

7.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

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7.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

This chapter describes the various opportunities for public involvement accomplished during the MBSD EIS process including through the MBSD Project website, scoping meetings, Draft EIS public meetings, and Final EIS public review. In addition, the LA TIG's DWH NRDA Restoration Plan public involvement process completed in conjunction and coordination with the MBSD EIS public involvement process is described below.

This chapter also includes details on other public outreach and engagement efforts regarding the proposed MBSD Project. Outreach and engagement efforts implemented by the Applicant (CPRA) included CPRA's Coastal Connections events held throughout the Project area, meetings with members of the navigation community, outreach to communities with environmental justice concerns who may be impacted by the Project, and outreach efforts to communities and groups projected to be impacted by the Project in order to solicit feedback on CPRA's Mitigation and Stewardship Plan (Appendix R1).

7.1 PROJECT WEBSITE

Throughout the Project planning process, the public has been able to access information regarding the Project on CEMVN's website (see <https://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Permits/Mid-Barataria-Sediment-Diversion-EIS/>). The website includes Project updates and key information, such as the dates and locations of public meetings. The website also includes the scoping report along with the Draft EIS and Final EIS.

Information about the Project schedule and milestones are posted to the Permitting Dashboard in compliance with requirements set forth in Title 41 of FAST-41 (42 USC 4370m-l(c)(1)(A)(i)) (see <https://www.permits.performance.gov/permitting-projects/mid-barataria-sediment-diversion>). CEMVN updates information on the Permitting Dashboard quarterly.

7.2 SUMMARY OF SCOPING PROCESS

NEPA regulations require an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed in an EIS and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action. This process is referred to as scoping (40 CFR 1501.7). As part of the NEPA scoping process, the lead agency may hold an early scoping meeting or meetings. In addition, as part of the scoping process, the lead agency shall:

- invite the participation of affected federal, state, and local agencies, any affected tribal nations, the Project applicant, and other stakeholders;
- determine the scope and the significant issues to be analyzed in depth in the EIS;

- identify and eliminate from detailed study the issues that are not significant or that have been covered by prior environmental review;
- allocate assignments for preparation of the EIS among the lead and cooperating agencies, with the lead agency retaining responsibility for the statement;
- indicate any public environmental assessments and other EISs that are being or will be prepared that are related to but are not part of the scope of the impact statement under consideration;
- identify other environmental review and consultation requirements so the lead and cooperating agencies may prepare other required analyses and studies concurrently with, and integrated with, the EIS as provided in 40 CFR 1502.25; and
- indicate the relationship between the timing of the preparation of environmental analyses and the agency's tentative planning and decision-making schedule.

7.2.1 Notice of Intent

A Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS for the proposed MBSD Project was published by CEMVN in the *Federal Register* on October 4, 2013 (78 FR 61843). A supplemental NOI was published by CEMVN in the *Federal Register* on April 27, 2017 (82 FR 19361) following the receipt of a modified DA permit application. The formal 60-day public scoping comment period for the EIS began on July 6, 2017 and ended on September 5, 2017. The NOIs are included in Appendix C.

7.2.2 Scoping Meetings

The public scoping process included three meetings held in Jefferson and Plaquemines Parishes. Notices of the public scoping meetings were sent through email distribution lists, posted on CEMVN's MBSD EIS website (<http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Permits/Mid-Barataria-Sediment-Diversion-EIS>), and mailed to public libraries, government agencies, and interested groups and individuals. Scoping meeting dates and locations were advertised in the following local newspapers on the following dates.

- *Plaquemines Gazette*, July 4 and 11, 2017;
- *The Times Picayune*, July 5 and 14, 2017; and
- *The Advocate*, July 5 and 17, 2017.

The scoping meeting ads included a note stating that Vietnamese translation would be available at the meetings, and that translation services in other languages were available upon request.

A total of 282 people signed the attendance records at the three scoping meetings. These included, but were not limited to, private citizens, industry stakeholders, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO), and public officials. A copy of the sign-in attendance record sheets and transcripts for each scoping meeting can be found on CEMVN's MBSD EIS website at <https://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Permits/Mid-Barataria-Sediment-Diversion-EIS>.

