

Appendix C

Public Scoping Comments

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

AUG 03 2017

Public Scoping Meeting, Tuesday, July 25, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Belle Chasse Auditorium
8398 Highway 23, Belle Chasse, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name GREGORY ABDELNOOR	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
Street Address 146 COLONY ROAD	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code BELLE CHASSE LA 70037	
Email Address TIMKATY@HOTMAIL.COM	
Affiliation RESIDENT	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

- ✓ TIME LINE IS TOO LONG
- ✓ OVERHEAD WILL BE A CONCERN ESPECIALLY ON THE 2020/2021 TIME LINE. SHOULD THERE BE LAWSUITS THIS WILL ONLY PROLONG THE PROJECT.
- ✓ NEEDED TO SEE MORE OF THE PROJECT DESIGN MODELING SHOULD BE DONE TO SEE HOW NATURE WOULD FIX THIS ON ITS OWN.
- ✓ LOOK AT MARDE GRAS PASS AS POSSIBLE EXAMPLE ON HOW NATURE CAN HANDLE REPLENISHMENT OF MARSH & sediment.

From: my_lame_screenname@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 12:50:10 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Heather Acosta
12132 Wildbrook Dr
Riverview, FL, 33569

From: Acsjulie@hotmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 2:18:06 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
Julie Acs-Ray
27016 Starkey lane
Brownstown, Mi, 48174

Aug. 8, 2017

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
285 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name

Anthony Adams

Street Address

2735 Privateer Blvd.

Mailing Address

(if different from street address)

City, State, Zip Code

Barataria, LA 70036

Email Address

Affiliation

How did you learn about this public scoping meeting?

- Newspaper Notice
- Notice in Mail
- Email
- Website
- Other (please explain)

Coastal
Communities
Consulting

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COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

The diversions would kill the Brazilian shrimp because they like salt water. The Brazilian's growth would be stunted therefore they wouldn't grow to a marketable size to sell thus resulting in one season: white shrimp season which is only for 4 months. I couldn't survive off of 4 mos. of income. And as it stands right now, fishermen aren't making any money b/c of low shrimp prices. To be honest, I don't even think the diversions should even open b/c there's nothing we can do. Land will come back but be washed away again w/ the next hurricane. Let mother nature take its course. Meanwhile, the fisheries need comprehensive support: jobs, buy local, etc..

Anthony Adams

From: adamsk918@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 8:23:50 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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- The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS

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Thank you,
Katherine Adams
5527 Pitt St
New Orleans, LA, 70115

From: gagnew@rutgers.edu
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 9:50:07 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The Mississippi River is one of the most important bodies of water in the United States. Not only a source of drinking water and crop irrigation, it supports trade, fishing and recreation. The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
Grace Agnew
32A Lincoln Ave
Highland Park, NJ, 08904

From: mpkcea@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 8:01:05 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

This month's flooding was a warning. We need to protect our soil! The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
Chris Albers
1414 Lowerline St
New Orleans, LA, 701184030

From: Dalbert@bdlc.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 8:58:04 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
Danny Albert
121 Secluded Forest Way
Madisonville, Louisiana, 70447

From: salbert@lsu.edu
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 11:47:42 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
Sissy Albertine
1842 Government Street
Baton Rouge, LA, 70802

From: dmal@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Diana Alcazar-O'Dowd](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 3:46:06 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Sincerely,
Diana Alcazar-O'Dowd
New Orleans, LA 70115

From: knavlead@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Richard Allen](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Monday, August 7, 2017 6:24:13 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Sincerely,
Richard Allen
Slidell, LA 70458

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [M Amedeo](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 6:29:57 PM

Aug 17, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations
and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30
years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this
Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

* Please regularly share information with the public and other
stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of
the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin
should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which
could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife
and culture.

* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion
should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations
over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we
learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and
request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Miss M Amedeo
3394 Rama St
Slidell, LA 70458-5030
(985) 707-2956
mamedeo@msn.com



Board Members

R. King Milling, Chairman

Mark Davis

Berwick Duvall, Esq.

Karen Gautreaux

H. Dale Hall

The Honorable Randy Roach

Tony Simmons

Valsin A. Marmillion
Managing Director

Sidney Coffee
Senior Advisor



Follow us on
Facebook, Twitter &
Instagram

DATE: August 28, 2017
TO: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, c/o Brad LaBorde
FROM: Val Marmillion, Managing Director, America's WETLAND Foundation
RE: Comments Regarding the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
VIA EMAIL: brad.laborde@usace.army.mil

The America's WETLAND Foundation (AWF) appreciates the opportunity to comment during scoping for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion.

Louisiana's Barataria Basin is critical for the environmental, community and economic assets it affords the state of Louisiana and the nation. Time may be the most important factor in successfully turning back the rising tide and achieving restoration in the area. Louisiana has painstakingly developed a coastal master plan and its expeditious implementation is urgently needed.

Over the course of a decade, AWF has convened leaders and stakeholders in more than 50 forums to inform and seek feedback on best approaches to coastal land loss. Our findings and repeated survey research with Louisiana voters found that more than 72% of Louisianians see coastal erosion as the issue of their lifetime. This is significant and an indicator that public anxiety over coastal land loss is serious and expectations are high for immediate action.

AWF supports the state's master plan, its strategies and priorities for immediate project implementation. Public frustration over project delays and unending planning cycles is aligned with the seriousness of the land loss crisis. It is time to move expeditiously on the EIS and begin implementation of the diversion(s).

As we wait for this process, AWF is encouraging the private sector to engage in what we term "transitional" coastal restoration projects. These are projects that will provide support for sustaining a fragile and deteriorating landscape and network of wetlands critical to ecosystem health. As we work toward bringing the larger projects online, we are attempting to utilize innovative soft engineering design and green approaches to restoration in a cost efficient and time sensitive way. We have often brought findings to the USACE encouraging the issuance of general or emergency permits that recognize the impending loss of value to the region without an expedited permitting process. The Corps has recently attempted to apply a dashboard process for streamlining the process and making it fit the urgency of the problem and we commend this action.

Last year, AWF completed one mile of embankment restoration on private land with a a transition project using private funds in cooperation between the state of Louisiana, the USACE, NGOs and private landowners. This project was completed for one million dollars in only six months, demonstrating that we can all work on solutions that are affordable and time sensitive. We want to do more and have been working with Corps offices to develop a project adjacent to Lake Salvador that will prevent saltwater intrusion into fresh water marshes that are compromising an embankment rim dividing the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway from Lake Salvador.

We provide these comments to raise the prospect that private interests are willing to support transitional projects; they realize these efforts are necessary to ensure greater success of projects prioritized in the master plan. Our view is that we cannot wait too long to have major diversions come online as the loss of wetlands is of a rate that great harm will come to habitat, communities, navigation routes, commerce and fish and wildlife without swift solutions coming online.

While fully aware of the challenges posed by the traditional path of an EIS with regards to expediting projects, we implore the USACE to act to lessen the emergency impacting all interests by the loss of wetlands in coastal Louisiana. We ask that all agencies of government act with urgency and immediacy regarding these permits.

Thank you for allowing the America's WETLAND Foundation the opportunity to comment on this important permit(s) assessment.

From: bandrews0@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Barbara Andrews](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 4, 2017 2:32:03 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Sincerely,
Barbara Andrews
Metairie, LA 70006

From: becand025@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Becky Andrews](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 4:24:51 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

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Sincerely,
Becky Andrews
Baton Rouge, LA 70810

Return Address: NEW ORLEANS LA 700

03 AUG 2017 PM 1 L



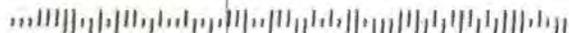
Name:

Phone:

Email:

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District, CEMVN-OD-SE
Attn: MVN-2012-2806-EOO
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118**



From: fishbaits@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Unwanted record: Biggest ever dead zone in Gulf of Mexico - WTVA News
Date: Friday, August 11, 2017 9:04:08 AM

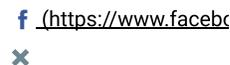
Blocked <http://www.wtva.com/story/36036266/unwanted-record-biggest-ever-dead-zone-in-gulf-of-mexico>

Tell those Rocket Scientists to read this Data
Sent from my iPhone

Unwanted Record: Biggest Ever Dead Zone in Gulf of Mexico

There's an unwanted record in the Gulf of Mexico: This year's "dead zone," where there's too little oxygen to support marine life, is the biggest ever measured.

Aug. 2, 2017, at 6:33 p.m.



AP

By JANET McCONNAUGHEY, Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — There's an unwanted record in the Gulf of Mexico: This year's "dead zone," a largely human-caused phenomenon where there's too little oxygen to support marine life, is the biggest ever measured.

The low-oxygen, or hypoxic, zone covers 8,776 square miles (22,720 square kilometers) — about the size of [New Jersey \(/news/best-states/new-jersey\)](#), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said Wednesday. The area is more than 3 percent larger than the 2002 dead zone, the previous record.

"We predicted it would be large, and it is large," said scientist Nancy Rabalais, who has been measuring the dead zone since 1985.

She said the area was actually larger, but the July mapping cruise had to stop before reaching the western edge.

"The structure of the water column was changing, so I'm not sure how much larger it would have been," said Rabalais, of [Louisiana \(/news/best-states/louisiana\)](#) State University and the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium.

Rabalais said winds from the west and southwest apparently had also compressed the eastern half of the low-oxygen area closer to shore than she'd ever seen it. Without those winds, it probably would have covered a broader area, she said.

Studies in the spring had predicted the third-largest dead zone ever — nearly 8,200 square miles (21,200 sq. kilometers).

Those studies are based on examining nitrogen and phosphorus in the [Mississippi \(/news/best-states/mississippi\)](#) River. The nutrients, which get carried down from the river, feed plankton blooms that die and sink to the bottom, where their decay uses oxygen.

The smallest measurements were during or after droughts: 1,696 square miles (4,393 square kilometers) in 2000 and 15 square miles (39 square kilometers) in 1988.

"This large dead zone size shows that nutrient pollution, primarily from agriculture and developed land runoff in the Mississippi River watershed is continuing to affect the nation's coastal resources and habitats in the Gulf," NOAA said in a news release.

It noted that a NOAA-funded study led by Duke University found that the Gulf dead zone may slow shrimp growth, leading to fewer large shrimp, causing short-term disruption in the shrimp market.

A national action plan calls for reducing such runoff so that the dead zone shrinks by two-thirds, to 1,950 square miles (5,000 square kilometers) by 2035.

That would require cutting the amount of nitrogen flowing into the river by 59 percent, according to a study published online Monday in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

"While there are undoubtedly significant lag times between action on the land and changes in loads, river nitrate concentrations have not declined since the 1980s," Donald Scavia of the University of Michigan ([/news/best-states/michigan](#)) and his coauthors wrote.

He and Rabalais said small-scale projects have shown that runoff can be reduced by practices that include planting cover crops on fields between seasons for corn or soybeans, reducing the amount of fertilizer and using feedstock other than corn to produce biofuels.

"It is time to ask what is preventing more extensive implementation of some or all of these strategies," Scavia wrote.

From: fishbaits@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Diverson
Date: Friday, August 11, 2017 8:26:06 AM

I am a second generation commercial shrimper we all have been struggling for last 16 yrs or so Imports & rising cost of gear & fuel dealing with low dock prices & now Y'all telling us going to dump all that septic river water in our estuary I guess all those Rocket Scientists thinking by dumping that water in there will rebuild Land It will not. I am 55 yrs old most of my life my dad shrimped in Dixon Bay Area anymore river water than tigerpass & grandbayou & spillway dumping river water thru there & not to mention baptiste collette across from Venice has not rebuild any land if anything Jus help wash away There was islands all throu DixonBay rat bayou & chowie point all gone those spillways have been dumping more than 55 yrs for sure Guess those same Rocket Scientists have never heard bout the dead zone out in Gulf What's going to happen when Diverson waters meet up. EveryThing will Die Too many people building that Diverson plaining on making all those billions of dollars It will be hard to stop deep pockets like that Y'all need come up with different plan like continue pump sand over the levee instead of trying to wash it out with all that septic river water It will kill off that estuary not to mention all those dolphins that live in Barataria Bay. Their food source will not survive it or any other of the fisheries. Something has to be done but that Diverson will only poison this area

Sent from my iPhone

1 somewhere.

2 * * *

3 ANONYMOUS

4 ANONYMOUS:

5 My comments surround the
6 Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion.
7 They center around adaptation of
8 climate change. I think the
9 proposed bridge structure needs to
10 be high enough to accommodate future
11 marine traffic and smaller marine
12 traffic, for instance, a commercial
13 fishing fleet. There is likely
14 going to be a time when the gates of
15 the structure will need to be
16 removed, probably towards the end of
17 its project life. That task needs
18 to be accommodated in an easy,
19 simple way.

20 The width of the structure at
21 the river needs to be a sufficient
22 width to accommodate potential
23 future marine traffic. As the delta
24 retreats inland due to rising seas,
25 this structure project may have a

1 different use and so those things
2 need to be accounted for.

3 Also, some of the sediment
4 that's removed from the conveyance
5 channel could definitely be
6 re-purposed for nonstructural
7 projects, for instance, used for
8 elevating people's homes or building
9 small ring levees around the
10 community of Ironton or other
11 affected communities that are near
12 by the project.

13 In addition to those things, a
14 distributary network could
15 potentially need to be dug to
16 distribute the sediment and fresh
17 water. Hopefully, that distributary
18 network will be co-planned with the
19 Corps of Engineers, CPRA and local
20 residents.

21 In addition to those, sediment
22 could be injected into the
23 conveyance channel to enhance the
24 sediment-to-water ratio.

25 So in addition to a structure

1 operating when, say, for instance,
2 when the river is on the rise and
3 sediment levels are high, sediment
4 could be injected from an adjacent
5 dredge. Of course, in a safe way,
6 in a way that's designed on the
7 front end that could accommodate
8 that.

9 So those are my comments for
10 now.

11 EDDIE CARTER:

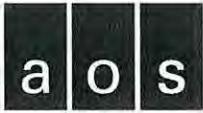
12 Thank you so much for your
13 comments.

14 ANONYMOUS:

15 Thank you all so much. I
16 really appreciate it, you all.

17 (End of Verbal Comments).
 * * *

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19
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25



Young Professionals—Mid Barataria Sediment Diversion Public Comments

Colonel Michael N. Clancy
Department Of The Army
Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70118

Colonel Clancy,

As a young professional in the Greater New Orleans region, I am contacting you today to voice my support for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion proposed by the State of Louisiana's Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA). As a resident of New Orleans and a professional building my career in the region, I believe the environmental impacts of this project are integrally tied to my personal and professional future in Southeast Louisiana.

I'd like to commend the great work the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has put into the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this diversion. I am struck, however, at the time spent on researching this potential project: the Mid-Barataria diversion has been studied nearly all of my life. As I look at the destruction of Southeast Louisiana over the last several decades, it is clear that we are in desperate need of *action*. It is my hope that the EIS will build on prior studies and hasten the desperately needed land-building ensured by the implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion.

Along these lines, I am deeply concerned over the USACE's updated project timeline which will delay implementation of the diversion by an additional two years. As stated above, we do not have time to waste in this region, and I hope the USACE is not only considering how to expedite these permitting issues, but also considering the alternative "no-action" scenario, should the diversion not be implemented. As a young professional, I see a grim future for the region without this diversion—one without a sustainable source of land-generation and a community growing increasingly vulnerable to environmental and economic threats as a result.

The design, study and planning around this project has already been underway since 1984. Implementation is now desperately needed and I strongly encourage the USACE to expedite that possibility in this EIS. Thank you again for your diligent attention to our habitat in Southeast Louisiana and leadership in this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Caroline Hayes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Caroline P. Hayes
Marketing Director
AOS Interior Environments



APACHE LOUISIANA MINERALS LLC
(985) 879-3528 TEL · (985) 876-5267 FAX

Mailing Address:
Post Office Box 206, Houma, LA 70361-0206

Deliveries Only:
1913 LaTerre Court, Houma, LA 70363-7525

August 29, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District
c/o Brad LaBorde
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70118

RE: Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Project

Dear Mr. LaBorde:

Apache is a large, coastal landowner possessing approximately 270,000 acres of coastal wetlands that has been experiencing the effects of rapid coastal erosion and deterioration caused by saltwater intrusion. The proposed project would channel much needed fresh water and sediment into marsh areas of the lower Barataria Basin which are suffering greatly from salinity encroachment from the south. These areas are starved for the nutrients and sediments that these marshes thrive on and the lower salinities would aid in marsh recovery and creation. The benefits of the Mississippi River are so close at hand, yet are not currently getting to the marshes in need in this area. This project will fix that and will result in improving valuable marsh habitat for fish and wildlife.

The long-term benefits of diversions, as opposed to other restoration methods, are incomparable in that diversions continuously build land over time while existing land remains intact and healthy, amplifying the effectiveness of diversions over time. Much time and money has been expended in the development of this project over the past 30 years. Although this project will primarily benefit Plaquemines and Jefferson Parishes, we believe eastern Lafourche Parish may also receive potential benefits of this project. This is especially important because eastern Lafourche will see very few projects in the future which will meet the Master Plan requirements.

In conclusion, Apache strongly supports this project and urges your agency to approve the permits for construction in a much more aggressive timeline than was recently announced by Colonel Clancy. We don't have that much time to waste.

Sincerely,
APACHE LOUISIANA MINERALS, INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy J. Allen".

Timothy J. Allen, PLS
General Manager

From: [LaBorde, Brad P CIV USARMY CEMVN \(US\)](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: FW: Mid Barataria Diversion
Date: Tuesday, August 29, 2017 12:09:21 PM
Attachments: [Mid Barataria Sediment Diversion - Apache letter of support.pdf](#)

Brad LaBorde
CEMVN-OD-SE

-----Original Message-----

From: Allen, Timothy [<mailto:Timothy.Allen@apachecorp.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, August 29, 2017 10:47 AM
To: LaBorde, Brad P CIV USARMY CEMVN (US) <Brad.Laborde@usace.army.mil>
Cc: Fields, Francis <Francis.Fields@apachecorp.com>; Simone Maloz <simone.maloz@nicholls.edu>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mid Barataria Diversion

Brad-

Please accept this letter of support for the Mid Barataria Diversion project and TRY to introduce more of a sense of urgency within your agency!

Thanks,

Timothy J. Allen, PLS

Apache Louisiana Minerals LLC

A subsidiary of Apache Corporation

P.O. Box 206, Houma, LA, 70361

Phone (985) 879-3528 Ext. 8719

From: bobbiearmstrong@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Bobbie Armstrong](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 9:18:46 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Bobbie Armstrong
Monroe, LA 71202

From: suzannearmstrong@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Suzanne Armstrong](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 12:10:02 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Sincerely,
Suzanne Armstrong
New Orleans, LA 70130

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Cole Ashman](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 1:11:10 PM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Thank you,

Mr. Cole Ashman
1302 Jackson Ave
New Orleans, LA 70130-5132
(123) 456-7890
colej14@yahoo.com

From: ekelana@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [wanda ashman](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 1:15:26 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Sincerely,
wanda ashman
Madison, WI 53711

From: eashtonjones@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Evelyn Ashton-Jones](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 4, 2017 9:39:04 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Sincerely,
Evelyn Ashton-Jones
New Orleans, LA 70121

From: stax1966@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Claire Aubrey](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 10:35:41 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Sincerely,
Claire Aubrey
New Orleans, LA 70118

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Karen Babin](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 11:34:29 AM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

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Thank you,

Ms. Karen Babin
900 S Peters St Apt 13
New Orleans, LA 70130-1791
(504) 875-4342
ksbabin@gmail.com

From: cjb0761@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Saturday, July 29, 2017 9:42:58 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Carolyn Babineaux
3536 Lake Street
Lake Charles, Louisiana, 70605

From: journeys50@comcast.net
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 10:38:11 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Pamela Baker
1900 Lincoln Drive
Sarasota, FL, 34236

From: raquel_baker@ymail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 8:56:35 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Thank you,
Raquel Baker
310 WILLOWOOD DR
FRANKLIN, LA, 70538

From: hannah.baldo@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, July 28, 2017 10:49:37 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
Hannah Baldo
4523 LaSalle Street
New Orleans, Louisiana, 70115

From: beverlyball@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Beverly Ball](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Tuesday, August 29, 2017 2:56:35 PM

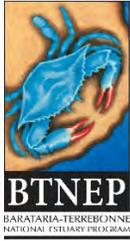
Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

To the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

I am a Louisiana resident who is very concerned about the devastating loss of precious land that our state is suffering on a daily basis. This loss has a detrimental effect on communities, wildlife, nature lovers, and our state as a whole. I urge you to please begin the Mid-Barataria coastal restoration project as soon as possible! We urgently need your Sediment Diversion plan put to work.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Beverly Ball
Metairie, LA 70002



September 1, 2017

US Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CMVN-OD-SE#MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118
Email: CEMVN-MidBarataria@usace.army.mil

RE: MID-BARATARIA SEDIMENT DIVERSION ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP) Office appreciates the opportunity to participate in the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process.

BTNEP is one of only 28 National Estuary Programs in the United States. Our mission is to represent a diverse group of stakeholders in the estuary relating to the protection and restoration of our wetlands. Our comments will try to reflect the possible environmental impacts and the diversity of interests in the area of the proposed diversion.

For historical reference, our federal, state, and local partnership agreement acknowledged that the Barataria and Terrebonne systems, consisting of the area between the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers, were both of national significance and critically threatened. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), on behalf of the U. S. government, has pledged to continue to elevate and maintain the status of this entire region as that of a National Estuary. The State of Louisiana continues to fulfill its part of this pledge by supporting the program that convenes hundreds of representatives from business and industry, universities and other educational institutions, local governments, federal and state agencies, NGOs, farmers, agriculture, and fisheries. This active group called the BTNEP Management Conference is a diverse group of stakeholders that has been gathering together since 1991 to implement a comprehensive plan through consensus to restore and preserve the federally recognized Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary.

One of the primary goals of our program is to solve environmental and multiuser groups needs through consensus by providing everyone with an opportunity to participate in environmental decisions as we advance local communities. We compliment the USACE and CPRA for its efforts to make this NEPA process accessible to many people.

The Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP) has long supported the idea of a sediment diversion into the Barataria basin. Our Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) contains an “Action Plan” supporting riverine reintroductions to the estuary, and was written over 20 years ago. Over the years, however, the concept of diversions seems to have grown in scope and scale. Generally speaking, the land-building and sustaining effects of a sediment diversion have increased with scale, but so too have the **impacts** to the estuary and its peoples. BTNEP supports appropriately sized diversions, but we are concerned that if the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion (MBSD) is implemented as proposed, the ecological, economic, and societal impacts may outweigh the benefits.

BTNEP believes that weighing benefits and impacts is an important way of determining the overall utility of a project. The implementation of any restoration project will obviously create both winners and losers, but an incomplete counting of either can scuttle the entire process of evaluation. BTNEP has been honored to closely participate with both the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on the Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) Myrtle Grove project as well as with the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) on the Master Plans of 2012 and 2017. However, BTNEP and members of our BTNEP Management Conference still have some unanswered questions about both the projected benefits and the estimated impacts of the MBSD.

It must be acknowledged that besides the benefits that could be realized by diversions, there are numerous potentially important adverse impacts that must be considered throughout the planning and evaluation process. These impacts generally increase with scale, as do user conflicts and sociopolitical opposition to implementation. The following is a brief discussion of some of these impacts.

Fisheries - Impacts to Commercial fisheries

Implementation of major diversions will involve some adverse impacts to living resources. Of particular concern are impacts to current oyster growing areas. The duration, seasonal timing, and degree of freshening will affect the breeding, growth, and harvesting of the eastern oyster in some areas. This serious concern must be addressed as this diversion will be constructed in areas where oyster leases will be impacted. In order to diminish the likelihood of litigation, renewed attention to public engagement is necessary. It is important to ensure that these oyster growers – and all other stakeholders – continue to be involved with and informed about the progress and timing of construction and the operation of projects. The preferred path forward is consensus on operational plans.

Modeling results have suggested that a 75,000 cfs controlled sediment diversion into mid-Barataria Bay would have significant impacts on oysters, finfish, and shellfish (i.e. shrimp). Some of these projected impacts would be negative (i.e. lethally low salinities for oyster beds close to the project), and some positive. Many of the modeled resources show negative trends early in the 50-year project life but a positive trend later. Models of various seasonal operational regimes show a potential to mitigate some of these impacts to resources. For example, diversions limited to winter and early spring operations could potentially diminish spring

spawning and spat and favor a more successful fall oyster spat set, and would more closely mimic historical freshwater introductions in the basin.

Impacts to other living resources – Bottlenose Dolphins and Possible Increase in Invasive Species

One potential biotic impact from major diversions is to resident populations of marine mammals, specifically bottlenose dolphins. Freshening of an entire estuary is possible with major sediment diversions, which could affect dolphin health, as they do not readily relocate. Causing harm to the health of the resident Barataria population of bottlenose dolphins would be a clear violation of the federal Marine Mammal Protection Act.

Another potential biotic impact is the introduction of invasive species, or the facilitation of their spread. The majority of Louisiana's most troublesome invasive species are freshwater-dependent aquatic organisms. These species may expand their range as new diversions come online and create new freshwater habitat. These include the floating and submerged aquatic plants giant salvinia, water hyacinth, and hydrilla; mollusks such as apple snails, zebra mussels, and Asian clams; several species of Asian carp; and even the marsh-destroying nutria. Diversions could potentially be vectors for the introduction of new invaders to the estuary such as the Northern snakehead, an Asian fish currently found in tributaries of the Mississippi River in Arkansas.

These invasive species could be an impediment to navigation, impact boat launches, displace native species, and have a general negative change on other to living resources.

Wetland Impacts Caused by Nutrients and Contaminants

Other issues to be addressed during the planning and subsequent monitoring of freshwater and sediment diversions include the impact of increased nutrient levels and the potential for increased eutrophication in coastal bays. There is some debate as to the potential effects of increased nutrients on wetland plants and algae growth. More study is needed prior to implementation of large-scale diversions to ensure that they can achieve the intended benefits without doing harm to wetlands and water quality. Additionally, introduction of other contaminants must be monitored. Diversions should be designed to minimize unacceptable levels of eutrophication and contaminant introduction. Contaminates are always of concern when diverting waters. Even micro-plastics may become a concern with such large volumes of water shunted into the wetlands.

Possible Impacts to Navigation

Another diversion impact is siltation of navigable waterways generating a need for increased maintenance dredging in channels near diversion structures. Waterways affected could be federally maintained navigation channels, oil field access channels, and/or natural streams. Anticipated increases in the cost of maintenance dredging induced by diversion operations must be accounted for in the early stages of diversion planning so that accurate cost-benefit ratios can be considered. Additionally, in order to reduce the likelihood of litigation, full disclosure of

anticipated effects to the navigation community is required. Consensus on the question of who is responsible for induced dredging costs must be reached ahead of implementation.

- **Shipping**
Water level in the Mississippi River is recognized as another critical issue that must be addressed. If multiple diversions are to be operated simultaneously, or if the river experiences a period of very low stages, sufficient draft for shipping could be threatened. The Port of Baton Rouge, Port of New Orleans, and the Port of South Louisiana are three of the ten largest shipping ports in the nation. These shipping and associated transportation industries could be impacted unless careful planning assures that critical water volumes and navigation channels are maintained.

Possible Flooding

In recent years, computer modeling from various studies looking at predicted increases in water levels caused by diversion operations have shown wildly varying results. Some models indicate that the increase in flood risk to nearby communities should be minimal with a moderately-sized diversion. Other models show significant increases in water levels that would increase flood risk in populated areas. Models have not yet examined the cumulative impacts of multiple proposed diversions operating simultaneously.

Models also have not taken into account the influence of wind, which is a significant driver of water levels in the estuary. In winter, storm fronts generally move north to south and water levels in the basins are typically lower, providing an opportunity for seasonal diversion operations. This is particularly true in the Barataria Basin, where backwater flooding from a high river has not been a significant concern. However, in the Terrebonne Basin, backwater flooding from a high Atchafalaya River has historically been a major concern. It is plausible that higher water levels in Barataria could translate to higher water levels in Terrebonne via the GIWW, diversion operations timed to “optimize” sediment capture would conflict directly with flood fighting efforts there, i.e. operating diversions in the spring. Furthermore, southerly winds begin in spring and often last through fall, causing higher water levels and coastal flooding issues regardless of river stage. It may be difficult, from both a physical standpoint of high basin-side water levels as well as a sociopolitical standpoint of the perception of flood risk, to operate large-scale diversions during these months.

The threat of community flooding obviously increases with diversion discharge and proximity to the area of outfall. Additionally, some models suggest that outfall areas will be more prone to flooding in the early years of operations, and will need time for channels to evolve in order to expand capacity. If projects are properly designed and appropriately scaled, it is unlikely that water elevations will increase significantly as a result of freshwater and sediment diversions. However, this critical issue of flood risk must be addressed throughout the process from the project's conceptual phase through to its operation.

Environmental Justice

Executive Order 12898 (1994) addresses environmental justice in minority and low-income populations. The order acknowledges the disproportionate adverse impacts that federal actions have historically had on certain communities. It also commits the federal government to promoting nondiscrimination in future federal actions that may impact environmental quality.

As most of the funds that are suggested for this project would come from the federal funding streams this issue should be addressed. Communities such as the Native Americans in Grand Bayou, Vietnamese fishermen, and low-income resident fishers of Plaquemines, Jefferson, and Lafourche may be negatively impacted by this project.

Possible Alternatives for USACE to Consider

As described in the flyer presented to the public at several meetings across the estuary during this process, the project could be compared to no-action or other alternatives.

We strongly suggest that the no-action alternative be dismissed. *None of our user groups want no-action.* We do not want to see this project compared to no-action. We think that would be a waste of the tax payer dollars. In the interest of not being offensive to the public, we suggest only alternate actions be explored.

Alternatives Assessment

BTNEP suggests only additional alternatives analysis. While the goal or purpose of the project is to reconnect Mississippi River to wetlands surrounding Barataria Bay, the cost of the environmental impacts must be honestly addressed. The proposed project suggests that the diversion would flow at a 5,000 cfs minimum flow at all times; this may be both impossible and unwarranted.

We recommend that in evaluating the MBSD project USACE should compare the results with alternative means of coastal restoration.

- 1) We suggest that USACE conduct an alternatives study to compare potential benefits and potential costs of implement a smaller MBSD in **conjunction** with using dredging/pipeline sediment delivery for marsh creation. The process has worked at West Bay, a CWPPRA project that was led by USACE. USACE was instrumental in getting traditional ecological knowledge involved in helping to improve the benefits of the project. The diversion could then be operated at lower volumes causing less environmental problems and fewer user conflicts. BTNEP and its Management Conference would be willing to host an event that brings together user groups that could describe the benefits that this alternative method affords while reducing the environmental impacts.
- 2) Additionally, USACE should compare this project to using the same money on dredging sediment from the river and using pipeline sediment delivery for marsh creation.

An important difference that needs to be accounted for in comparing projects is the timelines associated with the cost-versus-benefit of a restoration project. Some projects may deliver beneficial results immediately, while other projects may take decades to see their benefits.

The same applies to projected costs and negative impacts associated with a project. *Time* is a critical component in a comprehensive assessment of the true cost-benefit of a project. For that reason, we strongly recommend that the Corps use *trajectory economics* for assessing the flow of economic services in their evaluations of the MBSD when compared to other means of coastal restoration. For reference purposes, Dr. Rex Caffey et al. have published a report on this subject titled “**Trajectory economics: Assessing the flow of ecosystem services from coastal restoration**” ([Ecological Economics 100 \(2014\) 74–84](#)).

Again, we commend the USACE and CPRA for its efforts to make this NEPA process for the MBSD as open and transparent as possible.

Should you have any questions about our comments; please, don't hesitate to contact our office.

With kindest regards,



Susan Testroet-Bergeron
BTNEP Director

From: sandabar10@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Sandra Barbier](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Tuesday, August 29, 2017 10:01:46 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The Barataria Basin is very important to wildlife in Louisiana and to species that migrate here. Please act to protect and restore this area.

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Sandra Barbier
La Place, LA 70068

From: [Pbarnes@bfaenvironmental.com](mailto:pbarnes@bfaenvironmental.com)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Tuesday, September 5, 2017 4:12:01 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As the president/founder of an environmental engineering/water resources management firm, (BFA Environmental), I was very pleased to see the recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the State Legislature. This clearly indicates the State's commitment to coastal protection and restoration and correcting through redesign some of the numerous shortcomings of our built coastal infrastructure.

Now that we have moved into the new restoration paradigm and several projects to thwart mans negative effect on our natural coastal protection system are planned and/or being built, it is critical that we sustain these retrofits by reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands with sediment diversions this is only logical. We certainly don't want our new investments to be in vein.

The bottom line is it's time to act. Any further studying of Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion, should be performed in an adaptive management mode. It is my understanding that the Barataria Basin could loose another 550 square miles over the next 50 years if nothing is done, therefore doing nothing is not an option. Since this matter has been studied for more than 30 years, I says it's time to leverage what we know and incorporate everything into the Final Scoping Report hopefull by September 30, 2017 and then the EIS - as Hurricane Harvey and pending Hurricane Irma clearly shows, time is of the essence.

Finally, as an advocate for vulnerable communities and the founder of an inner city youth/conservation corps and environmental jobs training program (Limitless Vistas) -- I'm very encouraged that this time around the resource managers seem to realize that there is no true sustainability without "sustaining everyone's ability". True community involvement means creating ways for more local folks to be vested in their environment, which for us means looking at ways to unbundle projects, so more local small business can be involved. It also means looking at progressive contracting language to encourage contractors to work with local community based organizations to promote training, workforce development and hiring for restoration projects.

I thank you for the opportunity to offer my thoughts.

Looking Forwad,
Patrick A. Barnes, P.G.

BFA Environmental/
Limitless Vistas
1215 Prytania St Suite 103
New Orleans, Louisiana, 70130

From: stacyb6982@att.net
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, July 28, 2017 11:00:38 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

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Thank you,
Stacy Barnett
211 HIDDEN ACRES ST
HOUMA, LA, 70364

From: dbarras2@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Wednesday, July 26, 2017 11:59:53 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
Devin Barras
1320 Avenue B
Marrero, Louisiana, 70072

From: maryrosebarron@hotmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 10:06:12 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

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Thank you,
MaryRose Barron
401 Golf Course Dr
Arnold, MD, 21012

From: tiobe@protonmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Saturday, July 29, 2017 1:38:45 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

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Thank you,
Tiobe Barron
PO BOX 569
Oak View, CA, 930220569

From: beverlybarry@att.net
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 9:17:38 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Beverly Barry
2710 Avalon St.
Jefferson, LA, 70121

From: paulb99237@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Paul Barry](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 10:54:55 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

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Sincerely,
Paul Barry
Zachary, LA 70791

From: jobaxter@roadrunner.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 3:16:30 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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Thank you,
Jo Baxter
354 Agate Street
Laguna Beach, California, 92651

From: gumbo2hot@charter.net
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 11:55:15 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
Judith Bazare
705 ROSEDOWN DR
THIBODAU, LA, 70301

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [diane bech](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 1:10:20 PM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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Thank you,

Mrs. diane bech
23588 Highway 430
Franklinton, LA 70438-2602
(123) 456-7890
bech_diane@yahoo.com

From: bechtelbeauj@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Deb Bechtel](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 1:19:58 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Sincerely,
Deb Bechtel
Natchitoches, LA 71457

From: karl.becnel@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Monday, July 31, 2017 1:02:15 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
karl becnel
7801 sycamore st
new orleans, Louisiana, 70118

From: roybeeson@earthlink.net
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 1:38:27 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

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Thank you,
Roy Beeson
3806 Vermont Rd, NE
Atlanta, GA, 30319

From: nhbelangeer@att.net
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Sunday, July 30, 2017 5:32:54 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

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Thank you,
Neal Belanger
425 S. 13th St.
Philadelphia, PA, 19147

From: RMBenge34@aol.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 4:47:07 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

I would also urge you to do the same for the Mid-Breton Sound Sediment Diversion.

Thank you,
Robert Bengé
37 Chateau LaTour Drive
Kenner, LA, 70065

From: vbenitez@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Victoria Benitez](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 5:49:41 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Sincerely,
Victoria Benitez
Covington, LA 70433

From: bizzy.berg@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Sunday, July 30, 2017 7:39:09 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

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Thank you,
Elizabeth Berg
7 Colonial Club Dr.
Harahan, LA, 70123

From: mnemnoth@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Amy Bergeron](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 4:42:03 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Sincerely,
Amy Bergeron
Pollock, LA 71467

From: bernard24@cox.net
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 4:50:32 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

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Thank you,
Bryan Bernard
13417 Orleans dr
Gonzlaes, Louisiana, 70737

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Pam Bernard](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 12:11:52 PM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Thank you,

Mrs. Pam Bernard
44559 W Pleasant Ridge Rd
Hammond, LA 70403-0215
(123) 456-7890
pamola2012@gmail.com

Joseph Bernstein
10320 Stone Canyon Road-Apt. 204 South
Dallas, TX 75230
e-mail: joelou1@bellsouth.net
Home Phone: (214) 613-2676; cell: 228 326-1979

August 23, 2017

U.S Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
7400Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

Dear Sirs,

I am writing as a landowner of marsh lands located in Jefferson Parish between Bayous Rigolettes and Perot bisected by a canal called Bernstein Canal, south of the city of Lafitte in the designated mid-Barataria diversion project as shown on circulated maps.

First I wish and request that I be notified at the above address of all relevant notices of the subject project which may heretofore be issued by the Corps.

My concern is as to the type and quality of the water that will be diverted and spread in the designated area assumedly by pipeline from the Mississippi River. There has been over several years numerous media stories on the "Dead Zone" that exists in the Gulf of Mexico. Commentators and studies reported, allude to the run off from the River as being principally responsible for this phenomenon. If the same or similar effluent is discharged with the water used to carry the soil to be diverted then I fear it will negatively impact our marshlands creating conditions that would mimic the "dead zone" in the Gulf of Mexico.

Such an action would have in my opinion a very deleterious impact on vegetation and wildlife including aquatic grasses and seafood not only on my land but the entire designated impact area. The various grasses support animal life in all forms which would not be able to sustain life if they would

Corps p. 2- 8/23/2017

not be able to replenish and grow.

Also I am concerned as to what would happen to the ownership rights both the mineral and surface rights if the marsh land in question is inundated. It would erase monuments and call in question ownership between the landowner and the state.

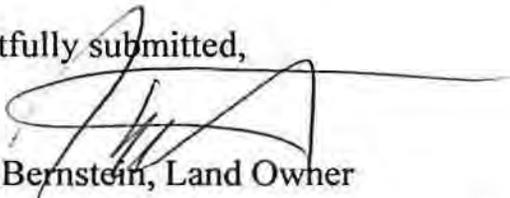
Can my land be used without permission? If so under what authority and how and when would the landowner be compensated?

I am aware that in Davis Pond Diversion Project the Corps had to acquire an easement. No mention of that has been stated that I am aware of.

If there is a seriousness about building land then why not build retaining walls around what is left of the peninsula that protected Lafitte for centuries from hurricanes and barge or obtain "soil-spoil" from numerous available sources. It seems to be fool proof and could start in minimal time.

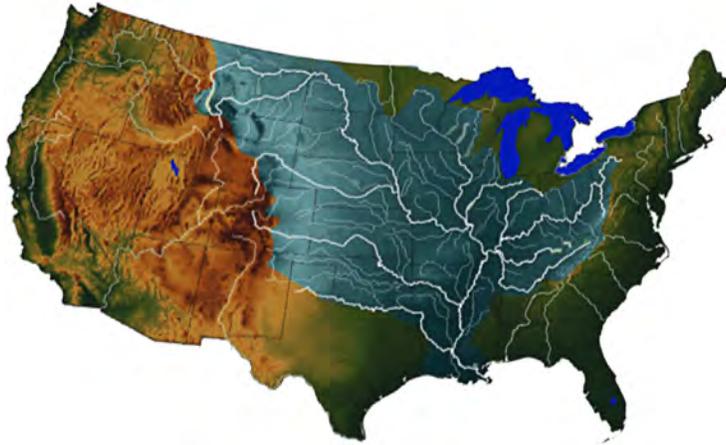
I hope this letter is not a vain effort. It is all I can do this time. I must accordingly object to the project based on the information to date for the reasons stated.

Respectfully submitted,


Joseph Bernstein, Land Owner

*Melad 9/1/2017
J.B.*

BIG RIVER COALITION



Sean M. Duffy, Sr.
Executive Director
4741 Utica Street, Suite 200
Metairie, LA 70006

Office (504) 833-4190 x 805
Cellular (504) 338-3165

September 5, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District
Mr. Brad LaBorde
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-EOO
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

Re: Comments on Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Permit Application

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

The Big River Coalition (BRC) was created in Fiscal Year 2011 in response to the announcement by the Commander of the United States Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Mississippi Valley Division that channel maintenance on the Mississippi River Ship Channel, Gulf to Baton Rouge (Louisiana) would be limited by the dedicated funding (Operations and Maintenance [O&M] budget). Prior to this position change the Mississippi River Ship Channel received preferential treatment and often received additional funding from other USACE projects. After the 1989 grounding of the M/V MARSHAL KONYEV (Pilottown) that virtually closed the Ship Channel to all traffic, the USACE's Headquarters announced in a position statement that it would maintain the nation's most critical navigation channel. The BRC originally focused on obtaining additional funding to supplement the shortfall in the Corps' O&M budget, to strive to establish a legislative firewall around the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund and to represent members of the Mississippi River navigation industry in matters related to coastal restoration. As our membership grew and continued to make effective progress on these initiatives, members supported the Coalition's commitment to actively advocate for the deepening of the Mississippi River Ship Channel Gulf to Baton Rouge to 50 feet.

The Coalition's membership depends on the efforts of the USACE and the federal investments made to build and maintain navigation structures and navigable channels across the

BIG RIVER COALITION

31 states that are connected by the Mississippi River and Tributaries (MRT). Economic studies have suggested that the MRT has an annual economic impact of over \$400 billion on the national economy, while our transportation infrastructure and channels suffer from neglect as perpetuated by chronic and long-term underinvestment. The Coalition has been actively engaged with coastal restoration efforts even prior to the formation of Louisiana's Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority.

The maritime industry must document their history with the approved conditions as related to the West Bay Diversion, the first sediment diversion on the Lower Mississippi River, as proposed and constructed under the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA). The navigation industry was engaged by the USACE and the state of Louisiana as represented by the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (LDNR) and tasked with developing conditional agreements that would generate support for the Sediment Diversion project from the deep-draft navigation industry. This agreement required a lot of time, effort and coordination from the navigation stakeholders, that had to concede losing at least three key anchorage spots within the Pilottown Anchorage, for the diversion to be constructed at Mile 4.7 Above Head of Passes (AHP). The stakeholders were hopeful that the West Bay Diversion would be successful in achieving the goals projected by the modeling efforts, including the creation of nearly 10,000 acres within the West Bay receiving area.

There were three key conditions established and agreed to by USACE and LDNR as reproduced from the Steamship Association of Louisiana's letter to LDNR on April 28, 1998:

- 1) "Funds will be available through the CWPPRA Program to maintain the Pilottown Anchorage on the downriver side of the Diversion at its current depth. This will be accomplished through either annual maintenance or on an "X" year dredging cycle, which provides for advance maintenance dredging;
- 2) CWPPRA funds will be available, if needed, to maintain three deep-draft anchorage positions at -45' Mean Low Gulf above the Diversion. These anchorage positions (approximately 1600' long each) do not include any holes that may be caused by the Diversion inasmuch as the currents near the Diversion may make the area unsuitable for anchoring vessels; and
- 3) If induced shoaling in the navigation channel downriver of the Diversion is excessive, the Diversion will be closed."

The following quote is taken from Page 3 of the signed authorized agreement between the State and the Corps as dated August 29, 2002:

- "...Included as a Project feature is the maintenance of the outermost (eastern) 250-foot wide strip of the Pilottown Anchorage area and the entire width of the adjoining access area between this strip of the Pilottown Anchorage and the Mississippi River navigation channel. Advanced

BIG RIVER COALITION

maintenance of the Pilottown Anchorage area shall be undertaken to account for the anticipated shoaling induced by the Project. Below the conveyance channel, the anchorage and access areas shall be maintained at the depths existing at the time the Phase One interim conveyance channel is constructed. Above the cut, three 45-foot deep by 1,500 feet long anchorage berths shall be constructed and/or maintained....”

Clearly, the language in the final agreement shares the objectives of the conditions developed by the navigation industry prior to the construction of the Sediment Diversion. The CWPPRA would eventually alter this agreement by removing the conditions that were established to protect the navigation interests and transiting vessels, specifically the commitment to maintain the Pilottown Anchorage at historic levels. When these changes were made by the CWPPRA program the undersigned and others navigation leaders objected and explained the importance of maintaining the Pilottown Anchorage. Due to the construction of the West Bay Diversion, the removal of the acknowledged navigation conditions and the lack of dredging within the Pilottown Anchorage since 2012, the anchorage is deficient and represents a hazard to navigation. Another caveat in the navigation agreement was the following:

“Our Association recommends that no further diversion projects be considered until this one has proven itself.”

The Big River Coalition has a vested interest in protecting the Mississippi River Ship Channel. The West Bay Diversion process, agreement and impact on the navigation industry, all while accepting the diversion has yet to create any noticeable acreage above the waterline has prompted our comments and objection to the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion (MDS) project. The West Bay Diversion was promoted by the state of Louisiana as being able to create 9,831 acres over 20 years, yet after nearly 15 years the diversion has created much less land through accretion. However, several thousand acres have been created since 2009 through the beneficial use of dredged material using cutterhead dredges to restore the navigation channel. The West Bay Diversion agreement proved easy to alter after the fact and the creation of this sediment diversion has had a negative impact on both the shallow-draft and deep-draft vessels that transit this reach of the MRSC. The Pilottown Anchorage remains deficient and represents a hazard to navigation because of the deficient levels in the Anchorage, all vessels are now forced to bypass the anchorage and navigate within the busiest navigation channel in the country.

As a member of the Coastal Protection Restoration Authority’s Navigation Focus Group, I offer that there has been little specific discussion about the MBSD project with the stakeholders. Based on feedback from a Navigation Focus Group meeting several years ago, a rudimentary modeling effort was developed for deep-draft or ship traffic in 2014. However, during that meeting concerns were expressed that a more detailed deep-draft investigation and a comprehensive modeling effort to include shallow-draft or tow and barge traffic was needed. Three years later, there has been no follow up discussion or additional presentations on vessel modeling at the MBSD site.

BIG RIVER COALITION

The members of the Navigation Focus Group should also be tasked with developing an operational plan, that if this diversion structure were opened could be used to ensure the structure did not represent a threat to safe navigation. The navigation industry has legitimate concerns based on their experiences with the West Bay Diversion, including the formation of a scour hole and the increased shoaling in the Pilottown Anchorage. Operational criterion should be established and an unbreakable binding agreement be reached before this permit is considered. Based on the ease at which the approved West Bay agreement was subsequently altered by the CWPPRA Task Force, the Big River Coalition requests a more secure legal operational agreement be ratified.

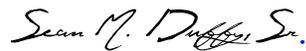
The membership of the Big River Coalition requests that the USACE deny the requested permit for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion at least until the Coastal Protection Restoration Authority has directly addressed concerns specifically related to the impact on the navigation channel. A summary of the concerns of the navigation industry are all tied to the negative impact of the proposed Sediment Diversion to the country's most prolific tonnage channel and the maritime network that connects over half of the nation to international trade, including but not limited to:

- 1) Substantial increases to sedimentation in the Mississippi River Ship Channel in the area above and below the proposed location of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion at approximately Mile 60.7 Above Head of Passes on the western side or right descending bank. The site is not in an area where the USACE performs maintenance dredging and all future channel maintenance needs would be attributable to the installation of said diversion. The CPRA should be held responsible for performing advanced maintenance to maintain the navigation channel at the maximum authorized draft of 55 feet. The CPRA should also have dedicated funding set aside to ensure it can fund and execute dredging contracts attributable to future Sediment Diversions.
- 2) An operational plan must be developed for the MBSD that is approved by all parties including representatives from the navigation industry.
- 3) The navigation industry requests that the MBSD be operated and/or controlled by the USACE as the lead agency trusted for representing integrated water management. The operation of this controlled sediment diversion must adhere to an operation plan developed with navigation stakeholders and not be amended unless all parties agree to the changes. The concerns of the navigation industry are tied to potential impacts to the navigation channel and include the potential development of a scour hole at the entrance to the diversion channel on the Mississippi River side; increased shoaling in the area surrounding the MBSD and the flow of water into the diversion canal being strong enough to alter the path of vessels transiting in the general vicinity of the diversion location.

BIG RIVER COALITION

The Coalition continues to believe that one of the safest and most economical ways to build land along the Lower Mississippi River is through the beneficial use of dredged material. The CPRA has previously acknowledged the beneficial use of dredged material in the area of Southwest Pass as conducted by the USACE with the assistance of the dredge contractors, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife Service, Bar Pilots and BRC membership as “complimentary to or consistent with” the State’s Master Plan. The CPRA is relying on dredging on all other basins to create the bulk of their marsh restoration projects, but on the Lower Mississippi River the Master Plan is almost entirely based on the experimental sediment diversions.

Sincerely,



Sean M. Duffy, Sr.
Executive Director

CC: Colonel Michael Clancy

From: [Sean M. Duffy, Sr.](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Cc: [Michael N.Clancy.COL-CS](#); [LaBorde, Brad P CIV USARMY CEMVN \(US\)](#); [Michael Miller](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Comments
Date: Tuesday, September 5, 2017 3:12:38 PM
Attachments: [Comments on Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Environmental Impact Statement 9517.pdf](#)

Colonel Clancy/Mr. LaBorde,

Please accept the attached comments on the proposed Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion project.

The Big River Coalition requests the permit be denied, the attachment highlights our concerns related to the proposed large scale sediment diversion

Best Regards,

Sean

Sean M. Duffy, Sr.

Executive Director

Big River Coalition

Blocked<http://bigrivercoalition.org> <Blocked<http://bigrivercoalition.org>>

Phone (504) 833-4190 x 805

Cell (504) 338-3165

Fax (888) 254-4553

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From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Scott Billington](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 3:30:20 PM

Aug 17, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

* Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.

* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Mr. Scott Billington
PO Box 13367
New Orleans, LA 70185-3367
(617) 413-7845
billington@earthlink.net

From: tip.bird@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 5:49:58 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Oscar Bird
109 Plum St
Roswell, GA, 300751110

From: jeff@marco-inc.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 10:52:39 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Jeffery Biss
392 Jefferson Ave
Elgin, IL, 601203845

August 31, 2017

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Comments should be submitted by September 5, 2017. (9)

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Cap't Cyrus Blanchard	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting?
Street Address 9640 Barataria Blvd	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail
City, State, Zip Code Crown Point, LA. 70072	<input type="checkbox"/> Email
Email Address C.J. Blanchard @ Cox.net	<input type="checkbox"/> Website
Affiliation	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) I live the life here.

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

I am Cap't Cyrus Blanchard I WAS BORN ON A House BOAT ON Bayou Terrebonne 12 miles from the Gulf of Mexico Today all that Land is going. I been on the water ALL my life. Shrimping and Running tug Boats. IN 1957 I WAS 3 miles from the Gulf ON A 36 Ft Shrimp Boat For Hurricane Audrey it was very bad But we Survive. I watch The Land disappear ALL my life. The oil company made canals For drilling and distorted A lot of beautiful Land and trees. ON SEPT 9 1965 I WAS Running 70 FT Tug Boat I had 28,000 Barrels of Oil on the Mississippi I tide my Barge At Star towing ON the River AND tried to get in the canal with the Boat. When I got of Harvey Locks it was shut Down I had to stay in the River over

At 130 AM 30ft of tide wave came up the River
 there was a lot of distruction. when I found my Barge
 it WAS ON the Rocks in Front of Jackson Square.
 I stayed on the River AND help A lot of People on the
 East Bank N. O. East had 26ft of water. IN 1969
 For Hurricane CAMILLE I WAS AGAIN ON the Boat on the
 River. we work up AND down From Venice to N. O.
 we Lose A Foot BALL Feild OF LAND to Erosen Every hour
 we have 264,⁰⁰⁰ TONS OF SAND + silt that go out mouth
 OF the river every 24 hours AND this is lost. I took
 7,000 yers For the River to Balt the DELTA it Took 75 yers
 For corp to ~~distroy~~ Distroy it.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
 Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
 7400 Leake Avenue
 New Orleans, LA 70118



Place postage here

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

Comments should be submitted by 2
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Cap't Cyrus Blanchard	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
Street Address 9640 BARATARIA Blvd	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code CROWN POINT, LA 70072	
Email Address CJ. BLANCHARD @. COX. NET	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

Today the CORP is trying to Built LAND by putting Devertions AND ALL they are doing is killing the Shrimp crabs AND Fish AND oysters AND our way OF liveing. we had the best shrimp AND soft shell crabs that you could fine ANYwhere in this contry They made the DAVES Pound Devertion AND Kill lake CATAOUCHE AND lake SALVADORE. River nevertion is Nothing but POLLuted water, you have 110 teFimeries ON the mississippi River Plus you have all kinds of cemicals being wash in the River. "Devertions" is NOT the ANSWER. you have to go where the Beach line used to be AND Built big hight Jetteys with big Rock Balders AND Fill in between them with sandt dirt

We have dead ZONES in the gulf AND Bays
cause by Polluted River water Every state
have to take care OF building their own.
TEXAS MISSISSIPPI ALABAMA & FL. to meet with
our own Jetties. To stop the surge OF water
when there is a HURRICANE. I CAN'T tell you ALL
the things I want to I CAN write a book about this
I sure hope that this information CAN help in getting
something done to save this BEAUTIFUL land that
we have left AND save the Shrimp crab Fish &
Oysters so our Future kids & Grand kids CAN
Profit From ALL OF this.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118



Place postage here

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

3

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Capit Cyrus Blanchard	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
Street Address 9640 BARATARIA Blvd	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code Crown Point, LA, 70072	
Email Address CJ, Blanchard @. COX, Net	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

"Devertions Not the ANSWER"
Then came the Air Boats running Tours
running in the marsh loaded with people burning
the grass and then you have erosion. If you fix
the outside with Rock Jetties the inside will
fix itself. Then there's MR GO the MR GO WAS
NOT the reason N.O. Flooded For Katrina the levees
were never taken care of the big Flood Gate
that was built by Industriail CANNAL should have
been built Down at the end of the Jetties
by the Gulf. SEPT-5- is the day this info
is got to be in. Its ALSO my birthday I AM 75yers
Old AND Still Fishing.

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

4

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Cap't Cyrus Blanchard	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
Street Address 9640 BARATARIA BLVD	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code CROWN POINT, LA, 70072	
Email Address C.J. BLANCHARD@COX.NET	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

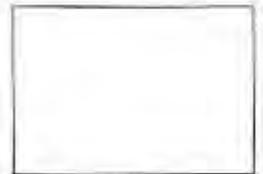
COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

I watch HURRICANE HARVEY FROM THE TIME IT STARTED TO THE TIME IT ENDED. IT GOES TO SHOW YOU WHAT CAN HAPPEN IN A SHORT TIME. ALL THESE POOR PEOPLE GOING THROUGHT HELL. BECAUSE A LOT OF HOMES ARE BUILT BELOW SEA LEVEL AND JUST LIKE US HERE IN LOUISIANA WE HAVE NO PROTECTION THATS WHY THE COAST HAVE TO BE ROCK TO KEEP THE STORM SURGE OUT. YOU CAN SPEND THE MONEY NOW TO SAVE THE COAST AND SAVE LIVES. OR SPEND MORE LATER AND REPLACE ALL THE HOMES THAT ARE LOST IF YOU STOP THE WATER FROM COMING IN NOBODY FLOODS. I HOPE THAT THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS CAN TAKE A HARD LOOK AT THIS GOOD ADVICE STOP PLAYING AROUND "DEVIATIONS" AND DO THE RIGHT FOR THE PEOPLE.

over

HURRICANE NEVER COME FROM THE
NORTH. THEY ALWAYS COME FROM THE
SOUTH EAST.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118



Place postage here

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

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* * *

DEAN BLANCHARD
Post Office Box 1
Grand Isle, Louisiana 70358

DEAN BLANCHARD:

Okay. I'm from Grand Isle.
I'm in the seafood industry. I've
lived on the Island all my life. My
house is on the water. My office is
on the water. Every day I look at
the scenery and every day I see it,
it's eroding there fast. There's no
way that -- no diversion would ever
work in Barataria. You can't take
polluted water and put it in
Barataria Bay.

We have water coming out the
river that causes a dead zone in the
Gulf of Mexico. If you take that
same water and put it into the
biggest estuary in the continental
United States, you're going to
destroy that estuary and you're
going to destroy everything that
lives in it. There's no way that
that water is going to move. I

1 mean, we can't wait 50 years for a
2 solution. We don't -- we ain't got
3 50 years to wait.

4 I suggest that the Corps of
5 Engineers turn down the diversion,
6 don't give them the permit.
7 99 percent of the people here that's
8 not getting paid by CPRA or any
9 other governmental agency are
10 against the diversion, the people
11 that actually live here.

12 Now, if we thought that it
13 would work, we would be for the
14 diversion, but we all know it's not
15 going to work. All it's going to do
16 is flood us with more fresh water.
17 It's never going to rebuild that
18 marsh.

19 There's not as much silt in the
20 river as there was 4,000 years ago.
21 There wasn't nobody paying people to
22 pollute the river 4,000 years ago
23 like there is now. Every chemical
24 plant is on the river. It's on the
25 river for a reason. It's on the

1 river because it's dumping its waste
2 into the river.

3 We're begging the Corps of
4 Engineers to refuse the permit for
5 the diversion for the Mid-Barataria,
6 because if they don't, all they're
7 going to do is cause a lot of
8 heartache in south Louisiana and
9 it's not going to accomplish
10 anything. That's pretty much what
11 I've got to say.

12 And I don't think -- one more
13 thing. We don't need no more
14 wetlands. I live on an Island and
15 they're telling me that there's
16 wetlands on the Island. We're a
17 barrier island. We don't need it.
18 Everywheres I look, there's water.
19 We need dry land.

20 So the Corps of Engineers needs
21 to quit taking the silt off the end
22 of the river and throwing it off the
23 Continental Shelf and take the same
24 silt and put it back along our
25 coast, and once they do that, the

1 marsh will rebuild itself. Thank
2 you.

3 * * *

4 DAVID MUTH
5 2765 Orchid Street
6 New Orleans, Louisiana 70119

7 DAVID MUTH:

8 Yes, hi. Thank you very much.
9 My name is David Muth. I'm a
10 lifelong resident of coastal
11 Louisiana and I'm here to urge the
12 Corps of Engineers and the other
13 federal agencies, as they analyze
14 this proposed diversion, to look at
15 it in the light of the future and
16 what the future will be without it.
17 Not to simply look at what is
18 proposed today, but what will be the
19 effect if we don't build the
20 diversion over the coming decades.

21 I urge them to use all of the
22 information and knowledge that has
23 been acquired up to this point, not
24 reinvent the wheel, and to move as
25 swiftly as possible toward a draft
EIS and toward a decision on this

From: bledsoefilms@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 11:54:58 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

I sincerely urge you to take swift action in ensuring the sanctity of the Mississippi River basin. As you are well aware, Louisiana is literally disappearing before our eyes. Restoring the Mississippi River connection to the Barataria Basin is the crucial next step in the Master Plan to restore our coast and rebuild our crucial and fragile ecosystem.

Please consider the information below and make haste in securing the Barataria Basin for future generations:

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Derek Bledsoe
925 Mazant St
New Orleans, Louisiana, 70117

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I (Richie Blink) have been a resident of Plaquemines Parish and a user of the Barataria Basin for much of my life. Having spent a lifetime in the basin and working on its restoration in various capacities, I appreciate the opportunity to offer comments on the scoping process of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion (MBSD).

The Mid Barataria Sediment Diversion is a much needed and long overdue tool to slow down and reverse coastal land loss in South Louisiana. Reconnecting the river to its delta is the single most crucial thing that can be done to build land in a sustainable manner. The marshes that will receive an influx of freshwater and sediment have been cut off from the land building potential of the river for several generations and desperately need the reconnection. While I strongly agree with the need to build the MBSD, I have several suggestions that need to be considered to reach maximum land building potential and uptake by the community as well as suggestions for future usability. The goal of having a sustainable basin that can keep up with human caused impacts and projected sea level rise shall be what this project aims to achieve. A Delta splay that quickly protects communities, infrastructure and creates optimal conditions for a wide range of wildlife is achievable if the MBSD is built in a timely fashion.

It cannot be overstated that time is of the essence in Plaquemines Parish and South Louisiana. Conditions on the ground are deteriorating and communities are already in the process of relocating due to massive amounts of coastal land loss. Simply put, this project needs to be permitted, built and effectively managed for maximum land building potential, fisheries optimization, and storm surge reduction abilities, and fast. The residents, businesses, wildlife, and culture need this project. South Louisiana is in a perpetual state of emergency due to coastal land loss. The economy, ecology, and mental health of Louisiana residents depend on timely permitting, construction and operations of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion.

Beginning upriver from the MBSD site and array of turbidity sensors needs to be deployed at strategic locations. These sensors, supplemented with samples taken by boat and other means, will give crucial information to help operate the structure. These sensors will help give the public a sense of transparency in regard to operational decisions for the MBSD. This data needs to be publically available alongside operational triggers.

Storm Surge Reduction

The ability of the MBSD to be operated to alleviate pressure on the Mississippi River Levees should be closely examined. The ability to divert water out of, or into the Mississippi River during tropical storms could reduce risk to hurricane protection levees. Hurricanes spin in a counterclockwise direction in the northern hemisphere, depending on storm track, this leads to high levels of water that have overtopped MR&T levees in Plaquemines in the past. This structure should be built and operated with the ability to lower storm surge heights.

Will future needs be incorporated into the design of the conveyance channel? The channel needs to be designed to incorporate future marine traffic of around sixty feet of length, twenty-five feet of width and fifty feet of air draft. The projected relative sea level rise rates for the area just south of Ironton, where the structure will be built, are in the neighborhood of three feet over the next fifty years. Relative sea level rise rates beyond the project lifespan are harder to predict but need to be considered when

designing the diversion structure, conveyance channel and whether or not the back structure needs to be built at all. While the goal of connecting the river to its delta is incredibly important, ignoring that connection for the people who call the delta home is shortsighted. Access for smaller fishing boats used by the community currently, or for the future conditions, and future economies, provided by the structure need to be built into the design. The road and railroad bridge need to be constructed with the air draft requirements of these vessels in mind. Sometime during or after the project lifespan there will come a time when the gates of this structure will be considered for removal to allow the river will run unencumbered by human decisions. The community needs to have connectivity between basins. It is crucial for the local economy that this structure account for marine traffic in its design.

MBSD early design models call for an encircling fence around the conveyance channel. Could this expensive and unneeded addition be scrubbed from the design? Educating neighbors of the risks associated with flowing water within the diversion, and proper signage, can mitigate risks associated with public access to the conveyance channel. It would be in the best public interests if the channel banks were earthen levees that do not have walls built atop them. Those walls serves the purpose of flood control but also limits humans from accessing the channel, which may be used for sustenance fishing when the structure is not in operation, or operating at base flows.

Have the additions of vortex generators been considered for installation at or just before the diversion structure, or in the conveyance channel? Vortex generators will create turbulence near the bottom to keep sediment suspended while flows are low. If Vortex generators lead to just a five percent increase in efficiency that will equate to a tremendous amount of sediment moved over the project lifespan and beyond. These structures will help to keep the channel bottom from shoaling with increased sediment load.

The act of injecting sediment directly into the channel, at various levels in the water column, needs to be reviewed. Dedicated dredging assisting MBSD will lead to a much higher rate of sediment accretion. We are in the midst of a crisis and innovate solutions to maximize productivity of this project need to be considered. The computer modeling is promising without this novel techniques, this and other ideas to increase efficiencies, need to be considered, modeled, and designed into the structure.

Has the possibility that any leftover clay removed from the conveyance channel could be used for nonstructural mitigation to help nearby communities become more resilient? The town of Ironton is three city blocks in size. The entire town could be elevated onto a plateau twenty feet or more to mitigate any additional induced flooding created by the diversion.

A distributary network needs to be seriously considered in the design stages. Humanity has engineered our way into a problem by building levees, which cut off sediment to the marshes in the name of flood control and navigation. To fuel the nation, companies dug hundreds of miles of pipeline and exploration canals in the Barataria Basin, those canals, and the induced subsidence caused by oil and gas production, have led to an unnatural rate of wetland loss in the area. To correct the situation as quickly as possible, and reestablish natural deltaic processes, a manageable distributary network must be dug. Plaquemines Parish residents, businesses, and infrastructure do not have ten years for a channel to establish on its own. This network of channels and openings need not be overly engineered. The distributary network needs to be planned with the community but also incorporate sound science. This channel network can be adaptively managed by cutting the banks at strategic locations to fill in areas of open water, allowing for a more precise selection over which areas of open water are converted into wetlands. Sediment can

be closely controlled in this way if people and funds are allocated for it from the start. Real time data of sediment accretion needs to be collected on the ground/water level often to manage this network with a predetermined sediment accretion goals. Natural deltaic processes will still take place, only under a degree of control that will increase land build potential and accelerate the rate at which sediment can be accreted to a level above the water's surface. In addition to land building, this network of channels, marsh creation projects, and terraces can help optimal mixing of fresh and saltwater to boost the prevalence of important species of the food web increasing fisheries productivity while building land.

Have Innovative terraces, or Sediment Retention Enhancement Devices (SREDS) been considered for installed while the diversion structure is under construction? These earthen berms serve to slow down the water. The induced turbulence causes sediment to fall to the bottom much quicker than if water where sheeting across an open bay. This lesson was learned at the West Bay diversion south of Venice, La. Terraces and SREDS of an appropriate size and shape need to be discover through extensive on-the-ground experimentation. Modeling SREDS in inherently flawed computer models is not enough. On the ground examples of various sizes, shapes, and flow patterns need to be explored and maintained to achieve the maximum land building potential, scrubbing of nutrients, and habitat optimization.

Simply put, this project needs to have the ability to effectively manage for maximum land building potential, fisheries optimization, and storm surge reduction abilities,

From: [Michael Boatright](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Scoping comments for Mid Barataria Sediment Diversion Project
Date: Monday, September 4, 2017 11:44:00 PM

1. General Concern, I work in materials sciences and have been doing research and development in Geopolymer Concretes, foams and ceramics. These are well developed technologies based on solid chemistry and proven sciences. For reference, you can go to the Geopolymer Institute's web page at [Blockedwww.geopolymer.org](http://www.geopolymer.org) [Blockedhttp://www.geopolymer.org/](http://www.geopolymer.org/)> My concern is that few people are aware of these products or aware of the advantages over conventional Portland concrete when used in a highly abrasive, marine environment, that should be a permanent structure. This is not a driveway, a road or to hold your mailbox. This is a major control structure that costs nearly 1 billion dollars

2. Specifically, there are numerous advantages not only in quality, strength, abrasion resistance, protection of reinforcement, but also it is non-porous and will not leach anything harmful into the environment. This cannot be said with normal ready mix that is porous and will break down over time and leach additives into the water column, even in small amounts this is an environmental concern with today's additives. Research and comparison has been done on tetra-pod's and other coastal armor that are protection structures exposed to high abrasion, currents and wave action. The ones that are made of high strength Portland showed significant wear compared to the ones made with Geopolymer concrete that showed no or little wear. The river sediment has a large amount of very abrasive quartz. The structure will endure much abrasion. In addition to clear structural advantages over traditional Portland, the set time is a significant financial savings, allowing more production quicker, as is the cost of using these materials, estimated to be over 40 million in material costs savings alone, and significant savings in maintenance on normal wear and tear. No water is required for either mixing or curing geopolymer based concrete which means that the water to cement ratio is controlled even before the mix. A simple comparison can show distinct advantages using superior marine grade materials that actually cost less vs. traditional Portland concrete

3. This scoping request is to formally evaluate and compare the two distinctly different concretes for a structure of this importance and permanence. This structure should be built with the best most cost-effective materials that assure the structure a long life.

	Standard Marine Grade Geopolymer Concrete	Standard Portland Concrete
Compressive strength	15000 psi	2500 psi
Young's Modulus	equal to or superior	good
Tensile strength	equal to or superior	good
Abrasion resistance	excellent	poor
Leaching	none non porous	porous undetermined
reinforcement protection	excellent covalent bonding	no protection from chemical oxidation
Greenhouse gases	less than 15% of Portland	1 ton cement equals 1 ton of CO2
longevity	permanent 1000 yrs. +	100 yrs. May be
set times	90 minutes	24 hours
Uses River pump sand	yes	no
Fire proof	yes	no
Cost per cu.yd dollars –	85 to 95	100 – 105
Industry waste utilization -	up to 50%	< 10%
Impact/abrasion resistance	- high	medium

Suitability for marine growth – excellent	moderate	
Scope of saving – 10 to 15%		
Maintenance	very low cost	medium to high cost
Green building material – 80%	< 20%	

Thank You,

Michael Boatright

Marine Gardens LLC Blockedwww.marine-gardens.com <Blockedhttp://www.marine-gardens.com/>

geomarinegardens@gmail.com <<mailto:geomarinegardens@gmail.com>>

From: katladi6635@aol.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 10:21:37 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Evelyn Boeckman
702 W Court St
Belle Plaine, MN, 560111235

From: chevygirl25@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 12:50:04 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Rebecca Bohmsach
5021 Tower Road
Wisconsin Rapids, WI, 54494

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Frank Boimare](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 3:57:58 PM

Aug 17, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations
and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30
years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this
Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

* Please regularly share information with the public and other
stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of
the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin
should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which
could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife
and culture.

* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion
should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations
over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we
learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and
request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Mr. Frank Boimare
PO Box 8282
Metairie, LA 70011-8282
(504) 610-5845
fboimare@cox.net

From: CharlotteB@Bollingershipyards.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Monday, August 7, 2017 3:12:48 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

I have loved south Louisiana all my life--almost 70 years. As a founding member of the board of directors for Restore or Retreat, the Water Institute of the Gulf, and the LA 1 Coalition, I have been engaged in the tragic situation we are currently in. Not a minute to waste! Get the mid-Barataria sediment diversion under construction NOW!

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Charlotte Bolliger
Post Office Box 250
Lockport, Louisiana, 70374

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [George Bond](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 11:35:17 AM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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Thank you,

Mr. George Bond
2417 Milan St
New Orleans, LA 70115-6259
(504) 702-5961
gdbondii@cox.net

From: tkb2@cornell.edu
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 8:58:24 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

The coastal reclamation, combined with other necessary projects including protecting existing wetlands from loss due to pipeline extension and reducing subsidence are important to maintaining a healthy and vibrant southern Louisiana for our children.

Thank you,
Tim Bond
4137 Laurel St.
New Orleans, LA, 70115

From: Bbonnaffons11@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 11:27:10 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
Blake Bonnaffons
1605 Harbor Drive
Slidell, Louisiana, 70458

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [M. Borland](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 12:45:36 PM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Thank you,

Ms. M Borland
2132 Tulip St
Baton Rouge, LA 70806-6642
(123) 456-7890
mjborda@lsu.edu

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Brenda Boudreaux](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 18, 2017 10:30:27 PM

Aug 18, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

* Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.

* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Brenda Boudreaux
4334 Jean Lafitte Blvd
Lafitte, LA 70067-5320
(985) 236-9265
bwboudreaux@hotmail.com

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Michael Boudreaux](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 18, 2017 9:55:00 AM

Aug 18, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

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I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Mr. Michael Boudreaux
820 E 12th St
Crowley, LA 70526-3002
(337) 783-6494
mgb1955@gmail.com

Henri Boulet
322 Audubon Avenue
Thibodaux, LA 70310

September 4, 2017

Re: Public Comment on Scoping for the Mid Barataria Sediment Diversion Project

To whom it may concern,

My name is Henri Boulet. As a long time native of Lafourche Parish, I am disheartened that outreach to this parish by way of a scoping meeting location was not added to the list of priority meeting locations. I would like to recommend from this point forward that you seek public comment at a public meeting in Lafourche Parish.

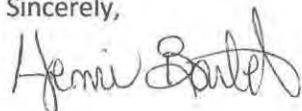
The Barataria Basin is a crucial asset to the people of Lafourche Parish. A way of life has been created for centuries that is reliant upon the natural resources of the basin. Growing up in a family that shrimped off of the coast from the Mississippi River to the Atchafalaya Basin for six months of the year, we relied on the Barataria Basin's abundant wetlands to host and grow out an annual shrimp crop. During the other six months, we relied on healthy freshwater entering the basin and the Intracoastal Canal to flood our fresh-water family crawfish farm in Larose. Like many of my high school classmates, our families and our culture thrived to become industries of significant economic value to our state and nation. These values need to be protected. A future without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion only expedites the excessive land loss we are experiencing as a result of significant subsidence, saltwater intrusion, change of vegetation, sea-level rise and heightened tidal exchange putting stress on a stressed ecologic system.

The Mid-Barataria sediment diversion will be critical to Lafourche Parish's long-term cultural and economic sustainability. The long-term benefit of natural sediment accumulation and land building will create sustainable wetlands that are vital to the community's storm resiliency. As the Executive Director of LA 1 Coalition, I know the importance of building-up and retaining the wetlands in this basin alongside the Louisiana Highway 1 roadbed, protecting the only roadway supporting access to Port Fourchon and the Louisiana Offshore Oil Port, servicing 16 percent of America's domestic crude oil production and 5 percent of its natural gas production. Protecting this federally listed "High Priority Corridor", designated as such by the U.S. Congress in 2001, is vital to America's energy production and reserves in the Gulf of Mexico and to ensure billions of federal dollars generated in Outer-Continental Shelf royalty revenues. The proposed project would help protect this vulnerable, yet crucial infrastructure with long-term benefits of land building over time.

As with most of the deltaic coast, time and protection is being lost as erosion rates continue to increase. The increasing rates of land loss should yield a quicker response to project action. A delay of two years behind the previously published project timeline for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion is unacceptable in light of the project already having 30+ years of analyses and studies completed. It is this data that should be utilized in the scoping process of this project. With such an extensive background of research, a completion date of October 2022 is, in itself too long, and shows the inability of our federal partners to be able to expedite vital public works initiatives.

To conclude, I am in support of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and the benefits it will deliver to areas of Lafourche Parish and surrounding regions. Thank you for the opportunity to provide my input on this significant and needed project.

Sincerely,



From: cbounds11@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Courtney Bounds](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Tuesday, August 29, 2017 6:43:26 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Courtney Bounds
New Orleans, LA 70119

From: lcbourg@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Lauren Bourg](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 4, 2017 10:13:56 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Sincerely,
Lauren Bourg
New Orleans, LA 70115

From: carlbougeois@bellsouth.net
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, July 28, 2017 5:50:58 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
Carl Bourgeois
6123 Jonathan Alaric Ave
Gonzales, La, 70737

Aug. 14, 2017

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Webley Bourgeois	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) Coastal Communities Consulting
Street Address 429 Highway Dr. Apt. B	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code New Orleans, LA 70121	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

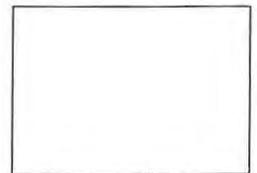
I would like to suggest that the Corps, or whoever, follow the states lead when they published the coastal Master Plan to also include appendices in plain language for the general public. The EIS should include appendices, especially an appendix where the public can actually see their questions/concerns addressed. In other words, all public comments should be synthesized into a FAQ appendix. I want to be able to find answers to my questions such as:

- How will the diversion affect the commercial shrimping industry?
- What are other alternatives to diversions?
- Will fisherman be monetarily compensated for their losses?

- Will the state offer job training programs?
- Will diversions increase flooding in South Plaquemine parish?
- Will the Army Corps and affiliated companies hire local residents for diversion construction jobs should the permit be approved?

Wesley Bong

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118



Place postage here

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118**

From: brett@tunadawg.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 6:01:05 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
Brett Bourlet
113 Oak Ridge, drive
Laplace, LA, 70068

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Peggy Bowers](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Wednesday, August 23, 2017 3:32:43 PM

Aug 23, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

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I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Dr. Peggy Bowers
115 Leisure Dr
Monroe, LA 71203-2807
(864) 650-1729
mediaethicsprof@gmail.com

From: jennac@rocketmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 1:14:32 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
Jennifer Bradford
2546 helix st
Spring valley, Ca, 91977

From: alice.bradley@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Alice Bradley](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 10:45:47 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Sincerely,
Alice Bradley
Prairieville, LA 70769

From: lisaebradley@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Lisa Bradley](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 10:16:51 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

Please help keep Louisiana beautiful. What a sin it would be to kill all the animals and destroy the land.

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Sincerely,
Lisa Bradley
New Orleans, LA 70116

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Tuesday, July 25, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Belle Chasse Auditorium
8398 Highway 23, Belle Chasse, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Ryan Bradley	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
Street Address 6421 Beatline Rd.	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code Long Beach, MS 39560	
Email Address mscfuwebs@gmail.com	
Affiliation Mississippi Commercial Fisheries United, Inc	

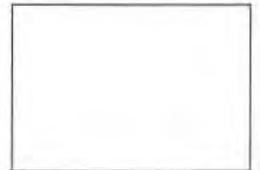
This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

The proposed project will be devastating to the commercial fisheries and fishing families whom depend on vibrant marine resources within the project's impacted area. Many fishermen and commercial fishing businesses from Mississippi are licensed in Louisiana and will be negatively impacted by the project. Concerns from the fishermen include: (1) Nutrient-rich and polluted waters from the MS River will create hypoxic events similar to those found in the Gulf Dead Zone; (2) Lucrative productive shrimp, crab, oyster, and fish habitat will be disturbed from the influx of sediment. Shrimp for example must have undisturbed sediment to bury down

in to escape predation and spawn. This project will have a massive negative impact on traditional Shrimping grounds. (3) Sediment plumes will also smother and devastate productive oyster reefs. (4) The socioeconomic impacts of the project as they regard to the direct degradation of critical marine habitat has thus far been completely disregarded and will likely be far greater than currently anticipated. Compensatory mitigation as well as lost income mitigation should be thoroughly considered and options evaluated.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
 Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
 7400 Leake Avenue
 New Orleans, LA 70118



Place postage here

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

From: rgbraud@aol.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 18, 2017 9:59:43 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
Ralph Braud
2613 Jeanne St
Marrero, LA, 700726443

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Tuesday, July 25, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Belle Chasse Auditorium
8398 Highway 23, Belle Chasse, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name

Taylor Braud

Street Address

1008 Camelia Avenue

Mailing Address

(if different from street address)

City, State, Zip Code

Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Email Address

Taylor Braud@yahoo.com

Affiliation

Concerned Citizen

How did you learn about this
public scoping meeting?

Newspaper Notice

Notice in Mail

Email

Website

Other (please explain)

Referral

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

Please look at the outcome of this project when it comes to coastal LA & how the many coastal cities in LA would benefit from this project. Without this project what is going to happen to existing coastal projects?

This project could potentially be life changing for many coastal residents, fishermen, etc. I think putting this project into motion ASAP is the best thing. Anything that could be done to speed up this project & get it into motion would be absolutely beneficial to the coastal residents, environment, & workers.

From: amandabraymoyers@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, September 1, 2017 1:33:21 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Amanda Bray
11987 Liberty St.
Clinton, Louisiana, 70722

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Lisa Brehm](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 9:58:24 PM

Aug 17, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

* Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.

* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Lisa Brehm
744 Jefferson Heights Ave
Jefferson, LA 70121-1111
(504) 733-6037
brehscs@hotmail.com

From: brehscs@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Lisa Brehm](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 8:57:28 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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Sincerely,
Lisa Brehm
New Orleans, LA 70121

From: Brikat20@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Kathryn Brignac](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2017 8:55:09 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Sincerely,
Kathryn Brignac
New Orleans, LA 70117

From: doftheb@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 11:47:43 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
Derek Brockbank
553 Park Rd NW
Washington, DC, 20010

From: dbrown@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Dana Brown](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 11:26:05 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Sincerely,
Dana Brown
New Orleans, LA 70121

From: gertrudebrown46@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Tuesday, August 15, 2017 12:40:04 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
Gertrude Brown
4926 PAULINE DR
NEW ORLEANS, LA, 70126

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Gwyn Brown](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 11:06:48 AM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Thank you,

Ms. Gwyn Brown
6045 Jefferson Hwy
Baton Rouge, LA 70806-8014
(123) 456-7890
gwynkbrown1@gmail.com

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Joseph H. Brown](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 12:09:41 PM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

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Thank you,

Mr. Joseph H. Brown
211 N Linden St
Hammond, LA 70401-3135
(123) 456-7890
twoblackdogs@charter.net

Mr. Brad LaBorde
USACE, New Orleans District
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

After reviewing the mid-Barataria diversion project proposal, I offer the following comments:

- I agree with the schedule of opening and closing the diversion when the river reaches or falls below a discharge rate of 450,000 cubic feet per second. However, I have concerns about the 5,000 cubic feet per second base flow rate. I believe a total freshwater closure at times of low-river will mimic pre-levee hydrological conditions, will be beneficial for marine fisheries, and will allow for a gradation from saltwater to freshwater marsh types as was historical in Louisiana. When you are not getting the benefits of silt, close off the freshwater.
- My second comment is that I would like to see the silt load maximized as much as possible considering modern technologies. In other words, is it feasible to pump supplementary sediments into the diversion canal for transportation downstream? For instance, when the diversion is open at high sediment level and flowing full stream, the addition of dredges pumping into the conveyance channel may be beneficial. I believe this would take advantage of full sediment load. If we are going to have a diversion, let's make it work.
- Third, I keep hearing the term "transition time" associated with freshwater introduction into saline/brackish marshes; however, especially on the east bank of the Mississippi River, this does not appear to be happening. It seems we are losing much more existing marsh than we are gaining due to freshwater introduction. How long is this "transition time"? Five years or five hundred years? I am also concerned with the ultimate result of this "transition time". Will it be a flotant marsh that is much more susceptible to hurricanes and storm surge than saline/brackish marsh?
- My last concern is in regards to down river from the Mid-Barataria diversion. When the diversion is open, will the river still maintain enough head pressure or flow to maintain freshwater conditions in the Bird's Foot Delta in Venice? I am concerned that funneling so much water from the main flow of the river will allow further saltwater intrusion into the Bird Foot Delta. If this diversion would have adverse impacts on the downriver system, they could not be mitigated. A comprehensive evaluation of all current and future freshwater diversions should be done to ensure the sustainability of all downriver freshwater marshes.

In summation, I believe we do need to harness the power of the Mississippi River in any restoration effort that we endeavor into. I think, however, the uncontrolled introduction of freshwater into downstream saline/brackish estuaries will not be beneficial to the longevity of the Louisiana marsh lands. This is evident with Caernarvon, where a very small amount of land was built in comparison to the thousands of acres of healthy saline and brackish marsh that were killed by the uncontrolled introduction of freshwater. Today, this same thing may be happening as a result of Mardi Gras Pass. I

believe, historically, Louisiana had a transition from saline to freshwater marsh, and I would hope all of these components of a healthy estuary would be maintained.

Sincerely,

Thomas Brown

From: rectory@shreve.net
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 8:11:03 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
William Bryant
2222 Burdette
New Orleans, Louisiana, 70118

From: jibuquet@buquetdistributing.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Monday, July 31, 2017 1:09:31 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

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Thank you,
James Buquet III
1243 Bayou Black Drive
Houma, La, 70360

From: pburas@hotmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Tuesday, August 1, 2017 1:39:53 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
Paul Buras
5215 Pitt St
New Orleans, LA, 701154106

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Piper Burch](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 8:28:22 PM

Aug 17, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

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I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Ms. Piper Burch
404 Fremaux Ave
Slidell, LA 70458-3236
(985) 781-0963
piperab@aol.com

From: dburnham70@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 18, 2017 7:41:33 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
Donald Burnham
5500 Sutton Pl
New Orleans, LA, 701315415

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Jordan Burton](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 4:12:18 PM

Aug 17, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

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I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Mr. Jordan Burton
120 N Solomon St
New Orleans, LA 70119-4608
(914) 439-2486
jblurry83@aol.com

From: jblurry83@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Jordan Burton](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 10:16:46 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Jordan Burton
New Orleans, LA 70119

From: lisabush1979@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Lisa Bush](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Tuesday, August 29, 2017 8:38:18 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Sincerely,
Lisa Bush
Marrero, LA 70072

From: [Arthur](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Cc: [GeorgeRicks](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] opposed to River Diversion
Date: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 7:18:30 AM

Attention US Army Corp of Engineers:

We here are opposed to more river water diversions for the following reasons:

- * I have been In marsh where this technique has been used (Delacroix and Point a la Hache) and I see NO NEW land, just more grass.
- * This technique takes TOO long, is slower than current erosion, and never produces land above sea level therefore no trees.
- * Rock placement and Dredging new land is faster and more suitable

Please consider our facts and point of view.

Sincerely,

:

Art Cafiero

Senior Employee Benefits Consultant

9424 Citrus Lane

River Ridge, Louisiana 70123

Office: (504) 737-1011

Cell: (504) 650-0690

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From: jcaillouet2@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Judy Caillouet](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2017 9:18:38 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

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Sincerely,
Judy Caillouet
La Place, LA 70068

From: scallaway@limitlessvistas.org
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 8:56:19 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS

If you have ever done a fly-over of southern Louisiana or driven to Grand Isle, the devastation and lack of marshes and ground are heartrending. There really is no time to waste, we have delayed far too long already!!!

Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Sherry Callaway
5213 Page St
Marrero, LA, 700724916

From: jbiggs@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Marta Calleja](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 4, 2017 7:55:18 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Marta Calleja
New Orleans, LA 70115

From: cambreoutdoor@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 4, 2017 3:15:54 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Michael Cambre
26961 Crusher Dr
Chantilly, Virginia, 20152-3481

From: naturelvr@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Nancy Camel](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 3:45:14 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Nancy Camel
Baton Rouge, LA 70810

From: jacqueline.campbell@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Jacqueline Campbell](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2017 9:40:07 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Jacqueline Campbell
Baton Rouge, LA 70895

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Jacqueline Campbell](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 5:30:08 PM

Aug 17, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

* Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.

* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Ms. Jacqueline Campbell
PO Box 45506
Baton Rouge, LA 70895-4506
(256) 236-5768
jacqueline.campbell@lpsb.org

From: natcamus@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 10:28:59 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
nathalie camus
86-24 palermo street
hollis, NY, 11423

From: heyjo@sbcglobal.net
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 4:57:00 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Jo Cangelosi
3031 Esplanade AV
New Orleans, LA, 70119-3117

From: tevroc143@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Rebecca Carr](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 4, 2017 7:45:29 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Sincerely,
Rebecca Carr
Metairie, LA 70001

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Tuesday, July 25, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Belle Chasse Auditorium
8398 Highway 23, Belle Chasse, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

<p>First and Last Name Samantha Carter</p> <p>Street Address 1738 Pytania street, Apt. D</p> <p>Mailing Address (if different from street address)</p> <p>City, State, Zip Code New Orleans, LA 70130</p> <p>Email Address Sammicarterrules@gmail.com</p> <p>Affiliation Resident</p>	<p>How did you learn about this public scoping meeting?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Email</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Website</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)</p>
---	--

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

To whom it may concern,

As the Army Corps considers the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion I ask that the future of the Louisiana coast be considered. Without this project coastal communities will be at an ever increasing risk of storm surge, sea-level rise, ecosystem collapse and subsidence. Please look at what a future with out this project means for southern Louisiana. I also ask that previous work on this project be used and built upon, instead of starting from scratch. Anything that can be done to speed up the permitting timeline and move this project into construction should be done.

Thank you for considering public input.

Sincerely,
Samantha Carter

From: [Sean Castaing](mailto:Sean.Castaing@casmarine.com)
To: CEM/NM-Midbarataria
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Cass Marine Group - Vessels for Charter - SAM REGISTERED, APPROVED VENDOR.
Date: Thursday, July 20, 2017 11:50:20 AM

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Warmest regards,

Owner & CEO, Capt Scott Castaing

Cass Marine Group LLC

<Blockedhttp://app.k6222f.com/click?id=OCdYycXbxjOCayktH3SOhBWPcZG6osWjyw8Hem8zbxCUMi8eYq\$1siBNjsA3eeTAsDV%2FJ1aA0JnsQrMpd5K4%2Bx01BsHP1%2B>
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<Blockedhttp://app.k6222f.com/click?id=OCdYycXbxjOCayktH3SOhBWPcZG6osWPEAskLMmh020pRiaq%2FpIRhe1dDw15jv9M2e%2B2oMmGmwWXYtr4RTiix72%2FZYTSZx>

<Blockedhttp://app.k6222f.com/click?id=OCdYycXbxjOCayktH3SOhBWPcZG6osWPEAskLMmh3HEpPUJgJDH5PjKK8pT%2BP%2FwMr5i3ua6UEh1BbKWk11ITBSbl1VWLjPS>

<Blockedhttp://app.k6222f.com/click?id=OCdYycXbxjOCayktH3SOhBWPcZG6osWPEAskLMmh360om1qaZjzbKmeczxX6XF12zZV14UsRg%3DZ>

Mailing address: CASS MARINE GROUP LLC, 682 Old Spanish Trail, Slidell, LA, 70458, US
Unsubscribe <Blockedhttp://app.k6222f.com/optOut?id=NzgzNmU5OWQYTEwYS00NmM3LTg5Y2EiMjRhNDBmYTA0YzNm> from future emails.

From: heleneCerise13@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2017 8:22:43 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Helene Cerise
7 Colonial Club Dr.
Harahan, LA, 70123

From: hchampagne@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Hazel Champagne](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 4, 2017 2:16:23 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Hazel Champagne
Metairie, LA 70005

From: yichan92+spam@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 11:25:54 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Yi Chan
2800 July St. #30
Baton Rouge, Louisiana (LA), 70808

Aug. 31, 2017

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name SOMPHEE CHANDA	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
Street Address 210 DELTA AIKE DR	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code BURAS LA 70041	
Email Address PATVONG215@AOL.COM	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

My name is SOMPHEE CHANDA. My husband is a second generation shrimper, we moved to Buras, LA in 2002 to continue the family tradition of working on the water. We worked on my dad's shrimp boat as his deckhand, while also working a daily job for benefits for my family. We recently purchased our own shrimp boat in 2014. We love working on the water! We oppose the diversion because it will kill or move the shrimp out of the gulf before they are big enough to harvest. We own a smaller shrimp boat that can't fish in the gulf and this will severely hurt our business. We rely solely on shrimping the water for income and sometimes food also. How will we be guaranteed our way of life

Isn't jeopardized because of the diversion? We would like the EIS to study the impacts to shrimpers businesses, their families, their quality of life, and the communities that are dependent on this fishery. What if they are not able to make a profit catching shrimp in the inshore waters within the Barataria Basin? How are we suppose to make a living and support our family?

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118



Place postage here

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Wanda Chaney](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 11:11:46 AM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,

Ms. Wanda Chaney
1411 University Ave
Monroe, LA 71203-3548
(123) 456-7890
wandac@nuby.com

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Aimee Charbonneau](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 2:12:49 PM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Thank you,

Ms. Aimee Charbonneau
5505 N Rampart St
New Orleans, LA 70117-2501
(123) 456-7890
acharbo@hotmail.com

From: ellenchauvin@charter.net
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 18, 2017 3:53:21 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
William Chauvin
551 HWY 308
THIBODAUX, LA, 70301

August 30th, 2017

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name SARAN CHAV	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 182 DELTA AIR DR	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code BURAS LA 70041	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

I do not want diversion because it will kill the oysters. I heard the diversion will kill the oysters, which means I cannot work. I have been a commercial fisherman since 2016 when there are no oysters, I cannot sell my boat neither. What will I do with my boat? Perhaps, the government can buy-out my vessel? I need some financial assistance from the government if there is diversion happens because I need to live. I need some money to do business - I would like to open a restaurant. Thank you.

Saran Chav

I, Cristina Dung, at Coastal Communities Consulting, Inc. (CCC) hereby certify that I have translated the above statement from Cambodian into English to the best of my abilities; I am fluent in both languages.

Cristina Dung, translator

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Jeanne Chavis](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 11:34:28 AM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,

Mrs. Jeanne Chavis
PO Box 343
Opelousas, LA 70571-0343
(123) 456-7890
JMLCHAVIS@gmail.com

August 29, 2017

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Sovann Cheap	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 170 Chouest Ln	
Mailing Address (If different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code Buras LA, 70041	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

My name Sovann Cheap
I just came to Louisiana for four year. My wife,
2 kids and I don't speak English. I became a
fisherman because I don't need to speak English.
If you let the water run into the Ocean and we
can't shrimp around where I shrimp all the time
it going to be hard on me and my family.
When I go shrimping I come home all the
time to check on my families. They don't speak
English like I am. I have a small shrimp
boat. I am scared going out to big open
water. I feel safe when I shrimp around
the bayou cause I could see where my

SouAm Cheap

Tape or staple here

to house at, and I feel safe. If something
happens to my family I'm only 15 to 20 minutes
away from home.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118



Place postage here

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

August 3rd, 2017

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Po, Cheron	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 160 Chouest Lane	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code Buras, LA 78041	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

I am an oyster harvester for 2 yrs. now. If diversion happens, I will not a job. I would the government to assist me with new jobs if I can't harvest oyster as well as training for the job. If diversion happens, how will it affect my livelihood?

PO Cheron

Aug. 31, 2017

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name POK CHHONG	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
Street Address 210 DELTA AIRE DR. BURAS LA 70041	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code BURAS LA 70041	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

My name is Pok Chhong and I am a wife of a commercial fisherman, we Shrimp for a living. We've been shrimping out on the water together for the past 18 years and still going strong. I love what we do! I couldn't imagine doing anything else besides shrimping.

I OPPOSE the diversion!! I understand the reason for it, but what does that mean for us people who work on the water? What happens to us and our source of income. We rely solely on the water for income and sometimes food. If more land is built how are we guaranteed our way of life and income isn't jeopardized. How do we know the diversion won't scare the shrimp away? We are already

Struggling to find Shrimp. My main concern is -
Will there be shrimp once the diversion is complete

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118



Place postage here

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

August 7, 2017

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Norng Chhum	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 182 Delta Aire Dr.	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code Buras, LA 70041	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

DIVERSION AFFECTS :

- ① my business
- ② my lifestyles
- ③ my future

WHAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD DO FOR ME:

- ① give me a grant w/ low to no interest rate so I can build myself a bigger boat.
- ② provide me some job training so I can get a new job. Plus, Louisiana should hire people from Louisiana instead of out of state people. My job training^{should} be specifically for ~~diversion~~ coastal restoration jobs.
- ③ Buy me out (business and property) so I can go into a different field.

Chhun Norng

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Tuesday, July 25, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Belle Chasse Auditorium
8398 Highway 23, Belle Chasse, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name John Chiem	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
Street Address 1117 Wyndham S.	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code Gretna La 70056	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

Donot break the dam
Do not want to loose brown Shrimp
Do not want salt water collide w/ Fresh
Water

1 MY LYNN VO
2 2301 Westmere Street
3 Harvey, Louisiana 70058

4 INTERPRETER:

5 They're afraid they're going to
6 lose the brown shrimp. Do not break
7 the dam. Do not want to lose brown
8 shrimp when fresh water and salt
9 water mix.

10 * * *

11 VAN NGUYEN
12 2024 S. Village Green Street
13 Harvey, Louisiana 70058

14 INTERPRETER:

15 They're afraid they're going to
16 lose the brown shrimp. Do not break
17 the dam. Do not want the project
18 because the salt water mix with
19 fresh water will lose brown shrimp.

20 * * *

21 JOHN CHIEN
22 1117 Wyndham Street
23 Gretna, Louisiana 70056

24 INTERPRETER:

25 They're afraid they're going to
lose the brown shrimp. Do not break
the dam. Do not want to lose brown
shrimp. Do not want salt water

1 collide with fresh water.

2 * * *

3 KENNETH RAGAS
4 1311 Holiday Place
5 New Orleans, Louisiana 70114

6 KENNETH RAGAS:

7 I am opposed to the diversion.

8 I think that the people in
9 Plaquemines Parish need to have more
10 flooding protection and that money
11 should be spent for flood protection
12 for the citizens of Plaquemines
13 Parish.

14 Also, an alternative that I
15 would submit is that the diversion
16 be relocated further south in the
17 river toward Venice, and sort of
18 drawing a line, people are saying,
19 you know, everything below that
20 diversion is going to go away, so
21 the further down you put it, the
22 better. If you want to put it below
23 Venice, no problem. I submitted
24 written comments already, other
25 comments. Thank you very much.

* * *

MITCHELL J. LANDRIEU, MAYOR
CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

September 5, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District
c/o Brad LaBorde
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

Re: Public Comments on Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion

Dear Mr. LaBorde:

The City of New Orleans has a pressing and vested interest in the progress and outcome of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion (MBSD) project. Since its founding, New Orleans has benefited from its strategic location in the Mississippi River Delta and on the Gulf of Mexico. However, today, the natural systems upon which the city was built continue to sustain the city, but also threaten it. The deltaic soils underfoot and the wetlands that largely surround the city are part of a shifting coastal landscape that offers unique challenges for the built environment. Under current conditions, the massive volumes of sediment and fresh water carried by the Mississippi flow directly into the Gulf, instead of recharging the adjacent wetlands of Southeast Louisiana. With proper management, these valuable resources have the potential to restore habitat, act as a buffer against storm surge and erosion, and support long-term marsh creation efforts. Sediment diversions are a necessary and critical part of the State's Coastal Master Plan, and returning sediment and nutrients to out estuaries is paramount. The fact of the matter is, without diversions we will not save the coast – plain and simple. The MBSD provides the unique opportunity to address a plethora of urgent problems facing the coastline, by building land and restoring the wetlands in Barataria Basin that have protected coastal Louisiana for thousands of years.

The many projected benefits of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion diminish significantly the longer it takes to construct the project. The lands and waterways that make up the Mississippi Delta and southern Louisiana are some of the most productive ecosystems in the world, essential to the economy, culture, and subsistence of residents throughout the region. The anticipated loss of land in southern Louisiana is estimated between 105,000 and 150,000 acres by the year 2050, and the MBSD project has the potential to reduce that damage by an estimated 29,000 acres by 2050, while providing critical sediment to maintain other restoration projects. Preventing land from being lost hinges on the expedient construction of diversions such as this one. In developing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the MBSD, the United States Army Corps of Engineers must consider the time-sensitivity and necessity of a diversion in this region when evaluating the benefits and challenges of this project. The development of the Mid-Barataria project has been underway for over 30 years, and there are volumes of data gathered by local, state, and federal agencies that can and must be incorporated into the Scoping Report and EIS to shorten the timeline for approval of this critical project. The earlier the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion is constructed, the more productive the project will be in preserving, expanding, and maintaining valuable land.



When preparing the Environmental Impact Statement, the Army Corps must also recognize that any disruptions caused by the MBSD through the reintroduction of sediment are, in fact, crucial for the long term existence of that land. The project is intended to repair the damage and land loss that has occurred from frequent storm and flood damage, rising sea levels, and the long-term disruption of sediment flow patterns of the Mississippi River—a reversal of this trend is imperative. The current situation of the Barataria Basin must be compared to a future with a sediment diversion and a catastrophic scenario without the sediment diversion, in which we continue to lose valuable wetlands at an increasing rate. The EIS must also determine the possible change in impact of existing and future marsh creation, and Coastal Master Plan projects that could be caused by the delay or absence of the MBSD. The chain reaction of reduced efficacy in future projects from a failure to implement the MBSD is avoidable and unacceptable. This diversion is essential for improving the health and wellness of our environment and maintaining our vulnerable coastline. While the reintroduction of sediment might have a temporary impact on mammals and other species currently occupying Barataria Basin, the return of this natural flow cycle is critical for sustaining the long-term health of this ecosystem. Legislations, such as the Marine Mammal Protection Act, should not prevent or delay this project's construction. Instead, the EIS must review the effects of a no-action scenario on the future health of the Barataria Basin, the Mississippi River Delta, and the southern Louisiana coast. Currently, the situation of the Barataria Basin and its surrounding area is precarious. Storm surge, runoff, rising sea levels, and other processes have eroded wetlands and made them more susceptible to flood damage than ever before. Continuation of the status quo will only exacerbate the deterioration of the ecosystem and economy of the Barataria Basin.

The City of New Orleans is committed to impactful and resilient restoration of the Louisiana coast. From experience, we know the best way to respond to challenges is with swift, well-planned action. The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years and directly addresses the chronic problems of coastal degradation, while still allowing room for the project to adapt to local context. This project presents an opportunity to change our landscape in a permanent and sustainable manner. We cannot afford to lose this investment in the environment to inaction. New Orleans urges the United States Army Corps of Engineers to reexamine their current timeline and issue a permit and permission to proceed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,



Mitchell J. Landrieu
Mayor, City of New Orleans

From: kevinmcleveland@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Monday, August 7, 2017 12:40:56 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Kevin Cleveland
491 Eden Drive
Santa Rosa Beach, FL, 32459

From: cloosmm0@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 1:29:00 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
Maggie Cloos
3153 State Street Drive
New Orleans, LA, 70125

From: close42@bellsouth.net
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 4:10:57 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
Robert Close
501 Nashville Ave
New Orleans, LA, 70115

From: jadacloud9@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 5:10:28 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

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Thank you,
Jarrett Cloud
260 Tabor Rd
Morris Plains, NJ, 07950

From: [Kimberly Reyher](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Cc: [Jimmy Frederick](#); [Corey Miller](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] CRCL additional comments on EIS Scoping for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion
Date: Tuesday, September 5, 2017 8:32:54 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Shrimping with Diversions \(for scoping\).pdf](#)

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

The Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana (CRCL) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to drive bold, science-based action to rebuild Coastal Louisiana through outreach, restoration and advocacy. CRCL unites stakeholders under the common goal of maintaining as much of Louisiana's coast as possible as we face environmental challenges. CRCL has signed on to the comments of the Restore the Mississippi River Delta Coalition, of which we are a member, that provides our input on the importance of swift completion of this important large scale restoration project. We appreciate your careful consideration of all the comments submitted.

CRCL is submitting this additional comment based on a report we recently completed. "Shrimping with Diversions: Understanding the Resilience of Shrimpers in Southeast Louisiana in Response to Large-Scale Ecological Restoration Projects" involved in-depth, facilitated discussions with concerned shrimpers about their futures after implementation of sediment diversions. The most critical finding is that some shrimpers may not be able to adapt to the potential negative impacts of sediment diversions without assistance. We observed that the range of vulnerability and consequent ability to adapt is widely varied by socioeconomics and business operations of each shrimper and further complicated by the uncertainty of the magnitude with which impacts may occur.

We offer this report with the hope that it may inform the development of the Environmental Impact Statement for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion specifically regarding impacts to shrimp fisheries. We believe that a thorough analysis of concerns on the front-end will lead to more expeditious construction and more effective operation of the proposed project in the long-term. We are happy to follow up with any additional information.

Please find attached the report in draft format. We do not expect to make any meaningful changes to the text before finalization. The attached version is a draft only because it is not yet formatted, so not yet ready for circulation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Davis Reyher

Kimberly Davis Reyher

Executive Director

Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana

Baton Rouge Office: 6160 Perkins Road • Suite 225 • Baton Rouge, LA 70808 • (225) 767-4181

New Orleans Office: 3801 Canal Street • Suite 325 • New Orleans, LA 70119 • (504) 264-6812

crcl.org • kimberly.reyher@crcl.org <<mailto:kimberly.reyher@crcl.org>> • (202) 271-2686 (mobile)

The coast needs YOU... Become A Member <Blocked<http://crcl.org/donate/become-a-member.html>> Today!

<Blocked<http://www.crcl.org/>>

Shrimping with Diversions:

Understanding the Resilience of Shrimpers in Southeast Louisiana
in Response to Large-Scale Ecological Restoration Projects



Corey Miller; Nic Dixon; Zoe Swartz; Giovanna McClenachan, PhD



**Coalition To Restore
Coastal Louisiana**

July 2017

Acknowledgements:

This research was made possible by support of the Kresge Foundation.

Project Team:

Corey Miller:	project lead
Nic Dixon:	facilitation lead and writing lead
Zoe Swartz:	project assistance
Giovanna McClenachan:	statistical analysis and writing assistance

Special thanks to all the shrimpers who participated in the process and to Coastal Communities Consulting for providing assistance and interpretation services.

DRAFT

Shrimping with Diversions:
Understanding the Resilience of Shrimpers in Southeast Louisiana
in Response to Large-Scale Ecological Restoration Projects

Abstract

Louisiana is currently planning large-scale ecological restoration projects, known as sediment diversions, to reconnect the Mississippi River to adjacent estuaries, and which have the potential to economically disrupt the local shrimping industry. Through a community-based engagement process, 50 concerned shrimpers of varying socioeconomic backgrounds shared their knowledge of operating a business as a shrimper in a series of facilitated discussions. The resulting synthesis of information in this report provides a thorough understanding of shrimpers' concerns about the ecological impacts of sediment diversions on shrimp, the sociological impacts to their quality of life, the economic impacts to their business, potential ways they could adapt, and mechanisms influencing their ability to do so. These adaptations include: catching more shrimp, selling catch for more money, or finding alternative sources of income. We identified why and how shrimpers would adapt and, more importantly, the avenues and obstacles to accomplishing various adaptations. The most alarming finding was that if shrimpers' concerns are realized, there is a segment of the population that will not be able to accomplish adaptation without assistance. This research provides the opportunity to understand where assistance may be needed and creates a compelling argument for developing a plan to help the most vulnerable shrimpers. Community-based approaches to understanding resilience should ultimately inform adaptation strategies to large scale ecological restoration so that the projects can be implemented and operated with consideration of all stakeholders who may be impacted negatively or positively.

Introduction

Louisiana is the top producer of shrimp in the United States (NOAA, 2016) with approximately 5,600 licensed commercial shrimpers (Bourgeois et al, 2016). The community of people that rely on the commercial harvest of shrimp extends beyond the number of licensed shrimpers. This includes family members who are often involved in running the business, deckhands who do not require shrimping licenses, and many supporting businesses (e.g. shrimp boat builders, equipment repairmen, vendors, dock and icehouse workers, etc.) (Mine, 2016).

Shrimping communities are a major component of southeastern Louisiana and many shrimpers have expressed concern about the future of their livelihood specifically regarding the impacts of large-scale ecological restoration projects called sediment diversions. The southeastern portion of the state accounts for more than 50% of the commercially harvested shrimp in Louisiana (Bourgeois et al, 2016). The wetlands of this region provide valuable shrimp habitat, a significant part of which falls within the area of influence of planned sediment diversions (figure 1). These projects are an integral part of the plans to address coastal land loss (Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA), 2017). While expected to build and maintain land, there is uncertainty and concern as to how ecological changes caused by sediment diversions may affect commercial fisheries, especially shrimp. Shrimp are reliant on the estuary (Zimmerman and Minello, 1984), and salinity, temperature, and dissolved oxygen are critical factors for shrimp productivity (Bourgeois et al, 2016, Zein-Eldin and Renaud, 1986, Barrett and Gillespie, 1973). Sediment diversions, designed to mimic a natural crevasse in the Mississippi River delivering sediment, nutrients, and fresh water as the river swells, have the potential to significantly decrease salinity in the current estuarine system to the extent and duration that it impacts local shrimp

populations (Bourgeois et al, 2016). Amongst the scientific community and shrimp industry there is agreement that sediment diversions will impact shrimp populations to some degree, however the specific types and magnitude of impacts remain a point of debate and inquiry. One point of contention is that as plans for diversions advance there persists a void of a clear process to address impacts as they may arise and assist fishing-dependent communities in transition (CPRA 2017). Industry leaders have publicly gone on record asking, “what do y’all (CPRA and those implementing diversion plans) have there to make sure these fishermen are taken care of...?” (Louisiana Public Square 2017).

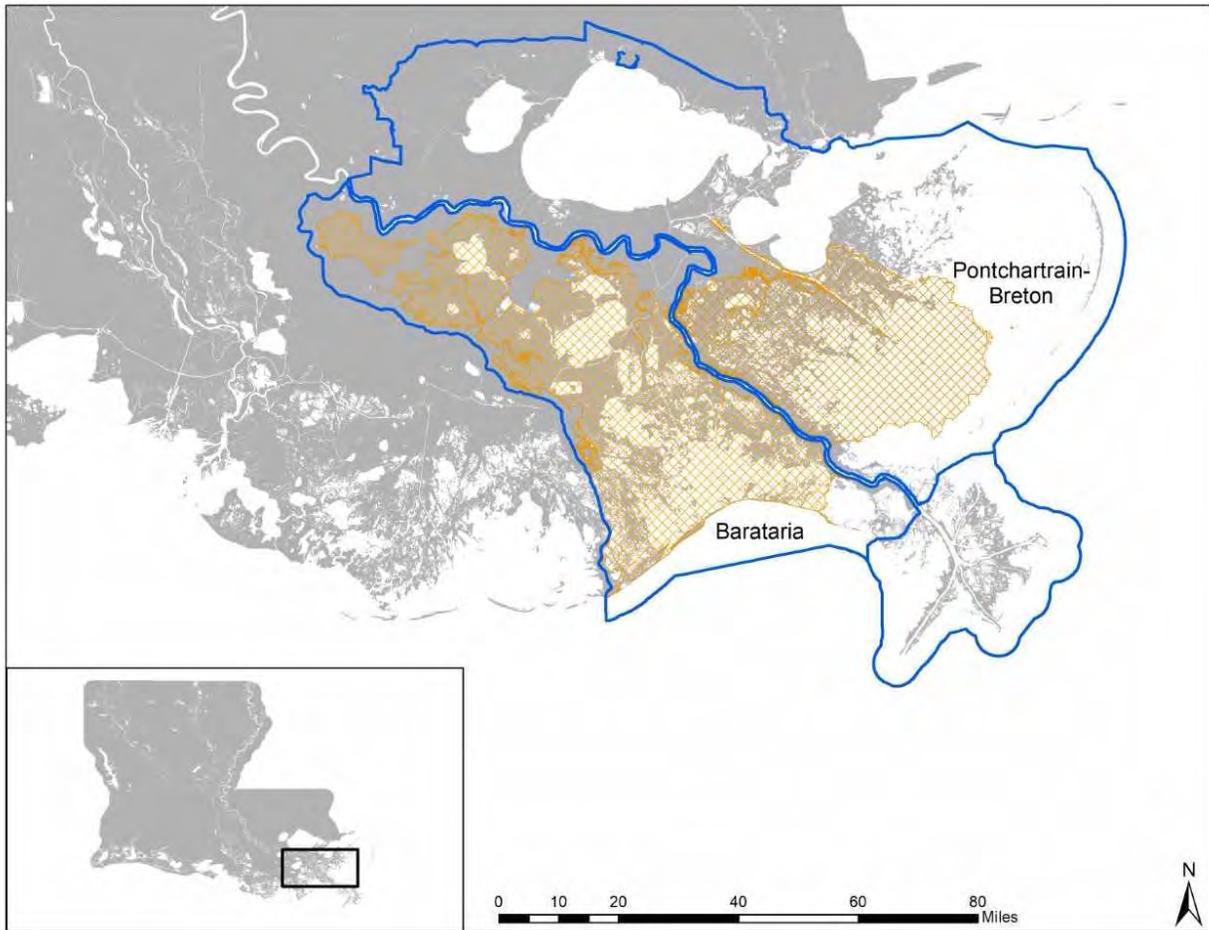


Figure 1. The anticipated area of influence of the two prominent sediment diversions are represented in yellow (CPRA 2017). The southeastern portion of the state that is responsible for more than 50% of shrimp harvest is outlined in blue.

This report is intended for coastal restoration colleagues, shrimping community members, and others interested in community-based approaches to climate change adaptation. The purpose of this work is to gain a better understanding of vulnerability and economic resilience within the Southeastern shrimping community. This will help inform strategies developed to aid the shrimping community should impacts to the fishery occur. Furthermore, this report demonstrates a preliminary process framework for understanding community resilience through facilitated discussions of community needs, obstacles, and strategies for adapting to ecological disturbance.

Methods

A total of 50 participants were recruited using non-probability sampling to achieve representation from a diversity of locations and to be inclusive of unique communities (such as the Vietnamese and Cambodian). Recruitment was accomplished by engaging shrimping community leaders in the parishes within and near areas of influences of planned diversions and asking them to reach out to their networks to gather shrimpers who wished to discuss concerns about impacts to shrimp resulting from diversions. Participants were from 5 fishing communities across Plaquemines, St. Bernard, and Jefferson Parishes (Figure 2).

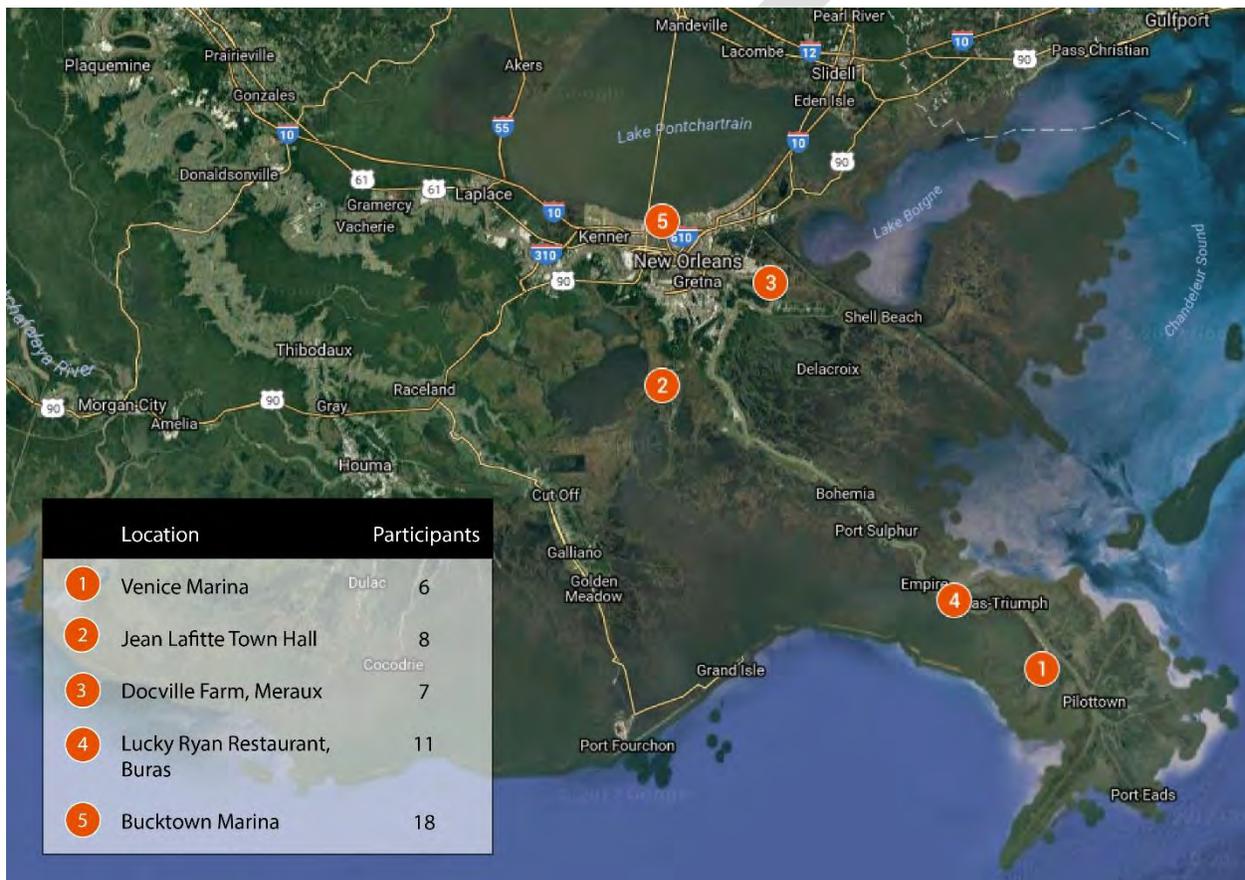


Figure 2. Map of Southeast Louisiana indicating where meetings occurred, and the corresponding number of participants.

Across the three parishes, a total of 7 small group meetings (two in each for Bucktown and Buras) were held to discuss “shrimping with diversions” through a socioeconomic lens. Groups consisted of 4-8 shrimpers and were held over a two-hour period in venues that either shrimpers or community leaders identified as convenient and rooms were arranged to accommodate transparent sharing and recording of data (for example, see figure 3). Meetings were timed to be either around noon or early evening so that meals could be provided to accommodate attendance and as a gesture of appreciation and took place between April 13 and May 2, 2017. It was important to schedule all the groups before May to accommodate the typical opening of brown shrimp season when shrimpers generally become

unavailable to participate in lengthy meetings. Food was purchased from local restaurants so that it was familiar and appealing to participants and as a gesture of support for those economies.



Figure 3. Facilitated Discussion with Cambodian Shrimper Community. CRCL employee, Zoe Swartz (far right) scribes on flip charts; Coastal Communities Consultant employee, Christina Duong (second from right) translates conversation; CRCL employee, Corey Miller (second from left) helps facilitate conversation among participants.

Meetings began by providing food and handing out a survey (appendix 1) to gain an understanding of each shrimper's level of concern about diversions, their business operation, and other socioeconomic and demographic information including: type of boat and gear, other sources of income, age, years of shrimping experience, etc. The formal discussions began with the facilitator explaining the project and reminding participants that the objective was to hear and capture their concerns about impacts to shrimp that could result from planned diversions. It was made clear that the research team was not there to present information on sediment diversions and that keeping focus on the activity would ensure that everyone's input could be gathered in time. However, if participants did have specific questions relating to sediment diversions, they were welcomed to ask facilitators and CRCL staff after the facilitated discussion concluded.

The facilitated discussion occurred in two steps. In the first step, participants were asked "How do sediment diversions affect shrimp?" and answers were recorded on a flip chart by a scribe (see example, Figure 4). Participants often brought up how environmental components (such as water temperature, salinity, nutrients) would change as a result of operating sediment diversions, so it was necessary for the facilitator to guide participants in relating those comments to expected impacts to shrimp populations. This set the stage for the second step which participants discussed socioeconomic impacts related to each of the ecological changes to shrimp identified in step one.

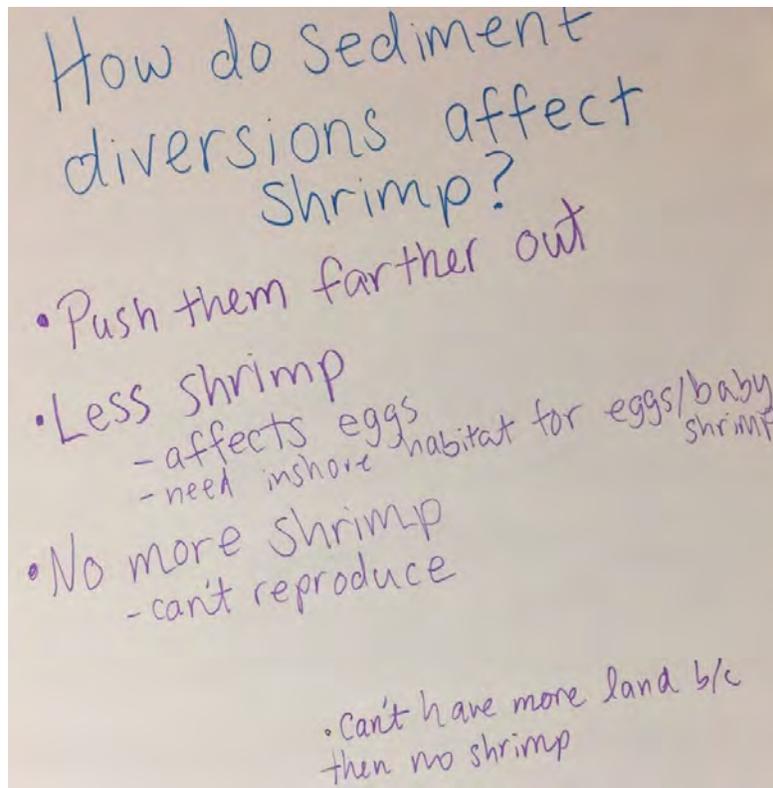


Figure 4. Picture of a flipchart from step one of the facilitated discussion in Buras, Louisiana. Comments on impacts of sediment diversions on shrimp populations were recorded as the prominent bullet points, while other comments were still noted as sub bullet points but were not discussed further in the process.

The second step began by writing each response for ecological impacts to shrimp from the question in step one as a title on a new flip chart (e.g. if three relevant concerns were identified during step one, then a total of three flip charts were created in step 2). Each subsequent flip chart had a table with the following questions: “How does it affect you?”; “How could you deal with it?”; and “(What are the needs and obstacles?”. The facilitator led participants in discussion of each impact titled on the flip charts, allowing conversations to flow as long as they were constructive, and guided the discourse to specific answers related to the three prompts. The scribe recorded participants’ comments within the table (Figure 5).

Starting with the conversation on how an ecological impact (e.g. shrimp are farther out) leads to socioeconomic impacts—these were recorded in the *how does it affect you* column. Then once all the issues were clearly identified, shrimpers were asked to brainstorm ways that they could adapt—these responses were recorded in the *how to deal with it* column of the table. Finally, participants were then asked to think one step farther to list potential obstacles to adaptation and how these obstacles could be overcome—these responses were written in the *needs/obstacles* column.

After the series of group discussions concluded, all the information from both steps of each facilitated discussion was digitized. Thematic analysis was conducted by synthesizing and categorizing the information gathered. The data was coded into three overarching adaptation categories and the various strategies and obstacles to achieve adaptation within each category.

Shrimp are farther out

How does it affect you?	How to deal with it	Needs/obstacles
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade boat • Get new gear <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Time investment • Have to keep ice longer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - upgrade freezer system • Need a bigger boat • Current size boat would become obsolete <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - can't shrimp • More time/effort spent traveling • Pay more for fuel + supplies • Less income <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - decrease opportunity to make other trips with it • More dangerous for shrimping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - can't shrimp in windy conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help from state to finance upgrade + supplies • Get loan • Get access to Federal waters Sell boat • More safety training • Insurance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not enough money • Bad credit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Have to start from beginning again" more regulations to learn, need more training hard to sell obsolete boat "risk business life" many people are uninsured

Figure 5. Picture of a flipchart from the second step of the facilitated discussion in Buras, Louisiana with a group of Vietnamese Fishermen. This was one of three flip chart on the wall during the discussion.

It is important to note that Cambodian and Vietnamese comprise a substantial portion of the Southeast Louisiana shrimping community. Interpretation services were provided and surveys were translated with the help of community partners at Coastal Community Consulting (CCC); this component of the research and service that CCC provided was critical to ensure a more inclusive assessment.¹

Results

Participant Survey Results

A total of 50 shrimpers participated in the facilitated discussion, and there was 88% survey participation (n=44). Ages of participants ranged from 22 to 78, with the majority (50%) between age 45 and 65. On average, participants had 35 years of experience shrimping.

Ninety percent of the participants were very concerned that diversions would impact their catch of brown shrimp and 68% were very concerned about impacts on their catch of white shrimp. All participants expressed some level of concern. All participants reported shrimping inshore at least some of the time and 86% of the participants reported that they mostly shrimp inshore.

Twenty participants were full-time shrimpers (determined by no indication of alternative income), 21 of the participants indicated harvesting at least one other fishery, and 8 participants indicated having other alternative incomes. An Analysis of variance (ANOVA) showed that full-time shrimpers were more concerned (p-value<0.005) with diversion impacts to white shrimp populations than shrimpers with other means of income (Figure 6).

¹ The Cambodian and Vietnamese -speaking groups were scheduled back to back in a restaurant that is frequented by both groups to maximize time with the interpreter.



Figure 6. Graph showing differences in levels of concern (scale of 1 – 5; 5 being very concerned) for white shrimp between shrimpers who only harvest shrimp (n=20) and shrimpers with other sources of income(n=24).

Facilitated Discussion Results

Raw data from the facilitated discussion was thematically analyzed to understand shrimper’s concerns and resilience in relation to those concerns, i.e., the applicability of avenues offered when discussing “how to deal with it”. The analysis involved coding all data from the facilitated discussion to summarize and organize the results. This provided insight into three main areas of interest outlined in the following sections.

1. Perceived impacts of sediment diversions on shrimp populations

Using the comments that were recorded during first step of the facilitated discussion, the impacts of sediment diversions on shrimp populations were thematically listed for each group discussion. For example, statements such as “no shrimp”, “less brown shrimp”, or “less shrimp” were coded as “decreases in shrimp abundance.” This resulted in three common concerns: *decreases in shrimp abundance* and *redistribution of shrimp populations to other areas* are two concerns that were shared among all regions that were sampled (Venice, Lafitte, Meraux, Buras, Bucktown), and *smaller average size of shrimp* was a concern that was identified in all regions except in Buras.

2. Why and how changes in shrimp populations would directly impact shrimpers’ livelihoods

Data from the second step of the facilitated discussion was analyzed to understand why and how perceived changes in shrimp populations would impact shrimper’s livelihoods. Comments recorded on the flipcharts that explained why ecological changes would result in lower profit and how that lower profit would impact a shrimper’s business and livelihood are summarized and listed below.

Why changes in shrimp populations mean less profit before adaptation:

- Decreased catch per unit of effort (CPUE)
- Lower market value, fewer retail opportunities, and no bargaining power for small shrimp-- this relates specifically to the “smaller average size of catch” impact
- Decreased fishing opportunity (i.e. shorter season)

How lowered profit could impact shrimpers' businesses/livelihoods:

- Decreased feasibility of continued shrimping using current methods
 - Caused by insufficient reinvestment capital, loss of supporting services (e.g. docks, processing plants, net makers/repairmen), or unsatisfactory returns on investment
 - May have to stop shrimping as a result
- Impacted quality of life
 - Increased burden on family
 - Loss of community resources
- Adaptation may be needed

3. Potential avenues and obstacles to adaptation

Understanding how shrimpers would adapt to the potential conditions that would yield lowered profits was the final step in the thematic analysis. Some participants expressed that they could simply live with making less profit (a sentiment particularly expressed by those who shrimped for supplemental income). For others, it was widely recognized that adaptation may be needed depending on the shrimper's socioeconomic status and severity of the impacts to the shrimper's business. The process yielded a wide variety of specific ways in which shrimpers could adapt, the vast majority of which could be arranged by three overarching adaptation categories: *catch more (table 1)*, *sell catch for more (table 2)*, or *find alternative sources of income (table 3)*. These three adaptations are outlined in the tables below with each table providing a consolidated list of all the unique shrimper-identified avenues and obstacles to adaptation.

These "avenues/obstacles to adaptation" tables provide details on ways for the shrimper to accomplish adaptation; the potential policies, programs, or other avenues to facilitate that adaptation; and potential obstacles in the face of the adaptation. Within each table, the left column of each row contains a strategy to accomplish the adaptation category followed by avenues to facilitate that strategy; the right column has corresponding obstacles.

For example, in discussions of the scenarios when shrimp were less abundant or further out it was common to hear the strategy, "upgrade to a bigger boat" (in order to travel offshore, to other basins, and in deeper waters) to catch shrimp (see Table 1, last row). The *strategy*, "convert to an offshore vessel" is expanded upon by the *avenues to accomplish adaptation* like, "Financial assistance programs could facilitate upgrade..." and further explained by the *obstacles* to that strategy such as, "Capital investment to acquire, operate, and maintain the large vessels required for offshore could be cost-prohibitive...". In this case, the *obstacle* could be mitigated by the *strategy* but the *obstacle*, "Diminished quality of life due to longer hours/days at sea" (as a result of adapting to this style of shrimping) would remain unmitigated.

Table 1. Shows the summarized participant responses for strategies and avenues to accomplish the adaptation category of catching more shrimp with corresponding obstacles.

Adaptation Category: Catch more shrimp	
Strategies and avenues to accomplish adaptation	Obstacles to the avenues
<p>Improve currently owned fishing vessel by upgrading the fishing versatility and capacity. (Examples include gear and storage upgrades.) Help accessing subsidies², grants, or low interest loans to offset upgrade expenses.</p>	<p>Improvements may be too expensive or require too much additional labor time from the shrimper. Upgrades may not be compatible for current vessel size, configuration. Current loan opportunities are unavailable or undesirable.</p>
<p>Work more hours/days per trip (increase fishing effort).</p>	<p>More time working places burden on business, family and overall quality of life.</p>
<p>Limit entry of new commercial shrimpers to regulate fishing pressure³.</p>	<p>(Nothing formally commented; see researcher observation below.) <i>The researchers acknowledge that restrictions on access to commercial fisheries has rarely occurred without contention from some segments of the industry.</i></p>
<p>Increase range of fishing trips (travel further to seek greater distribution/ more productive areas). Access to fuel subsidies or rebates from the state based on boat type/size that would cover increased costs. Access to gear and engine fuel efficiency upgrades.</p>	<p>Insufficient investment capital for purchasing additional fuel and supplies to maintain boat and crew. Required to be away from home for too long, dock in remote areas that are less secure and stay in temporary housing such as motels.</p>
<p>Move household and shrimping business to an alternate community near areas with more shrimp (i.e. relocate to a different basin). Access to relocation assistance could facilitate.</p>	<p>A relocation trend may result in excessive fishing pressure in those areas and be counter-productive. Families/businesses may be unable or unwilling to pay the costs of relocation. Relocation may be too demanding on elderly shrimpers and families.</p>
<p>Convert to an offshore⁴ (deep water) vessel. Financial assistance programs could facilitate upgrade to a larger boat (> 50 ft.) and appropriate gear type suitable for offshore conditions. Trainings for learning a new type of shrimping practice and business operation could assist transition.</p>	<p>Capital investment to acquire, operate, and maintain the large vessels required for offshore could be cost-prohibitive (more expensive gear, larger crew, longer trips, more fuel, added supplies, etc.) Offshore fishing conditions are less safe. Difficulty and cost of having to learn a new type of shrimping in unknown waters. Consolidating fleet in these areas could result in excessive fishing pressure. Can be difficult to keep stable deckhands. Diminished quality of life due to longer hours/days at sea.</p>

² Participants commented, “a subsidy will only last for so long, kills the industry by keeping more people fishing than can afford.”

³ Participants expressed, “shrimpers will naturally weed themselves out.”

⁴ “Offshore” in this context refers to the La State waters. Federal offshore shrimping requires different regulations and permits and is currently under a renewed 10 year moratorium for issuing new permits until October 26, 2026

Table 2. Shows the summarized participant responses for strategies and avenues to accomplish the adaptation category of selling shrimp for more money with corresponding obstacles.

Adaptation category: Sell catch for more money	
Strategies and avenues to accomplish adaptation	Obstacles to the avenues
Take steps to address the dockside price issues caused by imported shrimp placing downward pressure on local shrimp economy. Ideas that were suggested included: advocate for tariff on imported shrimp (to President Trump), federal government program that buys domestic shrimp at guaranteed price (contract), increase inspection of imports, consumer education, and proof on menu.	(Nothing formally commented; see researcher observation below.) <i>However, it should be noted that these avenues are largely outside the control of individual shrimpers and could literally take an act of congress. Regardless, the researchers believe it is an important avenue to investigate since an increase in dockside price is the ONE avenue that increases economic resilience across the full range of vulnerability.</i>
Direct market shrimp to skip steps in the supply chain and sell directly to consumers or retail vendors (restaurants, grocery stores, etc.). Selling value added products (like Vermillion Bay Sweet model ⁵) was identified as being an effective way to accomplish direct sales. Programs to assist in training, equipment, and marketing could increase access to these models. Create market for smaller shrimp which currently receive almost cost-prohibitive dockside prices. Consumer education on superior product handling and quality could increase demand.	Direct sale requires a significant additional effort beyond selling to the dock and will only help a small percentage of shrimpers who are able to transition to that model. Requires more work to run direct to market business- permits, transport, time, effort, etc. May need to process the products to achieve greater markets by peeling, deveining, or packaging/preserving which requires buying equipment and compliance with Board of Health regulations Time spent selling shrimp is lost time for catching shrimp; need more employees to offset this which cost money and requires additional responsibility.
Take steps to address pricing control by docks. Incentivizing more docks and processors to be open, increasing competition. Set up a dock or processing cooperative.	Historical attempts for shrimpers to open cooperatives have faced insurmountable state/political opposition from current dock owners. This requires considerable startup capital.
Change management policy for shrimp fishery to restrict harvest time to periods yielding larger, more marketable sized shrimp.	

(http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/gulf_fisheries/shrimp/2016/am17a/index.html). We believe that this fact and the significant business capital required to enter this fishery were limiting factors that resulted in very minimal discussion of adaptations via transition to Federal Offshore shrimping.

⁵ Direct marketing success stories are found in case studies like Vermillion Bay Sweet

(<http://louisianadirectseafood.com/announcements/vermillion-bay-sweet-one-step-away-from-the-boat>)

Table 3. Shows the summarized participant responses for strategies and avenues to accomplish the adaptation category of finding alternative income with corresponding obstacles.

Adaptation category: Find alternative income	
Strategies and avenues to accomplish adaptation	Obstacles to the avenues
<p>Fish other fisheries. Could include existing commercially harvested saltwater or freshwater species or allow entry into currently restricted species. Allow the use of more effective finfish fishing methods such as gillnets or strike nets. Leadership (in the form of lobby, unionization, or some other organization) will likely be required to enact legal changes. New management protocols could provide sustainable regulation of newly accessible fisheries. Assistance with accessing subsidies or loans could support purchasing appropriate boats and/or equipment to fish other fisheries. Trainings could educate on how to harvest other fisheries Saltwater species that could be utilized: redfish, mullet, speckled trout, white trout, sheepshead, crab, shark, and oysters. Freshwater species that could be utilized: catfish or garfish.</p>	<p>Legacy issues of historic over-fishing practices . Entry into other fisheries (e.g. mullet, oysters) is too limited. Harvestability of other saltwater species might dwindle similarly to shrimp. Sport fishermen lobby seen as a strong opponent in countering efforts to allow commercial harvest of certain species. Market for freshwater species is undeveloped and small. Buying new gear could be too high of a cost and low interest loans are difficult to qualify for. Takes time for investment to payoff, may not be feasible for older fishermen. Some fisheries require an apprenticeship before fishermen can obtain a license.</p>
<p>Jobs in local industry like oil, navigation, or restoration. Labor jobs such as welding were identified as possible options within those industries. Training programs might help fishermen gain access to these local industry jobs. Stop eating shrimp (must spend more on groceries), may grow vegetables to supplement groceries.</p>	<p>Elderly age, lack of education or experience outside of shrimping, and language barriers can be prohibitive. Local industries, like oil and gas, may not be a good option because they are dwindling or have too restrictive hiring processes. Undesirable changes to quality of life including loss of shrimping culture, subsistence food, and other losses of personal freedoms such as not being as autonomous.</p>
<p>Relocate to a region with more job options. Assistance for finding new place to live and work could facilitate. In one group discussion, a participant stated, “move me some place where I’m safer (from storms/flooding) and have security of a job paying \$15/hr” would make her content.</p>	<p>Issues with no prior experience, socioeconomics, and undesirable changes to quality of life (similar to the above cell) may be exacerbated by a relocation. Some shrimping communities speak English as a second language, so there could be language barrier issues.</p>
<p>Sell boat and house. Buyout program to assist in fair-value liquidation of these assets. May require political will and leadership.</p>	<p>Might not be able to sell boat and house (especially if a decrease in demand after diversions.) Creating a fair buyout program likely difficult since large variation between people who haven’t invested much compared to those who have been shrimping a long time. Some perceived buyouts as unfair because it will wipe out supporting community.</p>
<p>Provide assistance with accessing Social Services such as: supplemented income or welfare. Reclassifying shrimpers as farmers/harvesters so that they can fit under Department of Agriculture and receive farm bill benefits may provide assistance.</p>	<p>Not desirable to receive “handouts” and prefer a way to continue working. Social services were perceived as being difficult to qualify for and to navigate bureaucratic processes. May be economically infeasible for government.</p>
<p>Go back to school.</p>	<p>Less desirable for older people. College is expensive and risky.</p>

Some *strategies for adaptation categories* did not have *obstacles* explicitly stated in the corresponding cell (this occurred twice). In these cases, the researchers provided some insight into potential obstacles. One example (see Table 2, row 1) occurs in addressing the dockside price issues caused by imported shrimp placing downward pressure on local shrimp economy. Opportunities for assistance were identified such as developing a federal government program to buy shrimp for a guaranteed price or advocacy for a tariff on imported shrimp but individual efforts to accomplish this would not be possible and would almost certainly require a large amount of organizational effort that may not exist.

Lastly, it is worth noting that the uncertainty of impacts that diversions could have on shrimp populations was commonly mentioned as contributing to the inability to plan and an increased risk of decision making. The effects of this problem include either waiting to make investments or making more risky investments, both of which exacerbate the difficulties of adaptation and potentially hinder effectiveness. The uncertainty of diversion impacts also discouraged the succeeding generation of shrimpers from entering the industry. An avenue identified that could help address this obstacle was simply to get more up-to-date and easily accessible information on impacts of sediment diversions to the affected shrimping communities. However, a notable concern related to this obstacle was that there is a legacy of mistrust of political leaders and appointees who are typically responsible for disseminating this type of information.

Discussion

The most critical finding of this project is that some shrimpers may not be able to adapt to the potential negative impacts of sediment diversions without assistance while others may be able to do so. This is explained by the observation that the range of vulnerability and consequent ability to adapt is widely varied by socioeconomics and business operations of each shrimper and further complicated by the uncertainty of the magnitude with which impacts may occur. Shrimpers provided a robust understanding of how their concerns translate to impacts to profits and quality of life and how they could deal with that change. The level of vulnerability is directly related to each shrimper's way of operating business (size of boat, gear type, length of trips, presence of alternative incomes, etc.) and socioeconomic status (age, language access, education, etc.). The magnitude with which impacts to shrimp will occur remains uncertain which hinders shrimpers' ability to plan for adaptation, especially if that requires increased investments. The difficulty remains in the uncertainty of what the future holds for impacts to shrimp yet through this process it is apparent the potential strategies and avenues exist to enable shrimpers to adapt to a wide range of scenarios that may result.

The shrimper's ability to adapt defines their resilience. Our findings suggest that while there is a robust set of avenues to adaptation, shrimper resilience and, concomitantly, the effectiveness of adaptation varies. The reported factors from this study contributing to varied resilience among shrimpers are: age, educational background, literacy, proficiency with the English language, geography, boat/equipment type, skills/experience, investment capital, current workload (for individual and family), access to community services, political/organizational power, and ability to liquidate assets. Some shrimpers appear to have no obstacles to the avenues of adaptation that they will rely on, while other shrimpers may have insurmountable obstacles. This can be explained using two hypothetical examples. A shrimper who is young, does not have a lot invested in their shrimp business, with experience in another trait and/or opportunity to continue education is lower on a scale of vulnerability as they could adapt to alternative sources of income. By comparison, a shrimper who is much older, didn't finish high school and has only been a shrimper their whole life, and has invested significant capital in their business is much higher on a scale of vulnerability and consequently less resilient. The variance in vulnerability as

dictated by these factors and others are further explained throughout the discussion.

Location of harvest is another important factor influencing resilience and ability to adapt. Due to the location of diversions and factors influencing shrimp life cycles, inshore shrimpers are less resilient than offshore shrimpers to potential impacts of sediment diversions. This was validated in discussions of what shrimpers would need in order to adapt if the concern was that shrimp would be less abundant or further out. Participants most commonly responded, "I would need a bigger boat to go further/ stay out longer/ fish deeper water." In specifically recruiting shrimpers that were concerned with diversion impacts, all participants in this study reported shrimping inshore at least some of the time. Much of this concern is centered around perceived impacts resulting in decreased catch per unit effort (CPUE) and loss of profit.

Changes in quality of life was a common thread throughout discussions in which shrimpers explained how they would react to negative impacts to shrimp populations. When participants were asked, "how would you deal (with that change)?", most commonly, responses began by indicating they would work longer hours/days per shrimp trip to "make ends meet" (i.e., sacrifice quality of life). Here too, responses were varied depending on each shrimper's unique circumstances. For instance, some participants who were retired from a previous career only shrimped for supplemental means and anticipated they would merely have less disposable income, i.e., they would not invest more capital to change their business operation and would sacrifice to a lower CPUE until it was cost prohibitive to do so. Conversely, others who rely on the resource more heavily suggested scenarios where there would be negative net income that led to loss of basic needs and services for their families. In both scenarios (and most discussed) a loss of quality of life would be incurred. These differences in dependence on the resource for supplemental vs necessary income were noted through analysis of the survey results where full time shrimpers indicated significantly higher concern regarding changes to white shrimp populations than shrimpers who had some alternative source of incomes.

Overall, when discussing "how shrimpers would deal (with perceived impacts from diversions)", the responses fell into three categories of adaptation strategies: *catch more*, *sell catch for more*, and *find alternative income*. Regardless of the categorization, it became apparent that in most cases these adaptations would constitute a sacrifice of quality of life and/or require significant change that could be a large (and potentially risky) investment; for some, adapting was seen as simply not feasible without external support. Changing fishing methods (whether it is upgrading gear/boat to fish in different areas, relocating, or fishing other species) as an avenue to adaptation requires significant time and monetary investment from the shrimper and that option might not be available to them due to lack of investment capital or loan opportunities. Furthermore, this type of investment pays off over a long term, so age was noted as a limiting factor that prevented a number of fishermen from justifying the expense. Additionally, age limited the ability to find alternative income as an adaptation because it was expressed that a new skill set might be hard to develop, particularly skills that require school.

Several participants were non-English speakers, less educated, illiterate, or some combination for whom avenues to adaptation are restricted. It would be a challenge for these shrimpers to transition out of their current skill set (i.e. commercial fishing.); therefore, avenues for adaptation are largely limited to addressing downward import pressure on local dockside prices or opening access to other fisheries, both of which require significant political or organizational power, likely, outside of that which is available within their fishing community. For the shrimpers who wish to transition away from shrimping and doing so would require them to sell their boats and equipment, there was a common response, "Who would want to buy a skimmer boat around here after diversions are opened?" This indicates another potential issue of getting a fair value for liquidating investments if there is a large downturn in

the industry.

The extent of change to shrimp populations resulting from sediment diversions is shrouded by uncertainty, and this uncertainty is another factor that hinders shrimpers' ability to plan for and adapt to future conditions. *Decreases in abundance, redistribution to other areas, and smaller average size* were the three main concerns that emerged for changes to shrimp populations, almost unanimously, during group discussions. This finding was not surprising since literature on shrimp biology supports the shrimpers' concerns over the potential fluctuation of the key environmental stimuli (e.g. salinity and temperature) that affect fundamental parameters for shrimp productivity (habitat suitability, migration, and growth rates) (Bourgeois et al, 2016, Zein-Eldin and Renaud, 1986, Barrett and Gillespie, 1973). However, we anecdotally detected that there were varying degrees of confidence regarding the likelihood/degree of severity that specific impacts would occur. Opinions ranged from high confidence in complete decimation of local shrimp populations, to optimistic opinions where shrimp populations might stay relatively intact or possibly even benefit (specifically for white shrimp populations). This wide range of opinions is indicative that there is still much uncertainty as to just how shrimp will react to future ecological conditions with sediment diversions in operation.

Based on our discussions with the shrimpers, we realized that this uncertainty of impacts to shrimp populations could exist for multiple reasons. First, there may not be enough information within the science community to fully understand impacts of diversions on the local shrimp populations. Second, the nature of the scientific knowledge may not be inherently compatible with the traditional ecological knowledge of shrimpers and hence, not accessible to the shrimpers. The lines of communication between the shrimping community and the restoration decision makers may need to be bolstered and better tailored. For instance, information may need to be communicated in more layman terms, in a different language, or at a time and place that is more convenient and accommodating for shrimpers. Third, in discussion with a group of shrimpers about this topic—it was stated that despite all the attempts being made to communicate information to their community, they ultimately did not trust the sources information. It seems that an effort to build trust must somehow accompany any plans to improve communication and get to a state in which all those who are working to implement and those impacted by these projects may be better informed by the various knowledge sets and ultimately make better decisions for the future.

Finally, it is notable that throughout the discussions shrimpers wanted to better understand how the plans for diversions and their operations will impact their business and livelihood and want to be included in plans for operations and management of diversions so that they may make the best-informed decisions and plan appropriately. There is often a perception that commercial fishermen and women want nothing more than a paycheck for damages (incurred and/or projected). However, mere compensation for loss was the least often mentioned form of assistance and several participants declared similarly, "I don't want a hand-out, that's just temporary. I want a way to keep on making a living and providing for my family as I have always done". Therefore, until impacts are better understood, planned for, and observed it may be most wise to further investigate all the various factors influencing vulnerability and develop a process to identify those who are at the extremity of the spectrum in which they are the most vulnerable. Thereafter, transition strategies may be tailored as the most appropriate for specific vulnerabilities and these individuals may be prioritized for support. All of these factors contribute to unique and varying levels of vulnerability for individual shrimpers.

Opportunities for further work

This community engagement project was a strong step forward toward understanding the range of shrimper vulnerability and identifying possible opportunities for adaptation. However, it also revealed that much more work needs to be done to answer the remaining questions and to develop an effective adaptation plan, even as we move forward with coastal restoration.

We encourage further research to better understand how future shrimp populations may change and an increased effort to disseminate this information to the shrimping community. This is crucial for bolstering shrimpers' ability to adapt. However, for this to be successful, trust needs to be built between the shrimping community and those responsible for disseminating that information. An effort to work with shrimpers to gather information, so that they can be included in the research process as an asset to the collection of data, would both build trust and benefit the efficiency and robustness of data collection efforts. Shrimpers could collect baseline data on shrimp populations (abundance, distribution, size) and environmental conditions (salinity, turbidity, etc.) during fishing trips. This type of data would improve understanding of baseline conditions and allow for better comparisons to data collected about shrimp populations after implementation of diversions. Current data on catch per unit of effort, operating costs, morphometric data of catch, and fishing opportunity should be collected and compared to post-diversion operation to understand the magnitude of impacts. Additionally, transitioning to future environmental conditions with diversions may be better informed with an improved understanding of the ancillary jobs and economies (deckhands, shrimp docks, marinas, etc.) that are directly related to shrimping.

Further work on establishing a benchmark for quality of life is needed so that a better comparison between pre-diversion and post-adaptation (e.g. investing in an offshore shrimping vessel, fishing other species, etc.) can be made. This would help determine the effectiveness of the adaptation strategies. Additionally, other efforts to test the success of the avenues to adaptation listed in this report will be critical for developing a plan to assist vulnerable shrimpers. Shrimpers suggested potential avenues for adaptation, but there needs to be more work done to understand the appropriateness and effectiveness of various avenues and to investigate additional strategies for assistance that did not arise through this process. Determining the impacts of sediment diversions over the range of shrimpers' vulnerability should proactively help us understand when and which shrimpers need assistance, thus allowing for the expeditious implementation and operation of the most critical restoration projects - sediment diversions.

Conclusion

Sediment diversions are a cornerstone component of science-based models for restoration that maintain the largest footprint of wetlands for the foreseeable future. Based on our findings, we recognize that there are certain shrimpers who are particularly vulnerable, depending on the extent of the ecological impact of diversions, their way of operating business, and their socioeconomic status. There is potential for a combination of these factors to result in scenarios where shrimpers would be unable to withstand economic disturbances caused by sediment diversions. These shrimpers will need assistance with adaptation. This research has identified potential avenues of adaptation worth further exploration that external agents could implement to mitigate the potential impacts of sediment diversions on shrimpers with low resilience and high vulnerability. We have identified lessons learned and possible areas for improving the process (See appendix 2). Ultimately, plans need to be developed for helping all communities and individuals who cannot adapt to the effects of large scale ecological restoration projects so that implementation of these projects can restore our coast while supporting our coastal communities and people. The difficulty remains in the uncertainty of what the future holds for

impacts to shrimp. Yet, through this process it is apparent that potential strategies and avenues exist to enable shrimpers to adapt to a wide range of scenarios that may result. This research provides a strong, much needed link to a longer chain that ultimately leads to a future in which we are truly living and working with our coast.

DRAFT

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Appendix 1

Shrimping with Diversions - Survey

How many years have you been a shrimper _____ Age _____

Boat size _____ another Boat size _____

Hull material _____ Hull material _____

Gear type _____ Gear type _____

storage (ice, freezer, IQF, etc.) _____ storage (ice, freezer, IQF, etc.)

Where do you shrimp? (1=most; 2= some; 3= rarely; 0= never)

inside/inshore _____ 3-mile state (outside) _____ Federal Offshore _____

On a scale of 1 (not at all) to 5 (very), how concerned are you that diversions will impact your catch of Brown Shrimp?

1 (not at all) _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ to 5 (very) _____

On a scale of 1 (not at all) to 5 (very), how concerned are you that diversions will impact your catch of White Shrimp?

1 (not at all) _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ to 5 (very) _____

Do you do any "value added" practices?

sell direct to individuals _____ if yes, how far do you travel _____

sell direct to restaurants or retail _____ if yes, how far do you travel _____

Do you brand for marketing _____

Sort by size _____ remove heads _____

Others _____

What other commercial fishing do you do?

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 2. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 6. _____ |

What other sources of income?

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 2. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 4. _____ |

Anything else you wish to say:

Appendix 2

Lessons Learned

Participant recruitment

Due to grant and organizational constrictions, meetings were scheduled a month before brown shrimp season opened. This proved to be difficult timing because most shrimpers were very busy getting their boats ready and preparing for the season. Researchers attempted to recruit shrimpers for meetings by visiting shrimp docks and hanging flyers in Plaquemines Parish. However, many of the shrimpers encountered were in the middle of working and did not have time to stop and talk. It is recommended to recruit for meetings earlier in the break between shrimping seasons to better accommodate the schedules of shrimpers. Additionally, if there had been a longer time frame for project outreach, meetings could have been organized based off more specific shrimper traits (E.g. age, gear type, boat size, or reliance on shrimping a primary income source.) Meeting divisions were based on geographic area but within each group shrimpers had diverse sets of traits. Organizing groups characteristically could have yielded more tailored adaptation ideas.

Documentation

The strategy of recording the responses during the facilitated discussion provided a method clearly separating out impacts on shrimpers, potential adaptations, and needs and obstacles. However, at times it was difficult to differentiate between the three categories. The facilitator and the scribe sometimes needed to pause the conversation to decide how to categorize statements. In addition, it was sometimes difficult for the scribe to fully capture everything being said because sometimes multiple people would speak simultaneously. In the future, it is recommended to have a second scribe to take detailed notes on a computer so that the scribe writing on the flip chart can focus on concisely capturing the most salient points. With only one scribe, some details of responses were sacrificed for the sake of allowing the conversation to progress naturally. An audio recording or more detailed notes would also have been useful for processing the data to use as a cross reference for context. The flip charts were an effective visual aid and facilitation tool but did not allow for capturing full context of each response.

Language and literacy barriers

On several occasions, researchers attempted to tell shrimpers at various docks and marinas about the project who were not fluent in English. Therefore, it is recommend to bring a translated flyer and other translated explanatory material.

Procedure

This process could have been strengthened by a more consistent mechanism for vetting adaptation strategies and/or reaching a consensus. Findings could be strengthened and carry more weight in future shrimper organizing efforts if both ideas with the most support and from shrimpers and outliers were identified.



September 1, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

Coastal Communities Consulting, Inc. (CCC) is the only 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to serving the industry-specific needs of Southeast Louisiana's commercial fishermen, fishing-dependent small business owners, and their families. CCC's primary function is to support our clients through business technical assistance and training in imperative operational skills, and act as a liaison between commercial fishermen and key agencies to keep them up to date on shifting coastal circumstances.

Over the last 3 years, we have provided outreach and education to our clients regarding the Mid-Barataria Bay sediment diversion, the projected design and implementation of which could drastically impact the area's shrimp and oyster populations. The majority of CCC's 1,300 clients fish highly regulated inside waters, which makes them more economically vulnerable and significantly more reliant on the coast's ecological health. To this end, we wish to submit comments based on the feedback we have received from Southeast Louisiana's commercial fishermen regarding the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's EIS of the planned CPRA Mid-Barataria Bay sediment diversion.

Given our clients' feedback, we are concerned about the following ecological issues:

- running diversions primarily in the spring when up-stream water volume is highest will suffocate juvenile shrimp, crabs, and other species, who use the bay to reach maturity from March to May. This will drastically impact both the size and volume of shrimp in the bay and Gulf writ large;
- As oysters are stationary throughout their life-cycle, they will instantly die any time the diversion is run. This will harm and potentially indefinitely shut down the fishery in the bay and surrounding areas;
- inundating the bay with fresh water will kill most shrimp larvae in the area. Those that do survive will be pushed further out into the Gulf, beyond the inside water boundary designated by Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission. This will disallow the majority of our clients from participating in the industry, forcing them to find employment and possibly, residence, elsewhere; and
- ***this study should explicitly identify the impacts of the diversion on brown shrimp, white shrimp, oysters, and other seafood that is the foundation of Louisiana's 3rd largest industry to holistically evaluate the direct effects of diversions not just on marine life, but on the thousands of commercial boat owners, deckhands, fishing-dependent small businesses, and families who rely on them for survival.***

Our clients have also identified several community-specific issues, as follow:

- the diversion will cause more flooding in low-lying communities; over 20% of our clients live on the coast, and 100% of them dock their boats and process their catch there. Diversion-related flooding is likely to impact local fishermen's homes and displace their families, and inflict physical damages the vessels docked in these areas;
- diverting oyster leases will create job decline throughout Southeast Louisiana. As CPRA has not allocated any mitigation funding for fishermen to relocate or train for new careers, many of the region's oystermen will be out of a job;

- Will there be loan and grant programs for commercial fishing and other small businesses to assist in transitioning their operations and perform upgrades to mitigate potential loss for sustainability;
- the diversion will severely impact the entire commercial fishing industry, which our clients rely on as their and their families' only source of income. This is particularly true of families living along the coast.

Louisiana's commercial fishermen supply over 26% of the U.S.'s shrimp and Barataria Bay represents at least 41% of that catch. If diversions run as projected, this number could sink into the single digits, disbanding the fishery and devastating its workers. We believe that the Army Corps, CPRA, and other state agencies must create forums for addressing commercial fishermen and their communities' concerns before building a structure that will drastically impact thousands of industry-dependent families. Part of this outreach must include a much more detailed assessment of CPRA's process, their project evaluation and implementation timeline, and most importantly, the true impact of diversions on our fisheries and the future of our industry. To date, we have only received clear information regarding the division's ability to build land; those in charge must study and circulate equally robust information about its effects on industry-dependent species (shrimp, oysters, crab, finfish, etc.) and Louisiana's commercial fishermen and coastal residents. We also specifically ask that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer explores other approaches to running the diversion such that it harms brown shrimp, white shrimp, oysters, and other species as little as possible.

Finally, our clients have posed several key questions, including:

- Will science be able to tell us how much of an impact the diversions will have on our seafood?
- Will there be a state-led community mitigation plan if key fisheries and/or the entire industry is harmed by freshwater inundation? Will there be a mitigation plan for damaged boats, docks, and gear?
- Will fishermen who are unable to work as a direct result of the diversion receive financial support to train in new industries and/or transition their businesses?
- Will there be state assistance if the communities have to relocate?
- What is the state planning to do with the thousands of oyster leases in Barataria Bay and adjoining waterways?
- Will there be a fund allocated to train fishermen in other industries and help them transition to more economically secure jobs in the face of an uncertain ecological future?

Our job is to ensure that Southeast Louisiana's fishermen can provide for their families as consistently and equitably as possible. Exploring the Mid-Barataria Bay diversion's impact to fisheries is imperative to not only the future of thousands of fishing families, but to the coast as a productive, sustainable, and thriving habitat.

Sincerely,



Sandy Nguyen
Executive Director

From: timothycoats@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 10:25:26 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Timothy Coats
22050 Highway 22
ponchatoula, LA, 70454

1 project.

2 And, finally, I urge them to
3 remember that we are in a highly
4 dynamic natural system that has been
5 interrupted by human changes to the
6 environment and that our best hope
7 for being able to remain here is to
8 let the natural system work again.
9 Thank you.

10 * * *

11 STEVE COCHRAN
12 3801 Canal Street
13 New Orleans, Louisiana 70119

14 STEVE COCHRAN:

15 I'd like to make four points.
16 The first is that trying to make
17 sure that the scoping assessment
18 really does look at the future of
19 the Mid-Barataria without the
20 sediment structure. What is the
21 future going to look like without us
22 taking action? That's a critical
23 piece of doing this.

24 Second, as important as it is
25 to get these decisions right, it's
also important, given the nature of

1 our problem here, to get these
2 decisions done in record time.
3 We're going to have to move faster
4 than the scheduling currently
5 suggests, and we would encourage
6 very strongly for that to happen.

7 Third, it's important that as
8 the structure is being built and as
9 decisions are made about how it's
10 going to be operated, that regular
11 flexibility be built into that
12 operation, so that as we learn new
13 things about it, based on various
14 impacts, that we have the ability to
15 adjust.

16 That literally leads into the
17 fourth comment, which was the focus
18 on what's called adaptive
19 management, trying to make sure that
20 the issues that arise, issues that
21 need to be managed have the
22 possibility to be managed through
23 the operating regime and through the
24 decision-making so that we can
25 adjust, as we learn, and always make

1 sure that this sediment diversion
2 will be doing what it was intended
3 to do, as well as minimizing any
4 potential impacts associated with
5 that.

6 So those are the four items I
7 wanted to comment on. And this is
8 on behalf of Restore the Mississippi
9 River Delta, a coalition of five
10 environmental organizations who are
11 working every day on this issue.

12 * * *

13 MAYOR TIM KERNER
14 1156 Jean Lafitte
15 Lafitte, Louisiana 70067

16 MAYOR KERNER:

17 First of all, I'm really not
18 against the sediment diversion, but
19 the way it is, I can't be for it. I
20 can't be for it unless we actually
21 address the levee situation in
22 Lafitte-Barataria-Crown Point and
23 also the make sure that the
24 commercial fishermen, if there's any
25 negative impact, that they're
 compensated.

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Robert Cohn](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 4:25:20 PM

Aug 17, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations
and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30
years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this
Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

* Please regularly share information with the public and other
stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of
the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin
should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which
could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife
and culture.

* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion
should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations
over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we
learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and
request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Mr. Robert Cohn
1713 Burgundy St Apt 4
New Orleans, LA 70116-1955
(504) 715-5782
robertcohn428@gmail.com

From: r1tbeach@aol.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, July 28, 2017 12:54:09 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Tracy Cole
10227 N 66th Dr
Glendale, AZ, 853021047

From: Colgin.heather@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 1:34:40 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Heather Colgin
2813 Ursulines Ave
New Orleans, Louisiana, 70119

From: cgcondon3@cox.net
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 4:34:18 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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Thank you,
Craig Condon
6318 Catina St.
New Orleans, LA, 70124

From: connpgh@aol.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Sunday, July 30, 2017 3:03:35 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Craig Conn
1200 Termon Ave
Pittsburgh, PA, 152121900

From: [Precht, Phil](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#); [LaBorde, Brad P CIV USARMY CEMVN \(US\)](#)
Cc: [Marnie Winter](#); [Leslie Suazo \(Home\) \(lsuazo@ducks.org\)](#); [Smith III, Ordis J](#); [Chauvin, Bobbie H](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL]Mid Barataria Comments DUE TODAY
Date: Wednesday, September 6, 2017 1:08:07 PM
Importance: High

September 6, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

New Orleans District

c/o Brad LaBorde

7400 Leake Avenue

New Orleans, LA 70118

Dear Mr. LaBorde:

As you may be aware, The ConocoPhillips Company, through its affiliate, the Louisiana Land and Exploration company, LLC is the owner of the largest privately held coastal wetlands complex in the United States. Located in southeast Louisiana, the ConocoPhillips Coastal Wetland's Complex is comprised of approximately 636,000 acres spanning eight parishes. With few exceptions, the entirety of the Coastal Wetland's Complex is located within the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuarine System (BTES), one of the world's most expansive and productive estuarine systems.

As we all know, the long-term viability of this region is also at great risk due to the historic land loss rates experienced in the BTES. Among the more alarming trends identified in the BTES and the Coastal Wetlands is the rapid conversion of vegetated wetlands to open water and the resulting shift of intermediate and brackish wetlands to saline wetlands. This problem stems from the combined influence of several factors: reduced sediment inputs; altered hydrology; altered salinity regimes; subsidence; sea level rise, as well as impacts from hurricanes and other storm-related events.

In recognition of the urgency and need to reverse this land loss trend, and to protect and preserve the Coastal Wetlands for their economic and ecological viability, The ConocoPhillips Company (ConocoPhillips) and Ducks Unlimited, Inc. (DU) entered in to a Habitat Restoration Agreement. The shared vision of this agreement is to increase the pace and footprint of coastal restoration activities throughout southeast Louisiana, that result in sustainable coastal habitats for all stakeholders, waterfowl, and other wetland wildlife and fisheries. While our partnership in conservation has been highly successful to date, it remains abundantly clear that the future of the BTES and the entire Louisiana Coast is at great risk from continued land loss without the expedited implementation of large-scale restoration measures such as those identified by Louisiana's 2017 Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast.

The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion (MBSD) a large scale, complex civil works and ecosystem restoration

project identified in Louisiana's Coastal Master Plan, is one project that seeks to reverse the historic land loss trend in the Barataria Basin. When operated, up to 75,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) of sediment laden water would be diverted from the Mississippi River to the mid-Barataria Basin to reconnect and re-establish the natural or deltaic sediment deposition process between the Mississippi River and the Barataria Basin to deliver sediment, freshwater, and nutrients to reduce land loss and sustain wetlands.

At present the Coastal Wetlands and the surrounding Barataria Basin maintain many of the features of resilient natural estuaries; fresh to saltwater gradient, flow across many wetlands, and an active fish and shellfish nursery, all important aspects of estuarine function and integrity. The MBSD is an important response to the urgency and need to protect what remains and restore what has been lost of the many vital functions of the Barataria Basin. The MBSD will provide a landscape-scale impact to reverse the current trend of wetland degradation and will sustain coastal wetland resources and restore wetlands damaged due to erosion, subsidence, and hurricanes. Without this project, interior areas will be at greater risk for increased fragmentation and collapse, and nearby communities will become increasingly vulnerable to storm and tidal occurrences.

However, as is the case in any project of such magnitude, there may be negative impacts to some stakeholders as our natural resources shift in response to an altered landscape. While it is not possible to anticipate every impact, it is not unreasonable to assume impacts to both commercial and recreational fisheries resources and the landscape responds to the re-introduction of freshwater and sediment inputs.

It is incumbent upon all of us involved in the planning and design of these important projects to actively consider the consequences to our natural resource environment and the stakeholders who depend upon these resources for their livelihoods. Planning, education and outreach, and coordination with economic development organizations is imperative to minimize negative impacts to stakeholders as we all adapt to our changing natural resource and economic environments.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of this important project.

Sincerely,

Phil Precht
ConocoPhillips Company
Director, Coastal Wetlands
BROG, G.P., LL&E,LLC, GCBU
Office - 985.853.3010
Fax - 985.872.1509
Cell - 337.540.8804
phil.r.precht@conocophillips.com <<mailto:phil.r.precht@conocophillips.com>>

COMMENT 1 OF 3:

Acey Cooper, Jr.
42941 Highway 23
Venice, La 70091

MR. ACEY COOPER, JR.:

My name is Acey J. Cooper,
Jr. I'm from Venice, Louisiana.
I'm a commercial fisherman. I'm 57
years old. I've been here my whole
life. I've watched these changes in
the lower end of this river.

What the Corps has been
doing is dredging out the Southwest
Pass. Halfway up the river, they
come up and dump it ahead of the
passes which is South Pass and
Pass-A-Loutre. Halfway down,
they're going to dump it off the
shelf.

Now, when they do this,
when they dump it ahead of the
passes up here, they stop up these
two passes.

Now, South Pass, we have
\$11 million marina at the end of it.
Pass A Loutre, prime area where we

work with shrimp, prime. By stopping up the head of these two passes, nothing is getting out on the other end and we're losing at an alarming rate, more within the last four or five years than we've ever seen in my lifetime because there's nothing getting down at the end of the passes. There's no more nutrients getting down at the end.

So by doing that, we want to see them dredging this material. We have five passes in the lower end of this river, Baptiste Collette, Tiger Pass, South Pass, Pass A Loutre which is the left side in the lower end of the region. Now, no telling how many yards of sediment we have within these five passes.

We create two things: Commerce back at the lower end because the boats can't get in and out the pass before they stopped up the sediment. And you create land.

We don't have 30 years for

diversion to work for us down there. These passes need to be dredged out as soon as possible in order to keep the \$11 million marina safe which is at the lower end and to keep our fishing grounds.

You know, if you open it back up and you let Mother Nature take her course, she's going to do her job. That's how it was built.

But by stopping it up, you're mimicking everything down Southwest Pass and all worried about commerce, not worried about what's happening to the region. We're trying to create land by creating diversion up above when you're losing it at an alarming rate down there more than you're going to create when you open this diversion up there. You can get more sediment out of these passes and God only knows how many millions of yards of sediment we have down here.

I would like to see them

**start dredging instead of cutting
this diversion.**

(End of Comment)

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Patricia Copeland](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 1:15:23 PM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible ideally by the end of September 2017.

Please protect our vulnerable communities and wildlife. The livelihoods of many people depend on this restoration.

Thank you,

Ms. Patricia Copeland
407 E Arizona Ave
Ruston, LA 71270-4501

(318) 255-7566
patcop407@yahoo.com

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name DANIEL P. CONZON	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
Street Address 5310 Privateer Blvd.	
Mailing Address (if different from street address) SAME	
City, State, Zip Code BARATARIA LA 70036	
Email Address	
Affiliation LA OYSTER TASK FORCE	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

I am on the LA Oyster Task Force + I live in Barataria La. I am opposed to the Mid Barataria Diversion. It will destroy my Oyster business, my culture and my family's future. I will submit additional comments by mail. Many of you do not understand what a total disaster this will be to the fishing community, restaurant industry and tourism. I feel strongly that when the full effect is realized congress will outtail funds for other restoration projects. Please stop this ~~total~~ destructive project.

Best regards

Daniel P. Conzon

From: jacoulson@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Jennifer Coulson](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 4, 2017 4:11:32 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

I am writing on behalf of the Orleans Audubon Society to express full support for the immediate implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

Our recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Coulson
Pearl River, LA 70452

From: mamacrail@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Patricia Crail](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Tuesday, August 29, 2017 12:52:59 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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Sincerely,
Patricia Crail
Baton Rouge, LA 70810

From: [Foster Creppel](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] My opinion of the Midbarataria diversion
Date: Wednesday, August 30, 2017 2:57:17 PM

To whom it may concern:

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

The Good:

This man made distributary which we are calling The Midbarataria diversion will build a delta splay, land for ridges of trees, support cypress swamps, habitat for fresh water environments' flora and fauna and help protect our eroding coast and vanishing wetlands. It is the best way for us to slow down the wetlands loss that has been caused by so many factors. It can also be used for flood control releasing pressure from storm surges and if need be, releasing water from the river as a spillway. It could also be used to irrigate farms in the future. It is no doubt the best solution to battle our fight against subsidence, eroding wetlands and sea level rising. With this project we have a fighting chance to continue living on and loving this wonderful estuary that was built entirely by the river and has given America so much. We've engineered it's destruction, harvested it to the point of almost no return, this will be a huge step towards engineering it's rebirth. I own an old plantation home 9 miles south of the proposed site that was built in 1834, 94 years before we built the levees, will it still be here in 183 years?

The Bad:

Oyster fisherman will be affected closest to the river and will have to move their reefs. We'll no longer catch brown shrimp in the barataria basin but it is an invasive species anyway. Trout fisherman will have to travel further away from the river to fish but fishing for bass and crappie and duck hunting will be better near the river. It will cost a lot of money to build and will take time to build land. It may also wash away some of the brackish and salt water marsh before it builds fresh water wetlands.

