.

Opposed to putting together patchwork of levee systems and being hopeful to add on the them in broken segments at a future date, has surge mitigation been evaluated? It appears that if the CSX railroad were raised on the coastline, that it would act in the same way as a levee, except that it would protect us all and satisfy your requirement to do no harm.

Respectfully,

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Ashlea May [redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 4:23 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] STP Levee Project Concerns

Army Corp of Engineers-New Orleans District
C/O Amy Dixon
CEMVN-PMR-C
7400 Leake Ave
New Orleans, LA 70118

Ms. Dixon,

I am writing this letter to express my concern regarding the St. Tammany Parish Levee Project. I am concerned that the proposed levee will not protect my home or my neighborhood, as I will be outside of levee protection, even though we are Slidell residents. The Corps job is supposed to protect residents, but I am a resident and this does not protect me or my family. I am very worried about being excluded. I don't understand how a levee can be built that leaves entire sections of Slidell's population out, including schools, churches, hospitals, businesses, and neighborhoods. How is this fair or equitable?

If my neighborhood will be impacted adversely, will raising my home be paid for in full by the government, because I sure can't afford to pay for it. If a levee is built I want whoever is building it to raise my house for me, ALL accompanying costs included. How much will this lower the value of my home? How will I be compensated for this? How will this affect my flood and homeowners insurance costs/coverage, which I can barely afford as it is now? Who will cover the increase in costs? What will happen if they will no longer cover my home at all? I would like to know what the Corps will do for me if I have no insurance? What will they do for me if I can no longer live in my house and I can't sell it either? How much will this cost us as taxpayers? Do I not only have to watch the value of everything I hold dear drop, but pay for it out of my own pocket as well?!?!

What studies have been done to show where the water will go now? How much water will now divert to the unprotected areas, like my neighborhood? How much water can I expect in my neighborhood, at my children's schools, at the hospital I use, and the church I go to (all outside the levee)? How will the levee change the environment around it? What effect will it have on wildlife/vegetation, etc?

What about putting a greater emphasis on things like marsh improvements, such as the Fritchie Marsh restoration project? What about alternate levee sites that include ALL of the residents, businesses, schools, etc? What about mailing out information to every household, business, church and school that will be left unprotected that includes what we can expect to happen, when it will happen, how much it will take from us, how much it will cost us, etc?

I appreciate your time and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,
Ashlea and Ryan May
[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: lsu2277[redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 12:55 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Proposed Levee Opposition

I'd like to voice concerns over the proposed levee that will run through Slidell LA/St Tammany Parish. Under the current proposal, my newly purchased home in Turtle Creek along with my childhood home where my mother resides in Quail Ridge will not be protected. In fact, we will be at risk for greater losses during future weather events. I implore you to reconsider this decision and reconfigure this levee to protect the good taxpaying citizens along Military Road. Schools, businesses and beautiful homes are at risk under the current plan. If it must be built, a better contingency for the thousands of citizens needs to be in place to raise the impacted homes, supplement home equity losses and lower the insurance premiums that are bound to increase above the already astronomical levels already in place. Thank you for reconsidering this detrimental plan. I look forward to hearing a better, more inclusive plan in the near future.

Amanda McNeil
[redacted]
Slidell, LA [redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Brian Caruso <[redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 8:04 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Concerns Regarding the St. Tammany Parish Levee Project

Dear Ms. Dixon,

I am writing to express our deep concerns pertaining to the subject project, especially the exclusion of our residence from it's protection and the adverse impacts the project will have on our security.

My wife and I are retired seniors who have resided in our home for 23 years in the [redacted] subdivision on Military Road. While we have maintained flood insurance on our property since it was built, fortunately we have never had to file a flood claim.

However, in its current iteration, the plan would create a significantly enhanced chance of flooding in our subdivision that has never existed before due to waters being channeled from protected areas into unprotected areas such as ours outside the protective levee. Additionally, the value of our home would decrease drastically, and the costs of homeowners and flood insurance would skyrocket. As retired seniors on a fixed income, we cannot afford any of these adverse consequences of the plan. To impose these potential adverse consequences on us and others outside of the protection, while the security of those within is increased, is simply an exceptionally unfair tradeoff which we cannot accept.

For all of the foregoing reasons, we strongly oppose your plan.

Best regards,

Brian Caruso

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Bob <[redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 2, 2023 8:11 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] St Tammany Levee

I want to thank you for everything you are doing. I have been attending these meetings for 2 years. The levee will have a positive effect on our subdivision, [redacted]. It's amazing the negativity coming from the uninformed public. I for one am not one of them. Keep up the good work.
Bob Goodwin
[redacted]
Slidell Louisiana
[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: bettyguillot[redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 3, 2023 7:56 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] A Levy

Greetings , Army Corps,

My name is Betty Guillot. My husband, Don Guillot, and I are Homeowner in [redacted] Subdivision, Slidell, La. My address is [redacted]. Can you tell me if my property is protected from future hurricanes, in your proposed study? Or will we be negatively affected by the proposed levee direction you will be sending the floods. My neighbors are also concerned and talking about the Project leaving out Military Road area. Any information you can send to us would be appreciated. Let me know.

Thank you,

Betty Guillot

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: bonderalia[redacted]t
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 10:31 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Eastern Slidell Levee Project

To Whom this shall concern:

If this project in eastern Slidell moves forward it will harm so many people, including myself and family who will not be within the levee/flood system as it has been drawn up currently. The area that is scheduled to not be included is a huge part of the Slidell/eastern St Tammany community. Many including myself and family will lose the homes and property we have worked hard for everyday. Losing this huge sector of homes, businesses, schools, hospitals, and community agencies will halt financial and community support for the entire Slidell area. This will be felt across our community.

If this project is allowed to proceed, this piece of heaven of a place to live, work and raise a family will no longer exist. I moved into my current home with my family 9 years ago for one huge reason of it had never flooded even during Katrina, and it never has since, there is no doubt in my mind if this project proceeds that my safe haven from floods will be no longer. My husband and I once our kids all graduate within two more years will leave our home we love and move elsewhere and most likely not within Slidell area if his project moves forward.

I urge you to reconsider this project and what it will do to not only the areas outside the wall but the area within the wall that get much financial gain and community support from those that have been left behind in this current plan. I urge you to put as much energy into more natural protection barriers then putting my family and my neighbors in an area outside the protection plan that will no doubt have huge consequences in the numbers it will hurt and the way those hurt will no longer be here to financially support the community within the walls.

Please consider the other options that will not be exclusive and will be in greater interest of the community as a whole.

Thank you,
Bonnie Suckow
[redacted] Subdivision

Sent from my iPhone

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Carmine Costantini [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 9:37 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Cc: Carmine Costantini; Debbie Costantini
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Response to proposed levee St Tammany

I am a life long resident of St Tammany/Slidell.
We currently reside in [redacted] (28 years).
We are currently in flood zone x, which previously was c, flood insurance not required. At no time did our property flood.
The proposed levee is within the Cleco right of way 25ft from our property line. The proposed study would in fact place our home on the Non Protected side of levee.
The exposure to this proposal also places additional subdivisions on the wrong side, Meadowlake, New Cross Gates, Cross Gates, Quail Ridge, Turtle Creek and Honey Island school.
Your proposed drawing shows tie in at Kingspoint levee and crossing over US Hwy 190 connecting into Cleco right of way. This may be the path of least cost but it as I mentioned causes problems to other communities.
I believe what you are trying to achieve is in good faith but the results will cause greater flooding.
If you extended the Kingspoint levee down about 1 mile further east and build the levee near Indian Village Rd closer to the wet lands it would be a better deterrent to prevent flooding without having a negative impact on the previous communities mentioned.
I await your response.
Sincerely,

Carmine/Debra Costantini
[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Craig Flucke [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 1, 2023 1:21 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] St. Tammany Parish Feasibility Study

To whom it may concern,

Another disastrous plan from USACE. Diversions and levees will be the birth of man made disasters and flood events in subdivisions where there has been NO FLOODING to date. One needs to look no further than Laplace, LA for the kind of results eastern Slidell can look forward to from this plan. If it ain't broke, don't fix it. This plan delivers more problems than solutions. Levees to keep water out of areas that don't currently flood will result in trapped water inside the levee system and CAUSE FLOODING. Now along with screwing the home owners outside of the levees, which are some of the most affluent subdivisions in Slidell, you are also screwing the people inside the levees where it currently DOES NOT FLOOD from rivers or lakes or the Gulf. Having been a resident of Slidell for 22 years now I can tell you that the Palm Lake and Bayou Liberty area floods from the lake, not the Military rd area. Leave us out of your plan.

Craig Flucke

[redacted] Subdivision

NEVER FLOODED but I will when you're done.

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: cathy jones [redacted] >
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 2:00 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] proposed levy

I am responding to your proposed flood wall that will have a major impact to two homes that I own in French Branch and Quail Ridge sub divisions. I have endured two floods in French Branch in 2021flood insurance does not pay for the misery that it creates in your life needless to say a disaster such as Katrina with all your personal possessions such as countless children and wedding pictures with relatives whom a deceased. Please use the railroad proposed levy protection wall that has been studied by Loyola which will stimulate growth and prosperity in our region and will not have an impact on our infer structure

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: chrismottinger76[redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 5:03 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Cc: Suzanne Krieger; Bob Menard; christine mottinger
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Corp Letter - concerning Levee on Kellar Road area attached
Attachments: Bayou Paquet and Kellar Rd Levee letter to Corp of Engineers.pdf

To whom it may concern:

Please see the attached letter in support of the levee in my area.

Regards,
Don Mottinger, Jr.
Christine S. Mottinger
[redacted], Slidell, La. [redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Candy Piehet <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 7:30 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Concerns and Recommendations Regarding the St. Tammany Parish Levee Project

Amy Dixon,

Please register my emphatic disapproval of any form of artificial levee that would be constructed along Military Road ostens bly for the purpose of protecting coastal properties. While I agree that protection is needed, a levee system that may be outwardly simple and therefore relatively inexpensive to construct would, in my opinion based on study and observation, cause utterly intolerable disruption on every poss ble level.

Paralyze transport due to the construction equipment in the area while at the same time trying to upgrade (long overdue). Destroy thriving communities, local businesses and tourism industries, and their rising tax bases. Permanently altering the ecosystem for the worse, after first being mired in expenses. Sacrifice properties "for the greater good" to the first major surge with no ability to be recovered due to being uninsurable. Commit to years of negotiations and legal expenses to resolve imminent domain suits with property owners in the path of the dike, as surely as with the expansion project. These are just the first requirements that come to mind with the implementation of this type of proposal.

While this proposal offers some protection to many properties, it leaves a very large proportion completely unprotected and essentially under greater risk than currently assumed. Hidden costs lurk at every turn. Exposure of municipalities can become crippling liabilities.

I urge extreme caution in your planning of our future. The impact of your decisions will be historic and will outlive all of us living today.

Sincerely yours,

Candy Piehet

[redacted]

On Sep 5, 2023, at 12:29 PM, Sttammanyfs <sttammanyfs@usace.army.mil> wrote:

Good afternoon Ms. Piehet,

I am unable to open the attachment. Please try to copy and paste your comments into the body of the email for inclusion into the public comments of the report.

Thank you,

Amy Dixon
Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District
Work: 504-862-1193
Cell: 504-289-9330

From: Candy Piehet <[redacted]>
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 10:25 AM
To: Sttammanyfs <sttammanyfs@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Concerns and Recommendations Regarding the St. Tammany Parish Levee Project

Candy Piehet
Concerned citizen

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Candy Piehet <c[redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 10:25 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Concerns and Recommendations Regarding the St. Tammany Parish Levee Project
Attachments: Concerns and Recommendations Regarding the St. Tammany Parish Levee Project.pages

Candy Piehet
Concerned citizen

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Chenee Roheim <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, September 1, 2023 4:41 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Levee

The St. Tammany Levee District's initial meeting on this subject roughly 3 years ago and again the one last Wednesday where they discussed the ACOE flood protection plan for the south Slidell area. This proposed plan did not change significantly in that time, Although, they did do several feasibility studies during that time. Unfortunately, the reality of living in the Military Road area of Slidell is that the current belief of the various parties studying the issue of flooding in our area is that any affordable plan for levee construction to protect those of us in a Military Road Subdivision, would also destroy the wetlands. So, we are forced to decide on a plan spending billions of federal dollars to protect areas further north and west of us. We will indirectly benefit by having the City of Slidell, businesses, friends and relatives that are inside the levee, protected. However, not only will we not directly benefit from this plan, but WE WILL BE HARMED in several ways.
Our area is one of the few areas that pay the higher taxes in in East St. Tammany! But where is our protection.
1) The plan expects those who live outside of the levee system to flood more frequently and at higher levels.
2) We would have to expect our property values to drop as a result of this. This is NOT something a new widowed person wants to see! WE ARE ONE OF THE AREAS IN EAST ST. TAMMANY PAYING HIGHER TAXES!
3) We would have to expect insurance rates to increase as a result of this. Again not something a new widowed person wants to see!
4) The cost benefit analysis that what was done, and is the basis for the ACOE's decision to move forward, only included the cost of constructing the levee system and did not consider the cost of #2 and #3 above (since it is not coming out of their funding) and it did not consider the full cost to mitigate those residents and businesses left out of the levee protection system through buy-outs, home and business structure elevations, waterproofing structures, etc. (which at this point is understated in the ACOE plan (6,500 out of 28,000 structures), and we would have to find funding for it elsewhere for the structures that are left out)
5) We should expect St. Tammany taxes to go up in order to pay for the maintenance and repair of the new levee system, which will be turned over to the parish. Will the parish place these funds where they need to be placed. Will we end up like Orleans Parish ie Lakeview?

As a young widowed person with two children it is again something, I don't want to hear: TAX INCREASE

I wish I could support this plan because I would like to see those people in the protected areas benefit, but the cost to those thousands of residents who are left out is just too much. I am against supporting this plan.

Thank you
CCRoheim

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Tipton, Cameron P. [redacted] >
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 3:18 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Cc: Jabbia, Frank J.
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comment on Revised Draft Integrated Feasibility Report St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana

Importance: High

Please accept this email as a comment and request for information concerning the proposed "Optimized TSP (Tentatively Selected Plan) " for St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana dated July 2023.

While we appreciate that it appears that considerable research and study has occurred to determine the location of the proposed TSP, the proposed structures obviously do not include all areas of Slidell, LA.

Was study made as to what affect the proposed system of structures including floodwalls and levees will have on the areas remaining outside of the proposed protected area; Will flooding potential be more likely in those areas with the addition of the proposed structures?

Also, was the location of public facilities such as schools reviewed when determining the location of the proposed TSP? Will schools outside of the system of structures receive any assistance with flood-proofing?

Sincerely,

Cameron Tipton
[redacted]

STPPS adheres to the equal opportunity provisions of federal and civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, or disability.

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Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Diane Calico <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 10:52 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Flood protection plan

I feel not being included in the flood protection plan can cause harm to us and the two nearby schools. The adjacent subdivision, La Chenier has only elderly residents which can cause them great harm.
Sent from my iPhone

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Deborah Carlson [redacted] >
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 1:59 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Cc: Deb Carlson
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Levee in East St. Tammany Parsh

Deborah & Steven Carlson
[redacted]
SLIDELL LA [redacted]
[redacted]

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers- New Orleans District Attn: Ms. Amy Dixon CEMVN-PMR-C
7400 Leake Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70118

I attended a meeting a few years ago regarding the flooding on this side of the parish and remember an exchange I had with a parish employee that told me we did not have a flooding issue in our area, River Oaks at Holly Ridge, because there were no flood claims after the 2016 flood event nor Hurricane Issac. The fact that there are no flood claims is not indicative of there not being a flooding problem. During Hurricane Isaac, the 2016 Flood event and Hurricane Ida we were water locked into our homes and neighborhood. All of the streets in and out were flooded and our homes were like little islands in the area. These homes were built based on the Elevation rules in place in 2004 and now that has been changed by the Army Corp of Engineers yet I cannot see that any of that information has been considered in this plan. Why are we left out of the plan along with the Military Road area including Cypress Cove and Honey Island? I have so many questions.

We moved here from East Moline, IL an area known as the Quad Cities, which is located beside the Mississippi River, (there is a Corp of Engineers office in Rock Island, IL, part of the Quad Cities). The Mississippi River has a long history of flooding and many cities along the way have built levees and then areas nearby that had not had a flooding issue suddenly have a problem during the next flood event. (Steven is a career Fire Fighter/Emergency Disaster Director and Emergency Preparedness Director, we have seen some flooding living along the Mississippi in Illinois.) Developers come in and are allowed to fill in low lying and wetland areas as long as they replace it with a similar area nearby, this does not historically work because the natural flow of water is being altered and now it flows to an area not previously having water issues based on water always seeking the lowest and easiest point. The computer generated models do not seem to take into consideration on what will happen to all the water flow with the levees in place. Where will it have a tendency to go based on the elevation levels and the directions the canals flow or do not flow in the case of a surge from Lake Ponchartrain? When the Pearl floods what will happen? What about the project in Jackson MS, if that proceeds there will be many more problems in this area.

I have heard it discussed that those left out of the plan would have their homes raised, what if they cannot be raised? How can you compensate us for loss of value on our homes when the insurance rates will change based on the levee location. Who will make sure that proper compensation happens based on values now before the levee? What if what you say is proper compensation and the actual sale price of the property after the levee are vastly different? Are you going to enter into a legal and binding contract with all of us to raise our homes or pay for loss of value? Will the government fund this project to pay for our homes to be raised or is there the potential to not fund that part? How are we to trust this when this study has left out so many areas in the process and decision?

The Parish had the ability to alert all of the home owners this process was happening yet they chose not to, the information could have been provided to you as well, we receive mail from the Parish thru the post office when they want to communicate something to us. This makes me wonder why no communication? The locals have information on their specific area that might not be known by those behind a desk on the opposite side of the parish. We know where the water is pushing in from and where it goes when it leaves based on Pearl River flooding or surge pushing in, insurance claims do not tell the whole story!

Levees are always a hot topic and engineers want to solve problems. Some problem solving creates even more problems and leaving out information to make the model fit what one entity wants to happen is not good problem solving. I do not wish to see this plan to proceed as written at this point, there needs to be more information provided with concrete proof of the governments commitment to follow thru with promises. The parish has allowed the development in these areas to occur, collect the taxes and now are pulling the rug out from under us or land so to speak.

Sincerely,

Deborah Carlson
[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: ddoug44986[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 1, 2023 2:23 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Proposed flood protection plan for St Tammany

Dear Sirs,

I reside in [redacted] subdivision, Slidell, LA in the Parish of St Tammany. The way I understand the current revised plan, I would not be protected by the project. I live too close to the West Pearl and I ask that you reconsider plans for East Slidell to include subdivisions along the Military Road in Slidell.

I did flood for Hurricane Katrina, although it was only a few inches. I do not want to do that again!

Diane Douglas
[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Dana Foret <[redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 6:02 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Levee

Good afternoon I'm writing a letter for the levee.
I live on the corner of your pond, and I would like to know what actually will happen to my house since it's like right here. I'm not happy with the situation of a big wall coming up between my house.
I am opposed

Dana Kollatt

[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Dorothy Fulton [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 2:17 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Levee Project

I have just found out about this project today ... I would like to know my personal impact as it looks like I will fall outside the Levee borders. I have tried to understand the material. Please advise me what steps this would cause me to take. Would I have to raise my home? I live in a neighborhood named The Landings. The address of my home is [redacted]. Slidell.

I do not want this project to move forward as I purchased it at this location for the Flood Zone C area. There has NOT been enough communication about this project.

Dorothy Fulton

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Dorothy Greene [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 7:58 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Cc: Tim Greene
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Concerns and Recommendations Regarding the St. Tammany Parish Levee Project

Army Corp of Engineers-New Orleans District
C/O Amy Dixon
CEMVN-PMR-C
7400 Leake Ave
New Orleans, LA 70118
Sttammanyfs@usace.army.mil

Subject: Concerns and Recommendations Regarding the St. Tammany Parish Levee Project

Dear Ms. Amy Dixon,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my deep concerns and provide recommendations regarding the St. Tammany Parish Levee Project, specifically concerning the exclusion of my property from its protection. As a concerned resident, I believe it is vital to address various issues related to this project to ensure the safety, well-being, and fairness for all members of our community.

1. Accelerate and Improve Fritchie Marsh Restoration
I strongly recommend accelerating and enhancing the ongoing Fritchie Marsh restoration project, as it holds significant potential to reduce storm surge. Proper restoration of the marsh could result in a substantial drop in surge levels, providing some degree of storm surge protection. You can find detailed information about this project in the source.

2. Collaboration with DOTD and CPRA for Surge Mitigation
I urge you to collaborate with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) and the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) to explore surge mitigation strategies using Hwy 90 and 190 East. A similar study for surge mitigation using Hwy 11 and Lakeshore Drive (Rat's Nest Road) is already underway. The Hwy 190 restoration and bridge replacement project should be activated soon, presenting an opportunity to maximize further reductions in storm surge through structural changes to highway and bridge design.