Because commercial fishing interests were expected to have a large representation at the public scoping meetings for the proposed Project, and there is a large Vietnamese community within the larger commercial fishing industry in Louisiana, the scoping meetings provided accommodations for Vietnamese translation of the meeting presentation, submission of Vietnamese comments, and translation of questions and answers at the display panels. Non-English speakers requiring Vietnamese translation of the presentation were provided earphones through which a translator provided real time translation during the presentation. The translator was also available to record public comments provided in Vietnamese and translated into English for the official public comment record.

7.2.3 Scoping Comments

CEMVN received a total of 871 individual comment submissions via emails, letters, comment cards, and verbal comments transcribed at the public scoping meetings. Of these submissions, 555 (64 percent) included identical (form) letters signed by different individuals. Approximately 744 (85 percent) of comment submissions were from commenters that gave Louisiana addresses. One comment was received from England. Individual commenters identified an organizational affiliation in 195 of the comment submissions, representing 62 unique affiliations. These affiliations included government agencies, non-governmental environmental organizations, and organizations representing commercial, social, cultural, or recreation associations.

All public scoping comments were reviewed and have been used to inform the scope and development of the EIS. Table 7-1 below lists the primary topics that were identified in the comment submissions. See Appendix B1 for the MBSD Final Scoping Report, which includes more details about the scoping comment topics and the name of all individuals, agencies, and organizations that submitted comments. A copy of all scoping comments submitted is available for review and download on CEMVN's MBSD EIS website at the following web address: <http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Permits/Mid-Barataria-Sediment-Diversion-EIS>.

Table 7-1 Primary Topics Identified in Scoping Comments
Alternatives Analysis
Public Coordination
Project Operations
Timeframe/Schedule
Adaptive Management and Monitoring
Land Loss and Sea-level Rise
Flooding and Storms
Geology and Sediment Transport
Wetland Impacts
Water and Sediment Quality
Protected Species
Marine Mammals
Commercial Fishing
Fish Resources
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice
Land-based Transportation and Public Utilities
Navigation
Environmental Impact Analysis and Modeling
Cumulative Impacts
Other

7.3 SUMMARY OF DRAFT EIS PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS

Public input is an integral part of the NEPA process, the OPA process, and the DWH oil spill restoration planning effort. CEMVN and LA TIG coordinated a public review process for both the Draft EIS and the LA TIG's Draft Restoration Plan. As stated in Chapter 1 Introduction and Purpose and Need, the LA TIG is evaluating CPRA's proposal to implement the MBSD Project pursuant to OPA through the Restoration Plan concurrent with CEMVN's review of CPRA's CWA and RHA permit and permission requests. The LA TIG intends to use this EIS to satisfy its obligations for NEPA review of its proposed action in the LA TIG's Restoration Plan, and consequently the LA TIG has coordinated with CEMVN throughout the development of this EIS to ensure it is adequate to support the LA TIG's proposed action as well as CEMVN's decision process. Each of the federal Trustee agencies or its representative is also a Cooperating Agency for the EIS. CEMVN has coordinated with members of the LA TIG (including the Cooperating Agencies and CPRA) in developing the EIS. CEMVN is not a member of the Deepwater Horizon Trustee Council and played no role in development of the LA TIG's Restoration Plan. CEMVN is not evaluating the proposed Project for compliance with the OPA and is not involved in the process to restore injuries caused by the DWH oil spill.

7.3.1 Opportunity for Public Comments

A Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Draft EIS was published in the *Federal Register* on March 5, 2021. The NOA encouraged all interested persons and

organizations to review the Draft EIS and submit any comments regarding the proposed MBSD Project and Draft EIS. A Public Notice to announce the NOA and the public meetings was posted to CEMVN's Project website along with press releases via social media, mailed or emailed to all individuals, agencies, and organizations on the distribution mailing list, and advertised in the following local newspapers on the following dates:

- New Orleans Advocate on March 5th, 2021
- Plaquemines Gazette on March 9th, 2021

Additional details regarding the public meetings were advertised in the following local newspapers on the following dates:

- New Orleans Advocate on March 21st and 28th, 2021
- Plaquemines Gazette on March 23rd and 30th, 2021

Portions of the Public Notice were translated into Spanish and Vietnamese.