The Ugly:

Spending over 1 billion on a project like this with a crazy amount on engineering. I can't find my notes on it but it was I think in the 200 million range, absolutely ludicrous. All of the groups and talking heads now involved in our state of emergency, our vanishing coast. We've already built two diversions, Davis Pond and Canarveon and at least 4 siphons in Plaquemines parish and last year we may have run them at 10% of their capacity. If we are serious about restoring our coast then we better have leaders with conviction and character to stand up to the special interest groups. If we are going to ask the American tax payer to help us restore our coast we better make good investments and operate them at full capacity. The more fresh water and sediment, both mineral and organic we get out of the river to our wetlands the better. If we can't or won't operate these projects then building them is a crime.

--

Warm Regards,

Foster Creppel
Innkeeper

Woodland Plantation
504-656-9990 Office
800-231-1514 Toll Free

Blockedwww.WoodlandPlantation.com <Blockedhttp://www.WoodlandPlantation.com>

From: jcreppel@aol.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 1:34:34 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

I was born and raised in lower Jefferson (Crown Point), 1934. I have a petroleum engineering degree and years of experience in the oil fields. I also owned and ran Venture Towing on the waterways of South Louisiana and Texas. My wife and I have owned The Columns Hotel since 1980 and own Woodland Plantation with our son Foster south of Myrtle Grove, the proposed location of the sediment diversion. I have also fished in the bayous and bays of South Louisiana since I was a boy and have watched much land disappear over the years. Landmarks we used for navigation are no longer there. If something isn't done immediately the area will no longer be habitable and the seafood will disappear. All the diversions currently built should be opened 100% and new ones built.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Jacques Creppel
7927 St. Charles Ave.
New Orleans, La., 70118

From: wcrews@grayinsco.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 11:31:03 AM

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

Twenty six years ago I was proud to be among the thirty or so fishermen as a member of the Jefferson Parish Marine Advisory Board to discuss the prospects of a sediment delivery system through Wilkinson canal. We new that another fresh water diversion was not the answer. We were aware even then that we must reconnect the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project so that our great grand children can enjoy what we are blessed to have.

Thank you,

Woody Crews
4508 Taft Park
Metairie, LA, 70002

From: margaretcro@outlook.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 4:39:46 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Margaret Cromartie
7150 E. Grand Ave.
Dallas, TX, 75223

From: brianrcruz@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Saturday, August 19, 2017 3:31:11 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Brian Cruz
2015 S Salcedo St
NEW ORLEANS, LA, 70125

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Lola Cuadrado](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 2:54:52 PM

Aug 17, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

* Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.

* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Ms. Lola Cuadrado
1446 Harrison Ave
New Orleans, LA 70122-1673
(504) 522-8321
cuadrado1955lola@hotmail.com

From: Ocuadrado1955lola@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [LOLA CUADRADO](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 4, 2017 4:03:30 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
LOLA CUADRADO
New Orleans, LA 70122

From: Pditta@carlodittainc.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, July 28, 2017 10:22:25 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

I'm 30 years old and have been fishing/hunting in southeast Louisiana since I was old enough to hold a rod and gun. Just in my lifetime I have seen land disappear at an alarming rate. This is long past due and this needed to happen 25 years ago. Stop the gridlock with the bureaucratic BS and get this moving for the outdoorsman in SE Louisiana or else SE Louisiana will ultimately be a walled off island in 50 years, maybe sooner if a major hurricane strikes. There will be absolutely no land left if nothing is done. The crybaby commercial fisherman complain about everything, no matter what you do. If nothing is done they won't have anything to worry about because the estuaries they fish will not exist and then they can cry about that. You can see how effective these sediment diversions are just by looking at the east bank where the river isn't levee'd anymore. Right now, there is no future for the next generation of hunters and fisherman in SE Louisiana.

Thank you,
Patrick D
SE Louisiana, 70058

August 28th, 2017

**Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017**

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? Yes No

If yes, please specify the position.

First and Last Name Kim Dang	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 138 Foster Lane	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code Buras, LA 70041	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

I do not want the government to release freshwater. When freshwater is released, there will be no oysters to catch so I cannot make a living. I need financial assistance to pay bills and my daily life. I know that it is necessary to divert freshwater from the river to build new land, but I need help from the government to live through the day if freshwater diversion affects me.

August 28th, 2017

Ý kiến đóng góp phải được gửi trước ngày 5 tháng 9 năm 2017

Comment Form

Họp Đánh giá Công khai, Thứ 5, ngày 20 tháng 7, 2017
EIS cho Dự án Chuyển dòng Trầm tích Trung Barataria
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

BẠN LÀ NHÂN VIÊN CÔNG VỤ? CÓ KHÔNG Nếu có, vị trí: _____

Họ và Tên <u>Kim Dang</u>	Bằng cách nào quý vị biết về cuộc họp đánh giá công khai này? <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo Báo chí <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo qua Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Khác (hãy nêu rõ) <u>CCC</u>
Địa chỉ Đường phố <u>138 Foster Lane</u>	
Địa chỉ Hộp thư (nếu khác với địa chỉ đường phố)	
Thành phố, Tiểu bang, Mã vùng <u>Buras, LA 70041</u>	
Địa chỉ Email	
Cơ quan/Tổ chức	

Thông tin này sẽ được bổ sung vào danh sách mail dự án. Nếu bạn không muốn đưa vào danh sách mail, hãy đánh dấu vào hộp kiểm.

Ý KIẾN: (Hãy viết tiếp vào mặt sau nếu không đủ chỗ.)

Tôi không muốn xả nước ngọt tại vì tôi không thể làm ăn được khi xả nước ngọt vào vì không có số nữa. Nếu tôi không có việc làm tại vì xả nước ngọt ảnh hưởng đến tôi, tôi muốn sự giúp đỡ kiếm việc làm để tiếp tục sinh sống. I need financial assistance to pay bills and my daily life. Tôi cần sự giúp đỡ từ chính phủ (tiền bạc) để sinh sống và trả nợ hàng ngày. Tôi liệt là cần làm thêm đất từ xả nước ngọt, nhưng tôi cần sự giúp đỡ từ chính phủ sinh sống qua ngày nếu xả nước ngọt xảy ra và ảnh hưởng đến tôi.

[Signature]

From: [Anne Daniell](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Scoping Comments: MidBarataria Basin Sediment Diversion
Date: Tuesday, September 5, 2017 4:32:48 PM

To Whom it may concern:

I am writing with regard to the Mid-Barataria Basin Sediment Diversion. I fully support this diversion project and I hope that it can be implemented as soon as possible. Please do not "reinvent the wheel" and delay this project further. Some 30 years of studies have already gone in to this project.

Please keep in mind that the 2017 Coastal Master Plan has predicted that with the No Action alternative, Barataria Basin will lose roughly 550 square miles (that's over 350,000 acres!) in the next 50 years, under the medium future scenario. How can we let this happen? Any analysis of the Mid Barataria Sediment Diversion must consider what will happen to the Barataria Basin and its surrounding areas without this sediment diversion (the No Action Alternative)!

I have seen first-hand how land is being built by the Caernarvon diversion. This diversion was not even meant specifically to be land-building, but to bring more freshwater to the area, and yet it builds so much land when the diversion is open and running.

Thank you, in advance, for working to help save our coastal wetlands. A project like this will make a big difference in the lives of people who depend on the coast for our livelihood.

Sincerely, Anne Daniell

First Grace United Methodist Church member

New Orleans, LA

August 7th, 2017

**Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017**

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? Yes No

If yes, please specify the position.

First and Last Name JAMES DAO	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 3445 DU PARC GREEN ST, HARVEY LA 70058	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code HARVEY LA 70058	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

If fresh water is released, it will affect shrimps; shrimps will go to the sea. So I disagree with the project.

I expect the government not to divert freshwater anymore.

Please help fishermen, do not let this situation happen.

Thank you.

August 7th, 2017

Ý kiến đóng góp phải được gửi trước ngày 5 tháng 9 năm 2017

Comment Form

Họp Đánh giá Công khai, Thứ 5, ngày 20 tháng 7, 2017
EIS cho Dự án Chuyển dòng Trầm tích Trung Barataria
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

BẠN LÀ NHÂN VIÊN CÔNG VỤ? CÓ KHÔNG Nếu có, vị trí: _____

Họ và Tên JAMES DAO	Bằng cách nào quý vị biết về cuộc họp đánh giá công khai này? <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo Báo chí <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo qua Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Khác (hãy nêu rõ) CCC
Địa chỉ Đường phố 3445 W Park Green St. HARVEY LA 70058	
Địa chỉ Hộp thư (nếu khác với địa chỉ đường phố)	
Thành phố, Tiểu bang, Mã vùng HARVEY LA 70058	
Địa chỉ Email N/A	
Cơ quan/Tổ chức	

Thông tin này sẽ được bổ sung vào danh sách mail dự án. Nếu bạn không muốn đưa vào danh sách mail, hãy đánh dấu vào hộp kiểm.

Ý KIẾN: (Hãy viết tiếp vào mặt sau nếu không đủ chỗ)

1) Nếu đi xa nước ngoài thì anh hướng đến tìm nó sẽ trôi hết ra khơi, vậy cho nên tôi không đồng ý xả nước.
 vậy như chính quyền, đừng xả nữa.
 để nghị chính quyền có cách nào để giúp đỡ cho dân ngư phủ, từng bị trình trình ra biển ra nữa.)

cam ơn

(Signature)
JAMES B DAO

August 9th, 2017

Ý kiến đóng góp phải được gửi trước ngày 5 tháng 9 năm 2017

Comment Form

Họp Đánh giá Công khai, Thứ 5, ngày 20 tháng 7, 2017
EIS cho Dự án Chuyển dòng Trầm tích Trung Barataria
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

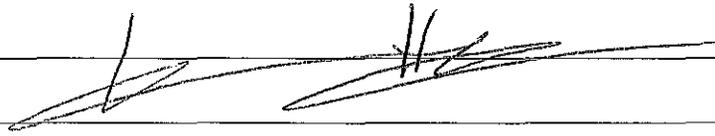
BẠN LÀ NHÂN VIÊN CÔNG VỤ? CÓ KHÔNG Nếu có, vị trí: _____

Họ và Tên <i>Lý Thị Đào</i>	Bằng cách nào quý vị biết về cuộc họp đánh giá công khai này? <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo Báo chí <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo qua Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Khác (hãy nêu rõ) <i>CCC</i>
Địa chỉ Đường phố <i>6516 Pecany St.</i>	
Địa chỉ Hộp thư (nếu khác với địa chỉ đường phố)	
Thành phố, Tiểu bang, Mã vùng <i>New Orleans, LA 70131</i>	
Địa chỉ Email	
Cơ quan/Tổ chức	

Thông tin này sẽ được bổ sung vào danh sách mail dự án. Nếu bạn không muốn đưa vào danh sách mail, hãy đánh dấu vào hộp kiểm.

Ý KIẾN: (Hãy viết tiếp vào mặt sau nếu không đủ chỗ.)

*Tôi không muốn xả nước xây ra tại vì không có
tấm để làm. Nếu xả nước không có tấm thì tôi muốn
có tiền bạn giúp đỡ tôi về việc làm.*



August 9th, 2017

**Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017**

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? Yes No

If yes, please specify the position.

First and Last Name Ly Thi Dao	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 6516 Peony st.	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code New Orleans, LA 70131	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

I do not want freshwater diversion because there will be no shrimps for me to catch. If freshwater diversion, without shrimps, I need financial support and help with my job.

From: cdavid4@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Connie David](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Tuesday, August 29, 2017 9:00:57 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Connie David
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Connie David](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 2:48:55 PM

Aug 17, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

* Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.

* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Ms. Connie David
655 Polytech Dr
Baton Rouge, LA 70808-4756
(225) 766-8736
cdavid4@lsu.edu

From: nickdelopes@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 6:19:15 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

I am a native Louisianian and one very concerned with the future of our state. Namely, I'm worried if there is a future for our state, since we are particularly threatened by land loss and rising sea levels. The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Nicholas de Godoy Lopes
9046 Alma Drive
Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70809

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Jacqueline de Lerno](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 11:15:22 AM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,

Ms. Jacqueline de Lerno
7839 Fig St
New Orleans, LA 70125-2531
(123) 456-7890
jacq.delerno@gmail.com

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Jeanne Decareaux](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Saturday, August 19, 2017 12:00:25 AM

Aug 19, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

* Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.

* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Jeanne Decareaux
1613 Feronia St
Metairie, LA 70005-2011
(504) 834-9162
jd70005@hotmail.com

From: [ANDREA DECLOUET](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Submission of comments on the scope of the Environment Impact Study for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion
Date: Wednesday, September 6, 2017 12:09:38 AM

September 5, 2017

Andrea Declouet
148 Bradish Street
Ironton, LA., 70083

Mr. Brad Inman, Senior Project Manager
Mr. Brad LaBorde, Regulatory Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
7400 Leake Ave.
New Orleans, LA. 70118

Dear Mr. Inman & Mr. LaBorde,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. On behalf of every resident in the community of Ironton, La., I hope the submitted questions/comments will provide a different perspective and influence thoughtful consideration, giving a clear understanding as to why we're fighting for Ironton... our HOME.

Ironton was built on the shoulders of God-fearing, freed black men after Re-construction in the late 1800's. They raised homes, established businesses and erected the historical St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church whose cornerstone dates back to 1889 and is the beacon of the community. In the two remaining cemeteries near the mighty Mississippi River, african american soldiers who fought in WWI and II are laid to rest near pecan and dogwood trees.

From Re-construction, to Segregation and Jim Crow, to the Civil Rights Movement, even today the residents of Ironton still diligently continue the legacy of fighting for freedom and justice with pride and self-determination.

Would you kindly address the following questions/concerns:

Pertaining to the levees and flooding-- punching holes in the levee... will this destabilize the remaining river levee?

How will the channel walls change or affect flooding impacts on Ironton and surrounding communities?

Regarding the railroad:

Why are funds from the coastal restoration project being used towards a railroad that is privately owned?

What will traffic flow be like and what will Hwy. 23 be like during construction of the diversion?

Could elevated homes and stability of land around the diversion affect Ironton?

Will these projects impact the infrastructure of the community (water and sewerage drainage)?

Allow me to suggest alternatives:

use the materials from the disposal area to fortify the back levees, fill in land around Ironton or, fill in the burrow pits.

realign the convergency channels away from Ironton,

eliminate the rail bridge,

and lastly, cancel RAM coal terminal.

Thank again for the opportunity to comment.

Respectfully,

Andrea Declouet
Ironton Resident

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Vicki Deer](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 11:34:28 AM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

Please reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land.

Thank you,

Ms. Vicki Deer
1024 Helenes Way
Slidell, LA 70461-5365
(123) 456-7890
vicprint@bellsouth.net

From: tomdelconte82@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2017 5:11:36 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Tom Del Conte
445 Rick Rd
Southampton, PA, 18966

From: gdelahoussaye@eustis.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Monday, August 21, 2017 7:13:51 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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- The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

I have personally witnessed the incredible changes to our coast. I have been an avid fisherman out of Venice LA for the past 40 years. Please move forward at the earliest possible time with the diversions and all other projects up for consideration. NO action is costing us our coast.

Very sincerely,

Gary Delahoussaye
6009 Argonne Blvd
New Orleans, LA, 70124

From: [LaBorde, Brad P CIV USARMY CEMVN \(US\)](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment on Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion
Date: Tuesday, September 5, 2017 12:46:37 PM

Brad LaBorde
CEMVN-OD-SE

-----Original Message-----

From: Cathrine Denman [<mailto:cathrinedenman@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2017 12:28 PM
To: LaBorde, Brad P CIV USARMY CEMVN (US) <Brad.Laborde@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment on Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion

<Blocked<https://mailtrack.io/trace/mail/dccb28d0c1cba1f8829d55c0aa989f8290f66d8e.png?u=1040449>> Dear Mr. Laborde,

As a resident of Louisiana, I would like to submit the following comments on the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. The land loss crisis here in Louisiana is so severe and urgent that we must act now. The proposed diversion would be a very important step to help protect the future of our very complex and diverse ecosystem. As part of this project, I believe special attention should be paid to the consequences that taking no action could have on our coastal communities. It is also important that the alternatives that are explored take into consideration the continuously changing ecosystem here; what is here today, will not be here tomorrow. Throughout this process I think it is of utmost importance that the decision-making be transparent. Information should be readily available to the public and the public should be involved in every step of this process where it allows. Including the public in this process can help shed light on threats and concerns that those lacking experience and local knowledge may miss. In addition, a fair and open process can make the final decisions easier for the public to accept. I would like to thank you for your time and consideration. The future of Louisiana does not have to be a grim one.

Kind Regards,
Cathrine Denman

<Blocked<https://mailtrack.io/>> Sent with Mailtrack <Blocked<https://mailtrack.io/install?source=signature&lang=en&referral=cathrinedenman@gmail.com&idSignature=22>>

From: m_dennard@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 11:45:36 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Mary Dennard
1434 Polymnia St
New Orleans, LA, 70130-5204

From: Pdenni@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 4:43:09 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Patrick Dennis
2302 st Charles Ave, 2B
New Orleans, Louisiana, 70130

From: robbiedenny@hotmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 12:29:23 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
Robbie Denny
1339 LAKESHORE DR
METAIRIE, LA, 70005

From: derbesr@bellsouth.net
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 8:32:51 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Approve the diversion project before it's too late to save anything!!!!

Thank you,
Bob Derbes
206 MELVYN DR
BELLE CHASSE, LA, 70037

From: gwderieg@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [GW Derieg](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 10:05:07 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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Sincerely,
GW Derieg
Lafayette, LA 70508

From: vcamview@hotmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 12:13:40 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
Russel Deroche Jr
PO BOX 534
Gramercy, LA, 70052

From: vcamview@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Russel Deroche Jr](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 4, 2017 12:03:14 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Russel Deroche Jr
Gramercy, LA 70052

From: [Fred Devall](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] scoping comments for Mid- Barrataria Diversion
Date: Tuesday, September 5, 2017 6:21:34 PM

Good Afternoon,

I am writing with two points that I hope you will consider as you consider the scope of impact study for the Mid-Barrataria Diversion.

The first is the possible lease of the land for a use other than the diversion. I believe the Times-Picayune did a story about this possibility over the summer. I am concerned that dollars could be wasted on researching a diversion on land that could become unavailable.

Second, I would like to raise the topic of compensation for the fishermen who may be temporarily or permanently displaced by a diversion project. Would a buy-out be in order or some kind of stop-gap help to prevent them from being bankrupt by the diversion? This is important so they are compensated but also so they cannot block the project for the rest of us who are negatively impacted by eroding and disappearing wetlands. I would like them to be made as whole as humanly and economically possible and to work with them to avoid a vote of no confidence by the commercial fishing industry.

Thank you,

Fred Devall

The Rev. Fred Devall, Rector

St. Martin's Episcopal Church

2216 Metairie Road

Metairie, LA 70001

o 504-835-7357

c 504-220-2075

f 504-835-8721

Blockedwww.stmepiscopal.com

From: lrdevine@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 12:48:13 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Lauren Devine
1377 Walnut Ter
Boca Raton, FL, 334866909

August 3rd, 2017

Ý kiến đóng góp phải được gửi trước ngày 5 tháng 9 năm 2017

Comment Form

Hợp Đánh giá Công khai, Thứ 5, ngày 20 tháng 7, 2017
EIS cho Dự án Chuyển dòng Trầm tích Trung Barataria
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

BẠN LÀ NHÂN VIÊN CÔNG VỤ? CÓ KHÔNG Nếu có, vị trí: _____

Họ và Tên NGA DIEM THI DIEP	Bằng cách nào quý vị biết về cuộc họp đánh giá công khai này? <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo Báo chí <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo qua Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Khác (hãy nêu rõ) CCC
Địa chỉ Đường phố 120 MILAN DR.	
Địa chỉ Hộp thư (nếu khác với địa chỉ đường phố)	
Thành phố, Tiểu bang, Mã vùng PORT SULPHUR, LA 70083	
Địa chỉ Email	
Cơ quan/Tổ chức	

Thông tin này sẽ được bổ sung vào danh sách mail dự án. Nếu bạn không muốn đưa vào danh sách mail, hãy đánh dấu vào hộp kiểm.

Ý KIẾN: (Hãy viết tiếp vào mặt sau nếu không đủ chỗ.)

Nếu mà xã nước ngọt là sò chết là tôi sẽ thất nghiệp. Muốn giúp đỡ cho có việc làm. Tôi không muốn xã nước ngọt.

NGA DIEP

August 3rd, 2017

**Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017**

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? Yes No

If yes, please specify the position.

First and Last Name NGA DIEM THI DIEP	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 120 MILAN DR.	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code PORT SULPHUR, LA 70083	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

If fresh water is diverted into this area, I will be unemployed because there will be no oysters to catch. I need help to find a job. I do not want freshwater diversion.

From: cathydisalvo1@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Catherine DiSalvo](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Tuesday, August 29, 2017 8:46:22 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

sincerely
Cathy and Phil DiSalvo

Sincerely,
Catherine DiSalvo
New Orleans, LA 70123

September 5th, 2017

**Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017**

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? Yes No

If yes, please specify the position.

First and Last Name Bup Do	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 2560 Carrie LN	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code Marrero LA 70072	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

We do not agree with the government to divert freshwater into our area. If the government releases freshwater, it will affect our family's life. Our family is facing more difficulties because we live on fishing.

Sept. 5, 2017

Ý kiến đóng góp phải được gửi trước ngày 5 tháng 9 năm 2017

Comment Form

Họp Đánh giá Công khai, Thứ 5, ngày 20 tháng 7, 2017
EIS cho Dự án Chuyển dòng Trầm tích Trung Barataria
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

BẠN LÀ NHÂN VIÊN CÔNG VỤ? CÓ KHÔNG Nếu có, vị trí: _____

Họ và Tên Bup Do	Bằng cách nào quý vị biết về cuộc họp đánh giá công khai này?
Địa chỉ Đường phố 2560 Carrie LN	<input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo Báo chí <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo qua Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Khác (hãy nêu rõ)
Địa chỉ Hộp thư (nếu khác với địa chỉ đường phố)	ecc
Thành phố, Tiểu bang, Mã vùng Marrero LA 70072	
Địa chỉ Email	
Cơ quan/Tổ chức	

Thông tin này sẽ được bổ sung vào danh sách mail dự án. Nếu bạn không muốn đưa vào danh sách mail, hãy đánh dấu vào hộp kiểm.

Ý KIẾN: (Hãy viết tiếp vào mặt sau nếu không đủ chỗ.)

Tôi xin có ý kiến chúng tôi không đồng ý chính phủ xả nước ngọt, nếu chính phủ xả nước ngọt thì ảnh hưởng đến cuộc sống gia đình chúng tôi, nếu chính phủ xả nước ngọt thì cuộc sống gia đình chúng tôi gặp nhiều khó khăn hơn vì gia đình chúng tôi sống về nghề ngư phủ.

Sept. 5, 2017

Comment Form

Họp Đánh giá Công khai, Thứ 5, ngày 20 tháng 7, 2017
EIS cho Dự án Chuyển dòng Trầm tích Trung Barataria
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Ý kiến đóng góp phải được gửi trước ngày 5 tháng 9 năm 2017

BẠN LÀ NHÂN VIÊN CÔNG VỤ? CÓ KHÔNG Nếu có, vị trí: _____

Họ và Tên Dan Chinh Do	Bằng cách nào quý vị biết về cuộc họp đánh giá công khai này? <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo Báo chí <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo qua Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Khác (hãy nêu rõ) ccc
Địa chỉ Đường phố 2401 Sunset Dr Harvey, LA 70058	
Địa chỉ Hộp thư (nếu khác với địa chỉ đường phố)	
Thành phố, Tiểu bang, Mã vùng	
Địa chỉ Email	
Cơ quan/Tổ chức	

Thông tin này sẽ được bổ sung vào danh sách mail dự án. Nếu bạn không muốn đưa vào danh sách mail, hãy đánh dấu vào hộp kiểm.

Ý KIẾN: (Hãy viết tiếp vào mặt sau nếu không đủ chỗ.)

Tôi là một người dân biển, tôi đã gắn bó với nghề biển này cũng đã 10 năm. Gia đình tất cả đều phụ thuộc vào biển cả, vợ và con tôi cũng vậy.

Những hôm nay tôi nghe là có lệnh xả đập hươc, tôi rất lo lắng, vì làm như vậy tôm cá sẽ đi hết, tất cả mọi người đều không có công ăn việc làm.

Mà nếu như vậy họ có giúp cho mọi người trong lúc gặp khó khăn không.

September 5th, 2017

**Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017**

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? Yes No

If yes, please specify the position.

First and Last Name Dan Chinh Do	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 2401 Sunset D2 Harvey, LA 70058	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

I am a man of the sea. I have been engaged in marine fishing for 10 years. All of my family is dependent on the sea.
But today I heard that there will be a water diversion from the dam, we are very worried because fish and shrimps will go away, and everyone will have no job.
If so, does the government help us when we face difficulties?

August 28, 2017

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

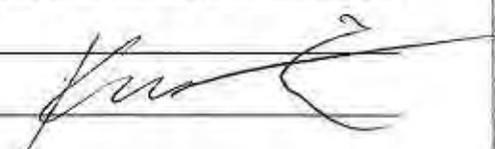
ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Kiet Do	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) Coastal Communities Consulting, Inc.
Street Address 838 Behrman Hwy	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code Gretna, LA 70056	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

If the freshwater diversion happens, it will affect the shrimp. Our income would not be the same as over 10 years ago. Since my income will be affected, I want the government to pay me for the loss I will receive when the freshwater diversion happens.



Sept. 5, 2017

Ý kiến đóng góp phải được gửi trước ngày 5 tháng 9 năm 2017

Comment Form

Hợp Đánh giá Công khai, Thứ 5, ngày 20 tháng 7, 2017
EIS cho Dự án Chuyển dòng Trầm tích Trung Barataria
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

BẠN LÀ NHÂN VIÊN CÔNG VỤ? CÓ KHÔNG Nếu có, vị trí: _____

Họ và Tên YEN HUYNH DO	Bằng cách nào quý vị biết về cuộc họp đánh giá công khai này? <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo Báo chí <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo qua Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Khác (hãy nêu rõ) ccc
Địa chỉ Đường phố 2401 Sunset DR Harvey, LA, 70058	
Địa chỉ Hộp thư (nếu khác với địa chỉ đường phố)	
Thành phố, Tiểu bang, Mã vùng	
Địa chỉ Email	
Cơ quan/Tổ chức	

Thông tin này sẽ được bổ sung vào danh sách mail dự án. Nếu bạn không muốn đưa vào danh sách mail, hãy đánh dấu vào hộp kiểm.

Ý KIẾN: (Hãy viết tiếp vào mặt sau nếu không đủ chỗ.)

Gia đình tôi đã gắn bó với nghề biển cũng bao năm rồi, chồng tôi đi tàu, còn tôi ở nhà chăm sóc con, gia đình tôi cũng nhờ vậy mà cũng lây lắt qua ngày, con tôi nhờ cha nó có job làm nên mới được đi học đang hoàng, con tôi thì đã lớn tuổi nên không kiếm được việc làm, tất cả đều nhờ vào tầm cá mà sống.

Những hôm nay tôi lại nghe có vấn đề là phải xả đập nước, như vậy tôi

Không biết làm sao đây.. Như tui đở trình bày là gia đình tất cả đều phụ thuộc vào ngành biển, mà khi xã đập nước thì tôm cá sẽ không còn nữa, thì lúc đó phải sống bằng cách nào.

• Nếu như bác phải xã đập thì họ phải giúp gia đình ngủ lại trong thời gian khó khăn.

• Và nếu như có đường trình miễn tiền thì chắc hẳn hông có ai muốn hết bởi vì không có tiền để trả cho họ, và tui cũng hy vọng rằng họ sẽ có biện pháp ven toàn hảo.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118



Place postage here

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

September 5th, 2017

**Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017**

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? Yes No

If yes, please specify the position.

First and Last Name YEN HUYNH DO	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 2401 Sunset Dr, Harvey, LA 70058	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

My family has been engaged in marine fishing for years. My husband does fishing on board, and I stay at home to look after my children, so my family struggles through the day. Thanks to my husband's fishing job, my children can go to school, and I am too old to get a job, we all rely on shrimps and fish.

But today I heard that the dam would be opened. If so, how do we live? As I mentioned above, all my family is dependent on the marine industry; but when they release water from the dam, there will be no fish and shrimps any more.
Then how can we make a living?

If water diversion is unavoidable, the government should help the families of fishermen in the hard time.

And if there is a loan program, there must be no one to borrow because there is no money to pay back. I hope that they will find more comprehensive measures.

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Barbara Dodds](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2017 8:25:51 PM

Aug 22, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

* Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.

* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Barbara Dodds
143 Tchefuncte Dr
Covington, LA 70433-4925
(985) 892-8671
barb35@bellsouth.net

From: barb35@bellsouth.net
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 1:24:03 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Barbara Dodds
143 Tchefuncte Dr.
Covington, LA, 70433

From: daisydodge@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Tuesday, August 1, 2017 4:52:27 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Daisy Dodge
856 Wilson Drive
New Orleans, Louisiana, 70119

From: ginger_353@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO - PLEASE GET ON THE STICK! I DO NOT WANT TO MOVE!!!!
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 12:52:08 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
VIRGINIA DODGE
353 BROADWAY
NEW ORLEANS, LA, 70118

From: dmdfct@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, July 28, 2017 1:46:03 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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Thank you,
Dennis Dougherty
1000 Bayhills Drive
San Rafael, Ca, 94903

Rev. Dr. Seamus P. Doyle. AADC, LAC
St John's Episcopal Church
2109 17th Street
Kenner, La 70065
spdirish@yahoo.com
870 688 4221

SEP 07 2017

9 1 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

Re: Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Environmental Impact Statement.

I have returned to southern Louisiana after a hiatus of some thirty years. In 1974 I came to Thibodaux from Ireland and fell in love with this region. I left and returned after five years and lived and worked in Baton Rouge and Lafayette for twelve years. I am now home for good.

Upon returning I took a few trips through the territory I remembered from earlier visits and experienced a sadness at the damage done to the region by the Storms of life and an appreciation of what is being accomplished.

I am writing to you as a person interested in the locality and as the Pastor of a church of people who have lived here for a long time. I am writing because, while I am neither a hunter, fisherman, or landowner, I have a great respect for the land and the wild life who live there. It is my belief that, since we evolved from swamps such as this, it is our duty to care for and protect the salt and fresh water that has created such an outstanding diversity of life.

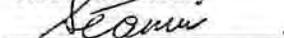
It is my understanding that there are programs already initiated yet I'm curious to know if there are ways to expedite the permitting decision to make it happen prior to 2022?

Since there are multiple stakeholders in this region is it your intention to work in tandem with other agencies as well as the State of Louisiana to verify this takes place promptly.

As we all know, one action creates a reaction. This raises the question of the need for a study on the future effects on the ecosystem and wildlife if NOTHING is done in terms a Diversion project. Not only that, but what will the future of this region look like WITHOUT the diversion in place?

It is my hope that the Corps will release any and all studies done in favor of and impact of neglect of the Diversion program so we can all comment upon and, where appropriate, give it our full support.

Yours sincerely



Seamus P. Doyle.

From: sydney@lafittegreenway.org
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 12:47:18 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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Thank you,
Sydney Doyle
2623 Joliet St
New Orleans, LA, 70118

From: apdrete@hotmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 8:07:57 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

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Thank you,
Arlene Drete
2461 N Rosser Rd
Ajo, AZ, 85321

From: jjdmetla@bellsouth.net
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 10:33:57 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

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Thank you,
John Driscoll
5200 Alphonse Court
Metairie, LA, 70006

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Paula Cristina Dugin](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 4:42:04 PM

Aug 17, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

* Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.

* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Paula Cristina Dugin
1013, Oaklawn
Rio de Janeiro, LA 70506
0
paula.dugin@gmail.com

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Monica Duncan](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 2:48:09 PM

Aug 17, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

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I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Ms. Monica Duncan
16183 Trapen Ln
Tickfaw, LA 70466-2209
(985) 542-0662
mad54red@yahoo.com

From: rdunn@auduboninstitute.org
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 3:59:33 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

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Get it done!!

Thank you,
Richard Dunn
2826 Somerset Dr.
New Orleans, LA, 70131

From: jsdthree3@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 24, 2017 7:45:35 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
John Dupont
P. O. box 3542
Saint Francisville, Louisiana, 70775

August 25th, 2017

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Myong Durbin	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 5470 Provincial Place	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code New Orleans, LA 70072	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

I work as a fisherman for 15 years and now I just have my own boat. I do not want diversion because freshwater will affect the shrimp - not a lot or kill them all. In what ways can you do to help stop the freshwater coming in to the bays? If there are shrimps, I can work and survive daily. If there are no shrimps, I cannot work and support my family. Thank you.

Myong H. Durbin

August 25th, 2017

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Myong Durbin	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 5470 Provincial Place	
Mailing Address (If different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code New Orleans, LA 70072 70129	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

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Myong H Durbin

From: deswest1122@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [D.Durham](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 3:52:28 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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Sincerely,
D Durham
New Orleans, LA 70124

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Desiree Durham](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 6:28:22 PM

Aug 17, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

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I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Desiree Durham
801 Polk St
New Orleans, LA 70124-2947
(504) 000-0322
deswest1122@yahoo.com

From: gwenduthu@hotmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, July 28, 2017 5:05:55 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

I grew up in South Louisiana, spending my childhood summers in Grand Isle. In the 1960s the drive to Grand Isle was through luxuriant saltwater marsh. Today, most of the remembered marshland is now open water, crossed by an elevated roadway to get to Grand Isle. The loss of these marshes not only has reduced the nurseries for Louisiana's wildlife it has removed an important storm buffer for the coast. In view of continued subsidence and growing sea level rise, any action that can be taken to rebuild the vanishing marshes should be taken as soon as possible.

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
Gwen Duthu
33441 Marion Drive
Denham Springs, Louisiana, 70706

From: [Kevin Edgecombe](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Barateria Diversion Comment
Date: Friday, August 18, 2017 11:39:49 AM

To whom it may concern,

We desperately need this project on the fast track, not only is our way of life in danger but so are our homes. I wish the projects of the past had all been built and open to capacity. If that had occurred maybe Katrina would not been as bad. The entire community I grew up in changed. From grocery stores to schools, nothing that was here before remains. We lost over half of our population if not more, they all vowed never to return.

The fishermen and oystermen against this project all have a second home away from the community now. They can afford something elsewhere. Others can not. I beg of you to get this project built, with out i will be the last in my family to live on my family land that has been our's for over 100 years.

From: susanhesteredmunds@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Susan Hester Edmunds](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 7:40:19 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Susan Hester Edmunds
New Iberia, LA 70563

From: susanhesteredmunds@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 18, 2017 1:56:42 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Susan Edmunds
317 Allen St
New Iberia, LA, 705632407

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Susan Edmunds](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 1:07:27 PM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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Thank you,

Mrs. Susan Edmunds
317 Allen St
New Iberia, LA 70563-2407
(123) 456-7890
susanhesteredmunds@yahoo.com

From: david.elleson@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [David Elleson](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 1:55:23 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Sincerely,
David Elleson
Ruston, LA 71270

From: Haydeelellis@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 18, 2017 1:30:06 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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Thank you,
Haydee Ellis
2406 Laurel St.
New Orleans, LA, 70130

August 7th, 2017

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting?
Shawn Ellis	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
Street Address	ccc
37605 Highway 23	
Mailing Address	
(if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code	
Buras, LA 70041	
Email Address	
Laziboi812@gmail.com	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

Currently, I am able to shrimp inshore 3' outside of state lines. However, if I continue to have to keep going out further to chase both brown & white shrimp, I won't be able to sustain my business because the expenses and time associated w/ going out further are high. I cannot afford to go out any further than I currently do. Too much freshwater will certainly push the shrimp further out. In the environmental study, I would like them to study the economic risks on the shrimping industry. In other words, how will the shrimp be affected, how much money would businesses anticipate losing, etc?

Shawn Ellis

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Camille Ellis-Vickers](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 11:51:51 AM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

As a resident of New Orleans who has lived through Katrina and many other flooding events, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Thank you,

Ms. Camille Ellis-Vickers
1106 Ursulines Ave
New Orleans, LA 70116-2306
Private
camvickers@aaahawk.com

From: aelsee@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Allison Elsee](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 12:14:46 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Sincerely,
Allison Elsee
New Orleans, LA 70118

From: gevans@lsuhsc.edu
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 8:22:56 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
Gerald Evans
128 Fontainbleau
Mandeville, LA, 70471

From: b@rox.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 11:01:59 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

It's my understanding that the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion is absolutely essential to the health and vitality of our region. I urge the Corps to build it as swiftly as possible. I hope the Scoping Report can be finished in the next couple months so the project can proceed.

Thank you,
Bart Everson
4329 Banks St
New Orleans, LA, 701196716

From: christineewy@cox.net
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 5:27:46 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Christine Ewy
837 Hesper Ave.
Metairie, LA, 70005

August 4, 2017

To whom it may concern:

My name is Ted Falgout and these are my written comments regarding the Special Public Notice for developing a draft EIS on the proposed Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion.

Before I get to the “meat” of my comments, I would like to tell you a little about myself because I believe it will lend credence to my comments. I am 66 yrs old and have lived in the Barataria Basin (Larose) all of my life as the four generations before me. Some of my fondest memories come from trapping, hunting, fishing and alligatoring with my grandfather, father and siblings. My love for the outdoors only grew as I got older and my involvement in this fascinating basin grew as well.

When I graduated from South Lafourche High School, I attended USL in Lafayette and obtained a degree in Fisheries Biology. After graduating, I became the first Louisiana Sea Grant Marine Extension Agent administered by LSU. While working for LSU, one of my many responsibilities was being the liaison between the fishermen and the University Researchers, which enabled me to obtain a unique understanding of the people and the science behind this basin. I obtained my masters degree and my thesis was entitled “Commercial Fishermen’s Perceptions of Coastal Zone Management”. Coastal Zone Management was a relatively new concept at the time, but early on, I realized that the coast was in trouble and we needed to better manage this process. I went on to serve as Chairman of the Lafourche Parish Coastal Zone Management Committee (a volunteer job) for over 30 yrs.

During my time at LSU, the LA Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries was establishing an alligator farming program in the state and this opportunity appealed to me, so my brother, and I started T-Bois Aquaculture, an alligator and crawfish farming operation. As part of the alligator egg harvesting, I had the opportunity annually, to fly over hundreds of thousands of acres of fresh, intermediate and brackish marsh, while looking for alligator nests. During this almost 40 year span, I had the opportunity of a bird’s eye view of the loss of marsh and habitat changes in the Barataria Basin.

In 1978, I left the Marine Advisory Program to become the Executive Director of the Greater Lafourche Port Commission, the public body that manages Port Fourchon. During the 31yrs I served as Director, I had the opportunity to be part of building a coastal port and participate in many projects that involved hardening of infrastructure, flood protection, dredging and mitigation. As I often say, “we were doing coastal restoration before it was cool to do so”! Having been directly involved in building thousands of acres of marsh and maritime forest ridges by hydraulic dredging, building offshore breakwaters and coastal dune protection, has enabled me to gain a broad perspective of what works and what doesn’t in coastal restoration.

Today, as a retired inhabitant of the basin, I remain actively involved in coastal initiatives but mostly I hunt and fish and enjoy the basin daily and remain more concerned than ever that we are losing this treasure that I love and one that has helped provide my livelihood and generations of my family before me. The urgency to build the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion cannot be overstated!

I tell you all these things not because I am so enamored with myself and accomplishments, but rather because I think my set of experiences is rather unique and that my thoughts come from hands on experiences with a very broad cross section of activities and basin users.

My first comment is procedural in that I believe you should have held a scoping meeting in Lafourche Parish. Hearing the comments from the entire basin is important and I believe hearing from the Parish that is not near the river but stands to benefit greatly, is important.

Time and Tide are not on our side and it is extremely important that the permitting process be expedited when and wherever possible. The estimate that it could take 5 yrs to obtain a permit is absurd and shame on those "in charge" if they lack the bold leadership to stream this process to 18 months! We have gathered more information on the Barataria Basin over time than perhaps any other basin. Let's use it wherever possible to expedite this NEPA process. The State and Corps should provide a written document on how they intend to reduce the time for permitting and identify obstacles that need to be corrected for this and future projects.

In my opinion, we are wasting money and precious time studying the impacts to every critter in the estuary. As a fisheries biologist and as a person who fishes, shrimps and does about everything you can imagine in this basin, there is no single or cumulative impact that could change my mind about the need and urgency to re-connect the Mississippi River to this estuary because I have witnessed firsthand, what the "No Action" alternative is delivering! Yes there will be impacts, both positive and negative and fisheries will change, perhaps drastically, but the alternative is far worse!

What more appropriate project to spend Deepwater Horizon Impact money on? No other basin or region received greater impact from the spill. This is where the money should be spent!

Let's not make the same mistakes like we made in Davis Pond where we succumbed to special interest (mainly oyster) and greatly reduced the flexibility of the project which has resulted in the structure being operated at far less than capacity and benefits greatly reduced. In my opinion a great project with great potential at a cost of over \$100M, is squandered! The preferred alternative should have the maximum amount of flexibility in operations and adaptive management in order to maximize benefits and our investment.

If we are to continue to live and enjoy this natural and manmade treasure, we have to view flood protection and restoration on an even keel. No diversion or other tool in our chest to fight coastal land loss will stop sea level rise and subsidence. We need to select the areas we intend to live and build adequate levees to protect them and divert freshwater and sediment into the basin which will help sustain our flood protection projects.

The repercussions of a "NO Action Alternative", which essentially is a deltaic ecosystem collapse, should be the measure that we compare potential impacts to, especially by the federal review agencies.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my thoughts,
Ted M. Falgout , 720 Hamilton St., Larose, LA 985 258-7180

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Sally Farrell](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 2:59:42 PM

Aug 17, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

* Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.

* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Ms. Sally Farrell
416 Hillary St
New Orleans, LA 70118-3832
(504) 866-7260
sallybfarrell@gmail.com

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Denice Fazende	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
Street Address 2589 B Privateer Blvd.	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code Barataria, La. 70036	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

For Jefferson Parish fisherman the Hwy 90 diversion killed off 1/2 of our waters that we fished shrimp in locally. We believe that this diversion will killed off the other half and with this kill off a large number of Commercial Fisherman from the areas of Jefferson, Lafourche, Plaquemine Parish.

For fishermen this diversion will destroy our way of living.

From: arfeldman@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, July 28, 2017 9:55:14 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Thank you,
Alisha Feldman
2025 Almonaster Ave
New Orleans, LA, 701176901

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Ray Ferguson](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 7:28:15 PM

Aug 17, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

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* Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.

* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Mr. Ray Ferguson
3614 Roy Rd
Shreveport, LA 71107-8240
(318) 929-1869
rjferg@aol.com

From: darmf@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 7:40:53 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Darlene Fischer
709 Wood Duck Ln
Slidell, LA, 70461-1680

From: [Pat Fitzpatrick](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Cc: [Capt. George Ricks](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] comments on Environmental impact of Mid-Barataria diversion; attention MVN-2012-2806-EOO
Date: Tuesday, August 1, 2017 1:46:07 PM

To whom it may concern,

Enclosed are my comments regarding the environmental impact of the proposed Mid-Barataria diversion

1) Reason for declining diversion construction

a. Hypoxia threat and nutrient overload

Current hypoxia problems are well-documented in Louisiana and Mississippi, and the problem is expanding based on the limited infrastructure for monitoring programs. There are also studies showing the high-nutrient water is impacting saltwater marsh roots which makes them susceptible to wave erosion and high-energy storm surge.

b. Invasive species

Asian carp are expanding throughout the basins, not only competing with current resources but a danger to boaters. Invasive vegetation is also an issue

c. Encourage study of Mardi Gras Pass first

Mardi Gras Pass provides a model for diversion effectiveness. Proponents claim this break in the Mississippi River will build a delta without the aid of dredging. Let's give Mardi Gras Pass time to assess its potential. The metric should be a real delta --- a silted-in canal should not count as land-building. Furthermore, should a delta emerge, there should be net land gain. A delta surrounded by erosion and land loss is not an effective metric.

2) Requirement for monitoring system should diversion construction be approved

Louisiana has a history of ineffective monitoring of current diversions. For example, the triggering requirements for running the Caernarvon diversion are based on only two salinity platforms, and the metric is based within a range of a standard deviation from seasonal average ---- a very loose requirement that effectively allows them to run the diversion in almost any condition. An independent monitoring team is required with strict metrics for salinity, nutrients, pollutants, and hypoxia in a dense observation network, plus weekly boat excursions to supplement the network. If evidence exists the diversion is not working as planned, they should have the authority to shutdown the diversion until the problem is fixed. Without such a system, the diversion must not be allowed for construction.

Sincerely,

Dr. Pat Fitzpatrick
180-B Slidell, LA 70458

From: lindaf199@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Linda Flores](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 4:32:10 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Linda Flores
Belcher, LA 71004

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Mary Ellen Foley](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 12:09:59 PM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,

Dr. Mary Ellen Foley
207 Preston Ave
Shreveport, LA 71105-3307
(123) 456-7890
me.foley@comcast.net

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Nico Font](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 18, 2017 12:33:40 PM

Aug 18, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

* Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.

* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Mr. Nico Font
5/1 conely bank row
Edinburgh, LA 71150
(077) 776-2618
nicolas.font89@gmail.com

From: 2widdershins@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 10:38:58 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Courtney Forbes
156 Oak Hollow Dr
Hammond, LA, 70401

From: bforbes04@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 11:14:57 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
William Forbes
607 Burk Street
Nacogdoches, Texas, 75964

From: rkforemanapllc@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Randall Foreman](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 10:06:36 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Randall Foreman
Metairie, LA 70005

From: mforshag@cox.net
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 1:53:31 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

Approve the diversion and allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Mark Forshag
5927 Laurel St
New Orleans, LA, 70115

From: bfortier@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Barney Fortier](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 6:30:12 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Barney Fortier
Lafayette, LA 70506

From: bfortier@me.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 6:44:17 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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Thank you,
Barney Fortier
140 Statesman Dr Apt D21
Lafayette, LA, 705068280

From: lmafoster@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Lonie Foster](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 12:17:03 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Lonie Foster
Houma, LA 70361

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Errol Fouquet](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 12:10:52 PM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I sincerely hope you can help us push this initiative forward!

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,

Mr. Errol Fouquet
4234 Laurel St
New Orleans, LA 70115-1451
(123) 456-7890

errol@fouquet.cc

From: jfox.atl@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 10:30:11 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in the continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife, and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you sir,
James Fox
2821 Maurepas St
New Orleans, LA, 70119

From: debrfrank@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 5:59:35 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Deborah Frank
303 Drew Park Dr
Lake Charles, LA, 70701

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Bruce Fraser](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 11:05:52 AM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,

Mr. Bruce Fraser
702 Daniels St
Baker, LA 70714-3626
(225) 775-2265
sky1048@cox.net

From: jujuba@mindspring.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Sunday, July 30, 2017 11:53:58 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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Thank you,
Julene Freitas
455 43rd
Oakland, Ca, 94609

From: pamfrelan@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Pam Freshney](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Tuesday, August 29, 2017 6:33:24 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Pam Freshney
Saint Francisville, LA 70775

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Pam Freshney](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 2:34:43 PM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,

Ms. Pam Freshney
14137 LA Hwy.10
St. Francisville, LA 70775
(225) 635-3324
pamfrelan@gmail.com

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

<p>First and Last Name Eric J. Frickey</p> <p>Street Address 4279 JEAN LAFITTE BLVD</p> <p>Mailing Address (if different from street address)</p> <p>City, State, Zip Code LAFITTE, LA. 70067</p> <p>Email Address</p> <p>Affiliation</p>	<p>How did you learn about this public scoping meeting?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Email</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Website</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)</p>
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This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

I was a Commercial fisherman for 55 years,
I am all for what you all are proposing to do
The only thing I am concerned about is the Oyster
fisherman, I wish they would bill up the land
around the Lafitte area, I am a Retired Shrimp
and live in Lafitte and the Land is disappearing
Sure wish you all could do something about
our area, Thank you

Eric J. Frickey

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Carolyn Honey Friedman](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Sunday, August 20, 2017 2:33:44 PM

Aug 20, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

* Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.

* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Dr. Carolyn Honey Friedman
9605 Jefferson Hwy Ste I # 133
New Orleans, LA 70123-2550
(845) 300-4477
honey.friedman@gmail.com

From: bjfruge@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, July 28, 2017 7:55:57 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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Thank you,
Bernadette Fruge
137 Edie Ann Dr
Lafayette, LA, 705085322

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Mary Fuglaar](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 3:57:50 PM

Aug 17, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

* Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.

* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

I have been fortunate to have visited this area several times since 2000. I saw the dramatic change between 2000 and 2005, before Katrina. I was shocked. After Katrina, there wasn't so much left. Please get this project moving. Our wetlands provide many benefits to this area. Please help stop this loss. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Mary Fuglaar
207 Dupont Dr
West Monroe, LA 71291-4718
(318) 396-3287
m_fuglaar@msn.com

From: eigan001@mail.goucher.edu
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 18, 2017 3:14:38 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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Thank you,
Eilise Gancarz-Davies
2015 Valence St
New Orleans, LA, 701155557

From: roberthgardiner@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 4:25:14 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
robert Gardiner
1030 Webster Street
New Orleans, Louisiana, 70118-5953

From: garner.empowerment@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 11:53:27 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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Thank you,
Joan Garner
909 Semmes Street
New Orleans, LA, 70114

From: r222mus@earthlink.net
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 12:45:59 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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- The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Rudolph Gartner
5340 S Hyde Park Blvd.
Chicago, IL, 60615

From: sgauth5@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Sarah Gauthier](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Saturday, August 5, 2017 6:12:32 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Sincerely,
Sarah Gauthier
Denham Springs, LA 70726

From: mysticbeliever999@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [jaleh Gautreaux](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 10:31:58 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Sincerely,
jaleh Gautreaux
Lafayette, LA 70507

September 5, 2017

Brad Laborde
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

Via e-mail: Brad.Laborde@usace.army.mil

Re: Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS Scoping Comments

Dear Mr. Laborde:

Please accept the following comments for consideration in framing the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Mid- Barataria Sediment Diversion.

First, as I have been a participant in the development of policies and programs addressing Louisiana's coastal ecosystem crisis since the state of Louisiana first established its program in 1989, I am very appreciative of this opportunity to comment on this phase of the project's development. Diversions have long-been recognized, and the proposed Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has emerged, in combination with other types of coastal projects, as being one of the foundational approaches to conserving and restoring the valuable natural, cultural and economic resources of our state, region and nation.

While more specific comments are below, I urge the team developing the EIS to recognize the urgent need to implement projects addressing coastal land loss, and to that end, develop an EIS that builds on the vast amount of information generated over the last three decades; is prioritized and coordinated among the partner agencies, provides for flexibility in project operations based on an adaptive management plan, and provides numerous and clear opportunities for public engagement.

Specifically, I request the following be considered:

- Any analysis of the diversion and its impacts on the surrounding environment should consider what will happen to the Barataria Basin and the surrounding areas without this sediment diversion (the No Action Alternative).
- The completion and the release of the Scoping Report by the September 30th deadline posted on the Federal Permitting Dashboard. The steps leading to completion of the Draft EIS and opportunities for efficiencies in the permitting process should be included in the report.
- Studies that have been conducted as part of the NEPA decision-making process, as well as other studies relevant to the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should be incorporated into the Scoping Report and the draft EIS.
- There should be an ongoing effort to assist the public in understanding the NEPA process and providing information and updates to the public throughout the process.

- The preferred alternative should provide the flexibility to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions. Permit conditions should include clear guidelines, regular reporting, and a well-developed and long-term monitoring program.

Thank you in advance for consideration of these comments. Please contact me if I can provide additional information or assistance in this important effort.

Sincerely,

Karen Gautreaux

From: gelbartsusannah@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 4:32:20 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
Susannah Gelbart
5181 N Tioga Way
Las Vegas, NV, 891495817

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Rene Gelsomino](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 2:58:43 PM

Aug 17, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations
and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30
years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this
Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

* Please regularly share information with the public and other
stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of
the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin
should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which
could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife
and culture.

* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion
should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations
over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we
learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and
request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Miss Rene Gelsomino
121 Ivy Ct
Luling, LA 70070-3025
(985) 785-6242
rene659@hotmail.com

From: rene659@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Rene Gelsomino](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 11:42:14 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Rene Gelsomino
Luling, LA 70070

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Ronnie George](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 12:34:58 PM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,

Mr. Ronnie George
1125 Roussell St Apt 4
Houma, LA 70360-5610
(123) 456-7890
ronniegeorge1944@yahoo.com

From: getangelique@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 9:27:08 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Angelique Gettle
1419 Stanford St
Santa Monica, CA, 904043145

From: weareallone@verizon.net
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, July 28, 2017 8:02:14 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
valerie gilbert
345 E 56th St
New York, NY, 100223736

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Patricia Gilley](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 11:13:34 AM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I am an attorney of some 40+ years, I have lived in Louisiana for the past 32 years, but most importantly, I am a grandmother. I want my grandchildren to enjoy the beauty of this state as i have. That joy is diminishing by the day. This destruction must STOP!

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,

Mrs. Patricia Gilley

820 Jordan St Ste 206
Shreveport, LA 71101-4519
(123) 456-7890
patriciadordangilley@gmail.com

From: lexnola@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 12:04:32 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Sherry Ginn
3604 Elgin St
Metairie, LA, 70001-3923

From: eddie@qualitygroup-usa.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2017 5:59:02 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
edward gonzales
3274 Ridgeway blvd
new orleans, la, 70129

From: 1207dauphonestreet@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 2:44:32 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Margaret Gonzalez
Po box 88
Lacombe, LA, 70445

From: carrie.goodall@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Carrie Goodall](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2017 9:52:25 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Carrie Goodall
Prairieville, LA 70769

From: mattiegoodwin@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Mattie Goodwin](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 10:15:58 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Mattie Goodwin
Shreveport, LA 71105

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Ben Gordon](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 4:16:32 PM

Aug 17, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

* Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.

* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Mr. Ben Gordon
PO Box 71443
New Orleans, LA 70172-1443
(504) 522-3751
benhgordon@yahoo.com

From: rgorman@hdiocese.org
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 9:34:35 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As a resident of coastal Louisiana (Thibodaux) and a board member of the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana I urge you to act in all haste on the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion project.

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Robert Gorman
302 Thoroughbred Drive
Thibodaux, Louisiana, 70301

From: wgemedicaid@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Wayne Gossett](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 1:57:28 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Wayne Gossett
Destrehan, LA 70047

From: marie@lostlandstours.org
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Monday, August 21, 2017 8:00:25 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As a small business owner and a citizen of south Louisiana I am concerned about the environmental health of coastal Louisiana. The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Marie Gould
Louisiana Lost Lands Environmental Tours, L3C
2411 Octavia Street
New Orleans, LA, 70115

From: liaisonsus@aol.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 10:56:50 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is real and urgent and will only worsen unless we act NOW – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) on our payroll, to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture. This would be unacceptable!
- Be transparent. I strongly recommend to regularly share information with the public, your employers and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I strongly urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Rosemary Graham-Gardner
PO BOX 3335
Manhattan Beach, CA, 902661335

From: rmgrams@bellsouth.net
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, July 28, 2017 12:36:50 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Richard Grams
112 Queens Ln
Slidell, LA, 704581408

From: elaine_grant@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Elaine Grant](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 4, 2017 12:27:33 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Sincerely,
Elaine Grant
Baton Rouge, LA 70810



Greater Lafourche Port Commission

Port Fourchon ♦ South Lafourche Leonard Miller, Jr. Airport

"The Gulf's Energy Connection"



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118
CEMVN-Midbarataria@usace.army.mil

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments related to Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana's (CPRA) proposed project of Mid Barataria Sediment Diversion and the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) currently being prepared by CEMVN in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) as a result.

As the manager of both Port Fourchon and the South Lafourche Leonard Miller Jr Airport, the Greater Lafourche Port Commission understands the importance and value of coastal protection and restoration more than most. Our port and airport serve as the service hub for the American energy industry, and we play a role in bringing nearly 20% of the Nation's energy supply on shore. To date, we have constructed or restored nearly 1,000 acres of wetlands immediately along the coast, and so we also understand the value of projects like the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion for their ability to help sustain vital works to rebuild coastal areas which in turn provide storm protection benefits to our community and infrastructure throughout the Barataria Basin.

Barataria Basin has experienced tremendous change with tens of thousands of acres of wetlands having been converted to open water, threatening communities, industry and wildlife. The 2017 Coastal Master Plan predicts with the "No Action" alternative, Barataria Basin will lose roughly 550 square miles in the next 50 years under the medium future scenario. Working to support the industry in this basin every day representing protection projects within the Barataria Basin, this future is unfathomable and crippling to the long-term sustainability of not only Lafourche Parish, but southern Louisiana's most critical economic corridor.

Mid-Barataria is critical to the long-term, holistic survivability of the Barataria Basin because it is crucial to reconnecting and reestablishing the basin's connection to the renewing power of the fresh water and sediment-laden Mississippi River. Based on this simple yet powerful principle, Mid Barataria is not a novel idea, but instead has been studied for over 30 years. The many decisions that have already been made through official NEPA processes and other studies over this long period should be incorporated into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS, particularly when doing so would shorten the Mid-Barataria permitting timeline.

Additionally, sediment diversions, such as the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion, are essential and proven restoration techniques to support investments made in marsh creation. Sediment diversions have demonstrated every time they are tried that they sustain marsh creation projects for longer periods of

AIRPORT OPERATIONS

South Lafourche Airport

Airport Road
Galliano, LA 70354
Phone: (985) 632-1118
Fax: (985) 632-5234

GLPC ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

South Lafourche Airport / Port Fourchon

16829 East Main Street
Cut Off, LA 70345
Phone: (985) 632-6701
Fax: (985) 632-6703
E-mail: glpc@portfourchon.com

www.portfourchon.com

SEAPORT OPERATIONS

Port Fourchon Operations Center

108 A.O. Rappelet Road
Port Fourchon, LA 70357
Phone: (985) 396-2750
Fax: (985) 396-2596

time. Furthermore, sediment diversions have long-term benefits that constructed marsh creation projects do not, mainly that they can continuously build land over time and sustain existing and created wetlands.

In summary, the efforts of generations of USACE teams and the scientific community to study this project over the past 30 years are greatly appreciated, as is their commitment to dealing with our land loss crisis. I remain hopeful that this team will be the ones to bring about swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion ahead of the current schedule.

Sincerely,

Chett Chiasson, MPA
Executive Director
Greater Lafourche Port Commission



10 PARISHES
Jefferson
Orleans
Plaquemines
St. Bernard
St. Charles
St. James
St. John the Baptist
St. Tammany
Tangipahoa
Washington

September 5, 2017

Colonel Michael N. Clancy
Department Of The Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70118

Colonel Clancy,

As the economic development alliance for the 10-parish Greater New Orleans region, I am contacting you today to voice my support for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion proposed by the State of Louisiana's Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA). Greater New Orleans, Inc. (GNO, Inc.'s) mission is to serve as a catalyst for wealth generation in our region: the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion directly furthers this mission by stabilizing our coast and allowing us to grow our economy.

In light of the extraordinary and unparalleled land building and coastal protection benefits the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion will provide Southeast Louisiana, I greatly appreciate the time and due diligence the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is putting into the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this diversion. However, I hope the USACE is also taking into account the extraordinary studies that have been undertaken for the last 30 years around this project, and are leveraging prior work to the greatest extent possible. Time is of the essence on our coast, and decisive action is critical to our very survival and economic prosperity in this region.

I would also like to express my deep frustration with the recent permitting delays announced by the USACE. For the economy of Greater New Orleans, this two year delay is unacceptable: it immediately puts our environment and all of our business development efforts in a state of instability. The uncertainty caused by the USACE via this revised timeline enhances the risk of many of our largest industrial assets, employers and wealth generators. It is my sincere hope that the EIS include an updated timeline amending these permitting delays.

To that end, I hope the USACE is also considering the alternative "no-action" scenario, should the diversion not be implemented. The losses our region would continue to face without this diversion—from an environmental, cultural and economic standpoint—would be devastating and irreversible. I hope as well that as you consider all possible future scenarios, the EIS also incorporates mechanisms for transparency and flexibility over the course of the diversion's operations. For this project to truly be successful it must be capable of effectively responding to threats and opportunities in the region.

Thank you again for your diligent attention to our habitat in Southeast Louisiana: I greatly respect your leadership and am looking forward to the release of the final EIS. Further, I appreciate your serious consideration of the above points from the business community perspective.

Sincerely,

Michael Hecht
President and CEO

From: mguidroz@cgboats.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 12:54:12 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
Mel Guidroz
200 E 38TH ST
CUT OFF, LA, 70345

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name CLINTON GUIDRY	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
Street Address 4241 JEAN LAFITTE BLVD.	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code LAFITTE, LA 70067	
Email Address TCLINT@COX.NET	
Affiliation GO-FISH COALITION, SAVE LA COALITION	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

FOR THE RECORD I AM OPPOSED TO THE
BUILDING OF THE MID-BARATARIA SEDIMENT
DIVERSION.

A MORE FORMAL WRITTEN COMMENT WILL
BE SUBMITTED BY THE LISTED COALITIONS
ABOVE.

Clinton P. Guidry 7/20/17



UNITED FOR A HEALTHY GULF

330 Carondelet Street, 3rd, New Orleans, LA 70130
Phone: 504.525.1528 Fax: 504.525.0833

5 September, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde
Mr. Brad Inman
United States Army
Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District
Regulatory Branch
Post Office Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267
CEMVN-Midbarataria@usace.army.mil
Martin.S.Mayer@usace.army.mil

Misappropriation of DWH Settlement Funds for Rail Expansion; Mid-Barataria Diversion Scoping (MVN-2012-2806-EOO (Section 10/404) 2013-0634 (Section 408))

Mr Mayer, Mr. LaBorde, Mr. Inman,

I am writing on behalf of Gulf Restoration Network ("GRN"), a diverse coalition of individual citizens and local, regional, and national organizations committed to uniting and empowering people to protect and restore the natural resources of the Gulf of Mexico. We submit these comments for scoping, that the applicant perform the appropriate array of alternatives.

First, GRN is vigorously opposed to spending restoration dollars on a rail expansion into Ironton. We are opposed to the pollution, noise, and safety issues that led to the removal of the rail from Ironton.

In the HDR 30% design for the MBSD listed on the coastal.la.gov site, as well as presentation graphics in Port Sulfur, there was a rail expansion listed. This is a tremendous expense of tens of millions of dollars, by no means "restoration" or a "sediment diversion." Measuring the plat from the HDR design (Figure 1, Table 1), we find that much track and every foot of the rail bridge is part of a rail expansion. Existing rail south of CHS is 4520 ft. This track is unused most of the time. But the HDR plats include 10416 ft of track, including a bridge, south of CHS and into Ironton, to replace 4520 ft of little-used track. The plat in the HDR proposal would more

than double the length of track to be used for CHS backup. There is, of course, no bridge currently. The entire length of track represented by the bridge is an expansion hidden inside a restoration project by Gulf Coast Rail.

Existing rail to be removed or abandoned is approx. 3256 ft (2430 ft removed, 826 feet abandoned south of the MBSD channel)—but the track turns before the bridge starts at 3490 ft of new track. Both the proposed bend in the track and the bridge itself are rail expansions. If rail had to be replaced, for right of way, 1:1, there wouldn't be any bridge.

Ironton has fought this rail at least since the 1990's and removed it. GRN and Sierra Club have been expressing opposition to expansion of this rail line since 2012. There are many reasons besides environmental racism why the rail expansion has not and will not meet cost / benefit.

- There are better, Eastbank Plaquemines alternatives to rail expansion for Plaquemines Parish that Gulf Coast Rail has refused to investigate.
- No proposed shipping terminals, eastbank or westbank, have sought rail connections since 2012. CPRA has acknowledged this.
- Gulf Coast has applied for TIGER funds to expand westbank rail, and has been refused.
- CHS uses rail south of its terminal only 30% of the time (4 of 13 photos since 1998)
- CHS uses any track length to be removed by MBSD 23% of the time (3 of 13 photos since 1998)

Seeking to slip this bridge, and environmental review for a rail bridge, into another project with vast political support, is wholly unacceptable.

The CPRA representative in Port Sulphur answered that the \$25-\$50 Million that the rail bridge would burden the Mid Barataria Sediment Diversion Project for the "Working Coast." However, He also agreed with an assertion that there was no present call for rail by facilities downriver, such as NOLA Oil, IMT, or Venture LNG.

This is part of a disturbing trend where CPRA fails the public trust by funding private, corporate interests while demanding flexibility from the public, as well as flexibility in its own restoration program. We imagine there will be less to talk about in regulatory meetings should CPRA not try to push environmental review of coal trains into environmental review of a restoration project.

\$25-50 Million would go a long way toward mitigating fisheries damages incurred by the changed salinity regime, or in studies to monitor dolphin stocks threatened by the state's current operational plan for the diversion.

We know of no language in the application, nor in the DOJ DWH settlement, for a failed rail project. The CPRA Application and DWH DOJ mention "sediment diversions", not "rail expansions." CPRA must withdraw this aspect of the application. If it will not, it must be separately evaluated as an alternative--Restoration Project with and without rail expansion.

A second matter is the lack of an operations plan submitted by CPRA. We feel this operations plan, outlined by non-profit organizations, would mitigate fisheries damages and damages to marine mammals under MMPA and ESA. We are disappointed that CPRA, after talking about this operations plan as a concept since 2012, has not submitted it since the last round of scoping for this project in 2011.

The Applicant should submit project alternatives that include economic and operational mitigation for fisheries, as well as alternatives that include marsh creation, which was the version of this project submitted for scoping in 2011 under LCA authorization.

Figure 1. Diagram of Rail Expansion

Rail length to be displaced or abandoned is in blue. Expansion component of this project is in red to the right of blue replacement track.

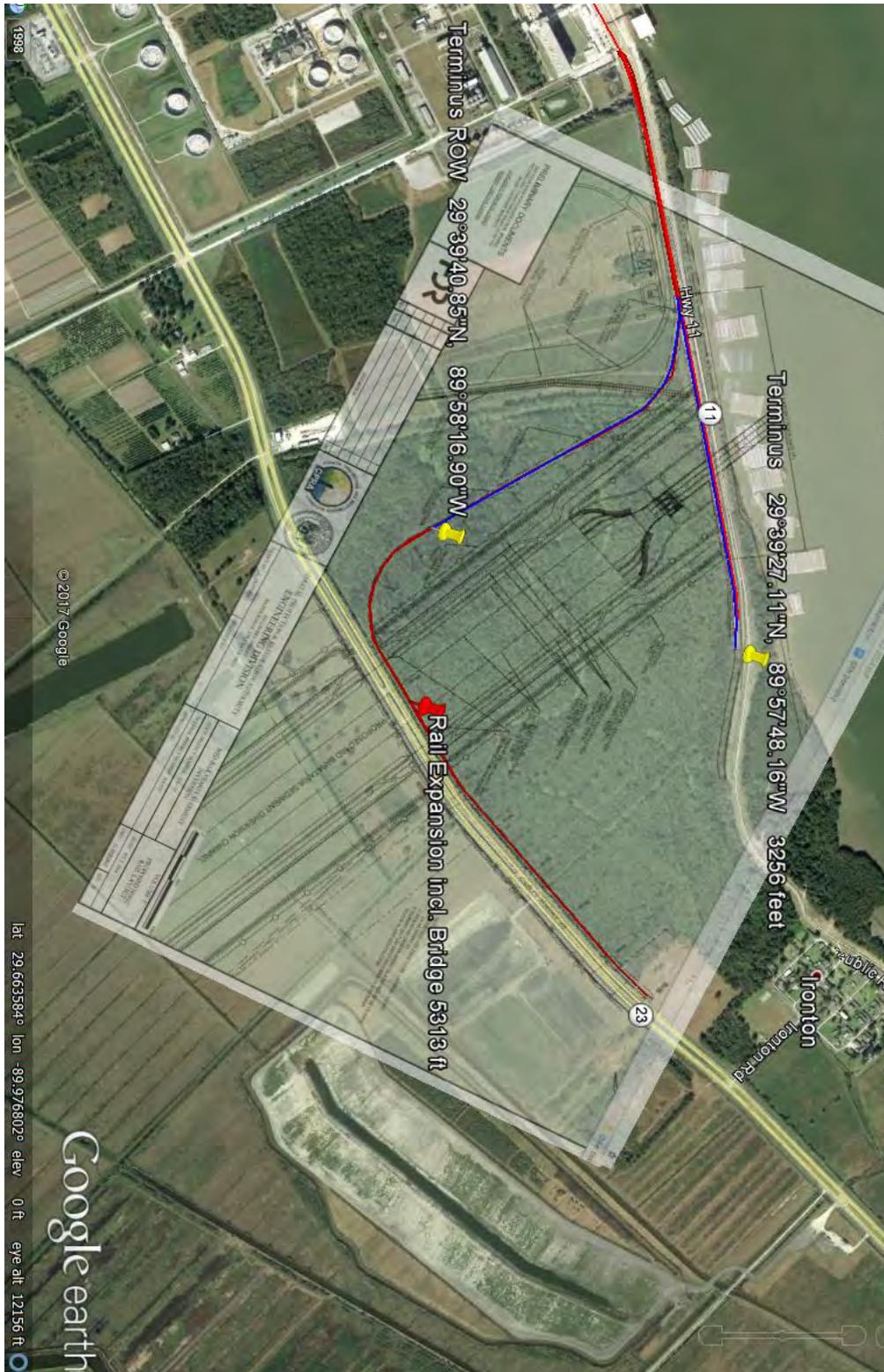


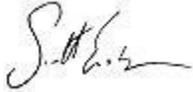
Table 1. Track length used by CHS rail cars in aerial photography (feet)

Date	Use South of CHS	Use within MBSD
Dec 2016	3316	1117
Jan 2015	0	0
Oct 2012	0	0
Dec 2010	0	0
Jul 2007	2255	0
Oct 2006	355	355
Jun 2006	3804	1560
Feb 2006	0	0
Oct 2005	0	0
Jun 2005	0	0
Jan 2004	0	0
Jan 2003	0	0
Jan 1998	0	0

GRN is appalled, but not surprised, at this inconsistency in this application in regards to rail. This application and project must proceed as quickly as possible, without this dead weight.

We look forward to a written response.

For a healthy Gulf,
[sent via e-mail]

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Eustis".

Scott Eustis, MS
Coastal Wetland Specialist

Gulf Restoration Network
330 Carondelet Street, 3rd Floor
New Orleans, LA 70130
(504) 525.1528 x212 Scott@healthygulf.org

Cc: Matt Rota, Senior Policy Director
Scott Eustis, Coastal Wetland Specialist
May Nguyen, Tulane Environmental Law Clinic
Raul Gutierrez, U.S. EPA, Region 6

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Grant Gurley](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 2:35:03 PM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Thank you,

Mr. Grant Gurley
509 Stratford Ave
Shreveport, LA 71105-2038
(123) 456-7890
grantgurley@gmail.com

From: p.a.gutelius@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Phyllis Gutelius](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 4:34:08 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

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Sincerely,
Phyllis Gutelius
Geismar, LA 70734

From: chattswithtrees@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Jamie Lynn Guy-Ostrowski](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Tuesday, August 29, 2017 8:35:08 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Sincerely,
Jamie Lynn Guy-Ostrowski
Garden City, MI 48135

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Jamie Lynn Guy-Ostrowski](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 12:35:38 PM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

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Thank you,

Mrs. Jamie Lynn Guy-Ostrowski
317 E Airline Hwy
La Place, LA 70068-4113
(123) 456-7890
jmego222@gmail.com

From: rhaeuser@haeuserinsurance.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, July 28, 2017 3:20:41 PM

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
Richard Haeuser
1512 Elis Pkwy
Metairie, LA, 70005

From: rhaley729@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 5:36:43 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Rob Haley
4828 Fairfield st
Metairie, LA - Louisiana, 70006

From: shall@pietystreet.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 1:21:09 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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Thank you,
Shawn Hall
3211 Dauphine St
New Orleans, LA, 701176728

From: whall2@cox.net
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 10:36:30 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Wesley Hall
316 Savage St
New Orleans, LA, 70114

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Everett Halligan, Jr.](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 5:45:19 PM

Aug 17, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

Recently, the State of Louisiana and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began the permitting process on one of the most beneficial and critical projects in the Mississippi River Delta, the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion, which will reconnect the river to its wetlands and help restore the natural function of the ecosystem.

This productive wildlife ecosystem was once sustained by the Mississippi River and hosts a variety of habitats from bottomland hardwood forests to barrier islands.

But bound by levees on the north and east sides, this ecosystem is starved of sediment from the river and is quickly disintegrating.

The restoration project will reconnect the river to the nearby wetlands in order to deliver sediment to help build and maintain habitat.

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

* Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.

* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Mr. Everett Halligan, Jr.
210 Provosty Dr
Slidell, LA 70461-1413
(985) 726-0532
cause4paws2@hotmail.com

From: jhalvorson1949@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Jacqueline Halvorson](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 4, 2017 8:36:57 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Jacqueline Halvorson
LA

From: Michelle@michellehamiltononline.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 10:34:22 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Michelle Hamilton
135 Lansdowne Road
Charlotte, North Carolina, 28270

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Monica Hammond](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 5:07:23 PM

Aug 17, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

* Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.

* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Monica Hammond
152 Village Dr
Slidell, LA 70461-5228
(301) 412-9133
mhammond106@gmail.com

From: mhammond106@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Monica Hammond](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 10:05:09 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Monica Hammond
Slidell, LA 70461

From: divaromah@netscape.net
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 10:08:24 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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Thank you,
Roma Hanby
312 E 3rd Ave
Covington, LA, 70433-4214

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Jeana Handley](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 12:10:14 PM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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Thank you,

Ms. Jeana Handley
5400 Hawthorne Pl
New Orleans, LA 70124-1706
(123) 456-7890
jhandleyrn@yahoo.com

From: schangartner@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 4:39:12 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
Sarah Hangartner
1022 Port St
New Orleans, LA, 701177210

From: mdhansen@hotmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 11:22:54 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
Michelle Hansen
2825 St. Charles Ave.
New Orleans, LA, 70115

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Monica Harper](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 5:28:10 PM

Aug 17, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

* Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.

* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Miss Monica Harper
3267 Highway 71
Coushatta, LA 71019-5606
(318) 402-2305
mfh7171@gmail.com

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Debbie Harrington](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 4:58:09 PM

Aug 17, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

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* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Debbie Harrington
2229 Maine Ave
Kenner, LA 70062-5958
(504) 908-4522
harringtondebbie@bellsouth.net

From: harris@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Russell S Harris Jr](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 10:09:45 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Russell S Harris Jr
Slidell, LA 70460

From: diannemartinez@bellsouth.net
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 2:42:25 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
Dianne Harrison
1445 Country Club Dr
Baton Rouge, LA, 70808

From: ellenharrison06@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Ellen Harrison](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 6:17:47 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Ellen Harrison
Covington, LA 70435

From: patandterror@aol.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 4:17:59 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Patricia Harrison
2421 Paige Janette Dr
Harvey, LA, 700582136

From: ahart16@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Alan Hart](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Tuesday, August 29, 2017 11:08:18 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Alan Hart
Metairie, LA 70001

From: klynnehartley@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 8:52:13 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Kay Hartley
105 E ST VINCENT ST
DONALDSONVILLE, LA, 70346

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Emily Harville](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 11:35:25 AM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,

Ms. Emily Harville
3736 Nashville Ave
New Orleans, LA 70125-4344
(919) 619-0272
agnesflack@hotmail.com

From: agnesflack@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Emily Harville](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Monday, August 14, 2017 3:00:34 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Emily Harville
New Orleans, LA 70125

COMMENT NUMBER 5 OF 5:

Gregory Haydel
P.O. Box 186
Lafitte, La 70067

MR. GREGORY HAYDEL:

I just want to say, in other words, this freshwater diversion will hurt the fishermen, it's not going to help us with our freshwater coming from the north, freshwater coming from the Davis Pond.

Also, shrimping on the west side of the Barataria Basin since they opened Davis Pond, we lost that. If they open another diversion on the east side of the Barataria Basin, we will lose the rest of our shrimping.

And as far as the marsh eaten up, they're trying to put it on -- I understand some damage was done by the Deepwater Horizon. This was gone -- 30 years ago we had meetings down here. And to solve the problem was to put the coastline

back. The fastest way to stop the erosion is to stop the currents coming in and out. Put the Gulf like it was 40, 50 years ago, you have little bit of current coming in and coming out. Now you get a little southern wind for a couple of days, we're flooding.

In other words, you're talking about freshwater diversions, the Mississippi is the biggest freshwater diversion that there is, the mouth of the Mississippi. And there's no silt coming out of the river any more. There's multiple land loss at the mouth of the river. I mean, it's just washing away because there's no more silt to build back in the marsh like it was. There's no nourishment in the water.

You got chemicals all over the river from the fertilizers. They call it "chemical alley" in Baton Rouge by the Riverwalk.

In other words, they

checked the nutrients of the water a while back. The Wildlife and Fisheries said there's no nutrients in the water, that's why the brown shrimp don't grow like they used to grow.

So you got chemicals coming out -- they call it a dead zone in the Mississippi River. Every time you open these diversions up and start filling these bays up, the only thing you're doing is taking the dead zone from the Gulf of Mexico and now you're spreading it to the marsh.

They talk about diversion to building back land, get dredges. Dredging is way faster. It's better for the fishermen. It's not going to hurt anybody and it's moving the water. Let this water go out to the river instead of trying to flush it out through the marshes. It's killing everything, wildlife and seafood and everything.

That's pretty much what I
got to say.

(End of Comment)

(WHEREUPON, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 8:00 PM)

* * * * *

From: [Caroline Hayes](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Young Professionals - Mid Barataria Sediment Diversion Public Comments
Date: Wednesday, September 6, 2017 4:01:35 PM
Attachments: [68E18328-37EB-4713-B5AA-D981F6AA8BDC\[133\].png](#)
[Caroline Hayes - YP Letter of Support.pdf](#)

Hello Colonel Clancy,

Please see the attached letter indicating my support of the Mid-Barataria Sediment diversion.

As a young professional living and working in New Orleans the impacts of this project are integrally tied to my future and the future of my community. I strongly encourage the USACE to expedite the implementation of this diversion.

Sincerely,
Caroline P. Hayes
Marketing Director

400 Poydras Street - Suite 1700
New Orleans, LA 70130
504.561.8400 V
504.561.1155 F
859.229.6470 C
Blockedwww.thinkaos.com

From: jhebert@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Jacques Hebert](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2017 2:45:58 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Jacques Hebert
New Orleans, LA 70117

From: jacquesp07@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Wednesday, July 26, 2017 4:00:18 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

My name is Jacques Hebert, and I grew up in Braithwaite, LA, in Plaquemines Parish. My family has lived on the East Bank of Plaquemines Parish since the 1700's. Now, all that we have remaining there is our family tomb at St. Thomas Cemetery in Pointe-a-la-Hache. The reason we can no longer live in this special region of the state, where our ancestors have lived for centuries, is due to the land loss crisis that has been exacerbated by the Mississippi River levees, that has decimated our wetland buffer and left them vulnerable to hurricanes, sea level rise and subsidence.

It's well past time for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other agencies to right the wrong and injustice it did to my family and so many like ours that can no longer live in Plaquemines Parish. That means putting all resources and energy into getting the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and others like it constructed as quickly as possible, so that our land can again benefit from the land-building sediment, nutrients and fresh water of the Mississippi River before it's too late.

So much emphasis has been put on fisheries and their potential impact from these diversions. These are saltwater fisheries that have been allowed to exist next to the one of the largest freshwater rivers in the world. In the meantime, people and businesses have been forced out and freshwater habitat is rapidly disappearing, threatening and whole host of important wildlife species. We can no longer manage our coast or decide how to pursue restoration based on the needs of a handful of species alone. We need to think about the entire ecosystem and what happens to all of it, including people, including in places outside of Plaquemines Parish, and including the investments already made or to-be-made in other restoration projects, levees and infrastructure, unless we advance the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion.

In your Environmental Impact Statement, I request that you address the following questions and points:

- 1.) What happens to the Barataria Basin and the surrounding communities and variety of habitat over time without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? You should provide a view of the future that looks 10, 25 and 50 years without this sediment diversion in place and operated.
- 2.) What happens to the marsh creation projects, levees and other restoration and risk-reduction projects in the area (constructed and planned) without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion in place? You should look at 10, 25 and 50-year increments.
- 3.) One alternative should be a "no action" alternative that looks at the future without the sediment diversion at 10, 25 and 50 years and details what the status of fisheries, human population and land will be under than alternative.
- 4.) One alternative should examine land building from the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion from operating it regularly over the period of 10, 25 and 50 years.
- 5.) You should quantify the cost of sediment that would be lost without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion in place over 10, 25 and 50 years and compare that to the costs of capturing that amount of sediment via marsh creation projects over that same time period.
- 6.) You should detail what the damage been to date to people in Plaquemines Parish as a result of wetland loss from construction of the Mississippi River levees?
- 7.) What will be the cost to relocate communities in Plaquemines Parish and elsewhere without the wetland buffer provided by the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion over 10, 25 and 50 years?

Our coastal land loss crisis will only worsen over time and affect more areas, including more populous and high-investment areas. We have limited resources and limited time. We need to get the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion permitted and constructed as quickly as possible if we are to avoid the worst case scenario for Plaquemines Parish and many other regions across our state.

I ask that you address the above points in detail in your EIS and that you are very clear about expected benefits of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion, in addition to potential consequences of not constructing and operating it. I also ask that you work to streamline and get this project permitted and constructed as quickly as possible.

Thank you for your consideration.

Thank you,
Jacques Hebert
520 Flood Street
New Orleans, LA, 70117

From: [AJ Heine](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Scoping Comments
Date: Tuesday, September 5, 2017 4:40:08 PM

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is AJ Heine. I was born and raised in Louisiana and am happy to be living here with my parents and adult children. Throughout these years, I've mainly enjoyed the culture of our state. In the past ten years, I've become aware of the beauty of our stated.

A little over a decade ago I got my first kayak. Shortly thereafter I began fishing out of it. This has given me the opportunity to experience firsthand the beauty of our coast and the bounty of our estuaries. As a parish priest, kayaking in our marsh brings me face to face with the abundance of God's creation. The vastness and beauty of our coast always refreshes my soul. I return home from these trips with a grateful heart and a replenished spirit--and sometimes even with redfish and trout!

I am greatly concerned with the dramatic land loss that I have witnessed in the short time that I've been paddling in and around New Orleans. The disappearance of the marsh is pronounced, unmistakable and undeniable. Urgent action must be taken. Time, as well as many other factors, is the enemy.

I am grateful that we have the power of the Mississippi River to help us in this part of Louisiana. The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion will allow our marsh to be nourished as it had been for thousands of years. It will bring change--which is always difficult--but I wonder what will change if we were NOT to act. What will the future of the Barataria Basin and the whole Mississippi delta look like without this diversion in place? Are there studies being done to predict that? When will those results be released?

I hope that the urgency of this crisis and the cost of doing nothing will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement. And I pray that the beauty of our coast will continue to feed the bodies and souls of our people for many, many years to come.

Peace,

AJ Heine
Rector
St. Augustine's Episcopal Church
St. Augustine's Metairie
3412 Haring Rd.
Metairie, LA 70006
Phone: +1 504-887-4801
<Blockedhttp://www.staugustinesmet.com/>

<Blockedhttp://www.staugustinesmet.com/>

St. Augustine's Metairie
3412 Haring Rd.
Metairie...

St. Augustine's Metairie

From: artistalice@cox.net
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 9:11:39 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Alice Henderson
7433 Maple St
New Orleans, La, 70118

From: dhenling@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Monday, July 31, 2017 10:26:57 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

I was born and raised in Louisiana, so I am pleased that the recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Daniel Henling
1412 NW 61st St Apt 2
Seattle, WA, 981072994

From: droome@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Donata Henry](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Monday, August 7, 2017 8:08:17 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Donata Henry
Abita Springs, LA 70420

From: jbherke@cox.net
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 4:18:14 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

I studied the use of Louisiana's coastal marsh as a nursery for fishes and crustaceans from 1964 to 1994 when I retired. Our fisheries are dependent on the marsh. The short term effects of the mid-barataria project will result in some displacement of the fisheries, but the long term effects are critical to maintaining the marsh and our fisheries. I urge the Corps to move forward with the project as expeditiously as possible.

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
William Herke, PhD
555 Staring Lane
Baton Rouge, LA, 70810

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Gina Hernandez](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 4:16:32 PM

Aug 17, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

* Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.

* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Gina Hernandez
2769 Highway 39
Braithwaite, LA 70040-1759
(504) 717-6598
hernjam5@aol.com

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Patrick Herren](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 12:11:47 PM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,

Mr. Patrick Herren
1532 Woods Loop
Vinton, LA 70668-5106
(337) 324-5155
patmon1965@gmail.com

From: vanessathea@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Vanessa Herrera](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 10:16:02 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Sincerely,
Vanessa Herrera
La Place, LA 70068

From: hidalgo_charlotte57@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 5:40:14 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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Thank you,
Charlotte Hidalgo
P o box 238
Gonzales, Lo, 70737

From: steve.hidalgo@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, July 28, 2017 12:34:36 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
Stephen Hidalgo
1209 Lair Ave
Metairie, LA, 700034121

8/3/17

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting?
Thuraphomrin, Hieng	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
Street Address	Coastal Communities Consulting
222 Delta Ave Ave Dr	
Mailing Address	
(if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code	
Buras, LA 70041	
Email Address	
Phomrin1981@gmail.com	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

My husband is a commercial fisherman who will be greatly affected by the diversion because too much fresh water will push the brown shrimp further into the Gulf. He is the only source of income for our family. If he cannot work then our family will not be able to stay in Plaquemines Parish even though we consider it our home. We think that the state should help the fisherman with making their boats bigger and/or job training for them to have other career options because fishing is all a lot of fishermen know.

Phomrin

From: nevermore@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Christine Hightower](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 10:44:18 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Christine Hightower
Folsom, LA 70437

August 30, 2017

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name MONY CHEATH HIM	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) ccc
Street Address 122 W BRAY LN BURAS LA 70041	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code BURAS LA 70041	
Email Address 	
Affiliation 	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

I just started in the fishing industry. I am from Massachusetts, and I just moved to Louisiana this year. I don't want the freshwater. I just bought the boat and it cost a lot of money, and now you guys turn on the freshwater and I cannot shrimp. I need the government to help me by buying back my boat. Now I don't have ^{money} to pay my rent and bills and groceries. The government can give me money to open a new business.

Him Cheath Him

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Rosetta Hixson](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 2:49:39 PM

Aug 17, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

* Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.

* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rosetta Hixson
830 Emerald St
New Orleans, LA 70124-3521
(999) 999-9999
rosettahixson@gmail.com

From: malcolmhodnett@hotmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 8:15:28 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Malcolm Hodnett
322 E 2ND ST
THIBODAUX, LA, 70301

From: [LaBorde, Brad P CIV USARMY CEMVN \(US\)](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: FW: Mid Barataria Diversion
Date: Wednesday, September 6, 2017 7:56:25 AM
Attachments: [Walton et al. 2015 Model for Future Veta La Palma Aquaculture.pdf](#)
[Ecosystem approach to Aquaculture management and copy.pdf](#)

Brad LaBorde
CEMVN-OD-SE

-----Original Message-----

From: Linda M Bui [<mailto:lindabui@lsu.edu>]
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2017 10:32 PM
To: LaBorde, Brad P CIV USARMY CEMVN (US) <Brad.Laborde@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mid Barataria Diversion

Hi Brad,

My name is Linda Hooper-Bui and as an associate professor in Environmental Sciences at LSU. I've worked in Barataria Bay (and Breton Sound and Terrebonne Bay) on the effects of salinity on insects, fish, birds and plants (food web). I've studied disasters – Katrina and Isaac and other hurricanes, and the Deepwater Horizon Drilling Disaster – and their impact on ants and other insects that are important food for frogs, fish and birds. In the past two years, we've focused nearly all our efforts on salinity gradients associated with existing diversions. Additionally, we've filtered Mississippi River water and found Atrazine, Fipronil, and Chlorothalonil entering the marsh at the Bayou Lamoque ballendock. My research in the marshes the last eight years uniquely qualifies me to comment on this diversion.

It seems when the engineers (and architects?) created the plan, they didn't fully assess the impact on the food web. Of course, the freshwater will create a change in the ecosystem. My research shows that salinity gradients radically increase the diversity of fish and plants, but do not appear to affect the population of birds or terrestrial ants. When the Mid Barataria is created, there should be vast areas of marsh and "chenier-like" ridges that would create barriers for storm surge and wind and also habitat for birds, insects, and mammals that are so vital to the food web. There doesn't appear to be inclusion of these in the plan. It seems that the planners have not looked at extensive, multitrophic aquaculture systems around the world that have accomplished many of the goals of the diversion but still created very healthy fisheries (See attached and Dan Barber's TED talk of How I Fell in Love with a Fish.)

The area of marsh creation presented is in the wrong place. We need marsh and ridges in the freshwater areas and then extending into the more brackish areas. These will provide multiple ecosystem services. The water from the Mississippi River contains excess nutrients, insecticides, and herbicides. If the ridges are in place, they will slow down the flow of water and allow phytoplankton and zooplankton to remediate some of the chemicals in the MR water and in turn, will enhance the growth and production of inshore fisheries (see attached). Additionally, tidal saline waters should be pumped into the diversion area; there is no plan for this. This will mitigate remaining extra nutrients and also allow for further oxygenation of the waters preventing hypoxia. This dual pumping system fresh water and saline waters is supported by the attached UN report of an extensive, multi-trophic aquaculture system in Spain. I'm happy to continue my work with support from ACE.

Diversion will potentially create hypoxia above Bayou Dupont marsh creation. When the Naomi siphon wasn't running, in 2015 and 2016, we found hypoxic conditions NW of The Pen. The Naomi Siphon has two pipes functioning at this point. The hypoxia associated with this hasn't been accounted for. Because of the Bayou Dupont marsh creation project, hypoxic effects to the north are seen because of the newly-created marsh is blocking the flow of tidal waters. We've shown that salinity north and north-west of the Bayou Dupont project has remained near zero since it's construction. That demonstrates the previous tidal mixing isn't occurring and is contributing to hypoxia. Our data and the traditional ecological knowledge shared by people who work and recreational fish in the area, is that the fish have "shut off" in the area of the Naomi Siphon. The placement of potential created marsh areas associated with the Mid Barataria Diversion will further prevent mixing of saline, low nutrient waters via tides. I'm afraid there will be other areas where the "fish have turned off." My prediction is that the Mid Barataria diversion will create large areas of hypoxia and expand the current area of hypoxia in the Naomi Siphon area. I'm happy to share the data we've collected and work with your scientists to collect environmental and biological data as plan progress. There should be an environmental action plan created that should be a fluid document responding to real-time data.

The bottom line, I'd like to see the process as data-driven from a point of the engineers (which it is) and further incorporate data from biologists who have boots on the ground.

I'd be happy to engage in further conversation about this. Thank you for the opportunity to share my research and experience.

With kind regards,

Linda Hooper-Bui



A model for the future: Ecosystem services provided by the aquaculture activities of Veta la Palma, Southern Spain



M.E.M. Walton^{a,*}, C. Vilas^b, J.P. Cañavate^b, E. Gonzalez-Ortegon^a, A. Prieto^b, S.A. van Bergeijk^b, A.J. Green^c, M. Librero^d, N. Mazuelos^d, L. Le Vay^a

^a Centre for Applied Marine Sciences, College of Natural Sciences, Bangor University, Menai Bridge, Anglesey, Wales LL59 5EY, UK

^b IFAPA Centro El Toruño, Ctra. N. IV Km. 654a. Camino de Tiro Pico, El Puerto de Santa María, Cadiz 11,500, Spain

^c Estación Biológica de Doñana CSIC, c/ Americo Vespucio, s/n, Isla de la Cartuja, 41092 Sevilla, Spain

^d Veta la Palma, Pesquerías Isla Mayor, S.A., Real 34, 41920 San Juan de Aznalfarache, Sevilla, Spain

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 2 March 2015

Received in revised form 9 June 2015

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Extensive aquaculture
Ecosystem services
Reconstructed wetlands
Wetland birds
Nutrient absorption
Bird predation

ABSTRACT

The lack of space and opportunity for development has been identified as key reasons behind the stagnation of the European aquaculture industry. With the historical loss and degradation of current European wetlands there is an opportunity for harnessing the commercial investment of the aquaculture industry in construction of dual purpose wetlands that incorporate both conservation and extensive aquaculture activities. These wetlands can be used to expand the area available to suitable aquaculture into ecologically sensitive areas, such as Natura 2000 sites. Veta la Palma (VLP) situated in the Doñana Natural Park (and a Natura 2000 site) is an example of such an aquaculture development and a possible model for future opportunities. In the current study some of the important ecosystem services that are provided by VLP are assessed. The provisioning services of VLP were the economic rationale for the investment and more than 820 tonnes yr⁻¹ of fish and shrimp is produced, through a mixture of semi-extensive and extensive aquaculture. The regulating services include nutrient absorption, and the flow of river water through VLP and high primary production results in the absorption of 377 tonnes of dissolved inorganic nitrogen yr⁻¹, and 516 tonnes of C yr⁻¹. Supporting services include the provision of habitat for more than 94 bird and 21 fish species. The primary production that supports the birds, extensive and semi-extensive aquaculture production was also estimated to be 167,000 tonnes, 50,000 tonnes and 133,000 tonnes yr⁻¹, respectively. The losses to birds are substantial and these estimates indicate that almost half of the primary production supports the wetland birds which directly consume 249 tonnes of fish and 2578 tonnes of invertebrates per annum. However it is the ecological credentials of the farm that enable premium prices and hence ensure the economic viability of the farm. The study demonstrates the possibility of using aquaculture to mitigate the historical loss of wetlands, provide significant ecosystem services and contribute to achievement of the European environmental legislative goals, and furthers the opportunity for the expansion of aquaculture into sensitive but impacted habitats.

Statement of relevance

Demonstrates potential environmental benefits of aquaculture.

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1. Introduction

Global aquaculture production continues to increase, playing an ever more important role in world food production, reaching 70.5 million tonnes in 2012 (FAO, 2014). However, in the European Union, aquaculture growth has been stagnant over the last decade (FAO, 2014) and there is a growing gap between seafood consumption and production. In an effort to redress this, the European Commission

is promoting environmentally, socially and economically sustainable aquaculture, including recommendations that member states work towards removing some of the barriers to aquaculture growth, including reducing administrative burdens and improving access to space and water (EC, 2013). To this end, member states have been encouraged to identify suitable areas for development of aquaculture production that is compatible with environmental legislation such as the Birds and Habitats Directives (Natura 2000 sites), the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and the Water Framework Directive (WFD). These directives can significantly constrain approval of new sites and hence the total space available for development. More than 3000 km²

* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: m.walton@bangor.ac.uk (M.E.M. Walton).

of European coastline is currently occupied by Natura 2000 sites and the possible integration of complementary aquaculture activities represents a significant increase in area available to appropriate aquaculture (EEA, 2010b). Recently, the European Commission has provided guidance on how aquaculture activities can be integrated within Natura 2000 sites, including a number of examples of how biodiversity can be enhanced by aquaculture farms (EC, 2012). The current paper proposes that appropriately designed dual-purpose farms can not only enhance regulating and supporting ecosystem services through increasing biodiversity and improving water quality but also improve provisioning services and cultural services. As a contribution to meeting the environmental targets under the WFD (2015) and MSFD (2020), this type of aquaculture provides an excellent model to revitalise degraded wetlands. This is especially true where previous conversion to less sustainable uses has resulted in the loss of ecosystem services through drainage or siltation, or where abandoned fish farms or salt pans have resulted in net losses in biodiversity.

More than 80% of European wetlands have been lost (Mitsch and Gosselink, 2000) and with them the ecosystem services such as water purification and nutrient recycling that are vitally important in ensuring the good water quality needed for coastal aquaculture activities. In southern Spain, wetland management and potential restoration are in conflict with pressure from coastal development and diversion of upstream freshwater for irrigation and human consumption and several studies have reported the degradation of ecosystem services within national parks such as the Doñana National Park as a result of the increasing development of agriculture in the surrounding areas (e.g.,

Martin-Lopez et al., 2011; Palomo et al., 2014; Zorrilla-Miras et al., 2014). The current study is set within the boundary of the Doñana Natural Park (also a Natura 2000 site) which has lost more than half of its natural wetlands and 90% of its shallow lakes (EEA, 2010a). The present study assesses a range of ecosystem services that may be provided with appropriate dual-purpose design for both aquaculture and conservation. It demonstrates how aquaculture can be used as the economic driver to reconstruct wetlands and reinstate the hydrology needed to redress the loss of these wetlands, while also producing aquaculture products that have added value due to their high quality and ecological sustainability credentials. With the understanding that any wetland aquaculture development will require site-specific design, the Veta la Palma development is presented here as a model for best practice in aquaculture pond design that can help to inform similar eco-aquaculture developments.

2. Methods

2.1. Site description

The study site at Veta La Palma (VLP), in Southern Spain, is located within Doñana Natural Park, adjoining the Doñana National Park (also a UNESCO World Heritage Site) to the west and the Guadalquivir estuary to the east and south (Fig. 1). In the 1990s, from agricultural land created by the drainage and siltation of wetlands, almost 3000 ha of wetlands were reconstructed as 40 large (70 ha each) shallow (0.5 m) brackish-water dual-purpose lagoons, complete with bird

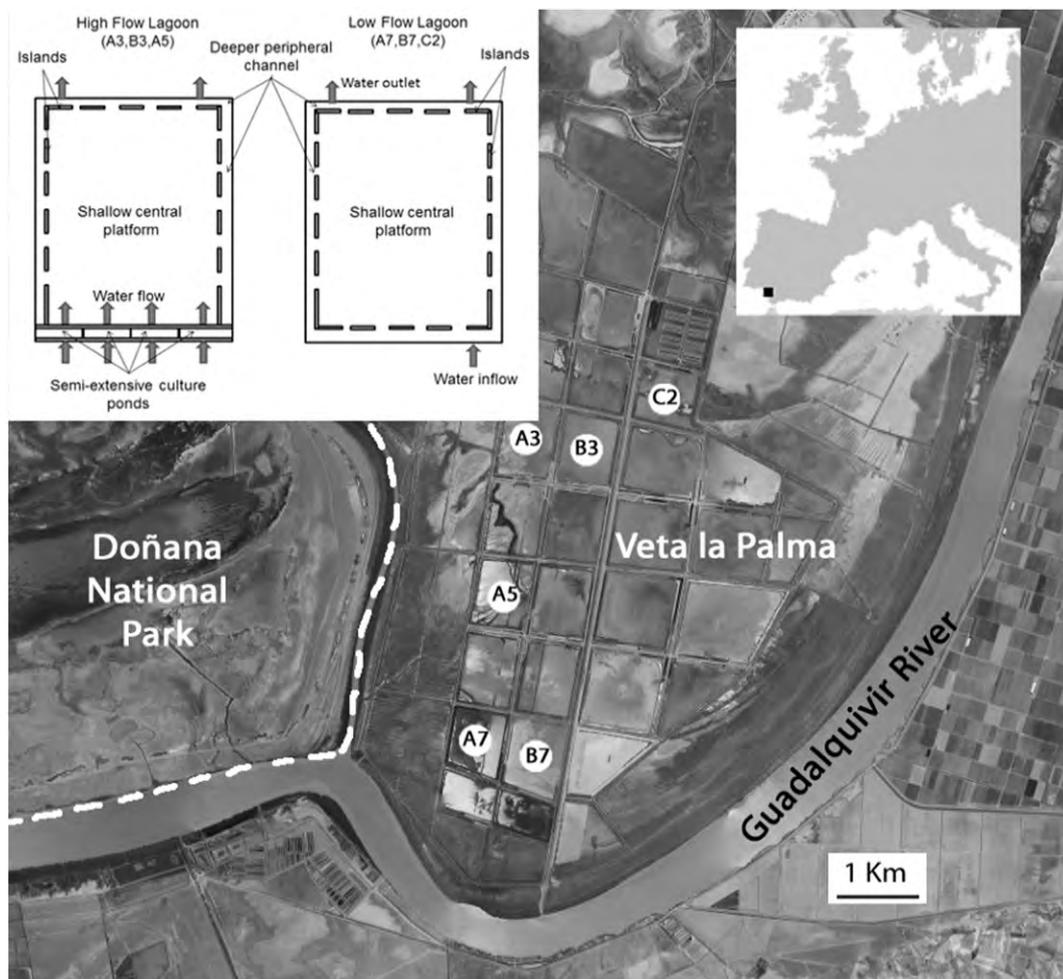


Fig. 1. Satellite image of the sampled lagoons of Veta la Palma, part of the Doñana National Park and the boundary (dashed line) that separates it from Doñana National Park. Inserted are the geographic location of Veta La Palma and diagrammatic representation of the semi-extensive ponds and extensive lagoons (not to scale).

shelter/nesting islands and a deeper (1 m) peripheral canal with vegetated banks. In the lagoons, extensive culture of naturally-recruited shrimp (Palaemonidae) and fish occurs with production entirely supported by natural productivity. Some of these lagoons have greater water exchange as they receive the water from semi-extensive seabass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*) production that occurs in a row of small (0.1–0.9 ha) culture ponds where fish are maintained at 2–4 kg m⁻² and nutrition comes from both inflowing natural production and formulated feeds supplied by demand feeders. Others are not connected to semi-extensive seabass production, have less water exchange, generally higher salinity and focus on extensive shrimp with some diverse natural fish production. Across the whole farm, water is recirculated during the winter, but once salinity in the Guadalquivir estuary rises above 10 psu, typically between February and November, the sluice gates are opened and a mix of 70:30 estuarine/lagoon water is circulated through the lagoons.

2.2. Assessment of ecosystem services

Ecosystem services are defined in the MEA (2005) as the benefits obtained from the ecosystem and are classified into four types, most recently by TEEB (2010) as follows: Provisioning services (including food provision), Regulating services (including water purification and carbon sequestration), Cultural services (including ecotourism and scientific knowledge) and Supporting services (Primary productivity, life cycle maintenance, species and genetic diversity).

2.2.1. Food production

The primary function of this wetland, and the economic justification for the investment in its construction and operation, is the provision of aquaculture products. Lagoons are harvested periodically every 3 to 5 yr by lowering the water level to concentrate the fish which are then collected by netting. In addition 100–120 fyke nets are deployed daily around the farm for the continuous harvest of shrimp, with mullet and other fish also regularly caught as bycatch. Semi-extensively cultured fish are harvested three years after stocking. Annual farm gate sales figures were used to assess the average production (tonnes wet weight yr⁻¹) over the ten year period between 2003 and 2012.

2.2.2. Nutrient absorption

The nutrient absorption function was examined by looking at the change in nutrient concentrations as water passed through the lagoons. Over one year between May 2011 and May 2012, water samples were taken at 5 cm below the surface from incoming estuarine water at the farm intake valve, and at the outlet of mixed and extensive lagoons. The sample was then vacuum filtered through GF/F filters (Whatman) and stored frozen until nutrient analysis using a 5 channel LCHAT Instruments Quick-Chem 8000 autoanalyzer for total dissolved inorganic nitrogen (TDIN) and phosphate. Annual N removal (N yr⁻¹) was calculated as:

$$N_{yr^{-1}} = \sum (\text{concentration of N in monthly sample of inflowing water} \times \text{monthly volume of inflowing estuarine water}) - (\text{mean concentration of N in monthly sample of water exiting lagoons} \times \text{monthly volume of outflowing water released to estuary}).$$

Water flow rates were provided by VLP management and based on the volume of water pumped versus that entering the farm from the estuary. Water exiting lagoons was estimated as the new water entering the farm minus the water recirculated and water losses due to evaporation and based on mean evaporation rates estimated for the nearby Doñana National Park using the Thornthwaite method (EBD, 2013).

However the total N absorbed by these wetlands also includes the nitrogen excreted by the semi-extensively cultured fish. The amount

of nitrogen excreted from the fish in semi-extensive culture was calculated following Peres and Oliva-Teles (2005) assuming a three year production cycle in steady state, where the N excreted by the total fish stock in one year should be the same as the lifetime value for harvested fish (as smaller size classes equivalent to Years 1 and 2 of growth of harvested fish are present in the stock biomass).

$$\text{Annual N excreted} = (1 - \text{N retention}) * (\text{fish biomass gain} / \text{PER}) / \text{protein : nitrogen ratio}$$

where N retention = N retained in biomass / N ingested = 0.35, PER = fish biomass gain / N ingested = 1.67 and protein:nitrogen ratio = 6.25 (from Peres and Oliva-Teles, 2005).

2.2.3. Life cycle maintenance and biodiversity

The diversity and biomass of wetland birds supported by the reconstructed lagoons of VLP were estimated using the monthly bird census conducted by the staff at the Estación Biológica de Doñana (Equipo de Seguimiento de Procesos Naturales-ICTS Reserva Biológica de Doñana (EBD-CSIC)) between 2004 and 2012. Water bird biomass present on these lagoons over each month was obtained by multiplying mean weight of each species (extracted from Tacutu et al., 2013) and their mean monthly counts on the aquaculture lagoons of VLP.

2.2.4. Primary productivity

Underpinning the above services is the ability of this ecosystem to capture the sun's energy. Benthic and water column primary production was assessed using light and dark benthic chambers and bottles following the methods of Opalinski et al. (2010). Water column primary production was estimated using 250 ml dark and light bottles set 5 cm below the water surface in the 6 different lagoons. Lagoon water was 100 µm filtered prior to incubation in the water column. Open-bottomed benthic chambers covering 0.0188 m² were very gently pushed into the sediment in the shallow central platform. Incubation times varied between 1 and 8 h depending on the time of year. This was supported by monthly chlorophyll epifluorescence readings using a multiparameter sonde (YSI 600 OMS VZ, Ohio, USA).

2.2.5. Assimilation of primary productivity by wetland birds and cultured species

As part of a parallel study all primary producers and fauna in six lagoons in VLP was sampled seasonally 4 times a year, and the isotopic signatures obtained (see Walton et al., 2015—in this issue for details of sampling and analysis). Trophic position of harvested species was estimated using the difference between the δ¹⁵N value of the consumer and the mean δ¹⁵N value of primary producers, and calculated using discrimination factors of 2.2‰ for the trophic step and 2.9‰ for each subsequent step (McCutchan et al., 2003). The amount of primary production consumed (PPC) in the food web supporting each harvested species was estimated using an assumed average trophic efficiency (TEF) of 10% (Pauly and Christensen, 1995), the isotopic trophic level above primary producers (TL) and the harvested biomass (HWt). Where: $\sum \text{PPC} = \text{HWt species}^1 / \text{TEF}^{\text{TL species}^1} + \text{HWt species}^2 / \text{TEF}^{\text{TL species}^2} + \dots$

Prior to calculating PPC for the semi-extensively cultured bass, the proportion of biomass derived from foraged food was estimated using the Bayesian isotopic mixing model mixSIAR using the δ¹⁵N and δ¹³C signatures of the bass (muscle tissue), pelleted diet and likely prey items that enter the pond. A TEF of 10% was applied (as above) to give an estimate of the wet weight of the foraged prey ingested and hence PPC, calculated as above.

To estimate the consumption by birds during their residence in VLP, the energy requirements of each bird species were used to determine daily ingestion rates, allowing for 80% assimilation efficiency (Meire et al., 1994; Scheiffarth and Nehls, 1997).

$$\text{The daily energy expenditure (DEE)} = 3 \times \text{BMR} \times \text{CF} \times \text{H}$$

where W = weight in kg obtained from Tacutu et al. (2013), and CF = Conversion factor from watt to kJ d^{-1} (86.4), and where BMR = Basal Metabolic Rate (Watts). For waders including Suborders: Charadrii, Chionidi, Scolopaci and Thinocori $BMR = 5.06 W^{0.729}$ (Kersten and Piersma, 1987), for Anseriformes (ducks) $BMR = 4.8 \times W^{0.672}$ (Brunckhorst & Hùppop, in Scheiffarth and Nehls (1997)) and for all other species $BMR = 3.56 \times W^{0.734}$ (Aschoff & Pohl, 1970 in Scheiffarth and Nehls (1997)).

$$\text{Consumption} = (D \times DEE \times P_i \times (1/Q)/E_i) \\ + (D \times DEE \times P_f \times (1/Q)/E_f) \\ + (D \times DEE \times P_m \times (1/Q)/E_m)$$

where E = Energy density of diet items is estimated using the relationship between percentage dry weight of sampled organisms and energy density for invertebrates (i) (James et al., 2012) and for fish (f) (Hartman and Brandt, 1995) and literature values for macrophytes (m) (Ballard et al., 2004), D = number of bird days month^{-1} (mean monthly counts 2004–2011 \times 30 days), P = proportion of diet type (i, f, m) and Q = assimilation efficiency (80%). Diet type proportions were extracted from the (BirdLife International, 2014) data base. For birds with mixed diets, the proportion of dietary components was assumed to be equal in terms of biomass, except where the database descriptor included relative specialisation. A diet component with a descriptor such as “predominantly” was assigned a 0.8 proportion, whereas those with descriptors such as “mostly” were assigned a proportion of 0.7. The amount of fish, invertebrates and primary productivity were then corrected for trophic level to estimate the amount of primary production that supports the bird population using the same calculation above. In the winter many ducks (*Anas* spp.) are known to feed almost exclusively in rice fields in Spain and Portugal (e.g., Navedo et al., 2015) and unpublished data collected by researchers at Estación Biológica de Doñana CSIC indicate that, with the exception of *Anas clypeata*, ducks are obtaining almost all their nutrition from the rice fields around VLP between October and February. Hence during this time, these ducks are omitted from the estimations of consumption.

3. Results and discussion

3.1. Provisioning services

The combination of semi-extensive (stocked and fed) and extensive (natural recruitment and no feeding) culture systems results in a mean annual production of 820 tonnes of which extensive production accounted for just over 25% (Fig. 2). Bass (*D. labrax*) is the main semi-extensively cultured species plus some gilthead seabream (*Sparus aurata*) harvested after a three year growout period. Shrimp (*Palaemon*

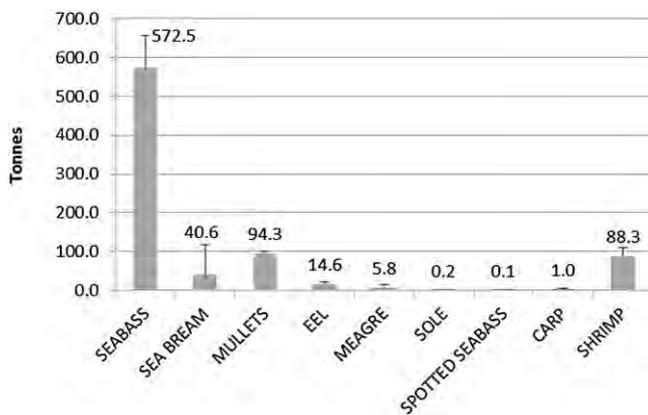


Fig. 2. Average annual harvests from both semi-extensive and extensive culture systems (tonnes) in Veta la Palma between 2003 and 2012. Numbers indicate the tonnes harvested of each species.

varians and *Palaemon macrodactylus*) and mullet (*Lisa aurata*, *Lisa rama-da* and *Mugil cephalus*) are the dominant extensive species accounting for 182.6 tonnes yr^{-1} . Eel is no longer harvested (since 2011). Smaller fish species that are not commercially exploited are also present, including *Fundulus heteroclitus*, *Gambusia affinis*, *Alosa* spp., *Atherina boyeri*, *Engraulis encrasicolus*, *Pomatoschistus* spp., and *Gobius paganellusi*.

While primary production in the VLP lagoons is relatively high, driven by the influx of nutrient rich water and only apparently limited by phosphorus availability (see below), the extensive aquaculture production of 69 $\text{kg ha}^{-1} \text{yr}^{-1}$ falls in the middle of the range of European extensive aquaculture sites. In the valliculture ponds of Northern Italy, operated by private enterprises, fish production averages 53 $\text{kg ha}^{-1} \text{yr}^{-1}$ (FAO, 1999) with increasing numbers of piscivorous birds reducing harvests by 30% in the last 10 yr (Anras et al., 2010). Other areas where extensive aquaculture of fish occurs in Europe, includes more than 70 Greek lagoons run by cooperatives, where barrier nets separate areas of the lagoon and support average fish yields of 47.2 $\text{kg ha}^{-1} \text{yr}^{-1}$ (Ananiadis, 1984), but it is unclear whether this is true extensive culture or fisheries. In the Vassova and Eratino lagoons of Northern Greece, aquaculture production of bass and sea bream has fallen to 3 $\text{kg ha}^{-1} \text{yr}^{-1}$ due to environmental problems and high winter mortality rates (Theocharis et al., 1998). In contrast the “esteros” of Cadiz province in southern Spain, where fish production occurs in the large water reservoirs used for flooding the salt pans, average harvests result in a production of 267 $\text{kg ha}^{-1} \text{yr}^{-1}$ (Yufera and Arias, 2010). In the last 90 yr, production has increased dramatically from 40 $\text{kg ha}^{-1} \text{yr}^{-1}$ to the present levels, mainly driven by a refocusing of the esteros to extensive fish production with accompanied improvements in water exchange management and a better understanding of natural fry recruitment and farming methods (Yufera and Arias, 2010).

As a result of the provisioning services provided by VLP, over a hundred local people are directly employed on the farm, and many more indirectly (UNEP, 2012), promoting conservation of the Doñana area compatible with the economic development of the zone.

3.2. Regulating services

3.2.1. Nutrient absorption

Inflowing nutrient concentrations varied throughout the year with TDIN concentration peaking in the summer at 325 $\mu\text{M N}$ and declining to 133 $\mu\text{M N}$ in spring, phosphate concentrations were much lower varying from 1.6 to 3.2 $\mu\text{M P}$ with no seasonal correlations. The N:P ratio in the inflow varied from 76:1 to 156:1. Nitrogen retention varied with both water inflow rate and primary productivity; greatest retention was in July and August when 24 $\text{kg N ha}^{-1} \text{month}^{-1}$ was retained in the farm with no retention in December and January when the water was only recirculating. The amount of nitrogen excreted from an annual production of 611 tonnes of fish under semi-extensive culture is estimated to be 38.1 tonnes per annum.

Dissolved inorganic nitrogen absorption by the VLP wetlands, including that excreted by the cultured fish, is estimated to be 415 tonnes yr^{-1} or 15.5 $\text{g m}^{-2} \text{yr}^{-1}$ (1.1 $\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{yr}^{-1}$) with an average removal efficiency of greater than 90% (Table 1). A recent review of the nutrient absorption capabilities of various types of constructed wetlands suggested that although the efficiencies were considerably lower in removal of total nitrogen 44–66% compared with VLP, the absorption rates per unit area were much higher removing between 250 and 630 $\text{g N m}^{-2} \text{yr}^{-1}$ (Zhang et al., 2014). The estimated rate of N absorption is supported by the measured net carbon retained by the lagoon phytoplankton of 1.6 $\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{yr}^{-1}$ which combined with the estimated macrophyte sequestration sums to 11.2 $\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{yr}^{-1}$ (see Section 3.2.2 and Morris et al., 2013). According to the Redfield ratio of 106C:16N:1P the expected molar ratio of carbon sequestration to nitrogen absorption is 6.6, however recently a review of Redfield ratios from different habitats suggested that there was considerable variation and freshwater and coastal C:N ratios were 10 and 8.6 (Sterner

Table 1
Total monthly N (kg month⁻¹) entering and exiting the Veta La Palma aquaculture system.

Month	N entering (kg N)	N exiting (kg N)	N retained (kg N)
Jan	0.0	0.0	0.0
Feb	6543.5	494.6	6048.9
Mar	14,706.4	721.4	13,985.0
Apr	33,936.5	1399.1	32,537.4
May	44,517.2	2105.6	42,411.6
Jun	53,648.2	1232.4	52,415.8
Jul	65,725.8	1097.7	64,628.1
Aug	66,145.8	1451.0	64,694.8
Sep	52,076.7	2412.9	49,663.8
Oct	49,346.8	2061.7	47,285.2
Nov	3454.6	53.2	3401.4
Dec	0.0	0.0	0.0
	390,101.4	13,029.6	377,071.8

et al., 2008). The ratio of C:N absorption in the current study of 10.2:1 is close to predicted ratios, however both dissolved organic nitrogen and carbon can occur in substantial amounts which can significantly alter the ratio (Sterner et al., 2008). Similarly the low concentration of phosphorus and the ratio of N:P of 76–156:1 both indicate production in VLP is likely to be limited by P given the deviation from the Redfield ratio of 16:1, although the rate of N retention suggests P cycling in this system is efficient.

Several EU directives address eutrophication, with the Water Framework Directive and Marine Strategy Framework Directive calling for the restoration of the good ecological condition of receiving water bodies, whereas the Habitats and Birds Directive seek to limit the adverse effects of eutrophication especially in Natura 2000 sites and others such as the Nitrates Directive (EU Council Directive 91/676/EEC) propose concentration guidelines. As such there is growing pressure for governments to reduce the amount of nitrogen in the environment (Sutton et al., 2011) either by reducing the nitrogen emissions or through water treatment. This is of local relevance as biannual monitoring (2001–2003) showed nitrate levels in the Guadalquivir routinely exceed the local government critical levels of 100 µmol l⁻¹ (Mendiguchía et al., 2007). Recently there have been various studies suggesting that catchment-based nutrient trading schemes could be used in Europe (Ferreira et al., 2009; Lindahl et al., 2005) similar to those that have been used to improve coastal water in the USA (Newell, 2004). Nitrogen retained by VLP (from the Guadalquivir River) is the equivalent produced by 114,300 people or population equivalent (PEQ) yr⁻¹. To remove this much N would incur treatment costs of €3,428,000 yr⁻¹ using a conversion factor of 30 € PEQ⁻¹ yr⁻¹ (Lindahl et al., 2005; Nunes et al., 2011).

3.2.2. Carbon sequestration

The role of these wetlands in carbon sequestration and storage was examined in a study by Morris et al. (2013). Aerial fluxes were calculated using repeated measurements of alkalinity, pH and other physiochemical parameters in a variety of water bodies in the Doñana National Park (including one permanently flooded aquaculture lagoon in VLP in the Natural Park). Results suggested that the permanently flooded extensive aquaculture lagoons act as weak carbon sinks (−1.6 mol C m⁻² y⁻¹), and although the seasonally inundated freshwater natural ponds elsewhere in the park were strong C sources, the authors suggested that C fixation by vascular plants was more than six times as important as that of phytoplankton, which meant that overall the Doñana wetland was a net carbon sink.

3.3. Habitat or supporting services

3.3.1. Primary production

Maximum primary productivity occurred during July with oxygen consumption suggesting that carbon being fixed peaked at a rate of

22.8 g C m⁻² d⁻¹ in the water column and 3.9 g C m⁻² d⁻¹ in benthic algae but by November no discernible fixation was occurring. This is supported by fluorescence readings that also peak in the June/July and fall in the winter (Walton et al., 2015). In agreement with Morris et al. (2013), the current dual isotope aquatic food web studies focusing on the sources of carbon in the diets of higher consumers indicate that in fact only 51% of the carbon in high consumers originates from phytoplankton (water column and benthic microalgae) with vascular plants (both reeds and widgeon grass) being almost as important sources of carbon. Harding (1997) reviewed the daily phytoplankton primary productivity in 26 warm freshwater systems from around the world which varied between 0.1 to 30.9 g C m⁻² d⁻¹. Extrapolating from the current studies daily estimates of carbon fixation result in annual phytoplankton (benthic and water column) primary production estimates of 408 g C m⁻² yr⁻¹ which is within the range of primary productivity for coastal systems given by Herman et al. (1999) that range from 60 to 670 g C m⁻² yr⁻¹. The difference between the carbon retained and the carbon fixed suggests that only about 5% of the carbon fixed is sequestered, with the rest respired and released back in to the atmosphere. In a review, Keddy (2010) reported that more than 90% of primary production in wetlands is eventually re-released as CO₂ due to direct consumption of phytoplankton and indirectly via the benthos.

3.3.2. Habitats for species

Ninety four water bird species are surveyed every month. Numbers varied according to the season, peaking in November when more than 120,000 birds were present, but with different groups of birds utilizing the VLP lagoons at different times (Fig. 3). No complete picture of the number of individual birds that use the wetland is available, but the lowest estimate of usage is calculated by summing the highest average monthly count of each bird species which indicates that at least 173,655 different individuals use the wetland over the course of a year.

Ducks use VLP in the autumn and winter months when biomass surpasses 50 tonnes in November (Fig. 3) with three omnivorous duck species being particularly dominant: the mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), northern shoveller (*A. clypeata*) and northern pintail (*Anas acuta*). Waders (shorebirds) are less important in terms of biomass but increasingly use the lagoons during the winter months when black tailed godwits (*Limosa limosa*) and pied avocets (*Recurvirostra avosetta*) swell the biomass to more than 7 tonnes (Fig. 3). Bird species other than waders and ducks (“other” in Fig. 2) use the VLP ponds more during the summer when the biomass exceeds 55 tonnes, dominated (66–81%) by greater flamingos (*Phoenicopterus roseus*) and crested coots (*Fulica atra*), with more than 3 tonnes of biomass for great cormorants (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) resident during the winter months. The creation of the VLP lagoons has attracted grey herons *Ardea cinerea* and

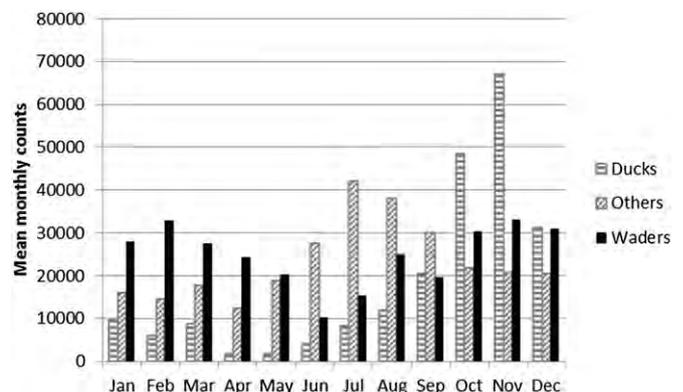


Fig. 3. Mean monthly counts of birds utilizing the extensive aquaculture lagoons in Veta La Palma between 2004 and 2012.

spoonbills *Platalea leucorodia*, and led to a redistribution of these increasing species across Doñana (Ramo et al., 2013). The biodiversity supported by this wetland is immediately noticeable by the vast flocks of birds feeding in lagoons, however the macroinvertebrate community, although numerous with average monthly biomass of 283.5 g dry weight m^{-2} , is not especially rich with only 31 species present (Rodríguez Perez, 2006). Similarly fish diversity was also poor with only 18 species recorded during sampling in the current study. This is not surprising as the supply population in Guadalquivir estuary only contains 21 species and is one of the least diverse fish populations reported in nine European estuaries surveyed (Pihl et al., 2008). More recently a 12 year study sampled the nektonic fish and crustaceans at three points in the estuary (Gonzalez-Ortegon et al., 2012), in 2011 at the sampling point outside the farm gate 39 fish species were caught, but eight of these were rare with only 1 individual caught. The permanently inundated lagoons at VLP provide a vital refuge for ducks and other waterbirds during the dry season until winter rains re-flood the Doñana marshes within the National Park area (Kloskowski et al., 2009). The survey data suggests that at least 173,655 individual birds from 94 species utilize this habitat (EBD-CSIC), however other reports suggest that more than 250,000 birds use VLP and more than 250 bird species have been reported (UNEP, 2012). These lagoons are also particularly important feeding grounds for great cormorants (*P. carbo*), greater flamingos (*P. roseus*), black winged stilts (*Himantopus himantopus*) and pied avocets (*R. avocetta*) (Rendon et al., 2008), and feeding by flamingos, coots and ducks have been shown to have a significant influence on the biomass of both macrophytes and invertebrate populations (Rodríguez-Perez and Green, 2006, 2012).

3.3.3. Maintenance of biodiversity

Recent cessation of the fishing of the IUCN red listed critically endangered European eel, *Anguilla anguilla*, means that in addition to the unknown quantity of mature eels that make it through the 5 cm wide mesh on the outlets of the extensive lagoons, there is now an estimated 14.6 tonnes of eel that is no longer being harvested and can form part of the adult silver eel population that undergoes the migration to the Sargasso Sea.

In addition the lagoons provide habitat for other Red-listed birds, including the globally threatened white-headed duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*) and marbled teal (*Marmaronetta angustirostris*), as well as the near-threatened ferruginous duck (*Aythya nyroca*) and the Eurasian curlew (*Numenius arquata*).

Previous studies have shown that this recently constructed wetland has been colonized by more than eight non-native faunal species and one non-native plant (*Spartina densiflora*) as a result of its exchange of water with the Guadalquivir river estuary, an international shipping channel (e.g., Frisch et al., 2006; Rodríguez-Perez and Green, 2012; Rodríguez-Perez et al., 2009).

The waterbirds supported by the VLP lagoons themselves provide a broad set of ecosystem services (Green and Elmberg, 2014). For example, the migratory populations of Doñana provide a major service as vectors of plants and invertebrates dispersed along their flyways across Europe and North Africa (Brochet et al., 2009; Figuerola et al., 2003). Many species also provide a provisioning service as hunting quarry along their migration route.

Some bird species such as the black-tailed godwit have increased in numbers as a direct consequence of the creation of the VLP lagoons (Marquez-Ferrando et al., 2014). The greater flamingos breeding in Fuente de Piedra in Malaga (the largest colony in the Iberian Peninsula) are strongly dependent on the aquaculture lagoons as feeding grounds (Rendon et al., 2008). However, it is important to recognize that while these lagoons add to the overall diversity, some bird species are strongly dependent on the natural marshes inside the UNESCO World Heritage Site (Rendon et al., 2008).

3.3.4. Assimilation of primary productivity by wetland birds and aquaculture species

To estimate the PPC in support of the semi-extensive bass, the amount of natural prey consumed by the bass needs to be calculated using the isotopic signatures of consumer and diet. The relative enrichment of $\delta^{15}N$ signature of the semi-extensively cultured bass compared with the pelleted diet suggests that the bass are feeding on ^{15}N enriched natural prey items that are entering the pond (Fig. 4). The mixing model mixSIAR indicates that a mean of between 69 and 78% of the diet is pelleted feed with mysids (*Mesopodopsis slabberi*) accounting for the majority of the rest. During the summer months when metabolic demand is highest, there is greater reliance on the pelleted diet as it is likely that natural food supply is outstripped by demand (Fig. 5). Although the overlapping Bayesian credibility intervals that spread between 7 and 10% each side of the mean indicate that this seasonal variation may not be significant. In total the natural prey consumed by the semi-extensive bass require 115,000 tonnes primary production to support them as estimated using the trophic level of the prey (Table 2a).

The amount of primary productivity supporting the production of extensive fish and shrimp estimated directly using trophic efficiency is almost 47000 tonnes of primary productivity with the majority (57%) due to shrimp and mullet, despite these species having amongst the lowest trophic levels and hence being more energetically efficient compared to top predators like bass and meagre (Table 2b).

The calculated amount of primary productivity supporting the bird life, diet consumed was estimated using the bird's energy requirements and dietary energy values, and correcting for trophic efficiency. Greater flamingos, having the largest biomass, also consume the largest amount of macrophytes (22% of total) and invertebrates (44% of total). Cormorants, gulls, herons and egrets are responsible for approximately half the 249 tonnes (WW) of fish losses in VLP (Fig. 6).

Plant biomass is the largest component consumed by birds, and is especially important for the ducks that utilise the ponds. Dividing the annual consumption by the area of water surface (2686 ha) this represents 2.48 tonnes wet wt $ha^{-1} yr^{-1}$ of macrophytes, 0.96 tonnes $ha^{-1} yr^{-1}$ of invertebrates and 0.09 tonnes $ha^{-1} yr^{-1}$ of fish. Correcting for trophic level, birds in Veta la Palma consume 167,000 tonnes (wet wt) of primary productivity (Table 2c). This suggests that the primary production footprint of the water birds counted on the aquaculture lagoons of VLP is almost as great as that which supports the extensive and semi-extensive fish and shrimp harvests.

Assuming the primary productivity which supports food webs for water birds is divided in the same ratio as stable isotopes suggested for the extensively cultured species, then 52% of the supporting primary productivity comes from benthic and water column phytoplankton with 48% coming from vascular macrophytes (reeds and widgeon grass). Applying the wet weight to carbon conversion of Sherr and

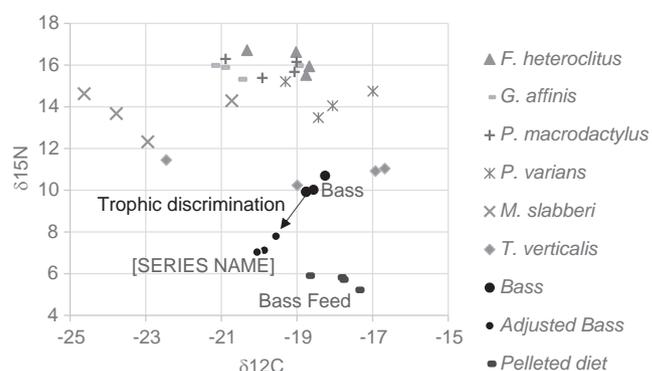


Fig. 4. Isotopic $\delta^{15}N$ and $\delta^{12}C$ signatures of the semi-extensively cultured bass, pelleted diet and likely prey items that enter the ponds. Adjusted *D. labrax* is the isotopic signature of the bass without the isotopic discrimination that occurs during assimilation of the diet into the consumer tissue.

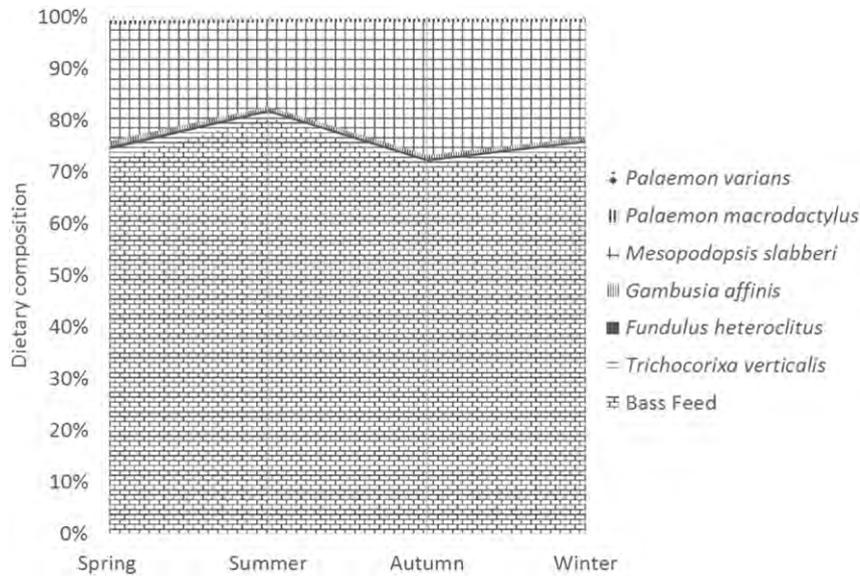


Fig. 5. Seasonal variation in the contribution of wild food to diet of semi-extensively cultured bass as indicated by the mixSIAR isotopic mixing model.

Sherr (1984), $107 \text{ g C m}^{-2} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ of primary production supports bird consumption and aquaculture production. This represents only about a quarter of estimated phytoplankton primary production in this study ($408 \text{ g C m}^{-2} \text{ yr}^{-1}$). The remaining production is either exported or recycled through detrital food webs within in the VLP lagoons.

The current study used the energy demands of different bird species relative to the energy content of the prey items to estimate the biomass consumed by these bird populations. Energy values for diets obtained

Table 2

Primary production (wet weight tonnes) utilized in the production of.

a. The semi-extensively cultured bass (<i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i>)				
Species consumed by semi-extensively cultured bass	TEF	Trophic levels	Estimated prey consumption by bass (t)	PP consumed (t)
<i>Fundulus heteroclitus</i>	0.1	2.56	62.82	22,594.88
<i>Gambusia affinis</i>	0.1	2.41	79.95	20,753.45
<i>Mesopodopsis slabberi</i>	0.1	1.70	1250.61	63,124.72
<i>Palaemon macrodactylus</i>	0.1	2.44	74.24	20,613.28
<i>Palaemon varians</i>	0.1	1.92	57.11	4799.20
<i>Trichocorixa verticalis</i>	0.1	1.00	137.05	1370.54
Sum			1661.78	133,256.08
b. The extensively cultured species				
Extensively cultured species	TEF	Trophic levels	Harvest weight of species (t)	PP consumed (t)
<i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i>	0.1	3.26	1.42	2584.39
<i>Sparus aurata</i>	0.1	3.22	0.35	580.20
Mugilidae	0.1	2.24	94.30	16,297.31
<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>	0.1	2.66	14.60	6652.43
<i>Argyrosomus regius</i>	0.1	3.24	5.76	9964.05
<i>Solea senegalensis</i>	0.1	2.68	0.21	101.83
<i>Dicentrarchus punctatus</i>	0.1	3.26	0.13	242.03
<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>	0.1	2.12	1.04	136.38
<i>Palaemon</i> sp.	0.1	2.07	88.33	10,435.74
Sum			206.15	46,994.36
c. The water birds that occupy Veta la Palma				
Bird diet	TEF	Trophic levels	Estimated consumption (t)	PP consumed (t)
Macrophytes	0.1	0	6666.69	6666.69
Invertebrates	0.1	1.5	2578.89	81,551.52
Fish	0.1	2.5	249.16	78,791.24
Sum				167,009.45

from sampled fish and invertebrates of 21.3 kJ g^{-1} and 22.3 kJ g^{-1} dry weight (DW) respectively, were very close to those reported elsewhere in the literature of $22.4\text{--}23.7 \text{ kJ g}^{-1}$ AFDW for invertebrates in both Alaska and at lower latitudes (Wacasey and Atkinson, 1987). Fish energy densities were reported by Wanless et al. (2005) to range between 14.3 and 28.3 kJ g^{-1} DW in two separate studies. The current study suggested that bird predation was responsible for the annual removal of 34 g DW m^{-2} macrophytes, 25 g DW m^{-2} invertebrates and 2 g DW m^{-2} of fish. In the Wadden Sea bird predation of invertebrate communities results in similar annual rates that range from 4.85 to 27.4 g DW m^{-2} depending on the habitat (Scheiffarth and Nehls, 1997) and elsewhere along the East Atlantic Flyway annual invertebrate consumption ranges from 3 to 39 g DW m^{-2} (Moreira, 1997). It is noteworthy that fish losses due to bird predation is more than double the total extensive fish production although the majority of these losses will be small non-commercial species such as *G. affinis*, *F. heteroclitus* and *Pomatoschistus* spp. Other extensive farms report smaller losses to bird predation, in the esteros of Cadiz losses were estimated to be $15\text{--}30\%$ (Yufera and Arias, 2010) and in the valliculture systems of Northern Italy 30% (Anras et al., 2010). It is remarkable that with the losses sustained to predation that aquaculture production at VLP remains economically viable. Profitability is due to the mixed cultivation system of semi-intensive ponds, where the fish are protected by nets during juvenile stages, together with the production from the extensive

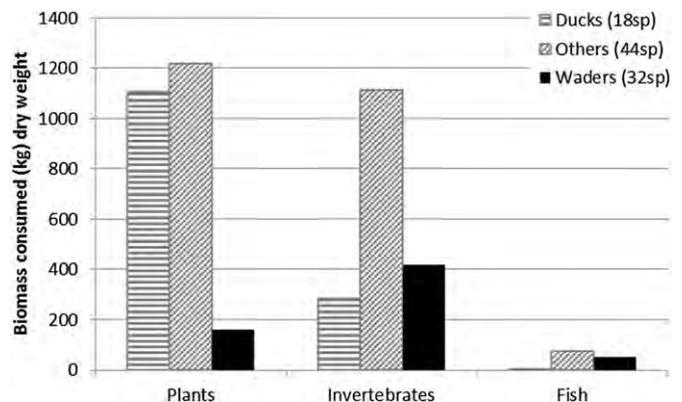


Fig. 6. Annual biomass consumption (kg dwt d^{-1}) by the birds in the lagoons of VLP.

lagoons in addition the high values of the environmentally sustainably reared fish and shrimp.

3.4. Cultural services, ecotourism and scientific knowledge

Tourism activities are now restricted to groups that have prior permission to visit in order to limit the stress on bird populations and for biosecurity reasons. A well laid out visitors' centre is also available to visiting groups. In addition the management at VLP is extremely supportive of scientific studies, and so far more than thirty peer-reviewed studies have been published that use data from the farm.

4. Implications for the expansion of wetland aquaculture

While in Europe the use of aquaculture as either a driver of wetland construction or wetland conservation is relatively unknown and has not entered mainstream thinking or policy, in tropical climates the integration of aquaculture into sensitive habitats such as mangroves have long been practiced with numerous examples from Africa, South East Asia and China (Binh et al., 1997; Folke and Kautsky, 1992; Huang et al., 1997; Primavera et al., 2010). The VLP example presented here provides one method of how this can be achieved in a more temperate setting.

A recent review of status of semi-intensive and extensive aquaculture in France, Italy, Greece, Portugal and Spain examined the reasons for stagnation in the industry and suggested that many of the potential aquaculture areas are under some sort of protected status which limits development (Anras et al., 2010). The twin pillars of the EU nature conservation policy are the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC and the Birds Directive 2009/147/EC. These aim to protect rare and endangered species and the core areas that they inhabit together with around 230 habitat types that are of European importance (EC, 2012). These goals are realised in the form of the Natura 2000 Network which seeks to achieve a favourable conservation status for these endangered species and important habitats. Each site has its own conservation objectives but does not exclude sustainable development (EC, 2012). The current study demonstrates how the integration of the appropriate type of aquaculture (the VLP model) into a Natura 2000 Network site can be used to facilitate this objective of favourable conservation status. VLP provides feeding grounds for the large wetland bird population during the months when the main wetlands in the Doñana National Park are dry (Figuerola and Green, 2004; Kloskowski et al., 2009), and the existence of these reconstructed wetlands complements the natural wetlands and enables a larger and more diverse waterbird community to persist (Kloskowski et al., 2009).

The results presented here for VLP parallel recent work on integrating fish farming and bird conservation in eastern European freshwater wetlands (BirdLife International, 2014). There is considerable scope for increasing the area of such mixed semi-extensive and extensive marine species aquaculture in coastal wetlands in the Atlantic region of Europe. For example, at a stakeholder meeting in Seville, Spain entitled "The potential for wetland aquaculture; balancing economic development and conservation benefits" scientists, NGOs, regional government officials and aquaculture farmers identified over 20,000 ha of degraded wetlands on the SW Atlantic coast of Spain and Portugal that could be improved using this dual purpose wetland aquaculture model, with further potential areas reported in estuaries on the western coast of Portugal (30th October 2013, www.seafareproject.eu/index.php/media-centre/). Coastal aquaculture in France and Greece both suffer from water quality problems caused by agricultural runoff (Anras et al., 2010). Schemes like VLP that has demonstrated how hydraulic restoration of wetland can improve water quality through the absorption of high levels of nutrients, could be part of the management to improve coastal water quality.

In response to rising sea levels, UK shoreline management plans now include a managed realignment (MR) option i.e., a managed movement of the shoreline inland and now there are at least 29 sites where MR has

been initiated with various objectives, the most common of which is the creation of intertidal habitat followed by improvement of flood defences and reduction of flood defence cost (Esteves, 2012). Most of these MR schemes in UK are small, less than 20 ha, despite studies that have shown that ecosystem services are only significantly improved when the areas involved are greater than 100 ha. Aquaculture may also be used to defray some of the costs of reconstructing these wetlands in return for the option to operate integrated wetland aquaculture schemes that can mitigate for the loss of wetland habitat elsewhere due to coastal development as required by the EU Habitats Directive. In this cooler northern European setting, the aquaculture models may be different from the VLP case study, for example fish production in intensive recirculation systems with downstream nutrient remediation in wetlands (Webb et al., 2012) and shellfish production using primary production entrained from wetland ponds (e.g. www.morecambebayoysters.co.uk). The use of compensatory mitigation or biodiversity offsets, where habitats that are lost due to development are offset by the restoration or recreation of new habitat, are commonly used around the world (McKenney and Kiesecker, 2010).

5. Summary

In summary this study demonstrates the feasibility of using aquaculture as the economic driver for the construction of dual purpose wetlands with an integrated aquaculture function that can provide multiple ecosystem services, compensate for wetland that has been lost elsewhere, improve downstream water quality in coastal areas thereby increasing the area available for shellfish cultivation, and provide livelihoods. The scale of the ecosystem services offered in this study should provide persuasive evidence for policy makers of what is achievable with this model of aquaculture. The study also indicates that the large areas of degraded Mediterranean wetlands presented by Anras et al. (2010) and those in the Atlantic area identified in the stakeholders' meeting mentioned in the final "Implications" section represent potential sites where this type of dual purpose aquaculture or a locally adapted model could provide significant ecosystem services through the rehabilitation of impacted wetlands.

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Preface

The European Union adopted in 2002 a Community strategy for a sustainable aquaculture, according to which future European fish-farming industry should be situated at the forefront of sustainable development, in both production and application of technology. The Marine Programme of the World Conservation Union (IUCN) has been promoting best practices in the aquaculture sector. The IUCN and the Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP) signed a common agreement to cooperate in the development of sustainable aquaculture in 2005.

Aquaculture in the Mediterranean experienced a drastic increase in recent years. But the environmental problems linked to conventional fish farms have also dramatically increased (Medialdea, 2009). Faecal contamination from fish farms results in harmful algal blooms and reduced water quality; escaped domesticates mingle with wild stocks and weaken gene pools; diseases spawned in fish-farms spread to wild fishes; chemicals and antibiotics seep into surrounding waters and affect marine life; important and sensitive coastal and wetland areas are disrupted or destroyed; and wild fish stocks are depleted in order to provide feed for carnivorous domesticates. Aquaculture needs to develop effective tools to maintain profitability and improve the quality of its products, all while minimizing environmental impacts. In the Mediterranean region, the fish-farming industry of the future will not only produce economical profits and employment opportunities, but will manage its ecological capital (its resources) in a sustainable and even perhaps an environmentally beneficial way.

The present document has been prepared in the framework of the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity (SAP BIO) in the Mediterranean Region, which aim is to offer adequate responses to the diverse and complex threats to Mediterranean marine and coastal biodiversity, implementing national and regional actions that involve the participation of all countries, stakeholders and users (UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA, 2003). The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) and its subsidiary Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ) have agreed on the importance of identifying positive interactions between aquaculture/fishing practices along the Mediterranean Region, taking into account the existing initiatives. The medium-term objective is to elaborate a regional action project to be made for the future conservation and management of these areas, helping to eventually revert their environmental degradation.

This document examines the environmental outputs of *Veta la Palma* fish-farm, an extensive aquaculture operation located in Doniana wetland, Southern Spain, where economical benefits result from the application of innovative production methods involving a wide environmental concern through an ecosystem approach to its management. This operation has not only been managed to supply top-quality aquaculture products, but also to minimize its ecological footprints and enhance natural ecology and biodiversity of a formerly degraded wetland area. Present analysis is made under the principles accounted by the Ramsar Convention; the 1978 (revised in 1995) Barcelona Convention (and its protocols) for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean; the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity Rio Summit, the 2002 Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development; the 2003 Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Code of Conduct of Responsible Fisheries in the Mediterranean; and the CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

1 Introduction

1.1 *Sustainable aquaculture and coastal wetland conservation: a current replicable model*

Coastal wetlands and lagoons around the Mediterranean basin have since long played a major role in the development of local communities through the varied benefits people have obtained from these ecosystems. In addition to flood control and groundwater replenishment, coastal wetlands and lagoons provide other services for the health, safety and welfare of human populations including food and agricultural products, fibre, timber, fertile land, water supply, and water transport. Coastal wetlands and lagoons are also major reservoirs of biodiversity that support high species richness, many of them being wetland-dependent during critical life stages and unique. A number of coastal wetlands and lagoons along the Mediterranean shores are listed as sites of biological and ecological interest, some of them being protected areas.

Mediterranean people have used these singular places and lived in them for centuries, usually exploiting their richness in terms of artisanal capture fisheries and aquaculture to the extent that ecosystem integrity has become strongly dependent on these activities. The age-old maintenance of some of these practices has decisively contributed to preserve these ecosystems, along with their cultural heritage, promoting both environmental conservation and the development of local economy. Economic activity based on traditional aquaculture and other traditional fishery systems have led to the protection and restoration of coastal wetlands and lagoons, increasing biodiversity and restoring lost ecosystem services.

In Mediterranean countries where extensive/semi-extensive aquaculture and traditional fishery systems are still practiced, managed wetlands and lagoons constitute habitats for numerous threatened species of fish, amphibians, reptiles and birds. This is the case of *Isla Mayor del Guadalquivir* in Southern Spain, where this activity plays a fundamental role for the conservation of the rich and diverse fauna of a vast protected Mediterranean coastal marshland, that has been designated a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention and a Biosphere Reserve under the UNESCO Man & Biosphere Programme. The area currently devoted to aquaculture extends over 3,200 hectares in a privately ruled estate called *Veta la Palma*, that occupies the formerly degraded Southern half of *Isla Mayor del Guadalquivir*. *Veta la Palma* aquaculture ponds supports the bird diversity of the neighbouring Doñana National Park and provide excellent habitat and food for high numbers of animal species, many of them listed as endangered or threatened in Annex II of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity (SPA/BD) of the Barcelona Convention or in the red list of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The aquaculture operation has become internationally recognized for its role in conservation and was awarded in 2003 by the Anders Wall Foundation in cooperation with the Directorate-Generale for the Environment of the European Commission (Otero and Bailey, 2003).

The same principles could be applied to other coastal wetlands in the Mediterranean area, where aquaculture could effectively support a number of environmental services for the hydrology and ecology of many disturbed coastal areas, restoring the damage produced in the original landscape by land misuses, while combining the economic benefits of aquaculture with objectives in conservation.

In addition, Doniana and the delta of the Guadalquivir River in SW Spain are situated on an strategic point for climate change. The geomorphologic processes are very active in the area and during the last decades precipitation has decreased while maximum temperatures have increased significantly (Viner and Sayer, 2006). This trend is likely to continue in the future, and erosion, desertification and sea level rise, all risks arising from climate change, may affect biodiversity conservation. The important water system developed for the aquaculture activity could effectively help to mitigate the climate change effects on the area, preventing erosion and sedimentation, contributing to coastal line preservation, maintaining carbon balance, and ensuring the profitability of this activity and also the biodiversity under any of the predicted climate scenarios.

This model can be a useful tool for future plans involving the regeneration of disrupted marshland areas and coastal wetlands in the whole Mediterranean region, integrating aquaculture with other regional sources of social and economical inputs.

1.2 Overview of the natural history of Isla Mayor del Guadalquivir

Isla Mayor Island is located in the Southwestern quadrant of the Iberian Peninsula, between the South of the Eurasian continent and Northern Africa. Climate of the area is Mediterranean moderated by the ocean, with warm dry summers and cool wet winters. Mean annual temperature is 17°C, while average annual precipitation reaches 525 mm (Llamas, 1988). Geographically, *Isla Mayor* lies at the centre of the Guadalquivir River delta, and is bounded on the east by the River and on the west by Doniana National Park. This location, in the heart of the most extensive, representative and dynamic ecosystem of Doniana - the Marsh - and just a few kilometers to the mouth of the river, determines marked annual variations in *Isla Mayor* natural cycles. The vastness of the landscape, the influence of prevailing Southwestern wind and the flooding characteristics of the marshes, with water levels depending mainly on seasonal rainwater, make *Isla Mayor* Island a wild and rough territory, difficult for settlement and agricultural livestock production.

Largely described as a huge and muddy no-man's land, *Isla Mayor* is situated in an area that, approximately twenty centuries ago, was a large inner lake known as *Ligur* Lake by the Phoenicians and *Lacus Ligustinus* under Roman Empire, resulted from the closing of an earlier bay – the *Baetican* Gulf – by successive coastal sands bars. River-borne sediments and marine deposits laid down by the tide were silting up the lake, forming the base of the Marshes (Bayán Jardín, 2006). The Guadalquivir River, in its way through this alluvial plain in formation, was branched off in one arm on the left bank (*Brazo del Este*), which created *Isla Menor* Island, and another branch on the right bank (*Brazo de la Torre*), which formed *Isla Mayor*. According to Pomponius Mela (III.1.15): "... [The Baetis] forms a great lagoon and [...] branches in two arms running with so great flow rate in each one as that brought in a single [the main] canal" (Figure 1).

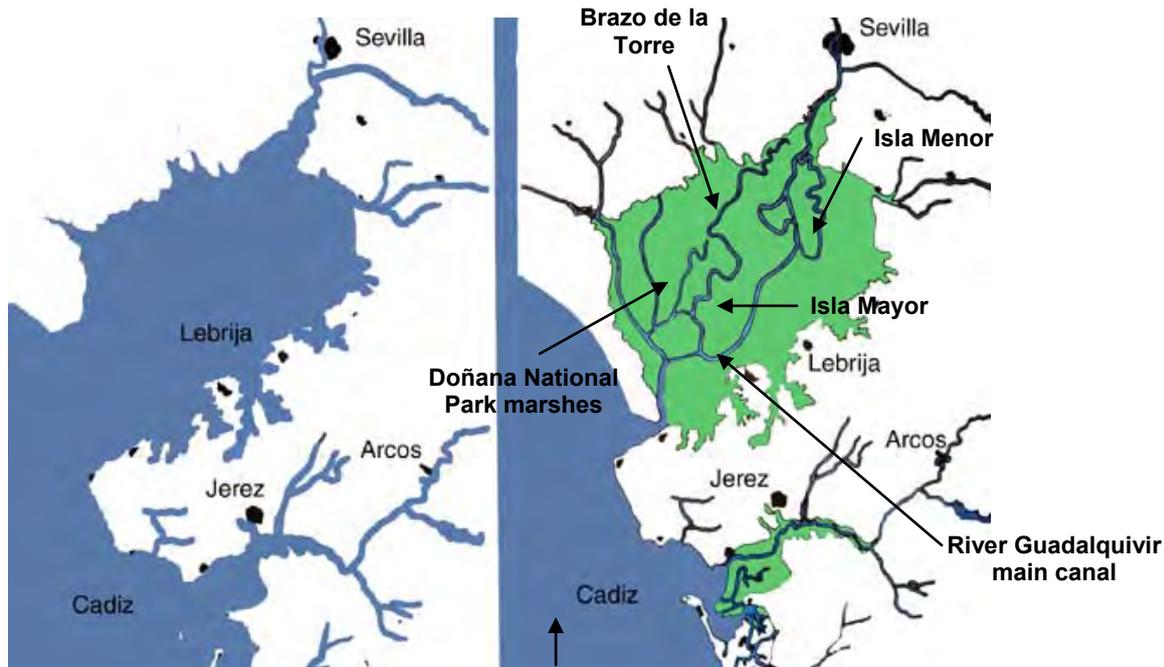


Figure 1. Evolution of ancient *Lacus Ligustinus* to the modern hydrological network of the Guadalquivir Marshes, where new island lying between river branches (*Isla Mayor* and *Isla Menor*) are shown. *Veta la Palma* Estate extends over Southern half of *Isla Mayor* (pointed by the arrow in the Figure). Adapted from www.jerez2020.com/jerezrvh/origen_geografico.htm.

The input of sediments from watercourses draining in the old *lacus* formed the present topography of the whole area, characterized by an essentially flat relief with a shallow hydrographical network (Bayán Jardín, 2006). Abel Chapman, in his *Unexplored Spain*, describes the Marsh - perhaps wrongly termed as lower Delta - as "...a vast area of semi-tidal saline ooze and marsh, extending over forty or fifty miles in length, and spreading out laterally to untold leagues on either side of the river". More ahead, the author depicts this landscape in terms of "... practically a uniform dead-level of alluvial mud, only broken by vetas [levees], or low grass-grown ridges seldom rising more than a foot or two above the flat, and which vary in extent from a few yards to hundreds of acres." At present, more than a hundred years after Chapman's visit, the most outstanding element of perception in this landscape is still the lack of relief: "...Lower Delta, [...] which still remains a wilderness, and must for centuries remain so..."

The uneven topography is, therefore, responsible for Marsh singularity, a landscape often portrayed as monotonous, desolated or even deceptive. Chapman (*Unexplored Spain*) further writes: "Should our attempted description read vague, we may plead that there is nothing tangible to describe in a wilderness devoid of salient feature. Nor can we liken it with any other spot, for nowhere on earth have we met with a region like this - nominally dry all summer and inundated all winter, yet subject to such infinite variation according to varying seasons."

But such physical uniformity does not resist a detailed ecological analysis. In addition to a high primary productivity, this apparently flat land hides a mosaic of microhabitats defined by variations in soil conditions and humidity: high or salty marsh, partially or exceptionally flooded, dominated by succulent halophytes (*almajos* from *Chenopodiaceae* family as glasswort *Salicornia ramossissima* with *Arthrocnemum macrostachyum*, *A. perenne* and seablite *Suaeda* sp.); and lower-lying areas (sweet marshland) with a stronger seasonal variation and a more varied vegetation like bulrush (*Cyperus* sp.), sea club-rush (known locally as *castañuela*, *Scirpus maritimus*), rushes (*Juncus* sp.), crowfoot (*Ranunculus baudotii*), broad-leaf cattail (*Typha* sp), common reed (*Phragmites australis*), etc (García

Novo, 1997). In normal years, these areas stay flooded from October to May-June and congregate a myriad of bird species, particularly waterbirds, while raptors, steppe-habitat birds, mammals (hares, mice, shrews...), amphibians like frogs, toads and newts, and snakes are usually found in the high salty marshland. *Lucios* and *vetas* represent both extreme of topographic and hydrologic gradients. In the *lucios* (depressions which hold wet season lagoons), no vegetation can grow due to the high salt content of the soil, while the *vetas* are islands rising above the plain, where cattle and wild fauna find refuge in flooding periods.

Isla Mayor, *Isla Menor* and the other areas stretched among Guadalquivir River branches, as well as the remaining marshland areas to the East of *Brazo del Este* and to the West of *Brazo de la Torre*, have a long history of natural evolution by silting-up and man made transformations – reservoir construction and drainage works in the main Guadalquivir canal, interruption of connections (*cortas*) between different branches, further works carried out around Doniana National Park involving *Brazo de la Torre* bank canalling to control the extension of floodable area, etc. - that has largely affected the original hydrology (Bayán Jardín, 2006). The whole area is currently a floodable plain composed of depressions which depend on seasonal rains to get filled, and are surrounded by natural drainage canals (*caños*) and artificial waterways bordering smaller slow-moving interfluves (*esteros*). Floodplain flat relief is only interrupted by old levees (*vetas*) and islets (García Novo, 1988).

However, *Isla Mayor* shows a more delayed morphological evolution than neighbour stream-bordered areas. In this island, the process described above develops from North to the South and is not yet finished, seemingly a young dynamic territory. Hence, further management works in the island (canal and wall construction, drainage for agricultural purposes, etc.) have altered natural evolution pattern (García Novo, 1988). Some areas of *Isla Mayor* – in its Southern part - still maintain their natural functionality and preserve original physiognomic types of marshes, established along the flood and topographic gradients. In some relict spots, it is also possible to catch a glimpse of former large wet depressions known as *Lucio Real*, *Lucio del Caño Nuevo* and *Lucio del Caño de la Sal* that extended over the island before human transformations.

This "... viewless waste ..." that strongly impressed Chapman (*Unexplored Spain*), emerged in a territory economically structured around the *Lacus Ligustinus*. Latin authors Avienus (*Ora Maritima*, 284), Pliny the Elder (NH, III.3.11) and Pomponius Mela (III.1.15) described this area as characterized by a diversified economy, supplying farming and fishing products destined for local consumption and marketing. Neighboring villages as *Caura* (present *Coria del Río*) made their living through fishing *sábalos*, barbels, mullets, eels, lampreys and sturgeons (*sollos*) in the lagoon, while vineyards and olive trees covered its shores. Strabo (III.2.6) and Columella (RR I.20) gave vivid testimonies of the importance and extension of vineyards and olive trees in the area. As long as the continuous input of sediments was gradually filling the lagoon, people from the surrounding towns were introducing their cattle in the new "...land randomly formed [*Isla Mayor* Island]..." Extensive livestock management in the *vetas*, fishing in *caños* and *lucios* and waterfowl hunting became major land uses, while salt mines, charcoal production and *almajos* burning for soap manufacture, proliferated as minor customs (Algarín Vélez, 2000).

After a long historical parenthesis, in 1253 King Alfonso X *The Sage* donated *Isla Mayor* and other parts of the Guadalquivir River marshes to the Council of the City of Seville, and in 1272 to the inhabitants of *La Guardia* (present *Puebla del Río*), giving documentary evidence of a territory abounding in pastures. Afterward, The Catholic Kings decided to rent *Isla Mayor* Island - a public land till that time - with the aim of supporting the costs of the war for the conquest of the Kingdom of Granada. *Isla Mayor* was given back to the Council

of Seville some years later, and many surrounding towns (*Alcalá del Río, Salteras, La Rinconada, La Algaba, Santiponce, Coria del Río, Puebla del Río...*) granted the land for common usage of the pastures. That was a time when many farmers illegally introduced their livestock in the Island, constructed reed-built huts in the *vetas* and raised fences for the initial crops.

The first attempts to transform *Isla Mayor* into farm land date back to the 19th Century, when the best territories of the Island were ruled - with some speculative aims - by important figures of the local Upper Class, as the *Marqués de Casa Riera*. However, such projects were quickly given up because of the land barrenness, and livestock seemed to be the only profitable business in this land.

In 1923, the British company *Islas del Río Guadalquivir Limited* acquired *Isla Mayor* and initiated major works to prevent annual flooding, in order to transform the area for cereal agriculture. The construction of settlements and the initial success of cereal crop stimulated the arrival of people coming from different places of the Iberian Peninsula. The first rural communities, like the *Village of Alfonso XIII*, arose in the area at that time. However, the excessive operating costs combined with climate harshness and succeeding losses of cereal harvest, forced the company to abandon a project that had been supported by the Spanish Monarchy as a real colonization plan.

Rice was introduced as an alternative crop for the poor soils of the marshes in 1937, when Rafael Beca - an important local landowner - arrived to *Isla Mayor* with the order, made by Franco's General Queipo de Llano, to initiate the culture of rice in the marsh. The *Village of Alfonso XIII* was equipped with stores, doctor and religious service, becoming the only rice storehouse of the War National zone, since the main historic rice area in Spain - Valencia - was still in Republican hands. Soon after the Conflict, rice culture was encouraged in the whole area, favoring the construction of new settlements like *El Puntal* (present *Village of Isla Mayor*, the most important town of the Island), whose rapid social and economic growth attracted people from Valencia that knew the techniques for rice cultivation.

In the 40s and 50s of 20th Century, rice growing became the main activity in the Guadalquivir River marshes, including the North of *Isla Mayor*. Firstly based on traditional methods (permanent care of the land, labourers and foremen living together at the foot of the big estates, etc.), crop management was gradually mechanized (direct sowing, use of chemicals, combine harvesters, etc.) determining an extraordinary increase in the volume and quality of the harvest. Today, a vast area of 400 square kilometres divided by the Guadalquivir is dedicated to this activity. On the right side, rice fields extend from the fertile valley of *Puebla del Río* on the North to the limit of *Veta la Palma* Estate on the South, bordering with the rivers Guadalquivir (East) and Guadiamar (West). On the left bank, the crop occupies most of *Isla Menor* Island and other marshland areas. Average output reaches 310,000 metric tones, approximately 40% of Spain rice production (data obtained from the *Federación de Arroceros de Sevilla*).

The works undertaken by British owners on *Isla Mayor* to control periodic flooding of the Guadalquivir River included the construction from 1926 to 1928 of a wall surrounding the whole of the island. In 1966, 10,300 ha of Southern *Isla Mayor* (the present *Veta la Palma* Estate) were sold to the company *Agropecuaria del Guadalquivir*, managed by a rich Argentine family (rice growing extended over the remaining 14,000 ha, out of the total 25,000 ha of the Island). *Agropecuaria del Guadalquivir* improved the flood defenses and used this traditionally grazing land for cattle breeding.

The project was undertaken in two stages. Firstly, between 1966 and 1969 former wet depressions (*lucios*) were drained by means of a 230-kilometre drainage canal network. Additionally, 110 km of roads, a peripheral breakwater and different facilities for livestock were constructed. The main goal of second stage was to substitute natural marshland pasture for improved cereals destined to feed livestock. The ecological consequences were *lucios* drying-up and almost total interruption of tidal influence (except during very high tides, locally called *botamentos*). Tidal marshland practically disappeared and grasses invade the dried *lucios*. In areas conserving a short flooding regime, halophytes (particularly *Arthrocnemum macrostachyum*) dominated. The construction of floodgates allowed to improve the control of the hydrological network and to artificially inundate (during *botamentos*) small areas for waterfowl hunting and traditional fishing (eel, shrimp, etc., García Novo, 1988).

Further work plans by *Agropecuaria del Guadalquivir* were never carried out. In 1978 about 8,000 ha of the Estate were declared a protected area by National Administration, under the figure of Eastern Prepark of Doniana.

In 1982, *Agropecuaria del Guadalquivir* was bought by *Hisparroz, S.A.* and renamed as *Pesquerías Isla Mayor, S.A. (PIMSA)*, which is the present owner of *Veta la Palma* Estate. Marshland pasture substitution by cereal was abandoned and former drainage network was improved and used in a reverse way, that is, as irrigation canals to restore dried *lucios* and create shallow lagoons for aquaculture purposes.

First research experiences on aquaculture were undertaken in the property from 1982 to 1984 by the Department of Ecology, University of Sevilla, following a collaboration contract signed with the Estate ownership. Trials were made in 9 small cultivation ponds outside the limits of the Eastern Prepark of Doniana, and cultivated species were carp (*Cyprinus carpio*), eel (*Anguilla anguilla*), tilapia (*Oreochromis* sp.) and shrimp (*Palaemonetes varians*). In spite of the good results, poaching forced to give up the project. Meanwhile, different larger ponds were prepared and flooded in other Estate areas for sea bass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*), eel, shrimp and king-prawn (*Penaeus kenathurus*) cultivation under provisional permissions by Fishing Authority of the Local Autonomous Administration (García Novo, 1988). In 1989, the whole area of *Veta la Palma* lying between the Guadalquivir River on the East and South, and its right *Brazo de la Torre* branch on the West, was included in the new Doniana Natural Park created by Administration.

Considering the favorable results obtained in the preliminary experiences, in 1990 an ambitious aquaculture project was initiated in *Veta la Palma* under definitive approval by Fishing administrators, according to the *Plan for the Use and Management of Doniana National Park (PRUG)* regulations. 3,200 ha of the Estate were flooded with first-rate water from the Guadalquivir delta. The result was a carefully managed wetland supporting a rich and nourished flora and fauna, particularly dense communities of invertebrate species, which are the basis for a vast range of extensive aquaculture products. Cultivate species are typical of the delta, including Sea bass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*), Sea bream (*Sparus aurata*), Meagre (*Argyrosomus regius*), Sole fish (*Solea solea*, *S. senegalensis*), White shrimp (*Palaemonetes varians*), Eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) and mullets (Flat head grey mullets *Mugil cephalus* and Thin-lipped grey mullet *Liza ramada*). Some 4,600 ha of *Veta la Palma* extension is marshland pasture for extensive livestock, producing horses and brave bulls; on the remaining 2,500 ha dry cereal is grown on rotational basis.

As a consequence of land drainage work started by the British and improved by *Agropecuaria del Guadalquivir*, the area of *Veta la Palma* – and the whole *Isla Mayor* Island - lost many of its original wetland physical features such as seasonal flooding, resulting in a

dramatic decrease of its natural diversity of aquatic birds. Isla Mayor was no longer that "...surface carpeted with waterfowls [...] dreary zone would offer but little attraction was it not for its feathered inhabitants" described by Chapman (Unexplored Spain). This situation kept the same until aquaculture rescued and transformed Veta la Palma into what is a model of integrated wetland management that has restored and enhanced the natural ecology of this area.

2 Aquaculture as a base for a sustainable wetland management: the case of Veta la Palma

Veta la Palma fish farming area is divided into 45 rectangular, 70-hectare ponds, connected to each other and with the rivers Guadalquivir and Brazo de la Torre by means of a complex 300-kilometer irrigation and drainage canal network. To maintain oxygenation and water quality, one million cubic meters of water is pumped daily from the river through the whole system, which is designed to work both in open and close circuit, depending on environmental and operational circumstances (Figure 2).

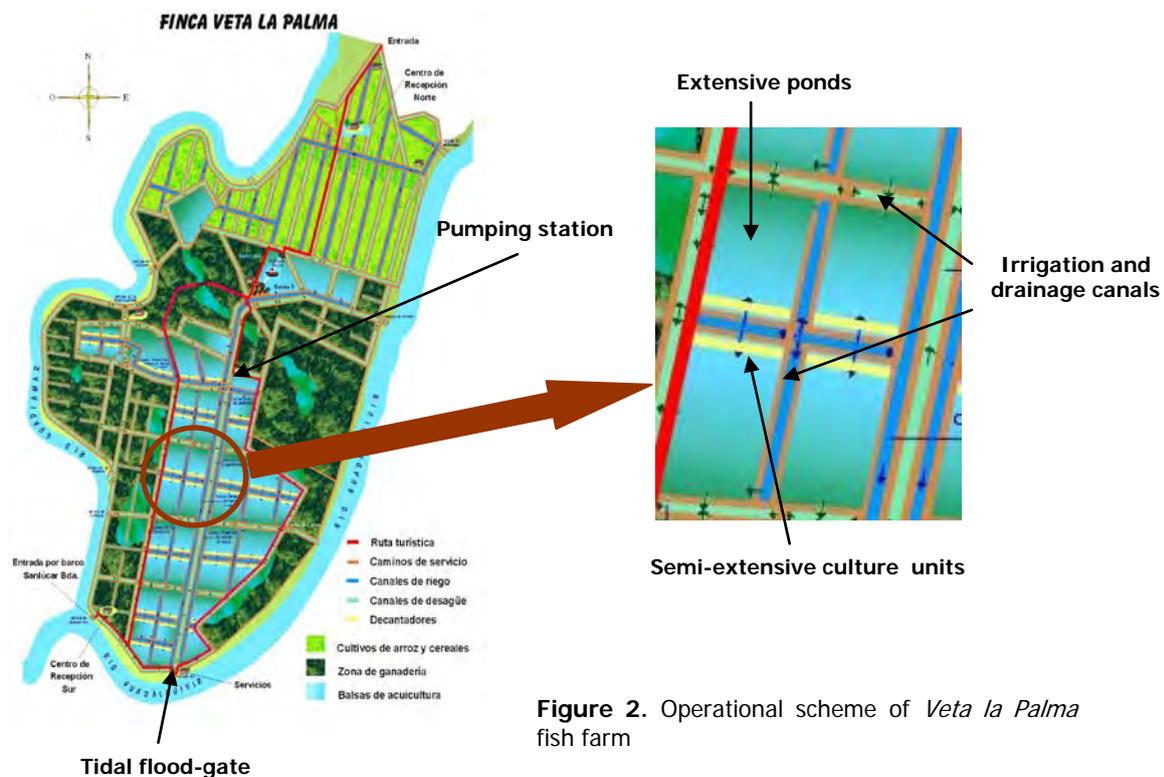


Figure 2. Operational scheme of *Veta la Palma* fish farm

2.1 Environmental services supported by extensive/semi-extensive aquaculture

The aquaculture operation and surrounding marshland pastures in *Veta la Palma* have been managed to restore the damage produced in the original wetland by former land-uses, minimizing its own ecological footprint and combining the economic benefits of aquaculture with objectives in conservation (Figure 3)



Figure 3. Satellite image of *Veta la Palma* estate. The other images illustrate current activities of the property – extensive/semi-extensive aquaculture, livestock and rice crop – and their contribution to conservation (photos by *Veta la Palma*, H. Muñiz, A. Liébana and J. Ramos).

2.1.1. Increase of aquatic biodiversity as a consequence of hydrologic stability

Extensive fish farming ponds are characterized by their stability regarding flooded surface (3,200 ha), average depth (40-50 cm), water flow rate (up to 1 hm³/day in summer) and salinity, although salt content may fluctuate according to the season and the amount of rain (6-15 g/l in wet periods and 15-25 g/l during driest episodes).