3. Change Funding Allocation for Residential Protection Strategies
I propose a change in funding allocation language within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) budget. Currently, the focus is primarily on home slab elevation, which may not be the most cost-effective or efficient strategy. I suggest amending the language to allow for a range of residential protection strategies, similar to the options available for businesses. Such a change would align with the USACE study's recommendations and could lead to more effective and affordable solutions for homeowners.

4. Consider Alternative Levee Sites
I request a thorough evaluation of alternative levee sites, including alignments that extend along Hwy 190 and/or Military Road. All proposed alignments currently leave some residents outside of protection, which raises concerns about the fairness and equity of the project.

5. Collaboration on a Surge Barrier Plan

I strongly recommend joining the Lake Coalition to explore the feasibility of using the CSX railroad as a surge barrier. This plan has the potential to close five openings, preventing surges of up to 10 feet. While it may require extensive coordination, including involvement at a Cabinet level, it could offer a cost-effective and efficient solution to protect our community.

6. Full Upfront Coverage of Home Elevation Costs
All costs associated with the elevation of homes due to the levee placement and changes in water flow should be covered upfront, as it is unreasonable to expect residents to bear these costs before qualifying for grants. In visiting with my local community the FEMA rules on elevation should be removed.

7. Impact on Local Schools
An assessment of the impact on local schools, particularly those in areas excluded from the levee, must be conducted. The disregard for property, community, and the tax base could have long-term negative consequences for our education system which is directly related to jobs and thus a core responsibility of the army Corp of engineer to address as part of this and any other proposal.

8. Oversight Entity for Funding Allocation:
The creation of an independent entity, separate from St. Tammany Parish and Louisiana, to ensure fair and transparent allocation of project funds, free from potential biases or political influence and diversion of funds to other programs, interests etc.… Funds would be managed for Education, Vocation, Elevation, Relocation, Mitigation, levee maintance etc…

9. Options for Affected Residents:
Total Buyout: Offer a total buyout of property by the federal government, including relocation costs. These buyouts should be fair market value as of 2021 when the project was started. Offers such as those made for Avery Estates have shown that many will be unable to find new housing, move themselves, elevate their property or secure insurance/funding for new homes if homeowners are not adequately compensated. Additionally addressing this early with homeowners living in their single family homes would prevent unnecessary delays, lawsuits etc… by current residents who've had buy-in to a process that has not been transparent.

10. Moratorium on Building:
Implement a moratorium on all new building in the area and within 50 minutes of the levee to protect existing residents. This would insure that all monies earmarked for elevation and based on numbers from 2021 should be applied only to homes owned at time of project completion by private homeowners who owned homes a the time of project inception and completion.

11. Local Job Training:
Creation of a training program for Louisiana residents to participate in the levee's construction, providing long-term, family-wage job opportunities that are long term and local hires.

12. Tax Refunds:
Provide tax refunds to homeowners in single-family dwellings outside the levee as compensation for project costs that they will not benefit from.

13. Impact on local healthcare
Creation of a healthcare fund to protect healthcare access to the community that will be impacted by the levee location and changes in access to hospitals and clinics that may be close but with significant changes in roads and community will change.

14. Relocation costs for religious institutions and their congregations
Churches, synagogue, temples must receive funding and help in maintaining traditions, services, and access to their community. Costs should not increase for churches that will be

responsible for caring for a community that will be impacted monetarily by the loss of good paying jobs that pay taxes in an area that will be negatively impacted. Additionally, Churches and religious organization spend large sums of money during disaster relief and should be compensated for all money increases that are passed on to them (and their members) for care of their congregations in providing disaster relief, food and labor due to placement of the levee.

15. Compensation to homeowners and small businesses for additional costs of flood insurance
In visiting with our neighbors there are multiple strings attached to FEMA and other money including but not limited to a requirement to hold certain levels of insurance. Many small businesses, start up businesses and home businesses are struggling in this community. With a potential exodus of residents who are well paid and technically advanced (thus able to leave Louisiana) small businesses will be impacted. Compensation must be considered for those businesses who may shutter without the needed customer base which will change with the levee.

Additional Information and Questions for Clarification

To better understand the project and its implications, I kindly request the following information and answers to the following questions:

1. Which Flood Control Act authorizes this levee project, and what are the specific provisions of this act?
2. Has a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review been conducted for this project? If so, what were the findings regarding environmental impacts?
3. What are the engineering standards being used for the levee's construction, and is there a projected timeline for the project's milestones?
4. What is the projected economic impact of the levee on major local employers, such as military and space complexes?
5. Is there a plan for long-term maintenance of the levee, and who will be responsible for it? It is well known that upkeep is expensive and necessary.
6. How can residents access updates or changes to the project plans to ensure transparency and public input?
7. How/When will St Tammany residents vote on a levee tax? Who will pay for the levee?
8. Has a plan been established for movement or removal of sacred burial sites including family sites and religious or traditional rites? What costs have been set aside for this?
9. Has an evaluation been done on the new representation of taxpayers with this project?

I believe that addressing these concerns and questions will lead to a more equitable and effective levee project that prioritizes the safety and well-being of all residents. I look forward to your response and hope for a constructive dialogue on this matter.

Sincerely,

Tim and Dorothy Greene
Slidell, LA residents
[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Dixon, Amy A CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 1:14 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: FW: [Non-DoD Source] Reply to proposed USACE slidell levee

Amy Dixon
Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District
Work: 504-862-1193
Cell: 504-289-9330

-----Original Message-----
From: David LeBlanc [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 11:49 AM
To: Dixon, Amy A CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA) <Amy.Dixon@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Reply to proposed USACE slidell levee

Please forward for public replies to plan.
I would never support this plan unless it were amended to include all flood prone areas of St Tammany. We live in Lacombe off [redacted]. and if this plan were implemented, it would reduce the size of the floodplain and increase the flooding in our area. Protecting one area at the expense of the other taxpaying citizens while requiring them to financially support its maintenance is not a valid plan.
Put floodgates at the Rigolets and solve the problem once and for all. Keep the surge out of Lake Pontchartrain and all these intermediate levees become unnecessary.
Just my opinion.

David LeBlanc

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: deb lombard [redacted] >
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 11:57 AM
To: Sttammanyfs; deb lombard; Jessica Dandridge; Rebecca Malpass; Debra Lombard
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Public Comments due today on USACE Flood Prevention Study

Hello USACE,

My comments below are based on me being a Civil Engineer EI and being the 1st St. Tammany Parish Project Manager on the 31 mile long Tammany Trace Project.

Are permeable paving parking lots required for all new commercial projects over 2000 SF? If not, that should be required in all areas in south 1/2 of st. Tammany parish including all towns too similar, but needs to be more stringent, than whats required in Orleans Parish. The biggest two problems in STP today in order is the flooding and congested roads.

Thank you!
Debra Lombard, EIT LEED AP

[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Don or ChrisAnn McKinney <[redacted]t>
Sent: Friday, September 1, 2023 6:05 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comment Re: JULY 2023 Revised Draft St. Tammany Parish Integrated Feasibility Report & Environmental Impact Statement

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing to you after reviewing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's JULY 2023 Revised Draft St. Tammany Parish Integrated Feasibility Report & Environmental Impact Statement.

We are residents of St. Tammany Parish and live in Slidell, LA in the [redacted] neighborhood off of Military Road. Our home address is referenced below.

We are very concerned that this proposed flood protection project **1) <u>will not protect our house and our neighbors' houses in the Turtle Creek neighborhood and</u> 2) <u>could increase the risk for flooding and the loss of property in our area</u>**. As of this date, there are currently 323 homes in the Turtle Creek neighborhood with 88 additional homes to be built in our subdivision in the next development phase. We have lived in our home for 23 years and have never flooded. However, there were homes in the Turtle Creek neighborhood that did flood during Hurricane Katrina so the neighborhood is very susceptible to flooding. If the flood wall is built as proposed, the Turtle Creek subdivision along with several other subdivisions, the two public elementary schools (Cypress Cove and Honey Island), and numerous businesses off of Military Road will be on the wrong side of the flood wall and outside the protected area. As a result, we fear if the proposed flood wall is built that during a hurricane/tropical storm there will be an increased risk for flooding as more water will flow towards us than before the flood wall was built.

We are also very concerned if this proposed project is implemented, we **3) <u>will experience a significant decrease in our home's market value and an increase in our flood insurance premiums</u>**.

<u>In summary, we think this proposed project will cause more harm. Please reconsider.</u>

Sincerely,

Don & ChrisAnn McKinney
[redacted]
Slidell, LA [redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Deborah Roberts <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 8:53 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Levee

To who it may concern,

I am writing to talk about the levees that they are talking about adding to St Tammany and how the neighborhood I live in will suffer. We already have the biggest water issue in slidell and now you want to add a levee that would not project us. Do you realize how many already suffering people would suffer in more. Most are loving on a fixed income and can not afford to do up grades. With property taxes going up and homeowners prices going up how can we keep afford to live. We need someone to stand up for what is right. Please lives and homes will be in danger.

Deborah Roberts
Rodan+Fields Consultant

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Darla Socarras <[redacted]>
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 6:08 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Levee inquiry Slidell

Hello.

I am a current home owner in Slidell and would more information as to why my home would not be included in the proposed levee.

I live at [redacted]. I have lived here for 12 years. We are an AE flood zone. My rates for FEMA have increased significantly…about 1200 dollars a year for flood insurance alone.

We need to be protected as well and cannot afford to be outside of the levee. Please send your information on my area and why I would not be included.

Thank you
Luis and Darla Socarras
[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Elizabeth Brennan <[redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 6:03 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Proposed Levee - Slidell/Eastern St. Tammany Parish

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my concerns over the proposed levee system affecting Eastern St. Tammany Parish/Slidell. It seems this levee will benefit some and hurt others. The determination as to what properties will remain outside the levee system seems unfair as all will be paying for the levee via taxes.

As a homeowner outside the levee whose property is literally located six houses away from the proposed wall, I have no doubt my property value will be severely deflated while my flood insurance will increase significantly.

Reconsideration should be given to include more residential and commercial areas, especially on the eastern end of Gause Boulevard, eastern end of Fremaux and areas around Military Road. If these areas remain excluded, the property values will decline and the tax basis for the parish will decrease thus hurting everyone within the parish.

Again, I beg you to please consider EVERYONE when making your final decision.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Brennan
[redacted]
Slidell, LA [redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: erin <e[redacted]>
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 9:56 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Cc: Anthony Evett; Jennymreed[redacted]; goodleveeforallslidellstp[redacted]
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Tentatively Planned Slidell Levee

To Whom It May Concern (Army Corps of Engineers/ Ms. Amy Dixon):

My name is **Erin Evett**, I live at [redacted] **Slidell, LA** [redacted]

I have lived in my home for 14 years.

I want to make sure that I am on public record with the federal government with regard to this project.

I have the following questions that I do not believe have been addressed... I have the following concerns: This will severely increase our risk of flooding! We flooded twice recently - (TS Claudette and Hurrincane Ida). We applied for the elevation grant and have not been approved.

I have the following requests of the federal government: Please reconsider the plan! This will put ours, as well as all of our surrounding neighbors' properties, in jeopardy.

Thank you, Erin Evett

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Emerson Loga <[redacted]>
Sent: Saturday, September 2, 2023 2:28 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Concern regarding St. Tammany Parish Levee project

Dear Ms. Amy Dixon

My name is Emerson P. Loga IV. I am a current resident of [redacted] subdivision. My address is [redacted], Slidell, LA [redacted]. I am writing this email to express my concerts with the St. Tammany Levee Project. The large number of homes excluded from levee protection concerns me. I do not wish for the value of my property to decrease. Also, I am worried about the negative impact this will cause me financially due to the possible increase in cost of my flood insurance.

I would like USACE to consider one of the alternative plans which include protections for the homes west of Military road.

Regards,

Emerson Loga

[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Ehren Malone [redacted] >
Sent: Sunday, September 3, 2023 11:27 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Cc: JennyMReed [redacted]
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] St Tammany Levee

Hello,
I am writing regarding the proposed levee in St Tammany Parish—specifically Slidell. I live near Military Road. My husband and I just built a beautiful wheelchair accessible home in [redacted] (he is a wheelchair user). I am very concerned about my area of town being excluded from the levee plan. This is will increase the chance that our neighborhood would flood (the water has to go somewhere if it is deterred by a wall). Here are the potential impacts to our family:

1. If our home were to flood, it would be VERY difficult for us to relocate during repairs —we searched for a wheelchair accessible rental when we built this house and were not able to find any.
2. Elevating our home is not feasible. Of course, there are options for a ramp or elevator, but both options make my husband less independent and would cause a financial burden for upkeep.
3. I'm concerned about the financial impacts to us with the shift in our property value and flood insurance.
4. My daughter's school will also be in an area outside of the flood protection. This is quite concerning to me that if we had a flood event we would be displaced and so would the school operations.

I know that when you are dealing with a massive situation such as this, you must make difficult decisions, but please consider all of the tax-paying families who will shoulder the burden of this decision. Thank you for your time

Ehren Malone

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Elizabeth Sleeper [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 12:44 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Slidell Levee

Hello,

I am writing out of serious concern for the levee plans in Slidell. The current plan has our home just outside the levee. It will leave our home at greater risk of flood damage and make acquiring and affording home owners insurance nearly impossible. My husband and I purchased our home two years ago. We were first time homebuyers and relocated from San Diego to raise our family in our dream home. We have four children at home. Two of which are special needs. We are also foster parents. The current levee plans could seriously effect our ability to keep our home. It wouldn't just be a matter of moving for us. It would massively effect our childrens lives. Occupational therapy, speech therapy, behavioral health, Autism, psychologists, schools. Please consider other options.
Thank you,
Elizabeth Sleeper
[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Frank Maggio <[redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 12:59 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Levee Plan for Slidell area

I attended the St. Tammany Levee Distric's initial meeting on this subject about 3 years ago and again the one last Wednesday where they discussed the ACOE flood protection plan for the south Slidell area. Their proposed plan did not change significantly in that time, Although, they did do several feasibility studies during that time. Unfortunately, the reality of living in the Military Road area of Slidell is that the current belief of the various parties studying the issue of flooding in our area is that any affordable plan for levee construction to protect those of us in a Military Road Subdivision, would also destroy the wetlands. So, we are forced to decide on a plan spending billions of federal dollars to protect areas further north and west of us. We will indirectly benefit by having the City of Slidell, businesses, friends and relatives that are inside the levee, protected. However, not only will we not directly benefit from this plan, but we will be harmed in several ways.

1) The plan expects those who live outside of the levee system to flood more frequently and at higher levels.
2) We would have to expect our property values to drop as a result of this.
3) We would have to expect insurance rates to increase as a result of this.
4) The cost benefit analysis that what done, and is the basis for the ACOE's decision to move forward, only included the cost of constructing the levee system and did not consider the cost of #2 and #3 above (since it is not coming out of their funding) and it did not consider the full cost to mitigate those residents and businesses left out of the levee protection system through buy-outs, home and business structure elevations, waterproofing structures, etc. (which at this point is understated in the ACOE plan (6,500 out of 28,000 structures), and we would have to find funding for it elsewhere for the structures that are left out)
5) We should expect St. Tammany taxes to go up in order to pay for the maintenance and repair of the new levee system, which will be turned over to the parish.

I wish I could support this plan because I would like to see those people in the protected areas benefit, but the cost to those thousands of residents who are left out is just too much. I am against supporting this plan.

Frank Maggio
[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Gayle Klein [redacted] >
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 10:17 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] "RE: St. Tammany levee proposal"

10:16 AM Tue Sep 5

Aa

September 2, 20

RE: St. Tammany levee proposal

ATTN: Ms. Amy Dixon

Dear Ms. Dixon,

My name is Gayle Klein and I live at
resided in this house for 30 years. I ha
and have many concerns about it. As
some of Slidell/St. Tammany areas but

Sent from my iPad

On Sep 5, 2023, at 7:34 AM, Sttammanyfs <sttammanyfs@usace.army.mil> wrote:

Ms. Klein,

I am unable to open the link provided. Is it possible for you to copy and past into a reply to this email? Thank you,

Amy Dixon
Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District
Work: 504-862-1193
Cell: 504-289-9330

From: Gayle Klein <[redacted]>
Sent: Saturday, September 2, 2023 8:31 AM
To: Sttammanyfs <sttammanyfs@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] "RE: St. Tammany levee proposal"

Open my shared note:

RE: St. Tammany levee proposal
Notes

Sent from my iPad

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Gayle Klein <[redacted]>
Sent: Saturday, September 2, 2023 8:31 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] "RE: St. Tammany levee proposal"

Open my shared note:

RE: St. Tammany levee proposal
Notes

Sent from my iPad

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Adele Graham [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 1, 2023 5:15 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] STORM PLAN

THE PLAN LOOKS GOOD EXCEPT FOR THE EXTENDED TIME DUE TO BUDGET CONSTRAINTS, WE LIVE ON THE RIVER SIDE OF SOUTH MILITARY ROAD AND CLOSE TO US 190; SO WE ARE INTERESTED IN OURS FIRST, NATURALLY. THE PLAN RIGHTLY POINTS OUT THAT NO ONE IS COMPLY COVERED UNTIL IT IS FINISHED,

RICHARD GRAHAM
[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Holli Oatis [redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 4:28 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Levee

I live in Slidell and am completely against the levee protection program! It will destroy my neighborhood

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: H Tate <[redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 2, 2023 8:05 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Cc: Helene Tate; [redacted]
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Public comments RE: ST. TAMMANY PARISH FEASIBILITY STUDY

I attended the public meeting in Slidell, LA on 8/15/23. While there were multiple displays of maps showing potential placement of the proposed levee, there were no maps that showed the 5 potential borrow sites for the required 7,079,000 cubic yards of fill. Additionally, there was no verbal mention of borrow sites in the ACE presentation.
I have reviewed the STP Feasibility Study and have attached copies of pages from that report concerning the borrow sites; specifically the expansion of borrow site STP-9, Robert Road Detention Pond, which borders my home and property. I respectfully request to be contacted and provided more sufficient information prior to the October 2023 finalized report.

Thank you,
Helene Holmes Tate
[redacted]
Slidell, LA [redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Judy Heinrich [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 6:47 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Levee by Holiday Acres and French Branch subdivisions in Slidell, Louisiana

Attn: Amy Dixon

This is Frank and Judy Heinrich / [redacted], Slidell, LA [redacted] / [redacted] Subdivision. We oppose the levee.

Thank you.

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: jojo [redacted] >
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 11:53 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Levee/Wall??

After writing & rereading this letter, I came back to add … please forgive my feelings showing through in this letter – if you put yourself in my shoes, I think you can understand why I am upset.

My name is Joanne Astredo and I own the property at [redacted] in [redacted]. This has been my home since August 2003 when my children were 13, 12 & 6. Less than 18 months after we moved here, my daughter was diagnosed with Leukemia and went through 2 ½ years of chemotherapy, then fought (and is still living with) avascular necrosis due to side effects from the chemo. Shortly after all of this, I divorced. My daughter did not want to leave the home where she went through so much and the wonderful people that have supported us throughout her treatment. She knew I could not afford the house on my own and she offered to help financially. With her help and the fact that we had never flooded, not even for Katrina (which was during my daughter's chemo treatment) I managed a way to buy out my ex so we could stay in the home and area we love.

Now I hear about a levee wall. I do realize that hearing things through the grapevine that it is not always accurate, but from what I have heard, the wall will basically go through neighborhoods and my neighborhood will not be protected. I find it hard to believe because I have never heard or seen anywhere a levee wall in a neighborhood, and I can't believe anyone would consider putting a wall in a neighborhood or anywhere near peoples' homes. I am all about protecting peoples' homes and definitely feel for the people that have flooded in the past. I have also heard that we will be taxed to help pay for this levee wall – so basically I will be paying to have my home flood, not to mention we probably will not be able to afford flood insurance if anyone will even insure us.

I've also heard there may be assistance to raise our homes. I did not buy a raised or multi-level home because I planned to live out my life here and I did not want to deal with stairs. Plus, I've heard we will need to bring our homes to current code in order to get this assistance and this is not something I can afford to do. My partner and I own 2 businesses and were beginning to get to where we weren't robbing Peter to pay Paul until Covid hit. With the debt we are in, including 2 SBA loans, we probably can't even get SBA loans. We are bringing money into Slidell and St Tammany between 2 occupancy licenses we are paying due to having a home office for 2 businesses (one business was primarily in NO but Ida flooded that office and insurance has yet to pay for damage), as will sales tax we bring in for 5 fireworks locations (and we are continuously looking for new locations in the area). There are several other businesses and some of the best schools around that will be left out of this current plan I am just recently hearing about.

I'm sure there must be other options. I heard something about the railroad line – wouldn't this also improve the railroad? If so, wouldn't the railroad assist financially? Has this even been considered?