The initial 60-day public review and comment period established by the NOA for the Draft EIS began on March 5, 2021 and originally was to end on May 4, 2021. However, based on requests by the public during the public review period, the 60-day public comment period was extended by an additional 30 days (for a total of 90 days) to June 3, 2021. All comments submitted electronically, orally, or in writing on or before June 3, 2021 were considered for the Final EIS.

The LA TIG published a separate NOA for the LA TIG's Draft Restoration Plan in the *Federal Register* on March 5, 2021. The LA TIG held a 60-day public comment period for the LA TIG's Restoration Plan (concurrent with the comment period on the MBSD Draft EIS). The comment period was also extended by an additional 30 days (for a total of 90 days) to June 3, 2021.

The public was invited to comment on the proposed MBSD Draft EIS and/or the LA TIG's Draft Restoration Plan in any of the following ways:

- Electronic comments at: <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/MBSD>
- Electronic comments via email at: CEMVN-Midbarataria@usace.army.mil
- Written comments by mail to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
- Oral comments via the toll-free phone number at: 866-211-9205
- Oral or written comments during any of the virtual public meetings held on April 6, 7, and 8, 2021

Comments were accepted through these various methods throughout the comment period. Comments received in languages other than English were translated into English by translators. Although comments were solicited via multiple methods, comments only needed to be submitted via one of these methods to become part of the record. All comments submitted were reviewed by both CEMVN and the LA TIG and are being considered as appropriate under relevant regulations as part of CEMVN's and the LA TIG's respective decision-making processes. Allowing submission of comments on either document to the same locations provided commenters a "one-stop shop" and was done to reduce confusion by commenters about where to direct their comments regarding the MBSD Project.

7.3.2 Distribution of Documents for Public Review

The Draft EIS and supporting documents were available for public review on the Project website at: <http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Permits/Mid-Barataria-Sediment-Diversion-EIS/>, or upon request. The LA TIG's Draft Restoration Plan and supporting documents were available at: <https://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/louisiana>. Printed copies of the Draft EIS and the LA TIG's Draft Restoration Plan were provided for public review at eight public libraries in Belle Chasse, Buras, Cut Off, Harvey, Lafitte, New Orleans, Paradis, and Port Sulphur. In addition, printed copies of the Executive Summary for both the Draft EIS and the LA TIG's Draft Restoration Plan, summarizing the details of the documents into a concise, easy to read, document, were made available in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese at these locations and several other locations within southern Louisiana. Additional details regarding distribution of the Draft EIS documents for public review can be found in the Public Meeting Record in Appendix B2 of the Final EIS. Additional details regarding distribution of the LA TIG's Draft Restoration Plan for public review can be found in Section 8.0 of the LA TIG's Final Restoration Plan. Individuals wishing to view hard copies of the Draft EIS and LA TIG's Draft Restoration Plan were advised to contact the locations regarding viewing hours and COVID-19 restrictions.

CEMVN and the LA TIG coordinated with the Southeast Louisiana Voices of Impacted Communities & Environments (SELA Voice) organization to understand the needs of the local communities, including Indigenous communities and communities with environmental justice concerns, regarding the best ways to reach out to these communities prior to the release of the Draft EIS and the LA TIG's Draft Restoration Plan and during the public comment period. SELA Voice's recommendations for where to make the Draft EIS and the LA TIG's Draft Restoration Plan available and accessible to the affected communities, as well as translation of material related to the Draft EIS and Restoration Plan, were implemented. CEMVN engaged with local non-profit and community groups (Mississippi River Delta Coalition and Coastal Communities Consulting [CCC]) to distribute information and materials about the proposed Project and Draft EIS. A printed copy of the Executive Summary and a thumb drive (electronic version) of the Draft EIS and LA TIG's Draft Restoration Plan were also sent to community centers and organizations including the Grand Bayou Indian Village Tribal Center, Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana, Greater New Orleans Foundation, Mary Queen of Vietnam Community Development Corporation, and other community groups.