This stability allows to buffer changes in the salinity, water flow and nutrient concentration values of the Guadalquivir river delta, promoting a massive development of phytoplankton (primary producers) that quickly assimilates nitrogen and phosphorus excess in the water.

Veta la Palma is located in an area of mild Mediterranean climate with an Atlantic influence that moderates temperatures. In such conditions, the continuous input of organic matter in the water favors, via phytoplankton, the development of salt tolerant saprophytic bacteria and phytobenthos (mainly sediment algae), periphyton (mixture of diatoms, cyanobacterial filaments and detritus that attach to the submerged surface of aquatic vegetation), and aquatic macrophytes such as *Ruppia* sp. and *Potamogeton* sp.

Primary consumers predating on phytoplankton and phytobenthos are represented by zooplankton organisms: protozoans, planktonic rotifers (mainly *Brachionus plicatilis*), and microcrustaceans as copepods (*Arctodiaptomus salinus*) and cladocers (*Daphnia magna*, *Moina* sp.). Associated to the benthonic compartment, a microfauna composed of benthonic rotifers, nematodes, aquatic worms (oligochaets and polychaets as *Nereis* sp.), chironomids (*Chironomus salinarius*, mosquito larvae, etc.), isopods (*Synidotea* and *Lekanesphaera*), amphipods (*Corophium orientale*) and aquatic hemipters (*Corixa*) included in the herbivorous/detritivorous trophic level, can be found.

The next trophic level - omnivorous organisms - include crustaceans as mysid shrimps (*Mesopodopsis* sp. and *Neomysis* sp.) and shrimps (mainly *Palaemonetes varians* but occasionally *Palaemon longirrostris* and *P. serratus*), and fishes as mullets (*Liza ramada*, *Mugil cephalus*). Sea bream (*Sparus aurata*) is in a second step inside this level.

Carnivorous are represented by small fishes as *Pomatochystus microps*, *P. minutus* and *Fundulus heteroclitus*, whose diet is composed mainly of larvae, active predators as Sea bass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*) and Meagre (*Argyrosomus regius*), that feed on crustaceans and other fishes, and Eel (*Anguilla anguilla*). Sole fish (*Solea solea*, *S. senegalensis*) is usually found associated to the benthonic compartment.

Therefore, the single combination of water, light and nutrients, through the effect of photosynthesis combined with a careful management of water flow, generates a highly stable and productive aquatic ecosystem distinguished by its diversity and ubiquitous multitrophic interactions (PIMSA, 1995; Rodríguez Pérez and Green, 2003).

2.1.2. Waterflow reestablishment and sanitary management of the ecosystem

2.1.2.1. Improvement of Guadalquivir River water quality

Veta la Palma aquaculture ponds behave like huge water treatment plants, where the excess of nutrients (nitrogen, phosphorus, etc.) and organic matter of biological origin, is removed from the water and transformed into living biomass by means of natural processes (Medialdea, 2009). This biomass is finally extracted from the system via commercial fishing and predation by birds.

In water, inorganic nitrogen is present in several forms: ammonia, nitrite and nitrate. All these forms are biochemically convertible, according to the oxidation and reduction state of the water and the activity of organisms (mainly bacteria and cyanobacteria) that are capable of fixing nitrogen from the air into a form available to the remainder of the biota. Ionized ammonium (NH_4^+) and ammonia (NH_3) are usually found in equilibrium in water. The equilibrium is governed by pH; above pH 9.5, ammonia may be predominant and, in concentration among 0.1 – 0.2 mg/l it may be toxic for aquatic organisms. When an aquatic plant or animal dies, or an animal excretes, the initial form of nitrogen is organic. Then bacteria (or in some cases, fungi) convert the organic nitrogen into ammonia (ammonification).

In *Veta la Palma* fish farming ponds, where pH is usually under 9.5, ammonium is present mainly in the ionized form and in concentration rarely above 0.1 mg/l. In this extensive and shallow water sheet, ammonia is chemical and biologically converted to nitrate. The primary stage of nitrification is the oxidation of ammonia to nitrite (NO_2^-), an intermediate form of nitrogen which accumulation (continuous values above 0.5 mg/l) is toxic for life. The second stage is the oxidation of the nitrites into nitrate (NO_3^-), an essential nutrient for photosynthesis that is assimilated by the aquatic plants and algae. Recorded nitrite values in the ponds are always under 0.2 mg/l, explaining to a large extent that water flow management in the fish farm allows a total performance of nitrification process.

Phosphorus is the primary nutrient limiting biological productivity in aquatic systems. The cycling of phosphorus is complex in the aquaculture ponds, with the majority being bound up in the particulate phase as living biota (i.e. algae and bacteria). Labile compounds are excreted by the algae and bacteria. The compounds, algae, and bacteria combine with each other to form a snot-like (colloidal) material. Most of this colloidal material is lost from the productive zone by sedimentation in the bottom of the ponds, leaving a minimum portion in the form of soluble orthophosphate (PO_4^{3-}). Orthophosphate is quickly assimilated by algae and macrophytes that live in the water and cover pond banks and canals, so final concentration of this phosphorous form usually remain in almost untraceable levels (0.01 - 0.34 mg/l). In addition, the huge ecological productivity of fishing ponds and particularly the high renovation rate of phytoplankton, help to maintain soluble orthophosphate concentration at a very low level.

Therefore, the hydrologic system operating in *Veta la Palma* installation contributes to maintain oxygenation and water quality, and to avoid eutrophication caused by the increase in the amount of nitrogen and phosphorous compounds. In addition, the strength of nitrogen and phosphorus cycles in this aquatic system allows to effectively controlling the amounts of nutrients in water, particularly phosphorous, that are applied to surrounding agricultural lands as fertilizers and are finally carried into delta water with run off.

The natural lagoon technology for water purification running in *Veta la Palma* assures that the water pumped daily from the Guadalquivir River is given back to the delta with an improved microbiological, physical and chemical quality, according to data obtained in periodic analyses made in the water by national laboratories credited for environmental tests (Figure 4).

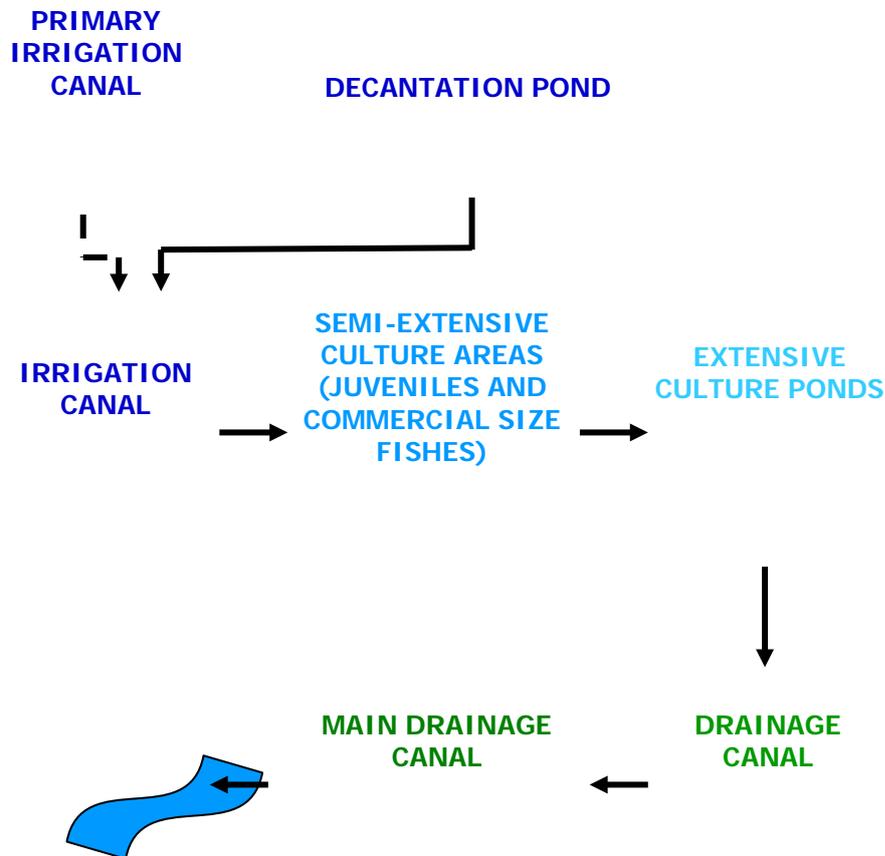


Figure 4. Water control scheme at *Veta la Palma* aquaculture operation.

2.1.2.2. Soil disinfection and prevention of wetland-associated diseases

In the last remnant of the original lower Guadalquivir marshes, currently covering 27,000 ha of Doniana National Park, marked seasonal variations in water level and the effect of severe droughts that periodically occur in the area, combined with high summer temperatures and increase of salt content in the water during that season, produce strong oxygen depletions in stagnant waters that can trigger epidemic outbreaks of *Clostridium* or *Salmonella*, eventually leading to bird death. Occurrence of avian botulism outbreaks has been reported in Doniana in different occasions along recent past, causing die-off of some 30,000 birds in 1986.

Veta la Palma hydrological management allows the whole 3,200 ha of fish farm extension including ponds and irrigation/drainage canal network, to be flooded or dried up in a maximum of 48 hours, maintaining the system in optimal sanitary conditions. This is essential for fish farming operations and for achieving a complete ecological integration with the surroundings landscape.

In addition, after finishing a culture cycle, each pond is totally emptied and the sediment in excess is removed from the vessel. This operation is usually undertaken at the beginning of summer, once every 4 or 5 years, rotating over the 45 existing ponds, so that the organic content of soil including bacterial spores mineralize via photooxidation.

Consequently, this managed wetland behaves as a sanitary shelter, with an optimum environmental quality, against possible epidemic outbreaks.

2.1.3. Restoration of the original coastal wetland landscape

As a result of major land drainage works made before 1982, the area of *Veta la Palma* could no longer be described as a wetland. The ecological and functional mosaic created in this Estate, inundating the formerly dried up marshland for aquaculture purposes and preserving the surrounding high-marsh areas for extensive livestock grazing, has restored the natural ecology and landscape of the area, reestablishing its wetland character.

Since 1990, important material and human resources have also been invested to further improve the ecology of the area, through the following initiatives:

- A 300-hectare Bird Protection Area has been established in a Central northern part of the Estate known as *Lucio del Bocón*. The area includes several shallow lagoons with islands, and areas with different ecological types of marshland (PIMSA, IIMA and EURODUCK, 1992).
- A 500-hectare Biological reserve has been created for research purposes in the Southwest of the property, in an area of high marsh vegetation (PIMSA, 2000).
- More than a 100 islands and walls have been built within fish farming ponds to serve as bird sanctuaries and nesting sites for waterfowls (PIMSA, 2000).
- Total 150 km of pond shores and embankments have undergone extensive revegetation (Figure 5).

Islands and walls have been designed with irregular shapes and generally smooth slopes. Each island presents a central area covered by marshland shrub vegetation (mainly the *Almajo Arthrocnemum macrostachyum* with Seablite *Suaeda* sp.), bordered by emergent macrophytes such as Common reed (*Phragmites australis*) and Cattail (*Typha* sp.). *Potamogeton* sp., *Ruppia* sp. and other submerged aquatic plants are dominant in canals and pond open water areas. Islands are less than 1.5 m high and are built using the sediment removed from the ponds during periodical maintenance operations. This material is composed mainly of slime and clay coming from the Guadalquivir river delta, and contains plant seeds, so it can be used as substrate for revegetation. In just a short time, halophytes and marshland shrubs cover the new islands, offering a heterogeneous habitat to aquatic birds.



Figure 5. Revegetation of extensive fish ponds and immediate occupation by bird fauna. Photos by H. Muñiz.



2.1.4. Buffering of seasonal/interannual water variability effects in Doniana wetland

Doniana wetland exhibits a hydrologic regime that includes a high water table and extensive flooding from October to May-June, followed by a strong summer drying. Hence, in order to prevent epidemic outbreaks, at the beginning of summer the Authorities of Doniana National Park boost natural drying of marsh areas by means of artificial drainage. As a result, every year thousands of waterfowl and coot broods have to seek for flooded areas in surrounding sites. These birds massively cross the Brazo de la Torre that separates the aquaculture operation from the National Park, finding food and suited physical conditions to continue growing in the 3,200-hectare fish farming ponds and bordering marshland areas of the Estate.

Similarly, at the end of the summer and the beginning of autumn, the marshes of Doniana National Park are still dry, and the clean, oxygenated and plenty of food water of *Veta la Palma* offers shelter for thousands of early migratory birds.

The flooding / drying cycle managed in the fish farming ponds also determines which species of birds can be found in this artificial wetland. Thus, the ponds in drying stage attract

big contingents of waders, particularly during migratory passes when it is possible to record flocks over 5,000 waders feeding on the ponds.

Severe cyclic droughts are usual in Doniana area. Figure 6 shows a comparison between population sizes of some bird species recorded in *Veta la Palma* and Doniana National Park, during the dry period 1973-2001.

Veta la Palma aquaculture operation is part of Doniana area; therefore, any management activity affects biodiversity. Thus, *Veta la Palma* plays a fundamental role as buffer zone in Doniana area, providing food and water for waterfowls, herons, gulls and other varied bird fauna of Doniana during moulting time, breeding season and post-breeding annual migration, as well as during particularly dry interannual periods.

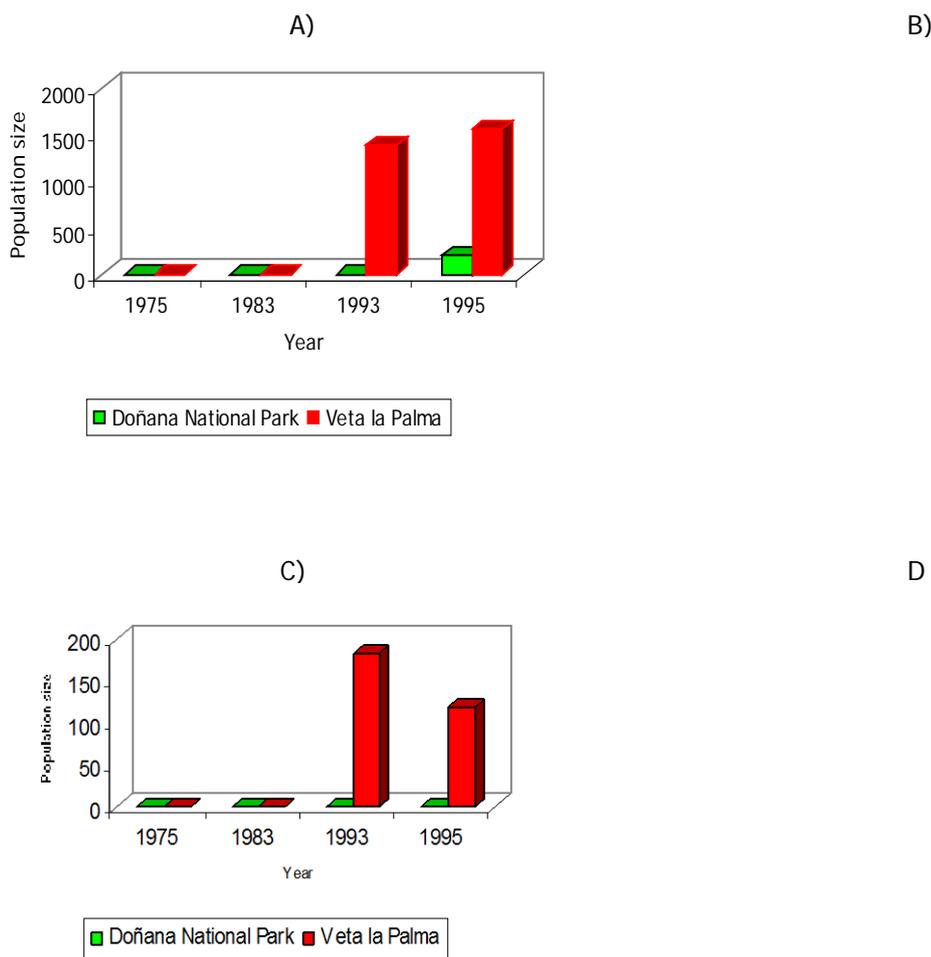


Figure 6. Population sizes of some relevant bird species in *Veta la Palma* and Doñana National Park, during the period 1973 – 2001 (only dry years are shown). A) Black-necked grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*); B) Purple heron (*Ardea purpurea*); C) Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*); D) Gull-billed tern (*Sterna nilotica*)

2.1.5. Increase of bird population and diversity: fish ponds as coastal bird sanctuaries

It is necessary to emphasize the extreme importance of *Veta la Palma* aquaculture ponds for the conservation of Mediterranean birds.

Since 1986, where first trials on extensive aquaculture were carried out in the Estate, the number of both nesting and migrating birds living in *Veta la Palma*, especially those considered threatened according to International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) criteria, has increased so significantly (Figure 7) that the Estate is currently regarded as the most important area of private land for aquatic birds throughout Europe (Otero & Bailey, 2003).

First assessment of bird community answer to the flooding of formerly dried up Veta la Palma marshland, for aquaculture purposes, was carried out in 1989 by the Department of Zoology, Complutense University of Madrid (Fernández-Cruz et al, 1989). The study showed that short after aquaculture started in the Estate, bird population using the 500-ha initially flooded surface reached more than 60,000, a value higher than the threshold of 20,000 aquatic birds that the Ramsar Convention requires for a wetland to be proposed as an Important Bird Area.

At present, the 3,200 ha of Veta la Palma extensive ponds, the 4,600 ha of surrounding marshes preserving the original biotopes, and the remaining 2,500 ha dedicated to cereal growing, congregate more than 250.000 birds any time all over the year, including at least 1% of the world population of some species required by Ramsar Convention.

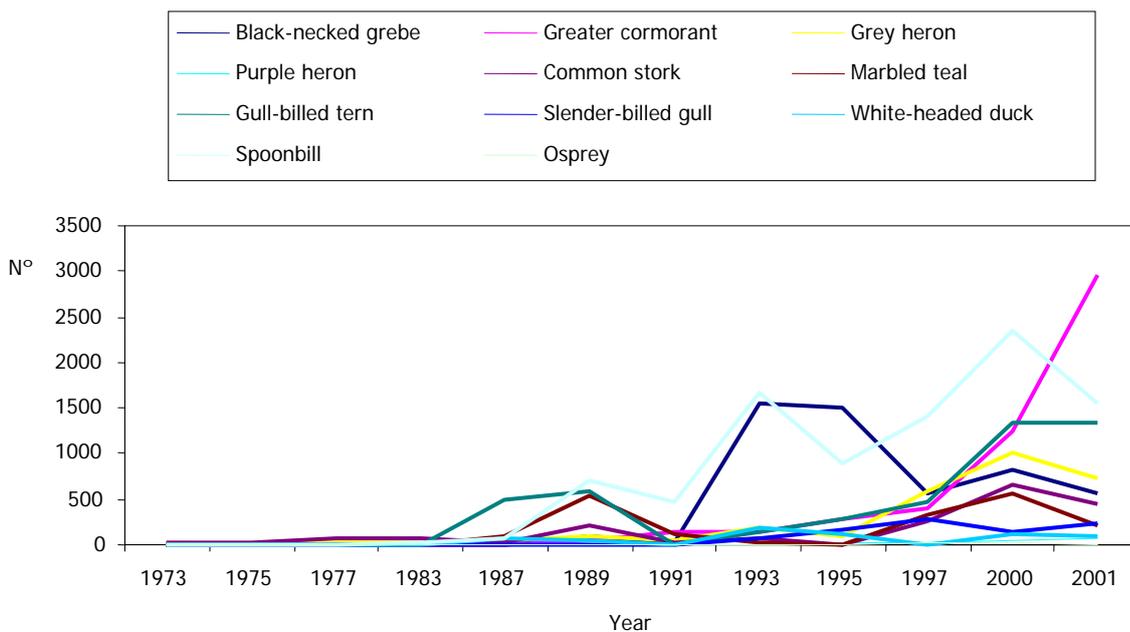


Figure 7. Evolution of the population of some relevant species of birds in the aquaculture ponds of *Veta la Palma*, (Doñana Nature Protected Area) for the period 1973 (before aquaculture project and, consequently, with marshes still dried for cattle grazing) – 2001.

During winter season (November – February), pre-breeding migration (February – March) and breeding season (April – June), a dense and varied bird community is attracted by the 45 ponds of *Veta la Palma*. During these stages of annual cycle, birds use pond banks, shorelines and islands, and the surrounding preserved original marshland, for feeding, resting and breeding. Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*), Black-winged Stil (*Himantopus himantopus*), Slender-billed Gull (*Larus genei*), Little Tern (*Sterna albifrons*), Gull-billed Tern (*Sterna nilotica*) and many other species reproduce here in great numbers.

From July to October (post-breeding migratory pass), the number of ducks and waders recorded at the Estate has an extraordinary qualitative and quantitative importance in the context of international bird conservation. By this time, the 3,200-ha permanently flooded area of *Veta la Palma* represent the last point of water in the whole Doniana marshes, and the only site that is able to provide food and shelter for early migratory birds such as Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*) and Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*, Quirós Herruzo and Maneiro Márquez, 1996; EBD, 2000).

More than 250 species of birds can currently be recorded in *Veta la Palma*, almost 50 of them included in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (IUCN, 2011). Kentish plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*), Slender-billed Gull (*Larus genei*), Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*), Little tern (*Sterna albifrons*) and Gull-billed Tern (*Sterna nilotica*) are also included in Annex II of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity (SPA/BD) of the Barcelona Convention.

Total bird population size reach maximum figures between August and October. Census data by the Doniana Biological Station recorded a total of 600,000 birds in *Veta la Palma* in October, 2002, which represented 80% of all birds of Doniana by that time (EBD, 2000; 2004).

2.1.6. Protection of Guadalquivir River fish fauna

Although bird community concentrates most of the attention about the effect of aquaculture on biodiversity in Doniana wetland, the flora and fauna of the aquaculture operation and the whole *Veta la Palma* Estate is extremely important and variable.

During the last 50 years, diversity and population size of lower Guadalquivir fish species have dramatically decreased as a consequence of river pollution, obstacles against free migration, and overfishing. Incidence of these factors has been especially remarkable for migratory species such as sturgeon, *Acipenser sturio* (locally known as *sollo*) and some members of the *Clupeidae* family (Allis shad, *Alosa alosa* and Twaite shad, *Alosa fallax*), as present considered extinct in the area.

Regulation works in the river have inevitably caused significant changes in the physical and chemical characteristics of the rivers. In response, fish communities have also changed towards a higher abundance of alien species, decreasing abundance of native ones. In addition, fishing activities in the Guadalquivir delta have never been appropriately regulated, and overfishing has largely affected fish populations and the important nursery function of the delta (maximum estuarine recruitment of many fish species juveniles occurs during glass eel and shrimp fishing season, for example).

As mentioned above, the carefully managed aquatic ecosystem of *Veta la Palma* is characterized by its highly structured trophic network. The 3,200 ha of extremely productive extensive ponds play an important role in the protection of autochthonous species of the

Guadalquivir river delta such as the Spanish toothcarp *Aphanius iberus*, the Sand goby *Pomatoschistus microps* and the Big-scaled sand smelt *Atherina boyeri*, catadromous species (eel, mullets...), and species that spend part of their natural cycle in the delta (sole fish, sea bream, meagre, sea bass and its relative the Spotted-sea bass *Dicentrarchus punctatus*...). Some marine species such as the European anchovy *Engraulis encrasicolus*, the Wedge sole *Dicologlossa cuneata* or the Sand steenbras *Lithognathus mormyrus* have been recorded during dry periods, when water salt content increases. Apart of cultivate species which juveniles are bought in commercial hatcheries and released in the ponds (sea bass, sea bream, meagre and sole fish), larval stages and juveniles of most mentioned fish species are usually found in *Veta la Palma*.

Aphanius iberus is included in Annex II of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity (SPA/BD) of the Barcelona Convention. *Alosa alosa*, *Alosa fallax* and *Anguilla anguilla* are in the list of species whose exploitation must be regulated (Annex III of the Protocol).

Therefore, the first-rate water layer dedicated to extensive/semi-extensive aquaculture, together with other restored marshland areas located in the region (García Novo and Gallego, 2003), contribute to the protection (and eventual recovering) of the Guadalquivir delta-associated fish fauna (Figure 8).

In the Appendix to this document are included all vertebrates species recorded in Doniana aquaculture operation considered under threat, following IUCN criteria:



Figure 8. *Aphanius iberus* (<http://www.mediterranea.org/cae/divulgac/peces.htm>), *Pomatoschistus microps* (<http://www.westlothiansac.co.uk/past.html>) and *Atherina boyeri* (<http://tintorero-wwwartesdepesca.blogspot.com/2011/07/vamos-pescar-pejerrey.html>), autoctonous fish species of the Guadalquivir River favoured by aquaculture management.

2.2 Economic productivity and social welfare

Business profitability is essential to generate an environmental outcome and social welfare. Aquaculture in Doniana wetland annually yields around 1,500 tonnes of fish and shrimps. Percentage distribution per species is shown in Figure 9.

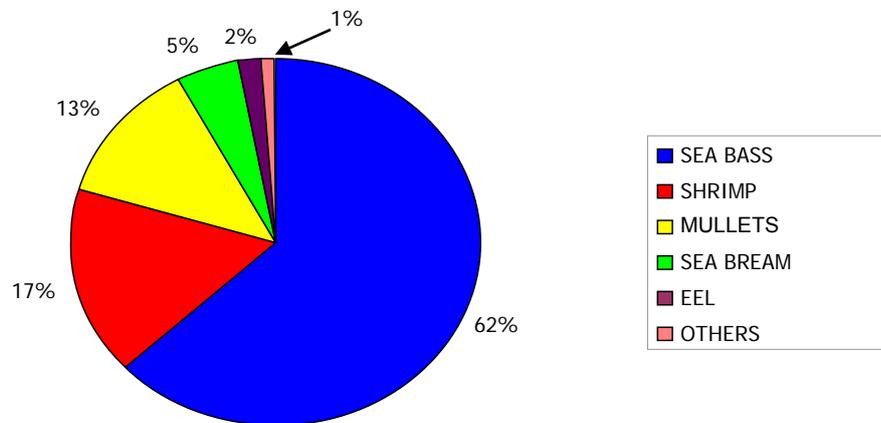


Figure 9. Percentage distribution per species of annual aquaculture production in Veta la Palma (Doñana area, SW Spain).

Mulletts are farmed from wild river delta populations that enter the fish farm moving upstream through the drainage canals. Mulletts are omnivorous fishes that efficiently feed on benthonic invertebrates, algae and floating macrophytes, removing nitrogen and phosphorus wastes released into the ponds and contributing to the maintenance of water quality. Entering mulletts are under 200 grams, while commercial size after 18 months growing into the extensive ponds reaches 1,5 – 2 kilograms. Mullet are fished in extensive pond by trawling, once the production cycle is finished and water level can be lowered.

Eels are captured once or twice in a week, using a traditional fishing art very similar to the one used for shrimps. Annual yield depends on the state of wild populations, at present seriously overexploited in the Guadalquivir delta.

Culture of sea bream and sea bass in Doniana aquaculture area of *Veta la Palma* has been based on the combination of extensive and semi-extensive regimes, using fingerlings acquired from commercial hatcheries. The development of more modern culture techniques, along with market evolution, have promoted a significant growth in *Veta la Palma* sea bass production, at present over 60% of total fish output. Improvements and new achievements in the management of hydraulic system, natural and artificial feeding, and strategies to avoid predation by birds, have allowed to optimize sea bass culture cycle, which duration is currently established in 30 months to reach a commercial size of 1 kg.

Extensive and semi-intensive aquaculture in Doniana provides direct income to 100 families from surrounding villages, also generating many other non-direct employees. Along with the application of innovative farming practices, this activity is committed to the task of

preserving traditional fishing methods that have been employed during centuries by the people living around the *Guadalquivir* delta area.

3 Aquaculture and mitigation of climate change affecting Doniana wetland

3.1 Variation in climatic, biophysical and productive conditions derived from climate change

The Iberian Peninsula is considered one of the areas in Mediterranean region most affected by climate variation, all climate changes scenarios indicating marked increases in temperatures and a significant decrease in annual rainfall (Viner and Sayer, 2006).

Doniana wetland is located in a strategic point in terms of exposure to climate change, with desertification, erosion and sea level rise as major forces that may affect both the biodiversity and the economy of local communities.

Quality of the soils in the whole area (a thick marshland clay cap with sandy and limestone soils above) is not ideal for agriculture, except for rice crop (yields over 7 tonnes per year are usual; Bayán Jardín, 2006). Decreases in precipitation and increases in temperatures will surely affect soil salinity, making agriculture even harder on this region of Spain in a future scenario of climate change.

Marshland pasture cover an important area of Doniana wetland and are extensively used by bulls, cows and horses, contributing to the conservation of marshland ecosystem and the local economy. As climate becomes drier and hotter, the risk of losing productivity increases, making necessary to further reduce the number of cattle heads.

Finally, changes in the actual pattern of habitats will significantly affect Doniana's fauna, particularly bird population, since Doniana currently represents a main migratory stop for many bird species and a first-rate breeding ground for many others.

3.2 Aquaculture for climate change mitigation

Under the mentioned changing conditions derived from climate variation, aquaculture may become a serious alternative to ensure future water availability and control for the entire wetland ecosystem.

Extensive/semi-extensive aquaculture in *Veta la Palma* is based on a complex system of canals that allows to regulate the water across the Estate and surrounding areas, also focusing on water quality and composition. As it has been largely described in present document (see chapter 1.2), a long history of natural evolution by silting-up joined to more recent channelling works made to avoid flooding and allow cultivation in Isla Mayor del Guadalquivir, completely changed the landscape and biodiversity pattern of a significant part of the original Doniana wetland. When aquaculture initiated in 1982, it was decided that the drainage work would be reversed and used for flooding activities. This activity has been successful not only for the economic sector, but also for the local, regional and Europe-scaled fauna.

Aquaculture management takes into consideration both productivity and biodiversity. The 300 km of canals, the rivers bordering the Estate where fish farming develops, and the

huge patch of protected lagoons and marshland pastures surrounding the extensive fish ponds, allow *Veta la Palma* and the whole Doniana ecosystem to mitigate the effect of a decrease in precipitation by adapting the water control scheme and pumping operation from the river delta. Water, salt, food and vegetation cover combine themselves to provide excellent opportunities for animal breeding and feeding, transforming this area in an oasis for many species that have to face changes in climate and habitats happening both in Europe and Africa (Viner and Sayer, 2006).

Regarding carbon balance, emissions from livestock and rice growing (76% of all emissions; Viner and Sayer, 2006) in the area may be compensated by carbon sequestration through photosynthesis in the aquaculture operation allowing food production with a mitigated effect on climate change. Such approach, up-scaled at Mediterranean level across the abundant degraded marshland areas which have lost functionality along last decades might have a sound positive effect in the region.

Final remarks

A widely recognized model for the conservation and management of Mediterranean wetlands

Described approach to sustainability, based on the combination of economic benefits of aquaculture with conservation goals, has gained a wide international recognition.

The aquaculture production methodologies applied in Doniana wetland are included in what the Directorate-General for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs, European Commission, has named *aqua-environmental measures*. As defined in the European Fisheries Fund (EFF), *aqua-environmental measures* aim to promote aquaculture techniques that help to protect and improve the environment and to conserve nature (EU, 2007). Such technologies have to be ecologically efficient and respectful, under hardest environmental exigencies within the framework of NATURA 2000.

Veta la Palma aquaculture operation in the heart of Doniana has the recognition and support of a number of international institutions such as WWF, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and Wildlife Trust, Euroduck Internacional, the European Landowners Organization, the Spanish MAB (Man and Biosphere) Committee (UNESCO) or the European Commission.

Ecosystem approach to aquaculture may guarantee the conservation of Mediterranean coastal wetlands, promoting the balance between biodiversity conservation and development

It is widely known that the age-old maintenance of some sustainable aquaculture and fishery practices in the Mediterranean shores of Italy, France, Spain and other countries has contributed to the preservation of coastal wetlands and its associated cultural heritage. Extensive fish farming systems may effectively restore and further protect disturbed coastal ecosystems, playing a useful role in integrating economic activity with protection of biodiversity.

The sustainable aquaculture system currently operating in Doniana is a highly successful model of integrated management in an extremely sensitive Mediterranean coastal wetland (Abend, 2009). The areas of extensive aquaculture ponds, natural marshland and cereal farming constitute an ecosystem of great wealth, where balanced human managing has recovered a former wetland that had been largely destroyed by natural silting-up and a former flood control scheme, increasing natural gradients of hydrographic and topographic heterogeneity (Ecoagriculture Snapshot, 2010).

Extensive fish farming activity maintains the Guadalquivir River marshes in a favorable conservation state and becomes a very valuable support of Doniana, representing a compromise with the future of conservation and development in the area. In the words of Dr. Delibes de Castro, former Director of Doniana Biological Station: *"Veta la Palma is adapting a new outlook on conservation objectives. It intends being dynamic and creative in designing a model for management which must be both practical and productive in order to guarantee survival in the future"* (Otero and Bailey, 2003).

Described as *"...more water than land [...] is the lungs, larder and hospital for aquatic birds"*, the aquaculture facility of *Veta la Palma* provides tangible meaning to sustainability: it

is economically successful and supplies real support to the environment and to the local economy (Cranbrook, 2002).

Following the opinion of Durá and Castroviejo (2007), this model of ecosystem approach to aquaculture activity constitutes an interesting and efficient case study in relation to the modern safekeeping of the territory, in which collaboration between private and public initiatives based on investment in eco-friendly productivity solutions, generating both economical and ecological outcomes, makes an enormous contribution to the conservation of coastal wetland natural resources and biodiversity.

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Appendix 1. Vertebrate species recorded in Doniana aquaculture operation, considered under threat according to IUCN List of Threatened Species 2011.

Mammals		Birds	
Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>	NT	Roller <i>Coracias garrulus</i>	NT
Lesser mouse-eared Myotis <i>Myotis Blythii</i>	LC	Little Egret <i>Egretta garzetta</i>	LC
Greater horseshoe Bat <i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>	LC	Peregrine Falcon <i>Falco peregrinus</i>	LC
Mehely's horseshoe Bat <i>Rhinolophus mehelyi</i>	VU	Red-knobbed Coot <i>Fulica cristata</i>	LC
Fish		Gull-billed Tern <i>Sterna nilotica</i>	LC
Alis Shad <i>Alosa alosa</i>	LC	Collared Pratincole <i>Glareola pratincola</i>	LC
Twaite Shad <i>Alosa fallax</i>	LC	Common Crane <i>Grus grus</i>	LC
Spanish Tohtcarp <i>Aphanius iberus</i>	EN	Black-winged Stilt <i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	LC
<i>Pseudochondrostoma willkommii</i>	VU	Slender-billed Gull <i>Larus genei</i>	LC
<i>Cobitis paludica</i>	VU	Marbled Teal <i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>	V
<i>Iberochondrostoma lemmingii</i>	VU	Rufous-tailed Rock-thrush <i>Monticola saxatilis</i>	LC
Amphibians		Egyptian Vulture <i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	EN
Southern marbled Newt <i>Triturus pygmaeus</i>	NT	Red-crested Pochard <i>Netta rufina</i>	LC
Birds		Eurasian Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>	NT
Common Kingfisher <i>Alcedo atthis</i>	LC	Black-crowned Night-heron <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	LC
Garganey <i>Anas querquedula</i>	LC	White-headed Duck <i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>	EN
White-rumped Swift <i>Apus caffer</i>	LC	Osprey <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	LC
Spanish imperial Eagle <i>Aquila adalberti</i>	VU	Greater Flamingo <i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	LC
Purple Heron <i>Ardea purpurea</i>	LC	Common Redstart <i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	LC
Squacco Heron <i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	LC	Purple Swamphen <i>Porphirio porphyrio</i>	LC
Short-eared Owl <i>Asio flammeus</i>	LC	Eurasian Spoonbill <i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	LC
Ferruginous Duck <i>Aythya nyroca</i>	NT	Glossy Ibis <i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	LC
Great Bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	LC	Black-necked Grebe <i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	LC
Rufou-taileds Scrub-robin <i>Eythropygia galactotes</i>	LC	Pin-tailed Sandgrouse <i>Pterocles alchata</i>	LC
White Stork <i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	LC	Ruddy Shelduck <i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	LC
Black Storn <i>Ciconia nigra</i>	LC	Pied avocet <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	LC
Western Marsh Harrier <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	LC	Little Tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i>	LC
Montagu's Harrier <i>Circus pygargus</i>	LC	Caspian Tern <i>Sterna caspia</i>	LC
Whiskered Tern <i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	LC	European Turtle-dove <i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	LC
Black Tern <i>Chlidonias niger</i>	LC		

LC: Least Concern; NT: Near Threatened; V: Vulnerable; EN: Endangered; CR: Critically Endangered; EW: Extinct in the Wild; EX: Extinct

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Keith Horn](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 12:10:02 PM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,

Mr. Keith Horn
328 Lovers Ln
Baton Rouge, LA 70806-5121
(225) 223-1216
keitheaux@yahoo.com

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Doris Howard](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 9:58:18 PM

Aug 17, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

* Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.

* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Ms. Doris Howard
915 Congress St
New Orleans, LA 70117-6239
(504) 717-7202
juliakat1@aol.com

From: kayakitiyat@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 12:33:07 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Sara Howard
500 S PIERCE ST
NEW ORLEANS, LA, 70119

From: sarahkhoward@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, July 28, 2017 11:23:00 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Sarah Howard
3034 Paris Ave
New Orleans, LA, 701191716

From: todd.hubbell@la.gov
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 9:50:03 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Todd Hubbell
119 Goode St
Thibodaux, La, 70301

From: teloslmt@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Denise Hunter](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Tuesday, August 29, 2017 11:38:33 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017. Do The Right Thing.

Sincerely,
Denise Hunter
New Orleans, LA 70117

From: huntsmand@me.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 8:25:30 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Debbie Huntsman
5420 CONSTANCE ST APT. LOWER
NEW ORLEANS, LA, 70115

August 29, 2017

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Noert Huon	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
Street Address 117 Packard Lane	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code Buras, LA. 70041	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

I am a single woman that go shrimping by myself. I take care my oldest sister who's about to be eighty years old. If you shut down the water here I have to go to the Ocean. I am Scare to go there by myself. I am to old to look for another job and I don't speak English. That meant I'm out of business. Where can I find ~~to~~ money to take care myself and my sister.

From: lauriehurst@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Laurie Hurst](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 4, 2017 2:39:09 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Laurie Hurst
Mandeville, LA 70448

August 29, 2017

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Ninh huu	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
Street Address # 366 P.O. Box.	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code Buras, LA. 70041	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

My ^{name} is Ninh. I been Shrimp almost 8 years. I speak a little English. If you close the water here and let the water go to Ocean. I be ~~be~~ unable to go Shrimping. I have a small boat. I am scared of the Ocean. I am ~~so~~ to old to travel to the Ocean. If I don't make money I will lost everything that I built with my own hand.

August 14th, 2017

**Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017**

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? Yes No

If yes, please specify the position.

First and Last Name DOMINIC HUYNH	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 32720 Hwy 11 – EMPIRE – LA 70050	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

I do not agree to divert freshwater into this area because our career will be affected.

You should lend us money without interest.

August 14th, 2017

Ý kiến đóng góp phải được gửi trước ngày 5 tháng 9 năm 2017

Comment Form

Họp Đánh giá Công khai, Thứ 5, ngày 20 tháng 7, 2017
EIS cho Dự án Chuyển dòng Trầm tích Trung Barataria
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

BẠN LÀ NHÂN VIÊN CÔNG VỤ? CÓ KHÔNG Nếu có, vị trí: _____

Họ và Tên

DOMINIC - HUYNH

Địa chỉ Đường phố

32720 Hwy 11 - EMPIRE - LA 70050

Địa chỉ Hộp thư

(nếu khác với địa chỉ đường phố)

Thành phố, Tiểu bang, Mã vùng

Địa chỉ Email

Cơ quan/Tổ chức

Bằng cách nào quý vị biết về cuộc họp đánh giá công khai này?

- Thông báo Báo chí
- Thông báo qua Mail
- Email
- Website
- Khác (hãy nêu rõ)

ccc

Thông tin này sẽ được bổ sung vào danh sách mail dự án. Nếu bạn không muốn đưa vào danh sách mail, hãy đánh dấu vào hộp kiểm.

Ý KIẾN: (Hãy viết tiếp vào mặt sau nếu không đủ chỗ.)

tôi không đồng ý xã nước ngọt sẽ bị ảnh hưởng công ăn việc làm của chúng tôi
quí vị có thể cho đây tiền không có tiền lời.

Domini Huynh

From: twinsgirl33@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 3:04:31 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Ashley Ihrke
1925 Ashland City Road
Clarksville, TN, 37043

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

August 14, 2017

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Kimyin In	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) Coastal Communities Consulting, Inc.
Street Address 180 Chouest Lane	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code Buras, LA 70041	
Email Address kimyiin@yahoo.com	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

If the diversion happens, there will no salt water which means there will be no shrimp. I work for my husband,
Sieng Suong, as a deckhand since 2009. We do not want diversion because it will affect our livelihoods. I am old
and I have no other skills besides shrimping. We will not be able to find any jobs because we do not speak or
understand English well. We will need your assistance to help us to pay bills and daily survival. We cannot work if
there are no shrimps. Diversion is in Mid-Barataria Bay, which is where we normally work. I work for husband when
shrimp season opens and take care of the kids. No shrimp, that means no other jobs for me. Nowadays, groceries
over expensive, too. We will need financial assistance because diversion will affect us.

Kimyi

I, Cristina Duong, at Coastal Communities Consulting, Inc. (CCC) hereby certify that I have translated the above
statement from Cambodian into English to the best of my abilities; and I am fluent in both languages.

- cristina duong
Cristina Duong, Translator

August 14, 2017

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Kimyin In	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) Coastal Communities Consulting, Inc.
Street Address 180 Chouest Lane	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code Buras, LA 70041	
Email Address kimyiin@yahoo.com	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

If the diversion happens, there will no salt water which means there will be no shrimp. I work for my husband,
Sieng Suong, as a deckhand since 2009. We do not want diversion because it will affect our livelihoods. I am old
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there are no shrimps. Diversion is in Mid-Barataria Bay, which is where we normally work. I work for husband when
shrimp season opens and take care of the kids. No shrimp, that means no other jobs for me. Nowadays, groceries
over expensive, too. We will need financial assistance because diversion will affect us.

Kimyi

I, Cristina Duong, at Coastal Communities Consulting, Inc. (CCC) hereby certify that I have translated the above
statement from Cambodian into English to the best of my abilities, and I am fluent in both languages.

Cristina Duong
Cristina Duong, Translator

Aug. 10, 2017

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Leng In	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) ecc Coastal Communities Consulting
Street Address 145 Delta Aire Dr.	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code Buras, LA 70041	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

I feel bad about the diversions because I don't know what else to do for work besides shrimping. The fishermen will lose their jobs because the shrimp would go away. I would be open to receiving grant assistance to make my current boat bigger. My current boat is 20ft. but I would need to make it bigger to ~40-46ft. in order to go out further.

Leng In

From: georgetteioup@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2017 12:34:26 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Georgette Ioup
4678 Eastern St
New Orleans, LA, 701226124

From: horicejames@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 3:20:52 PM

Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers begins to permit projects for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion, please:

- regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- allow for flexibility of operations to respond to changing environmental conditions.
- incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS

Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years in the absence of action. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Mavis James
4101 JAMES DR
METAIRIE, LA, 70003



JEFFERSON PARISH

Office of the President

Michael S. Yenni
Parish President

September 1, 2017

Mr. Brad Laborde
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
New Orleans District CEMVN-OD-SE
Attn MVN-201202806-EOO
7400 Leake Avenue,
New Orleans, LA 70118

**RE: Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion (BA-153)
USACE EIS Scoping Comments**

Dear Mr. Laborde:

Jefferson Parish appreciates the opportunity to participate in the National Environmental Protection Act's (NEPA) scoping process of the Corps's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Project. Our comments address issues, impacts, and alternatives to important industries, municipalities, and our citizens that we deem important and valuable to be included and evaluated by the Corps during the EIS Process.

Jefferson Parish would like the Corps to evaluate the effects of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion on following:

- Increased water levels within the Upper Barataria Basin, specifically affecting the coastal communities of the Town of Grand Isle, the Town of Jean Lafitte, Barataria and Crown Point.
- Marsh erosion near the outfall of the Diversion structure, due to velocity of the river water, and changing salinities.
- Existing and future coastal restoration projects both in the vicinity of the diversion outfall as well as within the expected footprint of the fresh water and nutrient dispersion.
- Existing and future coastal restoration projects both in the vicinity of the designated disposal area.
- Sediment Retention Plans to maximize land accretion.
- Annual operation optimization that evaluate optimal flow rates, vegetation growing seasons, nesting and spawning seasons, to best maintain and grow healthy marsh and fisheries for both commercial and recreation fisheries.

Joseph S. Yenni Building – 1221 Elmwood Park Blvd – Suite 1002 – Jefferson, LA 70123 – PO Box 10242 – Jefferson, LA 70181-0242

Office 504.736.6400 – Fax 504.736.6638

General Government Building – 200 Derbigny St – Suite 6100 - Gretna, LA 70053 – PO Box 9 – Gretna, LA 70054

Office 504.364.2700 – Fax 504.364.2828

Email: MYenni@jeffparish.net Website: www.jeffparish.net

- Review multiple disposal areas, including areas in the western reach of the Barataria Waterway. This sediment starved area is especially vulnerable to changing water conditions. Restoration to this marsh will reduce tidal events for the Upper Barataria coastal communities, and could lessen effects of increased water levels due to MBSD Project.

Sediment diversions are effective in sustaining our coast, as they conform to the objective of harnessing the natural processes by using river sediments to build land as was done naturally, prior to the Mississippi River being isolated from the coastal wetlands by levees. Properly designed sediment diversions should mimic those natural processes that built our wetlands. It is critical that productive estuaries are maintained to preserve viable working coastlines that support regional and national industries, commercial and recreational fisheries, hunting, trapping, ecotourism, oil and gas exploration and production, and sustain the unique cultural heritage of our coastal communities.

Should you have any questions, please contact our Coastal Zone Management Coordinator, Lauren Averill (504) 736-6440.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL S. YENNI
President

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Scott Jennings](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 3:16:03 PM

Aug 17, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

* Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.

* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Mr. Scott Jennings
2519 Palmer Ave
New Orleans, LA 70118-6319
(318) 655-0371
scott.r.jennings@gmail.com

From: scott.r.jennings@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Scott Jennings](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 10:53:58 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Scott Jennings
New Orleans, LA 70118

From: directorcsed@gmail.com on behalf of [Arthur Johnson](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Scoping
Date: Tuesday, September 5, 2017 11:22:15 AM

Dear Army Corp of Engineers Officials,

I am Arthur Johnson, CEO, Center for Sustainable Engagement and Development, (CSED) in New Orleans, LA. The future of Mid-Barataria is extremely important and its effect on the surrounding environment must consider what happens to Barataria Basin without this sediment diversion. Also, time is of the essence. The scoping report should be completed and released to the public by September 30, 2017. It is not necessary to reinvent the wheel since Mid-Barataria has been studied for over 30 years. Please be transparent and allow for flexibility of diversion operations to ensure success.

Best,

Arthur Johnson

Sustain the Nine River to Bayou

Arthur J. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer
Lower 9th Ward Center for Sustainable
Engagement & Development (CSED)
5227 Chartres Street
New Orleans LA 70117
(504)324-9955
(504)421-9643-cell
ajohnson@sustainthenine.org <<mailto:ajohnson@sustainthenine.org>>
Blocked<http://blog.sustainthenine.org> <Blocked<http://blog.sustainthenine.org>>

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Chessa Rae Johnson](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 3:57:52 PM

Aug 17, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

* Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.

* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Ms. Chessa Rae Johnson
913 Independence St
New Orleans, LA 70117-5737
(504) 596-9649
chessa.rae@gmail.com

From: [Happy Johnson](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mid-Barataria Scoping Comments
Date: Tuesday, September 5, 2017 8:48:56 PM

- 1) The sediment that flows through the Mississippi River is a precious resource that is being wasted. We need the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion to capture and deliver this resource to sustain our wetlands.
- 2) Please release findings on this action's impact on low-income residents.
- 3) How can the proposed action increase employment opportunities for DBEs and Women Owned Businesses?
4. I believe it to be vital to allow for flexibility of diversion (both fresh water and sediment via the 2.5 mile channel) operations to ensure success and adaptability.

Thank you,

Happy Johnson

From: jeanleej@bellsouth.net
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 2:08:20 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Jean Johnson
1026 Melpomene St.
New Orleans, LA, 70130

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Jennifer Johnston](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 2:47:26 PM

Aug 17, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

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* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Miss Jennifer Johnston
1931 Wilson Loop
Leesville, LA 71446-5605
(337) 537-1542
johnstonjennifera@gmail.com

From: johnstonjennifera@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Jennifer Johnston](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 1:06:44 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Johnston
Leesville, LA 71446

From: dwjones1385@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 10:22:33 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Daniel Jones
1415 Basswood Dr
Denham Springs, Louisiana, 70726

August 31, 2017

To whom it may concern:

My name is Dr. John J. Jones, Jr., and I am both a native and longtime resident of Lafourche parish. Furthermore, I have established dermatology clinics in both Thibodaux and Raceland of Lafourche parish as practitioner and business owner. I now find more time to indulge in my passions of recreational fishing and hunting within the Barataria Basin. My family were the first to have a house trailer on Grand Isle beach which later became a camp where my mother fished the surf nearly every day for 60+ years. Furthermore, I have fished on Grand Isle since the age of five with my grandfathers and parents. These experiences have allowed me to have a firsthand witness at the poor change of our coast.

As a concerned business owner in the parish, I would like to begin by stating my belief in that a scoping meeting should have been held in Lafourche Parish. All areas of the projects should have been consulted and engaged in the scoping process and Lafourche was not.

As for the proposed project, from the point of view of a business owner and an avid user of the Barataria Basin's resources, I am in support of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. The crisis of land loss our coast and basin is experiencing is severe and urgent action must be taken. The once-thriving ecosystem of the Barataria Basin needs to be restored and no longer threatened, by way of reconnecting and re-establishing the deliverance of sediment, freshwater, and nutrients from the Mississippi River to the Barataria Basin. The freshwater will also aid in bringing back a natural balance to the species living within the basin and wintering waterfowl. With the deliverance of the Mississippi River sediment and freshwater, the building and sustaining of land will resulting in same effects to Lafourche's first line of defense, the wetlands and marshes. These wetlands and marshes slow impact, absorb storm surge, and protect the communities, industry, and in my case, businesses that reside behind them. The long-term benefits of this project are incomparable, especially when held against the no-action alternative.

In terms of beginning action, I have concern regarding the project timeline and altered projected completed date. Not completing a permit until October of 2022 seems unacceptable given there has already been 30 years of completed research and analysis on this specific project. Speaking in the opinion of a business owner, I am troubled by the extended time in the permitting process while my businesses becomes more threatened each day by increased erosion and land loss. Time and honesty in terms of transparency are of great importance to myself and also other citizens, business, and affected communities. Regular sharing of information with the public and stakeholders throughout the process should be a standard practice of involved parties, which includes Lafourche parish.

As I conclude my opinion on the project, I would like to repeat my support in the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and thank you for the opportunity to include my feedback and concerns.

From: beauxjones@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 8:51:09 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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Thank you,
Steven Jones
2623 Lepage St
New Orleans, LA, 701193010

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Patrick Judge](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 11:07:45 AM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

As a resident of New Orleans dependent on our sustainable environment, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Please be responsible!! NO MORE KATRINAS!

Thank you,

Mr. Patrick Judge
1512 Audubon St
New Orleans, LA 70118-5536

(504) 621-8290
patrickrjudge@gmail.com

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Patrick Judge](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 5:51:58 PM

Aug 17, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

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I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Mr. Patrick Judge
1512 Audubon St
New Orleans, LA 70118-5536
(504) 865-8692
patrickrjudge@gmail.com

From: Cajunmed@cox.net
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 7:42:36 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
Lonnie Juneau
5024 Wilson Dr
Metairie, Louisiana, 70003

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 27, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Port Sulphur Community Center
278 Civic Drive, Port Sulphur, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name FRANK JURISICH	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
Street Address 30724 HWY 23 BURAS LA 70041	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code	
Email Address FRANKJURISICH@YAHOO.COM	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

CONCERNED ABOUT:
NEGATIVE IMPACTS ON SEAFOOD ESPECIALLY OYSTERS
HYPOXIA DEAD ZONES FROM FERTILIZERS & CONTAMINANTS
IN RIVER WATER
NEGATIVE EFFECT ON DOLPHIN PODS REFUSING TO LEAVE
HOME RANGES
THE SHEAR SIZE OF THE PROJECT, IT'S LARGER THAN
ALL THE CURRENT DIVERSIONS COMBINED.
I FEEL THAT DREDGING & PUMPING SEDIMENT WOULD
BE MUCH MORE COST EFFECTIVE AND BE MUCH LESS
DAMAGING TO THE ECOSYSTEM

From: kablec@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Charlann Kable](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 1:35:55 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Charlann Kable
New Orleans, LA 70128

From: snapshot44@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [laura kamenitz](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 10:44:06 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
laura kamenitz
New Orleans, LA 70119

From: kaminski@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Kathleen Kaminski](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 10:56:49 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Kaminski
Monroe, LA 71203

September 5th, 2017

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
285 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting?
Chamrooun Kang	
Street Address	
35998 Highway 11	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail
Buras, LA 70001	<input type="checkbox"/> Email
City, State, Zip Code	<input type="checkbox"/> Website
Email Address	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
Affiliation	ecc

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

I have been a shrimper since 1984. I don't want freshwater to happen at all. The freshwater will kill the shrimp and I need shrimp to work. Shrimping is all I know since I came to the United States. I would need some help from the government if diversion is happening in the future. My family and I will be very affect by the freshwater. What can you do to help us fishermen in Lower Plaquemines Parish if diversion happens?

Chamrooun Kang

From: skanter03@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 12:07:15 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

It's been more than ten years since Katrina devastated southern Louisiana and finally revealed to the world the appalling state of the Mississippi River wetlands. The state's unanimous adoption this year of the Coastal Master Plan established the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection, restoration and reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions.

There is no reason to delay swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act.

I hope the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) will consider these points during the scoping period for the project:

- All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued threats to our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Please be transparent by regularly sharing information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexible operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion as much as possible to modify responses to changing environmental conditions and to what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Without action, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report quickly – ideally, by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Sharon Kanter
1007 Harvey Circle
Kinston, North Carolina, 28501

Sept. 5, 2017

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Sovann Kay	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting?
Street Address 101 Vela Ln.	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail
City, State, Zip Code Buras, LA 70041	<input type="checkbox"/> Email
Email Address	<input type="checkbox"/> Website
Affiliation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) Coastal Communities Consulting

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

I am a shrimper in Buras LA, I shrimp full time to support my wife and 3 children. I am against the water diversion because I have noticed that since I've been here now for 15 years the seafood business have gone down dramatically. And even faster in the past 5-6 years. I came here and first had an oyster boat and that was my way of making a living, but oyster has been too slow and as much as I enjoyed oystering I had to give it up because it just wasn't enough anymore. There aren't that many oysters like before. That's why I am now a

shrimper, But now I realize I changed from being an oysterman to a shrimper thinking it would be better but it's not. There isn't any shrimp either. And with the water diversion, I feel like it's just gonna be worst.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118



Place postage here

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

From: jbkeenanjr@live.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 1:42:19 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
John Keenan
11 S Park Pl
New Orleans, LA, 701243717

From: [Jack Keller](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mid-Barataria Project
Date: Tuesday, August 29, 2017 2:50:27 PM

This project is vital to any attempt to slow down the erosion of south Louisiana wetlands. The area is going to take another hit from hurricane Harvey in a very short time and it would be foolhardy not to fund it and other restoration efforts. I lived in Louisiana for the better part of 10 years, 1977-1988, and even then the constant erosion was a problem. We know, in large measure, why the Gulf is invading the wetlands and even, if it is perilously late, there is no good reason not to try and do something about controlling the process. Keep this and other projects going as the fate of the Louisiana wetlands and even y[the state itself depend upon it.

Dr. John Esten Keller

Aug. 31, 2017

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Bunly Keo	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) ccc
Street Address 130 Choest Ln.	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code Bouras, LA 70041	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

I have been a commercial fisherman since 1997. I am a shrimper & crabber in Lower Plaquemine Parish. If diversion happens, there will be no more shrimp & crabs. I do not know what else to do besides shrimping & crabbing. I am not young anymore; I cannot work like I used to. My English is not good, either. I would need some help from the gov't if diversion happens and I cannot work.

I, Cristina Dung, at Coastal Communities Consulting, Inc. (ccc) hereby certify that I have translated the above statement from Cambodian into English to the best of my abilities; I am fluent in both languages.
 Cristina Dung, translator

From: kaorimarie@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, July 28, 2017 9:42:05 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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I'm currently working on an undergrad degree in ecological engineering in hopes of one day being able to work as an engineer in the gulf coast. This issue is one that is very important to me. As a Louisiana native, I've seen some of the effects of coastal erosion first hand, and think this is a step in the right direction.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Kaori Keyser
420 Yenni Drive
Kenner, LA, 70065

August 3, 2017

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name	Sochenda Khin	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting?
Street Address	178 Chouest Lane, Buras, LA 70041	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice
Mailing Address	<i>(if different from street address)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail
City, State, Zip Code		<input type="checkbox"/> Email
Email Address		<input type="checkbox"/> Website
Affiliation		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
		Coastal Communities Consulting, Inc.

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

When the fresh water come in, we won't have business anymore. I have been a shrimper since 1999; I have no other skill sets. If the government have some kind of funding program that assist in making my boat bigger, I am willing to do that so I can shrimp in Federal Waters.

Sochenda Khin

September 5th, 2017

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 27, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Port Sulphur Community Center
278 Civic Drive, Port Sulphur, LA

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Siekleng Kiek	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting?
Street Address 35998 Highway 11	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	<input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail
City, State, Zip Code Buras, LA 70041	<input type="checkbox"/> Email
Email Address	<input type="checkbox"/> Website
Affiliation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

I don't want freshwater/diversion happens because it will kill the shrimps. I have been a commercial fisherman since 2009. The diversion will affect my livelihood tremendously if I can't shrimp. I need the government to help me with bills / financial programs if diversion or freshwater happens. Thank you.

Siekleng Kiek

From: kkilcommons@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Mary Kilcommons](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 4, 2017 10:58:05 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Sincerely,
Mary Kilcommons
Winnfield, LA 71483

August 28th, 2017

**Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017**

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? Yes No

If yes, please specify the position.

First and Last Name Khel Kim	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 138 Foster Lane	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code Buras, LA 70041	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

I do not want to divert freshwater because it will affect my job. I want the government to provide me with financial assistance and find me another job if freshwater is diverted in. I have to pay all kinds of bills ...but if I have no job then the government must help me live through the day.

August 28th, 2017

Ý kiến đóng góp phải được gửi trước ngày 5 tháng 9 năm 2017

Comment Form

Họp Đánh giá Công khai, Thứ 5, ngày 20 tháng 7, 2017
EIS cho Dự án Chuyển dòng Trầm tích Trung Barataria
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

BẠN LÀ NHÂN VIÊN CÔNG VỤ? CÒ KHÔNG Nếu có, vị trí: _____

Họ và Tên <u>Khel Kim</u>	Bằng cách nào quý vị biết về cuộc họp đánh giá công khai này? <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo Báo chí <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo qua Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Khác (hãy nêu rõ) <u>ccc</u>
Địa chỉ Đường phố <u>138 Foster Lane</u>	
Địa chỉ Hộp thư (nếu khác với địa chỉ đường phố)	
Thành phố, Tiểu bang, Mã vùng <u>Buras, LA 70011</u>	
Địa chỉ Email	
Cơ quan/Tổ chức	

Thông tin này sẽ được bổ sung vào danh sách mail dự án. Nếu bạn không muốn đưa vào danh sách mail, hãy đánh dấu vào hộp kiểm.

Ý KIẾN: (Hãy viết tiếp vào mặt sau nếu không đủ chỗ.)

I have my own oyster boat since 2012 in lower Plaquemines of Louisiana. Tôi không muốn xã nước ngọt xảy ra tại vì nó sẽ ảnh hưởng đến công ăn việc làm của tôi. Tôi muốn chính phủ giúp đỡ tôi tài chính và kiểm việc làm nếu xã nước xảy ra. Tôi cần phải trả tiền bills bóng và nhà, nước, những nếu không có đi làm được thì chính phủ phải giúp tôi để sinh sống qua ngày.

Alae

Return Address: 1065 3rd Levee 39
CAK/isle LA-70040
03 AUG 2017 PM 11



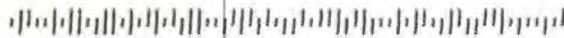
Name: Albertine M. Kimble

Phone: 504.439.0297

Email: duckqueenairboat@yahoo.com

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District, CEMVN-OD-SE
Attn: MVN-2012-2806-EOO
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118



PUBLIC COMMENT

MID-BARATARIA SEDIMENT DIVERSION

A.) Who determines WHEN the sediment diversion will operate - a) Federal^B State^C local.

B.) What is the guarantee that this sediment diversion will NOT end up like the freshwater diversion at Bayou La Lague, or Bohemia's salinity control structure or White Ditch siphon or West Pt-c-la-hache Siphon or La Cade siphon, will it operate? or Be abandon?

C.)

From: cdkinarew@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Saturday, July 29, 2017 1:57:12 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Catherine Kinabrew
3201 St. Charles Ave., 223
New Orleans, LA, 70115

From: Johnkinabrew@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 2:29:08 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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Thank you,
John Kinabrew
3201 St Charles Ave #223
New Orleans, LA, 70115

From: dkineman@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [David Kineman](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 10:41:36 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
David Kineman
Lake Charles, LA 70605

From: wking70118@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Wendy King](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 10:23:28 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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While I understand the concerns of fishermen and oyster-lease holders about the impact of diversions on their livelihoods and industries, I also think that this diversion is vital to our efforts to rebuild our wetlands, and to save the wildlife that depend on them.

Sincerely,
Wendy King
New Orleans, LA 70130

From: skinler89@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 8:36:08 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
Stephanie Kinler
340 MOSS LN
MANDEVILLE, LA, 70471

From: derbesa@bellsouth.net
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 8:37:37 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
Andrea Kleinke
206 Melvyn Dr.
Belle Chasse, Louisiana, 70037

August 3, 2017
Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 27, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Port Sulphur Community Center
278 Civic Drive, Port Sulphur, LA

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name SENG KONG	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) . Coastal Communities Consulting, Inc.
Street Address 201 CHOUEST LANE	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code BURAS, LA 70041	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

I am the head of household for my family. I am the sole provider, and my income comes from shrimper. I have been a shrimper for over 20 years. If the diversion happens, there will be no income because there will be no shrimp. I would like assistance from the government in changing my boat by making it bigger. Once I have a bigger boat, I can go shrimping in Federal Waters. Or train me so I can have some skill sets to get another job in a different field.

Seng Kong

Aug. 31, 2017

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 27, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Port Sulphur Community Center
278 Civic Drive, Port Sulphur, LA

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Sovanara Kong	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 201 Choquest Ln.	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code Buras, LA 70041	
Email Address sova.kong@gmail.com	
Affiliation	

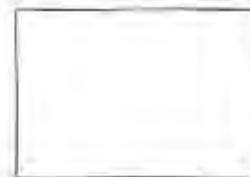
This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

My name is Sovanara Kong. I'm 28 years old today but I have been shrimping with my father since I was 13 years of age. This year will be my eighth year of being captain of my own boat. I do understand the main purpose of the river/sediment diversion is to help restore loss land and to help against storm surges from future hurricanes. I truly love the idea of restoring our coast but I believe it will affect our livelihood at a large scale. It's not rocket science. If you take a salt water fish and throw it into a fresh water tank, chances are the

fish will die. The same will happen again as we seen this past May season. Its not only going to affect shrimps but people who go out to catch crabs, oyster and fish: recreational and commercially. The sediment diversion, the super slow process, will probably help in the future years down the line but will wipe out all of us in this seafood industry. We're going to need a lot of help soon as that fresh water hit our bays and bayous.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118



Place postage here

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

Aug. 31, 2017

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Phally Mov KRUTH	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 142 W. BRAY LN	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code BURAS, LA 70041	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

I need help to support my family. Because the business I work, freshwater is not a good thing. I am a deckhand on a shrimp boat. The diversion will kill the shrimp. My family will need the government to help me out financially because I still have a lot of bills and they ^{government} will kill my income if they go ahead and start the freshwater diversion.

Phally Kruth

1 you're going to ruin a whole
2 community of fishermen. You know
3 what I'm talking about? And where
4 do you go at? You know what I'm
5 saying? Where do you go at? You've
6 got to move your house and home and
7 everything. I'm too old to do all
8 that. Thank you.

9 * * *

10 DEBORAH KUHNS
11 4927 Deborah Ann Drive
12 Barataria, Louisiana 70036

12 DEBORAH KUHNS:

13 The comment I want to make
14 today -- and I made comments at the
15 Lafitte meeting -- is that I am
16 still very concerned about the fact
17 that the people coming to these
18 scoping meetings aren't getting the
19 information, both the pros and the
20 cons.

21 They're seeing the presentation
22 by CPRA, who is requesting the
23 permit, and so everything's positive
24 and great and good. But they're not
25 seeing a presentation or a station

1 with somebody that they can speak to
2 that has an opposing view, a
3 different view, so it's very
4 difficult for them to be able to
5 make an educated comment truly if
6 they don't have all of the
7 information that they need.

8 So I would recommend that
9 sometime between now and
10 September 5th, that the Corps of
11 Engineers do another series of
12 meetings that will allow the State
13 of Louisiana Coalition to come,
14 because the research has been going
15 on. They have been attending
16 meetings. We have been attending
17 meetings since 2011, so it's after
18 the spill, so that people can hear
19 both sides of what's really going on
20 and get a good understanding so that
21 they can make comments, and I hope
22 that the Corps will do that and they
23 save the bayou communities. Thank
24 you.

25 * * *

1 "Look, we are going to provide
2 levees for that area and do the
3 sediment diversion, and the
4 fishermen are compensated; we have
5 some funds here on the side to get
6 them through a couple more years of
7 negative impact."

8 And then everybody could be for
9 it. Everybody really wants it. The
10 fishermen would like to see this
11 place for their grandkids, but at
12 the same time, they want to live
13 now. They don't want to flood even
14 more and they don't want to go out
15 of business where they can't make a
16 living with the seafood, so that's
17 my comment. Thank you.

18

* * *

19

TRACY KUHNS
4927 Deborah Ann Drive
Barataria, Louisiana 70036

20

21

TRACY KUHNS:

22

23

24

25

My first comment is -- it's
going to be on this meeting. If
you're going to have a public
meeting in these communities down

1 here, and really are interested in
2 what they have to say, then you have
3 to allow them to be able to go up
4 there and give vocal comment to
5 whoever is up there taking in the
6 information.

7 The majority of them, people
8 down here are not ever going to do
9 written comments. Most of them
10 write, but they aren't capable of
11 doing it, in the first place. And
12 they certainly don't have the money
13 or the capability to deliver their
14 comments to the state, so -- like
15 these big environmental groups that
16 are all over the place around here.

17 These people -- 43 percent of
18 the people that live in our
19 community are low to moderate income
20 and I think if you're going to do
21 any of this, you need to consider
22 that.

23 And I'm not upset, but I know
24 you're just taking notes. I'm not
25 upset.

1 The first thing is, that
2 diversion is not going to build the
3 land that they say it's going to
4 build. We'll all be dead. The
5 adults in this community will be
6 dead before it ever builds anything.

7 We've seen it already happen
8 with Mardi Gras Pass, Davis Pond,
9 with two tons of stuff out there
10 before it ever builds anything even
11 when you have sediment.

12 And we have also witnessed
13 where they have dredged material
14 using a dedicated pipeline and built
15 beaucoup land down by the Davis Pond
16 Project down there. The trucks can
17 drive on it, but not an ambulance,
18 not ambulances.

19 So why are they not just
20 continuing the Barataria Land Bridge
21 all the way to Lafourche Parish?
22 That would provide now, right now,
23 protection for the people in our
24 community.

25 The other thing they're doing

1 with this thing going on is that we
2 are surrounded -- we're in a
3 horseshoe. The other part of the
4 horseshoe -- there's levees that
5 surround us -- there's one little
6 section in St. Charles Parish that
7 they're going to build before that
8 thing goes online, if they build
9 this new Barataria thing.

10 All the water that comes in on
11 a south wind piles up on those
12 levees and increases our water.
13 Until they've completed the first
14 levee to the front of us, the water
15 never went over the bulkhead at my
16 house, never, ever, not for a
17 tropical storm, and it gets worse
18 and worse every time they complete
19 another piece of that levee.

20 So try to imagine 48
21 million gallons of water and
22 sediment coming through that thing
23 in a 24-hour period, if we have a
24 south wind. Where is it going? I
25 mean, can you just imagine? I don't

1 know if you live anywhere around
2 that has flooding, but try to
3 imagine that.

4 They're not going to get it in
5 New Orleans or these big urban areas
6 where all these environmental groups
7 are. And I'm the Executive Director
8 of the Louisiana Bayoukeeper. It is
9 environmental. All of us own our
10 property and have to have
11 protection.

12 But I live here; they don't.
13 And so they come in and they're
14 going to try and propose things, in
15 their thought process, into a system
16 that they do not have any idea
17 about. They live in an ivory tower.
18 They don't live here.

19 These people have been here for
20 generations. They know what
21 happens. They know what happens
22 with the water. They know what
23 happens to the land. They need to
24 not do this. They're going to
25 destroy these communities.

1 Our fisheries is going to be
2 destroyed. Our economy is based on
3 commercial fisheries businesses,
4 small family-owned and operated
5 commercial fishing businesses,
6 charter businesses, charter fishing
7 businesses that are family-owned and
8 operated, with tons of redfish for
9 the fishermen, and I think Jefferson
10 Parish probably sells the most
11 licenses for fishermen than any
12 other coastal parish.

13 And all of the businesses that
14 support that type of economy, like
15 boat builders, the businesses that
16 sell bait, businesses that sell
17 plastic baits in New Orleans, all
18 the businesses, not only in our
19 community, net builders and that
20 kind of stuff, but businesses in the
21 regional areas that supply all of
22 our fishermen, whatever type our
23 fishermen do end up buying from,
24 like Academy, and all of our guys
25 buy motors and boats, outboard

1 motors, motors for their bigger
2 boats and shrimp boats, the gear,
3 the aluminum they have to have to
4 build the rigging. I mean, it's
5 just a massive impact to the economy
6 locally, regionally, in the state
7 and nationally.

8 Louisiana is second only to
9 Alaska on the impact of fisheries on
10 the economy. So for some reason,
11 people in Louisiana, our legislators
12 in Louisiana, in the federal
13 government, don't understand that.
14 So that's it. There's no value on
15 anything, you know.

16 And now, I mean, it's about the
17 oil, it's about this, it's about
18 that, but it's like we have no
19 value; we're expendable, which is
20 why we're outside that levee system
21 instead of included in that. And
22 there's nothing between our
23 community and Grand Isle for 45
24 miles but marsh.

25 So why were we left out? This

1 is going to have a horrible impact
2 on us. 80 percent of the marine
3 species in the Gulf of Mexico spends
4 some portion of its life within the
5 Barataria Basin Estuary. That's
6 everything people that are fishing
7 for, recreational, everything as far
8 as commercially, and everything that
9 nobody fishes that often that feeds
10 other species.

11 We have a genetically different
12 set of dolphins in the Barataria
13 Basin that are totally different
14 genetically than the dolphins in the
15 Gulf of Mexico. They have been
16 there forever. And a lot of which
17 we saw killed off with the oil.

18 You know, these commercial
19 fishermen are in tears, crying,
20 coming in about the dolphins' life.
21 They would go out there and tap on
22 the side of the boats every spring
23 and the dolphins come to your boat.

24 I mean, why would you want to
25 destroy that? That thing is going

1 to destroy that and it's going to
2 destroy essential fish habitat
3 that's supposed to be protected,
4 that these supposed environmental
5 groups are supposed to be caring
6 about. But they're supporting this,
7 knowing full well what's going to
8 happen. They know full well what's
9 going to happen and they don't care,
10 because they think, well, in the
11 long run, it's all going to come
12 back, in the long term. I don't
13 think it will.

14 How are you going to bring back
15 a genetically different specific
16 dolphin that you would destroy? You
17 can't.

18 The flooding is going to be
19 phenomenal. I mean, I don't know.
20 I'll have to write it all down,
21 because my brain goes a mile a
22 minute. It's upsetting. I have 17
23 grandkids and they can't imagine not
24 living anywhere else.

25 I have two daughters that live

1 next door to me. Each of them have
2 four children, and I help them with
3 them, and my husband's mother lives
4 with us, so they help with her, and
5 they're like, well, we can relocate.
6 Well, how can you relocate an entire
7 commercial fishing community?

8 They place no value in making
9 their plans to determine who's
10 getting left out and who's included
11 in the levee systems. It's how much
12 damage to property, physical
13 property damage.

14 Where is the number? Where is
15 the value for this culture that has
16 been here for hundreds of years?
17 Where is the value for community,
18 where if my daughter is -- if the
19 kids are all in school and my
20 daughters are at work and we need
21 something, we've got something we've
22 got to do and we need somebody to
23 come check on his mama -- we don't
24 lock our doors -- so we can call any
25 one of our neighbors and they will

1 go over there and check on them and
2 make sure she has what she needs and
3 let us know.

4 Where in the world -- why does
5 that not have any value to them?
6 It's not in any of the CPRA numbers.
7 I don't know where you'd find those
8 things. Other people would love to
9 have stuff like that, that kind of a
10 community where people care about
11 each other and help each other when
12 they need.

13 I don't know. It's upsetting.
14 I would like my grandchildren to be
15 able to -- you know, 11 of them live
16 in this community, out of the 17.

17 So I don't know what else to
18 say right now. Where can you do
19 written comments when I can make
20 some sense? I don't know. But I
21 thank you anyway.

22 * * *

23
24
25

From: skurtz44@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 8:53:05 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Sheila Kurtz
PO Box 425
Grand Coteau, LA, 70541-0425

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Doris E. La Caze](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 12:42:20 PM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,

Ms. Doris E La Caze
6105 Dutton Ave
Baton Rouge, LA 70805-1446
(225) 603-6108
dellovesLSU@gmail.com

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Wayne LaBeaud](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 3:42:10 PM

Aug 17, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

* Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.

* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Mr. Wayne LaBeaud
4517 Mendez St
New Orleans, LA 70126-2307
(504) 333-0121
mezmureyz@msn.com

From: mezmureyz@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Wayne Labeaud](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 11:22:04 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Wayne Labeaud
New Orleans, LA 70126

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Dennis M. LaBorde	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) TV
Street Address 4937 Lisa Ann Dr	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code Barataria, LA 70036	
Email Address labordedennis@yahoo.com	
Affiliation Barataria Civic Association	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

The concerns of the residents of Barataria
is increased flooding.
75 CFS is too much water when there
is a depression or storm in the Gulf

From: mlaborde27@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 5:52:44 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Marc Laborde
4811 Carondelet St
New Orleans, Louisiana, 70115

From: jblacinak1854@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Juluie Lacinak](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 11, 2017 9:03:06 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Juluie Lacinak
Shreveport, LA 71118

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Donnette Lafleur](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 3:07:37 PM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,

Mrs. Donnette Lafleur
212 Bucko Ln
Sunset, LA 70584-5143
(515) 555-5555
mrslafleur@gmail.com

From: mrslafleur@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Donnette Lafleur Lafleur](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Tuesday, August 29, 2017 11:09:26 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Donnette Lafleur Lafleur
Sunset, LA 70584

From: mrslafleur@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Donnette Lafleur Lafleur](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 4, 2017 8:15:03 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Donnette Lafleur Lafleur
Sunset, LA 70584

From: widderslainte@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 3:36:08 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Todd Lafleur
920 8th St
Mamou, LA, 705543206

August 14th, 2017

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 27, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Port Sulphur Community Center
278 Civic Drive, Port Sulphur, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Hen Kim Lai	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) meeting Coastal Communities Consulting, Inc.
Street Address 222 Chouest Lane	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code Buras, LA 70041	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

I don't want diversion to be placed in the mid-Barataria because there will be no shrimp in the shallow water. I have been a shrimper for 31 years. I am old; I don't know anything else besides shrimping. Because I am old, I can't go out further than 3 miles to shrimp. I would like the government to assist me with financial to pay my bills and livelihood if diversion happens. What will happen to my business if diversion happens?

Hen Kim Lai

Aug 30, 2017

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Christi Lam	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) ccc
Street Address 150 East crest Drive	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code Buras LA 70041	
Email Address lamchristi1@yahoo.com	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

I am a deckhand on my husband's boat. Whenever my husband does not make any money, of course I won't make any money, too. If our business is out, I'm out, too. What are we going to do? We're old, we're getting old and nobody is going to hire us to do anything. This is our business until we die. We're not going to be able to find another job or move to another place. It's too expensive. We invest too much over here. We invest everything here. All of our money is in the boat, nets, and stuff. We cannot sell.

Christi Lam

August 3rd, 2017

**Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017**

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? Yes No

If yes, please specify the position.

First and Last Name KIET LAM	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 120 MILAN DR.	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code PORT SULPHUR, LA 70083	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

My name is Kiet Lam and I have farmed oysters for 20 years. I do not want to divert freshwater because freshwater will cause the oysters to die. I will not have a job. I have to raise my three children and my wife. I need help with a stable job.

August 3rd, 2017

Comment Form

Họp Đánh giá Công khai, Thứ 5, ngày 20 tháng 7, 2017
EIS cho Dự án Chuyên dòng Trầm tích Trung Barataria
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Ý kiến đóng góp phải được gửi trước ngày 5 tháng 9 năm 2017

BẠN LÀ NHÂN VIÊN CÔNG VỤ? CÓ KHÔNG Nếu có, vị trí: _____

Họ và Tên KIET LAM	Bằng cách nào quý vị biết về cuộc họp đánh giá công khai này? <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo Báo chí <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo qua Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Khác (hãy nêu rõ) CCC
Địa chỉ Đường phố 120 Milan Dr.	
Địa chỉ Hộp thư (nếu khác với địa chỉ đường phố)	
Thành phố, Tiểu bang, Mã vùng Port Sulphur, LA 70083	
Địa chỉ Email	
Cơ quan/Tổ chức	

Thông tin này sẽ được bổ sung vào danh sách mail dự án. Nếu bạn không muốn đưa vào danh sách mail, hãy đánh dấu vào hộp kiểm.

Ý KIẾN: (Hãy viết tiếp vào mặt sau nếu không đủ chỗ.)

Tôi tên là Kiệt Lam và tôi đã làm số 20 năm nay rồi. Tôi không muốn xả nước ngọt tại vì xả nước ngọt sẽ tồn tại số chết hết. Tôi sẽ không có việc làm, tôi khổ tại vì tôi còn phải lo cho 3 đứa con và vợ tôi. Tôi muốn sự giúp đỡ có việc làm ổn định.

KIETLAM

August 3rd, 2017

Ý kiến đóng góp phải được gửi trước ngày 5 tháng 9 năm 2017

Comment Form

Họp Đánh giá Công khai, Thứ 5, ngày 20 tháng 7, 2017
EIS cho Dự án Chuyển dòng Trầm tích Trung Barataria
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

BẠN LÀ NHÂN VIÊN CÔNG VỤ? CÓ KHÔNG

Nếu có, vị trí: _____

Họ và Tên KIET LAM	Bằng cách nào quý vị biết về cuộc họp đánh giá công khai này? <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo Báo chí <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo qua Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Khác (hãy nêu rõ) CCC
Địa chỉ Đường phố 120 Milan Dr.	
Địa chỉ Hộp thư (nếu khác với địa chỉ đường phố)	
Thành phố, Tiểu bang, Mã vùng Port Sulphur, LA 70083	
Địa chỉ Email	
Cơ quan/Tổ chức	

Thông tin này sẽ được bổ sung vào danh sách mail dự án. Nếu bạn không muốn đưa vào danh sách mail, hãy đánh dấu vào hộp kiểm.

Ý KIẾN: (Hãy viết tiếp vào mặt sau nếu không đủ chỗ.)

Tôi tên là Kiệt Lam và tôi đã làm số 20 năm nay rồi. Tôi không muốn xả nước ngọt tại vì xả nước sẽ tốn tại số chết hết. Tôi sẽ không có việc làm, tôi khổ tại vì tôi còn phải lo cho 3 đứa con và vợ tôi. Tôi muốn sự giúp đỡ có việc làm ổn định.

KIETLAM

Aug 30, 2017

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Lee Lam	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) ccc
Street Address 150 East Crest Drive	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code Buras LA 70041	
Email Address Lamchristi1@yahoo.com	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

I am a shrimper for 30 years. I cannot afford the freshwater to come in because the shrimp cannot live in the freshwater. It will kill our business if they do. That is the only income that come in for us. 100% uncome comes from shrimping. The government should help me to survive to have kids and kids in college. My business will die from the freshwater. This is our livelihood for 30 years and I do not have any other experience or skills for other job.

Lee P Lam

From: [RYAN LAMBERT](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mid Barataria diversion
Date: Sunday, September 3, 2017 6:52:29 PM

Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00

To whom it may concern:

My name is Captain Ryan Lambert. I have been a fishing and hunting guide in Buras Louisiana for 39 years and counting. Being I'm from the place that has been effected the worst form coastal erosion, I have seen how and why as well as the politics of restoration. I know what works and what doesn't, and I know who and what stands in the way of getting the problem turned around. I work in diversions everyday and have learned from Mother Nature and not from those with personal interest in mind trying to sway the truth to get what they want. I have a great passion to see that coastal restoration gets started before I leave this earth. I have received a grant in conjunction with Ducks Unlimited to build a terracing project to create 3000 acres in the Bay Denise area to do what I can myself.

The first thing that I would like to see is the permitting process sped up as we don't have time to waste. In a short time I have seen the total decimation of the marsh in Buras and it is happening daly throughout the state so we don't have time to waste on EIS that go on for years. Are we saying that Mother Nature had it wrong in the first place and we know better? Seems to me it is what we did "building levees" to protect ourselves that is at the root of our troubles. MardiGras diversion didn't need a permit or an EIS to open but it is working to build land and habitat that we so desperately need in Louisiana. If you look at the attributes of the diversion thus far you will see that it is on the way to fulfilling three projects of the Master Plan all by itself. If left to do its work it will do away with the Mid Breton diversion as well as two marsh creation projects that are on tap at a cost of 1.4 billion dollars that we won't have to spend.

The second and most important thing is the need to let the river control the operation of the Mid Barataria diversion. We have to take the operation out of the hands of those special interest groups that sway the political will to operate the diversion in the best interest of all who live in our great state. If you look around the state at the structures already in tack that are not being utilize, you will note my concerns. Take a look at the Davis Pond diversion for instance. The state bought out the oyster fishermen all the way out to Hackberry Bay only to have the oyster industry control the operation of the diversion for their own interest at the detriment of all others. Because they have a good lobby, the diversion is always running at a reduced rate to maintain slat ppm for them some 60 miles away. Meanwhile, the saltwater fish are 75 miles inland and there is no habitat for the bass fishery or the duck hunters in the New Orleans area. Everyone in St Charles Parish is paying more for flood insurance due to erosion in the marsh south of the diversion. Everyone building a new home has to bring in \$50,000 worth of dirt to raise their lot to 6ft to meet new elevation standards. These are some of the reasons for my concern.

My third concern is being addressed but I still want to articulate it. It is essential that we put in controls to slow the water down as to aid in making the sediment drop out of the system. In watching the diversions work for years, I have found that when the water is allowed to meander away from the main flow is where the best restoration happens. More aquatic grass is formed and the sediment is slowed enough to drop out of the water column. This will also help to filter the water before it reaches the gulf. I would hope to see some canals or bayous put in place to disperse the main flow with some type of terracing or ridges to manipulate the current. I fear that if we don't do some type of manipulation we are just going to create another pass going out to the gulf.

Thanks for letting me chime in:

RYAN LAMBERT
President

Cajun Fishing Adventures

504-559-5111

cajunfishingadventures.com <Blockedhttp://cajunfishingadventures.com>

From: rolambeth@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, July 28, 2017 12:31:54 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature implies Louisianans really want to stem Louisiana's land loss. Well many elsewhere in the United States are anxious that action to slow this loss matters to them too. I'm such an example.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Ron Lambeth
624 Yucca Dr
Grand Junction, CO, 81507

From: Suelampton2011@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 1:30:47 PM

Dear Mr. Brad Laborde,

Please proceed with the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion project. It's so important to the retention of our wetlands and the future for my child Matthew and his grandchildren--and all the lives of the citizens of not only the coastal towns but our state of Louisiana.

Please be brave and do the RIGHT thing for our future. Our lives are depending on you Mr. Laborde! Many thanks. Sue

Sue Lampton
3443 Esplanade Avenue, Apt. 461
New Orleans, LA, 70119

MITCHELL J. LANDRIEU, MAYOR
CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

September 5, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District
c/o Brad LaBorde
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

Re: Public Comments on Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion

Dear Mr. LaBorde:

The City of New Orleans has a pressing and vested interest in the progress and outcome of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion (MBSD) project. Since its founding, New Orleans has benefited from its strategic location in the Mississippi River Delta and on the Gulf of Mexico. However, today, the natural systems upon which the city was built continue to sustain the city, but also threaten it. The deltaic soils underfoot and the wetlands that largely surround the city are part of a shifting coastal landscape that offers unique challenges for the built environment. Under current conditions, the massive volumes of sediment and fresh water carried by the Mississippi flow directly into the Gulf, instead of recharging the adjacent wetlands of Southeast Louisiana. With proper management, these valuable resources have the potential to restore habitat, act as a buffer against storm surge and erosion, and support long-term marsh creation efforts. Sediment diversions are a necessary and critical part of the State's Coastal Master Plan, and returning sediment and nutrients to out estuaries is paramount. The fact of the matter is, without diversions we will not save the coast – plain and simple. The MBSD provides the unique opportunity to address a plethora of urgent problems facing the coastline, by building land and restoring the wetlands in Barataria Basin that have protected coastal Louisiana for thousands of years.

The many projected benefits of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion diminish significantly the longer it takes to construct the project. The lands and waterways that make up the Mississippi Delta and southern Louisiana are some of the most productive ecosystems in the world, essential to the economy, culture, and subsistence of residents throughout the region. The anticipated loss of land in southern Louisiana is estimated between 105,000 and 150,000 acres by the year 2050, and the MBSD project has the potential to reduce that damage by an estimated 29,000 acres by 2050, while providing critical sediment to maintain other restoration projects. Preventing land from being lost hinges on the expedient construction of diversions such as this one. In developing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the MBSD, the United States Army Corps of Engineers must consider the time-sensitivity and necessity of a diversion in this region when evaluating the benefits and challenges of this project. The development of the Mid-Barataria project has been underway for over 30 years, and there are volumes of data gathered by local, state, and federal agencies that can and must be incorporated into the Scoping Report and EIS to shorten the timeline for approval of this critical project. The earlier the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion is constructed, the more productive the project will be in preserving, expanding, and maintaining valuable land.



When preparing the Environmental Impact Statement, the Army Corps must also recognize that any disruptions caused by the MBSD through the reintroduction of sediment are, in fact, crucial for the long term existence of that land. The project is intended to repair the damage and land loss that has occurred from frequent storm and flood damage, rising sea levels, and the long-term disruption of sediment flow patterns of the Mississippi River—a reversal of this trend is imperative. The current situation of the Barataria Basin must be compared to a future with a sediment diversion and a catastrophic scenario without the sediment diversion, in which we continue to lose valuable wetlands at an increasing rate. The EIS must also determine the possible change in impact of existing and future marsh creation, and Coastal Master Plan projects that could be caused by the delay or absence of the MBSD. The chain reaction of reduced efficacy in future projects from a failure to implement the MBSD is avoidable and unacceptable. This diversion is essential for improving the health and wellness of our environment and maintaining our vulnerable coastline. While the reintroduction of sediment might have a temporary impact on mammals and other species currently occupying Barataria Basin, the return of this natural flow cycle is critical for sustaining the long-term health of this ecosystem. Legislations, such as the Marine Mammal Protection Act, should not prevent or delay this project's construction. Instead, the EIS must review the effects of a no-action scenario on the future health of the Barataria Basin, the Mississippi River Delta, and the southern Louisiana coast. Currently, the situation of the Barataria Basin and its surrounding area is precarious. Storm surge, runoff, rising sea levels, and other processes have eroded wetlands and made them more susceptible to flood damage than ever before. Continuation of the status quo will only exacerbate the deterioration of the ecosystem and economy of the Barataria Basin.

The City of New Orleans is committed to impactful and resilient restoration of the Louisiana coast. From experience, we know the best way to respond to challenges is with swift, well-planned action. The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years and directly addresses the chronic problems of coastal degradation, while still allowing room for the project to adapt to local context. This project presents an opportunity to change our landscape in a permanent and sustainable manner. We cannot afford to lose this investment in the environment to inaction. New Orleans urges the United States Army Corps of Engineers to reexamine their current timeline and issue a permit and permission to proceed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,



Mitchell J. Landrieu
Mayor, City of New Orleans

From: barlandry@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 10:10:53 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Barry Landry
302 Cedar Tree Dr
Thibodaux, La, 70301

From: rlandry@sleca.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 8:43:55 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As a lifelong resident of Terrebonne Parish, I have witnessed the devastating land loss. Sediment diversion is the only way to slow down the loss. I know this diversion presents problem for oyster fishermen. They complain that the freshwater will hurt the oyster beds. But the oyster beds of today do not belong where they are know. Because of saltwater creeping in the oysters beds follow the brackish water further north. Where were these oyster beds 500 years ago. Much further south because that's were the brackish water was. The oyster beds will eventually relocate. But the oyster fishermen of today will have to bear the brunt of our sins of the past (levees) along the Mississippi.

I have limited the areas I fish to Bayou Dularge because of the rapid land loss I no longer feel safe fishing in areas to east of Bayou Dularge. I just don't recognize where I'm any longer.

The running commentary among fishermen is " use your GPS and when it shows you are passing over land stop and fish because that is now a reef as the land is GONE".

This effort might be a waste of money, but what are the consequences if nothing is done and all we do is study? We maybe too late already. I have told my children not to live below Hy 90, land below Hy 90 will become a dead zone, is that what the government really wants?

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) should consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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- The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Roy Landry
4609 Sugar Creek St.
HOUMA, LA, 70364

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Tuesday, July 25, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Belle Chasse Auditorium
8398 Highway 23, Belle Chasse, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Anthony Laska PhD	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) network of professionals
Street Address 510 Adams St. NOLA 70118	
Mailing Address (if different from street address) PO Box 791245	
City, State, Zip Code New Orleans, LA 70179	
Email Address laska.ees@gmail.com	
Affiliation Lowlander Center	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

While the EIS process is necessary, it has grown far too cumbersome and takes far too long. Given the urgency of this region to mitigate coastal land loss and storm surge, if the MBSD isn't constructed sooner than 2020 it will be too late to provide the benefits it's designed for. Hopefully this process will be a template and speed up the next EIS with which it has so much in common.

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Kennith Lassalle](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 11:05:45 AM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,

Mr. Kennith Lassalle
425 Riverdale Dr
Jefferson, LA 70121-3510
(504) 837-3235
lassallekennith@cox.net

From: lassallekennith@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Kennith Lassalle](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 10:27:11 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Kennith Lassalle
New Orleans, LA 70121

August 4th, 2017

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Chhiet Lat	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) Coastal Communities Consulting, Inc.
Street Address P.O. Box 82	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code Buras, LA 70041	
Email Address Chhietlat3425	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

I have been shrimping for 37 years, primarily in Skip Jack Bay but I also shrimp in Barataria Bay, Redfish Bay, etc. In my experience, I know that the brown shrimp cannot survive in too much fresh water, they'll migrate further out where salinity levels are optimum. If the brown shrimp season is affected by the diversion then that means I'll only have 5 months of work from Aug-Dec for the white shrimp season. I think the Corps needs to study how much of an impact the diversions could have on the commercial fishing industry, especially on brown shrimp. I am an older fisherman and if there are no shrimp then

I will be out of a job. If the government would help me with making my boat bigger so that I could go out further then that would be a good thing. I'm open to getting a grant or a loan. I would even open a new business if I had help. I've lived many places, but I like Southeast LA (Buras) the best.

Chriet Lat

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118



Place postage here

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118**

August 4th, 2017

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting?
Chhiet Lat	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice
Street Address	<input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail
P.O. Box 82	<input type="checkbox"/> Email
Mailing Address	<input type="checkbox"/> Website
<i>(if different from street address)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
City, State, Zip Code	Coastal Communities Consulting, Inc.
Buras, LA 70041	
Email Address	
chhietlat3425	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

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I will be out of a job. If the government would help me with making my boat bigger so that I could go out further then that would be a good thing. I'm open to getting a grant or a loan. I would even open a new business if I had help. I've lived many places, but I like Southeast LA (Buras) the best.

Chhiet Lat

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118



Place postage here

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

From: tlatch@tulane.edu
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 11:29:43 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

There are many factors that play into the loss of land in Louisiana. Climate change, rising sea levels, but especially the fact that the Mississippi River no longer deposits sediments. By reconnecting the Mississippi River, we can create new land instead of see more of it disappear. This could be a huge step towards saving our coast.

Thank you,
Talia Latch
2711 Dryades St
New Orleans, Louisiana, 70113

From: rencon2@aol.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments Mid Barataria diversion
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 2:20:08 PM

My name is: Conrad Lawrence
105 Timber Canal Ln
Port Sulphur, La 70083
504-884-0335
E-mail rencon2@aol.com <<mailto:rencon2@aol.com>>

I attended the recent scope meeting at the Belle Chasse Auditorium, I am opposed to the diversion for several reasons:

The subdivision I live in (Myrtle Grove marina Estates) is subject to street flooding with a tide over four(4) feet Since this diversion will be operated in spring when the river is at its highest and the spring is when we experience our highest tides. I believe that we would be flooded. I know there is an emergency stop planned however it may come to late.

Another concern I have is since I was a kid (I was born in 1938) the sediment that the river carries has continually declined. I question the amount of sediment that can be derived from this project.

Then the effect that it will have on our shrimp, oyster & fishing industries,

I have been told the this project will be in the neighborhood of 1 and 1/2 Billion dollars This money would be better spent pumping sediment directly into the marsh .

There have been several successful such projects Bayou Dupont and Lake Hermitage that I know of.

On a final note I believe that rebuilding our barrier island should be our priority, had these island been in existence during the Horizon oil spill the damage to the interior marsh would have been substantially decreased. I can remember these islands in place as a young man.

Thank you for your consideration

Conrad Lawrence
504-884-0335

August 14, 2017

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Ly Kim Lay	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) Coastal Communities Consulting, Inc.
Street Address 222 Chouest Lane	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code Buras, LA 70041	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

I am a deckhand for my husband, Hen Kim Lai, since 2010 in Lower Plaquemines of Louisiana. If diversion happens, it will not only affect my husband's business, but will affect me as well. If he cannot go shrimping, I can't go shrimping. We are old, we do not know what else to do besides shrimping. I do not know English well, so where can I work? I want the government to help me pay my bills if diversion happens and we can't go shrimping at all. What will happen to us, fishermen, if diversion happens? Will there be assistance such as grants available to help us?

ell
Ly Kim Lay

I, Cristina Duong, at Coastal Communities Consulting, Inc. (CCC) hereby certify that I have translated the above statement from Cambodian into English to the best of my abilities; and I am fluent in both languages.

Cristina Duong
Cristina Duong, Translator

From: grastic@msn.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 4:54:22 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

I believe it is critical to the well being of the Louisiana wetlands that sediment laden water be brought to the Mid-Barataria basin. The natural flood replenishment of the Mississippi River Delta has been curtailed. A diversion would bring the land building material where it is most needed. Please allow this project to be quickly implemented as the land loss is ongoing and accelerating. Thank you.

Thank you,

Joseph Lazaro
811 n. State Street
Abbeville, La., 70510

August 15th, 2017

**Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017**

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? Yes No

If yes, please specify the position.

First and Last Name David R. Le	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 2265 Sugarloaf Dr.	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code Harvey, LA 70058	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

If freshwater is diverted into this area, shrimps will be affected so we cannot support the family. We need help from the State agencies.
No shrimps mean no money for the family.

Aug. 15, 2017

Ý kiến đóng góp phải được gửi trước ngày 5 tháng 9 năm 2017

Comment Form

Họp Đánh giá Công khai, Thứ 5, ngày 20 tháng 7, 2017
EIS cho Dự án Chuyển dòng Trầm tích Trung Barataria
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

BẠN LÀ NHÂN VIÊN CÔNG VỤ? CÓ KHÔNG Nếu có, vị trí: _____

Họ và Tên <u>David R. Le</u>	Bằng cách nào quý vị biết về cuộc họp đánh giá công khai này? <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo Báo chí <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo qua Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Khác (hãy nêu rõ) <u>ccc</u>
Địa chỉ Đường phố <u>2265 Sugarloaf Dr.</u>	
Địa chỉ Hộp thư (nếu khác với địa chỉ đường phố)	
Thành phố, Tiểu bang, Mã vùng <u>Harvey, LA 70058</u>	
Địa chỉ Email	
Cơ quan/Tổ chức	

Thông tin này sẽ được bổ sung vào danh sách mail dự án. Nếu bạn không muốn đưa vào danh sách mail, hãy đánh dấu vào hộp kiểm.

Ý KIẾN: (Hãy viết tiếp vào mặt sau nếu không đủ chỗ.)

Nếu xã nước ngọt thì sẽ ảnh hưởng đến tôm tép - không có nơi gia đình được. Nếu xã nước ngọt không có tôm tép thì tôi cần sự giúp đỡ cũng chính quyền. Nếu không có tôm thì không có tiền cho cuộc sống trong gia đình.

David R. Le

Aug. 15, 2017

Ý kiến đóng góp phải được gửi trước ngày 5 tháng 9 năm 2017

Comment Form

Họp Đánh giá Công khai, Thứ 5, ngày 20 tháng 7, 2017
EIS cho Dự án Chuyển dòng Trầm tích Trung Barataria
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

BẠN LÀ NHÂN VIÊN CÔNG VỤ? CÓ KHÔNG Nếu có, vị trí: _____

Họ và Tên <u>David R. Le</u>	Bằng cách nào quý vị biết về cuộc họp đánh giá công khai này? <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo Báo chí <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo qua Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Khác (hãy nêu rõ) <u>CCC</u>
Địa chỉ Đường phố <u>2265 Sugarloaf Dr.</u>	
Địa chỉ Hộp thư (nếu khác với địa chỉ đường phố)	
Thành phố, Tiểu bang, Mã vùng <u>Harvey, LA 70058</u>	
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Aug. 15, 2017

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name MAY VAN LE	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) ccc
Street Address 2123 S VILLAGE GREEN ST	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code HARVEY, LA 70058	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

I do not want the diversion to happen b/c there will be no more shrimp. I want the government to help me find a job and provide me financial assistance.

mayourle

I, Anne Nguyen, at Coastal Communities Inc, hereby certify that I translated the above statement from Vietnamese into English to the best of my ability; and I am fluent in both languages.

AN
Anne Nguyen, translator

1 in our backyard.

2 That's pretty much all I got to
3 say right now. You know, I'm hoping
4 they'll have a public comment,
5 because I think the people who's
6 running this -- excuse my
7 language -- but they don't know
8 their butt from a hole in the
9 ground, and that's just my opinion
10 of it.

11 Because it's supposed to be a
12 lot of educated people, and I think
13 it's a whole lot of money that's
14 getting done -- that's making this
15 thing -- that's making -- it's going
16 to make some people rich off of this
17 deal. It's a shame to say that.

18 But it's going to make the
19 working man suffer a lot. You know
20 what I'm saying? And that's just my
21 opinion of it. So thank you and
22 that's all I've got to say, all
23 right.

24 * * *

25 QUE LE

1 Harvey, Louisiana 70058

2 INTERPRETER:

3 He said he doesn't want salt
4 water to mix when they open the dam
5 with the fresh water and he's going
6 to lose brown shrimp. And they
7 don't want that because that's what
8 he does for a living is to catch
9 shrimp.

10 So basically they're asking and
11 begging for them not to do it
12 because they don't want to lose the
13 shrimp. So that's their main
14 concern and that's why they're all
15 here. Thank you.

16 * * *

17 SANG PHAN
18 904 Fairfax Drive
19 Gretna, Louisiana 70056

20 INTERPRETER:

21 They all really want to say the
22 same thing. That's why they're all
23 here is because they're afraid
24 they're going to lose the brown
25 shrimp.

26 * * *

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Tuesday, July 25, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Belle Chasse Auditorium
8398 Highway 23, Belle Chasse, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Que Le	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
Street Address 2317 N. Parc Green Ln	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code Harvey La 70058	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

VERBAL

Do not want the dam because he does not want salt water he does not want to lose the brown shrimp

Aug. 11, 2017

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name QUE LE	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting?
Street Address 2317 N. PARC GREEN LN	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail
City, State, Zip Code HARVEY, LA 70058	<input type="checkbox"/> Email
Email Address	<input type="checkbox"/> Website
Affiliation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)

ecc

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

If the diversion, all the shrimp will be gone. I know that they are trying to restore the land, but it affect the fisherman. I believe the government should help me build a bigger boat with a loan with no interest rate.

QUE LE

I, Anne Nguyen, of Coastal Communities Consulting, Inc., hereby certify that I translated the above statement from Vietnamese into English to the best of my ability; and I am fluent in both languages. AN, translator

Aug. 11, 2017

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name QUE LE	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting?
Street Address 2317 N. PARC GREEN LN	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	ecc
City, State, Zip Code HARVEY, LA 70058	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

If the diversion, all the shrimp will be gone. I know that they are trying to restore the land, but it affect the fisherman. I believe the government should help me build a bigger boat with a loan with no interest rate.

QUE LE

I, Anne Nguyen, at Coastal Communities Consulting, Inc., hereby certify that I translated the above statement from Vietnamese into English to the best of my ability; and I am fluent in both languages. AN, translator

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 27, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Port Sulphur Community Center
278 Civic Drive, Port Sulphur, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Sang LE	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
Street Address 188 Milan Dr	
Mailing Address (if different from street address) Jackyle 42@gmail.com	
City, State, Zip Code Port Sulphur, LA 70083	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

Scare that the Fresh water with
Salt water will effects the shrimp.

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 27, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Port Sulphur Community Center
278 Civic Drive, Port Sulphur, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Sang LE	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
Street Address 188 Milan Dr	
Mailing Address (if different from street address) Jackyle 42@gmail.com	
City, State, Zip Code Port Sulphur, LA 70083	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

Scare that the Fresh water with
Salt water will effects the shrimp.

1 * * *

2 GAUTH R. LeBLANC, JR.
3 146 Satsuma Drive
4 Buras, Louisiana 70044

5 GAUTH LeBLANC:

6 Well, I personally don't think
7 this is helping out a whole lot,
8 because it should be done by
9 dredging instead of this fresh water
10 diversion because of being a
11 commercial fisherman. Our
12 livelihood depends upon what we
13 catch and this is not helping at
14 all.

15 We have one fresh water
16 diversion right now that's making
17 our shrimp -- this is the smallest
18 our shrimp has ever been for the
19 last, I don't know, 10 years or
20 longer. We've been getting smaller
21 and smaller. Why our shrimp don't
22 grow, everybody say it's the fresh
23 water diversion.

24 And dumping all the fresh water
25 in our backyard is going to kill my
livelihood, and I've been doing this

1 for 40 plus years, and it's
2 really -- it hurts, because there's
3 a lot of other things that could be
4 done, in my opinion, like the
5 dredging that was done in Bay Long
6 this year, that in just a few
7 months, there was a lot of land
8 built up and, I mean, it was
9 beautiful.

10 Bayou Dupont, they went in
11 there. They built a lot of land up
12 in there. And it's the money that's
13 being allocated that should be done
14 and spent in better ways than
15 putting sediment that's going to
16 come from the river. But it's the
17 fresh water that's going to kill
18 the -- it's going to kill our
19 seafood industry.

20 The brown shrimp maybe -- you
21 know, people say that it could be
22 better for white shrimp, but the
23 brown shrimp industry, it's going to
24 ruin it. We've got some of the
25 best, best in the world right here

1 in our backyard.

2 That's pretty much all I got to
3 say right now. You know, I'm hoping
4 they'll have a public comment,
5 because I think the people who's
6 running this -- excuse my
7 language -- but they don't know
8 their butt from a hole in the
9 ground, and that's just my opinion
10 of it.

11 Because it's supposed to be a
12 lot of educated people, and I think
13 it's a whole lot of money that's
14 getting done -- that's making this
15 thing -- that's making -- it's going
16 to make some people rich off of this
17 deal. It's a shame to say that.

18 But it's going to make the
19 working man suffer a lot. You know
20 what I'm saying? And that's just my
21 opinion of it. So thank you and
22 that's all I've got to say, all
23 right.

24 * * *

25 QUE LE

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Tuesday, July 25, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Belle Chasse Auditorium
8398 Highway 23, Belle Chasse, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name LANVIN St LeVANC	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
Street Address 3540 Jean Baptiste Blvd ~	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code Lafayette La. 70067	
Email Address LANVIN1957@ATT.NET	
Affiliation L. S. A.	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

What is going to happen if Shrimp
disappears in Barataria Bay
What do we go?
What do we do.
Been Shrimping for 43 years.

VERBAL

1 LANVIN LeBLANC
2 3540 Jean Lafitte Boulevard
3 Lafitte, Louisiana 70067

4 LANVIN LeBLANC:

5 I've been a shrimper all my
6 life and I'll be 60 years old. My
7 family's all grew up and all, and a
8 couple of times some different
9 organizations come down to Lafitte.
10 I live in Lafitte, okay. And
11 Barataria, a lot of people is not
12 familiar with it here today. I
13 tried speaking to some environmental
14 group that came to Lafitte a while
15 back -- I'm not saying no names and
16 all -- but for some reason, and
17 Wildlife and Fisheries can't tell us
18 this, biologists can't tell us
19 this -- I shrimp on the east side of
20 the river. I shrimp a lot in
21 Barataria Bay and out of Lafitte. I
22 shrimp all the way down through --
23 hell, I shrimped all the way down to
24 Brownsville before, with a big boat.
25 But for some reason, Mr. Eddie,
 if you take between Caminada Bay and

1 right close to Empire Canal, there
2 is a different texture of shrimp
3 that is produced there like no
4 other, sweetheart.

5 You could take the shrimp
6 that's caught in Barataria Bay and
7 the ones on the east side of the
8 river and you could ice them up the
9 same way, the same day, the same
10 age, or take shrimp on the west side
11 of Bayou Lafourche, and they will
12 not hold like them shrimp from
13 Barataria Bay. Never, never, sir.

14 I sell a lot of shrimp. I
15 peddle a lot of shrimp. There's
16 people on the other side of the
17 lake, they're still a customer and
18 come buy shrimp, that I will tell
19 them firsthand, the shrimp didn't
20 come out of Barataria Bay; the
21 shrimp come out of the east side of
22 the river, and they will know within
23 one or two days whether I'm telling
24 them the truth or not.

25 The shrimp just is a different

1 texture. I'm not saying the shrimp
2 is bad over here or is bad over
3 there. It's just that the shrimp
4 coming out of the Barataria Basin
5 right here, within two to three
6 days, they still look like they're
7 fresh caught, baby. You know what
8 I'm saying? They look like they're
9 fresh caught even though they're two
10 days old or three days old. You get
11 a shrimp to the east or a shrimp to
12 the west, they look like they're six
13 days old. Why? You know, and what
14 is this going to do to us? You know
15 what I'm saying?

16 I've been shrimping over here
17 for all my life. It's just the
18 amount of water that's here that's
19 going through here. If this
20 displaces our shrimp, where do we go
21 at?

22 After living your lifetime
23 doing this, you don't come out of
24 it. I don't want to live in
25 Delcambre. I don't want to live on

1 the east side of the river. Because
2 it takes -- I've shrimped a couple
3 of times in Vermilion Bay. Them
4 shrimp in Vermilion Bay, I can't
5 even peel them, baby. I don't want
6 to -- it takes 20 something hours to
7 get down there, you know.

8 So I'm just hoping that they
9 oversee all of this and get some
10 biologist to look into this, that we
11 made comments about it, because
12 there's something different here. I
13 hope this doesn't ruin the shrimp
14 season.

15 You get too much fresh water in
16 there and -- I didn't shrimp
17 anywheres before, but on the north
18 side of where I live at, Lake
19 Salvador, they tell me it ruined
20 shrimp there because the Davis Pond
21 thing in there, there's no more
22 shrimp now. You know what I'm
23 talking about?

24 So I'm hoping somebody will
25 take this into consideration because

1 you're going to ruin a whole
2 community of fishermen. You know
3 what I'm talking about? And where
4 do you go at? You know what I'm
5 saying? Where do you go at? You've
6 got to move your house and home and
7 everything. I'm too old to do all
8 that. Thank you.

9 * * *

10 DEBORAH KUHNS
11 4927 Deborah Ann Drive
12 Barataria, Louisiana 70036

12 DEBORAH KUHNS:

13 The comment I want to make
14 today -- and I made comments at the
15 Lafitte meeting -- is that I am
16 still very concerned about the fact
17 that the people coming to these
18 scoping meetings aren't getting the
19 information, both the pros and the
20 cons.

21 They're seeing the presentation
22 by CPRA, who is requesting the
23 permit, and so everything's positive
24 and great and good. But they're not
25 seeing a presentation or a station

From: leblanc9856@bellsouth.net
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Saturday, July 29, 2017 10:57:55 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Suzanne Leblanc
114 BELLINGRATH DR
HOUMA, LA, 70360

From: brendasleboeuf@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Brenda Leboeuf](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Saturday, August 5, 2017 10:07:29 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Brenda Leboeuf
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

From: shellyonbayoucoteau@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 10:47:14 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

It is about time that the US Government & the Army Corp. does something for the rest of Louisiana. All y'all seem to care about is not Flooding New Orleans & because of that y'all caused lower lying coastal Parishes to loose the sediment from the River that is necessary for our marshes & coastal areas to naturally rebuild after coastal storms. I'm so glad that y'all are stepping up & realizing the damage the levees have caused & realize that the Oil Companies are not 100% to blame the levees which keep the river from providing the necessary nutrient rich sediment are responsible for 98% of our Coastal Erosion, sinking & land loss & without that sediment the land can not & will not naturally replenish itself.

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Michelle LeBoeuf
513 Bayou Gardens Drive
Houma, LA, 70364

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Chad Leming](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 5:43:07 PM

Aug 17, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

* Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.

* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Mr. Chad Leming
316 Seguin St
New Orleans, LA 70114-2356
(555) 555-5555
chadleming@aol.com

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Chad Leming](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 11:21:56 AM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,

Mr. Chad Leming
910 Marigny St
New Orleans, LA 70117-8540
(123) 456-7890
chadleming@aol.com

From: Chadleming@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Chad Leming](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 10:27:37 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Chad Leming
New Orleans, LA 70114

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Kathryn Lemoine](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 12:35:13 PM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,

Mrs. Kathryn Lemoine
106 Parkwest Dr
Apt 3c
West Monroe, LA 71291-5373
(318) 324-1794
truth58@outlook.com

From: truth58@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Kathryn Lemoine](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 11:53:18 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Kathryn Lemoine
West Monroe, LA 71291

From: Palslessen@suddenlink.net
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 6:38:31 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

This is so important to all our citizens, even those of us who live upland in the northern part of this great state. As my daughter told me one time, Mama! You snooze you lose! Let's get this report in!

Thank you,
Linda Lessen
900 Elm St
Minden, La, 71055

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Colin Lewellyan](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 11:35:53 AM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
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- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,

Mr. Colin Lewellyan
407 Williford Rd
Ball, LA 71405-9419
(123) 456-7890
hemotoxic7475@yahoo.com

From: phoebelewis@aol.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 11:42:28 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Phoebe Lewis
1121 Harrison St.
Lynchburg, VA, 24504

From: t.ligi@ligilawfirm.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 24, 2017 11:31:24 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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- The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Tony Ligi
2900 Rigelake Drive, 4th Floor
Metairie, Louisiana, 70002

August 14, 2017

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Chhay Lim	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) Coastal Communities Consulting, Inc.
Street Address 197 Chouest Lane	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code Buras, LA 70041	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

If the diversion happens, yes, there will be marsh; however, my business will suffer because there will be no shrimp in the shallow because of freshwater. I will have no job since shrimping is the only source of income and the only only source of income and the only thing I know how to do. I want assistance from the government to build a bigger boat so I can go out farther to shrimp. I need financial assistance to pay my bills if I can't go to work. I would like to know that if the diversion happens, how much shrimp will we lose in a year? And what will the future look like with the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion?

Lim Chhay

LIM CHHAY

August 14, 2017

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Chhay Lim	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) Coastal Communities Consulting, Inc.
Street Address 197 Chouest Lane	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code Buras, LA 70041	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

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Lim Chhay

LIM CHHAY

August 3rd, 2017

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

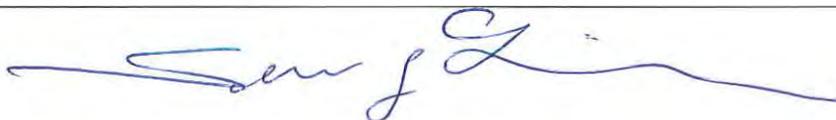
ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name SENG LIM	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) Coastal Communities Consulting, Inc.
Street Address 222 Delta Ave Drive	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code Buras LA 70041	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

I have been shrimping for 7 years and shrimping is all I know. I am also an older man who is close to retirement but I can't get another job. If the diversions come, I can't shrimp because the freshwater will push the brown shrimp further outside state lines. However, if the diversions do come then I think it'd be fair for the state/government to create a fisherman fund to help fisherman like me make our boats bigger so that we can go out further. I also think the fisherman fund should be in the forms of grants because a lot of skimmer fisherman are low-income.



August 3rd, 2017

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name SENG LIM	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting?
Street Address 222 Delta Ave Drive	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
City, State, Zip Code Buras LA 70041	Coastal Communities Consulting, Inc.
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

I have been shrimping for 7 years and shrimping is all I know. I am also an older man who is close to retirement but I can't get another job. If the diversions come, I can't shrimp because the freshwater will push the brown shrimp further outside state lines. However, if the diversions do come then I think it'd be fair for the state/government to create a fisherman fund to help fisherman like me make our boats bigger so that we can go out further. I also think the fisherman fund should be in the forms of grants because a lot of skimmer fisherman are low-income.



From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Suní Lima](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 12:11:14 PM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,

Mrs. Suni Lima
1103 Marie Antoinette St
Lafayette, LA 70506-3932
(123) 456-7890
suni.lima@yahoo.com

From: terrylirette62@bellsouth.net
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 8:56:20 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are: Get this project started ASAP for the sake of our children. Without this project Baton Rouge will be waterfront property by the end of this century.

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Terry Lirette
179 PECAN CT
HOUMA, LA, 70364

August 7th, 2017

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Niem Liv	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting?
Street Address 182 Delta Ave	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	CCC
City, State, Zip Code Buras, LA 70041	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

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Niem Liv

I, Cristina Duong, at Coastal Communities Consulting, Inc. (ccc) hereby certify that I translated the above statement from Cambodian into English to the best of my ability; and I am fluent in both languages.

Cristina Duong, translator
 cristinalduong

August 7th, 2017

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Niem Liv	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 182 Delta Ave	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code Buras, LA 70011	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

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Cristina Duong, translator
cristinaduong.

From: janblivingston@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Janet Livingston](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 9:03:22 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Janet Livingston
New Orleans, LA 70115

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Nicholas Lopes](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 2:04:47 PM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I am a resident of Louisiana, and as a result, I am deeply fearful of the future of my health and safety living in a state so rapidly losing land. I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Thank you,

Mr. Nicholas Lopes
9046 Alma Dr
Baton Rouge, LA 70809-1836
(123) 456-7890

nickdelopes@yahoo.com

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [CLAIRE LORTIE](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 12:51:15 PM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Thank you,

Ms. CLAIRE LORTIE
8526 Pertuis Rd
Saint Amant, LA 70774-4813
(225) 235-4987
clortie@brtelco.org



JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

JACK MONTOUCKET
SECRETARY

September 18, 2017

Mr. Martin S. Mayer, Chief
Regulatory Branch
United States Army Corps of Engineers
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

RE: *Application Number: MVN-2012-2806-EOO*
Applicant: Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana
Notice Date: July 6, 2017

Dear Mr. Mayer:

The professional staff of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) has reviewed the above referenced notice. Based upon this review, the following has been determined:

The Barataria Basin is one of Louisiana's most valuable estuaries in terms of commercial seafood harvest, recreational and charter fishing opportunities, and biological productivity. This productivity stems from the diversity of habitat types present in the basin including saline, intermediate, brackish and freshwater marshes. Historically, brown shrimp, white shrimp, oyster, blue crab, spotted sea trout, redfish and dozens of other species are harvested by the millions of pounds within this basin each year contributing hundreds of millions of dollars to Louisiana's economy. To continue to flourish, these estuarine organisms depend on having habitat suitable to their needs available during their early life stages.

Oyster production will likely be substantially impacted by the proposed project primarily through changes to the salinity regime in the receiving estuary. The Barataria Basin contributes almost 25% of Louisiana's total oyster production, on average. Approximately one third of Louisiana's private oyster leases are located in this basin. The Hackberry Bay Public Oyster Seed Reservation and Little Lake/Barataria Bay Public Oyster Seed Grounds are all located within the basin and provide seed and market oysters for the industry. While tolerant of a wide range of salinities, oysters require several years of favorable salinity conditions in order for reef areas to develop and sustain themselves. While there are positive effects of flood pulses, massive freshets, especially when water temperatures are high, can cause elevated levels of oyster mortality. Aside from changes to the salinity regime, Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion (MBSD) operation could also affect reefs through sedimentation and burial. Nutrient rich waters are also likely to contribute to harmful algal blooms, excessive fouling of reef areas, and low oxygen events which could impact oysters and other fisheries.

An operational plan that incorporates water temperature based maximum allowable flow rates and periods, includes an appropriate minimum flow rate, and maintains inter-annual consistency in operation would increase the likelihood of estuary adaptation to the MBSD and decrease the chances of substantial detrimental impacts to fisheries production. Freshwater pulses should be timed to capture maximum sediments while minimizing freshwater inflow, particularly during warmer months. Approximately 40% of the state's brown shrimp landings are from the Barataria Basin. A pulse of fresh, cold water during the spring could impact the recruitment and growth of brown shrimp throughout the basin.

Outfall management techniques should be evaluated to redirect diverted waters away from oyster production areas, or other sensitive areas, where feasible. Injecting sediments directly into the diversion structure may also offer an opportunity to increase land building while minimizing the amount of river water needed. Managing discharge within the basin through use of impoundments, weirs, or other methods to promote sediment deposition in strategic areas, could lessen undesirable impacts while maximizing land-building.

The possibility of invasive aquatic species being introduced, and the added growth potential of invasive aquatic vegetation from nutrient-rich waters are also of concern. Additional resources may be needed to address invasive aquatic plants in the area of influence. Monitoring of pre-operational conditions can help assess post-operation effects and aid in adaptive management of operation in the future.

LDWF strongly recommends that the applicant involve the local coastal and fishing communities in any mitigation activities required for this project.

The Louisiana Natural Heritage Program database indicates the presence of bird nesting colonies within one mile of this proposed project. **Please be aware that entry into or disturbance of active breeding colonies is prohibited by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF). In addition, LDWF prohibits work within a certain radius of an active nesting colony.**

Nesting colonies can move from year to year and no current information is available on the status of these colonies. If work for the proposed project will commence during the nesting season, conduct a field visit to the worksite to look for evidence of nesting colonies. This field visit should take place no more than two weeks before the project begins. If no nesting colonies are found within 1000 feet (2000 feet for Brown Pelicans) of the proposed project, no further consultation with LDWF will be necessary. If active nesting colonies are found within the previously stated distances of the proposed project, further consultation with LDWF will be required. In addition, colonies should be surveyed by a qualified biologist to document species present and the extent of colonies. Provide LDWF with a survey report which is to include the following information:

1. qualifications of survey personnel;
2. survey methodology including dates, site characteristics, and size of survey area;
3. species of birds present, activity, estimates of number of nests present, and general vegetation type including digital photographs representing the site; and
4. topographic maps and ArcView shapefiles projected in UTM NAD83 Zone 15 to illustrate the location and extent of the colony.

Please mail survey reports on CD to: Louisiana Natural Heritage Program
La. Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries
P.O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

September 18, 2017

To minimize disturbance to colonial nesting birds, the following restrictions on activity should be observed:

- For colonies containing nesting wading birds (i.e., herons, egrets, night-herons, ibis, Roseate Spoonbills, Anhingas, or cormorants), all project activity occurring within 1000 feet of an active nesting colony should be restricted to the non-nesting period (i.e., September 1 through February 15).

- For colonies containing nesting gulls, terns, or Black Skimmers, all project activity occurring within 650 feet (2000 feet for Brown Pelicans) of an active nesting colony should be restricted to the non-nesting period (i.e., September 16 through April 1).

LDWF is concerned that the operation of the sediment diversion may have significant impacts to several nesting colonies in the outfall area. Lowering of the salinity regime and increased turbidity may alter the abundance and diversity of the bird's prey base, and could have impacts to nesting birds including abandonment of the colony. LDWF requests that CPRA work closely with the department to develop a plan to offset these potential impacts.

No other impacts to rare, threatened or endangered species or critical habitats are anticipated from the proposed project. No state or federal parks, wildlife refuges, wildlife management areas or scenic rivers are known at the specified site or within ¼ mile of the proposed project.

The Louisiana Natural Heritage Program (LNHP) reports summarize the existing information known at the time of the request regarding the location in question. LNHP reports should not be considered final statements on the biological elements or areas being considered, nor should they be substituted for on-site surveys required for environmental assessments. If at any time LNHP tracked species are encountered within the project area, please contact our biologist at 225-765-2643.

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries submits these recommendations to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in accordance with provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.). Please do not hesitate to contact Habitat Section biologist Zachary Chain at 225-763-3587 should you need further assistance.

Sincerely,



Patrick Banks
Assistant Secretary

zc

c: EPA, Marine & Wetlands Section
USFWS Ecological Services



**Comments on Army Corps of Engineers
Scoping for Draft Environmental Impact Statement
For Proposed
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion**

**Submitted By
Louisiana Oyster Task Force
September 5, 2017**

The Louisiana Oyster Task Force (LOTF) was created by HCR 179 during the 1998 Regular Session of the Louisiana legislature. The duties of the LOTF are to represent the interests of Louisiana's oyster industry reporting to federal and state authorities.

Please accept the following comments, concerns, and recommendations submitted by the LOTF pursuant to Federal Register Notice (“Supplemental Notice of Intent to Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Proposed Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion, in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana”) published April 27, 2017.

For the record, the LOTF strongly opposes the plans being made by the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) for the construction and operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion (MBSD). The LOTF believes that the project will not be a cost-effective use of public funds when compared to other available means for enhancing coastal protection and restoration in Louisiana.

The LOTF maintains that the MBSD project, as proposed by the CPRA and presented in the Federal Register, will bring about huge environmental changes, loss of income, displacement of communities, and social/cultural losses in the Barataria Basin. These long-term yet unaccounted for costs will far outweigh the project’s costs of engineering, design and construction.

The environmental damage that will be borne from the MBSD will include the following:

- 1) Major salinity changes in the Barataria estuary which will dramatically affect all species currently there and especially oysters;
- 2) Significant loss of Essential Fish Habitat will affect many Gulf species;
- 3) More hypoxic “dead zones” in the coastal waters from increasing the nutrient (fertilizer) levels introduced into the estuary;
- 4) Increasing the levels of industrial, chemical and biological pollutants in the Barataria estuary, including elevated levels of fecal coliforms;
- 5) Introduction of invasive species.

Damages to oyster farmers in the Barataria basin will be severe. The outflow of river water from the MBSD will dramatically shift salinities from brackish to fresh for multiple periods during the course of a year; thus killing oysters when salinities drop below 5ppt. The river water will bring additional sedimentation that will settle indiscriminately over oyster reefs, in some cases smothering the crop. The fecal coliform levels in the Barataria estuary will dramatically increase with the introduction of huge volumes of Mississippi river water. Because of this, oyster harvesting closures, implemented by the Department of Health, will be greatly expanded to include areas many miles away from the diversion outfall. Altogether, this will make oyster

farming virtually impossible within the Barataria Basin because oysters need at least two, and up to four years of stable salinity (10-25 ppt) and water quality to grow to market size.

It is clear that the proposed operation of the MBSD will bring about irreparable damage to over 100,000 acres of leased oyster bottoms in the Barataria Basin. Likewise, for similar reasons, the public oyster seed reservations in Hackberry Bay and Barataria Bay will be rendered useless. The LSU/state operated Mike Voisin Oyster Hatchery in Grand Isle will be rendered inoperable because of the degraded water quality that will be in Barataria Bay including the waters surrounding Grand Island. This hatchery is the only commercially available source of larvae and seed for the burgeoning commercial oyster aquaculture industry in the state of Louisiana.

The MBSD will also cause dramatic losses in commercial and recreational shrimp and crab harvest from the Barataria Basin. The loss of the fisheries for income and as a means of sustenance will cause major hardship and bring about economically-forced displacement of families from the coastal communities that surround the Barataria Basin. Those communities include Cut-off, Golden Meadow, Leeville, Grand Island, Lafitte, Myrtle Grove, Grand Bayou, Happy Jack, Port Sulphur, Empire, Buras, and Venice. With the displacement of their fisherman families, many of these communities will lose much of their core social-cultural fabric.

The LOTF has consistently opposed large scale diversions due to the concerns listed above. In that regard, we cite our letter to Lieutenant General Thomas P. Bostick, Commanding General & Chief of Engineers dated June 23, 2013. (see attached)

Proponents of the MBSD, including the CPRA, routinely downplay the project's potential environmental and economic impacts and associated costs. One means of downplaying negative effects has been by using large-scale modeling that intentionally extends the scope of the model to cover larger areas besides those where the most direct impacts occur. Thusly, the severe negative impacts of one area are offset by the model's projected gain somewhere farther away. The conglomeration of results belies the true dramatic effect of the damages to those located closer to and within the direct impact zone. For example, most oyster growers have oyster leases in the vicinity of where they live. Hence, an oyster grower from Lafitte, whose leases in the Barataria Bay are rendered useless from the diversion, will not benefit if oyster farming improves elsewhere, fifty miles away. We therefore recommend that the results of the environmental and economic impacts are divided and presented into smaller identifiable zones, from the direct outfall area of the river diversion moving outward.

Another tactic, used consistently by diversion proponents, is to compare implementing the project (MBSD) to doing nothing ("no action"), instead of comparing it to alternative projects. Comparing almost any coastal restoration project to no action, of course, makes the proposed project look better. No action means continued land loss and therefore we are told that "you are going to lose it all anyway". Thusly, with the prejudiced comparison, they justify negating the opposition's argument to the proposed project. This is not a fair equitable means of comparison, and the public does not deserve this. We recommend that in evaluating the cost/benefits of the

MBSD project, the results are not compared to taking no action, but rather, to compare the results with alternative means of coastal restoration.

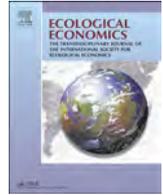
The LOTF maintains that the State of Louisiana has other means of achieving coastal restoration which are far more practical, dependable, while verifiably less environmentally and economically damaging than the MBSD project. Pipeline sediment delivery and increasing the use of programs such as the Beneficial Use of Dredged Material (BUDMAT) have already proven to be far more cost effective and much less damaging to the fisheries and the environment. The LOTF recommends that the Corp undertakes an intensive study to compare potential benefits and potential costs of implementing MBSD as opposed to using dredging/pipeline sediment delivery.

Another important difference that needs to be accounted for in comparing projects is the timelines associated with the cost-versus-benefit of a restoration project. Some projects may deliver beneficial results immediately, while other projects may take decades. The same applies to projected costs and negative impacts associated with a project. Time is a critical component in a comprehensive assessment of the true cost-benefit of a project. For that reason, we strongly recommend that the Corps use trajectory economics for assessing the flow of economic services in their evaluations of the MBSD when compared to other means of coastal restoration. For reference purposes, Dr. Rex Caffey et al. have published a report on this subject titled **“Trajectory economics: Assessing the flow of ecosystem services from coastal restoration”** ([Ecological Economics 100 \(2014\) 74–84](#)).

The LOTF furthermore hereby acknowledges its affiliation, support, and ratification of the information, conclusion & recommendations that were submitted to the Corps by letter from the **Save Louisiana Coalition, Inc.** dated July 25, 2017, and by the **Louisiana Oyster Dealers and Growers Association** and **Gulf Oyster Industry Council** dated September 5, 2017. For reasons of brevity we will not repeat those recommendations here. Please see attached.

Sincerely Yours,

John A. Tesvich, Chair



Methodological and Ideological Options

Trajectory economics: Assessing the flow of ecosystem services from coastal restoration

Rex H. Caffey^{a,*}, Hua Wang^b, Daniel R. Petrolia^c^a Center for Natural Resource Economics & Policy, Louisiana State University, Department of Agricultural Economics, 179 Woodin Hall, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, USA^b Center for Natural Resource Economics & Policy, Louisiana State University, Department of Agricultural Economics, 211 Woodin Hall, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, USA^c Department of Agricultural Economics, Mississippi State University, 301-A Lloyd-Ricks-Watson Bldg., Box 5187, Mississippi State, MS 39762, USA

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ABSTRACT

Monetized estimates of ecosystem services are increasingly cited as partial justification for a wide range of environmental restoration initiatives, yet parallel applications of these values in performance assessment have been limited. Incorporated into traditional economic models, such values can offer potential insight on programmatic efficiency and help to inform policy tradeoffs within and between competing methods. For this analysis, acreage trajectories and cost functions are developed for dredge- and diversion-based land reclamation methods in coastal Louisiana, USA. Benefit–cost models are constructed from which ecosystem service values are initially derived via break-even analysis and then specified to inform comparative case studies. Results indicate that the minimum service value required to offset project expenditures is typically higher for “natural” diversion-based restoration relative to “rapid” dredge-based methods under historic project conditions. Accounting for climatological and socioeconomic risks widens this gap, with benefit–cost ratios for dredge-based reclamation exceeding that of diversions in 16 benefit–cost simulations conducted over a 50-year project horizon. Taken together, these results highlight the influence of time and risk in the assessment of competing project alternatives, and suggest the need to reframe restoration efficiency in terms of the aggregate flow of ecosystem services, versus the per unit costs of terminal stocks.

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1. Introduction

A perennial concern in the policy application of ecosystem services is the extent to which quantitative methods can be used to adequately capture the value of provisioning, regulating, supporting, and cultural functions provided by natural systems (Arha et al., 2007; Barbier et al., 2011; Pendleton, 2008; Ruckelshaus et al., in press). Such concern is especially prominent in the field of economics, where methodological debate over non-market valuation has existed for decades (Arrow et al., 1993; Carson, 2012; Diamond and Hausman, 1994; Haab et al., 2013; Hanemann, 1994; Hausman, 2012; Kling et al., 2012; Portney, 1994; Randall, 1994). Not surprisingly, ecosystem restoration programs charged with efficient stewardship of public funding have eschewed financial expressions of project benefits, relying instead on biophysical

measures for performance evaluation. For example, large-scale restoration programs in coastal Louisiana and the Florida Everglades have historically gauged restoration performance via habitat suitability indices (Bartoldus, 1999). Such metrics allow for a standardized expression of project benefits and the mandated cost–efficacy assessments required by authorizing legislation (Public Law 101–646, 1990; Public Law 104–303, 1996).

Despite this operational history, monetized estimates of ecosystem services are increasingly cited within the scientific and programmatic literature of these programs and in support of a wide range of federal initiatives focused on conservation and restoration of wetlands (Barbier, 2013; Cullinane-Thomas et al., 2012; NOAA, 2009; USDA, 2007). In support of coastal restoration programming, for example, economic estimates are most often estimated for habitat provision, nutrient assimilation, and storm surge attenuation (Batker et al., 2010; Costanza et al., 2008; Petrolia and Kim, 2011; Petrolia et al., forthcoming). This expanded accounting is at least partially driven by the need to justify billions of dollars in federal requests for ecosystem restoration during an era of heightened public scrutiny and fiscal restraint (Mather Economics, 2010; Pendleton, 2008). The use of these estimates, however, is not limited to program justification. Incorporated into traditional economic

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E-mail addresses: rcaffey@agcenter.lsu.edu (R.H. Caffey), hwang23@lsu.edu (H. Wang), petrolia@agecon.msstate.edu (D.R. Petrolia).

models, monetized ecosystem services offer insight on programmatic efficiency and help to inform policy trade-offs within and between project types. Such guidance is of particular importance in rapidly deteriorating ecosystems where competing restoration methods vie for limited funding.

1.1. Rapid vs. Natural: Coastal Land Reclamation in Louisiana

Coastal restoration in Louisiana is conducted through a wide variety of vegetative, hydrologic and structural methods,¹ but two major project types have come to dominate planning efforts in the past decade. A majority of program spending in recent years has been allocated for “marsh creation” projects, in which coastal land is reclaimed rapidly through the mechanical extraction and delivery of dredged sediments (Aust, 2006; LCPRA, 2012; Merino et al., 2011). Concurrent with this trend has been a growing call from the restoration science community in favor of large-scale river diversion projects designed to mimic the alluvial land building process (Allison and Meselhe, 2010; DeLaune et al., 2003; LCPRA, 2012; Nittrouer et al., 2012; Simenstad et al., 2006). To some extent, emergence of these two primary, sediment-oriented forms of restoration is indicative of a growing concern that time is a major limiting factor in addressing coastal wetland land loss in the lower Mississippi River delta plain. In the past century alone, the region has lost more than 1880 mile² of coastal land, primarily due to hydrologic modifications and flood control measures that have greatly impeded the deltaic processes that once sustained the Louisiana coast (Barras et al., 2003; Dunbar et al., 1992).

In the wake of recent natural and manmade disasters, the State of Louisiana has integrated the formally independent agencies responsible for coastal infrastructure protection and coastal habitat restoration. Consistent with this integration and in recognition of the scale of the crisis, restoration policy has expanded from the environmental suitability metrics (e.g. dollars per habitat unit) that once dominated project prioritization (Bartoldus, 1999). In recent years, strategic planning has emphasized land-building as a primary goal of coastal restoration, and dollars per acre as a metric of programmatic efficacy (LCPRA, 2012).

Though planning in the region has acknowledged the need for both dredge- and diversion-based reclamation, the former method is often disparaged in the restoration science community. The general assertion is that coastal marsh created with a dredge is less functional, and that ecological restoration should aim to restore processes, not structures (Reed, 2009; Simenstad et al., 2006). Moreover, the front-loaded benefits of marsh creation are often discounted by an accounting regime focused on end-of-stage performance. As a result, comparative efficiency assessments often describe dredge-based reclamation as the most expensive form of coastal restoration (LCPRA, 2012; Schleifstein, 2012, 2013). Conversely, the relatively slow pace of diversions has been criticized by some stakeholders in favor of more immediate results. This criticism is compounded by private sector concerns over project-driven changes in channel hydrology and basin salinity. Opposition from navigation and fishing interests has been a limiting factor to diversion implementation and operation, resulting in construction delays and restrictions to the timing and volume of water outflows (Allison and Meselhe, 2010; Caffey and Schexnayder, 2003; Das et al., 2012; Gramling et al., 2006).

While these two approaches are not mutually exclusive, their relative contributions are central to a growing economic and ideological debate between advocates of each method, and one typically defined by a narrow interpretation of costs and benefits. Given the scale of coastal land loss in Louisiana and the reality of limited funding, a more objective economic assessment is required to assess efficiency of these methods in the provision of ecosystem services.

¹ For a comprehensive review of restoration projects by type and location, see: LCWCRTF (2012).

2. Study Approach

Previous research on restoration economics has focused primarily on biophysical metrics and terminal unit costs as the basis for efficiency comparisons (Aust, 2006; Merino et al., 2011; Turner and Boyer, 1997). In this analysis, project acreage is the standardized unit through which ecosystem services are examined through an actuarial comparison of dredge- and diversion-based restoration. The process is two-fold. Monetized values for ecosystem services are initially derived via project-specific, break-even sensitivity analysis. This process avoids the guess work associated with extrapolation by determining the minimum dollar value of benefits required to offset project costs under a range of temporal and spatial assumptions. The second step involves specifying aggregated service estimates (storm surge attenuation, habitat, and water quality) to inform scale-, location-, and risk-specific performance comparisons. Taken together, the process constitutes an alternative framework for evaluating economic trade-offs and is consistent with the State's Coastal Master Plan, which identifies land-building as a primary programmatic goal (LCPRA, 2012).

Specific objectives of the research include: 1) estimating representative acreage trajectory and cost functions for dredge-based and diversion-based reclamation projects; 2) examining the relative sensitivity imparted by model parameters under various assumptions related to time, location, and distance; and, 3) developing risk-constrained case studies to illustrate policy tradeoffs between and within restoration methods.

3. Data and Methods

Benefit and costs functions for dredge-based “marsh creation” (MC) projects and diversion-based (DIV₁) restoration were developed through a review of authorized projects submitted to the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP), the Coastal Wetland Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act (CWPPRA), and the Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) Comprehensive Ecosystem Study. While these programs differ in the methods used to evaluate and select projects for funding (annual versus multi-year), they typically allocate project spending under three standard categories: 1) engineering and design; 2) project/structure construction, and 3) operation and maintenance. Given the small number of observations available for the fitted diversion model (DIV₁), a second model of diversion benefits (DIV₂) was utilized to capture a wider suite of nutrient and sediment contributions at specific flow rates, and is detailed in Section 4.3.

Benefit and cost functions were incorporated into a net present valuation framework and sensitivity analyses were conducted to examine the relative importance of specific project attributes under various risk scenarios. Parameter means were used to develop baseline benefit–cost (BC) projections and simulations were conducted by allowing a single, user-specified parameter to vary across its known range and solving for the break-even ecosystem service value (\$/acre/year) necessary to achieve a benefit–cost ratio equal to one. Risks were characterized through an expected valuation framework incorporating data on hurricane landfall probability and through a proxy measure representing socioeconomic constraints. Case study simulations were conducted for lower and upper estuary locations to illustrate project and site-specific opportunities and constraints (Wang, 2012).

3.1. Acreage Trajectories

Generic characterizations of restoration trajectories for each method were developed from a survey of technical review documents produced by CIAP, CWPPRA and LCA for the years 1992–2010. Acreage projections derived from *future-with-project* minus *future-without-project* calculations were available for 38 individual projects (23 MC, 15 DIV) with target scales ranging from 234 to 5706 acres. Sufficient data on inter-period acreage projections, however, were available for only six of the

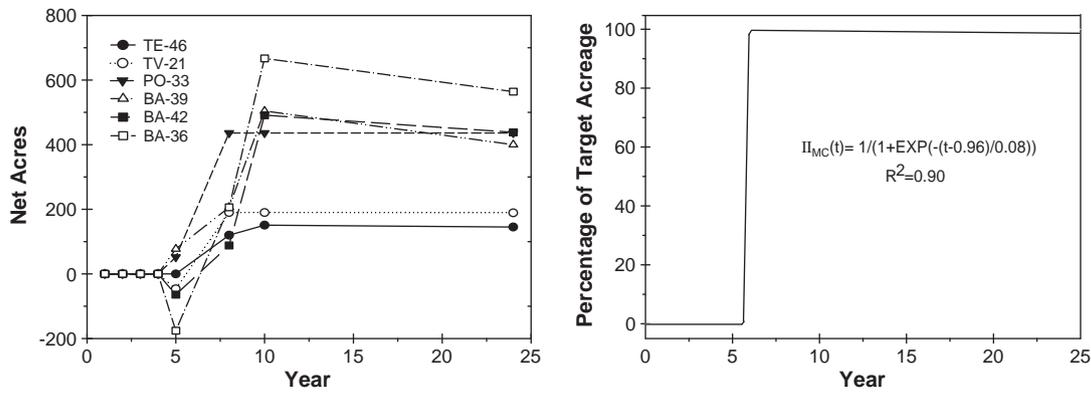


Fig. 1. A dredge-based reclamation trajectory (MC) derived from marsh creation projects in the Terrebonne (TE), Teche–Vermillion (TV), Pontchartrain (PO), and Barataria (BA) basins of coastal Louisiana.

MC projects. Fig. 1 (left panel) depicts the trajectories of these six projects using the available inter-period acreage projections at 0, 1, 5, 10, and 20 years. As indicated by the trajectories of these six projects, construction of target acreage is delayed by an average of four years post authorization, during which engineering and design considerations are finalized. During this period, no project construction occurs, and thus no benefits accrue. Other factors that can add to this lag period include delays resulting from funding shortfalls and public opposition. Marsh creation projects tend to follow a sigmoidal trajectory in which net acres accrue rapidly between years 4–6 and decline slowly afterwards due to erosion. Some projects have initial reductions in acreage prior to year four, due to wetlands lost from channel and containment dike construction. All of the example projects, however, achieve the proposed net acres within 2 years' time due to rapid placement of sediment – either directly from a dredge or in combination with a dredge-spoil pipeline. Afterwards, net acreage slightly decreases as new land settles (reduction in elevation) and is eroded over the project life-time.

Using these data, a scale-neutral trajectory function representing percentage of project completion at time t was estimated using logistic (i.e., symmetric sigmoid) non-linear least squares regression. The trajectory function, $\Pi_{MC}(t)$, is estimated as:

$$\Pi_{MC}(t) = \frac{1}{1 + \text{EXP}(-(t-0.96)/0.08)} \quad (1)$$

Fig. 1 (right panel) depicts the estimated trajectory function ($R^2 = 0.90$). Eq. (1) can be multiplied by projected target acreage (A_{MC}^T) to yield project acreage $A_{MC}(t)$ at time t . Thus, estimated acreage can be expressed as:

$$A_{MC}(t) = A_{MC}^T * \Pi_{MC}(t) \quad (2)$$

Fig. 2 (left panel) depicts the trajectories of six diversion projects using the available inter-period acreage projections at 0, 1, 5, 10, and 20 years. As indicated by these trajectories, construction of the diversion structure is delayed by an average of seven years, during which engineering and design considerations are finalized. Diversion projects tend to follow a linear trajectory, in which net acreage is assumed to increase at a slow, constant rate over the project lifetime. It is important to note that the representative trajectory here is a cumulative percentage of net acreage accrual. With erosion rates held constant, these representative trajectories depict a gradual and stable rate of acreage increase after completion of the project's water control structure.

Using these data, a scale-neutral trajectory function representing percentage of project completion at time t was estimated using ordinary

least squares regression. The trajectory function ($R^2 = 0.99$), $\Pi_{DIV_1}(t)$, is given by:

$$\Pi_{DIV_1}(t) = -0.0029 + 0.0501 * t \quad (3)$$

Eq. (3) can be multiplied by project target acreage $A_{DIV_1}^T$ to yield the projected acreage $A_{DIV_1}(t)$ at time t . The estimated acreage at time t can be expressed as:

$$A_{DIV_1}(t) = A_{DIV_1}^T * \Pi_{DIV_1}(t) \quad (4)$$

where $A_{DIV_1}(t)$ is the acreage over a given time period for a DIV_1 project.

3.2. Cost Functions

A total of 34 project bids² were examined to estimate a cost function for marsh creation (MC) projects. This function is specified using four variables: cubic yards of dredged material (CYD), the costs of mobilization and demobilization of dredging equipment (MOB), sediment delivery distance (DIST), and access dredging costs (AD), and estimated using ordinary least squares regression with standard error in parenthesis.³ The estimated cost function for MC projects ($R^2 = 0.93$) is given by:

$$C(MC) = 1.18 * \left(\begin{matrix} -1.51 & 2.49 & 2.74 & 2.38 \\ (1.68) & (0.69) & (0.91) & (1.08) \end{matrix} * \text{CYD} + \begin{matrix} 15.11 & * \text{AD} \\ (2.74) \end{matrix} \right) \quad (5)$$

where 1.18 ($= 1 / 0.85$) is a scale coefficient to account for engineering and design costs and operation and maintenance costs. It is based on the historic ratio of fully-funded project costs under CWPPRA (comprised of construction costs (85%), engineering and design (10%), and operation and maintenance (5%)).

Developing a comparable cost function for diversion projects is confounded by three limitations. First, there are very few of these projects in existence (either constructed or pending) from which to develop such projections. Secondly, the data for diversions are typically less detailed in regards to specific subcomponents, which limits the characterization of projected costs. Finally, the construction cost component of

² Given that competitive bids are legally binding; such estimates often constitute the best data available for characterizing restoration costs.

³ Project costs adjusted by the civil works construction cost index and expressed in 2009 dollars (USACE, 2000).

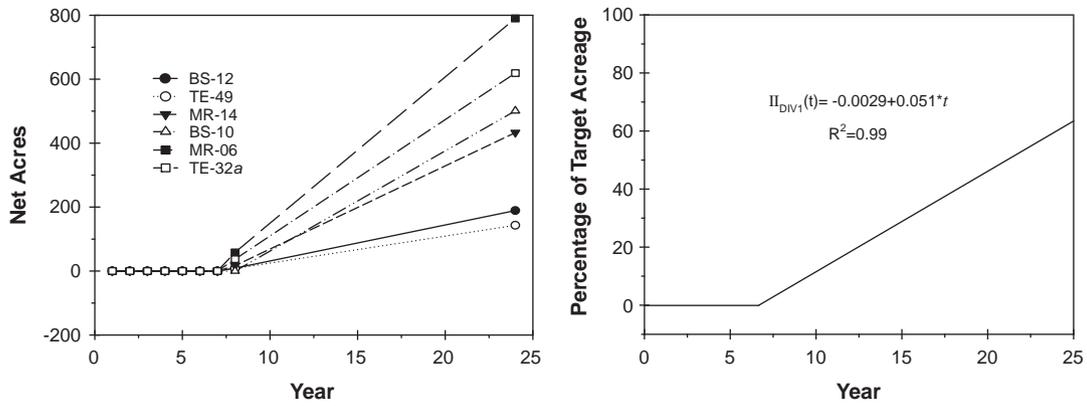


Fig. 2. A diversion-based reclamation trajectory (DIV_1) derived from diversion projects in the Breton Sound (BS), Terrebonne (TE), and Mississippi River delta (MR) basins of coastal Louisiana.

these projects is limited to the physical control structure – and thus construction costs do not map directly to projected acreage. Given these limitations, a cost function was developed using fully-funded, or total costs (TC) of diversions as the dependent variable. This estimate includes engineering and design, erection of the diversion structure, and monitoring and maintenance for the 20 year project life typically used by CWPPRA in project planning. Restoration project materials (sediments and nutrients) for diversion projects are not delivered by dredge or pipeline conveyance, but instead are delivered alluvially via river water. Thus, the size and capacity of a diversion control structure – as expressed by maximum flow rate and measured in cubic feet per second (CFS) – is expected to influence project costs. Moreover, cost is a function of whether the structure is controlled (by gates or valves) or is free-flowing/uncontrolled – which is defined here as a binary independent variable (CON). Eight of 15 authorized projects provided sufficient data for the development of a cost function for diversion projects. The cost function for DIV projects was estimated using ordinary least squares regression ($R^2 = 0.86$), and is given by:

$$C(DIV) = 6.02 + 0.00052 * CFS + 10.89 * CON \quad (6)$$

(2.83) (0.00013) (3.98)

4. Break-even Simulations

While C_t is obtained from Eqs. (5) and (6), a monetized estimate of the value of the ecosystem service flows, i.e., the benefits B_t , is not as easily obtained. Thus, some approach is required to determine the minimum benefits required to offset project costs. Using the NPV construct, an “ecosystem services break-even analysis” can be conducted by setting the benefit–cost ratio equal to 1.0 and solving for the average annual value per acre⁴:

$$BCR = \frac{\sum_{t=1}^T \frac{B_t}{(1+r)^t}}{\sum_{t=1}^T \frac{C_t}{(1+r)^t}} = 1 \quad (7)$$

where t is the year, B_t is the benefit in time t , C_t is the cost in time t , r is the discount rate.

⁴ As defined here, annual ecosystem services refer to the flow of non-market benefits (B_t) derived over time from a restoration project. This estimate does not include the market-value of any land created or restored.

4.1. Marsh Creation

The cost function for MC projects has already been expressed in dollar terms (Eq. (5)), but expressing the acreage benefits for MC in dollar terms requires a modification of Eq. (2):

$$B_{MC}(t) = A_{MC}^T * \left[\frac{1}{1 + \text{EXP}\left(\frac{-((t - \text{lag}_{MC}) - 0.96)}{0.08}\right)} \right] * (1 - E)^{t - \text{lag}_{MC}} * \text{ESV}_{MC} \quad (8)$$

where t is the year, $B_{MC}(t)$ is the total present value of annual ecosystem benefits (in \$) of a MC project in year t , A_{MC}^T is target acreage and the bracketed expression is the percentage of project construction for a MC project completed in year t (Eq. (1)). The variable lag_{MC} is the engineering and design phase time lag for MC projects. The variable E is a project- and site-specific land loss rate, such that $(1 - E)^{t - \text{lag}_{MC}}$ is the proportion of land remaining at time t . Finally, ESV_{MC} is the unknown annual ecosystem value per acre restored. Substituting Eqs. (5) and (8) into Eq. (7) and solving for ESV_{MC} yields the minimum ecosystem service value required to offset project costs:

$$\text{ESV}_{MC} = \frac{C(MC)}{A_{MC}^T * \left[\frac{1}{1 + \text{EXP}\left(\frac{-((t - \text{lag}_{MC}) - 0.96)}{0.08}\right)} \right] * (1 - E)^{t - \text{lag}_{MC}}} \quad (9)$$

4.2. Diversions (DIV_1)

Likewise, the associated benefits function for DIV_1 projects can be expressed in dollars through the function:

$$B_{DIV_1}(t) = A_{DIV_1}^T * [-0.0029 + 0.05 * (t - \text{lag}_{DIV})] * (1 - E)^{t - \text{lag}_{DIV}} * \text{ESV}_{DIV_1} \quad (10)$$

where t is the year, $B_{DIV_1}(t)$ is the total present annual benefits (in \$) of a DIV_1 project in time t , $A_{DIV_1}^T$ is target acreage over a given time period, and the bracketed expression is the percentage of net acres accrued for a diversion project in year t . The variable lag_{DIV} is the engineering and design phase time lag for DIV_1 projects. The variable E is a project- and site-specific land loss rate, such that $(1 - E)^{t - \text{lag}_{DIV}}$ is the proportion

of land remaining at time t . Finally, ESV_{DIV_1} is the unknown annual ecosystem value for each acre restored. Substituting Eqs. (6) and (10) into Eq. (7) and solving for ESV_{DIV_1} yields the minimum ecosystem service value required to offset project costs:

$$ESV_{DIV_1} = \frac{C(DIV)}{A_{DIV_1}^T * \left[\frac{1}{1 + \text{EXP}\left(\frac{-((t - \text{lag}_{DIV}) - 0.96)}{0.08}\right)} \right] * (1 - E)^{t - \text{lag}_{DIV}}} \quad (11)$$

4.3. Diversions (DIV_2)

For comparison purposes, an additional diversion benefits model was used in the analysis. This alternative, mass-balance-based model contains 21 user-defined and derived parameters that characterize nutrient and sediment dynamics and vegetative accretion in the outfall area of a diversion project. Boustany (2010) provides additional details on the construction and application of this spreadsheet-based, nutrient-sediment “N-SED” model. While detailed description of this exogenous model is beyond the scope of this manuscript, the incorporation of N-SED projections here allows for the consideration of diversion benefits that are considerably higher for a given flow rate. The N-SED model and other mass balance approaches have recently been used for diversion planning and benefit estimation (CWPPRA, 2011; McKay et al., 2009; Meselhe et al., 2013; USACE, 2010). For this analysis, all N-SED parameters (referred to here as DIV_2) are held within published ranges⁵ with only water flow rate (CFS) and year (t) modified to obtain the target acreage ($A_{DIV_2}^T$). Therefore, the present value of benefits in time t based on DIV_2 model can be expressed as the function:

$$B_{DIV_2}(t) = A_{DIV_2}^T * [-0.0029 + 0.05 * (t - \text{lag}_{DIV})] * ESV_{DIV_2} \quad (12)$$

where t is the year, $B_{DIV_2}(t)$ is the total present annual benefits (in \$) of a DIV_2 project in year t . The bracketed expression is the percentage of net acres accrued for a diversion project in year t (Eq. (3)). The variable lag_{DIV} is the engineering and design phase time lag for DIV_2 projects. The time period lag_D is the engineering and design phase for DIV_2 projects and ESV_{DIV_2} is the annual ecosystem service values for each acre restored. Substituting Eqs. (6) and (12) into Eq. (7), and solving for ESV_{DIV_2} yields the minimum ecosystem service value required to offset project costs:

$$ESV_{DIV_2} = \frac{C(DIV)}{A_{DIV_2}^T * [-0.0029 + 0.0501 * (t - \text{lag}_{DIV})]} \quad (13)$$

Given the mass-balance benefit accounting inherent to the N-SED model, the flow rate required for DIV_2 at specific target acreages is considerably less than that required by the DIV_1 model. For example, for a target of 1000 acres over 20 years, the required flow rate from the DIV_2 function is 1029 CFS, while the required flow rate for the DIV_1 model is 16,749 CFS.

5. Results

5.1. Parameter Analyses

Baseline parameters were set for 9 user-specified model variables to project simulated benefits and costs. Sensitivity analyses were developed by allowing a single parameter to vary across its known range, holding all other parameters constant at the baseline level. Baseline values for benefit cost model parameters were set using mean, median, or mode values for specific variables depending on guidance from existing literature, case history, or project location. Specific baseline parameters were

set at: scale: 1000 acres; project life time: 20 years; discount rate $r = 0.04$; mobilization costs (MOB) = \$1,000,000; distance = 4 miles; access dredging = \$600,000; annual erosion rate = 0.003, MC time lag (lag_M) = 4 years, diversion time lag (lag_D) = 7 years.

In each simulation the effect of these parameter variations was incorporated into the specified NPV model to determine the value of ecosystem services (\$/acre/year) that would be required for a benefit–cost ratio equal to one. Fig. 3 shows the effects of these simulations with the four parameters that produce the greatest differences between the MC, DIV_1 and DIV_2 models (i.e. time, project scale, discount rate, and pumping distance).

For project life-span simulations, the required ESV decreases quickly during the first 10 years for all project types and then more slowly afterwards. The MC model produces the lowest break-even requirement prior to years 23 and 36, after which it intersects and exceeds the DIV_2 and DIV_1 models, respectively. Although the MC model eventually converges with both diversion models, the simulation shows the importance of time considerations in the benefit–costs analysis.

For project scale simulations, the MC model produces the lowest break-even costs for projects of less than 5500 acres, and afterwards exceeds DIV_2 for simulations at a larger target scale. The required offset values for the DIV_1 model also diminish with target scale but does not converge with MC model until 9600 acres. This simulation depicts the importance of a project’s physical size on the benefit–cost relationship of coastal land reclamation. Generally speaking, as project scale increases, differences in methodological efficiency decrease, especially for projects of 5500 acres or greater.

The application of any type of project discounting will compound any problems associated with slower restoration methods. As expected, the selection of an appropriate discount rate has a major impact on the cost–benefit relationships. However, even at a discount rate of zero, the slow rate of restoration of the diversion method produces a higher break even requirement during the baseline time period of 20 years. As indicated in the time scale simulation, this dynamic is expected to change beyond 25 years.

For pumping distance simulations, the required break-even ESV remains constant for diversion projects and increases with distance for the MC model. To a large degree, the proximity of the sediment borrow site has a major impact on the cost–benefit relationship of dredge-based restoration projects. An eventual convergence of the MC cost curve with the diversion cost curves occurs at distances of 10 and 21 miles for DIV_2 and DIV_1 models, respectively.

5.2. Incorporating Risk

Thus far, break-even simulations have assumed no additional constraints beyond project- and site-specific lag periods and erosion rates. While numerous forms of risk (mechanical, hydrologic, environmental) potentially constrain the implementation and performance of individual projects, an approach that incorporates climatological and socio-political risk is introduced below.

5.2.1. Hurricane Impacts

Using hurricane landfall probability data from Klotzbach and Gray (2011), climatological risk can be incorporated to adjust the benefits of marsh creation and diversion projects given by the function:

$$E(B) = \sum_{t=1}^T [A_t * (1 - P * X_{H\%})] * \frac{ESV}{(1 + r)^t} \quad (14)$$

where $E(B)$ is the expected net benefits of a given project, t stands for a given year within a particular time period T , A_t refers to the target acreage gained from the project in year t , $X_{H\%}$ represents the percent acreage loss expected with a major hurricane, and P is the annual probability of a

⁵ N-SED model parameters from Boustany (2010) pages 168–169.

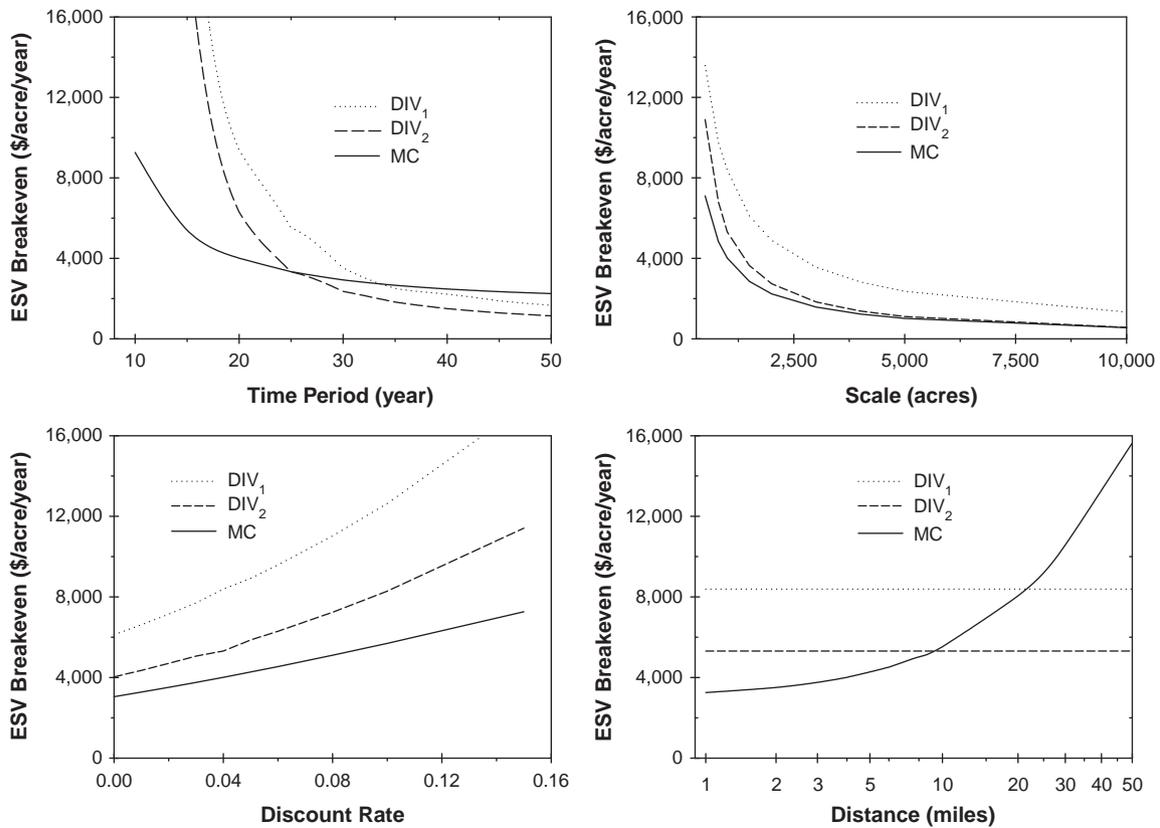


Fig. 3. Simulated effects of time, scale, discount rate, and distance on the break-even costs (\$/acre/year) of marsh creation (MC) and unconstrained diversion projects (DIV₁, DIV₂) in coastal Louisiana.

major storm (Category 3 or greater hurricane on the Saffir–Simpson scale).

Although landfall probabilities are relatively easy to obtain, the corresponding impacts of major hurricanes on coastal restoration projects are difficult to ascertain. Little data exists for conceptualizing such impacts, although recent studies have documented increased storm vulnerability of diversion-restored wetlands (Howes et al., 2010; Kearney et al., 2011). Wang (2012) describes an approach in which project type and scale of completion (%) are assumed to be associated with storm resilience based on documented impacts.⁶ Projected acreage loss from a particular hurricane ($X_{H\%}$) is allowed to range from 20% to 80%, depending on project type, location, and percentage of project completion.

5.2.2. Social Constraints

Risk can also be expressed as the likelihood of project delay or project under-utilization due to stakeholder opposition, which could alter the benefits and costs of a given restoration project. The probability of social opposition to a given project is not easily calculated, as with hurricane frequencies, and must be estimated using case-specific information. For diversions, socioeconomic concerns can increase the lag time between authorization and construction and cause substantial reductions to the planned operational regime. The following examples illustrate the operational constraints associated with two river diversion projects.

The Caernarvon Freshwater Diversion Project and the Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion Project were authorized by the U.S. Congress under the Flood Control Act of 1965. Construction of these projects was completed in 1991 and 2002. The structures are designed to divert

up to 8000 CFS (at Caernarvon) and 10,800 CFS (at Davis Pond) of freshwater from the Mississippi River into the surrounding marshes and bays.

While the flow rates for both structures are physically limited by cross-section and river stage, the greatest operational constraint to date has been related to salinity-based fisheries impacts. Soon after opening in 1991, oyster fishermen argued that freshwater from the Caernarvon diversion had damaged many of their oyster beds. Lawsuits filed against the State resulted in \$2.3 billion in preliminary judgments on behalf of the oyster industry in Breton Sound and adjacent basins. While most of these judgments would be later overturned, the ongoing litigation substantially curtailed the flow rate of the structure and threatened the ability of the State of Louisiana to conduct future wetland restoration projects (Caffey and Schexnayder, 2003).

To deal with this opposition, in 2003 the Louisiana Constitution was amended via public referendum to limit State liability to oyster lease property damage. Despite this amendment, and the need for freshwater inputs, the annual discharge of these two structures remained consistently below maximum capacity in the decade following the referendum (Fig. 4). The 10-year (2001–2010) average discharge for Caernarvon was 1969 CFS, 25% of the designed capacity. Likewise, Davis Pond discharge for the 8-year (2003–2010) time period averaged 2143 CFS, 22% of maximum capacity. Neither structure has had monthly average flow rates in excess of 50% of capacity since 2003.

Diversion advocates have argued that these two projects were designed more for salinity control than for land-building, yet the operational history of these structures provides evidence of socioeconomic risk. In addition to the oyster industry, a number of other stakeholders have argued for reduced flow rates at these two structures. Shrimp fishermen, crab harvesters, land owners, waterfowl hunters, and navigation interests are all represented on advisory committees that influence the flow rates of these structures (Gramling et al., 2006; O'Neill, 1994). More recently, concerns from recreational angles have emerged in

⁶ Scale of impact (acreage loss) resulting from a hurricane is based primarily on reductions in surface acreage resulting from Hurricane Katrina on the Caernarvon diversion and from Hurricane Rita on the Holly Beach restoration project (Wang, 2012).

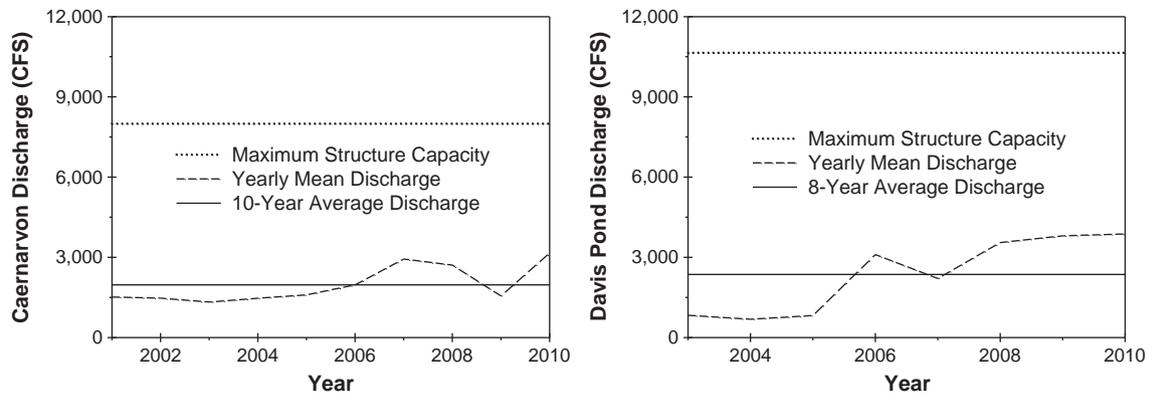


Fig. 4. Yearly mean discharge of the Caernarvon and Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion projects.

response to the much larger scale of diversions called for in the State's 2012 Coastal Master Plan (Masson, 2013; Schleifstein, 2012). The new plan calls for projects with maximum flow rates as high as 250,000 CFS, more than 25 times the maximum capacity of Caernarvon and Davis Pond (LCWCRTF, 2012).

Under a social constraints scenario, diversion project benefits are significantly curtailed due to a scaled-down flow rate, and by extension, costs per unit are increased. Unlike the expected valuation construct used for the hurricane risk scenario, the incorporation of an operational constraint for diversion operations is represented here through a simple numerical scaling factor. Eqs. (10) and (12) can be modified by adding a scale term (X_s) and expressed as:

$$B_{DIV_1}(t) = X_s * A_{DIV_1}^T * [-0.0029 + 0.05 * (t - \text{lag}_{DIV_1})] * (1 - E)^{t - \text{lag}_{DIV_1}} * \text{ESV}_{DIV_1} \quad (15)$$

and

$$B_{DIV_2}(t) = X_s * A_{DIV_2}^T * [-0.0029 + 0.05 * (t - \text{lag}_{DIV_2})] * \text{ESV}_{DIV_2} \quad (16)$$

where X_s is a user-defined constraint for diversion operation ranging from 20 to 75% of maximum design capacity (CFS) and $1 - X_s$ is the average annual flow rate.

5.3. Case Studies

By incorporating detailed aspects of risk into the benefit–cost model, comparative case-studies can be used to illustrate specific tradeoffs between dredge- and diversion-based methods. Assumptions for these simulations are derived from baseline values for benefit and cost parameters and described in Table 1. For the purpose of brevity, the simulations compare the MC model and one diversion model (DIV_2). As the more liberal of the two diversion models described herein, its

use projects an upper-bound scenario for estimating diversion benefits and simplifies the comparison. A more comprehensive suite of case comparisons is provided in Wang (2012).

To minimize substitutability concerns, project locations along the lower Mississippi River in southeastern Louisiana were chosen from areas where existing reclamation projects are currently in consideration for both types of restoration. To examine the effects of stakeholder opposition on project scale and flow rate, an *upper* and *lower* estuary project site is modeled to capture the potential for higher or lower levels of social opposition, according to settlement, population and commerce. The *Upper* location is assumed to be located on the western side of the Mississippi River between Myrtle Grove, LA and Point a La Hache, LA. The *Lower* location is on the western side of the Mississippi River between Boothville, LA and Venice, LA. Fig. 5 depicts these two locations in relation to other dredge- and diversion-based restoration projects in coastal Louisiana.