I'm already high anxiety and this surely is not helping. I have also heard this has been in the plans for several years. Why haven't we been notified? Why are we just now hearing about it? Some are saying it is a done deal. How can it be a done deal when so many people that are being negatively impacted still do not know exactly what is going on?

Last thoughts – please put yourself in our shoes and consider other options such as the railroad.

On my knees!!
Joanne Astredo

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: JennyBrennan [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, August 30, 2023 12:39 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Cc: Jenny Brennan; Ronnie Brennan
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Levee

I am a home owner off of Indian Village! I feel that I have no representation in this matter! I feel that we are being discriminated against because we are being left out of the levee plans ! We pay the most taxes in the state but yet are being left out of adequate protection of storm surge and in turn after the levee is built the burden of ALL the surge will be on us!!!
I own my home and feel that the value will depreciate!! I do not have the finances to elevate my home! I have already looked into that possibility years ago!
I do not understand why you are protecting one area and the detriment of another!

Sincerely, Home Owner, Tax Payer,
Jenny Brennan
[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Jena Castaing <[redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 2:15 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Concerns about the Proposed St Tammany Parish Levee Project

Army Corps of Engineers -New Orleans
7400 Leake Ave
New Orleans, La 70118
C/O Amy Dixon

Ms Dixon,
I am writing this letter along with many other concerned citizens in regards to the Corps proposed Levee project in St Tammany Parish.
We had a meeting with the Levee board this past week in our neighborhood to learn about the plans and were left with several concerns and not many answers. Since then there has been a page created (Good levee for all) to better explain and address issues, gaining many new members daily.
As a home owner in this area, we have valid concerns about what this could do to the value of our homes, insurance rates and general safety.
Our home at 124 Rue Holiday 70461 could be adversely affected in the French Branch Subdivision along with many other homes and subdivisions that would be left out of the Military Rd area. if this happens. We would like to know what other alternative plans are on the table and what studies have been done to back them up? Will there be compensation to all homeowners who are left out of this project that will negatively impact our property values, force us to raise homes, and be in grave danger of flooding?
A perfect example to draw from would be the catastrophic flooding in Laplace caused by the New Orleans flood gate diversion of water.
We would like to know how much money is ear marked for this project, and what would be the proposed millages?
I'm sure I can speak for every homeowner being left out and unprotected, that will strongly oppose any taxes related to this project.

We hope you will seriously consider our concerns along with thousands of other families affected in the Slidell East St Tammany.

Sincerely Yours,
Jena and Scott Castaing
[redacted]

--
[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: John Champaign <[redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 2, 2023 3:06 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Proposed South/West St Tammany levee protection

I want to voice my opposition to the proposed levee protection for Slidell, it will place many homes and businesses outside the levee protection wall to increased chances of flooding from storms if constructed. Either expand the wall to include a more of the unprotected area or dont build it all.

Thank You

John Champaign
[redacted]
Slidell, La[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Jamie and Tracy Domingues [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 8:36 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Concerns and Recommendations Regarding the St. Tammany Parish Levee Project

Army Corp of Engineers-New Orleans District

C/O Amy Dixon

CEMVN-PMR-C

7400 Leake Ave

New Orleans, LA 70118

Sttammanyfs@usace.army.mil

Subject: Concerns and Recommendations Regarding the St. Tammany Parish Levee Project

Dear Ms. Dixon,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my deep concerns and provide recommendations regarding the St. Tammany Parish Levee Project, specifically concerning the exclusion of my property from its protection. My family and I have resided at this property for 15+ years. We have (and still are) raised our children in this home. As a concerned resident, I believe it is vital to address various issues related to this project to ensure the safety, well-being, and fairness for all members of our community.

1. Accelerate and Improve Fritchie Marsh Restoration

I strongly recommend accelerating and enhancing the ongoing Fritchie Marsh restoration project, as it holds significant potential to reduce storm surge. Proper restoration of the marsh could result in a substantial drop in surge levels, providing some degree of storm surge

protection. You can find detailed information about this project in the source.

2. Collaboration with DOTD and CPRA for Surge Mitigation

I urge you to collaborate with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) and the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) to explore surge mitigation strategies using Hwy 90 and 190 East. A similar study for surge mitigation using Hwy 11 and Lakeshore Drive (Rat's Nest Road) is already underway. The Hwy 190 restoration and bridge replacement project should be activated soon, presenting an opportunity to maximize further reductions in storm surge through structural changes to highway and bridge design.

3. Change Funding Allocation for Residential Protection Strategies

I propose a change in funding allocation language within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) budget. Currently, the focus is primarily on home slab elevation, which may not be the most cost-effective or efficient strategy. I suggest amending the language to allow for a range of residential protection strategies, similar to the options available for businesses. Such a change would align with the USACE study's recommendations and could lead to more effective and affordable solutions for homeowners.

4. Consider Alternative Levee Sites

I request a thorough evaluation of alternative levee sites, including alignments that extend along Hwy 190 and/or Military Road. All proposed alignments currently leave some residents and most schools outside of protection, which raises concerns about the fairness and equity of the project.

5. Collaboration on a Surge Barrier Plan

I strongly recommend joining the Lake Coalition to explore the feasibility of using the CSX

railroad as a surge barrier. This plan has the potential to close five openings, preventing surges of up to 10 feet. While it may require extensive coordination, including involvement at a Cabinet level, it could offer a cost-effective and efficient solution to protect our community.

6. Full Upfront Coverage of Home Elevation Costs

All costs associated with the elevation of homes due to the levee placement and changes in water flow should be covered upfront, as it is unreasonable to expect residents to bear these costs before qualifying for grants. In visiting with my local community the FEMA rules on elevation should be removed.

7. Impact on Local Schools

An assessment of the impact on local schools, particularly those in areas excluded from the levee, must be conducted. The disregard for property, community, and the tax base could have long-term negative consequences for our education system which is directly related to jobs and thus a core responsibility of the army Corp of engineer to address as part of this and any other proposal.

8. Oversight Entity for Funding Allocation:

The creation of an independent entity, separate from St. Tammany Parish and Louisiana, to ensure fair and transparent allocation of project funds, free from potential biases or political influence and diversion of funds to other programs, interests etc.… Funds would be managed for Education, Vocation, Elevation, Relocation, Mitigation, levee maintance etc…

9. Options for Affected Residents:

Total Buyout: Offer a total buyout of property by the federal government, including relocation costs. These buyouts should be fair market value as of 2021 when the project was started.

Offers such as those made for Avery Estates have shown that many will be unable to find new housing, move themselves, elevate their property or secure insurance/funding for new homes if homeowners are not adequately compensated. Additionally addressing this early with homeowners living in their single family homes would prevent unnecessary delays, lawsuits etc… by current residents who've had buy-in to a process that has not been transparent.

10. Moratorium on Building:

Implement a moratorium on all new building in the area and within 50 minutes of the levee to protect existing residents. This would ensure that all monies earmarked for elevation and based on numbers from 2021 should be applied only to homes owned at time of project completion by private homeowners who owned homes a the time of project inception and completion.

11. Local Job Training:

Creation of a training program for Louisiana residents to participate in the levee's construction, providing long-term, family-wage job opportunities that are long term and local hires.

12. Tax Refunds:

Provide tax refunds to homeowners in single-family dwellings outside the levee as compensation for project costs that they will not benefit from.

13. Impact on local healthcare

Creation of a healthcare fund to protect healthcare access to the community that will be impacted by the levee location and changes in access to hospitals and clinics that may be close but with significant changes in roads and community will change.

14. Relocation costs for religious institutions and their congregations

Churches, synagogue, temples must receive funding and help in maintaining traditions, services, and access to their community. Costs should not increase for churches that will be responsible for caring for a community that will be impacted monetarily by the loss of good paying jobs that pay taxes in an area that will be negatively impacted. Additionally, Churches and religious organization spend large sums of money during disaster relief and should be compensated for all money increases that are passed on to them (and their members) for care of their congregations in providing disaster relief, food and labor due to placement of the levee.

15. Compensation to homeowners and small businesses for additional costs of flood insurance

In visiting with our neighbors there are multiple strings attached to FEMA and other money including but not limited to a requirement to hold certain levels of insurance. Many small businesses, start up businesses and home businesses are struggling in this community. With a potential exodus of residents who are well paid and technically advanced (thus able to leave Louisiana) small businesses will be impacted. Compensation must be considered for those businesses who may shutter without the needed customer base which will change with the levee.

Additional Information and Questions for Clarification

To better understand the project and its implications, I kindly request the following information and answers to the following questions:

1. Which Flood Control Act authorizes this levee project, and what are the specific provisions of this act?

2. Has a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review been conducted for this project? If so, what were the findings regarding environmental impacts?

3. What are the engineering standards being used for the levee's construction, and is there

a projected timeline for the project's milestones?

4. What is the projected economic impact of the levee on major local employers, such as military and space complexes?

5. Is there a plan for long-term maintenance of the levee, and who will be responsible for it? It is well known that upkeep is expensive and necessary.

6. How can residents access updates or changes to the project plans to ensure transparency and public input?

7. How/When will St Tammany residents vote on a levee tax? Who will pay for the levee?

8. Has a plan been established for movement or removal of sacred burial sites including family sites and religious or traditional rites? What costs have been set aside for this?

9. Has an evaluation been done on the new representation of taxpayers with this project?

I believe that addressing these concerns and questions will lead to a more equitable and effective levee project that prioritizes the safety and well-being of all residents. I look forward to your response and hope for a constructive dialogue on this matter.

Sincerely,

Tracy Domingues

Sent from Outlook

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Jessica French [redacted] >
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 6:35 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Slidell Levee Project Feedback
Attachments: ArmyCorps 2.pdf

September 6, 2023

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – New Orleans District
c/o Amy Dixon
CEMVN-PMR-C
7400 Leake Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70118
sttammanyfs@usace.army.mil

Dear Ms. Amy Dixon
My name is Jessica M. French. I live at [redacted], Slidell, LA. I have lived in my home for one year. I want to make sure that I am on public record with the federal government with regard to this project.

I have the following questions that I do not believe have been addressed.

1. I live in an area that drains fairly well at the current time. I am no engineer, but it seems to be that putting up a levee to the west of my home would increase the likely hood of flooding. How is creating a problem for a large number of residents fixing the currently non-existent problem?
2. The time frame of gathering public comment is absolutely atrocious. How can you guarantee that affected voices have been heard when no one knows about the possibility of this levee? I am a college-educated individual and I STILL had a very difficult time understanding the scope of this project and exactly how this will affect my home, subdivision, etc.

I have the following concerns

1. This project seems to be creating more problems than it is solving. The levee as proposed will leave out a HUGE portion of East Slidell. This huge portion is a very large tax base. Without the tax base, this project will most certainly destroy the community. It is my understanding that destroying communities is not the goal, but I don't see how the proposed alignment of the levee can do anything but destroy the entire Gause/Military Road area. It is a large, bustling area with numerous schools, subdivisions, retail establishments, medical offices, restaurants, gyms, etc.

I have the following requests of the federal government.

1. TRANSPARENCY. It seems that this was rammed through on a very short time frame with little public awareness. Thank goodness there are citizens on the ground attempting to inform people of this project.
2. I would like better educational materials regarding this project. Like stated above, I am a college-educated individual, but the report is heavily written in jargon, engineering speak. How can the people properly advocate for themselves if no one understands the problem at hand?

Thank you for your time. This is just the tip of the iceberg of my concerns, but there wasn't exactly a great time frame to work with.

Sincerely,
Jessica French, [redacted], LA [redacted]

[redacted]

Attached is a PDF version of this e-mail to include in the public comment

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Judy Jenkins [redacted] >
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 8:47 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Levee Wall in Slidell, LA

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed levee wall. I live in [redacted] Estates, an area just outside the levee wall and have only recently been made aware of a proposed levee which will impact my home as well as hundreds of other homes, schools, and businesses.

It is my understanding that the levee, if built as it is presented, will result in lost home values and higher insurance rates. The levee will not protect my home; instead, it could cause more flooding in our neighborhoods.

Please reevaluate the proposed levee plans to include protection for hundreds of homes, churches, schools, and businesses in dozens of neighborhoods in Slidell.

Hal and Judy Jenkins
[redacted]
Slidell, LA [redacted]
[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: James Jones <[redacted]>
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 2:20 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Cc: Jenny Jones
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Slidell Levee Public Feedback - James R Jones

To the Army Corp of Engineers,

I have reviewed your July 2023 St. Tammany Parish Feasibility Study Main Report. I appreciate the balancing of cost vs benefit of the Slidell levee ALT6 proposal. The proposal will protect Sidelle but increases the risk to areas East of the proposed Slidell levee. The current proposal leaves 7,000 parcels at extreme safety and financial risks with ineffective mitigation options. The proposal is unacceptable and puts an unfair burden of East St Tammany citizens in unprotected areas.

The plan unfairly burdens East St Tammany unprotected structures. Eminent Domain policies are offering 50-65% less than property appraisals in Avery Estates . Nonstructure elevation modifications pay for only a portion of the total expenses necessary to restore a property to a functional and aesthetic level equal to that prior to being raised. East St Tammany has very developed structures with brick veneer, landscaping and large structures that make a complete structure elevation project very costly.

Recurrence of even minor flooding will result in immense financial burdens to cover gaps between disaster relief funding and actual restoration costs. Hardships to both the structures and owner's financial liability will result in incomplete restoration of the community. Unprotected areas will become another Lower Nine story if this plan is allowed to proceed.

The levee proposal will all but isolate East St Tammany to financial devastation. This plan must provide homeowners a complete nonstructure elevation modification that will restore the property to its original condition prior to elevation. The plan must compensate for increased flood insurance and property taxes that results from the proposed levee location. Lastly, a documented Eminent Domain policy must be included in the levee plan to protect property values at level prior to levee approval.

Your plan Objective: 4 "Increase community resiliency ….. before, during and after significant rainfall and or coastal event…." has not been achieved for East St Tammany citizens in the current levee proposal. I object to the levee proposal and am extremely offended about the lack of consideration to protecting safety and structures of East St Tammany citizens.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

James R Jones

[redacted] Estates

[redacted]

Slidell, LA [redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Orillion, Jeffrey - OCFO-FMS, New Orleans, LA [redacted] >
Sent: Friday, September 1, 2023 10:19 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Concerns about Levee planned for Slidell, LA

Amy Dixon,

My name is Jeff Orillion. I live at [redacted] in Slidell, LA [redacted] in [redacted] subdivision with my wife Jessica Orillion and our 4 children. We have lived in this house for 8 years.

I am writing to share my concern with the Levee planned for Slidell, LA which appears to exclude my personal residence. I am concerned that the project will not protect my home and will in fact increase the risk for flooding. I am also concerned that the project will negatively impact the value of my home and increase my insurance costs which are already almost unaffordable.

It seems that the project has not been widely publicized and that you are trying to sneak this past residents. I only heard about this alarming news when I was invited to join the Facebook group – Good Levee for All- Slidell/St Tammany Parish.
It appears that I would be responsible for upgrading and raising my home at my own expense. That is ridiculous and unreasonable. If the government decides to jeopardize my safety, my home value, and my insurance protection, then the government needs to pay residents that are negatively impacted.

The public needs more information!

Jeff Orillion
[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Jeffrey Protzel <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, August 31, 2023 8:19 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] St. Tammany Parish flood protection plan

I am a resident of the [redacted] subdivision in East St. Tammany Parish. I want to submit this public comment against the proposed flood protection plan.

We are being forced to decide on a plan spending billions of federal dollars to protect areas further north and west of my home. We will indirectly benefit by having the City of Slidell, and associated homes and businesses protected that are inside the levee. However, not only will we not directly benefit from this plan, but we will be harmed in several ways.

1) The plan expects those who live outside of the levee system to flood more frequently and at higher levels.
2) We would have to expect our property values to drop as a result of this.
3) We would have to expect insurance rates to increase as a result of this.
4) The cost benefit analysis that was done, and is the basis for the ACOE's decision to move forward, only included the cost of constructing the levee system and did not consider the cost of #2 and #3 above (since it is not coming out of their funding) and it did not consider the full cost to mitigate those residents and businesses left out of the levee protection system through buy-outs, home and business structure elevations, waterproofing structures, etc. (which at this point is understated in the ACOE plan (6,500 out of 28,000 structures), and we would have to find funding for it elsewhere for the structures that are left out.
5) We should expect St. Tammany taxes to go up in order to pay for the maintenance and repair of the new levee system, which will be turned over to the parish.

I do not believe this is an equitable plan for all residents and we should not institute a plan in the interests of getting "something" done, while leaving out a large segment of the population of St. Tammany parish.

Jeff Protzel

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Johnny Rayner <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 8:23 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Levee Inquiry.

So the program will fund the home being raised?

Sent from my iPhone

> On Sep 5, 2023, at 7:29 AM, Sttammanyfs <sttammanyfs@usace.army.mil> wrote:
>
> Good morning Mr. Rayner,
>
> If the St. Tammany Parish Feasibility Study is authorized and funded by Congress, USACE will continue to design the West/South Slidell levee. This does not relate to homes being brought up to code.
>
> If your home is eligible to be raised under the Nonstructural Plan, it will be inspected and be required to meet certain criteria to be raised as a part of the program. Please see the Nonstructural Implementation Plan (Appendix H) page 8 for further information on home eligibility criteria.
> Blockedhttps://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental/NEPA-Compliance-Documents/Bipartisan-Budget-Act-2018-BBA-18/BBA-18-Projects/St-Tammany-Parish-Feasibility-Study/
>
> Thank you,
>
> Amy Dixon
> Project Manager
> U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
> New Orleans District
> Work: 504-862-1193
> Cell: 504-289-9330
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Johnny Rayner [redacted]
> Sent: Friday, September 1, 2023 2:31 PM
> To: Sttammanyfs <sttammanyfs@usace.army.mil>
> Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Levee Inquiry.
>
> I'm being told of this levee is approved I'll have to raise my home to be up to code. This cant be true?
>
> Sent from my iPhone

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Johnny Rayner [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 1, 2023 2:31 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Levee Inquiry.

I'm being told of this levee is approved I'll have to raise my home to be up to code. This cant be true?

Sent from my iPhone

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Jerry Solomon [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, August 29, 2023 7:37 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Proposed Northshore Hurricane Protection Levee

I am writing to express my grave concerns with my understanding of the latest plans for the proposed hurricane protection levee that would be constructed on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain. I am a resident of the [redacted] subdivision located off of Military Road in Slidell, LA. My understanding of the latest plan would have the levee running essentially E/W between Lacombe and Slidell and then turning north and terminating in the general area of the Gause Blvd. and I-10 interchange. This positioning of the levee would leave thousands of homes, businesses, schools, and other buildings on the east side of I-10 unprotected. It could even increase the flooding potential for these excluded buildings by containing any rising seawater in a significantly smaller area. This seems to be an unwise choice. If the eastward run of the levee were continued a relatively short additional distance and then starting the northward turn at a point that would include most, if not all, of the Slidell-East housing and businesses, very few areas would be excluded. It would seem that taking this route, while it would marginally increase the project cost, it might be less expensive when the additional cost of some of the "other measures" are considered. There will also likely be a significant negative impact on other issues such as flood insurance cost and property resale values for excluded property. Please reconsider this plan and institute revisions that would protect most or all of the residential, municipal, and commercial property on the east side of Slidell. Thanks in advance for your thoughtful consideration of my inquiry.

Jerry Solomon
[redacted]

Sent from Mail for Windows

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Dixon, Amy A CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)
Sent: Thursday, September 7, 2023 6:49 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: FW: public letter stpfs
Attachments: public letter stpfs09-07-2023-061949.pdf

Attached received via USPS

Amy Dixon
Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District
Work: 504-862-1193
Cell: 504-289-9330

-----Original Message-----
From: Amy.Dixon@usace.army.mil <Amy.Dixon@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Thursday, September 7, 2023 6:20 AM
To: Dixon, Amy A CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA) <Amy.Dixon@usace.army.mil>
Subject: public letter stpfs

public letter stpfs

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Kathy Arseneaux [redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 4:38 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source]

Why would you want to flood your votes out???

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Kat Lurver [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 6:22 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Regarding the St. Tammany Parish flood wall in Slidell, LA

To Whom It May Concern,

My husband and I own our home located at [redacted], Slidell, LA [redacted]. This lovely home of ours is a couple of blocks away and outside of the proposed flood wall to be built. Our home is over 6,000 square feet and has never flooded, but surely will once this wall redirects floodwaters back onto our property. Our neighborhood has had some flooding prior, but our home, being on a small ridge, has kept it dry. Our home is worth about $790,000 in the current market. Our real estate taxes and homeowner's insurance costs are hefty. Your floodwall will surely plummet the value of our property, while increasing our insurance costs, and the cost of trying to raise a 2.5 story, >6K sq ft home would be out of reach. How could this plan have gone forward, leaving out such a substantial area of neighborhoods, businesses, medical facilities, and schools? The east side of Slidell has most of the high-end neighborhoods in town, and property values have only gone up in the last 20 years. We have no idea why your plan assumes these huge custom homes would depreciate, when we have yet to see that happen in decades. I have a beautiful home and do not want it to flood, do not want my property value to plummet, do not want my insurance costs to soar further, and do NOT want my tax dollars to pay for a wall that will do HARM to us and our neighbors. Your wall will DESTROY my home!