7.3.3 Summary of Public Meetings

CEMVN and LA TIG jointly conducted three public meetings to solicit comments on the Draft EIS and LA TIG's Draft Restoration Plan. The meetings were held to inform the public about the Project and to obtain and record public comments. Since there were COVID restrictions on in-person gatherings, the public meetings were held virtually on April 6, April 7, and April 8, 2021 at 9 a.m., 1 p.m., and 6 p.m. central time, respectively.

Meetings could be accessed via internet/web-based conferencing application or via telephone. Language interpretation and translation in Spanish, Vietnamese, and Khmer were provided at each of the virtual public meetings, and translators facilitated participation by non-English speakers. Key messages from the meeting presentations were translated during the meetings and the translators were available to interpret participant comments in those languages. Additionally, the public meetings were transcribed by a court reporter. The written transcripts and recordings of each of the meetings can be accessed on CEMVN's Project webpage.

At the beginning of the public comment period, CEMVN posted to CEMVN's Project webpage several pre-recorded presentation videos consisting of an explanation of how to comment on the Draft EIS and/or the LA TIG's Draft Restoration Plan, an update on the proposed MBSD Project design, information concerning the ongoing restoration planning efforts and the LA TIG's Draft Restoration Plan, and details about how to navigate and review the contents of the Draft EIS. These pre-recorded presentation videos were then consolidated into one presentation and played at the beginning of each of the three public meetings. This consolidated pre-recorded presentation was also translated into Spanish, Vietnamese, and Khmer and available on CEMVN's Project webpage. In addition, dedicated toll-free numbers were provided during the public comment period on the Draft EIS and the LA TIG's Draft Restoration Plan through which Spanish, Vietnamese, and Khmer-speaking individuals could listen to the translated pre-recorded presentation rather than watching the presentation on a computer.

Interested parties that were unable to participate in the virtual public meetings could access recordings of the public meetings, the pre-recorded video presentations (in English, Vietnamese, Spanish, and Khmer), the MBSD Draft EIS, a link to the LA TIG's Draft Restoration Plan, written transcripts of the meetings, and additional information about the proposed MBSD Project on CEMVN's Project webpage at: <http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Permits/Mid-Barataria-Sediment-Diversion-EIS/>.

7.3.3.1 Summary of Public Meeting Report and Responses to Public Comments

As described above, the LA TIG aligned the public review and comment process for the LA TIG's Draft Restoration Plan with the public review and comment process for the Draft EIS. A Public Meeting Report along with a Response to Comment Appendix

which provides all public concerns and responses addressed by CEMVN and/or LA TIG can be found in Appendix B2 Public Involvement. Revisions have been made to this Final EIS based on public comments received on the Draft EIS, input from the cooperating agencies, and continued Project evaluation. As described in Chapter 1, Section 1.7 Public Involvement Summary of the Final EIS, changes between the Draft and Final EIS are identified through markings along the margins on the applicable pages. Table 1.7-1 lists the section numbers where substantial changes were made (see Chapter 1, Section 1.7). All public comments received are being considered as appropriate under relevant regulations by CEMVN and LA TIG in their respective decision-making processes on the proposed MBSD Project.

Over the 90-day public comment period, the CEMVN and the LA TIG received approximately 40,699 comment submissions. Forty-three comments were received in either Vietnamese, Spanish, or Khmer and were translated into English. Of the 40,699 comment submissions, 39,903 (98 percent) included identical (form) letters signed by different individuals. Approximately 796 (2 percent) of comment submissions were unique letters from individuals or organizations/agencies. Only 1,396 (3.4 percent) of the comment submissions were from commenters that gave Louisiana addresses. The remaining comments were from people who gave addresses in other U.S. states, and four were from other countries. Individual commenters identified an affiliation in 44 of the comment submissions. These affiliations included businesses, churches and religious groups, civic groups, government agencies, NGOs, and university or professional societies.