Project life is set at 20 and 50 years, time horizons utilized under CWPPRA and the 2012 Coastal Master Plan. Target scales are set at 1000 acres and 5000 acres. Project construction time lags are set based on historical experience and range from 4 to 10 years depending on project type and location. Annual land loss rate ranges from 0.003 to 0.006 depending on project location (LaDNR, 1998). Major hurricane probability ranges from 0.1 to 0.2 depending on location (Klotzbach and Gray, 2011). Fresh water diversion type is considered to be controlled. Constraints to diversion flow rate are assumed to be higher (lower) for projects in more (less) populated areas and higher (lower) for projects of larger (smaller) design scale. For specific combinations of location and scale, average annual flow rate ($1 - X_s$) is assumed to be: 40% for upper estuary and 1000 acres; 25% for upper estuary and 5000 acres, 80% for lower estuary and 1000 acres; 40% for lower estuary and 5000 acres. Mobilization and demobilization cost and access dredging cost for MC projects are set at \$1,000,000 and \$600,000. The average pumping distance for MC projects is assumed to be 4 miles. Total costs are assumed to be comprised of engineering and design (10%), construction (85%), and operations and maintenance (5%).

Table 1
Case study assumptions.

Variable	Description	Variable	Description
Project types	MC and DIV_2 (Controlled)	Avg. diversion flow ($1 - X_s$)	25–80% of max
Location	Upper & Lower Estuary	Mob/Demob Cost	\$1,000,000
Project life time	20 years and 50 years	Pumping Distance	4 miles
Target scales	1000 and 5000 acres	Access dredging	\$600,000
Time lag	4 to 10 years	Construction costs	85%
Land loss rates	0.003 to 0.006 per year	E&D costs	10%
Hurricane probability ($XH\%$)	0.1 to 0.2	O&M costs	5%
Discount rate	4%	Ecosystem service values	\$4,410 per year

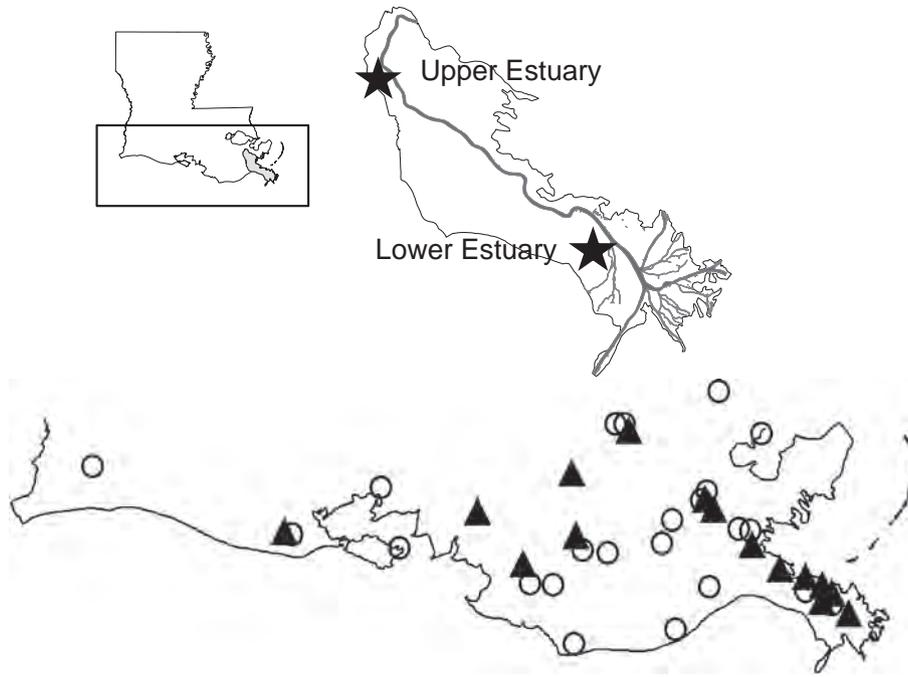


Fig. 5. Locations upper and lower estuary case study locations (★) in Plaquemines Parish in relation to other dredge-based (○) and diversion-based (▲) restoration projects in coastal Louisiana.

The average annual ecosystem service value for comparative simulations is specified at \$4410/acre/year, which represents the aggregate of annual services values for habitat (\$282), water quality (\$866) and storm surge protection (\$3653) from Kazmierczak (2001a, b) and Costanza et al. (2008). Comprising the majority of this aggregate estimate, storm surge attenuation is assumed to be a primary benefit of restoration projects focused on land-building. Estimates from the literature vary, but valuation studies indicate that at-risk populations place a premium on storm surge protection. Such values can exceed habitat values by one order of magnitude (Costanza et al., 2008; Kazmierczak, 2001a,b; Petrolia and Kim, 2009, 2011; Petrolia et al., forthcoming; Woodward and Wui, 2001). Specification of ecosystem values described here is intended for efficiency comparison purposes only and should in no way be interpreted as an implied valuation via benefits transfer.

Tables 2 and 3 provide the results of NPV simulations for the Upper and Lower estuary locations. For each simulation, estimates are provided for projected acreage, unit costs, benefit flows, and B:C ratios.

5.3.1. Acreage

In all case simulations, the projected acreage of MC projects exceeds that of DIV₂ projects for projects of similar target scale. For 50-year periods in the lower basin; however, the DIV₂ project acreage is converging on the acreage of the MC project. Yet, neither project type achieves the target acreage during the specified time period. In the case of MC projects, three factors constrain target benefits: lag time,

erosion, and hurricane effects ($X_{H\%}$). Because of these constraints, MC projects achieve only 85 and 93% of the target acreage in the upper estuary and only 87 and 73% of the target acreage in the lower estuary; for projects of 1000 and 5000 acres in scale, respectively.

Likewise, four factors constrain DIV₂ target benefits: lag time, erosion, hurricane effects ($X_{H\%}$), and social constraints (X_S). Because of these constraints DIV₂ project benefits range from 12 to 32% of the target acreage in the upper estuary; and 30 to 87% of the target acreage in the lower estuary; for projects of 1000 and 5000 acres in scale, respectively. The largest of these constraints is expressed via X_S , which accounts for an overwhelming majority of the difference between target and actual benefit accrual rates.

5.3.2. Total and Unit Costs

Total project costs for DIV₂ simulations ranged from 25 to 35% that of MC projects for similar design scales in both the upper and lower estuary. Moreover, the least expensive simulation in terms of per unit costs is the 5000 acre DIV₂ project in the lower estuary. This project achieves unit cost of \$8828 and \$6306/acre for 20 year and 50 year trajectories. These results appear consistent with recent policy assertions describing diversions as the most cost-effective form of restoration. In reality, however, there are few locations in the upper basin where large-scale diversions can be implemented without encountering socioeconomic opposition. For river diversion projects to operate at a higher capacity in more populated areas; additional costs would likely be incurred to mitigate flow-related impacts to private property and commercial

Table 2
Cost and benefit output for upper estuary scenarios.

	MC				DIV2			
	Upper 1 1,000 ac/20 y	Upper 2 1,000 ac/50 y	Upper 3 5,000 ac/20 y	Upper 4 5,000 ac/50 y	Upper 1 1,000 ac/20 y	Upper 2 1,000 ac/50 y	Upper 3 5,000 ac/20 y	Upper 4 5,000 ac/50 y
Net acres	934	853	4670	4267	193	321	602	1003
NPV costs (\$)	37,798,400	37,423,575	47,801,529	47,327,509	12,035,230	11,830,916	12,082,695	11,900,929
NPV benefits (\$)	40,687,958	71,993,875	203,439,791	359,969,373	2,399,596	7,323,328	7,496,977	22,880,297
B:C ratio	1.08	1.92	4.26	7.61	0.2	0.62	0.62	1.92
\$/acre	40,469	43,873	10,236	11,092	62,359	36,856	20,071	11,865

Table 3
Cost and benefit output for lower estuary scenarios.

	MC				DIV ₂			
	Lower 1 1000 ac/20 y	Lower 2 1000 ac/50 y	Lower 3 5000 ac/20 y	Lower 4 5000 ac/50 y	Lower 1 1000 ac/20 y	Lower 2 1000 ac/50 y	Lower 3 5000 ac/20 y	Lower 4 5000 ac/50 y
Net acres	872	728	4359	3639	508	671	1520	2098
NPV Costs (\$)	37,798,400	37,423,575	47,801,529	47,327,509	13,366,465	13,151,140	13,419,179	13,229,091
NPV benefits (\$)	38,885,396	67,044,229	194,426,982	335,221,144	8,161,172	16,722,894	24,271,476	52,247,394
B:C ratio	1.03	1.79	4.07	7.08	0.61	1.27	1.81	3.95
\$/acre	43,347	51,406	10,966	13,006	26,312	19,599	8,828	6,306

interests. While the direct estimation of such externalities is beyond the scope of this study, social constraints can be addressed indirectly via reductions to diversion flow rate – a scenario that exists in reality and has historically dictated the operation of river diversions via multi-stakeholder, interagency advisory committees. Accounting for such flow reductions, DIV₂ project simulations in the upper estuary produce unit costs from \$11,865 to \$62,359. In each of the four comparable upper estuary scenarios, MC projects have unit lower cost, ranging from \$10,236 to \$40,449/acre.

5.3.3. Benefit Flows and B:C Ratios

Accrued net benefits from ecosystem services for MC projects ranges from 4 to 27 times greater than that of DIV₂ projects designed for the same target acreages and time periods. Moreover, B:C ratios were found to be greater than 1.0 in all of the MC simulations, and exceeded 1.0 in only four of the eight DIV₂ scenarios. The overall B:C ratio for MC projects ranges from a low of 1.03 to a high of 7.61. For DIV₂ projects, B:C ratios range from 0.2 to 3.95.

6. Summary and Conclusions

As State and Federal agencies grapple with shrinking budgets and competing needs, the return on ecosystem restoration spending is becoming more scrutinized. For this reason, public funding for coastal wetland restoration is increasingly predicated on a range of monetized ecosystem services. Parallel use of such values in comparative project assessments, however, has been lacking. In this paper we have both derived and specified monetized ecosystem service values as part of a benefit cost analysis designed to examine the comparative efficiency of funding allocated for “rapid” and “natural” approaches to coastal land reclamation in Louisiana. In doing so, we have identified some potential concerns regarding the current approach through which project and programmatic efficiency is measured.

Benefit and cost functions were estimated for dredged- and diversion-based land reclamation and incorporated into a benefit–cost analysis to derive break-even ecosystem service values. Ecosystem service values were specified in comparative case study simulations developed under 16 scale- and location-specific scenarios. Restoration uncertainty was incorporated into case studies through an expected valuation framework to address the susceptibility of project-specific benefits to climatological and socio-political risk. As expected, unit costs were found to generally decrease with increases in project scale and time period, and to increase at higher discount rates – regardless of restoration method. Additional factors, such as mobilization of dredging equipment, access dredging costs, and the distance between sediment borrow site and project site, served to significantly increase the unit costs of dredge-based marsh creation projects.

Through unconstrained break-even analysis, the annual value of ecosystem services required to offset dredge-based marsh creation project costs were found to be lower (i.e., to have a lower burden of proof) than that of diversions at time periods less than 23 and 36 years, pumping distances less than 10 and 21 miles, and target scales less than 5500 and 9400 acres, compared to DIV₂ and DIV₁ projects, respectively. In risk-constrained comparisons, however, these intersection

points increased substantially with the incorporation of method- and location-specific uncertainty.

Given its relatively low probability, the risk of impact from a major hurricane at a specific project location produces only marginal reductions in benefits for both project types under an expected valuation construct. Conversely, a scaling factor representing socio-political accommodations consistent with operational history was shown to have a substantially negative effect on the economic and ecologic performance of river diversion projects. Even with the more liberal DIV₂ model and average flow rates as high as 80%, the 50-year acreage trajectory of diversions remains below that of marsh creation projects of similar target scale. Accordingly, benefit–cost ratios of ecosystem services (net present benefits) were found to be greater in all cases (16 simulations) for dredge-based marsh creation projects when compared to diversion projects of the same target scale and time period (1000–5000 acres, 20–50 years, upper and lower estuary). This finding runs counter to current assertions regarding the unrivaled efficiency of diversions and illustrates a potential shortcoming of project prioritization regimes based on limited interval or end-of-stage unit cost comparisons, versus a comparison of ecosystem service flows over time.

7. Limitations and Additional Research

As currently structured, this analysis does not attempt to address the sediment availability constraints unique to specific reclamation methods and locations. The intent is simply to develop a generic comparison of these methods in terms of the trajectory-specific flows of ecosystem services over time. Moreover, the suite of publically-available information on diversions at the time of this analysis (July 2010–June 2012) did not contain data for diversions of the much larger flow capacity described in Louisiana’s 2012 coastal master plan. Nevertheless, case-study comparisons do include a mass-balance model of diversions (DIV₂) that projects acreage benefits at more than 16 times the rate derived from previously authorized diversion projects (DIV₁) at a similar flow rate.

Ultimately, a refitting of these benefit trajectories would be required for economic assessment of the scale of projects featured in the 2012 master plan. Projected cost functions would also require revision, especially for the much larger “sediment diversion” projects. And while projects like Caernarvon and Davis Pond may be poor analogs for the land-building capacity of these larger diversions, they do provide a valid foundation for examining operational risk. Given the apparent lack of impact mitigation strategies in the current plan, it is likely that large-scale diversions will also be constrained by socio-political opposition over project-driven changes in hydrology and salinity.

Another limitation of this analysis stems from the equal treatment of acreage-based ecosystem services generated from land reclaimed through both rapid and natural methods. While the current approach is valid for characterizing temporal differences in benefit flows, the analysis would benefit from a more method-specific attribution of ecosystem services. The potential for such refinement hinges largely on the availability and suitability of monetized estimates for storm surge attenuation and habitat provision, two of the most frequently cited benefits of marsh creation and diversion projects. Given that public preference for storm surge protection is typically valued at a higher level than for

habitat provision, such refinement is likely to affect the magnitude but not the direction of these findings.

It is worth reiterating that the trajectories developed for this study are based on extant data from current and proposed projects available at the time of the analysis. While refinement is ongoing, such revision is not expected to change the basic shapes of the benefit trajectories that underlie this analysis. Likewise, the development of project costs functions for this analysis was hampered by a small number of highly variable observations. Such data conditions—though not particularly conducive for robust predictive modeling—are the reality faced by State and Federal program managers tasked with the budgeting and allocation of billions of dollars in coastal restoration funding. Adaptive management of large-scale restoration requires systematic analysis of costs and benefits, despite these limitations.

8. Policy Implications

Calls for diversion-based reclamation in coastal Louisiana are grounded in the deltaic history of the region and supported by a predominance of natural science in restoration policy. Such factors alone have provided the biophysical justification for a programmatic evolution towards the restoration of alluvial processes, versus structures. Economic arguments in support of this policy have pointed to the estimated cost of diversions in comparison to other methods. Indeed, unconstrained simulations from this study depict the total cost of diversion-based reclamation at approximately one third that of dredge-based reclamation for similar target acreages. Moreover, break-even analyses indicate potential economies of scale for those diversions that greatly exceed the project sizes and time periods authorized to date. Yet these claims and projections hinge on one key assumption that is largely inconsistent with the history of diversions—unimpeded flow. Strategic planning for these projects requires more than a biophysical assessment of operational risk, and one that more fully accounts for the timing of benefit delivery.

As the State pursues a policy of more aggressive reintroduction of the Mississippi River, project accounting should expand to include the potential transition costs that will likely manifest at higher flow rates. Direct mitigation of this risk, whether required by law or political expedience, will invariably affect the benefit-cost relationships of individual projects, and could ultimately shift prioritization calculus at the program level. At a minimum, the feasibility of preemptive compensation options should be compared to the indirect accommodations that have come to characterize diversion operations. Reacting to socio-political opposition via flow reductions has been proven by history, and this analysis, to have a substantial opportunity cost.

Given a longer, geologic planning horizon, these results would likely be different. Policy-makers have acknowledged, however, that at some point the uncertainties about projected costs, benefits, and risks become too variable for reliable prediction. Thus, managing public expectations of diversions and maintaining sufficient political resolve will be particularly vital challenges given the 50-year horizon for these projects and the apparent efficacy of more immediate, dredge-based alternatives.

Finally, the policy governing restoration of coastal Louisiana (and many other major ecosystems) has historically been time-neutral in regards to the assessment of projected benefits— one in which a unit of restoration is of no more value today than a unit of restoration delivered at some distant point in the future. To maximize the return on restoration investments, program managers are encouraged to expand efficiency accounting to consider the dynamic accrual of restoration benefits for a given project trajectory. Use of monetized ecosystem services within a traditional benefit-cost framework can help achieve that goal by improving the efficiency through which limited funding is allocated and by allowing for a more comprehensive accounting of methodological trade-offs.

Acknowledgments

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June 23, 2013

Lieutenant General Thomas P. Bostick
Commanding General & Chief of Engineers

Headquarters

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

441 G Street NW

Washington, DC 20314-1000

RE: Request for economic and environmental impact studies on the effect that Louisiana's Master Plan river diversions will have on the estuarine habitat including fish, shrimp, oysters, and crab

Dear Lieutenant Bostick,

The State of Louisiana's plans for implementing large-scale river diversions pose a serious environmental threat to the natural estuaries of Barataria Bay and Breton Sound. These estuaries are arguably some of the most prolific on earth, and are vitally important components of the Gulf of Mexico's marine ecosystem.

In Louisiana's Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast there are plans for 13 new water and sediment diversions along the Mississippi River. The Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) has not conducted an environmental impact study nor a cost-benefit economic impact study to examine the effect that large-scale diversions will have on the estuarine ecosystem, including fishery nursery habitat and shellfish growing areas. We request that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) require that these studies be completed and publicly addressed prior to allowing the permit for the construction of the river diversions.

The river diversions planned for Myrtle Grove and Braithwaite in Plaquemines Parish are of the scale (45,000-275,000 cfs) that will be capable of flushing out normal estuarine waters in a matter of days. Unleashing this amount of river water into the estuaries will completely upset their normal historical marine/brackish environment. It is well known that the Mississippi River carries a huge load of organic compounds from agricultural runoff, as well as the chemical and biological loads of innumerable industrial and municipal waste discharges that drain into the vast Mississippi River valley.

The currently operating smaller (^ 8000cfs) freshwater diversions at Caernarvon and Davis Pond, on the east-bank and west bank respectively, have already degraded the water quality to the point that some historic oyster reefs are closed for harvesting totally, or in some cases for a significant part of the year.

If the additional planned diversions are constructed and operated they will tremendously compound the deterioration of water quality in these estuaries causing significant economic impact, as well as a negative long-term environmental impact.

At every public and private planning meeting we attended with the CPRA over the last 5 years we have voiced our concerns that the proposed diversions will cause serious long-term consequences. The CPRA has discounted and disregarded our concerns and decided to keep the massive river diversions in their plan. There is not one person on the CPRA or the Governor's Advisory Commission on Coastal Protection, Restoration, and Conservation that will state unequivocally that there will be no negative impacts on the water quality, habitat, and fisheries when the diversions are operational. They just claim the diversions are the only economical way to rebuild Louisiana's coast. But at what cost?

The commercial and recreational seafood community in Louisiana stand together to support coastal restoration efforts utilizing placement of dredge materials harvested from the Mississippi River. We also support small freshwater diversions, strategically placed so that they flow only when the Mississippi River exceeds its historic natural banks. The fact is that we have stressed the importance of mimicking the overflow of the river as if levees were never constructed long before the CPRA existed. But we also don't want to see the water quality degraded to the point that oysters cannot live, or where shrimp, crabs, and most of the gulf fish will not have a healthy ecosystem to spawn and survive through adulthood. That will happen if CPRA is allowed to build these diversions.

The CPRA and the Master Plan stress the importance of Louisiana's rich seafood heritage, and its value to the economy. The Master Plan affirms that the seafood community provides an annual economic impact of over 2 billion dollars to the state. But in reality, the architects of Louisiana's Master Plan are taking for granted the fisheries habitat provided by the state's vitally essential estuaries. They have decided, in effect, that the ecological function of the displaced estuarine ecosystem will be created somewhere else, with little or no net loss to the whole. This major assumption has not been validated, is totally unsubstantiated, and is dangerously false.

In closing, we kindly request the USACE to require both, a full-fledged cost-benefit economic impact analysis, and a comprehensive environmental impact study, be done for all new river diversions in Louisiana. The results of the studies should be published and addressed publically prior to allowing final decisions to be made regarding permits for new river diversions into these sensitive estuaries.

Sincerely,

John A. Tesvich, Chairman

c.c. Major General John W. Peabody, Colonel Richard "Rick" Hansen, Garret Graves

Send copies to those below with a cover letter

Major General John W. Peabody
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**Comments On Army Corps Of Engineers
Scoping for Draft Environmental Impact Statement
For Proposed
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion**

**Submitted By
Louisiana Oyster Dealers & Growers Association & Gulf Oyster
Industry Council**

September 5, 2017

Prepared on their behalf
By

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Pursuant to Federal Register Notice (“Supplemental Notice of Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Proposed Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion, in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana”) published April 27, 2017, please accept the following comments, concerns and recommendations submitted by the Louisiana Oyster Dealers & Growers Association (LODGA) and the Gulf Oyster Industry Council (GOIC). By way of background, LODGA was established in 1952 and acts to promote, protect, foster and advance the interests of the oyster industry. The GOIC serves to support, promote and protect the regulatory, legislative and economic interests of oyster farmers, processors, dealers and retailers living and operating in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida.

For the record, both LODGA and GOIC oppose development and construction of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. The project will affect area water flow, salinity, sedimentation, and quality to the detriment of oysters. However, we recognize that the project is still in the planning and pre-decisional phase. The purpose of the scoping process and these comments and recommendations are to determine what issues should be studied in the DEIS. So these comments will focus on what the potential impacts the project may have on Gulf of Mexico oysters and what scientific and economic analysis and measures the DEIS must include so those impacts can be fully understood and, if possible, mitigated.

Our concerns are based primarily on the project’s potential impact on area water quality and salinity and how changes in both could be detrimental to oyster survival and production in the Barataria Basin and more broadly the Mississippi River Delta. It is worth noting that these concerns are not just that of the oyster industry but Congress as well. Over the last two years, Federal appropriations bills funding the Corps’ annual budget have included instructive report language on the importance of adequate water quality and salinity assessments for both traditional navigation and coastal restoration projects. The FY 2018 House Energy & Water Appropriations Bill includes the following committee report language.

“The Committee supports Corps efforts, when conducting or reviewing environmental assessments or environmental impact statements for navigation or coastal restoration projects in areas where oyster reefs exist, to consider water quality and salinity impacts on those reefs and, when appropriate, to mitigate any negative impacts.”

The FY 2018 Senate Energy & Water Appropriations Bill includes very similar language as the follows in its committee report. (Note: The FY 2018 Senate Energy & Water Appropriations Bill also includes report language referring to a required Corps report to Congress from Section 1145 of the WIIN Act 2016 on the potential use of dredged material from Corps projects as substrate to promote oyster reef development).

“The Committee encourages the Corps, when conducting or reviewing environmental assessments or environmental impact statements for navigation or coastal restoration projects in areas where oyster reefs exist, to consider water quality and salinity impacts on those reefs and, when appropriate, to mitigate any negative impacts.”ⁱⁱ

Identical report language was also included in the FY 2017 House and Senate Energy & Water Appropriations Bills and, by reference, in the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2017.ⁱⁱⁱ

The Mississippi River Delta is an incredibly rich ecosystem that provides the right combination of brackish water, shallow benthic habitat, nutrient-laden water, and proper predator-prey dynamics for oysters to grow and thrive. They are a critical part of the estuary environment but very sensitive to changes in water salinity, quality, flows, and pollution. These factors affect their survivability, growth rate and reproduction. As filter feeders, they provide significant water quality benefits and as important prey species they support finfish such as redfish and other species further up the food chain. Lastly, oyster reefs serve as important natural barriers for flood protections and coastal erosion.

The Gulf of Mexico is the largest oyster-producing region in the U.S., with Louisiana the largest produce among all States. The Gulf supplies 80-90% of the U.S. market today for Eastern oysters, the predominant marketable species of oysters. This industry generated nearly \$100 million in oyster landings by fishermen in the Gulf States in 2014. Annual landings in Louisiana average nearly \$39 million in value over the last decade.^{iv} If you add in the additional and businesses industries oysters support – processors, restaurants, transportation, wholesalers and retailers, to name a few – then their value to our region is several times greater.

As the largest producer of oysters in the Gulf, Louisiana is dependent on the fertility and productivity of the Mississippi River Delta. The State’s oyster fishery is split between public oyster

grounds (about 20 percent of average annual harvest) and private leased grounds (80 percent), with Plaquemines Parish having the largest area of private leases (over 33 percent of the State total).

Over the last ten-plus years, there have been several disasters – both natural and man-caused -- that have hurt oysters and the many fishermen, processors, restaurants, and others that depend on them to make a living. This includes Hurricane Katrina that flooded and destroyed many oyster reefs; the Deepwater Horizon oil spill that fouled many oyster growing areas and resulted in substantial harvest reductions; and more recently, flooding in 2011 and following years that has produced increased freshwater discharges from current diversions into many parts of the Gulf – including the breach of the Bohemia Salinity Control Structure on the lower Mississippi – and altered the right mix of fresh and saltwater oysters need to thrive. Finally, oysters are affected by both traditional Corps navigation and flood control projects and coastal restoration projects that significantly alter water flows and salinity changes. In the five years, prior to Hurricane Katrina, National Marine Fisheries Service statistics show that average annual oyster landings in the Gulf were 25.5 million pounds. But then that average dropped to 21 million pounds the following five years. In 2015, the latest year data is available, Gulf commercial landings were 17.1 million^v, well-down from their highs in the early 2000s as the fishery was further set back by both the Deepwater Horizon spill and the 2011 flooding.

Salinity levels and variation have an enormous effect on the ability of oysters to grow and survive. Ideal salinity rates range between 15 and 30 parts per thousand (ppt)^{vi} and while oysters can temporarily withstand lower or higher salinity rates, unlike finfish and crustaceans, they lack the ability to move in response. As a result, they stop growing and reproducing and may even perish if exposed for lengthy periods to water outside their preferred salinity range. Added challenges to their survival are increased risks to predation from oyster drills and disease from Dermo infections when high salinity levels are combined with warm temperatures or exposure to *Vibrio* bacteria and fecal coliform when salinity levels are too low.

Water flows are also important for oysters. Moderate and consistent flows provide proper amounts of nutrients and dissolved oxygen. However, high velocity flows, such as during major storms or floods, can result in sedimentation that smothers oyster reefs as well as reduce respiration and filtering of nutrients needed for growth.^{vii}

There has to be a balance in terms of nutrient presence. In excessive amounts, as has been the case in the last couple of decades, nutrient-laden water results in the creation of large, hypoxic dead zones that can kill almost all ocean life in the area. At a size of the State of New Jersey, the biggest dead zone on record has been reported this year for the Gulf of Mexico “dead zone.”^{viii} While the “dead zone” is located offshore and generally away from oyster grounds, our industry has seen in recent years an increase the number of “mini-hypoxic” zones that have negatively affected oysters in nearshore areas where oysters are harvested. As non-mobile organisms, oysters lack the ability to leave hypoxic areas in the same way they cannot avoid sudden changes in water salinity, rapid increases in water flows or increases in sedimentation. Such a large dead zone can affect more mobile marine species as well. Local media reports that there have been 47 dolphin and 51 endangered sea turtle deaths which may attributed to the size and toxicity of the dead zone.

Further, animal and human waste generated by upriver communities and farms can lead to high levels of fecal coliform in the lower Mississippi. When that water, either through flooding or diversion operation, enters oyster areas, the Louisiana Department of Health closes them to harvest. In fact, just recently on August 29, the Department pre-emptively closed all oyster areas in the State due to the threat posed by Tropical Storm Harvey. Limits on fecal coliform levels are set by the Department and the FDA and are very strict in order to protect diseased or contaminated oysters from entering the marketplace. Closures often affect large areas and sometimes put in place during critical times during the development, growth and harvest of oysters until the natural flushing from tidal action and other water movement drops fecal levels and permits the areas to be re-opened. This process causes significant uncertainty and economic impact for the oyster industry. The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion represents another possible means for greater access of MS River fecal coliform contamination into the Barataria-Terrebonne estuary and likely more frequent area closures to oyster harvest.

Our views on the proposed Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are also informed by the oyster industry’s experience with other man-made projects – Caernarvon and Davis Pond Freshwater Diversions, the Bonnet Carre Spillway and Bohemia Salinity Control Structure, in particular – that have altered the area ecosystem in ways harmful to oysters.

The Caernarvon and Davis Pond Freshwater Diversions were built by the Corps ostensibly to benefit area wildlife, including oysters. In fact, the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) accompanying the construction of the diversions at both Caernarvon and Davis Pond had as a primary goal the enhancement and improvement of area fish and wildlife through the better regulation of freshwater flows. The EIS forecast that --"The plan would increase oyster production by 100 percent. This additional production would increase Louisiana's annual average harvest by 64 percent and the national harvest by 25 percent."^{ix}

These projections have not come to pass. The Caernarvon Diversion in particular has not only not benefitted area oysters but been harmful by introducing too much freshwater and lowering salinity levels. In earlier years after its finished construction in 1991, the diversion was operated at a level to keep salinity levels consistent so that area oyster, brown shrimp and other brackish or saltwater species could survive (although the oyster grounds in the upper basin declined as soon as the diversion first became operational). But by the late 1990s and into the 2000s, that operating philosophy changed. It has been to replicate historic spring floods, use "pulse" flows or to increase sediment dispersal even if it meant significantly lowering salinity levels, and establish baseline goals of keeping area salinity within a range of 5 to 15 ppt . The Corps formally acknowledged this change in approach in 2008.^x The diversion also operated at high flow rates in 2010 in an effort to keep the Deepwater Horizon oil spill from creeping inland, and in 2011 in response to the high floods that year.

We have found that the high influx of freshwater hurt oyster populations in those years and the following years. The range of 5 to 15 ppt is below the ideal range of 15 to 30 ppt for oyster survival growth. Spring or flood releases meant to replicate natural freshets have frequently pushed salinity levels below 5 ppt and for longer periods of time than can be withstood by oysters. Finally, while Caernarvon is not considered a sediment diversion, it does contribute significant sediment dispersion and delivery into the Breton Sound. This increase in sediment deposits has also had a negative impact on area oysters in terms of loss of benthic habitat and reef areas. Many advocates for the Mid-Barataria project point to Caernarvon as a model for lessons learned on how to operate a diversion project for maximum sediment delivery. Unfortunately, in their advocacy they overlook the damage done to oysters in the process, both from the sedimentation and reduction in salinity levels from the increase in freshwater releases.

The experience with the operation of the Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion has been similar. After some initial promise, the diversion has shifted focus to flush freshwater into the Barataria Bay and Basin at salinity levels well-below the ideal range for oysters. Like Caernarvon, a 5 ppt to 15 ppt baseline salinity target has been adopted. Similarly, during higher water parts of the year, the diversion pulses freshwater at a 5 ppt rate (and sometimes well-below) for too long a period for area oysters to be able to withstand. An analysis and mapping by Dynamic Solutions LLC, a prominent hydrological consulting firm, shows that the diversion's operation is altering area salinities in a more profound and sustained way, even under low flow conditions. Readings from salinity gauges show that the 5 ppt line has moved from its pre-diversion position at Lake Salvador to a point south 15 miles, with the 15 ppt line sliding south over 5 miles into Barataria Bay.^{xi} During high flows, these lines are pushed further south into Barataria Bay.

The breach of the Bohemia Salinity Control Structure (popularly referred to in the media as Mardi Gras Pass) has accidentally mimicked what the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion would more deliberately do in terms of altering the estuarine environment to the detriment of oysters. The breach occurred after the 2011 floods and has since further widened, pouring millions of gallons of freshwater on a continuing basis into some of Louisiana's most productive oyster grounds in the Breton and Chandeleur Sounds. This is an area that previously provided an average of 40 to 50 percent of the State's annual oyster landings and just after the turn of the century over half the State's catch. Our industry believes that in the over 5 years since the breach area oyster populations have declined substantially.

A July, 2017 fisheries analysis by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LADWF) examined oyster landings prior and post the Bohemia Structure breach and reveals a significant drop-off. While LADWF did not cite a definitive cause for the decline, the data clearly shows a decrease in landings at both private and public oyster grounds in an area where water increased in flow and dispersal as a result of the breach.

The assessment examined landings from the five year period from 2005 to 2009 and compared them to the post-breach five years of 2012 to 2016 for Area 422, which encompasses both public and private oyster harvesting areas. While the LADFW does have data from 2010 and 2011, those years were left out of the comparison because of the statistical aberration caused by the Deepwater Horizon

oil spill and large fishing closures. Between the two five year periods, the assessment concluded oyster landings have fallen almost 50 percent from an annual average of 5.5 million pounds to 2.8 million pounds. On a 2016 value per pound basis, this is a loss of \$17.8 million per year.^{xii} 422 area public reefs have been particularly hard hit, with a drastic drop in landings from a high of 3.9 million pounds in 2008 to a low of just 92,000 pounds in 2013 before edging up to 291,000 pounds in 2016.^{xiii} Private oyster area landings held up better but were still below their pre-breach average annual landings when comparing the two five year periods. Overall, the 422 area has become less of a supplier of the State's oyster catch, with its annual landings percentage declining from 42 percent in the five year period pre-breach to 22 percent post-breach.

Lastly, the recent operation of the Bonnet Carre Spillway has also had negative impacts on area oyster populations as a result of increased freshwater flow and lowered salinity. Unlike the Davis Pond and Caernarvon projects, Bonnet Carre's intended purpose is as a flood control project (although the Corps does promote it as fish and wildlife management area) and a means to reduce the possibility of down river flooding in New Orleans by diverting excess river flows into Lake Pontchartrain. In response to the 2011 flooding, over 90 percent of the Spillway's bays were opened to allow water flows into Lake Pontchartrain at a rate not seen in 25 years. This rapid influx of freshwater was particularly damaging to Mississippi's oyster population. An assessment by Mississippi State University Extension Service examined the impact of Bonnet Carre's opening that year on the State's oyster industry and reached the following conclusion.

"...the prolonged Bonnet Carré Spillway opening in 2011 resulted to 86 percent oyster mortalities. These massive mortalities halted the recovery of the fishery to its baseline levels in 2002–04...Direct losses in oyster harvesting associated with the prolonged Bonnet Carré Spillway opening ranged from 80–100 percent of the baseline average annual commercial landings from 2002–04. The cumulative foregone landing values of commercial oyster harvesting were estimated to range from \$21.8 million to \$46 million."^{xiv}

Recommendations And Conclusion

As noted earlier, both LODGA and GOIC oppose construction of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion based on the concerns we have raised in these comments. The expanding hypoxic dead zone and lowering of salinity levels through excessive freshwater releases whether intended – in the case of the Caernarvon and Davis Pond Sediment Diversions and Bonnet Carre Spillway – or not –i.e. the breach

of the Bohemia Salinity Control Structure -- are bellwether indicators of the potential threat to oyster populations posed by this diversion. So at a minimum, we recommend that the DEIS include the following considerations for analysis, study, and implementation.

- A socio-economic analysis of the project's expected impact on the Gulf of Mexico oyster industry. The analysis should encompass not only oyster harvesters and private leaseholders, but oyster processors, dealers, distributors, wholesalers, retailers and restaurants as well, not only within the State of Louisiana but including other Gulf States given that Louisiana oysters are processed and distributed widely within the region. The analysis must also assess the economic impact on local communities, employment, and governments as well as the impact on the cultural fabric of these communities.
- Conduct surveys and stock assessments to establish baseline population estimates on oyster abundance in Barataria Bay and Basin prior to project construction, with a requirement for annual follow up surveys and assessments once the project is operational to evaluate the impact of water flows, oxygen levels and sedimentation on area oyster populations. This work should assess oyster populations on both public reefs and private leases.
- Include an adequate research program and budget to conduct the stock assessments and surveys.
- Establish a baseline salinity average and flow rate between the preferred range of oysters of 15 to 30 ppt. As we have pointed out, the salinity range of 5 to 15 ppt utilized in the operation of both Davis Pond and Caernarvon diversions has harmed local oyster populations. Establish that only in emergency conditions shall the flow rate be increased to a point where salinity rates fall below 15 ppt and then only for the shortest time possible until the emergency has passed.
- Establish a Gulf oyster industry stakeholder group for consultation during the development of the DEIS.
- Establish a baseline level and monitoring of dissolved oxygen content and nutrient loading safe for survival of oysters and other fisheries and to avoid formation of mini-hypoxic zones.

- Establish baseline monitoring of water and sediment expected to flow through the diversion for fecal coliform. Set a maximum daily limit and flow rate on fecal coliform amounts that ensures that Department of Health limits are not breached and result in unnecessary area oyster closures.
- Fully map Bay/Basin oyster reefs and lease areas in order to establish pathways for sediment deposit and ensure those deposits do not cover or silt over oyster grounds. Study sediment samples to determine toxicity levels for substances such as lead, mercury, PCBs and other harmful chemicals.
- Assess anticipated changes in predator-prey dynamics as well as increased or reduced disease risk.
- Ensure that there are enough water gauges and instruments installed in multiple locations in the Bay/Basin to gather comprehensive and real-time data on water quality, flow, salinity, dissolved oxygen, circulation pattern and sediment flow.
- Develop mitigation planning, recommendations and implementation for public oyster reef and private lease areas where oyster loss is expected to be significant.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments and recommendations.

ENDNOTES

ⁱ FY 2018 House Energy & Water Appropriations Committee Report (<https://appropriations.house.gov/uploadedfiles/hrpt-115-hr-p2.pdf>), p. 24

ⁱⁱ FY 2018 Senate Energy & Water Appropriations Committee Report (<https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/FY2018%20Energy%20and%20Water%20Development%20Appropriations%20Act%20-%20Report%20115-132.pdf>), p. 15

ⁱⁱⁱ FY 2017 Senate Energy & Water Appropriations Committee Report (<https://www.congress.gov/114/crpt/srpt236/CRPT-114srpt236.pdf>); p. 25; FY 2017 House Energy & Water Appropriations Committee Report (<https://www.congress.gov/114/crpt/hrpt532/CRPT-114hrpt532.pdf>), p. 14

^{iv} Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, GulfFINFO (<http://gulffishinfo.org/Species?SpeciesID=113>)

^v Ibid.

^{vi} The Oyster Fishery Of The Gulf Of Mexico United States: A Regional Management Plan; Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, p. 26 (<http://www.gsmfc.org/publications/GSMFC%20Number%20202.pdf>)

^{vii} ibid, p. 57

^{viii} Gulf of Mexico “dead zone” is the largest ever measured – News & Features, NOAA, 8/2/2017 -- <http://www.noaa.gov/media-release/gulf-of-mexico-dead-zone-is-largest-ever-measured>

^{ix} Army Corps of Engineers, EIS, “Feasibility Report on Freshwater Diversion to Barataria and Breton Sound Basins”, September, 1984, p. 73

^x EA # 392 – Caernarvon Freshwater Diversion Structure – Change In Structure Operation

^{xi} Davis Pond River Diversion Project: Pre- and Post-Diversion Trends for Salinity Intrusion and Nutrient Removal, CEER 2014, New Orleans, LA, Dynamic Solutions LLC, p. 11 (http://www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/CEER2014/Speaker%20Presentations/July%2029,%20Tuesday_Sessions%201%20-%2030/Salon%20F_sessions_05_15_25/1420_Andrew%20Stoddard.pdf)

^{xii} An Assessment of the Changes in Principal Commercial Fisheries in a Portion of Southeastern Louisiana Waters Following the Collapse of the Bohemia Salinity Control Structure -- Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, July 2017, p. 12

^{xiii} Ibid, p. 18

^{xiv} Economic Impacts of the Opening of the Bonnet Carré Spillway on the Mississippi Oyster Fishery, Mississippi State University Extension Service, 2017, p. 2. (<http://extension.msstate.edu/sites/default/files/publications/publications/p3038.pdf>)



LOUISIANA SHRIMP ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 1088 Grand Isle, La. 70358
504-382-9341

August 14, 2017

Attention: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-EOO

The commercial fishermen of Louisiana understand the urgency in the situation coastal Louisiana is facing. We agree that restoring our coast is vital.

As President of Louisiana Shrimp Association (LSA), which represents the majority of commercial fishermen in Louisiana, who live and work on our great coast, we do think it is a necessity to preserve our communities, our culture and our way of life.

We oppose the Mid- Barataria Sediment Diversion (MBSD). This diversion will be devastating to both our commercial and recreational fishing industries on the coast of Louisiana. Fresh water intrusion to our estuaries will be devastating to our fisheries.). Our fishermen who live and fish in the Barataria Estuary have experienced the very negative effects of a much smaller river diversion at Davis Pond. When NOT operated properly for salinity control and benefit to the fisheries, this diversion, that only operates at an approximate maximum flow of 10,000 Cubic Feet per Second (CFS), has severely affected the brown shrimp crops in the estuary, caused nutrient overloading, increased the amount of invasive species, increased the number and size of algae blooms and hypoxia in the estuary and caused transformations to our wetlands to a shallow root system with high leaf structure that affords very little to no storm surge protection. Davis Pond Diversion is located approximately 50 miles from the Gulf of Mexico (GOM).

The MBSD will outflow a lot closer to Barataria Bay and will have a much greater effect on the on the estuary, that is a brackish water essential fish habitat to the GOM.

We have not seen any studies for cost benefit economic impact to the fisheries associated fishing businesses, coastal communities, Parishes or the State or environmental impact to the estuary and the GOM has ever been done by the CPRA in association with this project. Not in the selection process for inclusion in the LA Master Plan or in the process to move this project forward to construction. When or if these studies are properly done, LSA believes that these losses, projected over time, will severely affect any speculated benefit associated with this project. We oppose this project going forward without the proper economic impact study being made public and the state reviewing the effects.

When protecting and restoring Louisiana's coast we should use our limited funding on projects that will give us protection now and improve our efficiency in the future. We should rebuild

marsh creation projects. This would result in more efficient and cost effective land building with the added cost benefit of not having to wait 20 years before any results are realized.

We ask that you listen to the representatives from commercial and recreational fishing industries and the fishermen that rely on our coast to make their living along the coast. We are not experts but we live and breathe the Louisiana coast.

We know the habitat, we know the environment, we have watched land loss and we have watched land restoration. We have seen sediment pipelines restore our coast quicker and they do not have the devastating effects on our industry that fresh water diversions / sediment diversions will.

WE OPPOSE ANY ADDITIONAL RIVER WATER OR SEDIMENT DIVERSION PROJECTS OR MODIFICATIONS TO EXISTING DIVERSIONS INTO THE BARATARIA OR PONCHARTRAIN BASINS THAT WILL CAUSE IRREPARABLE HARM TO OUR COMMERCIAL SHRIMP FISHERY, BUSINESSES DEPENDENT ON OUR INDUSTRY AND TO THE LIVELYHOOD AND CULTURES OF OUR COASTAL FISHING COMMUNITIES, AS A WHOLE.

I have attended many public and private meetings with CPRA and have voiced my concerns of fresh water diversions and the fisheries. I pray that you all do what is right and protect the Louisiana Fishing Industries while restoring our coastline.

Sincerely,



Acy J. Cooper, Jr.
President Louisiana Shrimp Association
42941 Hwy 23
Venice, La. 70091
504-912-0150

August 10th, 2017

**Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017**

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? Yes No

If yes, please specify the position.

First and Last Name Uyen Luong	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 35712 Highway II , BURAS, LA 70041	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code BURAS, LA 70041	
Email Address uyenluong010182@gmail.com	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

I do not agree with freshwater diversion. Freshwater diversion results in the death of shrimps, fish, and oysters, causing my family no income because my husband does shrimp fishing, and I stay at home to look after my children. No job and no income have a great influence on my family.

I need help in the future: help with money so we can buy bigger boats to catch shrimps off the coast. Offshore fishing by small boats is very dangerous for fishermen.

The government should reduce taxes for fishermen; help with health insurance, help fishermen learn English. Every year fishermen are affected by storms, loss of income, life-threatening, so we have no money to pay taxes.

August 10th, 2017

Ý kiến đóng góp phải được gửi trước ngày 5 tháng 9 năm 2017

Comment Form

Hợp Đánh giá Công khai, Thứ 5, ngày 20 tháng 7, 2017
EIS cho Dự án Chuyển dòng Trầm tích Trung Barataria
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

BẠN LÀ NHÂN VIÊN CÔNG VỤ? CÓ KHÔNG Nếu có, vị trí: _____

Họ và Tên <u>Uyen Luong</u>	Bằng cách nào quý vị biết về cuộc họp đánh giá công khai này? <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo Báo chí <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo qua Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Khác (hãy nêu rõ) <u>ccc</u>
Địa chỉ Đường phố <u>35712 Highway 11, Metairie LA 70041</u>	
Địa chỉ Hộp thư (nếu khác với địa chỉ đường phố)	
Thành phố, Tiểu bang, Mã vùng <u>metairie, LA 70041</u>	
Địa chỉ Email <u>uyenluong01082@gmail.com</u>	
Cơ quan/Tổ chức	

Thông tin này sẽ được bổ sung vào danh sách mail dự án. Nếu bạn không muốn đưa vào danh sách mail, hãy đánh dấu vào hộp kiểm.

Ý KIẾN: (Hãy viết tiếp vào mặt sau nếu không đủ chỗ.)

Tôi không đồng ý khi nước biển ngọt xả nước ngọt ra biển làm cho tôm chết, cá chết, sò chết, làm cho gia đình tôi không có thu nhập, bởi vì chồng tôi làm tôm, tôi phải ở nhà giữ con không có việc làm, chồng tôi làm tôm không có thu nhập ảnh hưởng rất lớn tới gia đình tôi, ảnh hưởng tới việc chăm sóc con của tôi sau này, chi phí gia đình chi? dựa vào mình chồng tôi

Tôi muốn giúp đỡ trong tương lai giúp đỡ về tiền để chúng tôi mua tàu để đi đánh tôm ở ngoài khơi xa bờ biển, vì đánh tôm xa bờ biển tàu nhỏ rất là nguy hiểm cho người ngư phủ,

giảm thuế cho người phụ, giúp đỡ điều kiện về bảo hiểm y tế
giúp đỡ cho người dân học tiếng anh, kĩ nghệ được người phụ
khiến năm những người phụ phải chịu ảnh hưởng về mùa bão
mất đi thu nhập, nguy hiểm đến tính mạng, không tiền đóng
thuế cho nhà phủ, tất cả chi phí cho gia đình.

Thuy
uyen Luong

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118



Place postage here

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

From: ronluquette@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, July 28, 2017 7:56:03 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

STOP KILLING OUR SHORLINE.! There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Ron Luquette
11138 hwy 22
Ssint Amant, Louisiana, 70774

From: ddjphoto@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Dede Lusk](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 4, 2017 3:49:33 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Dede Lusk
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

From: deborahluster@aol.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 8:10:51 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Deborah Luster
736 Frenchmen Street
New Orleans, LA, 70116

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Lynne Lyons](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 4:09:51 PM

Aug 17, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

* Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.

* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Ms. Lynne Lyons
1100 Bourbon St
New Orleans, LA 70116-2710
710-0739
lyons0411@gmail.com

From: lsgm81@msn.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 1:39:24 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Linda M
550 e 12 th ave
Denver, Co, 80203

From: samantha.macarthur@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 1:20:30 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Samantha MacArthur
1727 Broadway
New Orleans, LA, 70118

From: sarahmack@tierraresourcesllc.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Tuesday, August 29, 2017 4:24:49 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As a coastal resident and owner of a business that works on carbon accounting for wetlands, I understand the severity of the coastal land loss issue in Louisiana and am a supporter of the state's 2017 Coastal Master Plan. I understand the ecological economic benefits of coastal restoration and I urge the Corps to do all that it can to expedite and assist implementation of projects supported by the Coastal Master Plan.

As a resident of Lafitte, I am also increasingly concerned about recurring flooding in our area, most recently in June of this year. I am worried about whether the Mid-Barataria project will increase the already-present risk of flooding of my community. I think there needs to be more study on this issue as part of your current public scoping process.

The winds change on a dime down here and flood Lafitte as it is. I think adding more water will increase tidal flooding, especially if our tidal levee is not yet completed or not designed to handle the added water from the Mid-Barataria diversion. I have not seen this issue addressed in any studies or public meetings to date, despite the grave importance to my community. I have a family on a limited income and simply cannot afford to have my property be subject to increased flood risk.

Therefore, my recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- Make sure the EIS evaluates the frequency and magnitude of flooding both with and without diversions.
- Please consider linking this project to other projects, like additional ridges or wetlands creation that could 'train' the water southward to prevent elevated water levels in communities.
- Most importantly, include actions to prevent flooding of the Lafitte/Barataria/Crownpoint communities.
- Conduct further study to assess potential flooding impacts in the Lafitte region.
- Specifically consider what the potential added risks of flooding would be vis a vis tidal flows and wind variability.
- Provide assurance that our tidal levee will be completed in time to address these added risks, and if not, how would the added risks be fully addressed?
- Even if the tidal is completed, please assess whether that levee would be adequate to address any increase in water flow from the diversion.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and changing local weather conditions.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.

I know I speak for many other citizens of Lafitte who share my concerns.

Thank you.

Sarah K. Mack, President

Tierra Resources, LLC
5120 Fleming Park Rd
Lafitte, LA 70067

From: mrrails@yahoo.ca
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 10:39:53 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
cave man
609 Main St
New York, NY, 100440022

From: carolinemang@hotmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 9:22:55 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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- The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Caroline Mang
2734 Prytania St
New Orleans, LA, 70130

From: [Fred Manhart](#)
To: [GMM's Mid-Barataria](#)
Subject: [Bion-Geo] Source: MWR-2012-2896-EOO
Date: Wednesday, July 26, 2017 10:19:29 AM

I attended the public scoping meeting regarding the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion project held in Belle Chasse, LA on July 25, 2017. According to information provided at the meeting, it appears that the project will be conducted on the site of what was once the St. Rosalie Plantation in Plaquemines Parish. A history of the development of the plantation can be found in Chapter II of Andrew Danford: A Black Sugar Planter in the Antebellum South by David O. Whittenfull. The book may be previewed at the following URL:
[Blockedhttps://books.google.com/books?id=u7GzhXeSecwC&pg=PA15&bp=PA15&dq=st+rosalie+plantation+plaquemines+parish+louisiana&source=ib&ots=m7LMMHkj&sig=jtLWNXXdMHNi7DlWZGI_oQIH4&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjXT_e3laVABVBoiQKJHtCvCnoQ6AEIVzA3Fv:page&q=st%20rosalie%20plantation%20plaquemines%20parish%20louisiana&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=u7GzhXeSecwC&pg=PA15&bp=PA15&dq=st+rosalie+plantation+plaquemines+parish+louisiana&source=ib&ots=m7LMMHkj&sig=jtLWNXXdMHNi7DlWZGI_oQIH4&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjXT_e3laVABVBoiQKJHtCvCnoQ6AEIVzA3Fv:page&q=st%20rosalie%20plantation%20plaquemines%20parish%20louisiana&f=false)

-Fred Manhart

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Ellen Manieri](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 3:04:31 PM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,

Ms. Ellen Manieri
122 Ranger Pl
Slidell, LA 70458-9039
(123) 456-7890
ellenmanieri@gmail.com

Aug. 10, 2017

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Chandacasy Mao	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) ccc Cocotal Communities Consulting
Street Address 145 Delta Aire Dr.	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code Buras, LA 70041	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

I have been fishing for over 30 years out of Plaquemines Parish and fishing is all I know. I do not have any other marketable job skills that could be transferred to another industry. I would be open to transitioning to another field outside of fishing if I were to be provided with job skills training. I have a small boat so I can only shrimp in inside state waters. Diversions will cause the brown shrimp to go further out, which my boat cannot go.



From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Sandra Marciante](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 12:55:18 PM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,

Ms. Sandra Marciante
1416 Drake Ln
Gretna, LA 70056-7783
(123) 456-7890
smarciante@icloud.com

From: smarone@aol.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Wednesday, August 23, 2017 4:52:05 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Susan Marone
7 Halford Dr
Heath, TX, 750327605

From: southwes504@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [H.Celeste Martin](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 3:44:19 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
H. Celeste Martin
Houma, LA 70360

From: emart54@lsu.edu
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 12:13:49 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
Elaine Martin
9690 Comite Drive
Baker, LA, 70714

From: maggiemarx@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [M Marx](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 11:42:32 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
M Marx
New Orleans, LA 70117

From: gordonspro@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Gordon Matherne](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 4, 2017 11:01:49 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Sincerely,
Gordon Matherne
Des Allemands, LA 70030

From: kevolykam@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Olympia Matherne](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Tuesday, August 29, 2017 2:56:26 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Sincerely,
Olympia Matherne
Metairie, LA 70003

From: mmaumus1@me.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, July 28, 2017 8:26:56 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
Marianne Maumus
5 New Basin Way
New Orleans, LA, 701242496

1 sure that this sediment diversion
2 will be doing what it was intended
3 to do, as well as minimizing any
4 potential impacts associated with
5 that.

6 So those are the four items I
7 wanted to comment on. And this is
8 on behalf of Restore the Mississippi
9 River Delta, a coalition of five
10 environmental organizations who are
11 working every day on this issue.

12 * * *

13 MAYOR TIM KERNER
14 1156 Jean Lafitte
 Lafitte, Louisiana 70067

15 MAYOR KERNER:

16 First of all, I'm really not
17 against the sediment diversion, but
18 the way it is, I can't be for it. I
19 can't be for it unless we actually
20 address the levee situation in
21 Lafitte-Barataria-Crown Point and
22 also the make sure that the
23 commercial fishermen, if there's any
24 negative impact, that they're
25 compensated.

1 Let me say that the Corps of
2 Engineers have permitted oil wells
3 over the years and they've dug
4 canals and there's been salt water
5 intrusion faster than ever. They
6 permitted the largest pump station
7 in the world right north of us, a
8 big wall, the levee system. We've
9 got the west bank right north of us,
10 Highway 90 right north of us, and
11 we've got real flooding. They told
12 us it wouldn't happen, but we are
13 flooding every time there is a
14 strong south wind.

15 So the sediment diversion,
16 everybody knows it will be good for
17 years to come, but we have to live
18 here now and we just can't take any
19 more negative impact, any more water
20 or negative impact to the fisheries.

21 So if you -- and I am already
22 working with CPRA to provide levees
23 to the area. I want CPRA to combine
24 the whole project and come in,
25 before we support it, and say,

1 "Look, we are going to provide
2 levees for that area and do the
3 sediment diversion, and the
4 fishermen are compensated; we have
5 some funds here on the side to get
6 them through a couple more years of
7 negative impact."

8 And then everybody could be for
9 it. Everybody really wants it. The
10 fishermen would like to see this
11 place for their grandkids, but at
12 the same time, they want to live
13 now. They don't want to flood even
14 more and they don't want to go out
15 of business where they can't make a
16 living with the seafood, so that's
17 my comment. Thank you.

18 * * *

19 TRACY KUHNS
20 4927 Deborah Ann Drive
21 Baratavia, Louisiana 70036

21 TRACY KUHNS:

22 My first comment is -- it's
23 going to be on this meeting. If
24 you're going to have a public
25 meeting in these communities down

August 23, 2017

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
285 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Henry McAnespy	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) Coastal Communities Consulting, Inc.
Street Address 150 W. Shirley	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code Port Sulphur, LA 70083	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

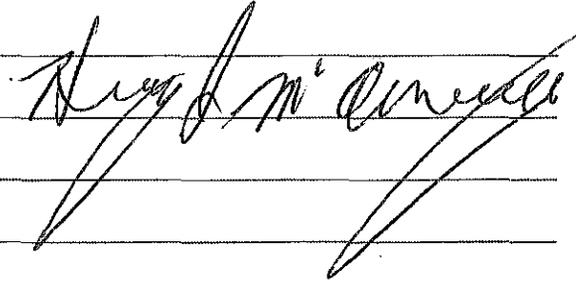
This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

When I started my career in shrimping 45 years ago, I did not anticipate the impact the freshwater diversion would have on my career. This is not what I sign up for 45 years ago. I invested my whole livelihood into my self-employment business without any assistance from the government. Why not do a little more research so there could be a definite answer instead of a maybe what is going to take place? I just can't live with a maybe. I need a definite answer. FACT I live off of my business, the value of all of my equipments will diminish, it will be worth nothing. My properties and boat will be of no value once all this happen. I have been giving tours to many organizations, from state to Washington Representatives to show them the impacts diversions have had on wetlands. I'm afraid that the diversion will diminish the brown shrimp, or make them go away. Three to four months of livelihood will be lost. I extended my business to oyster fishing. This is to supplement loss revenues from the shrimping industry and to increase my income. Now you are taking not only my shrimping income, you are also taking my oyster fishing income. I will be losing an additional 5 months income from oyster fishing. Now all my investments and equipments will be of no value. Where would I be able to turn? My biggest concern is in what ways can the government help the commercial fisherman to sustain their livelihood? How can I pay my health insurance? My mortgage? My children's college funds in the

Tape or staple here

future? etc..... Because I have no retirement. You guys are taking my retirement away. I have to work. I don't have traditional retirement options (I.E. 401K). I NEED TO WORK!!!



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118



Place postage here

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

August 23, 2017

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
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Comments should be submitted by
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First and Last Name Henry McAnespy	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) Coastal Communities Consulting, Inc.
Street Address 150 W. Shirley	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code Port Sulphur, LA 70083	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

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Tape or staple here

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Gregory M. Conwell

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118



Place postage here

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Bryan McCormick](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 11:07:14 AM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Thank you,

Mr. Bryan McCormick
422 6th St
Gretna, LA 70053-5428
(123) 456-7890
bryanrmccormick@gmail.com

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Jeff McCormick](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 12:41:22 PM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

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Thank you,

Mr. Jeff McCormick
6255 Carlson Dr
New Orleans, LA 70122-2801
(123) 456-7890
zinger104@cox.net

From: stevenmccready@roadrunner.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 5:39:34 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
tamara mccready
6278 Cynthia St
Simi Valley, CA, 930634330

From: emilymacmc@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, July 28, 2017 12:51:40 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

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Thank you,
Emily McDonald
1419 Brook Street
Scranton, PA, 18505

From: mcgloretta@aol.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 1:30:46 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

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Thank you,
Loretta Mcgee
36312 THE BLUFFS AVE
PRAIRIEVILLE, LA, 70769

From: dottymckinnon@mac.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 10:16:30 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

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Thank you,
Dotty McKinnon
8 Pats Pl
Metairie, LA, 70001-5662

From: carnelia@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Julia McLellan](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 5:02:31 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Sincerely,
Julia McLellan
New Orleans, LA 70118

From: mclinjw@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Jaesa McLin](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 11:44:17 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Jaesa McLin
Metairie, LA 70003

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Tom Mc Neely](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 11:37:10 AM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Thank you,

Dr. Tom Mc Neely
911 Thora Blvd
Shreveport, LA 71106-1521
(318) 865-3707
temcneely@aol.com

From: lanemeador5766@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Patricia Meador](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 4:55:29 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Sincerely,
Patricia Meador
Shreveport, LA 71105

August 30th, 2017

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Jessica Mech	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 123 W Bray Lane	
Mailing Address <small>(if different from street address)</small> P O Box 1213 Buras, LA	
City, State, Zip Code BURAS, LA 70041	
Email Address 	
Affiliation 	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

I have been a commercial fisherman for 27 years - as a dockhand. I oppose the diversion because I don't want the freshwater to come in. The freshwater will affect the shrimp, oysters, and crabs. If the diversion happens and keeps happening, then I need help from the government such as grants or whatever you can do for the fishermen. Everyday, us fishermen have been working hard, but there are less shrimp each day. So, I will need help from the government, if the diversion happens. Thank you.

Jessica Mech

I, Cristina Duang of Coastal Communities Consulting, Inc. (CCC) hereby certify that I have translated the above statement from Cambodian into English to the best of my abilities; I am fluent in both languages.

Cristina Duang
Cristina Duang, translator

From: wshkspr@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Tony Medlin](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Tuesday, August 29, 2017 11:55:32 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Sincerely,
Tony Medlin
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

From: meehancrew@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 1:57:48 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Thank you,
garrett meehan
214 e carriere st
washington, Louisiana, 70589

From: Amehro88@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Sunday, September 3, 2017 10:39:58 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
Ayan Mehrotra
7522 willow street
New Orleans, La, 70118

September 5, 2017

TO: US Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CMVN-OD-SE#MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118
Email: CEMVN-MidBarataria@usace.army.mil

FROM: Earl J. Melancon, Jr., Ph.D.

RE: Comments on the MID-BARATARIA SEDIMENT DIVERSION EIS

Below are some brief comments about the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion to consider during the development of the Environmental Impact Statement. I appreciate the opportunity. I am a coastal shellfisheries biologist that has worked and lived in coastal Louisiana for my entire life. I have 42 years of experience as a retired university professor and continue to work with academia, state and federal agencies, and private industry. However, the comments below are not part of any institution or group I am associated with and are exclusively mine.

During the public scoping meetings by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USCOE), three basic questions were addressed in the presentation. I used that format to address my comments below.

QUESTION #1: What are the most important issues, resources, and impacts that we should consider in the EIS?

It is important that we recognize that commercial fishers are business people, not just harvesters and sellers of a renewable state resource. They are an integral part of the "Human Environment" within the pending Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) being prepared for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion (MBSD). When I use the term fishery business, I am including the Charter Boat Industry and the ancillary business such as fuel docks, marinas, hardware stores, motels and grocery stores that rely on fishers and recreational groups for revenue. Like any sustainable business, there is a need for fishers to develop future strategy planning, which requires a degree of predictability based on past experiences. The problem is that coastal restoration activities have not routinely provided fishery businesses with definitive answers to reinforce their ability to rely on past experiences to plan their future actions and investments.

The one phrase I hear over and over from fishers is the need for the state to have consistency and transparency not only in planning a project, but how a project will be timely implemented, managed, and operated, especially if the project is a river diversion. It can be argued that revisiting and retooling the state's Master Plan every 5 years and having community and individual outreach involvement is a giant step in the right direction, but to date those efforts have not diminished the anxiety and uncertainty that I hear in the voices of the fisher men and women that I know.

Examples of diversion operation inconsistencies are given below that are impacting decisions on Barataria Basin fisheries and others in business planning:

- 2004 – Louisiana Coastal Authority (LCA) 2004 Main Report (LCA) had Myrtle Grove Diversion (near present-day Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion) with a potential flow between 2,500-15,000 cfs.
- 2007- In the Louisiana Coastal Master Plan 2007 (CMP 2007) the Myrtle Grove Diversion flow was assessed at a 5,000-15,000 cfs. *This project is now currently suspended under the LCA Program.*
- 2012 - The 2012 Louisiana Coastal Master Plan (CMP 2012) called for eight sediment diversions along the Mississippi River. Within the Barataria Basin, a lower Basin diversion at 50,000 cfs and a Mid-Barataria Diversion at 50,000 cfs. *Later, the lower Barataria Basin diversion was suspended from further study.*
- 2017 - In the 2017 Louisiana Coastal Master Plan (CMP 2017) the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion (MBSD) is stated as a “*Sediment diversion into Mid-Barataria near Myrtle Grove to build and maintain land, 75,000 cfs (modeled at 5,000 cfs for Mississippi River flows below 200,000 cfs; variable flows to capacity between 200,000 and 1,250,000 cfs calculated using a linear function; diverts exactly 75,000 cfs when flows are at 1,250,000 cfs).*”
- The Figure below is a PowerPoint slide of the CPRA July 12, 2017 public presentation to the Governor’s Advisory Commission on Coastal Protection, Restoration and Conservation (GAC). I am a member of this committee. Flow will be continuous at 5,000 cfs for as long as possible during an annual Mississippi River (MR) discharge cycle, and the trigger for variable flow will be 450,000 cfs of MR flow. In past CPRA scenarios that I am familiar with, the trigger for variable flow historically used was 600,000 cfs (for example, the MBSD progress report prepared by Meselhe and Pereira (1) on 04/25/2013 to CPRA). Additionally, a 5,000 cfs continuous flow may well render estuarine fisheries to unsustainable harvest levels, especially if flowing during warm water periods.

INITIAL OPERATIONS STRATEGY

- Water Discharge Trigger in Mississippi River
 - 450,000 cfs at Belle Chasse (start/stop)
 - 5,000 cfs base flow
- Adaptive Management Plan
 - State of Louisiana intends to manage at **or below** when possible with changing conditions
- Emergency Stops
 - water level
 - spills
 - navigation

CPRA | SEDIMENT DIVERSION PROGRAM 80

- Each succeeding iteration of maximum MBSD discharge and trigger flow from the MR appears to put estuarine fishers farther from being part of the decision-making process. Therefore, it is not surprising that many fishers and their respective organizations are in opposition to diversions, even when their communities are becoming increasingly vulnerable to storms and tidal surge with erosion of wetlands.

In report #7 developed by the Expert Panel on Diversion Planning and Implementation that was presented to the CPRA in October 2016, they state, *“defining the management framework to operate a diversion does not, in and of itself, constitute “adaptive management””. Generally defined, adaptive management is a process to use the best available knowledge to design and implement management plans, while establishing an institutional structure and process that enables learning from a data-driven discussion of diversion outcomes and related drivers to improve decision making. The Panel recommends that CPRA develop an adaptive management plan for diversions that specifies the objectives, lays out the key indicators, the monitoring data and model output needed to make decisions, and the process to adaptively manage diversions.”*

- Best Available knowledge - A piece of adaptive management must include fishers that possess Local Ecological Knowledge (LEC), often considered the same or a subset of the more popular term Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEC). Understanding the links between LEC, ecosystem services, and resilience for a fishery and its community must be at the core of Adaptive Management as much as land building and land maintenance. Information gained from how an estuarine resource is utilized by fishers through seasonal and annual fishery practices from a geographical perspective (when and where fish), etc., can be put into empirical data format and used in decision making processes.

QUESTION #2: Are there any other alternatives or modifications to the existing proposal that we should consider in the EIS?

Understanding how a coastal restoration project influences the timing and volume of freshwater introduction into an estuary becomes crucial for business planning, investments, and business sustainability. The key to sustainability for an estuary is SALINITY AT THE RIGHT TIME OF YEAR - a SEASONAL BALANCE between freshwater and Gulf ocean waters. What will that salinity balance be? What time of year will be sought to strive for balance using a diversion? How will a diversion be monitored to strive for the best fisheries sustainability as possible while still building land at a reasonable rate? Which species will be the least and the most impacted in terms of abundance for harvest and profitability?

The Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) convened a group of coastal scientists to address some of the questions posed in the previous paragraph. The result was a report and eventual refereed publication in the journal *Water*, *“Optimizing Sediment Diversion Operations: Working*

Group Recommendations for Integrating Complex Ecological and Social Landscape Interactions

(2). The resulting journal paper is not intended to be a definitive means to address sediment diversion operation, but rather to give opportunity and reason to think more inclusively beyond just land building.

Often cited by many for the comparison of the cost-effectiveness of land building by the utilization of sediment diversions versus dredging/pipeline delivery is the refereed journal paper developed by Dr. Rex Caffey and his colleagues, *Trajectory economics: Assessing the flow of ecosystem services from coastal restoration* (3). Is it possible to conduct alternative studies that focus on maximum land building from dredging/pipeline delivery utilizing the smallest diversion as possible? The present focus by the state is not the near-term (1-5 years) of how a diversion will economically impact the human factor, but rather the projected long-term (20+ years) benefits of using a massive input of freshwater to move and place sediment.

QUESTION #3: Are there other problems or opportunities we should be aware of?

Blue Crab – Mating crabs, from March-May, may need a certain salinity range to mate for viability of sperm. Modeling does use egg salinity needs within range of 23-32 ppt. Mating usually takes place in the estuary, and is there a need for a certain salinity presence in the basin during March-May? In Louisiana, the commercial harvest of blue crabs is prohibited for a 30-day period beginning the third Monday in February. Part of the reason for this closure period is to take pressure off the resource during the mating season. If the estuary is too fresh during this period, how will this impact the Basin fishery and future management of the resource?

Brown Shrimp – modeling already shows the importance of salinity and water temperature for growth and survival of juveniles while in the estuary from March-June. Of concern is the influence freshwater introduction may have on the immigration of post larvae into the estuaries which occurs in mass during incoming tides predominantly during January-April.

White Shrimp - the white shrimp has been shown to tolerate lower salinity than the brown shrimp, and as a fall/winter crop in the estuary may not be as significantly impacted if the diversion is flowing less due to lower MR stages. However, spawning occurs from April-June in coastal waters mostly nearshore but out to at least the 120ft depth contour on the continental shelf off Barataria. There is also a nearshore spring fishery for the species. How will white shrimp spawning grounds be influenced by freshwater introduced from the bay mixing with the freshwater on the continental shelf being discharged from southwest pass of the MR at the same time?

Oyster – The oyster has some spawning most of the year, but is primarily a bimodal spawner, from April-May and again from September-November. How will the introduction of freshwater in the late winter/spring influence spring gonadal development? If the spring gonadal development and spawn is lost due to excessive fresh water input to the bay, how may this influence the fall spawning cycle?

Alteration of Food Web - White and brown shrimp are part of the food base for a host of fish species including spotted seatrout, sea catfish, red drum, southern flounder, Atlantic croaker, black drum and sand seatrout. How will loss of either or both species in the bay influence trophic structure for predator species?

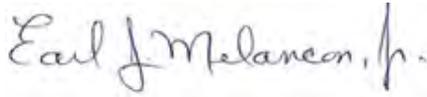
Continental Shelf waters – the bathymetry and geological shape of the Gulf shelf off the Barataria Basin is one of the most unique in the United States, if not the world. Its physical nature allows significant overlapping of species habitats (example, white and brown shrimp fishing grounds), develops a significant circular eddying current that brings Gulf and Mississippi River waters up into the estuary through its tidal passes, and has a well-known seasonal “dead zone” of hypoxic to anoxic habitat. There is a strong and urgent need to address these concerns in fisheries modeling.

Competition within a Fishery - If an estuarine fishery is displaced from Barataria, how will that natural resource in adjacent Louisiana estuaries be influenced by a potential increase in fishing pressure? Will state management of the fishery need modification?

A goal of restoration is to maintain Louisiana as a “working coast.” These two processes, continued coastal fisheries existence and land building, are not, and should not be, mutually exclusive. No one has witnessed more changes to our coast through the last century than through the “eyes of a fisher.” Fishers have been practicing “adaptive management” longer than when the term itself was first coined by scientist. Dialogue, and mutual respect and trust between all parties involved, is the only way we can ever expect a river diversion to be operated successfully. If all parties at the table are not willing to give-and-take as environmental and economic conditions warrant, I believe there is no practical way for a diversion to flow and still maintain a working coast that includes the sustainment of present-day estuarine fisheries. The fisheries of today and for the last 100-150 years is based on a coastal habitat much different than before Louisiana was purchased from Napoleon. Diversions will require new adaptive management strategies, and the state must supply the necessary timely information to allow business strategies to develop.

The information that I have shared above is certainly only a small snippet of the complexity about addressing the need to find a “balance” between land building and estuarine fisheries. I acknowledge and accept any criticisms concerning its brevity and lack of thoroughness. But as an 8th generation resident living and working within southeast coastal Louisiana, and with my investments in children (9th) and grandchildren (10th) also living and working here, I believe it is important to reflect on my concerns. For the record, none of my immediate past (two-generations back or more) or present family members work within or are associated with Louisiana fisheries.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Earl J. Melancon, Jr." The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Earl J. Melancon, Jr., Ph.D.
Coastal Fisheries Scientist
110 Juniper Street
Thibodaux, LA. 70301

References
(Not included)

- (1) Meselhe, Ehab, and Joao Pereira. 2013. Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Progress Report Belle Chasse and Diversion 50-year Sediment Budget. Produced for and Funded by: HDR and CPRA, 04/25/2013.
- (2) Peyronin et al., 2017. *Water* 2017, 9, 368; doi:10.3390/w9060368
- (3) Caffey et al., 2014. *Ecological Economics*, 100:74–84.

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Anita Merrigan](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 1:04:31 PM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,

Mrs. Anita Merrigan
70420 Riverside Dr
Covington, LA 70433-9000
(985) 327-5556
anitamerrigan@rocketmail.com

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Anita Merrigan](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 3:33:11 PM

Aug 17, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

* Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.

* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Anita Merrigan
70420 Riverside Dr
Covington, LA 70433-9000
(985) 327-5556
anitamerrigan@rocketmail.com

From: cimestayer@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 2:01:37 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Christopher Mestayer
4162 District Street
Zachary, LA, 70791

From: donna@stmarychamber.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Wednesday, August 23, 2017 8:49:13 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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- The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
St. Mary Chamber of commerce Meyer
P. O. Box 2606
Morgan City, LA, 70381

From: fe1949@aol.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, July 28, 2017 9:25:22 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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Thank you,
Effie Michalos
817 Sena Dr
Metairie, LA, 700052111

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Effie Michalos](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 11:34:46 AM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Thank you,

Ms. Effie Michalos
817 Sena Dr
Metairie, LA 70005-2111
(504) 833-1853
fe1949@aol.com

From: fe1949@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Effie Michalos](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 10:59:43 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Sincerely,
Effie Michalos
Metairie, LA 70005

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Ann Middleton](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Saturday, August 19, 2017 8:32:06 AM

Aug 19, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

* Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.

* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Ms. Ann Middleton
258 Cattail Trl
Benton, LA 71006-9719
(318) 614-4773
annmiddleton@bellsouth.net

From: annmiddleton@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Ann Middleton](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 11:38:04 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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Sincerely,
Ann Middleton
Benton, LA 71006

From: bobmidkiff77040@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, July 28, 2017 1:40:37 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
Robert Midkiff
6565 County Road 344
Navasota, TX, 77868

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Howard Mielke](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 12:07:04 PM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

Recognizing the impact that land loss has on my own community, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Thank you,

Dr. Howard Mielke
1430 Tulane Ave # S1-8683
New Orleans, LA 70112-2632
(123) 456-7890
hmielke@tulane.edu

From: catsdvm@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Karen Miller-Becnel](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Tuesday, August 29, 2017 8:49:33 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Sincerely,
Karen Miller-Becnel
Covington, LA 70435

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Alison Mills](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 5:36:14 PM

Aug 17, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

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I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Ms. Alison Mills
3515 Baudin St
New Orleans, LA 70119-7003
(203) 232-8798
mills.ali@gmail.com

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Susan Mills](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 4:58:09 PM

Aug 17, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the
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* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30
years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this
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I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and
request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Susan Mills
1139 Camino Delora
Santa Fe, NM 87505-5943
(203) 232-9252
bobsuemills@gmail.com

From: beckyminton@msn.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 8:25:07 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Rebecca Minton
816 N Atlanta St
Metairie, LA, 70003-6912

From: ismire@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Linda Miremont](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 2:25:21 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Sincerely,
Linda Miremont
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Michael Mislove](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 11:07:51 AM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Thank you,

Mr. Michael Mislove
46 Deloaks Dr
Madisonville, LA 70447-9788
(123) 456-7890
mikemis@bellsouth.net



6421 Beatline Road, Long Beach, MS 39560 | www.MSCFU.org | MSCFUwebs@gmail.com | 228.341.7719

SENT BY ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

September 5, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-EOO
7400 Leake Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70118

E-mailed to: CEMVN-Midbarataria@usace.army.mil

RE: Solicitation for Public Comments on the Mid Barataria Bay Sediment Diversion Project

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

Please accept this letter on behalf of the Mississippi Commercial Fisheries United, Inc. (“MSCFU”) in regards to the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority’s (“CPRA”) application to permit activities in relation to the Mid Barataria Bay Sediment Diversion Project (“MBSD”). MSCFU is a non-profit 501(c) 6 business alliance of commercial fishermen, seafood businesses, and consumers of the natural resources our members provide. A large number of MSCFU members are active participants in a variety of commercial fishing activities in Mississippi and Louisiana territorial waters as well as the federally managed waters of the Gulf of Mexico. As a result, our constituents are vitally dependent on healthy marine ecosystems; especially, those estuarine systems of the Mid Barataria Basin that are proposed to be impacted by the aforementioned sediment diversion project. The Mid Barataria Bay is essential fish habitat for a wide variety of culturally and economically significant recreational and commercial marine resources that are vital to the heritage and sustainability of coastal communities. The proposed project and subsequent impact area has a high potential to cause severe economic injury to fishing dependent communities that both fish directly in the vicinity of the impacted area and those that depended on the Barataria Bay as estuary for healthy juvenile aquatic resources that can grow and move further offshore for further recreational and commercial exploitation.

The entire Gulf Coast seafood industry has experienced devastating setbacks over the past decade from natural and man-made disasters such as hurricanes, the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, Harmful Algae Blooms, freshwater and sediment diversions, excessive rainfall, and under reported prolonged hypoxic events that have diminished, displaced, and now threatens the very livelihood of multi-generational fishing families across the Gulf Coast. The proud heritage of the seafood industry is at stake more now, than it ever has been. The average age of the U.S. commercial fisherman is getting older every year as there are less and less young fishermen coming into the industry at an early age. Without incoming commercial fishermen to replace our aging veteran fishermen; the public at large stands to lose significant access to the bountiful natural resources of the Gulf Coast waters and along with it the invaluable traditional ecological knowledge that has been passed down from generation to generation. Therefore; MSCFU, hereby respectfully presents the following concerns and recommendations on the

proposed project in hopes that the ultimate decision makers will duly consider the economic, cultural, and overall importance that the proposed projects impact area has on the entire Gulf Coast seafood industry.

CONCERNS:

Our members express sincere concerns over the health and reproductive capacity of Louisiana's marsh estuary systems that are extremely important to commercial fisheries should the proposed MBSD project become fully implemented. Estuarine systems throughout the marsh serve as critical habitat for a variety of natural resources such as shrimp, oysters, crabs, and fish. Commercial fishermen, seafood business and seafood consumers are greatly dependent on these resources being healthy, abundant, and consistently available. The proposed MBSD project impact area is a primary estuary for these economically important resources. It should be noted that the year 2017 produced the largest dead zone at the mouth of the Mississippi River in recorded history according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). There are grave concerns that sediment and water diversion into upper estuaries will cause similar hypoxic dead zones in areas that are highly important to a variety of juvenile species. Essentially, the primary concern is that the MBSD project and similar projects will cause irreparable harm to the seafood industry by destroying essential fish habitat in the impacted zones. The project's intended outcomes are perceived as long-term (decades) and will greatly reduce the biodiversity and abundance of vitally important marine resources in the short-term. This project will likely contribute to a significant loss in revenue for oyster harvesters, shrimpers, and crabbers in the areas impacted and also in surrounding areas as well.

Example: In 2011, the Army Corps of Engineers opened up the Bonnet Carré Spillway in Louisiana for several weeks. The impact to the commercial fisheries in Mississippi as a result of this spillway opening was devastating. Oysters, crabs, and shrimp harvest plummeted in the western Mississippi Sound during the months following this event. The impact was so detrimental that the oyster and crab fishery in Mississippi was declared a disaster and the U.S. Congress dedicated nearly \$10.9 million in funding to restore and conserve natural resource habitats that were directly impacted. Mississippi's oyster reefs continue to struggle to recover from this event and similar diversions to this day. The commercial fishing interest from Mississippi have seen firsthand the impacts these diversions can have and therefore express strong concerns over any future projects that aim to divert water and/ or sediment from the Mississippi River.

The proposed MBSD project will have multiple impacts to fisheries that commercial harvesters are dependent upon and that have not been fully evaluated or have been grossly underestimated thus far. These impacts include (A) continual sediment displacement that will smother essential oyster and shrimp habitat; (B) severe changes in water temperature that will directly affect the normal growth of a variety of juvenile marine species; (C) substantial increases in the frequency and duration of hypoxic events that will contribute to an increase in mortality of aquatic resources; and (D) the displacement of a variety of commercially important marine resources along with the fishermen whom harvest them. Overall, this project will have a devastating impact to both the culturally important marine resources and the fishing communities whom depend upon them. There are also legitimate concerns over the general feasibility of the proposed project and questions regarding if the proposed project's ecosystem services can actually be achieved in a reasonable time frame with minimal impact to fishing dependent communities that have a long history of operating in the impacted area.

- (A) The impact to sediments in essential fish habitat from the proposed MBSD project will have substantial impacts in the short-term. Species such as oysters will be completely silted over on-bottom and will experience 100 % mortality in areas directly impacted. Species such as shrimp which require years of undisturbed bottom habitat to be able bury in the sediments to evade depredation and to spawn.

- (B) Severe changes in water temperature from the constant throttling of a cold Mississippi River discharge outflow at the maximum rate of up to 75,000 cfs will drastically alter the dynamics of essential fish habitat that is critically dependant on stable warm temperatures to optimally grow a plethora of marine species that are economically and culturally important.
- (C) It is expected that a substantial increase in the frequency and duration of hypoxic events would be observed immediately following sediment discharges should this project be implemented. Similar conditions in water, sediments, and other pollutants have greatly contributed to an ever expanding dead zone. Legitimate concerns have been raised that if this diversion project is implemented that it would be expected to cause similar dead zone within vital estuarine habitat before a majority of the species could grow large enough to escape hypoxic zones in the areas directly impacted.
- (D) Not only will a host of marine resources be critically displaced by this project; so will the hard working commercial fishermen and women as well as businesses whom greatly rely on healthy marine ecosystems. These seafood industry workers will bear the brunt of the proposed MBSD project and will pay severely with the loss of their livelihoods. Due to the increased distance that fishing dependent communities will have to travel to operate; expected diminished catch rates; and the inability to transition into other fisheries; these factors will culminate in to a large number of fishing dependent enterprises to be essentially forced out of business.

Additional concerns include the fact that these types of sediment diversion are relatively new and untested. There is no guarantee that the proposed MBSD project will create any land at all or within any given time frame. There is also a strong argument that these types of projects will make wetlands more susceptible to erosion; especially, in the event of a hurricane. Moreover, concerns exist about the suitability for sediments from the Mississippi River to be inserted into the Mid-Barataria estuary. These concerns include the possibility for sediments to contain elevated levels of Poly-Aromatic Hydrocarbons and other chemical pollutants that have a high probability for being present in elevated levels due to the amount of shipping and industrial activities operating in the vicinity.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Mississippi Commercial Fisheries United, Inc. hereby recommends that the United States Army Corps of Engineers (“USACE”) deny the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority’s request for a permit in reference to any and all components of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion project. The USACE must fully analyze and consider the direct and lasting socio-economic impacts this proposed project would have on the seafood industry while considering the draft environmental impact statement for this project.

A thorough assessment of the marine resources that would likely to be impacted by this project should be prudently conducted during the draft EIS phase by utilizing commercial fishermen whom currently and historically operate in the areas likely to be impacted. These assessments will help to collect baseline data should the project be ultimately implemented so that researchers can accurately quantify changes in biomass and mortality for the areas within the Mid- Barataria Basin. A comprehensive economic analysis of the seafood industry and the impacts the proposed project will have should include not only the direct impacts of areas in the outfall vicinity but also surrounding areas that would normally benefit from vibrant marine resources as they migrate throughout the Gulf Coast region. Such an analysis should factor in both recreational and commercial transient fishing vessels that operate in the region regularly even though they may reside or operate in another state for a significant portion of any given year.

Please duly consider the concerns and recommendations put forth by the Mississippi Commercial Fisheries United, Inc. in regards to the proposed Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion project being pursued by the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority. This project will have a devastating impact on fishermen all across the Gulf Coast. Please consider alternative methods to this sediment diversion project and similar projects. Please save the most endangered species; the commercial fishermen!

Yours Truly,

Ryan Bradley- Director

/ s / Ryan Bradley

Mississippi Commercial Fisheries United, Inc.

From: lawandafsmith@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Lawanda Smith Mobley](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 12:41:46 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Lawanda Smith Mobley
Colfax, LA 71417

August 28th, 2017

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Lovy Mok	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) Coastal Communities Consulting, Inc. (CCC)
Street Address 209 Delta Aire Drive	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i> P.O. Box 294, Venice, LA 70091	
City, State, Zip Code Buras, LA 70041	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

I have been a commercial fisherman on and off since 2004, harvesting finfish and shrimp. I do not want
diversion to happen because shrimp will be lost. It would be great if diversion doesn't happen. However, if
diversion happens, I would need financial assistance from the government. I do not have anything else to
depends on besides what I do everyday, which is shrimping. Therefore, I would need help with financial
assistance from the government if I cannot go to work.

Lovy Mok

I, Cristina Duong, at Coastal Communities Consulting, Inc. (CCC) hereby certify that I have translated the above
statement from Cambodian into English to the best of my abilities; and I am fluent in both languages.

Cristina Duong
Cristina Duong, Translator

From: sharimoncla@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Shari Moncla](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 10:17:05 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As a Louisiana resident, and someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste! Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Shari Moncla
Bethany, LA 71007

From: snathanm@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 2:30:13 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- It is also imperative that a re-forestation of the cypress swamp occur to bolster the diversion projects.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Nathan Montgomery
3809 Courtland Dr
Metairie, LA, 700024407

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Amanda Moore	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
Street Address 2026 7 th Ave. N.	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code St. Pete FL 33713	
Email Address mandymoores8@gmail.com	
Affiliation Coastal Stakeholder	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

(MBSD)
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion is a critical project for the future of the Mississippi River Delta. The delta is losing land at an extraordinary rate, putting communities and the economy at risk. One of the most powerful tools we have to address this issue is sediment diversions - without them, the future of the delta is grim - for communities, wildlife, and the economy that relies on the coastal ecosystem.

In this EIS, I urge you to address what the Barataria Basin will look like without MBSD and what will happen to existing marsh creation projects, levees, and other Master Plan projects without the

MBSO. Sediment Diversions should work in tandem with marsh creation projects to increase their effectiveness over time. Likewise, the preferred alternative should allow for flexibility over time to adapt to changing ecosystem conditions.

Thank you.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118



Place postage here

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118**

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Evelyn Moore](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 5:55:49 PM

Aug 17, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations
and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30
years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this
Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

* Please regularly share information with the public and other
stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of
the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin
should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which
could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife
and culture.

* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion
should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations
over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we
learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and
request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Ms. Evelyn Moore
7580 Copperleaf Dr
Lake Charles, LA 70607-7898
(337) 477-8714
gmoore500@suddenlink.net

From: mandymoore81@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Wednesday, July 26, 2017 8:47:09 PM

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act boldly – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
mandy moore
2226 7th ave n
St. Petersburg, Florida, 33713

From: john@morello.net
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 11:17:09 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
John Morello
19419 N Trent Jones Dr.
Baton Rouge, LA, 70810

From: jane.morgan.thompson@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 3:16:11 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Jane Morgan
2828 Burgundy St
New Orleans, LA, 70117

From: jefferymorgan@aol.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 8:54:57 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Jeffery Morgan
840 ST PHILIP ST
NEW ORLEANS, LA, 70116

From: jdmorris1120@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [John Morris](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Tuesday, August 29, 2017 9:04:53 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
John Morris
Slidell, LA 70461

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Ben Moss](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 3:03:18 PM

Aug 17, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

* Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.

* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Mr. Ben Moss
7800 Youree Dr Apt 253
Shreveport, LA 71105-5806
(318) 834-3345
jbenmoss@gmail.com

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Amanda Munson](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 4:29:46 PM

Aug 17, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

* Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.

* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Ms. Amanda Munson
288 W Oakland St
Saint Rose, LA 70087-3234
(225) 287-3226
aleighm13@yahoo.com

From: smurphy@canalbarge.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Tuesday, September 5, 2017 6:19:59 PM

To the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,

I am submitting comments on behalf of Canal Barge Company, Inc., a family owned marine transportation company headquartered in New Orleans, LA. The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and further reiterates the importance of implementing a science-based plan of action to protect our coastal resources and economic assets.

Louisiana's Master Plan is based on the best available science, and we urge the Corps to credit the massive amount of study that led to the inclusion of this project into the 2017 Master Plan. Further, the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS. We cannot afford multi-year delays in the overall permitting process for important Master Plan projects.

We urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017. Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Thank you,
Spencer Murphy
Canal Barge Company, Inc.
835 Union St
New Orleans, LA, 70112

From: todd@jeffersonchamber.org
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Wednesday, August 23, 2017 11:14:30 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

Jefferson Parish is home to some of the most picturesque and important landscape of our state's coastal property. The loss of Louisiana's rich coastal wetlands is severe and urgent and will only worsen unless we act. We need swift and effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration. It reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Todd Murphy
Jefferson Chamber of Commerce
3421 N. Causeway Blvd, Suite 203
Metairie, Louisiana, 70002

1 marsh will rebuild itself. Thank
2 you.

3 * * *

4 DAVID MUTH
5 2765 Orchid Street
6 New Orleans, Louisiana 70119

7 DAVID MUTH:

8 Yes, hi. Thank you very much.
9 My name is David Muth. I'm a
10 lifelong resident of coastal
11 Louisiana and I'm here to urge the
12 Corps of Engineers and the other
13 federal agencies, as they analyze
14 this proposed diversion, to look at
15 it in the light of the future and
16 what the future will be without it.
17 Not to simply look at what is
18 proposed today, but what will be the
19 effect if we don't build the
20 diversion over the coming decades.

21 I urge them to use all of the
22 information and knowledge that has
23 been acquired up to this point, not
24 reinvent the wheel, and to move as
25 swiftly as possible toward a draft
EIS and toward a decision on this

1 project.

2 And, finally, I urge them to
3 remember that we are in a highly
4 dynamic natural system that has been
5 interrupted by human changes to the
6 environment and that our best hope
7 for being able to remain here is to
8 let the natural system work again.
9 Thank you.

10 * * *

11 STEVE COCHRAN
12 3801 Canal Street
13 New Orleans, Louisiana 70119

14 STEVE COCHRAN:

15 I'd like to make four points.
16 The first is that trying to make
17 sure that the scoping assessment
18 really does look at the future of
19 the Mid-Barataria without the
20 sediment structure. What is the
21 future going to look like without us
22 taking action? That's a critical
23 piece of doing this.

24 Second, as important as it is
25 to get these decisions right, it's
also important, given the nature of

From: marygubala@bellsouth.net
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Sunday, August 13, 2017 11:50:16 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Mary Mysing-Gubala
319 S. Genois St.
New Orleans, La., 70119

From: pmouton1955@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Pamela Nakashima](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 4, 2017 9:24:43 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Pamela Nakashima
Denham Springs, LA 70726

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Andrea Nasca](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 11:28:25 PM

Aug 17, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

* Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.

* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Ms. Andrea Nasca
24 Canberra Ct
Metairie, LA 70003-5604
(413) 204-3556
andreamnasca@gmail.com



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southeast Regional Office

263 13th Avenue South

St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505

<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>

F/SER1:SG

Colonel Michael N. Clancy
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-EOO,
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70118

SEP 05 2017

Dear Colonel Clancy:

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has reviewed the Special Public Notice (SPN) pertaining to permit application number **MVN-2012-2806-EOO**. This SPN described the public scoping process pertaining to an application by the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) to construct and operate the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion (MBSD) project. The SPN also announces the intent of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New Orleans District (CEMVN), to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to evaluate the issues and impacts associated with the construction and operation of the MBSD. NOAA's NMFS is a Cooperating Agency on the development of the EIS for the MBSD project, and is diligently working with the USACE and other federal, state, and local agencies, as well as stakeholders to identify, assess and resolve environmental issues. NOAA is cooperating in the MBSD EIS both as a natural resource trustee for the DWH natural resource damage assessment (NRDA) settlement and in our regulatory capacity under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act.

NOAA and the *Deepwater Horizon* Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group (Louisiana TIG) are preparing a strategic restoration plan ("Phase 1") under the Oil Pollution Act (OPA, 33 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.) and Natural Resources Damage Assessment (NRDA) implementing regulations (15 CFR 990 et seq.) for Barataria Basin and are evaluating whether the MBSD is appropriate for restoring injuries from the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill. If the MBSD project is identified as a potential restoration project, NOAA and the Louisiana TIG have determined that the USACE-led EIS could serve as an EIS for a Louisiana TIG Barataria Basin Phase 2 restoration plan. This plan will consider the long-term restoration benefits as well as environmental consequences of the proposed action. Thus, NOAA is supportive of continuing collaboration and cooperation in the development of this EIS such that it can support Trustee decision making under NRDA.

By letter dated November 25, 2013 (attachment 1), NMFS provided scoping level comments to the CEMVN on the MBSD project. Since that time, much information has been generated on the proposed diversion through the Louisiana Coastal Area, Mississippi River Hydrodynamic and Delta Management (MRHDM) Feasibility Study funded by the Water Resources Development Act of 2007. The MRHDM study was never completed and did not result in a USACE Tentatively Selected Plan for federal funding. During the MRHDM study, the CEMVN undertook some of the analyses recommended by NMFS in our 2013 scoping letter, while other recommended evaluations were either not started or were incomplete when the study was halted in the summer of 2016. Importantly, the completed MRHDM studies were all based on diversion operational plans not currently proposed for this permit application. Therefore, since the submittal of the NMFS scoping letter in 2013,



additional data and modeling needs have been identified for consideration in the proposed MBSD EIS based on the most recent project and operations plans. The following comments identify data and resources NMFS believes should be evaluated further and incorporated for discussion in the draft EIS.

NMFS looks forward to collaboratively working with CEMVN, CPRA, and other partners on the continued development of the EIS. Once you have had an opportunity to review our comments, we recommend having an in-person meeting to further discuss our recommendations and how they can be best addressed in the EIS.

Threatened and Endangered Species

As currently proposed, this project will affect areas of Barataria Bay in Louisiana. It is expected these effects will change water depths, quality, and chemistry and cause alterations in species composition and distribution. Based on shrimp fishery observer efforts and various tracking studies, the northern Gulf of Mexico and mid-Barataria Bay are important areas for sea turtles, especially juvenile Kemp's ridley sea turtles.¹ This area is also important habitat for green and loggerhead sea turtles. The primary effects expected to sea turtles will be due to habitat impacts. These impacts are likely to include changes in water quality and chemistry, sedimentation impacts, as well as habitat loss. These habitat impacts are also expected to cause the loss and redistribution of prey species.

In order to properly assess the potential effects to protected species and the habitat they rely on, a priority list of data and research needs on the Science of Diversions (attachment 2) was developed by NMFS Habitat Conservation and Protected Species specialists. Fulfilling these data and research needs will help us to assess the extent of potential impacts to protected species and habitats. The EIS should fully analyze the potential impacts to habitat and the effects to prey distribution. Studies and modeling should also be conducted to determine the potential loss and creation (or redistribution) of habitat due to sedimentation and the distances project potential impacts could extend. The EIS should also analyze any potential impacts (direct, indirect, and cumulative) to sea turtles from construction activities and operation of the proposed project.

Marine Mammals

Common bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) are distributed throughout the bays, sounds, and estuaries of the Gulf of Mexico. The bottlenose dolphins that inhabit Barataria Bay belong to the Barataria Bay Estuarine System (BBES) stock; the stock's range includes Caminada Bay, Barataria Bay, Bastian Bay and Bay Coquette.² BBES stock dolphins have small home ranges in this estuarine system and exhibit year-round, multi-year site fidelity. This stock was heavily impacted by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill resulting in sustained compromised reproductive, survival, and health conditions.^{3,4} Scientific research currently being conducted on the BBES stock by NMFS and

¹ Coleman, A.T., J.L. Pitchford, H. Bailey and M. Solangi. 2017. Seasonal movements of immature Kemp's ridley sea turtles (*Lepidochelys kempii*) in the northern Gulf of Mexico. *Aquatic Conserv. Mar. Freshw. Ecosyst.* 27: 253-267.

² Waring GT, Josephson E, Maze-Foley K, Rosel P.E. 2016. U.S. Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico marine mammal stock assessments – 2015. NOAA Tech Memo NMFS-NE-238. NOAA, NEFSC, Woods Hole, MA.

³ Schwacke, LH, Thomas, L, Wells, RS, McFee, WE, Hohn, AA, Mullin, KD, Zolman, ES, Quigley, BM, Rowles, TK, and JH Schwacke. 2017. Quantifying injury to common bottlenose dolphins from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill using an age-, sex- and class-structured population model. *Endang Species Res* 33: 265–279.

partners are providing data on, among other things, fine-scale movements, habitat use, and health conditions. Additional research focusing on fine-scale movement, dolphin identification, and physiological and biological responses to freshwater exposure would also inform the EIS and future adaptive management and monitoring.

The impacts of the construction and operation of the MBSD on bottlenose dolphins would likely result in “take” of marine mammals potentially ranging from behavioral harassment and injury to mortality. The MMPA prohibits the taking of marine mammals with certain exceptions. The MBSD is expected to substantially decrease salinity, both spatially and temporally, within dolphin habitat. Exposure to freshwater can have direct (*e.g.*, health impacts) and indirect (*e.g.*, prey availability, habitat suitability) impacts on bottlenose dolphins. The EIS should evaluate the short-term and long-term potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the project on the BBES stock. As a Cooperating Agency, NMFS will continue to provide technical support and guidance in support of the EIS.

Essential Fish Habitat

Wetlands in the project area consist of intermediate, brackish, and saline marsh vegetated by species consistent with those marsh types. Interspersed among those wetlands are a wide variety of water bottoms, both vegetated and unvegetated, which provide habitat for a number of federally managed fishery species. These wetlands and open water areas in various portions of the Barataria Basin potentially impacted by diversion operations are categorized as essential fish habitat (EFH) under provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act, P.L. 109-479). Federally managed fishery species having EFH in the project area include white shrimp, brown shrimp, red drum, dog snapper, lane snapper, gray snapper, bonnethead shark, Atlantic sharpnose shark, and blacknose shark.

Considering the unprecedented scale and scope of the MBSD project, the NMFS recommends the CEMVN request EFH consultation under the expanded consultation procedures found at 50 CFR 600.920(i). Although the NMFS has an EFH Findings agreement with the CEMVN Regulatory Division, which indicates fulfillment of EFH consultation under provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act would be undertaken through the provision of comments and Conservation Recommendations on Joint Public Notices (JPN) issued for various projects, in the case of the MBSD project, such a process is not feasible, as much of the information necessary to complete an EFH assessment is not available at the time of the issuance of the JPN, or in this case, the SPN. Expanded consultation is appropriate for the proposed MBSD project because it allows NMFS and CEMVN the maximum opportunity to work together and review the impacts on EFH and develop EFH Conservation Recommendations. Timing of the consultation can occur similar to the Findings document NMFS has with CEMVN Planning Division, which indicates fulfillment of EFH consultation responsibilities would be undertaken through our review of NEPA documents prepared for various civil works projects. Additionally, that Findings document describes procedures for the completion of an EFH assessment, which should be included in the draft EIS. Under those procedures, the EFH assessment must contain (1) a description of the proposed action, (2) an analysis of individual and cumulative effects on EFH and federally managed fisheries (including major prey species), and (3) the

⁴ Kellar, KM Speakman, TR, Smith, CR., Lane, SM, Balmer, BC, Trego, ML, Catelani, KN, Robbins, MN, Allen, CD, Wells, RS, Zolman, ES, Rowles, TK, and LH Schwacke. 2017. Low reproductive success rates of common bottlenose dolphins *Tursiops truncatus* in the northern Gulf of Mexico following the Deepwater Horizon disaster (2010–2015). *Endang Species Res* 33: 143–158.

CEMVN's views regarding effects. It should be noted the Magnuson-Stevens Act requires the federal action agency to consider mitigation to offset adverse impacts to EFH. Therefore, the CEMVN should also evaluate alternatives to mitigate potential adverse impacts to EFH for any federally managed fishery species, and include these alternative analyses in the EFH assessment and draft EIS.

Vegetated wetlands are a productive category of EFH for several federally managed fishery species. The NMFS understands much of the wetlands in the Barataria Basin were created from sediment deposited during previous centuries from overflows of the Mississippi River through natural crevasses. However, it is understood that current annual sediment loads in the Mississippi River are less than a third of those over the period of time the wetlands were created.

Accurate assessments of the likely acreage and location of wetlands in the Barataria Basin, both with and without the MBSD project, are necessary to allow an understanding of the trade-offs associated with diversion operations. The draft EIS should discuss all assessment methods used to assess project benefits and impacts, quantify various habitat types in the project area during various target years, and identify areas of uncertainty.

The draft EIS should also evaluate potential benefits and adverse impacts to wetland area, health and productivity. There is quite a bit of scientific uncertainty regarding the potential wetland responses to large-scale river diversions. Some research findings⁵ suggest nutrient loads in diverted waters, combined with low salinity, could reduce soil shear strength and make affected marsh habitats more susceptible to wind and hydrologic forces associated with the passage of storm fronts. There are also reports documenting significant amounts of marsh erosion associated with natural diversions of the Mississippi River. This literature suggests it may take significant numbers of years for wetlands near the outfall locations to recover from such impacts. These vegetated habitats are productive categories of EFH for a number of federally managed fishery species. Therefore, the draft EIS should evaluate the science related to plant responses to river diversions and erosional forces, in light of expected relative sea level rise, in order to conduct an analysis of likely short and long term impacts to existing marsh coverage in areas to be affected by the MBSD.

Marine Fishery Production

Wetlands and water bottoms in the area potentially impacted by MBSD operations serve as nursery and foraging habitats for a variety of marine fishery species. In addition to the federally managed fishery species identified above, the project area provides habitat supportive of American oyster, blue crab, gulf menhaden, striped mullet, Atlantic croaker, spotted and sand seatrout, and southern flounder. Additionally, the project area provides habitat for a large number of forage species, which support the aquatic food web for a wide variety of fishery species.

⁵ Teal, J.M., R. Best, J. Caffrey, C.S. Hopkinson, K.L. McKee, J.T. Morris, S. Newman and B. Orem. 2012. Mississippi River Freshwater Diversions in Southern Louisiana: Effects on Wetland Vegetation, Soils, and Elevation. Edited by A.J. Lewitus, M. Croom, T. Davison, D.M. Kidwell, B.A. Kleiss, J.W. Pahl, and C.M. Swarzenski. Final Report to the State of Louisiana and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers through the Louisiana Coastal Area Science & Technology Program; coordinated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. 49 pp. http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat_conservation/hcd_headlines/homenews_fwdiversions.html

As a part of the MRHDM study, assessments to fishery production on many of the species identified above were undertaken using Comprehensive Aquatic System Model and Ecopath with Ecosim and Ecospace models. This multi-model approach was implemented in attempt to better refine and bound the inherent uncertainty from modeling complex ecosystem responses, given the known science and insufficient data inputs. While the NMFS appreciates the efforts taken to date by both the applicant and CEMVN to assess diversion impacts as part of the MRHDM study, the completed assessments do not yet consider the operational plans that are currently being proposed and additional modeling is needed for incorporation into the draft EIS. The EIS should include a similar multi-ecological modeling approach to evaluate the applicant's proposed operational plan alternatives that are part of the applicant's current proposal; analyzing all of the reasonable alternatives in this EIS.

After the modeling for the previous MRHDM study was completed, a peer review by NMFS and others recommended improvements to the models, data inputs, and data analyses to reduce the uncertainty of the results. The NMFS recommends the fishery assessment models and analyses be refined and updated as described in attachment 2. Once the models are updated, fisheries production results based on an operational plan(s) proposed by CPRA for the MRBD project should be incorporated into the draft EIS. Updated models and model outputs are necessary to assess the short- and long-term impacts to production of various economically important fishery species from the proposed operation of the MBSD project.

An important component of an EFH assessment is the evaluation of alternatives, which would avoid or reduce adverse impacts to various federally managed fishery species. Updated modeling could allow for an evaluation of alternative operations scenarios. Additionally, updated models would be helpful in the development and implementation of an adaptive management plan for this project.

Socioeconomic Impacts

Diversion operations have the potential to affect commercial fisheries in the project area such as oysters, brown shrimp, white shrimp, and gulf menhaden. It is likely diversion operations also will affect the recreational fishing industry by displacing less freshwater tolerant species Gulfward. Both commercial and recreational fishing industries are a large portion of the economy of south Louisiana. Such changes in production and location of preferred habitat could have both beneficial and adverse impacts, depending on the species targeted and user group. A thorough socioeconomic evaluation should be undertaken, based on fishery model outputs, and established socioeconomic valuation methodologies. This information should be based on both short term and long term fishery model outputs both with and without project implementation.

NMFS recommends the draft EIS include detailed descriptions of the affected economic and social/cultural environments (i.e., baseline conditions). We also recommend including an analysis of the expected direct and indirect economic and social effects (i.e., costs and benefits) in the short-term and the long-term on individuals/households, businesses, and communities caused by continuing land loss and saltwater intrusion in the proposed MBSD project area. When the necessary data and models are available, the analysis should include quantitative estimates of the expected economic and social/cultural effects on the commercial, recreational and subsistence fishing sectors and related downstream businesses (e.g., seafood processors and retailers) and upstream businesses (e.g., marinas and fishing gear suppliers). We recommend an analysis of the expected economic impacts (i.e., expected changes in employment, income, output, etc.) on affected communities, states, and regions, also be provided. When the data necessary to generate quantitative estimates are not

available, the analysis should at least provide a qualitative assessment of the expected effects and impacts.

Consistent with E.O. 12898, economic and social/cultural effects on particularly vulnerable populations (i.e., tribal groups, minorities, and low income populations) should be assessed. A description of the labor markets in the affected communities within the proposed MBSD project area will allow better understanding of the employment choices that people in these vulnerable populations have as many of these communities are likely to be rural and thus isolated. The expected effects will likely extend beyond the fishing and related industries to the oil and gas and tourism industries as jobs in these industries are thought to be the most common employment alternatives in the affected communities.

The previous MRHDM study did not contain a socio-economic component. An ecological model that includes these types of components will provide a better understanding of the tradeoffs associated with different scenarios that will occur with the MBSD. Including the socioeconomic components of such an ecological model should provide the public with a better understanding of different socioeconomic outcomes of the MBSD.

Monitoring and Adaptive Management

Given the scale and scope of the proposed MBSD project and the myriad of potential impacts to marsh health, living marine resources, and user groups in the project area, NMFS would like to work collaboratively to develop a monitoring and adaptive management plan (MAMP) in consultation with scientists, natural resource agencies, and the public. The MAMP should clearly identify variables and issues to be monitored, as well as describing the monitoring plan. It would be beneficial to include the MAMP in the DEIS so that it is available for public/stakeholder review and comment. The draft EIS should describe the need for the MAMP in terms of mitigating potential project impacts and evaluate what the potential long-term effects of the project might be if such a plan was not fully implemented. If monitoring identifies diversion operations are not supplying the desired results, or are resulting in unexpected impacts to resources of concern, the MAMP should identify specific adaptive management options (including alternative flow amount, frequency, timing and duration) to be implemented.

Sincerely,



Andrew Strelcheck
Deputy Regional Administrator

Attachments

ATTACHMENT 2

Data and Research Needs on the Science of Diversions: A Priority List from NMFS SERO

During the previous federal Mississippi River Delta Hyrdro Management study, NMFS recommended the use of the Ecopath with Ecosim and Ecospace (EwE) model and the Comprehensive Aquatic Systems Model (CASM), to aid in informing the EIS of potential fishery responses in Barataria bay to diversion operations. While, no decisions concerning fisheries modeling have been made concerning the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) and the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority's (CPRA) development of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed mid-Barataria Bay sediment diversion permit application, we are providing this list of potential data and research needs to inform the future discussions by the modeling workgroup. The information in this document is a compilation of previous recommendations to the USACE and CPRA, through NMFS's modeling peer review teams; diversion workshops in Stennis, Mississippi, and Baton Rouge, Louisiana; as well as reports from The Water Institute of the Gulf's Expert Panel on Diversion Planning and Implementation.

Given the complexity of modeling fishery ecosystems and the remaining uncertainties, NMFS believes further improvements in modeling will aid in assessing fish and shellfish responses to the currently proposed diversion operation scenarios and to inform future adaptive management planning. This view is also shared by two out of three reviewers from an external peer review report of the EwE ecosystem model (Ainsworth 2016). The external reviewers for the CASM model noted uncertainties are not well defined, which contributes to the uncertainty of quantifying the magnitude of the fish and shellfish responses (Ainsworth 2016).

We are working collaboratively with the modeling workgroup to evaluate continued investment in data and multiple ecosystem model approaches to better bracket the range of potential outcomes. We believe improvements in the accuracy of the ecosystem modeling outputs will assist the USACE, CPRA and NMFS in evaluating the effects of diversions on fisheries, protected species, marine mammals, and the habitats they depend on. Additionally, long term investment in model improvements will better inform future operations management and the affected public concerning diversion operations through adaptive management planning. .

NEAR-TERM PRIORITIES (*pre- draft EIS*)

1. Work collaboratively with the modeling workgroup to attempt to reconcile inconsistencies in ecosystem modeling. Assessment of model performance by fisheries modelers should follow a process similar to that used for the land-building models, ensuring that model formulations are parallel and model differences are understood and explained (recommended by the Expert Panel on Diversion Planning and Implementation, January 2016). Outputs from the ecosystem models should be based on model runs of specific planned operation schedules to be evaluated in the EIS.
2. Work collaboratively with the modeling workgroup to perform calibration, validation, and sensitivity runs by fisheries modelers in order to improve the performance of the fishery assessment models, following the suggestions listed below:

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- With the expansion of fisheries sample sites, additional calibration and validation runs conducted with the new data to reduce uncertainty in these models.
- In CASM, there are cases of increased species biomass in areas that did not match up with the species' salinity response curves. Some environmental drivers, such as chlorophyll a, are overriding the salinity effect on certain species (i.e. brown shrimp). Work collaboratively with the modeling workgroup to determine the continued utility of the CASM. Reasons for inconsistencies in the CASM and any appropriate model revisions should be explored by the CASM workgroup.
- Fund CASM modelers to adjust the model code so species biomass can redistribute among polygons. The CASM model should also be further modified so entering young of the year biomass is distributed based on habitat preferences and spawning mode.
- Work collaboratively with the modeling workgroup to list all assumptions associated with the fishery catch component of the EwE model. Work collaboratively with the workgroup and the EwE modeling team to attempt to improve the input data from the different shrimp trawls and nets used in the inshore and offshore shrimp fishery. To better compare the biomass results to CASM, EwE model runs should remove the fishery catch component.
- Provide additional data for gulf menhaden from the stock assessment for this species.
- Work collaboratively with the modeling workgroup to consider developing criteria to determine model fit. The criteria should be clearly defined, comparable, and based on validation data rather than calibration data. If the dual model approach is recommended, the target guidelines for the goodness of fit metrics for biomass and fishery catch estimates should be the same between the models. The NMFS recommends the modeling workgroup consider the target guidelines from Meselhe et al. (2016) be used to evaluate future models.
- Both models (EwE and CASM) could benefit from more calibration, validation, and sensitivity runs to improve the performance of the models. For example, CASM modelers suggest conducting validation runs using a "wet" or "dry" year and comparing it to runs from the "average" year. For EwE, further validations can be made by using data for the entire basin rather than by sub-basin to increase sample size (i.e., number of stations included in the analysis).
- A sensitivity analysis would be useful to see how the models respond to changes in salinity in order to compare with the salinity response curve for each species.
- Improving the linkages of predator and prey species between estuaries and the Gulf of Mexico would improve both models performance.

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3. To further bound model uncertainty, it would be useful to utilize complimentary single species or simple ecological models (Nyman et al. 2013) to assess potential impacts of environmental change on target species of particular concern, such as shrimp (e.g., Diop et al. 2007, Leo et al. 2016), oysters (e.g., Fulford et al. 2010, Soniat et al. 2012, Huang et al. 2015, La Peyre 2016), bottlenose dolphins, sea turtles (kemps, green, and loggerhead), and Gulf sturgeon (for Breton Sound). In addition, the fish and shellfish habitat suitability indices (HSIs) such as those from Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan modeling effort can be an extra tool in the evaluation of species' responses to diversion operations. These HSI results can be used to determine the influence of physiological constraints versus predator/prey factors on biomass responses when compared with the fish and shellfish models.

Regarding adaptive management, short- and long-term (e.g., tiered) steps, including modeling (analytic and numeric), data gap identification, data acquisition, forecasting, validating and improving management tools, and evolving operation plans should be developed collaboratively. Work collaboratively with CPRA and the USACE to review the conclusions and implement the recommendations from the two interagency workshops held with the CPRA staff, which provided advice on advancing diversion adaptive management and ecosystem modeling sciences (Ashby et al. 2015 and <http://www.cnrep.lsu.edu/pdfs/Workshop-Summary-NOAA-CPRA-Oct-2015.pdf>).

4. Work collaboratively to include in the EIS detailed descriptions of the baseline economic and social environments with consideration for:
 - The ongoing economic and social impacts of continuing saltwater intrusion both in the short and long terms to fishing and non-fishing communities, which are and have been at risk to this intrusion.
 - Provide historical, quantitative and qualitative estimates of the direct and indirect economic and social impacts of continuing saltwater intrusion on the commercial, recreational and subsistence fishing sectors and their related downstream businesses and infrastructure.
 - Include estimates of the direct and indirect economic and social impacts of the diversions on the above communities that include, but are not limited to, the projected impacts on the above fishing sectors and related downstream businesses and infrastructure.
 - Consider the impacts upon the most vulnerable populations (i.e., tribal groups and other minorities) from a baseline perspective (with and without diversions) to understand the tradeoffs that are being considered.
 - Identify the labor markets that are available in these rural, often isolated, communities in order to understand the employment choices these populations have, that go beyond fisheries and often include oil and gas or tourism as alternative occupations, but will also be affected.
5. Work collaboratively with the modelling workgroup to investigate statistical correlations between ecosystem components (especially those included in CASM and EWE models)

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and socioeconomic measures with socioeconomic empirical models. This will allow a prediction of the socioeconomic impact of the proposed diversions.

6. The Coastwide Reference Monitoring System (CRMS) and SWAMP provide valuable monitoring information. However, the Expert Panel on Diversion Planning and Implementation (Report #2, June 2014) suggested spatial coverages are insufficient to capture land or habitat change in the diversion outfall area where most near-term effects are likely and recommended additional spatial coverage of CRMS sites be developed specifically for diversions. The density and proximity of new monitoring sites should be tailored to assess the near- and far-field effects in the diversion receiving basin.
7. Expand water quality and vegetation sampling to fill in the gaps that CRMS and SWAMP stations are not covering in these receiving basins.

MEDIUM-TERM PRIORITIES (pre- initiation of diversion operations).

1. Completion of an in-depth adaptive management plan with specifies objectives; identifies key indicators, monitoring data, and model output needed to make decisions; and provides the process to adaptively manage diversions (Expert Panel on Diversion Planning and Implementation, October 2016).
2. The ecosystem models can provide a scientific foundation for effective adaptive management of ecosystem response to diversions (Ashby et al. 2015). Because of the high level of uncertainty in modeling fisheries responses to diversions, Ashby et al. (2015) recommended adaptive management should: (1) define quantifiable ecosystem-related and fisheries metrics to evaluate socioeconomic and ecological effects, and (2) develop a course of action with pre-determined evaluations of tradeoffs (e.g., one fishery vs. another; short-term vs. long-term habitat effects) under varying diversion and hypoxia management scenarios.
3. In developing operation plans, evaluate alternative operations and mitigation strategies, both before and after project implementation and identify the triggers (including social triggers) on useful time scales which would lead to adaptive actions. The decision-makers for establishing triggers and for implementing actions should be identified.
4. Collection of ecosystem services data will allow for better understanding of the human communities that use and rely upon the ecosystem goods and services being produced in the area likely to be impacted by the proposed diversions. Ecosystem services data and subsequent analyses will allow assessment of the socioeconomic effects and tradeoffs associated with the proposed diversions and take an ecosystem approach to management, which is mandated by multiple authorities.
5. The NMFS recommends the detailed descriptions of the economic and social environments with and without the diversions include a data collection to assess the numbers and diversity of recreational, commercial, and subsistence fishers, hunters and other relevant natural resource users in the areas that have been and continue to be

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affected by saltwater intrusion and those potentially affected by the diversions. Data should address where these activities are being and have been conducted; what animal and plant species are being and have been targeted or harvested; and what other factors affect the future numbers, diversity and harvests of these and future commercial, recreational and subsistence fishers, hunters and other relevant natural resource users in the areas of interest.

6. The NMFS recommends the descriptions of the baseline and projected economic and social environments include analyses of historical (10 to 20 years) sub-basin data on the harvests of fishers (marine and freshwater), hunters and other natural resource users, as available, in the areas of saltwater intrusion, and provide forecasts of these harvests with or without the diversions.
7. Work collaboratively to collect demographic, economic, industry and other relevant social and economic data on both the communities that have been and are at risk to be affected by ongoing saltwater intrusion and those potentially affected by the diversions. Include summaries of the data in the descriptions of the baseline economic and social environments.
8. Work collaboratively to develop spatial coverage of benthic infauna sampling developed specifically for diversions with density and proximity of monitoring sites tailored to assess the near- and far-field effects in the diversion receiving basin.
9. Work collaboratively to expand nekton sampling to fill in the gaps that the SWAMP stations are not covering in these receiving basins. Focus on sampling species with low goodness of fits from the ecosystem models, such as blue catfish, gulf menhaden, and largemouth bass, in the new and existing SWAMP monitoring stations. Fisheries monitoring elements should not only focus on marine fisheries but freshwater fisheries as well. Incorporate inland fisheries sampling using gear types and methods appropriate for the area being sampled, and from which gear efficiencies can be determined and used as inputs to the ecosystem models.
10. We recommend the nekton and benthic sampling plan be reviewed by an outside scientific workgroup (such as the Expert Panel on Diversion Planning and Implementation process) to assure the sampling plan is scientifically robust enough to improve the ecosystem models being used for impact assessments and future adaptive management decision making.
11. Both the CASM and EwE modeling teams have described low confidence in their models to capture impacts to oyster resources. Work collaboratively to provide more data on oyster mortality, reproduction, larval recruitment, and spat dispersal throughout the year to improve the ecosystem models. Some specific parameters to monitor include:
 - Freshwater and temperature impacts to intertidal oysters (i.e., those in the lower part of the basin);

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- Fall, winter, and spring flow effects on gonad development. For example, the monitoring should be designed to determine how reproduction in oysters is affected by low or no river overflow in the summer and fall months after these oysters were exposed to cold fresh water during the winter and spring months; and
 - Changes in the rate and distribution of Dermo infections.
12. In order to support model predictions of wetland responses to diversions, make pre-diversion measurements over a suitable duration to provide baseline trends in elevation dynamics, including seasonal variation. Monitoring of the following variables is also recommended (Teal et al. 2012, Ashby et al. 2015): nutrients (N and P), water flow, marsh vegetation, above-and below-ground productivity, elevation (Surface Elevation Tables, SETs), soil strength, and herbivory (e.g., nutria).

LONG-TERM PRIORITIES (operations)

1. Work collaboratively to collect seasonal and continuous temporal post-construction data over the life of the project to capture responses to operational regimes and near-term responses, as well as long-term decadal responses for all biotic and abiotic data collection efforts (pre-construction baseline and post-construction).
2. Conduct routine data collection for habitat mapping and classification to record the extent of changes in vegetation type after diversion operations.

LONG-TERM RESEARCH NEEDS

The following are long-term research needs NMFS recommends be considered. These are not listed as priorities, just recommendations to provide information which may help inform better management and understanding of diversion impacts.

1. Inundation and salinity effects on vegetation - Understanding how vegetation responds to changes in salinity and flooding will lessen the uncertainty in the hydrodynamic models used to model land building from diversion operations (see Teal et al. 2012). Some suggested research projects include:
 - Study (lab and field) of prolonged elevated (i.e., frequency and duration) water levels on plant health conducted on various marsh plant species and marsh types.
 - Study (lab and field) of isohaline changes (i.e., magnitude and duration) on plant health and vegetative composition
 - Field study of whether the addition of freshwater from diversion operations results in changes of the vegetation composition at the diversion outfall.
 - Impacts of nutrients, in combination with changes in isohalines, on soil shear strength, bulk density, and above- and below-ground biomass, and on the ability of marsh plants to withstand storm-generated wind and water level fluctuations.

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2. Ecosystem models (CASM and EwE) - Continued research in improving the predictions from the ecosystem models is encouraged for their use in adaptive management of diversion operations.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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NOV 25 2013 F/SER46:RH/RS

Mr. Martin Mayer, Chief
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Dear Mr. Mayer:

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) received the November 4, 2013, email from Mr. Robert Tewis of your staff transmitting an October 4, 2013, *Federal Register* notice (FRN) advertising a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion (MBSD) project. According to the FRN, the DEIS will be prepared to inform decision-making relative to a permit request pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, and permissions under 33 U.S.C. Section 408.

The Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) of Louisiana proposes to undertake the design, construction, operation and maintenance of the MBSD project in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana. While no information is provided in the NOI on the proposed magnitude of the diversion, in previous meetings CPRA stated the planned MBSD would divert between 50,000 to 125,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) of Mississippi River water into the Barataria Basin. Mr. Tewis requests NMFS provide preliminary scoping recommendations regarding issues and studies necessary to be evaluated in the DEIS within 30 days of receipt of the email in order to inform the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) decision-making process regarding whether or not the proposed project is in the overall public interest. These comments are provided pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, and the essential fish habitat (EFH) provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act; P.L. 104-297).

As identified in the Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast (2012), Louisiana is in the midst of a coastal land loss crisis which must be addressed. Reversing the wetlands loss trends in Louisiana is critical to coastal resiliency and maintaining healthy fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. We recognize large scale wetland rebuilding and conservation efforts, as well as major economic investments, will be required to address the problem. The NMFS is supportive of these efforts, including diversions where appropriate, to ameliorate coastal wetland loss in Louisiana to maintain socio-economic, storm protection, and ecological services these habitats provide. The MBSD is being proposed by CPRA as a strategy to increase wetlands acreage, which would in turn benefit nursery and foraging functions supportive of a wide variety of economically important marine fishery species. The diversion of a large volume of freshwater from the river into the middle of the Barataria estuary will likely create a mix of beneficial and some adverse impacts to economically important estuarine and marine fisheries and their habitats. In addition to potential benefits of the MBSD, the project could: (1) displace marine fishery species from productive to less supportive habitats, (2) reduce marine fishery productivity, (3) convert essential fish habitat (EFH) to areas no longer supportive of some federally managed marine fishery species or their prey items, (4) render wetlands impacted by diversions more susceptible to erosion from storms, (5) degrade water quality, and (6) cause socio-economic hardship to those involved in the commercial and



recreational fishing industries. The potential for project benefits, as well as potential impacts to fisheries and fishing communities should be thoroughly evaluated for the USACE's DEIS.

Areas to be within the influence of the proposed diversion are designated by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and NMFS as EFH. Categories of EFH in Barataria Basin include: emergent wetlands; mangrove wetlands; submerged aquatic vegetation; mud, sand, and shell (e.g., oyster reefs) substrates; and estuarine water column. Dependent upon the volume and timing of the proposed discharges from the MBSD, impacts may extend to the nearshore Gulf of Mexico and marine categories of EFH. Wetlands and water bottoms in Barataria Basin have been designated as EFH for a variety of life stages of white shrimp, brown shrimp, red drum, dog snapper, lane snapper and gray snapper. Portions of Barataria Bay near the Gulf of Mexico also serve as EFH for various life stages of bonnethead shark, Atlantic sharpnose shark, and blacknose shark. In addition to being designated as EFH for a variety of federally managed species, water bodies and wetlands in the project area provide nursery and foraging habitats supportive of a variety of economically important marine fishery species, such as American oyster, Atlantic croaker, Gulf menhaden, spotted seatrout, sand seatrout, black drum, southern flounder, blue crab and striped mullet. Some of these species serve as prey for other fish species managed under the Magnuson-Stevens Act (e.g., mackerels, snappers, and groupers) and highly migratory species managed by NMFS (e.g., billfishes and sharks).

In accordance with our EFH Findings agreement with the USACE New Orleans District (NOD), the required EFH assessment can be accomplished through its incorporation into a DEIS required pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. The Findings document describes procedures for EFH consultation during the NOD's review of regulatory activities subject to both the Clean Water Act and the Rivers and Harbors Act. Under those procedures, the NOD's EFH assessment must contain: (1) a description of the proposed action; (2) an analysis of individual and cumulative effects on EFH, and Federally managed fisheries, including major prey species; and (3) the NOD's views regarding effects. It should be noted the Magnuson-Stevens Act requires the federal action agency to consider mitigation to offset adverse impacts to EFH. Therefore, the USACE should also evaluate alternatives to mitigate potential adverse impacts to EFH for any federally managed fishery species and include these alternatives analyses in the EFH assessment and the DEIS.

Based on previous information provided to NMFS by CPRA, the MBSD would be operated whenever river discharge at Belle Chasse exceeded 600,000 cfs. Based upon a review of historic monthly river stages exceeding 60,000 cfs for the 1964 to 2012 time period, the MBSD would likely be open most years from February through June. Although hydrologic modeling results are unavailable at this time, NMFS is concerned the anticipated flow rates may result in the freshening of most of the Barataria Basin during the period of time the diversion is allowed to operate. Freshening substantial portions of the basin and localized lowering of water temperature for five months of the year has the potential to affect a broad range of life stages and fishery species and their prey. For example, these months overlap migration of brown shrimp into and out of the estuary and the initiation of immigration of white shrimp into the Barataria Basin estuary. Displacement of shrimp from nursery and refugia habitat to less supportive habitats may result in decreases in shrimp production in the Barataria Basin without offsetting increases elsewhere. If decreases in shrimp production should occur, there would likely also be socio-economic repercussions on commercial fishing and related industries. The proposed MBSD operations could also have substantive impacts on American oyster populations and production due to freshwater kills and altered salinity impacts on the spring and fall spat set, as well as on oysters in the lower Bay. Examples of other economically important marine fishery species which could be impacted by MBSD include Atlantic croaker, sand seatrout, spotted seatrout, and black drum. Consequently, NMFS believes robust

analyses should be undertaken for the DEIS in order to evaluate diversion-related changes in isohalines and water temperature within the Barataria Basin and nearshore Gulf of Mexico, and species-specific variations in marine fishery resources.

An evaluation of potential socio-economic impacts to fishery user groups should also be incorporated into the DEIS and the associated decision-making process. The means to assess impacts to fisheries should be coordinated with NMFS and should include species-specific projections of marine fishery production both with, and without, implementation of the MBSD. Socio-economic assessments should at a minimum include the cost to user groups to produce at an alternative harvest location, as well as the feasibility of long-term use of such areas.

The DEIS should evaluate potential benefits and adverse impacts to wetland health and productivity. There is quite a bit of scientific uncertainty surrounding the potential wetlands responses to large-scale river diversions. In fact some research findings have suggested nutrient loads in Mississippi River waters, combined with low salinity levels, could reduce soil shear strength and make affected marsh habitats more susceptible to wind and hydrologic forces associated with the passage of storm fronts. Prolonged flooding of the soil surface associated with diversion operations also could reduce the health of plants in the marsh community. Finally, Mississippi River waters contain elevated levels of atrazine, an herbicide frequently utilized for agricultural purposes. The DEIS should also include a thorough, scientifically based evaluation of the likely impacts of nutrients, atrazine, and freshwater on marsh health and susceptibility to erosion.

Given the constraints of subsidence, sea level rise, and presently projected sediment loads in the river, the USACE should carefully examine the potential for the MBSD project to reduce wetland loss and rebuild coastal habitats as estimated by CPRA. Because failure of the MBSD to provide the estimated level of benefits could result in undercompensated impacts to EFH, the NMFS believes it is important for an independent scientific body to evaluate and refine, if necessary, diversion benefit models being used to determine the projected level of wetland benefits likely to occur from the use of the MBSD. These models should be reviewed to ensure they incorporate specific project design details, including the potential need for maintenance of outfall channels, to ensure projected benefits are realistic over time. If maintenance actions are determined to be necessary to ensure projected benefits are realized, the DEIS should describe those operations and maintenance requirements.

There is the potential for multiple diversions from the Mississippi River to affect the performance of any one project and to cause cumulative impacts to Barataria Bay. However, to date, no models have been completed to determine how the MBSD would perform in combination with other planned diversions proposed in the State Master Plan. NMFS believes all diversions proposed for implementation by CPRA should be modeled individually, and in combination, using up-to-date site specific information, to ensure they are located and sized to best fulfill the project purpose and that unintended consequences do not result from their operations. The NMFS believes the USACE's Mississippi River Hydrodynamic and Delta Management Study would be the best option for the evaluation of cumulative impacts of operating multiple diversions.

The impacts of diversions on water quality should be evaluated in the DEIS. Past operations of the Bonnet Carre Spillway have resulted in algae blooms in Lake Pontchartrain. The NMFS recommends the DEIS describe the likely impacts of nutrients contained in diverted river water on algae blooms and resultant water quality. Other river water contaminants and risk of bioaccumulation in the receiving basin also should be assessed and included in the DEIS. As water column is a category of EFH, the DEIS

should describe whether diversion operations could result in water quality benefits and/or adverse impacts, as well as identify mitigation options to address any anticipated water quality impacts.

Considering the myriad potential impacts to marsh health, fishery resources, water quality, and fishery user groups, NMFS believes a monitoring and adaptive management plan (MAMP) should be developed in consultation with scientists, natural resource agencies, and the public for inclusion in the DEIS. The MAMP should clearly identify variables and issues to be monitored, as well as describe the monitoring plan. The DEIS should describe the need for the MAMP in terms of mitigating potential project impacts and describe possible concerns if such a plan is not fully implemented. If monitoring identifies diversion operations are not supplying the desired results, or are resulting in unexpected impacts to resources of concern, the MAMP should identify specific adaptive management options (including alternative flow amount, frequency, timing, and duration) to be implemented.

There may also be protected species concerns under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) requiring further coordination. In particular, a small resident estuarine population of bottlenose dolphins in Barataria Bay¹ may be negatively impacted by freshwater influx to the Bay. NOAA and partners have been investigating an ongoing marine mammal Unusual Mortality Event in the northern Gulf and evaluating the long-term impacts of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill on dolphins in the Gulf of Mexico. Studies show the resident dolphins in Barataria Bay are severely ill². The freshwater influx to the Bay from this project may further stress resident dolphins by inducing possible prey changes, impacts to water quality, and potential algal blooms from nutrients in diverted water. Algal blooms are a known cause of Unusual Mortality Events in bottlenose dolphins in the southeast U.S. In addition, prolonged exposure to freshwater can be detrimental to dolphins, causing skin lesions, compromising their health, and ultimately resulting in death. Depending on the nature of construction activities associated with the project, short- or long-term impacts to dolphins may also occur and could require preventative mitigation measures to reduce these impacts.

We recommend further coordination with NMFS Southeast Region Protected Resources Division on these potential impacts and ways to reduce them. An MMPA authorization may be needed if take of dolphins is possible during this project. These authorizations are issues by NMFS Headquarters; initial coordination questions for this project should be directed to David Bernhart, David.Bernhart@noaa.gov at:

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263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505

During the planning and permit review process ahead, early and frequent interagency coordination is requested. Means to assess environmental and socio-economic impacts (to fisheries) should be coordinated with and deemed acceptable by NMFS and other interested natural resource and regulatory agencies to ensure adequate informed decision making regarding permit issuance. All agencies should be provided the opportunity and time to review and comment on proposed scopes of work and how all analyses would be incorporated into the EIS.

¹ <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/pdfs/sars/ao2012dobn-gmxbb.pdf>

² <http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/2012/03/study-shows-some-gulf-dolphins-severelyill/>

We appreciate your consideration of our comments. If you wish to discuss this project further or have questions concerning our recommendations, please contact Richard Hartman or Patrick Williams at (225) 389-0508, extensions 203 or 208, respectively.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Miles M. Crabtree".

for Roy E. Crabtree, Ph.D.
Regional Administrator

cc:
NOD, Wingate, Tewis
FWS, Lafayette, Walther, Holland
EPA, Dallas, Ettinger
LA DWF, Balkum
LA DNR, Morgan
BOEM, Ashworth, Miner
F/SF, Risenhoover
F/HC, Sutter
F/SER4, Dale, Rolfes
F/SER3, Bernhart
F/SER, Keys
F/SER46, Swafford
Files

From: chrystal.nause@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, July 28, 2017 11:56:47 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Chrystal Nause
2030 2nd St
New Orleans, LA, 70113-1648

From: Elizabeth.nehrbass@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 8:41:54 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
Elizabeth Nehrbass
300 Calder St.
Lafayette, LA, 70506

From: jjneumeist@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2017 12:03:24 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
John Neumeister
508 W 172 St
New York, New York, 10032

From: jjneumeist@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [John Neumeister](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 11:11:47 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
John Neumeister
New York, NY 10032

Comments to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans Division
in reference to
The Environmental Impact Statement for
The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion

Chris McLindon
President, New Orleans Geological Society
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dr. Nancye H. Dawers, Ph.D.
Chair, Department of Earth & Environmental Sciences
Tulane University
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dr. Mark A. Kulp, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences
University of New Orleans
New Orleans, Louisiana

David Culpepper
Registered Professional Geoscientist # 465, Louisiana
The Culpepper Group, LLC

Dr. Elizabeth McDade, Ph.D., P.G.
Chinn-McDade Associates, LLC

September 4, 2017

These comments focus on the importance of subsurface geology in the planning, design, construction and adaptive management of the *Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion (MBSD)*. The *Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion - Final Draft Executive Summary Report 30% Basis of Design* (CPRA, 2014a) states that “The MBSD, as envisioned in the Alternative 1 base design and the VE alternatives, would function as an artificial crevasse—transferring river power, sediment, and freshwater into a tidally influenced deltaic plain within Barataria Basin.” In other words, the premise of the diversion is to recreate the natural land-building processes of the delta plain.

The natural surface processes of the deltaic plain cannot be properly understood outside of the context of subsurface geology. The geological history of the Mississippi River Delta Plain, and older sediments that underlie it, record an inter-dependence between the river, its delta and geological features such as faults and salt structures. The historical role of the river has been to link the sediment delivery system of its vast tributary network to the space available for deposition provided by the sedimentary basins formed by underlying faults and salt structures. Movement of the faults and salt throughout the history of the delta plain has been primarily controlled by differential sediment loading at the site of deltaic deposition.

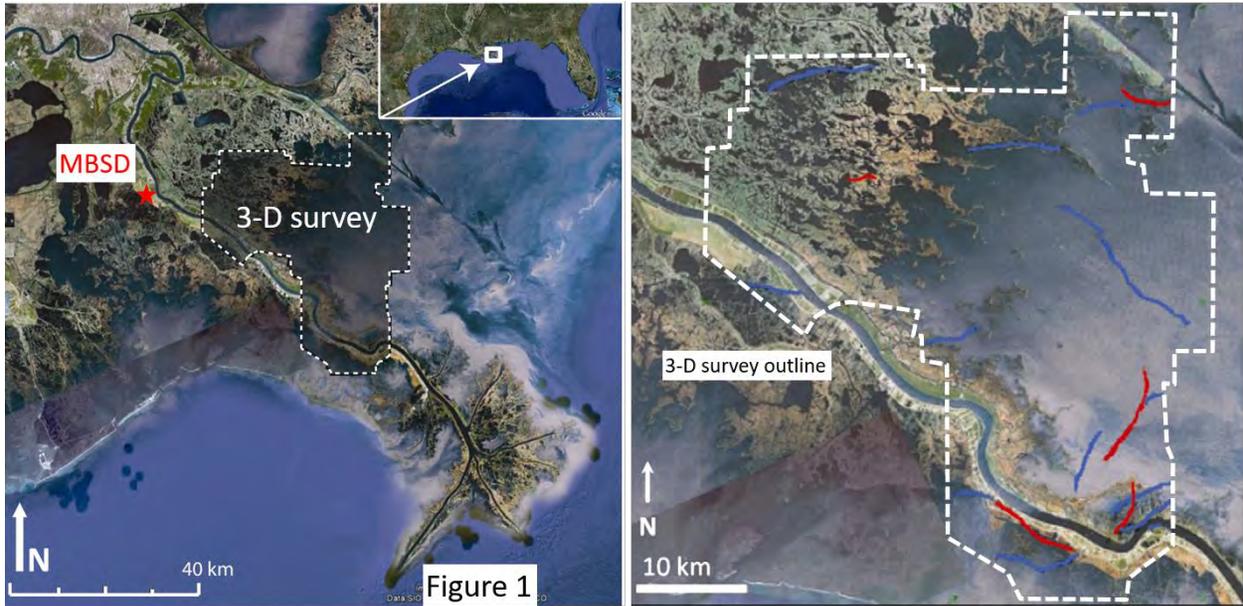
An essential summary of the role of subsurface geology is provided by the USACE-contracted report:

ACTIVE GEOLOGICAL FAULTS AND LAND CHANGE IN SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA - A Study of the Contribution of Faulting to Relative Subsidence Rates, Land Loss, and Resulting Effects on Flood Control, Navigation, Hurricane Protection and Coastal Restoration Projects, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, Contract No. DACW 29-00-C-0034, Gagliano et al., 2003.

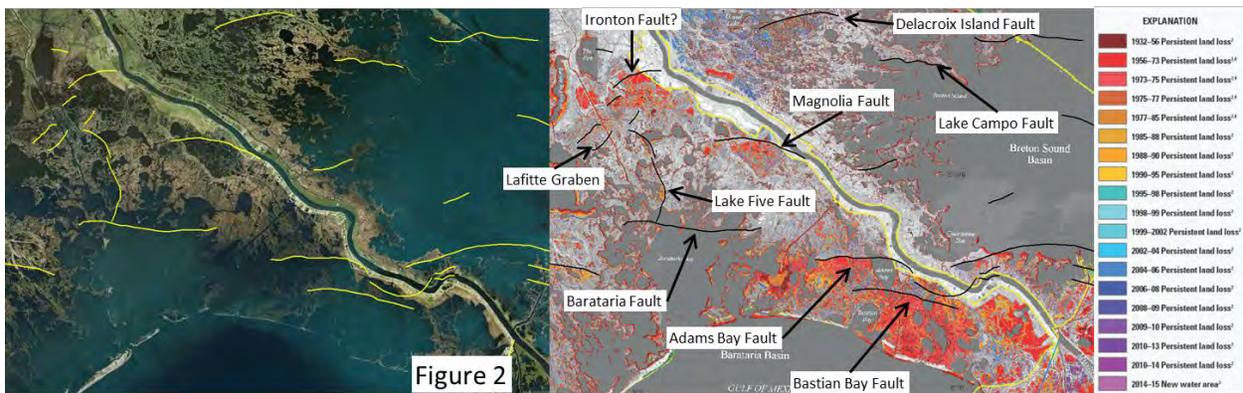
This report reaches five fundamental conclusions:

1. Submergence of coastal wetlands due to a combination of compaction, sea level rise and fault slip has been the major cause of land loss in the delta plain during the 20th century.
2. Fault movement in the area of the modern delta plain has been continual and episodic for millions of years. Episodes of active fault movement are separated by dormant periods when movement persists as slow creep. An episode of fault slip between 1964 and 1980 appears to be associated with significant land loss on downthrown sides of faults.
3. There is a relationship between faults and salt structures. Ductile, incompressible, low density salt moves relative to surrounding compacting sediments; and this movement of salt interacts with faults associated with the salt structures.
4. Continual episodic and slow creep fault slip may cause preferentially thicker accumulations of compactible organic clays and peats on the downthrown side of the faults, thereby delineating areas where subsidence rates may be higher due to the greater compactibility of the soil column.
5. Faulting poses a natural hazard in southeastern Louisiana, and the findings of the report have direct applications to the planning and design of coastal restoration efforts, including infrastructure elements.

Each of these conclusions is directly applicable to a thorough assessment of the subsurface geology in the vicinity of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion (MBSD).



The ability to map faults and salt structures, and to interpret their historical patterns of movement, is substantially enhanced by the subsurface imaging capabilities of oil and gas industry 3-D seismic surveys. The first peer-reviewed scientific study to use industry-grade 3-D seismic data to study the surface impacts of faults in southeast Louisiana was Armstrong et al. (2014). Figure 1 shows the outline of the 3-D seismic survey used in their study, just east and south of the site of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. The researchers used the seismic volume to image approximately 28 faults. They found that most seismically imaged faults appear to extend to the modern land surface, and two of those are coincident with faults interpreted by Gagliano et al. (2003). Gagliano et al. measured vertical displacement of the land surface by these faults of over one meter. Without attempting to measure vertical offset, the Armstrong et al. (2014) study noted that several other faults correspond to abrupt shifts from emergent wetlands to fully submerged areas of open water. The right panel of Figure 1 shows the Armstrong et al. interpretation of surface fault traces. Blue traces are down-dropped to the south. Red traces are down-dropped to the north. Figure 2 shows a combination of surface fault traces



interpreted by Armstrong et al. (2014) and Gagliano et al. (2003). The figure also shows the surface traces of the Lafitte graben faults taken from Greene (1998), and the Barataria Bay fault and Lake Five fault (McLindon, 2017). In this figure the correspondence of several of the fault traces with abrupt shifts

from emergent wetlands to fully submerged areas of open water is obvious. There is also a very clear relationship between the submergence of the wetlands along the downthrown sides of these faults and the land loss that occurred in the 1960s and 1970s, as seen on the right panel of Figure 2 taken from Couvillion et al. (2017).

Similarities between the known deltaic faults noted above and patterns of wetland loss in the immediate vicinity of the MBSD suggest the existence of a similar fault - **the Ironton fault**, which may have also experienced a recent episode of fault slip. This fault appears on an early fault map (Wallace, 1962) with an orientation, length and down-to-the-south movement sense consistent with Figure 2. Figure 3 shows the profile of a compilation of USACE borings along the west bank river levee (Stanley et al., 1996). This profile shows the vertical offset of the late Pleistocene surface associated with the Magnolia and Adams Bay faults. It also suggests a vertical displacement that may be associated with the Ironton fault near the site of the planned MBSD conveyance structure.

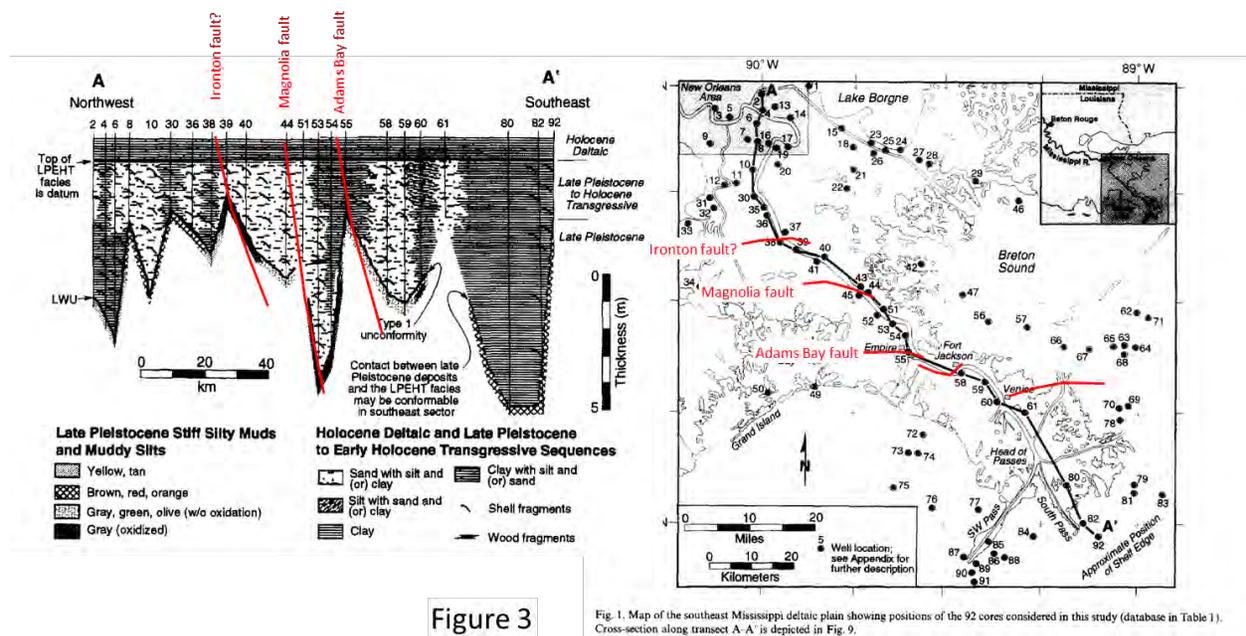
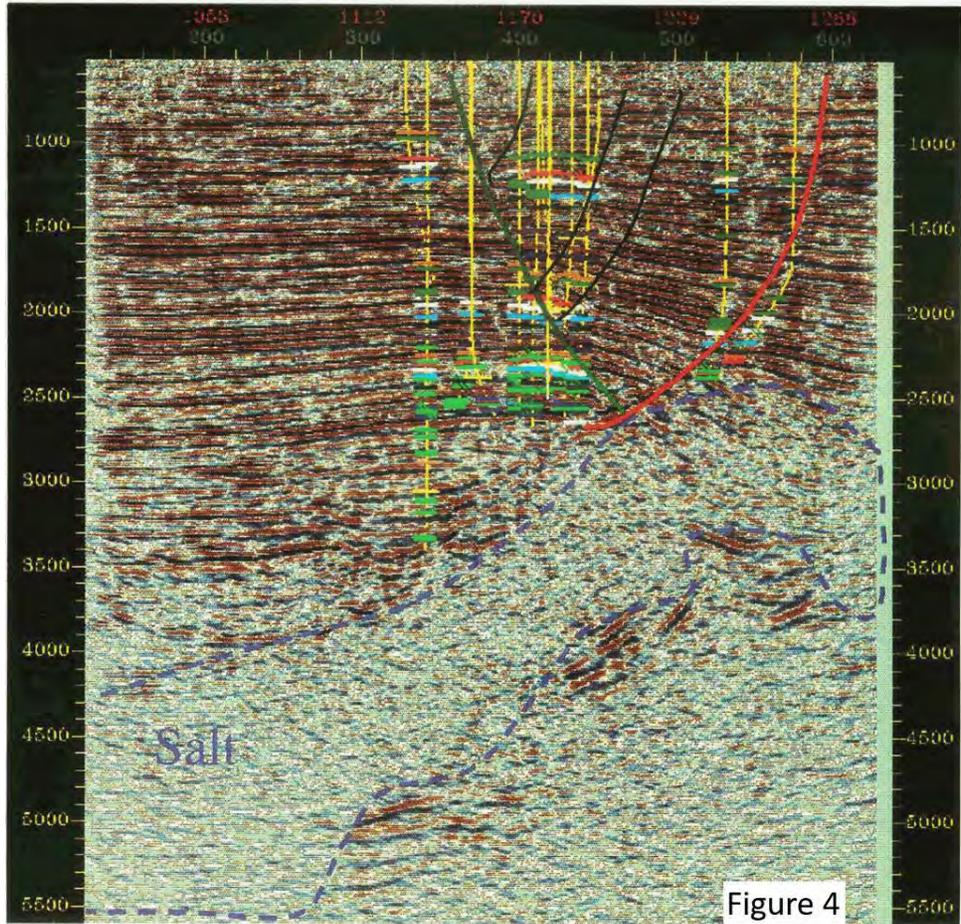


Figure 3

Fig. 1. Map of the southeast Mississippi deltaic plain showing positions of the 92 cores considered in this study (database in Table 1). Cross-section along transect A-A' is depicted in Fig. 9.

The interrelationship between faults and a salt structure in the immediate vicinity of the MBSD was documented by Greene (1998). Figure 4 shows a seismic profile from the Lafitte 3-D survey across the salt structure. The black and red seismic reflectors have a genetic relationship to sedimentary layers (imaged by differences in density and acoustic wave velocity) and are used to map subsurface geologic structures. The gently arcing red, green and black lines are faults that offset the seismic reflectors. The vertical yellow lines indicate wellbores that are in the immediate vicinity of the seismic profile. The short, colored line segments perpendicular to the wellbores indicate biostratigraphic markers, i.e. correlations constrained paleontologically. The Lafitte salt structure is outlined in a purple dashed line. The faults form a classic graben structure above the salt. In a graben configuration the downthrown sides of the two primary bounding faults (the red and green faults) face each other so that the central graben region is down-dropped relative to both faults (“graben” is derived from the German word for grave). The subsurface depths of the color-coded biostratigraphic markers indicate that shallower



sedimentary layers are thicker within the graben indicating higher rates of subsidence and sediment accumulation within the graben continuing from the Miocene to recent geologic past.

The bounding red and green graben faults extend vertically toward the land surface; these faults and the salt structure may have deflected the course of Bayou Barataria (DeBlieux, 1962). Figure 5 shows the approximate location of the seismic profile in Figure 4, and the extrapolated surface traces of these faults. If the graben faults have experienced active slip in the very recent past, it is possible that the central graben region between them may have experienced higher rates of recent subsidence than areas outside of the graben. It may also be possible that **the entire Lafitte graben structure may respond to sediment loading with a higher rate of subsidence than other areas**. The interpretation of these faults and their extrapolated surface traces is limited by the boundaries of the Lafitte 3-D survey shown in Figure 5. There are other 3-D surveys in the area, but the yellow color-filled area in Figure 5 indicates an area of no 3-D data coverage. Currently there is a very limited capability to map faults or to extrapolate surface traces in the immediate vicinity of the MBSD diversion structure. **The only way to properly image faults in area with no 3-D seismic data coverage is to acquire new seismic data. In this case, the acquisition of new high resolution 2-D seismic data is recommended.**

The CPRA documents of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion include several references to the significance of faulting in the design of the diversion, including the specific need for additional work

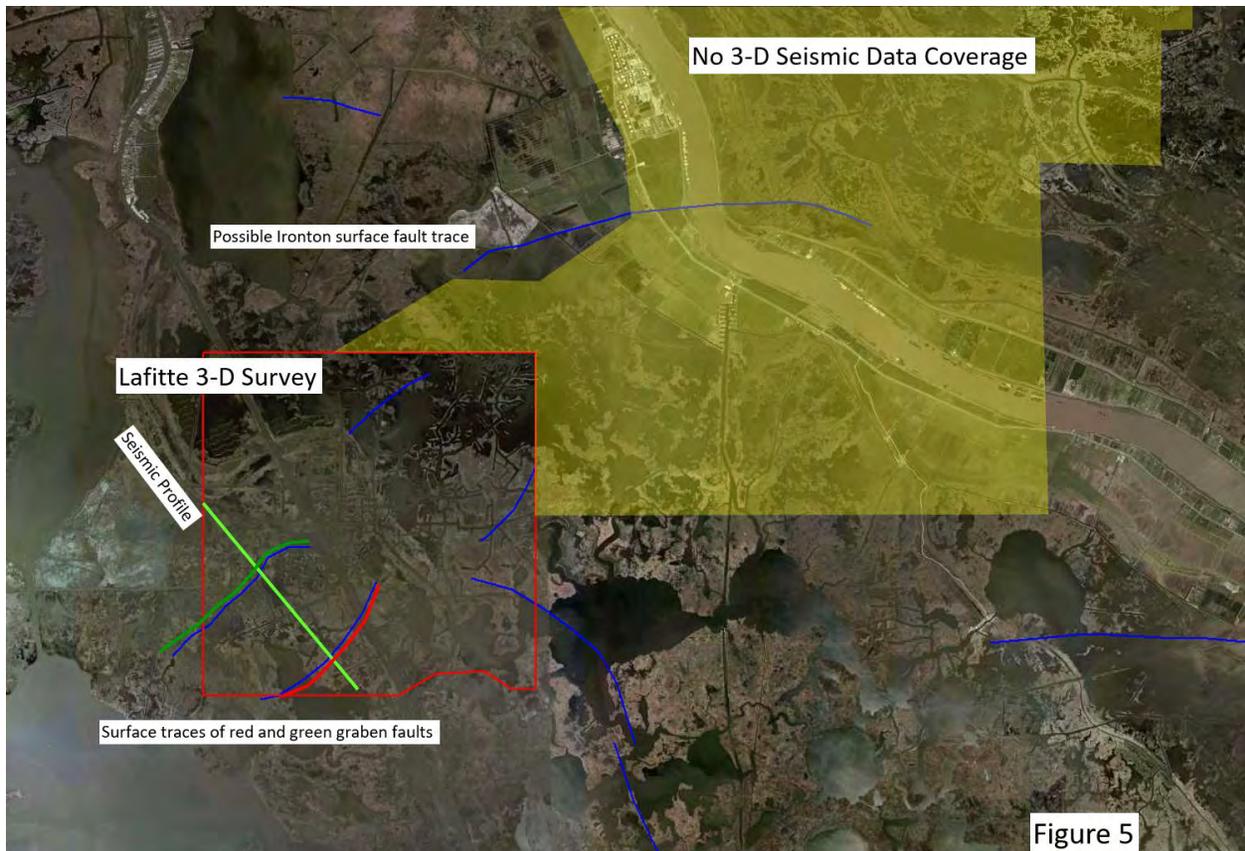


Figure 5

on faulting. There are no indications of any efforts to determine the location of any possible faults in the area of the diversion project as a part of the preparation for design and planning.

The *Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Geotechnical Report 30% Basis of Design* (CPRA, 2014b) references faults in Section 4 – Geology and Geomorphology:

“As discussed by Gagliano et al. (2003), a series of growth faults have developed in the underlying Pleistocene and older basement soils as the Mississippi River Delta has progressed southward. Due to the young age of the sediments resulting in self weight settlement and movement on the growth faults in response to the growth of the delta, the area is experiencing regional subsidence. The rate of subsidence is reported as being a rate of 2 to 4 feet per century for the MBSD site vicinity.

Regional seismicity is controlled by the New Madrid Fault Zone in Missouri. USGS estimates that peak ground accelerations of less than 2 percent of gravity would occur in the vicinity of the MBSD site. Therefore, the risk of strong ground shaking at the site is judged to be very low.”

In fact, the Gagliano et al. (2003) report makes no determination of the rate of subsidence in the MBSD site vicinity. There are wide-ranging estimates for subsidence rates using various methodologies from studies in the general vicinity of the MBSD site (Zou et al., 2015; Jones et al., 2016; Nienhuis et al., 2017). The Myrtle Grove Superstation (Bridgeman et al., 2016) is in the early stages of collecting subsidence data near the site of the diversion, but there have been no efforts to determine variations in historical rates of subsidence relative to geologic structure across the area of the MBSD site. This geotechnical report also appears to infer that fault movement in the area of MBSD could only be induced by strong

ground shaking due to regional seismicity. While there have been suggestions that regional seismicity from very large earthquakes may be a triggering mechanism for fault slip on the Mississippi River Delta Plain, it is not a requirement for fault movement. Episodic or slow fault creep may occur without the induction by or the creation of seismicity.

The same geotechnical report includes this summary from Section 6.1 – Geotechnical Feasibility:

“From a geotechnical engineering basis the MBSD project is judged to be feasible. However, there are significant short-term and long-term constraints associated with constructing large civil works projects within the relative young lower Mississippi River delta. The geotechnical site conditions and associated constraints must be incorporated into the civil, structural, hydraulic design, and construction phasing. The primary geotechnical site conditions include:

- *presence of the very soft to soft, compressible and weak foundation conditions across the entire conveyance complex alignment*
- *occurrence of high groundwater, and engineering challenges that this would pose on constructibility and long-term performance of the project*
- *occurrence of long-term regional subsidence that must be factored into setting the conveyance complex levee and structure crown/top elevations*
- *potential geologic fault activity”*

In order to address the above points concerning the geotechnical feasibility of the MBSD, especially the evaluation of long-term regional subsidence rates and the potential for geologic fault activity, a thorough subsurface geological evaluation of the MBSD vicinity needs to be undertaken, as it is the only way to incorporate the potential impact of faulting.

Table 3-2 from the same report (CPRA, 2014b) indicated that additional technical work is required to evaluate faulting in the Mississippi River bed, as well as faulting within the MBSD site as a regional geologic consideration.

Table 3-2. Major areas of additional technical work

Project feature	Additional work
Mississippi River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Navigation studies (for example, vessel and barge tow) • Shoaling estimates • Geomorphologic studies • Flow vectors, eddies, and scour • Geotechnical characterization
Mississippi River bed from thalweg to revetment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geotechnical characterization • Slope stability • Scour • Bed form stability • Faulting
Mississippi River bed revetment to batture (inlet channel)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thickness and construction of revetment • Subsurface conditions • Cutting and patching • Removal and stability • Construction in the dry versus in the wet • Full or partial prefabrication versus cast-in-place • Foundation and pile supports (test pile) • Skew, angle, top open, partial cover, and fully covered • Sediment capture efficiency • Geotechnical characterization (point bar)
Mississippi River batture to MR&T (first segment of inlet channel)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Near-field effect on batture and levee face for scour • Large debris impact and management • Section 408 design criteria • Construction in the dry versus in the wet • Full or partial prefabrication versus cast-in-place • Foundation and pile supports (test pile) • Geotechnical characterization (point bar)

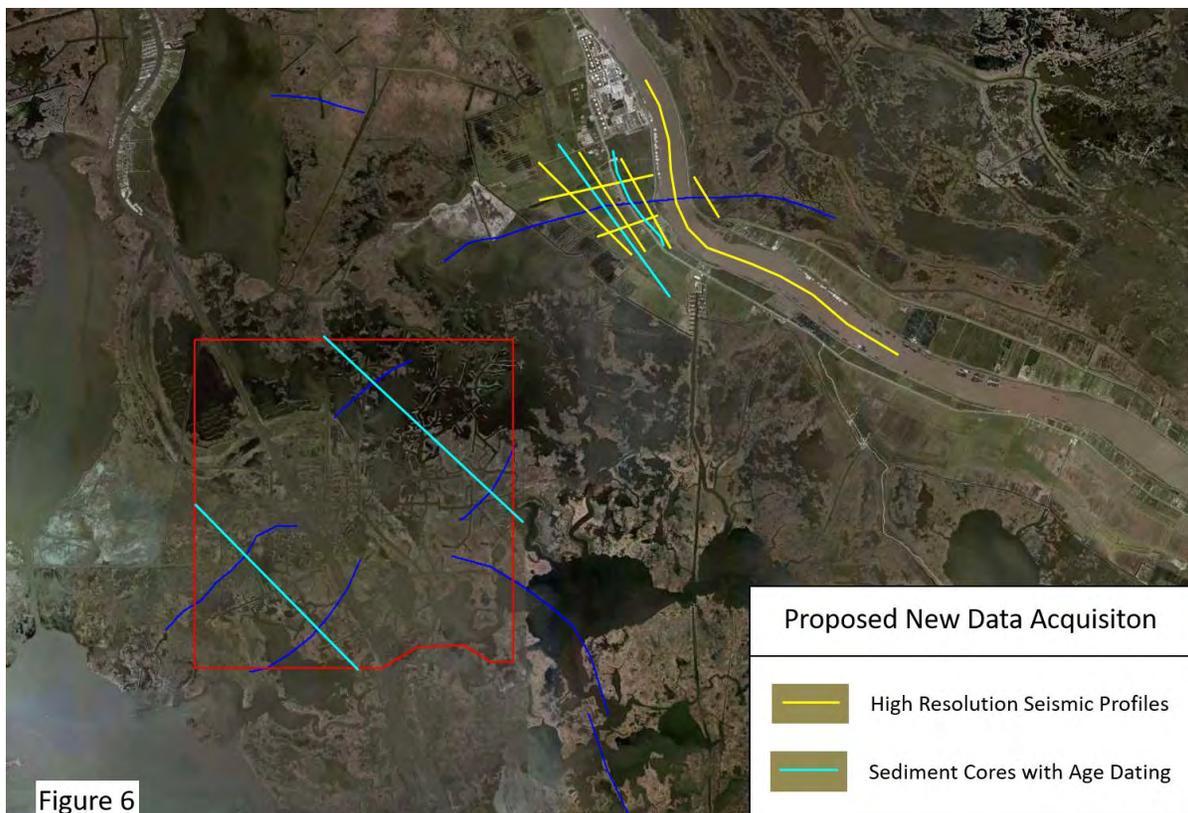
Table 3-2. Major areas of additional technical work

Project feature	Additional work
Pump station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geotechnical and geomorphic characterization (natural levee, distributary channel, and marsh deposits) NOV/NFL design coordination with USACE Foundation and pile supports (test pile) Section 408 design criteria Hydraulics
System hydrodynamics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical model (hydraulics) Flow three-dimensional modeling (design hydraulics) Delft3D modeling (sediment) Morphological characterization Sea level rise Hurricane surge, wind, and wave
Regional geologic considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional subsidence Geologic faulting and offsets

Notes: MR&T = Mississippi River and Tributary, NFL = Non-Federal Levee, NOV = New Orleans to Venice, USACE = U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

RECOMMENDATIONS

There are several indications of the existence of faults and of potential recent fault activity in the immediate vicinity of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion in the published scientific literature (e.g., Greene, 1998; Armstrong et al., 2014). There are clear indications of the necessity for additional work to determine the potential impacts of faulting, as noted in the CPRA documentation for the Basis of Design reports. It is recommended that a thorough subsurface geological evaluation of the vicinity of MBSD be conducted to attempt to determine the location of geological faults, the recent history of fault movement and the effects of active faults on subsidence rates and variations in the thickness of highly compactible soils.



It is recommended that a subsurface geological evaluation should include the following elements:

1. A review the subsurface geology using oil and gas industry 3-D seismic data. This may be accomplished through a collaborative engagement with owners, licensees and interpreters of the 3-D seismic surveys in the area. Such a collaborative engagement may be facilitated with the assistance of the New Orleans Geological Society, the Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association, or the Louisiana Oil and Gas Association.
2. The acquisition of high resolution seismic data in the immediate vicinity of the diversion structure. This should necessarily include land-based acquisition along both banks of the river and marine acquisition in the river channel, as indicated in Figure 6.
3. The acquisition of sediment core profiles across potential faults. The arrangement of these core profiles should be of adequate density to allow for the interpretation of faults by the vertical offset and variations in thickness of the sedimentary layers. The evaluation of core profiles should include detailed stratigraphic analysis and age-dating of the sedimentary layers to allow for estimates of historical subsidence rates and rates of fault movement.
4. The addition of subsidence measurement capabilities similar to those of the Myrtle Grove Superstation at several additional locations in the vicinity of the diversion. These stations should be positioned with advance knowledge of the location of faults in the area to allow for the direct measurement of variations in subsidence velocities across the faults.
5. The integration of detailed variations in subsidence rate and estimates of fault slip rate into predictive subsurface geological models including models for the response to sediment loading associated with diversion operations.

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AUG 22 2017



August 18, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde
Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

RE: Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Project

Dear Mr. LaBorde:

The New Orleans & Gulf Coast Railway is a railroad in interstate commerce located in Belle Chasse, LA. It serves the West Bank of the New Orleans area and connects with the national rail system via Union Pacific Railroad at its Westwego Yard. Its operations are under the authority of the Surface Transportation Board.

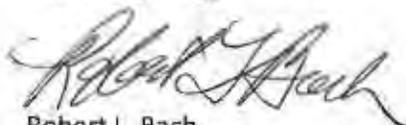
As the New Orleans & Gulf Coast Railway is part of the national rail system and under the authority of the Surface Transportation Board, there are distinct limits on any other government entity that may seek to undertake that would adversely impact the rail line. In this case, there is a concern over the severing of the rail line by the diversion channel. This letter is intended to provide public comment on that.

We previously met with representatives of the Coastal Protection Restoration Authority regarding the diversion project and its impact on the New Orleans & Gulf Coast Railway rail line. In those meetings, we made it clear that the project cannot, as a matter of law, sever the rail line.

In reviewing the Coastal Protection Restoration Authority website posting on the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion, it appears that the Coastal Protection Restoration Authority has taken our comments into consideration in its current preliminary design documents. This civil drawing (Volume 5, Railroad Design) reflects a design that could work.

If this project moves forward, it will be important that the engineering and construction teams selected consult with the New Orleans & Gulf Coast Railway to achieve the result that works for all and maintains an unsevered rail line.

Yours very truly,



Robert L. Bach
Vice President

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Judith Newman](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 2:57:51 PM

Aug 17, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

* Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.

* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Ms. Judith Newman
3908 Green Acres Rd
Metairie, LA 70003-1404
(504) 000-0000
jnewman424@gmail.com

August 25th, 2017

**Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017**

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? Yes No

If yes, please specify the position.

First and Last Name Canh V. Nguyen	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 5470 Pronneial Place	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code New Orleans, LA 70129	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

I am Canh Nguyen, living in Louisiana for 35 years. If freshwater comes in, there will be a shrimp loss. I need assistance from the government in some ways to prevent diversion so there will be more shrimps again for fishermen to catch.

August 25th, 2017

Ý kiến đóng góp phải được gửi trước ngày 5 tháng 9 năm 2017

Comment Form

Họp Đánh giá Công khai, Thứ 5, ngày 20 tháng 7, 2017
EIS cho Dự án Chuyển dòng Trầm tích Trung Barataria
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

BẠN LÀ NHÂN VIÊN CÔNG VỤ? CÓ KHÔNG Nếu có, vị trí: _____

Họ và Tên <u>Canh V. Nguyen</u>	Bằng cách nào quý vị biết về cuộc họp đánh giá công khai này? <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo Báo chí <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo qua Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Khác (hãy nêu rõ) <u>CCC</u>
Địa chỉ Đường phố <u>5470 Provincial Place</u>	
Địa chỉ Hộp thư (nếu khác với địa chỉ đường phố)	
Thành phố, Tiểu bang, Mã vùng <u>New Orleans, LA 70129</u>	
Địa chỉ Email	
Cơ quan/Tổ chức	

Thông tin này sẽ được bổ sung vào danh sách mail dự án. Nếu bạn không muốn đưa vào danh sách mail, hãy đánh dấu vào hộp kiểm.

Ý KIẾN: (Hãy viết tiếp vào mặt sau nếu không đủ chỗ.)

Tôi là Canh Nguyễn, sống ở Louisiana 35 năm. Từ ngày nước ngọt đổ ra, mất tôm; cuộc sống tôm nó ít lại. Need assistance from the government, in some ways to prevent diversion so there will more shrimps again for the fishermen to work.

[Signature]

Aug. 11, 2017

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Dung Van Nguyen	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting?
Street Address 110 Deadman Lane	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail
City, State, Zip Code Buras, LA 70041	<input type="checkbox"/> Email
Email Address	<input type="checkbox"/> Website
Affiliation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) ecc

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

If the diversion ^{happen} all the crabs will die. I will not have a job anymore and I will starve because there will be no income. I cannot take care of my family. I want the government to provide job trainings so I could find another job to support my family.

Nguyen

I, Anne Nguyen, at Coastal Communities Consulting, Inc., hereby certify that I translated the above statement from Vietnamese into English to the best of my ability; and I am fluent in both languages.

AN, translator

August 14th, 2017

**Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017**

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? Yes No

If yes, please specify the position.

<p>First and Last Name Giau Van Nguyen</p> <p>Street Address 2H56 LO. Sunnymeade Dr.</p> <p>Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i></p> <p>City, State, Zip Code Harvey, LA 70058</p> <p>Email Address</p> <p>Affiliation</p>	<p>How did you learn about this public scoping meeting?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)</p> <p>CCC</p>
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This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

I have captured shrimps and oysters since 1987. I do not agree to divert freshwater to this area because my living all relies on this job. The freshwater coming in will kill my shrimps and oysters so I do not know how to make a living. If the project is implemented, the State has to fully compensate for me.

August 24th, 2017

Ý kiến đóng góp phải được gửi trước ngày 5 tháng 9 năm 2017

Comment Form

Họp Đánh giá Công khai, Thứ 5, ngày 20 tháng 7, 2017
EIS cho Dự án Chuyển dòng Trầm tích Trung Barataria
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

BẠN LÀ NHÂN VIÊN CÔNG VỤ? CÓ KHÔNG Nếu có, vị trí: _____

Họ và Tên Gian Van Nguyen	Bằng cách nào quý vị biết về cuộc họp đánh giá công khai này? <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo Báo chí <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo qua Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Khác (hãy nêu rõ) CCC
Địa chỉ Đường phố 2456 W. Sunnymead Dr.	
Địa chỉ Hộp thư (nếu khác với địa chỉ đường phố) Harvey, LA 70058	
Thành phố, Tiểu bang, Mã vùng Harvey, LA 70058	
Cơ quan/Tổ chức	

Thông tin này sẽ được bổ sung vào danh sách mail dự án. Nếu bạn không muốn đưa vào danh sách mail, hãy đánh dấu vào hộp kiểm.

Ý KIẾN: (Hãy viết tiếp vào mặt sau nếu không đủ chỗ.)

Tôi làm tôm và sò từ năm 1987 tới giờ. Tôi không đồng ý xã nước ngọt tại vì cuộc sống chỉ có nghề đó thôi chứ không có nghề khác. Nước ngọt xã ra thì tôm và sò chết. Nếu nhà nước xã ngọt ra thì nhà nước lo cho tôi về cuộc sống cho tôi tại chính tiền bạc gì đó để giúp tôi.