Please reconsider this plan and include the eastern side of Slidell or revamp the plan altogether to perhaps take a different approach. We have had two major flood events in Slidell that were not included in your models, specifically the 1983 Pearl River Flood Event and the 1995 Extreme Rain Event. These events were devastating to our town and the proposed plan you have would not help, but could potentially hurt us during similar events. All I see are the areas in other parishes where floodwall protections have only caused areas that never flooded to now flood often. I don't understand why you would propose to build a wall right behind my neighborhood and knowingly cause all of our houses to flood. What compensation is the government offering to us for the destruction we will surely endure?

Respectfully,
Kathryn R. Camp

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Kristie Guidry [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 7:36 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Concerns Regarding the St. Tammany Parish Levee Project

Army Corp of Engineers-New Orleans District C/O Amy Dixon CEMVN-PMR-C
7400 Leake Ave
New Orleans, LA 70118
Sttammanyfs@usace.army.mil

Dear Ms. Dixon,

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to express my deep concerns regarding the St. Tammany Parish Levee Project, specifically concerning the exclusion of my property from its protection. As a concerned resident, I believe it is vital to address various issues related to this project to ensure the safety, well-being, and fairness for all members of our community.

When I purchased my property in November 2020 it was classified as a Flood Zone C. We specifically searched for homes that were classified as such. After we purchased our home, the FEMA flood maps changed and our flood zone was downgraded. Fast forward another year, and here we are facing a proposed levee project that leaves my largest investment unprotected. This project is going to flood families out of their homes, which have otherwise never flooded. According to the previous owners of this house, we were high and dry for Hurricane Katrina, which was the largest flooding event in this area.

Will FEMA, or some other federal agency, provide full grants to raise our homes above the flood risk level in advance of the completion of this levee? Has anyone thought about the impact to the schools and hospital that will now fall outside of this levee? Where will thousands of children attend school during the years it will take to rebuild these schools from a major flood? My uneducated estimate is that 2 elementary schools, 1 middle school, 1 junior high and 1 high school will be directly impacted by this decision.

I truly hope that this plan will be revisited, and a new plan drawn up that protects all citizens of our community.

Sincerely,
Kristie Guidry
[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Karmen Karraker <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 5:16 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Slidell Levee

Hello,
I am writing to voice my concerns over the proposed St. Tammany/Slidell levee. As a resident of [redacted] (district 13) my home, along with countless others would be left outside of the levee protection system.
I am worried as to how this will affect flooding in my area. One of the major selling points when I bought my home 2 years ago was that it had never flooded and was zoned X.
Please consider an alternative plan that would benefit all residents.
Thank you,
Karmen Karraker
[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Karen Lamastus [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 9:36 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Proposed levee for Quail Ridge off Military Road in Slidell

My name is KAREN LAMASTUS
My address is [redacted]. Slidell, LA [redacted] Subdivision.

I would like to state my objection to the proposed levee plan that will put the homes along Military Road outside of protection.

I ardently request that you reconsider this plan and include ALL of the homes within the levee system. We have beautiful homes and pay a great deal of taxes and would greatly appreciate some protection from the hurricanes.

Thank you
Karen Lamastus

Sent from my iPhone

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Kristy Neal <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, September 1, 2023 12:35 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Proposed Slidell project

I am writing today with concerns about the levee proposals in my area.

I am greatly concerned that the proposed levees will not protect all of the homes in the area. This will make flooding in my area more prevalent. My neighbors and I live in homes which flooded twice in 2021. We are already so vulnerable to flooding that anything that will make flooding worse in this area is a grave concern for us. I don't understand this plan. It doesn't seem to do anything to help protect the most vulnerable in the area. The Corp's job is to protect people, I thought, not increase the chances of our flooding. What will we do? Our homes will be worth absolutely nothing. We have worked hard all of our lives to be able to have a nice home, and this proposal really scares us.
I thank you for your time in reading this,
Kristy Neal
[redacted]
Slidell, LA[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Kim Tate <[redacted]>
Sent: Sunday, September 3, 2023 3:27 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Cc: Helene Tate; Kim Tate
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Public Comments Regarding STP Feasibility Study

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Kim Tate and I own the home/property located at [redacted] in Slidell, La [redacted]. My property line abuts the Robert Road Detention Pond, also known as STP-9. I have plans to build an outdoor kitchen and equipment shelter near my property line. Please contact me and let me know if the enlargement of the Robert Road Detention Pond will interfere with my plans. I can be reached via email (kimmtate@hotmail.com) or mobile phone [redacted]

Respectfully submitted,

Kim H Tate

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Kathleen Wilkin [redacted] >
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 6:27 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Objection to Levee in Slidell

Please accept my objection to the proposed Slidell levee. It will push flood waters into the Military Road subdivisions flooding thousands of homes. It will devastate our schools, commerce and properties. Please re-evaluate the proposed plan.

Kathleen Wilkin
[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: kmz5151 [redacted] >
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 5:16 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Levee Project concerns about St Tammany

To Whom It May Concern:

I am requesting a thorough evaluation of alternative levee sites along Hwy 190 and Military Rd. According to proposed levee sites, many residents are left outside of the levee protection. This appears to be a dangerous situation in view of possible flooding during heavy rainstorms and hurricanes. These homes should be protected as much as the others. Please consider reevaluating the proposed levee sites. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Kathy Zweifel
[redacted] Slidell

Sent from my Galaxy

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Lisa Aldridge [redacted] >
Sent: Friday, September 1, 2023 4:27 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Cc: Apple Apple
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Proposed Levee System for St. Tammany Parish

To Whom It May Concern:

I live in a subdivision off of Military Road and am not included in the proposed levee system. My address is [redacted] Slidell, LA [redacted]

I am very concerned that the proposed corps project will negatively impact my home and my neighbors' homes as the location of the levee will cause water to be deferred from protected neighborhoods and flow into our neighborhood. Since the job of the corps is to protect all of the people and this proposal does not protect all of the people, I feel the decisions made concerning locations of the levee are unjust and unfair. The proposed levee and flood wall alignments will cause flooding in our area.

I do not understand nor agree with the proposal concerning the levee system where a large portion of the city will be left out of the system. I am a tax payer of the parish yet I will not benefit from the taxes paid towards the enhancement of current levees and building of new levees. I have lived in Slidell all of my life and would hate to have to move because of the location of the levees and the increase risk for flooding in my neighborhood. I feel certain if this plan comes to fruition I will be forced to move. And I also feel strongly that my home value, along with all others in my neighborhood, will decrease significantly in value. I do not see how your decisions made about the levee will protect me and my ability to stay in my home and in my neighborhood. This is not an example of the corps protecting the people.

Sincerely,

Lisa K Aldridge

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: LOUIS CAULEY [redacted] >
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 12:30 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attention Amy Dixon

Dear Ms. Dixon,

My name is Peggy Cauley. I have lived at [redacted] Slidell, La. [redacted] for 40+ years. Learning about the levee has left me broken. My husband and I are elderly. He is disable. At a time where we should be enjoying the fruits of our labor, we now wonder, "Where are we going to go? What are we going to do?" How sad it is to know that only some of the people of St. Tammany Parish matter. Currently we get about 21/2 foot of water during a storm. What is the projected height of the flood water going to be after the levee is built? I live in a modest home. Currently my homeowners/flood insurance is around $6,600. How much will it increase? What adds insults to injury in not knowing about the levee until after the fact. Why wasn't we informed? How ironic it is to know that the residents of Avery Estates aren't allowed to get fill dirt due to concern of flooding our neighbors, but the parish is constantly approving projects that results in flooding our neighborhood.

Sadly,.
Peggy Cauley

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: LOUIS CAULEY [redacted] >
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 8:07 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Levee

My name is Peggy Cauley. I reside at [redacted] Dr. Slidell, La. [redacted]. I have lived at this address for 40 years. I strongly oppose the levee! The levee with no only cause hardships to those outside the levee protection, it will place people's lives in danger. -- Prove me wrong.

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Lisa Eaton [redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 12:31 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Amy Dixon

I live in Slidell Louisiana of military Road and none of us are protected from y'all so-called levee protection plan. We are a flood zone and my neighbors insurance just went up $1000 on her mortgage every month. This is not OK with y'all are trying to do and excluding most of district 13

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Lana Houlihan [redacted] >
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 2:38 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Proposed Levee concerns

Good Day,

I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to a levee in Slidell, Louisiana. I am a lifelong resident of Slidell, Louisiana. Thru my adult years I have prided myself in protecting and cherishing our unique and prized ecosystem, culture and community. In addition to being an Administrative Coordinator at our local hospital, I am a charter and recreational fisherman. It is without question, obvious that a levee would have countless detrimental effects on our delicate ecosystem and economy. Restricting natural waterways will impact the seafood industry, our swamp and marsh lands. This is what we are known for.

I am one of over 25,000 homes that will be excluded from the levees protection. A levee of such will lead to sky rocketing insurance rates due to an increased risk of flooding. Keep into mind, my insurance has increased from $3200 a year to $11,800 over the past couple of years as it is. I could only imagine how my homes value will dramatically decrease should this levee proposal become active. Home owners such as myself are already struggling to pay an inflated and unfair increased insurance rates.

Businesses, schools, churches and religious sites will also be at an increased risk of flooding when a levee is erected. How can anyone think this is fair or logical?

It is my understanding that my tax dollars will be spent to erect and maintain this levee. How will I be compensated and will I be compensated fairly?

The St. Tammany levee board discreetly held 2 public meeting that were not publicized effectively. Residents were not given the opportunity to fairly object to this levee. It is only thru word of mouth and social media that this proposal came to light which prompted people to reach out. I attended one of the two meeting and at the meeting no one mentioned that we could express opposition. I found out by searching on your website that I could express concerns via email.

YOUR “project goals” to “reduce the severity of flood damages and risk to public health and safety” contradict just what a levee would do to District 13 residents and all those outside of the levee parameter. A levee will increase the severity of flood damages and risk to public health and safety. Hurricane Katrina was a

Our homes, culture, ecosystem and way of life are worth CONSERVING. We knew the risk of flooding when we moved into a flood zone, what we did not anticipate was an astronomical inflated insurance rate and a compounded risk of flooding with the construction of a levee. It is absurd to implement what some see as detrimental 18 years AFTER the fact…Katrina.

For the sake of all those to be impacted, I kindly ask you to reallocate the funds to coastal protection.

[redacted]

[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Wondèr Travel [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 10:37 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Proposed Levee

To:The Head of the Slidell Levee project.

Excuse my ignorance. Not knowing the proper person to address our concerns. Only information being posted on social media is by my neighbors and many residents of St. Tammany parish. These residents have names and they use them..

The glaring fact is this doesn't. To me a glaring show of disrespect to evey taxpayers and homeowners in the mapped area set for this levee plan. There isn't concise information nor has the trust been established that is imperative before a project of this size is underway. ..
The plans with its demand of certain stipulations and added expectations & requirements to raise homes at homeowners expense is incredulous.
These actions will cause severe financial hardship to 1000's of homeowners. Many of these homes currently aren't in a flood zone nor an area that floods. The current information as it' written will impose extar taxes plus extar homeowners cost to raise their home with the staggering high cost of flood and homeowners insurance this is . Our state's leadership has failed to fight for homeowners fair insurance cost. Our parish government has allowed poorly designed development without proper drainage that causes more street flooding. The levee plan seems like a blind. With another plan not disclosed to taxpayers vote. We want more solid information. And the funds to raise our homes have to be accounted into the leeve buget. Facts please. .

Lola Huelster
[redacted] Slidell, LA[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Liz <[redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 9:23 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Proposed levee for Slidell, La/ St. Tammany parish

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – New Orleans District c/o Amy Dixon CEMVN-PMR-C
7400 Leake Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70118

sttammanyfs@usace.army.mil

Dear Ms. Amy Dixon

My name is Elizabeth Stoltz, my husband is Darryl Stoltz, We live at [redacted] subdivision off of [redacted]. I have lived in my home since June 2004 when we moved back home from Houston, Texas. I want to make sure that I am on public record with the federal government with regard to this project.

I have the following questions that I do not believe have been addressed or if addressed Awww seems to have been concluded with old or incomplete information.

I have the following concerns and many more which my husband and I would like answered. We would like another meeting face to face with all involved in the decision to build this levee and exclude us. Also we would like clear updated answers and proof that this levee will not hurt or change our environment in any way.

I have the following comments and requests of the federal government.

Very scary. I bought my house because of the flood plain it was in, the businesses nearby, doctors offices, large hospital etc. I was careful to consider all things before we bought our home. Now unbeknownst to us, this plan has been put into place to hurt those of us outside of the levee. This decision was supposed to make sure it would not hurt the environment or the people outside of this proposed levee. But instead, I have not seen anything yet that can assure us on the outside of the planned levee that we will not be hurt by this levee instead. Whole neighborhood houses will have to be raised at our expense first to bring anything to code before being raised and after to actually get it raised. This will in turn call for lots of changes in pipes and sewer, electrical wiring, gas lines etc etc etc. One change causes another change and it doesn't seem like much thought was given to this. Plus the fact that our neighborhood would COMPLETELY change as far as esthetics and usable land for growing our own food etc. I bought my house in my neighborhood because I liked the neighborhood feel. I didn't want a raised house area. Not to mention the fact that some if us weren't even approved to be raised. So shall we sit and wait for the water to come around that levee to us?
Who is going to pay for my raised flood insurance or the fact that I might eventually not even be able to get any at all? I didn't ask for this problem either and yet it becomes my problem? Who is going to pay to compensate me for my now much lowered property value as my whole neighborhood is being forced into a situation for which we didn't ask for.
What studies have been done on water flow around this proposed levee as far as damages now caused to the "outside " areas? What changes will be caused to the environment, marshes, bayous, waterways, and the birds and animals who live there? Will there be damage to native trees, plants etc as a result of this levee? How will it affect how the wild animals move from one area to another? Will they be shut off from food and water? Will the levee system affect fishing, crabbing or shrimping in the area? If the engineers are wrong and the "outside" areas /homes are flooded as a direct result of the levee, will the people who live there be bought out at prices before the levee was proposed as I am hearing talk that property value has already been affected/lowered in outside areas. Because if people are looking for a home they certainly are not going to buy a home in a

possible flood area caused by a levee. We have all seen other places where levees have caused significant flooding in the outside areas.

Who will compensate businesses? How will churches/faith formations be compensated? Where will people go to the doctor or hospital, get their meds, shop for groceries, or send their kids to school if they are flooded on the outside!!

I am proposing these questions and muchhhh more!!!!

We would like to speak to all involved in decision/law/plan making. Please give us all a chance to do that before the decision is made. We have these questions and many more.

Respectfully,

Elizabeth and Darryl Stoltz

[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Matthew Allen <[redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 5:04 PM
To: Sttammanyfs; amy.dixion@usace.army.mil
Cc: Chris Davis
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] St. Tammany Feasibility Study Comments

Please Accept the attached Comments for the St. Tammany Feasibility Study.

Matthew Allen
Northshore Riverwatch

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Mary Beyer [redacted] >
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 2:18 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Cc: [redacted] m
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Concerns Regarding the Recommendations for the St Tammany Parish Levee Project

Army Corp of Engineers-New Orleans District C/O Amy Dixon
CEMVN- PMR-C
7400 Leake Ave
New Orleans, LA 70118

Dear Ms. Dixon,

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the St Tammany Parish Feasibility Study. I am a homeowner in eastern Slidell and am currently excluded from the Tentatively Selected Plan. My concerns include the following:

-- The report indicates that my property will experience a net negative impact during storm surge events due to the proposed TSP, and that some of the structural alternatives, not included, would have lessened or mitigated this impact. Why was east Slidell excluded from a structural solution?

-- The loss costs identified seem undervalued and definitely do not include the inflationary pressures experienced over the past three years. Such an undervaluation not only depresses the value of the loss experienced by the excluded property owners but hurts the cost-benefit ratio of proposed alternatives. Additionally, public buildings and services (water utilities, wastewater treatment, fire and emergency response, schools) lay outside the structural protection and I couldn t identify where the costs for relocating or restoring those services were clearly laid out when analyzing alternatives. Were the above concerns considered in your cost data, and if so, where? Was the impact of flooded wastewater treatment facilities considered in your environmental factors?

-- Multiple assumptions were made in the analysis of the non-structural alternatives (dry floodproofing, elevating) that were not justified in the report. For instance, you quote five contractors able to raise 100 homes simultaneously each month to justify your timeline. I could not find any market research to justify that remarkably rapid pace of progress. Your non-structural alternatives also place a heavy burden, in cost, effort, and time, in non-federal partners for permitting and utilities, and in the individual homeowners to schedule the work and to pay for non-reimbursable elements of the work. I could not find evidence that these steps were included in your schedule. Please provide evidence of market research conducted and details of your scheduling process to verify that the local area industry partners can meet the pace of work, that the government agencies can meet the permitting timelines, and that all excluded properties can achieve the non-structural alternative prior to the construction of the flood protection structures that will increase hazards to the excluded properties.

Thank you for your assistance, and our community looks forward to more dialogue with the project team to produce an equitable and beneficial project proposal. We can be reached at 985-290-0423 or 985-290-5957.

Sincerely,

Scott and Colleen Beyer
[redacted]
Slidell, LA 7[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Melissa <[redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 11:16 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Proposed Levee

Good Afternoon,

I am writing this email to voice my concerns about the proposed Slidell levee. My family lives in French Branch. It will negatively impact my family having the wall outside our home and pushing water towards us. (Water that doesn't normally flow towards us.)

I'm upset you chose to put Walmart and Lowes inside the levee but not the schools. (Little Oak Middle School, Boyet Jr. High, Honey Island Elementary, Cypress Cove Elementary and private school Pope John Paul High School) This levee will put thousands of children's education at risk. I guess corporate America is more important.

If the goal is to do no harm, this proposed plan does the exact opposite.

I am against the proposed levee.

Sincerely,
Melissa Boffenmyer AIC

Sent from my iPhone

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Michael Caswell <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 1:35 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Military Road Neighborhoods Excluded

As a followup, the more I read about this proposal, the more shocked and dismayed I am at how it is being pushed through.

First of all, the sheer absurdity of a floodwall slicing right through the middle of eastern Slidell, cutting neighborhoods in half, crossing numerous residential streets, and affecting businesses on Gause Blvd. as well, is difficult to fathom.

Secondly, I do not believe that the BCR calculations adequately valued the homes in this area, and must be recalculated to be more accurate and realistic. I understand the concept that it's difficult to justify extending a levee dozens of miles through some remote rural area just to protect a few more homes. But it defies logic that these neighborhoods, with thousands of well-kept middle-class homes, along with some large and very expensive custom homes, and (by my count) six schools, are not worthy of protecting.

In addition, the disparity of having protected neighborhoods and unprotected neighborhoods is going to have an immediate and drastic impact on the value of our homes, which must be factored in to any plan. I recognize that the plan includes "non-structural" projects for these neighborhoods, predominantly involving slab elevations. But the often hideous nature of these elevations would ruin the aesthetic of these neighborhoods, and that's assuming that these projects could even take place in a reasonable amount of time, as there are only a small number of companies qualified for this work, and I have my doubts as to whether the funding for these projects would be given the same level of priority as the structural elements. Furthermore, this would not protect vehicles from being destroyed in floods.

Lastly, the TSP only glosses over the impacts that the project will have to neighborhoods outside of the protection. It indicates that the amount of induced flooding to these areas as a result of the levee and floodwall is something that would be studied in more detail later. This is something that needs to be determined now, BEFORE the project is approved and set into motion. While I am not a hydrologist, it is logical that blocking storm surge from one area will noticeably increase the amount of storm surge to adjacent areas. Same with heavy rainfall inside the protected areas which will be pumped out into the unprotected areas (with these areas also having to cope with their own rainfall).

Imagine a hurricane or tropical storm scenario in which rivers and bayous are backed up from widespread heavy rainfall and are unable to drain due to storm surge in Lake Pontchartrain. With the rainfall occurring within the levee-protected areas being actively pumped out into these already full waterways, unprotected areas that rely solely on gravity drainage (which would already be very limited due to backed-up waterways) would surely see notably increased flooding.

This negative impact on the Military Road neighborhoods MUST be accounted for.