CEMVN and the LA TIG worked together to review, sort, and respond to comments received on the Draft EIS and the LA TIG's Draft Restoration Plan. Comments were first sorted into groups by topic and issue, consistent with the range of topics addressed in the Draft EIS and LA TIG's Draft Restoration Plan. To facilitate preparation of responses, CEMVN and the LA TIG then drafted 'concern statements' to represent multiple similar comments on a topic and to summarize unique comments and lengthy comments; these concern statements were later reviewed against the original comments to ensure all comments were captured. CEMVN and the LA TIG then prepared responses to the concern statements. CEMVN and LA TIG ensured consideration of the original text from each comment when preparing the response. The comment response process was designed to ensure consideration of and appropriate responses to all comments received. All public comments and responses are included in full in the Public Meeting Report in Appendix B2 Draft EIS Public Review and Public Meetings.

7.4 OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC REVIEW OF THE FINAL EIS

The Final EIS will be published for a 30-day public review, which will start with USEPA's posting a NOA in the *Federal Register*. CEMVN will also post a Public Notice announcing the public review period on its Project website. The Public Notice will be emailed or mailed to all individuals, agencies, and organizations on the distribution list. The Final EIS and its appendices will be available on CEMVN's Project website and copies will be available at select public libraries and community centers. Any public

comments received during the Final EIS review period will be provided to the decision maker for consideration.

7.5 RECORD OF DECISION

The USACE ROD will not be issued until after the close of the Final EIS public review period and any comments received are reviewed. Any RODs completed and signed by other agencies for the Final EIS for their respective authorities will be distributed by the agencies in accordance with each respective agency's policies and procedures.

7.6 OTHER PUBLIC OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS

Other public outreach and engagement efforts regarding the proposed MBSD Project including the DWH NRDA restoration planning and the Applicant's (CPRA) various outreach efforts are described below.

7.6.1 DWH NRDA Restoration Planning

In addition to the USACE NEPA process for public involvement, as part of the public review process for the DWH NRDA restoration planning process, an NOA for the SRP/EA #3 was published in the *Federal Register* by the LA TIG on December 8, 2017. A 45-day comment period was held from December 20, 2017 through February 8, 2018, and a public meeting was held in New Orleans on January 24, 2018. The SRP/EA #3 was published in the Louisiana Register on March 20, 2018 and the *Federal Register* on March 21, 2018. Concurrent with the CEMVN's NOI for the EIS, the LA TIG issued an NOI regarding the LA TIG's Restoration Plan on April 28, 2017 (82 FR 19659). Thereafter, concurrent with the CEMVN's NOA for the Draft EIS, the LA TIG issued an NOA for the LA TIG's Draft Restoration Plan on March 5, 2021 (86 FR 12915). Thereafter, concurrent with the CEMVN's issuance of the Final EIS, LA TIG will issue the LA TIG's Final Restoration Plan in September 2022. Additional details regarding the LA TIG's additional outreach efforts for their Restoration Plan are explained in Section 1.8 of the LA TIG's Final Restoration Plan.

7.6.2 Applicant's Outreach Efforts

Public engagement has been a vital element in developing the proposed MBSD Project and the mitigation and stewardship measures that would be implemented concurrent with the Project, if the Project is approved and funded. Between 2016 and the issuance of the Final EIS, CPRA participated in outreach and engagement activities across coastal Louisiana to encourage community members, local leaders, and the general public to engage in conversations about the proposed Project and to solicit feedback on CPRA's Mitigation and Stewardship Plan (Appendix R1). These public involvement efforts included CPRA's Coastal Connections events held throughout the Project area, CPRA's outreach to communities with environmental justice concerns who may be impacted by the Project, CPRA's outreach efforts to other communities and groups projected to be impacted by the Project, and CPRA's outreach to local governments and local government officials.

7.6.2.1 CPRA's Outreach Prior to the Draft EIS

CPRA held over 30 Coastal Connections meetings across coastal Louisiana, including in Belle Chasse, Braithwaite, Empire, Ironton, Lafitte, Myrtle Grove, Phoenix, and Port Sulphur. The meetings were hosted in a variety of venues, including auditoriums, libraries, camps, bait shops, and restaurants to ensure accessibility and encourage participation. Information about these meetings was shared through various communication channels, including social media, email-blasts, and CPRA's diversion program website (see address below), as well as outreach to NGOs, local governments, and other community leaders.