Gian Van Nguyen

August 3rd, 2017

**Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017**

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? Yes No

If yes, please specify the position.

First and Last Name HUE THI NGUYEN	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 610 Justice C.T	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code MARRERO – LA - 70072	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

I am currently working with my husband on shrimp fisheries. If freshwater comes in, oysters will no longer exist; my job will be slowed down, and no income for us. I would like the government to support fishermen like me. I want to borrow some money to open a tailor shop or dry clean shop.

August 3, 2017

Comment Form

Họp Đánh giá Công khai, Thứ 5, ngày 20 tháng 7, 2017
EIS cho Dự án Chuyển dòng Trầm tích Trung Barataria
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Ý kiến đóng góp phải được gửi trước ngày 5 tháng 9 năm 2017

BẠN LÀ NHÂN VIÊN CÔNG VỤ? CÓ KHÔNG Nếu có, vị trí: _____

Họ và Tên Huê - THI - NGUYEN	Bằng cách nào quý vị biết về cuộc họp đánh giá công khai này? <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo Báo chí <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo qua Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Khác (hãy nêu rõ) CCC
Địa chỉ Đường phố 610 Justice e.T	
Địa chỉ Hộp thư (nếu khác với địa chỉ đường phố)	
Thành phố, Tiểu bang, Mã vùng MARRERO - LA - 70072	
Địa chỉ Email	
Cơ quan/Tổ chức	

Thông tin này sẽ được bổ sung vào danh sách mail dự án. Nếu bạn không muốn đưa vào danh sách mail, hãy đánh dấu vào hộp kiểm.

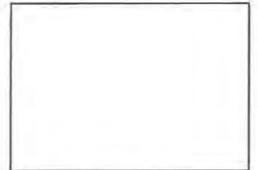
Ý KIẾN: (Hãy viết tiếp vào mặt sau nếu không đủ chỗ.)

Hiện tại tôi đang làm sò cùng với chồng tôi. Nếu né ngọt tràn vào, sò sẽ không còn nữa. Công việc tôi sẽ chậm lại, lợi tức của tôi không còn nữa. Tôi muốn chính phủ giúp đỡ tôi hỗ trợ giúp tôi những người ngư phủ giống tôi.

tôi muốn nhờ chi tiết phải giúp tôi
vay một số tiền để mở một cái
tiệm may hoặc Dry Clean

[Handwritten signature]

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118



Place postage here

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

August 9th, 2017

**Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017**

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? Yes No

If yes, please specify the position.

First and Last Name Hung Van Nguyen	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 6516 Peony st.	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code New Orleans, LA 70131	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

I have been working as a fisherman since 1988. I do not want to divert fresh water because I think shrimps will die. If the government wants to divert fresh water, and in the case there will be no shrimps, they must compensate for boat repairs and household expenses.

August 9th, 2017

Ý kiến đóng góp phải được gửi trước ngày 5 tháng 9 năm 2017

Comment Form

Họp Đánh giá Công khai, Thứ 5, ngày 20 tháng 7, 2017
EIS cho Dự án Chuyển dòng Trầm tích Trung Barataria
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

BẠN LÀ NHÂN VIÊN CÔNG VỤ? CÓ KHÔNG Nếu có, vị trí: _____

Họ và Tên <u>Hung Van Nguyen</u>	Bằng cách nào quý vị biết về cuộc họp đánh giá công khai này? <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo Báo chí <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo qua Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Khác (hãy nêu rõ) <u>CCC</u>
Địa chỉ Đường-phố <u>6516 Peony st.</u>	
Địa chỉ Hộp thư (nếu khác với địa chỉ đường phố)	
Thành phố, Tiểu bang, Mã vùng <u>New Orleans, LA 70131</u>	
Địa chỉ Email	
Cơ quan/Tổ chức	

Thông tin này sẽ được bổ sung vào danh sách mail dự án. Nếu bạn không muốn đưa vào danh sách mail, hãy đánh dấu vào hộp kiểm.

Ý KIẾN: (Hãy viết tiếp vào mặt sau nếu không đủ chỗ.)

Tôi làm nghề liên từ 1988 - 30 năm nay. Tôi không
 có muốn xã ngọt xây ra vì tôi nghỉ làm xã ngọt.
 Nếu chính phủ muốn xã ngọt xây ra mà không có
 tiền thì tôi muốn có tiền để sửa tạo và tiền thuê trong
 gia đình.



Aug. 15, 2017

Ý kiến đóng góp phải được gửi trước ngày 5 tháng 9 năm 2017

Comment Form

Họp Đánh giá Công khai, Thứ 5, ngày 20 tháng 7, 2017
EIS cho Dự án Chuyển dòng Trầm tích Trung Barataria
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

BẠN LÀ NHÂN VIÊN CÔNG VỤ? CÓ KHÔNG Nếu có, vị trí: _____

Họ và Tên

Kam thi Nguyen

Địa chỉ Đường phố

167 Elizabeth W Empire La 70050

Địa chỉ Hộp thư

(nếu khác với địa chỉ đường phố)

P.O. Box 4

Thành phố, Tiểu bang, Mã vùng

Empire La 70050

Địa chỉ Email

Cơ quan/Tổ chức

Bằng cách nào quý vị biết về cuộc họp đánh giá công khai này?

- Thông báo Báo chí
- Thông báo qua Mail
- Email
- Website
- Khác (hãy nêu rõ)

ecc

Thông tin này sẽ được bổ sung vào danh sách mail dự án. Nếu bạn không muốn đưa vào danh sách mail, hãy đánh dấu vào hộp kiểm.

Ý KIẾN: (Hãy viết tiếp vào mặt sau nếu không đủ chỗ.)

- khi quý ông đã nhận xét về từng kinh của chúng tôi đang xin ông thì tôi nghĩ sẽ sẽ chết

- hiện giờ tôi nghĩ ~~is not~~ biết hơn chọn cách nào để phù hợp với việc làm hiện nay của tôi

- Tôi xin quý ông cảm ơn rất là.

Aug. 15, 2017

Ý kiến đóng góp phải được gửi trước ngày 5 tháng 9 năm 2017

Comment Form

Họp Đánh giá Công khai, Thứ 5, ngày 20 tháng 7, 2017
EIS cho Dự án Chuyển dòng Trầm tích Trung Barataria
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

BẠN LÀ NHÂN VIÊN CÔNG VỤ? CÓ KHÔNG Nếu có, vị trí: _____

Họ và Tên <i>Kam thi Nguyen</i>	Bằng cách nào quý vị biết về cuộc họp đánh giá công khai này? <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo Báo chí <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo qua Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Khác (hãy nêu rõ) <i>ccc</i>
Địa chỉ Đường phố <i>167 Elizabeth Ln Empire La 70050</i>	
Địa chỉ Hộp thư (nếu khác với địa chỉ đường phố) <i>P.O. Box 4</i>	
Thành phố, Tiểu bang, Mã vùng <i>Empire La 70050</i>	
Địa chỉ Email	
Cơ quan/Tổ chức	

Thông tin này sẽ được bổ sung vào danh sách mail dự án. Nếu bạn không muốn đưa vào danh sách mail, hãy đánh dấu vào hộp kiểm.

Ý KIẾN: (Hãy viết tiếp vào mặt sau nếu không đủ chỗ.)

- khi quý ông đã nhận xét về công việc của chúng tôi đang xin sống thì tôi nghĩ sẽ sẽ chết

- hiện giờ tôi nghĩ ~~ở~~ biết hơn chọn cách nào để phù hợp với việc làm hiện nay của tôi

- Tôi xin quý ông cảm ơn rất là

August 28, 2017

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Lap Van Nguyen	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) Coastal Communities Consulting, Inc.
Street Address 2024 S. Village Green St.	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code Harvey, LA 70058	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

I have been a commercial fisherman over 30 year. My future is being a commercial fisherman, there is nothing else I can do. If the government decides on the freshwater diversion, there will be less shrimp and what will happen to my life? I want the government to see how it will affect my life and help me with my job. I have no other comments because the goverment already came out with the rules. I know I have to accept it because I cannot fight with the government. If the government is determine on the freshwater diversion, please look back on the affect it have on the commercial fisherman in Louisiana and research if they should: 1) stop, 2) do it. But before they do it, the shrimp will be less and the community will suffer and they can no longer live off of shrimping, will the government help the community/commercial fisherman to find a way to live day by day? That's all I hope for.



August 15th, 2017

**Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017**

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? Yes No

If yes, please specify the position.

First and Last Name Loan Thi Nguyen	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 167 Elizabeth, LN EMPIRE LA 70050	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i> PO BOX 4	
City, State, Zip Code EMPIRE LA 70050	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

- When you divert freshwater into our area, I think oysters will die.
- At the moment I do not know which way to earn a living instead.
- Please reconsider.

August 21st, 2017

**Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017**

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? Yes No

If yes, please specify the position.

First and Last Name MAO VAN NGUYEN	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 137 Foster LN	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code BURAS – LA - 70041	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

The diversion of freshwater into Mid-Barataria will have a huge impact on fisheries and my shrimp fishing will suffer from serious losses because my boat is not big enough to catch offshore. Therefore, I request the authorities to reconsider the project and should not divert freshwater into the lake. I make a living by catching shrimps and I have no other jobs. Freshwater coming into the lake causes a threat to fishermen's life. I request state agencies to help us build big ships and provide non-profit loans. We look forward to your dedicated help.

Thank you very much!

August 21, 2017

Comment Form

Hợp Đánh giá Công khai, Thứ 5, ngày 20 tháng 7, 2017
EIS cho Dự án Chuyển dòng Trầm tích Trung Barataria
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Ý kiến đóng góp phải được gửi trước ngày 5 tháng 9 năm 2017

BẠN LÀ NHÂN VIÊN CÔNG VỤ? CÓ KHÔNG Nếu có, vị trí: _____

Họ và Tên MAO - VAN - N NGUYEN	Bằng cách nào quý vị biết về cuộc họp đánh giá công khai này? <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo Báo chí <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo qua Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Khác (hãy nêu rõ) ccc
Địa chỉ Đường phố 137 Foster Ln	
Địa chỉ Hộp thư (nếu khác với địa chỉ đường phố)	
Thành phố, Tiểu bang, Mã vùng BURAS - LA 70041	
Địa chỉ Email	
Cơ quan/Tổ chức	

Thông tin này sẽ được bổ sung vào danh sách mail dự án. Nếu bạn không muốn đưa vào danh sách mail, hãy đánh dấu vào hộp kiểm.

Ý KIẾN: (Hãy viết tiếp vào mặt sau nếu không đủ chỗ.)

Vấn đề chính phủ của nước ngoài vào Hồ đánh bắt tôm. Sự ảnh hưởng rất lớn đến nghề nghiệp ngư phủ và nghề nghiệp tôm bị thất thu nghiêm trọng. Vì tàu lớn thông thuộc loại tàu to máy lớn mà ra, khó đánh bắt được.

Vì thế tôi thỉnh cầu các cơ quan có thẩm quyền nên bình xét và không nên xả nước ngoài vào Hồ. Bản thân tôi chỉ sống vào nghề đánh bắt tôm. Ngoài ra tôi không có tài nghệ gì chính thức hơn nghề tôm. Nước ngoài xả vào Hồ coi như cuộc sống ngư phủ Hoàn toàn bị thiệt hại nặng nề và sự sống gặp rất nhiều khó khăn. Cảm ơn chân thành

Nếu như Chính phủ đã quyết định, tôi thỉnh cầu
 sự giúp đỡ của cơ quan về tài trợ giúp
 đỡ chúng tôi làm tin to máy to và chi cho
 vay khỏn NN để giúp chúng tôi trong ngành
 nghề luân tiên trong của sân của nhà phố
 hiện tại và làm lại về sau. Kính mong
 sự giúp đỡ tận tình của các ban
 ngành nghề cơ quan có thẩm quyền quyết
 định về sự kiện trên.

Tôi thành thật cảm ơn và hi vọng các ngành.


 MAO-Văn Nguyễn

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
 Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
 7400 Leake Avenue
 New Orleans, LA 70118



Please postage here

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

August 25th, 2017

**Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017**

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? Yes No

If yes, please specify the position.

First and Last Name MUOI NGUYEN	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 904 FAIR FAX DR	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code GRETNA, LA 70056	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

To date we have lived on shrimp fishing. But today the government has a program to divert freshwater into the lake.
We request the authorities to reconsider for the sake of our living.
We do not want freshwater diversion to happen.
Sincerely thank.

AUGUST 25, 2017

Comment Form

Ý kiến đóng góp phải được gửi trước ngày 5 tháng 9 năm 2017

Họp Đánh giá Công khai, Thứ 5, ngày 20 tháng 7, 2017
EIS cho Dự án Chuyển dòng Trầm tích Trung Barataria
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

BẠN LÀ NHÂN VIÊN CÔNG VỤ? CÓ KHÔNG Nếu có, vị trí: _____

Họ và Tên MUOI - NGUYEN	Bằng cách nào quý vị biết về cuộc họp đánh giá công khai này? <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo Báo chí <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo qua Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Khác (hãy nêu rõ) CCC
Địa chỉ Đường phố 904 - FAIRFAX - DR	
Địa chỉ Hộp thư (nếu khác với địa chỉ đường phố)	
Thành phố, Tiểu bang, Mã vùng GREYNA , LA 70056	
Địa chỉ Email	
Cơ quan/Tổ chức	

Thông tin này sẽ được bổ sung vào danh sách mail dự án. Nếu bạn không muốn đưa vào danh sách mail, hãy đánh dấu vào hộp kiểm.

Ý KIẾN: (Hãy viết tiếp vào mặt sau nếu không đủ chỗ.)

chúng tôi từ trước tới bây giờ sống bằng nghề đánh bắt tôm
 nhưng hôm nay chính phủ đã cho dựng s² nước ngọt
 để ngăn các cấp nghiên cứu và xét lại vì sự sinh sống của
 chúng tôi
 chúng tôi không muốn sự việc dựng s² nước ngọt xảy ra với
 những người ngư phủ
 thành thật cảm ơn các ngành và các cấp

Ý kiến đóng góp phải được gửi
trước ngày 5 tháng 9 năm 2017

August 14th, 2017
Comment Form

Hợp Đánh giá Công khai, Thứ 5, ngày 20 tháng 7, 2017
EIS cho Dự án Chuyển dòng Trầm tích Trung Barataria
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

BẠN LÀ NHÂN VIÊN CÔNG VỤ? CÓ KHÔNG Nếu có, vị trí: _____

Họ và Tên

Bằng cách nào quý vị biết về
cuộc họp đánh giá công khai
này?

Phan Nguyen

Địa chỉ Đường phố

1917 - BRADFORD HARVEY LA 70058

Địa chỉ Hộp thư

(nếu khác với địa chỉ đường phố)

Thành phố, Tiểu bang, Mã vùng

- Thông báo Báo chí
 Thông báo qua Mail
 Email
 Website
 Khác (hãy nêu rõ)

ccc

Địa chỉ Email

Cơ quan/Tổ chức

Thông tin này sẽ được bổ sung vào danh sách mail dự án. Nếu bạn không muốn đưa vào danh sách mail, hãy đánh dấu vào hộp kiểm.

Ý KIẾN: (Hãy viết tiếp vào mặt sau nếu không đủ chỗ.)

Không đồng ý sả nước ngọt vì sẽ bị ảnh hưởng tới
công việc làm đi làm về ở town sẽ ảnh hưởng rất
lớn với việc sinh sống của gia đình chúng tôi

quì vì có thể giúp đỡ bằng cách cho vay tiền ở
có phần lãi hoặc phần lãi thấp hoặc miễn việc
làm



August 14th, 2017

**Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017**

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? Yes No

If yes, please specify the position.

First and Last Name Nhan Nguyen	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 1917 Bead Ford, Harvey, LA 70058	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

Not agree to divert freshwater to this area because our living career will be affected.
There will be no shrimps and it causes huge impact on the living of my family.

You can help by lending us money at low interest or without interest or find jobs for us.

September 5, 2017

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
285 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Nuong Nguyen	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) Coastal Communities Consulting, Inc.
Street Address 3648 Lake Timberlane Dr.	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code Gretna, LA 70056	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

I have been a commercial fisherman for over 30 years now. I typically fish around the Terrebonne and Barataria Bay area. I oppose of the freshwater diversion in the Mid-Barataria Bay. If the freshwater diversion is to happen, my job will be greatly affected. The freshwater will most likely kill all the brown shrimp. With all the brown shrimp gone, I would not have any income. No income is not a good thing because I am the sole provider for my family. I would like for the government to do some more research before they decide on the freshwater diversion. Will the freshwater diversion be the best thing to reserve our lands?

August 31, 2017

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
285 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Phuoc Nguyen	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) From other fishermen
Street Address 5850 Wright Rd	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code New Orleans, LA 70128	
Email Address HanaDylan504@gmail.com	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

I live in New Orleans East but my shrimp vessel works out of Venice, Louisiana, Lower Plaquemines Parish. I have been a commercial fisherman for 23 years. I own and operate a 65ft., steel haul, trawler that harvests shrimp in both the state and federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico, along the Louisiana coast. The Mid-Barataria Bay is where I predominantly harvest shrimp during every season. Therefore, I APPOSE THE BUILDING OF THE MID-BARATARIA SEDIMENT DIVERSION PROPOSED BY THE STATE.

I understand that the diversion will build land and protect our state as a whole. However, that much freshwater poured into our bay during the spring months when our shrimp and other seafood are spawning will most likely kill them all. Oyster will die instantly and I am afraid the our baby shrimps and crabs will not have enough time and oxygen to move away from such a huge surge of freshwater. The diversion will have a negatively impact on our business economically, for sure.

Furthermore, what will happen to the community in Lower Plaquemines where my vessel is dock. Will the diversion create more flooding events in the future to an area already vulnerable to the flooding. How will I be able to access and get to my business? The state has not done enough to inform the fishermen and engage us through the planning process. If they say, scientifically, that the diversions will create land to protect us; why can't they have their scientist tell us how much shrimp we will loose? I have not heard them talk about the impact of our seafood publicly to us and

and our family. Here are the questions I have and want answers to. I am hopeful that the state will be more honest with us on the process and impacts in the future about all the projects along the coast.

1. How much shrimp will I loose with that much water going into one of our state's largest shrimp producing area?
2. If it floods regularly as a result of the diversion, who will compensate for the physical damages to my vessel?
3. Who will be responsible to mititgate my business economic loss and vessel's physical damages?
4. What will I do if I no longer can commercially fish? Will the state have a mitigation plan ready to help the industry?

These are the questions I need answers to. Until these questions are answered, I will no way support the building of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion or any other proposed diversion in the future!!!!



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118



Place postage here

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

Aug. 15, 2017

Ý kiến đóng góp phải được gửi trước ngày 5 tháng 9 năm 2017

Comment Form

Họp Đánh giá Công khai, Thứ 5, ngày 20 tháng 7, 2017
EIS cho Dự án Chuyển đổi Trầm tích Trung Barataria
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

BẠN LÀ NHÂN VIÊN CÔNG VỤ? CÓ KHÔNG Nếu có, vị trí: _____

Họ và Tên Sam Van Nguyen	Bằng cách nào quý vị biết về cuộc họp đánh giá công khai này? <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo Báo chí <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo qua Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input type="checkbox"/> Khác (hãy nêu rõ) ccc
Địa chỉ Đường phố 164 Elizabeth Ln Empire LA 70050	
Địa chỉ Hộp thư (nếu khác với địa chỉ đường phố) PO. Box 185	
Thành phố, Tiểu bang, Mã vùng EMPIRE LA 70050	
Địa chỉ Email	
Cơ quan/Tổ chức	

Thông tin này sẽ được bổ sung vào danh sách mail dự án. Nếu bạn không muốn đưa vào danh sách mail, hãy đánh dấu vào hộp kiểm.

Ý KIẾN: (Hãy viết tiếp vào mặt sau nếu không đủ chỗ)

- khi mức độ ô nhiễm nước ngọt rất lớn ảnh hưởng đến chúng tôi về làm biến đổi sinh hoạt cá nhân và cho cả gia đình chúng tôi.

- khi tình trạng ô nhiễm nước ngọt ngày càng tăng tôi muốn có trách nhiệm của quý ông đối với người dân ngư gia của chúng tôi là làm mọi thủ tục cần thiết để chúng tôi được hỏi về sinh hoạt, kinh tế.

- chúng tôi cần sự trợ giúp kỹ thuật của bạn để có thể thiết lập các ngư phủ được giám sát, vì chúng tôi là người dân sống tại vùng ven biển đã trên 30 năm không thể nào thay đổi thói quen việc làm vì đây là người sinh sống của cả gia đình chúng tôi.

cho nên chúng tôi không muốn mi thiết hai đêm với
gia đình tôi, ~~nh~~ xin quý ông cứu xét.

Samyapa

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118



Place postage here

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

August 15th, 2017

**Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017**

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? Yes No

If yes, please specify the position.

First and Last Name Sau Van Nguyen	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 164 Elizabeth, LN EMPIRE LA 70050	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i> PO BOX 185	
City, State, Zip Code EMPIRE LA 70050	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

- Freshwater diversion causes much effect to us, i.e. fishing, personal living, and our children's future.
- When freshwater comes in, we want your responsibility to our fishermen, i.e. meeting our living and economic demands.
- We have been living here for over 30 years and we cannot change our jobs because this place is the living source of our family. We don't want such damage to come to my family. Please reconsider.

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 27, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Port Sulphur Community Center
278 Civic Drive, Port Sulphur, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Tam Nguyen	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
Street Address 32436 Hwy 23	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code Bovias La 70041	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

VERBAL thru translator

if they release the dam, the fisherman is afraid that the pressure of the water of mixing the freshwater w/ the salt water will cause the two shrimp seasons to collide and they can not survive. the skippers will not survive. white shrimp must lose season. if that happen then the fisherman will have a hard life.

1 * * *

2 TAM NGUYEN
3 32436 Highway 23
4 Buras, Louisiana 70041

5 INTERPRETER:

6 He wants to say that he's
7 afraid that with the release of the
8 water pressure of 340,000, if that's
9 the case, or the pressure of the
10 water coming from the dam, the
11 fishermen are afraid that, because
12 of the pressure, the salt water with
13 the fresh water colliding is going
14 to impact their livelihood of
15 shrimping and they're afraid that
16 releasing of the salt water and the
17 fresh water, the shrimp season is
18 going to lose that, because they
19 only do that twice a year.

20 If that's the case, then
21 they're not going to have that to
22 survive on. And also, the skimmers,
23 they're afraid that the water is
24 going to be not good there and
25 they're not able to use the
skimmers.

1 And he says that the white
2 shrimp, they might lose the season
3 as well because of the fresh water
4 and salt water mixture.

5 He said, if that's the case,
6 then fishermen is going to have a
7 very hard life. Because they're
8 afraid that, if that's the case, if
9 they might lose their home or if
10 that pressure of the water is going
11 to also affect the flooding of their
12 home as well with the levee.

13 They're afraid that they might
14 not have enough to live by, if
15 that's the case, because that's what
16 they do for a living, catching the
17 shrimp. If there isn't any, how are
18 they going to live and how are they
19 going to pay their bills and their
20 homes and they're afraid to lose
21 that, because that's their
22 livelihood.

23 * * *

24 THANARY OUM
 32436 Highway 23
25 Buras, Louisiana 70041

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Tuesday, July 25, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Belle Chasse Auditorium
8398 Highway 23, Belle Chasse, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Thanh Nguyen	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
Street Address 146 Satsuma DR	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code Buras La 70044	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

I am a fisherman and he is afraid that if the damn is broken they are going to loose the shrimp. They live as fisherman and they do not want to loose this.

1 of the Mid-Barataria Sediment
2 Diversion because it will cause more
3 damage than it can possibly do to
4 protect those living and working in
5 coastal Plaquemines and Jefferson
6 Parishes.

7 * * *

8 THANH NGUYEN
9 146 Satsuma Drive
10 Buras, Louisiana 70044

11 INTERPRETER:

12 The concern is they're afraid
13 that if the dam is breaking up, the
14 Barataria breaks up into Mississippi
15 and Louisiana, they're going to lose
16 the brown shrimp and that's what
17 they survive on, as a fisherman, and
18 they're catching them for a living.
19 They're afraid that the shrimp's
20 going to go away or it's going to,
21 you know, spread and they're no
22 longer going to be able to catch
23 them and that's how they make their
24 living. So that's what his concern
25 is, if the dam gets broken, and
that's the way he makes his living.

August 11th, 2017

**Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017**

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? Yes No

If yes, please specify the position.

First and Last Name THUY NGUYEN	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 130 Despeaux Lane	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code Buras, LA 70041	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

1. My husband is a fisherman. Our life depends on the sea. If the government decides to divert fresh water, all seafood is affected. Then we do not know whether we can handle our life.
2. We need help from the government to create jobs or provide loans for doing other businesses.
3. The government should find the way to solve problems for fishermen.

AUG. 11, 2017

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
285 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name THUY NGUYEN	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) ccc
Street Address 130 Despeaux Lane	
Mailing Address (If different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code Buras LA 70041	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

1. Chồng tôi là ngư phủ. Vợ chồng tôi sống nhờ vào nghề biển. Nếu chính phủ có quyết định mở đập xả nước ngọt thì tất cả seafood bị ảnh hưởng rất lớn. Lúc đó ko biết đời sống kinh tế của vợ chồng tôi có thể lo nổi cho mình hay ko.
2. Nhờ chính phủ tạo điều kiện công ăn việc làm hoặc cho vay vốn để kinh doanh lĩnh vực khác nhằm cải thiện kinh tế khi bị nước ngọt làm ảnh hưởng nghề biển (Ảnh hưởng tất cả seafood).
3. Chính phủ coi làm như thế nào để người dân ngư phủ

ko gặp phải khó khăn.

Thuy

Thuy Nguyen

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118



Place postage here

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

August 9th, 2017

Ý kiến đóng góp phải được gửi trước ngày 5 tháng 9 năm 2017

Comment Form

Họp Đánh giá Công khai, Thứ 5, ngày 20 tháng 7, 2017
EIS cho Dự án Chuyển dòng Trầm tích Trung Barataria
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

BẠN LÀ NHÂN VIÊN CÔNG VỤ? CÓ KHÔNG Nếu có, vị trí: _____

Họ và Tên <u>Thuy Nguyen</u>	Bằng cách nào quý vị biết về cuộc họp đánh giá công khai này? <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo Báo chí <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo qua Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Khác (hãy nêu rõ) <u>(CCC)</u>
Địa chỉ Đường phố <u>2248 Potomac Dr.</u>	
Địa chỉ Hộp thư (nếu khác với địa chỉ đường phố)	
Thành phố, Tiểu bang, Mã vùng <u>Marrero, LA 70072</u>	
Địa chỉ Email	
Cơ quan/Tổ chức	

Thông tin này sẽ được bổ sung vào danh sách mail dự án. Nếu bạn không muốn đưa vào danh sách mail, hãy đánh dấu vào hộp kiểm.

Ý KIẾN: (Hãy viết tiếp vào mặt sau nếu không đủ chỗ)

I am a commercial fisherman's wife. I am retired, which means we only live off of my husband's income. With the diversion coming, I'm afraid that my husband will no longer be able to shrimp in the state waters because he has a small boat. I want the government to buy out my business, because my husband doesn't know how to do anything else besides shrimping. Thank you for taking your time to read my comments.

Thuy Nguyen

August 31, 2017

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
236 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

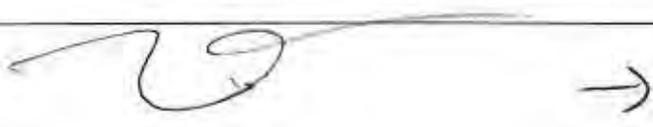
ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name TRUC NGUYEN	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) ecc
Street Address 3421 PALMISANO BLVD.	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code CHALMETTE, LA 70073	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

I have been a commercial fisherman for over 20 years. If diversion happens, I cannot shrimp inside the state line/water, I have to go out to Federal Waters. I want the government to help me build a bigger boat so I could shrimp out further.



A handwritten signature and an arrow pointing to the right.

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Tuesday, July 25, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Belle Chasse Auditorium
8398 Highway 23, Belle Chasse, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Van Nguyen	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
Street Address 2024 S. Village Green St.	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code Harvey, LA 70058.	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

Do not break the dam
Do not want the project
because the salt water mix
with fresh water will look
brownish.

1 MY LYNN VO
2 2301 Westmere Street
3 Harvey, Louisiana 70058

4 INTERPRETER:

5 They're afraid they're going to
6 lose the brown shrimp. Do not break
7 the dam. Do not want to lose brown
8 shrimp when fresh water and salt
9 water mix.

10 * * *

11 VAN NGUYEN
12 2024 S. Village Green Street
13 Harvey, Louisiana 70058

14 INTERPRETER:

15 They're afraid they're going to
16 lose the brown shrimp. Do not break
17 the dam. Do not want the project
18 because the salt water mix with
19 fresh water will lose brown shrimp.

20 * * *

21 JOHN CHIEN
22 1117 Wyndham Street
23 Gretna, Louisiana 70056

24 INTERPRETER:

25 They're afraid they're going to
lose the brown shrimp. Do not break
the dam. Do not want to lose brown
shrimp. Do not want salt water

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Nathan Nielsen](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 2:47:09 PM

Aug 17, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

* Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.

* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Dr. Nathan Nielsen
5301 Laurel St Unit A
New Orleans, LA 70115-1930
(504) 400-8404
nathan.nielsen@gmail.com

Aug. 9, 2017

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

<p>First and Last Name Zoran Nikolovski</p> <p>Street Address 2717 Highland Dr. N</p> <p>Mailing Address (if different from street address)</p> <p>City, State, Zip Code Gretna, LA 70056</p> <p>Email Address</p> <p>Affiliation</p>	<p>How did you learn about this public scoping meeting?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Email</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Website</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) Coastal Communities Consulting</p>
---	---

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

In the study, I would like to see:

- How will it affect the oyster fisheries and oyster reefs

The diversion that is before Port Sulphur, my oyster leases on Villiage Bay have already been destroyed by freshwater. I have tried to clean the reefs but they have not rebounded. Instead of diversion, why not make pyramids out of rubber (tires) to hold the sediment in to make a natural levy. Anything else is possible other than diversions we have plenty of fresh water already. The study should also focus on how the diversion will affect brown shrimp too. If I can't make money from my current

damaged oyster leases, I feel like I should
be compensated by how much I lost and will
continue to lose.

Amy D. Blaker

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118



Place postage here

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Brenda Nixon](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 11:34:16 AM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

Thank you for all of the work you have already done in Louisiana to assist in curbing our land loss. Sediment diversions have been shown to work effectively. Please carefully consider reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions. As we are all aware, the loss of land that Louisiana is currently undergoing will only continue without immediate efforts to stem land loss. We all depend upon the basin's bounty, and unless we have effective processes in place, we will continue to degrade Louisiana. We need to work together to prevent this from occurring. My understanding is that the "Scoping Report" could offer current information to help Louisiana be more successful in saving our land. Please release this document as quickly as possible. Again, I appreciate all that you have done to maintain the incredible land and water resources we all enjoy!

Best,

Brenda Nixon

Thank you,

Dr. Brenda Nixon
18255 Frenchtown Acres Dr
Greenwell Springs, LA 70739-3719
(123) 456-7890
bnixon@lsu.edu

Aug. 7, 2017

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Sokthan NORN	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) Coastal Communities Consulting
Street Address 182 Delta Aire Dr. Buras LA 70041	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

Too much freshwater will definitely push the brown shrimp further out. In the study I'd like to see them study how the commercial fishing industry will be affected. Also, the scoping meeting process wasn't very effective in hearing people's opinions. They instructed us to choose one of the 3 questions presented on the slide and answer it. I felt like my opinion would not be valued. It is very important to study all of the factors, environmental, economic, etc. before agreeing to the diversion.

X. *Sokthan Norn*

From: carterobrien15@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 11:09:02 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Carter O'Brien
2412 Chippewa St
New Orleans, LA, 70130

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Elizabeth Oda](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 11:35:49 AM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,

Ms. Elizabeth Oda
300 E Maple Ridge Dr
Metairie, LA 70001-6112
(123) 456-7890
elizabethxlyn@yahoo.com

From: elizabethxlyn@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 12:27:12 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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- The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Elizabeth Oda
300 E Maple Ridge Dr.
Metairie, LA, 70001

From: erikabraham@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Erika Odom](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Tuesday, August 29, 2017 9:29:38 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Erika Odom
Fairhope, AL 36532

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Avis Ogilvy](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 3:04:34 PM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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SEDIMENT DIVERSION WORKS !!!

Thank you,

Mrs. Avis Ogilvy
7933 Willow St
New Orleans, LA 70118-4057
(504) 861-0849

lanivet@gmail.com

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Avis Ogilvy](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 3:30:09 PM

Aug 17, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

* Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.

* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Avis Ogilvy
7933 Willow St
New Orleans, LA 70118-4057
(504) 861-0849
lanivet@gmail.com

From: lithohydrobio@Gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 1:18:29 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

If we don't restore, it will deteriorate ! We can do something to help, something good in this world.

Thank you,
Augustin Olivares
503 George Bush Drive West Apt 1211
College Station, Texas, 78216

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Leslie Oliver](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 11:06:36 AM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

As a Louisiana resident, I feel this issue is of the utmost urgency to protect the resources of our state.

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,

Mrs. Leslie Oliver
310 Buckthorn Cir
Covington, LA 70433-6265

(123) 456-7890
leslie.oliver@ritzcarlton.com

From: marsha.oliver@cox.net
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Saturday, July 29, 2017 12:52:42 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

Please take time to consider the importance of moving quickly to implement the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. It is important to protect people, property and businesses by rebuilding wetlands. Louisiana's future depends on coastal restoration. Please think of our future! The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Marsha Oliver
370 Metairie Heights Ave.
Metairie, LA, 70001

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
285 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Lynda Om	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
Street Address 1104 Delta Aire Drive	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code Buras, LA 70041	
Email Address Lyndadom119@gmail.com	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

My name is Lynda Om and I'm an owner of a shrimp boat along with my husband Rita Om. I reside in Buras, LA and it's been 8 years since we've been here raising our four children to love this beautiful small town we call "home". We love to provide for our children by fishing and getting all the seafood from our boat. I look forward to handing this business down to my kids to provide for their family in the future as well. This situation with the diversion makes me think and feel that we won't be able to do so. I think we won't be able to go shrimping any longer because there won't be more for us to

Catch. Not just only shrimpers but the whole
seafood industry in Bayou and all around
us won't be the same. So that leaves us
with where can we go to provide for our family.
We wouldn't be able to enjoy living in an
small town anymore. The jobs out here
won't be the same if the decision passes.
I'm more worried about my 4 kids future
than anything else. This will affect our
family very much because we're new
left with where does the future have go
us and where will it take us. Please hear us
out! Thank you.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118



Place postage here

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Ritha Om	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
Street Address 114 Delta Ave Drove	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code Buras, LA 70041	
Email Address creativecaps619@gmail.com	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

My name is Ritha Om and I'm an owner/captain of an shrimp boat working alongside my wife Lynda Om. I reside here in Buras, LA and have been 8 years since we've been here raising our 4 children to love this beautiful small town we call "home". We love to be able to provide for our children by fishing and getting all the gain since by potting and slapping in the waters. I look forward to handling this business down to my kids in the future to be able to provide for their families. This situation with the diversion makes me think and feel that we won't be able to do so. I think we won't be able to go through any longer because the won't be none for us to do so.

Not only shrimpers that will be affected but the
whole seafood industry in Bayou and all around
us won't be the same. So that leaves us with
where can we go to provide for our family. We
won't be able to enjoy living in this small town
anymore. The jobs out here won't be the same
if this decision goes into effect. I'm more
worried about our 4 kids future than anything
else. This will affect our family because we'll
now left with "what does the future have for us
and where will it take us?" Please hear us
out before making this decision.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118



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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

August 29, 2017

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Rithy Om	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
Street Address 114 Delta Ave Drive	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code Buras, LA 70041	
Email Address rithyom@gmail.com	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

My name is Rithy Om. I've been a commercial fisherman and a resident of Buras, LA since 1999. This diversion will affect me and my future because I won't be able to provide for my family and my grand children anymore. This will change the way I fish and work around the waters. I don't agree with this decision because I believe I won't have a job to be able to reside here in Buras that I love. Please consider our statement as to why I am not for this decision.

September 5th, 2017

U.S. Army COOps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
CEMVN-Midbarataria@usace.army.mil

Re: Mid Barataria Diversion Scoping Comments,

Dear EIS team,

I am writing today in response to the invitation to submit scoping level comments for the Mid Barataria Sediment Diversion Environmental Impact Statement. My purpose today is not to take a strong stand for or against the project. Though it seems that as long as I can remember, the scientific and restoration community has been talking about the necessity of reconnecting the river to the wetlands. I'll leave that to others. Rather, I am writing to urge the EIS team to consider not just the Mid Barataria Diversion itself, but rather the diversion plus the Barataria Basin as a system. In analyzing the system, the EIS should consider suites of ancillary features (besides the diversion itself) required to ensure that the project achieves the stated objectives. Examples of ancillary features include marsh or ridge creation to trap diverted sediment, flood control improvements to accommodate higher water levels, community relocations or fisheries improvement projects.

It's no secret that the opening of a 75,000 cfs diversion into the Barataria basin could have drastic consequences for commercial fishing. The oyster industry is particularly affected because Louisiana's long standing lease system ties the oystermen to geographic locations suited for decades of pre-diversion conditions. Only recently has legislation lifted the moratorium on new oyster leases, giving the industry some ability to adapt to expected conditions. The oyster industry isn't the only reason to protect oyster resources in the basin. Oyster reefs are tremendously important ecological assets, providing a whole host of ecosystem services. As our coastal wetland complex continues to degrade, I am convinced that oyster reefs will become as important as the wetlands for the long term sustainability of our communities.

While we can predict with reasonable certainty the spatial distribution of water quality changes as a result of diversion operations, we can't predict what the river will do in future years. For example, what if wet conditions mean that the diversion is operated at full capacity for 5, 8 or even 10 years in a row? While this would be great for wetlands creation, the repeated freshwater stress could wipe out the oyster resources in the basin.

I am of the opinion that it would be a travesty not to manage this project in such a way that it becomes a major positive for oyster reefs in the basin. The best way to do that is to create a massive abundance of oyster resources with sufficient spatial distribution to survive the more extreme combinations of future conditions.

What are some techniques for restoring oysters at a large scale?

Cultch plants: When adequate substrate is limited, oyster reefs can be maintained by depositing cultch material in thin layers on water bottoms where oyster larvae have been known to set. Wild larval settlement populates the new reef with juvenile oysters. Depending on the purpose of this reef, the oysters can be harvested as seed oysters for relocation, culled and grown into market oysters or protected as a brood stock. Typical cultch plants consist of 100 to 200 cubic yards of material per acre. The cultch, usually crushed concrete or limestone, is often blown off of deck barges high pressure hoses.

Some limitations of cultch planting: Cultch plants can only work in places with consistent spat set. Low DO events can kill recruited oysters, though the cultch would still be available for future spat sets. Siltation events can cover up and smother low profile reefs, and preventing future spat sets. Cultch plants are subject to harvest pressure. This can be a feature or a bug.

Living Shorelines: Living shorelines are a technique for stabilizing shorelines in a way that creates ecological benefit. Originally intended as a better alternative to hardened shorelines, living shorelines have also been promoted as a technique for creating intertidal oyster reefs. The basic idea is that an intertidal structure, made of oyster friendly materials, is constructed in such a way as to reduce wave energy on the adjacent wetland shoreline. Natural spat set colonizes the living shoreline structure, providing ecological benefits and potentially increasing the structure's effectiveness for shoreline protection.

Some advantages of living shoreline structures are that you get two benefits for one project (shoreline protection plus oyster restoration). Intertidal fringing reefs may disproportionately contribute larvae to the surrounding oyster fishery. Oysters can grow vertically, and do so faster than published rates of sea level rise and subsidence.

Some limitations of living shorelines: Oyster recruitment is limited by environment in which the structure is placed. When shoreline protection is the primary criteria, living shorelines are often installed in places that are suboptimal for reef development. Site selection is important for ensuring that success criteria are met. Also, successful recruitment may be limited by overly energetic conditions.

Broodstock enhancement: Any project that increases the number of breeding adult oysters can be considered a broodstock enhancement. Examples include cultch plants protected by enforcement, living shorelines projects or recreational angling reefs. Often materials that are difficult to harvest can be used. Tools exist now to optimize broodstock restoration. Examples include larval transport models or food web models.

Aquaculture technology: When natural conditions limit successful restoration, aquaculture technology can be used to give wild populations a boost. For example, Louisiana boasts a state

of the art oyster hatchery in Grand Isle, LA. This hatchery is regularly used to generate oyster larvae that are deposited on public reefs. The hatchery also produces oyster larvae for off bottom culture and spat on shell. Similar to spat on shell, oyster larvae can be set on 3D structures for use as living shorelines. The principles of aquaculture are so applicable to marine resource restoration that NOAA has identified an area of practice called “Restoration Aquaculture”

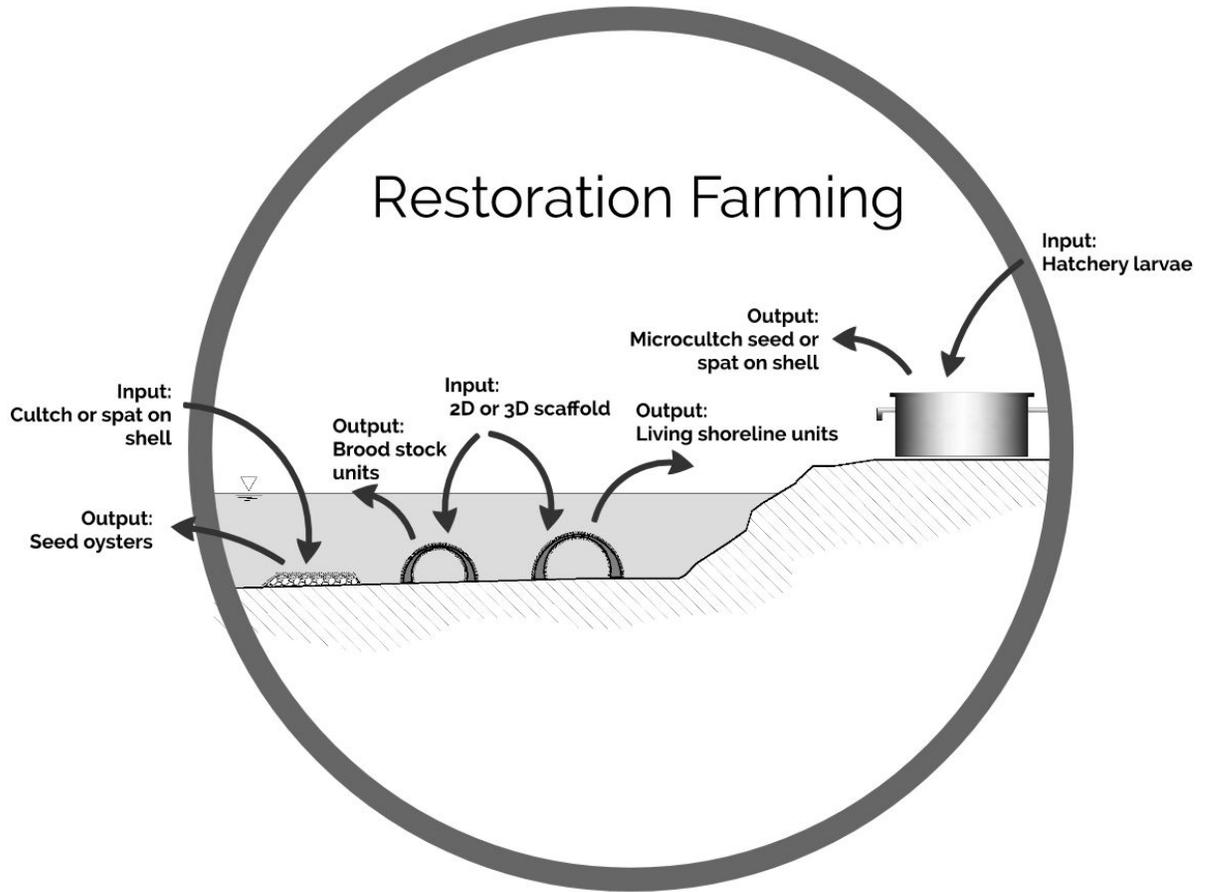
(http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/aquaculture/aquaculture_restoration.html).

Oyster Scaffold™ : The Oyster Scaffold is a patented technique developed by ORA Technologies to create living building blocks for coastal restoration. By combining concepts from oyster culture and coastal engineering, we can create living shorelines with a fraction of the raw material, minimize performance risk and maximize ecosystem services. The basic format is that three dimensional “scaffolds” are placed in prime oyster growing waters. Two or three generations of oyster recruitment adds hundreds or thousands of pounds to each scaffold. The mature scaffolds are then relocated with marine equipment into the living shoreline project.



An example of how Oyster Scaffold™ progresses from initial conditions to a “mature scaffold” for living shorelines application.

Which of these techniques is best? Or, how do we pull it all together? I would like to propose a new concept called Restoration Farming. Restoration Farming is an objectives-oriented, data-driven process where water bottoms are managed to produce desired ecosystem services. In the case of the Mid-Barataria Diversion, I propose a network of water bottoms, located at strategic locations throughout the basin, where seed oysters, brood stock units and living shoreline units are exported to ensure the health of the estuary and survival of the oyster industry.



Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.

Sincerely,

Tyler Ortego
Founding member
ORA Technologies, LLC
tyler@oratechnologies.com

From: msodril@charter.net
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 7:27:00 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Michael Ordoyne
525 Supercharge Dr
Thibodaux, LA, 703016142

From: osbornjlw@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 10:22:23 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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Thank you,
Jessica Osborn
4428 Fontainebleau Dr
New Orleans, LA, 70125

From: lynnoshea@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 10:20:54 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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- The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Lynn O'Shea
2428 Ursulines Ave
New Orleans, LA, 701193432

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Lynn O'Shea](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 1:21:08 PM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

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Thank you,

Ms. Lynn O'Shea
2428 Ursulines Ave
New Orleans, LA 70119-3432
(337) 241-5031
lynnoshea@yahoo.com

Aug. 16, 2017

Ý kiến đóng góp phải được gửi trước ngày 5 tháng 9 năm 2017

Comment Form

Họp Đánh giá Công khai, Thứ 5, ngày 20 tháng 7, 2017
EIS cho Dự án Chuyển dòng Trầm tích Trung Barataria
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

BẠN LÀ NHÂN VIÊN CÔNG VỤ? CÓ KHÔNG Nếu có, vị trí: _____

Họ và Tên Edward Otero	Bằng cách nào quý vị biết về cuộc họp đánh giá công khai này? <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo Báo chí <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo qua Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Khác (hãy nêu rõ) CCC
Địa chỉ Đường phố 284 Battistella Rd.	
Địa chỉ Hộp thư (nếu khác với địa chỉ đường phố)	
Thành phố, Tiểu bang, Mã vùng Empire, LA 70041	
Địa chỉ Email	
Cơ quan/Tổ chức	

Thông tin này sẽ được bổ sung vào danh sách mail dự án. Nếu bạn không muốn đưa vào danh sách mail, hãy đánh dấu vào hộp kiểm.

Ý KIẾN: (Hãy viết tiếp vào mặt sau nếu không đủ chỗ.)

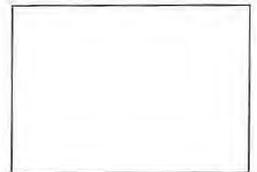
White/Shrimp? brown shrimp do not like freshwater. If the diversions are opened up, the shrimp and fish will not come into the bay to spawn. The only fish down here that like freshwater are bass fish, I can't make money from fishing bass. I think dredging is better than diversions. Instead of piping sediment into the Gulf, pipe the sediment along the coast. We've, the state has already spent millions dredging but the sediment is being pumped into the mouth of the river where it'll just wash away after 24 hours. The major factor is the destruction to the commercial fishing industry which is a way of life in South Plaquemine parish. Diversions take too long for results to be seen. Maybe in a 100 years land

will grow back. The quickest & most economically viable solution is to dredge. What about building levees w/ boulder rocks?! Instead of rebuilding levees w/ sand, i.e., Grand Isle, build w/ sand? then protect the levee w/ boulder rocks. I am 100% against diversions. There aren't shrimp in the Venice area when the the river is high. Again, I am against diversions. Docks will go, money will be lost, shrimp will be gone, communities destroyed. No to diversions!

Backfill w/ dredges will not affect the industry.

Edward J. Otero III

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118



Place postage here

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

Aug. 11e, 2017

Ý kiến đóng góp phải được gửi trước ngày 5 tháng 9 năm 2017

Comment Form

Họp Đánh giá Công khai, Thứ 5, ngày 20 tháng 7, 2017
EIS cho Dự án Chuyển dòng Trầm tích Trung Barataria
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

BẠN LÀ NHÂN VIÊN CÔNG VỤ? CÓ KHÔNG Nếu có, vị trí: _____

Họ và Tên <u>Edward Otero</u>	Bằng cách nào quý vị biết về cuộc họp đánh giá công khai này? <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo Báo chí <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo qua Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Khác (hãy nêu rõ) <u>CCC</u>
Địa chỉ Đường phố <u>284 Battistella Rd.</u>	
Địa chỉ Hộp thư (nếu khác với địa chỉ đường phố)	
Thành phố, Tiểu bang, Mã vùng <u>Empire, LA 70011</u>	
Địa chỉ Email	
Cơ quan/Tổ chức	

Thông tin này sẽ được bổ sung vào danh sách mail dự án. Nếu bạn không muốn đưa vào danh sách mail, hãy đánh dấu vào hộp kiểm.

Ý KIẾN: (Hãy viết tiếp vào mặt sau nếu không đủ chỗ.)

White/Shrimp? brown shrimp do not like freshwater. If the diversions are opened up, the shrimp and fish will not come into the bay to spawn. The only fish down here that like freshwater are bass fish, I can't make money from fishing bass. I think dredging is better than diversions. Instead of piping sediment into the Gulf, pipe the sediment along the coast. We've, the state has already spent millions dredging but the sediment is being pumped into the mouth of the river where it'll just wash away after 24 hours. The major factor is the destruction to the commercial fishing industry which is a way of life in South Plaquemine parish. Diversions take too long for results to be seen. Maybe in a 100 years land

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Edward J. Otero III

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118



Place postage here

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

1 And he says that the white
2 shrimp, they might lose the season
3 as well because of the fresh water
4 and salt water mixture.

5 He said, if that's the case,
6 then fishermen is going to have a
7 very hard life. Because they're
8 afraid that, if that's the case, if
9 they might lose their home or if
10 that pressure of the water is going
11 to also affect the flooding of their
12 home as well with the levee.

13 They're afraid that they might
14 not have enough to live by, if
15 that's the case, because that's what
16 they do for a living, catching the
17 shrimp. If there isn't any, how are
18 they going to live and how are they
19 going to pay their bills and their
20 homes and they're afraid to lose
21 that, because that's their
22 livelihood.

23 * * *

24 THANARY OUM
 32436 Highway 23
25 Buras, Louisiana 70041

1 THANARY OUM:

2 We supposed to make money and I
3 have to pay a lot of stuff, and
4 right now, we make no money at all.
5 The boat is broken, and we fix it,
6 we take money from our pocket to fix
7 the boat, but we don't get any money
8 from the shrimp at all right now.

9 INTERPRETER:

10 So she has the same concern as,
11 again, with losing the shrimp
12 season, with the brown shrimp and
13 the white shrimp, the salt water and
14 the fresh water. The pressure of
15 the water is going to -- how it's
16 going to affect their livelihood as
17 far as their home as well, how are
18 they guaranteed they're protected
19 and their homes are not going to get
20 flooded or they're going to lose
21 their business.

22 Because right now, the shrimp
23 season is not even good and they're
24 barely surviving, so if this is the
25 case, it's going to put them in a

1 worse bind. Now they have to worry
2 about 2021 when this project start.
3 What's going to happen to them then?
4 Am I correct?

5 THANARY OUM:

6 We're getting old. We need to
7 make some money.

8 INTERPRETER:

9 Because this is what they've
10 learned and they survive on this.
11 They're afraid that it gets the
12 shrimp further and further out and
13 then how will they survive, because
14 their boats are not big, and if the
15 shrimp is further out, they can't go
16 far. This is why they live in the
17 small community, because of what
18 they catch here.

19 THANARY OUM:

20 Yeah.

21 INTERPRETER:

22 Because their skimmer is very
23 short and small and also it doesn't
24 catch if it's too deep. They're
25 afraid the depth of the water is too

1 deep and they can't catch anything.

2 THANARY OUM:

3 Thank you so much.

4 (End of Verbal Comments).
* * *

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Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 27, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Port Sulphur Community Center
278 Civic Drive, Port Sulphur, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Thamary Oum	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
Street Address 32436 HWY 23	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code Buras LA 70041	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

needed the translator

afraid that the shrimp season will impact the salt water and fish.

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Caroline Ourso](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 12:14:32 PM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,

Ms. Caroline Ourso
1435 Lakeridge Dr
Baton Rouge, LA 70802-4328
(123) 456-7890
ceourso@gmail.com

From: PADDOCKDL@GMAIL.COM
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, July 28, 2017 8:35:56 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
DENISE PADDOCK
6735 ARGONNE BLVD
NEW ORLEANS, LA, 70124

From: tpomacino@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Tara Palmasino](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Tuesday, August 29, 2017 10:15:52 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Tara Palmasino
Westwego, LA 70094

From: miss.sandyparker@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Sandra Parker](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 4, 2017 4:53:44 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Sandra Parker
New Orleans, LA 70125

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Christy Parria

Street Address 4021 Privateer Blvd

Mailing Address

(if different from street address)

City, State, Zip Code BARATARIA, LA 70036

Email Address Cparria@yahoo.com

Affiliation

How did you learn about this
public scoping meeting?

Newspaper Notice

Notice in Mail

Email

Website

Other (please explain)

LSA

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

My husband, sons, son-in-law, brother-in-law
are all commercial fishermen who's salary's depend
100% on the commercial fishing industry.
This diversion would negatively impact wildlife and
sea life due to the river water causing dead zone in
the Gulf of Mexico due to chemical which are passed down
the river into the Gulf of Mexico. We need to stop and
think what if we have these dead zones in our Bay,
Bayous, lakes, or even causing a larger dead zone
than we already have, and we don't know how to
prevent. This effect would impact our community, our
family and our way of life. Then it will cause more
floodings with the large amount of water that they are
propose passing through Barataria Bay. We have no levee. As matter
of fact they pump water from behind protection levee on us. which
will make our community homes and unaffordable to us and our children.

I'm asking that you please don't put this Weversion.

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name GAVIN C PARRIA	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
Street Address 4039 Privteer BLVD	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code Barataria La 70036	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

My name is Gavin Parria I
I'm a trawling been for 30
year. I know something has
to be done. But I don't want
to lose my way of making
a live I'm a shrimper. I have
a 70 ft iron boats. I would like
to know how much the water
will come up in bayou barataria

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Louis JPARRIA JR.

Street Address 4031 PRIVATEER BLVD

Mailing Address

(if different from street address)

City, State, Zip Code BARATARIA, LA 70030

Email Address CPARRIA@YAHOO.COM

Affiliation

How did you learn about this
public scoping meeting?

Newspaper Notice

Notice in Mail

Email

Website

Other (please explain)

LSA, Word of Mouth

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

I am a Shrimp Trawler who has been fishing for
43 years. This proposed Diversion would be a setback
for the Community in which I live and which I make
my living from. They want to pump large amount of
Riverwater through Barataria Basin and Bays which is a
estuary for Shrimp, Crab, Oysters, fish and other species
of wild life and marine life. The same river water that
causes the largest Dead zone due to contaminated with
fertilizers and other chemicals that deplete the oxygen in the
water. This water is causing the biggest Dead zone this year in
the Gulf of Mexico. We need to ask ourselves can we afford
dead zone in our bays and lakes also. OR for our Gulf to
have a larger dead zone due to this Diversion. This
Lafitte, Barataria, Crown Point area is out the Protection Laws.
We were drawn out of them like a step child. Now you want to
run more water through here from River Diversion which will

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name

Kelli Parria

Street Address

2433 privateer Blvd.

Mailing Address

(if different from street address)

City, State, Zip Code

Barataria LA 70036

Email Address

KelliParria@yahoo.com

Affiliation

How did you learn about this
public scoping meeting?

- Newspaper Notice
- Notice in Mail
- Email
- Website
- Other (please explain)

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

Opening all this Freshwater to our area is severely impacting the growth and repopulation of our shrimp. My Family solely depends on making our living as commercial Fishermans. This will continue to decrease our catch and sales and potentially affect my younger son when he grows up and wants to be a Shrimper.

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name

Melissa Parria

Street Address

4039 Privateer Blvd.

Mailing Address

(if different from street address)

City, State, Zip Code

Barataria, La. 70036

Email Address

melissaandgarin@yahoo.com

Affiliation

How did you learn about this
public scoping meeting?

- Newspaper Notice
- Notice in Mail
- Email
- Website
- Other (please explain)

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

I'm deeply concerned for our families and communities. All the fishing and non fishing communities the diversion will affect! I feel the diversions are not the answer to the problem, its just shifting the problem to another area (Our area). We can not control disasters from hurricanes, but you have the power to stop this one, so, please, for the sake of thousands of families that live and make there living in the areas the diversion are going to affect!! Please stop the diversions!

Sincerely,
Melissa Parria

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name

Gavin Parria Sr.

Street Address

4039 Privateer Blvd.

Mailing Address

(if different from street address)

City, State, Zip Code

Barataria, La. 70036

Email Address

melissaandgavin@yahoo.com

Affiliation

How did you learn about this
public scoping meeting?

- Newspaper Notice
 Notice in Mail
 Email
 Website
 Other (please explain)

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

My name is Gavin Parria, I'm a resident of Barataria, La. I'm a 4th generation commercial fisherman, I've been trawling for 35 years. And Proud to be one (Fisherman). I feel the diversion will end our fishing Industry. Shrimp will not grow in the inside with all the fresh water the diversion will push our way! I'm strongly against it! I would not try to take your way of making a living away from you! Don't do it to our communities - our fishing communities

Sincerely,
Gavin C. Parria

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name

Ross Parria, Sr.

Street Address

4029 Privateer Blvd.

Mailing Address

(if different from street address)

City, State, Zip Code

Barataria, La 70036

Email Address

rossaparria11c1sa@yahoo.com

Affiliation

Commercial fisherman + lifelong resident of Lafitte/Barataria

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box. area

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

My name is Ross A. Parria, Sr. I am 34 years old. A lifelong resident of Lafitte/Barataria, LA. I have a wife and 3 children. I've been a commercial fisherman for 20 years in this area. I'm a 3rd generation fisherman, it's all my family have done for generations. I currently have a estimated value of 600,000 dollars and a lifetime of my own work invested in the commercial shrimp industry. My primary fishing area is Barataria Bay and the coast of Louisiana around Grand Isle, La. I cannot express enough how this diversion could negatively impact my business, family and community. And would like it to be →

How did you learn about this public scoping meeting?

- Newspaper Notice
- Notice in Mail
- Email
- Website
- Other (please explain)

reconsidered. Also for the flooding issues we will be faced with and the ever growing dead zone that the Mississippi produces every year being directly disbursed into our estuary. This lack of oxygen would destroy our fisheries and our families. Please don't impose this burden on U.S. We may be at the end of the road, but it's our homes and our families and our businesses. And we matter too. Thankyou! Rant. Paris, la.

01 SEP 2017 PM 4 L

NEW ORLEANS LA 700

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118



- PUBLIC COMMENTS -

Comment 1 of 5:
Ross Parria, Sr.
4029 Privateer Boulevard
Barataria, La 70036

MR. ROSS PARRIA, SR:

I think they would be much better doing the suction dredge and pumping the sand in from the river because the commercial fishermen, the estuary, is going to get washed out with the sand. And we're working the boats. I have a whole family of them. We have, like, seven, eight boats. We work the boats. We see the dredges making a difference along the coast.

This is not going to be good. They're going to run this thing through here. We have the flood gates up there. I just don't think it's going to be good. It's going to push out all the -- the shrimp crop that comes in in the spring time, that puts all the eggs out, and disrupt the ecosystem and

the fisheries in south Louisiana, particularly the Barataria Bay area.

That's my comments. I think by the time they get this all planned and pay all these people all these millions of dollars, with all these titles, they could have done built some land. They could have built miles of land by the time they finish all of this. You know what I'm saying?

They got five bulletin boards on each side and 45 people to explain it, you know what I'm saying? They have useless spending going on.

I just think they're not taking into account the people that's going to be affected by this in the next 50 years, 60 years.

And another thing, this would be my other comment, it wouldn't be a bigger diversion than the Mississippi River. Do you see any land growing at the end of the

Mississippi River? That's the biggest diversion you want to see. At the end of the Atchafalaya River, all kinds of freshwater coming through straight from the Mississippi. Do you see any land building there? That's natural diversion.

That's my comments.

I think the suction dredge would be less money if they cut through all the red tape and all the people getting handouts and cutbacks. It don't cost that much money to excavate and throw rocks in a full-time dredge company hired by the State. The State could have the dredge company, State-owned, the whole thing. They can maintain our coast rather than this.

That's what my comment is.

One other thing I would like to say. I'm 34 years old. I got -- going to be about a 400 or \$500,000 business that's going to be

pulled out from my feet because they're going to start this, pumping this through here, and it's going to throw off the whole balance of the Louisiana seafood. I'm trying to think of what I want to exactly say. I want to make sure that I'm getting across to them.

It's just going to take a lot from a lot of people.

Indirectly, indirectly, it's going to take their livelihoods. And in turn, it's just going to -- it's just going to be bad for the whole community, this community, Venice, Louisiana, Myrtle Grove area, Belle Chasse, all of the surrounding areas that deal with seafood is going to take a hit from it.

Brown shrimp come in in the spring time. There's the eggs. They have to hatch before they can grow. Brown shrimp feed the fish, the fish feed the crab. You're going to take that whole -- the

whole crop of brown shrimp is going to be no more.

We've seen the Davis Pond diversion open in 2002 and since then you can look at the brown shrimp crop that we've been dealing with is going down in size and going down in pounds, dramatically, to the point now where it's a dwindling season.

It's changed. That change is dramatic. And this here, this would be the end of it.

I don't think it's fair for the next man to be able to come take my business away from me for no particular -- I mean, they got better alternatives.

Might not have as many contracts to throw out to people but they got better alternatives to what they want to do now.

If I was running this show right here, I would have one man -- I said if I was running this show --

the Army Corps, put that in. Right?
It takes one, two people, three
people to do a presentation. We got
35 in here. They have more people
for the presentation than they have
people seated in the presentation.
I'm saying they have better ways to
spend money. That's just my own
opinion. Rest of these people, that
will be their opinion, too.

Thank you.

(End of Comment)

From: helen.rose721@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 9:05:03 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Helen Rose Patterson
1626 Simon Bolivar Avenue
New Orleans, LA, 70113

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Tuesday, July 25, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Belle Chasse Auditorium
8398 Highway 23, Belle Chasse, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Helen Rose Patterson	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
Street Address 1626 Simon Bolivar Avenue	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code New Orleans, LA 70113	
Email Address helen.rose721@gmail.com	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

To whom it may concern:

As a citizen of the City of New Orleans, I am grateful for the opportunity to comment on the permit application for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion.

My primary concern is that the people who will be negatively impacted by ongoing land loss will also be negatively impacted by the sediment diversion. The long-term social and economic impacts to these communities under the proposed action and the no action alternative must be well understood.

Secondly, this project has been studied and

discussed for over 30 years and at this point there is no time to waste. I encourage you to quickly identify and possible opportunities to shorten the timeline.

Finally when the permit is issued please ensure that you allow opportunities for the adaptive management of the structure. This is the only way to successfully manage the diversion in the long term.

Sincerely,

Adela Rose Pitt

U.S. A
Attn: t
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118



Place postage here



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District

Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00

7400 Leake Avenue

New Orleans, LA 70118

From: jodipa15@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Saturday, August 19, 2017 9:42:55 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Jo Ann Paulin
4012 Richland Ave
Metairie, LA, 700023022

COMMENT 2 OF 3:

Natalie Payronnin
1875 Connecticut NW #600
Washington, DC 20009

MS. NATALIE PEYRONNIN:

My name is Natalie

Peyronnin with the Environmental
Defense Fund. I thank you for the
opportunity to comment. I grew up
in southern Louisiana. I'm very
passionate about the wetlands and
saving the coast of Louisiana to the
point that that's what I do for
living. I work at the Environmental
Defense Fund and I work as a partner
in Restoring the Mississippi River
Delta Campaign.

The scoping process is an
important part of the process and we
appreciate the opportunity not only
for the public to comment but for
them to have the opportunity for
everybody to comment as opposed to
just the people who are comfortable
standing up in public.

We would like to see the

scoping report that's due according to the Federal Data report on September 30th include not only the comments that are heard and the transcripts or letters that are received but also include a detailed path forward for the diversion and for the EIS, including a timeline for getting permitting done as quickly as possible.

Everyday we lose land out in the Barataria Basin. The longer we wait to permit and construct the sediment diversion, the more land we will lose. We're in an urgent situation so we urge you to move quickly, find efficiencies within the permitting and in the scoping report that is delivered to the public on September 30th to include methods, data analysis of what models will be used, what issues will be addressed and the timeline by which those will be accomplished.

(End of comment)

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Tyra Pellerin](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 6:26:06 PM

Aug 17, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

* Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.

* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Ms. Tyra Pellerin
5421 Lafaye St
New Orleans, LA 70122-6337
(504) 975-5208
jazercise@msn.com

From: jazercise@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Tyra Pellerin](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 8:30:27 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Tyra Pellerin
New Orleans, LA 70122

To whom it may concern,

My name is Stephen Peltier, a lifelong resident and business owner of Lafourche parish. I have built my professional career as an Attorney at Law within my home parish of Lafourche and continue to do so as the owner of Stephen Peltier Law Offices. For generations the Peltier family has lived, thrived, and grown within Lafourche parish; I am very passionate about this area, the community, and the natural resources it offers. I have grown up enjoying the Barataria Basin through recreational hunting and fishing which I now enjoy with my own family. No other estuary in the country is eroding as quickly as the Barataria Basin; it is with my deeply-rooted family ties to the area, my own experiences, as well as my business that I give my support toward the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion.

To echo my previous, but significant, comment- the Barataria Basin is one of the most rapidly eroding estuaries on the planet. However, this disappearing basin produces 30 percent of the country's seafood production, is home to an abundance of wintering waterfowl during migration, and serves as the entry point for 18 percent of the nation's foreign and domestic energy supply. These facts provide the foundation of support I give toward this proposed project. The natural resources found in the Barataria Basin are vital not only to Louisiana, but to the rest of the country; however, all that is cherished of this region is threatened by the high decrease in wetland, vegetation, and freshwater, and sediment. The benefits of the proposed project would offset these threats and continue to fight the obstacle of saltwater intrusion. The long term and sustainable benefits of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are tremendous in that land will continue to accumulate and be built over time, creating imperative protection to the surrounding communities and industries.

Additionally, as a business owner and resident of the area, the projected time of permitting this project alarms me, as well as the involvement of the public in the milestones and progress of the project. Lafourche will be impacted by this project, and although it will be a positive impact, a public scoping meeting should have been held in this parish.

Time is not on the side of coastal Louisiana which is no secret as the effects of natural weather occurrences continue to become larger and more dangerous. With the additional sediment from the diversion, more land will be created to slow impact, absorb excess storm water, and protect interior regions. Time should be considered of utmost importance, utilizing the completed 30 years of analysis and research to push this project's permitting to an earlier completion. The draft EIS should be concise and transparent in possible impacts to the community, the incomparable option of the no-action alternative, and a solid plan for operations and adaptive management. Identifying uncertainties in environmental effects and relaying all information to citizens of surrounding and impacted communities should be a priority, including Lafourche.

To conclude, my passion for this region, its assets, and the culture is as significant as the need for this project. I am in full support of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Thank you for your time and attention to our parish and basin.

Sincerely,

Stephen Peltier

101 Saint Louis Street

Thibodaux, Louisiana 70301

(985) 447-4033

stephen@peltierlawoffice.com

August 3, 2017

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 27, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Port Sulphur Community Center
278 Civic Drive, Port Sulphur, LA

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name SOKUNTHEA PEOU	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting?
Street Address 201 CHOUEST LANE	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail
City, State, Zip Code BURAS, LA 70041	<input type="checkbox"/> Email
Email Address Sherripeou@gail.com	<input type="checkbox"/> Website
Affiliation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) Coastal Communities Consulting, Inc.

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

I have been a shrimper for over 20 years. That is all I know how to do. If the freshwater come in, we will lose a lot of shrimp. I need help from the government because I have no other job besides shrimping. I want the government to help fund me in making my boat bigger so I can shrimp in the Federal Waters.

Sokunthea Peou

From: kpercy@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Katie Percy](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 4, 2017 9:59:57 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Katie Percy
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

From: patpercy2003@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Patrick Percy](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 1:10:29 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Sincerely,
Patrick Percy
Baton Rouge, LA 70820

From: laura@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Laura Perez](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 2:47:23 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Laura Perez
New Orleans, LA 70123

From: pappajoep3@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [MARY PEREZ](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 4, 2017 12:16:27 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
MARY PEREZ
New Orleans, LA 70127

From: mlbperrin@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Mary Perrin](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 12:51:17 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Mary Perrin
Lafayette, LA 70503

From: jeanperryjones@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 12:47:04 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Time is certainly of the essence. Act quickly. Cut through red tape.

Thank you,
Jean Perry-Jones
4470 Aspen Ave.
Las Vegas, NEVADA, 89124-9250

From: mperry@perryandassociates.net
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 11:21:41 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Thank you,
Michele Perry
406 N Randolph Apt 102
Champaign, IL, 61820

From: mpeteinaraki978@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Maria Peteinaraki](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 12:04:34 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Sincerely,
Maria Peteinaraki
Heraklion City Creta, LA 71305

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Lynn Peters](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 1:16:19 PM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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Thank you,

Mrs. Lynn Peters
401 Lake Village Blvd
Slidell, LA 70461-3813
(985) 641-3409
spaghettkid1@aol.com

From: spaghettkid1@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Lynn Peters](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 12:32:35 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Lynn Peters
Slidell, LA 70461

From: charlottepevny@icloud.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 10:08:07 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Charlotte Pevny
1726 Toledano St
New Orleans, LA, 70115

August 31st, 2017

**Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017**

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? Yes No

If yes, please specify the position.

First and Last Name BUI HUU PHAM	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 408 Bon Temps Roule Mandeville LA, 7047	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

If fresh water is released, there will be no shrimps. My family lives on shrimp fishing so 4 people in my family will face hard time. Please help us to find a way to live.

Our family is very thankful.

August 31st, 2017

Comment Form

Họp Đánh giá Công khai, Thứ 5, ngày 20 tháng 7, 2017
EIS cho Dự án Chuyển dòng Trầm tích Trung Barataria
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Ý kiến đóng góp phải được gửi trước ngày 5 tháng 9 năm 2017

BẠN LÀ NHÂN VIÊN CÔNG VỤ? CÓ KHÔNG Nếu có, vị trí: _____

Họ và Tên BUI HUU PHAM	Bằng cách nào quý vị biết về cuộc họp đánh giá công khai này? <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo Báo chí <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo qua Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Khác (hãy nêu rõ) CCC
Địa chỉ Đường phố 408 Bon Temps Roule Mandeville LA 70471	
Địa chỉ Hộp thư (nếu khác với địa chỉ đường phố)	
Thành phố, Tiểu bang, Mã vùng	
Địa chỉ Email	
Cơ quan/Tổ chức	

Thông tin này sẽ được bổ sung vào danh sách mail dự án. Nếu bạn không muốn đưa vào danh sách mail, hãy đánh dấu vào hộp kiểm.

Ý KIẾN: (Hãy viết tiếp vào mặt sau nếu không đủ chỗ.)

Nếu thử nước ngọt ra sẽ không có thêm gia đình tôi sinh sống nhờ vào nghề đánh tôm cả gia đình tôi 4 người sẽ làm vào cảnh màn trời chiếu đất Nay tôi có ý kiến cho gia đình tôi 1 con đường sống gia đình tôi vô cùng cảm ơn
 Kytôn
 Jun Phan

August 15th, 2017

**Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017**

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? Yes No

If yes, please specify the position.

First and Last Name Khanh Pham	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 159 Elizabeth, LN EMPIRE LA 70050	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i> PO BOX 15 EMPIRE LA 70050	
City, State, Zip Code	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

I live on the Gulf Coast and do fishing. If freshwater comes in, fishing will be affected and I have no jobs to do. Therefore, the government should arrange another suitable job for me as well as a place for me to live.

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Tuesday, July 25, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Belle Chasse Auditorium
8398 Highway 23, Belle Chasse, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Sang Phan	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
Street Address 904 Fairfax DR	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code Gretna La 70056	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

Please do not break the dam or build
it concerns on loosing brown shrimp

August 25th, 2017

**Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017**

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? Yes No

If yes, please specify the position.

First and Last Name SANG VAN PHAN	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 904 FAIR FAX DR	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code GRETNA, LA 70056	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

I have been living here over the past few decades and we live on shrimp fisheries. But today the government has a freshwater diversion program into the lake, causing me and my family to be very worried and nervous. When freshwater comes in, our life will face difficulties. So I request the authorities to help us.
Sincerely thank.

AUGUST 25, 2017

Comment Form

Hợp Đánh giá Công khai, Thứ 5, ngày 20 tháng 7, 2017
EIS cho Dự án Chuyển dòng Trầm tích Trung Barataria
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Ý kiến đóng góp phải được gửi trước ngày 5 tháng 9 năm 2017

BẠN LÀ NHÂN VIÊN CÔNG VỤ? CÓ KHÔNG

Nếu có, vị trí: _____

Họ và Tên SANG - VAN - PHAN	Bằng cách nào quý vị biết về cuộc họp đánh giá công khai này? <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo Báo chí <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo qua Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Khác (hãy nêu rõ) CCC
Địa chỉ Đường phố 904 - FAIR FAX - DR	
Địa chỉ Hộp thư (nếu khác với địa chỉ đường phố)	
Thành phố, Tiểu bang, Mã vùng METNA , LA 70056	
Địa chỉ Email	
Cơ quan/Tổ chức	

Thông tin này sẽ được bổ sung vào danh sách mail dự án. Nếu bạn không muốn đưa vào danh sách mail, hãy đánh dấu vào hộp kiểm.

Ý KIẾN: (Hãy viết tiếp vào mặt sau nếu không đủ chỗ)

Mấy chục năm qua tôi ở đây và sinh sống bằng nghề đánh bắt tôm để nuôi sống gia đình.

Nhưng hôm nay chính phủ bạn ngăn lại để ra chứng triễn S¹ nước ngọt ra biển hổ, làm cho đ¹ tôi với gia đình rất hoang mang và lo sợ khi S¹ nước ngọt với sự mưu sinh gia đình chúng tôi không còn nữa.

Vậy tôi đề nghị các cấp ban ngành cần xét lại với giúp đỡ cho chúng tôi có một đời sống được an nh¹ hạnh phúc xin thành thật cảm ơn.

1 Harvey, Louisiana 70058

2 INTERPRETER:

3 He said he doesn't want salt
4 water to mix when they open the dam
5 with the fresh water and he's going
6 to lose brown shrimp. And they
7 don't want that because that's what
8 he does for a living is to catch
9 shrimp.

10 So basically they're asking and
11 begging for them not to do it
12 because they don't want to lose the
13 shrimp. So that's their main
14 concern and that's why they're all
15 here. Thank you.

16 * * *

17 SANG PHAN
18 904 Fairfax Drive
19 Gretna, Louisiana 70056

20 INTERPRETER:

21 They all really want to say the
22 same thing. That's why they're all
23 here is because they're afraid
24 they're going to lose the brown
25 shrimp.

26 * * *

August 15th, 2017

**Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017**

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? Yes No

If yes, please specify the position.

First and Last Name Thanh Van Phan	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 2328 Leigh Lane	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code Harvey, LA 70058	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

I do not agree to divert freshwater because it reduces shrimps. No shrimps mean no money for us. In this case, will the government help us? And what will the government do to support us?

August 15th, 2017

Ý kiến đóng góp phải được gửi trước ngày 5 tháng 9 năm 2017

Comment Form

Họp Đánh giá Công khai, Thứ 5, ngày 20 tháng 7, 2017
EIS cho Dự án Chuyển dòng Trầm tích Trung Barataria
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

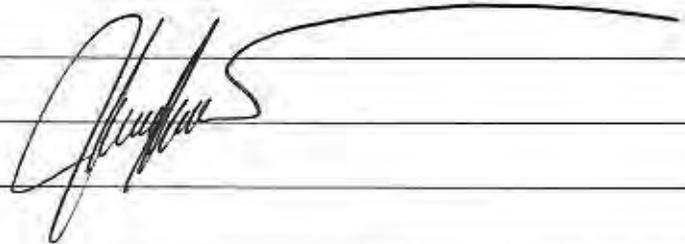
BẠN LÀ NHÂN VIÊN CÔNG VỤ? CÓ KHÔNG Nếu có, vị trí: _____

Họ và Tên <u>Thanh Van Phan</u>	Bằng cách nào quý vị biết về cuộc họp đánh giá công khai này? <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo Báo chí <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo qua Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input type="checkbox"/> Khác (hãy nêu rõ) <u>CC</u>
Địa chỉ Đường phố <u>2328 Leigh Lane</u>	
Địa chỉ Hộp thư (nếu khác với địa chỉ đường phố)	
Thành phố, Tiểu bang, Mã vùng <u>Harvey, LA 70058</u>	
Địa chỉ Email	
Cơ quan/Tổ chức	

Thông tin này sẽ được bổ sung vào danh sách mail dự án. Nếu bạn không muốn đưa vào danh sách mail, hãy đánh dấu vào hộp kiểm.

Ý KIẾN: (Hãy viết tiếp vào mặt sau nếu không đủ chỗ.)

Tôi không muốn xả nước ngọt là vì nếu xả nước ngọt, không có tôm tép, lợi tức của tôi sẽ bị thiệt hại. Nếu xả nước ngọt, không có tôm là tội tức không có cho nên tôi cần chính phủ giúp đỡ hay là sao? Chính phủ sẽ làm gì để giúp tôi khi tôm bị thiệt hại?



August 14, 2017

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

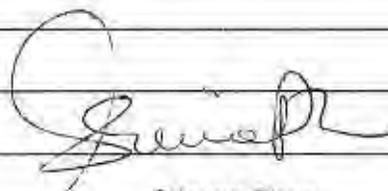
ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Srinuon Phea	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) Coastal Communities Consulting, Inc.
Street Address 197 Chouest Lane	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code Buras, LA 70041	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

If the diversion happens, will it flood my house and community? Will there be financial assistance with the housing such as elevation, rebuilding, or repairing? I understand there will be marsh; however, my husband and I cannot go shrimping because there will be no more shrimp, crabs, oysters, etc. in the shallow water because of the freshwater. Because there is no more fresh shrimp, it will affect the economy because there will be no more tourist. Tourist loves to come to New Orleans because of their fresh seafood. If there is no more job, I want the government to provide me some job trainings and help me pay my bills.



Srinuon Phea

I, Cristina Duong, at Coastal Communities Consulting, Inc. (CCC) hereby certify that I have translated the above statement from Cambodian into English to the best of my abilities; and I am fluent in both languages.


Cristina Duong, Translator

August 7th, 2017

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Rith Pheap	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting?
Street Address	
Mailing Address 37605 Highway 23, Buras, LA 70041	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice
<i>(if different from street address)</i> P.O. Box 423	<input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail
City, State, Zip Code	<input type="checkbox"/> Email
Buras, LA 70041	<input type="checkbox"/> Website
Email Address	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
Affiliation pphorn12@gmail.com	CCC

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

I have been a deckhand for my husband since 1997. In the future, I hope that I can have my own boat because I want to be a self-employed as a shrimper. I love the water and I want to live near the ocean. I don't want diversion to happen because I can't go to work and that means I can't pay my bills. If diversion happen, I would like to have job trainings available to train me with new jobs. I don't know what else to do besides shrimping for my husband, Phen Phorn, as a deckhand. Also, I want to know what will happen to our boat if diversion happens and shrimp go out further?

Rith Pheap

I, Cristina Duong, at coastal communities consulting, Inc. (CCC) hereby certify that I translated the above statement from Cambodian into English to the best of my ability; and I am fluent in both languages.
Cristina Duong, translator
cristina.duong

From: [Vogt, Shannon H](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Cc: [Faulkner, Neil](#); [Piper, Jim M.](#); [Campbell, Emily B.](#); [Cagnolatti, David A.](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mid-Barataria Scoping Comments
Date: Tuesday, September 5, 2017 3:07:31 PM

Good afternoon,

On behalf of Neil Faulkner, Refinery Manager, and the rest of the Phillips 66 Alliance Refinery Leadership Team, we request the following considerations be made during the Environmental Impact Study for the Mid Barataria Diversion Project:

- * Request that the guide levees on the project be built to the 100-year hurricane and flood protection standard, so that levee construction and highway bridging will not have to be modified at a later date.

- * Installation of an effective drainage system for the new Alliance polder, since the project will cut off the current drainage path to the Wilkinson Pump Station in Myrtle Grove.

- * Strong coordination with the Corps project team on the West Bank Non-Federal Levee System currently under design to ensure the projects are working together.

- * Explanation of having two gates versus more cost effective option of one gate.

- * Clarification as to whether the diversion will flow continuously or only when the river is above a certain velocity at the Belle Chasse gauge.

- * Impact, if any, on Phillips 66 Alliance Refinery docks from the diversion.

- * Request that the Corps as well as all other federal agencies assist with expediting permits for the project.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments and are happy to answer any questions or provide further details to our requests if necessary.

Regards,

Shannon Vogt

Sr. Advisor, Public Affairs

O: (+1) 504.656.3987 | M: (+1) 832-904-2067
Alliance Refinery | 15551 Hwy. 23 | Belle Chasse, LA 70037

Phillips 66

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Tuesday, July 25, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Belle Chasse Auditorium
8398 Highway 23, Belle Chasse, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

<p>First and Last Name Matthew Phillips</p> <p>Street Address 325 South Saint Patrick Street</p> <p>Mailing Address (if different from street address)</p> <p>City, State, Zip Code New Orleans, LA 70119</p> <p>Email Address matt.phillips24@gmail.com</p> <p>Affiliation</p>	<p>How did you learn about this public scoping meeting?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Email</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Website</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)</p>
---	--

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

I am concerned about the effects of future sea level rise on the success of the diversion project. If sea levels rise higher or faster than current CPRA projections, how will the diversion's land-building ability be impacted? At ~~what~~ what level of sea level rise do ~~the~~ the diversion's effects become negligible? The Corps should study the ~~the~~ impact of increased rates of sea level rise on the ultimate success of the diversion as a tool for rebuilding land in coastal Louisiana.

August 3rd, 2017

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Pheap Phon	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) Coastal Communities Consulting
Street Address 222 Delta Aire Drive	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code Buras, LA 70041	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

My name is Pheap and I have been shrimping for approximately 1 year and it's my only source of income. I have a skimmer boat and fish inshore. If the diversion comes, it'll bring too much freshwater into the lake where I shrimp. Too much freshwater will push the brown shrimp out further into the Gulf and my boat is not big enough to go outside state lines. Right now, I can't make my existing boat bigger because shrimpers just aren't making any money. If the diversion comes then I'll have to stop shrimping and then I'll be out of a job. Lastly, I am against the diversion for the reasons stated above. Thank you.

August 7th, 2017

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name

Malaichi Phorn

How did you learn about this public scoping meeting?

Newspaper Notice

Notice in Mail

Email

Website

Other (please explain)

Coastal Communities Consulting

Street Address

37605 Highway 23

Mailing Address

(if different from street address)

City, State, Zip Code

Buras, LA 70041

Email Address

Bigxromance@gmail.com

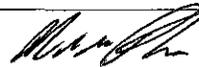
Affiliation

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

I have recently returned to Buras from Philadelphia following Hurricane Katrina. I left everything behind, my job (since I've had since Katrina) my house, friends and family to invest into buying a 31ft skimmer boat. Boats are not cheap and I'm depending on shrimping as my only source of income in order to have a sustainable livelihood in Buras. In the study, I'd like to see how the diversion will affect the commercial shrimping industry. Furthermore, I'd like to know why I'm just now hearing about this project? Why were the scoping meetings scheduled so closely to the deadline to submit comments? How will fishermen be

notified when the diversion is in operation? When will the diversions be operated? Shrimping seasons usually coincide w/ the wettest season, May thru August I believe. If the river is high and diversions are in operation, this may be during the shrimping season. Brown shrimp season is usually from May-July and white shrimp season from Aug-Dec. Is the diversion the cheapest route? Can they get sediment from somewhere else besides the MS River? My future is in Buras and I'd like to ensure that future.



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118



Place postage here

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

August 7th, 2017

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Phen Phorn	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting?
Street Address 37605 Highway 23, Buras, LA 70041	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice
Mailing Address (If different from street address) P.O. Box 423	<input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail
City, State, Zip Code Buras, LA 70041	<input type="checkbox"/> Email
Email Address pphorn12@gmail.com	<input type="checkbox"/> Website
Affiliation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

I don't diversion because the shrimp will go out further. I can't shrimp; I will have no income/money. You already have the levees, why do you need to have the diversion? If I don't have an income or can't work, I need financial assistance to pay bills because shrimping is the only skill that I know how to do.

Phen Phorn

I, Cristina Duong, at Coastal Communities Consulting, Inc. (CCC) hereby certify that I translated the above statement from the Cambodian into English to the best of my ability; and I am fluent in both languages.

Cristina Duong, translator
cristinatduong

August 21, 2017

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

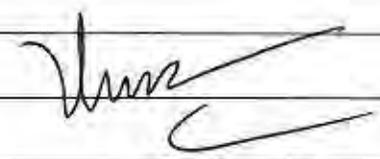
ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Phung Phu	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting?
Street Address 127 Foster Lane	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail
City, State, Zip Code Buras, LA 70041	<input type="checkbox"/> Email
Email Address	<input type="checkbox"/> Website
Affiliation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) ccc

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

If the diversion happens, my job will be affected. I am a deckhand on a shrimp boat. If the owner of the boat does not go shrimping, I cannot go shrimping. I have no skill sets beside shrimping, that's why I want to continue shrimping. I am too old to learn new skills; my English is very limited so it will be hard to do anything else.



I, Anne Nguyen, at Coastal Communities Consulting, Inc. (ccc) hereby certify that I have translated the above statement from Vietnamese into English to the best of my abilities; and I am fluent in both languages.

Anne Nguyen, translator

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Duane Pierce](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 11:36:14 AM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,

Mr. Duane Pierce
2215 E Lakeshore Dr
Baton Rouge, LA 70808-1468
(123) 456-7890
d2pierce@aol.com

From: d2pierce@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Duane Pierce](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 10:47:32 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Sincerely,
Duane Pierce
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

From: rpilgreen@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Ronnie Pilgreen](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 11:10:49 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Ronnie Pilgreen
Shreveport, LA 71129

From: cpizani05@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 9:33:25 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Chris Pizani
193 E 67th St
Cut Off, LA, 703452963

August 29, 2018

To whom it may concern:

My name is Mike Plaisance and I would first like to thank you for the opportunity to provide comments regarding the development of the draft Environmental Impact Statement on the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority's proposed project of Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion.

The proposed project would reconnect and re-establish the connection between the Mississippi River and the Barataria Basin, channeling much-needed sediment and freshwater into marsh and wetland areas of the lower basin where the threat of deterioration from salt intrusion is high and continues to increase. Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion is vital to the long-term, sustainable succession of the Barataria Basin through its deliverance of nutrients and sediments to the starved areas of the lower basin; once delivered, the freshwater and sediments would equalize the water system to a regulation point of marsh creation and recovery that can be maintained. These areas are severely deprived and threatened, failing the act as a thriving habitat for wildlife or a buffer and protection barrier to the surrounding communities and industries.

A completion date of permitting to be extended to October 2022 is highly alarming considering the medium scenario of the no-action alternative, predicted by the 2017 Coastal Master Plan, that the Barataria Basin will lose approximately 550 square miles of land in the next 50 years; time we do not have. The multitude of decisions that have previously been made through official National Environmental Policy Act processes and other studies should be incorporated into the Environmental Impact Statement which should significantly trim excess time off of the permitting timeline.

In conclusion, I am in full support of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and strongly suggest a shorter permitting timeline and the inclusion of all impacted parishes, such as Lafourche, in future meetings and projects reports.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Plaisance", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mike Plaisance

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Matthew Plavidal](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 4:35:12 PM

Aug 17, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

* Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.

* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Mr. Matthew Plavidal
4004 Scarlet Tanager Dr
Madisonville, LA 70447-3055
(504) 782-3329
matthew.plavidal@gmail.com

From: amplicqu@uno.edu
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 9:57:51 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Being that my relatives are from Barataria, La., and I am a personal stakeholder in hunting and fishing property in that area, and I hope to pass this on to my son, keep hunting and fishing industries intact, as well as judicious use of the area for gas and oil production, this is especially important to me. I am a hunter and love the natural beauty and bounty of this area. Let us make a legacy for now, my son's, his children's generation and the future.

Thank you,
Ann Plicque
5374 Laurel St.
New Orleans, LA, 70115

Aug 17, 2017

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting?
Phan Plock	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
Street Address	ccc
144 Delta Aire	
Mailing Address	
<i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code	
Buras, LA 70041	
Email Address	
phanplock@gmail.com	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

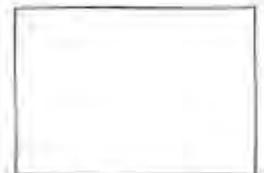
To: Army Corps of Engineers

I don't doubt the Corps's ability to build this project. All I'm asking is for the EIS and powers that be to consider the lives and communities that will be impacted by the project. The MBSD project would definitely kill brown shrimp (May) season. When the brown shrimp migrate somewhere else those who are able to chase after them [shrimp] need bigger boats and have them IF they are fortunate but what about those that don't? I'm fortunate to have the skills needed to be a successful fisherman but that's it, my skills are solely fishing skills. With the diversions, us fisherman would lose 4 weeks worth of work. I would like to see a funding program in

place to assist the 'true' commercial fishermen make
their boats bigger. Fishermen need to be compensated
one way or another, we need help!

John Plouffe

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118



place postage here

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

From: suepoag@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Susan Poag](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Saturday, August 5, 2017 7:01:16 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

As someone who has witnessed the success of the Caernarvon project, I support and hope this project will be expedited.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Susan Poag
New Orleans, LA 70114

From: brelulz@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Brieaux Poche](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Tuesday, August 29, 2017 9:26:15 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Sincerely,
Brieaux Poche
Ponchatoula, LA 70454

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Brieaux Poche](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 18, 2017 6:28:30 AM

Aug 18, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations
and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30
years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this
Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

* Please regularly share information with the public and other
stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of
the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin
should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which
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should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations
over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we
learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and
request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Ms. Brieaux Poche
PO Box 536
Ponchatoula, LA 70454-0536
(000) 000-0000
brelulz@me.com

From: lizpomper@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Liz Pomper](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 10:09:40 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Sincerely,
Liz Pomper

- PUBLIC COMMENTS -

COMMENT 1 OF 3:

Altion Porter
298 Hwy 11, Port Sulphur, La 70083

MR. ALTION PORTER:

Well, if we don't get something done on the east side because the locks and the -- I can't say it now, but they have to stop the water from coming in on top of us.

We got a break in at Pointe a la Hache up here. I was told three weeks ago, we got 86-foot of water in it. And they had all the little bays and killed. It killed the ground, it killed all of it. But the other lock that's down here, down here off of the locks, the last set of locks, they are big break down there.

The best coming out of the river, coming out the south. And show you the island where it used to be an island, I take my GPS showed

you where it used to be an island,
it ain't there no more. It's from
washing out from the bay.

As far as the mouth of the
Mississippi River down on the other
end it ain't, it's down here. And
they ask me how I know. Ma'am, you
can go out there now, go fishing,
fishing out there for trout, where
you used to catch 100 trout, and you
could probably save them and all.
Now you catch two or three trout all
day long. I can show you one after
another. I don't know if my boy
still have the film. I can show you
a mullet where you can pile them
five mile long, all on one bunch.
Like we went down side five miles.
They ain't there no more.

Ever since the BP oil
spill, we haven't had fish. We
ain't had the crabs. Ain't had no
oyster. It killed all the oyster,
the reefs, it's all dead. They
can't bring it back. They ain't got

no seeds. It takes seeds to plant.

In other words, that big -- you see out there ain't nothing but a big garden. If you don't water it properly, we will lose it. If you don't have enough salt water mixed in, it don't produce.

Ask me how I know? I've been doing this since I've been nine years old. I have fished since I was nine years old. I'm 70 years old now. I don't have nobody tell me I have to go to work. I tell myself. My wife is in that back there and she'll tell you, we've been married 35 years. And she will tell you I make my living out here. I sleep here and I live here. I don't belong to anybody. If you don't, you ain't going to make a living.

It got now where we can't make a living. Last three years, I lost I'll say -- I'd say I lost 18 to \$40,000 in the last three years.

It's money I didn't have it to put back in.

Wildlife Fisheries can't do nothing about it. I don't blame the Wildlife Fisheries. They can't do nothing about it.

Back before BP oil spill, we were making the money because we go about 300 a year. We can't do it no more. And reason we can't do it, we can't make money. It's like your job, if they cut your hours down to five hours a week, can you make a living? No.

When they took our nets away from us, they put 6500 families out of work. We had a dock down here, about 2700 box of mullet a week. About three semis a week. Now, it ain't there. They cut our nets off and we can't fish no more.

And like I said, it's like a garden. Where I caught them big red fish that long, they eat -- crab, you can brush the gills on

them, pour the bag out and what we call the food bag, about that big around, about that long and take a knife and you got trout, you got krill, they got shrimp, they got crab, it got any kind of fish out there in the gulf. It ain't nothing but garbage fish in the bay.

It hurts you. When we were fishing, we kept the beat down. We cut the beat down. Now I can go show you out there, you can run through bunches, it's three to four miles long, a long red fish, 75 foot-pound red fish, it ain't worth eating. It ain't worth nothing.

For sport fishermen go out there, catch them for sport and they leave the hooks in the mouth and we catch them. We get them with hooks in their mouth.

And back in, let's say, '84, '85, there were more shrimp in the State of Louisiana than any state in the world. They caught

more shrimp than any state in the world. I can show you pictures of them. I had a six-foot man on my boat. You couldn't see the top of his head from the pile of shrimp. Four hour total I caught 425 boxes, 430 boxes of shrimp on my boat. But they were no smaller than 40-50. We weren't allowed to catch them. They had to get 40-50 before we could catch them.

It's hard today and hard to deal with. I know for the last seven years since I've been going through it, it's a hard living. I hate to say it.

Last year they closed us down. That's how bad it hurts people.

(End of Comment)

From: robobobo24@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Robert Potter](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 5:15:44 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Robert Potter
Marrero, LA 70072

From: bluelyne@sbcglobal.net
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 4:13:43 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Thank you,
Lynne Preston
638 Rhode Island St Apt A
San Francisco, CA, 941072688

Sept. 5, 2017

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Sandy Prom	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting?
Street Address 159 Zuvich Ln	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail
City, State, Zip Code Buras, LA 70041	<input type="checkbox"/> Email
Email Address SProm562@gmail.com	<input type="checkbox"/> Website
Affiliation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) Coastal Communities Consulting of Bretna

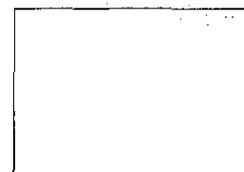
This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

My family and I moved here 4 years ago to start a new chapter of our lives as shrimpers. We chose shrimping and Buras because we heard that this was the place and profession to be in if we were looking for a down to earth way of living especially for my 3 kids. I have a teenage daughter and 2 growing boys. When I came here 4 years ago the shrimping industry gave me that sense of hope that my decision to move here wasn't a mistake. As time passed that sense of security is slowly subsiding due to the shrimping industry. As a shrimper, I'm noticing a difference in our catch since I've

started. The water diversion allowing ~~fresh water~~ fresh water to come into the gulf is definitely a factor to the sustainability of shrimp. Since then shrimping alone wasn't enough to keep my family financially afloat. I have invested also in an oyster boat and is also oystering during the closing shrimp season. But that also is a challenge as it is also difficult for oysters to harvest due to the abundance of fresh water. All and all, I am hoping these actions from the water diversions be reconsidered so that my sense of hope of making Buras home will come back to me, again. and my kids

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118



Place postage here

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118**

Aug. 14, 2017

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Thou Prum	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting?
Street Address 126 Magnolia Lane	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	CCC Coastal Communities Consulting
City, State, Zip Code Buras, CA 70041	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

I am a commercial fisherman, I have a 37ft. boat where I can only work in the bays, i.e; shallow water. I cannot work in deep water because my boat does not have the proper equipment to work in deep water. A fisherman would need at least a 40ft boat to work in deep waters. If the government would help me financially, i.e, a grant or a low interest loan program to make my current boat bigger than that'd be great. Too much fresh water pushes the brown & white shrimp further out into the Gulf. If I also had job training opportunities, I'd also be willing to begin another job other than fishing.

X Thou Prum

Aug. 14, 2017

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Thou Prum	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) ccc Coastal Communities Consulting
Street Address 126 Magnolia Lane	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code Buras, LA 70041	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

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X Thou Prum

From: chrispulaski@mac.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 9:22:11 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Thank you,
Christopher Pulaski
855 High Street
Houma, LA, 70360

From: jjoompa@aol.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Saturday, August 19, 2017 4:30:23 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The people of Louisiana are in need of your help. Please do all that you can to ensure this moves along in a timely fashion.

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Jamie Radley
330 Haight Avenue
Alameda, CA, 94501

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

NOTE: THIS IS MY
SUBMISSION FROM
THE LAFITTE
MEETING.

ent Form

ng, Thursday, July 20, 2017
ria Sediment Diversion EIS
ark Multipurpose Complex
5 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO

First and Last Name

KENNETH RAGAS

Street Address

1311 HOLIDAY PLACE

Mailing Address

(if different from street address)

City, State, Zip Code

NEW ORLEANS, LA 70114

Email Address

8346 buras @ att.net.

Affiliation

PLAQUEMINES PARISH LANDOWNER

THANKS,
Kenneth Ragas

How did you learn about this
public scoping meeting?

Newspaper Notice

Notice in Mail

Email

Website

Other (please explain)

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

I DO NOT SUPPORT THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER DIVERSIONS (MRD)
I SUPPORT THE RESI OF THE CPRA MASTER PLAN.
THE MRD IS NOT WHAT IS BEST FOR SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA. WE
NEED STORM SURGE PROTECTION WHICH THE MRD WILL NOT
PROVIDE. ALSO THE 2 BILLION \$\$ SHOULD BE USED WISELY;
WE CAN'T MAKE AN ERROR. IT IS LIFE OR DEATH FOR
S.E. LOUISIANA.

I HAVE 2 ALTERNATIVES TO PRESENT:
(1.) DREDGING MATERIAL FROM THE GULF OF MEXICO NEAR
SHORE AREAS AS WAS DONE FOR THE CUPRA PROJECT B-68,
BAYOU GRAND DE LIARD RIDGE & MARSH CREATION. THE BORROW
WAS SOURCED JUST OUTSIDE OF THE SANDY POINT AREA. ~~THE~~
THE DREDGE CONTRACTOR BID THE JOB FOR \$6/cu.yd.

THE DREDGE PIPELINE COULD BE OPENED A COUPLE OR
MILES FROM THE BARRIÈRE ISLANDS, NOT REQUIRING ANY
STAGING DEPOSIT AREA, CHEAPEST METHOD.

(2.) BUILD SEVERAL SPILLWAYS WHICH CROSS THE DELTA ON BOTH
BANKS OF THE MR. THESE SPILLWAYS WOULD SERVE AS
RELIEF VALVES DURING TROPICAL STORM EVENTS & PREVENT
THE ~~BEFORE~~ BUILD UP OF SURGE IN THE "BRETON SOUND COVE"
THIS SCHEME WILL RELIEVE STORM SURGE STRESS ON THE STATE
OF MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST, THE LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN BASIN AREA
& PREVENT SURGE FROM MIGRATING UP RIVER & FLOODING NEW
ORLEANS. THE SPILLWAYS WOULD BE OPEN ENDED W/ SIDE LEVELS
& SERVE AS A SEDIMENT ~~AND~~ FRESH WATER STREAM TO
NOURISH THE ADJOURNING WETLANDS BEHIND THE BACK LEVELS
IN PLAQUEMINE PARISH. THE SPILLWAYS WOULD SERVE AS A
ABUNDANT SOURCE OF BORROW TO CONSTRUCT SIDE LEVELS & OTHER
AREAS THAT REQUIRE UP GRADING.

I WILL BE INCLUDING ADDITIONAL COMMENTS.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118



Place postage here

NOTE: I WAS BORN IN BOUKAS, LA. 70044 IN 1943. I LIVED THERE
UNTIL MY HOME WAS DESTROYED IN HURRICANE KATRINA.
I MOVED TO ALGIERS, LA. IN DECEMBER 2005. I STILL OWN SEVERAL
PROPERTIES IN SANTA PLAQUEMINES PARISH. I WILL INCLUDE A COPY OF MY
RESUME FOR REVIEWING MY EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT HISTORY & OTHER INFORMATION
ABOUT MYSELF. I WAS RAISED IN THE LOWER DELTA MARSHLANDS & AM VERY
FAMILIAR WITH THE ECOSYSTEM. I'VE LIVED THROUGH THE EFFECTS OF THE

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District

Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00

7400 Leake Avenue

New Orleans, LA 70118

VARIOUS HUMAN ENDEAVORS WHICH HAVE CAUSED DAMAGE TO THE
VIRGIN WETLAND AREAS WHICH WERE INTACT PRIOR TO THE CHANGES
WHICH OCCURED DURING THE LAST 75 YEARS.

PLEASE CONSIDER MY INPUT IN THE USACE EIS PROCESS
THANKS, Kenneth Ragon

Experience

FEMA -Trailer Park Site Manager, Field Inspector

3/06 – 10/08

Performed all of the necessary actions required to maintain an excellent home site for residents displaced by hurricane Katrina. Guaranteed security, safety, park rule enforcement, maintenance, and grounds keeping. Contacted the appropriate agencies in order to solve all issues that occurred. As a field inspector I leased applicants into and out of FEMA trailer units as needed, staked off sites for trailer positioning, evaluated handicap ramp specifications, etc. Received security clearance through the Department of Homeland Security.

General Manager

5/02 – 2/06 Empire Fuel & Oil, Inc, Empire, LA

Responsible for all operations of an independent fuel and lubricant distribution facility including a marine fuel dock which serviced fishing and oilfield vessels, storage tank farm and package goods warehouse. Duties included all aspects of a small business operation including procuring supplies, warehouse stock handling, scheduling and delivering product to customers, facility maintenance. Business serves southern Plaquemines Parish. Post Katrina, supervised rebuilding of Empire, La. facility by recovering & installing fuel storage tanks which were recovered by FEMA contractors and stored in the Fort Jackson.

Citrus Grove Owner / Consultant

8/01 – 5/02 Self-Employed, Buras, LA

Responsible for operations and maintenance of a 350 tree citrus grove operation. Consultant on the operation and maintenance of a 5,000 tree citrus farm. Designed and implemented fertigation system utilizing Mississippi River water obtained by large siphons. Installed and maintained a water filtration system with sediment pond and chemical injection for pH control and liquid fertilizer injection.

Contract Maintenance Supervisor

4/00 – 8/01 Nesco, Inc, Venice, LA

Responsible for all contract maintenance at the Dynegy Midstream Services Venice Gas Plant, LPG / Salt dome storage facility and Delta Gathering Station. Primary duty was the allocation of labor to complete work orders issued by customer. Work force of fourteen employees consisted of clerical, millwright, I&E, insulator, multi-craft, welder and roustabout positions. Scope of work tasks included routine maintenance, pipe and structural welding, boiler pipeline and exchanger repairs, sand blasting/painting, spill cleanup, hydro-testing and many other gas plant / oil field related jobs. Coordinated weekly safety meetings and other necessary training programs. Trained in forklift and aerial lift operation. Operated company marine vessel to monitor salt dome storage wells.

Superintendent

4/98 – 11/99 Offshore Shipyard, Inc, Venice, LA

Supervision of daily operations including job scheduling, employee assignments, material requisitioning, invoicing, trouble shooting, etc. Facility consisted of two 100 ton stiff leg cranes and one 500 ton stern lift winch that accommodated offshore vessels up to 150' in length. Operations included sandblasting, painting, mechanical / machine shop, propeller and shaft reconditioning and installation, etc. Operated forklift and lifting winches as needed.

1996 - 1998 E Paint Co., LA

Promotion and sales of environmentally friendly anti-fouling marine coatings utilizing peroxide generation technology.

Owner / Manager / Vessel Captain

1979 – 1996 Sonrise Transport, Inc., Buras, LA

Managed all aspects of a crew boat rental business including staffing, accounting, training, safety program, U.S.C.G. compliance, maintenance and repairs, etc. Vessel route was in the Venice Passes. Held 50 Ton Masters license from 1980 to 2005.

Process Analyst

1968 – 1978 Chevron USA – Venice Refinery and Gas Plant – Process Engineering Dept., Venice, LA

Monitoring process operations including product quality, metering and shipping. Products included heating / fuel oil, three grades of finished gasoline and LPG products. Monitored and reported discharge water and air quality. Analyzed monthly plant performance data. Conducted pay out and ROI on new projects. Worked in operations 3 years prior to PE position as a refinery operator in the Crude Oil processing section of the plant. Operated Chevron marine vessel as needed to monitor salt dome well locations.

Sales and Service Representative

1965 – 1968 Camco, Inc, Venice, LA

Designed and serviced gas lift systems including spacing out and running production string completion jobs with side pocket and conventional mandrels. Operated forklift as needed. Installed numerous systems for all of the major oil companies in southeast Louisiana. Made offshore sales calls using a company owned marine vessel.

Education

- Buras High School graduate, Buras, LA: 1961, College Prep. Curriculum
- L.S.U., Baton Rouge, LA: 1961 – 1964, Chemical Engineering, no degree earned. Completed 111 semester hours which included the required 21 hours of chemistry, physics and math. Had to quit college to support my family after hurricane Betsy.

Additional Information

- Computer literate – MS Office Applications, QuickBooks, Windows 10, Microsoft Word and Excel.
- Utilized FEMA NEMIS SYSTEM when employed by FEMA.
- Forklift, aerial-lift, and confined space certificates, all expired.
- Licensed pesticide applicator. – 2005, expired
- FCC Marine Operator Permit. – 1985, expired
- Certified LPG transfer and cylinder filling operator – 2003, expired
- Held Class "B" CDL license with "X" endorsement – 2003, expired; presently have Class "D" Chauffeurs License.
- Member of the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) Regional Planning Team for the Barataria Basin as the chairman of "Common Ground" which was a grass roots organization which I formed in 1991. The group was dissolved in 1998.
- Very active in CWPPRA program and the state Master Plan and the CPRA.
- Travel Trailer and Mobile Home LPG gas testing course – 2006
- See attached additional information in narrative form.

References

References are available on request.

Kenneth J. Ragas

1311 Holiday Place, New Orleans, LA 70114 – 504-342-2909 - hragas@cox.net

1 collide with fresh water.

2 * * *

3 KENNETH RAGAS
4 1311 Holiday Place
5 New Orleans, Louisiana 70114

6 KENNETH RAGAS:

7 I am opposed to the diversion.

8 I think that the people in
9 Plaquemines Parish need to have more
10 flooding protection and that money
11 should be spent for flood protection
12 for the citizens of Plaquemines
13 Parish.

14 Also, an alternative that I
15 would submit is that the diversion
16 be relocated further south in the
17 river toward Venice, and sort of
18 drawing a line, people are saying,
19 you know, everything below that
20 diversion is going to go away, so
21 the further down you put it, the
22 better. If you want to put it below
23 Venice, no problem. I submitted
24 written comments already, other
25 comments. Thank you very much.

* * *

From: passaloutre87@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 11:22:04 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
Michael Ramirez
2737 Washington St
Vicksburg, Mississippi, 39180

From: emramoni@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 10:04:14 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration. It reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
Elizabeth Ramoni
5306 Magazine St Apt 7
New Orleans, LA, 701151916

From: randolphb@nwf.org
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 10:27:20 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Brooke Randolph
6000 Dauphine St
New Orleans, LA, 701172144

Aug. 10, 2017

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Sovann Ray	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting?
Street Address 101 Uela Lane	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail
City, State, Zip Code Buras, LA 70041	<input type="checkbox"/> Email
Email Address	<input type="checkbox"/> Website
Affiliation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC Coastal Communities Consulting

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

I am an older fisherman and I don't have any other skills that could help me get a land-based job. I'm worried that I won't be able to work and take care of my family if the diversion comes because too much freshwater will push the brown shrimp further out into the Gulf. If the diversions come, I think the government should monetarily compensate me for future losses.

Sue

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [David Raymond](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 11:34:49 AM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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Thank you,

Mr. David Raymond
2735 Jasmine St
New Orleans, LA 70122-6019
(123) 456-7890
dmar1027@yahoo.com

From: jettybean77@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Betty Redmond](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 4, 2017 4:18:24 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Sincerely,
Betty Redmond
Kentwood, LA 70444

From: redwomin@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Thunder Redwomin](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 10:44:07 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Sincerely,
Thunder Redwomin
Covington, LA 70435

From: lreichard@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Lynne Reichard](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Saturday, August 5, 2017 7:55:37 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Sincerely,
Lynne Reichard
Sulphur, LA 70665

From: leif.remo@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 10:41:04 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Leif Remo
2360 Myrtle Ave
Baton Rouge, LA, 70806

From: [Alisha Renfro](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments on the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Scoping Process
Date: Friday, September 1, 2017 11:13:45 AM

Thank you for this opportunity to give comment on the scope of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion environmental impact study. The land loss crisis in Louisiana threatens the future of our communities, economy and wildlife. Just as there is no one cause for land loss in Louisiana, there is no one solution. However, the foundation of any large-scale restoration effort in Louisiana relies on sediment. To maximize sediment capture for restoration – from clay to sand—sediment diversions need to be constructed and operated with a flexibility to focus on when sediment available for capture for building new land and maintaining existing wetlands.

Land loss is happening at a rapid pace and, as a result, large-scale restoration must be done as efficiently as possible. A river diversion into Mid-Barataria has been studied extensively over the years and the decisions, models, and information gathered from those efforts should be integrated into this present study. This includes looking at past land loss, as well as the future land loss predicted by models used in the planning process for the 2017 Coastal Master Plan. The coastline of Louisiana has never been static and will never be static. This context is essential for understanding the short-term and long-term benefits and impacts that could result from the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion.

Specific questions that should be addressed in this study are:

- * What are the long-term and system-wide consequences of the no action alternative to the people, communities, industries and wildlife, including protected resources that, in the past and today, benefit from the wetlands of the Barataria Basin?

- * In addition to the land that would be built using the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion, how much land, that would otherwise be lost, will be maintained?

- * What are the storm reduction benefits, for example the reduced expected annual damage, of the land built or maintained, compared to the no action alternative, by the project to communities in Plaquemines, Jefferson and Orleans parishes?

- * What is the baseline data that needs to be collected now that can be used to inform an adaptive management process that allows for flexibility in the operation of the project to focus on land-building/land maintenance, but also considers other short-term and long-term needs?

- * The Mississippi River is a critical waterway for exporting goods from the U.S. to the world market. What are the possible consequences of continued wetland loss in the Barataria Basin to maintaining a stable river navigation system, including local impacts and upper basin impacts?

- * The Mississippi River and Tributaries System is integral in safely managing flood waters and protecting communities and navigational use of the river. What is the potential flood fight benefits of the Mid-Barataria Diversion structure?

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this much needed project.

Alisha Renfro



P.O. Box 2048-NSU • Thibodaux, Louisiana 70310 • (985) 448-4485 • Fax (985) 448-4486
simone.maloz@nicholls.edu • www.restoreorretreat.org

September 5, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118
CEMVN-Midbarataria@usace.army.mil

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments related to Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana (CPRA) proposed project of Mid Barataria Sediment Diversion and the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) currently being prepared by CEMVN in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) as a result.

ROR is a non-profit coastal advocacy group created by coastal Louisiana residents and stakeholders founded in 2000 who recognize that the Barataria and Terrebonne basins are the two most rapidly eroding estuaries on earth, and that this erosion represents an economic and ecological crisis. With a growing membership of businesses and individuals, ROR seeks to identify and expedite the implementation of aggressive, large-scale restoration projects to protect this irreplaceable region. The proposed Mid Barataria Sediment Diversion falls within our organizational footprint and mission of implementing aggressive, large-scale restoration projects for our region.

Timeline

Mid-Barataria has been studied for over 30 years, and the many decisions that have already been made through official NEPA processes and other studies should be incorporated into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS, particularly when doing so would shorten the Mid-Barataria permitting timeline. Five years to achieve a permit for a project that is just one of many cornerstone projects in our State's Coastal Master Plan is completely unacceptable. Our land loss crisis is severe and urgent and will only worsen unless we act, and that means ensuring a swift, effective implementation of the State's Coastal Master Plan, including the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion.

Reconnecting the River

A cornerstone of ROR's mission and the State's Coastal Master Plan, which we unequivocally support, is the principle of reconnecting and re-establishing the river to the basins, allowing it to again naturally deliver sediment, fresh water and nutrients from the river to build and sustain land in the Barataria Basin. Without this project, this area will continue to experience wetland loss and more land will become open water, threatening wildlife, industries and communities in the surrounding areas.

Balance

Sediment diversions, such as the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion, are crucial restoration projects to support investments made in marsh creation. Conventional marsh creation projects alone will succumb to the same forces that resulted in the wetland loss in the first place. Sediment diversions can sustain these marsh creation projects for longer periods of time. Sediment diversions and marsh creation projects should be used in tandem to increase their effectiveness over time.

Impacts

The estuaries of the Mississippi Delta are some of the most productive systems in the world due to the mixing of freshwater and nutrients from the river with salt water from the Gulf of Mexico. We also urge NOAA and other resource agencies to consider the effect on productivity of the entire food web both with and without the diversion.

We also urge you to consider impacts to the basin under No Action. Barataria Basin has experienced tremendous change with tens of thousands of acres of wetlands having been converted to open water, threatening communities, industry and wildlife. The 2017 Coastal Master Plan predicts with the No Action alternative, Barataria Basin will lose roughly 550 square miles in the next 50 years under the medium future scenario.

In conclusion, Restore or Retreat supports the continued progress to swiftly permit and construct the Mid Barataria Sediment Diversion for the sustainability of the Barataria Basin, and the community and industry it supports.

Sincerely,



Simone Theriot Maloz
Executive Director
Restore or Retreat, Inc.

RESTORE

THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER DELTA



MississippiRiverDelta.org

 /MississippiRiverDelta



@RestoreDelta

CEMVN-Midbarataria@usace.army.mil

Mr. Brad LaBorde

US Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District

New Orleans, Louisiana

Re: Comments on the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Scoping Process

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

The undersigned organizations, with a longstanding history of working to restore the Mississippi River Delta, appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the scoping process for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion (MBSD). For years, our scientists and policy experts have worked with state and federal agencies in Louisiana to confront the challenges of rapid coastal land loss and its corresponding implications for our natural resources and the local and national economy. The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the State Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration, and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards recently declared that Louisiana's severe coastal land loss constituted a State of Emergency. We have a limited time to act and must come together to ensure swift, effective implementation of the MBSD. Every day we delay the implementation of the project, we lose additional wetlands, reducing the natural resources and ecosystem services they provide.

With this in mind, we are deeply concerned about the current project permitting timeline. According to the Federal Dashboard, permit decisions and the issuance of permits will not be completed until October of 2022 – at least two years later than previously published timelines. This longer timeline is not appropriate given the immediacy of the land loss crisis, and the importance of the project for coastal communities and nationally-significant industries. The MBSD (previously known as the Myrtle Grove Diversion) has been studied since 1984 (USACE 1984). We have a rich knowledge about the MBSD that should lend itself to rapid completion of the NEPA analysis. We appreciate the commitment of all agencies involved in this process, and applaud the intention to prepare one environmental impact statement (EIS) that will satisfy all requirements under applicable laws. However, given the pressing need for restoration action, the currently proposed permitting timeline must be condensed.

As an initial step to begin achieving time savings, we strongly urge completion of the Scoping Report by September 30th, 2017 – the date listed as the target for completion of scoping on the Federal Permitting



Dashboard. For transparency, it is essential that the Scoping Report not simply be a record of the public meetings and public comments, but that it also include details about the scope of work, methods and data to be used, and resources to be considered. We recommend that the Scoping Report also reexamine the timeline for project permitting, identifying tasks that could be completed concurrently and other opportunities for time savings. Such a detailed report is achievable within this time frame, given the extensive amount of existing information on the project.

We recognize the scoping process is a critical milestone in the preparation of an EIS. To that end, we offer the following comments in the hopes of providing useful context and information to inform and expedite drafting of the Scoping Report and EIS.

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- A. Purpose and Need / Background Conditions
- B. Project Alternatives / Affected Environment
- C. Adaptive Management
- D. Public Involvement and Transparency
- E. Recommendations
- F. Attachment A – History of Barataria Bay
- G. Attachment B – Bibliography

A. Purpose and Need / Background Conditions

The Purpose and Need of the MBSD are a function of the background conditions in Barataria Basin. Typically, the existing or background environment of the area to be affected by a project is reasonably static. This is not the case with Barataria Basin, where the baseline conditions are ever-changing. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) was originally passed to ensure impacts to the environment are disclosed during federal actions, however this EIS is being undertaken to support a project that is aimed to address decades of historical and projected environmental damage caused by previous actions. In Barataria Basin, distributary closure, levees built for flood control, canals dredged for access, and deep channels dredged for navigation have severed the Mississippi River from its surrounding wetlands and resulted in a degrading wetland system. Without the historic input of sediment from the Mississippi River, Barataria Basin has been deteriorating with high historic rates of wetland land loss, and those rates are only predicted to increase without large-scale restoration action.

The Fisk 1947 map of coastal Louisiana shows the basin to be comprised of a dense network of wetlands interlaced with bayous and small bodies of open water. Older, less precise maps show an even higher proportion of wetlands to open water. Indeed, Barataria Bay is an historical creation—it did not exist when Europeans first explored the northern Gulf Coast (Condrey et al 2014; Attachment A). By contrast, today, tens of thousands of acres of wetlands have been converted to sizeable bodies of open water now described as bays. More specifically, it is well documented that coastal Louisiana has lost over 2,000 square miles of land since the 1930s (Couvillion et al. 2011, Couvillion et al. 2017), a fact that demonstrates both the dramatic scale as well as the longstanding nature of this crisis. The 2017 Coastal Master Plan analysis predicts that without action, Barataria Basin alone could lose an additional 550 square miles under the medium scenario (CPRA 2017).

The background condition of a naturally rapidly changing and dynamic geology overlain by anthropogenic systemic deterioration should be included in the description of the affected environment, and factored into any analysis of alternative effects on natural and living marine resources (see Attachment A). The role of estuarine wetlands to provide habitat and refuge is integral to the larger food web of the Gulf of Mexico (Day et al. 2014). Specifically, we strongly encourage consideration of the systemic consequences for deltaic, estuarine and marine species from continued wetland loss and deltaic collapse. This analysis should include a focus on where the tipping point lies, without action to rebuild this declining deltaic system, for a drastic decline in the habitat that supports some of the most productive fisheries in both the nation and the world. It also should fully consider the impacts, without such action, of continued ecosystem collapse on marine mammals including dolphins, in light of the findings and declaration of policy of the MMPA, 16 U.S.C. (6) that the “primary objective” of the management of marine mammals “should be to maintain the health and stability of the marine ecosystem” The Barataria Basin today is not a healthy and stable ecosystem, and the purpose of the MBSD is to contribute to the promotion and restoration of that health and stability. A future without the project would witness, on the contrary, increased ecological instability and ill-health.

As the State’s permit application indicates, the purpose of the MBSD is to reconnect and re-establish the natural conditions of the deltaic sediment deposition and deltaic hydrological processes between the Mississippi River and Barataria Basin to build and sustain land and ecosystem function. As the 2017 Coastal Master Plan states, “We have to use sediment diversions to build land in certain parts of the coast, or we risk ecosystem collapse” (CPRA 2017). It is critical that any analysis of the MBSD project and its effects on the surrounding environment account for the highly dynamic and rapidly degrading nature of the Mississippi River Delta.

The need for sediment reintroduction into these delta wetlands is obvious, given the weak state of basin soils (Allison and Meselhe 2010). Wetlands at risk of erosion or inundation due to subsidence and sea level rise need the fine-grained sediments, the silts and clays that constitute some 70 to 80% of the Mississippi River sediment load, to improve soil elevations and strength (Xu et al. 2016). As these sediments are filtered through the marsh vegetation, they settle out and provide an enhanced substrate for vegetative growth and vertical accretion, thereby compensating for relative sea level rise and preventing drowning. In all stages of operation, the geographically widespread distribution of finer sediments, driven by the energy of the Mississippi River is a vital function of a sediment diversion such as the MBSD, one which is not effectively provided by pipeline dredged sediment delivery. Meanwhile, the conveyance and deposit of heavier sediments, specifically sands, builds up bottom elevations to a point where emergent marsh formation is possible.

A well-designed and effectively operated sediment diversion can therefore take advantage of the suspended sediment load in the Mississippi River and use its energy to distribute those sediments to surrounding wetlands, just as the river once did and would do today but for the levees and blocked distributaries that stopped these natural processes. This portion of the Purpose and Need Statement is central to the MBSD and cannot be satisfied in any other manner.

In addition to building and sustaining land, natural deltaic processes facilitate a mix of wetland types and estuarine conditions that, even in its present diminished state, makes the current delta one of the most

biologically productive areas of our continent. Estuarine conditions, formed by the mixing of freshwater from the river and saltwater from the Gulf of Mexico, provide a diversity of habitats, while the nutrients provided in the river form the basis of the food web that fuels a diversity and abundance of fish and wildlife species. Artificial wetland creation with dredge pipe cannot duplicate the range of ecosystem services provided by an evolving system of deltaic processes.

The Natural Resource Damages Programmatic Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan also identifies the MBSD as a critical tool for restoring damage incurred as a result of the 2010 BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill disaster.

Diversions are a long-term strategy to address regional land loss, and, as a restoration approach, diversions also provide potential benefits that are intended to complement the benefits of other wetland restoration approaches. Diversions will also be implemented on a scale that can influence multiple habitats and resources. More broadly, such actions will help recover wetlands injured or lost due to the DWH spill by reducing future losses of existing wetlands or creating new wetlands. This Restoration Type will help maintain the Louisiana coastal landscape and its ability to overcome other environmental stressors by stabilizing wetland substrates; reducing coastal wetland loss rates; increasing habitat for freshwater fish, birds, and benthic communities; and reducing storm risks, thus providing protection to nearby infrastructure. (DWH NRDA Trustees 2016, pg. 5-26)

The Purpose and Need for the MBSD project clearly serves to address Louisiana's "Coastal, Wetland, and Nearshore Habitat" injuries under the DWH settlement terms.

B. Project Alternatives / Affected Environment

The purpose of the proposed project – the reintroduction of natural deltaic processes to Barataria Basin - as well as the need to sustain existing wetland area, reduce rates of land loss, and provide the extensive ecosystem services that only a functioning delta can furnish, has been clearly established. The proposed MBSD will provide both the finer-grain sediments necessary for maintaining wetlands and heavier sands required to build new wetlands. The screening of project alternatives should therefore be focused on those that most reasonably fit the established Purpose and Need for this project.

In order to ensure that the management and operation of the MBSD provide the greatest benefits into the future, the alternatives evaluated, and ultimately the preferred alternative, should promote conveyance of sediment from the Mississippi River into Barataria Basin and maximize sediment delivery relative to water delivery. At the same time, the preferred operational plan should provide sufficient flexibility to modify operations over time in response to changing monitoring information and environmental conditions. Selection of such an alternative, after appropriate analysis of possible effects on the environment, will allow the diversion operations to be adaptively managed to maximize benefits and minimize harm.

The State has proposed an initial operational strategy that would open the diversion when the Mississippi River flow is at 450,000 cfs at Belle Chasse, and close it when flows fall below that level. According to this strategy,

discharge would increase to maximum capacity when the river discharge reaches over 1 million cfs. In practice, the actual operations of the diversion would not necessarily follow this precise flow trigger in any given year or every year, but be altered to account for real-world, real-time needs. The initial parameters proposed by the State provide a baseline from which operations may be modified over time as conditions in the basin change.

Scientists who have been studying this project for decades have built modeling infrastructure and immense data sets that are readily available to evaluate the effects of alternatives in a relatively short timeframe. After alternatives are developed, these tools can expedite a careful determination of how each alternative, including the No Action alternative, affects the environment. Predictions based on salinity, habitat responses and life history stages of important wildlife and fisheries species should be made to the best of our ability, and monitoring of project effects should be conducted, as part of a robust adaptive management plan to understand and improve management over time.

Building on Past Studies

The Scoping Report should anticipate using information from the many in depth investigations regarding the effects of the MBSD since it was first proposed in the Myrtle Grove area in 1984 (USACE 1984). For instance, the programmatic EIS prepared for the 2004 Louisiana Coastal Area Ecosystem Restoration Final Report and the Mississippi River Hydrodynamic and Delta Management Study, although never finalized, developed the modeling infrastructure to evaluate diversions along the river - including the MBSD - in more detail (Meselhe et al. 2012). The 2017 Coastal Master Plan considers the 75,000 cfs MBSD in a broad context that includes a large number of other diversions, marsh creation, ridge restoration and other restoration and protection projects (CPRA 2017). In order to increase efficiency, these documents should be incorporated by reference in the record of this scoping process.

Additionally, over the decades of studying this diversion, decisions were reached on certain fundamental questions - many as part of previous NEPA investigations. In the interest of efficiency, these decisions should not be re-hashed. We offer three examples:

1. Method of Restoration

Multiple studies have demonstrated the greater efficiency and effectiveness of building land by capturing both sand and finer-grained sediments (as occurs with diversions) as opposed to building land through mechanical means, which primarily use sand (Moffat & Nichol 2005; Day et al. 2016; Day et al. 2014; Esposito et al. 2017; Khalil et al. 2011; Merino et al. 2011; Reed 2004; Roberts et al. 2015; Simenstad et al. 2006; Xu et al. 2016). While marsh creation (the transport and placement of dredged sand to build new wetlands) is an essential restoration tool for the Louisiana coast, this method of restoration cannot serve the larger need of providing a vast distribution of finer-grained sediments vital to sustain wetlands, nor the purpose of reestablishing deltaic processes and ecosystem services (Simenstad et al. 2006). Using the river to convey sediment allows for a mix of sand, silts and clays to be deposited in the wetlands (Xu et al. 2016). Sediment sources for marsh creation, especially offshore shoals, are finite resources and their removal has ecological costs. Even river borrow sources are limited and require recharging. Moreover, created marsh requires riverine inputs in order to be sustained or it

will begin to deteriorate under the same forces that destroyed the natural marshes in the first place, including sea level rise and subsidence (Day et al. 2014).

Louisiana's land loss crisis is large-scale and thus must be addressed with large-scale solutions. Marsh creation as a means of restoration can yield important near-term, localized results, but this approach is limited with regard to land sustainability and restoration of natural processes, and also by availability of sediments sourced outside the deltaic system (i.e., carried downstream into the delta area by the Mississippi River) (Khalil et al. 2011). If we consider this along with the constraints of both natural and financial resources needed to implement marsh creation projects, it is not possible for marsh creation alone to address coastal land loss at the scale necessary (Merino et al. 2011). Thus, marsh creation is not a suitable alternative to sediment diversions.

Sediment diversions and marsh creation projects can be used synergistically, however, to increase land-building efficiency particularly in the short-term. There is evidence from existing diversions that suggests placement of dredged material can increase land accretion rates in the receiving basin (Barras et al. 2009). Strategically located marsh and ridge creation sites, constructed in conjunction with a diversion, would provide both a substrate onto which the suspended sediment from the river can settle in the future and a skeletal framework to guide deposition in open water (Reed 2004). These created wetlands within the diversion outfall area would help alter and slow down flow patterns thus enhancing localized sediment deposition (Khalil et al. 2011). Marsh and ridge creation can also be placed strategically to modify salinity patterns in the basin (DeLaune et al. 2013; Nyman et al. 2006). Thus, while marsh creation does not diminish the clear and compelling need for sediment diversions, the two approaches can augment each other in important ways.

2. Location of MBSD

In 2005, the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (later CPRA) retained Moffatt & Nichol (M&N) to develop a numerical model of the existing hydrodynamics of the Barataria Basin. This was a component of a feasibility study to facilitate future planning efforts in the basin. The model simulated the circulation and mixing of salt and fresh water, taking into account the factors of diverted river water, wind, rainfall and tidal fluctuations. This model provided the ability to assess more completely the effects of proposed sediment diversion projects on a basin-wide scale (Moffatt and Nichol 2005).

Field data were collected in 2008 and 2009 at Myrtle Grove to examine the role of bend dynamics in the capture and distribution of sediment (Allison 2011). The data indicated that during the rising-to-high discharge phase, sand lifting off from the downstream edge of the lateral bar is captured in the upper 10-25m of the water column. This excess suspended sand is carried around the bend before concentrations are reduced to background levels. The results of these data indicate that the outside of meander bends is an appropriate site for sediment diversions that draw near-surface water from this sediment-rich layer (Allison et al. 2009).

In addition, the effects of the natural occurrence of the annual flood pulse on sediment transport to the Mississippi River floodplains and delta were considered. This flood pulse is significant in large river

basins, and there is an understanding that the rising limb of a flood pulse brings the most sediment (Rosen and Xu 2014). Not surprisingly, high discharge has a greater total suspended sediment than low discharge. It was also determined that the outfall site of the diversion should be in a shallow part of the basin (not exceeding 2m in depth) to maximize the capture of sediment and to facilitate land growth. The shallower the depth of the basin, the faster new sediment and sand will accumulate (Dean et al. 2011). These data were used in the preliminary determination of the location and basic design of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion to maximize capture of sediments from the Mississippi River.

In the Mississippi River Hydrodynamic Study, comprehensive multi-dimensional models were developed to facilitate a better understanding of the hydrodynamic processes that affect salinity, temperature and sediments in the Mississippi River. The field data collected from 2008 to 2011 were used in a FLOW-3D model to investigate flow operation of diversion gates and examine operational regimes on the two proposed diversion sites in Myrtle Grove. A second model, the HEC-6T 1D, was used to examine the long term effects of sediment diversions on the morphology of the Mississippi River and to compute the amount of sediment and water removed from the river over multi-decadal time scales. The Delft3D model, a third morphological modeling type developed for the Myrtle Grove receiving area, was used to simulate basic physical processes involved in deltaic sedimentation (Meselhe et al. 2012).

These models were integrated to use three sediment sizes – fine sands of 96 μ m and 64 μ m, and 32 μ m silt - to simulate long-term land-building processes over 20-25 years, taking into account morphological time scale factors based on proposed diversion flow. The Delft3D model tested diversion inflow structures and outfall channels at two locations, River Mile 60.2 and River Mile 60.7, and has continued to be calibrated and refined with RMA models to include up-to-date changes in hydrodynamics and salinity of the Barataria Basin (Myrtle Grove EDF Effort Project Team 2012). Based on the data gathered from the Delft3D and FLOW-3D models, the project location at River Mile 60.7 proved more efficient at capturing sediment and building land, and has been determined as the final location of the diversion.

3. Size of MBSD

To determine the size and maximum flow of the MBSD, the FLOW-3D model was used to analyze the water velocities in the Mississippi River in the Myrtle Grove area. To calibrate the velocity in the FLOW-3D model, horizontal and vertical velocity profiles were extracted at three locations in Myrtle Grove: upstream of a lateral point bar, on the meander bend, and downstream of the meander bend. The model was validated with field observations from April 2009 field data where the water flow was 840,000 cfs. Once the model was calibrated and validated, various sizes of diversion intake channels and structures were tested (Meselhe et al. 2012).

The first diversion alignment was tested at River Mile 60.2 using the same April 2009 data with a design capacity of 15,000 cfs. The model showed that this design only extracted 1.62% of the main river water discharge, 1.19% of the main river silt load and 0.42% of the main river sand load, which indicated a poor efficiency of this design to maximize sediment capture from the river. In a modified alignment, the diversion was moved upstream and placed at the downstream end of a sand bar on the right-descending bank at River Mile 60.7. Using the same conditions as those used to test the first alignment revealed

that the RM60.7 modified diversion extracted 4.82% of the main river water discharge, 6.55% of silt and 4.14% for sand, showing it more efficient than the original alignment (Meselhe et al. 2012).

To maximize sediment capture and minimize shoaling in the river and other negative effects, a larger diversion flow is needed to obtain a sediment-water ratio of at least one (1). Using the FLOW-3D model to increase the flow conditions to 75,000 cfs, the results indicated that the RM60.7 design extracted 9.77% sand and 8.7% river water, obtaining a positive sediment-water ratio of 1.12 (Meselhe et al. 2012). These modeling simulations determined that the most efficient size of the Mid-Barataria in the capture and transport of sediment while minimizing the risk of shoaling is a maximum velocity of 75,000 cfs.

C. Adaptive Management/Monitoring

Over the past few years, the State and the Corps have conducted modeling of impacts of various proposed operational plans on wetlands that shows net acres of wetlands sustained and built by decade and the effects to hydrological factors, including salinity. We anticipate that the EIS will utilize this modeling capacity to assess other impacts of the diversion operations to maximize land built and sustained in Mid-Barataria Basin while minimizing harm. However, modeling alone cannot be precise in terms of consequences of operation strategies on various resources, in particular as we look ahead many years and then decades. This imprecision is magnified by dynamic nature of the delta and future conditions in terms of wetlands loss, sea level, subsidence, storm impacts and other factors.

Given this inevitable lack of scientific certainty and the range of stakeholders actively engaged in deltaic restoration, adaptive management becomes a critical tool for proposing and analyzing adjustments to the operational plan, using real world scientific information, that will most effectively further the primary goal of sustaining and rebuilding wetlands but doing so in a manner that strives to minimize short-term impacts that might have significant consequences for particular stakeholders.

Adaptive management uses a combination of active and passive learning – experimentation and monitoring, respectively – to answer questions and provide information about how ecosystems respond to management actions such as sediment diversions. As part of a science-based decision-making process, the primary goal of adaptive management is to effectively manage and reduce scientific uncertainty based on monitoring and data analyses so that decision makers, including managers, scientists, and stakeholders, can make the best-informed decisions possible about natural resource issues, while also recognizing that perfect information will never exist nor will uncertainty be completely eliminated. Decisions will have to be made with the best available science at the time.

Adaptive management will be a crucial component of operating a sediment diversion. The MBSD EIS should embrace and normalize the concept of active adaptive management – an approach that makes learning about the system a priority management function. However, one of the core challenges for adaptive management in the NEPA EIS process is ensuring that the range of adaptive management options, and potential effects are sufficiently disclosed to the public ahead of time and supported by evidence and reasoning.

Responding within an adaptive management framework to the dynamic nature of the coast, future effects from sea level rise and the complex outcomes from a sediment diversion requires the development of a robust, long-term monitoring program. This effort should begin well in advance of initial operations, collecting baseline data throughout the permitting and construction period. A good monitoring and research program in the river and the receiving basin is essential, as noted above, to observe conditions before, during and after operations, and to assess project outcomes.

Sediment diversions are an innately flexible restoration tool that can be modified and adapted over time based on outcome conditions desired and best available science. Operational decisions for the MBSD in any given year should supplement overall operational strategies with predictions of river and basin conditions, the outcomes of the previous years' operations, and other information to enhance adaptive management decisions. To ensure transparency in adaptive management decision-making, plans should include a regular means of communication and interaction with the public about the intention to change operations, and the science-based reasons for such changes.

In anticipation of this, the detailed Scoping Report should map out clear, articulated environmental goals and objectives for managing and operating the MBSD, setting the stage for a robust adaptive management plan in the EIS. The EIS must carefully link any adaptive management plan to the stated Purpose and Need of the project and describe the potential geographic scope and temporal scale within which the adaptive management plan will operate. An adaptive management program allows future modifications and operational decisions to occur in response to what has been learned during initial operations under the umbrella of this EIS.

D. Public Involvement and Transparency

Several public involvement processes and numerous public meetings have gathered information from stakeholders that is pertinent to the current investigation (CPRA 2011; Meselhe & Rodrigue, 2013; CPRA 2011; CPRA 2012; CPRA 2017). This information should be incorporated by reference into the EIS, particularly where it reinforces information gathered during scoping, and illuminates public priorities for the NEPA analysis.

Unfortunately, public involvement in a typical NEPA process is usually restricted to gathering stakeholder comments and suggestions during scoping, which occurs early in the NEPA process, after which little information is available until the draft EIS is released and public comment is once again requested. However, 40 CFR 1506.6 - Public involvement – encourages ongoing information exchange with the public, such as status reports on elements of the NEPA process as it proceeds. The Federal Permitting Dashboard's Best Practices Report also highlights public involvement principles for particular emphasis, such as providing clear goals for stakeholder and public participation, and flexible venues and opportunities for stakeholder engagement.

Transparency, given the scale and complexity of this project, is absolutely necessary during all phases of planning, construction, and operation. To that end, the detailed Scoping Report should identify additional milestones on the path to the EIS– in particular when the Final Array of Alternatives is formulated and again

when the Tentatively Selected Plan is chosen – that represent opportunities for sharing information that will enhance public understanding of the ongoing NEPA analysis.

The Scoping Report should also identify or create potential venues for sharing information on a more consistent basis. Monthly meetings of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Board and bi-monthly meetings of the Governor’s Advisory Commission on Coastal Protection, Restoration and Conservation provide regular opportunities for public comment. In addition, consideration could be given to creating new venues for representatives from both stakeholders and agencies to participate in such tasks as reviewing metrics to measure the project’s performance against the stated environmental goals. Creating an environment that fosters communication and collaboration with the public will go a long way toward achieving desired outcomes from the MBSD.

F. Recommendations

Based on these comments, our recommendations are:

1. The Scoping Report should be completed and released to the public by the September 30th deadline and posted on the Federal Permitting Dashboard. The report should include a detailed roadmap of steps to complete the DEIS, including a clear timeline of activities that identifies any potential opportunities to condense the permitting timeline.
2. The many decisions that have already been made through official NEPA processes and other studies should be incorporated by reference into the Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS, particularly when doing so represents a clear efficiency for the MBSD Permitting Timeline.
3. In preparation for drafting the EIS, the Scoping Report should establish the highly dynamic and rapidly degrading nature of the Mississippi River Delta as part of the Background Conditions that lend such urgency to the permitting and construction of the MBSD. The Purpose and Need as stated in the permit application appropriately places an emphasis on reconnecting the Mississippi River with its delta.
4. The repercussions of the “no action” alternative should inform consideration of the long-term systemic consequences of continued wetland loss and deltaic ecosystem collapse. Analysis of project effects should include the importance of stemming these declines and associated habitat losses to maintaining and sustaining resources throughout the deltaic ecosystem, including living marine resources.
5. The alternatives evaluated under NEPA, and the subsequent preferred alternative, should provide reasonable flexibility to modify operations over time while fully disclosing the effects of that operation. Conditions can be developed that clearly define the adaptive management program and how it will be used to develop annual operation strategies in any given year, thereby providing transparency, communication and expectation management.

6. Given the need for active adaptive management supported by a long-term monitoring program, collection of data should begin immediately, using the time during permitting and construction to create a robust baseline.
7. In the interest of transparency, the detailed Scoping Report should identify milestones and opportunities for releasing information and enhancing public understanding of the ongoing NEPA analysis. Regularly scheduled venues for sharing of information should also be identified and/or created.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and provide recommendations on this urgent and important project.



Steve Cochran
Campaign Director
Restore the Mississippi River Delta



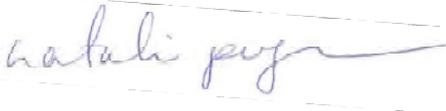
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Mr. Brad Barth, Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group

ATTACHMENT A

An Historical and Ecological Context for Riverine Re-connection to the Barataria Basin

An Historical and Ecological Context for Riverine Re-connection to the Barataria Basin

Concerns have been raised about the effects of diversions of Mississippi River water into the estuaries flanking the river in coastal Louisiana. These diversions are a cornerstone of Federal and state science-based plans underway to restore a semblance of the natural processes which built the most productive estuarine system in the Lower 48 states and can build and sustain that system into the future. Controlled sediment diversions provide the necessary balance between maintaining human communities in the delta, and sustaining the long term productivity of the deltaic environment in the face of ongoing wetland loss. Sustaining the long-term health of estuaries, and the long term health of all the organisms that the delta sustains, is part of the core mission of each of our organizations. In that light, we offer the following analysis.

In order for the state of Louisiana to obtain permits for building sediment diversions proposed in the Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) plan and in *Louisiana's Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast*, Federal agencies must evaluate the effects of such diversions on Trust Resources. There is a strong scientific consensus that sediment diversions, by re-starting the so-called "delta cycle", are the most important tool available for a sustainable restoration program in the Mississippi River Delta. The delta now experiences the highest wetland loss rates in the nation. Without restoration, as many as two million people, the nation's largest port system, oil and gas production, transport and processing infrastructure vital to the nation's national security, as well as some of the most important habitat for wildlife and seafood in the country, are threatened by continued high rates of estuarine wetland loss that is compounded by projected relative sea level rise.

Freshening of Barataria Bay via sediment diversions will affect some estuarine populations, especially those that are resident, generally sedentary, or that require a narrow range of salinities during portions of their life cycle. We are concerned that a failure to think more broadly and confront ongoing deltaic land loss and climate change by implementing sediment diversions will actually result in greater long-term jeopardy to estuarine organisms, as well as other wildlife and fishery resources, industries, communities, and people. Herein we examine the likelihood and the extent, given the available evidence, of harm, not just to estuarine organisms, but to ecosystems and human communities as well. It is our firm conclusion that diversions must be built, and that a way forward that protects and enhances populations of estuarine organisms is available using monitoring, adaptive management, and proactive strategies for diversion operation.

The permit applicant, the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) of Louisiana, has a public trust responsibility of the highest importance, of *existential* importance, to the people of Louisiana (CPRA 2012). It is critical that Federal agencies and CPRA cooperate to resolve all outstanding issues that might prevent implementation of sediment diversions. Too much is at stake.

Delta Restoration and the Role of Sediment Diversions

Federal regulators face a dilemma. The people of Louisiana face a dilemma. Overwhelming scientific evidence has been amassed over the last fifty years that the most important estuaries in the Gulf of Mexico (NMFS 2010; NOAA 2011), if not in the nation - the inter-distributary basins defined by the various lobes of the Holocene delta of the Mississippi River - are disappearing and will continue to disappear (Blum and Roberts 2009).

Despite numerous anthropogenic causes for this disappearance, only one possible sustainable remedy is available, which is to allow the natural system that built the delta in the first place to function again. It is too late to reverse land loss completely and undo all of the damage done by levees, jetties, distributary closures, canals and sub-surface fluid withdrawal, not to mention the onset of climate change-driven sea level rise. However, a functional deltaic system which supports a sustainable coastal Louisiana and NOAA trust resources is possible. A solution is being pursued—controlled sediment diversions, which are capable of building sizable new sub-deltas and of prolonging the life of existing wetland-dominated estuarine systems (Day et al. 2007).

In the near term, however, implementation of such diversions will change the character of estuarine basins that currently support Louisiana communities which depend upon the harvest of some Federal trust resources, including important commercial finfish, crustaceans and mollusks. So here is the dilemma as we see it: each day of delay in implementing such diversions shrinks available space for creating and sustaining future habitat, imperiling the viability of Louisiana's coastal communities and populations of Federal trust species in coming decades. However, the only available remedy that is viable in the long-term *may* harm, in the short-term, estuarine organisms that Federal agencies are legally charged to protect under Federal statutes.

A not wholly unpredictable (and understandable) Federal response to this difficult impasse is to delay decision making or to fall back upon a traditional regulatory paradigm and attempt to hold to the *status quo*. Many of us in similar circumstances would react in the same way. While we in no way wish to suggest that there is not a serious problem, we do suggest that delay or denial are the worst possible responses, and that agencies of the Federal government charged with responsibilities to protect and enhance dolphin populations and habitats have no defensible choice except to act in the *long-term* interest of that resource.

Holding to the *status quo* is not an option in a collapsing ecosystem, especially one which is naturally highly dynamic. There is no point within the delta cycle that can be frozen. The delta has been and will continue to be on a path of degradation unless bold action is taken to restore a functioning delta cycle (Fig. 1). Taking bold and prescriptive action will also benefit a host of other species, including trust responsibilities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as human communities, cultures and industries. Furthermore, faced with a choice between allowing, to the maximum extent practicable, natural conditions to govern population cycles or with attempting to preserve unnatural conditions that will continue to lead to long term declines in habitat and populations, the choice becomes obvious.

CPRA is also a NRDA Trustee. But their responsibilities go well beyond their role as a NRDA Trustee. They are charged with staving off disaster. CPRA has developed a rigorous, adaptive coastal restoration and protection process, deeply rooted in science, the Coastal Master Plan (CMP)³. Revised on a five-year basis, the CMP incorporates decades of analysis by Federal and state agencies, local governments,

academics, businesses and citizens. The 2012 and 2017 CMPs proposed sediment diversion into the middle Barataria basin (CPRA 2012; CPRA 2017). After three years of further refinement of the science needed to optimize the location, size and operational parameters of those diversions, the state is poised to seek the necessary permits to move through compliance to construction.

It is critical that CPRA and the other NRDA Trustees cooperate to resolve this dilemma so that *all* affected resources in the delta region are given an opportunity for recovery, and the people inhabiting the delta are given hope of a sustainable future.

The science is clear that the system is now stressed and moving farther away from its natural state (Boesch 1994). That natural state was characterized by a robust deltaic ecosystem closely tied to the lower Mississippi River's distributary, overbank flooding and sedimentation patterns (Roberts 1997, LCA 2004, Giosan et al. 2014). Indeed, maintaining the *status quo* is inconsistent with a primary objective of the Marine Mammal Protection Act: "... it is the sense of the Congress that they (marine mammals) should be protected and encouraged to develop to the greatest extent feasible commensurate with sound policies of resource management and that the primary objective of their management should be to maintain the health and stability of the marine ecosystem." {16 U.S.C.S 1361 (6)}. The Barataria basin deltaic wetland ecosystem is neither healthy nor functionally stable, but instead is an unnaturally destabilized and deteriorating marine ecosystem, in wholesale collapse.

The purpose of sediment diversions is to return to health and stabilize the deltaic ecosystem, which depends upon the restoration of the highly dynamic delta cycle. Deltas are only "stable" physically and ecologically if they are allowed to cycle through their phases of land building and decay, freshening and becoming more saline, as the process is allowed to play out (Penland 1988, Blum and Roberts 2012) Figs. 1 and 8). That process is the key to the high biological productivity of deltaic estuarine ecosystems, and long term productivity and diversity is diminished if that cycling is not allowed to occur. The State of Louisiana, and all of the concerned Federal agencies, have long since reached this conclusion, and sent to the public and Congress numerous laws, plans and programs over the last 25 years to make it happen (LCA 2004, LCWCRTF 1993, LCWCRTF 1998, WRDA 2007, GCERTF 2011). The Mississippi River Delta (MRD) faces the highest rate of relative sea level rise in North America, and a new variable – accelerating and more intense climate change – calls for urgent action.

Natural Delta Cycles

20th century

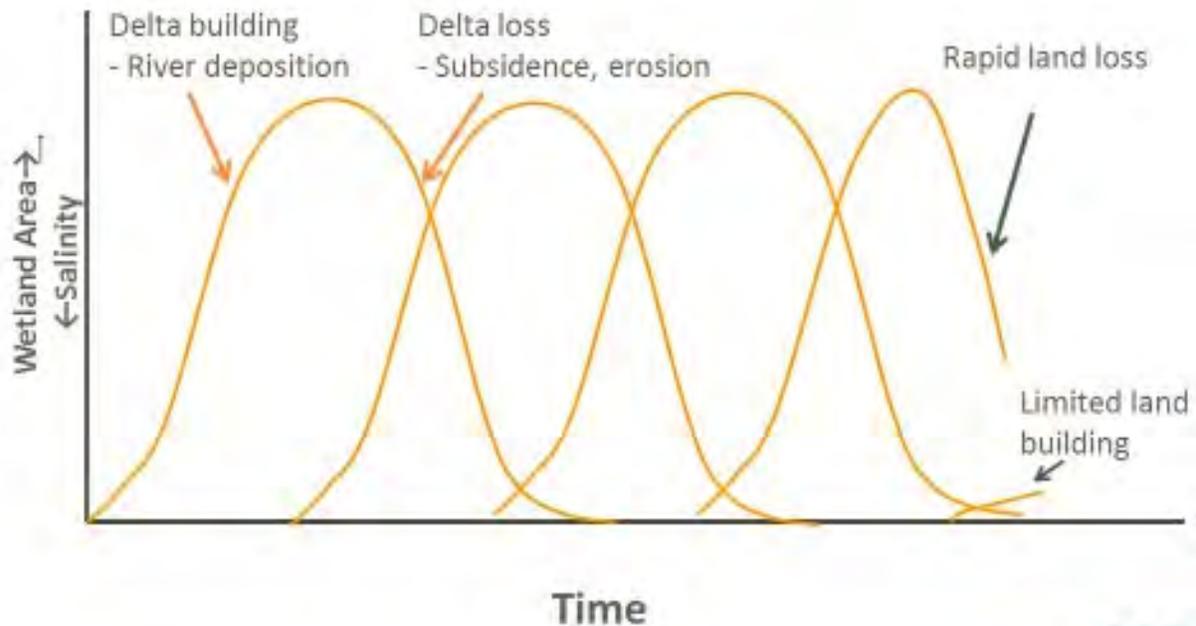


Figure 1. Modified from Reed, D.R., Water Institute of the Gulf. The estuarine phase of the delta cycle peaks during the delta loss phase. The total wetland area equation is balanced or positive as long as deltaic land building occurs through delta switching (Fig. 6) and sea level remains constant. In the 20th century we interrupted land building and marine processes began to dominate. In the 21st century, sea level rise will accelerate, further skewing the equation towards domination by marine processes. Unless sediment diversions are implemented, estuarine wetlands will continue to be lost and eventually disappear.

Given the delta's importance for estuarine and deltaic organisms, we suggest that nothing less than a paradigm shift will be needed for Federal agencies to fulfill their mission and act in the best long-term interest of their trust resources. Managing the dilemma will be a test case for how to resolve these issues and move forward, especially in light of climate change. Fortunately, the Federal government has a willing partner in the state of Louisiana, and an opportunity in the settlement funds available from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill to act now in the best long-term interests of its trust resources. By doing so, Federal agencies could set a precedent for resolving the future hard choices it will face as our climate changes.

We understand that this dilemma is difficult, but it is not insoluble. We urge Federal agencies and the State of Louisiana to work together now to design and build the necessary river diversions with sufficient monitoring, robust adaptive management plans, and careful operational designs that ensure the long-term health of trust resources, as well as the long-term viability of the ecosystem on which they depend.

The Coastal Wetland Management Habitat Policy of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council states: “Realizing the ecological importance of coastal wetlands in the estuaries of the Gulf of Mexico, and as Essential Fish Habitat for or impacting the fishery resources that the Council manages or that are within the Council’s jurisdiction, it is the policy of the Council to: Promote the conservation, maintenance, and restoration of healthy coastal wetlands to sustain and enhance a diversity of marine resources” (Gulf of Mex. Fishery Mgmt. Council 2002). Allowing the continued loss of coastal wetlands in the estuarine basins of the Mississippi River Delta, which provide essential fish habitat and nurseries for the food prey of dolphins, does not serve the longer-term purpose of sustaining dolphin populations in deltaic basins or in the Gulf.

Barataria Bay Overview

*A review of the history of Barataria Bay.*⁵

We ask whether estuarine organisms, such as dolphins, birds, fish, and shrimp are likely to be threatened by a proposed sediment diversion that will repeat in every particular (by building an artificial analog of a distributary) natural events and processes that have affected these species since the Holocene delta began building just 7,000 years ago, and thousands of times in prior delta-building episodes in the Mississippi embayment (where proto-Mississippi River deltas have been forming since the Cretaceous, i.e. for over sixty million years; Blum and Roberts 2012). The natural environment (a major river delta) in which these estuarine organisms live, and their ancestors lived, is one of widely divergent salinities that change rapidly inter-annually (overbank flooding, crevassing), and that change rapidly and sometimes temporally (channel switching, avulsions leading to new sub-delta formation). The very nature of a major river delta (the delta cycle) creates the habitat conditions that underlie the vast productivity which materially helps sustain *all of* the commercially and recreationally important species of the north central Gulf of Mexico.

Since oysters, shrimp, birds, marine turtles, dolphins and other Gulf species have been exploiting the interplay between the river and the sea at its alternatively advancing and retreating interface in the MRD at least since the end of the Pleistocene, and probably for millions of years previously with proto-Mississippi River deltas, they have evolved the behavioral plasticity, either as individuals or population, needed to do so. Since the MRD and the estuarine wetland habitat it supports are in collapse as a result of anthropogenic manipulations of the environment, sustainable recovery of that habitat is completely dependent upon restoration of a functioning delta cycle.

In the light of the onset of a period of rapid sea level rise and the imminent drowning of millions of acres of estuarine wetland habitat, impeding the restoration of that delta cycle will have long term negative, potentially catastrophic, effects on marine resource populations far beyond Barataria Bay.

Modelling indicates that while in full flood the Mississippi River is capable of massively freshening the Barataria Basin through the proposed diversion. However, the river flows at highly divergent rates annually and inter-annually. In the real world, flowing the diversion at maximum capacity for months at a time on exactly the same schedule each year is physically impossible, and the limitations of models that use simplified hydrographs should be understood.

In any case, actual operations are not constrained by models. For a number of reasons, including allowing gradual formation of flow channels, reducing the impacts of inundation to vegetation and adjacent

communities, and reducing the impact on estuarine resources, including Federal trust resources, there are persuasive arguments to be made for a gradual ramping up of diversion operations over a period of years as diversions come on line, and for assessing the role of guidelines for operations going forward, to be adaptively altered, informed by comprehensive monitoring in light of the primary purpose of diversions (Peyronnin et al. 2016).

The path forward is to manage diversion operations in a way that maximizes their purpose: long-term land building, sustenance of intact wetlands, increasing net biological productivity across the entire spectrum of living deltaic and estuarine resources, and renewing the delta cycle, while at the same time placing operational sidebars that allow populations to adapt to changing conditions.

In contrast, the alternative to such a management regime is grim:

- The Gulf is advancing in a manner which ensures that virtually all existing wetland habitat in the middle and lower Breton basins will be lost. Depending on the sea level rise curve, this could happen in anywhere from 40 to 80 years (Couvillion et al. 2013).
- The Mississippi River itself will change, and the fresh water at the mouth of the river, now discharged deep in the Gulf at the edge of the shelf, is going to move upstream and inland, onto the shelf, and into the bays. In other words, once the flanking wetlands are gone, the river will shorten its course to the sea (Kemp et al. 2014).
- That can either happen in a planned and controlled way, or it can happen catastrophically, but it will happen. When it does, the volume of fresh water entering the bays will dwarf what is now being proposed for diversions, and estuarine organisms will have to adapt. Sediment diversions are a primary tool to carry out these transformations in a controlled manner with timely positive benefits.

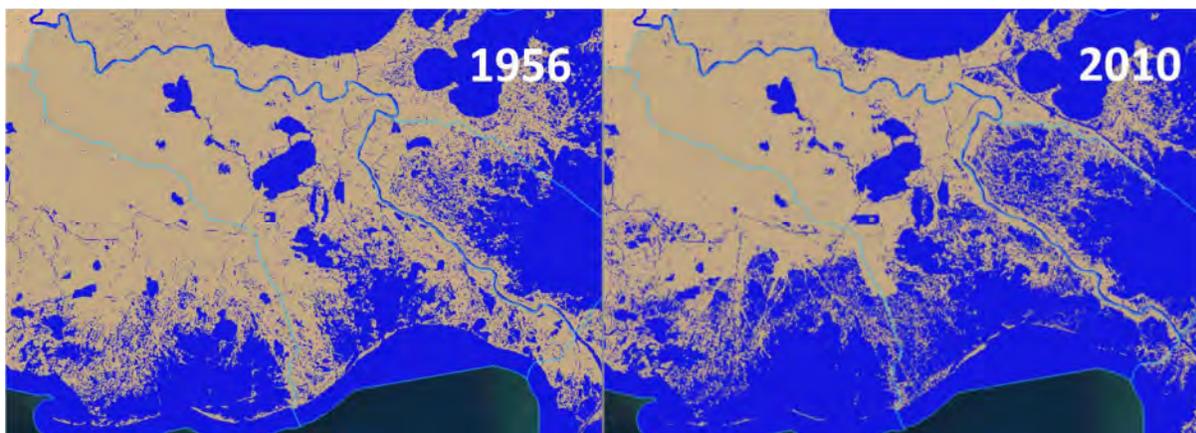


Figure 2. USGS. Conversion of land to water in the delta region from 1956 to 2010.

The estuarine organisms living in the delta of the Mississippi River evolved in that region, not in Barataria Bay. For marine wildlife like oysters, shrimps, birds, and marine mammals living there today, the principles of natural selection (Mayr 2001) would mean that any evolved adaptations vis-à-vis their deltaic environment would be towards greater fitness in that environment, including adaptations for coping with both rapid and long-term salinity changes. Or, put another way, organisms living in the delta's estuaries are those that are best adapted to living there. Hereinafter we examine the history and

The world is running out fresh water, and wetlands, and estuarine habitat. Happily, the change required in the delta is to let go of, to the maximum extent practical, expensive energy-intensive systems that are poor substitutes for natural systems and have proven catastrophically detrimental. Instead, we could opt for a system re-born through implementation of a straightforward engineering project, a gated structure that allows freshwater and sediment to flow from the river to the estuary, returning the basin to a natural long-term deltaic cycle.

On the subject of estuarine organisms, Federal agencies have two choices. Acquiesce to a bleak future by falling back upon the traditional regulatory paradigm, which is the cautious response. The other choice is to remain open to the possibility of a far better outcome for all of its Trust Resources, without sacrificing options for intervention if the worst case scenario, is realistic for estuarine organisms in deltaic environments.

Background on the Formation and Evolution of Barataria Bay

Age of Barataria Bay

Barataria Bay is geologically very young. It is less than one thousand years old, and ecologically much younger—the area of the basin it now occupies has been predominantly brackish for less than a century, while even the oldest areas of the bay have been intermittently brackish (i.e. suitable oyster habitat) for less than two centuries. For comparison, Tampa Bay, Mobile Bay and other Gulf embayments have been around since the post-Pleistocene sea level rise to its Holocene stand, about 7,000 years ago (Davis 2011). While the rising sea was re-occupying America's other great bays, the Mississippi River was reoccupying the Mississippi embayment with land. That embayment stretched north to present day Cairo, Illinois (Blum and Roberts 2009). Undoubtedly, dolphins have been thriving at the river's current advancing estuarine connection with the Gulf since it began at the end of the Pleistocene.

Herein we will discuss the formation of the Barataria embayment in the last five hundred or so years and its very rapid areal growth in the last century. That areal growth went hand in hand with its transition from a predominantly freshwater system during much of any given year to a predominantly brackish system. This transition developed as the bay was cut off from riverine inputs because distributaries were closed (culminating with the closure of Bayou Lafourche in 1902-04); levees were built and fitfully maintained (1722 to 1927); and modifications to the passes were made for navigation (c. 1720-1879). Then followed the very rapid transformation to a more saline system once the Corps of Engineers perfected the levee system and navigation passes (1928 to the present; Muth, 2014). Barataria Bay has transitioned into habitat suitable for a resident dolphin stock and other related marine organisms in less than 90 years, while that habitat has expanded 4-5 times in size.

Barataria Bay formed as a consequence of subsidence and sea level rise leading to inundation and erosion of land first formed upon shallow estuarine shelf bottom by the Bayou des Familles/Barataria (hereinafter Barataria) sub-lobe of the St. Bernard delta cycle (3500-2000 BP; Fig. 6). As the Barataria sub-lobe was abandoned in favor of the Bayou Lafourche delta lobe (2500-100 BP; Fig. 6) which began flanking it to the west, erosion began on the eastern flanks of Barataria (in the gap between the Barataria and Bayou Terre aux Bouefs sub-lobes), while the western portions continued to be sustained by river water and sediments from the Mississippi River in its Bayou Lafourche course (Fig. 7).

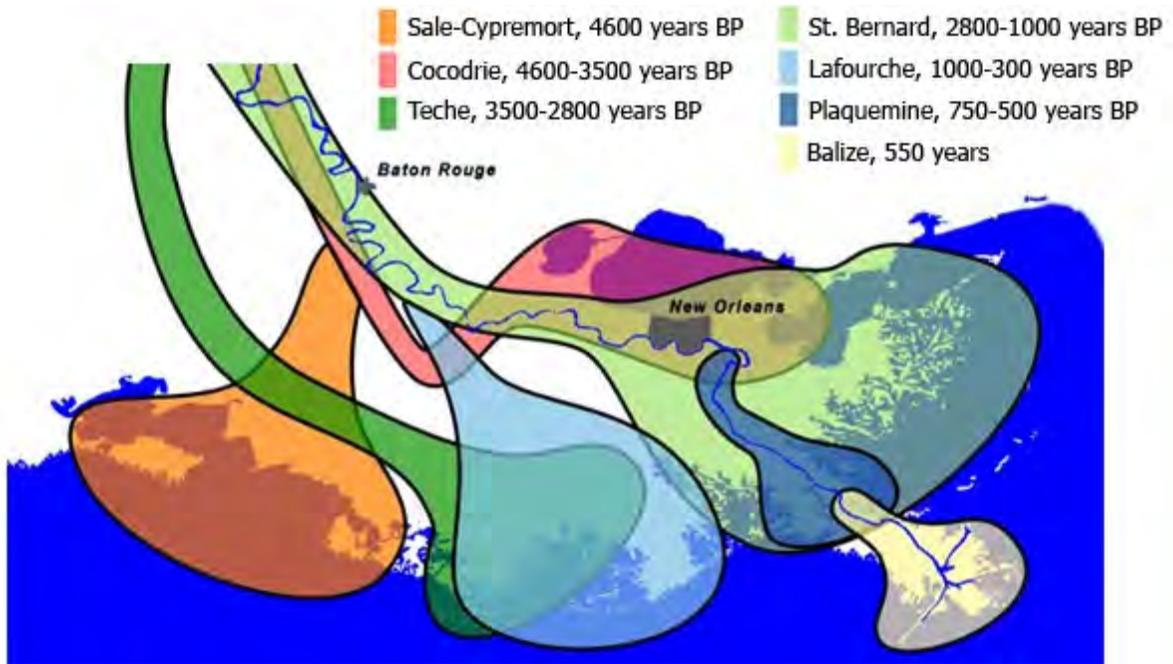


Figure 6. Modified from Wicander and Monroe, 1993. The location of modern Barataria Bay is due south of the “New Orleans” label.

Subsequently, the nascent estuarine bay was re-freshened by the development of the Plaquemines delta (1300-500 BP; Fig. 6) and its further extension, the Modern Balize or Bird’s Foot delta. During the Plaquemines phase, a western distributary fork, Grand Bayou/Bayou Grande Cheniere, discharged water and sediment directly into the area of what is now eastern Barataria Bay. At the same time, to the west, the various easterly flowing distributary forks of the still occupied Bayou Lafourche distributary, including Bayou L’Ours, kept fresh water flowing to the west side of the basin (Fig. 7).

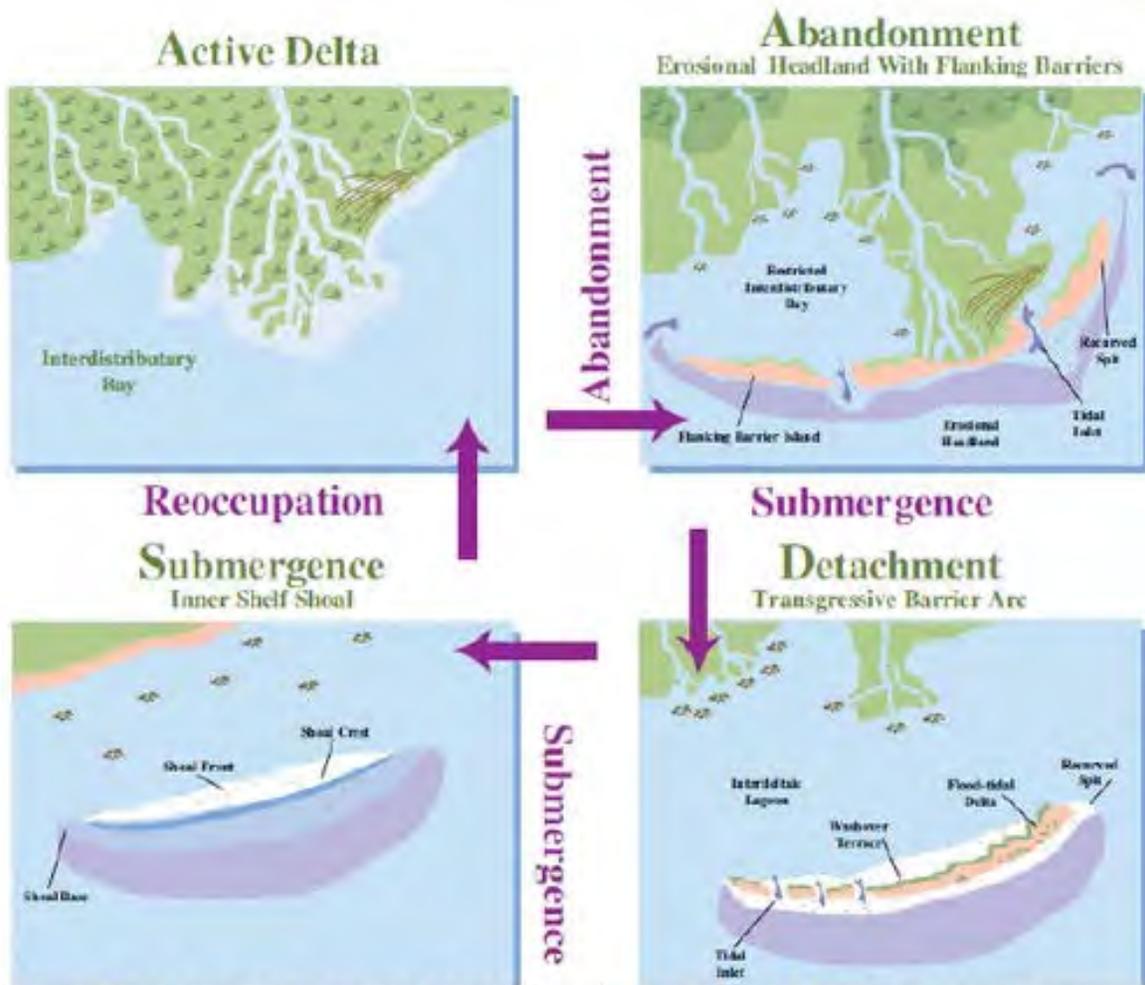


Figure 2. Three stage evolution of a deltaic barrier island. (Barrier Islands Educators Guide: model from Penland and Boyd, 1981.)

Figure 8. Modified from Penland and Boyd, 1981. Barataria Bay is transitioning from Abandonment to Detachment. Breton Sound is Detached. In both cases, sediment diversions could begin the process of Reoccupation.

From the time accurate charts and maps came along in the 19th century, we can trace the very gradual enlargement of the bay, but early twentieth charts are not much different from those of the mid-nineteenth (Figs. 9, 10 and 11). Rapid expansion came later in the 20th century (Fig. 12).



Figure 9. NOAA, Barataria Bay and Approaches, 1853. Note that Caminada Bay, Bay des Ilettes and Bay Ronquille are still discrete entities. East of there the Bayou Long and Bayou Grand Liard sub-delta lobes are intact, and the Bastian and Adams bay complex has no interior connection to the Barataria Bay complex. The Little Lake complex is still separated from the bay by ten miles of marsh, though the marsh is beginning to break up.