Michael Caswell
[redacted].
Slidell, LA 7[redacted]

> On Aug 24, 2023, at 5:42 AM, Michael Caswell <[redacted]> wrote:
>
> I am outraged by the Military Road area being excluded from the proposed flood protection system. We moved to this area after our first home in Slidell was flooded multiple times, to a home that was in Flood Zone C and had never flooded. Now, as a

result of this proposed levee, not only will our neighborhood suffer the stigmatization (and economic ramifications) of being “outside the flood protection system”, but we will be MORE likely to flood than before, since that storm surge blocked by the levee has to go somewhere.
>
> These are thriving neighborhoods with thousands of homes and multiple schools, which are going to be directly harmed as a result of this proposed levee.
>
> Michael Caswell
> [redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Michael Caswell <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, August 24, 2023 5:43 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Cc: mmsmith@stpgov.org
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Military Road Neighborhoods Excluded

I am outraged by the Military Road area being excluded from the proposed flood protection system. We moved to this area after our first home in Slidell was flooded multiple times, to a home that was in Flood Zone C and had never flooded. Now, as a result of this proposed levee, not only will our neighborhood suffer the stigmatization (and economic ramifications) of being "outside the flood protection system", but we will be MORE likely to flood than before, since that storm surge blocked by the levee has to go somewhere.

These are thriving neighborhoods with thousands of homes and multiple schools, which are going to be directly harmed as a result of this proposed levee.

Michael Caswell
[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Marty Doody <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 12:53 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Cc: goodleveeforallslidellstp@gmail.com
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana Feasibility Study

To Whom It May Concern-

This communication is in response to the proposed levee location in East St. Tammany Parish. We learned of this proposal through local concerned citizens. I have reviewed the drawings and imagery showing the proposed levee locations and it is very disturbing. The proposed location of the level will leave out some of the most vulnerable areas along the Pearl River Basin (approximately 25,000 residents, schools, and businesses). The lower lying areas along Military Rd are already suffering compounding problems due to over-development and a lack of dredging of the gravity fed drainage canals and feeder bayous to the Pearl River.

Building a levee in the location as proposed would further increase the flooding potential of the exposed areas. The requirement to raise the homes not protected would cause an artificial undue financial burden on those homeowners, with many unable to pay the costs. In addition, this would have a long term negative effect on values of properties excluded from the levee.

Leaving this many residents in the most impacted areas of the east side of the parish unprotected is gross negligence. As a resident of East St. Tammany, I implore your office to reconsider the location of the proposed levee, and relocate it east of the neighborhoods along the Pearl River.

Sincerely,

Martin Doody

[redacted]

Slidell, LA 7[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Dixon, Amy A CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 1:13 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: FW: [Non-DoD Source] Slidell Levee

Amy Dixon
Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District
Work: 504-862-1193
Cell: 504-289-9330

From: micheleduvic[redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 11:47 AM
To: Dixon, Amy A CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA) <Amy.Dixon@usace.army.mil>
Cc: jeanne <j[redacted]; Jeanne Stangle [redacted]>; Phyllis Waring [redacted]>; Allison Duvic [redacted]>; Frank Duvic <f[redacted]>; roger [redacted]>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Slidell Levee

Dear Ms. Dixon,
Please record and forward my objection to the Slidell Levee feasibility study.

The Corp's purpose is to build and move dirt. The damages done with these "essential" projects does not materialize for years, then more billions of dollars are needed to correct the harm done. Examples which come to mind are
- the levees of the Mississippi River which do not allow silt to be distributed to build wetlands, with the catastrophic loss of miles of Louisiana coast. Then billions get spent to dredge and divert in order to fix the damage.
- the inadequate material used to build these levees leading to deadly gaps in the New Orleans levees which then must be repaired.
- the permitting of oil crew work boat waterways slicing and dicing the wetlands, thus providing easy destruction of wetlands and Louisiana coast.

The Corp does not have a good track record. I do not trust the "feasibility study" to provide an objective review of the potential damage to our wetlands and scenic byways.

The review does not take in to account the horrific land misuse of the "2040" project approved by the St. Tammany Parish Council. The tremendous acreage that has been approved for "manufacturing/logistics" and high-density development with the subsequent clear-cutting and land fill will greatly impact the ability of the multiple watershed areas to drain. And now there will be a levee to adversely impact yearly drainage as opposed to a hundred year storm surge.

Different options have not been explored thoroughly enough for you to have my support.
Michele Duvic

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Karie Falgout [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 2:39 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Flood Levee
Attachments: Flood Letter - Michael.pdf

Good Afternoon,
Please see attached regarding proposed flood levee.

Thank you for your time.

Michael Falgout Jr

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Michelle Grout <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, August 31, 2023 2:59 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] St. Tammany Levee

Dear Ms. Amy Dixon,

My name is Michelle Grout, I live at [redacted] in Slidell and have lived in my home for 13 years. I have concerns about my home not being included in the currently proposed levee plan for St. Tammany. I don't understand why our government would build a levee and exclude many of the neighborhoods. I request that the plan be revisited to include all the neighborhoods including French Branch which I live in.

Michelle Grout
[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Wendy Harpster <[redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 9:19 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] St Tammany Parish Levee Project and Feasibility Study

Army Corp of Engineers-New Orleans District
C/O Amy Dixon
CEMVN-PMR-C
7400 Leake Ave
New Orleans, LA 70118

Dear Ms. Dixon,

I am writing to express concerns regarding the proposed levee project and to include my name and address as one that opposes the current project. Many of my neighbors have expressed substantial details and evidence regarding this project and how it would be detrimental to my property and the surrounding area. The project leaves my property unprotected and could also result in further flooding in the areas along Military Road.

Please reconsider this project.

Michael Harpster
[redacted]

[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Michael Havert <[redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 9:51 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Floodwall in Slidell

I'm not completely understanding the thought process of the core.

Please consider the following before you decide to wreck people's biggest asset (Their home).

1. Devalue their home, I'm being told around 20% minimum.
2. Making home and flood insurance rates climb by being on the wrong side of the wall.
3. Mortgages will be outrages and eventually mortgages will be unaffordable for some.
4. Schools and the hospital are on the outside of the wall, why not protect these.

Please reconsider as thousands will be negatively affected.

Thanks,

Michael Havert

[redacted]

[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Mary Ellen Jovanovic [redacted] >
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 2:07 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Levee in Slidell

To whom it may concern:

My husband and I live in the [redacted], off Pearl Acres, and within the city limits of Slidell We built here in 2003 and have been through Katrina, where we flooded by inches. Even today, our street flooded with 5-7 inches of rain.

We pay ridiculous home insurance ($5000) and flood insurance close to $1000. What will the lack of being within the proposed levee area do to our homes? If there will be more flooding , will the federal government flip the bill for raising our homes?

Please reconsider for the livelihood of the many taxpayers, businesses, churches, and good schools(Cypress Cove, Honey Island, Boyet, Northshore, Pope John Paul II) that will also be adversely affected by this current plan.

Please reconsider and include the neighborhoods off East Gause Blvd and Military Rd to be within the levee protection.

Mary Ellen Jovanovic

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Mirza Marin <[redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 5:45 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] St Tammany Parish Levee Project Concerns

Dear Ms. Amy Dixon,

It's my understanding that you are the person that I should send my concerns regarding the St. Tammany Levee Project. I live on the east side of Slidell, specifically in [redacted] at [redacted]. My home is located near Northshore High School and French Branch Subdivision. Based on the proposed map that I have seen, it appears my home is outside the protection area like many homes in and near my subdivision. I don't quite understand why it's being proposed that the flood wall/levee should basically cut through my neighborhood. It makes more sense to me that this wall/levee should actually be further east and closer to Hwy 190 East.

My home has never flooded before, it was built in the seventy's and I have lived here since 2003. Even during Katrina, we saw no flooding. But I greatly fear that my home will flood if the flood wall/levee is built as it is being proposed. All of the homes affected in my subdivision and nearby subdivisions probably have a fair market value of $300,000 and above. We all pay a great deal of property tax which is used to support our local schools and community resources. If my home suffers any flooding because of this project, I know I will have no choice but to leave our parish. And I imagine that will also be what others will do as well. This would have a devastating economic impact on our community.

In addition, there are several schools outside the protection of the proposed plan. All the schools in our parish are already over capacity and if any of these schools flood because of the lack of protection, families may be forced to leave this parish in order for their children to be able to attend school. Is that the ultimate goal? To purposedly flood a large percentage of people who impact the tax base of the east side of the parish? I hope not.

If this project goes through as planned, will the residents that are impacted by it be provided the funds and resources to raise our homes to better protect them from flooding? Will buyouts of property be offered to those residents whose homes will be directly impacted by increased flooding and damage caused by the construction of the levee/flood wall at the proposed location? Will residents be compensated for increased costs in flood insurance?

I ask that if this project goes throught that an alternative levee site be considered that extend further east perhaps along or east of Hwy 190 and/or Military Road.

Sincerely,

Mirza Marin

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Mike Ortega <[redacted]y[redacted]>
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 4:20 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] St Tammany Parish Levee Project

I just got wind of your proposed levee project for Slidell, Louisiana. As I can tell from maps obtained on line it appears that you are planning construction of a flood wall through the east side of Slidell that would essentially place the bulk of the east side of Slidell outside of that proposed wall. WHY IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU DO SUCH A THING? This area encompasses several subdivisions, doctors and dentists offices, two schools, numerous businesses and churches. You would essentially place us in a highly floodable area that would increase our flood insurance and home owners' premiums making them prohibitive for most of us.

My career in Federal Law Enforcement required me and my family to relocate away from Slidell. After I retired my wife and I were able to move back to Slidell in 2015. We chose to live on the east side because of its amenities and its proximity to some of the worlds best fishing. Being on a government pension my income is limited. I, for one, cannot afford raising my home at the cost of thousands of dollars, and I can't afford to relocate again. If I chose that option I doubt seriously I would ever get a fair market value for my home with your proposals hanging over us.

I respectfully ask that you reconsider placing your flood wall closer to the Pearl River so that ALL of Slidell is protected from storm surges. I believe that the cost of such a wall would ,in reality, be less expensive than reimbursing everyone through grants to rebuild, relocate or improve their properties.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Ortega
[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: marie ricca <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 11:27 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Cc: [redacted]; Suzanne Krieger; [redacted]; Mary Swann; Walter J Lane; Jim Fatic; [redacted]
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Slidell, St. Tammany Flood Protection

Dear Coordinators,

Thank you for your efforts to help protect the land flooding in our area.

Your proposed plan for protection appears to be feasible for preventing flooding and I support it.

It is evident that the bayous and tributaries are filled with sediment and marsh due to the push from recent storms and will need to be dredged in order to regain water retention area.
Also, an added weir at the Rigolets would be a possibility to protect all perimeters of Lake Pontchartrain without walling off the entire lake.

Hopefully, this project will be a priority due to the losses already incurred in this region and the imminent potential for another storm.

Your concern is greatly appreciated.

Marie Ricca,
[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Marcia Saluga <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, August 30, 2023 5:22 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Proposed levy

To whom it may concern:
I have lived in Turtle Creek for 27 years and have never flooded. My husband is disabled and homebound. He is in a power chair and we have a lift system for transfers so it is nearly impossible for us to leave. I am deeply concerned that the proposed levy will force water into areas east of Military Road and flood my home.

Please reconsider protecting ALL of Slidell, not just a select few areas.

Sincerely,
Marcia Saluga
[redacted]
Slidell, LA [redacted]

Sent from my iPad

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: msiouxko[redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 1, 2023 10:27 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] ST TAMMANY/SLIDELL FLOOD LEVEE PROPOSAL

To whom this may concern,

It has come to my attention that the local politicians along with the army corp of engineers are proposing to put up a flood levee almost in my back yard in the Slidell area. I live in the [redacted] subdivision and after looking at the current proposed flood wall this will put my house just on the outside of the wall. I was very disappointed to find out that apparently this has been a study/plan that has been in the making for the last three years but no one from the St Tammany Parish Council ever bothered to inform us citizens that would be affected. I know if the current plan gets approved and goes through that it would have a negative impact on my house, neighbors, and the rest of our close communities that fall outside of this proposed wall. My house will now be more likely to flood and not to mention that the value of it will most certainly decline. I am a veteran and still proudly serving in the US Air Force for over 30 years and have been fortunate to be able to be stationed close enough to live in this fine community. However, if this proposal goes through, I don't think my family and I would be able to continue to live here. I need a positive piece of mind that we have had for so long living here when I have to deploy or be gone on any exercises for a lengthy period of time. My family and I have lived here since 2002 and I would hate to have to leave this area because of bad bureaucratic decision making. Either figure out a way to include all of the surrounding communities east of I-10 all the way to the Pearl River or don't put this wall up at all. I refuse to send my tax dollars to a project that will only put my home and my community into a negative position. Your current plan will only end up costing people more money and harm for storm repairs if put into effect under the current proposal.

I hope you guys can come up with a better solution.

Thank you

Mark Suckow

Slidell LA [redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Nancy Jones <[redacted]>
Sent: Sunday, September 3, 2023 8:12 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Cc: Nancy Jones
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Your current plan

Please do not do this plan. It will hurt my house in turtle Creek! I did not flood in Katrina, but this new plan will make me flood. Please include my neighborhood in the flood protection plan! Nancy Jones [redacted]. Slidell, [redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Nancy Pooler [redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 9:07 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] St Tammany Parish Coastal Protection Study (PO-0167)

To whom it may concern,
My husband David Pooler and I are home owners at [redacted] lidell, LA [redacted] We have lived at this address in the Turtle Creek Subdivision (off of Military Road) for close to 30 years. In that time we have only flooded once, which was during Hurricane Katrina. The experience was a nightmare and one I do not wish to repeat. Our flood waters were attributed to the high water levels of the Pearl River, which is very close to our property.
Just last week, we were informed on Facebook that the Army Corps will soon submit a plan for a levee on our side of town to Congress. After studying the proposal and reviewing the likelihood that this levee will hurt rather than help thousands of Slidell residents, my husband and I would like to voice our opposition to the plan drafted by the Army Corps. It is apparent that if the levee is built according to this plan, our subdivision and many others will be outside of the new levee.
This will likely increase our risk of flooding in future storms. Historically, in areas where levees have been built, such as in Fenton, Missouri, other towns such as Arnold Missouri, have suffered the consequences of heavy damage due to flooding. Personally, I view the situation as dire. Here are some of my concerns: 1. Our property values are surely going to drop. I might add that many of the most valuable properties in Slidell, are located beyond the boundaries of the proposed levee. The Army Corps estimates that values may decrease by 20%. We never anticipated a loss of that magnitude on our primary investment.
2. Our flood insurance costs will most certainly go up substantially, due to the increased risk of flooding. As Senior citizens on a fixed income, that is unacceptable.
3. The environmental impacts to our side of town have not been addressed.
4. Many schools and businesses outside of the proposed levee would be likely to flood.
5. The models studied by the Army Corps did not address flooding from the Pearl River or rain events, as has happened in the past.
6. It has been mentioned that 6,500 homes outside of the levee will have to be raised. There will be substantial cost to home owners to first bring their home up to current codes. In addition, the character and aesthetic of these homes will be negatively impacted. I have yet to learn if my home is included in the proposal, but I would be inclined to put my home on the market, if it were the case.
In summary, I'd like to respectfully point out that this proposal does nothing to protect my neighbors and ourselves, rather, it will only harm us. Thus the Army Corps is not abiding by one of their own rules.
Sincerely,
Mr and Mrs David J Pooler

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Pat Fitzpatrick <[redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 4:39 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Cc: Pat Fitzpatrick
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments on Corps St Tammany Flood Study

The conclusions reached by the Army Corps with regards to rural St. Tammany Parish storm surge protection are disappointing and shows no inclination to consider the feedback of it's citizens. What is particular galling is that the Eden Isles region has actively participated in many meetings and provided a detailed protection plan for its community. The Corps conclusions show that such community interaction is not awarded or even considered.

Specific concerns:

1) Raising hundreds of brick homes is not feasible. Using code words such as 'Nonstructural Plan" for this action highlights the insensitivity and opaqueness of this organization. The Eden Isles plan was never taken seriously. This plan includes a floodgate at the Eden Isles entrance and raising HWY 11 and Lakeview Drive. A pump system may be needed as well depending on the elevation protection installed. This plan is feasible, cheaper, and quicker. The Corps simply refuses to consider it.

2) Since the Corps could no longer use cost effectiveness as an excuse once the correct economical value of Eden Isles was included, they now have twisted EIS requirements as the impetus for not protecting Eden Isles. They simply are determined to use the existing levee without concern for Eden Isles.

3) State and federal officials will be liable to a lawsuit when the proposed ring levee enhances flooding in Eden Isles during the next storm surge event. This possibility is not even considered.

Sincerely,

Dr. Pat Fitzpatrick
[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Pamela Miller <[redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 5:30 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Cc: goodleveeforallslidellstp@gmail.com
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] NO LEVEE for Holiday Acres Subdivision/ We do Not Want A Levee! Resident at [redacted]

Hello, my name is Pamela, Badinger Miller. I reside at [redacted], Slidell, Louisiana, 7[redacted]. It has been brought to my attention that a levee is coming to our area. We as citizens should have known about this sooner. This is totally wrong. I wish to express that I do not want the levee anywhere near the Holiday acres subdivision. With new homes already being built near North Shore high school we have more flooding in this area than we ever had. I am a single mom surviving breast cancer. My home is all I have at the present time, it's very difficult to even afford flood insurance and homeowners insurance. I have been living in holiday acres since 1994. There have been no areas of flooding in or around my area Since this time and I do not want for flooding, depreciation of my property, higher cost of flood insurance, which I don't need at the present time AND higher home owners insurance. I wish to express, and make it perfectly clear, that I do not want the levee in my area. I have worked hard my whole life to keep what I have. My home is all I have. Do not put a levy here!!!!! Another location needs to be provided for all of the citizens of Saint Tammany Parish, and the people within the holiday acres subdivision, the front branch area and all of the subdivisions around. We DO NOT want this levy and we will fight to stop it from coming here. Please take this to heart. It will affect all of us in a negative way. Again, I do not want the Levee here. The way the St. Tammany parish and Slidell elected officials, who have not communicated AT ALL to the citizens is a DISGRACE. Trying to hide and keep this from us as homeowners is wrong, unacceptable and uncalled for! Respectfully, Pamela, Badinger Miller.

Sent from my iPhone

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: paula mills <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 8:23 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Fwd: Proposed Levee

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** paula mills <[redacted]>
> **Date:** September 5, 2023 at 1:19:17 PM CDT
> **To:** sttammanyfs@usace.army.mil
> **Subject: Proposed Levee**
>
> Dear USACE,
> Just finding out about this leaves me little time to compose a proper letter, but please take into account what I say. We live in [redacted] of Military Rd. We will be outside of this proposed levee. Homes in our neighborhood have flooded in the past. My home has never flooded before. Our fear is that this levee could make our area more prone to flood in the future. If a levee is being considered it needs to protect us all!
>
> Thanks,
> Paula Mills
>
> Sent from my iPhone

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: paula mills <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 1:19 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Proposed Levee

Dear USACE,
Just finding out about this leaves me little time to compose a proper letter, but please take into account what I say. We live in [redacted] of Military Rd. We will be outside of this proposed levee. Homes in our neighborhood have flooded in the past. My home has never flooded before. Our fear is that this levee could make our area more prone to flood in the future. If a levee is being considered it needs to protect us all!

Thanks,
Paula Mills

Sent from my iPhone

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Paula Nuber [redacted] >
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 5:01 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Levee Proposal

To U S Army Corp of Engineers - New Orleans District:

My husband and I have lived in St. Tammany Parish in River Oaks Estates down [redacted] since 1987. We flooded with Katrina like many and have grave concerns for the Corps proposed levee project for St. Tammany Parish. This levee will not protect our subdivision and we are adamantly opposed to this project. However, we would fully support a revised plan that provided protection equally for all neighborhoods. Thank you for considering our voice to protect our home and our neighbors.

Sincerely,
Robert & Paula Nuber
[redacted]
Slidell, Louisiana [redacted]
[redacted]

[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Peg Reily <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 11:41 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments on St Tammany Feasibility Study

September 5, 2023

By Email: sttammanyfs@usace.army.mil
Re: U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana Feasibility Study

We strongly OBJECT to the Updated USACE St Tammany Parish Feasibility Study.
We fully understand that, while this is a proposal for a two-phase project, the impacts of the first phase of the project would have too many negative consequences to the environment and hydrology of the Northshore of Lake Pontchartrain to entertain thoughtful consideration. The "projected" costs are astronomical for taxpayers in Louisiana and around the country.

We are property owners along Bayou Liberty in St. Tammany Parish and our property will surely suffer significant impacts from this project, specifically the construction of the USACE-proposed West Slidell Levee system. We are not alone; most of the property owners who live along these natural waterways will undoubtedly be negatively impacted by the proposed levee.

We are members of the Bayou Liberty Association and we concur with the Association's concerns about the Bayou Liberty area, but we also recognize that negative impacts will extend well beyond the Bayou Liberty area, from the Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge (BBMNWR) across Bayou Paquet, Bayou Liberty and Bayou Bonfouca. This is an extensive levee and flood gate system and would have to be maintained by St. Tammany Parish in perpetuity??? We suspect that, with the currently dynamic situation of climate change, rising sea levels and land loss, there will also be unpredictable factors that will make this levee system inadequate within a short span of time.