CPRA met with fishermen and industry representatives by hosting Coastal Connection events with specific industries or fisheries, and by attending the oyster, shrimp, and/or crab task force meetings. For example, in 2017, the CPRA Sediment Diversion Team held a meeting with CCC, a non-profit organization that primarily serves Vietnamese, Khmer (Cambodian), and Croatian fishers in Southeast Louisiana with 175 people attending the meeting. The CPRA Sediment Diversion Team worked with CCC to translate several resource materials (such as MBSD Project and general sediment diversion FAQs) into Vietnamese for community members. CPRA also engaged the fishing community through the Louisiana Seafood Future (<https://www.laseafoodfuture.com/>) and used that process to inform the mitigation and stewardship measures included in the Mitigation and Stewardship Plan (Appendix R1). CPRA also met with members of the navigation community, who rely on the Mississippi River for transport of goods and services, to present updates and request feedback regarding the Project (see Appendix B3 [Additional Public Involvement] for a list of outreach activities conducted by CPRA with the navigation community). These outreach and engagement efforts provided the public with an opportunity to ask questions and obtain information about the proposed MBSD Project.

CPRA also engaged the community of Ironton, due to its close proximity to the Project site and interest of its residents. Ironton residents received information and participated in the outreach meetings identified above, and additional meetings were held in the community to discuss specific information related to the community. CPRA hosted multiple meetings at the St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church to discuss general Project updates as well as community-specific information like construction timelines, accessibility, and job opportunities that could result from Project construction and/or operation, if the Project is approved and funded.

Additionally, CPRA hosted meetings and briefings with local governments and local government officials, such as the Plaquemines and St. Bernard Parish Presidents, council members, and boards. CPRA also worked closely with NGOs, community organizations, and other educational groups and organizations to distribute information about the Project and gather feedback.

Table 7-2 summarizes the outreach contacts by CPRA between 2016 and the end of 2020, prior to issuance of the Draft EIS.

Number and Type of Public Engagement Activities	Number of People Reached
51 Community events	2,506 community members and residents
13 Media events	1,737 listeners
19 CPRA board meetings and events	986 board members and public attendees
35 Coastal connections	692 community members and residents
5 Conferences	555 attendees
28 Parish leadership and outreach	378 council members, committee members, and residents
16 Environmental NGOs	353 representatives, members, and attendees
5 Business group meetings	178 members and attendees
8 Task force meetings	85 task force members
9 Governor's Advisory Commission	80 members and attendees
5 Federal agency meetings (for example, USACE, USGS, and SeaGrant)	39 staff
^a All activities occurred prior to, and are separate from, the public engagement process associated with the EIS; see Section 7.3 for more details about the Draft EIS public comment process.	

7.6.2.2 CPRA's Outreach Related to the Draft EIS through Publication of the Final EIS

In anticipation of the Draft EIS release, CPRA began additional outreach efforts in January 2021, continuing through the end of the comment period in June 2021, to assist interested community members in accessing the Draft EIS and to solicit feedback on the Draft Mitigation and Stewardship Plan that was published with the Draft EIS. Further, following publication of the Draft EIS in March 2021 and continuing through publication of the Final EIS, CPRA conducted additional outreach with the communities projected to be impacted by the Project to discuss the anticipated impacts and the mitigation and stewardship measures that would be included in the Final Mitigation and Stewardship Plan. Based on feedback received through these various meetings and survey responses, CPRA refined the mitigation and stewardship measures and developed the Final Mitigation and Stewardship Plan published with the Final EIS (Appendix R1).

CPRA employed a number of different methods to share information on the Project and gather feedback regarding the proposed mitigation and stewardship measures. CPRA developed a survey tool with questions targeted to the property owners and residents in Myrtle Grove, Woodpark, Suzie Bayou, Deer Range, Lake Hermitage, Happy Jack, and Grand Bayou. The survey was used to elicit feedback from residents and assist them in identifying mitigation and stewardship measures best able to support them and their communities.