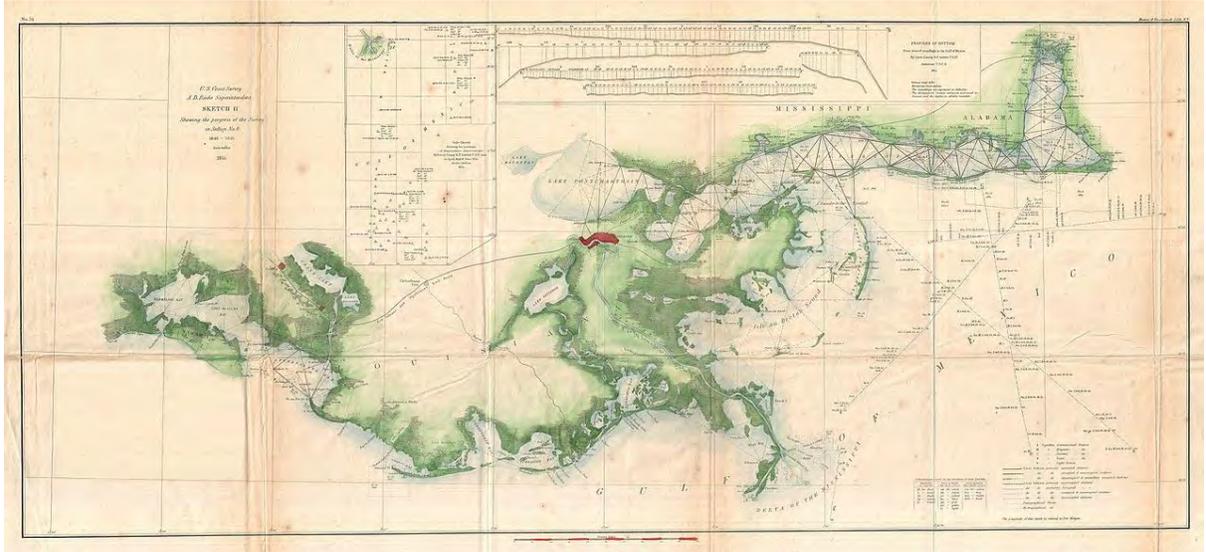


Figure 10. U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, 1855. Note that Barataria Bay (SSE of the red New Orleans on the coast) is depicted as roughly equivalent in area to mid-basin Lake Salvador, just SW of New Orleans.

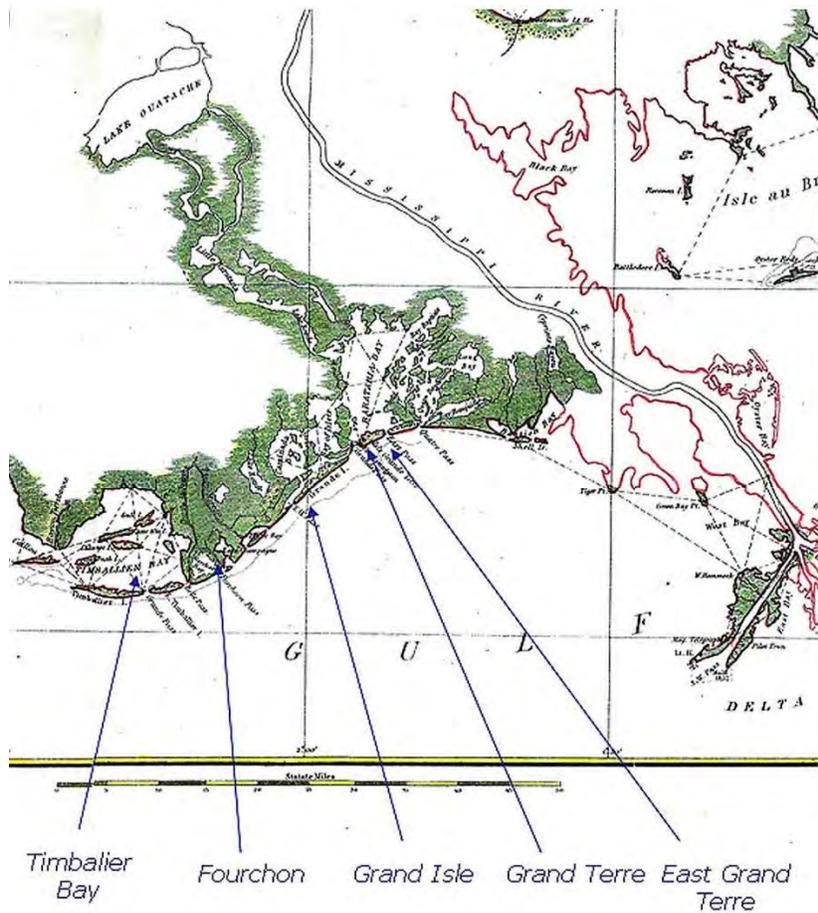


Figure 11. Modified from NOAA, 2016 (Osborne). Barataria Bay and vicinity circa 1860.

In the early 20th century Barataria Bay occupied the area behind the headland which stretched from Grand Isle and Mendicant Isle on the west to East Grand Terre and Grand Bank on the east and northward to St. Mary's Point, now considerably farther north, and now an island. The bay itself was about 5 miles wide by about 12 miles long, perhaps 60-75 square miles. It connected to the Gulf through Barataria Pass and Pass Abel.

To the west were isolated smaller bays Champagne, des Ilettes, Tambour, Fisherman's, Vosier, Macoin and Caminada. To the north were Bassa Bassa, Little Lake, St. Denis, Chene Fleur, Wilkinson, Jimmy and Batiste. To the east were Melville, Dispute, Cat, Ronquille, Grand Ecaille, Billet, Long, Pipe, Garden, Chaland, Joe Wise, Bastian, Adams, Shell Island, English, Pomme D'or, Jacquin, Cyprien, Scofield, Skipjack, Chicharas, Jacques, Coquette, Sandy Point, and Tambour, along with lakes Washington and Robinson, all separated from each other by marsh. At a few points bays had small tidal openings through the sandy headland connecting to the Gulf, as at Caminada Pass, Quatre Bayou Pass, Chaland Pass, Grand Bayou Pass, Scofield Bayou, and Sandy Point.

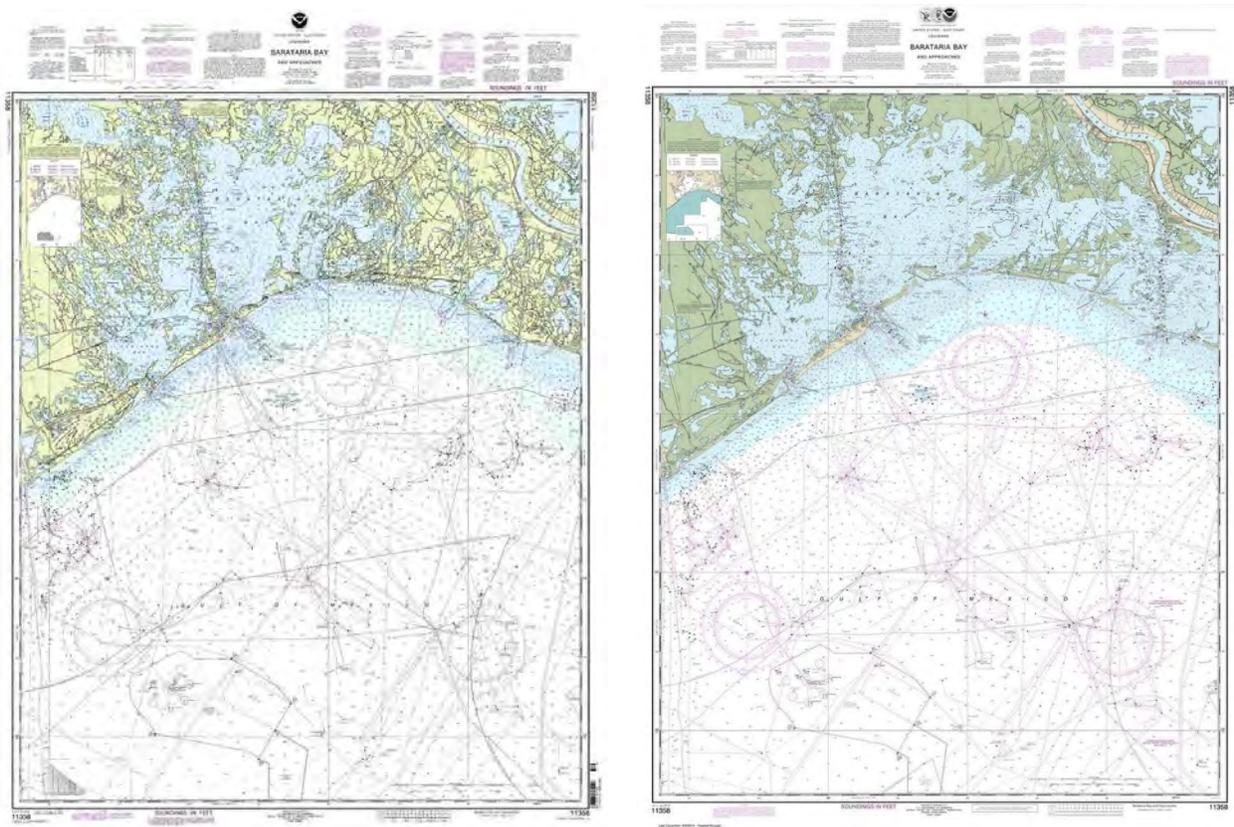


Figure 12. Barataria Bay and Approaches, NOAA Charts. The chart on the left is 1965; 2013 is on the right. Note the near complete collapse of the marsh platform on the east side, but expansion of water in every direction and at every scale.

These water bodies are still distinct on charts into the late twentieth century, though their coalescing is charted through the decades. The bays, lakes and bayous are now wholly a part of the greater Barataria Bay, and the rest are indentations along its edges. Former marsh islands are gone or shrinking to insignificance. In 2013 NOAA famously officially dropped more than 30 place names from its Barataria charts, because they were no longer physically distinguishable from the bay (Figs. 12 and 13). The bay now occupies about 400-500 square miles, depending upon what is or is not counted as contiguous.

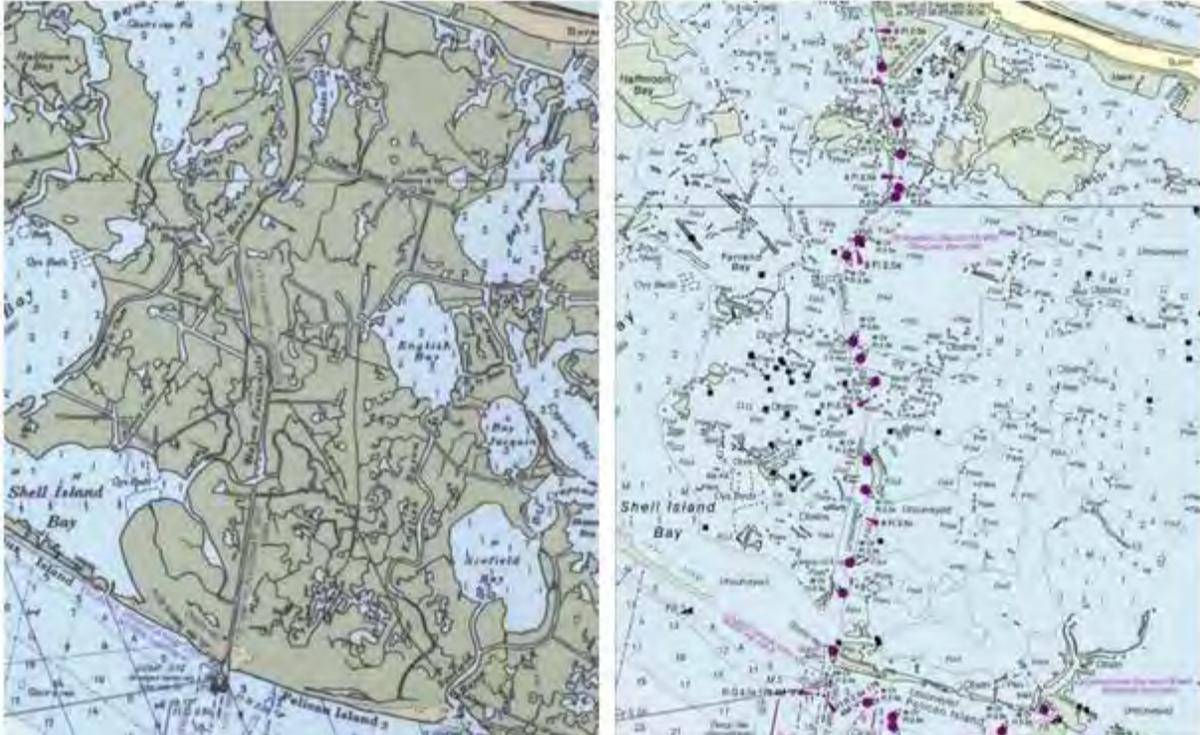


Figure 13. Detail from the 1965 (left) and 2013 (right) NOAA charts, depicting the area south of Buras, where Scofield, Cyprien, English, Pomme D'Or, Shell Island and Adams bays are all consumed by Bastian Bay, itself now part of greater Barataria Bay. The Empire Canal bisects the area.

Salinities in Barataria Bay

Early Barataria Bay, (prior to the 20th century), forming in an area still under the direct influence of the Plaquemines and Lafourche distributaries, would have been a primarily freshwater system, with occasional very short-term drought or storm-driven salinity spikes. Oysters, and presumably dolphins, were not resident. Spanish accounts from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries describe the open Gulf offshore of Barataria as being a reliable place for ocean-going ships to take on fresh water for drinking, en route from Vera Cruz and bound for Havana and Spain (Condrey et al. 2014). Because the Barataria Basin had a continuous headland and few openings, what openings there were, such as Barataria Pass, flowed like rivers when the river was over its banks, flooding the basin. Indeed, early maps refer to “Barataria River” (Fig. 15).

To the west of Bayou Lafourche in today’s Terrebonne Parish the Spanish charted vast offshore vertical oyster reefs through which narrow sinuous passes allowed small boats to reach the barrier islands and bays. No such reefs are charted east of Bayou Lafourche, indicating that even the nearshore Gulf was too fresh for oysters. While it may seem strange to write about “freshwater bays,” these are a natural part of deltaic systems. Even today, primarily freshwater bays like lakes Maurepas, des Allemands, Cataouatche, even Salvador and west Lake Pontchartrain, along with many others, occupy the upper areas of the Pontchartrain and Barataria estuaries, experience daily tides, but remain fresh or nearly so, without Mississippi riverine influence, but solely from local rainfall or small rivers feeding them. How much more widespread this phenomenon must have been when the Mississippi River still ran unfettered (Condrey et al. 2014).

To fully understand how fresh the Barataria system was into the 20th century, consider that Grand Isle and Grand Terre, the two largest barrier islands in the system, supported plantation agriculture in the 18th and 19th centuries, and vegetable crops were grown and sent to market in New Orleans by packet steamboats into the twentieth century (Swanson 1975; Tenney 1914). Today the islands support only typical salt and drought tolerant maritime forest, dune and saltmarsh vegetation.



Figure 14. On this English version of the 1720 de la Tour Map, Lake Ouchas is Lake Salvador. An incipient Barataria Bay complex is depicted under the words “Isle Barataria.” Isle Barataria in the French colonial period was the “island” formed by Bayou Villars on the north, bayous Rigolettes and Perot on the south and west, and Lake Salvador (Ouchas) on the west. The small bay to the east is Bastian (fed by Grand Bayou), the forked bayou to the west is Lafourche. Breton and Chandeleur Sounds on the east side are quite similar structurally to the way they are today, separated from the gulf only by the arc of the Chandeleur and Breton islands.

While early charts and maps are hardly reliable, an incipient Barataria Bay certainly seems to have been present in the 17th century, and was probably present by the time of early French colonization in the late 18th century (Fig. 14). On all early charts and maps the bay is shown as much smaller than Lake Salvador (Ouchas)(Figs. 14 and 15).

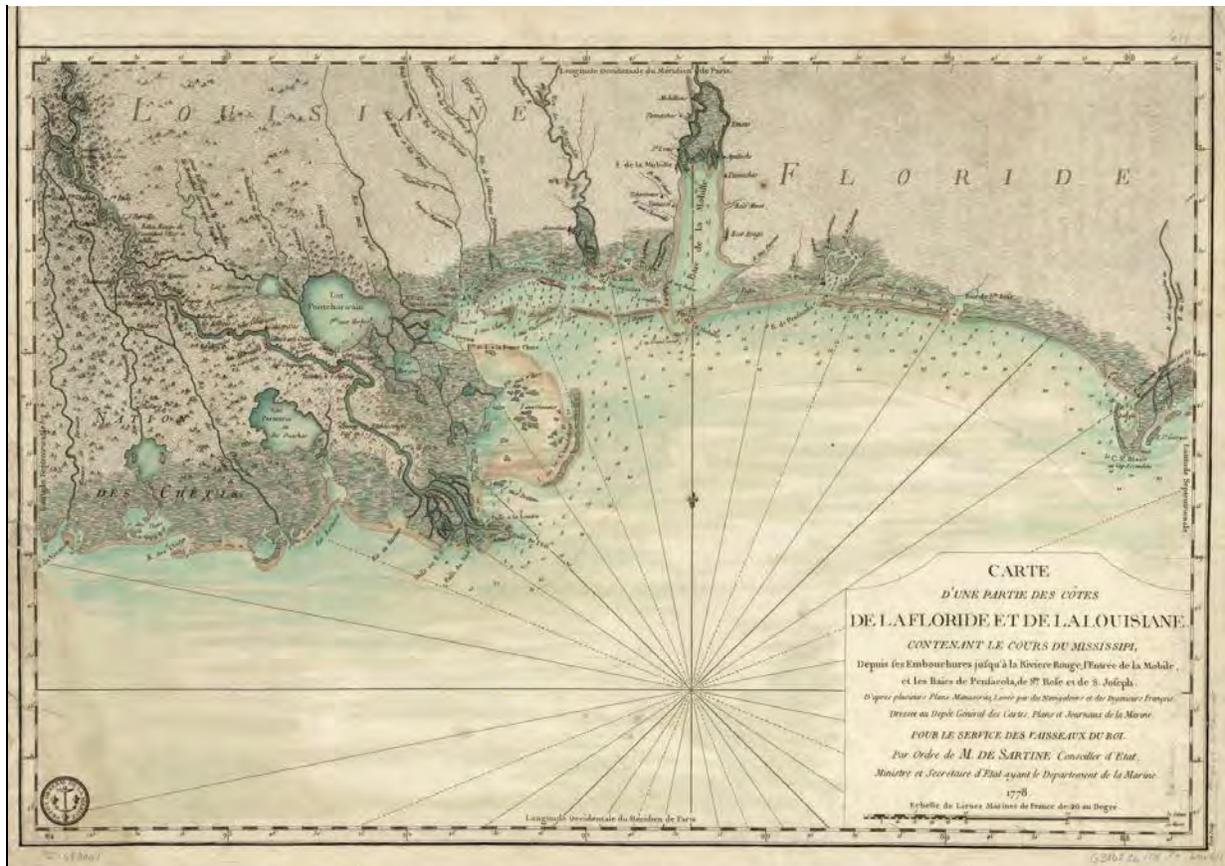


Figure 15. The Sartine Map, 1778, apparently based on Bellin 1764, shows Lake Salvador (Lac Barataria or des Ouchas) dominating the Barataria Basin, and the incipient bay opening to the gulf at Barataria Pass, designated “Riv. Barataria.”

The earliest charts and maps using modern surveying methods show that Barataria Bay was (or had grown to be) roughly equivalent in size to Lake Salvador, and connected to several smaller bays through tidal channels.

European settlement of the Mississippi River Delta began in 1705 on Bayou St. John. New Orleans was founded in 1718. The first Mississippi River man-made levee was thrown up at New Orleans in 1721. French and later Spanish land grants (prior to 1803) were perpendicular to the river or its distributaries on the natural levees (the only high tillable ground; Fig. 16). Royal land grants required the grantees to maintain a levee and a river road. From the beginning of European colonization, an attempt was made to contain the spring flood. Of course, these levees were neither particularly high, nor particularly well-constructed or maintained. Levee building continued throughout the colonial period, and it continued after the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, with a shift from landowner responsibility to government responsibility, as levee districts were formed.

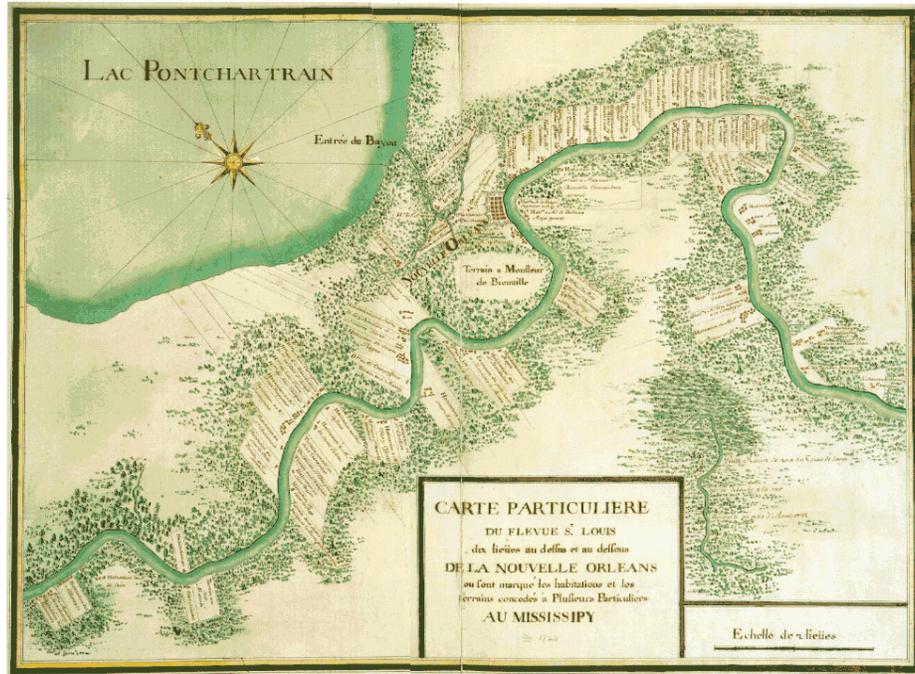


Figure 16. Map of plantations of the New Orleans area, circa 1723, courtesy of the The Newberry Library, Chicago, Call # Ayer MS Map 30, Sheet 80. Each Plantation fronting the river was required to maintain a levee, as a condition of the grant.

The levees successfully prevented the normal spring flood from overflowing the natural levees and refreshing the basins annually. As a consequence, salinities doubtless began to increase in the Barataria and Breton basins. Just as importantly, in order to facilitate settlement on natural levees of distributary channels, the settlers began to close the distributaries themselves at their junction with the river. In some cases, where distributaries had become intermittent, occupied only in flood years, distributary closure could be accomplished with a levee. For the Barataria Basin, this meant closure of Bayou des Familles, Bayou Grand Chenier, Bayou Long, and Bayou Grande Liard on the Mississippi, and bayous Matherne and L'Ours (among others) had to be leveed off from Bayou Lafourche. The closing of the largest active distributary, Bayou Lafourche, was not accomplished (by the Corps of Engineers) until 1904.

While the early levees prevented the annual flood, they ushered in about 200 years of episodic and catastrophic flooding. Levees raised the height of the spring flood by keeping it confined. In big flood years those levees broke, resulting in *crevasses* that poured vast quantities of floodwater and sediment into the basins. Sometimes crevasses could be closed quickly if the river flood was brief, but sometimes the flood was long and the crevasses cut deep channels through the natural levee, and a crevasse could flow for months or years. Some locations where the geology was unfavorable saw repeated crevassing (Fig. 17; Davis 2000).

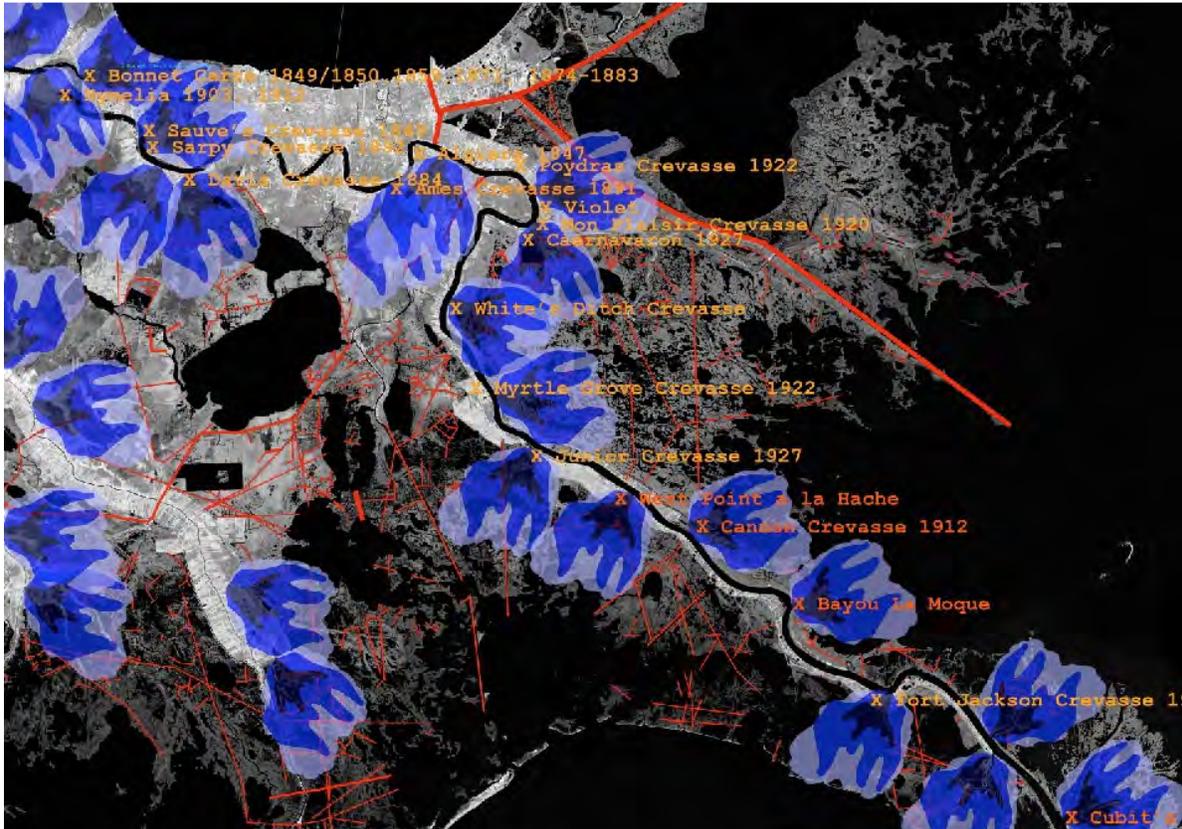


Figure 17. From John W. Day, based on Davis, D. W. Location of historical post-levee building 19th and early 20th century crevasses from floods on the Mississippi River and Bayou Lafourche. In this reconstruction, thirteen crevasses enter the Barataria Basin and six enter the Breton Basin. The final crevasses in each case were during the Great Flood of 1927 at Junior in the Barataria Basin and at Caernarvon in the Breton Basin.

Certainly by the mid-nineteenth century the individual bay clusters, Caminada, Barataria, Ronquille, Bastian, etc., had taken on estuarine characteristics and supported oysters (Van Sickle et al. 1976). It seems likely therefore that at least by the mid-nineteenth century estuarine organisms were utilizing the bays as marine processes began to dominate over riverine processes, at least in the average year, and at least near the Gulf. But whatever progress the Gulf of Mexico might have been making in converting Barataria Bay from fresh to brackish would have been undone in crevasse years (Fig. 17). Organisms like oysters and dolphins would have experienced salinity conditions change precipitously and radically in a matter of days. Presumably such conditions would have prevented establishment of a resident population of freshwater intolerant organisms in Barataria Bay (and the many bays it eventually swallowed up).

The last big flood and crevasse year was 1927. After a ship struck the levee at Junior on April 23, crevasse waters flowed directly into the Barataria basin until the end of June (Fig. 17). Thereafter, the Corps was given responsibility for levee maintenance, and the levee system was perfected. It has never failed. The Corps built no spillway into the Barataria basin, so it is reasonable to date modern Barataria Bay to have been born unnaturally in 1928. That is when it was truly cut off from the river.

Thereafter the bay steadily grew and the estuary grew steadily saltier, as demonstrated by the northward migration of leased oyster beds (Van Sickle et al. 1976).

Some river water enters the basin despite the levees. There is leakage through the Harvey and Algiers canal locks, the Empire Canal gate, and the siphon water allowed to flow down Bayou Lafourche (for drinking water). When the Atchafalaya is high, river water moves east on the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway into the Barataria Basin. There is also groundwater movement from the river into the basin, pushed by the artificial head of the river confined by the levees during flood years (Kolker et al. 2013). In order to offset the increasing salinities, siphons at West Point a la Hache (1992, 2,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) maximum discharge) and Naomi (1993, 1,500 cfs maximum discharge) were constructed, but not until the opening of the Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion in 2002 was a potentially significant amount of river water allowed directly back into the basin, up to 10,600 cfs.

But fresh water has other ways of entering the basin, and saline conditions have not had an unfettered run since 1928. The first freshening agent is rain. The entire Barataria Basin 6,300 km² (1,565,000 acres) is enclosed by levees or high ground (except where the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway crosses the Lafourche ridge), all the way to Venice on the east side and to below Golden Meadow on the Bayou Lafourche side. Essentially all of the rain (60-65 inches a year) that falls in the basin, except that which evaporates or transpires, passes through Barataria Bay on the way to the Gulf. Annual rainfall exceeds evapotranspiration in the basin significantly. Rainfall keeps the upper and much of the middle basin fresh, as demonstrated by vegetation types (Fig. 18) (Park 2002).

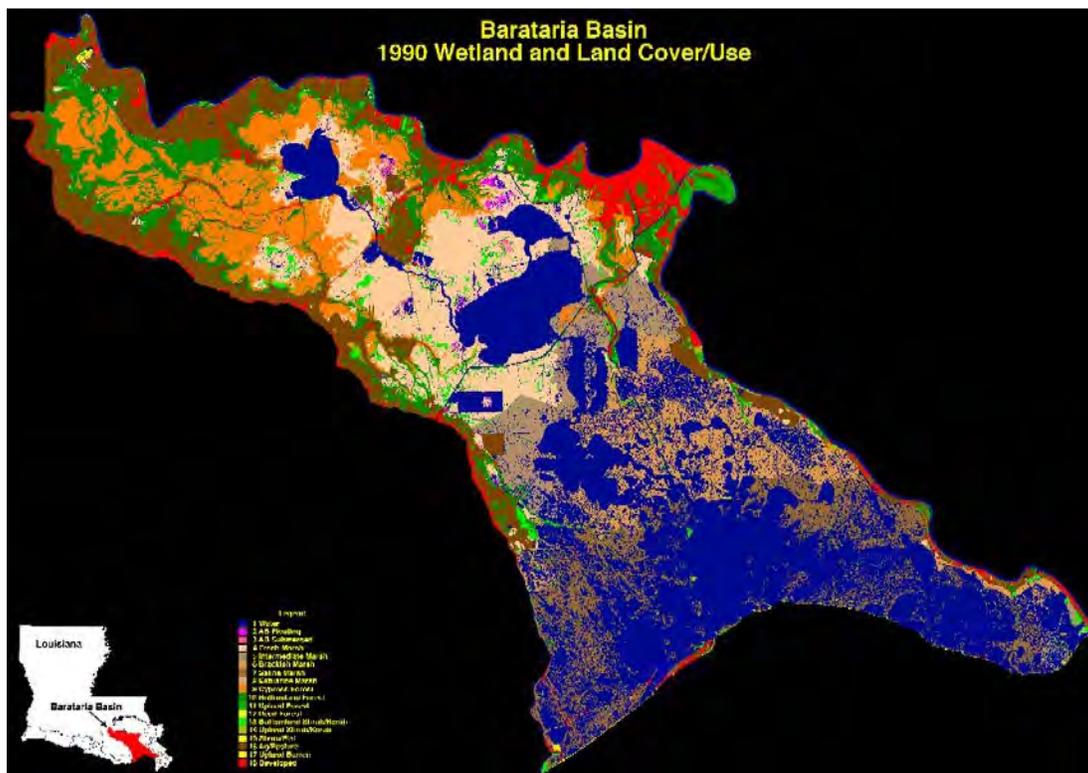


Figure 18. CWPPRA 1990. The basin was estimated by CWPPRA to contain 152,120 acres of swamp, 173,320 acres of fresh marsh, 59,490 acres of intermediate marsh, 102,720 acres of brackish marsh, and 133,600 acres of saline marsh, or about twice as much fresh to intermediate habitat (salinities below five parts per thousand) as of brackish to saline wetland habitat.

Periods of intense rainfall can freshen the basin for weeks or months, leading to oyster crop failure. Again, if resident sedentary marine populations live in the bay, such episodes should cause the

kinds of stress that diversions would cause. Unless, of course, the populations and organisms in the bay are adapted to the conditions that they find in the bay (Fig. 19).

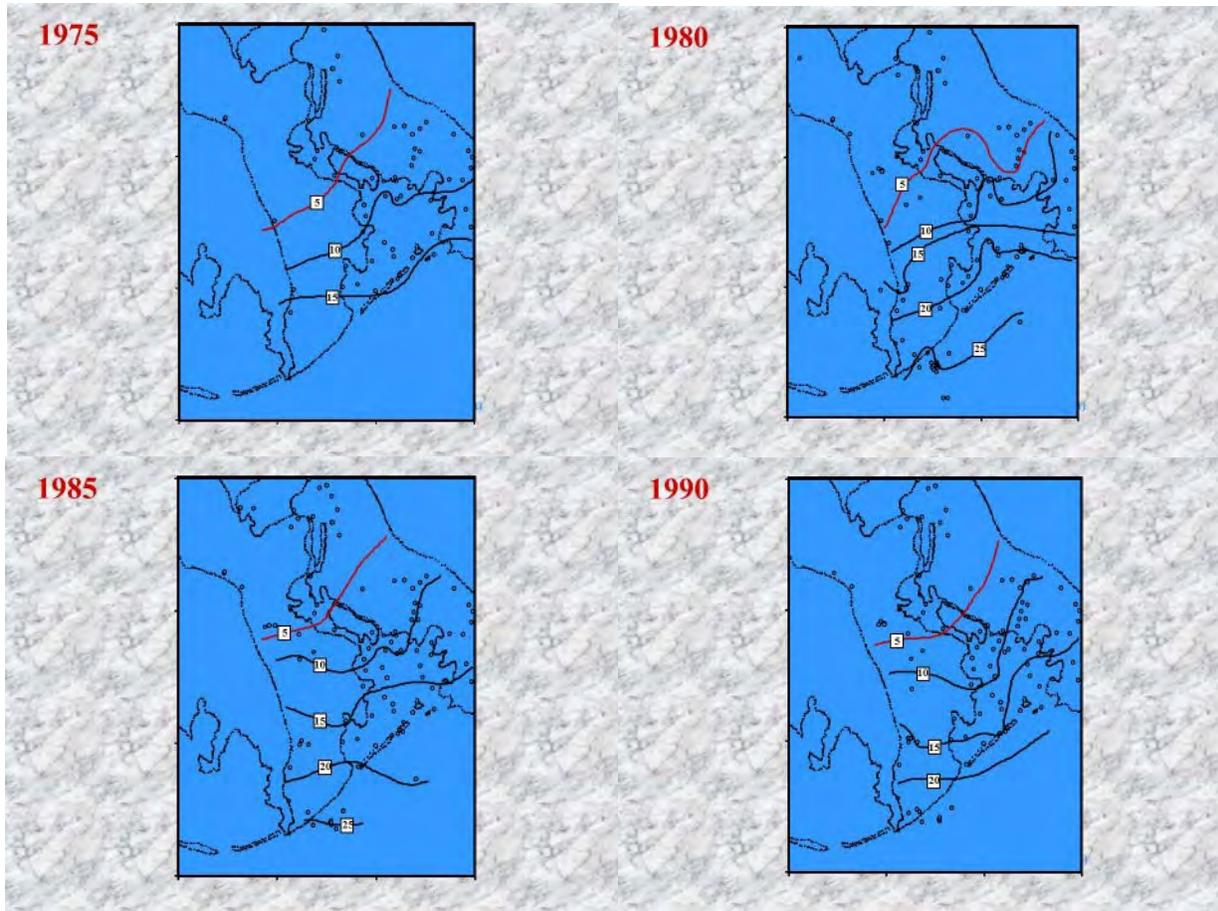


Figure 19. Modified from Swenson 1998. Salinity Isohalines, annualized averages at five year increments, 1975-1990, showing inter-annual variation, dropping below a 20 ppt *average* for entire years.

The other way that the bay routinely freshens is from the river itself, but not directly from upstream, but indirectly from the discharge plume in the Gulf. The Grand/Tiger Pass and Southwest Pass distributaries can discharge more than 250,000 cubic feet per second into the Barataria Bight offshore Barataria Bay (Allison et al. 2012). The lighter fresh water stratifies and flows above the denser salt water and enters the shallow bay. When winds and currents combine to push the freshwater surface plume northwest into the bay, fresh conditions ensue, often causing mortality in beds of sedentary oysters, and presumably therefore stressing some of the sensitive resident marine resources (Fig. 20).



Figure 20. MODIS true color image from LSU Earth Scan Laboratory: [https://www.esl.lsu.edu/imagery/MODIS/image/291891/ March 28, 2015](https://www.esl.lsu.edu/imagery/MODIS/image/291891/March_28_2015). Note the sediment plume, denoting the movement of fresh river water, entering Breton Sound and Barataria Bay from the Gulf. The river was flowing at 1,000,000 cfs.

This then is the history of the basin. Until 300 years ago it was a freshwater system with small isolated embayments and brief salinity spikes. Over the next 200 years the system was gradually cut-off from steady riverine inputs, but became more susceptible to infrequent and catastrophic freshwater flooding events (crevasses), with extreme and unpredictable swings in salinity. Presumably it could not have supported long-term resident, sedentary marine organisms under these conditions.

About ninety years ago large direct inputs of river water ceased to be a factor. Not coincidentally at about the same time Barataria Bay, other bays and connecting bayous began to expand at the expense of marsh. About fifty years ago this expansion began to snowball, and Barataria Bay became the dominant feature in the lower basin as smaller water bodies coalesced. As the bay grew, the tidal prism through the passes increased, the headlands and barrier islands shrank, and erosion rates increased yet more in an inexorable feedback loop.

Between 1956 and 2010, 224,000 acres (350 square miles) of land has been converted to open water in the Barataria Basin (Couvillion 2011).

Estuarine organisms in the Barataria Basin today have a lot more freedom of movement than their predecessors. Embayments that were formerly separated by marsh, with their own connections to the Gulf, direct and indirect, are now one large body of water. Caminada Bay connected to the Gulf via Caminada Pass; Barataria Bay through Barataria Pass and Pass Abel; Bay Ronquille via Quatre Bayou Pass, and so on. Today, all of those passes (and others) open into one large body of water, the enlarged Barataria Bay. The easternmost parts of the bay, where loss of barrier islands was most severe, have openings into the Gulf more than two miles wide. Some of these openings have actually shrunk since NOAA took the lead on barrier island restoration on the east side of the bay under the Coastal Wetland Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA).

The construction of a vast canal infrastructure for navigation, oil and gas exploration and production, and for pipelines also created new linkages for Barataria organisms. In many cases these canals have eroded to many times their original widths and depths. Indeed, via the Southwestern Canal just below Leeville, estuarine organisms can cross the Lafourche ridge via a tidal pathway five hundred feet wide and less than nine miles long, moving from the Barataria Basin into the Terrebonne Basin.

There are no longer any physical impairments to animal movement, and few that would even qualify as significant bottlenecks. The total width of the nine largest passes connecting the bay to the Gulf is about eight miles. For comparison, Lake Pontchartrain is connected to Lake Borgne by two passes with a combined width of about three thousand feet, or less than six tenths of a mile. In addition, the two Lake Pontchartrain passes have lengths of 8.3 (the Rigolets) and 6.5 (Chef Menteur) miles respectively.

Conclusion

After more than thirty years of independent scientific study, as well as numerous plans by the state, Federal agencies, and joint plans made by the state and Federal government, many of which have been the subject of National Environmental Policy Act analysis, some of which have been ratified and submitted to Congress for authorization and funding, and all of which have concluded that diversions and a return to the delta cycle are foundational requirements for the long term sustainability of coastal Louisiana, the opportunity has finally arisen to actually make it happen (CWPPRA 1997; LCA 2004; WRDA 2007; GCERTF 2011). It is incumbent upon Federal agencies, including the NRDA Trustees, to work with the state of Louisiana, to balance competing responsibilities and get the job done.

ATTACHMENT B
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From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Sandy Rhein](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 4:57:57 PM

Aug 17, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

* Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.

* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Ms. Sandy Rhein
5032 Tartan Dr
Metairie, LA 70003-2550
(504) 885-1975
srhein@cox.net

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Sandy Rhein](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 12:13:05 PM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,

Ms. Sandy Rhein
5032 Tartan Dr
Metairie, LA 70003-2550
(504) 885-1975
srhein@cox.net

From: srhein@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Sandy Rhein](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 10:21:41 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Sandy Rhein
Metairie, LA 70003

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Tuesday, July 25, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Belle Chasse Auditorium
8398 Highway 23, Belle Chasse, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Rachel Rhode	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
Street Address 2000 Huntington Ave Apt. 217	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code Alexandria, VA 22303	
Email Address rachelrhode44@gmail.com	
Affiliation Environmental Defense Fund	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

The sediment diversion slated to be located in the Barataria Basin has been studied over 30 years and the findings + research should be considered and incorporated in the scoping report and eventually the EIS to expedite the overall permitting timeline.

From: andrewrichard@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, July 28, 2017 8:22:18 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Andrew Richard
100 South Meyers Drive #206
Lafayette, LA, 70508

From: [Francis Richard](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mid Barataria Sediment Diversion Project
Date: Tuesday, September 5, 2017 12:06:03 PM

To whom it may concern,

My name is Francis Richard, a graduate of Nicholls St University and lifelong resident of Lafourche parish. I spent my entire working career in the sugar industry, working first with Cameco Industries and later John Deere after their acquisition of Cameco. I recently retired, last serving as General Manager at the Thibodaux factory. I am an avid hunter and fisherman of both the Barataria and Terrebonne Basins, and also serve on the Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District, as a Lafourche Parish Commissioner, which encompasses the Barataria Basin. I believe all of these aspects give relative importance to my comments on the proposed Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion being proposed by the State of Louisiana.

I am in full support of the proposed Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion project. From my understanding, the purpose of the project is to reconnect and re-establish the natural or deltaic sediment deposition process between the Mississippi River and the Barataria Basin. With this project, the Barataria basin stands to gain many benefits over an extended period of time that would help to combat, neutralize and replenish the seriously affected water salinity within the basin. The deliverance of freshwater from the Mississippi River into the Barataria Basin will restore the natural water composition prior to saltwater intrusion as a result of several factors. The sediment within the water will be deposited in a long-term sustainable manner creating a foundation for continued sediment accretion and land building. The nutrient-rich freshwater will feed our coastal marshes and wetlands with the nourishment needed to be success as Lafourche parish and surrounding area's first line of defense. The freshwater from the Mississippi river will help in flourishing local agriculture production, water supply to industry and community, and will coincide with the work of the Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District in protecting and preserving the valuable natural resource of freshwater. The No Action Alternative will expedite currently occurring issues of saltwater intrusion, change and depletion of vegetation causing increased erosion rates, and heightened tidal exchange which threatens the struggling ecosystem and surrounding communities. The No Action Alternative should not be considered as an option to such a negatively impacted area from Deepwater Horizon. I feel strongly that the Mid-Baratiara Sediment Diversion is a big piece in the overall solution to the issues of coastal erosion.

My opinion on the project through the perspective of a recreation basin user and resident of Lafourche parish begins by expressing my disappointment in not having a scoping meeting held in every potentially affected area from the proposed project, including Lafouche. While we do not sit directly on the Mississippi River, we do stand to gain benefit from the project and I believe those comment are worth hearing.

In the perspective of using the basin as a fisherman and hunter, my opinion parallels with my career based opinion in that I support the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. The ecosystem has been at a high level of stress with the intrusion of saltwater; as a result, a shift in wildlife of both long-term resident, juvenile lifecycle stages, and wintering inhabitants has occurred. The proposed project will provide equilibrium to the fluctuating nutrient levels and salinity of the water and sustain the natural ecosystem of the Barataria Basin. With that being said, the current project permitting timeline concerns me. With a robust history of research on this project, a permit completion date of two years behind the previously published timelines is both inadmissible and unacceptable. Furthermore, I believe there should be transparency within this process by clearly communicating any uncertainties with stakeholders and fully adhering to the concept of an adaptive management plan with operation being modified and the basin composition and landscape is modified.

Thank you for the opportunity to give my input on the highly significant and needed Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion.

Sincerely,

Francis Richard

From: pmrichard00@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Pamela Richard](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Monday, August 7, 2017 2:11:34 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Pamela Richard
Covington, LA 70433

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [derrick richards](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 11:43:46 AM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,

Mr. derrick richards
324 Main St Unit 477
Grambling, LA 71245-5021
(123) 456-7890
richardsderrick27@yahoo.com

From: richardsderrick27@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Derrick Richards](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 7:46:20 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Derrick Richards
Grambling, LA 71245

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name CAPT. GEORGE RICKS	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
Street Address P.O. Box 553	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code ST. BERNARD, LA. 70085	
Email Address GEORGERICKS15@GMAIL.COM	
Affiliation PRESIDENT/CEO SAVE LOUISIANA COALITION	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

THE SAVE LA. COALITION OFFICIALLY OPPOSES THE
MID BARATARIA DIVERSION.
A FORMAL WRITTEN LETTER WILL BE SUBMITTED
ON BEHALF OF THE ALMOST 1,000 MEMBERS OF
MY ORGANIZATION, CONSISTING OF COMMERCIAL AND
RECREATIONAL FISHERMAN, COASTAL COMMUNITY LAND OWNERS,
MARINA OWNERS, RESTAURANT OWNERS, SEAFOOD WHOLESALERS,
AND CONCERNED CITIZENS.

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED NOAA LETTER SUBMITTED
TO CPRA IN 2013.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southeast Regional Office

263 13th Avenue South

St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505

<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>

F/SER4:RH/PW

JUN 26 2013

Ms. Elizabeth L. Davoli
Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
Environmental Section
Post Office Box 44027
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-4027

Dear Ms. Davoli:

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) received the Solicitation of Views request transmitted by your letter dated May 22, 2013. The Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) of Louisiana proposes to undertake the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion (MBSD) project included as a component in the 2012 Louisiana Master Plan. According to information transmitted with your letter, the MBSD would divert 50,000 to 75,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) of Mississippi River water into the mid-Barataria basin. It is anticipated the diversion would be operated when the Mississippi River discharge exceeds 600,000 cfs. CPRA requested NMFS provide views, comments, and concerns regarding implementation of this project. CPRA staff also indicated potential benefits and impacts from the diversion would be evaluated in a regulatory Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), pursuant to requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act.

NMFS supports efforts to ameliorate coastal wetland loss in Louisiana to maintain socio-economic, storm protection, and ecological services these habitats provide. Most coastal restoration efforts can benefit nursery and foraging functions supportive of a wide variety of economically important marine fishery species. However, the proposed diversion may have adverse impacts to economically important estuarine/marine fisheries and their habitats. NMFS is concerned the MBSD could (1) displace marine fishery species from currently productive habitats to less supportive habitats, (2) reduce marine fishery productivity, (3) convert essential fish habitat (EFH) to areas no longer supportive of some federally managed marine fishery species or their prey items, (4) render wetlands impacted by diversions more susceptible to erosion from storms, (5) degrade water quality, and (6) cause socio-economic hardship to those involved in the commercial and recreational fishing industries. To allow for informed decision-making, these issues should be thoroughly evaluated by methods acceptable to NMFS and the results incorporated into the planned EIS.

Areas within the influence of the proposed diversion are designated as EFH under provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act; P.L. 104-297). Categories of EFH in the Barataria basin include emergent wetlands; mangrove



wetlands; submerged aquatic vegetation; mud, sand, and shell (e.g., oyster reefs) substrates; and estuarine water column. Impacts may extend to the nearshore Gulf of Mexico and marine categories of EFH potentially impacted include water column and non-vegetated bottom. Wetlands and water bottoms in the Barataria basin have been designated as EFH for a variety of life stages of white shrimp, brown shrimp, red drum, dog snapper, lane snapper, and gray snapper. Portions of Barataria Bay near the Gulf of Mexico also serve as EFH for various life stages of bonnethead shark, Atlantic sharpnose shark, and blacknose shark. In addition to being designated as EFH for a variety of federally managed species, water bodies and wetlands in the project area provide nursery and foraging habitats supportive of a variety of economically important marine fishery species, such as American oyster, Atlantic croaker, Gulf menhaden, spotted seatrout, sand seatrout, black drum, southern flounder, blue crab, and striped mullet. Some of these species serve as prey for other fish species managed under the Magnuson-Stevens Act (e.g., mackerels, snappers, and groupers) and highly migratory species managed by NMFS (e.g., billfishes and sharks).

According to your letter, the MBSD would be operated whenever river discharge at Belle Chasse exceeds 600,000 cfs. Based upon a review of river flow stages exceeding 600,000 cfs by month for the 1964 to 2012 time period, the MBSD would likely be open most years during February through June. Although hydrologic modeling results are unavailable at this time, NMFS believes the anticipated flow rates from the MBSD could result in the freshening of most of the Barataria basin. Freshening substantial portions of the basin and localized lowering of water temperature for five months of the year from the MBSD would affect a broad range of fishery species during a variety of life stages and their prey. As an example, these months overlap the migration of brown shrimp into and out of the estuary and the initiation of immigration of white shrimp into the Barataria basin estuary. Displacement of shrimp from nursery and refugia habitat to less supportive habitats could result in decreases in shrimp production in the Barataria basin potentially without offsetting increases elsewhere. Displacement and decreases in shrimp production should be expected to have impacts on other valuable species that prey upon shrimp, such as seatrout, red drum, and red snapper, as well as to have socio-economic repercussions on commercial fishing and related industries. The proposed operations also could have substantive impacts on American oyster populations and production, especially if both the spring and fall spat set are at risk by freshwater kills of pre-spawning adults or if there are deficiencies of shell substrate for spat set in suitable salinity regimes in the lower estuary. Some examples of other economically important marine fishery species which could be impacted by MBSD include Atlantic croaker, sand seatrout, spotted seatrout, and black drum. Consequently, NMFS believes robust analyses should be undertaken for inclusion in the EIS which evaluate (1) diversion related changes in isohalines and water temperature within the Barataria basin and nearshore Gulf of Mexico, (2) species-specific variations in marine fishery resources, and (3) socioeconomic impacts to fishery user groups. The means to assess impacts to fisheries should be coordinated with NMFS and should include species-specific projections of marine fishery production both with, and without, implementation of diversions included in the Louisiana Master Plan. It should be noted the Magnuson-Stevens Act requires mitigation to offset adverse impacts to EFH. The CPRA should also include in the EIS an evaluation of alternatives to mitigate impacts to EFH for any federally managed fishery species determined to be adversely impacted by the MBSD.

The EIS should include a discussion of adverse impacts to wetland health and productivity. A variety of research findings have suggested nutrient loads in Mississippi River waters, combined with low salinity levels, could reduce soil shear strength and make affected marsh habitats more susceptible to wind and hydrologic forces associated with the passage of storm fronts. Prolonged flooding of the soil surface associated with diversion operations also could reduce the health of plants in the marsh community. Finally, Mississippi River waters contain elevated levels of atrazine, a herbicide frequently utilized for agricultural purposes. CPRA should conduct and submit a thorough, scientifically-based evaluation of the likely impacts of nutrients, atrazine, and freshwater on marsh health and susceptibility to erosion.

There is a risk the potential for diversions to reduce wetland loss and rebuild coastal habitats may be overestimated given the constraints of present and projected sediment loads in the river, man's ability to engineer a structure to efficiently divert a significant portion of the river's sediment load to the appropriate places in the receiving basin, subsidence, and sea level rise. It has been documented the sediment load of the river is less than half of the historic levels, which initially created Louisiana's coastal wetlands. When sediment supply is taken into consideration in combination with on-going and projected accelerating future relative sea level rise, the 300 square mile estimate of net land change outlined in the Louisiana Master Plan associated with the use of multiple river diversions deserves further scrutiny. Failure of diversions to provide the projected level of benefits could result in undercompensated impacts to EFH. Therefore, NMFS believes it is important for an independent scientific body to evaluate models being used to determine the potential for wetland benefits likely to occur from the MBSD project, as well as the associated risks to EFH and living marine resources.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' ongoing Mississippi River Hydrodynamic Study (MRHS) is evaluating a number of issues related to diversions and their siting on the river. Details provided by your letter suggest CPRA plans to pursue a proposed location and alignment for the MBSD without the benefit of using the results of MRHS to inform the selection of an efficient diversion location. There is the potential for multiple diversions from the Mississippi River to affect the performance of any one project. However, to date, no models have been completed to determine how the MBSD would perform in combination with other diversions proposed in the Louisiana Master Plan. NMFS believes all diversions proposed for implementation by CPRA should be modeled individually, and in combination, using up-to-date site specific information, to ensure they are located and sized to best fulfill the project purpose, and unintended consequences do not result from their operations. NMFS believes the MRHS would be the best option for evaluating MBSD siting alternatives and cumulative impacts of operating multiple diversions.

The impacts of diversions on water quality should also be evaluated. Past operations of the Bonnet Carre Spillway have resulted in algae blooms in Lake Pontchartrain. NMFS recommends CPRA evaluate the likely impacts of nutrients contained in diverted river water on algae blooms and resultant water quality. Other river water contaminants and the risk of bioaccumulation in the receiving basin should also be assessed and included in the EIS.

Considering the myriad potential impacts to marsh health, fishery resources, water quality, and fishery user groups, NMFS believes a monitoring and adaptive management plan (MAMP) should be developed for inclusion in the EIS, in consultation with scientists, natural resource

agencies, and the public. The MAMP should (1) clearly identify variables and issues to be monitored, (2) describe the monitoring plan, and (3) detail the responsible party for funding, implementing and overseeing monitoring. The MAMP should identify specific adaptive management options (e.g., including alternative flow amounts, or differing the frequency, timing and duration of structure openings) to be implemented if monitoring identifies diversion operations are not supplying the desired results, or are resulting in unexpected impacts to resources of concern. The MAMP should identify an interagency group which would be responsible for overseeing diversion operations.

The proposed diversion structures would also impact the Mississippi River and Tributaries Levee Project. Wetlands and waters in the Barataria basin, floodside of the New Orleans to Venice (NOV) and Plaquemines Non-Federal Levee (NFL) are tidally influenced, designated as EFH, and are supportive of estuarine-dependent fishery resources. Impacts to these tidal habitats from the diversion structure and enlargement of the levee to offset increased water stage from the diversion should be minimized to the extent practicable and mitigated. NMFS has no comments on the bridge, railroad, and levee impacts between the Mississippi River and the protected side of the NOV and NFL because NOAA trust resources would not be adversely affected.

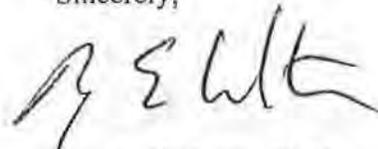
There may also be protected species concerns under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) requiring further coordination. In particular, a small resident estuarine population of bottlenose dolphins in Barataria Bay (<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/pdfs/sars/ao2012dobn-gmxbb.pdf>) may be negatively impacted by freshwater influx to the bay. NOAA and partners have been investigating an ongoing marine mammal Unusual Mortality Event in the northern Gulf and evaluating the long-term impacts of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill on dolphins in the Gulf of Mexico. Studies show the resident dolphins in Barataria Bay are severely ill (<http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/2012/03/study-shows-some-gulf-dolphins-severely-ill/>). The freshwater influx to the bay from this project may further stress Barataria Bay dolphins from resulting prey changes, impacts to water quality, and potential algal blooms from nutrients in diverted water. Algal blooms are a known cause of Unusual Mortality Events in bottlenose dolphins in the southeast U.S. In addition, prolonged exposure to freshwater can be detrimental to dolphins, causing skin lesions, compromising their health, and ultimately resulting in death. Depending on the nature of construction activities associated with the project, short- or long-term impacts to dolphins may also occur and could require potential preventative mitigation measures to reduce these impacts. We recommend further coordination with NMFS Southeast Region Protected Resources Division on these potential impacts and ways to reduce them. An MMPA authorization may be needed if take of dolphins is possible during this project. More information can be found on our NMFS Headquarters' Marine Mammal Permits and Authorization web page: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/mmpa_permits.htm

Early and frequent interagency coordination among CPRA, NMFS, and other federal and state resource agencies is requested for the impending planning and permit review process. Methods to assess environmental and socio-economic impacts to fisheries should be coordinated with, and deemed acceptable by, NMFS and other interested natural resource and regulatory agencies. All agencies should be provided the opportunity and time to review and comment on proposed

scopes of work for the environmental analyses and how these analyses will be incorporated into the EIS.

We appreciate your consideration of our comments. If you wish to discuss this project further or have questions concerning our recommendation, please contact Richard Hartman or Patrick Williams at (225) 389-0508, extension 203.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R E Crabtree". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Roy E. Crabtree, Ph.D.
Regional Administrator

cc:

NOD, Farabee, MacInnes, Wingate, Constance, Kleiss, Owen

FWS, Lafayette, Walther, Holland

EPA, Dallas, Ettinger

LA DWF, Balkum

LA DNR, Morgan

BOEM, Ashworth, Miner

F/SER4, Dale, Rolfes

F/SER3, Bernhart

F/SER46, Swafford

F/, Risenhoover

Files

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Tuesday, July 25, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Belle Chasse Auditorium
8398 Highway 23, Belle Chasse, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name CAPT. GEORGE RICKS	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Website <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
Street Address P. O. Box 553	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code ST. BARNARD, LA 70085	
Email Address GEORGERICKS15@GMAIL.COM	
Affiliation SAVE LOUISIANA COALITION	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

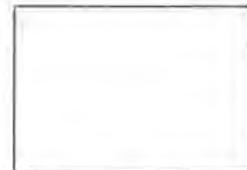
COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

THE MSD IS AN EXPERIMENT.
CORA'S OWN COMPUTER MODELS FOUND THAT THE ENTIRE
BARATARIA BASIN WILL BE FRESHENED DURING OPERATION,
CAUSING DEVASTATION TO SALTWATER FISHING INTERESTS,
MAKE BRACKISH WATLANDS MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO
STORM SURGE, REDUCE PRODUCTIVITY FOR SALTWATER
SPECIES, AND CAUSE SOCIO-ECONOMIC HARDSHIP ON
THOSE WHO MAKE THEIR LIVING IN THE COMMERCIAL
FISHING INDUSTRY.

THE TWO FRESHWATER DIVERSIONS AT CARRACROON
AND DAVIS POND HAVE BEEN MIS-MANAGED AND MIS-OPERATED
TO THE POINT THAT CORPS FUNDING WAS WITHDRAWN.

COMPENSATORY MITIGATION WILL BE AT A STATIONARY,
 IN LINE OF EXISTING ORDER 12898 OF 1994.
 THIS ORDER RELATES TO ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
 FOR LOW INCOME AND MINORITIES. LAWSUITS
 ARE SUBMITTED TO FOLLOW.
 I ADDITIONALLY OPPOSE PERMITTING OF THIS
 PROJECT.
 A LETTER OF OPPOSITION WILL BE ALSO SUBMITTED
 BY THE SOUTH LA COALITION.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
 Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
 7400 Leake Avenue
 New Orleans, LA 70118



Place postage here

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

COMMENT 2 OF 5:

Captain George Ricks
P.O. Box 553
St. Bernard, Louisiana 70085

CAPTAIN GEORGE RICKS:

Captain George Ricks,
President of the State of Louisiana
Coalition. I am speaking on behalf
of the thousand members that we
have, commercial and recreational
fishermen and, of course, the land
owners, seafood, wholesalers,
restaurant owners and concerned
citizens.

In regards to the
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion, I
would like to point out that the
Barataria estuary is one of the
largest productive estuaries in the
world. It's classified as
(inaudible) fish habitat; and
therefore, protected under the
Magnuson-Stevens Act.

According to the
operational regime, the CPRA
proposal to put in a sediment

diversion, it's estimated to flow at maximum capacity of 75,000 whenever the river is at a million cubic feet per second. Last year from January 1st to May 1st, 2016, it could have ran a maximum capacity total of 29 consecutive days. From March 14th, 2016 to April 2nd, 2016, it could have ran a total of 20 consecutive days.

It also coincides with spawning seasons and the normal stages of the brown shrimp in the Barataria estuary, which if we totally eliminated the brown shrimp season, it would cause economic hardship to the fishermen in this area.

Also, according to Appendix A of the master plan, the land built to maintain, according to the CPRA, near term of year 20 would be zero acres at a cost of \$1.3 billion for the project. The cost or the benefit analysis cannot be

accurately achieved because of their proposed operational regime.

And I would also like to point out that there will be lawsuits involved, especially in concern with executive NEPA, Executive Order 12898, which states that any federal project that imposes economic hardships on minorities and low-income families will have to be mitigated. So compensatory mitigation of this project will be phenomenal. There will also be algae booms, flooding issues and socioeconomic hardship on the fishing community of Lafitte.

(End of Comment)

From: khanlon74@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 8:54:28 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Kelly Riley
902 Bent Rd
Hatfield, PA, 194402001

COMMENT NUMBER 4 OF 5:

Jessie Ritter
2117 11th Street NW Apt 2
Washington, DC 20001

MR. JESSIE RITTER:

I'm Jessie Ritter. I'm a policy specialist with the National Wildlife Federation. We are submitting much more details in writing but there are just a few points that I wanted to underscore while I was here today.

In thinking about comments for the Mid-Barataria project, there are a couple of things we really hope the federal agencies and the State working together are going to take very seriously and consider in their analysis.

One of those things is considering what a future without the Mid-Barataria looks like. We really hope that any analysis of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects in the surrounding environment considers what will

happen to the basin and the areas without sediment diversion; so the "no action" alternative.

We also hope that in compiling the EIS, the agencies involved would really take advantage of all of the existing studies and existing resources they have collected over the decades that this project has been studied and incorporating it into the scoping report. We believe there is a lot of good existing information and potentially a lot of time-savings that can come from incorporating some of that.

And then, finally, we hope that the permit itself and the analysis really emphasizes the value and the importance of successful adaptive management for this project over this time. We hope the adaptive management program outline is clear and transparent and allows for the development of an annual

operation strategy that will match environmental conditions in any given year.

And, then finally, I wanted to emphasize how important we feel this project is for the future of southeast Louisiana. We think it's a cornerstone of the State's master plan and we hope to see it implemented as efficiently as is possible. We appreciate the effort of all the agencies to get us to that point.

(End of Comment)

Return Address:

2412 7th Street
Harvey, LA 70058
NEW ORLEANS LA 700
14 JUL 2017 PM 4 L

Name: Gina Rivere

Phone: 504-450-6517

Email: Gina.rivere@gmail.com

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District, CEMVN-OD-SE
Attn: MVN-2012-2806-EOO
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118



PUBLIC COMMENT

MID-BARATARIA SEDIMENT DIVERSION

① What will the impacts of diversions be on the seafood industry in the near and long term. The EIS should assess economic impacts to individual fishermen and the community.

② How much land will be lost if the project is not built in the next 20 years, 50 years, 100 years and beyond. The EIS should look at what that land loss will mean for individual residents and entire community.

COMMENT 3 OF 5 - JULY 20, 2017.

Michael Roberts
4927 Deborah Ann Drive
Barataria, La 70036

MR. MICHAEL ROBERTS:

My name is Michael

Roberts. I live in Barataria,
Louisiana. I'm a coastal community
and fisherman advocate and have been
for 30 years. I'm with GoFish. I'm
with the Louisiana Shrimp
Association. I am with Save
Louisiana Coalition and Louisiana
Bayou Keeper.

I would just like to go on
record as saying we are adamantly
opposed to the construction of
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion as
planned. We think it's a complete
and total waste of money at \$1.5
billion. That the money could be
better spent on other methods
without doing harm that we think
that that diversion is going to do
to our fisheries, our communities,
our heritage, our culture and the

future of our lives on this coast.

There's no way that they are going to be able to duplicate what Mother Nature has done with what's left in the river now, because the river is just a shell of its former self. And 200 years ago, it was documented that this delta was already in decline and the river wanted to change course. So we think it's a monumental waste of money to try to go back to thinking that you're going to do this and that to where we don't have a natural system any more. It's a totally engineered river system and we just can't go back to the way it was.

So we think the money would be better spent, instead of diverting river water, if they would dredge river water. If they would dredge sediment. I think it would be more cost efficient. They would build more land in the time frame

that they're allotting this diversion to build the land, and they wouldn't make the sacrifices that they talk about in the master plan. And the sacrifices and the trade-offs which they don't like to say is us. We're the trade-off. This community is the trade-off. Our fishermen are the trade-off. Twenty to thirty communities in Barataria Bay, those are the trade-offs when they talk about trade-offs and sacrifice.

So we're going to propose written comments as well, but since we weren't allowed to give verbal comments here which I think is wrong because it's a public meeting, we should be able to stand up and give verbal comments so I'm talking to you.

So that's about all I have to say. I wanted to get something on the record while I was here.

Thank you.

(End of Comment)

COMMENT 3 OF 3:

Estelle Robichaux
48 Underwood Place NW
Washington, DC 20012

MS. ESTELLE ROBICHAUX:

I'm a native of Louisiana and my family is from Terrebonne and Lafourche. My family has built themselves up over hundreds of years on the natural resources of Terrebonne and Barataria Bays and I have a great personal interest in the restoration of Louisiana's wetlands and the future of coastal Louisiana.

My biggest concern with the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion is that time is of the essence. The scoping report for this project should be completed and released by September 30th, the deadline that's published on the Federal Permitting Dashboard.

Moreover, I'm also deeply concerned about the current project permitting timeline which is two

years behind the previously published timelines. Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years and decisions made through the official legal processes, particularly those that were incorporated into the 2004 LCA Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement should be adopted and incorporated throughout this process in order to make the decision-making process more expedient.

I also want to address the synergies with marsh creation. Marsh creation is an excellent restoration tool but it is not an acceptable alternative to the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion both in terms of the longevity of project benefits that these two project types allow and also in terms of the established purpose and need of the proposed project of restoring natural processes to the Barataria Basin.

Thank you.

(End of Comment)

(WHEREUPON, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED - 8:00 PM)

From: kwoodman61@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 9:17:05 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
kevin rodriguez
PO Box 33
Port Sulphur, La, 70083

From: bayoulours2003@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Russell Rodriguez](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 4, 2017 11:09:34 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Russell Rodriguez
Lafitte, LA 70067

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name

Kerry Rojas Jr.

Street Address

481 Privateer Blvd.

Mailing Address

(if different from street address)

City, State, Zip Code

Barataria, La. 70036

Email Address

etrojas11@yahoo.com.

Affiliation

How did you learn about this
public scoping meeting?

Newspaper Notice

Notice in Mail

Email

Website

Other (please explain)

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

I don't want the diversion due to the fact
of have current in Bayou Barataria and
running our fishing community. Making it
dangerous for flooding our homes and most
important damaging the seafood industry
especially the shrimp. Please leave it like
it is, let it alone.

From: mroy3@tulane.edu
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 1:36:20 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Monika Roy
43 West St., Apt. #2
Northampton, Massachusetts, 01060

From: donaldrue@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 9:02:23 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Donald Rue
3338 Nashville Ave
New Orleans, LA, 70125-4726

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Christie Ruppel](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 7:58:16 PM

Aug 17, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

* Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.

* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Christie Ruppel
408 Queen Anne Dr
Slidell, LA 70460-8438
(985) 641-7183
christie.ruppel@gmail.com

From: christie.ruppel@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Christie Ruppel](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 7:36:34 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Christie Ruppel
Slidell, LA 70460

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Tuesday, July 25, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Belle Chasse Auditorium
8398 Highway 23, Belle Chasse, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name JUSTIN RUSSELL	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
Street Address 1632 WASHINGTON AVE, APT C	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code NEW ORLEANS, LA 70130	
Email Address ALIASJMR @ YAHOO.COM	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

AS A MERCHANT MARINE OFFICER, LAND DISAPPEARING IN SOUTH LOUISIANA IS VERY APPARENT. COMING UP THE RIVER FROM THE GULF TO VENICE, AND SEEING THE WETLAND LOSS AND STRESS ON INFRASTRUCTURE, I THINK IT'S IMPERATIVE TO USE THE LAND FORMING POWER OF THE MISSISSIPPI TO BUILD NEW LAND. THE BUFFER PROVIDED TO COASTAL COMMUNITIES BY WETLANDS IS ESSENTIAL TO THE HEALTH OF THOSE COMMUNITIES. THE IMPACT ON BUSINESSES BY THE DIVERSION MUST BE DISCUSSED, BUT SHOULDN'T STOP A PROJECT WHICH BENEFITS THE HEALTH OF BOTH THE COAST ITSELF, AS WELLS AS ITS INHABITANTS. THIS PROJECT IS IMPORTANT, AND SHOULD BE MOVED FORWARD AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

From: n180pr@aol.com
To: CEMVN-Midbarataria
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 8:45:26 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

I am 65 yrs old and have watched this area diminish . If something is not done to stop the salt water from continuing to erode this fragile land between Grand Isle and Little Lake area we will have no defense from the Gulf Of Mexico all the way to the Mississippi River.

I wish I could spend a day with someone and explain what I think would be a good plan to stop the salt water erosion and work from the Gulf up to give the Barataria Basin a chance to survive . Things are happening so fast I don't think there is much time .The simplicity of it is to bring the coast line back to it's form as it was 100 years ago.

Please call me if you have any interest in talking as I am very interested in saving this the second largest estuary in the country .

504-491-5123

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Kevin Ruttley
5291 PITRE DR
CROWN POINT, LA, 70072
504-491-5123

AUG 02 2017

RWS GULF, LLC

Pinnacle Waste Inc. and Riverside Recycling & Disposal, LLC

11266 Highway 23 Belle Chasse, LA 70037

Office: 504-656-711 Email: rrd07@att.net

Construction and Demolition Debris Hauling and Disposal Services for Greater New Orleans

July 29, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District, CEMVN-OD-SE
Attn: MVN-2012-2806-EOO
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

RE: Scoping Comment, Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion

To Whom It May Concern:

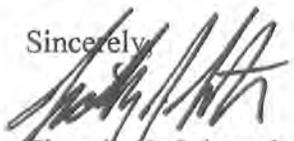
RWS Gulf is a Plaquemines Parish based business, local employer, and consumer of local goods and services. As a Business Manager, it is apparent that decades of neighboring land loss and the destruction caused by recent storms Katrina and Gustav have impeded business investment, reduced employment in our parish's coastal areas, and subsequently our business revenue growth.

In my capacity as a Board Member of the Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry, there is a strong pessimism among small and large businesses that the "delay of action" and "no-action alternative" to the Mid-Barataria Diversion Project will cause and force current businesses to delay investment, discourage hiring, and decide to relocate.

The Environmental Impact Study (EIS) must accurately describe the magnitude of land loss and impact of project delay over 5 year increments. The information should be shared with economists to define the economic impact to the parish tax base, school taxes, business revenue, family income, impact to federal and state investment, and social and mental health impact to our neighbors, due to "delay of action" and "no action".

This Scoping Request petitions the EIS quantify both impacts of "delayed action" and the "no action alternative". Thank you for the opportunity to submit this Scoping Request.

Sincerely,



Timothy J. Schotsch,
General Manager

From: vryanryan@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Veronica Ryan](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 11:55:45 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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Sincerely,
Veronica Ryan
Slaughter, LA 70777

From: rsafron@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 11:04:07 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
R S
34775 Lorain Rd
North Ridgeville, OH, 440394446

From: michaelsagrera@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [mike sagrera](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Sunday, August 6, 2017 9:32:30 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Sincerely,
mike sagrera
Abbeville, LA 70510

From: [Victoria Sagrera](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Comment Submission
Date: Tuesday, September 5, 2017 9:44:44 AM
Attachments: [Public Comment on Scoping for Mid Barataria Sediment Diversion .pdf](#)

Good morning,

On behalf on Henri Boulet, I have attached his comment letter on the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion below.
Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. See Henri Boulet letter.

Best,
Victoria

--

Sincerely,
Victoria Sagrera
Special Projects Coordinator
Restore or Retreat, Inc.
985/448.4485
337/652.2155
Blockedwww.restoreorretreat.org <Blockedhttp://www.restoreorretreat./>

From: klkota@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Barbara Sallettes](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Saturday, September 2, 2017 1:02:54 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Barbara Sallettes
New Orleans, LA 70124

From: dpsalomo@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 10:31:59 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
David Salomon
87 Trumbull Ave, Apt 4
Milford, Connecticut, 06460

From: salvaggi@email.unc.edu
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 8:51:16 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

Please move forward now with this crucial restoration project!

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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Thank you,
Ruth Salvaggio
1419 Burdette St
New Orleans, LA, 701184019

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Frederica Sandler](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 12:09:12 PM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I have traveled all over the world, but Louisiana's unique beauty and culture remains close to my heart. I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,

Ms. Frederica Sandler
801 Henry Clay Ave
New Orleans, LA 70118-5863
(123) 456-7890

ruairstrikesback@gmail.com

From: lee_lee143@hotmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Wednesday, August 30, 2017 2:58:31 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
Leanne Sarco
4700 N Rampart St
New Orleans, LA, 701174335

Issue: Citizens Financial Impact

A significant number of citizens in Plaquemines Parish and the surrounding areas have commercial and recreational fishing licenses and fish in both the Barataria and Breton Sound Estuary. The commercial people make their living fishing. Many of the recreational fishermen subsidize their living with fish, shrimp, oysters, crabs, etc that they catch to support their family (in many cases low income). When the CPRA claims they will only move the fisheries resources further out and doesn't hurt the fisheries overall it is not considering the impact on the entire population depending on the resources of the Barataria Estuary to support their families. Many of these people have small vessels and do not have the capability to catch the fisheries resources when they move out further into the Gulf. This impact has a significant financial burden to many people. Is this impact being considered? Are there any mitigation plans for the financial impact on the people? Or, is this impact not being considered at all? This issue needs to be studied for the EIS.

Kenneth Savastano
Retired Physical Scientist
(504)430-6069

Aloma Savastano
Retired Information System Specialist
(504)810-6548

Call for more detailed information or supporting data.

Issue: Dead Zones

Each year a significant dead zone exist in the Gulf of Mexico due to fertilizer run off from farms upriver that flows into the Gulf of Mexico. The large nutrient levels causes algae blooms which die and fall to the bottom. The algae use up the oxygen in the decaying process causing the dead zones. Dead zones have occurred in the area from Breton Island in Louisiana all the way to Cat Island in Mississippi which is probably due to river water out of Baptiste Collette moving out towards the east with a west wind. Dead zones cannot only form in the deep stratified areas of the Gulf of Mexico but also in much more shallow waters of the sound.

When large volumes of nutrient rich Mississippi river water is introduced into the Barataria Estuary the oxygen in the water will be utilized by decaying algae causing large scale dead zones, not as large as the one in the Gulf, but much more disastrous because of the enclosed environment of the estuary. How is this going to be prevented? This certainly is an issue to be studied for the EIS.

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Aloma Savastano
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Issue: Diversions vs Dredging

The CPRA constantly states an acre of land created by dredging is significantly more costly than an acre created by sediment diversions. Can you provide detailed cost for producing an acre of land each way?

One of the problems with the computation by the CPRA is stating this idea of dredging being more costly is that they don't consider the destructive cost to the fisheries involved in the diversion process. A cost comparison needs to be made between sediment diversions and dredging where the dollar cost of the lost for the fisheries (all fish, oysters, shrimp, crabs, etc.) is added to the cost of creation of land by sediment diversions since it will destroy all of this in the Barataria Basin for the 50 year program. The dollar value of all of the same fisheries items over the 50 years is subtracted from the cost of creating land by dredging. This is only logical but would show a significant difference in the cost of dredging which may show that dredging is cheaper than diversions to develop land. Additional dollar benefit to dredging would include immediate storm surge protection vs. 50 years and dredging is less destructive.

This evaluation is absolutely needed before accepting diversions as more beneficial and more cost effective than dredging. Please consider this issue to study for the EIS.

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Issue: Economic Impact

An important issue to be address in the EIS is the economic impact on the people, companies, communities and parish government that will occur with the implementation of the Barataria Sediment Diversion. All economic impacts should be included in a study that address commercial and recreational fishermen income, businesses that make a living such as marinas, fishing supply companies, service stations, etc., the tax base of Plaquemines Parish (all segments of the government, sheriff office, school board, etc.) and everything else that is impacted before a permit is granted!!

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Issue: Essential Fisheries Habitat

The Barataria Estuary is classified as an Essential Fisheries Habitat (EFH) by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. My concern is the amount of fresh Mississippi River water from the 75,000 cfs diversion will reduce the salinity from the upper region of the estuary to Grand Isle and destroy the area as an EFH. This will significantly affect commercial fishermen and recreational fishermen as well as all the business that support and make a living providing goods and services. The detrimental factor in the process is the high volume of freshwater put into a brackish/salt water environment. All species of brackish/salt water will be pushed out of the estuary reducing not only the fishing grounds but the nursery area for these species. In addition, oysters, brown and white shrimp and blue crabs, etc., which are all commercial entities, will cease to exist for everyone in the estuary. My understanding, if this happens, which it will, either the operation has to cease and the habitat restored or equivalent habitat has to be provided here or somewhere else. What studies have been performed to identify this problem and what is planned to correct situations like this that occurs? Please address this issue in your study for the EIS, hopefully before permits are issued.

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Issue: Freshwater impact

The Barataria Estuary(BE) has a limited fresh water area in the upper end, brackish water in the middle area and salt water in the lower area. As a whole the area is considered a brackish/salt water estuary because the majority of the area is brackish/salt water.

The BE is located in a hurricane/storm environment. The primary vegetation in the salt water area is *Spartina alterniflora* which requires 16+ parts salinity. The primary vegetation in the brackish water area is *Spartina patens* which requires 5-15 parts salinity. Both vegetation species have deep root systems and are very resistant to storm surge as compared to freshwater marsh species which has a shallow root system (high canopy), and is not resistant to storm surge. Freshwater marsh is also killed by salt water that comes in with a storm and can be killed by a hard freeze. When killed freshwater marsh rolls up and leaves the area as open water.

The issue is how is this project going to put 75000 cfs down to 5000 cfs all year (or even part of a year) and keep the salinity as far as Grand Isle from getting so low that the salt and brackish marsh dies and is replaced by freshwater marsh? This freshwater marsh will be killed by the first hurricane/storm, or by the huge amounts of saltwater the storm brings in or killed by the first hard freeze which will result in open water. Please include this issue in the study for the EIS.

A good example of this problem is the Breton Sound Estuary. Between 1991 and 2004 the Caernarvon Diversion (8000 cfs) converted a large portion of the marsh from brackish marsh to freshwater marsh. During this time the area from Caernarvon to Grand Lake appeared to be stabilized with no land lost while from Grand Lake to below Pointe al Hache had land lost of 9%. In 2005 Hurricane Katrina caused a 40% land lost from Caernarvon to Grand Lake in one year because the marsh had been converted from brackish to freshwater marsh. During the same time only 3% more of the land from Grand Lake to below Pointe ala Hache was lost because the marsh was still brackish/salt marsh thus more resistant to Hurricane Katrina.

This is exactly what will happen in the Barataria Basin but not in 10-15 years, but much faster because the 75000 cfs diversion will put out a higher volume of freshwater than the 8000 cfs diversion. The high volume of water causes the salinity to be reduced which kills the resistant marsh and replaces it with much less resistant marsh which will not hold up in a storm environment. The Essential Fisheries Habitat is destroyed as well as all the fishing in many areas and ultimately open water all the way to the upper end of the Barataria Estuary.

An alternate solution is to dredge and put such a little amount of water and a significant larger amount of sediment to build land. This will affect the salinity only in the dredging area and only for a short duration. Dredging will not destroy the fishing, the salt/brackish marsh, the jobs, the culture, etc. In addition, land can be build exactly where it is needed, even ridges. This cannot be done with sediment diversions. And it does not take 50 years, land can be built immediately which will also provide storm surge protection now.

Kenneth Savastano
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Issue: Invasive Species

Our concern is that the high volume of the Mississippi River water introduced into the Barataria Estuary will allow invasive species such as water hyacinths, Asian carp, etc. to populate the estuary which will result in much of the estuary to be unavailable to the current marine fisheries and native plants.

What plan does the CPRA have to control the introduction of invasive species into the Barataria Estuary via the 75,000 cfs sediment diversion throughout the years? If no plan this must be an issue for the EIS.

Kenneth Savastano
Retired Physical Scientist
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Retired Information System Specialist
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Issue: No-Action

The CPRA has been 'selling' the need for Large Scale Diversions versus the no-action alternative. There are alternatives to large scale sediment diversions such as dredging. In the 2017 Louisiana State Master Plan, \$20 billion is dedicated to dredging. A large amount of land is planned to be restored by dredging. Also, the USGS survey has recently analyzed data that indicates two football fields is being created every hour since 2010. Therefore, the no-action alternative indicating land is going to be lost by not doing anything is not an option that needs to be considered. It would be better not to build large scale diversions because they will destroy more wet land than they will build and so many other negative impacts will happen to fisheries, economies, dead zones, displacement of communities/people, culture, etc.

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Issue: Operation Plan

On the 2017 Coastal Master Plan Project Factsheet the Description section list the flow rate of 5000 cfs when the Mississippi River flow below 200,000 cfs, a variable flow rate when the river flows between 200,000 and 1,250,000 cfs and 75,000 cfs when the river flows at or greater than 1,250,000 cfs. This means the diversion will be operating continuously all year. Under this operation plan the result will be a total fresh water estuary all the way down to Grand Isle.

This is totally unacceptable because it will:

1. Destroy the Essential Fisheries Habitat
2. Destroy Commercial and Recreational Marine Fisheries
3. Introduce Invasive Species
4. Introduce unwanted pollution
5. Destroy *Spartina alterniflora* and *Spartina patens* vegetation which are resistant to storm surge
6. Replace existing vegetation with freshwater marsh that does not resist storm surge and will be destroyed by hurricanes and turn into open water
7. Destroy the livelihood of everyone that currently utilizes the Barataria Estuary
8. Destroy the Communities and ultimately the culture in the Barataria Estuary area

It is our understanding the CPRA will be the only ones responsible for the operation plans and for the operation of the Diversion. This is unacceptable. Since the diversion will be located in Plaquemines Parish and affects Plaquemines Parish Government (PPG) more than anyone else, we believe PPG should have an equal say in determining when and how to operate this diversion. This must be included in the operation plan based on our experience with the operation of the Caernarvon Diversion (CD) which is located in Plaquemines Parish. The CD impacts both St. Bernard and Plaquemines Parish and neither parish has any control over the operations regardless of what the diversion is destroying.

As citizens of Plaquemines Parish we do not want to see the same kind of total control of the operations by the CPRA of a 75000 cfs diversion as we have seen with the Caernarvon Diversion.

Kenneth Savastano
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Aloma Savastano
Retired Information System Specialist
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Call for more detailed information or supporting data.

Issue: Planning/Engineering/Design awarded prior to permit approval?

On July 21, 2017 the CPRA announced they selected AECOM to provide engineering, geotechnical, surveying and other technical services for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion project. A previous estimated cost was \$40 million. This part of the project will run parallel with the EIS and permit request. More money will probably be dedicated before the permit is approved or rejected. If rejected and the project is not implemented a lot of money will have been wasted! A lot of money that could have been used to create wetlands via dredging.

All of the input going into the EIS should have been acquired and utilized in the planning/engineering design. If the permit is approved and the project goes forward, all changes required by the EIS to the planning/engineering design will cost additional money. It appears a lot of money will be wasted regardless of the final direction. We should be a lot smarter in the utilization of limited resources presently and in the future. What is being planned to accomplish this outcome?

Kenneth Savastano
Retired Physical Scientist
(504)430-6069

Aloma Savastano
Retired Information System Specialist
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Call for more detailed information or supporting data.

Issue: Pollution

One of the concerns of many of the commercial fisherman, recreational fisherman and the general public is the pollution (heavy metals, bacteria, etc.) in the Mississippi River water. Most of the people will not eat catfish caught in the Mississippi River because of the pollution. People will eat fish caught in the Barataria Estuary and Breton Sound Estuary because there is little or no pollution in these estuaries. With regard to pollution, what will happen if you introduce high volumes of river water into the Barataria Estuary? It is known that some of the oyster zones are closed due to high coliform counts where river water freely flows through cuts during high river stages. That amount of river water is limited compared to significant amounts that will come from a 75,000 cfs diversion.

Please include river water pollution as an issue to be studied for the EIS.

Kenneth Savastano
Retired Physical Scientist
(504)430-6069

Aloma Savastano
Retired Information System Specialist
(504)810-6548

Call for more detailed information or supporting data.

From: [savastano](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments
Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2017 5:55:02 PM
Attachments: [All issues.docx](#)

As a member of the Caernarvon Interagency Advisory Committee representing all the land owners on the east bank of Plaquemines Parish I am submitting the attached list of comments for the EIS.

Kenneth Savastano

From: [savastano](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the EIS
Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2017 4:58:45 PM
Attachments: [EIS issues.docx](#)

I am a member of the Plaquemines Parish Coastal Zone Management Advisory Committee representing all Recreational Fisheries in Plaquemines Parish. As a member, I am submitting the attached list of issues to be considered for the EIS.

Kenneth Savastano

Issue: No-Action

The CPRA has been 'selling' the need for Large Scale Diversions versus the no-action alternative. There are alternatives to large scale sediment diversions such as dredging. In the 2017 Louisiana State Master Plan, \$20 billion is dedicated to dredging. A large amount of land is planned to be restored by dredging. Also, the USGS survey has recently analyzed data that indicates two football fields is being created every hour since 2010. Therefore, the no-action alternative indicating land is going to be lost by not doing anything is not an option that needs to be considered. It would be better not to build large scale diversions because they will destroy more wet land than they will build and so many other negative impacts will happen to fisheries, economies, dead zones, displacement of communities/people, culture, etc.

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This evaluation is absolutely needed before accepting diversions as more beneficial and more cost effective than dredging. Please consider this issue to study for the EIS.

Issue: Dead Zones

Each year a significant dead zone exists in the Gulf of Mexico due to fertilizer run off from farms upriver that flows into the Gulf of Mexico. The large nutrient levels cause algae blooms which die and fall to the bottom. The algae use up the oxygen in the decaying process causing the dead zones. Dead zones have occurred in the area from Breton Island in Louisiana all the way to Cat Island in Mississippi which is probably due to river water out of Baptiste Collette moving out towards the east with a west wind. Dead zones cannot only form in the deep stratified areas of the Gulf of Mexico but also in much more shallow waters of the sound.

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Please address this issue in your study for the EIS, hopefully before permits are issued.

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The Barataria Estuary (BE) has a limited fresh water area in the upper end, brackish water in the middle area and salt water in the lower area. The area is considered a brackish/salt water estuary because most of the area is brackish/salt water.

The BE is in a hurricane/storm environment. The primary vegetation in the salt water area is *Spartina alterniflora* which requires 16+ parts salinity. The primary vegetation in the brackish water area is *Spartina patens* which requires 5-15 parts salinity. Both vegetation species have deep root systems and are very resistant to storm surge as compared to freshwater marsh species which has a shallow root system (high canopy), and is not resistant to storm surge. Freshwater marsh is also killed by salt water that comes in with a storm and it can be killed by a hard freeze. When killed freshwater marsh rolls up and leaves the area as open water.

The issue is how is this project going to put 75000 cfs down to 5000 cfs all year (or even part of a year) and keep the salinity as far as Grand Isle from getting so low that the salt and brackish marsh dies and is replaced by freshwater marsh? This freshwater marsh will be killed by the first hurricane/storm, or by the huge amounts of saltwater the storm brings in or killed by the first hard freeze which will result in open water. Please include this issue in the study for the EIS.

A good example of this problem is the Breton Sound Estuary. Between 1991 and 2004 the Caernarvon Diversion (8000 cfs) converted a large portion of the marsh from brackish marsh to freshwater marsh. During this time the area from Caernarvon to Grand Lake appeared to be stabilized with no land lost while from Grand Lake to below Pointe al Hache had land loss of 9%. In 2005 Hurricane Katrina caused a 40% land lost from Caernarvon to Grand Lake in one year because the marsh had been converted from brackish to freshwater marsh. During the same time only 3% more of the land from Grand Lake to below Pointe ala Hache was lost because the marsh was still brackish/salt marsh thus more resistant to Hurricane Katrina.

This is exactly what will happen in the Barataria Basin but not in 10-15 years, but much faster because the 75000 cfs diversion will put out a higher volume of freshwater than the 8000 cfs diversion. The high volume of water causes the salinity to be reduced which kills the resistant marsh and replaces it with much less resistant marsh which will not hold up in a storm environment. The Essential Fisheries Habitat is destroyed as well as all the fishing in many areas and ultimately open water all the way to the upper end of the Barataria Estuary.

An alternate solution is to dredge and put such a little amount of water and a significant larger amount of sediment to build land. This will affect the salinity only in the dredging area and only for a short duration. Dredging will not destroy the fishing, the salt/brackish marsh, the jobs, the culture, etc. In addition, land can be built exactly where it is needed, even ridges. This cannot be done with sediment diversions. And it does not take 50 years, land can be built immediately which will also provide storm surge protection now.

Issue: Invasive Species

Our concern is that the high volume of the Mississippi River water introduced into the Barataria Estuary will allow invasive species such as water hyacinths, Asian carp, etc. to populate the estuary which will result in much of the estuary to be unavailable to the current marine fisheries and native plants.

How does the CPRA plan to control the introduction of invasive species into the Barataria Estuary via the 75,000 cfs sediment diversion throughout the years? If no plan this must be an issue for the EIS.

Issue: Pollution

One of the concerns of many of the commercial fisherman, recreational fisherman and the general public is the pollution (heavy metals, bacteria, etc.) in the Mississippi River water. Most of the people will not eat catfish caught in the Mississippi River because of the pollution. People will eat fish caught in the Barataria Estuary and Breton Sound Estuary because there is little or no pollution in these estuaries.

Regarding pollution, what will happen if you introduce high volumes of river water into the Barataria Estuary? It is known that some of the oyster zones are closed due to high coliform counts where river water freely flows through cuts during high river stages. That amount of river water is limited compared to significant amounts that will come from a 75,000 cfs diversion.

Please include river water pollution as an issue to be studied for the EIS.

Issue: Operation Plan

On the 2017 Coastal Master Plan Project Factsheet the Description section list the flow rate of 5000 cfs when the Mississippi River flow below 200,000 cfs, a variable flow rate when the river flows between 200,000 and 1,250,000 cfs and 75,000 cfs when the river flows at or greater than 1,250,000 cfs. This means the diversion will be operating continuously all year. Under this operation plan the result will be a total fresh water estuary all the way down to Grand Isle.

This is totally unacceptable because it will:

1. Destroy the Essential Fisheries Habitat
2. Destroy Commercial and Recreational Marine Fisheries
3. Introduce Invasive Species
4. Introduce unwanted pollution
5. Destroy *Spartina alterniflora* and *Spartina patens* vegetation which are resistant to storm surge
6. Replace existing vegetation with freshwater marsh that does not resist storm surge and will be destroyed by hurricanes and turn into open water
7. Destroy the livelihood of everyone that currently utilizes the Barataria Estuary
8. Destroy the Communities and ultimately the culture in the Barataria Estuary area

It is our understanding the CPRA will be the only ones responsible for the operation plans and for the operation of the Diversion. This is unacceptable. Since the diversion will be in Plaquemines Parish and affects Plaquemines Parish Government (PPG) more than anyone else, we believe PPG should have an equal say in determining when and how to operate this diversion. This must be included in the operation plan based on our experience with the operation of the Caernarvon Diversion (CD) which is in Plaquemines Parish. The CD impacts both St. Bernard and Plaquemines Parish and neither parish has any control over the operations regardless of what the diversion is destroying.

As citizens of Plaquemines Parish, we do not want to see the same kind of total control of the operations by the CPRA of a 75000 cfs diversion as we have seen with the Caernarvon Diversion.



SAVE LOUISIANA COALITION, INC

July 25, 2017

US Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-EOO
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, La. 70118

To Whom it May Concern:

Please accept this letter as a formal statement of opposition to the proposed Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. The Save Louisiana Coalition (SLC) represents over 1,000 members that generally support and appreciate the efforts of coastal restoration. However, the SLC and its membership have a number of serious concerns regarding the proposed diversion.

The Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA), states that the proposed diversion would be operated at 75,000 cubic feet per second (CFS) whenever the flow of the Mississippi River exceeds 1,000,000 CFS; at 5,000 CFS whenever the flow of the river is between 200,000 CFS and 1,000,000 CFS; and will be deactivated whenever the flow of the river is below 200,000 CFS. **Based on the proposed operational regime and historic Mississippi River flow rate data, the proposed diversion would have been operated at 75,000 CFS for a total of 49 days (one period of 20 consecutive days and an additional period of 29 consecutive days) within a 120-day span during the months from January 7th, to April 2nd of the 2016 calendar year, which would have introduced an incredible amount of freshwater into the Barataria Basin. In fact, CPRA modeling indicates that the proposed diversion has the capacity to freshen the entire basin. Since the larval stages of Brown Shrimp appear the 3rd week of March in the Barataria Basin, this would totally eliminate any Brown Shrimp harvest in that area. This would result in tremendous economic hardship to those in the fishing industry. (See attached graph).**

The SLC has additional concerns regarding the administration of the proposed operational regime. Similar diversion projects at Caernarvon and Davis Pond have previously been operated in a manner that prompted the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to withdraw operational funding. **Currently, there is no legal mechanism or other means of enforcing any particular operational regime or operational parameters for the proposed diversion. This concern is further exacerbated by the uncertainty regarding adaptive management.**

The Barataria Basin estuary is one of the largest, most productive estuaries in the world. The National Marine Fisheries Service has designated the estuary as Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) and protected the area in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). Impacts from the proposed diversion may extend as far as the Gulf of Mexico, and will adversely affect a wide range of species, including: white and brown shrimp; red drum; dog snapper; lane snapper; grey snapper; bonnet heat shark; Atlantic sharpnose shark; blacknose shark; American Oyster; Atlantic croaker; Gulf Menhaden; Spotted Seatrout; Sand Seatrout; Black Drum; Southern Flounder; Blue Crab; Striped Mullet; and mackerel. Many of the referenced species are protected under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. **The proposed diversion will ultimately harm a number of ecologically and economically significant species in the Barataria Basin, including many which are protected under federal law.**



SAVE LOUISIANA COALITION, INC

Families of dolphins that reside in the Barataria Basin are of utmost concern. **These mammals, many of them ill from the BP oil spill, if exposed to large quantities of river water may suffer high mortality rates. These dolphins are federally protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act.**

(See Attached NOAA letter)

Scientific data supports that the sediment budget in the Mississippi River has decreased by over 50% of historic levels. Additionally, any deviation from the projected operational regime may likewise result in the delivery of less sediment into the outfall area. Consequently, a number of experts (including those who participated in The Water Institute of the Gulf's Expert Scientific Panel on Sediment Diversions) have expressed concern over the land-building capacity of the proposed diversion. **The uncertainty surrounding the projected land-building capacity of the proposed diversion and the experimental nature of the project make it difficult for anyone to arrive at an accurate benefit-cost analysis for the intervention.**

Lafitte and other communities near the Davis Pond diversion are subject to flooding when the diversion is operated at 10,000 CFS. The proposed diversion would introduce approximately 700% more water into those areas. **It is likely that the proposed diversion would exacerbate flood hazards in those communities that are already highly susceptible to flooding.**

The SLC has a number of concerns regarding the proposed diversion's impact on water quality. Nitrates, phosphates, chemical pesticides, mercury, and other pollutants will be present in the freshwater being delivered into the basin by the proposed project. Currently, water from the Mississippi River causes a dead zone (hypoxic zone) the size of Connecticut in the Gulf of Mexico each year. Algae blooms are also highly likely once freshwater is introduced into the Barataria Basin. **The introduction of massive quantities of freshwater into the basin will have widespread adverse impacts on water quality.**

There is also probability of adverse impacts to wetland health and productivity. A variety of scientific studies have shown that prolonged exposure to nutrient loads in Mississippi River water, combined with low salinity levels, can reduce soil shear strength and make affected wetland habitats more susceptible to wind and storm surge effects. **Mississippi River water also contains high levels of Atrazine, a Herbicide used in farming practices, that could prove hazardous to marine life and wetland stability.**

Executive Order 12898 (1994) addresses environmental justice in minority and low-income populations. Specifically, the order acknowledges the disproportionate adverse impacts that federal actions have historically had on certain communities, and commits the federal government to promoting nondiscrimination in future federal actions that may impact environmental quality. **The proposed diversion would have a disproportionate impact on low-income and minority populations along the coast who rely on fisheries as a means of earning a living.**

The SLC would like to propose additional marsh creation projects as an alternative to the proposed diversion. In 2015, the Big River Coalition partnered with USACE under the BUDMAT program to create 2,000 acres of marsh in 12 months. To date, the CPRA has successfully created or nourished over 36,000 acres of marsh coast wide. **Dr. Rex Caffey of Louisiana State University and other experts have also demonstrated the environmental and economic benefits of marsh creation projects in coastal Louisiana, finding that over a 50 year period, dredging projects were actually more economically feasible than diversion projects.**



SAVE LOUISIANA COALITION, INC

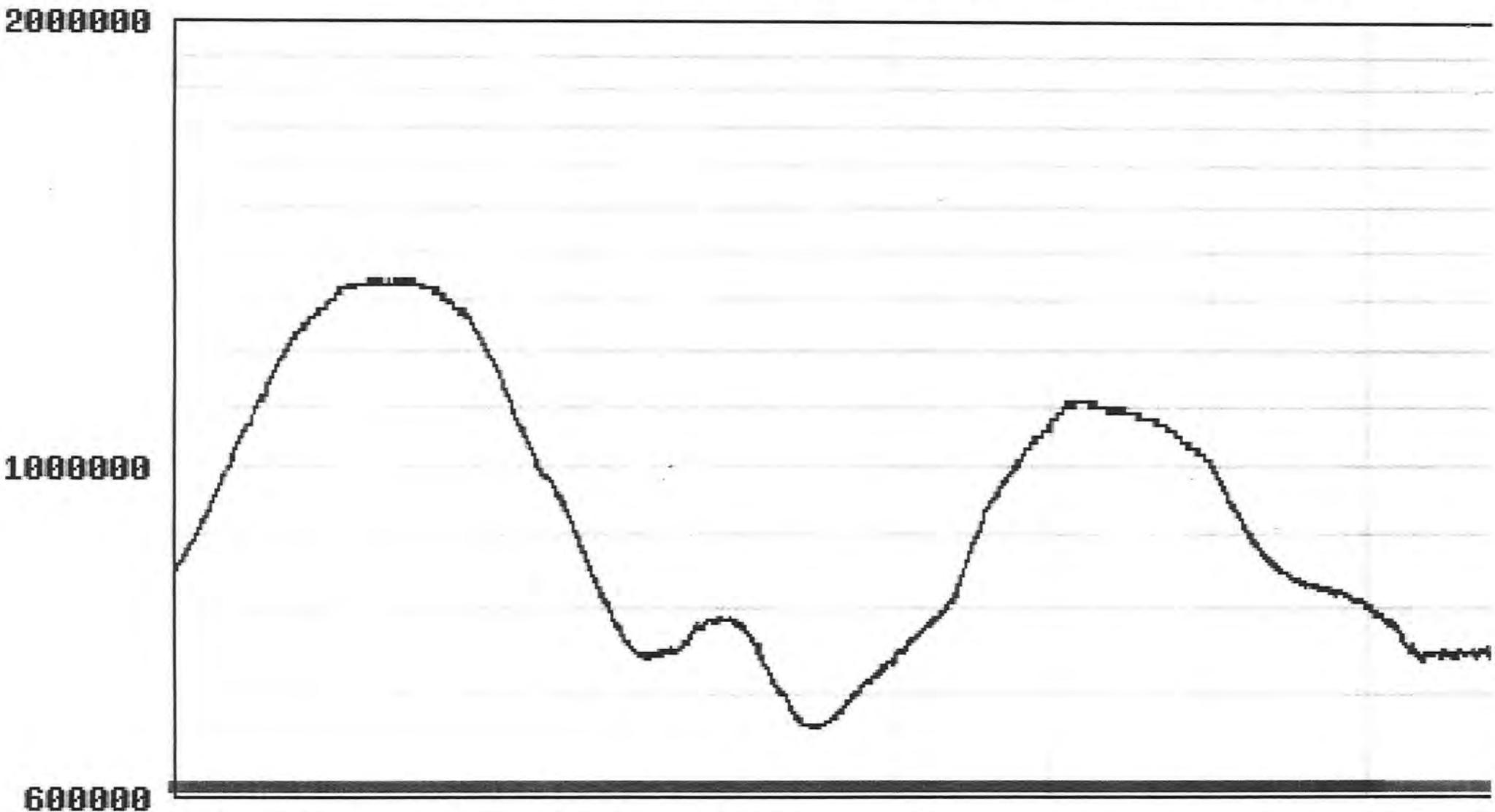
In closing, the SLC implores the USACE to take our concerns into consideration as the agency continues to evaluate the proposed diversion. The detrimental effects of this project far outweigh any projected benefits of what amounts to a 1 billion dollar experiment. Please deny permitting of this project.

Respectfully,

Capt. George Ricks

Capt. George Ricks
President, CEO
Save Louisiana Coalition

USGS 07374000 Mississippi River at Baton Rouge, LA



— Discharge

— Period of approved data

— Period of provisional data



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southeast Regional Office

263 13th Avenue South

St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505

<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>

F/SER4:RH/PW

JUN 26 2013

Ms. Elizabeth L. Davoli
Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
Environmental Section
Post Office Box 44027
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-4027

Dear Ms. Davoli:

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) received the Solicitation of Views request transmitted by your letter dated May 22, 2013. The Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) of Louisiana proposes to undertake the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion (MBSD) project included as a component in the 2012 Louisiana Master Plan. According to information transmitted with your letter, the MBSD would divert 50,000 to 75,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) of Mississippi River water into the mid-Barataria basin. It is anticipated the diversion would be operated when the Mississippi River discharge exceeds 600,000 cfs. CPRA requested NMFS provide views, comments, and concerns regarding implementation of this project. CPRA staff also indicated potential benefits and impacts from the diversion would be evaluated in a regulatory Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), pursuant to requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act.

NMFS supports efforts to ameliorate coastal wetland loss in Louisiana to maintain socio-economic, storm protection, and ecological services these habitats provide. Most coastal restoration efforts can benefit nursery and foraging functions supportive of a wide variety of economically important marine fishery species. However, the proposed diversion may have adverse impacts to economically important estuarine/marine fisheries and their habitats. NMFS is concerned the MBSD could (1) displace marine fishery species from currently productive habitats to less supportive habitats, (2) reduce marine fishery productivity, (3) convert essential fish habitat (EFH) to areas no longer supportive of some federally managed marine fishery species or their prey items, (4) render wetlands impacted by diversions more susceptible to erosion from storms, (5) degrade water quality, and (6) cause socio-economic hardship to those involved in the commercial and recreational fishing industries. To allow for informed decision-making, these issues should be thoroughly evaluated by methods acceptable to NMFS and the results incorporated into the planned EIS.

Areas within the influence of the proposed diversion are designated as EFH under provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act; P.L. 104-297). Categories of EFH in the Barataria basin include emergent wetlands; mangrove



wetlands; submerged aquatic vegetation; mud, sand, and shell (e.g., oyster reefs) substrates; and estuarine water column. Impacts may extend to the nearshore Gulf of Mexico and marine categories of EFH potentially impacted include water column and non-vegetated bottom. Wetlands and water bottoms in the Barataria basin have been designated as EFH for a variety of life stages of white shrimp, brown shrimp, red drum, dog snapper, lane snapper, and gray snapper. Portions of Barataria Bay near the Gulf of Mexico also serve as EFH for various life stages of bonnethead shark, Atlantic sharpnose shark, and blacknose shark. In addition to being designated as EFH for a variety of federally managed species, water bodies and wetlands in the project area provide nursery and foraging habitats supportive of a variety of economically important marine fishery species, such as American oyster, Atlantic croaker, Gulf menhaden, spotted seatrout, sand seatrout, black drum, southern flounder, blue crab, and striped mullet. Some of these species serve as prey for other fish species managed under the Magnuson-Stevens Act (e.g., mackerels, snappers, and groupers) and highly migratory species managed by NMFS (e.g., billfishes and sharks).

According to your letter, the MBSD would be operated whenever river discharge at Belle Chasse exceeds 600,000 cfs. Based upon a review of river flow stages exceeding 600,000 cfs by month for the 1964 to 2012 time period, the MBSD would likely be open most years during February through June. Although hydrologic modeling results are unavailable at this time, NMFS believes the anticipated flow rates from the MBSD could result in the freshening of most of the Barataria basin. Freshening substantial portions of the basin and localized lowering of water temperature for five months of the year from the MBSD would affect a broad range of fishery species during a variety of life stages and their prey. As an example, these months overlap the migration of brown shrimp into and out of the estuary and the initiation of immigration of white shrimp into the Barataria basin estuary. Displacement of shrimp from nursery and refugia habitat to less supportive habitats could result in decreases in shrimp production in the Barataria basin potentially without offsetting increases elsewhere. Displacement and decreases in shrimp production should be expected to have impacts on other valuable species that prey upon shrimp, such as seatrout, red drum, and red snapper, as well as to have socio-economic repercussions on commercial fishing and related industries. The proposed operations also could have substantive impacts on American oyster populations and production, especially if both the spring and fall spat set are at risk by freshwater kills of pre-spawning adults or if there are deficiencies of shell substrate for spat set in suitable salinity regimes in the lower estuary. Some examples of other economically important marine fishery species which could be impacted by MBSD include Atlantic croaker, sand seatrout, spotted seatrout, and black drum. Consequently, NMFS believes robust analyses should be undertaken for inclusion in the EIS which evaluate (1) diversion related changes in isohalines and water temperature within the Barataria basin and nearshore Gulf of Mexico, (2) species-specific variations in marine fishery resources, and (3) socioeconomic impacts to fishery user groups. The means to assess impacts to fisheries should be coordinated with NMFS and should include species-specific projections of marine fishery production both with, and without, implementation of diversions included in the Louisiana Master Plan. It should be noted the Magnuson-Stevens Act requires mitigation to offset adverse impacts to EFH. The CPRA should also include in the EIS an evaluation of alternatives to mitigate impacts to EFH for any federally managed fishery species determined to be adversely impacted by the MBSD.

The EIS should include a discussion of adverse impacts to wetland health and productivity. A variety of research findings have suggested nutrient loads in Mississippi River waters, combined with low salinity levels, could reduce soil shear strength and make affected marsh habitats more susceptible to wind and hydrologic forces associated with the passage of storm fronts. Prolonged flooding of the soil surface associated with diversion operations also could reduce the health of plants in the marsh community. Finally, Mississippi River waters contain elevated levels of atrazine, a herbicide frequently utilized for agricultural purposes. CPRA should conduct and submit a thorough, scientifically-based evaluation of the likely impacts of nutrients, atrazine, and freshwater on marsh health and susceptibility to erosion.

There is a risk the potential for diversions to reduce wetland loss and rebuild coastal habitats may be overestimated given the constraints of present and projected sediment loads in the river, man's ability to engineer a structure to efficiently divert a significant portion of the river's sediment load to the appropriate places in the receiving basin, subsidence, and sea level rise. It has been documented the sediment load of the river is less than half of the historic levels, which initially created Louisiana's coastal wetlands. When sediment supply is taken into consideration in combination with on-going and projected accelerating future relative sea level rise, the 300 square mile estimate of net land change outlined in the Louisiana Master Plan associated with the use of multiple river diversions deserves further scrutiny. Failure of diversions to provide the projected level of benefits could result in undercompensated impacts to EFH. Therefore, NMFS believes it is important for an independent scientific body to evaluate models being used to determine the potential for wetland benefits likely to occur from the MBSD project, as well as the associated risks to EFH and living marine resources.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' ongoing Mississippi River Hydrodynamic Study (MRHS) is evaluating a number of issues related to diversions and their siting on the river. Details provided by your letter suggest CPRA plans to pursue a proposed location and alignment for the MBSD without the benefit of using the results of MRHS to inform the selection of an efficient diversion location. There is the potential for multiple diversions from the Mississippi River to affect the performance of any one project. However, to date, no models have been completed to determine how the MBSD would perform in combination with other diversions proposed in the Louisiana Master Plan. NMFS believes all diversions proposed for implementation by CPRA should be modeled individually, and in combination, using up-to-date site specific information, to ensure they are located and sized to best fulfill the project purpose, and unintended consequences do not result from their operations. NMFS believes the MRHS would be the best option for evaluating MBSD siting alternatives and cumulative impacts of operating multiple diversions.

The impacts of diversions on water quality should also be evaluated. Past operations of the Bonnet Carre Spillway have resulted in algae blooms in Lake Pontchartrain. NMFS recommends CPRA evaluate the likely impacts of nutrients contained in diverted river water on algae blooms and resultant water quality. Other river water contaminants and the risk of bioaccumulation in the receiving basin should also be assessed and included in the EIS.

Considering the myriad potential impacts to marsh health, fishery resources, water quality, and fishery user groups, NMFS believes a monitoring and adaptive management plan (MAMP) should be developed for inclusion in the EIS, in consultation with scientists, natural resource

agencies, and the public. The MAMP should (1) clearly identify variables and issues to be monitored, (2) describe the monitoring plan, and (3) detail the responsible party for funding, implementing and overseeing monitoring. The MAMP should identify specific adaptive management options (e.g., including alternative flow amounts, or differing the frequency, timing and duration of structure openings) to be implemented if monitoring identifies diversion operations are not supplying the desired results, or are resulting in unexpected impacts to resources of concern. The MAMP should identify an interagency group which would be responsible for overseeing diversion operations.

The proposed diversion structures would also impact the Mississippi River and Tributaries Levee Project. Wetlands and waters in the Barataria basin, floodside of the New Orleans to Venice (NOV) and Plaquemines Non-Federal Levee (NFL) are tidally influenced, designated as EFH, and are supportive of estuarine-dependent fishery resources. Impacts to these tidal habitats from the diversion structure and enlargement of the levee to offset increased water stage from the diversion should be minimized to the extent practicable and mitigated. NMFS has no comments on the bridge, railroad, and levee impacts between the Mississippi River and the protected side of the NOV and NFL because NOAA trust resources would not be adversely affected.

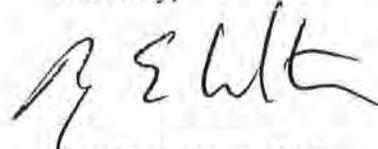
There may also be protected species concerns under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) requiring further coordination. In particular, a small resident estuarine population of bottlenose dolphins in Barataria Bay (<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/pdfs/sars/ao2012dobn-gmxbb.pdf>) may be negatively impacted by freshwater influx to the bay. NOAA and partners have been investigating an ongoing marine mammal Unusual Mortality Event in the northern Gulf and evaluating the long-term impacts of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill on dolphins in the Gulf of Mexico. Studies show the resident dolphins in Barataria Bay are severely ill (<http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/2012/03/study-shows-some-gulf-dolphins-severely-ill/>). The freshwater influx to the bay from this project may further stress Barataria Bay dolphins from resulting prey changes, impacts to water quality, and potential algal blooms from nutrients in diverted water. Algal blooms are a known cause of Unusual Mortality Events in bottlenose dolphins in the southeast U.S. In addition, prolonged exposure to freshwater can be detrimental to dolphins, causing skin lesions, compromising their health, and ultimately resulting in death. Depending on the nature of construction activities associated with the project, short- or long-term impacts to dolphins may also occur and could require potential preventative mitigation measures to reduce these impacts. We recommend further coordination with NMFS Southeast Region Protected Resources Division on these potential impacts and ways to reduce them. An MMPA authorization may be needed if take of dolphins is possible during this project. More information can be found on our NMFS Headquarters' Marine Mammal Permits and Authorization web page: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/mmpa_permits.htm

Early and frequent interagency coordination among CPRA, NMFS, and other federal and state resource agencies is requested for the impending planning and permit review process. Methods to assess environmental and socio-economic impacts to fisheries should be coordinated with, and deemed acceptable by, NMFS and other interested natural resource and regulatory agencies. All agencies should be provided the opportunity and time to review and comment on proposed

scopes of work for the environmental analyses and how these analyses will be incorporated into the EIS.

We appreciate your consideration of our comments. If you wish to discuss this project further or have questions concerning our recommendation, please contact Richard Hartman or Patrick Williams at (225) 389-0508, extension 203.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R E Crabtree', written in a cursive style.

Roy E. Crabtree, Ph.D.
Regional Administrator

cc:

NOD, Farabee, MacInnes, Wingate, Constance, Kleiss, Owen
FWS, Lafayette, Walther, Holland
EPA, Dallas, Ettinger
LA DWF, Balkum
LA DNR, Morgan
BOEM, Ashworth, Miner
F/SER4, Dale, Rolfes
F/SER3, Bernhart
F/SER46, Swafford
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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-00-SE #MVN-2012-2806-
E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

From: dsavige@verizon.net
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 11:47:22 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
David Savige
5661 Craneybrook Ln
Portsmouth, VA, 237031738

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Herbert Sayas](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 11:34:49 AM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,

Mr. Herbert Sayas
4618 Laurel St
New Orleans, LA 70115-1516
(504) 895-3545
hlabws@earthlink.net

From: dsssage@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Dave Saze](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 11:23:19 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Dave Saze
Baton Rouge, LA 70820

From: emilyschatzel@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2017 10:04:36 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

Louisiana's land loss crisis demands swift and decisive action on all steps that are part of the project implementation process. The crisis will only worsen unless we act efficiently and effectively, particularly on the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. We simply **MUST** reconnect the river with its wetlands in strategic and valuable ways, that both give us the best return on our investments past, present and future **AND** build and sustain land over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- With more than three decades of studies, modeling and data done on the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion, what else do we need to know before moving forward? We need to stop studying and move toward action. Every day of delay increases our vulnerability to storms and decreases the economic and ecological value of our region, threatening our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Emily Schatzel
1108 Fielding Drive
West Chester, PA, 19382

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Darlene Scheuermann](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 3:00:04 PM

Aug 17, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

* Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.

* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Ms. Darlene Scheuermann
23323 Cleland Rd
Covington, LA 70435-4033
(985) 892-7209
cats46@bellsouth.net

From: cats46@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Darlene Scheuermann](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 10:14:56 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Darlene Scheuermann
Covington, LA 70435

From: ralphschexnaydre@sbcglobal.net
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, July 28, 2017 8:01:49 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Ralph J Schexnaydre Jr Schexnaydre
527 Madison Street
Lafayette, Louisiana, 70501

From: joschroth@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Johanna Schroth](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 10:54:47 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Johanna Schroth
Baton Rouge, LA 70816

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Barbara Schuler](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 1:35:28 PM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,

Ms. Barbara Schuler
2233 Northbrook Dr
Terrytown, LA 70056-4508
(123) 456-7890
barbschuler1@gmail.com

From: codytscott@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 5:10:04 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Please consider my comments the same for the Mid-Breton Sound Sediment Diversion.

Thank you,
Cody Scott
300 Metairie Lawn
Metairie, LA, 70001

From: eric.a.seiferth@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 1:27:39 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Eric Seiferth
919 First Street
New Orleans, LA, 70130

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Ben Sellers](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 11:39:40 AM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,

Mr. Ben Sellers
141 Arlington Dr
Lafayette, LA 70503-3248
(123) 456-7890
bensellersaudio@gmail.com

From: leahsellers@cox.net
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 4, 2017 8:18:58 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Leah Sellers
2326 CamellaStreet
Abbeville, LA, 70510

From: dsenger@peoplepc.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 7:17:12 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
David Senger
PO Box 580
Springfield, LA, 70462

From: rjserpas@bellsouth.net
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 9:45:03 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Raymond Serpas
3915 Saint Charles Ave Apt 714
New Orleans, LA, 701154664

Sept. 5, 2017

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
285 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Sophorn Seung	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) Coastal Communities Consulting
Street Address 101 Vela Ln.	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code Buras, LA 70041	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

I am scared of not being able to continue to stay in Buras and make a living doing what I love, which is a commercial fishermen. My husband use to oyster and now he is a shrimper. The water diversion ~~will~~ will change the natural habitat of shrimp, crab, oysters here and this is why I am scared. If it changes for the worst then I will have to leave Buras and be forced to find other ways some where else to make a living.

From: wpshadel@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 10:53:07 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
William Shadel
62 Division St
Keyport, NJ, 07735

From: michon@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Michon Shinn](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 10:29:50 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Michon Shinn
Slidell, LA 70458

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Jane Siener](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 1:35:52 PM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,

Mrs. Jane Siener
402200 Cotton Field Avenue
Gonzales, LA 70737
(123) 456-7890
janehiggitt@gmail.com



SIERRA CLUB

New Orleans Group, Delta Chapter



740 7th Street,
New Orleans La. 70115,
September 5, 2017

Mr. Brad Laborde
Operations Division
New Orleans District
Army Corps of Engineers

Reference: CEMVN- Midbarataria Sediment Diversion Draft EIS

The New Orleans Group of the Sierra Club recognizes that , as the flagship sediment diversion project contained in the State's Coastal Master Plan, it is essential that the EIS for this project thoroughly analyze its potential impacts on the human and natural environment. We are particularly concerned about the impact of the proposed RAM coal terminal at Ironton on the successful implementation of the Diversion Project. The CFR announcement of the comment review period for the scoping study specifies that "cumulative effects of related projects in the study area" be included in the EIS. Accordingly we are citing and excerpting from three documents that we believe justify a thorough review of the impact of the proposed RAM terminal on the Diversion Project.

- A. The first document is the RAM Terminal CFD Modeling Technical Memo, dated October 23, 2012, authored by Ehab Meselhe (the Water Institute of the South), John Richardson, Hugh Roberts, Randy Lagumbay (ARCADIS) This memo is Attachment A to this letter; all references to figures and tables in the issues cited below are contained in this attached technical memo.
1. Figure 2 shows the presence and relative-size of the RAM facility near the intake of the proposed sediment diversion. Navigation concerns should be fully investigated to assess the potential impact on vessel traffic generated by the RAM facility with the presence of the cross-flow generated by the proposed Myrtle Grove sediment diversion. The investigation of navigational concerns was not part of the scope of the analysis presented here.
 2. During the course of this analysis, it was indicated that barges would pass in front of the proposed diversion intake and park immediately downstream of the intake and along the right descending bank of the Mississippi River. Safety concerns for these vessels should be fully investigated due to the cross-flow generated by the proposed Myrtle Grove sediment diversion. Typically "ship- simulators" are used to address

these safety concerns. The investigation of safety concerns was not part of the scope of the analysis presented here.

3. Figures 5 through 16 show the impact of the presence of the facility, barges and ship on the flow field near the intake of the proposed diversion. The difference in the flow pattern is visually detectable in these figures. These changes influence the location from which water is being drawn into the outfall channel and affect the water sediment ratio.
4. Special emphasis should be placed on Run#1 and Run#3, representing the base case and the RAM facility presence. **The Sediment-Water ratio was reduced by nearly 17%.** A reduction in the sediment-water ratio results in a loss of sand load diverted through the outfall channel. For an assumed pulse lasting 30 days per year, such a loss of sand load diverted through the outfall is summarized in Table 2. Nearly 500,000 tons of Sand will be lost in a decade due to the presence of the RAM facility. Despite the uncertainty present in any numerical model, the results of all the simulations performed have showed persistent reduction of sediment load captured in the outfall channel due to the presence of the RAM facility. Additional simulations might narrow the range of variability stated in this comment, however the impact is likely to persist.
5. The streamlines shown in Figures 5 through 10 indicate that debris and dust generated during the loading process would be captured in the outfall channel and transported into the marsh areas potentially causing environmental issues. The investigation of water quality was not part of the scope of this analysis, but should be investigated to assess such environmental impact.
6. There is limited number of lateral bars in the Lower Mississippi River (downstream of River Mile 90 Above Head of Passes) and they are targeted as a resource to restore coastal Louisiana. Some of these bars are designated as a resource for the earthen sill needed during drought conditions. That further reduces the number of lateral bars available for coastal restoration. The existence of the RAM loading facility on top a lateral bar would severely limit the ability to harness the available sand directly through dredging or using other agitating techniques to increase the amount of sediment diverted toward the outfall channel.
7. The existence of the RAM loading facility upstream of the diversion intake may pose hazard to the foundation and pilings of the loading facility. Field measurements at West Bay shows several feet of erosion occurring upstream of a diversion.

Certainly a **projected 17% loss** in the sediment-water ration (number 4 above) could significantly compromise the viability of the Diversion Project, particularly given the significant cost of this project. The failure of State permitting agencies to see a clear need for a substantive alternative site analysis for

the proposed RAM terminal, and the subsequent threat to the viability of the Sediment Diversion Project, is further elaborated in Document B. below.

B. Letter to COE District Commander Col. Richard L. Hansen from Scott Eustis, M.S. Coastal Wetland Specialist Gulf Restoration Network , Marylee Orr Director LEAN, Brianna Fairbanks Staff Attorney Sierra Club, Paul Orr – Lower Mississippi Riverkeeper, Dated Feb. 26, 2014.

Relevant excerpts from this letter are stated below. The entire letter is Attachment B to this letter.

“Similar to looking at the MG Midstreamer and the proposed RAM terminal as the same project or cumulatively, these proposed [Coal Terminal] permits must also be looked at cumulatively with the proposed Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion, which is intended to funnel sediment from the Mississippi River in order to build wetlands on the bay side of the levees.

At the February 13, 2014 meeting with the Army Corps, we were told that the impacts the RAM terminal and associated proposals on the Diversion would not be looked at, as it wasn’t in the “scope” of what the Army Corps’ considered to be its regulatory duties. It is frustrating to see that the New Orleans District is so segmented, as the Ram Terminal and Diversion would be directly adjacent, coal and petroleum coke are guaranteed to fall and to flow into the channel from the air and from the water, and the sediment and water from the Diversion would contaminate additional federal restoration projects in the Lafitte oilfield.

By ignoring this relationship, the Corps might be complicit in damaging the development and success of the Diversion, which has been identified as one of five near term projects that are critical to the success of coastal restoration efforts. The New Orleans District cannot look at regulation and restoration as two separate things. It is quite arbitrary for the Regulatory Branch of the Army Corps to ignore the recommendation of Army Corps engineers tasked with the design of restoration projects. We thought this was getting better at the District, as leadership staff from the Regulatory Branch had started attending the regular NGO meetings that the District has been holding regarding the coastal restoration projects, but given the statements at the meeting on 13 February, we feel that this vital integration at the District is not happening.

NEPA’s regulations define cumulative and similar actions in the following manner:

(2) Cumulative actions, which when viewed with other proposed actions have cumulatively significant impacts and should therefore be discussed in the same impact statement. (3) Similar actions, which when viewed with other reasonably foreseeable or proposed agency actions, have similarities that provide a basis for evaluating their environmental consequences together, such as common timing or geography. An agency may wish to analyze these actions in the same impact statement. It should do so when the best way to assess adequately the combined impacts of similar actions or reasonable alternatives to such actions is to treat them in a single impact statement. 40 C.F.R. § 1508.25(a). “

The letter excerpted above makes a clear case for alternative site analysis in the EIS for the proposed RAM terminal in the Barrataria Sediment Diversion EIS, given NEPA’s regulations and the likely significant impact on the Diversion Project. Finally, the 2014 Notice of Judgement, excerpted below, makes a compelling case that any substantive EIS for the Diversion Project must include a credible alternative site analysis for the proposed RAM terminal

C. Notice of Judgment, Case No. 60-961, 25th Judicial Court, Plaquemines Parish, La., the Sierra

Club et al versus Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, December 23, 2014 Kevin D. Conner, Judge, Division A (Attachment C)

“Not only did RAM fail to specifically name an alternative site in its application, but the record does not show that DNR exercised any independent evaluation of alternate sites. Instead, DNR deferred to RAM’s assertion, unsupported by any actual evidence, that alternative sites were not feasible. DNR seems to have relied entirely on a document entitled “Alternatives Analysis,” supplied by RAM. Unfortunately, the “Alternatives Analysis” consists of only two sentences, which state: “RAM also looked at other sites around the Gulf Coast. Many sites presented optimum rail access or quality deepwater access but none offered both of these features in any area with easy access to foreign export markets.” RAM provided no analysis of the relative environmental impacts of alternative sites for the proposed coal terminal, or whether another site would offer more protection to the environment than the proposed project.

RAM’s alternative site response appears to be a recitation of the company’s business decision to purchase the selected site based on its economic potential; other sites were simply not “ideal,” and the selected site would be economically more advantageous for exporting overseas. However, the purpose of an alternative site analysis is not to identify the best economic alternative, but to analyze all viable alternatives and their environmental impacts. See Matter of American Waste, 633 So.2d at 196.

When the Court inquired of counsel for DNR who determines whether an applicant has actually examined alternative sites, counsel responded that DNR does not have the resources to investigate all alternative sites cited by applicants, but that it does question applicants regarding alternate sites. In this instance, however, any inquiries DNR made were not fruitful.

This leads to another concerning issue. Based on RAM’s own statements, it is unclear whether rail is even necessary to its project. While RAM asserted in its application that the rail line was one of the primary reasons it selected the Ironton site, it also stated that, due to “market conditions, RAM expects limited utilization of the rail facility,” averaging zero to three trains per week. RAM further provided that it will use the rail line to transport little, if any, coal, and will instead use it for “lower volume” products including sustainable fuels and agricultural products. Paradoxically, DNR cites RAM’s claim that it requires rail access in finding there are no alternative sites, and also RAM’s claims on the limited need for rail access to address concerns about increases in rail traffic. If, as RAM has claimed, the primary function of the facility will be the transfer of coal, and the rail line will rarely--if ever—be used to transport coal, access to the rail line should not have been a primary factor in site selection.

While state agencies in Louisiana are always required to analyze alternative sites to reduce environmental impacts, the requirement is particularly important in this case, which is to be located on the same parcel of land as Louisiana’s first major wetlands restoration project, the mid-Barrataria Sediment Diversion (“Diversion”) The EPA, The National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Louisiana Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority have all recognized the high potential for physical and ecological conflicts between the Diversion and the proposed RAM terminals facility. Given this high potential for conflicts with a vital wetlands and coastal restoration project, it’s imperative that the State fulfill its duty to safeguard the public trust by analyzing potential alternative sites for the RAM Terminals

While State agencies in Louisiana are always required to analyze alternative sites to reduce

environmental impacts, the requirement is particularly important in this case, which is to be located in the same parcel of land as Louisiana’s first major wetlands restoration project, the mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion (“Diversion”).The Environmental Protection Agency, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the La. Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority **all recognized the high potential for conflicts between the Diversion and the proposed RAM terminals facility. Given this high potential for conflict with a vital wetlands restoration project, it is imperative that the state fulfill its duty to safeguard the public trust by analyzing potential alternative sites for the RAM terminals”**

These cited documents make a convincing case for a comprehensive analysis of the impact of the proposed RAM terminal at Ironton within the EIS, including a substantive alternative site analysis. If this costly project is to significantly benefit the residents, habitat, and ecology of coastal Southeast Louisiana, it must be given every opportunity to succeed. In this regard, a comprehensive EIS that includes an thorough evaluation of developments such as the RAM terminal is essential.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Harvey Stern
Executive Committee
New Orleans Group, Delta Chapter
Sierra Club

To:

Copies:

Technical Memorandum

From:

Ehab Meselhe (The Water Institute)
John Richardson (ARCADIS)
Hugh Roberts (ARCADIS)
Randy Lagumbay (ARCADIS)

The Water Institute of the Gulf
301 N. Main St., Suite 2000
Baton Rouge, LA 70825

Date:

October 23, 2012

Project No.:

ARCADIS U.S., Inc.
4999 Pearl East Circle, Suite 200
Boulder, CO 80301

Subject:

RAM Terminal CFD Modeling Technical Memorandum

1. Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the results of Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) simulations used to analyze the transport of sediment to the proposed diversion channel at Myrtle Grove and to evaluate the flow patterns due to the proposed construction of the RAM terminal facility. To help with the analyses, numerical simulations of flow from River Mile (RM) 56.0 to RM 62.7 were carried out with the commercial CFD program known as **FLOW-3D** (www.flow3d.com). This program was previously used by The Water Institute to carry out hydrodynamics and sediment transport analysis in lower Mississippi near Myrtle Grove (Meselhe et al, 2011).

The results of the analyses described herein were used to evaluate the effect of the proposed construction of the RAM facility on the sediment transport to the proposed Myrtle Grove delta diversion.

2. Approach

A three dimensional CFD model of the proposed RAM terminal facility with vessels combined with river bathymetry and proposed diversion channel was used to analyze sediment transport and to evaluate flow patterns approaching the facility and the diversion channel. This model was constructed within the framework of the **FLOW-3D** software package and was based on previous work carried out by The Water Institute (Meselhe et al, 2011).

The primary objectives of this study are to examine potential changes to the flow patterns near the intake of the proposed diversion and in the vicinity of the proposed RAM facility, and to determine the potential impact on the amount of sediment (sediment/water ratio) transported to the proposed diversion channel due to the presence of the RAM terminal facility placed upstream of the diversion.

The following describes the model setup in **FLOW-3D**.

Geometry

The model was created using **Rhino** pre-processing software. The model included the river bathymetry, proposed diversion channel, RAM terminal facility, and barge and ship. The river bathymetry and diversion channel was obtained from the previous study (Meselhe et al, 2011). The river bathymetry extends from River Mile (RM) 56.0 to RM 62.7 (Figure 1). CAD drawings of the terminal facility and barge and ship were provided by Lanier & Associates Consulting Engineers, Inc. The drawings were used to create geometries of the terminal facility and barge and ship, and combined with the river bathymetry (Figure 2).

Boundary Conditions

For consistency reasons, the boundary conditions used in this analysis are the same as those used in the previous modeling effort. The boundary conditions used in this study are as follows:

- Solid boundaries including river bed, diversion channel, barge and ship were specified. Standard Wall functions were used to compute the shear stress at the no-slip boundary.
- The terminal structures were modeled as porous planes to emulate the effect of the piers on the water flow. Twelve porous planes (baffles in **FLOW-3D**) were used to model the structures (Figures 3 and 4). Porosity and loss coefficients of the baffles are summarized in Table 1.
- The water surface was modeled as a sharp, free surface allowing accurate representation of the water/air interface.

Mesh Generation

Creating an appropriate computational mesh is an important aspect of every numeric modeling. The flow field is discretized into a number of small elements (cells) for solving the governing equations of fluid flow. The cell size must be small enough to capture the flow features of interest. In this study, the computational mesh used in the simulation is the same from the previous model to be consistent with the

analyses. Additional refinements to the mesh near the RAM facility and the intake of the proposed diversions were made. These refinements (horizontal grid spacing reduced from 15 meter to 2.5 meters) were made to enhance the ability to capture the details of the flow field.

3. Simulations

Several simulations were carried out in this study - all for a 700,000 cfs river flow. A description of these runs is provided below:

- Run #1 – Baseline condition. The model included only the river bathymetry and the proposed diversion channel (no facility, no barge and no ship).
- Run #2 – The model included the river bathymetry, proposed diversion channel, loading barge, and ship at - 40 feet draft (no facility).
- Run #3 – The model included the river bathymetry, proposed diversion channel, loading barge, ship at - 40 feet draft, and the terminal facility.
- Run #4 – The model included the river bathymetry, proposed diversion channel, loading barge, ship at - 9 feet draft, and the terminal facility.
- Run #5 – The model included the river bathymetry, proposed diversion channel, loading barge, ship at - 40 feet draft, terminal facility, and a guide vane at the entrance of the diversion.
- Run #6 – The model included the river bathymetry, proposed diversion channel, loading barge, and the terminal facility (no ship and no guide vane).

4. Results

Simulation results are presented both qualitatively and quantitatively. Qualitative results, appearing in Figures 5 through 16, show the trajectory of streamlines and velocity contours in the vicinity of the facility and entrance of the diversion channel. Streamlines were back calculated from the diversion channel to show where water entering the diversion came from. Velocity contours were used to show flow separation behind the ship.

Figures 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 show streamlines entering the diversion from different heights in the water column for Run #'s 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6; respectively.

Figures 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 show velocity contours at elevation 4.1 feet (NAVD88) for Run #'s 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6; respectively.

Sediments were represented by five different sizes of particles (32 microns, 63 microns, 96 microns, 125 microns, and 250 microns). Figure 17 shows the distribution of particles for Run #3 as an example. Particles were released upstream of the facility after obtaining a converged solution of flow fields.

Quantitative results of the sediment analysis are summarized in Table 2.

5. Closing Remarks and Preliminary Conclusions

The analysis presented in this letter-report provides a summary of the 8-week modeling effort performed to assess the potential impact of the RAM facility on the flow field in the vicinity of the facility and the intake of the proposed sediment diversion at Myrtle Grove, and on the efficiency of the proposed diversion to capture sediment from the main river channel.

The following are closing remarks and preliminary conclusions:

1. Figure 2 shows the presence and relative-size of the RAM facility near the intake of the proposed sediment diversion. Navigation concerns should be fully investigated to assess the potential impact on vessel traffic generated by the RAM facility with the presence of the cross-flow generated by the proposed Myrtle Grove sediment diversion. The investigation of navigational concerns was not part of the scope of the analysis presented here.
2. During the course of this analysis, it was indicated that barges would pass in front of the proposed diversion intake and park immediately downstream of the intake and along the right descending bank of the Mississippi River. Safety concerns for these vessels should be fully investigated due to the cross-flow generated by the proposed Myrtle Grove sediment diversion. Typically "ship-simulators" are used to address these safety concerns. The investigation of safety concerns was not part of the scope of the analysis presented here.
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4. Special emphasis should be placed on Run#1 and Run#3, representing the base case and the RAM facility presence. The Sediment-Water ratio was reduced by nearly 17%. A reduction in the sediment-water ration results in a loss of sand load diverted through the outfall channel. For an assumed pulse lasting 30 days per year, such a loss of sand load diverted through the outfall is summarized in Table 2. Nearly 500,000 tons of Sand will be lost in a decade due to the presence of the RAM facility. Despite the uncertainty present in any numerical model, the results of all the

simulations performed here showed persistent reduction of sediment load captured in the outfall channel due to the presence of the RAM facility. Additional simulations might narrow the range of variability stated in this comment, however the impact is likely to persist.

5. The streamlines shown in Figures 5 through 10 indicate that debris and dust generated during the loading process would be captured in the outfall channel and transported into the marsh areas potentially causing environmental issues. The investigation of water quality was not part of the scope of this analysis, but should be investigated to assess such environmental impact.
6. There is limited number of lateral bars in the Lower Mississippi River (downstream of River Mile 90 Above Head of Passes) and they are targeted as a resource to restore coastal Louisiana. Some of these bars are designated as a resource for the earthen sill needed during drought conditions. That further reduces the number of lateral bars available for coastal restoration. The existence of the RAM loading facility on top a lateral bar would severely limit the ability to harness the available sand directly through dredging or using other agitating techniques to increase the amount of sediment diverted toward the outfall channel.
7. The existence of the RAM loading facility upstream of the diversion intake may pose hazard to the foundation and pilings of the loading facility. Field measurements at West Bay shows several feet of erosion occurring upstream of a diversion.

6. References

Meselhe, E.A., Georgiou, I., and McCorquodale, J.A., "Myrtle Grove Delta Building Diversion Report", 2011.

5. Figures



Figure 1. Model Domain from RM 56.0 to RM 62.7

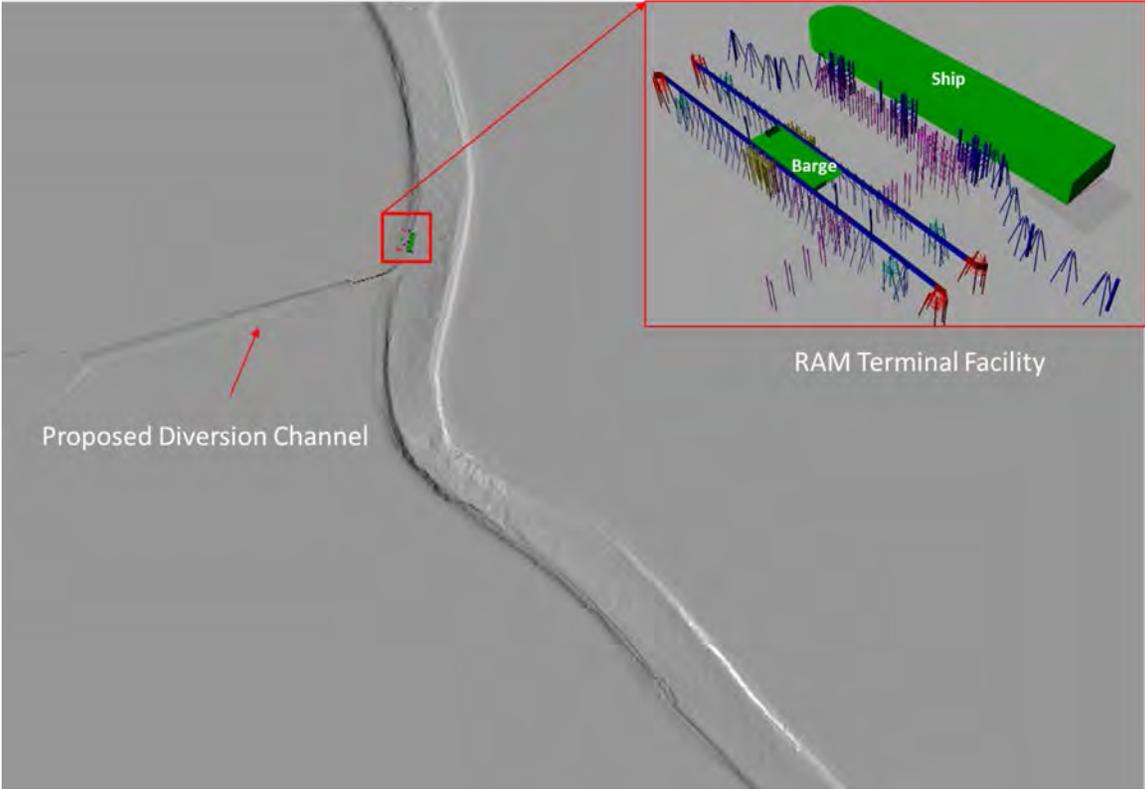


Figure 2. FLOW-3D Model of the RAM Terminal Facility Combined With the River Bathymetry and Proposed Diversion Channel.

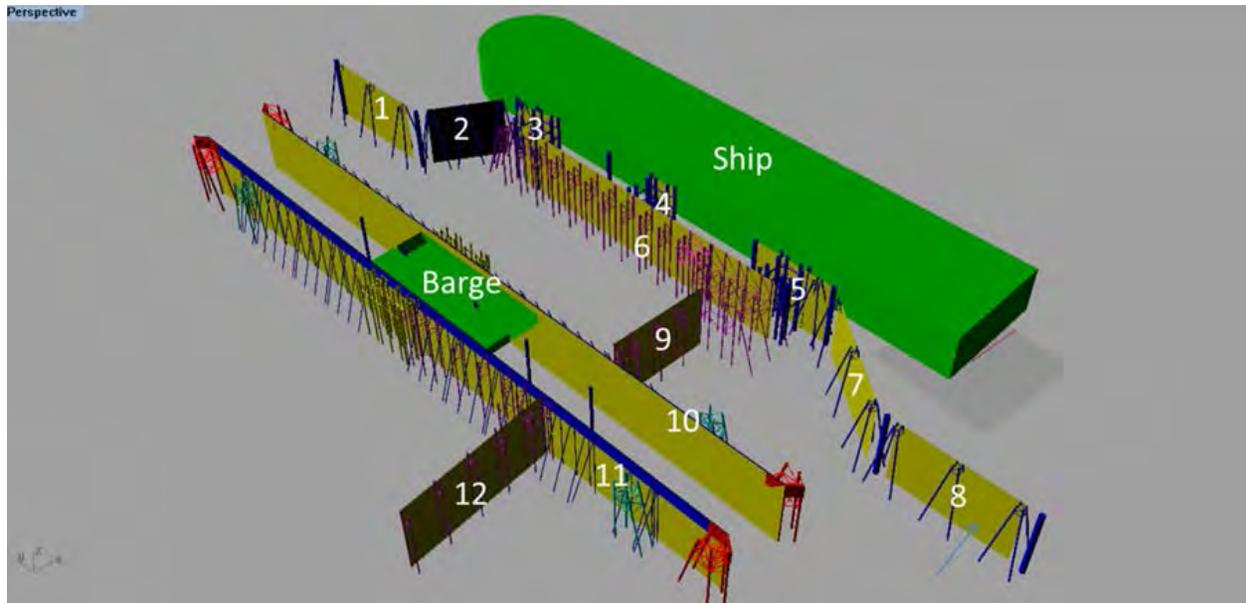


Figure 3. Twelve Porous Jump Planes (Baffles) Were Used To Model The Terminal Structures.

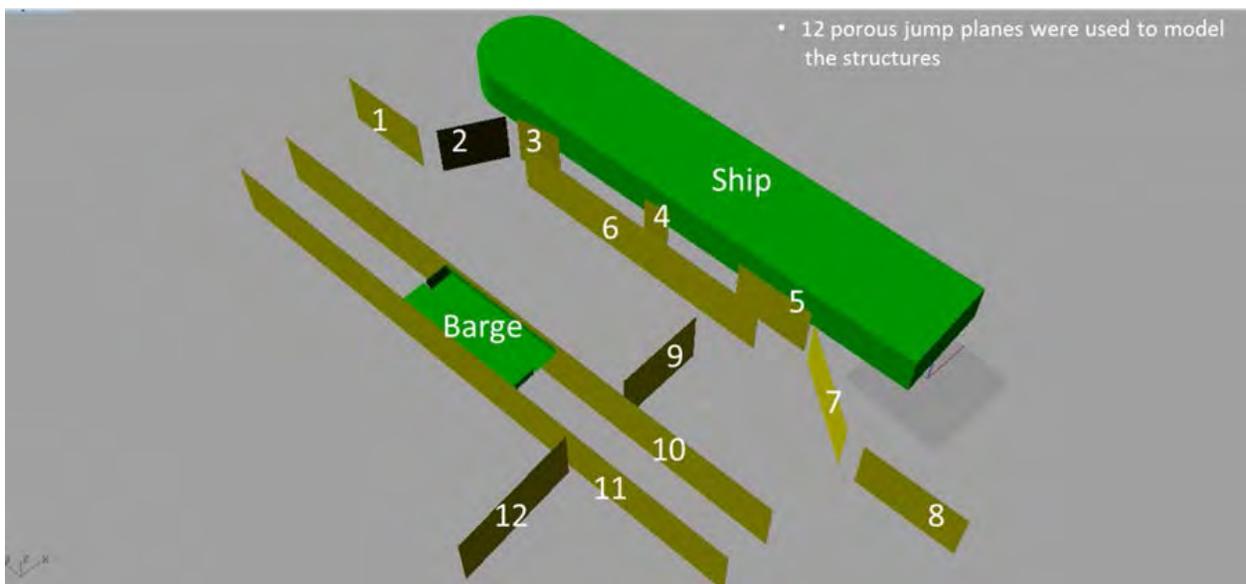


Figure 4. The Terminal Structures Were Replaced With Twelve Porous Jump Planes (Baffles).

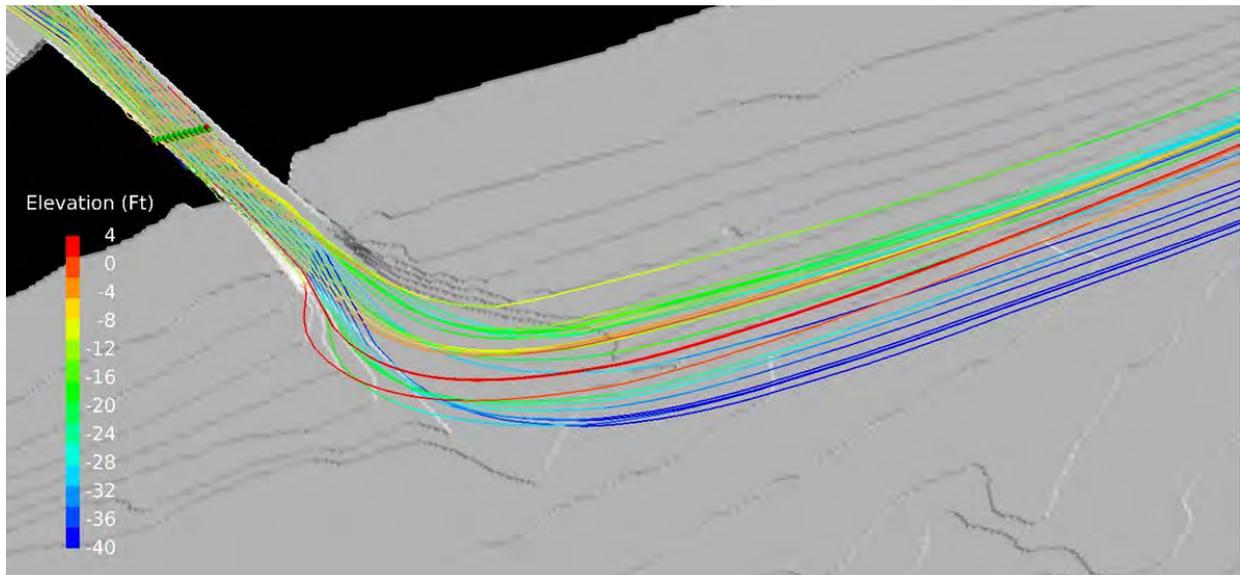


Figure 5. Run #1, Streamlines Back Calculated from the Diversion Channel.

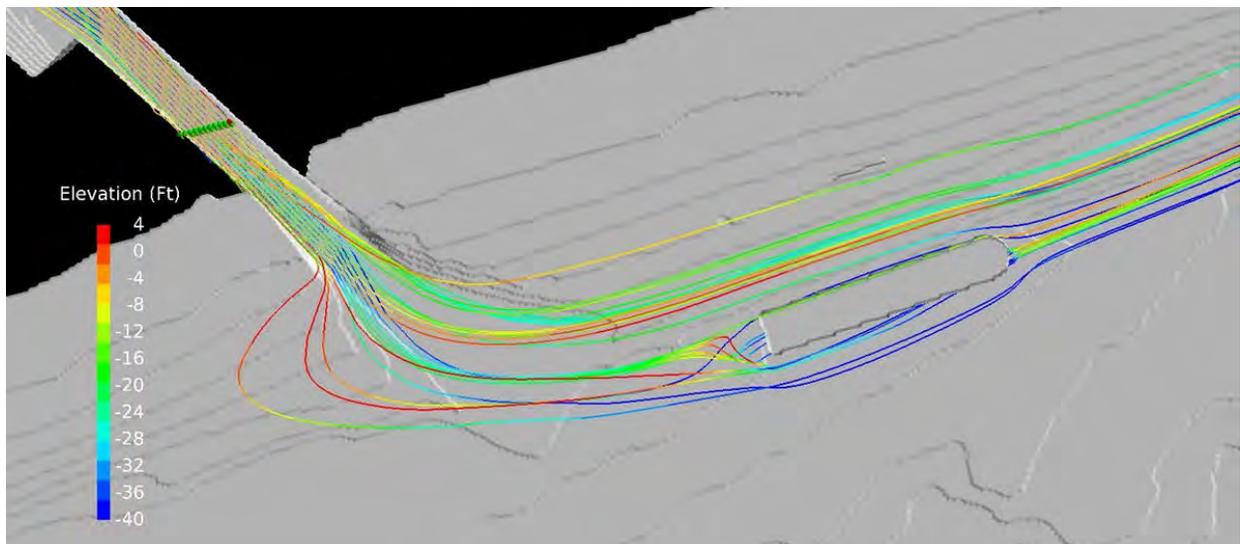


Figure 6. Run #2, Streamlines Back Calculated from the Diversion Channel.

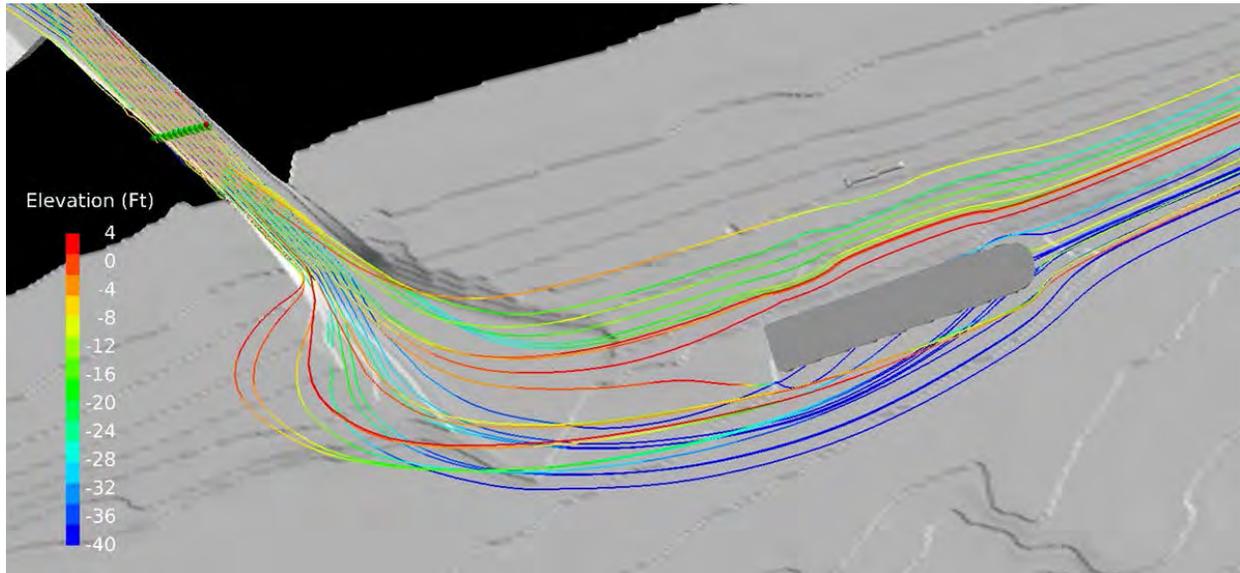


Figure 7. Run #3, Streamlines Back Calculated from the Diversion Channel.

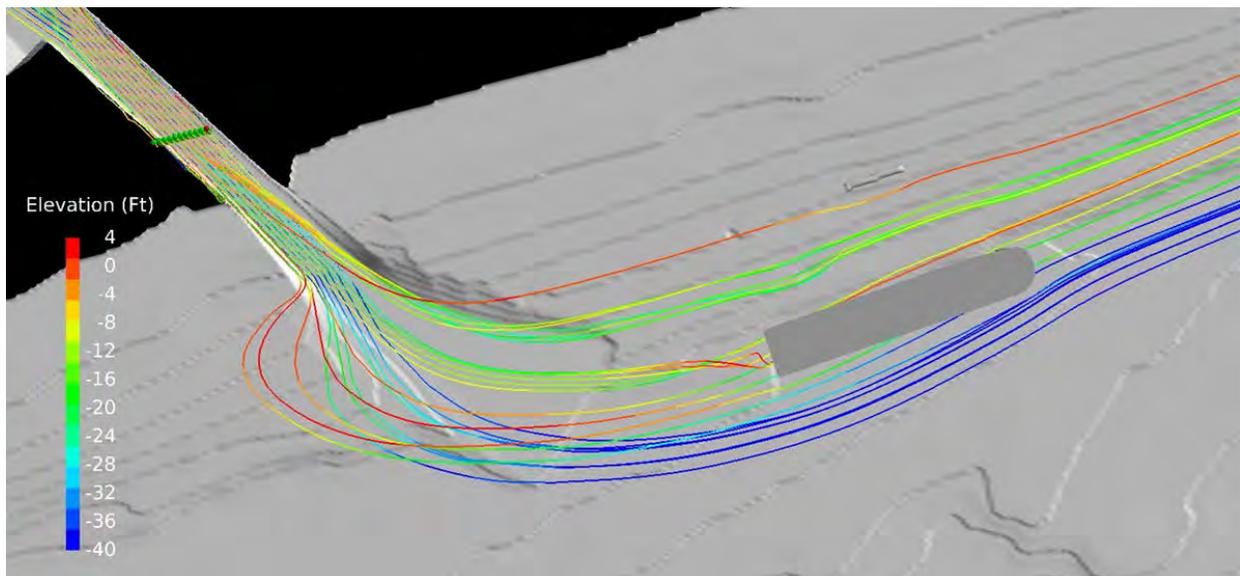


Figure 8. Run #4, Streamlines Back Calculated from the Diversion Channel.

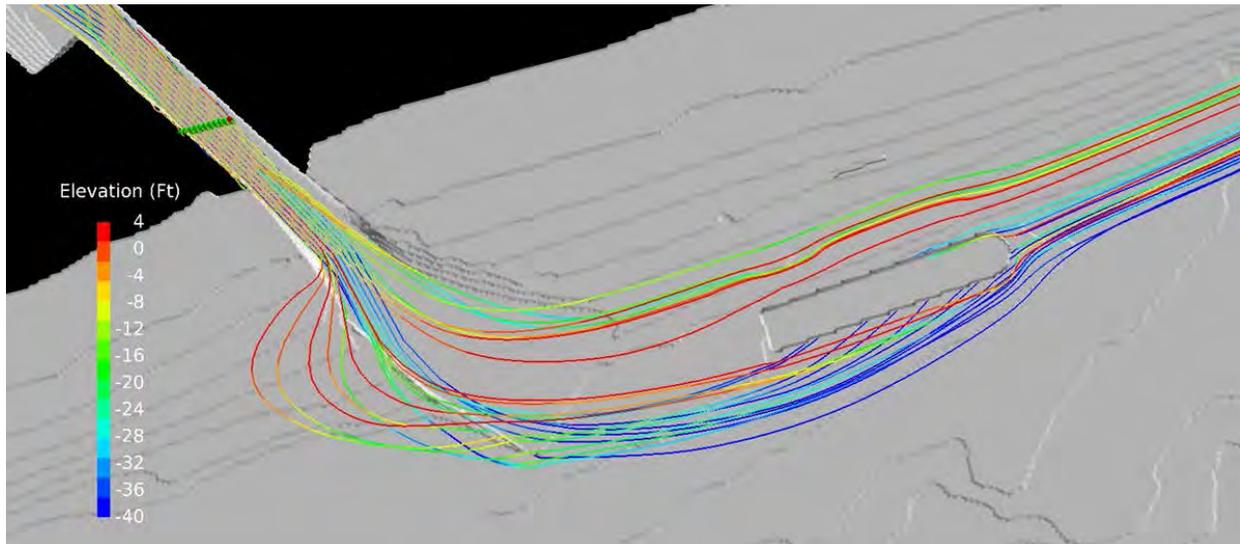


Figure 9. Run #5, Streamlines Back Calculated from the Diversion Channel.

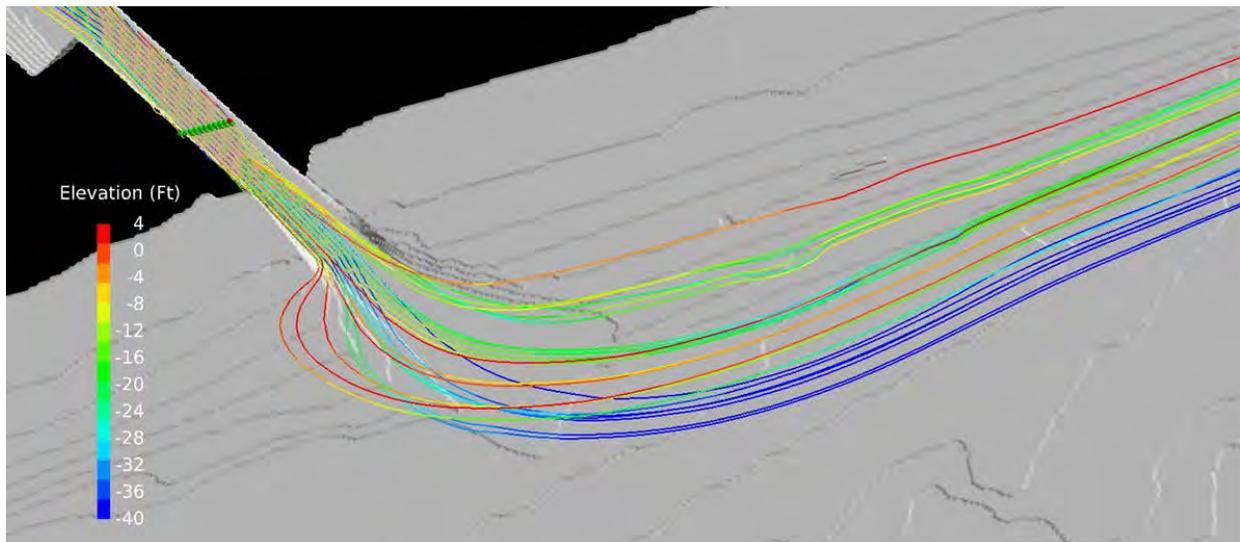


Figure 10. Run #6, Streamlines Back Calculated from the Diversion Channel.

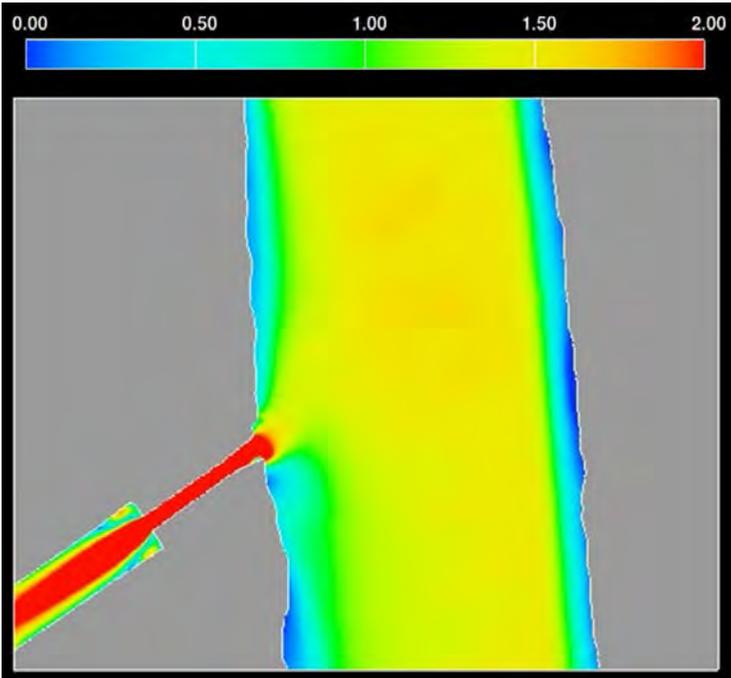


Figure 11. Run #1, Water Velocity at Elevation +4.1 Feet NAVD88.

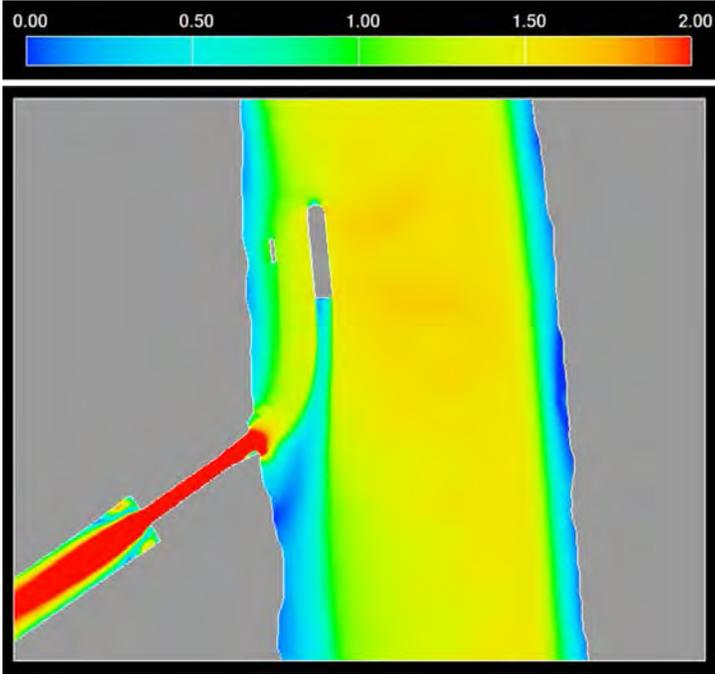


Figure 12. Run #2, Water Velocity at Elevation +4.1 Feet NAVD88.

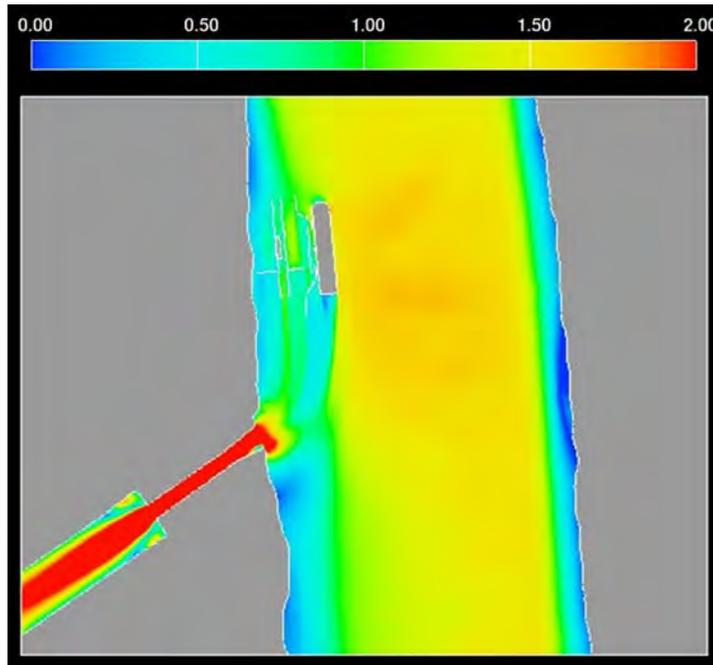


Figure 13. Run #3, Water Velocity at Elevation +4.1 Feet NAVD88.

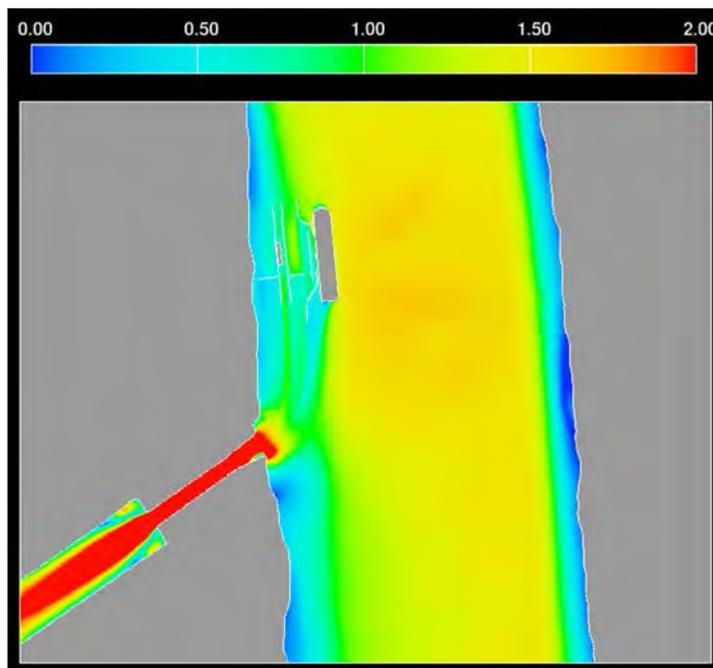


Figure 14. Run #4, Water Velocity at Elevation +4.1 Feet NAVD88.

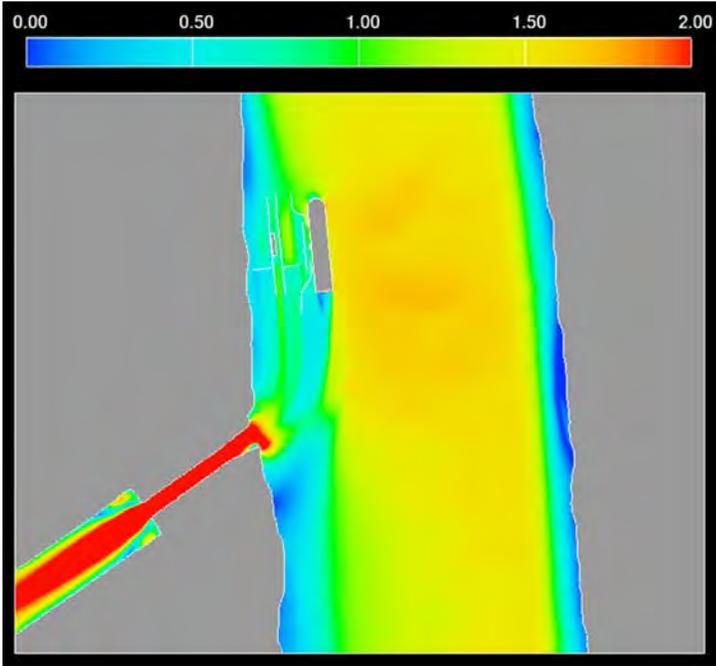


Figure 15. Run #5, Water Velocity at Elevation +4.1 Feet NAVD88.

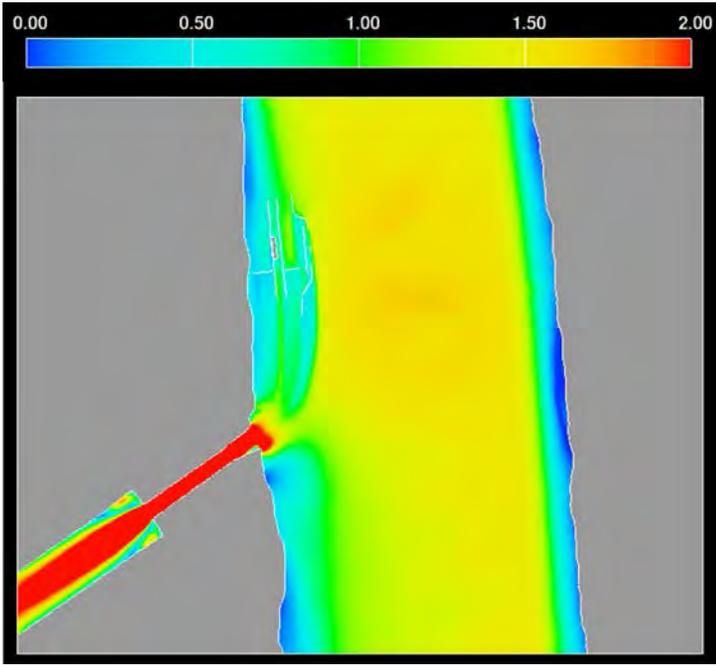


Figure 16. Run #6, Water Velocity at Elevation +4.1 Feet NAVD88.