We agree with the Bayou Liberty Association's focus on impacts to property owners but feel our focus must also be on the impacts to the highly-critical natural ecosystems on the northshore of Lake Pontchartrain. In the Feasibility Study you state that 98 acres of important Northshore habitat within the BBMNWR will be directly impacted for which mitigation would need to be made somewhere beyond the Refuge (in addition to the 32 acres that could be mitigated within the Refuge). Not only will this have a huge impact on BBMNWR - 130 acres of important wetlands that had been set aside for protection - it also suggests that the wetlands along Bayou Liberty and the other bayous would similarly be impacted and require mitigation as well. This is simply unacceptable.

In summary, we strongly object to the project as currently proposed in the St Tammany Parish Feasibility Study. While we support funds to elevate existing homes in the project area, we are strongly against any project that encourages further developments below Interstate 12.
Thank you for your consideration of our concerns and suggestions.

P.W. Reily and C.B Kennedy
[redacted]
Slidell LA 70460

pegreily@gmail.com

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: pdalewaring [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 9:09 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] FW: Levee in my back yard

Sent from Mail for Windows

From: pdalewaring
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 9:04 PM
To: Sttammanyfc@usace.arm.mil
Subject: Levee in my back yard

Dear Ms. Dixon,
Thank you for your service, and thank you for taking my email.
I would like to put my objection to a St. Tammany Levee project on public record.
I have lived and worked in St. Tammany Parish for 34 years. Formerly on [redacted] , my 17 foot raised house flooded on the ground level with Katrina, proposed to be outside of the levee; now I have lived for 18 years in [redacted] estates. Neighbors have flooded at least 5 times in the past 28 years, from RAIN and RIVER flooding, and then the once with a hurricane surge with Katrina, which truly seemed to come from the Pearl back up. The Corp proposal does not appear to consider the impact of a levee on the river side, which is our whole neighborhood. I suspect the water displacement from a 13-17 foot levee will impact the flood waters in my and other neighbors back yards. Will this be addressed please?
Impacts of economics proport that people will move out – however that was not the case as most rebuilt after floods and Katrina, and St. Tammany council has egregiously continued to rapidly build houses in dense areas (particularly along Hoover and Military roads, outside of the protection zone, with no objection by the Corp or projection for the future. Surely the council KNEW of this study and proposal? Was it ignored? Did the Corp intervene or update the study with so much building going on? The Corp project involving Valley Park, MO has been a night mare for citizens outside of the flood wall, with growth during the time of the study, but not taken in account as the project steamrolled forward. 'Scientific American', 'propubica.org-Flood Thy Neighbor: Who Stays Dry and Who Decides?'
Homes in our area have continued to have increased value, and not depreciate. A 30 year old study is soooo inaccurate.
Flood waters from Katrina in our area were from back up of the Pearl, which now would appear to be trapped behind the flood wall, because the gates would not be opening in case of surge from the lake, or not able to flow naturally in case of , a river flood only. The Appendix G, Real Estate Plan Section 8 INDUCED FLOODING should have been addressed BEFORE the proposal went public, not after or NOT done). I think this is where so many of us are alarmed that this proposal wasn't adequately disclosed to us, in the past years as it was being formulated, as most modern people, including myself, do not get public notices in newspapers, and do not have local news to catch a glimpse of sometime important topics. I really am ashamed that I knew nothing until this recent, BRIEF public comment period. I am also ashamed of our local leaders who did not have the gumption or where with all to keep us up to date.
The environmental impact along a scenic waterway, Bayou Bonfouca, with probably red dirt, with a large hill on the banks to funnel in and out rising waters, seems preposterous. The homes in Coin du Lestin should be raised, but doubtful that the owners there will be able to renovate them up to Code, before a government or private elevation, at a cost of $200,00 per house.
Lastly, Ms. Dixon, I do not wish to have a 13 foot levee in my backyard and have never once been approached about buying my land. What is the proposed value of my land, and how much will be displaced by a levee there? What is the induced water displacement in my yard from flooding, rivers, rain, and back wash when the surge goes around the levee ends? Teenagers enjoy easy walking access from our neighborhood into Northshore High School grounds. Guess now they may have to jump off the levee onto their campus.

Sincerely,

Phyllis D Waring MD

Phyllis Dale Waring MD

[redacted]

Sent from Mail for Windows

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: PJ Calico <o[redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 1:47 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Level Protection for Eastern Slidell

It appears looking at the proposed flood protection levee system, that the area east of military road is not included in this levee protection. This causes considerable concern since would leave us open to flooding. Some of this area flooded with hurricane Katrina. I also assume this will result in an increase cost for flood insurance. I would like your attention to this issue.

PJ Calico

Sent from Mail for Windows

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Ronda <[redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 9:43 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Levee Plan

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

We oppose the current levee plan for Slidell. It does not provide levee protection for our subdivision, [redacted] or other Military Road residents. This levee plan will increase water levels in our area and will harm us, flooding our homes.

If a levee is built, we must be included.

Sincerely,

Ronda & Carlos Castillo

Willow Wood Subdivision
[redacted]
Slidell, [redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Robin Jourdan <[redacted]
Sent: Thursday, August 24, 2023 10:50 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Levee proposal

We have lived in this area since 1994 and have endured many hurricanes and flood situations, but we are still here. This proposed plan would devistate those outside the proposed area! We are on [redacted] and our insurance would increase substantially and the risk of flooding will more than triple. Please include this out to Hwy 90!!!

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Raymond Pierce [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, August 30, 2023 3:09 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] STPFS - Non Structural Implementation Plan

Good afternoon,

I have been reading through some of the material you have posted online at:

https://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental/NEPA-Compliance-Documents/Bipartisan-Budget-Act-2018-BBA-18/BBA-18-Projects/St-Tammany-Parish-Feasibility-Study/fbclid/IwAR1LaipXmCBBuenYOZo570-VKGlWNoloeq_hkv2nltNk43_5YJ3LIF2Ngp8/

My home is currently outside of the proposed protection area, and in flood zone AE or a 100 year flood plain. I know with this proposal there are options for raising these structures to potentially mitigate future effects from flooding, however I am concerned. My home was built over 40 years ago in accordance with building codes from that time. While there have been updates, and things like that, it is mostly cosmetic, and likely nothing to bring the house up to today's code.

Per Appendix H – Nonstructural Implementation Plan:
" The costs that exceed that which is necessary to safely elevate a structure are deemed ineligible costs and any such costs are the sole financial responsibility of the property owner. The following items are ineligible:"
"Costs associated with bringing a non-conforming structure into compliance with current building codes, housing codes, and/or other applicable codes;"

So does this mean my home is ineligible, or I need to get all of these corrected before hand? Does this mean if work starts and something is discovered, I will be Left with a torn up home until I have the funds to update everything? What about things like sewer drainage under a home? When this neighborhood was built, the sewer pipes under slab were burried, and not required to be hung or affixed to the slab, so raising the slab on any of these houses is going cause an issue where the sewer lines aren't attached per code, and per how the plan is written, the cost of addressing that isnt covered?

Where can I find additional information on what this is going to mean for me and my family?

R/S
[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Rick Saluga <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 11:10 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED LEVY

To:Army Corp of Engineers - New Orleans District
C/O Amy Dixon
CEMVN-PMR-C
7400 Leake Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70118
RE: St. Tammany Levee Proposal
Date: September 5, 2023

Dear Ms. Dixon,
My name is Rick Saluga and I live at [redacted], Slidell, LA [redacted]. I have lived at this address for 28 years and never flooded. I am writing to voice my opposition to the Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) for St. Tammany Parish.
I am permanently disabled and confined to a power chair. My home is designed with a lift system for transfers, has a whole house generator and is handicapped accessible. I am homebound. I am very concerned that the proposed plan will cause my home to flood. I have no idea why you would not protect such a large area of Slidell that has a big tax base and schools.

As a taxpaper and resident I am asking that you please reconsider this plan and seek to protect all residents of the Slidell area. This plan does not work for me.

Thank you for your time and prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,
Rick Saluga

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: ROGER WIBRIGHT <[redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 5:43 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Flood wall in Slidell

We are very concerned and worried over the present plan to build a wall to allow thousands of homes, businesses, schools, hospitals, and people to be devastated. We ask you to reevaluate this plan for other options. Thank you, Roger and Alta Wibright

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Suzanne Broadwell [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 1:46 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Louisiana Feasibly Study

September 3, 2023

To: sttammanyfs@usace.army.mil

Re: USACE St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana Feasibility Study

First, I commend the Corps for beginning this study. Anything that can be done to avoid or control the flooding in these areas is very important. As a member of the Bayou Liberty Association, I appreciate your efforts to share information and listen to the concerns of those who will be closely affected by this project.

I am concerned about the height limitation at the floodgate on Bayou Liberty. This height restriction will make it impossible for sailboats/ tall vessels to maneuver in the areas upstream where we live. Also, we now have 2 marinas that service this area, and again, these boats would be unable to use the upstream waters. We have a beautiful public campground, Camp Salmon, which is open to all, and would not be usable by families owning these taller boats.

I would like to see the levee alignment moved further west onto the Big Branch National Wildlife Reserve. This would allow more private property protection, less visibility to floodgates pumps, etc., and less destruction of private property.

Again, I thank you for listening to my concerns and hope that you will continue to inform us as a group as the project grows and changes.

Suzanne Broadwell

[redacted]

Slidell, La

[redacted]

--

Suzanne Broadwell,President

[redacted]

[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Sharon Jacobs <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 8:03 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] St Tammany Feasibility Study for flood protection

I am highly in favor of the recommendations in the most recent revised study area.
As a 20 year resident of Slidell and a Hurricane Katrina survivor, St Tammany parish needs this flood protection project funded and started ASAP.
Thank you.
Sharon Jacobs
[redacted]
Slidell, LA 7[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Sandy Katz <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 7:45 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Flood Risk

Dear Ms. Amy Dixon,

I hope you are doing well, and appreciate your efforts to hear my concerns regarding the July 2023 Corps' St. Tammany Parish, LA., Feasibility Study Revised Draft.

My name is Saundra Katz, and please note that I DO NOT support the currently proposed U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) initiative to provide structural flood risk for Southeastern Louisiana (St. Tammany Parish).

Specifically, this latest plan does NOT provide any structural or non-structural flood risk reduction system protections for the vast majority of the area east and south of I-10 (Military Road). This excluded demographic is roughly equal in size to the City of Slidell which is included in the current protection proposal. This current plan will cause major harm to the residents and business of the Military Road area.

However, I, am in support of USACE Alternative D or E (Floodwall) Phase IV, which covers the vast majority of the Military Road area, which is currently excluded.

Since the residents living in the Military Road exclusion area are also tax payers, they deserve the same level of protection as all other residents of the Parish.

Sincerely,

Saundra Katz

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: EMAIL SERVICE <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 9:20 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana Feasibility Study

Ms Amy Dixon,
I am opposed to the levee/retaining wall that is being proposed in the eastern section of St. Tammany Parish in Slidell.
Respectfully,
Susan Marsh

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Stephanie Neal <[redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, August 23, 2023 8:21 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana Feasibility Study - Alternative 6A

Good evening,

I'm writing to voice my concerns, regarding the St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana Feasibility Study, specifically Alternative 6A Slidell Levee. I've reviewed this topic at length and I do not agree with alternative 6A Slidell East flood wall. This wall would put all of Gause East outside of the wall and would not protect multiple businesses, Ochsner hospital, multiple residential communities as well as our schools on the east side of Slidell.

Also, this levee flood wall would cause everyone outside of it (Gause East area) to possibly incur higher insurance/flood premium and in some cases, policies may even be dropped all together.

At this time, my recommendations for Slidell East (Gause East) not to have a wall and go with alternative 2 - Nonstructural.

Regards,
Stephanie Neal
[redacted].
Slidell, LA [redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Sherry Roberts [redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 3:17 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Proposed Levee

To whom it may concern,
I have just heard that the subdivision I live in is going to be outside the new proposed levee. This is very upsetting! I have lived in Slidell all my life and 30 years ago built my forever home and now find out that it will almost very likely flood with this new levee. My home has never flooded before and I'm certainly not happy to find out that it probably will if this levee is built. This is unacceptable! Our flood insurance is increasing yearly, I can only imagine what it will be if I ever have to file a claim! You choose who to protect, whose homes you will pay to raise and leave the rest of us just to deal with it! I hope and pray that you will reconsider this plan of action and if you move forward, you will protect ALL of us.
Thank you,
Sherry Roberts

Sent from my iPad

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: JEAN PAUL SANDROCK [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 1, 2023 5:50 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] St. Tammany Parish - Proposed Levee

We are concerned that the proposed Corps of Engineers project will not protect our house or our neighbor's houses. The job of the Corps is to protect people and this does not protect us. We have already experienced an increase in water on our property due to hurricanes since the completion of the Chalmette levee. This current proposal is not only going to create more flooding in our area but is also going to devalue our property.

Jean-Paul & Tina Sandrock
[redacted]
Slidell, La [redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Tim Cleighton <T[redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 2:12 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Opposition to USACE plan

I wanted to send an email indicating my dissatisfaction/opposition to the feasibility plan. My house will be outside the protected area and I have only flooded as a result of Katrina. I support the alternative plans.

Tim Cleighton
[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Tony Finch <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 10:21 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Levee

Dear Ms. Amy Dixon

My name is Anthony Finch, I'm a small business owner. I live outside of the proposed levee at [redacted] Slidell, La. I'm a lifelong resident of Slidell and have lived in my home since 2014. I want to make sure that I am on public record with the federal government with absolute objection to this project. Here are my concerns:

How will this affect property values?
How high are insurance rates expected to be?
Will there even be insurance available?
What effect on our wetlands and wildlife will this cause?
Does Mississippi know about this?

[redacted]
Inline image

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: A. A. <[redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 2, 2023 7:27 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Seeking Explanation

September 2, 2023

I live at [redacted] Subdivision
of East Slidell, LA, of which a significant portion was
flooded by Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

If I am interpreting the proposed Slidell Levee System
map correctly, it appears that French Branch Subdivision
is excluded from the proposed levee protection system.

Why?

Wayne Brown

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Walt Cleighton <[redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 8:09 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Cc: Jennymreed@gmail.com
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR ST. TAMMANY PARISH

Dear Ms. Amy Dixon,

I hope you are doing well, and appreciate your efforts to hear my concerns regarding the July 2023 Corps' St. Tammany Parish, LA., Feasibility Study Revised Draft.

My name is Walt Cleighton and I have lived in Slidell, LA for 43 years, and at my current home for 33 years. In all of those years, I've only flooded once, and that was a direct result of Hurricane Katrina. In fact, on May 7th and 8th, 1995 this area received more than twenty-five inches of rain which fell in a twenty four hour period. My house did not flood.

Specifically, this latest plan does NOT provide any structural flood risk reduction system protections for the vast majority of the area east and south of I-10 (Military Road). This area represents approximately 25,000 residents, over 500 businesses, two schools, a fire station, and an electrical sub-station. This excluded demographic is roughly equal in size to the City of Slidell which is included in the current protection proposal. This current plan will cause major harm to the residents and business of the Military Road area.

Please note that I DO NOT support the currently proposed U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) initiative to provide structural flood risk for Southeaster Louisiana (St. Tammany Parish).

<u>However, I, am in support of USACE Alternative plans D or E (Floodwall) Phase IV, which covers the vast majority of the Military Road area.</u>

Since the residents living in the Military Road exclusion area are also tax payers, don't they deserve the same level of protection as all other residents of the Parish. What are the reasons this area is excluded?

I have the following questions regarding the current proposal:

Since Hurricane Katrina was a once in a lifetime event why is the USACE proposing flood protection to this degree?

Flooding in many areas can also be attributed to the Pearl River. What efforts are under way to prevent flooding from the Pearl River, and NOT focus strictly on the water from Lake Pontchartrain?

What other initiatives/alternatives are proposed for the homeowners, business, etc. in the excluded areas?

Does the current USACE proposal call for or provide funding for non-structural home elevation, flood proofing, or other initiatives for the areas outside of the levee protection?

What about a home buyout initiative for the residents of the exclusion area, as an incentive to relocate to areas that are less flood prone? What are the projected costs associated with home buyouts, home elevations, flood proofing, frequent flood damage remediation, verses providing levee protection for this area?

I have the following concerns:

This will most assuredly have major impacts on our home values and what are the Corps' estimates of our losses?

Flood insurance costs will increase significantly and what is that projected cost?

What are the projected costs for remediating flood damage, and more than likely repetitive flooding?

Currently FEMA estimates 80% of homeowners in Louisiana do not have flood insurance. If this is correct, then 20,000 of the 25,000 homes in the excluded are do not have flood insurance.

Generally, anytime levee protection is provided in one area, there are unintended consequences to another area, so what are the Corps' plans to deal with this issue?

I have the following requests of the federal government:

Is the Corps' considering any other initiatives for the Military Road area?

If the USACE proposal is accepted is there any effort in the near term to partner with the State of Louisiana, and St Tammany Parish to provide other alternatives to the residents, and business of this excluded area of the Parish?

Thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns.

Sincerely,

Walt Cleighton
Master Chief Petty Officer
U.S. Navy Retired

Please do us the courtesy of deleting our name and email address at the top of the message before you forward it to others. Please ALWAYS use BCC when forwarding this kind of email to others so that their email address is not inadvertently disclosed. Thanks for taking the time to care.

NRA Patriot Life Member - Endowment
NRA-Certified Chief Range Safety Officer
NRA-Certified Instructor
LA State Hunter Education Instructor

"A gun, like any other source of power, is a force for either good or evil, being neither in itself, but dependent upon those who possess it."

Randolph Scott - COLT .45 circa (1950).

STUPID Should Hurt!

If you go to Washington DC as an elected representative and leave richer, you are corrupt.

"A veteran is someone who at one point in their life, wrote a blank check made payable to The United States of America for any amount, up to and including their life."

HOME OF THE FREE, BECAUSE OF THE BRAVE

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Matthew Allen <[redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 5:04 PM
To: Sttammanyfs; amy.dixion@usace.army.mil
Cc: Chris Davis
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] St. Tammany Feasibility Study Comments

Please Accept the attached Comments for the St. Tammany Feasibility Study.

Matthew Allen
Northshore Riverwatch

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Mary Beyer [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 2:18 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Concerns Regarding the Recommendations for the St Tammany Parish Levee Project

Army Corp of Engineers-New Orleans District C/O Amy Dixon
CEMVN- PMR-C
7400 Leake Ave
New Orleans, LA 70118

Dear Ms. Dixon,

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the St Tammany Parish Feasibility Study. I am a homeowner in eastern Slidell and am currently excluded from the Tentatively Selected Plan. My concerns include the following:

-- The report indicates that my property will experience a net negative impact during storm surge events due to the proposed TSP, and that some of the structural alternatives, not included, would have lessened or mitigated this impact. Why was east Slidell excluded from a structural solution?

-- The loss costs identified seem undervalued and definitely do not include the inflationary pressures experienced over the past three years. Such an undervaluation not only depresses the value of the loss experienced by the excluded property owners but hurts the cost-benefit ratio of proposed alternatives. Additionally, public buildings and services (water utilities, wastewater treatment, fire and emergency response, schools) lay outside the structural protection and I couldn t identify where the costs for relocating or restoring those services were clearly laid out when analyzing alternatives. Were the above concerns considered in your cost data, and if so, where? Was the impact of flooded wastewater treatment facilities considered in your environmental factors?

-- Multiple assumptions were made in the analysis of the non-structural alternatives (dry floodproofing, elevating) that were not justified in the report. For instance, you quote five contractors able to raise 100 homes simultaneously each month to justify your timeline. I could not find any market research to justify that remarkably rapid pace of progress. Your non-structural alternatives also place a heavy burden, in cost, effort, and time, in non-federal partners for permitting and utilities, and in the individual homeowners to schedule the work and to pay for non-reimbursable elements of the work. I could not find evidence that these steps were included in your schedule. Please provide evidence of market research conducted and details of your scheduling process to verify that the local area industry partners can meet the pace of work, that the government agencies can meet the permitting timelines, and that all excluded properties can achieve the non-structural alternative prior to the construction of the flood protection structures that will increase hazards to the excluded properties.

Thank you for your assistance, and our community looks forward to more dialogue with the project team to produce an equitable and beneficial project proposal. We can be reached at 985-290-0423 or 985-290-5957.

Sincerely,

Scott and Colleen Beyer
[redacted]
Slidell, LA 7[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Melissa [redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 11:16 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Proposed Levee

Good Afternoon,

I am writing this email to voice my concerns about the proposed Slidell levee. My family lives in French Branch. It will negatively impact my family having the wall outside our home and pushing water towards us. (Water that doesn't normally flow towards us.)

I'm upset you chose to put Walmart and Lowes inside the levee but not the schools. (Little Oak Middle School, Boyet Jr. High, Honey Island Elementary, Cypress Cove Elementary and private school Pope John Paul High School) This levee will put thousands of children's education at risk. I guess corporate America is more important.

If the goal is to do no harm, this proposed plan does the exact opposite.

I am against the proposed levee.