CPRA hosted a series of open-house style meetings in Port Sulphur, the largest auditorium near the Project site, during which Project team members were available to

assist residents in completing the survey. Translators and translated materials were available in Spanish and Vietnamese. These meetings were publicized in conjunction with notifications from NGOs (Restore the Mississippi River Delta Coalition), the local government, and through print flyers/posters posted in multiple public locations from Belle Chasse to Grand Bayou. Following the meetings in Port Sulphur, CPRA hosted an additional round of meetings at various locations within the communities south of the Project site, including venues like fire houses and individuals' homes, from Myrtle Grove south to Grand Bayou and Happy Jack. During these meetings, CPRA met with residents of each community and shared information on the specific mitigation and stewardship measures planned for their communities, in addition to encouraging residents to complete the survey to document their feedback.

In addition to in-person outreach methods, CPRA distributed the survey digitally, through NGOs' communication channels and through CPRA's Sediment Diversion Program website. CPRA also used publicly available contact information for residents to send two rounds of surveys and accompanying information via postal mail. Surveys were also made available at the Plaquemines Parish office and the Port Sulphur library, which is the closest library to the communities.

The Grand Bayou community, home to the Atakapa-Ishak/Chawasha Tribe, expressed that continuing to meet with the community as a group, organized by their leadership, would best meet their needs and enable them to provide feedback. In the spring of 2021, CPRA met with the community to review mitigation and stewardship measures specific to the Grand Bayou community and distribute the survey. Thereafter, CPRA collected the surveys and held a subsequent meeting with representatives of the community to further discuss additional, specific mitigation measures. CPRA continued to work with the Tribe and community members to develop additional mitigation measures, all of which were requested by the community and which are included in the Final Mitigation and Stewardship Plan (Appendix R1).

In the winter of 2022, CPRA developed a series of webinars, housed on CPRA's Sediment Diversion Program website, that shared more detailed information on the mitigation and stewardship measures planned for each community. CPRA sent a mailer with community-specific information and instructions for accessing the webinars to each property in the communities south of the Project from Myrtle Grove to Grand Bayou and Happy Jack. CPRA then hosted meetings with individual property owners, during which CPRA answered questions and further explained the specific mitigation and stewardship measures included in the Final Mitigation and Stewardship Plan.

Later in 2022, CPRA launched a second survey to gain feedback on implementation of the mitigation and stewardship measures from the commercial fishing community, specifically those who fish for brown shrimp, crab, oyster, or finfish (fisheries aligned with CPRA's Mitigation Plan). CPRA engaged NGOs and other community organizations (for example, Mississippi River Delta Coalition and CCC) to assist with developing and distributing the survey and informational materials, which were also available in Vietnamese. A webinar was developed and posted on CPRA's Sediment Diversion Program's website to provide information, and community members

were encouraged to watch the webinar before completing the survey. CPRA distributed the survey to known fishers and dealers and posted it on CPRA's Sediment Diversion Program website.

Also in winter of 2022, CPRA participated in a community meeting, in conjunction with NGOs, largely focused on Ironton's community needs post-Hurricane Ida. CPRA's Sediment Diversion Program team provided an update on the Project status and the Final Mitigation and Stewardship Plan, and facilitated a discussion regarding post-Hurricane Ida reconstruction needs and efforts in their community. As explained in the Final Mitigation and Stewardship Plan, CPRA plans for continuing engagement with the Ironton community throughout Project construction, if the Project is approved and funded (see Section 6.3.8 in the Final Mitigation and Stewardship Plan, Appendix R1).

Table 7-3 summarizes the outreach contacts by CPRA from January 2021 through July 2022.

Table 7-3 Summary of Public Engagement and Number of People Reached to Discuss Sediment Diversions in the Barataria Basin, including the proposed MBSD Project, from January 2021 through July 2022	
Number and Type of Public Engagement Activities	
24	Community events
13	Media events
2	CPRA board meetings and events
129	individual meetings with community residents
2	Conferences
18	Parish leadership and outreach meetings
8	Environmental NGO meetings and events
5	Business group meetings
3	Task force meetings
1	Governor's Advisory Commission meeting
33	Federal, state, local, agency meetings (for example, USACE, USGS, and SeaGrant)*

* Note: Due to COVID-related restrictions, many of these contacts were virtual so CPRA was not able to provide specific attendance estimates for these outreach efforts.

CPRA maintains a Project website (<https://midbasin.coastal.la.gov/>) to house information and materials that support outreach and engagement efforts. Webinars, surveys, informational materials, and meeting notices are posted on the website.

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