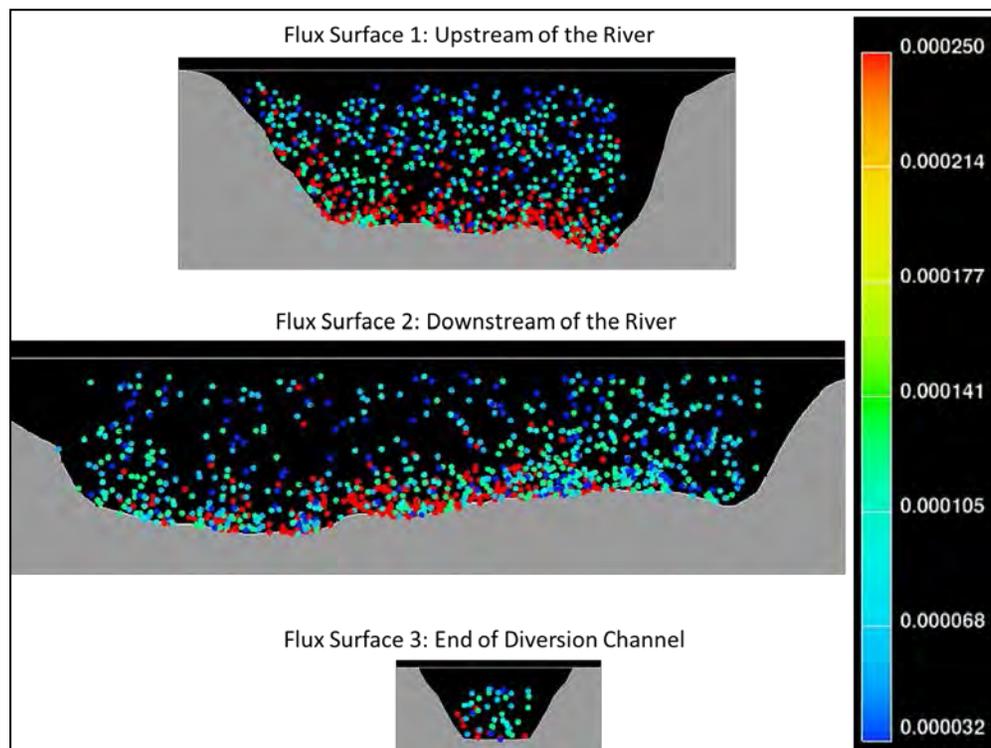
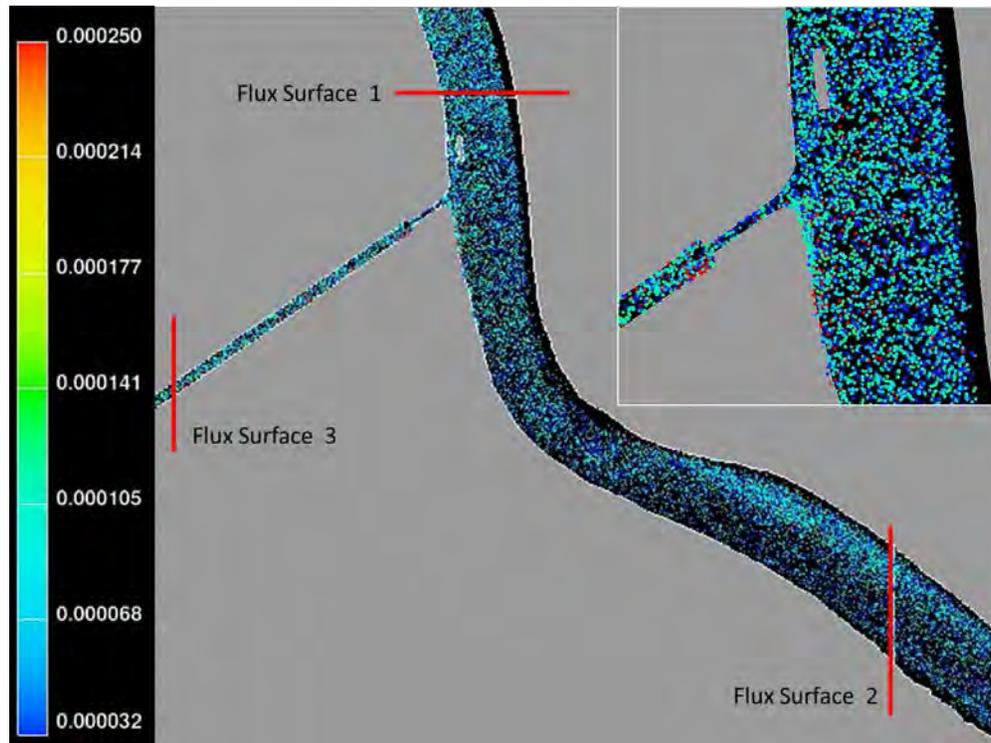


Figure 17. Run #3, Particles Distribution.

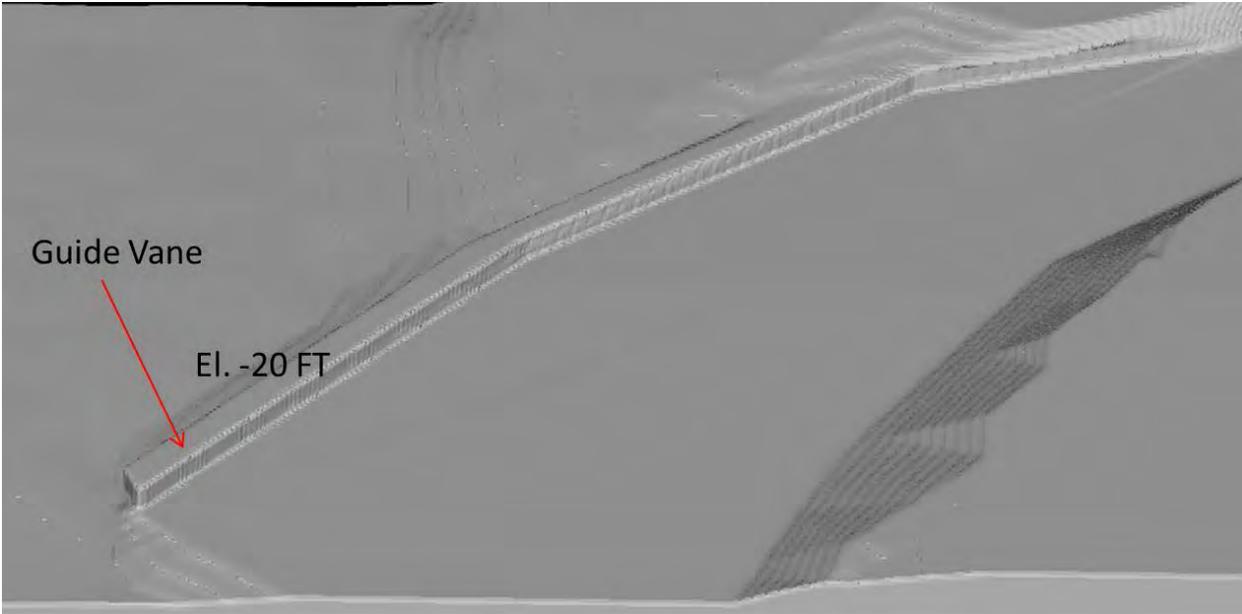


Figure 18. Proposed Guide Vane at the Entrance of the Diversion.

5. Tables

Table 1. Porous jump properties¹.

Porous Jump (Baffle in FLOW-3D)	Porosity	Linear Loss Coefficient ¹
1	0.95	0.78
2	0.95	0.78
3	0.95	0.78
4	0.95	0.78
5	0.95	0.78
6	0.95	0.78
7	0.95	0.78
8	0.95	0.78
9	0.95	0.78
10	0.95	0.78
11	0.95	0.78
12	0.95	0.78

¹ Blevins, Robert D., Applied Fluid Dynamics Handbook, Table 10-19, No. 23.

Table 2: Summary of Sediment Calculations

	Mississippi River	Run-No1 Base	Run-No2 Vessels Only	Run-No3 Vessels (loaded) & Facility	Run-No4 Vessels (empty) & Facility	Run-No5 Vessels (loaded) & Facility & Vane	Run-No6 Barges & Facility (no Ship)
Water Discharge (m3/s)	19,821	1,824	1,815	1,776	1,788	1,785	1,843
Water Discharge (CFS)	700,000	64,406	64,091	62,720	63,155	63,021	65,100
Sediment Load (metric tons/d) - 32 Micron	233,539	25,084	24,877	23,819	23,464	25,220	25,040
Sediment Load (metric tons/d) - 63 Micron	10,839	1,172	1,124	1,086	1,063	1,132	1,194
Sediment Load (metric tons/d) - 96 Micron	21,816	2,398	2,227	2,152	2,233	2,191	2,397
Sediment Load (metric tons/d) - 125 Micron	34,437	3,892	3,480	3,309	3,567	3,543	3,805
Sediment Load (metric tons/d) - 250 Micron	23,460	2,404	1,568	1,664	2,116	1,800	2,205
Total 63 - 250 Micron Load (metric ton/d)	90,554	9,867	8,398	8,211	8,979	8,667	9,601
Sediment/Water Ratio		1.184	1.013	1.012	1.099	1.063	1.140
Percent Reduction in Sediment/Water Ratio			15	17	9	12	3
Tons of Sand lost per day			1,469	1,656	888	1,200	266
Tons of Sand lost per year			44,056	49,687	26,631	36,009	7,969
Tons of Sand lost per decade			440,559	496,874	266,311	360,089	79,688



February 26, 2014

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RE: Request for public hearings and request for joint consideration of proposed RAM Terminal and proposed MG Midstreaming coal midstreaming operation as connected and/or cumulative actions.

Colonel,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with the Corps regarding the proposed RAM Terminal (**MVN 2012 0123 / CUP 2012 0190**) and the proposed MG Midstreaming coal midstreaming operation (**MVN 2013 2690 / CUP 2013 1379**) on February 13, 2014.

We request that this letter and the attached exhibits be entered into the administrative record for both permits. We incorporate by reference our previous comment letters on these permits, and reserve the right to rely on all public comments submitted.

I. The Army Corps should reopen the public comment period for RAM Terminal hold public hearings for both the proposed RAM Terminal (MVN 2012 0123 / CUP 2012 0190) and the proposed MG Midstreaming coal midstreaming operation (MVN 2013 2690/CUP 2013 1379).

We repeat our request that the Army Corps reopen the public comment period for RAM Terminal and hold a public hearing for both of these proposals to allow adequate public participation in these permit processes. To date, the Army Corps has not held a public hearing for either the proposed RAM Terminal or the proposed MG Midstreaming coal midstreaming operation (MG Midstreamer). Martin Mayer indicated during our meeting on February 13, 2014 that the Army Corps does not have any public hearing scheduled or planned.

We believe that there is sufficient new information on the RAM Terminal, and new public concerns pertaining to that new information, to warrant reopening the public comment period and holding a public hearing. This information was not available to the public or the Army Corps during the initial public comment period that took place in the spring of 2012. These concerns arise from more detailed information on the RAM Terminal's impact to safety and navigation from the Water Institute/ARCADIS study of terminal's interaction with the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion (Diversion), RAM's impact to the diversion itself, the co-located MG Midstreamer and barge staging proposal introduced in December of 2013, and the associated navigation and coastal wetland risks and impacts that these projects pose when considered together.

Indeed, we learned at our meeting with the Army Corps on February 13, 2014 that the Army Corps had not seen the Water Institute/ARCADIS study, which outlined the significant potential impacts that the proposed RAM Terminal may have on the Diversion. Attached as Exhibit A. Representatives from the Army Corps also told us during our meeting on February 13th that the Army Corps had not seen or analyzed the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) negotiated between RAM Terminals, LLC and the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA). Attached as Exhibit B (together with comment letter on MOA submitted to Louisiana Department of Natural Resources by Gulf Restoration Network, et. al.). The fact that the Army Corps was unaware of both of these documents is very troubling, as they directly relate to the potential impacts of the proposed RAM Terminal and its relationship to the co-located Diversion and should be analyzed as the agency considers granting a permit for this project.

We strongly believe that the public deserves a voice on this matter and that all concerns from the public should be heard. There is significant new information (including the MOA,¹ the Water Institute/ARCADIS study, and the permit application for the co-located MG Midstreamer) that was not available to residents and concerned community groups during the initial public comment period. There are many local and state-wide residents who deserve the opportunity to comment on the permits that RAM and MG Midstreaming have applied for; people we cannot speak for and whom may have concerns and information that the Corps has not already taken into consideration. As a public agency charged with protecting the public interest, we believe that it is your duty to acknowledge and oblige this request.

II. The proposed RAM Terminal (MVN 2012 0123 / CUP 2012 0190) and the proposed MG Midstreaming coal midstreaming operation (MVN 2013 2690 / CUP 2013 1379) are connected actions under NEPA.

We, along with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and other public commenters, have previously urged the Corps to perform a full analysis of the impacts of the RAM Terminal in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). EPA and NFMS letters attached as Exhibit C. Further, we believe that the Corps must consider the cumulative impacts of both of these proposed developments together in the same EIS, as it is clear that they are “connected actions” under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The regulations governing the scope of review for NEPA documents states that government agencies should consider three types of actions when deciding on the scope of review for an EIS:

- (a) Actions (other than unconnected single actions) which may be:
 - (1) Connected actions, which means that they are closely related and therefore should be discussed in the same impact statement. Actions are connected if they:
 - (i) Automatically trigger other actions which may require environmental impact statements.
 - (ii) Cannot or will not proceed unless other actions are taken previously or simultaneously.
 - (iii) Are interdependent parts of a larger action and depend on the larger action for their justification.

40 C.F.R. § 1508.25(a).

¹ As outlined in our comment letter to the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (attached in Exhibit B), we do not believe that the MOA resolves the physical or ecological conflict between the proposed RAM Terminal and the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion.

Here, despite the fact that the proposals were submitted by entities with different legal names, it is clear that the actions are in fact connected. First, the close physical proximity of the two coal operations makes it clear that the facilities will have to cooperate and coordinate to operate without conflict, and, in fact, are most likely part of the same operation. Indeed, the proposed location of the MG Midstreamer is directly adjacent to the proposed barge fleeting area for the RAM Terminal. See Exhibits D and E (diagrams submitted by Lanier and Associates in support of MVN 2012 0123 / CUP 2012 0190 and MVN 2013 2690/CUP 2013 1379). The MG Midstreamer is also located in the Mississippi River next to the property owned by RAM Terminal, LLC, and proposes to moor its facility on the same side of the river as the RAM Terminal.

Given this close physical connection between the two operations, it is difficult to imagine any way in which the RAM Terminal and the MG Midstreamer could operate separately. MG Midstreamer could not transport or moor ships or barges at this location without in the very least coordinating with the RAM Terminal. In fact, it is more reasonable to assume that the terminal and the midstreaming operation would be operating in concert. The connection between the two operations is further demonstrated by the purpose of both facilities. Both facilities are designed to transfer coal from barges to ships; the commodities that are listed in both permit applications are identical.

Furthermore, the agent listed for MG Midstreaming by Louisiana Department of Natural Resources in connection with the midstreaming project, Mr. Charles Wesley, is also the business development director with RAM Terminals LLC. See Exhibits F² and G. Both MG Midstreaming and RAM Terminal, LLC have employed the same engineering firm, Lanier & Associates, to complete their permit applications.

Finally, the timing of the development of both of these projects demonstrates their connection. The RAM Terminal and the MG Midstreamer are both seeking permits from the Corps at the same time, in the same location, for the same purpose, using the same engineering firm, and employing the same development director. Both projects are being developed simultaneously, almost directly on top of one another.

Indeed, it is logical to assume that the development of the MG Midstreamer is an outgrowth of the permitting negotiations that have proceeded for the proposed RAM Terminal. As we have outlined in prior comment letters on the RAM Terminal, the terminal is in conflict with the development and operation of the Diversion. The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources recognized this conflict, and initially rejected an application for a coastal use permit for the RAM Terminal. See Exhibit H. LDNR eventually did grant a coastal use permit for the project, but only after RAM Terminals negotiated an agreement with CPRA, which required that the terminal shut

² LA DNR's SONRIS database, P CUP 2013 1379, accessed Feb 2014.

down its operations at specific times of the year while the diversion was in operation. See Exhibit B.

It is therefore likely that RAM Terminals, LLC is working through the MG Midstreamer to develop a midstreaming coal facility adjacent to the RAM Terminal that can operate during the times of the year when the land-based terminal is shut down under the terms of the MOA. The location of the midstreaming facility appears to be carefully selected to be just south of the diversion to avoid the necessity of shutting down during the diversion's operation. The midstreaming facility would thus allow coal to continue to be transported while the RAM Terminal is not operational, and avoid any interruptions in operation. This would prevent any delivery delays that might impact RAM Terminal's relationships with its customers.

Given all of the connections outlined above, it is clear that the MG Midstreamer and the RAM Terminal are "interdependent parts of a larger action," i.e., development of a coal export operation. The MG Midstreamer depends on the development of the RAM Terminal for its justification; given the incredibly close proximity of the midstreaming terminal to RAM's barge fleeting and dock, it is highly unlikely that the midstreamer could operate in isolation or independently. MG Midstreamer is a logical outgrowth of the RAM Terminal, and is being proposed and promoted by the same individual. Therefore, the actions are "connected actions" under NEPA, and the significant negative environmental and public health impacts of these proposals should be analyzed together in the same EIS.

III. In the alternative, the proposed RAM Terminal (MVN 2012 0123 / CUP 2012 0190) and the proposed MG Midstreamer (MVN 2013 2690/ CUP 2013 1379) are cumulative or similar actions under NEPA.

In the alternative, even if the Corps were to conclude that the MG Midstreamer and the RAM Terminal are not connected actions, they still fall within the regulatory definition of cumulative or similar actions, and thus their impacts should be analyzed together in a single EIS. NEPA's regulations define cumulative and similar actions in the following manner:

(2) Cumulative actions, which when viewed with other proposed actions have cumulatively significant impacts and should therefore be discussed in the same impact statement.

(3) Similar actions, which when viewed with other reasonably foreseeable or proposed agency actions, have similarities that provide a basis for evaluating their environmental consequences together, such as common timing or geography. An agency may wish to analyze these actions in the same impact statement. It should do so when the best way to assess adequately the combined impacts of similar actions

or reasonable alternatives to such actions is to treat them in a single impact statement.

40 C.F.R. § 1508.25(a).

Here, it is clear that the impacts of the RAM Terminal together with the impacts of the MG Midstreamer will have “cumulatively significant impacts, and should therefore be discussed in the same impact statement.” First, both will have impacts on the operation and success of the Diversion, as discussed in prior comment letters (hereby incorporated by reference). Specifically, both operations are likely to impact water flow and sediment deposition into the Diversion. In fact, the diagrams accompanying MG Midstreamer’s permit application seem to indicate that the midstreaming terminal will be moored on top of the sand bar located adjacent to the diversion. This particular location along the Mississippi River was specifically selected for a sediment diversion based on the location of this sand bar, as it would maximize sediment deposition into the diversion and the newly created wetlands³. Mooring a floating coal terminal directly on top of this sand bar is likely to impair the rate of sediment deposition and significantly threaten the success of the diversion. Additionally, the RAM Terminal has been shown to have a negative impact on the rate of sediment deposition by its operations north of the diversion, as outlined in the report prepared by the Water Institute. See Exhibit A.

Similarly, these proposals are likely to have cumulative impacts on the surrounding wetlands, ecosystems, and communities through offsite emissions and discharges of coal. Both coal terminals and midstreaming operations are known to deposit significant amounts of fugitive emissions while handling and storing coal for shipment. Coal falls into the water during loading and unloading at these facilities, is washed into surrounding environments by storm water and wash water, blows off of piles, vessels, and conveyors, and settles on the river bottom and shoreline. Coal from both of these operations will likely be deposited into the sediment diversion, and impair the growth of vital marsh plants and aquatic species. The cumulative impacts of these fugitive emissions are also felt by neighboring communities in the form of coal dust pollution (the small community of Ironton is less than a mile away from both proposed facilities). Thus, it is clear that these actions are at the very least cumulative actions that should be considered together in a single EIS.

Finally, these proposals also qualify as similar actions under NEPA’s governing regulations. As outlined above, these proposals have undeniable similarities, which “provide a basis for evaluating their environmental consequences together.” They are being proposed and developed on similar if not identical timelines and within a very small geographic location. The best way to fully analyze the cumulative impacts of these proposals in a way that fulfills the Corps’ legal obligations is in a single EIS.

³ Dr Ehab Mesehle, State of the Coast 2012.

IV. The Corps must include the proposed Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion within the scope of this permit.

Similar to looking at the MG Midstreamer and the proposed RAM terminal as the same project or cumulatively, these proposed permits must also be looked at cumulatively with the proposed Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion, which is intended to funnel sediment from the Mississippi River in order to build wetlands on the bay side of the levees.

At the February 13, 2014 meeting with the Army Corps, we were told that the impacts the RAM terminal and associated proposals on the Diversion would not be looked at, as it wasn't in the "scope" of what the Army Corps' considered to be its regulatory duties. It is frustrating to see that the New Orleans District is so segmented, as the Ram Terminal and Diversion would be directly adjacent, coal and petroleum coke are guaranteed to fall and to flow into the channel from the air and from the water, and the sediment and water from the Diversion would contaminate additional federal restoration projects in the Lafitte oilfield⁴.

By ignoring this relationship, the Corps might be complicit in damaging the development and success of the Diversion, which has been identified as one of five near term projects that are critical to the success of coastal restoration efforts.⁵ The New Orleans District cannot look at regulation and restoration as two separate things. It is quite arbitrary for the Regulatory Branch of the Army Corps to ignore the recommendation of Army Corps engineers tasked with the design of restoration projects. We thought this was getting better at the District, as leadership staff from the Regulatory Branch had started attending the regular NGO meetings that the District has been holding regarding the coastal restoration projects, but given the statements at the meeting on 13th February, we feel that this vital integration at the District is not happening.

V. The Corps has a duty to consider the environmental justice impacts of both the RAM Terminal and the MG Midstreamer on surrounding communities.

Executive Order 12898 (February, 1994) (PDF), "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations" (EO 12898) directs each Federal Agency to "make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations." The Presidential Memorandum

⁴ Bayou Dupont restoration phases I and II, CWPPRA.

⁵ See <http://www.lca.gov/Projects/2/Default.aspx>.

accompanying EO 12898 emphasizes the importance of using the NEPA review processes to promote environmental justice. It directs federal agencies to analyze the environmental effects, including human health, economic, and social effects, of their proposed actions on minority and low-income communities when required by NEPA.

Both the RAM Terminal and the MG Midstreamer are likely to have significant negative public health impacts on low-income and/or minority communities in Plaquemines Parish. The historic, African-American community of Ironton is located less than a mile from both of these facilities. The development of both facilities would leave the community sandwiched between an oil refinery, grain elevator, coal terminal, and coal midstreamer upriver, and two coal terminals less than five miles downriver (Kinder Morgan's International Marine Terminal in Myrtle Grove and the United Bulk Terminal in Davant). Ironton residents have previously expressed their fears that increased coal dust and associated pollution will damage their health and their quality of life, and will threaten their community's historic resources and character. The Corps must analyze the potential cumulative impacts of these proposals on the community of Ironton, along with any other potential environmental justice impacts.

VI. The Corps should make information more available to the public at their request, without a full FOIA process.

When we asked for additional information regarding the Corps' engineering analysis, as well as RAM's response to comments, at our meeting on February 13, 2014, we were told that we would have to submit a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) in order to see this information in the applicant's file. We were frustrated to hear this, as we have been promised more transparency from past District Commanders, as well as through Executive Order.

Regarding commitments from past Commanders, since 2006, NGOs have been regularly meeting with the New Orleans Corps District, and the District Commander, starting with Col. Lee, attended these meetings. In these meetings we were told that the District would be more open when it comes to granting the public information. It feels like we have taken a step backwards with the insistence of a FOIA when you could have just offered to show us the file.

If we are not granted the ability to look at documents related to the proposed permit before the public comment period expires, then the public has not been granted a full opportunity to comment on all of the potential impacts of the project. In this electronic age, there is no reason that critical documents (including the permit application and mitigation plan) that can be released through a FOIA request should not be posted to a Corps public notice website along with the typical public notice issued by the Corps. Not only would this make the Corps more transparent, it would also reduce the administrative burden on the Corps by eliminating the staff time needed to process FOIA requests and the staff time to review and respond to questions or concerns in

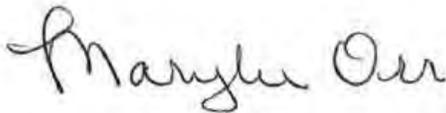
public comment letters that could have been resolved if we had access to the proper permit documents.

We recognize that creating a web portal for application documents would take some time, so in the meantime, we would appreciate access documents that are necessary for the public to make meaningful comment on permits. This would also be in accordance to President Obama's "Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies" regarding the Freedom of Information Act.⁶ In this memo, President Obama states "The Freedom of Information Act should be administered with a clear presumption: In the face of doubt, openness prevails." The memo further states that the presumption of disclosure "means that agencies should take affirmative steps to make information public. They should not wait for specific requests from the public. All agencies should use modern technology to inform citizens about what is known and done by their Government. Disclosure should be timely."

Sincerely,



Scott Eustis, M.S.
Coastal Wetland Specialist
Gulf Restoration Network



Marylee Orr
Director
LEAN



Brianna Fairbanks
Staff Attorney
Sierra Club

⁶ <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/freedom-information-act>



Paul Orr
Riverkeeper
Lower Mississippi Riverkeeper



Thomas "Smitty" Smith
Director
Texas Office, Public Citizen

cc:

Thomas Holden, COE-NOE
Mark Wingate, COE-NOD
Troy Constance, COE-NOD
Jennifer Burkett, COE-NOD
Gina McCarthy, EPA
Ron Curry, EPA
Matt Tejada, EPA

Attachments:

Exhibit A – "RAM Terminal CFD Modeling Technical Memorandum," The Water Institute of the Gulf/Arcadis
Exhibit B – Memorandum of Agreement between State of Louisiana and RAM Terminals, LLC Regarding Operation of the Mid Barataria Sediment Diversion and RAM Terminal Project
Exhibit C – Letter, Environmental Protection Agency to Michael V. Farabee, May 9, 2012
Letter, National Marine Fisheries Service to Colonel Edward R. Fleming, May 14, 2012
Exhibit D - Diagram submitted by Lanier and Associates in support of MVN 2012 0123 / CUP 2012 0190
Exhibit E - Diagram submitted by Lanier and Associates in support of MVN 2013 2690/CUP 2013 1379
Exhibit F - LA DNR's SONRIS database, P CUP 2013 1379, accessed Feb 2014

Exhibit G – Linkin Profile, Charles Wesley; “Coal exporter, state detail pact on river diversion,” *The Advocate*, August 20, 2013.

Exhibit H – Letter, Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority of Louisiana to RAM Terminals, LLC, April 30, 2012

NOTICE OF JUDGMENT

*THE SIERRA CLUB DELTA CHAPTER ET
AL
Versus*



*Case: 00060961
Division: A
25th Judicial District Court
Parish of Plaquemines
State of Louisiana*

*LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES*

*TO: ROBERT WIYGUL
WALTZER WIYGUL & GARSIDE LLC
1011 IBERVILLE DR
OCEAN SPRINGS, MS 39564*

*MEGAN K. TERRELL
LOUISIANA DEPT. OF JUSTICE
P O BOX 94005
BATON ROUGE, LA 70804-9005*

Notice is hereby given that on December 23, 2014 in the above-entitled and numbered cause, JUDGMENT AND REASONS FOR JUDGMENT was read, rendered and signed in above matter; a true and certified copy of said judgment is attached hereto.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, witness my hand and official seal of office in Belle Chasse, Louisiana, on this Tuesday, December 23, 2014.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Dorothy M. Lundin", written over a horizontal line.

*Deputy Clerk of Court for
Dorothy M. Lundin, Clerk of Court
P.O. Box 40
Belle Chasse, LA 70037*

**TWENTY-FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT PARISH OF PLAQUEMINES
STATE OF LOUISIANA**

NO. 60-961

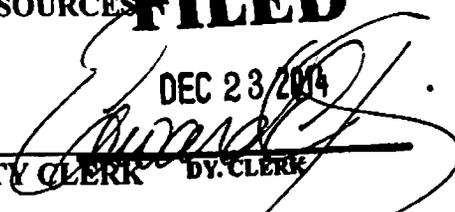
DIVISION: "A"

**THE SIERRA CLUB DELTA CHAPTER, JOYCE CORNIN,
VELMA DAVIS, THE GULF RESTORATION NETWORK, and
THE LOUISIANA ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION NETWORK**

VERSUS

THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

FILED: _____

FILED
DEC 23 2014


DEPUTY CLERK BY CLERK

JUDGMENT

This matter came on for hearing on July 21, 2014, on a Petition for Review brought by appellants Joyce Cornin, Velma Davis, The Sierra Club Delta Chapter, and The Gulf Restoration Network; appellants' Motion to Supplement Administrative Record; and a Motion to Strike brought by appellee, the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources. After hearing the arguments of counsel on all matters, the Court granted the Motion to Supplement Administrative Record with the Water Institute's "RAM Terminal Modeling Technical Memorandum" and granted appellee, the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, 21 days in which to file a supplemental brief on the newly admitted Water Institute memorandum. The Court further denied appellee's Motion to Strike. Upon receipt of appellee's supplemental memorandum, the Court took the Petition for Review under advisement.

Appellants filed a Notice of Supplemental Persuasive Authority on September 26, 2014. The Court did not consider it, as it was not solicited by the Court, and appellee objected to its admission.

PRESENT WERE: Robert Wiygul, Michael Brown and Briana Fairbanks (*pro hac vice*), attorneys for appellants, Sierra Club Delta Chapter, et al

Megan K. Terrell, Ryan M. Seidemann, Ethel Solache Graham and Jackson D. Logan, III, attorneys for appellee, the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources

The Court, upon considering the law, the arguments of counsel, and the briefs in this matter, rules as follows:

IT IS ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED BY THE COURT that appellants' Motion to Supplement Administrative Record with the Water Institute's "RAM Terminal Modeling Technical Memorandum" is hereby **GRANTED**, and the administrative record in this case is supplemented with the Water Institute's "RAM Terminal Modeling Technical Memorandum."

IT IS ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED BY THE COURT that the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources' Motion to Strike is hereby **DENIED**.

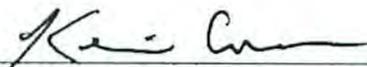
IT IS ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED BY THE COURT that the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources' action in granting a Coastal Use Permit to RAM Terminals is not supported by a preponderance of the evidence in that the Department of Natural Resources failed to fully investigate alternative sites for the RAM Terminals project and the specific commodities that RAM Terminals intends to transport by rail in connection with the project.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED BY THE COURT that the case is remanded for further proceedings in accordance with La. R.S. 49:964.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED BY THE COURT that the remaining issues raised by appellants are pretermitted, and will not be considered here.

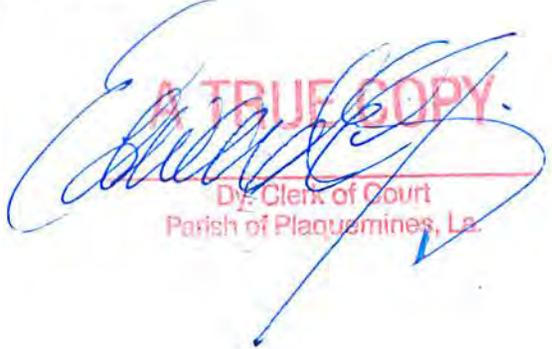
JUDGMENT READ, RENDERED, AND SIGNED at Belle Chasse, Louisiana, on this

23rd day of December, 2014.



Kevin D. Conner, Judge, Division "A"

A TRUE COPY



Clerk of Court
Parish of Plaquemines, La.

TWENTY-FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT PARISH OF PLAQUEMINES

STATE OF LOUISIANA

NO. 60-961

DIVISION: "A"

**THE SIERRA CLUB DELTA CHAPTER, JOYCE CORNIN,
VELMA DAVIS, THE GULF RESTORATION NETWORK, and
THE LOUISIANA ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION NETWORK**

VERSUS

THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

FILED

DEC 23 2014

FILED: _____

DEPUTY CLERK BY CLERK

REASONS FOR JUDGMENT

Background

This matter comes before the Court on judicial review of an administrative decision by the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, Office of Coastal Management to issue a Coastal Use Permit for the proposed RAM Terminals coal export terminal to be located on the west bank of the Mississippi River adjacent to the community of Ironton in Plaquemines Parish. Appellants Joyce Cornin and Velma Davis are residents of the Ironton community. Appellants Sierra Club, Gulf Restoration Network, and Louisiana Environmental Network are conservation organizations with members throughout the state of Louisiana.

On or about February 16, 2012, RAM Terminals, L.L.C. ("RAM Terminals") submitted the first version of its Joint Permit Application ("Application") for a Coastal Use Permit ("CUP") to the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources ("DNR"), through the Office of Coastal Management (OCM). The proposed purpose of the facility for which the permit was sought was to allow for the unloading of coal from river barges and rail cars, the storage and blending of the product, and the reclaiming and transfer of the product from open ground storage to oceangoing vessels.

On April 28, 2012, a public notice was published in the *Baton Rouge Advocate* and the public comment period began. A public hearing was held in Davant, Louisiana on August 14, 2013, and was re-convened on August 15, 2013 in Belle Chasse, Louisiana. During the

permitting process, OCM submitted to RAM Terminals requests for additional information on April 11, 2012, April 25, 2012, June 4, 2012, and August 20, 2013. In response to these requests and other actions, RAM Terminals submitted revised permit applications on March 6, 2012, April 11, 2012, April 25, 2012, August 23, 2013, and August 29, 2013. On August 30, 2013, a Statement and Recommendation Sheet was submitted to OCM's permit analyst, with approval from OCM's Coastal Resources Scientist Manager, recommending approval of the proposed project with conditions designed to minimize the project's potential impacts.

After the OCM finished its consideration of the permit and after the requisite public notice and comment periods had passed, the OCM Administrator accepted the recommendation to issue the permit and drafted the final decision document, entitled "Analysis of the Basis of Decision." On September 11, 2013, OCM issued CUP No. P20120190. Appellants filed a petition for reconsideration of the CUP, and the DNR denied it on October 1, 2013. Appellants thereafter filed a timely Petition for Review in this Court.

In their Petition for Review, appellants maintain that the DNR violated the Louisiana Constitution, Louisiana statutory law, and its own guidelines by issuing the CUP to RAM Terminals. Appellants point out that the proposed facility would fall within the Louisiana Coastal Zone, which the DNR is charged with protecting, and that it would be directly adjacent to the Mid-Barataria Settlement Diversion project, which was approved by the State of Louisiana and the United States government for restoration of threatened coastal wetlands. Appellants further contend that in issuing the CUP, the DNR acted in conflict with its legal obligations by failing to adequately consider potential alternative sites, and to fully weigh the adverse environmental impacts of the project against the questionable economic benefits. Appellants argue that DNR's action in issuing the CUP was arbitrary and capricious and in violation of Louisiana law, and that this Court should vacate the permit and remand the matter to the DNR to conduct a legally sufficient review.

The DNR responds that it complied with its constitutional, statutory, and regulatory duties, and that the substantial record shows it considered all relevant factors and coastal use guidelines and issued the CUP with appropriate conditions designed to minimize social and environmental impacts. The DNR further argues its actions in issuing the CUP to RAM Terminals were not arbitrary and capricious.

Standard of review

When reviewing an administrative final decision in an adjudication proceeding, the district court functions as an appellate court. Generally, "a person who is aggrieved by a final decision or order in an adjudication proceeding is entitled to judicial review" under the Administrative Procedure Act. La. R.S. 49:964 A(1). Proceedings are instituted in the appropriate district court by the filing of a petition for judicial review. See La. R.S. 49:964 B. "The review shall be conducted by the court without a jury and shall be confined to the record" from the agency adjudication. La. R.S. 49:964 F.¹ The court, upon request, shall also hear oral argument and receive written briefs. Id.

A reviewing court may affirm the decision of the agency or remand the case for further proceedings. See La. R.S. 49:964G. Alternatively, a reviewing court may reverse or modify an agency's findings, inferences, conclusions, or decisions "if substantial rights of the appellant have been prejudiced" because the agency's findings, inferences, conclusions, or decisions are:

(1) in violation of constitutional or statutory provisions; (2) in excess of the statutory authority of the agency; (3) made upon unlawful procedure; (4) affected by other error of law; (5) arbitrary or capricious or characterized by abuse of discretion or clearly unwarranted exercise of discretion; or (6) not supported or sustainable by a preponderance of evidence as determined by the reviewing court. Id.

In Save Ourselves, Inc. v. Louisiana Environmental Control Com'n, 452 So.2d 1152, 1159 (La.1984), the Louisiana Supreme Court explained that the manifest error test is used in reviewing the facts as found by the administrative tribunal; the arbitrary and capricious test is used in reviewing the administrative tribunal's conclusions and its exercise of discretion. As the terms are employed in La. R.S. 49:964G(5), an "arbitrary" decision shows disregard of evidence or the proper weight thereof, while a "capricious" decision has no substantial evidence to support it or the conclusion is contrary to substantiated competent evidence. Chadwick v. Louisiana

¹ The Court granted, over appellee's objection, appellants' Motion to Supplement the Administrative Record with a report entitled RAM Terminal CFD Modeling Technical Memorandum, prepared by The Water Institute of the Gulf and Arcadis, U.S., LLC and dated October 23, 2012. The report analyzes the potential impacts of the RAM Terminal on the Mid-Barataria Settlement Diversion project at Myrtle Grove. Appellants and appellees assert that the report was available to the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority during the permitting process. Appellants also maintain that the document was available to the DNR during that time. When appellants sought to have the report made part of the record in the administrative proceeding, the DNR denied the request. The Court recognizes that La. R.S. 49:964E allows a district court to order the agency to consider additional evidence. In this instance, the Court allowed the additional evidence to be added to the record on review as a measure of judicial economy. The Court allowed appellee to submit a supplemental memorandum in response to the admission of the report.

Licensed Professional Counselors Bd. of Examiners, 12-0562, p. 7 (La. App. 1 Cir. 12/21/12), 111 So. 3d 420, 424-25 (La. App. 1 Cir. 2012) writ denied, 13-0198 (La. 3/1/13), 108 So.3d 1181; Cedyco Corp. v. Department of Natural Resources, 07-2500, p. 6 (La.App. 1 Cir. 7/23/08), 993 So.2d 271, 275. The sixth standard in La. R.S. 49:964G originally required that a "manifest error" test be used in reviewing the facts as found by the agency. Since the Save Ourselves opinion, that standard has been replaced by a "preponderance of evidence" test. Presumably, the "preponderance of evidence" standard of review extends only to facts as did the manifest error rule it replaced.

The Louisiana Supreme Court has mandated that the administrative agency, in reaching its final decision, must clearly articulate the facts it considered and the basis for its findings. The agency must show a rational connection between the facts found and the order issued. Matter of American Waste and Pollution Control Co., 93-3163, p. 18-19 (La. 9/15/94), 642 So.2d 1258, 1266 (quoting Save Ourselves); Save Ourselves, 452 So.2d at 1159. See also Matter of Cytec Industries, Inc., 94-1693 (La. App. 1 Cir. 2/23/96), 672 So. 2d 179, 181.

Analysis

The concept that the natural resources of the state constitute a public trust is embodied in Article IX, Section 1 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974, which provides:

The natural resources of the state, including air and water, and the healthful, scenic, historic, and esthetic quality of the environment shall be protected, conserved, and replenished insofar as possible and consistent with the health, safety, and welfare of the people. The legislature shall enact laws to implement this policy.

This provision "imposes a duty of environmental protection on all state agencies and officials, establishes a standard of environmental protection, and mandates the legislature to enact laws to implement fully this policy." Save Ourselves, 452 So.2d at 1156. The Louisiana Supreme Court has interpreted this constitutional standard as a "rule of reasonableness" which "requires a balancing process in which environmental costs and benefits must be given full and careful consideration along with economic, social and other factors." Matter of American Waste, 93-3163 at 7, 642 So.2d at 1262 (quoting Save Ourselves, 452 So.2d at 1157).

Pursuant to the constitutional mandate, the State and Local Coastal Restoration Management Act ("the Act") was enacted. The Act declares it is "public policy" of this state that "[t]o protect, develop, and, where feasible, restore or enhance the resources of the state's coastal

zone." La. R.S. 49:214.22(1). The Act establishes a coastal management program within the DNR, and requires that anyone seeking to engage in activities that will significantly impact coastal waters to obtain a coastal use permit from the DNR. La. R.S. 49:214.26; La. R.S. 49:214.30.

Appellants contend that DNR's issuance of the CUP to RAM Terminals was improper because DNR failed to analyze alternative sites or mitigating measures that could offer more protection to the environment than the proposed project. DNR responds that there is no requirement that applicants specifically name alternative sites.

The Court has reviewed the administrative record in this case, along with the appeal briefs submitted by the parties and the oral arguments of counsel. The Court agrees with appellants' arguments that DNR failed to sufficiently gather and consider information regarding alternative sites for the RAM Terminals project, and to specifically determine what commodities other than coal RAM Terminals will transport by rail.

Louisiana Administrative Code 43.I.701 provides guidelines for applicable coastal uses. Subsection (F) requires the permit applicant to provide information regarding nineteen enumerated factors. Factor number five on that list is "availability of feasible alternative sites or methods of implementing the use." As DNR suggests, there is no clear directive on the precise quantity or quality of the evidence necessary to satisfy the "alternative sites" condition. But in Matter of Rubicon, Inc., 95-0108, p. 12 (La. App. 1 Cir. 2/14/96), 670 So. 2d 475, 483, the Louisiana First Circuit held that the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality must consider whether "there are alternative projects or alternative sites or mitigating measures which would offer more protection to the environment than the proposed project without unduly curtailing non-environmental benefits to the extent applicable. Also, in Matter of American Waste and Pollution Control Co., 633 So. 2d 188 (La. App. 1 Cir. 1993) writ granted, 634 So. 2d 837 (La. 1994) and aff'd and remanded, 93-3163 (La. 9/15/94), 642 So. 2d 1258, the First Circuit vacated the DEQ's approval of a permit for construction of a solid waste facility upon finding it was issued without proper evaluation of alternative sites to determine comparative environmental impacts. The Court stated:

We have held that decisions need not be of "ideal clarity" if the agency's findings, reasons, and exercise of discretion are necessarily and clearly implied by the record. See Blackett, 506 So.2d at 755. However, we cannot supply a finding from the evidence or a reasoned basis for the DEQ secretary's action that the DEQ secretary has not found or given. Save Ourselves, 452 So.2d at 1160.

Id., 633 So.2d at 194.

Not only did RAM fail to specifically name an alternative site in its application, but the record does not show that DNR exercised any independent evaluation of alternate sites. Instead, DNR deferred to RAM's assertion, unsupported by any actual evidence, that *alternative sites* were not feasible. DNR seems to have relied entirely on a document entitled "Alternatives Analysis," supplied by RAM. Unfortunately, the "Alternatives Analysis" consists of only two sentences, which state: "RAM also looked at other sites around the Gulf Coast. Many sites presented optimum rail access or quality deepwater access but none offered both of these features in an area with easy access to foreign export markets." RAM provided no analysis of the relative environmental impacts of alternative sites for its proposed coal terminal, or whether another site would offer more protection to the environment than the proposed project.

RAM's alternative site response appears to be a recitation of the company's business decision to purchase the selected site based on its economic potential; other sites were simply not "ideal," and the selected site would economically more advantageous for exporting overseas. However, the purpose of an alternative site analysis is not to identify the best economic alternative, but to analyze all viable alternatives and their environmental impacts. See Matter of American Waste, 633 So.2d at 196.

When the Court inquired of counsel for DNR who determines whether an applicant has actually examined alternative sites, counsel responded that DNR does not have the resources to investigate all alternative sites cited by applicants, but that it does question applicants regarding alternate sites. In this instance, however, any inquiries DNR made were not fruitful.

This leads to another concerning issue. Based on RAM's own statements, it is unclear whether rail is even necessary to its project. While RAM asserted in its application that the rail line was one of the primary reasons it selected the Ironton site, it also stated that, due to "market conditions, RAM expects limited utilization of the rail facility," averaging zero to three trains per week. RAM further provided that it will use the rail line to transport little, if any, coal, and will instead use it for "lower volume" products including sustainable fuels and agricultural products. Paradoxically, DNR cites RAM's claim that it requires rail access in finding there are no alternative site, and also RAM's claims on the limited need for rail access to address concerns about increases in rail traffic. If, as RAM has claimed, the primary function of the facility will

be the transfer of coal, and the rail line will rarely--if ever--be used to transport coal, access to the rail line should not have been a primary factor in site selection.

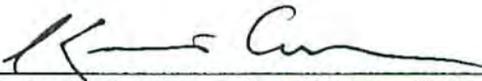
The prospect of unknown substances being transported by rail through the most heavily populated portion of Plaquemines Parish is a matter of concern in the context of Article IX, Section 1 of the Louisiana Constitution, and as such, it is of concern to the Court. RAM provided no details regarding what substances it plans to transport by rail. As appellants point out, there is nothing in RAM's permit to limit RAM to transporting certain commodities. DNR argues that any unforeseen environmental impacts caused by RAM Terminals' activities will be policed by the Department of Environmental Quality. But the court in Save Ourselves found that an environmental agency's "role as the representative of the public interest does not permit it to act as an umpire passively calling balls and strikes for adversaries appearing before it; the rights of the public must receive active and affirmative protection at the hands of the commission." Save Ourselves, 452 So. 2d at 1157.

While state agencies in Louisiana are always required to analyze alternative sites to reduce environmental impacts, the requirement is particularly important in this case, which is to be located on the same parcel of land as Louisiana's first major wetlands restoration project, the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion ("Diversion"). The Environmental Protection Agency, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Louisiana Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority all recognized the high potential for physical and ecological conflicts between the Diversion and the proposed RAM Terminals facility. Given this high potential for conflicts with a vital wetlands restoration and coastal protection project, it is imperative that the state fulfill its duty to safeguard the public trust by analyzing potential alternative sites for the RAM Terminals facility which might prevent negative environmental impacts.

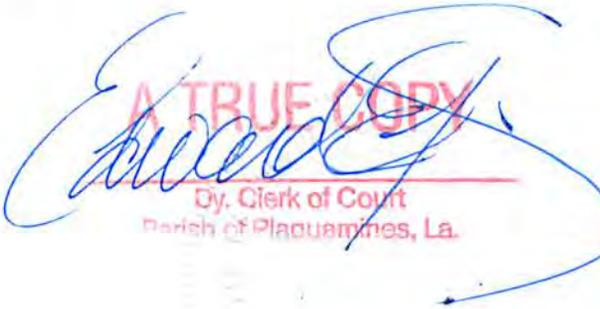
The Court finds that the DNR has breached its duty as public trustee under the Coastal Use Guidelines and the Louisiana Constitution by failing to fully investigate alternative sites for the RAM Terminals project and the specific commodities that RAM Terminals intends to transport by rail in connection with the project. The Court finds that DNR's action in granting the CUP to RAM Terminals is not supported by a preponderance of the evidence. The remaining arguments of appellants are pretermitted and will not be addressed.

Based on the foregoing, the case is remanded for further proceedings in accordance with La. R.S. 49:964 and Save Ourselves, 452 So.2d at 1159.

READ, RENDERED, AND SIGNED at Belle Chasse, Louisiana, on this 23rd
day of December, 2014.



Kevin D. Conner, Judge, Division "A"


A TRUE COPY
By, Clerk of Court
Parish of Plaquemines, La.



September 5, 2017

Mr. Brad Inman, Senior Project Manager
Mr. Brad LaBorde, Regulatory Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District
7400 Leake Ave
New Orleans, LA 70118
Email: CEMVN-Midbarataria@usace.army.mil

**RE: Scope of environmental review for Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion
CEMVN-PM-P #2013-0634 (Section 408)
CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-EOO (Section 10/404)**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the scope of the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps)'s Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) regarding the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA)'s Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion (MBSD). These comments are submitted on behalf of the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club Delta Chapter has more than 2,850 members in Louisiana and is dedicated to protecting and restoration the quality of Louisiana's natural and human environment.

The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion, a \$1 billion project in Louisiana's Coastal Master Plan, is a precedence-setting opportunity and an ambitious test. As such, it is critical that this potential blueprint for large-scale coastal restoration is done right. These comments include direct, indirect and cumulative impacts that we would like the Corps to study as well as proposed alternatives to the existing application.

This request for study includes: the impact of MBSD on levees and flooding; the impact of MBSD on the adjacent and historic Black community of Ironton, fishing communities, Indigenous communities and nearby communities like Wood Park and Myrtle Grove; questions concerning a privately-owned rail-bridge-to-nowhere; and an investigation of conflicts between the proposed RAM coal export terminal and Louisiana's coastal restoration plans. Alternative suggestions are made in the spirit that 1) restoration plans work with people towards solutions, instead of inducing displacement 2) that the public funds for MBSD are solely utilized for ecological restoration and residential risk reduction.

Levees & Flooding

- Please study how the MBSD will impact river levees and back levees, including how conveyance channel walls and the proposed pump station could change flooding dynamics around Ironton and surrounding areas. Please ground this analysis in the current height and structural integrity of river levees and back levees.
- Please study how the MBSD and surrounding areas would be impacted by various kinds of storms, from rain events to hurricanes, including navigational hazards that could occur.
- Please include local Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) in ecological and climate change modeling of anticipated and/or foreseeable impacts that could impact the MBSD project design and surrounding areas.

People, culture and natural resources

- Please complete a Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) study of MBSD that includes nearby and adjacent communities, particularly Black and Indigenous communities and fishing communities.
- Please study the impact of MBSD on surrounding area soils/wetlands.
- Please study the impact of MBSD on fish and associated subsistence and commercial practices.
- Please study the anticipated traffic and traffic patterns from a Highway 23 bridge and a rail bridge. How will Ironton have unimpeded access to Hwy 23? How will safety given a bridge component be addressed?
- Please study the impact of construction on surrounding communities safety and health, including access to water, power and transportation as well as impacts to homes.

Railroad:

- Please investigate if there is a justification for using coastal restoration dollars to build a private rail company bridge, given that, were the rail bridge constructed in its current alignment, it would end in the woods, upriver of Ironton. Here is what the end of the tracks look like, right now:

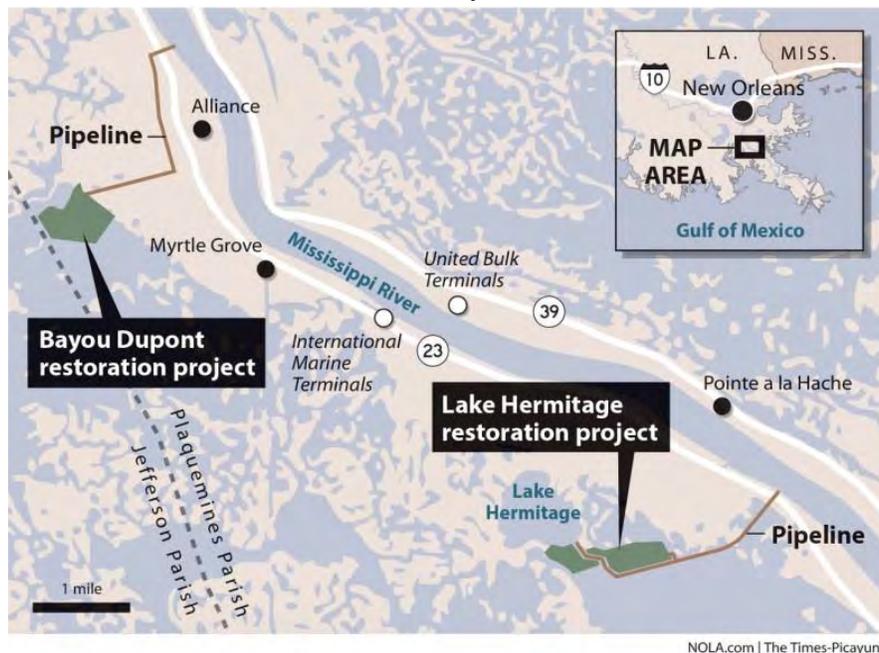
Where the railroad ends (below, left: Photo taken from the river levee, below, right: Google Earth screenshot)



- Please study what kind of rail traffic is planned for the rail, the economic feasibility and justification of this rail line, how rail traffic would impact the safety of Ironton (particularly evacuation routes in the foreseeable event of a significant weather event), and how rail traffic could impact the river levee, particularly evacuation routes in the foreseeable event of a significant weather event.

Proposed RAM coal export terminal:

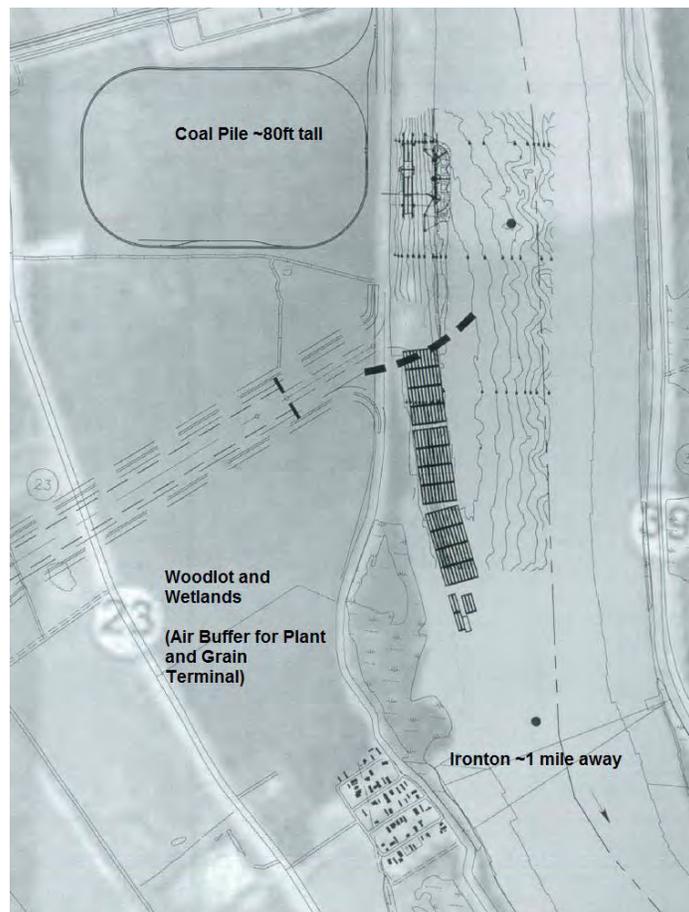
- Please study how the proposed RAM coal export terminal, or any pilings in the river and barges sited near/adjacent to the diversion would affect sediment flow and navigation. A Water Institute of the Gulf and Arcadis initial technical memorandum from 2012 found that presence of pilings in the river near the mouth of MBSD could reduce the ‘sediment-water ratio’ by 17%. Please expand upon this study. Document attached as a supplement to this comment)
- Please study how the Memorandum of Agreement CPRA signed with the RAM coal export terminal would affect CPRA’s “Adaptive Management Plan” as mentioned in the project description in this permit application (5a. Describe the Project, 11p), particularly as it relates to navigation and operation of the MBSD. Document attached as a supplement to this comment.
- Please study how an 80ft uncovered coal pile, as indicated in the RAM coal export terminal’s permit application (site drawing below) would impact the MBSD, including the foreseeable event of hurricanes or heavy rain events.



Times-Picayune map showing sediment pipeline down river from existing coal export terminals IMT & United Bulk



*Lake Hermitage coastal restoration project, coal and pet coke pollution in river sediments from upriver facilities
Photo (2014): Jeffrey Dubinsky, Louisiana Environmental Action Network*



RAM coal export terminal from company's permit application; lines indicate MBSD

Alternatives

- Please consider an alternative MBSD design that includes risk reduction components, such as raising homes, for Ironton and surrounding communities (note: risk reduction is part of the coastal master plan).
- Please work with fishing communities to consider alternatives and risk reduction components and to explore transition plans.
- Please study beneficial and strategic alternatives for the “disposal area”
 - What is the best use of excavated material in digging the conveyance channel? How do options like using the material to raise ground in Ironton, fortify the back levee and/or fill in burrow pits compare to the currently suggested “disposal area”?
- Please consider an alternative alignment of conveyance channel that is further upriver
 - Please study the benefits of moving the conveyance channel upriver, for example over existing burrow pits sites, to avoid additional digging in an already stressed, de-stabilized wetland area, and to lengthen the distance between the channel and residences
- Please consider an alternative MBSD that does not include railroad and redirects the price tag for the rail segment towards other improvements.
- Please consider an alternative plan that does not include a RAM coal export terminal nor other new adjacent facility.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,



Grace Morris
Organizing Representative
New Orleans, LA
Sierra Club

To:

Copies:

Technical Memorandum

From:

Ehab Meselhe (The Water Institute)
John Richardson (ARCADIS)
Hugh Roberts (ARCADIS)
Randy Lagumbay (ARCADIS)

The Water Institute of the Gulf
301 N. Main St., Suite 2000
Baton Rouge, LA 70825

Date:

October 23, 2012

Project No.:

ARCADIS U.S., Inc.
4999 Pearl East Circle, Suite 200
Boulder, CO 80301

Subject:

RAM Terminal CFD Modeling Technical Memorandum

1. Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the results of Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) simulations used to analyze the transport of sediment to the proposed diversion channel at Myrtle Grove and to evaluate the flow patterns due to the proposed construction of the RAM terminal facility. To help with the analyses, numerical simulations of flow from River Mile (RM) 56.0 to RM 62.7 were carried out with the commercial CFD program known as **FLOW-3D** (www.flow3d.com). This program was previously used by The Water Institute to carry out hydrodynamics and sediment transport analysis in lower Mississippi near Myrtle Grove (Meselhe et al, 2011).

The results of the analyses described herein were used to evaluate the effect of the proposed construction of the RAM facility on the sediment transport to the proposed Myrtle Grove delta diversion.

2. Approach

A three dimensional CFD model of the proposed RAM terminal facility with vessels combined with river bathymetry and proposed diversion channel was used to analyze sediment transport and to evaluate flow patterns approaching the facility and the diversion channel. This model was constructed within the framework of the **FLOW-3D** software package and was based on previous work carried out by The Water Institute (Meselhe et al, 2011).

The primary objectives of this study are to examine potential changes to the flow patterns near the intake of the proposed diversion and in the vicinity of the proposed RAM facility, and to determine the potential impact on the amount of sediment (sediment/water ratio) transported to the proposed diversion channel due to the presence of the RAM terminal facility placed upstream of the diversion.

The following describes the model setup in **FLOW-3D**.

Geometry

The model was created using **Rhino** pre-processing software. The model included the river bathymetry, proposed diversion channel, RAM terminal facility, and barge and ship. The river bathymetry and diversion channel was obtained from the previous study (Meselhe et al, 2011). The river bathymetry extends from River Mile (RM) 56.0 to RM 62.7 (Figure 1). CAD drawings of the terminal facility and barge and ship were provided by Lanier & Associates Consulting Engineers, Inc. The drawings were used to create geometries of the terminal facility and barge and ship, and combined with the river bathymetry (Figure 2).

Boundary Conditions

For consistency reasons, the boundary conditions used in this analysis are the same as those used in the previous modeling effort. The boundary conditions used in this study are as follows:

- Solid boundaries including river bed, diversion channel, barge and ship were specified. Standard Wall functions were used to compute the shear stress at the no-slip boundary.
- The terminal structures were modeled as porous planes to emulate the effect of the piers on the water flow. Twelve porous planes (baffles in **FLOW-3D**) were used to model the structures (Figures 3 and 4). Porosity and loss coefficients of the baffles are summarized in Table 1.
- The water surface was modeled as a sharp, free surface allowing accurate representation of the water/air interface.

Mesh Generation

Creating an appropriate computational mesh is an important aspect of every numeric modeling. The flow field is discretized into a number of small elements (cells) for solving the governing equations of fluid flow. The cell size must be small enough to capture the flow features of interest. In this study, the computational mesh used in the simulation is the same from the previous model to be consistent with the

analyses. Additional refinements to the mesh near the RAM facility and the intake of the proposed diversions were made. These refinements (horizontal grid spacing reduced from 15 meter to 2.5 meters) were made to enhance the ability to capture the details of the flow field.

3. Simulations

Several simulations were carried out in this study - all for a 700,000 cfs river flow. A description of these runs is provided below:

- Run #1 – Baseline condition. The model included only the river bathymetry and the proposed diversion channel (no facility, no barge and no ship).
- Run #2 – The model included the river bathymetry, proposed diversion channel, loading barge, and ship at - 40 feet draft (no facility).
- Run #3 – The model included the river bathymetry, proposed diversion channel, loading barge, ship at - 40 feet draft, and the terminal facility.
- Run #4 – The model included the river bathymetry, proposed diversion channel, loading barge, ship at - 9 feet draft, and the terminal facility.
- Run #5 – The model included the river bathymetry, proposed diversion channel, loading barge, ship at - 40 feet draft, terminal facility, and a guide vane at the entrance of the diversion.
- Run #6 – The model included the river bathymetry, proposed diversion channel, loading barge, and the terminal facility (no ship and no guide vane).

4. Results

Simulation results are presented both qualitatively and quantitatively. Qualitative results, appearing in Figures 5 through 16, show the trajectory of streamlines and velocity contours in the vicinity of the facility and entrance of the diversion channel. Streamlines were back calculated from the diversion channel to show where water entering the diversion came from. Velocity contours were used to show flow separation behind the ship.

Figures 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 show streamlines entering the diversion from different heights in the water column for Run #'s 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6; respectively.

Figures 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 show velocity contours at elevation 4.1 feet (NAVD88) for Run #'s 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6; respectively.

Sediments were represented by five different sizes of particles (32 microns, 63 microns, 96 microns, 125 microns, and 250 microns). Figure 17 shows the distribution of particles for Run #3 as an example. Particles were released upstream of the facility after obtaining a converged solution of flow fields.

Quantitative results of the sediment analysis are summarized in Table 2.

5. Closing Remarks and Preliminary Conclusions

The analysis presented in this letter-report provides a summary of the 8-week modeling effort performed to assess the potential impact of the RAM facility on the flow field in the vicinity of the facility and the intake of the proposed sediment diversion at Myrtle Grove, and on the efficiency of the proposed diversion to capture sediment from the main river channel.

The following are closing remarks and preliminary conclusions:

1. Figure 2 shows the presence and relative-size of the RAM facility near the intake of the proposed sediment diversion. Navigation concerns should be fully investigated to assess the potential impact on vessel traffic generated by the RAM facility with the presence of the cross-flow generated by the proposed Myrtle Grove sediment diversion. The investigation of navigational concerns was not part of the scope of the analysis presented here.
2. During the course of this analysis, it was indicated that barges would pass in front of the proposed diversion intake and park immediately downstream of the intake and along the right descending bank of the Mississippi River. Safety concerns for these vessels should be fully investigated due to the cross-flow generated by the proposed Myrtle Grove sediment diversion. Typically "ship-simulators" are used to address these safety concerns. The investigation of safety concerns was not part of the scope of the analysis presented here.
3. Figures 5 through 16 show the impact of the presence of the facility, barges and ship on the flow field near the intake of the proposed diversion. The difference in the flow pattern is visually detectable in these figures. These changes influence the location from which water is being drawn into the outfall channel and affect the water-sediment ratio.
4. Special emphasis should be placed on Run#1 and Run#3, representing the base case and the RAM facility presence. The Sediment-Water ratio was reduced by nearly 17%. A reduction in the sediment-water ration results in a loss of sand load diverted through the outfall channel. For an assumed pulse lasting 30 days per year, such a loss of sand load diverted through the outfall is summarized in Table 2. Nearly 500,000 tons of Sand will be lost in a decade due to the presence of the RAM facility. Despite the uncertainty present in any numerical model, the results of all the

simulations performed here showed persistent reduction of sediment load captured in the outfall channel due to the presence of the RAM facility. Additional simulations might narrow the range of variability stated in this comment, however the impact is likely to persist.

5. The streamlines shown in Figures 5 through 10 indicate that debris and dust generated during the loading process would be captured in the outfall channel and transported into the marsh areas potentially causing environmental issues. The investigation of water quality was not part of the scope of this analysis, but should be investigated to assess such environmental impact.
6. There is limited number of lateral bars in the Lower Mississippi River (downstream of River Mile 90 Above Head of Passes) and they are targeted as a resource to restore coastal Louisiana. Some of these bars are designated as a resource for the earthen sill needed during drought conditions. That further reduces the number of lateral bars available for coastal restoration. The existence of the RAM loading facility on top a lateral bar would severely limit the ability to harness the available sand directly through dredging or using other agitating techniques to increase the amount of sediment diverted toward the outfall channel.
7. The existence of the RAM loading facility upstream of the diversion intake may pose hazard to the foundation and pilings of the loading facility. Field measurements at West Bay shows several feet of erosion occurring upstream of a diversion.

6. References

Meselhe, E.A., Georgiou, I., and McCorquodale, J.A., "Myrtle Grove Delta Building Diversion Report", 2011.

5. Figures



Figure 1. Model Domain from RM 56.0 to RM 62.7

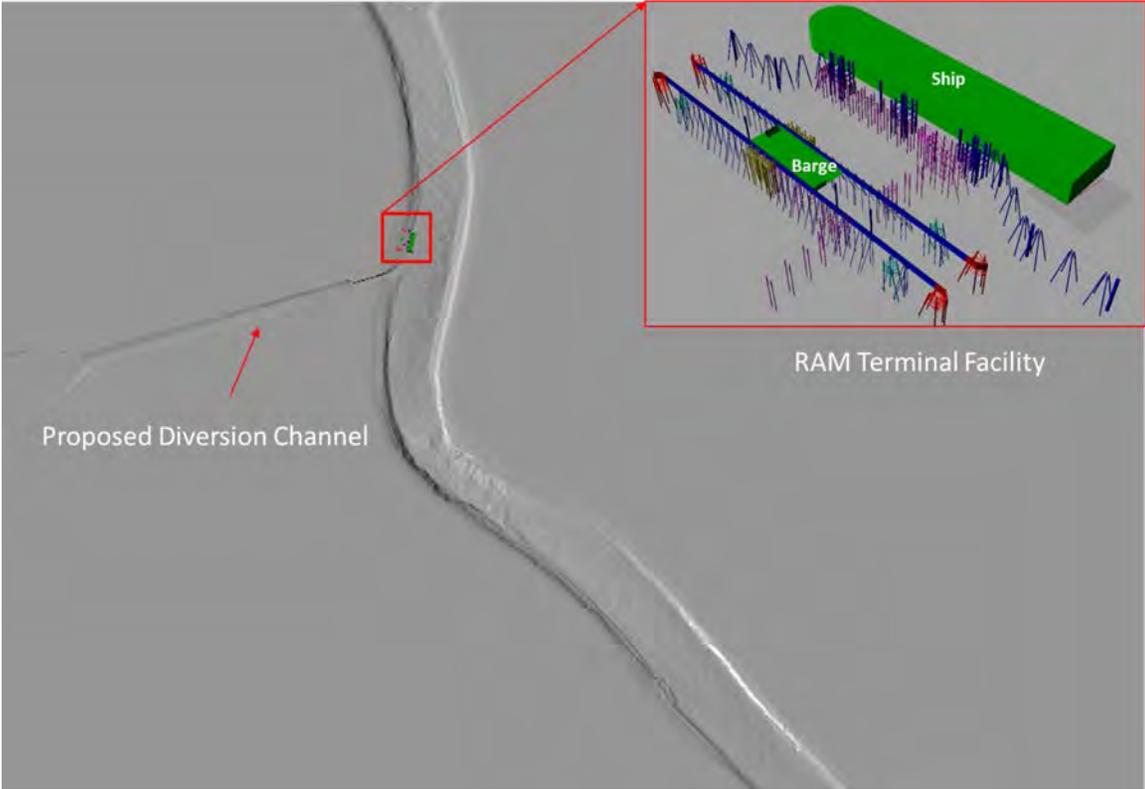


Figure 2. FLOW-3D Model of the RAM Terminal Facility Combined With the River Bathymetry and Proposed Diversion Channel.

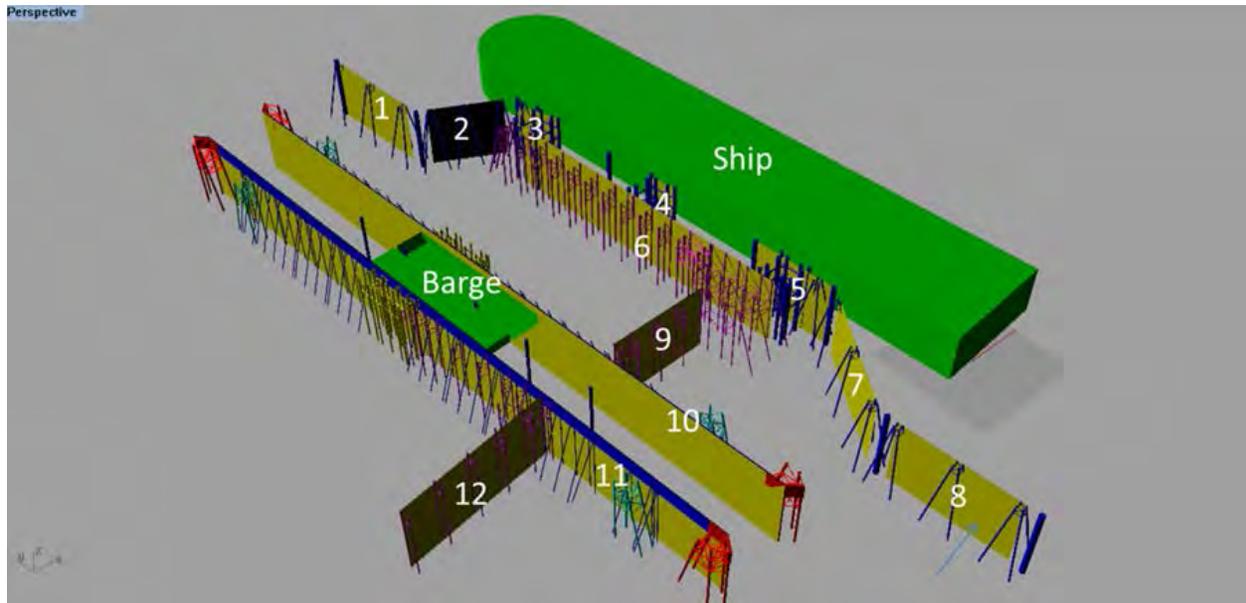


Figure 3. Twelve Porous Jump Planes (Baffles) Were Used To Model The Terminal Structures.

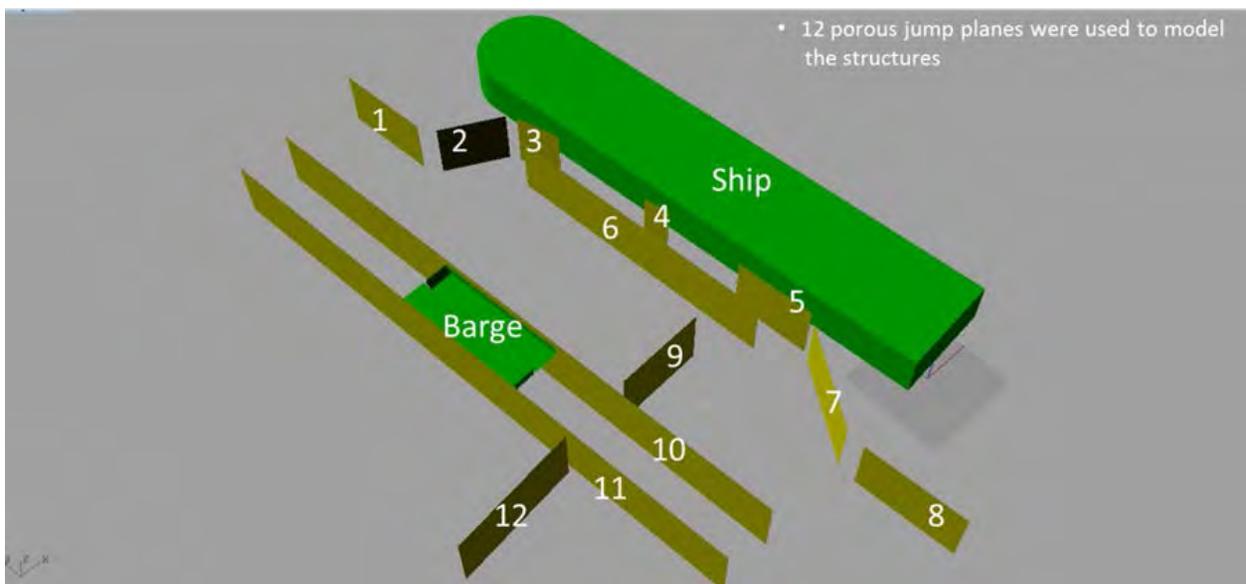


Figure 4. The Terminal Structures Were Replaced With Twelve Porous Jump Planes (Baffles).

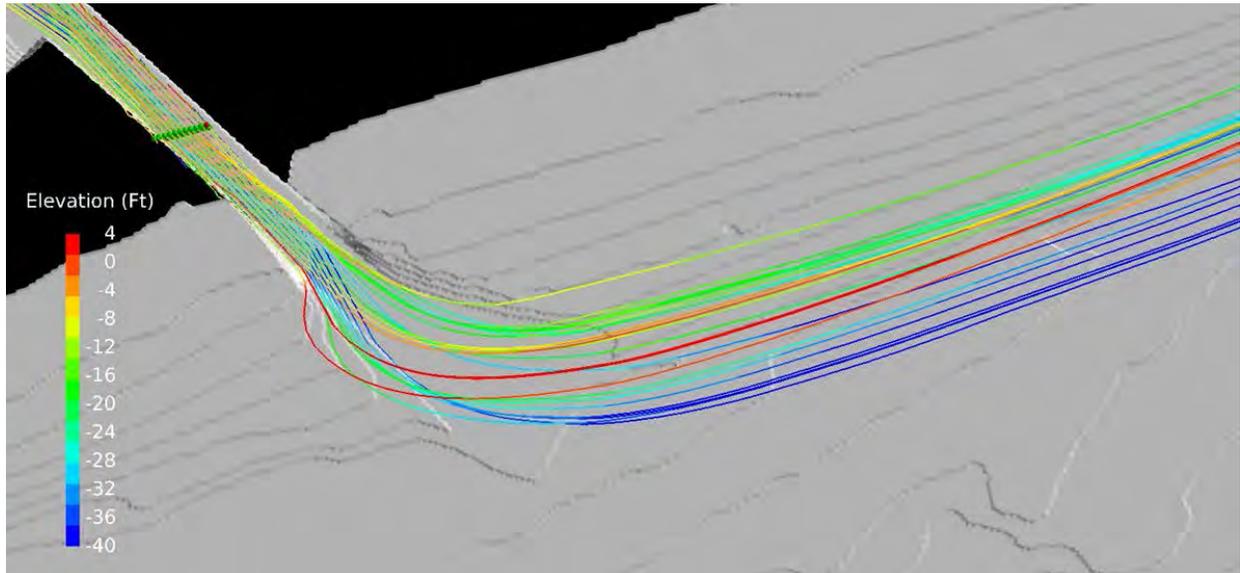


Figure 5. Run #1, Streamlines Back Calculated from the Diversion Channel.

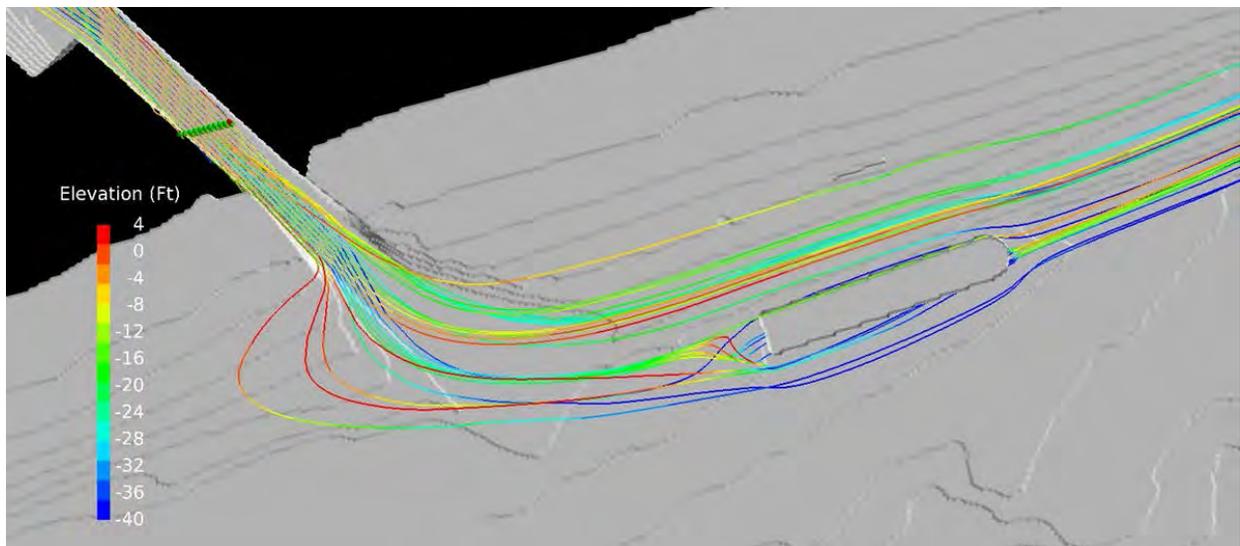


Figure 6. Run #2, Streamlines Back Calculated from the Diversion Channel.

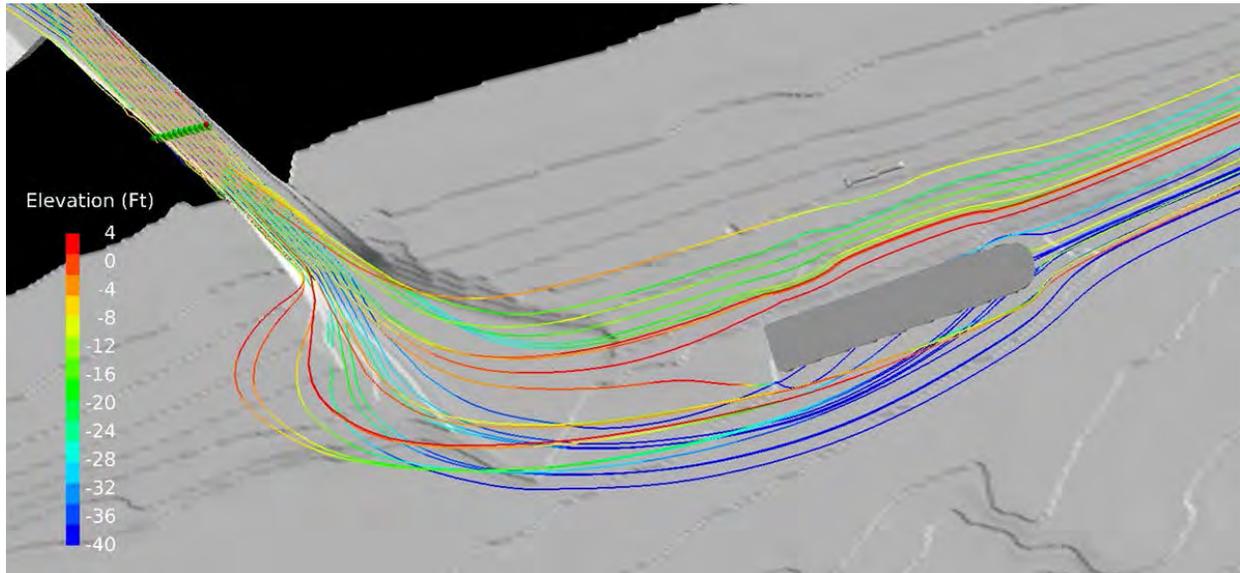


Figure 7. Run #3, Streamlines Back Calculated from the Diversion Channel.

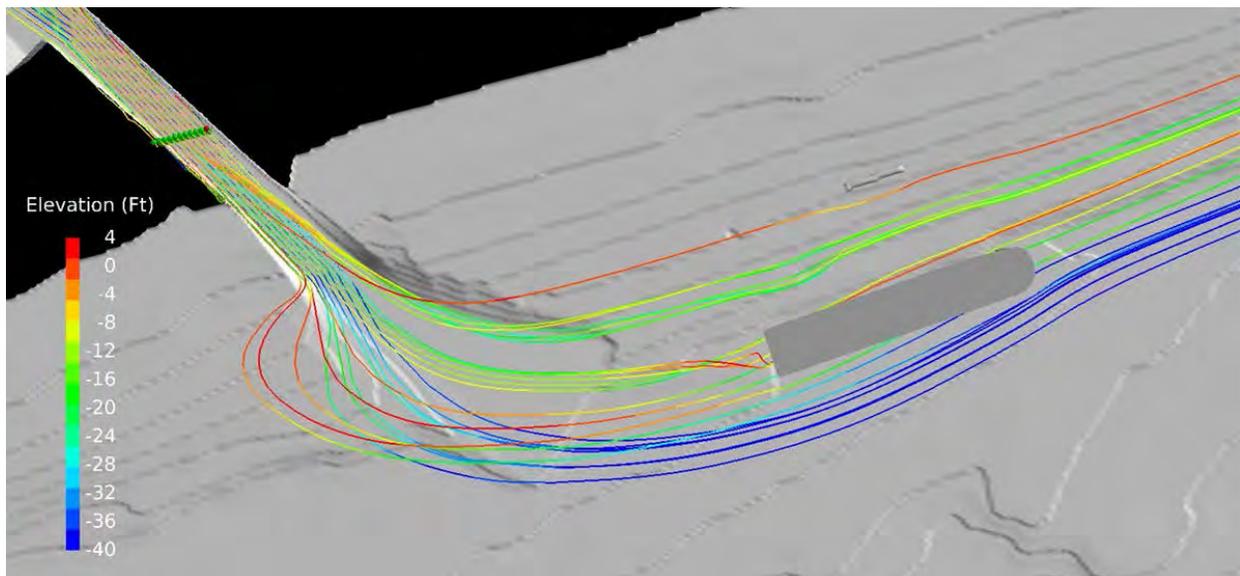


Figure 8. Run #4, Streamlines Back Calculated from the Diversion Channel.

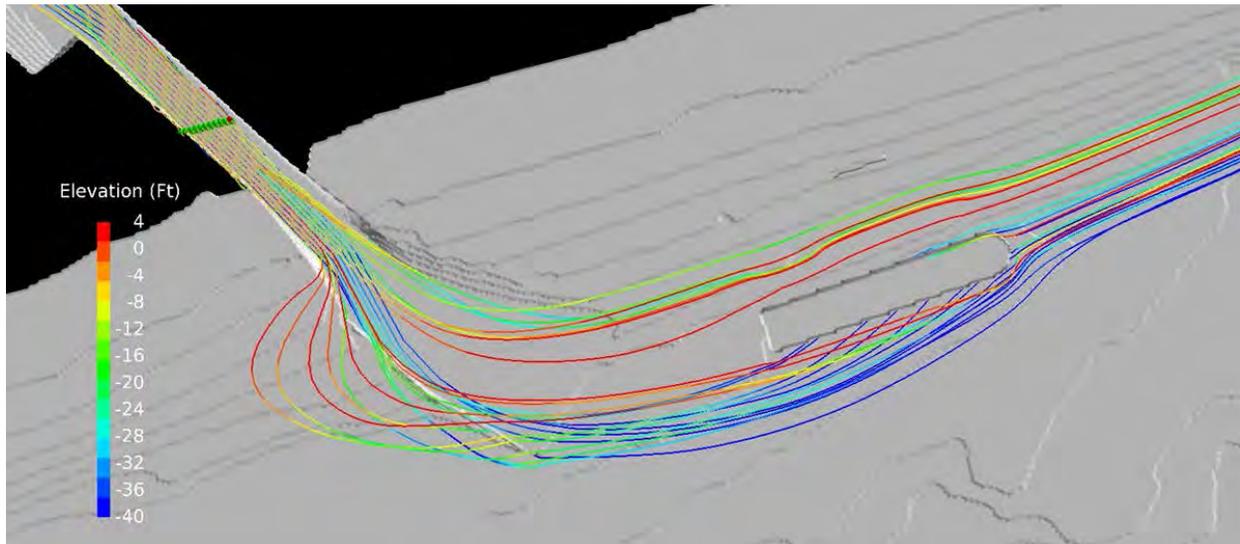


Figure 9. Run #5, Streamlines Back Calculated from the Diversion Channel.

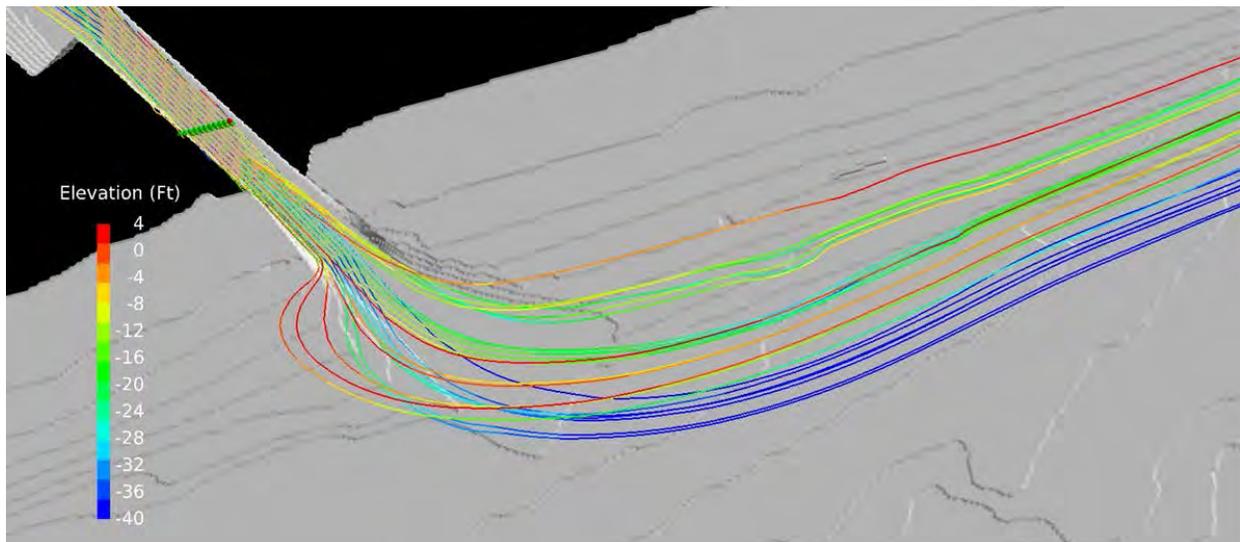


Figure 10. Run #6, Streamlines Back Calculated from the Diversion Channel.

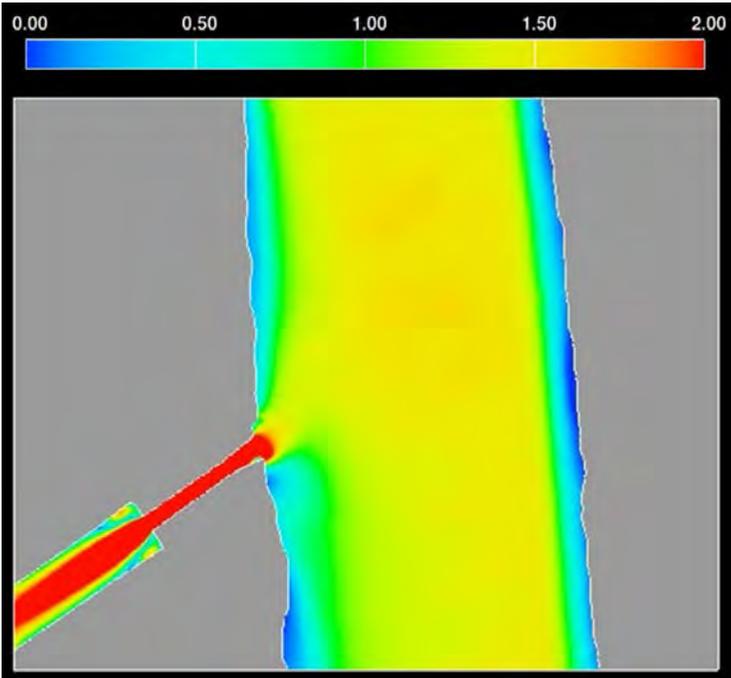


Figure 11. Run #1, Water Velocity at Elevation +4.1 Feet NAVD88.

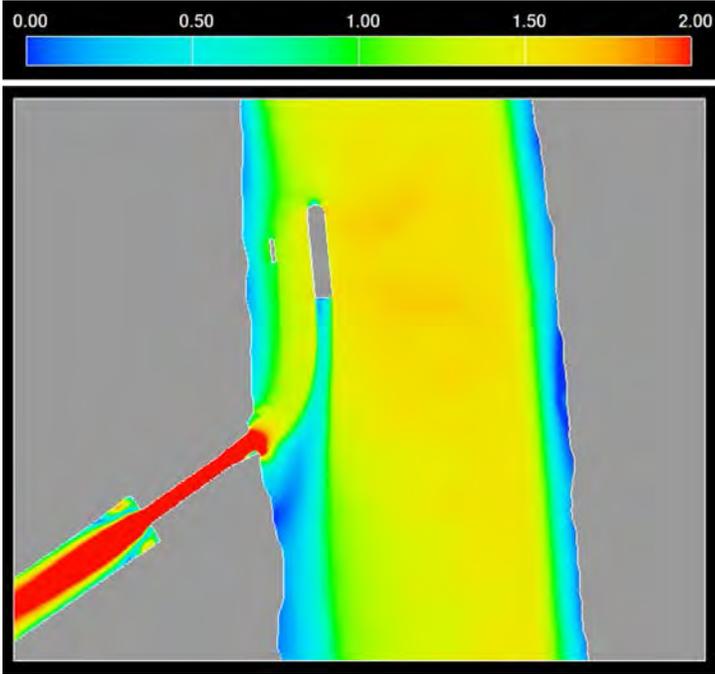


Figure 12. Run #2, Water Velocity at Elevation +4.1 Feet NAVD88.

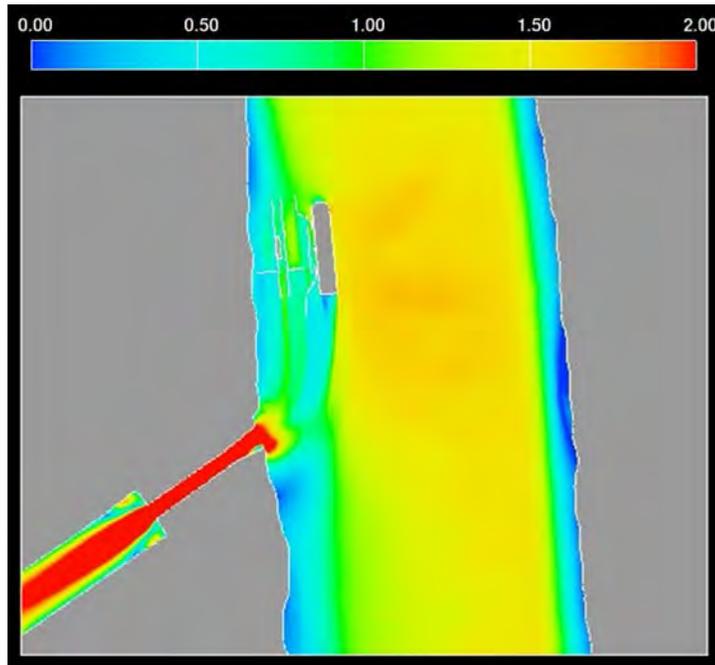


Figure 13. Run #3, Water Velocity at Elevation +4.1 Feet NAVD88.

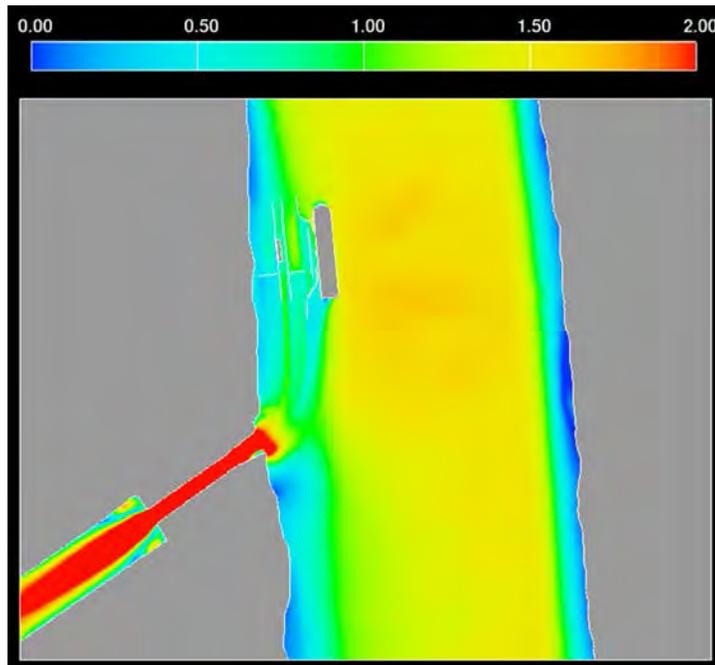


Figure 14. Run #4, Water Velocity at Elevation +4.1 Feet NAVD88.

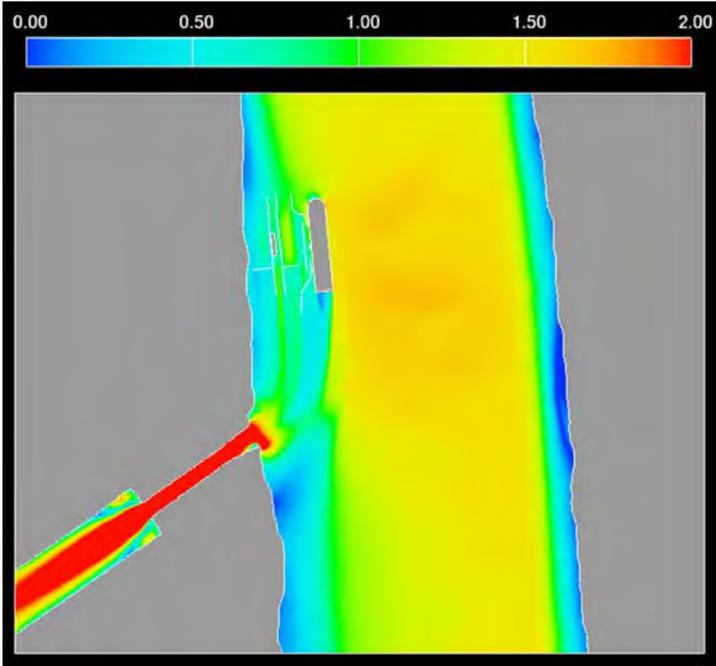


Figure 15. Run #5, Water Velocity at Elevation +4.1 Feet NAVD88.

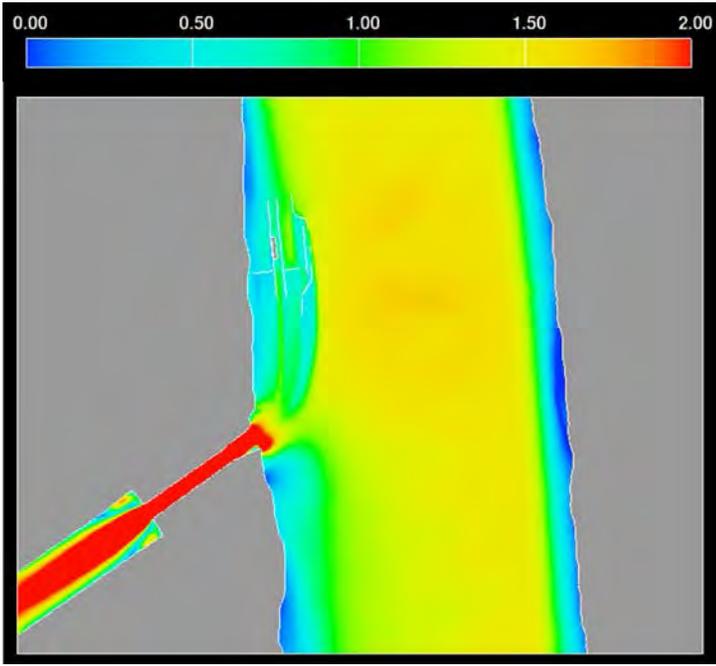


Figure 16. Run #6, Water Velocity at Elevation +4.1 Feet NAVD88.

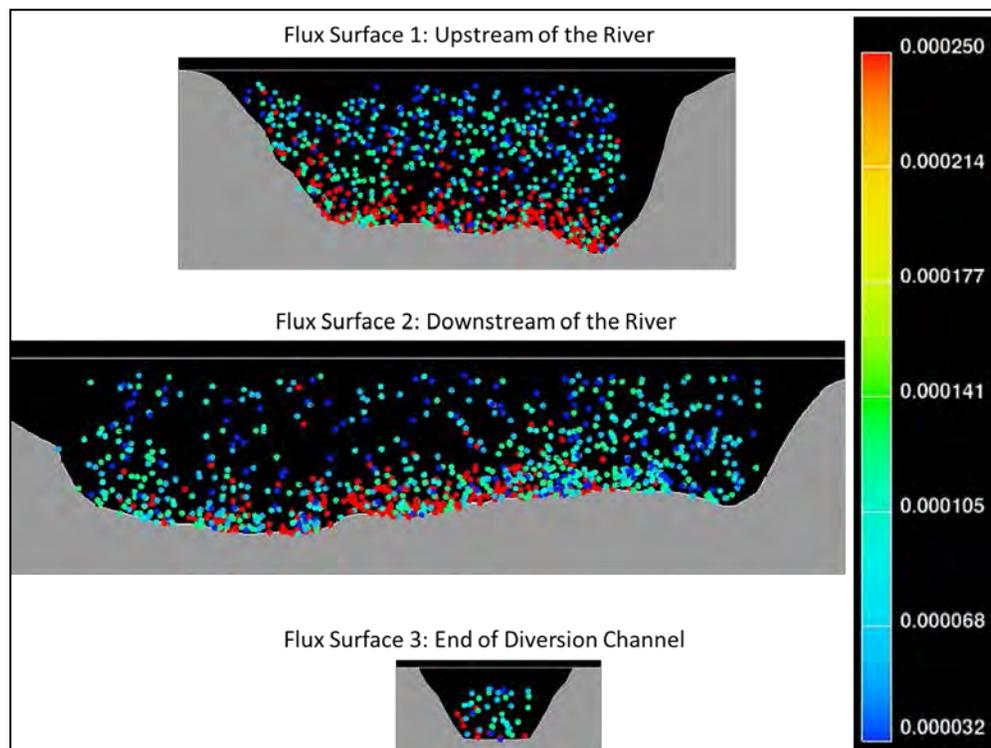
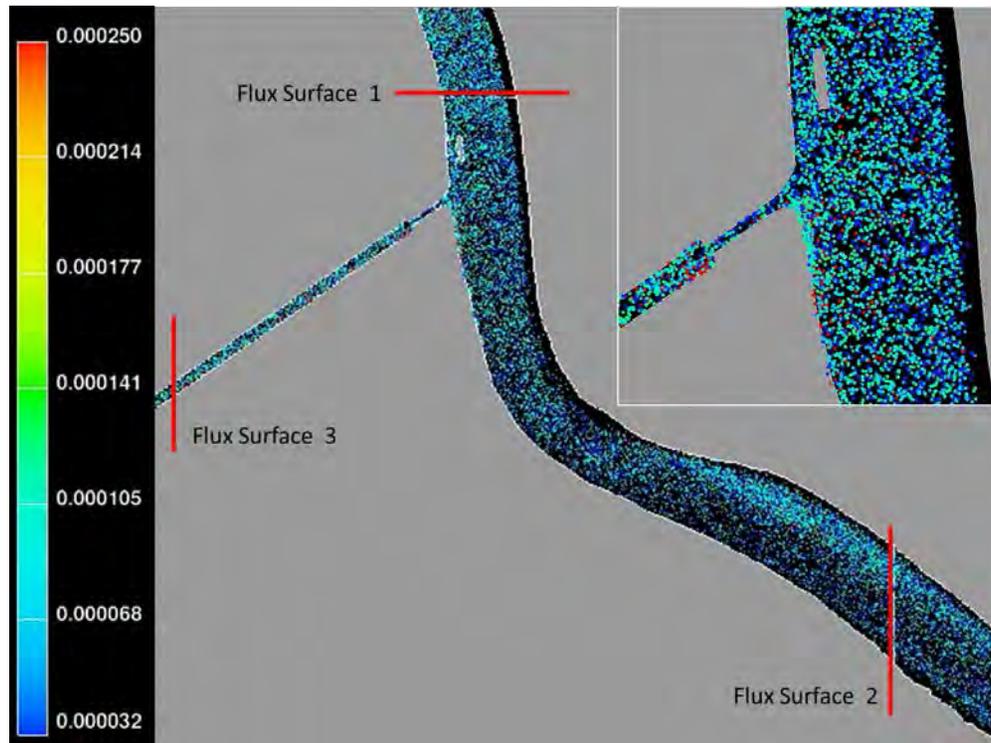


Figure 17. Run #3, Particles Distribution.

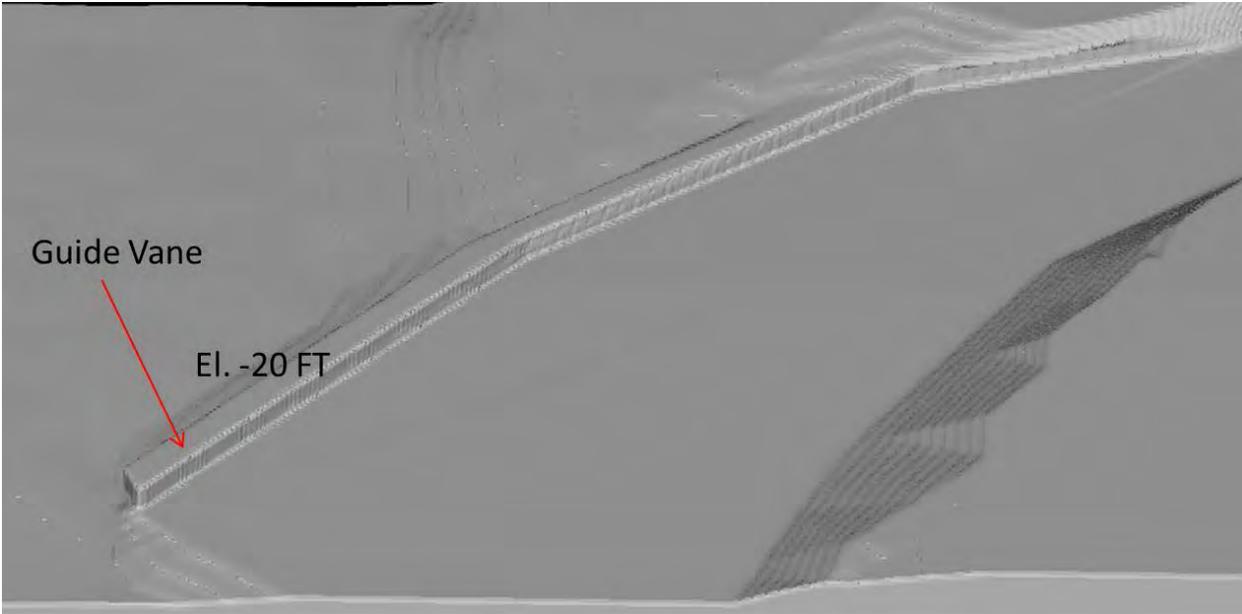


Figure 18. Proposed Guide Vane at the Entrance of the Diversion.

5. Tables

Table 1. Porous jump properties¹.

Porous Jump (Baffle in FLOW-3D)	Porosity	Linear Loss Coefficient ¹
1	0.95	0.78
2	0.95	0.78
3	0.95	0.78
4	0.95	0.78
5	0.95	0.78
6	0.95	0.78
7	0.95	0.78
8	0.95	0.78
9	0.95	0.78
10	0.95	0.78
11	0.95	0.78
12	0.95	0.78

¹ Blevins, Robert D., Applied Fluid Dynamics Handbook, Table 10-19, No. 23.

Table 2: Summary of Sediment Calculations

	Mississippi River	Run-No1 Base	Run-No2 Vessels Only	Run-No3 Vessels (loaded) & Facility	Run-No4 Vessels (empty) & Facility	Run-No5 Vessels (loaded) & Facility & Vane	Run-No6 Barges & Facility (no Ship)
Water Discharge (m3/s)	19,821	1,824	1,815	1,776	1,788	1,785	1,843
Water Discharge (CFS)	700,000	64,406	64,091	62,720	63,155	63,021	65,100
Sediment Load (metric tons/d) - 32 Micron							
	233,539	25,084	24,877	23,819	23,464	25,220	25,040
Sediment Load (metric tons/d) - 63 Micron							
	10,839	1,172	1,124	1,086	1,063	1,132	1,194
Sediment Load (metric tons/d) - 96 Micron							
	21,816	2,398	2,227	2,152	2,233	2,191	2,397
Sediment Load (metric tons/d) - 125 Micron							
	34,437	3,892	3,480	3,309	3,567	3,543	3,805
Sediment Load (metric tons/d) - 250 Micron							
	23,460	2,404	1,568	1,664	2,116	1,800	2,205
Total 63 - 250 Micron Load (metric ton/d)							
	90,554	9,867	8,398	8,211	8,979	8,667	9,601
Sediment/Water Ratio							
		1.184	1.013	1.012	1.099	1.063	1.140
Percent Reduction in Sediment/Water Ratio							
			15	17	9	12	3
Tons of Sand lost per day							
			1,469	1,656	888	1,200	266
Tons of Sand lost per year							
			44,056	49,687	26,631	36,009	7,969
Tons of Sand lost per decade							
			440,559	496,874	266,311	360,089	79,688

Michael Vice

From: Monica Dandurand
Sent: Friday, August 30, 2013 12:41 PM
To: Michael Vice
Subject: FW: RAM Terminal
Attachments: Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion (BA-153) - RAM MOA.PDF

Hi Mike, can you please compile this e-mail and PDF document and add to the comments section of P20120190?

Nicole Dandurand
Permit Analyst
Office of Coastal Management

225-342-1076

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

-----Original Message-----

From: Karl Morgan
Sent: Friday, August 30, 2013 12:33 PM
To: Monica Dandurand
Subject: FW: RAM Terminal

For the file

-----Original Message-----

From: Jerome Zeringue
Sent: Friday, August 30, 2013 11:42 AM
To: Karl Morgan
Cc: Keith Lovell; Matthew Nowlin; Clifton Bingham
Subject: FW: RAM Terminal

Karl,

As a follow up to my June 24 email below, CPRA has entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (copy attached) that addresses those concerns initially raised by CPRA regarding the potential impact of the RAM Terminal operations on CPRA's planned Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion project, and compliance with the 2012 Louisiana's Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast. Subject to RAM's compliance with those criteria, requirements and stipulations raised in RAM Terminal permit P20120190 and/or the MOA, CPRA does not have any continued objection to DNR CMD processing or moving forward on Ram Terminal permit P20120190.

Please let me know if you need any additional information to continue the permit process.

Thank you,

Jerome Zeringue

----- Original Message -----

From: Karl Morgan

Sent: Thursday, August 08, 2013 04:20 PM
To: Jerome Zeringue
Cc: Keith Lovell; Monica Dandurand
Subject: RE: RAM Terminal

Jerome,

I will be in touch to discuss the agreement. Once we talk, I will get you to confirm that CPRA has no further objection to the project.

Thanks

Karl

-----Original Message-----

From: Jerome Zeringue
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2013 5:38 PM
To: Karl Morgan
Cc: Keith Lovell
Subject: RAM Terminal

Hello Karl,

We have developed an agreement that will address concerns that were raised in regard to the permit for the planned RAM terminal facility. We are ready to discuss with you our proposal so that the RAM terminal permit can proceed.

Please let me know if you need any additional information to continue the permit process.

Thank you

Jerome Zeringue
CPRA

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

between

State of Louisiana

and

RAM Terminals, LLC

Regarding

Operation of the Mid Barataria Sediment Diversion and RAM Terminal Project

This Memorandum of Agreement (hereinafter the “MOA”) provides procedures and guidance as to the implementation of conditions included in Coastal Use Permit No. P20120190 (hereinafter “Permit No. P20120190”) relating to the Mid Barataria Sediment Diversion (hereinafter the “MBSD”) and the RAM Terminal Project (hereinafter the “RAM TERMINAL”) at Myrtle Grove, Louisiana in Plaquemines Parish is entered into by and between the following parties: (1) the State of Louisiana through the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (hereinafter “CPRA”) and (2) RAM Terminal LLC (hereinafter “RAM”). The alignment of the MBSD and the location of the RAM TERMINAL are shown on Exhibit A. This MOA will become effective as of the date of the signature of the last party to sign. Based on the current design schedule of the MBSD, a detailed comprehensive operational and implementation plan will be developed by CPRA and its contractors once the design of the MBSD is completed. When the comprehensive operational and implementation plan is finalized, due to the complexity of the structure design and changing conditions in the Mississippi River, this MOA may need to be modified.

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The initial concept of the MBSD, at River Mile Above Head of Passes (“RM AHP”) 60.2, began in the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (hereinafter the “CWPPRA”) program (Project Priority List 10 – January 2001). When it became apparent that such a project was beyond the budget and scope of the CWPPRA Program, it was deauthorized by the United States. The MBSD concept was reintroduced in the November 2004 Louisiana Coastal Area (hereinafter the “LCA”) Report (Chiefs Report signed 31 January 2005), which is the basis of 2007 WRDA section 7006. The project was identified in the 2007 Louisiana State Master Plan and then again in the 2012 Louisiana State Master Plan. Anticipating the LCA Program, the state, with several non-governmental organizations (“NGOs”), initiated preliminary engineering and design. In October 2011, a report done by environmental NGOs documents that this work was done by the State independently of the LCA Program, in conjunction with other NGOs, and supports the screening down of both the LCA Myrtle Grove and the State Master

Plan Mid Barataria Project to its current location and alignment at RM AHP 60.7 as the most efficient sediment capture configuration on the Mississippi River.

Given the availability of riverine sediment and previous modeling work, CPRA moved forward with the engineering and design phase of the MBSD (as identified in *Louisiana's Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast, 2012* as Mid Barataria Diversion, Project No. 002.D1.03, within the first implementation period (2012 - 2031) for the southeast coast of Louisiana) independent of the LCA Program, in anticipation of receiving the funding to construct in the near future. The State of Louisiana intends to develop the MBSD on a portion of the property now owned by RAM. The MBSD includes the construction and operation of a diversion of 75,000 cfs and dedicated dredging and sediment transport for the purposes of land building, wetland protection, and coastal restoration.

On May 26, 2011, RAM acquired a 602 acre site on the lower Mississippi River at Mile Post 61 for the purpose of developing a bulk export terminal, increased fleeting operations and liquid hydrocarbon storage and transloading facilities, along with other ancillary industrial uses. The property includes 6535 feet of batture which is presently permitted and leased for fleeting activities. RAM intends to fully develop the property including the development of a mid-stream berthing facility near the RAM TERMINAL to provide additional export capacity. Because of CPRA's concerns that the RAM TERMINAL will affect the efficient and effective operation of the MBSD, Permit No. P20120190 identifies the conditions under which the RAM TERMINAL will operate. This MOA sets forth the mechanisms for the implementation of those conditions on the part of CPRA and RAM.

I. DEFINITIONS

A. Operating Period. The term "OPERATING PERIOD" means the days, beginning at 12:00 AM and ending at 11:59 PM (Central Standard Time), during which the MBSD is open, commencing after day 15 of the PEAK OPERATING PERIOD. RAM is not subject to the provisions in Section III during an OPERATING PERIOD and nothing in this MOA prevents RAM from mooring vessels and conducting normal operations during an OPERATING PERIOD. The length of the OPERATING PERIOD is not restricted.

B. Peak Operating Period. The term "PEAK OPERATING PERIOD" means the days beginning at 12:00 AM and ending at 11:59 PM (Central Standard Time), during which maximum sediment capture by the MBSD is expected. The PEAK OPERATING PERIOD is the time in calendar days commencing on the day the MBSD has been opened (12 hours after OPENING OF THE MBSD has commenced) and ending when the MBSD has been closed, or at commencement of the "OPERATING PERIOD" as defined in subsection A above, whichever occurs first. CPRA shall use its best efforts to ensure maximum sediment capture by the MBSD in as short of a time period as possible so as to minimize the length of the PEAK OPERATING PERIOD and, under no circumstances, shall the PEAK OPERATING PERIOD exceed fifteen consecutive calendar days. No more than five PEAK OPERATING PERIODS may occur within a calendar year. The beginning of a PEAK OPERATING PERIOD cannot be declared unless the Mississippi River flow rate is at or above 600,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) at the U.S. Geological Survey monitoring station at Baton Rouge, Louisiana (USGS site 07374000) and

only one PEAK OPERATING PERIOD may be declared for each 600,000 cfs Mississippi River event. CPRA shall provide notice to RAM, within twenty four hours, of any decision to modify the length of the PEAK OPERATING PERIOD.

C. Opening of the MBSD. The term "OPENING OF THE MBSD" refers to the time period that is required to open the MBSD. For purposes of this MOA, a twelve hour period is assumed, although this time period may change as the MBSD design progresses. CPRA shall timely notify RAM of any design changes that affect the time period to open the MBSD.

II. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. The State of Louisiana, Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority agrees to the following:

1. CPRA shall provide RAM with the following notice prior to the declaration of any PEAK OPERATING PERIOD.
 - a. CPRA (through the Water Institute or other sources) will monitor Mississippi River stage data available from various agencies. Based on an analysis of the Mississippi River stage data, CPRA will notify RAM (means of notification to be determined) that there is potential for a PEAK OPERATING PERIOD to occur at least seven days prior to any potential OPENING OF THE MBSD.
 - b. Upon the Mississippi River reaching a discharge of 600,000 cfs at Baton Rouge, Louisiana (USGS site 07374000), CPRA will provide notice to RAM (means of notification to be determined) that a PEAK OPERATING PERIOD is highly likely to be declared at least 60 hours prior to OPENING OF THE MBSD. CPRA will promptly notify RAM (means of notification to be determined) that the OPENING OF THE MBSD will commence (conditioned on whether discharge has reached 600,000 cfs at the USGS site 07374000). A PEAK OPERATING PERIOD will begin 12 hours following commencement of the OPENING OF THE MBSD.
2. In the event CPRA fails to provide RAM with any of the notices required by Paragraph 1, RAM shall not be required to implement the provisions in Subsection B until compliance with Paragraph 1 has been achieved.
3. During the OPERATING PERIOD, RAM may conduct normal operations and the MBSD may be opened or closed during this period. CPRA shall provide notice to RAM, within 24 hours, of any decision to end the OPERATING PERIOD.

B. RAM agrees to the following:

1. RAM shall not operate the RAM TERMINAL during the PEAK OPERATING PERIOD. In the event that RAM operates the RAM TERMINAL during the PEAK OPERATING PERIOD, RAM shall be subject to the provisions of Section III.

2. Nothing in this MOA shall be construed to prohibit CPRA from the OPENING OF THE MBSD for purposes other than for capturing maximum sediment through diversion, including but not limited to freshwater flow, normal maintenance, repair, replacement, rehabilitation, and/or during emergency conditions. Such OPENING OF THE MBSD shall not be construed to commence a PEAK OPERATING PERIOD or an OPERATING PERIOD and RAM may conduct normal operations during such time. CPRA agrees to notify RAM of any OPENING OF THE MBSD under this paragraph and RAM agrees to use its best efforts to minimize the effect RAM TERMINAL operations will have on the MBSD during such time.

III. PROVISIONS FOR RAM NONCOMPLIANCE WITH PEAK OPERATING PERIODS AND PAYMENT.

A. Noncompliance Operation during a PEAK OPERATING PERIOD. A ship berthed, or docked at any stage of the ship loading cycle; or within the operating zone, as shown on Exhibit A, during a PEAK OPERATING PERIOD that has been declared consistent with Subsection II.A, shall be considered a NONCOMPLIANCE OPERATION (hereinafter "NONCOMPLIANCE OPERATION") of the RAM TERMINAL by RAM. In the event of a NONCOMPLIANCE OPERATION of the RAM TERMINAL, RAM shall be subject to the provisions of Subsections B and C.

B. Daily Rate of Sediment Lost during NONCOMPLIANCE OPERATION. CPRA and RAM hereby establish by mutual agreement a dollar amount for NONCOMPLIANCE OPERATION of the RAM TERMINAL during a PEAK OPERATING PERIOD. The agreed upon dollar amount will be a lump sum daily payment if any of the criteria in Subsection A are met. No partial application of Subsection A will be discussed or agreed upon by CPRA. If a ship enters any stage of operation mentioned in Subsection A a daily payment of \$26,000 will be assessed to RAM.¹

¹ Daily payment of \$26,000 is based upon the estimated daily loss of sediment. Finer material may be lost as a result of RAM operations during a PEAK OPERATING PERIOD and/or OPERATING PERIOD and is not included in this calculation.

1. Consistent with the provisions of Section IV, CPRA, the Water Institute, or Other Sources, will monitor and model the hydrodynamic and sediment transport near Myrtle Grove, Louisiana in addition to the routine monitoring done in the Mississippi River as part of the goals and objectives of the MBSD.

2. Payment for NONCOMPLIANCE OPERATION of the RAM TERMINAL during a PEAK OPERATING PERIOD will be made into an account established by CPRA to exclusively receive NONCOMPLIANCE OPERATION funds from RAM. The RAM NONCOMPLIANCE OPERATION fund will first be used to mitigate the effects NONCOMPLIANCE OPERATION of the RAM TERMINAL has on the Barataria Basin, including land building, wetland protection and restoration. The RAM NONCOMPLIANCE OPERATION fund may then be used to construct restoration projects or as a means to increase acreages of other restoration projects that have employed the use of a dredge in the Mississippi River.

C. Maximum Payment. In any calendar year, RAM shall not be liable for more than \$1,950,000 in payments under Subsection B into the RAM NONCOMPLIANCE OPERATION fund.

D. Adjustments to Sediment Payment.

1. CPRA and RAM shall meet 2 years after the State of Louisiana accepts and declares that the MBSD is complete (and every 5 years thereafter) to jointly review the data gathered under Section IV.

2. Based on the data gathered under Section IV, the sediment payment schedule set forth in Subsection B may be modified to reflect the actual impacts of RAM TERMINAL on the operation of the MBSD. Such modification shall not result in a difference greater than twenty percent (20%) more or less of the original payment schedule set forth in Subsection B.

3. Based on the modification under Paragraph 2, CPRA and RAM may modify the NONCOMPLIANCE OPERATION daily payment, including costs, imposed under Subsection B and the NONCOMPLIANCE OPERATION maximum annual payment imposed under Subsection C. Such modifications shall not be twenty percent (20%) more or less than the amount initially agreed to under Subsections B and C.

IV. MONITORING AND MODELING.

A. Pre-MBSD Construction. Within 60 days of the effective date of this MOA, CPRA and RAM shall agree to a protocol pursuant to which CPRA, the Water Institute or Other Sources will monitor and model the hydrodynamic and sediment transport near Myrtle Grove, Louisiana.

B. Post-MBSD Construction. Within 60 days of completion of the MBSD and prior to the opening of the MBSD, CPRA and RAM shall agree to a protocol pursuant to which CPRA, the Water Institute, or Other Sources will monitor hydrodynamic and sediment transport near Myrtle Grove, Louisiana. Such protocol shall reflect the data gathered under Subsection A.

C. Data Sharing. All data collected by CPRA, the Water Institute or Other Sources pursuant to the protocols established under Subsections A and B shall be shared with RAM within 30 days of collection.

V. MODIFICATION AND TERMINATION.

A. Modification. This MOA may be modified only by a written instrument executed by CPRA and RAM.

B. Termination. This MOA will terminate:

1. Fifty years after the acceptance of completion of the MBSD is declared by the State of Louisiana, unless extended or terminated by mutual written agreement of the parties; or

2. Ten years after the effective date of this MOA if the State of Louisiana has not begun to operate the MBSD; whichever is longer.

VI. POINTS OF CONTACT.

The parties designate the following persons to be their official contact in relation to this MOA. Any party may change its contact person upon written notice to the other party. Any notice, request, demand, or other communication required or permitted to be given under this MOA shall be deemed to have been duly given, if in writing and delivered personally or sent by registered or certified mail as follows:

A. CPRA.

Jerome Zeringue
Executive Director
Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
P.O. Box 44027
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4027
(225) 342-4683

B. RAM.

General Manager
RAM TERMINAL LLC
7733 Forsyth Blvd., Suite 1625
St. Louis, MO 63105
(314) 721-8202

VII. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

A. Merger. Notwithstanding any other terms or conditions contained in Permit No. P20120190, this MOA, together with any written modifications enter into pursuant hereto, contains all the terms and conditions agreed to by CPRA and RAM with respect to Permit No. P20120190.

B. No Third-Party Beneficiaries. Unless expressly identified herein, nothing in this MOA is intended or may be construed to grant any legally enforceable rights or provide any benefits to third parties.

C. Binding Effect. This MOA shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the parties hereto and their respective legal representatives, successors, and assigns. The parties waive the defense of lack of consideration.

D. Disputes. CPRA and RAM agree that in the event of a dispute between them, they shall promptly use their best efforts to resolve the dispute in an informal fashion through communication and consultation, or other forms of non-binding alternative dispute resolution that are mutually acceptable; however, in the event any dispute cannot be resolved the terms and conditions of this MOA or any subsequent modification hereto shall remain in full force and effect. The Nineteenth Judicial District Court in and for the Parish of East Baton Rouge shall be the exclusive venue for any litigation arising out of this MOA.

E. Transfer. This MOA may be transferred by RAM in the event Permit No. P20120190 is transferred.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, CPRA and RAM have executed this MOA on the date(s) set forth below:

RAM TERMINALS, LLC

STATE OF LOUISIANA
Coastal Protection and Restoration
Authority

BY: _____
_____, _____

BY:  _____
Jerome Zeringue, Executive Director

DATE: _____

DATE: 7/31/2013

WITNESSES:

WITNESSES:

Signature


Signature

Print Name

M. Jason Landry
Print Name

Signature


Signature

Print Name

Russ J. JOFFRION
Print Name

STATE OF LOUISIANA

PARISH OF _____

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, duly commissioned and qualified in and for said Parish and State aforesaid, on this ____ day of _____ 2013, personally came and appeared _____, or his assigned acting, _____, to me known, who declared that he is the _____ of RAM Terminals, LLC, that he executed the foregoing instrument on behalf of said entity and that the instrument was signed pursuant to the authority granted to him by said entity and that he acknowledged the instrument to be the free act and deed of said entity.

Signature

Print Name

Louisiana Notary Public / Bar Number

My commission expires: _____

(SEAL)

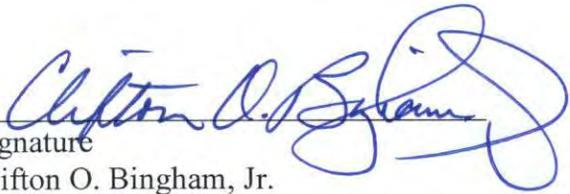
STATE OF LOUISIANA

PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, duly commissioned and qualified in and for said Parish and State aforesaid, on this 31st day of July, 2013, personally came and appeared Jerome Zeringue, to me known, who declared that he is the Executive Director of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, that he executed the foregoing instrument on behalf of said State Agency and that the instrument was signed pursuant to the authority granted to him by said State Agency and that he acknowledged the instrument to be the free act and deed of said State Agency.



OFFICIAL SEAL
Clifton O. Bingham, Jr.
BAR ROLL # 03052
STATE OF LOUISIANA
My Commission is for Life


Signature
Clifton O. Bingham, Jr.
General Counsel
Louisiana Bar Number 03052

My commission expires: with life

(SEAL)

NOTICE OF JUDGMENT

*THE SIERRA CLUB DELTA CHAPTER ET
AL
Versus*



*Case: 00060961
Division: A
25th Judicial District Court
Parish of Plaquemines
State of Louisiana*

*LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES*

*TO: ROBERT WIYGUL
WALTZER WIYGUL & GARSIDE LLC
1011 IBERVILLE DR
OCEAN SPRINGS, MS 39564*

*MEGAN K. TERRELL
LOUISIANA DEPT. OF JUSTICE
P O BOX 94005
BATON ROUGE, LA 70804-9005*

Notice is hereby given that on December 23, 2014 in the above-entitled and numbered cause, JUDGMENT AND REASONS FOR JUDGMENT was read, rendered and signed in above matter; a true and certified copy of said judgment is attached hereto.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, witness my hand and official seal of office in Belle Chasse, Louisiana, on this Tuesday, December 23, 2014.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dorothy M. Lundin", written over a horizontal line.

*Deputy Clerk of Court for
Dorothy M. Lundin, Clerk of Court
P.O. Box 40
Belle Chasse, LA 70037*

TWENTY-FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT PARISH OF PLAQUEMINES

STATE OF LOUISIANA

NO. 60-961

DIVISION: "A"

THE SIERRA CLUB DELTA CHAPTER, JOYCE CORNIN,
VELMA DAVIS, THE GULF RESTORATION NETWORK, and
THE LOUISIANA ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION NETWORK

VERSUS

THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

FILED

DEC 23 2014

FILED: _____

DEPUTY CLERK BY CLERK

JUDGMENT

This matter came on for hearing on July 21, 2014, on a Petition for Review brought by appellants Joyce Cornin, Velma Davis, The Sierra Club Delta Chapter, and The Gulf Restoration Network; appellants' Motion to Supplement Administrative Record; and a Motion to Strike brought by appellee, the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources. After hearing the arguments of counsel on all matters, the Court granted the Motion to Supplement Administrative Record with the Water Institute's "RAM Terminal Modeling Technical Memorandum" and granted appellee, the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, 21 days in which to file a supplemental brief on the newly admitted Water Institute memorandum. The Court further denied appellee's Motion to Strike. Upon receipt of appellee's supplemental memorandum, the Court took the Petition for Review under advisement.

Appellants filed a Notice of Supplemental Persuasive Authority on September 26, 2014. The Court did not consider it, as it was not solicited by the Court, and appellee objected to its admission.

PRESENT WERE: Robert Wiygul, Michael Brown and Briana Fairbanks (*pro hac vice*), attorneys for appellants, Sierra Club Delta Chapter, et al
Megan K. Terrell, Ryan M. Seidemann, Ethel Solache Graham and Jackson D. Logan, III, attorneys for appellee, the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources

The Court, upon considering the law, the arguments of counsel, and the briefs in this matter, rules as follows:

IT IS ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED BY THE COURT that appellants' Motion to Supplement Administrative Record with the Water Institute's "RAM Terminal Modeling Technical Memorandum" is hereby **GRANTED**, and the administrative record in this case is supplemented with the Water Institute's "RAM Terminal Modeling Technical Memorandum."

IT IS ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED BY THE COURT that the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources' Motion to Strike is hereby **DENIED**.

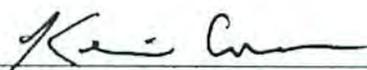
IT IS ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED BY THE COURT that the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources' action in granting a Coastal Use Permit to RAM Terminals is not supported by a preponderance of the evidence in that the Department of Natural Resources failed to fully investigate alternative sites for the RAM Terminals project and the specific commodities that RAM Terminals intends to transport by rail in connection with the project.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED BY THE COURT that the case is remanded for further proceedings in accordance with La. R.S. 49:964.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED BY THE COURT that the remaining issues raised by appellants are pretermitted, and will not be considered here.

JUDGMENT READ, RENDERED, AND SIGNED at Belle Chasse, Louisiana, on this

23rd day of December, 2014.



Kevin D. Conner, Judge, Division "A"

A TRUE COPY

**D. Clerk of Court
Parish of Plaquemines, La.**

TWENTY-FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT PARISH OF PLAQUEMINES

STATE OF LOUISIANA

NO. 60-961

DIVISION: "A"

**THE SIERRA CLUB DELTA CHAPTER, JOYCE CORNIN,
VELMA DAVIS, THE GULF RESTORATION NETWORK, and
THE LOUISIANA ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION NETWORK**

VERSUS

THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

FILED

DEC 23 2014

FILED: _____

DEPUTY CLERK BY CLERK

REASONS FOR JUDGMENT

Background

This matter comes before the Court on judicial review of an administrative decision by the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, Office of Coastal Management to issue a Coastal Use Permit for the proposed RAM Terminals coal export terminal to be located on the west bank of the Mississippi River adjacent to the community of Ironton in Plaquemines Parish. Appellants Joyce Cornin and Velma Davis are residents of the Ironton community. Appellants Sierra Club, Gulf Restoration Network, and Louisiana Environmental Network are conservation organizations with members throughout the state of Louisiana.

On or about February 16, 2012, RAM Terminals, L.L.C. ("RAM Terminals") submitted the first version of its Joint Permit Application ("Application") for a Coastal Use Permit ("CUP") to the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources ("DNR"), through the Office of Coastal Management (OCM). The proposed purpose of the facility for which the permit was sought was to allow for the unloading of coal from river barges and rail cars, the storage and blending of the product, and the reclaiming and transfer of the product from open ground storage to oceangoing vessels.

On April 28, 2012, a public notice was published in the *Baton Rouge Advocate* and the public comment period began. A public hearing was held in Davant, Louisiana on August 14, 2013, and was re-convened on August 15, 2013 in Belle Chasse, Louisiana. During the

permitting process, OCM submitted to RAM Terminals requests for additional information on April 11, 2012, April 25, 2012, June 4, 2012, and August 20, 2013. In response to these requests and other actions, RAM Terminals submitted revised permit applications on March 6, 2012, April 11, 2012, April 25, 2012, August 23, 2013, and August 29, 2013. On August 30, 2013, a Statement and Recommendation Sheet was submitted to OCM's permit analyst, with approval from OCM's Coastal Resources Scientist Manager, recommending approval of the proposed project with conditions designed to minimize the project's potential impacts.

After the OCM finished its consideration of the permit and after the requisite public notice and comment periods had passed, the OCM Administrator accepted the recommendation to issue the permit and drafted the final decision document, entitled "Analysis of the Basis of Decision." On September 11, 2013, OCM issued CUP No. P20120190. Appellants filed a petition for reconsideration of the CUP, and the DNR denied it on October 1, 2013. Appellants thereafter filed a timely Petition for Review in this Court.

In their Petition for Review, appellants maintain that the DNR violated the Louisiana Constitution, Louisiana statutory law, and its own guidelines by issuing the CUP to RAM Terminals. Appellants point out that the proposed facility would fall within the Louisiana Coastal Zone, which the DNR is charged with protecting, and that it would be directly adjacent to the Mid-Barataria Settlement Diversion project, which was approved by the State of Louisiana and the United States government for restoration of threatened coastal wetlands. Appellants further contend that in issuing the CUP, the DNR acted in conflict with its legal obligations by failing to adequately consider potential alternative sites, and to fully weigh the adverse environmental impacts of the project against the questionable economic benefits. Appellants argue that DNR's action in issuing the CUP was arbitrary and capricious and in violation of Louisiana law, and that this Court should vacate the permit and remand the matter to the DNR to conduct a legally sufficient review.

The DNR responds that it complied with its constitutional, statutory, and regulatory duties, and that the substantial record shows it considered all relevant factors and coastal use guidelines and issued the CUP with appropriate conditions designed to minimize social and environmental impacts. The DNR further argues its actions in issuing the CUP to RAM Terminals were not arbitrary and capricious.

Standard of review

When reviewing an administrative final decision in an adjudication proceeding, the district court functions as an appellate court. Generally, "a person who is aggrieved by a final decision or order in an adjudication proceeding is entitled to judicial review" under the Administrative Procedure Act. La. R.S. 49:964 A(1). Proceedings are instituted in the appropriate district court by the filing of a petition for judicial review. See La. R.S. 49:964 B. "The review shall be conducted by the court without a jury and shall be confined to the record" from the agency adjudication. La. R.S. 49:964 F.¹ The court, upon request, shall also hear oral argument and receive written briefs. Id.

A reviewing court may affirm the decision of the agency or remand the case for further proceedings. See La. R.S. 49:964G. Alternatively, a reviewing court may reverse or modify an agency's findings, inferences, conclusions, or decisions "if substantial rights of the appellant have been prejudiced" because the agency's findings, inferences, conclusions, or decisions are:

(1) in violation of constitutional or statutory provisions; (2) in excess of the statutory authority of the agency; (3) made upon unlawful procedure; (4) affected by other error of law; (5) arbitrary or capricious or characterized by abuse of discretion or clearly unwarranted exercise of discretion; or (6) not supported or sustainable by a preponderance of evidence as determined by the reviewing court. Id.

In Save Ourselves, Inc. v. Louisiana Environmental Control Com'n, 452 So.2d 1152, 1159 (La.1984), the Louisiana Supreme Court explained that the manifest error test is used in reviewing the facts as found by the administrative tribunal; the arbitrary and capricious test is used in reviewing the administrative tribunal's conclusions and its exercise of discretion. As the terms are employed in La. R.S. 49:964G(5), an "arbitrary" decision shows disregard of evidence or the proper weight thereof, while a "capricious" decision has no substantial evidence to support it or the conclusion is contrary to substantiated competent evidence. Chadwick v. Louisiana

¹ The Court granted, over appellee's objection, appellants' Motion to Supplement the Administrative Record with a report entitled RAM Terminal CFD Modeling Technical Memorandum, prepared by The Water Institute of the Gulf and Arcadis, U.S., LLC and dated October 23, 2012. The report analyzes the potential impacts of the RAM Terminal on the Mid-Barataria Settlement Diversion project at Myrtle Grove. Appellants and appellees assert that the report was available to the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority during the permitting process. Appellants also maintain that the document was available to the DNR during that time. When appellants sought to have the report made part of the record in the administrative proceeding, the DNR denied the request. The Court recognizes that La. R.S. 49:964E allows a district court to order the agency to consider additional evidence. In this instance, the Court allowed the additional evidence to be added to the record on review as a measure of judicial economy. The Court allowed appellee to submit a supplemental memorandum in response to the admission of the report.

Licensed Professional Counselors Bd. of Examiners, 12-0562, p. 7 (La. App. 1 Cir. 12/21/12), 111 So. 3d 420, 424-25 (La. App. 1 Cir. 2012) writ denied, 13-0198 (La. 3/1/13), 108 So.3d 1181; Cedyco Corp. v. Department of Natural Resources, 07-2500, p. 6 (La.App. 1 Cir. 7/23/08), 993 So.2d 271, 275. The sixth standard in La. R.S. 49:964G originally required that a "manifest error" test be used in reviewing the facts as found by the agency. Since the Save Ourselves opinion, that standard has been replaced by a "preponderance of evidence" test. Presumably, the "preponderance of evidence" standard of review extends only to facts as did the manifest error rule it replaced.

The Louisiana Supreme Court has mandated that the administrative agency, in reaching its final decision, must clearly articulate the facts it considered and the basis for its findings. The agency must show a rational connection between the facts found and the order issued. Matter of American Waste and Pollution Control Co., 93-3163, p. 18-19 (La. 9/15/94), 642 So.2d 1258, 1266 (quoting Save Ourselves); Save Ourselves, 452 So.2d at 1159. See also Matter of Cytec Industries, Inc., 94-1693 (La. App. 1 Cir. 2/23/96), 672 So. 2d 179, 181.

Analysis

The concept that the natural resources of the state constitute a public trust is embodied in Article IX, Section 1 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974, which provides:

The natural resources of the state, including air and water, and the healthful, scenic, historic, and esthetic quality of the environment shall be protected, conserved, and replenished insofar as possible and consistent with the health, safety, and welfare of the people. The legislature shall enact laws to implement this policy.

This provision "imposes a duty of environmental protection on all state agencies and officials, establishes a standard of environmental protection, and mandates the legislature to enact laws to implement fully this policy." Save Ourselves, 452 So.2d at 1156. The Louisiana Supreme Court has interpreted this constitutional standard as a "rule of reasonableness" which "requires a balancing process in which environmental costs and benefits must be given full and careful consideration along with economic, social and other factors." Matter of American Waste, 93-3163 at 7, 642 So.2d at 1262 (quoting Save Ourselves, 452 So.2d at 1157).

Pursuant to the constitutional mandate, the State and Local Coastal Restoration Management Act ("the Act") was enacted. The Act declares it is "public policy" of this state that "[t]o protect, develop, and, where feasible, restore or enhance the resources of the state's coastal

zone." La. R.S. 49:214.22(1). The Act establishes a coastal management program within the DNR, and requires that anyone seeking to engage in activities that will significantly impact coastal waters to obtain a coastal use permit from the DNR. La. R.S. 49:214.26; La. R.S. 49:214.30.

Appellants contend that DNR's issuance of the CUP to RAM Terminals was improper because DNR failed to analyze alternative sites or mitigating measures that could offer more protection to the environment than the proposed project. DNR responds that there is no requirement that applicants specifically name alternative sites.

The Court has reviewed the administrative record in this case, along with the appeal briefs submitted by the parties and the oral arguments of counsel. The Court agrees with appellants' arguments that DNR failed to sufficiently gather and consider information regarding alternative sites for the RAM Terminals project, and to specifically determine what commodities other than coal RAM Terminals will transport by rail.

Louisiana Administrative Code 43.I.701 provides guidelines for applicable coastal uses. Subsection (F) requires the permit applicant to provide information regarding nineteen enumerated factors. Factor number five on that list is "availability of feasible alternative sites or methods of implementing the use." As DNR suggests, there is no clear directive on the precise quantity or quality of the evidence necessary to satisfy the "alternative sites" condition. But in Matter of Rubicon, Inc., 95-0108, p. 12 (La. App. 1 Cir. 2/14/96), 670 So. 2d 475, 483, the Louisiana First Circuit held that the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality must consider whether "there are alternative projects or alternative sites or mitigating measures which would offer more protection to the environment than the proposed project without unduly curtailing non-environmental benefits to the extent applicable. Also, in Matter of American Waste and Pollution Control Co., 633 So. 2d 188 (La. App. 1 Cir. 1993) writ granted, 634 So. 2d 837 (La. 1994) and aff'd and remanded, 93-3163 (La. 9/15/94), 642 So. 2d 1258, the First Circuit vacated the DEQ's approval of a permit for construction of a solid waste facility upon finding it was issued without proper evaluation of alternative sites to determine comparative environmental impacts. The Court stated:

We have held that decisions need not be of "ideal clarity" if the agency's findings, reasons, and exercise of discretion are necessarily and clearly implied by the record. See Blackett, 506 So.2d at 755. However, we cannot supply a finding from the evidence or a reasoned basis for the DEQ secretary's action that the DEQ secretary has not found or given. Save Ourselves, 452 So.2d at 1160.

Id., 633 So.2d at 194.

Not only did RAM fail to specifically name an alternative site in its application, but the record does not show that DNR exercised any independent evaluation of alternate sites. Instead, DNR deferred to RAM's assertion, unsupported by any actual evidence, that *alternative sites* were not feasible. DNR seems to have relied entirely on a document entitled "Alternatives Analysis," supplied by RAM. Unfortunately, the "Alternatives Analysis" consists of only two sentences, which state: "RAM also looked at other sites around the Gulf Coast. Many sites presented optimum rail access or quality deepwater access but none offered both of these features in an area with easy access to foreign export markets." RAM provided no analysis of the relative environmental impacts of alternative sites for its proposed coal terminal, or whether another site would offer more protection to the environment than the proposed project.

RAM's alternative site response appears to be a recitation of the company's business decision to purchase the selected site based on its economic potential; other sites were simply not "ideal," and the selected site would economically more advantageous for exporting overseas. However, the purpose of an alternative site analysis is not to identify the best economic alternative, but to analyze all viable alternatives and their environmental impacts. See Matter of American Waste, 633 So.2d at 196.

When the Court inquired of counsel for DNR who determines whether an applicant has actually examined alternative sites, counsel responded that DNR does not have the resources to investigate all alternative sites cited by applicants, but that it does question applicants regarding alternate sites. In this instance, however, any inquiries DNR made were not fruitful.

This leads to another concerning issue. Based on RAM's own statements, it is unclear whether rail is even necessary to its project. While RAM asserted in its application that the rail line was one of the primary reasons it selected the Ironton site, it also stated that, due to "market conditions, RAM expects limited utilization of the rail facility," averaging zero to three trains per week. RAM further provided that it will use the rail line to transport little, if any, coal, and will instead use it for "lower volume" products including sustainable fuels and agricultural products. Paradoxically, DNR cites RAM's claim that it requires rail access in finding there are no alternative site, and also RAM's claims on the limited need for rail access to address concerns about increases in rail traffic. If, as RAM has claimed, the primary function of the facility will

be the transfer of coal, and the rail line will rarely--if ever--be used to transport coal, access to the rail line should not have been a primary factor in site selection.

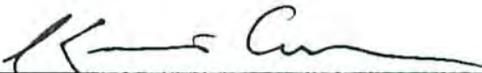
The prospect of unknown substances being transported by rail through the most heavily populated portion of Plaquemines Parish is a matter of concern in the context of Article IX, Section 1 of the Louisiana Constitution, and as such, it is of concern to the Court. RAM provided no details regarding what substances it plans to transport by rail. As appellants point out, there is nothing in RAM's permit to limit RAM to transporting certain commodities. DNR argues that any unforeseen environmental impacts caused by RAM Terminals' activities will be policed by the Department of Environmental Quality. But the court in Save Ourselves found that an environmental agency's "role as the representative of the public interest does not permit it to act as an umpire passively calling balls and strikes for adversaries appearing before it; the rights of the public must receive active and affirmative protection at the hands of the commission." Save Ourselves, 452 So. 2d at 1157.

While state agencies in Louisiana are always required to analyze alternative sites to reduce environmental impacts, the requirement is particularly important in this case, which is to be located on the same parcel of land as Louisiana's first major wetlands restoration project, the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion ("Diversion"). The Environmental Protection Agency, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Louisiana Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority all recognized the high potential for physical and ecological conflicts between the Diversion and the proposed RAM Terminals facility. Given this high potential for conflicts with a vital wetlands restoration and coastal protection project, it is imperative that the state fulfill its duty to safeguard the public trust by analyzing potential alternative sites for the RAM Terminals facility which might prevent negative environmental impacts.

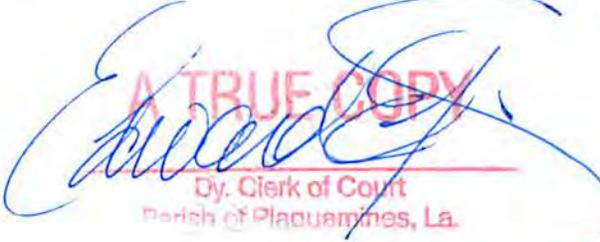
The Court finds that the DNR has breached its duty as public trustee under the Coastal Use Guidelines and the Louisiana Constitution by failing to fully investigate alternative sites for the RAM Terminals project and the specific commodities that RAM Terminals intends to transport by rail in connection with the project. The Court finds that DNR's action in granting the CUP to RAM Terminals is not supported by a preponderance of the evidence. The remaining arguments of appellants are pretermitted and will not be addressed.

Based on the foregoing, the case is remanded for further proceedings in accordance with La. R.S. 49:964 and Save Ourselves, 452 So.2d at 1159.

READ, RENDERED, AND SIGNED at Belle Chasse, Louisiana, on this 23rd
day of December, 2014.



Kevin D. Conner, Judge, Division "A"


A TRUE COPY
By, Clerk of Court
Parish of Plaquemines, La.

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Aida Sigur](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 11:35:14 AM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,

Ms. Aida Sigur
625 Elmwood Park Blvd
Harahan, LA 70123-3309
(123) 456-7890
sigura@cintas.com

From: ss1567@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Sam simeone](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Tuesday, August 29, 2017 8:51:11 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Sam simeone
New Orleans, LA 70122

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Sam Simeone](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 2:43:42 PM

Aug 17, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

* Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.

* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Mr. Sam Simeone
2301 Oriole St
New Orleans, LA 70122-4335
(504) 282-2825
ss1567@aol.com

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Jenae Singleton](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 12:07:59 PM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,

Mr. Jenae Singleton
207 S Oak St
Vidalia, LA 71373-4042
(123) 456-7890
jsingleton@deltacs.org

From: cindyrae65@cox.net
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 10:03:17 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Cindy Slay
17840 Chancellorsville Ave.
Baton Rouge, LA, 70817

From: rsmall175@hotmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, July 28, 2017 8:56:15 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Maitland Smallpage
809 Ridgewood Dr.
Metairie, La, 70001

From: im1sent4@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Debbie Smith](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 4, 2017 7:15:08 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Debbie Smith
Arabi, LA 70032

From: esmi161@lsu.edu
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, July 28, 2017 8:04:13 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

I have lived my entire life in Louisiana, and while I've always thought it was beautiful, the land is also responsible for so much of Louisiana's livelihood. The unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Emma Smith
408 N. Mall St.
Lafayette, Louisiana, 70503

From: Indigoisitsown@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2017 8:35:27 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Michelle Smith
2706 n rampart street
New orleans, La, 70117

From: tnewaddress@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Tammeryn Smith](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 11:30:05 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Tammeryn Smith
Baton Rouge, LA 70815

From: valerie.rice@delval.edu
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 10:07:19 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
v smith
401 Stratford Ct
Lansdale, PA, 194466374

From: Caleb.soileau@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Monday, July 31, 2017 9:17:15 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

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Thank you,
Caleb Soileau
16137 Confederate Ave
Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70817

August 28th, 2017

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Ngli Son	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) ccc
Street Address 134 Lowry Lane	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code Port Sulphur, LA 70083	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

I am a commercial fisherman - harvesting crabs and shrimp since 1992. I oppose the diversion because if there's freshwater - there will be no more crabs and shrimp left. This is my livelihood, which is what I depend on. I will need financial assistance from the government to continue to live, if diversion happens. Is there another way to save or make lands without the diversion? If there's diversion happens, I need assistance (financial) from the government if there are no crabs & shrimp.



I, Cristina Duong, of Coastal Communities Consulting, Inc (CCC), hereby certify that I translated the above statement from Cambodian into English to the best of my abilities, and I am fluent in both languages.
Cristina Duong, Translator
oulinatduong

From: lanniesonnier@netscape.net
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 10:05:29 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
Alyce Sonnier
683 Newt Hodges Rd
Ragley, LA, 706576307

From: [St. Mark's UMC](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
Date: Tuesday, September 5, 2017 4:50:52 PM

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

I'm Pastor of Saint Mark's United Methodist Church in the French Quarter and Chair of the Commission on Stewardship of the Environment of the Louisiana Interchurch Conference (LIC). The LIC brings together seventeen denominations. Over the years we've played an active role in coastal restoration efforts, hosting the first statewide hearings on land loss in 1988.

I've seen the value of sediment diversions at Caernarvon and around the state. What will the future of the Barataria Basin and the Mississippi River Delta look like without the Mid-Barataria Diversion in place? What would happen to existing marsh creation projects and other Coastal Master Plan projects?

I consider the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion to be one of the most important and urgent projects to protect the future of our coast. Are you considering ways to expedite the permitting process decision so that it can occur before 2022? The Scoping Report should be completed and released to the public by the September 30th deadline posted on the Federal Permitting Dashboard. It should include a detailed roadmap of steps to complete the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, including a clear timeline of activities and an identification of opportunities to shorten the permitting timeline.

Again, I'm concerned that the Environmental Impact Statement address the future of the Barataria Basin and Mississippi River Delta without the Mid-Barataria Diversion Project. What happens to existing marsh creation projects and other Coastal Master plan projects? I believe the Environmental Impact Statement will show the need for expedited action.

Thank you,

Rev. Dr. Cory Sparks

Pastor, St. Mark's United Methodist Church

Chair, Commission on Stewardship of the Environment of the Louisiana Interchurch Conference

1130 North Rampart Street

New Orleans, Louisiana 70115

504.208.8640

stmarksumcnola@gmail.com <<mailto:stmarksumcnola@gmail.com>>

From: real_hotmale@hotmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 11:02:23 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
Walter Speidell
5403 Gainsborough Drive
Fairfax, VA, 22032

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Edward Spencer](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 1:43:13 PM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Thank you,

Mr. Edward Spencer
2747 Lincoln Ave
Slidell, LA 70458-4165
(123) 456-7890
elspen10@hotmail.com

From: cgspinks@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Casey Spinks](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Tuesday, August 29, 2017 8:37:34 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Sincerely,
Casey Spinks
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

Aug. 10, 2017

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Siphon Greif	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) ccc Costal Communities Consulting
Street Address 150 Delta Aire Dr.	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code Buras, LA 70041	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

Lately, shrimping has been very hard. The price of shrimp have not been increasing but our expenses keep going up. Having the diversions come will only make matters worse. I would need job skills to get another job but I'm too old and I'd be scared that I couldn't get another job. Maybe I could retire w/ government assistance to compensate me for future losses.

Siphon Greif

From: fishmic@suddenlink.net
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 3:40:13 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
Malcom R. Starks Sr.
22 Lemons Ln
Ball, LA, 71405-3103

From: cmesteel@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Caree Steel](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Tuesday, August 29, 2017 2:02:44 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Sincerely,
Caree Steel
New Orleans, LA 70117

From: stewarddrew@hotmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 1:18:28 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

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Thank you,
Drew Stewart
5858 Argonne Blvd
New Orleans, LA, 701243732



109 Northpark Blvd., Suite 300 Covington, LA 70433 985 | 898 | 2022 FAX 985 | 898 | 2077

Martin A. Mayer
President
Chief Executive Officer

August 31, 2017

Real Estate Industry—Mid Barataria Sediment Diversion Public Comments

Colonel Michael N. Clancy
Department Of The Army
Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70118

Colonel Clancy,

As a real estate developer in the Greater New Orleans region, I am contacting you today to voice my support for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion proposed by the State of Louisiana's Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA). Though I am not a scientist or coastal engineer, as a business leader in the region I recognize the distinct impact this project will have on the economy of Southeast Louisiana, and many of my real estate investments and assets as well.

I greatly appreciate the time and due diligence the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is putting into the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this diversion. However, I hope USACE is also taking into account the extraordinary studies that have been undertaken for the last 30 years around this project, and are leveraging prior work to the greatest extent possible. Time is of the essence on our coast, and decisive action is critical to our very survival in this region.

To that end, from one executive to another, I hope you are considering the alternative "no-action" scenario, should the diversion not be implemented. The losses our region would continue to face without this diversion—from an environmental, cultural and economic standpoint—would be devastating and irreversible. I hope as well that as you consider all possible future scenarios, the EIS also incorporates mechanisms for transparency and flexibility over the course of the diversion's operations. We live in a dynamic environmental context, and must be afforded the flexibility to operate this asset to its highest and best use in any environmental situation.

In light of the extraordinary and unparalleled land building and coastal protection benefits the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion provides our region, I would also like to express my deep frustration with the recent permitting delays announced by the USACE. As a business leader, I find this two year delay to be unacceptable: there is perhaps no greater deterrent to business growth than instability, and by jeopardizing Louisiana's ability to effectively manage its risk and shape its future, USACE has created an atmosphere of uncertainty. It is my sincere hope that the EIS include an updated timeline amending these permitting delays.

Thank you again for your diligent attention to our habitat in Southeast Louisiana: I greatly respect your leadership and am looking forward to the release of the final EIS. Further, I appreciate your serious consideration of the above points from the business community perspective.

Sincerely,

Martin A. Mayer

From: [Sharon Amacker](#) on behalf of [Marty Mayer](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Cc: lmcmamus@gnoinc.org
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Real Estate Industry - Mid Barataria Sediment Diversion Public Comments Letter
Date: Thursday, August 31, 2017 9:44:07 AM
Attachments: [Ltr to Colonel Michael N. Clancy Mid Barataria Sediment Diversion Public Comments.pdf](#)

Please see the attached letter from Martin A. Mayer. Thank you.

Sharon M. Amacker / Executive Assistant
985-246-3735 / samacker@stirlingprop.com <<mailto:samacker@stirlingprop.com>>

To sign up for Stirling Properties Updates, click here <[Blockedhttp://www.stirlingprop.com/email-updates/](http://www.stirlingprop.com/email-updates/)> .

Stirling Properties Office: 985-898-2022

109 Northpark Boulevard, Suite 300, Covington, LA 70433

Website <[Blockedhttp://www.stirlingproperties.com/](http://www.stirlingproperties.com/)> / Facebook
<[Blockedhttp://www.facebook.com/stirlingproperties](http://www.facebook.com/stirlingproperties)> / Twitter <[Blockedhttp://www.twitter.com/stirlingprop](http://www.twitter.com/stirlingprop)> /
Instagram <[Blockedhttps://www.instagram.com/stirlingproperties](https://www.instagram.com/stirlingproperties)>

From: gahstrong@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Sunday, July 30, 2017 5:33:59 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
Grace Strong
E4635 Lake Road
Ironwood, MI, 49938

From: stulb1585@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Jeanne Stulb](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 6:08:49 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Jeanne Stulb
Folsom, LA 70437

From: donnasu85@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Donna Su](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 4, 2017 11:23:42 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Sincerely,
Donna Su
Covington, LA 70433

From: sunnydawnsummers@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 2:19:38 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Sunny Summers
919 Saint Ferdinand St
New Orleans, LA, 701177228

1 * * *

2 ALFRED SUNSERI
3 1039 Toulouse Street
4 New Orleans, Louisiana 70112

5 ALFRED SUNSERI:

6 I'm Al Sunseri, the owner of
7 P&J Oyster Company, the oldest
8 continually operating oyster company
9 in America that has been in the
10 oyster business for 141 years.

11 I am a member of the Louisiana
12 Wildlife & Fisheries Commission, a
13 member of the Governor's Advisory
14 Commission on Coastal Protection,
15 Restoration and Conservation, and a
16 member of the Louisiana Oyster Task
17 Force, and I'm also a board member
18 of the Gulf Oyster Industry Council
19 and the Louisiana Oyster Dealers and
20 Growers Association. I have been
21 working in our family oyster
22 business for nearly 40 years.

23 For the record, Louisiana is
24 second only to Alaska in total
25 seafood landings, while our State
leads the nation in blue crabs,

1 shrimp, and before the Deepwater
2 Horizon oil disaster, also led in
3 oyster landings. Our State enjoys a
4 wealth of fresh and saltwater
5 finfish that has made our State one
6 of the largest commercial and
7 recreational fisheries in America.

8 Fishing, farming, processing,
9 cooking, and eating these seafoods
10 has been culturally important for
11 hundreds of years to the people of
12 Louisiana and its coastal
13 communities.

14 I am here this evening to speak
15 in opposition to Coastal Protection
16 and Restoration Authority's Permit
17 Application MVN-2012728067E00, to
18 build and operate the Mid-Barataria
19 Sediment Diversion in Plaquemines
20 Parish, Louisiana.

21 One reason I oppose the
22 Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion is
23 because I do not believe that the
24 diversion will protect the citizens
25 of Plaquemines and Jefferson

1 Parishes from flooding. Isn't the
2 mission for the CPRA to focus
3 development and implementation
4 efforts to achieve comprehensive
5 coastal protection for Louisiana?

6 For over 10 years, during more
7 public meetings than I can remember,
8 I've asked the Louisiana Department
9 of Natural Resources, Office of
10 Coastal Management, and then the
11 CPRA, "How long will it take to
12 build enough land from the
13 Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion to
14 protect those living in Plaquemines
15 and Jefferson Parishes?" No one has
16 been able to answer that question,
17 which means they have no idea if the
18 sediment diversion will ever protect
19 this generation, our children's
20 generation, our grandchildren's
21 generation, or even of our great
22 grandchildren's generation from
23 coastal flooding.

24 That is unacceptable when the
25 cost of this project will exceed \$1

1 billion to design, engineer, and
2 build.

3 In my humble opinion, which
4 I'll make known again at this public
5 meeting, is that \$1 billion could be
6 used right now to protect those
7 living in coastal Plaquemines and
8 Jefferson Parishes and we'd get
9 immediate protection from coastal
10 flood surges caused by low pressure
11 systems, tropical storms, and/or
12 hurricanes by building rock barriers
13 to slow down storm surge.

14 It took tens of thousands of
15 years and longer to build the
16 Louisiana estuary with the natural
17 rise and fall of the Mississippi
18 River's alluvial valley, and the
19 proposed Mid-Barataria diversion
20 can't promise protection to anyone
21 soon.

22 Another reason I oppose the
23 Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion is
24 that I know that this diversion will
25 have a detrimental effect on the

1 wildlife and fisheries located
2 within Plaquemines and Jefferson
3 Parishes.

4 As a Wildlife and Fisheries
5 Commissioner, our legislative
6 mandate is to protect, conserve, and
7 replenish the natural resources of
8 the state, the wildlife of the
9 state, including all aquatic life.

10 Also, under State law, the
11 commission, through its secretary,
12 shall improve, enlarge, and protect
13 the natural oyster reefs of this
14 state, as conditions may warrant,
15 subject to the provisions stipulated
16 in this plan and any other law, and
17 shall assist in protecting all
18 lessees of private oyster bedding
19 grounds in the enjoyment of their
20 rights.

21 I am concerned that the
22 operation of the Mid-Barataria
23 sediment diversion will challenge
24 the Wildlife and Fisheries
25 Commission through the Department of

1 Wildlife and Fisheries not to meet
2 our legislative mandate to protect,
3 conserve, and replenish the natural
4 resources of the state, the wildlife
5 of the state, including all aquatic
6 life.

7 According to the Mississippi
8 River Commission Report attached to
9 the Corp of Engineers, Chief of
10 Engineers report to Congress in
11 April of 1963, he states, "The
12 original conditions of the lands of
13 the alluvial valley were heavily
14 timbered and intersected by numerous
15 lakes and bayous, providing
16 excellent habitat for terrestrial
17 and aquatic game, fish and
18 waterfowl. The natural land-locked
19 lakes in old meander channels were
20 periodically replenished and
21 restocked with fish by flood
22 overflow. Fresh water escaping from
23 the main channel through
24 distributaries in the coastal plain
25 maintained a flow of comparatively

1 fresh water through the coastal
2 swamps, and silt carried by
3 overflows assisted in maintaining
4 the level of swampy land that tended
5 to subside due to compression and
6 decay of organic materials."

7 The Chief Engineers report went
8 on to state that the natural
9 resources were diminishing and that
10 "closure of distributary channels as
11 a result of construction of flood
12 control works, originally done by
13 local interests in most cases, has
14 changed the character of parts of
15 the coastal swamp from brackish to
16 salt marsh, with significant changes
17 in vegetation and wildlife. The
18 absence of silt overflow also has
19 contributed to changes in the
20 character of marsh lands. Land in
21 the leveed floodway channels is
22 largely woodland intersected by
23 lakes and bayous, and subject to
24 frequent overflow, although some of
25 the higher and better drained land

1 is in cultivation."

2 His report went on to state
3 that commercial needs for "the main
4 stem of the Mississippi River,
5 together with lakes, bayous and
6 tributary streams within the main
7 stem floodway, supports a
8 substantial commercial fishery.
9 Timbered areas in the main stem
10 floodway, partially protected
11 floodways and unprotected backwater
12 areas, as well as remaining
13 timberland in protected areas,
14 support game, which provides
15 substantial employment for
16 commercial trappers and professional
17 guides. The coastal plain area
18 supports widespread employment in
19 oyster fishery and commercial
20 trapping of muskrat. Both of the
21 latter are dependent, to a large
22 extent, on control of salinity and
23 silt movement."

24 The Chief of Engineers
25 continued in his report to state

1 that there is a "Federal interest in
2 conservation and the Fish and
3 Wildlife Service, under the acts of
4 Congress approved February 18, 1929,
5 and March 10, 1934, the Bureau of
6 Biological Survey of the Department
7 of Agriculture undertook
8 construction and management of
9 migratory waterfowl refuges along
10 the principal flyways and was
11 charged jointly with the Bureau of
12 Fisheries of the Department of
13 Commerce with surveys and
14 preservation of wildlife and fishery
15 resources on public lands."

16 "The Act of August 14, 1945,
17 known as the 'Coordination Act of
18 1946,' extended the authority of the
19 Secretary of the Interior and the
20 Fish and Wildlife Service (successor
21 to the Bureau of Biological Survey),
22 that for the purpose of providing
23 that wildlife conservation shall
24 receive equal consideration and be
25 coordinated with other features of

1 water resource development programs,
2 through the effectual and harmonious
3 planning, development, maintenance
4 and coordination of wildlife
5 conservation and rehabilitation, the
6 Act of August 12, 1958 (Public Law
7 85-624) known as the 'Fish and
8 Wildlife Coordination Act' further
9 amended, extended and supplemented
10 the authority of the Secretary of
11 the Interior and the Fish and
12 Wildlife Service, to provide
13 assistance to, and cooperate with,
14 Federal, State, and public or
15 private agencies and organization in
16 the development, protection,
17 rearing, and stocking of all species
18 of wildlife, resources thereof, and
19 their habitat, in controlling losses
20 of the same from disease or other
21 causes, in minimizing damages from
22 overabundant species, in providing
23 public shooting and fishing areas
24 including easements across public
25 lands for access thereto, and in

1 carrying out other measures
2 necessary to effectuate the purposes
3 of this Act."

4 "The 1958 Act also provides
5 that coordination by the Corps of
6 Engineers, Public Law 624-35th
7 Congress, provides that any Federal
8 agency, or private agency under
9 Federal permit or licenses proposing
10 or undertaking a project for control
11 of any stream or body of water shall
12 consult the Fish and Wildlife
13 Service and the appropriate State
14 agencies with a view to the
15 conservation of wildlife resources
16 by preventing loss of and damage to
17 such resources as well as providing
18 for the development and improvement
19 thereof in connection with such
20 water resource development; and that
21 the reports and recommendations of
22 the Secretary of the Interior and
23 the head of the appropriate State
24 agency as to possible damage to
25 wildlife resources and the measures

1 that should be adopted to prevent
2 loss and damage, as well as to
3 provide concurrently for the
4 development and improvement of such
5 resources, shall be made an integral
6 part of any report made by the
7 agency responsible for engineering
8 surveys and construction of such
9 projects."

10 "In accordance with this
11 provision, representatives of the
12 Fish and Wildlife Service shall
13 assist the District Engineers in the
14 conduct of public hearings and
15 cooperate closely with the
16 appropriate State agencies, the
17 District Engineers, and the
18 President of the Mississippi River
19 Commission in development and
20 presentation of plans to prevent or
21 minimize damage from new works
22 proposed, and to suggest
23 modifications of existing works to
24 assist in restoration or
25 preservation of fish and wildlife

1 values where practicable."

2 In the September 1984 Corp of
3 Engineers feasibility report and
4 environmental Impact for the
5 Caernarvon and Davis Pond Freshwater
6 Diversion Project, it stated that,
7 "Water quality conditions in the
8 Barataria Basin are expected to
9 deteriorate in the foreseeable
10 future with continued urbanization,
11 drainage improvements, and loss of
12 wetlands. The deterioration in
13 water quality could increase the
14 frequency with which Federal water
15 quality criteria and state water
16 quality standards are exceeded."

17 The Corp was absolutely right
18 when they stated that 33 years ago.
19 But in that same Environmental
20 Impact Statement, the Corp of
21 Engineers stated, "The plan would
22 reduce saltwater intrusion, save
23 about 99,200 acres of marsh, and
24 increase oyster production by
25 16,400,000 pounds, which represents

1 a 25 percent increase in the
2 national oyster harvest. The plan
3 also provides many intangible
4 benefits. Habitat conditions for
5 noncommercial and nongame species
6 and productivity of wooded swamps
7 and associated freshwater fish and
8 wildlife, especially in Jean Lafitte
9 National Park, and Salvador Wildlife
10 Management Area, would be improved.
11 The potential for recreation would
12 be increased as well as business
13 opportunities in commercial and
14 sport fisheries and wildlife
15 industries, and related support
16 industries."

17 The Corp was absolutely wrong
18 when they stated that 33 years ago.
19 The plan did not reduce saltwater
20 intrusion, did not save 99,200 acres
21 of marsh, and did not more than
22 double the oyster production in the
23 Pontchartrain and Barataria Basins,
24 but instead reduced production to
25 less than half of the pre-Caernarvon

1 and Davis Pond freshwater
2 diversions.

3 And according to everyone I
4 know who live, work, hunt, fish, and
5 enjoy the wildlife, business
6 opportunities in commercial and
7 sport fisheries and wildlife and
8 related support industries have not
9 improved, but have gotten worse.

10 According to the Gulf Coast
11 Ecosystem Restoration Council 2016
12 Comprehensive Plan, it states, "They
13 must include engagement of a wide
14 diverse array of stakeholders,
15 including Federal, State, and local
16 governments, tribes, private
17 business, non-governmental
18 organizations and the general
19 public."

20 The plan goes on to say, "They
21 can make significant progress toward
22 comprehensive Gulf restoration and
23 provide substantial environmental
24 and economic benefits to current and
25 future generations."

1 The Natural Resource Damage
2 Assessment Trust Fund, which the
3 council oversees, is charged with
4 ecosystem restoration, economic
5 recovery, and tourism promotion in
6 the Gulf Coast region that includes
7 Louisiana.

8 I'm here to tell you that the
9 proposed Mid-Barataria Sediment
10 Diversion will cause irreparable
11 damages to the ecosystem, cause
12 incredible economic damage to the
13 commercial and recreational
14 fisheries, and will do nothing for
15 tourism promotion.

16 The 115th Congress, both the
17 House and the Senate, have passed
18 appropriations language in its
19 appropriations bill funding the
20 Corps for next year, which states
21 the following: "Water Quality and
22 Salinity Impacts on Oyster Reefs;
23 The Committee encourages the Corps,
24 when conducting or reviewing
25 environmental assessments or

1 Environmental Impact Statements for
2 navigation or coastal restoration
3 projects in areas where oyster reefs
4 exist, to consider water quality and
5 salinity impacts on those reefs,
6 and, when appropriate, to mitigate
7 any negative impacts. The Committee
8 also looks forward to the Corps'
9 completion of the congressionally
10 required assessment and report on
11 the beneficial use of dredged
12 material as substrate for oyster
13 reef development."

14 I believe it's Congress'
15 intention for the Corp of Engineers
16 to consider the detrimental effects
17 of water quality and salinity
18 impacts when conducting or reviewing
19 environmental assessments or
20 environmental impact statements for
21 the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion
22 and include funds to mitigate those
23 negative impacts in the statements
24 and assessments.

25 The negative impacts that will

1 need to be mitigated will be quite
2 extensive from all of us who fish
3 oysters, process oysters, distribute
4 oysters, and sell oysters at
5 restaurants and retailers.

6 In closing, the Barataria Basin
7 is the most productive basin in
8 Louisiana for commercial and
9 recreational fish, as well as
10 habitat for marine mammals and
11 birds. Water quality in the
12 Mississippi River is not what it was
13 before landowners and the Corp of
14 Engineers built the levees along the
15 river for agricultural and
16 navigational purposes.

17 The Mid-Barataria Sediment
18 Diversion will have a tremendous
19 negative effect on the nursery
20 grounds and healthy conditions for
21 seafoods to thrive.

22 CPRA stated in their 2007
23 Comprehensive Master Plan that the
24 "nitrogen loading from the
25 Mississippi River watershed is a

1 driver for the spread of hypoxia or
2 low oxygen levels in coastal waters.

3 These nutrient levels threaten
4 Louisiana's productive coastal
5 fisheries and overall water
6 quality."

7 With that said, why are we
8 considering a sediment diversion
9 that will not protect the citizens
10 of Plaquemines and Jefferson
11 Parishes? Why will we allow water
12 to enter the estuary that will cause
13 the spread of hypoxia? Why will we
14 allow the nursery grounds, growing
15 areas, and habitat for our wildlife
16 and fisheries to be destructively
17 effected? Why will we cause undo
18 environmental and economic losses to
19 those of us who rely on the
20 Barataria Basin for their fish and
21 wildlife both recreationally and
22 commercially?

23 I strongly oppose spending one
24 more penny on the studying,
25 planning, construction, or operation

1 of the Mid-Barataria Sediment
2 Diversion because it will cause more
3 damage than it can possibly do to
4 protect those living and working in
5 coastal Plaquemines and Jefferson
6 Parishes.

7 * * *

8 THANH NGUYEN
9 146 Satsuma Drive
10 Buras, Louisiana 70044

11 INTERPRETER:

12 The concern is they're afraid
13 that if the dam is breaking up, the
14 Barataria breaks up into Mississippi
15 and Louisiana, they're going to lose
16 the brown shrimp and that's what
17 they survive on, as a fisherman, and
18 they're catching them for a living.
19 They're afraid that the shrimp's
20 going to go away or it's going to,
21 you know, spread and they're no
22 longer going to be able to catch
23 them and that's how they make their
24 living. So that's what his concern
25 is, if the dam gets broken, and
that's the way he makes his living.