Sincerely,
Melissa Boffenmyer AIC

Sent from my iPhone

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Michael Caswell <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 1:35 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Military Road Neighborhoods Excluded

As a followup, the more I read about this proposal, the more shocked and dismayed I am at how it is being pushed through.

First of all, the sheer absurdity of a floodwall slicing right through the middle of eastern Slidell, cutting neighborhoods in half, crossing numerous residential streets, and affecting businesses on Gause Blvd. as well, is difficult to fathom.

Secondly, I do not believe that the BCR calculations adequately valued the homes in this area, and must be recalculated to be more accurate and realistic. I understand the concept that it's difficult to justify extending a levee dozens of miles through some remote rural area just to protect a few more homes. But it defies logic that these neighborhoods, with thousands of well-kept middle-class homes, along with some large and very expensive custom homes, and (by my count) six schools, are not worthy of protecting.

In addition, the disparity of having protected neighborhoods and unprotected neighborhoods is going to have an immediate and drastic impact on the value of our homes, which must be factored in to any plan. I recognize that the plan includes "non-structural" projects for these neighborhoods, predominantly involving slab elevations. But the often hideous nature of these elevations would ruin the aesthetic of these neighborhoods, and that's assuming that these projects could even take place in a reasonable amount of time, as there are only a small number of companies qualified for this work, and I have my doubts as to whether the funding for these projects would be given the same level of priority as the structural elements. Furthermore, this would not protect vehicles from being destroyed in floods.

Lastly, the TSP only glosses over the impacts that the project will have to neighborhoods outside of the protection. It indicates that the amount of induced flooding to these areas as a result of the levee and floodwall is something that would be studied in more detail later. This is something that needs to be determined now, BEFORE the project is approved and set into motion. While I am not a hydrologist, it is logical that blocking storm surge from one area will noticeably increase the amount of storm surge to adjacent areas. Same with heavy rainfall inside the protected areas which will be pumped out into the unprotected areas (with these areas also having to cope with their own rainfall).

Imagine a hurricane or tropical storm scenario in which rivers and bayous are backed up from widespread heavy rainfall and are unable to drain due to storm surge in Lake Pontchartrain. With the rainfall occurring within the levee-protected areas being actively pumped out into these already full waterways, unprotected areas that rely solely on gravity drainage (which would already be very limited due to backed-up waterways) would surely see notably increased flooding.

This negative impact on the Military Road neighborhoods MUST be accounted for.

Michael Caswell
[redacted]

> On Aug 24, 2023, at 5:42 AM, Michael Caswell <[redacted]> wrote:
>
> I am outraged by the Military Road area being excluded from the proposed flood protection system. We moved to this area after our first home in Slidell was flooded multiple times, to a home that was in Flood Zone C and had never flooded. Now, as a

result of this proposed levee, not only will our neighborhood suffer the stigmatization (and economic ramifications) of being "outside the flood protection system", but we will be MORE likely to flood than before, since that storm surge blocked by the levee has to go somewhere.
>
> These are thriving neighborhoods with thousands of homes and multiple schools, which are going to be directly harmed as a result of this proposed levee.
>
> Michael Caswell
> [redacted].
> Slidell, LA [redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Michael Caswell <[redacted]
Sent: Thursday, August 24, 2023 5:43 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Military Road Neighborhoods Excluded

I am outraged by the Military Road area being excluded from the proposed flood protection system. We moved to this area after our first home in Slidell was flooded multiple times, to a home that was in Flood Zone C and had never flooded. Now, as a result of this proposed levee, not only will our neighborhood suffer the stigmatization (and economic ramifications) of being "outside the flood protection system", but we will be MORE likely to flood than before, since that storm surge blocked by the levee has to go somewhere.

These are thriving neighborhoods with thousands of homes and multiple schools, which are going to be directly harmed as a result of this proposed levee.

Michael Caswell
[redacted].
Slidell, LA 7[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Marty Doody [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 12:53 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Cc: goodleveeforallslidellstp@gmail.com
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana Feasibility Study

To Whom It May Concern-

This communication is in response to the proposed levee location in East St. Tammany Parish. We learned of this proposal through local concerned citizens. I have reviewed the drawings and imagery showing the proposed levee locations and it is very disturbing. The proposed location of the level will leave out some of the most vulnerable areas along the Pearl River Basin (approximately 25,000 residents, schools, and businesses). The lower lying areas along Military Rd are already suffering compounding problems due to over-development and a lack of dredging of the gravity fed drainage canals and feeder bayous to the Pearl River.

Building a levee in the location as proposed would further increase the flooding potential of the exposed areas. The requirement to raise the homes not protected would cause an artificial undue financial burden on those homeowners, with many unable to pay the costs. In addition, this would have a long term negative effect on values of properties excluded from the levee.

Leaving this many residents in the most impacted areas of the east side of the parish unprotected is gross negligence. As a resident of East St. Tammany, I implore your office to reconsider the location of the proposed levee, and relocate it east of the neighborhoods along the Pearl River.

Sincerely,

Martin Doody

[redacted]

Slidell, LA 7[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Dixon, Amy A CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 1:13 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: FW: [Non-DoD Source] Slidell Levee

Amy Dixon
Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District
Work: 504-862-1193
Cell: 504-289-9330

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 11:47 AM
To: Dixon, Amy A CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA) <Amy.Dixon@usace.army.mil>
Cc: jeanne <jmduvic@yahoo.com>; Jeanne Stangle <jeanne.stangle@gmail.com>; Phyllis Waring <pdalewaring@gmail.com>; Allison Duvic <anoto1@gmail.com>; Frank Duvic <frank.duvic@vesselstatistics.com>; roger <roger.duvic@vesselstatistics.com>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Slidell Levee

Dear Ms. Dixon,
Please record and forward my objection to the Slidell Levee feasibility study.

The Corp's purpose is to build and move dirt. The damages done with these "essential" projects does not materialize for years, then more billions of dollars are needed to correct the harm done. Examples which come to mind are
- the levees of the Mississippi River which do not allow silt to be distributed to build wetlands, with the catastrophic loss of miles of Louisiana coast. Then billions get spent to dredge and divert in order to fix the damage.
- the inadequate material used to build these levees leading to deadly gaps in the New Orleans levees which then must be repaired.
- the permitting of oil crew work boat waterways slicing and dicing the wetlands, thus providing easy destruction of wetlands and Louisiana coast.

The Corp does not have a good track record. I do not trust the "feasibility study" to provide an objective review of the potential damage to our wetlands and scenic byways.

The review does not take in to account the horrific land misuse of the "2040" project approved by the St. Tammany Parish Council. The tremendous acreage that has been approved for "manufacturing/logistics" and high-density development with the subsequent clear-cutting and land fill will greatly impact the ability of the multiple watershed areas to drain. And now there will be a levee to adversely impact yearly drainage as opposed to a hundred year storm surge.

Different options have not been explored thoroughly enough for you to have my support.
Michele Duvic

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Karie Falgout [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 2:39 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Flood Levee
Attachments: Flood Letter - Michael.pdf

Good Afternoon,
Please see attached regarding proposed flood levee.

Thank you for your time.

Michael Falgout Jr

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Michelle Grout <[redacted]
Sent: Thursday, August 31, 2023 2:59 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] St. Tammany Levee

Dear Ms. Amy Dixon,

My name is Michelle Grout, I live at [redacted] in Slidell and have lived in my home for 13 years. I have concerns about my home not being included in the currently proposed levee plan for St. Tammany. I don't understand why our government would build a levee and exclude many of the neighborhoods. I request that the plan be revisited to include all the neighborhoods including French Branch which I live in.

Michelle Grout
[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Wendy Harpster <[redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 9:19 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] St Tammany Parish Levee Project and Feasibility Study

Army Corp of Engineers-New Orleans District
C/O Amy Dixon
CEMVN-PMR-C
7400 Leake Ave
New Orleans, LA 70118

Dear Ms. Dixon,

I am writing to express concerns regarding the proposed levee project and to include my name and address as one that opposes the current project. Many of my neighbors have expressed substantial details and evidence regarding this project and how it would be detrimental to my property and the surrounding area. The project leaves my property unprotected and could also result in further flooding in the areas along Military Road.

Please reconsider this project.

Michael Harpster
[redacted]
Slidell, LA 70461

Sent from Mail for Windows

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Michael Havert <[redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 9:51 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Floodwall in Slidell

I'm not completely understanding the thought process of the core.

Please consider the following before you decide to wreck people's biggest asset (Their home).

1. Devalue their home, I'm being told around 20% minimum.
2. Making home and flood insurance rates climb by being on the wrong side of the wall.
3. Mortgages will be outrages and eventually mortgages will be unaffordable for some.
4. Schools and the hospital are on the outside of the wall, why not protect these.

Please reconsider as thousands will be negatively affected.

Thanks,

Michael Havert

[redacted]

[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Mary Ellen Jovanovic <[redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 2:07 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Levee in Slidell

To whom it may concern:

My husband and I live in the [redacted] community, off [redacted], and within the city limits of Slidell We built here in 2003 and have been through Katrina, where we flooded by inches. Even today, our street flooded with 5-7 inches of rain.

We pay ridiculous home insurance ($5000) and flood insurance close to $1000. What will the lack of being within the proposed levee area do to our homes? If there will be more flooding , will the federal government flip the bill for raising our homes?

Please reconsider for the livelihood of the many taxpayers, businesses, churches, and good schools(Cypress Cove, Honey Island, Boyet, Northshore, Pope John Paul II) that will also be adversely affected by this current plan.

Please reconsider and include the neighborhoods off East Gause Blvd and Military Rd to be within the levee protection.

Mary Ellen Jovanovic

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Mirza Marin <[redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 5:45 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] St Tammany Parish Levee Project Concerns

Dear Ms. Amy Dixon,

It's my understanding that you are the person that I should send my concerns regarding the St. Tammany Levee Project. I live on the east side of Slidell, specifically in Holiday Acres Subdivsion at 102 Lynn Drive. My home is located near Northshore High School and French Branch Subdivision. Based on the proposed map that I have seen, it appears my home is outside the protection area like many homes in and near my subdivision. I don't quite understand why it's being proposed that the flood wall/levee should basically cut through my neighborhood. It makes more sense to me that this wall/levee should actually be further east and closer to Hwy 190 East.

My home has never flooded before, it was built in the seventy's and I have lived here since 2003. Even during Katrina, we saw no flooding. But I greatly fear that my home will flood if the flood wall/levee is built as it is being proposed. All of the homes affected in my subdivision and nearby subdivisions probably have a fair market value of $300,000 and above. We all pay a great deal of property tax which is used to support our local schools and community resources. If my home suffers any flooding because of this project, I know I will have no choice but to leave our parish. And I imagine that will also be what others will do as well. This would have a devastating economic impact on our community.

In addition, there are several schools outside the protection of the proposed plan. All the schools in our parish are already over capacity and if any of these schools flood because of the lack of protection, families may be forced to leave this parish in order for their children to be able to attend school. Is that the ultimate goal? To purposedly flood a large percentage of people who impact the tax base of the east side of the parish? I hope not.

If this project goes through as planned, will the residents that are impacted by it be provided the funds and resources to raise our homes to better protect them from flooding? Will buyouts of property be offered to those residents whose homes will be directly impacted by increased flooding and damage caused by the construction of the levee/flood wall at the proposed location? Will residents be compensated for increased costs in flood insurance?

I ask that if this project goes throught that an alternative levee site be considered that extend further east perhaps along or east of Hwy 190 and/or Military Road.

Sincerely,

Mirza Marin

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Mike Ortega [redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 4:20 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] St Tammany Parish Levee Project

I just got wind of your proposed levee project for Slidell, Louisiana. As I can tell from maps obtained on line it appears that you are planning construction of a flood wall through the east side of Slidell that would essentially place the bulk of the east side of Slidell outside of that proposed wall. WHY IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU DO SUCH A THING? This area encompasses several subdivisions, doctors and dentists offices, two schools, numerous businesses and churches. You would essentially place us in a highly floodable area that would increase our flood insurance and home owners' premiums making them prohibitive for most of us.

My career in Federal Law Enforcement required me and my family to relocate away from Slidell. After I retired my wife and I were able to move back to Slidell in 2015. We chose to live on the east side because of its amenities and its proximity to some of the worlds best fishing. Being on a government pension my income is limited. I, for one, cannot afford raising my home at the cost of thousands of dollars, and I can't afford to relocate again. If I chose that option I doubt seriously I would ever get a fair market value for my home with your proposals hanging over us.

I respectfully ask that you reconsider placing your flood wall closer to the Pearl River so that ALL of Slidell is protected from storm surges. I believe that the cost of such a wall would ,in reality, be less expensive than reimbursing everyone through grants to rebuild, relocate or improve their properties.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Ortega
[redacted]
Slidell, La. 70461

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: marie ricca <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 11:27 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Cc: [redacted]; Suzanne Krieger; Gcromer@cityofslidell.org; Mary Swann; Walter J Lane; Jim Fatic; kenl@latterblum.com
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Slidell, St. Tammany Flood Protection

Dear Coordinators,

Thank you for your efforts to help protect the land flooding in our area.

Your proposed plan for protection appears to be feasible for preventing flooding and I support it.

It is evident that the bayous and tributaries are filled with sediment and marsh due to the push from recent storms and will need to be dredged in order to regain water retention area.
Also, an added weir at the Rigolets would be a possibility to protect all perimeters of Lake Pontchartrain without walling off the entire lake.

Hopefully, this project will be a priority due to the losses already incurred in this region and the imminent potential for another storm.

Your concern is greatly appreciated.

Marie Ricca,
Bayou Bonfouca Land and Olde Towne Slidell Property Owner

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Marcia Saluga <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, August 30, 2023 5:22 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Proposed levy

To whom it may concern:
I have lived in Turtle Creek for 27 years and have never flooded. My husband is disabled and homebound. He is in a power chair and we have a lift system for transfers so it is nearly impossible for us to leave. I am deeply concerned that the proposed levy will force water into areas east of Military Road and flood my home.

Please reconsider protecting ALL of Slidell, not just a select few areas.

Sincerely,
Marcia Saluga
[redacted]
Slidell, LA 70461

Sent from my iPad

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 1, 2023 10:27 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] ST TAMMANY/SLIDELL FLOOD LEVEE PROPOSAL

To whom this may concern,

It has come to my attention that the local politicians along with the army corp of engineers are proposing to put up a flood levee almost in my back yard in the Slidell area. I live in the French Branch subdivision and after looking at the current proposed flood wall this will put my house just on the outside of the wall. I was very disappointed to find out that apparently this has been a study/plan that has been in the making for the last three years but no one from the St Tammany Parish Council ever bothered to inform us citizens that would be affected. I know if the current plan gets approved and goes through that it would have a negative impact on my house, neighbors, and the rest of our close communities that fall outside of this proposed wall. My house will now be more likely to flood and not to mention that the value of it will most certainly decline. I am a veteran and still proudly serving in the US Air Force for over 30 years and have been fortunate to be able to be stationed close enough to live in this fine community. However, if this proposal goes through, I don't think my family and I would be able to continue to live here. I need a positive piece of mind that we have had for so long living here when I have to deploy or be gone on any exercises for a lengthy period of time. My family and I have lived here since 2002 and I would hate to have to leave this area because of bad bureaucratic decision making. Either figure out a way to include all of the surrounding communities east of I-10 all the way to the Pearl River or don't put this wall up at all. I refuse to send my tax dollars to a project that will only put my home and my community into a negative position. Your current plan will only end up costing people more money and harm for storm repairs if put into effect under the current proposal.

I hope you guys can come up with a better solution.

Thank you

Mark Suckow

Slidell LA 70461

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Nancy Jones <[redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 3, 2023 8:12 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Cc: Nancy Jones
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Your current plan

Please do not do this plan. It will hurt my house in turtle Creek! I did not flood in Katrina, but this new plan will make me flood. Please include my neighborhood in the flood protection plan! Nancy Jones [redacted]. Slidell, LA 70461

Sent from my iPhone

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Nancy Pooler [redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 9:07 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] St Tammany Parish Coastal Protection Study (PO-0167)

To whom it may concern,
My husband David Pooler and I are home owners at [redacted], Slidell, LA 70461. We have lived at this address in the Turtle Creek Subdivision (off of Military Road) for close to 30 years. In that time we have only flooded once, which was during Hurricane Katrina. The experience was a nightmare and one I do not wish to repeat. Our flood waters were attributed to the high water levels of the Pearl River, which is very close to our property.
Just last week, we were informed on Facebook that the Army Corps will soon submit a plan for a levee on our side of town to Congress. After studying the proposal and reviewing the likelihood that this levee will hurt rather than help thousands of Slidell residents, my husband and I would like to voice our opposition to the plan drafted by the Army Corps. It is apparent that if the levee is built according to this plan, our subdivision and many others will be outside of the new levee.
This will likely increase our risk of flooding in future storms. Historically, in areas where levees have been built, such as in Fenton, Missouri, other towns such as Arnold Missouri, have suffered the consequences of heavy damage due to flooding. Personally, I view the situation as dire. Here are some of my concerns: 1. Our property values are surely going to drop. I might add that many of the most valuable properties in Slidell, are located beyond the boundaries of the proposed levee. The Army Corps estimates that values may decrease by 20%. We never anticipated a loss of that magnitude on our primary investment.
2. Our flood insurance costs will most certainly go up substantially, due to the increased risk of flooding. As Senior citizens on a fixed income, that is unacceptable.
3. The environmental impacts to our side of town have not been addressed.
4. Many schools and businesses outside of the proposed levee would be likely to flood.
5. The models studied by the Army Corps did not address flooding from the Pearl River or rain events, as has happened in the past.
6. It has been mentioned that 6,500 homes outside of the levee will have to be raised. There will be substantial cost to home owners to first bring their home up to current codes. In addition, the character and aesthetic of these homes will be negatively impacted. I have yet to learn if my home is included in the proposal, but I would be inclined to put my home on the market, if it were the case.
In summary, I'd like to respectfully point out that this proposal does nothing to protect my neighbors and ourselves, rather, it will only harm us. Thus the Army Corps is not abiding by one of their own rules.
Sincerely,
Mr and Mrs David J Pooler

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Pat Fitzpatrick <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 4:39 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Cc: Pat Fitzpatrick
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments on Corps St Tammany Flood Study

The conclusions reached by the Army Corps with regards to rural St. Tammany Parish storm surge protection are disappointing and shows no inclination to consider the feedback of it's citizens. What is particular galling is that the Eden Isles region has actively participated in many meetings and provided a detailed protection plan for its community. The Corps conclusions show that such community interaction is not awarded or even considered.

Specific concerns:

1) Raising hundreds of brick homes is not feasible. Using code words such as 'Nonstructural Plan" for this action highlights the insensitivity and opaqueness of this organization. The Eden Isles plan was never taken seriously. This plan includes a floodgate at the Eden Isles entrance and raising HWY 11 and Lakeview Drive. A pump system may be needed as well depending on the elevation protection installed. This plan is feasible, cheaper, and quicker. The Corps simply refuses to consider it.

2) Since the Corps could no longer use cost effectiveness as an excuse once the correct economical value of Eden Isles was included, they now have twisted EIS requirements as the impetus for not protecting Eden Isles. They simply are determined to use the existing levee without concern for Eden Isles.

3) State and federal officials will be liable to a lawsuit when the proposed ring levee enhances flooding in Eden Isles during the next storm surge event. This possibility is not even considered.

Sincerely,

Dr. Pat Fitzpatrick
[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Pamela Miller <[redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 5:30 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Cc: goodleveeforallslidellstp@gmail.com
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] NO LEVEE for Holiday Acres Subdivision/ We do Not Want A Levee! Resident at 101Lynn Avenue, Holiday Acres Subdivision

Hello, my name is Pamela, Badinger Miller. I reside at [redacted] subdivision, Slidell, Louisiana, 70461. It has been brought to my attention that a levee is coming to our area. We as citizens should have known about this sooner. This is totally wrong. I wish to express that I do not want the levee anywhere near the Holiday acres subdivision. With new homes already being built near North Shore high school we have more flooding in this area than we ever had. I am a single mom surviving breast cancer. My home is all I have at the present time, it's very difficult to even afford flood insurance and homeowners insurance. I have been living in holiday acres since 1994. There have been no areas of flooding in or around my area Since this time and I do not want for flooding, depreciation of my property, higher cost of flood insurance, which I don't need at the present time AND higher home owners insurance. I wish to express, and make it perfectly clear, that I do not want the levee in my area. I have worked hard my whole life to keep what I have. My home is all I have. Do not put a levy here!!!!! Another location needs to be provided for all of the citizens of Saint Tammany Parish, and the people within the holiday acres subdivision, the front branch area and all of the subdivisions around. We DO NOT want this levy and we will fight to stop it from coming here. Please take this to heart. It will affect all of us in a negative way. Again, I do not want the Levee here. The way the St. Tammany parish and Slidell elected officials, who have not communicated AT ALL to the citizens is a DISGRACE. Trying to hide and keep this from us as homeowners is wrong, unacceptable and uncalled for! Respectfully, Pamela, Badinger Miller.

Sent from my iPhone

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: paula mills [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 8:23 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Fwd: Proposed Levee

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** paula mills <[redacted]
> **Date:** September 5, 2023 at 1:19:17 PM CDT
> **To:** sttammanyfs@usace.army.mil
> **Subject: Proposed Levee**
>
> Dear USACE,
> Just finding out about this leaves me little time to compose a proper letter, but please take into account what I say. We live in [redacted] off of Military Rd. We will be outside of this proposed levee. Homes in our neighborhood have flooded in the past. My home has never flooded before. Our fear is that this levee could make our area more prone to flood in the future. If a levee is being considered it needs to protect us all!
>
> Thanks,
> Paula Mills
>
> Sent from my iPhone

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: paula mills <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 1:19 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Proposed Levee

Dear USACE,
Just finding out about this leaves me little time to compose a proper letter, but please take into account what I say. We live in Magnolia Forest off of Military Rd. We will be outside of this proposed levee. Homes in our neighborhood have flooded in the past. My home has never flooded before. Our fear is that this levee could make our area more prone to flood in the future. If a levee is being considered it needs to protect us all!

Thanks,
Paula Mills

Sent from my iPhone

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Paula Nuber <[redacted]>
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 5:01 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Levee Proposal

To U S Army Corp of Engineers - New Orleans District:

My husband and I have lived in St. Tammany Parish in [redacted] Estates down [redacted] 1987. We flooded with Katrina like many and have grave concerns for the Corps proposed levee project for St. Tammany Parish. This levee will not protect our subdivision and we are adamantly opposed to this project. However, we would fully support a revised plan that provided protection equally for all neighborhoods. Thank you for considering our voice to protect our home and our neighbors.

Sincerely,
Robert & Paula Nuber
[redacted]
Slidell, Louisiana 70461
[redacted]

Sent from my iPad

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Peg Reily [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 11:41 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments on St Tammany Feasibility Study

September 5, 2023

By Email: sttammanyfs@usace.army.mil
Re: U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana Feasibility Study

We strongly OBJECT to the Updated USACE St Tammany Parish Feasibility Study.
We fully understand that, while this is a proposal for a two-phase project, the impacts of the first phase of the project would have too many negative consequences to the environment and hydrology of the Northshore of Lake Pontchartrain to entertain thoughtful consideration. The "projected" costs are astronomical for taxpayers in Louisiana and around the country.

We are property owners along Bayou Liberty in St. Tammany Parish and our property will surely suffer significant impacts from this project, specifically the construction of the USACE-proposed West Slidell Levee system. We are not alone; most of the property owners who live along these natural waterways will undoubtedly be negatively impacted by the proposed levee.

We are members of the Bayou Liberty Association and we concur with the Association's concerns about the Bayou Liberty area, but we also recognize that negative impacts will extend well beyond the Bayou Liberty area, from the Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge (BBMNWR) across Bayou Paquet, Bayou Liberty and Bayou Bonfouca. This is an extensive levee and flood gate system and would have to be maintained by St. Tammany Parish in perpetuity??? We suspect that, with the currently dynamic situation of climate change, rising sea levels and land loss, there will also be unpredictable factors that will make this levee system inadequate within a short span of time.

We agree with the Bayou Liberty Association's focus on impacts to property owners but feel our focus must also be on the impacts to the highly-critical natural ecosystems on the northshore of Lake Pontchartrain. In the Feasibility Study you state that 98 acres of important Northshore habitat within the BBMNWR will be directly impacted for which mitigation would need to be made somewhere beyond the Refuge (in addition to the 32 acres that could be mitigated within the Refuge). Not only will this have a huge impact on BBMNWR - 130 acres of important wetlands that had been set aside for protection - it also suggests that the wetlands along Bayou Liberty and the other bayous would similarly be impacted and require mitigation as well. This is simply unacceptable.

In summary, we strongly object to the project as currently proposed in the St Tammany Parish Feasibility Study. While we support funds to elevate existing homes in the project area, we are strongly against any project that encourages further developments below Interstate 12.
Thank you for your consideration of our concerns and suggestions.

P.W. Reily and C.B Kennedy
[redacted]
Slidell LA 70460

pegreily@gmail.com

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: pdalewaring <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 9:09 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] FW: Levee in my back yard

Sent from Mail for Windows

From: p[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 9:04 PM
To: Sttammanyfc@usace.arm.mil
Subject: Levee in my back yard

Dear Ms. Dixon,
Thank you for your service, and thank you for taking my email.
I would like to put my objection to a St. Tammany Levee project on public record.
I have lived and worked in St. Tammany Parish for 34 years. Formerly on Bayou Bonfouca , my 17 foot raised house flooded on the ground level with Katrina, proposed to be outside of the levee; now I have lived for 18 years in French Branch estates. Neighbors have flooded at least 5 times in the past 28 years, from RAIN and RIVER flooding, and then the once with a hurricane surge with Katrina, which truly seemed to come from the Pearl back up. The Corp proposal does not appear to consider the impact of a levee on the river side, which is our whole neighborhood. I suspect the water displacement from a 13-17 foot levee will impact the flood waters in my and other neighbors back yards. Will this be addressed please?
Impacts of economics proport that people will move out – however that was not the case as most rebuilt after floods and Katrina, and St. Tammany council has egregiously continued to rapidly build houses in dense areas (particularly along Hoover and Military roads, outside of the protection zone, with no objection by the Corp or projection for the future. Surely the council KNEW of this study and proposal? Was it ignored? Did the Corp intervene or update the study with so much building going on? The Corp project involving Valley Park, MO has been a night mare for citizens outside of the flood wall, with growth during the time of the study, but not taken in account as the project steamrolled forward. 'Scientific American', 'propubica.org-Flood Thy Neighbor: Who Stays Dry and Who Decides?'
Homes in our area have continued to have increased value, and not depreciate. A 30 year old study is soooo inaccurate.
Flood waters from Katrina in our area were from back up of the Pearl, which now would appear to be trapped behind the flood wall, because the gates would not be opening in case of surge from the lake, or not able to flow naturally in case of , a river flood only. The Appendix G, Real Estate Plan Section 8 INDUCED FLOODING should have been addressed BEFORE the proposal went public, not after or NOT done). I think this is where so many of us are alarmed that this proposal wasn't adequately disclosed to us, in the past years as it was being formulated, as most modern people, including myself, do not get public notices in newspapers, and do not have local news to catch a glimpse of sometime important topics. I really am ashamed that I knew nothing until this recent, BRIEF public comment period. I am also ashamed of our local leaders who did not have the gumption or where with all to keep us up to date.
The environmental impact along a scenic waterway, Bayou Bonfouca, with probably red dirt, with a large hill on the banks to funnel in and out rising waters, seems preposterous. The homes in Coin du Lestin should be raised, but doubtful that the owners there will be able to renovate them up to Code, before a government or private elevation, at a cost of $200,00 per house.
Lastly, Ms. Dixon, I do not wish to have a 13 foot levee in my backyard and have never once been approached about buying my land. What is the proposed value of my land, and how much will be displaced by a levee there? What is the induced water displacement in my yard from flooding, rivers, rain, and back wash when the surge goes around the levee ends? Teenagers enjoy easy walking access from our neighborhood into Northshore High School grounds. Guess now they may have to jump off the levee onto their campus.

Sincerely,

Phyllis D Waring MD

Phyllis Dale Waring MD
[redacted]
Slidell, LA 70461

Sent from Mail for Windows

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: PJ Calico [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 1:47 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Level Protection for Eastern Slidell

It appears looking at the proposed flood protection levee system, that the area east of military road is not included in this levee protection. This causes considerable concern since would leave us open to flooding. Some of this area flooded with hurricane Katrina. I also assume this will result in an increase cost for flood insurance. I would like your attention to this issue.

PJ Calico

Sent from Mail for Windows

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Ronda <[redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 9:43 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Levee Plan

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

We oppose the current levee plan for Slidell. It does not provide levee protection for our subdivision, Willow Wood or other Military Road residents. This levee plan will increase water levels in our area and will harm us, flooding our homes.

If a levee is built, we must be included.

Sincerely,

Ronda & Carlos Castillo

Willow Wood Subdivision
[redacted]
Slidell, 70461

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Robin Jourdan <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, August 24, 2023 10:50 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Levee proposal

We have lived in this area since 1994 and have endured many hurricanes and flood situations, but we are still here. This proposed plan would devistate those outside the proposed area! We are on Red Mill Dr and our insurance would increase substantially and the risk of flooding will more than triple. Please include this out to Hwy 90!!!

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Raymond Pierce [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, August 30, 2023 3:09 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] STPFS - Non Structural Implementation Plan

Good afternoon,

I have been reading through some of the material you have posted online at:

https://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental/NEPA-Compliance-Documents/Bipartisan-Budget-Act-2018-BBA-18/BBA-18-Projects/St-Tammany-Parish-Feasibility-Study/fbclid/IwAR1LaipXmCBBuenYOZo570-VKGlWNoloeq_hkv2nltNk43_5YJ3LIF2Ngp8/

My home is currently outside of the proposed protection area, and in flood zone AE or a 100 year flood plain. I know with this proposal there are options for raising these structures to potentially mitigate future effects from flooding, however I am concerned. My home was built over 40 years ago in accordance with building codes from that time. While there have been updates, and things like that, it is mostly cosmetic, and likely nothing to bring the house up to today's code.

Per Appendix H – Nonstructural Implementation Plan:
" The costs that exceed that which is necessary to safely elevate a structure are deemed ineligible costs and any such costs are the sole financial responsibility of the property owner. The following items are ineligible:"
"Costs associated with bringing a non-conforming structure into compliance with current building codes, housing codes, and/or other applicable codes;"

So does this mean my home is ineligible, or I need to get all of these corrected before hand? Does this mean if work starts and something is discovered, I will be Left with a torn up home until I have the funds to update everything? What about things like sewer drainage under a home? When this neighborhood was built, the sewer pipes under slab were burried, and not required to be hung or affixed to the slab, so raising the slab on any of these houses is going cause an issue where the sewer lines aren't attached per code, and per how the plan is written, the cost of addressing that isnt covered?

Where can I find additional information on what this is going to mean for me and my family?

R/S
Raymond Pierce
[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Rick Saluga [redacted] >
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 11:10 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED LEVY

To:Army Corp of Engineers - New Orleans District
C/O Amy Dixon
CEMVN-PMR-C
7400 Leake Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70118
RE: St. Tammany Levee Proposal
Date: September 5, 2023

Dear Ms. Dixon,
My name is Rick Saluga and I live at [redacted], Slidell, LA 70461. I have lived at this address for 28 years and never flooded. I am writing to voice my opposition to the Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) for St. Tammany Parish.
I am permanently disabled and confined to a power chair. My home is designed with a lift system for transfers, has a whole house generator and is handicapped accessible. I am homebound. I am very concerned that the proposed plan will cause my home to flood. I have no idea why you would not protect such a large area of Slidell that has a big tax base and schools.

As a taxpaper and resident I am asking that you please reconsider this plan and seek to protect all residents of the Slidell area. This plan does not work for me.

Thank you for your time and prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,
Rick Saluga

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: ROGER WIBRIGHT [redacted] >
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 5:43 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Flood wall in Slidell

We are very concerned and worried over the present plan to build a wall to allow thousands of homes, businesses, schools, hospitals, and people to be devastated. We ask you to reevaluate this plan for other options. Thank you, Roger and Alta Wibright

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Suzanne Broadwell [redacted] >
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 1:46 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Louisiana Feasibly Study

September 3, 2023

To: sttammanyfs@usace.army.mil

Re: USACE St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana Feasibility Study

First, I commend the Corps for beginning this study. Anything that can be done to avoid or control the flooding in these areas is very important. As a member of the Bayou Liberty Association, I appreciate your efforts to share information and listen to the concerns of those who will be closely affected by this project.

I am concerned about the height limitation at the floodgate on Bayou Liberty. This height restriction will make it impossible for sailboats/ tall vessels to maneuver in the areas upstream where we live. Also, we now have 2 marinas that service this area, and again, these boats would be unable to use the upstream waters. We have a beautiful public campground, Camp Salmon, which is open to all, and would not be usable by families owning these taller boats.

I would like to see the levee alignment moved further west onto the Big Branch National Wildlife Reserve. This would allow more private property protection, less visibility to floodgates pumps, etc., and less destruction of private property.

Again, I thank you for listening to my concerns and hope that you will continue to inform us as a group as the project grows and changes.

Suzanne Broadwell

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

--

[redacted]

[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Sharon Jacobs [redacted] >
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 8:03 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] St Tammany Feasibility Study for flood protection

I am highly in favor of the recommendations in the most recent revised study area.
As a 20 year resident of Slidell and a Hurricane Katrina survivor, St Tammany parish needs this flood protection project funded and started ASAP.
Thank you.
Sharon Jacobs
[redacted]
Slidell, LA 70458

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Sandy Katz [redacted] >
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 7:45 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Flood Risk

Dear Ms. Amy Dixon,

I hope you are doing well, and appreciate your efforts to hear my concerns regarding the July 2023 Corps' St. Tammany Parish, LA., Feasibility Study Revised Draft.

My name is Saundra Katz, and please note that I DO NOT support the currently proposed U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) initiative to provide structural flood risk for Southeastern Louisiana (St. Tammany Parish).

Specifically, this latest plan does NOT provide any structural or non-structural flood risk reduction system protections for the vast majority of the area east and south of I-10 (Military Road). This excluded demographic is roughly equal in size to the City of Slidell which is included in the current protection proposal. This current plan will cause major harm to the residents and business of the Military Road area.

However, I, am in support of USACE Alternative D or E (Floodwall) Phase IV, which covers the vast majority of the Military Road area, which is currently excluded.

Since the residents living in the Military Road exclusion area are also tax payers, they deserve the same level of protection as all other residents of the Parish.

Sincerely,

Saundra Katz

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: EMAIL SERVICE [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 9:20 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana Feasibility Study

Ms Amy Dixon,
I am opposed to the levee/retaining wall that is being proposed in the eastern section of St. Tammany Parish in Slidell.
Respectfully,
Susan Marsh

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Stephanie Neal [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, August 23, 2023 8:21 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana Feasibility Study - Alternative 6A

Good evening,

I'm writing to voice my concerns, regarding the St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana Feasibility Study, specifically Alternative 6A Slidell Levee. I've reviewed this topic at length and I do not agree with alternative 6A Slidell East flood wall. This wall would put all of Gause East outside of the wall and would not protect multiple businesses, Ochsner hospital, multiple residential communities as well as our schools on the east side of Slidell.

Also, this levee flood wall would cause everyone outside of it (Gause East area) to possibly incur higher insurance/flood premium and in some cases, policies may even be dropped all together.

At this time, my recommendations for Slidell East (Gause East) not to have a wall and go with alternative 2 - Nonstructural.

Regards,
Stephanie Neal
[redacted].
Slidell, LA 70461

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Sherry Roberts <[redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 3:17 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Proposed Levee

To whom it may concern,
I have just heard that the subdivision I live in is going to be outside the new proposed levee. This is very upsetting! I have lived in Slidell all my life and 30 years ago built my forever home and now find out that it will almost very likely flood with this new levee. My home has never flooded before and I'm certainly not happy to find out that it probably will if this levee is built. This is unacceptable! Our flood insurance is increasing yearly, I can only imagine what it will be if I ever have to file a claim! You choose who to protect, whose homes you will pay to raise and leave the rest of us just to deal with it! I hope and pray that you will reconsider this plan of action and if you move forward, you will protect ALL of us.
Thank you,
Sherry Roberts

Sent from my iPad

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: JEAN PAUL SANDROCK <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, September 1, 2023 5:50 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] St. Tammany Parish - Proposed Levee

We are concerned that the proposed Corps of Engineers project will not protect our house or our neighbor's houses. The job of the Corps is to protect people and this does not protect us. We have already experienced an increase in water on our property due to hurricanes since the completion of the Chalmette levee. This current proposal is not only going to create more flooding in our area but is also going to devalue our property.

Jean-Paul & Tina Sandrock
[redacted]
Slidell, La 70461

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Tim Cleighton [redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 2:12 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Opposition to USACE plan

I wanted to send an email indicating my dissatisfaction/opposition to the feasibility plan. My house will be outside the protected area and I have only flooded as a result of Katrina. I support the alternative plans.

Tim Cleighton
[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Tony Finch [redacted] >
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 10:21 PM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Levee

Dear Ms. Amy Dixon

My name is Anthony Finch, I'm a small business owner. I live outside of the proposed levee at [redacted], La. I'm a lifelong resident of Slidell and have lived in my home since 2014. I want to make sure that I am on public record with the federal government with absolute objection to this project. Here are my concerns:

How will this affect property values?
How high are insurance rates expected to be?
Will there even be insurance available?
What effect on our wetlands and wildlife will this cause?
Does Mississippi know about this?

Serving the Gulf Coast for Generations
[redacted]

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: A. A. [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, September 2, 2023 7:27 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Seeking Explanation

September 2, 2023

I live at 121 Rue Holiday, in French Branch Subdivision of East Slidell, LA, of which a significant portion was flooded by Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

If I am interpreting the proposed Slidell Levee System map correctly, it appears that French Branch Subdivision is excluded from the proposed levee protection system.

Why?

Wayne Brown

Behrens, Elizabeth H CIV USARMY CEMVN (USA)

From: Walt Cleighton [redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 8:09 AM
To: Sttammanyfs
Cc: Jennymreed@gmail.com
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR ST. TAMMANY PARISH

Dear Ms. Amy Dixon,

I hope you are doing well, and appreciate your efforts to hear my concerns regarding the July 2023 Corps' St. Tammany Parish, LA., Feasibility Study Revised Draft.

My name is Walt Cleighton and I have lived in Slidell, LA for 43 years, and at my current home for 33 years. In all of those years, I've only flooded once, and that was a direct result of Hurricane Katrina. In fact, on May 7th and 8th, 1995 this area received more than twenty-five inches of rain which fell in a twenty four hour period. My house did not flood.

Specifically, this latest plan does NOT provide any structural flood risk reduction system protections for the vast majority of the area east and south of I-10 (Military Road). This area represents approximately 25,000 residents, over 500 businesses, two schools, a fire station, and an electrical sub-station. This excluded demographic is roughly equal in size to the City of Slidell which is included in the current protection proposal. This current plan will cause major harm to the residents and business of the Military Road area.

Please note that I DO NOT support the currently proposed U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) initiative to provide structural flood risk for Southeaster Louisiana (St. Tammany Parish).

<u>However, I, am in support of USACE Alternative plans D or E (Floodwall) Phase IV, which covers the vast majority of the Military Road area.</u>

Since the residents living in the Military Road exclusion area are also tax payers, don't they deserve the same level of protection as all other residents of the Parish. What are the reasons this area is excluded?

I have the following questions regarding the current proposal:

Since Hurricane Katrina was a once in a lifetime event why is the USACE proposing flood protection to this degree?

Flooding in many areas can also be attributed to the Pearl River. What efforts are under way to prevent flooding from the Pearl River, and NOT focus strictly on the water from Lake Pontchartrain?

What other initiatives/alternatives are proposed for the homeowners, business, etc. in the excluded areas?

Does the current USACE proposal call for or provide funding for non-structural home elevation, flood proofing, or other initiatives for the areas outside of the levee protection?

What about a home buyout initiative for the residents of the exclusion area, as an incentive to relocate to areas that are less flood prone? What are the projected costs associated with home buyouts, home elevations, flood proofing, frequent flood damage remediation, verses providing levee protection for this area?

I have the following concerns:

This will most assuredly have major impacts on our home values and what are the Corps' estimates of our losses?

Flood insurance costs will increase significantly and what is that projected cost?

What are the projected costs for remediating flood damage, and more than likely repetitive flooding?

Currently FEMA estimates 80% of homeowners in Louisiana do not have flood insurance. If this is correct, then 20,000 of the 25,000 homes in the excluded are do not have flood insurance.

Generally, anytime levee protection is provided in one area, there are unintended consequences to another area, so what are the Corps' plans to deal with this issue?

I have the following requests of the federal government:

Is the Corps' considering any other initiatives for the Military Road area?

If the USACE proposal is accepted is there any effort in the near term to partner with the State of Louisiana, and St Tammany Parish to provide other alternatives to the residents, and business of this excluded area of the Parish?

Thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns.

Sincerely,

Walt Cleighton
Master Chief Petty Officer
U.S. Navy Retired

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NRA Patriot Life Member - Endowment
NRA-Certified Chief Range Safety Officer
NRA-Certified Instructor
LA State Hunter Education Instructor

"A gun, like any other source of power, is a force for either good or evil, being neither in itself, but dependent upon those who possess it."

Randolph Scott - COLT .45 circa (1950).

STUPID Should Hurt!

If you go to Washington DC as an elected representative and leave richer, you are corrupt.

"A veteran is someone who at one point in their life, wrote a blank check made payable to The United States of America for any amount, up to and including their life."

HOME OF THE FREE, BECAUSE OF THE BRAVE