August 14, 2017

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Sieng Suong	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) Coastal Communities Consulting, Inc.
Street Address 180 Chouest Lane	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code Buras, LA 70041	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

If the diversion happens, there will no salt water which means there will be no shrimp. I have been a shrimper in Buras of Louisiana since 2009. I do not want diversion because it will affect my livelihood. I am old, 52 years old, I have no other skills besides shrimping. I will not be able to find jobs at my age because I do not speak or understand English well. I will need your assistance to help me to pay bills and daily survival because I can't work if diversion happens in Mid-Barataria Bay, which is where I work. I will not be able to buy groceries and pay bills. I have 1 child is in college right now and another child will be in college next year. I only want to live a simple life. Thus, I will need the government to help me financially, if diversion happens. Thank you.

Sieng Suong

I, Cristina Duong, at Coastal Communities Consulting, Inc. (CCC) hereby certify that I have translated the above statement from Cambodian into English to the best of my abilities; and I am fluent in both languages.

Cristina Duong
Cristina Duong, Translator

August 14, 2017

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
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Cristina Duong
Cristina Duong, Translator

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Mary Lee Sweat](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 12:52:24 PM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,

Ms. Mary Lee Sweat
1426 Magazine St
New Orleans, LA 70130-4224
(123) 456-7890
mlsweat925@gmail.com

From: benswift@suddenlink.net
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 10:42:51 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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Thank you,
Ben Swift
253 Belleau Wood Blvd
Alexandria, LA, 713032467

From: frances@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Frances Swigart](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Tuesday, August 29, 2017 9:04:42 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Frances Swigart
New Orleans, LA 70116

August 31st, 2017

**Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017**

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? Yes No

If yes, please specify the position.

First and Last Name Nguyen The Tai	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 2501 Lafayette St	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code Gretna, LA 70053	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

My job is shrimp fishing. If in the future fresh water is diverted into this area, it will affect my family's job and life. If the government decides to release fresh water, please provide financial support for me, or find a stable job for me to take care of my family later. Please consider and help us in case the project is conducted. Thank you.

AUG. 31, 2017

Ý kiến đóng góp phải được gửi trước ngày 5 tháng 9 năm 2017

Comment Form

Họp Đánh giá Công khai, Thứ 5, ngày 20 tháng 7, 2017
EIS cho Dự án Chuyển dòng Trầm tích Trung Barataria
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

BẠN LÀ NHÂN VIÊN CÔNG VỤ? CÓ KHÔNG Nếu có, vị trí: _____

Họ và Tên <p>Nguyen The Tai</p>	Bằng cách nào quý vị biết về cuộc họp đánh giá công khai này? <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo Báo chí <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo qua Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Khác (hãy nêu rõ) <p>ccc</p>
Địa chỉ Đường phố <p>2501 Lafayette st</p>	
Địa chỉ Hộp thư (nếu khác với địa chỉ đường phố)	
Thành phố, Tiểu bang, Mã vùng <p>Metna, LA 70053</p>	
Địa chỉ Email	
Cơ quan/Tổ chức	

Thông tin này sẽ được bổ sung vào danh sách mail dự án. Nếu bạn không muốn đưa vào danh sách mail, hãy đánh dấu vào hộp kiểm.

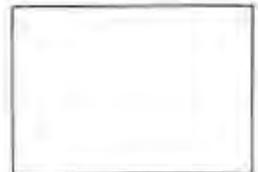
Ý KIẾN: (Hãy viết tiếp vào mặt sau nếu không đủ chỗ.)

Công việc của tôi làm nghề đánh tôm, nếu tương lai nước ngọt đi ra sẽ ảnh hưởng đến công việc mà cuộc sống của gia đình tôi còn nếu chính phủ nhất định xả nước ngọt, thì xin chính phủ hãy cho tôi biết, hoặc là công việc

ôn định để tôi lo cho gia đình
tôi sau này. Kính mong là quan
chức phải cân xét m giúp đỡ, nếu
được hợp Thưa hiên
Cám ơn

Laumms
Nguyễn Thế Tài

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118



Place postage here

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Shawn Tassin](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Monday, August 21, 2017 9:49:46 PM

Aug 21, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

* Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.

* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Mr. Shawn Tassin
1816 Madewood Rd
La Place, LA 70068-2620
(504) 559-5357
shawntassin@att.net

From: maurepas@charter.net
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Saturday, July 29, 2017 6:23:55 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

Given that the need to restore the Mississippi River to its delta has been scientifically understood and largely unmitigated for decades, until it's now practically too late. There is no excuse for any further dithering. The Barataria diversions is the single-most important project to protect the New Orleans metropolitan area. Thank you,

Ben Taylor
1001 W. Michigan St.
Hammond, LA, 70401

From: [Kenneth Teague](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Cc: [Raul Gutierrez](#); [Elizabeth Hill](#); jlopez@SaveOurLake.org; richard.hartman@noaa.gov; Darryl.Clark@fws.gov; Bren.Haase@la.gov; britt.paul@la.usda.gov; deb.abibou@crcl.org; [David Muth](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping Meetings for Developing a Draft EIS on the proposed Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion in Plaquemines Parish, LA
Date: Tuesday, July 11, 2017 6:18:18 PM

Dear Sir/Ms: I am submitting comments, as requested, on the development of a draft EIS for the proposed Mid-Barataroa Sediment Diversion in Plaquemines Parish, LA:

* I strongly recommend the DEIS carefully describe the following and explain how they support the proposed project:

* The need for the project. Specifically describe the loss of coastal wetlands in Louisiana and conversion of fresher wetland types to more saline types over time. Describe the causes of wetland loss and conversion to more saline wetland types. Describe the causes of wetland losses and conversion to more saline types, especially the importance of isolation of the Mississippi River from its delta. Carefully explain the evolution of the Mississippi River Delta, including the process of delta lobe development and abandonment, and the implications of this for the modern, degraded delta.

* The implications of climate change, and especially sea level rise. Small increases in sea level will result in greatly increased rates of wetland loss. So, while reconnection of the Mississippi River to its delta is critical to restoration of the Mississippi River Delta, it is important to have a reasonable estimate of the likelihood of successful restoration, in light of climate change, and especially sea level rise.

* While potential undesirable negative effects of reconnection of the Mississippi River to its delta are possible, they should not be used to argue against the proposed project. The DEIS should explore these potential impacts while acknowledging that the delta cannot be sustained without the proposed project, or similar projects. Such potential effects might include increased loading of contaminants and nutrients. Again, these should be evaluated while acknowledging that they are not rational reasons for not implementing the proposed project, or similar projects.

* Fisheries impacts, and other biological impacts, are likely, but are not good reasons not to implement the proposed project. Again, the history of evolution of the Mississippi River Delta is critical to provide perspective. During natural delta development and evolution, one or more delta lobes received large amounts of Mississippi River water and sediment, and others were in various stages of degradation. The latter were (and are) highly productive marine/estuarine fisheries, the latter were (and are) dominated at least seasonally by freshwater fisheries. Our efforts to maintain and restore the delta should be based on natural delta evolution- one or more basin should be strongly reconnected to the Mississippi River, while others are either allowed to degrade to more marine conditions, or with weak connections to the river.

* In summary, I strongly support the proposed project, but I recommend a robust DEIS be developed to support it, grounded in a clear understanding of the natural processes of the Mississippi River and its delta. Concerns for potential impacts to marine/estuarine fisheries should be evaluated within the context of natural development and evolution of the Mississippi River Delta.

Sincerely,

Kenneth G. Teague, PWS, Certified Senior Ecologist
PO Box 99
Glen Flora, TX 77443
214-202-4988

August 28th, 2017

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Phal Teap	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) Coastal Communities Consulting, Inc. (CCC)
Street Address 209 Delta Aire Drive	
Mailing Address (if different from street address) P.O. Box 294, Venice, LA 70091	
City, State, Zip Code Buras, LA 70041	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

I have been a commercial fisherman since 1990 harvesting finfish and shrimp. I do not want diversion to happen because shrimp will be lost. It would be great if diversion doesn't happen. However, if diversion happens, I would need financial assistance from the government. I do not have anything else to rely on besides what I do everyday, which is shrimping; therefore, I would need help with financial if I cannot go to work.



I, Cristina Duong, at Coastal Communities Consulting, Inc. (CCC) hereby certify that I have translated the above statement from Cambodian into English to the best of my abilities; and I am fluent in both languages.


Cristina Duong, Translator

From: wtemplet@aol.com
To: CEMVN-Midbarataria
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 8:44:53 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017. PS.. I think Louisiana Has way too much wet lands at the present time. If this project is not quickly under taken we will be total wet lands. Just look around. Thank you,

Wayne Templet
3690 HWY 1
RACELAND, LA, 70394

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Judy Tervalon](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Sunday, August 20, 2017 7:33:37 AM

Aug 20, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations
and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30
years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this
Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

* Please regularly share information with the public and other
stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of
the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin
should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which
could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife
and culture.

* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion
should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations
over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we
learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and
request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Ms. Judy Tervalon
4850 Read Blvd
New Orleans, LA 70127-3632
(504) 241-1428
tervalonj@bellsouth.net

From: tervalonj@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Judy Tervalon](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 1:48:26 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Judy Tervalon
New Orleans, LA 70127

Aug. 31, 2017

Ý kiến đóng góp phải được gửi trước ngày 5 tháng 9 năm 2017

Comment Form

Họp Đánh giá Công khai, Thứ 5, ngày 20 tháng 7, 2017
EIS cho Dự án Chuyển đổi Trầm tích Trung Barataria
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

BẠN LÀ NHÂN VIÊN CÔNG VỤ? CÓ KHÔNG Nếu có, vị trí: _____

Họ và Tên DO V THANH	Bằng cách nào quý vị biết về cuộc họp đánh giá công khai này? <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo Báo chí <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo qua Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Khác (hãy nêu rõ) CCC
Địa chỉ Đường phố 243 SPRING ROSE DR	
Địa chỉ Hộp thư (nếu khác với địa chỉ đường phố)	
Thành phố, Tiểu bang, Mã vùng BELLE CHASSE - LA 70037	
Địa chỉ Email tonmudangthuy@yahoo.com	
Cơ quan/Tổ chức	

Thông tin này sẽ được bổ sung vào danh sách mail dự án. Nếu bạn không muốn đưa vào danh sách mail, hãy đánh dấu vào hộp kiểm.

Ý KIẾN: (Hãy viết tiếp vào mặt sau nếu không đủ chỗ.)

Kế hoạch chính phủ để ra thì cũng muốn tốt cho người dân nhưng cũng sẽ có ảnh hưởng đến 1 số ngành nghề ở dọc 2 bên bờ biển. Yêu cầu hãy tìm cách giúp đỡ môi trường này vì những năm gần đây số lượng tôm sụt đi đáng kể và có những thay đổi rất lạ là tôm thì đánh hay năm này năm kia Barataria không thấy lớn từ khi mở hồ cho đến đóng hồ tôm hầu như chỉ có 1 size duy nhất (khi nuôi trước đây tôm nặng lên 2, 3 size so với lúc mở hồ), có những loài cá khác như mất đi, lại thêm giá cả tôm sụt đi đáng kể, trong khi đó giá đỡ cũng cho tôm bẻ, xây dựng cũng tăng rất cao. Chính vì đa số là

lao động, chẳng trong gia đình nên như từ trong
 này cứ tiếp diễn thì gia đình chúng tôi sẽ gặp
 khổ khăn. Xin lấy ra ngân sách để có thể
 giúp đỡ những gia đình nghèo khổ chúng tôi
 (như cho vay không lãi cho các em đi học
 hoặc hỗ trợ thêm những tiền để hoạt động trên
 biển, ăn uống và tiền quà...))

Đảng cộng sản Việt Nam nên xem xét những thành tích,
 cả ưu, nhược điểm của những năm đang lại.

Chú ý đến những phần phân bổ và thu hồi dự
 cho các nông trại ở vùng miền sông Mississippi.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
 Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
 7400 Leake Avenue
 New Orleans, LA 70118



Place postage here

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
 Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
 7400 Leake Avenue
 New Orleans, LA 70118

August 31st, 2017

**Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017**

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? Yes No

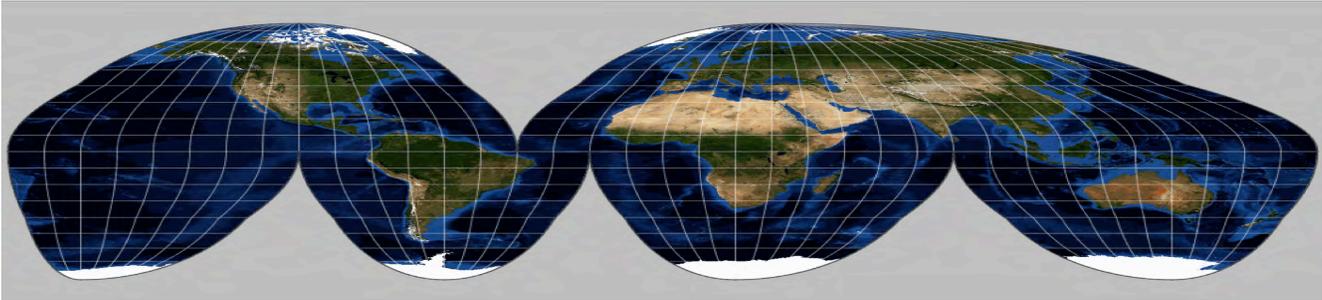
If yes, please specify the position.

First and Last Name DO V THANH	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 243 SPRING ROSE DR	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code BELLE CHASSE – LA - 70037	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

I know the government wants to be good for people, but it will also affect some industries along the coast. We need help for the environment here because we have experienced a significant loss of shrimps in recent years and shrimps in Bartaria do not change their sizes from the opening to the closing of the lake. In the past, shrimps increased two or three sizes but now they do not. Some kinds of fish disappear, and the price of shrimps drops considerably, while the cost for boat maintenance and gasoline increases significantly. We are mostly breadwinners. If this situation continues, our family will face difficulties. Please help the families of fishermen like us, i.e. providing non-profit loans for my children to attend school or providing additional means for more safe and effective marine capture fisheries ...). In the reproductive season, the dam should be closed to prevent freshwater. Please pay attention to the types of pesticides and fertilizers used in Mississippi watersheds.



The Culpepper Group, LLC, 1441 Canal Street, Suite 407 L, New Orleans, LA 70112
504.598.5234/ www.theculpeppergroup.com

September 5, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District
c/o Brad LaBorde
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

Re: Comments on Geology for Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00

Dear Mr. LaBorde:

The Culpepper Group LLC has actively facilitated information sharing between University researchers working with oil & gas industry 3D seismic, and Louisiana state and local agencies, engineering contractors, and other interested parties tasked with planning, design and implementation of Louisiana's coastal resiliency and critical infrastructure plans. Three-dimensional (3D) seismic yields images from near the surface to depths of 40,000' or more and provides important insight into dynamic processes in the subsurface that at a minimum contribute to the pattern of subsidence observed in south Louisiana with other impacts still under investigation.

One area of geologic concern which appears to be impacted by near-surface faulting based on literature reports, new interpretation and simple observation is the proposed Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. We are sending the attached document as part of the EIS Scoping comment process for your review. This note is an add-on to the comments submitted previously by our colleagues and collaborators Chris McLindon, Drs. Nancy Dawers, and Mark Kulp, as well as Dr. McDade.

We encourage the CPRA to address the following concerns regarding a subsurface geological evaluation for the MBSD area:

1. Will a review of the subsurface geology using oil and gas industry 2-D and 3-D seismic data be performed? Access to the preferred 3D data sets may be accomplished through a collaborative engagement with owners, licensees and interpreters of the surveys in the area. Such a collaborative engagement may be facilitated with the assistance of the New Orleans Geological Society, the Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association, or the Louisiana Oil and Gas Association. Oil

& gas industry 2D data should also be considered as a relatively low cost dataset to assess surface faulting (Figure 1).

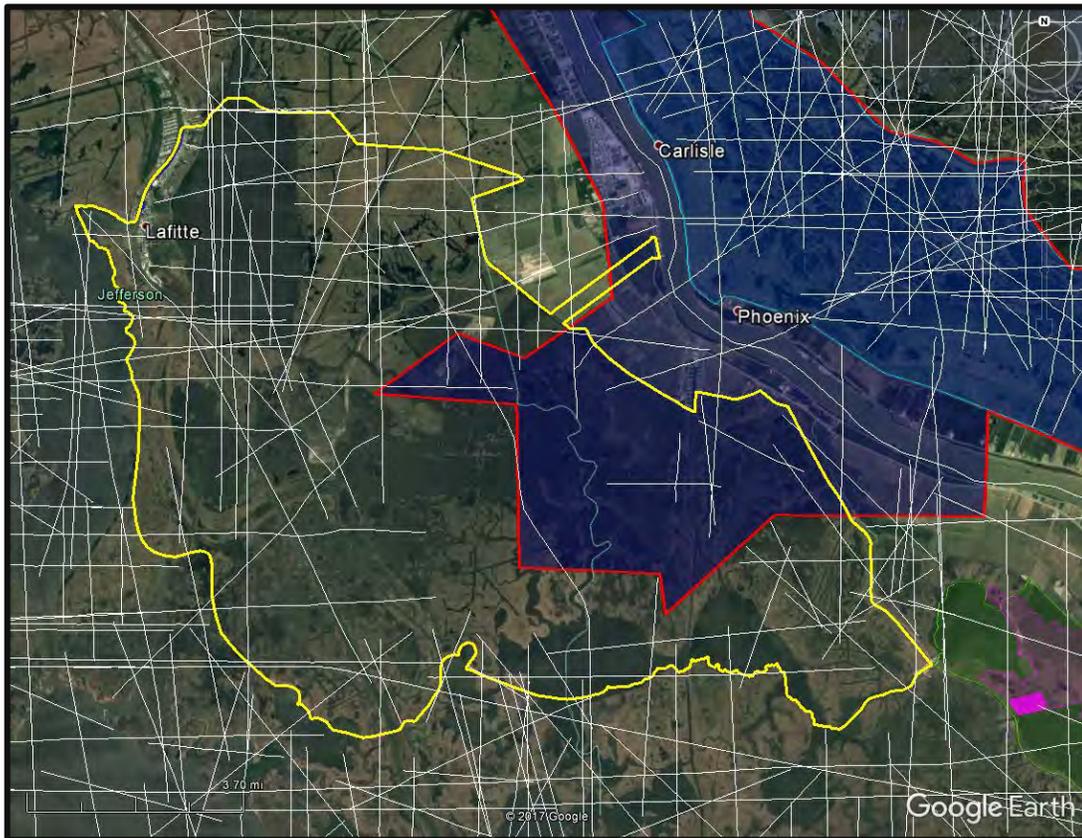
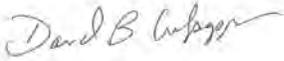


Figure 1: Proposed Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion outline (yellow) downloaded from <https://cims.coastal.louisiana.gov/masterplan/GISDownload/>. Oil & gas industry 2D data is indicated as white lines. 3D seismic data is generally available in the study area – except for the 3D data gap area in dark blue outlined in red.

2. Will high resolution seismic data in the immediate vicinity of the diversion structure be acquired? This should necessarily include land-based acquisition along both banks of the river and marine acquisition in the river channel.
3. Will the acquisition of sediment core profiles across potential faults be completed? The arrangement of these core profiles should be of adequate density to allow for the interpretation of faults by the vertical offset and variations in thickness of the sedimentary layers. The evaluation of core profiles should include detailed stratigraphic analysis and age-dating of the sedimentary layers to allow for estimates of historical subsidence rates and rates of fault movement.
4. Will there be additional subsidence measurement capabilities, similar to those of the Myrtle Grove Superstation at several additional locations in the vicinity of the diversion? We would suggest that these stations should be positioned with advance knowledge of the location of faults in the area to allow for the direct measurement of variations in subsidence velocities across the faults.
5. How will the integration of detailed variations in subsidence rate and estimates of fault slip rate into predictive subsurface geological models including models for the response to sediment loading associated with diversion operations be performed?

6. Will guidance documents and regulations from other states be considered and modified to help develop mitigation techniques to accommodate horizontal and vertical displacement due to fault movement?

The Culpepper Group LLC is committed to helping CPRA move forward with the MBSD design and implementation. In association with CPRA's selected engineering design firm, we are well positioned to assist with assessment of faults in the MBSD and other areas.



David Culpepper, PG
Reg. Prof. Geo. # 465, Louisiana
The Culpepper Group, L.L.C



Dr. Elizabeth Chinn McDade, Ph.D, P.G.
Licensed Professional Geologist (LA) #1095
Subsurface Geologic Consultant

August 15th, 2017

**Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017**

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? Yes No

If yes, please specify the position.

First and Last Name Tran Tho	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 173 Elizabeth, LN EMPIRE LA 70050	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i> PO BOX 4 EMPIRE LA 70050	
City, State, Zip Code	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

- I have been living in the Empire for over 30 years and my career is fishing. Now you plan to release freshwater into my area, I think it will cause much damage to us – fishermen.
- We request that the government provide us with an appropriate living place and suitable jobs.

Aug 15, 2019

Ý kiến đóng góp phải được gửi trước ngày 5 tháng 9 năm 2017

Comment Form

Họp Đánh giá Công khai, Thứ 5, ngày 20 tháng 7, 2017
EIS cho Dự án Chuyển dòng Trầm tích Trung Barataria
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

BẠN LÀ NHÂN VIÊN CÔNG VỤ? CÓ KHÔNG Nếu có, vị trí: _____

Họ và Tên <p>Tran - Tho</p>	Bằng cách nào quý vị biết về cuộc họp đánh giá công khai này? <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo Báo chí <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo qua Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Khác (hãy nêu rõ) <p>ccc</p>
Địa chỉ Đường phố <p>173 Elizabeth LN Empire 70050</p>	
Địa chỉ Hộp thư (nếu khác với địa chỉ đường phố) <p>PO. Box 4 Empire LA 70050</p>	
Thành phố, Tiểu bang, Mã vùng	
Địa chỉ Email	
Cơ quan/Tổ chức	

Thông tin này sẽ được bổ sung vào danh sách mail dự án. Nếu bạn không muốn đưa vào danh sách mail, hãy đánh dấu vào hộp kiểm.

Ý KIẾN: (Hãy viết tiếp vào mặt sau nếu không đủ chỗ.)

Tôi sống ở Louisiana trên 30 năm làm nghề vận chuyển, hiện nay qui trình xử lý chất thải rất nguy hại tới môi trường sống của chúng tôi. Tôi nghĩ sẽ thiệt hại rất lớn tới với người dân miền nam của chúng tôi nếu chính phủ giải quyết thỏa đáng cho chúng tôi về cuộc sống và môi trường sống cho thích hợp. Tôi cho ý kiến và việc làm khác

From: cdt1958@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2017 11:27:02 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Claire Thomas
19170 Antenor St.
Mandeville, LA, 70471-6937

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Kimberly Thompson](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 18, 2017 5:40:31 AM

Aug 18, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations
and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30
years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this
Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

* Please regularly share information with the public and other
stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of
the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin
should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which
could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife
and culture.

* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion
should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations
over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we
learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and
request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Ms. Kimberly Thompson
2008 Riviere Ave
Metairie, LA 70003-4640
(504) 828-6199
chikwitch@hotmail.com

From: THOUKAV@MSN.COM
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, July 28, 2017 12:42:22 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Eileen Thournir
10519 W Warren Dr
Lakewood, CO, 80227

From: bthurau@outlook.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Wednesday, August 30, 2017 1:18:17 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Brooke Thurau
837 W Wolfram St Apt 410
Chicago, IL, 60657

August 31st, 2017

**Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017**

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? Yes No

If yes, please specify the position.

First and Last Name TON THY	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 243 SPRING ROSE DR – BELLE CHASSE – LA 70037	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code	
Email Address tonnudangthy@gmail.com	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

According to the government's plans, the government should take a close look at the benefits and damage that the project causes to people, especially the damage to the people living in this area who make a living by catching shrimp, crabs, oysters ... This is the main occupation of many people living here, as well as of my family. My husband has been fishing for more than 30 years. If the dam is built, the water source will be affected and shrimps may move away from the shore, causing difficulties to my husband's work.

After consideration, if there is no better way than building the dam and releasing freshwater, it is requested that the government set up a budget to help fishermen move to appropriate jobs, or invest more to make this place a tourist attraction, or help our children in terms of education ... The government should try to conserve ecosystems, seafood and beauties, provide training for our children into the industries of oil production and trade.

Aug 31, 2017

Ý kiến đóng góp phải được gửi trước ngày 5 tháng 9 năm 2017

Comment Form

Họp Đánh giá Công khai, Thứ 5, ngày 20 tháng 7, 2017
EIS cho Dự án Chuyển đổi Trâm tích Trung Barataria
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

BẠN LÀ NHÂN VIÊN CÔNG VỤ? CÓ KHÔNG

Nếu có, vị trí: _____

Họ và Tên TON, THY	Bằng cách nào quý vị biết về cuộc họp đánh giá công khai này? <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo Báo chí <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo qua Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Khác (hãy nêu rõ) CCC
Địa chỉ Đường phố 243 SPRING ROSE DR - BELLE CHASSE - LA 70037	
Địa chỉ Hộp thư (nếu khác với địa chỉ đường phố)	
Thành phố, Tiểu bang, Mã vùng	
Địa chỉ Email tonnudangthy@gmail.com	
Cơ quan/Tổ chức	

Thông tin này sẽ được bổ sung vào danh sách mail dự án. Nếu bạn không muốn đưa vào danh sách mail, hãy đánh dấu vào hộp kiểm.

Ý KIẾN: (Hãy viết tiếp vào mặt sau nếu không đủ chỗ.)

Theo như những kế hoạch của chính phủ đã ra, yêu cầu chúng xem xét thật kỹ về những lợi ích và thiệt hại, tôi hiểu thật nhiều thiệt hại cho người dân đang sống trên vùng biển này, làm nghề đánh bắt tôm, ghẹ, cua, hào... Vì đây là nghề chính của không ít người sống ở đây, cũng như gia đình tôi đã sống và không thôi làm nghề đánh bắt tôm đã trên 30 năm, nếu công trình này thì nguồn nước sẽ bị ô nhiễm và tôm có thể sẽ đi ra xa bờ, thì công việc của chúng tôi có thể bị trở ngại.

Nếu như xem xét kỹ hơn thì làm cách nào tốt hơn là xây đập và xả nước ngọt thì yên

cần chính quyền cũng lấy ra một ngân sách để có thể giúp đỡ người như chúng ta đang làm công việc gì khác thích hợp hơn, hoặc đến thăm để có thể biết mỗi ngày là điểm du lịch lớn tại bất khách các tiền bằng khác, hoặc giúp đỡ con em chúng tôi trên những diện học hành ... Hãy cố gắng bảo quản hệ thống sinh thái, hãy xem và thú quan, đào tạo cho con em ở vùng này vào các ngành nghề liên quan sản xuất dân trí và hướng men.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
 Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
 7400 Leake Avenue
 New Orleans, LA 70118



Place postage here

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
 Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
 7400 Leake Avenue
 New Orleans, LA 70118

Aug. 10, 2017

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Eric Tiser	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) ccc Coastal Communities Consulting
Street Address 40847 Highway 23	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code Boothville, LA	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

28 miles of land are already gone, so at this point I feel like there's nothing that can do, the lost land from the mouth of Southwest Pass to Venice. Instead of diversions they could build the land by building a rock jetty and pumping sand into the marshland, it'll build itself back up. Basically, the dredging companies are taking sediment already and dumping it into the ocean. I think the diversions won't work.

X Eric Tiser

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Marie Tizzard](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 5:42:20 PM

Aug 17, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

1. The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.
2. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process.
3. All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin should also consider the effects of not building this project to determine if changes could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
4. Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Ms. Marie Tizzard
3708 Tara Dr
Destrehan, LA 70047-5045
(985) 764-3899
marietizzard@hotmail.com

August 10th, 2017

**Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017**

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? Yes No

If yes, please specify the position.

First and Last Name CANG V TO	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 35698 Hwy II	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code BURAS LA 70041	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

I do not agree with fresh water diversion. Freshwater diversion will let shrimps go offshore. My boat is too small to go offshore so my family life will be affected. I am an old man who does not know English, so I cannot find another job. So I expect the authorities not to divert fresh water.

August 10th, 2017

Ý kiến đóng góp phải được gửi trước ngày 5 tháng 9 năm 2017

Comment Form

Họp Đánh giá Công khai, Thứ 5, ngày 20 tháng 7, 2017
EIS cho Dự án Chuyển dòng Trầm tích Trung Barataria
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

BẠN LÀ NHÂN VIÊN CÔNG VỤ? CÓ KHÔNG Nếu có, vị trí: _____

Họ và Tên <p style="text-align: center;">CANG V TO</p>	Bằng cách nào quý vị biết về cuộc họp đánh giá công khai này? <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo Báo chí <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo qua Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Khác (hãy nêu rõ) <p style="text-align: center;">ccc</p>
Địa chỉ Đường phố <p style="text-align: center;">35698 Hwy 11</p>	
Địa chỉ Hộp thư (nếu khác với địa chỉ đường phố)	
Thành phố, Tiểu bang, Mã vùng <p style="text-align: center;">BURAS LA 70041</p>	
Địa chỉ Email	
Cơ quan/Tổ chức	

Thông tin này sẽ được bổ sung vào danh sách mail dự án. Nếu bạn không muốn đưa vào danh sách mail, hãy đánh dấu vào hộp kiểm.

Ý KIẾN: (Hãy viết tiếp vào mặt sau nếu không đủ chỗ.)

Tôi không đồng ý XA nước ngọt. Nước ngọt
 Tôi sẽ đi xa nước ngọt. Khi tôi cần nước? Sẽ
 không làm được. Chỉ sẽ ảnh hưởng đến tôi. Sẽ giá
 đắt hơn. Vì tôi lớn tuổi không biết tiếng Anh
 nên không thể nào tìm được nước làm.
 Vì vậy tôi mong các cô quay chiếc máy
 đang xa nước ngọt.

mu

August 10th, 2017

**Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017**

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? Yes No

If yes, please specify the position.

First and Last Name NGUYEN V TO	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 35698 Highway II	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code BURAS, LA 70041	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

- 1/ I am a fisherman; my life depends on marine fisheries.
- 2/ If the government diverts fresh water, it can affect our fishermen.
- 3/ So we need help from the government:
 - Open English classes
 - Open vocational training classes
 - Build parks for childrenSo we can have the opportunity to do other jobs when fisheries cannot afford us.
- 4/ In addition to fresh water diversion, I think it is possible to build a high dam and raise houses to avoid flooding.

August 10th, 2017

Ý kiến đóng góp phải được gửi
trước ngày 5 tháng 9 năm 2017

Comment Form

Hợp Đánh giá Công khai, Thứ 5, ngày 20 tháng 7, 2017
EIS cho Dự án Chuyển đổi Trâm tích Trung Barataria
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

BẠN LÀ NHÂN VIÊN CÔNG VỤ? CÓ KHÔNG Nếu có, vị trí: _____

Họ và Tên NGUYỄN V TO	Bằng cách nào quý vị biết về cuộc họp đánh giá công khai này? <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo Báo chí <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo qua Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Khác (hãy nêu rõ) CCC
Địa chỉ Đường phố 35698 Highway 11	
Địa chỉ Hộp thư (nếu khác với địa chỉ đường phố)	
Thành phố, Tiểu bang, Mã vùng Buras, LA, 70041	
Địa chỉ Email	
Cơ quan/Tổ chức	

Thông tin này sẽ được bổ sung vào danh sách mail dự án. Nếu bạn không muốn đưa vào danh sách mail, hãy đánh dấu vào hộp kiểm.

Ý KIẾN: (Hãy viết tiếp vào mặt sau nếu không đủ chỗ)

- 1/ Tôi là ngư phủ, cuộc sống tôi phụ thuộc vào nghề biển.
- 2/ Nếu chính phủ và nước ngọt có thể ảnh hưởng đến ngư phủ chúng tôi.
- 3/ Vậy chúng tôi cần sự giúp đỡ của chính phủ
 - Mở lớp dạy anh văn
 - Mở lớp dạy nghề
 - Làm công viên cho trẻ em.Đề chúng tôi có cơ hội làm việc khác khi làm biển không đủ tiền cho ~~chúng~~ gia đình

chúng tôi.

4/ Ngoài cách xả nước ngọt, tôi nghĩ có thể
đắp cao đắp lên, và nâng cao nhà để có
thể không ngập nước.

~~nguyên~~

Nguyễn Văn To

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118



Place postage item

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

August 10th, 2017

**Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017**

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? Yes No

If yes, please specify the position.

First and Last Name Tan V To	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 35712 Highway II	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code BURAS, LA 70041	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

1. How does freshwater diversion affect fishermen?
 - Shrimps
 - Fish
 - Crabs
 - Oysters
2. I think when freshwater is diverted, shrimps, crab, fish will go far away, causing difficulties for fishermen.
3. So we need help from the government in case of freshwater diversion.
4. Create jobs for fishermen to change jobs or lend us money to make boats bigger, so we can go fishing far offshore.

5. Open English classes to teach us English or provide vocational training, so we have the opportunity to do other jobs when marine fishing cannot afford our family.
6. The government can build freshwater dams or add water pumping stations ... to keep the inland areas from flooding.

August 10th, 2017

Ý kiến đóng góp phải được gửi trước ngày 5 tháng 9 năm 2017

Comment Form

Họp Đánh giá Công khai, Thứ 5, ngày 20 tháng 7, 2017
EIS cho Dự án Chuyển dòng Trầm tích Trung Barataria
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

BẠN LÀ NHÂN VIÊN CÔNG VỤ? CÓ KHÔNG Nếu có, vị trí: _____

Họ và Tên <u>Tan V To</u>	Bằng cách nào quý vị biết về cuộc họp đánh giá công khai này? <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo Báo chí <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo qua Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Khác (hãy nêu rõ) <u>ccc</u>
Địa chỉ Đường phố <u>35712 Highway 11</u>	
Địa chỉ Hộp thư (nếu khác với địa chỉ đường phố)	
Thành phố, Tiểu bang, Mã vùng <u>Buras, LA 70041</u>	
Địa chỉ Email	
Cơ quan/Tổ chức	

Thông tin này sẽ được bổ sung vào danh sách mail dự án. Nếu bạn không muốn đưa vào danh sách mail, hãy đánh dấu vào hộp kiểm.

Ý KIẾN: (Hãy viết tiếp vào mặt sau nếu không đủ chỗ.)

- 1/ Khi nước ngọt xả ra thì ảnh hưởng như thế nào cho ngư phủ - tôm cá
- 2/ - Cua
- Sò
- 3/ Tôi nghĩ khi nước ngọt xả ra nhiều thì tôm, cua ... sẽ đi ra xa, gây trở ngại cho ngư phủ làm việc.
- 4/ Vậy, nếu xả nước ngọt thì chúng tôi cần sự giúp đỡ gì từ chính phủ

4/ Tạo việc làm cho người phụ' đ'oi' nghi' hoặc cho
xây tiên đi làm làm làm hơn, để chúng tôi
đi ra xa khỏi đ'è' làm.

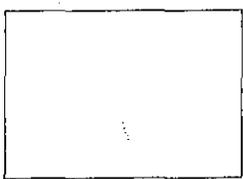
5/ Có những lớp học dạy tiếng Anh, nghi' để chúng
tôi có cơ hội làm việc khác khi nghi' biến' không
còn đủ tiền cho gia đình tôi sống.

6/ Chính phủ có thể đắp đập ngăn nước ngọt, hoặc
đặt thêm trạm bơm nước... để giữ' phân đất
liền không bị ngập thêm.



Tan V To

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118



Place postage here

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

COMMENT 3 OF 3:

Ty To
30 Despaux Lane
Buras, La 70042

MR. TY TO:

If the freshwater coming out a lot than the fishermen, we will be affected a lot. We will be lost a lot of income. And how we survive? Where we go? Where we work? And how we survive? If the problem coming later on, I don't know where I'm going. We have to move away from here.

If the people cannot make survive, the fishermen cannot survive in this area, they have to move. Where we go? Because right now I know we working this area on Mississippi River they go at the end, they come, the level water too high. They kill all the fish, shrimp, everything gone. They just disappear. This year we didn't make anything. The freshwater coming this way, coming out, the whole area will

be freshwater. The whole like
Louisiana will be all freshwater.
We have no more salt water. All the
fisherman cannot survive.

That's my idea, comments.
I want to know what happen later on?
Then what we do?

That's all I have. That's
all.

(End of Comment)

(WHEREUPON, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED -- 8:00 PM)

* * * * *

August 11th, 2017

**Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017**

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? Yes No

If yes, please specify the position.

First and Last Name TY TO	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 130 Despeaux LN Buras LA 70041	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

I am a fisherman in Buras. If freshwater is diverted into the surrounding areas, seafood will be greatly affected. How do fishermen live; where does the future of fishermen go? Because fishermen depend on fish and shrimps to live. When freshwater diversion happens, shrimps and fish will go away or die. So do the oysters.
We need a job.

AUG. 11, 2017

Ý kiến đóng góp phải được gửi
trước ngày 5 tháng 9 năm 2017

Comment Form

Hợp Đánh giá Công khai, Thứ 5, ngày 20 tháng 7, 2017
EIS cho Dự án Chuyển dòng Trầm tích Trung Barataria
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

BẠN LÀ NHÂN VIÊN CÔNG VỤ? CÓ KHÔNG Nếu có, vị trí: _____

Họ và Tên <u>TY - TO</u>	Bằng cách nào quý vị biết về cuộc họp đánh giá công khai này? <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo Báo chí <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo qua Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Khác (hãy nêu rõ) <u>CCC</u> <u>Coastal Communities Consulting, Inc.</u>
Địa chỉ Đường phố <u>130 Despeaux LN BURAS LA 70041</u>	
Địa chỉ Hộp thư (nếu khác với địa chỉ đường phố)	
Thành phố, Tiểu bang, Mã vùng	
Địa chỉ Email	
Cơ quan/Tổ chức	

Thông tin này sẽ được bỏ sung vào danh sách mail dự án. Nếu bạn không muốn đưa vào danh sách mail, hãy đánh dấu vào hộp kiểm.

Ý KIẾN: (Hãy viết tiếp vào mặt sau nếu không đủ chỗ.)

Tôi là ngư phủ ở BURAS, nếu nước ngọt XẢ ra những vùng lân cận thì sea food sẽ ảnh hưởng rất nhiều, rồi những ngư dân làm thế nào để sống, tương lai những ngư dân sẽ đi về đâu vì chi ngư dân lệ thuộc vào tôm cá, mà nước ngọt sẽ làm tôm cá đi hết hoặc chết. Và hào cũng thế.

Chúng tôi cần có công việc làm cho tương lai, nếu ở làm biển nữa.

[Handwritten signature]

August 29, 2017

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Sokham Toeuk	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
Street Address 104 Delta Aine Drive	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code Buras, LA 70041	
Email Address sokhamtoeuk1005@gmail.com	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

My name is Sokham Toeuk. I am a deckhand for my husband Rithy Om's boat. We both reside here in Buras, LA for more about 18 years now and will continue to live here. I am not for this decision for the diversion because if it happens I won't be guaranteed to have a job or even a place to stay. This will affect the way I work in and around the waters and will affect the way I am living here. I am suggesting you all here out from this community of fishermen before considering your decisions. Thank you!

From: mat5504@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 11:58:10 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Marianne Tornatore
1068 Calle del Cerro
San Clemente, ca, 92672

From: [Tornqvist, Torbjorn](mailto:Tornqvist.Torbjorn)
To: CEMVN-Midbarataria
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Monday, August 21, 2017 7:38:20 AM

I'm not sure what happened here, but I don't recall writing the comments below. I don't necessarily disagree with what was said, but these words were not mine. Could you please check your records to find out who submitted this?

Thanks,

Torbjörn E. Törnqvist
Vokes Geology Professor (on sabbatical AY 2017-18)
Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences
Tulane University
tor@tulane.edu
ResearchGate

-----Original Message-----

From: CEMVN-Midbarataria [<mailto:CEMVN-Midbarataria@usace.army.mil>]
Sent: Thursday, August 17, 2017 1:31 PM
To: Tornqvist, Torbjorn <tor@tulane.edu>
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO

I have received your e-mail concerning the proposed Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion (MBSD) project (MVN-2012-2806-EOO). Thank you for your participation in the public scoping process. The input you have provided will help the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers identify the issues and alternatives analyzed in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Formal comments will be incorporated into the EIS scoping report and will factor into our decision making process.

Your e-mail address will be included to our mailing list for future meeting notices. In addition, you can monitor the following websites for project information and timelines:

Blocked<http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Permits/Mid-Barataria-Sediment-Diversion-EIS/>

Blocked<http://www.permits.performance.gov/permitting-projects/mid-barataria-sediment-diversion>

Sincerely,

Brad LaBorde
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
CEMVN-OD-SE
7400 Leake Ave.
New Orleans, Louisiana 70118

-----Original Message-----

From: tor@tulane.edu [<mailto:tor@tulane.edu>]
Sent: Friday, July 28, 2017 11:41 AM
To: CEMVN-Midbarataria <CEMVN-Midbarataria@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Torbjorn Tornqvist
715 Pleasant Street
New Orleans, Louisiana, 70115

From: mrstoth@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Gloria Toth](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Saturday, August 5, 2017 9:40:22 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Gloria Toth
Covington, LA 70435

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Timothy Toups](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 18, 2017 6:58:27 AM

Aug 18, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

* Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.

* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Ms. Timothy Toups
5948 4th St Lot K
Marrero, LA 70072-1639
(504) 715-3279
helguilbeau@yahoo.com

From: christinetrahan54@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 10:48:07 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Christine Trahan
7614 Main St 201
Houma, Louisiana, 70360

From: nursetrahan@aol.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 6:25:22 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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- The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Iris Trahan
4708 CRAIG AVE
METAIRIE, LA, 70003

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Monique Trahan](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 1:45:23 PM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
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- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,

Ms. Monique Trahan
11832 La Hwy 339
Erath, LA 70533-5325
(504) 408-6229
nickigt1@yahoo.com

**Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017**

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? Yes No

If yes, please specify the position.

First and Last Name An Tran	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) Friend
Street Address 141 Glenhill Dr	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code Houma, LA 70363	
Email Address tran.truc02@yahoo.com	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

My name is An Tran; my job is commercial crab fishing at Little Lake, Turtle Bay, Laffite in Parish South Lafourche and Jefferson Parish. I have been involved in this job since 2015. If freshwater comes in, I will lose my income. I currently support my family including my wife and three children. I do not want to divert freshwater into this area. Thank you.

Sept. 5, 2017

Comment Form

Họp Đánh giá Công khai, Thứ 5, ngày 20 tháng 7, 2017
EIS cho Dự án Chuyển động Trầm tích Trung Barataria
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Ý kiến đóng góp phải được gửi trước ngày 5 tháng 9 năm 2017

BẠN LÀ NHÂN VIÊN CÔNG VỤ? CÓ KHÔNG Nếu có, vị trí: _____

Họ và Tên Anh Tran	Bằng cách nào quý vị biết về cuộc họp đánh giá công khai này? <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo Báo chí <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo qua Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Khác (hãy nêu rõ) ccc
Địa chỉ Đường phố 2560 carrie LN	
Địa chỉ Hộp thư (nếu khác với địa chỉ đường phố)	
Thành phố, Tiểu bang, Mã vùng Marrero LA 70072	
Địa chỉ Email	
Cơ quan/Tổ chức	

Thông tin này sẽ được bổ sung vào danh sách mail dự án. Nếu bạn không muốn đưa vào danh sách mail, hãy đánh dấu vào hộp kiểm.

Ý KIẾN: (Hãy viết tiếp vào mặt sau nếu không đủ chỗ.)

Tôi xin có ý kiến chúng tôi không đồng ý chính phủ xã nước ngọt, nếu chính phủ xã nước ngọt thì ảnh hưởng đến cuộc sống gia đình chúng tôi gặp nhiều khó khăn hơn vì gia đình chúng tôi sống về nghề ngư phủ.

September 5th, 2017

**Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017**

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? Yes No

If yes, please specify the position.

First and Last Name Anh Tran	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 2560 Carrie LN	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code Marrero, LA 70072	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

I would like to comment that we do not agree with the government to divert freshwater into our area. If the government releases freshwater, it will affect our family's life. Our family is facing more difficulties because we live on fishing.

August 3rd, 2017

**Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017**

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? Yes No

If yes, please specify the position.

First and Last Name Hien Tran	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 610 Justice Ct	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code Marrero, LA, 70072	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

I currently do oyster farming. If in the future freshwater is input, my job will be slowed down, and I have no profits. I would like the government to help me to move to another industry or have a program to support fishermen like me. Thank you.

August 3, 2017

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Hien Tran	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) C.C.C
Street Address 610 Justice, Ct	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code Marrero - LA - 70072	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

Hien tại tôi đang làm số,
 Nhà Truong hợp, tương lai Nhà có ngót
 đồ ra, công ^{viết} làm số sẽ chậm lại
 lời tức không còn, Tôi Muốn chảnh phú
 giúp tôi chungh^{nh} nghiam & khác,
 hoặc có chương trình hỗ trợ, những người
 ngu phú giống như tôi. Cảm ơn,
 Chau

August 23rd, 2017

**Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017**

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? Yes No

If yes, please specify the position.

First and Last Name Ho Van Tran	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 2504 Lafayette St., Lot 16	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code Gretna, LA 70053	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

If freshwater comes in, shrimps will disappear – causing 50-60% loss. I have been involved in shrimp fishing since 1991. I work in Mid-Barataria and Breton Sound so I do not want freshwater diversion.

August 23rd, 2017

Ý kiến đóng góp phải được gửi trước ngày 5 tháng 9 năm 2017

Comment Form

Họp Đánh giá Công khai, Thứ 5, ngày 20 tháng 7, 2017
EIS cho Dự án Chuyển dòng Trầm tích Trung Barataria
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

BẠN LÀ NHÂN VIÊN CÔNG VỤ? CÓ KHÔNG Nếu có, vị trí: _____

Họ và Tên <u>Ho Van Tran</u>	Bằng cách nào quý vị biết về cuộc họp đánh giá công khai này? <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo Báo chí <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo qua Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Khác (hãy nêu rõ) <u>CCC</u>
Địa chỉ Đường phố <u>2501 Lafayette St., Lot 16</u>	
Địa chỉ Hộp thư (nếu khác với địa chỉ đường phố)	
Thành phố, Tiểu bang, Mã vùng <u>Gretna, LA 70053</u>	
Địa chỉ Email	
Cơ quan/Tổ chức	

Thông tin này sẽ được bổ sung vào danh sách mail dự án. Nếu bạn không muốn đưa vào danh sách mail, hãy đánh dấu vào hộp kiểm.

Ý KIẾN: (Hãy viết tiếp vào mặt sau nếu không đủ chỗ.)

Nếu xã nước ngọt thì tôm tép sẽ mất đi không giống như hồi xưa nữa - mất khoảng 50-60%. Tôi làm tôm từ năm 1991 tới giờ - tôi làm ở Hồ Nam (Mid-Barataria) và Hồ Đông (Breton Sound) - vì thế tôi không muốn xã nước ngọt xây ra.

HO VAN TRAN

August 10th, 2017

**Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017**

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? Yes No

If yes, please specify the position.

First and Last Name HONG TRAN	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 35698 Hwy II	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code BURAS, LA 70041	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

I do not agree to divert freshwater because freshwater causes shrimp loss. I am old and so far my husband and I only know fisheries. So I hope the authorities to have someway to help. The most important thing is that I request the authorities not to divert freshwater.

August 10th, 2017

Ý kiến đóng góp phải được gửi trước ngày 5 tháng 9 năm 2017

Comment Form

Họp Đánh giá Công khai, Thứ 5, ngày 20 tháng 7, 2017
EIS cho Dự án Chuyên dòng Trầm tích Trung Barataria
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

BẠN LÀ NHÂN VIÊN CÔNG VỤ? CÓ KHÔNG Nếu có, vị trí: _____

Họ và Tên HONG TRAN	Bằng cách nào quý vị biết về cuộc họp đánh giá công khai này? <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo Báo chí <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo qua Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Khác (hãy nêu rõ) CCC
Địa chỉ Đường phố 35698 Hwy 11	
Địa chỉ Hộp thư (nếu khác với địa chỉ đường phố)	
Thành phố, Tiểu bang, Mã vùng BURAS LA 70041	
Địa chỉ Email	
Cơ quan/Tổ chức	

Thông tin này sẽ được bổ sung vào danh sách mail dự án. Nếu bạn không muốn đưa vào danh sách mail, hãy đánh dấu vào hộp kiểm.

Ý KIẾN: (Hãy viết tiếp vào mặt sau nếu không đủ chỗ.)

Tôi không đồng ý xã nước ngọt. Vì nước ngọt sẽ làm mất tôm. Tôi lớn tuổi và đồng thời từ trước vô chúng tôi chỉ biết làm nghề biển vậy tôi các cơ quan chức năng có cách nào để ^{trông} giúp đỡ. Tiên, quang tung nhất tôi thỉnh cầu các cơ quan chức năng đừng xã nước ngọt.

Hong

August 31st, 2017

**Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017**

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? Yes No

If yes, please specify the position.

First and Last Name Kim Tran	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 3579 Somerset Dr.	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code New Orleans, LA 70131	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

In New Orleans, everyone knows that seafood is very rich. Visitors want to come here to enjoy shrimp, fish, and shellfish... We have lived on marine fishing for a long time. If freshwater is released into this area, shrimps, fish, shimps, and crabs... will die or no longer reproduce so how will we live! Is there any way the government could help us, such as buying ships for offshore fishing and providing loan for us to change jobs? Before implementing project, you have to do the project for fishermen first.

August 31st, 2017

Comment Form

Họp Đánh giá Công khai, Thứ 5, ngày 20 tháng 7, 2017
EIS cho Dự án Chuyển dòng Trầm tích Trung Barataria
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Ý kiến đóng góp phải được gửi trước ngày 5 tháng 9 năm 2017

BẠN LÀ NHÂN VIÊN CÔNG VỤ? CÓ KHÔNG Nếu có, vị trí: _____

Họ và Tên <i>Kim Tran</i>	Bằng cách nào quý vị biết về cuộc họp đánh giá công khai này? <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo Báo chí <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo qua Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Khác (hãy nêu rõ) <i>ccc</i>
Địa chỉ Đường phố <i>3579 Somerset Dr.</i>	
Địa chỉ Hộp thư (nếu khác với địa chỉ đường phố)	
Thành phố, Tiểu bang, Mã vùng <i>New Orleans, LA 70131</i>	
Địa chỉ Email	
Cơ quan/Tổ chức	

Thông tin này sẽ được bổ sung vào danh sách mail dự án. Nếu bạn không muốn đưa vào danh sách mail, hãy đánh dấu vào hộp kiểm.

Ý KIẾN: (Hãy viết tiếp vào mặt sau nếu không đủ chỗ.)

Ở New Orleans này ai cũng biết rồi mà tôi
 gặp lại tôi thấy rất là phức tạp, du khách
 thấy đây ai cũng muốn hưởng như là đi, đi, ghé, số
 Chanh, còn người phải chấp trả số như bên này
 rất là, nếu như là đi, đi, số, ghé,
 chet-ov ở còn số như như thì chấp trả số
 trả bao nhiêu nữa có cách nào giúp đỡ chấp
 trả ở? có làm như hết làm về thì cho như
 vào cho chấp trả, để chuyển như khác khác?
 hoặc khi làm dự án số đi, thì làm
 dự án cho người dân chấp trả như,

Sept. 5, 2017

Comment Form

Họp Đánh giá Công khai, Thứ 5, ngày 20 tháng 7, 2017
EIS cho Dự án Chuyển dòng Trầm tích Trung Barataria
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Ý kiến đóng góp phải được gửi trước ngày 5 tháng 9 năm 2017

BẠN LÀ NHÂN VIÊN CÔNG VỤ? CÓ KHÔNG Nếu có, vị trí: _____

Họ và Tên <u>Lili Tran</u>	Bằng cách nào quý vị biết về cuộc họp đánh giá công khai này? <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo Báo chí <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo qua Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Khác (hãy nêu rõ) <u>ccc</u>
Địa chỉ Đường phố <u>2560 Carrie LN</u>	
Địa chỉ Hộp thư (nếu khác với địa chỉ đường phố)	
Thành phố, Tiểu bang, Mã vùng <u>Marrero LA 70072</u>	
Địa chỉ Email	
Cơ quan/Tổ chức	

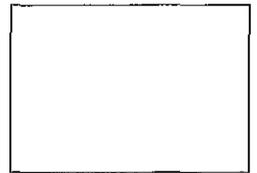
Thông tin này sẽ được bổ sung vào danh sách mail dự án. Nếu bạn không muốn đưa vào danh sách mail, hãy đánh dấu vào hộp kiểm.

Ý KIẾN: (Hãy viết tiếp vào mặt sau nếu không đủ chỗ.)

I do not agree with the releasing of the freshwater into the saltwater for many reasons. My father will not make enough money to pay for our family. He is the worker of our family, meaning he is the one who is paying for our financial bills and education for my brother and me. My mom cannot speak English, so she stays home and takes care of the house and her children. We have friends who have the same occupation as my father, and they depend on the profit that they make to survive. If you decide to release the freshwater, keep in mind all the lives you would make more difficult and all the hard work you would put down the drain. Many of the fishermen have children that, with the release, will have to work in order to help their father. I understand that it's a small thing to

ponder about, but the release of freshwater will move the shrimp away, creating less shrimp to profit of. Please don't release the freshwater. It can create a gruesome impact in our lives and many of others who have worked extremely hard for the lives that we currently have this day.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118



Place postage here

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118**

August 31st, 2017

**Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017**

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? Yes No

If yes, please specify the position.

First and Last Name THANH VAN TRAN	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 3579 Somerset Dr. New Orleans, 70131	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

Before implementing project, you have to do the project for fishermen first because in the Gulf there are many fishermen living on seafood fishing. If you divert freshwater into our area, all seafood will die or no longer reproduce, so how do we live? Is there any way the government can help us? Do you buy ships and provide us with money to change jobs?

Aug. 15, 2017

Ý kiến đóng góp phải được gửi trước ngày 5 tháng 9 năm 2017

Comment Form

Họp Đánh giá Công khai, Thứ 5, ngày 20 tháng 7, 2017
EIS cho Dự án Chuyển đóng Trầm tích Trung Barataria
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

BẠN LÀ NHÂN VIÊN CÔNG VỤ? CÓ KHÔNG Nếu có, vị trí: _____

Họ và Tên <p style="text-align: center;">Triệu Trần</p>	Bằng cách nào quý vị biết về cuộc họp đánh giá công khai này? <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo Báo chí <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo qua Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Khác (hãy nêu rõ) <p style="text-align: center;">ccc</p>
Địa chỉ Đường phố <p style="text-align: center;">183 Elizabeth Ln Empire La 70050</p>	
Địa chỉ Hộp thư (nếu khác với địa chỉ đường phố)	
Thành phố, Tiểu bang, Mã vùng	
Địa chỉ Email	
Cơ quan/Tổ chức	

Thông tin này sẽ được bổ sung vào danh sách mail dự án. Nếu bạn không muốn đưa vào danh sách mail, hãy đánh dấu vào hộp kiểm.

Ý KIẾN: (Hãy viết tiếp vào mặt sau nếu không đủ chỗ.)

Tôi công 3^s Empire công việc trên 20 năm khi bão Katrina đến mà chúng tôi vẫn không bỏ nhà đi vì việc làm và sinh sống của tôi gia đình tôi chi^s h^o và nghề biển bây giờ chính phủ có dự định xả nước ngọt vào địa phận của tôi đang sinh sống thì chính phủ phải đến bù một cách công bằng nữa chúng tôi thấy sự công bằng đó thì người dân chúng tôi cũng sẵn sàng chấp thuận

August 15th, 2017

**Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017**

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? Yes No

If yes, please specify the position.

First and Last Name Trieu Tran	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 183 Elizabeth, LN EMPIRE LA 70050	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

I have been living in the Empire for over 20 years. When Katrina hurricane arrived, we still did not leave here because our work and living rely all on fishing. Now the government plans to release freshwater into our area, the government must compensate appropriately. If we are satisfied with your compensation, we are willing to accept the project.

September 5th, 2017

**Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017**

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? Yes No

If yes, please specify the position.

First and Last Name Van C Tran and Phong Nguyen	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 3478 Louise St	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code Harvey, LA 70058	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

If the government releases freshwater, it will severely affect fishermen, including losses of shrimps, crabs, and fish. When freshwater is released, shrimps, crabs, and fish cease to reproduce and die slowly. Therefore, we cannot make a living; our family will be stuck because we have no other jobs but fishing.

Regarding the compensation, can they make compensation for our whole life? The only way is to stop it, doing nothing just like before.

Sept. 5, 2017

Comment Form

Họp Đánh giá Công khai, Thứ 5, ngày 20 tháng 7, 2017
EIS cho Dự án Chuyển dòng Trầm tích Trung Barataria
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Ý kiến đóng góp phải được gửi trước ngày 5 tháng 9 năm 2017

BẠN LÀ NHÂN VIÊN CÔNG VỤ? CÓ KHÔNG Nếu có, vị trí: _____

Họ và Tên <u>Van e Tran and Phong Nguyen</u>	Bằng cách nào quý vị biết về cuộc họp đánh giá công khai này? <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo Báo chí <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo qua Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Khác (hãy nêu rõ) <u>ccc</u>
Địa chỉ Đường phố <u>3428 Louise St</u>	
Địa chỉ Hộp thư (nếu khác với địa chỉ đường phố)	
Thành phố, Tiểu bang, Mã vùng <u>Harvey La 70058</u>	
Địa chỉ Email	
Cơ quan/Tổ chức	

Thông tin này sẽ được bổ sung vào danh sách mail dự án. Nếu bạn không muốn đưa vào danh sách mail, hãy đánh dấu vào hộp kiểm.

Ý KIẾN: (Hãy viết tiếp vào mặt sau nếu không đủ chỗ.)

Nếu mà chính phủ xả nước ngọt thì ảnh hưởng tới những người ngư phủ rất nặng, bao gồm như tôm, ghe, cá, bởi vì nước ngọt mà xả thì tôm, ghe, cá kg còn sinh sản nữa mà nó sẽ chết từ từ và chúng tôi kg còn làm ăn được nữa, nếu như tình trạng này xảy ra thì gđ chúng tôi sẽ bế tắt, bởi vì tại tôi kg có nghề nào khác ngoài làm biển.

Nếu như muốn họ giúp đỡ kg để bắt họ bồi thường suốt đời sao, chỉ có cách là đừng có xả nước ngọt là được rồi, cứ để giống như xưa, thì mọi sự đâu có gì.

From: vivt@email.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 6:38:31 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Vivien Trichter
78 Einstein Way
East Windsor, NJ, 085122540

From: wctrimble@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 9:45:47 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
William Trimble
425 Opelika Rd, Apt 157
Auburn, Alabama, 36830

August 9th, 2017

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
285 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name

Philip Trinh

Street Address

2248 Potomac Dr.

Mailing Address

(if different from street address)

City, State, Zip Code

Marrero, LA 70072

Email Address

Affiliation

How did you learn about this public scoping meeting?

Newspaper Notice

Notice in Mail

Email

Website

Other (please explain)

Coastal
Communities
Consulting

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

There is already evidence that shrimp populations have declined with the Caernarvon freshwater diversion so why is another diversion project planned? There should be other options explored to help w/ rebuilding land since studies have already shown that the fisheries overall will be affected. The EIS study should include in its report:

- Impact on all fisheries

- Impact on existing land

And how will fishermen be compensated when the diversions come and impact our livelihoods.

Philip G. Trinh

From: [Jim Tripp](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MBSD scoping comments
Date: Thursday, August 31, 2017 12:19:03 PM
Attachments: [MBSD scoping comments 083117.docx](#)

Attached are some personal MBSD scoping comments.

This e-mail and any attachments may contain confidential and privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately by return e-mail, delete this e-mail and destroy any copies. Any dissemination or use of this information by a person other than the intended recipient is unauthorized and may be illegal.

CEMVN-Midbarataria@usace.army.mil

Mr. Brad LaBorde
US Army Corps of Engineers New Orleans District
New Orleans, Louisiana

Re: Comments on the MBSD Scoping Process

Dear Mr. LaBorde:

The State CPRA has submitted an application for a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit as well as 1899 RHA Section 10 permit for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion (“MBSD”) to the New Orleans District. The proposal calls for a diversion with a capacity of 75,000 cfs with an operational plan that seeks to maximize sediment conveyance per volume of water discharged and calls for opening the diversion whenever Lower Mississippi River (“LMR”) flows are at or exceed 450,000 cfs. This letter constitutes my personal comments on the draft scoping plan.

Given the presence of bottlenose dolphins in the mid-Barataria Basin, within the influence area of MBSD freshwater and sediment discharges, this project may require a incidental take permit from NOAA under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. The State expects to request funding for the project from Natural Resource Damage funds that are part of the settlement with BP under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990. These three actions all require compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (“NEPA”). The Corps, NOAA and the Natural Resource Damage (“NRD”) trustees have decided to prepare one environmental impact statement (“EIS”) that would address all three proposed actions, alternatives and impacts. While a unified NEPA process may be complex, it makes a great deal of sense given the overlapping information about project purpose and need and assessment of reasonable alternatives and impacts.

Definition of the Scoping Process. Under the CEQ NEPA regulations, NEPA compliance starts with a scoping process as defined at 40 CFR 1508.25 where “scope” is defined as “the range of actions, alternative and impacts to be considered in an” EIS. 40 CFR 1508.25. The FAST Act comes into play since the MBSD project has been placed on the Dashboard. That Act at 42 USC 4370m-4(c)(1) provides: “As early as practicable during the environmental review, but not later than the commencement of scoping for a project requiring the preparation of an environmental impact statement, the lead agency shall engage the cooperating agencies and the public to determine the range of reasonable alternatives to be considered for a covered project.” 4370-m-4(c)(2)(A) further states: “Following participation under paragraph (1) and subject of subparagraph (B), the lead agency shall determine the range of reasonable alternatives for consideration in any document that the lead agency is responsible for preparing for the covered project.”

This means in effect that the Corps, NOAA and the NRD Trustees will be coming to an agreement on what set of reasonable alternatives is to be assessed in the EIS in the course of the scoping process and that this agreement will be reflected in the scoping document. Hopefully

the State will concur with this understanding. What constitutes a “reasonable” alternative to the State’s construction and operational plan proposal depends on what the purpose and need of the project is. The State permit application describes that purpose and need well, as does the comment letter from the Restore the Mississippi River Delta Coalition. The justification for that purpose and need depends on what the historic conditions have been, what the current conditions are and what the projected background conditions are anticipated to be in both in the Lower Mississippi River (“LMR”) and in the Mid-Barataria Basin and therefore what evolving environmental conditions the project is intended to address.

The environmental impacts of a major sediment diversion at Myrtle Grove, the proposed location of the MBSD and alternative capacities were considered in the programmatic EIS prepared for the 2004 Louisiana Coastal Area Ecosystem Restoration Final Report and therefore incorporated into the LCA Ecosystem Restoration Chief’s Report that was a foundation for the 2007 WRDA Title VII authorization. In addition, the 2017 State Plan for a Sustainable Coast considers the 75,000 cfs MBSD in a broad context that identifies a large number of sediment and smaller freshwater diversions, marsh creation and ridge restoration and other restoration and protection projects. These documents should be incorporated by reference in the record of this scoping process.

Background conditions. The assessment of impacts of the proposed MBSD and reasonable alternatives is a function in part of background conditions in the Barataria Basin. 40 CFR 1502.15 “Affected Environment” provides that the EIS “shall succinctly describe the environment of the area(s) to be affected or created by the alternatives under consideration.”

Typically, the existing or background environment of the area to be affected by a project is relatively stable or static. That is not the case with the Barataria Basin. This Basin is deteriorating with a high historic and predicted rate of land loss with wetlands being converted to open water. The Fisk 1947 map of coastal Louisiana shows the Basin to be comprised of a thick set of wetlands interlaced with bayous and small bodies of open water. As David Muth summarizes in his July 25, 2016 memo to NOAA, the Basin many decades ago had extensive wetlands with no large bays and was substantially fresh. As the wetlands have subsided and broken up in response to cessation of sediment inputs and construction of canals and navigation channels, large bays have been formed with salt water intrusion from the Gulf penetrating further and further into the Basin. Since 1947 when the Fisk map was prepared, tens of thousands of wetlands in the Basin have been converted to open water. The State’s 2017 Master Plan anticipates that wetlands in the Basin will continue to be lost and converted into open water over the next 50 years and beyond absent major restoration initiatives to reintroduce and convey sediment into the Basin. Blum and Roberts show the Basin to be largely devoid of wetlands by 2100 with the Basin incorporated into the Gulf of Mexico.

The Mississippi River through its various alignments and distributaries over the last 7000 years built the Delta, the 7th largest in the world, thousands of square miles of coastal marsh and swamp forest through the distribution of its sediment whenever the LMR rose and overflowed its banks. Following the flood of 1927, Congress authorized the Corps to take measures to prevent future such floods while maintaining navigation. The Corps thus assumed

responsibility for building up and strengthening levees along both sides of the River. These levees and associated flood control and navigation works have largely severed the LMR from the Delta with much of its sediment now discharged through distributaries that are gradually enlarging at the lowermost part of the River and its mouth off the continental shelf. Since the Delta's wetlands require inputs of sediment to maintain their structure with subsidence and sea level rise endemic, the resulting deprivation of sediment has been a major factor in coastal wetland loss, as noted in the LCA Ecosystem Restoration Final Report and the 2017 State Plan. Oil and gas pipeline and equipment canals and other development features have exacerbated land loss, but sediment deprivation is the basso continuo condition of the Delta. At the same time, the continued loss of wetlands increases the vulnerability of this vast flood control and navigation structure to storm damage and exposes the GIWW increasingly to the ravages of coastal storms. The Barataria Basin as part of the larger Delta is therefore neither a "healthy" nor "stable" ecosystem.

The LMR itself is changing in response to subsidence and sea level rise, changing conditions that have to be taken into account in terms of assessing the impacts of the MBSD on LMR conditions and navigation. The MR&T system includes a large number of dams on tributaries of the Mississippi River and tributaries of those tributaries. Dams on the Missouri River and its tributaries have contributed to a significant decline in transport of finer-grained sediment down the main stem of the Mississippi River. This is at least a partial explanation for the decline in sediment, particularly finer-grained sediment, in the LMR that is often noted. However, that decline is not a force of nature, but of man that could be altered when sediment diversions such as the MBSD are constructed and operated and could make beneficial use of those sediments to sustain wetlands. Therefore, current levels of sediment, in particular fine-grained sediments in the LMR below New Orleans, reflect man-induced alterations to the functioning of the Mississippi River that could be altered in the future if and when conveyance of larger amounts of finer-grained sediments for any given amount of water were deemed to be beneficial. Declines in sediment volumes should therefore not be presented as a natural irreversible phenomenon.

Purpose and Need of the MBSD. An EIS should describe what the purpose and need of the proposed project is. 40 CFR 1502.13. As the State's permit application and its 2017 State Master Plan indicate, the need for the project is to promote restoration of the sediment-starved Barataria Basin through reintroduction and distribution of LMR sediments of all grain sizes. The purpose of the MBSD is to achieve such a geographically broad distribution of sediments by reconnecting the LMR with the Barataria Basin and thus using the energy of water in the LMR to distribute these sediments in a manner that "replicates natural processes". Without such a project, the Basin, a vital part of the vast Delta complex, will continue to experience wetland loss and conversion of wetlands to open water.

The need for the sediments, both sand and finer-grained material that constitutes some 70 to 80% of the LMR sediment load, is profoundly evident. Wetlands that are becoming weak in response to sediment deprivation coupled with subsidence and sea level rise can be revitalized with inputs of finer-grained sediments that they can filter and use as enhanced substrate for growth and combatting drowning. This need for sustaining of wetlands is a vital function of a

sediment diversion such as the MBSD that it can address immediately upon the commencement of operation. Another need is to build up bottom elevations to a point where wetland rejuvenation is possible through the conveyance and deposit of heavier sediments such as sand. This purpose and need is central to the MBSD and cannot be satisfied in any other manner. Marsh creation can serve a subset of these purposes and thus complement sediment diversions such as the MBSD but not the larger purpose of a vast distribution of finer-grained sediments vital to sustaining wetlands that would otherwise become part of the arithmetic of land loss.

No action alternative. The CEQ NEPA regulations require as part of the alternatives analysis a description and assessment of the “no action” alternative. This would be a description and assessment of what the environment in the Mid-Barataria Basin would look like and would likely become without the project. A broad description of this alternative is set forth in the section on “Background Conditions” above, in the State’s 2017 Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast and in the Blum Roberts paper. Without major restoration actions such as the MBSD coupled with marsh creation, ridge redevelopment and barrier island projects as described in the 2017 State Master Plan and the 2004 LCA Ecosystem Restoration Final Report, the deterioration of the Barataria Basin will continue as will most other parts of the Delta outside of the Atchafalaya Basin and the influence of the Lower Atchafalaya River, with the rate of deterioration dependent in part on the rates of sea level rise and coastal subsidence.

The consequences of this continued deterioration and loss of wetlands are many. They include:

- Continued loss of wetland storm buffering capacity in the Barataria Basin and resulting increased vulnerability of the Corps’ navigation and flood control system, the GIWW, transportation infrastructure, other levees and residential communities to wave energy and storm surge;
- Over time loss of habitat and food sources for many species of fish, shellfish and wildlife. Documents that the Gulf Fishery Management Council have prepared pursuant to the Magnuson Stevens Fish Management Act (see **Appendix A “The Role of Wetland Habitats as Essential Fish Habitat for Species of Socioeconomically Important Shellfish and Finfish and Food Prey of Bottlenose Dolphins in the Mississippi River Delta”**) describe in detail the role and importance of Gulf wetlands for marine fish, including species of prey fish important for marine mammals, such as dolphins.
- On the long term, impoverishment of “essential fish habitat”. Coastal wetlands contribute to high biological productivity by providing inputs of detrital material and nutrients as well as breeding, nesting, nursery and foraging areas for shellfish and finfish and their food prey. See, as noted in **Appendix A**, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (October 1998), *Generic amendment for addressing essential fish habitat requirements in the following fishery management plans of the Gulf of Mexico: shrimp fishery of the gulf of Mexico, United States waters; red drum fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; reef fish fishery of*. Retrieved from <http://gulfcouncil.org/Beta/GMFMCWeb/downloads/FINALEFH-%20Amendment%201-%20no%20appendices.pdf>; Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. (2004a, March), *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Generic*

Essential Fish Habitat, Retrieved from

<http://gulfcouncil.org/Beta/GMFMCWeb/downloads/Final%20EFH%20EIS.pdf> and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. (2004b, March). *EFH EIS tables*.

Retrieved from

http://gulfcouncil.org/Beta/GMFMCWeb/downloads/EFH_EIS_Tables.pdf.

- The continued loss of wetlands would adversely affect essential fish habitat as explained in the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Habitat Policy that provides, in pertinent part:

“7. Coastal Wetland Management Policy:

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) defines coastal wetlands as forested and non-forested habitats, mangroves, and all marsh islands (including portions of barrier islands) that are exposed to tidal activity. Included in forested wetlands are hardwood hammocks, mangrove swamps, spoil banks, cypress-tupelo gum swamps, and bottomland hardwoods. Non-forested wetlands include fresh, brackish, and salt marshes. These areas directly contribute to the high biological productivity of coastal waters by input of detritus and nutrients, by providing nursery and feeding areas for shellfish and finfish, and by serving as habitat for many birds and other animals. Realizing the ecological importance of coastal wetlands in the estuaries of the Gulf of Mexico, and as Essential Fish Habitat for or impacting the fishery resources that the Council manages or that are within the Council’s jurisdiction, it is the policy of the Council to:

Promote the conservation, maintenance, and restoration of healthy coastal wetlands to sustain and enhance a diversity of marine resources.”

- Continued intrusion and penetration of salt water further and further into the Basin as wetlands become open water where such man-made changes in physical and chemical characteristics would fit the definition of “pollution” in the Clean Water Act.
- Increasing instability and unhealthiness of the Barataria Basin marine ecosystem contrary to the primary objective of management of marine mammals as set forth in the Marine Mammal Protection Act (“MMPA”), 16 U.S.C. 1361 Section 2 (Findings and Declaration of Policy) (6).

Reasonable alternatives. We have described the No Action alternative above. As quoted above, the CEQ NEPA and FAST Act regulations envision a major purpose of the scoping process to be the delineation of reasonable alternatives to the proposed project that serve that project’s purpose and need. The FAST Act provides that the final scoping document should set forth the full range of reasonable alternatives that will be assessed in the draft and then final EIS. The MBSD fits the definition of “water dependency” as that term is defined in the EPA 404(b)(1) Guidelines at 40 CFR 230.10(a)(3) since this project must necessarily discharge water and sediment into the Mid-Barataria Basin in order for it to serve its purpose of reconnecting the LMR with a portion of the Delta and for those sediments to serve their function of sustaining and restoring wetlands in that Basin. The proposed location and capacity of the MBSD are the result of extensive scientific investigations.

Alternatives for the Corps’ permitting processes. While the 2017 State Plan like the 2004 LCA Ecosystem Restoration Final Report and the 2007 WRDA Title VII authorization calls for a number of other kinds of restoration projects, such as large marsh creation, barrier island, ridge

redevelopment and beneficial use of dredged material projects, they are not a substitute for sediment diversions; instead, as part of a whole they are highly useful complements to sediment diversions such as the MBSD. The 2017 State Plan emphasizes the utility of marsh creation projects in parts of the Deltaic system that cannot readily be served by diversions. Marsh creation is designed to build land largely through placement of heavy sediments such as sand in a particular location using mechanical dredging, transport and discharge to accomplish this goal. A diversion by contrast is designed to reconnect the LMR with the Delta and use the energy of the LMR to convey and distribute sediment. While a sediment diversion can build land with the sand that it conveys, the larger mass of material, namely, silts and clays which are useful in sustaining wetlands are conveyed significant distances by a diversion in a manner that marsh creation cannot replicate. At the same time, a diversion helps to support and sustain marsh creation projects by providing an ongoing flow of sediments. In any event, the 2017 State Plan, like the 2007 WRDA Title VII authorization, proposes some dedicated dredged and placement in the mid-Barataria Basin to provide, among other things, some control over distribution of MBSD sediments during early operation.

The State is proposing an operations plan that provides for opening the diversion using LMR flows above 450,000 cfs as a trigger. This operations plan is designed to maximize conveyance of sediment and to minimize conveyance of water and thus to replicate the kinds of conditions when the LMR would have conveyed its water and sediment into the Delta that it built before the levees were constructed. A more aggressive operations plan could have a lower trigger, e.g., 400,000 cfs or less. A less aggressive one could have a higher trigger. However, we suggest that the Report of the Operations Working Group be used to consider different ways of fine-tuning the State's proposed plan to achieve conveyance of large amounts of sediment to sustain and build wetlands in a manner that takes into account other resource goals. This would entail an assessment of impacts of the State's proposed operations plan and a comparison of those impacts with those of a fine-tuned operations plan designed to serve some other specific resource goal. Fine-tuning may be particularly important in the earliest years of operation as Basin vegetation and biological life as well as communities dependent on those resources are adjusting to changing conditions in terms of inputs of sediment and freshwater that restoration necessarily entails.

There are special reasons for adaptive management to play a central role in the further refinement of the operations plan in light of the limitations of the best available physical and biological models, lack of experience with sediment diversions and the challenges of devising a plan that should be in effect for 50 or more years. For a good discussion of adaptive management, see J.B. Ruhl & Robert L. Fischman, *Adaptive Management in the Courts*, 95 MINN. L.R. 424 (2010); J.B. Ruhl, *Taking Adaptive Management Seriously: A Case Study of the Endangered Species Act*, 52 U. KAN. L. Rev. 1249 (2003); Julie Thrower, *Adaptive Management and NEPA: How a Nonequilibrium View of Ecosystems Mandates Flexible Regulation*, 33 Ecology Law Quarterly 871 (2006). A couple of cases that have extensive discussion of adaptive management are *Defenders of Wildlife v. Salazar*, 698 F. Supp. 2d 141, 149 (D.D.C. 2010) and *Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership v. Salazar*, 616 F. 3d 497, 517 (D.C. 2010).

Given the continuing deterioration of the Basin, the length of time that it may take to complete design, permitting, NEPA compliance and commencement of construction should be a factor in fashioning alternatives. The State has proposed completing this process in 2020 with construction commencing in that year. The Corps' schedule appears to indicate October 2022 as the date for permit decisions. That two-year differential has major environmental consequences in terms of loss of additional square miles of wetlands in the Basin before MBSD operations could commence. These consequences would warrant consideration of alternatives based on these two time lines.

Alternatives for NOAA action under the MMPA. Since the EIS that is the subject of this scoping process is to serve as NEPA compliance for any action that NOAA may take under the MMPA with respect to the MBSD, NOAA will have to consider reasonable alternative courses of action. While the details of any action that it might take will be influenced by the Basin dolphin tagging and other research that it now has underway to learn more about the population dynamics of dolphins inhabiting the Basin and their responses to changing salinity and other conditions, its general alternative courses of action would seem to be:

- Denial of any incidental take permit. Since any major Delta restoration project, including barrier island and marsh creation projects as well as diversions, that is of a magnitude to alter flows of saline water would cause changes in salinity conditions, the logic of denial would be continued deterioration of the Barataria Basin with continued loss of wetlands and, over time, the Basin becoming more and more an extension of the Gulf of Mexico. NOAA would have to assess the impacts of Delta land loss on the prey food supply for Basin and Gulf dolphins and the long-term viability of any Basin stock of dolphins as the Basin became increasingly like the Gulf itself. Depending on the scientific assessment, one could pose the question whether a denial that could lead to the MBSD not being constructed and operated could constitute a taking of dolphins.
- Granting of an incidental take permit subject to various conditions affecting the MBSD operational plan on a schedule that would allow the Corps to meet its FAST deadline for making permit decisions by October 2022.
- Granting of an incidental take permit with similar conditions that would allow the Corps to make permit decisions in accordance with the State's goal of achieving permitting and NEPA compliance in 2020. For both this alternative and the preceding one, one condition would be to control the initial operation to make sure that dolphins would have time to move into higher salinity waters as they presumably do on occasion now. Further constraints on operation that would limit sediment inputs would have to take into account reductions in acres of wetland sustained and restored.
- Granting of an enhancement permit under 16 USC 1371(a)(1)(ii)(II) that allows for this course of action in the absence of a conservation recovery plan "with the Secretary's evaluation of the actions required to enhance the survival or recovery of the species or stock in light of the factors that would be addressed in a conservation plan or a recovery plan."

- Allowing the MBSD to proceed without an incidental take permit under 16 USC 1379(h) and 50 CFR 216.22(a) on the ground that the Delta wetland restoration that the State's MBSD should achieve over time is, under (1)(B), for "the protection of the public health and welfare" and that the diversion can be operated in its initial stage in a manner that would achieve any taking, in the form of relocation of affected dolphins to higher salinity waters, "in a humane manner..." Pertinent cases involving municipal or state action under this section affecting multiple marine mammals include *La Jolla Friends of the Seals v. NMFS*, 630 F. Supp2d 1222 (S.D.Cal. 2009), *aff'd*, 403 F. App'x 159 (9th Cir. 2010) and *United States v. Bryson*, 924 F. Supp. 2d 1228 (D.Or.2013), *aff'd sub nom. Humane Society of the United States v. Pritzker*, 548 F. App'x 355 (9th Cir. 2013).
- A finding that any relocation of dolphins that the MBSD might cause does not constitute a "taking" because their presence in lower parts of the Basin is a result of man-made, artificial changes in the Basin such that they would not as part of their "natural routine" be in the Basin *la U.S. v. Hayashi*, 22. F3d 859 (9th Cir. 1993).

Another alternative could be a composite of five of the six alternatives described above, all of them except the first two premised on the State's time schedule for permitting and NEPA compliance. It would provide for an incidental take permit that would minimally constrain operation of the MBSD except in its initial phase to give any dolphins that could be adversely affected by fresh water flows time to swim to higher salinity waters. Such a permit would take into account the Finding and Declaration of Policy set forth in 16 USC 1361 (6), namely, that "the primary objective" of the "management" of Basin and Gulf dolphins "should be to maintain the health and stability of the marine ecosystem" with the recognition that the Basin ecosystem today is neither healthy nor stable and is becoming increasingly unhealthy and unstable and that the restoration that the MBSD can achieve will contribute to the Basin's "health and stability". It would in this manner construe the incidental take permit provisions so as to contribute to the near-term and long-term health and stability of the Basin rather than taking the Basin in the opposite direction.

Such a minimally constraining incidental take permit would further be premised on the fact that Delta restoration that is the basic purpose of the MBSD is in furtherance of "the protection of the public health and welfare" and that any "taking" can be achieved "in a humane manner." As a backdrop, such an incidental take permit would be based on the fact that the environment in the Basin that allows dolphins to find viable habitat with suitable salinities is a result of man-made, artificial manipulation of the Basin, not natural conditions that would be found in the real "wild". Finally, such a minimally constraining incidental take permit would have as a basis that on the long term, as the Basin continues to deteriorate and at some point *la Blum and Roberts* becomes virtually part of the Gulf any separate Basin "stock" would cease to become viable.

Alternatives for the Natural Resource Damage Trustees. The alternative courses of action for the Trustees could be to deny funding for the MBSD, provide partial

funding or provide full funding as needed. Massive scientific evidence is available as noted in the PDARF and other Trustee documents, as well as the 2017 State Plan, that the wetlands that the MBSD would sustain and restore in the Basin that the MBSD could achieve over time would be of the same or “comparable type and quality” (15 CFR 990.53(c)(2)) to wetlands directly injured by the Gulf oil spill and that such a diversion is the best alternative, coupled with Basin barrier island and dedicated dredging, for achieving recovery of parts of the Basin so injured.

Full funding depends on the timing of the flow of NRD funds to the Trustees under a 15-year payout under the settlement agreement and thus the availability of sufficient funds for MBSD construction without retarding such construction if the State’s schedule can be met. If such flows of funds are not sufficient on a schedule that would allow expedited construction following expedited permitting and NEPA compliance in accordance with the FAST Act, the Trustees could approve partial funding with Clean Water Act criminal settlement funds under the control of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation providing supplemental financial support.

Assessment and comparison of impacts of the MBSD as a restoration project. The vast majority of projects subject to Section 404 and section 10 permitting are traditional development project that entail discharges of dredged and fill material into waters of the US, including wetlands, in a manner that damages those resources. This is not the case with the MBSD that is a restoration project that serves restoration purposes.

The stated purpose of NEPA is “...to promote efforts which will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere...” 42 U.S.C. 4321. The Barataria Basin is deteriorating, losing wetlands and experiencing salt water intrusion, as described in “**Background conditions**” above. The MBSD constitutes such an effort “to prevent or eliminate damage” to the Deltaic ecosystem environment of the Mid-Barataria Basin. In general, therefore, its construction and operation would be in furtherance of the basic purpose of NEPA.

Similarly, the objective of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 12251(a), is to restore the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the Nation’s waters. The EPA 404(b)(1) Guidelines provide in 230.1 “Purpose and policy”: “(a) The purpose of these Guidelines is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of waters of the United States through the control of discharges of dredged or fill material.” The MBSD is a project designed to control discharges of dredged and/or fill material with the purpose of maintaining and restoring the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the Barataria Basin. As such, in general its construction and operation would be in furtherance of the restoration goals of the Clean Water Act and the 404(b)(1) Guidelines specifically. The impacts of the MBSD and its operations plan, including fine-tuning of that plan, should be considered in the context of these purposes of NEPA and the Clean Water Act.

Depending on its operation, the MBSD will have impacts on and change the Barataria Basin, including sustaining wetlands that otherwise would be converted to open water, rebuilding wetlands that have already become open water, and slowing and halting further

intrusion of Gulf salt water into a Basin that historically was fresh and reversing that salt water intrusion. These impacts serve the restoration purposes of NEPA and the Clean Water Act and should therefore be assessed in this framework. These physical and chemical changes will certainly have biological consequences and in turn socio-economic consequences, but the impacts of the “no action” alternative or an unduly cramped operations plan will over time be adverse and severe, contrary to the purposes of NEPA and the Clean Water Act.

Over a period of years and decades, consequences the sustaining and building of wetlands that the MBSD will bring about should enhance “essential fish habitat” relative to the no action condition as the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Council has defined that term both in its fish management plans and in its Guidelines.

Sincerely,

James T. B. Tripp

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Appendix A

The Role of Wetland Habitats as Essential Fish Habitat for Species of Socioeconomically Important Shellfish and Finfish and Food Prey of Bottlenose Dolphins in the Mississippi River Delta

Prepared by Michelle Yeh

PURPOSE

Louisiana is experiencing a coastal land loss crisis, but restoration projects have the potential to restore the wetlands and its ecological services. We are interested in the importance of wetland habitat in relation to food, shelter, productivity, and nursery grounds for the food prey of bottlenose dolphins, in addition to the role of wetlands as essential fish habitat (EFH) for commercially and recreationally significant fish species in coastal Louisiana. These findings are based largely on quotations and references found in the *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Generic Essential Fish Habitat Amendment to the following fishery management plans (FMPs) of the Gulf of Mexico (GOM): Shrimp Fishery, Red Drum Fishery, Reef Fish Fishery, Stone Crab Fishery, Coral and Coral Reef Fishery, Spiny Lobster Fishery, Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources* and the *Generic Amendment for Addressing Essential Fish Habitat Requirements in the following Fishery Management Plans of the Gulf of Mexico: Shrimp Fishery, Red Drum Fishery, Reef Fish Fishery, Coastal Migratory Resources (Mackerels), Stone Crab Fishery, Spiny Lobster, Coral and Coral Reefs* published by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council).

Additional major references cited include, but are not limited to, publications of the:

- Department of the Army – New Orleans District Corp. of Engineers (DCOE)
- Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
- United States Geological Survey National Wetlands Research Center
- Related academic and research papers found in National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries' Galveston Laboratory Publications

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Mississippi River Delta, including coastal Louisiana, contains some of the most productive estuaries and wetlands in the United States. Louisiana contains 41% of the nation's coastal wetlands and provides 25% of the nation's commercial fish harvest (Department of the Army – New Orleans District Corp. of Engineers, 1984). Before the 20th century, the estuarine region was sustained by the Mississippi River's deposits of sediments and nutrients, but construction of levees along the river for flood protection and navigation, along with the creation of dams, began impeding floodwaters from continuously nourishing coastal estuaries and wetlands (Caffrey & Schexnayder, 2002). Lack of accretion combined with subsidence, saltwater intrusion, and wave erosion result in deteriorated wetlands of the Mississippi River Delta. As the coastal landscape continues to retreat, predominately fresh/intermediate marsh are transforming to brackish/saline marsh, and brackish/saline marsh are transforming to open waters (Caffrey & Schexnayder, 2002).

Both the Corps of Engineers, in its November 2004 Louisiana Coastal Area Ecosystem Restoration Final Report, and Louisiana state, in its 2012 Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast, have emphasized the central role of sediment diversions in reintroducing significant amounts of sand and finer-grained sediments from the lower Mississippi River into the sediment-starved delta. While the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), in its diversion comments letters dealing with EFH and dolphins, has focused on salinity impacts of diversions, its official publications describe the central role of wetland habitat in the health of key fish and shellfish species and dolphins. These publications suggest that the sustainability and restoration of wetlands by sediment diversions could have beneficial consequences for fish species and dolphins, and conversely, constraints on reintroduction of sediments could reduce the sustainability and restoration of wetlands, resulting in adverse impacts on EFH and dolphins.

Coastal wetlands directly contribute to the high biological productivity of coastal waters by input of detritus and nutrients and by providing breeding, nesting, nursery, and foraging areas for shellfish and finfish (Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 1998). Predominate EFH managed shellfish species in coastal Louisiana include penaeid shrimp (particularly brown and white shrimp). There is a direct relationship between yield of shrimp and acreage of marsh and submerged grassbeds in Louisiana's estuaries (Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 2004, p. 3-124). Oysters and blue crab are major prey species not under Council FMPs but are also abundant in the Mississippi River Delta.

Louisiana's marsh provides shrimp food and protection from predation; juveniles are able to mature quickly in the estuarine-rich environment because of the abundance of shrimp prey, including detrital organic matter, small invertebrates, and small fishes. Adult oysters filter-feed on detritus and other organisms plentiful in the estuaries and wetlands and oyster reefs serve as fish habitat for crab, shrimp, offshore reef fish, and finfish (Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 2004). Blue crab are tied to the coastal wetlands as juveniles and adults, where they are often found in saltmarsh edge habitats. Blue crabs forage in intertidal marshes and adult blue crabs often feed on molluscs that reside on the marsh surface. (Zimmerman, Minello, & Rozas, 2000). Blue crab larvae feed on algae, phytoplankton and zooplankton and in addition to molluscs, adults feed on oysters, fishes, detritus, shrimp, and other crustaceans and prey (Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 2004).

Finfish managed fisheries in the Mississippi River Delta include, but are not limited to, the red drum fishery, the reef fish fishery, and the coastal migratory pelagic fishery. Species that are not under the Council FMPs but are either abundant in the delta or are significant bottlenose dolphin prey include the spotted seatrout and mullet. The spotted seatrout is socially and economically important to Louisiana and are distributed in coastal estuaries and "utilize tidal marshes and creeks as nursery grounds" (Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, 2002, p. 7). Mullet is a major prey species for bottlenose dolphins and many other estuarine and marine fishes and cetaceans. Juvenile mullet inhabit marshes and other intertidal areas and have a diet consisting of detritus and algae, which continues into the adult stage (Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 2004).

Red drum is a dominant species in the gulf, and wetlands are important habitats for larval, juveniles and subadults. Young red drum are protected in the shallow waters with grassy/muddy bottoms and juvenile red drum are found in large quantities near marsh edge (Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 1998). Red drum prey are estuarine-dependent, as they feed on crab, shrimp, mullet, and more (Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 2004). Similarly, many species of reef fish, including red snapper, and coastal migratory pelagic fishes, such as

mackerel, also feed on estuarine-dependent prey (e.g., penaeid shrimp) (Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 1998).

Bottlenose dolphins are found across the Gulf of Mexico, with an existing stock in Barataria Bay, Louisiana. Common prey of these marine mammals are species of mullet, mackerel, and drum. These dolphin prey are closely tied to wetland habitats, as previously mentioned. According to a letter written by the Marine Mammal Commission to the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council, inshore bottlenose dolphins feed “very close to land and in some cases drive fish out of shallow marsh waters and onto shore in a technique called ‘strand feeding’” (28 September 2015, p. 2).

The Caernarvon freshwater diversion in Braithwate, Louisiana and the Bonnet Carre spillway structure of Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana show potential degrees of effectiveness and consequences of freshwater and sediment diversions. The Caernarvon freshwater diversion shifted isohalines seaward, affecting fish and shellfish catch and production and resulting in fresher conditions in the upper marshes (Chesney, Baltz & Thomas, 2000). The Bonnet Carre spillway reduced the salinity of the Mississippi Sound, temporarily compromising the health of several bottlenose dolphins inhabiting Lake Pontchartrain (Barry, Gorgone and Mase, 2008).

Many species use wetlands for part of or all of their life-cycle as the affluence of detritus and other microscopic food sources are available for many small shellfish and finfish, which are then food for larger predatory fish and mammals. There is an abundant amount of direct wetland use by species residing in the Gulf and river diversions can affectively bring marshland and salinity levels closer to historic levels.

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I. Brief overview of salinity change and wetland loss in areas of the Mississippi River Delta

- a. In the Barataria Bay, “construction of Bayou Lafourche dam in 1904 and the Mississippi River levees in the 1930s restricted in flow to the upper estuary... Although salinity in the lower estuary is still greatly influenced by Mississippi River water entering from the Gulf, the upper estuary was changed from a system dominated by seasonal over-bank flooding to one dominated by local precipitation.”
(Orlando, Rozas, Ward, & Klein, *Salinity Characteristics of Gulf of Mexico Estuaries*, 1993, p. 99)
- b. “Coastal Louisiana is predominately a broad marsh indented by shallow bays containing innumerable valuable nursery areas. Total estuarine area in 1970 encompassed more than 2.9 million ha (7.2 million acres), of which over 1.5 million ha (3.9 million acres) was marsh vegetation and more than 1.3 million ha (3.3 million acres) was surface water area (Perrett et al., 1971)... Sediments consist of mud, sand and silt and are very similar across the coast, ranging from coarse near the Gulf and barrier islands to fine in the upper estuaries (Barrett et al., 1971). By 1990, Louisiana only had 1.53 million ha (3.8 million acres) of coastal wetlands, of which 1.02 million ha (2.5 million acres) were marsh and only 0.43 million ha (1.0 million acres) were non-fresh marsh (USGS, 1997).”
(Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, *Generic Amendment for Addressing EFH Requirements*, 1998, p. 35)
- c. “Natural and anthropogenic factors have caused severe wetland loss in Louisiana as large areas of coastal marshes have changed from tidally flooded marsh to open-water habitats.”
(Chesney, Baltz, & Thomas, *Louisiana Estuarine and Coastal Fisheries and Habitats*, 2000)
- d. Reduced freshwater inflows allows “penetration of the salt-wedge further upstream allowing for greater intrusion of marine predators, parasites, and diseases”
(Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, *Generic Amendment for Addressing EFH Requirements*, 1998, p. 35)
Bottlenose dolphins are considered among top predators
(Ocean Conservation Society, *Movement Patterns of Coastal Bottlenose Dolphins off California and Northern Baja California, Mexico*)
- e. Salinities in estuaries are “low in late fall and winter, coinciding with higher rainfall runoff and low tides. Through the spring and summer, salinities increase progressively and reach a max in late summer and early fall, coinciding with high tides and high evaporation rates. Seasonal salinities range between 6 and 21 ppt in Barataria Bay and Breton Sound and decrease gradually inland. In Bayou Barataria near Lafitte, average monthly salinities range from 1.1 to 3.3 ppt. The area has experienced a long-term rise in salinity levels. Increased salinity levels are readily detected in shifts in vegetation type. Comparing marsh vegetation

maps that depict 1945 and 1968 conditions indicates that saline marshes moved inland an average of 2.1 miles and the brackish marshes 3.8 miles as a result of increased salinities.”

(Department of the Army - New Orleans District Corp. of Engineers, *Feasibility Report on Freshwater Diversion to Barataria Bay and Breton Sound Basins*, 1984, p. 11)

- f. “During months of low freshwater input, surface salinities near coastline of the Gulf range between 29 and 32 ppt. High freshwater input conditions during spring and summer result in strong horizontal salinity gradients with salinities less than 20 ppt on the inner shelf”
 - i. May – nearshore waters showed salinity of 30 ppt or less, and for all of Louisiana and Texas to Galveston Bay, salinity of nearshore water was less than 24 ppt
 - ii. August – only water less than 30 ppt was a very narrow band in the nearshore area off central Louisiana
- (Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Generic Essential Fish Habitat*, 2004, p. 3-15)
- g. The waters in the open Gulf are 36-36.5 ppt. Bottom salinities are freshest and most saline during May and August in the northwestern Gulf
- (Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Generic Essential Fish Habitat*, 2004, p. 3-15)
- h. “Vegetation change from 1968 to 2013 has been documented by Chabreck, Sasser and others (Chabreck 1972, Sasser et al. 2014). In most areas of the Louisiana coast, habitat types have become more saline and more saltwater tolerant vegetation is moving in-basin.”
- (Operations Working Group DRAFT Report)
- i. Higher salinities and flooding reduce seedling emergence for most plant species
- (Baldwin, *The Influence of Vegetation, Salinity, and Inundation on Seed Banks of Oligohaline Coastal Marshes*, 1996, p. 470)
- j. In 1998 Gulf Council Generic Amendment for Addressing EFH requirements, they cited a Barrett et al. (1971) study on the hydrological aspects of Louisiana’s estuaries and found that the “estuaries and near offshore waters are low in salinity and high in nutrients compared with the other Gulf States. High rainfall and large volume of river discharge account for these characteristics. The Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers are the main contributors of nutrients to the estuaries and also are responsible for the large dilutions in salinity within the coastal area.”
- (Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, *Generic Amendment for Addressing EFH Requirements*, 1998, p. 39)
- k. “Wildlife productivity is directly correlated to plant growth and composition (Palmisano, 1973)... Increasing nutrients and sediments in the estuarine area would enhance the growth of marsh vegetation and slow the rate of land loss in the overall study area. Increased plant growth would result in greater production of organic detritus that is important for a high rate of fisheries production. Production of phytoplankton and zooplankton would increase in areas where

turbidity is not limiting and, as a result, the harvest of sport and commercial fish and shellfish that depend on these organisms would increase.”

(Department of the Army – New Orleans District Corp. of Engineers, *Feasibility Report on Freshwater Diversion to Barataria and Breton Sound Basins*, 1984, p. 30)

- i. Overall ranking of habitats use for species in the six FMPs in eco-region 3 (East Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama - Pensacola Bay to the Mississippi Delta) and eco-region 4 (East Texas and west Louisiana - Mississippi Delta to Freeport) – emergent marshes ranks 12 of 25 for both regions

(Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, *EFH EIS tables*, 2004, p. 8-90)

- m. Number of nonindigenous aquatic vertebrates occurring in Louisiana – mammals: 1. Fishes: 27. Amphibians: 2.

(Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, *EFH EIS tables*, 2004, p. 8-125)

- n. “Saline zone inland movement is significantly reducing the broad, brackish zones that are vital nursery grounds for the juvenile stage of most important commercial and sport finfish and shellfish species. As saltwater intrusion narrows the broad, brackish zones, the size of the nursery area will continue to be reduced. Biologists are in general agreement that habitat reduction would be accompanied by diminishing harvests. Shrimp and menhaden yields have been correlated directly to these areas of intertidal wetlands...

Restoring low salinities in zones that have been eliminated or greatly reduced by saltwater intrusion would benefit juvenile white shrimp, blue crabs, menhaden, Atlantic croaker, and several other species of shellfish and finfish. The major benefits, however, would be to improve and restore the historical oyster harvesting areas. Areas where salinities are less favorable for the southern oyster drill and other oyster predators and diseases would be expanded.”

(Department of the Army – New Orleans District Corp. of Engineers, *Feasibility Report on Freshwater Diversion to Barataria and Breton Sound Basins*, 1984, p. 26)

Table 1 below

(Department of the Army – New Orleans District Corp. of Engineers, *Feasibility Report on Freshwater Diversion to Barataria and Breton Sound Basins*, 1984, p. 21)

TABLE 1
PROJECTED HABITAT TYPE CHANGES
1978-2035

Habitat Type	1978	1985	1995	2005	2015	2025	2035
	(Acres)						
Bottomland Hardwoods	53,000	48,400	42,700	37,700	33,200	29,300	25,800
Wooded Swamps	170,800	156,800	139,000	123,200	109,200	96,700	85,700
Marsh							
Fresh/Intermediate	210,200	175,100	134,900	103,800	79,900	61,500	47,400
Brackish	242,700	244,900	241,700	233,500	221,900	208,300	193,600
Saline	204,300	193,300	179,200	166,600	155,100	144,800	135,500
Water							
Fresh/Intermediate	74,300	74,900	75,800	76,700	77,600	78,400	79,200
Estuarine	907,700	951,300	1,007,900	1,058,900	1,104,600	1,146,500	1,183,700
Other Land Uses ^{1/}	436,300	454,600	478,100	498,900	517,800	533,800	548,400
TOTAL	2,299,300	2,299,300	2,299,300	2,299,300	2,299,300	2,299,200	2,299,300

SOURCE: Modified after US Fish and Wildlife (1980)

^{1/} Includes lands cleared and converted to agriculture, pasture, residential, urban, and industrial uses.

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II. Generic statements looking at the entire system of fisheries and wetland significance

- a. Coastal wetlands directly contribute to the high biological productivity of coastal waters by input of detritus and nutrients, by providing nursery and feeding areas for shellfish and finfish, and by serving as habitat for many birds and other animals
(Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, *Generic amendment for addressing EFH requirements*, 1998, p. 12)
- b. Freshwater inflow creates and maintains low salinity nursery habitats that provide food and cover to juvenile fish, shrimp, crabs, oysters and other biota
(Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, *Generic amendment for addressing EFH requirements*, 1998, p. 131)
- c. "The disappearance of wetlands throughout Barataria Basin means loss of critical breeding, nesting, nursery, foraging and overwintering habitat for economically important fish, shellfish, furbearers, migratory waterfowl, alligator, and several endangered species. Loss of wetland habitat and the accompanying trend toward higher salinities would lead to lower biodiversity and productivity"
(USGS National Wetlands Research Center, n.d.)
- d. "The area between Sabine Lake, Texas and Mississippi Sound, including the Mississippi River Delta has been called the 'Fertile Fisheries Crescent' due to the apparent relationship between marsh vegetation and fishery productivity in the area (Gunter 1967) ... Like other marshes, those of the Mississippi River Delta provide shelter and trophic support to fish. The fish fauna of the MRD is diverse

and contains permanent residents and transients (mostly juveniles) that use the marshes as nursery habitat (Gosselink 1984). The majority of these fish feed on the benthic and epibenthic invertebrates that are abundant throughout the marshes. Most biological activity is confined to the marsh edge, and this is probably the reason that the best predictor for inshore shrimp catch is marsh edge length. Biological productivity tends to peak as delta lobes are destroyed, possibly due to the increase in edge that occurs as different areas of the marsh are submerged and plants die.”

(Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Generic Essential Fish Habitat*, 2004, p. 3-31)

- e. “The vegetated wetlands found in estuaries are among the most productive ecosystems on earth... [Marshes and mangroves] are integral parts of the estuarine system, serving as nursery areas for larval and juvenile invertebrates and fish and as a source of much of the organic material needed to sustain the detrital food webs that dominate energy flow in both estuarine and marine ecosystems.”

(Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Generic Essential Fish Habitat*, 2004, p. 3-26)

III. EFH of Managed species predominantly in the Mississippi River Delta

- a. “Most estuarine organisms can tolerate a wider range of external salinities than oceanic species... Estuarine-dependent species comprise more than 95 percent of the commercial fishery harvests from the Gulf of Mexico, and many important recreational fishery species also depend on estuaries during some part of their life cycle.”

(Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, *Generic amendment for addressing EFH requirements*, 1998, p. 131-133)

- b. **Shellfish**–

- i. Penaeid shrimp fishery includes brown, white, pink and royal red shrimp in the Gulf, plus seabobs. All three major species of shrimp (brown, white and pink) in the Gulf are estuarine dependent “Yield of shrimp in Louisiana’s estuaries is directly related to the acreage of marsh [and submerged grassbeds]. These areas not only provide postlarval, juvenile and subadult shrimp with food and protection from predation, but help to maintain an essential gradient between fresh and saltwater. Juveniles transform quickly in food-rich estuarine environment. All three species are opportunistic feeders as juveniles and adults, consuming detrital organic matter, small invertebrates, small fishes and plants.”

(Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Generic Essential Fish Habitat*, 2004, p. 3-124)

“Each year’s take of brown white and pink shrimp will be heavily influenced by water salinity and temperature during critical periods of estuarine shrimp growth. Major concern for future stocks is related to

concern for adequate habitat, particularly for the estuarine-dependent brown white and pink shrimp which account for most of the annual shrimp harvest”

(Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, *Fishery Management Plan for the Shrimp Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico, United States Waters, 1981*, p. 2-1)

Shrimp prey (zooplankton, phytoplankton, algae) habitat are also essentially the same as that required by shrimp. Juvenile white shrimp and blue crab heavily use habitats with salinities as low as 0.2 ppt.

“Larvae of shrimp feed on phytoplankton and zooplankton. Postlarvae feed on epiphytes, phytoplankton, and detritus. Juveniles and adults prey on polychaetes, amphipods, and chironomid larvae but also on detritus and algae (Pattillo et al., 1997).”

(Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, *Generic amendment for addressing EFH requirements, 1998*, p. 90)

“Turner (1977) related shrimp yield to total acreage of intertidal vegetation present in adjacent estuaries, acknowledging that assessments of total intertidal area may actually have produced indices of the most valuable habitat: marsh ‘Edge...’ These data suggest declining brown shrimp (and other species) harvest in relation to interface decline.”

(Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, *Generic amendment for addressing EFH requirements, 1998*, p. 40)

“Displacement and decreases in shrimp production should be expected to have impacts on other valuable species that prey upon shrimp, such as seatrout, red drum, and red snapper”

(NMFS letter to Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority: Elizabeth L. Davoli June 26 2013)

“... Fishery models showed that brown shrimp, white shrimp, and blue crab populations also declined substantially during this period as the area of wetlands and marsh edge was reduced”

(Rozas. Minello, and Caldwell, *Nekton populations, long-term wetland loss, and the effect of recent habitat restoration in Galveston Bay, Texas, 2007*, p. 119)

“Overall mean densities were higher in marsh edge habitat than over shallow nonvegetated bottom for all three decapod species (brown shrimp, white shrimp, blue crab)... Penaeid shrimps generally feed by browsing and digging through surface sediments. Both juvenile white shrimp and brown shrimp are omnivorous and known to eat epiphytic algae, marsh detritus, and animal material in the laboratory. Marsh annelids (mainly spionids and capitellids) and peracarids (mainly

tanaiidaceans and amphipods) were readily eaten by juvenile shrimps. Brown shrimp are more effective at removing infauna from sediments and appear to be obligate carnivores that depend on dense numbers of infauna found on the marsh surface. In contrast, white shrimp are less effective at removing infauna from sediments; this species is truly omnivorous and depends more on plant resources than brown shrimp.”
(Zimmerman, Minello, and Rozas, *Salt marsh linkages to productivity of Penaeid shrimps and blue crabs in the Northern Gulf of Mexico*, 2000, p. 295)

Growth and feeding for both white and brown shrimp post larvae, early juveniles and late juveniles occur in emergent marshes.
(Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, *EFH EIS tables*, 2004, p. 8-56)

“Larvae of shrimp feed on phytoplankton and zooplankton. Postlarvae feed on epiphytes, phytoplankton, and detritus. Juveniles and adults prey on polychaetes, amphipods, and chironomid larvae but also detritus and algae... The habitat of these prey is essentially the same as required by shrimp”

Fish identified as feeding on penaeid shrimp – sand seatrout, spotted seatrout, Atlantic croaker, Spanish mackerel, red snapper
(Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Generic Essential Fish Habitat*, 2004, p. 3-128)

1. **Brown shrimp** – found within estuaries to offshore depths of 110 m throughout the Gulf.
“Brown shrimp larvae occur offshore and begin to migrate to estuaries as postlarvae. Postlarvae migrate through passes on flood tides at night mainly from February – April with a minor peak in the fall. Postlarvae and juveniles are common to highly abundant in all US estuaries from Apalachicola Bay in the Florida panhandle to the Mexican border. In estuaries, brown shrimp postlarvae and juveniles are associated with shallow vegetated habitats but are also found over silty sand and non-vegetated mud bottoms. Postlarvae and juveniles have been collected in salinity ranging from 0 to 70 ppt. The density of late postlarvae and juveniles is highest in marsh edge habitat and submerged vegetation, followed by tidal creeks, inner marsh, shallow open water and oyster reefs. Juveniles and sub-adults of brown shrimp occur from secondary estuarine channels out to the continental shelf but prefer shallow estuarine areas. Annual brown shrimp production in Louisiana is correlated with the acreage of marsh with water above 10 ppt salinity... Its life cycle is typical of estuarine dependent organisms. Brown shrimp are spawned

offshore during the spring and summer and the eggs, larvae and postlarvae ride the currents of the gulf through late summer and fall until they are carried into the estuaries from February through April. Once in the estuaries, they move deep into the marsh where they spend their early juvenile stages in protected marsh ponds and bayous.”(Utilize emergent vegetation for nursery habitat.)“As their size increases, they move out of the shallow areas of the marsh and into progressively deeper water. The deeper waters are used as staging areas from which they emigrate back into the gulf during late spring and summer.”

(Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Generic Essential Fish Habitat*, 2004, p. 3-28)

“Tidal marsh, particularly smooth cordgrass, provides important habitat for juvenile brown shrimp (Zimmerman et al., 1984).”

(Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, *Generic amendment for addressing EFH requirements*, 1998, p. 90)

“Survival and growth of maturing brown shrimp appear to be enhanced if salinities are in excess of 10 ppt (St. Amant et al. 1965). Venkataramaiah et al. (1974) reported the best growth and survival of young brown shrimp in salinities of 8.5 to 17.0 ppt... Although lower temperatures and salinities reduce growth rates of juvenile brown shrimp, the problem could be ameliorated by delaying the opening of brown shrimp season to compensate for the lag in juvenile shrimp growth.”

(Department of the Army – New Orleans District Corp. of Engineers, *Feasibility Report on Freshwater Diversion to Barataria and Breton Sound Basins*, 1984, p. EIS-87)

“... brown shrimp densities were predicted to be highest in high salinity (>25 ppt) marsh edge and submerged aquatic vegetation microhabitats, as opposed to low salinity and shallow non-vegetated microhabitats... brown, white, and pink shrimp yields in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico depend on the survival of the survival of the estuarine marshes and grassbeds in their natural state.”

(Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Generic Essential Fish Habitat*, 2004, p. 3-125)

“Brown shrimp will feed on salt marsh detritus and epiphytes. Juvenile brown shrimp seem to depend on infaunal worms for growth, and densities of these prey organisms are relatively high on the marsh surface.”

(Zimmerman, Minello, and Rozas, *Salt marsh linkages to productivity of Penaeid shrimps and blue crabs in the Northern Gulf of Mexico*, 2000, p. 298)

2. **White shrimp** – “... inhabit estuaries and to depths of about 40 m offshore in the coastal area extending from Florida’s Big Bend area through Texas... Postlarval white shrimp become benthic upon reaching the nursery areas of estuaries, where they seek shallow water with muddy-sand bottoms high in organic detritus or abundant marsh, and develop into juveniles. Juveniles are highly abundant in all Gulf estuaries from Texas to about the Suwannee River in Florida. Postlarvae and juveniles inhabit mostly mud or peat bottoms with large quantities of decaying organic matter or vegetative cover. Densities highest in marsh edge and submerged aquatic vegetation, followed by marsh ponds and channels, inner marsh, and oyster reefs. Juveniles prefer lower salinity waters (less than 10 ppt)... Migration from estuaries to coastal areas as they approach adulthood occurs in late August and September and are related to size and environmental conditions”

(Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, *Generic amendment for addressing EFH requirements*, 1998, p. 89)

“In captivity, white shrimp have spawned salinities and temperatures ranging from 26-34 ppt and 20-28 degrees C. White shrimp postlarvae and juveniles inhabit mostly mud and peat bottoms with large amounts of decaying matter or vegetative cover... Juveniles have been reported to prefer lower salinity areas of estuaries (<10 ppt), however, Clark et al. (1999) found no significant relation between juvenile white shrimp densities and salinity. They did, however, find significantly higher densities of juveniles in marsh edge microhabitats. Juvenile white shrimp were found to feed on sand, detritus, organic matter, mollusk fragments, ostracods, copepods, insect larvae, and forams.”

(Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Generic Essential Fish Habitat*, 2004, p. 3-125)

“... Optimum salinity range for white shrimp during periods of rapid growth on the nursery grounds is 0.5 to 10.0 ppt (Gunter et al., 1964).”

(Department of the Army – New Orleans District Corp. of Engineers, *Feasibility Report on Freshwater Diversion to Barataria and Breton Sound Basins*, 1984, p. EIS-87)

- i. **Oysters** – major prey species not under council FMPs

1. “Inland movement of the saline zone has caused oyster harvesting that was in lower Barataria Bay to move north into Bayou St. Denis, Grand Bayou, and Little Lake. In the past, these areas were too fresh for oysters but in recent years the increased salinities have allowed oyster production in low rainfall years. In moderate to heavy rainfall years, these areas become too fresh to support commercial quantities of oysters... The historically highly productive oyster areas are experiencing considerable predation, parasitism, and disease. One of the most serious oyster predators is the southern oyster drill that is capable of invading areas with salinities as low as 15 ppt. In higher salinity areas, the oyster drill has been known to decimate oyster populations, destroying as much as 85 percent of the oysters (May and Bland, 1969).” (Department of the Army – New Orleans District Corp. of Engineers, *Feasibility Report on Freshwater Diversion to Barataria and Breton Sound Basins*, 1984, p. 26).
2. “Although environmental factors such as seasonal temperature extremes and local tidal range may modify the degree to which oysters are able to tolerate life in the intertidal zone, reefs are usually found only into the mid-intertidal because predation and siltation limit oyster populations in the lower intertidal and subtidal zones and exposure limits them in the upper intertidal” (Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Generic Essential Fish Habitat*, 2004, p. 3-39)
3. “Optimal temperatures and salinities for oysters range from 10 to 26 degrees C and 12 to 25 ppt...Estuarine areas containing suitable substrate that are relatively calm but have continuous water flow and low sedimentation are ideal habitats for oysters” (Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Generic Essential Fish Habitat*, 2004, p. 3-38)
4. Oyster reefs serve as fish habitat by providing structure, protection, foraging areas, and trophic support to juveniles and adults. “Finfish, crab, shrimp, and several offshore reef fish including gag, mahogany snapper, and gray snapper are transients in oyster reefs during some portions of their life cycle” (Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Generic Essential Fish Habitat*, 2004, p. 3-40)
5. American oyster spawning generally takes place when salinities remain above 10 ppt. “Older larvae were stimulated to swim by relatively high salinities, while lower salinities inhibited swimming... In the Gulf, oysters normally inhabit areas with salinities ranging from 0-30 ppt, but can tolerate salinities from 2-

40 ppt. The best growth rates were found to occur in 12-30 ppt range, but highest abundances were found in salinities of 10-20 ppt. Mortality was found to occur with extended exposure to freshwater... The filter-feeding adults consume algal phytoplankton, bacteria, detritus, and other organisms < 10 microns in size. Oysters eggs, embryos, and early larvae are preyed upon by protozoans, ctenophores, jellyfish, hydroids, worms, bivalves, barnacles, crabs, and juvenile/adult fishes." Oyster spat are eaten by numerous species including the stone crab, blue crab, black drum, southern oyster drill, etc.

(Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Generic Essential Fish Habitat*, 2004, p. 3-40) *Habitat*, 2004, p. 3-149)

6. "In 1957 the state of Louisiana instituted a small-scale program of freshwater diversion to reduce saltwater intrusion at several locations in Breton Sound. Recent studies have documented that fresh-water diversions have increased oyster production in the Breton Sound estuary. Pollard (1973) and Dugas (1977) have reported significant increases in oyster production. The available data indicate that the commercial harvest of oysters from Breton Sound was 580,000 pounds in 1970 but increased to 1,508,000 pounds during the 1974-75 season. The increase in commercial harvest was attributed directly to reduced salinities. Expert opinion suggests that reducing salinities could increase oyster production by at least 100 percent."

(Department of the Army – New Orleans District Corp. of Engineers, *Feasibility Report on Freshwater Diversion to Barataria and Breton Sound Basins*, 1984, p. 28)

"...the overall benefits to oysters due to alterations of salinity regimes have been discussed previously... However, as the isohalines are moved seaward, inland areas now productive for oysters would be eliminated. It is estimated that approximately 15,000 acres of leased oystering areas would be eliminated or have significantly reduced productivity due to overfreshening... In many years, the areas are too fresh to sustain production. In addition, these areas are closer to sources of pollution. Lower salinities have been directly correlated with increased oyster mortalities. Marine bivalves have reduced osmoregulatory powers when placed in dilute seawater, and must close their valves to reduce loss of salts. Prolonged exposure to low salinities results in death. Reproductive capability of oysters is reduced by low salinity. Butler (1949) showed that gametogenesis is inhibited in oysters maintained in salinities less than 6 ppt. The synergistic effects of salinity and temperature are also an important consideration. Exposure to salinities less than 5 ppt when temperature is greater than 20

degrees C can lead to oyster mortalities. Salinities below 5 ppt are not as harmful when temperature are lower.”

(Department of the Army – New Orleans District Corp. of Engineers, *Feasibility Report on Freshwater Diversion to Barataria and Breton Sound Basins*, 1984, p. EIS-86)

7. “It should be noted that even if areas would have to be closed to oyster harvesting during periods of diversion, these areas could be reopened after discharges have ceased and associated coliform levels decline to acceptable levels. Increased production of oysters following fresh water inflow is expected to far more than compensate for any harvest foregone during closure of some oyster reefs.”

(Department of the Army – New Orleans District Corp. of Engineers, *Feasibility Report on Freshwater Diversion to Barataria and Breton Sound Basins*, 1984, p. EIS-92)

ii. **Blue crab** – major prey species not under council FMPs

1. “...found in estuaries, rivers, nearshore and offshore habitats during various life stages in salinities ranging from 0-60 ppt... Eggs are found near barrier islands or in high salinity waters near bay mouths or passes, attached to the abdomen of spawning females...Postlarvae migrate into estuaries where they settle to the bottom in seagrass or shoreline habitats. Juveniles are found in seagrass and saltmarsh edge habitats, and also in rivers, mud, sand, benthic algae and drift algae. The quantity of habitat has been found to be positively related to blue crab production. Adults occur in seagrass, benthic and drift algae, mud, sand, and saltmarsh. As an adult, the females move into lower salinities to mate, then out to higher salinities to spawn (Guillory et al. 2001). Adult females tend to reside in higher salinity areas than adult males do. After mating, males stay in the estuary, while females migrate to high salinity nearshore areas near barrier islands, bay, and passes to spawn. Larvae are planktivorous and feed on algae, phytoplankton, and zooplankton. Adults feed on numerous prey including oysters, clams, fishes, carrion, aquatic plants, other blue crabs, macroalgae, detritus, shrimp, other crustaceans, gastropods, oligochaetes, and insect larvae. Eggs and larvae are consumed by shrimp, fish, jellyfish, and other planktivores. Postlarval blue crab are eaten by red drum, spotted seatrout, striped bass, catfish, spot, eels, birds, and also by other blue crabs. Adults are taken by red drum, black drum, croakers, spotted seatrout, cobia, striped bass”, etc.

(Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Generic Essential Fish Habitat*, 2004, p. 3-147)

2. “In general, as blue crabs increase in size, plant matter, sediment, and unidentified animal residues in guts decrease in favor of increases in molluscs and crustaceans. Adult blue crabs actively feed upon molluscs on the marsh surface. Blue crab guts contained more food at high tide than at any other period of the tidal cycle and suggested this as evidence that blue crabs foraged in intertidal marshes. In addition to salt marsh habitats serving as a feeding area for opportunistic estuarine species by contributing to detritus-based food webs through outwelling plant debris into estuaries and coastal areas downstream of marshes, direct use of the marsh surface appears widespread in the north gulf. Greater access to the marsh surface gives young fishery species an opportunity to feed on an abundance of infauna, epiphytic and edaphic algae, and small primary consumers that provide high-quality food necessary for rapid growth. A major cause of mortality for penaeid shrimps and blue crabs is predation by estuarine fishes.”
(Zimmerman, Minello, & Rozas, *Salt Marsh Linkages to Productivity of Penaeid Shrimps and Blue Crabs in the Northern Gulf of Mexico*, 2000, p. 299)
3. As they approach maturity, blue crabs seek lower salinities
(Czapla, Pattillo, Nelson, & Monaco, *Distribution and Abundance of Fishes and Invertebrates in Central Gulf of Mexico Estuaries*, 1991, p. 13)

c. ***Finfish*** –

i. **Spotted seatrout** – species not under council FMPs

1. Have significant social and economic benefits to Louisiana. Spotted seatrout are widely distributed in coastal estuaries and utilize tidal marshes and creeks as nursery grounds
(Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, *Caernarvon Freshwater Diversion Project Annual Report*, 2002, p. 7)
2. “Tabb (1966) reported that salinities below 5 ppt were intolerable to larval spotted seatrout. Juveniles are usually collected in the 10 to 25 ppt salinity range and adults in the 15 to 30 ppt range.”
(Department of the Army – New Orleans District Corp. of Engineers, *Feasibility Report on Freshwater Diversion to Barataria and Breton Sound Basins*, 1984, p. EIS-87)

ii. **Mullet** – major prey species not under Council FMPs

1. A major prey species for bottlenose dolphins
2. “Mullet are common prey species for many estuarine and marine fishes and cetaceans (Major 1978). They occur in coastal waters, estuaries and rivers. Eggs are found offshore in the planktonic environment, and pelagic larvae migrate inshore and enter estuaries. Juveniles inhabit estuaries in marshes, impoundments, and high intertidal areas over mud and sand. Adults are found in

estuaries and rivers over mud and sand bottoms, and also seagrasses and in mangroves. When it is time to spawn, adults migrate offshore and form large schools, but return to their home estuary when spawning is completed. Larvae eat copepods and other zooplankton, but following metamorphosis to the juvenile phase, the diet shifts to detritus and algae which persists into the adult stage as well. Adults and juveniles serve as prey for many fish and wildlife species” including bottlenose dolphin and snappers

(Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Generic Essential Fish Habitat*, 2004, p. 3-144)

iii. **Red drum** fishery

1. “Red drum occur in a variety of habitats, ranging from depths of about 40 m offshore to very shallow estuarine waters. They commonly occur in virtually all of the Gulf’s estuaries where they are found over a variety of substrates including sand, mud and oyster reefs. Red drum can tolerate salinities ranging from freshwater to highly saline... Estuarine wetlands are especially important to larval, juvenile and subadult red drum... Larvae are transported into the estuary through tidal currents where the fish mature before moving back to the Gulf. Adult red drum can use estuaries but tend to spend more time offshore as they age. Estuarine wetlands are especially important to larval, juvenile and subadult red drum. An abundance of juvenile red drum has been reported around the perimeter of marshes in estuaries (Perrett et al., 1980). Young fish are found in quiet, shallow, protected waters with grassy or slightly muddy bottoms (Simmons and Breuer, 1962). Shallow bay bottoms or oyster reef substrates are especially preferred by subadult and adult red drum (Miles, 1950). Based largely on such observations, the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) developed a habitat suitability index model for larval and juvenile red drum (Buckley, 1984). The model indicates that shallow water (1.5 to 2.5 m deep) with 50 to 75 percent submerged vegetation growing on mud bottoms and fringed with emergent vegetation provides optimum red drum habitat.”

(Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, *Generic Amendment for addressing EFH requirements*, 1998, p. 92)

Growth and feeding in post larvae and early juvenile stage of life occurs in emergent marshes, as does adult feeding.

(Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, *EFH EIS tables*, 2004, p. 8-14)

2. “Estuaries are important habitat for the prey species of red drum. This is especially true for the larvae, juvenile and early adults of red drum as they spend virtually all of their time in estuarine

habitat. Larval red drum feed almost exclusively on mysids, amphipods, and shrimp, whereas larger juveniles feed more on crabs and fish (Peters and McMichael, 1987). Overall, crustaceans (crabs and shrimp) and fishes are most important in the diet of red drum; primary food items are blue crabs, striped mullet, spot, pinfish and pigfish. As they grow larger, red drum eat proportionately more crabs, with fish diminishing in importance as food for the largest red drum (Mercer, 1984). Protection of estuaries is especially important not only to maintenance of essential habitat for red drum but also because so many of the prey species of red drum are estuarine dependent (e.g., shrimp, blue crab, striped mullet and pinfish)."

(Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Generic Essential Fish Habitat*, 2004, p. 3-77).

3. "Although optimum habitat has not been specifically defined in many instances and/or areas, habitat utilized by this species has generally deteriorated since approximately 1940, mostly as a result of industrial and human population growth in existing estuarine systems. Changes have ranged from residential development in Florida to extensive dredging and channelization in Louisiana... Yokel (1996) concluded that the abundance of red drum varied directly with the estuarine area (habitat). Davis (1980) also discussed red drum occurrence in the Everglades National Park, and suggested that recorded changes in species and size distribution resulted from increased salinities from drainage control. Perrett et al. (1980) reported extensive losses of habitat occurring throughout the Gulf; past and proposed developments may result in significant future losses. Diminishment and degradation of coastal wetlands and estuarine habitat may be responsible to some degree for perceived declines in the inshore portion of Gulf of Mexico red drum stocks."

(National Marine Fishery Service, *Secretarial Fishery Management Plan for the Red Drum Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico*, 1986, p. 6-1)

4. "The coastal wetlands are especially important to larval red drum, as Simmons and Breuer (1962) stated young fish were found in protected waters with grassy or slightly muddy bottoms. Loman (1978) reported that the smallest red drum larvae were almost always found in quiet, shallow areas usually having grass and mud bottoms. Jackson (1972) indicated that most subadult red drum were caught in protected areas near the marsh. Shallow bays having muddy and sandy bottoms or oyster reef substrates were found to be particularly preferred by subadult and adult red drum (Miles 1950). Management of water levels and exchange in tidal

marshes often severely restricts the accessibility of that marsh to juvenile red drum... A habitat suitability index model developed by the Fish and Wildlife Service for larval and juvenile red drum (Buckley, 1984) indicated that their optimum habitat is shallow water (1.5 to 2.5 m deep) with 50 to 75 percent submergent vegetation over mud bottoms and fringed with emergent vegetation. According to Perret et al. (1980) an abundance of juvenile red drum has been reported around the perimeter of marshes along the Mississippi River."

(National Marine Fishery Service, *Secretarial Fishery Management Plan for the Red Drum Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico*, 1986, p. 6-2)

5. "Red drum is an estuarine-dependent species" and conserving valuable coastal wetlands is largely important. "The ability of fishery managers to maintain red drum population levels could be severely restricted due to the decline in suitable habitat. States, together with NMFS must do all they can to protect and enhance remaining habitat. While nothing can replace natural habitat it may be possible to restore or rehabilitate some habitat that has been lost or stressed; and to create habitat."

(National Marine Fishery Service, *Secretarial Fishery Management Plan for the Red Drum Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico*, 1986, p. 12-17)

iv. Reef fish fisheries

1. "...most reef fish spawn in offshore waters of the gulf where they produce pelagic eggs. Eggs may drift inshore where juveniles use estuarine, shallow water, or nearshore areas as nursery grounds, and move offshore as adults to live on demersal habitats."

(Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Generic Essential Fish Habitat*, 2004, p. 2-35).

"Many species of snapper and grouper occupy inshore areas during their juvenile stages (e.g., dog, lane, gray and yellowtail snapper; red, gag, and yellowfin groupers) where they feed on estuarine dependent prey (e.g., shrimp, small fish and crabs). As they mature and move offshore, the diets in many cases change more to fish, but estuarine dependent species (e.g., shrimp and crab) can still constitute an important dietary component."

(Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, *Generic Amendment for Addressing EFH Requirements*, 1998, p. 98).

2. "In general, groupers are considered to be unspecialized, opportunistic feeders, feeding on a variety of fishes and crustaceans. Habitat important to the prey of reef fish species ranges from the estuaries to the offshore reefs and adjacent sand and mud bottom areas. The habitat of the prey is no different than

the essential reef fish habitat, both estuarine and marine.”

(Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, *Generic Amendment for Addressing EFH Requirements*, 1998, p. 98).

3. **Red snapper** – basically carnivorous, feeding mainly on fish and squid. Juvenile red snapper often feed on shrimp but become more piscivorous after age one

(Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, *Generic Amendment for Addressing EFH Requirements*, 1998, p. 98)

4. **Dog snapper** - found in the Gulf of Mexico. "Juveniles apparently prefer inshore localities in brackish water of estuaries"

"Eats primarily reef fishes.. with crustaceans and mollusks"

(Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, *Environmental Impact Statement and Fishery Management Plan for the Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico* 1981b, p. 4-4)

v. Coastal migratory pelagic fisheries

1. Coastal migratory pelagics are “commonly distributed among the estuaries (cobia and Spanish mackerel) throughout the marine waters of the entire Gulf of Mexico (dolphinfish). The occurrence of these four species (King mackerel, Spanish mackerel, cobia and dolphinfish) is governed by temperature and salinity. All species are seldom found in temperatures less than 20 degrees C. Salinity preferences vary, but is generally for high salinity, less than 36 ppt... All the coastal pelagic species, except the dolphinfish, move from one area to another and seek as prey whatever local resources happen to be abundant. Many of the prey species (such as penaeid shrimp) of the coastal pelagics are estuarine-dependent in that they spend all or a portion of their lives in estuaries. This makes the coastal pelagic species, to some degree, dependent on estuaries.”

(Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Generic Essential Fish Habitat*, 2004, p. 3-121)

"The bottlenose dolphin and several shark species are thought to be major predators of both king and Spanish mackerel due to their common occurrence around mackerel schools."

(Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils, *Final Amendment 1 Fishery Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement for the Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources (Mackerels)*, 1985, p. 5-15)

".. prey organisms of equal apparently equal importance are penaeid shrimp and squid."

(Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils, *Final Amendment 1 Fishery Management Plan Environmental*

Impact Statement for the Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources (Mackerels), 1985, p. 5-19)

2. **King Mackerel** – “King mackerel occur in the Gulf of Mexico, with centers of distribution in south Florida and Louisiana. Adults are found over reefs and in coastal waters, although it rarely enters estuaries. Adults are known to spawn in areas of low turbidity, with salinity and temperatures of approximately 30 ppt and 27 degrees C, respectively, and can be found at oceanic salinities from 32-36 ppt. They are marine pelagic, so seldom venture into brackish waters, although juveniles occasionally use estuaries.” (Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, *Generic Amendment for addressing EFH requirements*, 1998, p. 100)
Adults feed mostly on schooling fishes including jacks, snappers, grunts, and halfbeaks, but also eat penaeid shrimp and squid at all life stages (larvae to adult). Adult king mackerel are preyed upon by pelagic sharks, little tunny dolphin and bottlenose dolphin (Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Generic Essential Fish Habitat*, 2004, p. 3-118)
3. **Spanish Mackerel** – tolerate brackish to oceanic waters and often inhabit estuaries, which along with coastal waters, offer year round nursery habitat. Will inhabit estuarine areas, especially the higher salinity areas, during seasonal migrations, but are considered rare and infrequent in many Gulf estuaries. “Nursery areas are in estuaries and coastal waters year-round. Juveniles are found offshore and in beach surf, and sometimes in estuarine habitat. Although they occur in waters of varying salinity, juveniles appear to prefer marine salinity and generally are not considered estuarine dependent.” (Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, *Generic Amendment for Addressing EFH Requirements*, 1998, p. 101)
“Adults are found inshore coastal waters, and may enter estuaries in pursuit of baitfish.” Adult Spanish mackerel are preyed upon by large pelagics like sharks and tunas, and also bottlenose dolphin. Also prey on striped mullet (Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Generic Essential Fish Habitat*, 2004, p. 3-120)
Juveniles are most often found in coastal and estuarine habitats and at temperatures >25degrees C and salinities >10ppt. They occur in waters of varying salinity. Like Gulf migratory group king mackerel, Spanish mackerel primarily eat other fish species (herring, sardines, and menhaden) and to a lesser extent crustaceans and squid at all life stages (larvae to adult).

(Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, *Final Amendment 18 FMP for Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources*, 2011, p. 137)

4. Spanish mackerel schools "frequently enter tidal estuaries, bays, and lagoons"

(Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils, *Final Amendment 1 Fishery Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement for the Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources (Mackerels)*, 1985, p. 4-2)

IV. Habitat usage and feeding trends of Bottlenose Dolphins in Coastal Louisiana

a. Bottlenose dolphins

- i. "Bottlenose dolphins are typically found in salinities ranging from 20-35 parts per thousand (ppt). Barataria Bay salinity is greater than 8ppt is critical for suitable dolphin habitat. Low salinity (<8ppt) has health impacts and/or death if exposed for days or weeks"
(NMFS letter to USACOE Major General Michael C. Wehr September 3 2015)
- ii. "A study by Barros and Odell (1990) found at least 43 fish species in stomachs of stranded dolphins across the GOM, with the most common prey from the families Mugilidae (Mullet), Scombridae (Mackerel) and Sciaenidae (Drum). There is also evidence that Bottlenose Dolphins in the GOM can be flexible in their foraging patterns, altering their foraging and ranging patterns in response to intense environmental changes (McHugh et al. 2011). In the NRDA study of dolphin satellite telemetry study in Barataria Bay, tagged dolphins were observed at salinities ranging from 1.6 to 32.1 psu, but, in general, dolphins were most often found in waters with salinities of 7.9 psu or higher (DWH MMIQT 2015)."
(Dolphin overview memo from Alisha Renfro)
- iii. Bottlenose dolphins "prey on adult king mackerel and mullet. Mullet pelagic larvae migrate inshore and enter estuaries. Juveniles inhabit estuaries in marshes, impoundments, and high intertidal areas over mud and sand. Adults are found in estuaries and rivers over mud and sand bottoms, and also seagrasses and in mangroves. When it is time to spawn, adults migrate offshore and form large schools, but return to their home estuary when spawning is completed. Larvae eat copepods and other zooplankton, but following metamorphosis to the juvenile phase, the diet shifts to detritus and algae which persists into the adult stage as well"
(Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Generic Essential Fish Habitat*, 2004, p. 3-144).
- iv. A paper on range characteristics and movement patterns of common bottlenose dolphins off California and Northern Baja California, Mexico confirmed that this population of coastal bottlenose dolphins "travels

regularly and extensively... These coastal movements are likely due to the interplay between environmental variables, prey preferences, distributional characteristics, and the behavioral repertoires and distinctive foraging strategies of these animals”

(Ocean Conservation Society, *Movement Patterns of Coastal Bottlenose Dolphins off California and Northern Baja California, Mexico*)

- v. “Some dolphin stocks exhibit seasonal movements within stock boundaries, presumably linked to prey availability. Dolphins have been shown to respond to environmental changes; for example, dolphins in Florida alter their activity budgets, sociality, and ranging patterns in response to harmful algal blooms and associated changes in prey availability and distribution. Inshore dolphins often feed very close to land and in some cases drive fish out of shallow marsh waters and onto shore in a technique called “strand feeding.”

(Marine mammal commission letter to Penny Pritzker 28 September 2015 pg 2)

“Dolphins have been observed capturing mullet while “strand feeding” on intertidal creek banks in South Carolina. Mullet jump out of water when chased by predators”

(Pate &McFee, *Prey species of bottlenose dolphins from South Carolina waters*, 2012, p. 15)

- vi. “Bottlenose dolphins were present year-round in a wide range of salinities (11.7 – 31.5 psu), in addition to ranging temperatures, dissolved oxygen levels, and turbidity levels. The variability in observed behavior and demographic parameters for these studies indicates the flexibility and adaptability of bottlenose dolphins in different marine environments. Feeding was most common in waters with salinity values of around 20 psu.”

(Miller, *Abundance Trends and Environmental Habitat Usage Patterns of Bottlenose Dolphins in Lower Barataria and Caminada Bays, Louisiana*, 2003, p. ix)

These animals are able to adapt in a changing environment with little effect on survival

- vii. “It is a common contention that environmental variables associated with feeding activities may be proxies for the abundance or availability of important prey species (Kenney and Winn1985, Selzer and Payne 1988). Specifically, either the distribution pattern or the preferred habitat of common prey species may be the determining factor”

(Miller, *Abundance Trends and Environmental Habitat Usage Patterns of Bottlenose Dolphins in Lower Barataria and Caminada Bays, Louisiana*, 2003, p. 33)

- viii. “In Sarasota Bay, western Florida, Barros and Wells (1998) found that stomach contents of bottlenose dolphins suggest an expected correlation between prey habitat and dolphin foraging areas. Group sizes of spotted, spinner and common dolphins in the eastern Pacific Ocean were observed

to mirror the diurnal group size fluctuations of yellowfin tuna, one of their common prey items (Scott and Cattnach 1998). Quiescent waters may not be conducive of prey capture, as tidal movement has been associated with feeding in several studies (Shane 1980, Gregory and Rowden 2001). In the Gulf of California, Balance (1992) found sighting rate and feeding activities of bottlenose dolphins to be significantly greater in areas less than 5.5 km from productive estuarine areas. Foraging was observed throughout the entire study area, although it was most prominent in areas close to openings from the estuary to open waters.”

(Miller, *Abundance Trends and Environmental Habitat Usage Patterns of Bottlenose Dolphins in Lower Barataria and Caminada Bays, Louisiana*, 2003, p. 35)

- ix. “The bottlenose dolphin is found in a wide variety of habitats, both coastal and offshore. In the U.S., where most studies have been undertaken, the coastal form of the dolphin has been found to occur in rivers (Gunter 1942), coastal channels and water-ways (Irvine and Wells 1972; Shane 1980; Scott et al. 1990), and enclosed protected bays and seagrass meadows (Scott et al. 1990).”

“Inshore bottlenose dolphins appear to be quite liberal in their feeding habits, taking a wide variety of fishes, crustaceans, and cephalopods (Barros and Odell 1990; Leatherwood et al. 1982).”

(Baird, Walters, & Stacey, *Status of the bottlenose dolphin, *Tursiops truncatus*, with special reference to Canada*, 1993, p. 471)

- x. “Estuarine areas repeatedly have been found to be sites of high dolphin occurrence along the U.S. coast of the Gulf of Mexico preferred areas include ship channels, passes in inshore bays and the open ocean, river mouths, bays, lagoons, and estuarine complexes (Balance, 1991). “ (Cadelinia, *The biography of bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*)*, 1999)

V. Case study of Caernarvon freshwater diversion on marine life in Braithwate, Louisiana

- a. “The original operational management plan was to produce the optimum mean salinity regime on the public seed-oyster reefs ([Chatry et al. 1983](#))... The diversion was effective in shifting the mean positions of isohalines seaward, but natural factors (rainfall and wind-forced tides) regularly reduced short-term control. High Mississippi River stages and high rainfall during a preconstruction monitoring year (1991) resulted in extremely fresh conditions and relatively high oyster mortality in the upper marshes. High rates of oyster mortality in interior zones also occurred during an operation period (1994), although oyster production (and landings) from seaward beds in the years following high winter/spring diversions were phenomenal.”

(Chesney, Baltz, & Thomas, *Louisiana Estuarine and Coastal Fisheries and Habitats*, 2000)

- b. Resulted in reduced saline marsh vegetation, increased brackish marsh vegetation, increased freshwater marsh vegetation, and increased marsh plant diversity. Oyster production has tripled, but the location of the most productive beds has shifted seaward. “Water quality in the Sound has not shown signs of any significant decline, and it appears that water-borne nutrients are being absorbed by the marsh before reaching open gulf waters. This may help decrease the size of seasonal anoxic zones in the northern gulf in the future. The increase in oyster abundance and their filtering capacity may also be helping to maintain the Sound’s water quality.” Efforts can be made to time water releases to make them more compatible to the estuary’s ecological cycles. Various types of pulsed release seems to be the most effective way to maintain the system. The Davis Pond Diversion structure has controlled releases that will be designed to mimic the spring floods which occurred in the past.
(Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Generic Essential Fish Habitat*, 2004, p. 3-34)
- c. Increased freshwater inflow impacts oysters but they are also able to ameliorate algal blooms associated with eutrophication through their ability to affect distribution and abundance of phytoplankton
(Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Generic Essential Fish Habitat*, 2004, p. 3-42)
- d. “Overall catch per unit effort (CPUE) for brown shrimp has been lower during post-construction sampling. The CPUE was either equal, or slightly higher (depending on gear type), during post-construction for white shrimp. Salinity reductions does result in seaward shift of the optimal harvest zones for brown shrimp. Some displacement has also occurred in white shrimp and blue crab landings, though no significant reductions in the commercial catch of these species have been recorded. Low salinity marsh created by Caernarvon may be expanding the nursery habitat required for juvenile development of brown and white shrimp and blue crab. Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has confirmed significant nursery use by juvenile brown shrimp occurs at salinities of 0.3 to 5 ppt. Juvenile white shrimp and blue crab heavily use habitats with salinities as low as 0.2 ppt”
(Carrey and Schexnayder, *Fisheries implications of freshwater reintroductions*, 2002, p. 4)
- e. Caernarvon diversion reduced salinities, allowing significant increase in submerged vegetation, emergent vegetation, and marsh area.
(Caffey and Schexnayder, *Fisheries implications of freshwater reintroductions*, 2002, p. 3)
- f. “Post-diversion catch rates increased at Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries’ (LDWF) sampling stations for seven of eight fin fish species monitored... Two fisheries have been revived. The eastern oyster colonizes hard substrates in beds or ‘reefs’ of the middle-estuary, usually in plankton-rich waters of 5-15 ppt salinity. Abrupt oyster mortality at interior stations can occur due to extended periods of salinity below 5ppt, the minimum threshold for oyster survival. But, the outward migration of the optimal production zone has revived

beds that had become dormant because of excessive salinity, and has bolstered seed production on the outside reefs. Overall, production of oysters in the Breton estuary increased dramatically in the first three years of diversion operation and elevated harvest levels continue to be sustained.” Nutrient loading reduced. (Caffrey and Schexnayder, *Fisheries Implications of freshwater reintroductions*, 2002, p. 5)

- g. “Research of the fish population in the outfall of the Caernarvon Freshwater Diversion demonstrated a significant difference in conditions before and after the opening. The nursery function of the wetlands was improved with lower salinities, which can lead to a change in size distribution. It was also shown that some prey species abundance increased as the fresher water excluded large predators, thus changing some of the predator/prey relationships (de Mutsert et al.)”

(Operations Working Group DRAFT Report)

- h. “Four real-time data collection platforms are located strategically in Breton Sound estuary to monitor salinities... Reggio Canal, located at the top of the estuary and nearest the diversion structure, exhibited little variation throughout the time period and remained below 2 ppt. However, even at the top of the basin, Reggio Canal can show increased salinities in the fall when the diversion is usually closed due to backflow conditions. In past years, salinity has reached as high as 7 ppt. Salinities at Bay Gardene, Cow and Crooked Bayou showed a similar pattern... Seed and sack oysters increased substantially during the post-operation period. Although dead oysters increased also, dead oysters constitute a much higher percentage during pre-operation than post-operation. All 27 stations with the exception of station 25, which is furthest from the diversion in Breton Sound, had higher oyster abundance during post-operation. Average production of sack oysters increased 3.7 times over the pre-operation period. Oyster harvest is also more consistent and reliable in the post-operation period. Overall survival rate in the post-operation period of oysters was 35%. Overall survival in the pre-operation period was 65%.”

(Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, *Caernarvon Freshwater Diversion Project Annual Report 2002*, 2002, p. 6)

“Landward movement of the 15 ppt isohaline and subsequent increase in oyster predation by oyster drills are the putative causal agents in the loss of productive oyster grounds. The purpose behind the freshwater diversion was to push the 5 ppt and 15 ppt isohalines seaward to enlarge the distance between the two lines thereby maintaining an expanded productive zone for oysters. Oyster production on the public seed grounds, from boarding surveys, or meter-square sampling have all increased substantially and remained sustained since the opening of the Caernarvon diversion. Review of isohaline maps and stations where increased production occurs suggest that export of nutrients and detritus from upstream production may be a factor. Dermo infestations on seed oyster stock reduce sack oysters in subsequent years. Dermo is mitigated by lower salinities so Caernarvon discharge in warmer months when dermo is more problematic may be beneficial to oysters.”

(Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, *Caernarvon Freshwater Diversion Project Annual Report 2002*, 2002, p. 10)

- i. Red drum – catch was slightly higher during post-operational period. The catch appeared relatively consistent across years of post-operation with a peak catches in 1995 and 1998. Given that spotted seatrout and red drum are considered saltwater species, they might be expected to decrease post-operation. Catch for both of these species is somewhat higher post-operation. Catch did not appear to be exclusively related to salinity in that high catches sometimes occurred in low salinity areas near the diversion. Spotted seatrout are caught more often above the 5 ppt line post-operation. This may reflect juvenile fish using the marsh areas. (Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, *Caernarvon Freshwater Diversion Project Annual Report 2002*, 2002, p. 7)

Spotted seatrout – utilize tidal marshes and creeks as nursery grounds. In trawls, catch was somewhat higher in the post-operation period. In the seine data, catch was somewhat more prevalent in the post-operation period.

(Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, *Caernarvon Freshwater Diversion Project Annual Report 2002*, 2002, p. 7)

Blue crab – in trawls, the mean blue crab catch was about 91% greater in the pre-operation period due to an exceptionally abundant catch in 1990. In seines, mean catch was about 13% higher during post-operation and more crabs caught above the 5 ppt line. Blue crab productivity appears better post-operation. Seine and harvest data are generally higher, although trawl data are down. One concern with the trawl data is that crabs may be utilizing the submerged aquatic vegetation for refuge which is more abundant post-operation. This will make crabs harder to catch as trawling is generally not done in aquatic vegetation. Blue crabs can tolerate a wide range of salinities.

Brown shrimp – mean brown shrimp catch in trawls was about 20% greater in the pre-operation time period. After operation, the mean catch was 25% higher above the 5 ppt line. Catch is primarily in April – June and appears to be increasing since 2000

White shrimp – mean white shrimp catch in trawls was about 12% greater in the post-operation period. Post-operation, mean catch increased by 39% below the 5 ppt line. Catch is primarily in September – October and appears to increase since 1998. Brown shrimp catch has been down post-operation but not dramatically.

White shrimp increased in both trawls and seines. Some shrimpers indicate that catch has increased substantially and the season lasts longer. A study of brown shrimp distributional patterns near the diversion was conducted in 2001 (Rozas and Minello 2002). This study found no relationship between brown shrimp and salinity. No evidence was found that the operation of the Caernarvon structure affected distribution of brown shrimp in May 2001. Brown shrimp densities were as high in areas that received Caernarvon discharge than those that did not.

Winter and early spring operations did not negatively affect shrimp populations. Fresh marsh is nonexistent in 1978; by 2000, 628 acres was documented in the surveys. Since 1978, intermediate marsh area increased by 10,582 acres; whereas, brackish marsh and saline marsh decreased. Plant biomass increased due to

nutrient addition and lower salinity and consequently enhanced marsh stability. Caernarvon operations have succeeded in returning fresh and intermediate marsh to the upper Breton Sound estuary.

(Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, *Caernarvon Freshwater Diversion Project Annual Report 2002*, 2002, p. 12)

- a. The Caernarvon freshwater diversion is designed to return a more historical salinity pattern to Breton Sound estuary. Project planners and biologists felt that the with-project 5 ppt and 15 ppt lines represented a more beneficial and historical salinity pattern for the basin which would benefit commercial and recreational wildlife and fisheries resources. The operational plan seeks to achieve a yearly average of around 5 ppt at the with-project 5 ppt line near Cow and Crooked Bayous

(Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, *Caernarvon Freshwater Diversion Project Annual Report 2002*, 2002, p. 8)

VI. Case study of Bonnet Carre Spillway structure west of New Orleans into the Mississippi Sound, Lake Pontchartrain

- a. The bottlenose dolphin is not thought to be a regular inhabitant of Lake Pontchartrain and it is presumed that some factor is holding the dolphins in this unusual habitat. The occurrence of dolphins far from the extreme eastern boundary of the lake was thought to be uncommon by Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) personnel

(Barry, Gorgone and Mase, *Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana Bottlenose Dolphin Survey Summary*, 2008, p. 3)

A catalog of identifiable individuals was created, and preliminary analysis of the photographs from these surveys revealed that most dolphins were sighted on multiple surveys. This suggested both that a single group of animals was trapped within the Lake, and that all or the majority of the dolphins were staying on the west side of the bridges in Lake Pontchartrain. The bottlenose dolphins remained in their position on the west side of the bridges and did not appear to alter behavior or group composition. In May 2007 during periods of very low salinity, lesions of dark orange-green color were over most of the 30-40 dolphins in the target group and several dolphins were considered severely compromised. Fall and winter of 2007 revealed improvement in the condition of the dolphins' skin and overall appearance, assuming that higher salinities were the cause of the improvement. In March 2008, the skin lesions were re-appearing in varying severity on most of the dolphins, coinciding with lower salinity observed (5.2 ppt) which is typical during the spring.

There was no observable decline in skin condition of animals in the target group of dolphins during the monitoring period (April 28 – May 10, 2008). It is hypothesized that animals in such conditions may be able to maintain electrolyte balance by feeding on prey that contain sufficient sodium levels. Subsequent monitoring surveys of the target group of dolphins were conducted in June, July, and September 2008. The 30-40 dolphins continue to remain in the same general area to the west of the bridges. The salinity during June remained low (1.2 ppt) but increased to 4.8 in July. Their skin conditions have improved, as was

the case in 2007 during these months. Their behaviors have remained consistent, with feeding and social interactions being observed. It does appear that some factor is “holding” the large target group in its place. This may be abundant prey resources, aversion to the bridges, or some other poorly understood factor.

(Barry, Gorgone and Mase, *Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana Bottlenose Dolphin Survey Summary*, 2008, p. 7)

- b. Benefitted the area as a result of the nutrient influx that accompanies diverted waters

Short term

- i. High turbidity levels
- ii. Increased concentrations of chlorophyll a
- iii. Increased fecal and coliform counts
- iv. High oyster mortalities
- v. Temporary displacement of certain stenohaline species
- vi. Algae blooms – NMFS letter June 26 2013

(Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, *Generic Amendment for addressing EFH requirements*, 1998, p. 41)

- c. During the 2008 opening of the Spillway, water salinity in the area dropped between 0.9-3.9 ppt (much lower than observed in May 2007 aka 7.2 ppt), but despite the low salinity the existing skin lesions did not appear to progress (Barry et al. 2008)

VII. Conclusion

- a. The benefits of coastal wetland restoration like estuary services, nursery habitat and pH and storm buffering would outweigh the potential uptick in the influx of fresh or brackish water
- b. River diversions will bring marshland and salinity closer to historic levels. They will have the effect of shifting the location of some present marine habitats to more seaward positions, and restoring brackish habitats to their historic locations

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August 15th, 2017

**Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017**

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? Yes No

If yes, please specify the position.

First and Last Name Van Trom	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 164 Elizabeth, LN EMPIRE LA 70050	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i> PO BOX 04	
City, State, Zip Code EMPIRE LA 70050	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

Freshwater diversion causes much damage to us.
We hope you will compensate for us by finding suitable jobs or another place for living.
When we get your help and support about changing jobs we can have peace in minds.

Aug 15, 2017

Ý kiến đóng góp phải được gửi trước ngày 5 tháng 9 năm 2017

Comment Form

Họp Đánh giá Công khai, Thứ 5, ngày 20 tháng 7, 2017
EIS cho Dự án Chuyển dòng Trầm tích Trung Barataria
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

BẠN LÀ NHÂN VIÊN CÔNG VỤ? CŌ KHÔNG Nếu có, vị trí: _____

Họ và Tên Van TRAN	Bằng cách nào quý vị biết về cuộc họp đánh giá công khai này? <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo Báo chí <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo qua Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Khác (hãy nêu rõ) ccc
Địa chỉ Đường phố 164 Elizabeth LN EMPIRE LA 70050	
Địa chỉ Hộp thư (nếu khác với địa chỉ đường phố) P.O. Box 04	
Thành phố, Tiểu bang, Mã vùng EMPIRE LA 70050	
Địa chỉ Email	
Cơ quan/Tổ chức	

Thông tin này sẽ được bổ sung vào danh sách mail dự án. Nếu bạn không muốn đưa vào danh sách mail, hãy đánh dấu vào hộp kiểm.

Ý KIẾN: (Hãy viết tiếp vào mặt sau nếu không đủ chỗ.)

- Tỉnh Trang là nước ngọt là rất thiết hai bên dân với chúng tôi

- chúng tôi mong quý vị có sự đền bù thỏa đáng bằng cách tìm mọi sinh công khác việc làm cho phù hợp.

- khi chúng tôi có sự giúp đỡ của quý vị chuyên công an việc làm thì cũng có phần yên tâm hơn

(Handwritten signature)

From: vincent4022@att.net
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 1:36:18 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Vincent Troxclair
265 Schexnaydre Ln
Destrehan, Louisiana, 70047

From: ptrudell1909@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Patti Trudell](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Sunday, August 6, 2017 8:08:10 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Patti Trudell
Shreveport, LA 71105

August 3rd, 2017

**Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017**

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? Yes No

If yes, please specify the position.

First and Last Name LIEN THI TRUONG	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 28525 HWY 23	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code PORT SULPHUR, LA 70083	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

My name is Lien Truong. I have been involved in oyster fishing since 1997. I do not want freshwater diversion. If freshwater comes in, oysters will die, and I will be unemployed. I want the government to help me with money to live. Thank you.

August 3rd, 2017

Ý kiến đóng góp phải được gửi trước ngày 5 tháng 9 năm 2017

Comment Form

Họp Đánh giá Công khai, Thứ 5, ngày 27 tháng 7, 2017
EIS cho Dự án Chuyển dòng Trầm tích Trung Barataria
Port Sulphur Community Center
278 Civic Drive, Port Sulphur, LA

BẠN LÀ NHÂN VIÊN CÔNG VỤ? CÓ KHÔNG

Nếu có, vị trí: _____

Họ và Tên LIEN THI TRUONG	Bằng cách nào quý vị biết về cuộc họp đánh giá công khai này? <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo Báo chí <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo qua Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Khác (hãy nêu rõ) Coastal Communities Consulting, Inc.
Địa chỉ Đường phố 28525, HWY 23	
Địa chỉ Hộp thư <small>(nếu khác với địa chỉ đường phố)</small>	
Thành phố, Tiểu bang, Mã vùng PORT SULPHUR, LA 70083	
Địa chỉ Email	
Cơ quan/Tổ chức	

Thông tin này sẽ được bổ sung vào danh sách mail dự án. Nếu bạn không muốn đưa vào danh sách mail, hãy đánh dấu vào hộp kiểm.

Ý KIẾN: (Hãy viết tiếp vào mặt sau nếu không đủ chỗ.)

Tôi tên là Lien Truong; tôi làm sô từ năm 1997-98 tới giờ. Tôi không muốn xã nước ngọt. Nếu nước ngọt xả xuống thì sô sẽ chết, tôi sẽ bị thất nghiệp, không có công ăn việc làm. Tôi muốn chính phủ giúp đỡ tôi tiền bạc để sống. Cảm ƠN

Lien Truong

August 18th, 2017

Ý kiến đóng góp phải được gửi trước ngày 5 tháng 9 năm 2017

Comment Form

Họp Đánh giá Công khai, Thứ 5, ngày 20 tháng 7, 2017
EIS cho Dự án Chuyển dòng Trầm tích Trung Barataria
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

BẠN LÀ NHÂN VIÊN CÔNG VỤ? CÓ KHÔNG Nếu có, vị trí: _____

Họ và Tên <u>TRAN, TRUYEN - T</u>	Bằng cách nào quý vị biết về cuộc họp đánh giá công khai này? <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo Báo chí <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thông báo qua Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Khác (hãy nêu rõ) <u>ccc</u>
Địa chỉ Đường phố <u>122 SANBORN LN</u>	
Địa chỉ Hộp thư (nếu khác với địa chỉ đường phố)	
Thành phố, Tiểu bang, Mã vùng <u>BURAS, LA. 70041</u>	
Địa chỉ Email	
Cơ quan/Tổ chức	

Thông tin này sẽ được bổ sung vào danh sách mail dự án. Nếu bạn không muốn đưa vào danh sách mail, hãy đánh dấu vào hộp kiểm.

Ý KIẾN: (Hãy viết tiếp vào mặt sau nếu không đủ chỗ.)

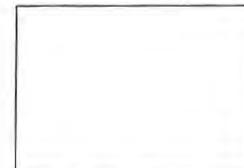
ý kiến của tôi, bên công việc muốn làm
 gì thì làm, nhưng nếu có ảnh hưởng
 tới nguồn lợi + quyền lợi của người phụ nữ
 người dân sống ở vùng này, thì phải hoàn
 toàn dừng trách nhiệm, và phải tìm bù
 phần này cho người phụ nữ và người dân

dis of Ludwig,

BURAS 8-11-17

[Signature]
Frank Troy Truyen

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118



Place postage here

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

August 18th, 2017

**Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017**

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? Yes No

If yes, please specify the position.

First and Last Name TRAN TRUYEN - T	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 122 SANBORN LN	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code BURAS, LA 70041	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

My comment is that: the project does whatever they want to, but if it affects the resources and interests of the fishermen and the people living in this area, they must be fully responsible and compensate adequately for fishermen and local people.

From: kevin.tschirn@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 5:24:18 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Kevin Tschirn
443 Helios Ave
Metairie, LA, 70005

From: Stephentschirn@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 9:11:39 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Stephen Tschirn
9604 Wildwood Dr
River Ridge, LA, 70123

From: Louis_tucci@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 1:50:37 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Louis Tucci
221 Lake Marina Ave
New Orleans, LA, 70124

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118
CEMVN-Midbarataria@usace.army.mil

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments related to Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana's (CPRA) proposed project of Mid Barataria Sediment Diversion and the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) currently being prepared by CEMVN in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) as a result.

While I am encouraged that the mere fact that scoping meetings being held indicates forward progress on this ecosystem-scale restoration and protection project, I also am disappointed that a scoping meeting was not held within the Barataria Basin, but instead was held in locations between 70 and 100 miles away. As a resident of Lafourche Parish and with the professional and personal background to understand the impacts of the proposed project to the parish, we believe you have excluded a large, interested stakeholder group, and I hope to see subsequent rounds of scoping meetings be made more accessible to stakeholders and people living within this tremendous basin.

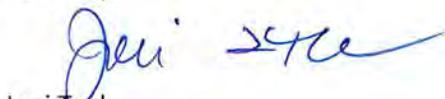
Barataria Basin has experienced tremendous change with tens of thousands of acres of wetlands having been converted to open water, threatening communities, industry and wildlife. The 2017 Coastal Master Plan predicts with the "No Action" alternative, Barataria Basin will lose roughly 550 square miles in the next 50 years under the medium future scenario. Working to support the industry in this basin every day and as a public servant representing protection projects within the Barataria Basin, this future is unfathomable and crippling to the long-term sustainability of not only Lafourche Parish, but southern Louisiana's most critical economic corridor.

Mid-Barataria is critical to the long-term, holistic survivability of the Barataria Basin because it is crucial to reconnecting and reestablishing the basin's connection to the renewing power of the fresh water and sediment-laden Mississippi River. Based on this simple yet powerful principle, Mid Barataria is not a novel idea, but instead has been studied for over 30 years. The many decisions that have already been made through official NEPA processes and other studies over this long period should be incorporated into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS, particularly when doing so would shorten the Mid-Barataria permitting timeline.

Additionally, sediment diversions, such as the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion, are essential and proven restoration techniques to support investments made in marsh creation. Sediment diversions have demonstrated every time they are tried that they sustain marsh creation projects for longer periods of time. Furthermore, sediment diversions have long-term benefits that constructed marsh creation projects do not, mainly that they can continuously build land over time and sustain existing and created wetlands.

In summary, the efforts of generations of USACE teams and the scientific community to study this project over the past 30 years are greatly appreciated, as is their commitment to dealing with our land loss crisis. I remain hopeful that this team will be the ones to bring about swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion ahead of the current schedule.

Sincerely,



Joni Tuck
215 Winder Road
Thibodaux, LA 70301

From: crystalpark602@hotmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 10:21:38 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Crystal Tuey
545 Longleaf Rd.
Shreveport, LA, 71106

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Thomas Tugwell](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 10:28:30 PM

Aug 17, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

* Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.

* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Mr. Thomas Tugwell
513 Spencer Ln
Monroe, LA 71201-2770
(318) 348-2600
tugweltp@gmail.com

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Connie Tullos](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 18, 2017 5:58:30 AM

Aug 18, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

* Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.

* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Ms. Connie Tullos
2351 Elvin Dr
Baton Rouge, LA 70810-6973
(225) 768-7310
jasma1212@gmail.com

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Valerie Turgeon](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 11:37:34 AM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I am an 83 year old who grew up in Lafitte, from the time I was released from an incubator necessitated by my 2 month early arrival on the scene. I lived in a house right on the bayou until I married and moved to New Orleans. My youngest son and his large family have lived in Lafitte for the past 30 years. Heavy rains can lead to putting all cars on the only high ground, the remaining ramp to the now gone Wagner Bridge, a drawbridge replaced by a high rise larger bridge. Lafitte and Barataria have a long long history of families who fished, trawled, and built oyster reefs, and a population which has grown greatly over the past 5 or 6 decades.

My message is to take whatever steps necessary to build up these low land area and to save the communities which have thrived over the past several decades.

This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly

through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,

Dr. Valerie Turgeon
5212 Conti St
New Orleans, LA 70124-1722
(504) 218-7103
valerieturgeon@cox.net

From: valerieturgeon@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Valerie Turgeon](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 10:09:35 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Valerie Turgeon
New Orleans, LA 70124

From: mike@wayfarertech.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 10:11:35 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
Michael Turley
101 Doremus Rd.
New Iberia, Louisiana, 70563

From: kingtut52@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 6:27:58 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
JAMES TUTTLE
319 Barrios Ave
Houma, LA, 703607401

From: rpjz12@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 10:53:21 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Please ensure that all recent (past 20 years) independent, peer-reviewed science is utilized for both determining and implementing actions. We must stop the excessive erosion through assisting natural processes.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Robin Tyner
9 Millstream Dr
Exeter, New Hampshire, 03833



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Region 6

**1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202-2733**

September 6, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde
US Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-EOO
7400 Leakey Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

Subject: Scoping Comments for the Notice of Intent (NOI) to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Project, Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana.

Dear Mr. LaBorde:

The Region 6 office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the July, 2017, Special Public Notice requesting scoping comments to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Project.

To assist in the scoping process for this project, EPA is providing the following comment for your consideration in the preparation of the EIS. Our comment is provided pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. Our comment is as follows:

EPA is aware of historic concerns from members of the public and various stakeholders regarding the potential water quality implications associated with introduction of Mississippi River water into Barataria Basin. These concerns were raised again at the three recent public scoping meetings, and EPA would like to call this to your attention for consideration as the environmental review of the project progresses. We look forward to our continued participation as a Cooperating Agency, and welcome further discussion.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this scoping request and are available to discuss our comments. Please send one hard copy of the Draft EIS and five digital copies to this office when completed and submitted for public comment. If you have any further questions, comments, or concerns, please contact Michael Jansky of my staff at (214) 665-7451 or jansky.michael@epa.gov.

Sincerely,


Robert Houston, Chief
Special Projects Section
Compliance Assurance and
Enforcement Division



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

646 Cajundome Blvd.

Suite 400

Lafayette, Louisiana 70506

September 1, 2017

Colonel Michael Clancy
District Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Post Office Box 60267
New Orleans, Louisiana 70160-0267

Dear Colonel Clancy:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the Supplemental Notice of Intent to Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Proposed Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion (MBSD), in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana. The Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana (CPRA) has requested approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District (USACE-MVN) to construct, maintain, and operate a sediment diversion structure off the right descending bank of the Mississippi River, at approximately 60.7 miles above “Head of Passes” in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana. The proposed MBSD project would be designed to deliver sediment, freshwater, and nutrients from the Mississippi River into Barataria Basin. USACE-MVN intends to serve as the lead federal agency in preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The EIS for CPRA’s proposed MBSD project will inform a permit decision for a Department of Army (DA) permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (Section 404) and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (Section 10), and permissions under Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (Section 408). In addition to informing USACE-MVN’s decisions, the EIS may inform decisions made by the *Deepwater Horizon* Natural Resource Damage Assessment Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group (NRDA LA TIG) regarding whether the MBSD is an appropriate project to restore natural resource injuries from the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill and any decision by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA NMFS) that may be required under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), and any additional regulatory or permit processes that may be required for the MBSD Project, to the extent practicable. The Service submits the following comments in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (83 Stat. 852, as amended; 42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA, 40 Stat. 755, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 703 et seq.), the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), the Bald and Golden

Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) (54 Stat. 250, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 668a-d), and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA; 48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.).

CPRA describes the MBSD project as a large scale, complex ecosystem restoration project. When operated, a maximum nominal design flow of 75,000 cubic feet per second of sediment-laden water would be diverted from the Mississippi River into the Barataria Basin to reconnect and re-establish the natural or deltaic sediment deposition process between the Mississippi River and the Barataria Basin by delivering sediment, freshwater, and nutrients to reduce land loss and maintain and sustain wetlands. CPRA states the sediment diversion would be approximately 1 to 2 miles long and primary features would include a gated diversion structure, a conveyance channel, and a potential back structure (for flood protection). CPRA states that the secondary features of the diversion would include a pump station or other mean of forced drainage, bridge or culvert crossing at Louisiana Highway 23, concrete side walls, earthen guide levees, scour protection and erosion control, and culverted road crossings. If constructed as proposed, the MBSD footprint would directly impact 52.3 acres of jurisdictional wetlands and 4.5 acres of waters of the U.S. The EIS will address an array of alternatives based on the project purpose and need. USACE-MVN must identify the "overall" project purpose, evaluate practicable alternatives, and determine whether the project is water dependent.

Historically, wetlands in the Barataria Basin were nourished by the fresh water, sediments, and nutrients delivered via overbank flooding of the Mississippi River and through its many distributary channels such as Bayous Lafourche and Barataria. As the flow of fresh water and sediments from the Mississippi River was restricted by flood protection levees and the closure of those and other distributaries, the basins began to gradually succumb to saltwater intrusion, soil subsidence, wave action erosion, and sediment deprivation.

If implemented, the MBSD would impact fishery resources, the following comments relating to sediment delivery concern FWS's interest in ecosystem impacts to these resources.

To effectively reverse the above-mentioned issues the Service encourages the proposed diversion carry as much sediment (suspended and/or bedload) from the river as possible and to incorporate pulsing (i.e., fluctuating the amount of water diverted) to optimize sediment delivery to receiving area wetlands. To aid in optimizing sediment delivery, the Service encourages the incorporation of a network of sediment monitoring stations/gauges upriver of the potential diversion to provide advanced notification of sediment pulses moving down-river so that opening of diversion structures can be planned/coordinated a few days in advance (and affected interested can be forewarned). Placement of sediment/turbidity gauges early during the planning phase would greatly improve the data needed to develop and select an operation plan that would maximize sediment delivery.

The Service recommends consideration be given to estuarine resources when developing the operation plan for this project. Though a within basin shift of aquatic resources, from estuarine to fresh, may be expected, our preference is not to overwhelm the receiving basins with diverted water, but rather to optimize benefits for terrestrial and fresh and estuarine resources, land building and sustainability.

The process of basin changes due to river diversions is complicated. While there are potentially many benefits to a diversion, such as land building and reducing land loss, there are also the potential for unintentional deleterious impacts. Studies indicate that increases in water level on vegetation may lead to substantial reductions in productivity and organic accretion in receiving areas when utilizing river diversions for delta restoration (Snedden et al. 2015). Prolonged inundation can ultimately lead to marsh deterioration and loss as indicated in 2016 AdH hydrodynamic modeling results from the Louisiana Coastal Area, Delta Management project (unpublished). On the other hand nutrient, sediment, and freshwater inputs from a diversion without prolonged inundation can help with wetland growth, reduce stressors, enhance sediment capture and retention, enhance material supporting food webs, and increase submerged aquatic vegetation just to name a few. The level of inundation due to the diversion operation can potentially positively impact vegetative accretion, elevation gain, the rate of above-ground and below-ground production (Cahoon et al. 2011). The Service recommends consideration be given to the diversion operation to prevent or minimize adverse impacts to wetlands due to prolonged inundation and focus on the overall enhancement of the entire project area to the greatest extent possible.

The Delta National Wildlife Refuge (Delta NWR) located north of Pass a Loutre is down river from the proposed diversion site. Because the Delta NWR is located in the Mississippi River Bird's Foot Delta its lands are dependent on the sediments received and deposited in the Mississippi delta. The proposed MBSD intends to funnel sediment through the diversion into the basin for the health and growth of the Barataria Basin. An indirect impact resulting from the diversion may be the future loss of sediments from being delivered to the Birds foot Delta and hence the Delta NWR. The Service request estimates of sediment transport changes to the Delta NWR (over the life of the project) as a result of the proposed diversion be determined and provided.

The proposed sediment diversion will include the use of a computer simulation hydrodynamic model, the Delft 3D model. The Service would like to use outputs from that model to be used as input for the Wetland Value Assessment (WVA), which is used to quantify wetland systems benefits or impacts for NEPA and FWCA. As part of the wetland value assessment the Service will need to conduct a field investigation to update data collection for the bottomland hardwood portion of the channel footprint to better evaluate those impacts.

The Service recommends this study consider cumulative impacts of the existing Davis Pond diversion and siphons in the basin. The report should discuss how all diversions and siphons could be operated in conjunction with each other to minimize adverse impacts and maximize beneficial effects specifically to migratory birds and other

resource species. The Service suggests that a comprehensive basin-wide operation plan be developed to better coordinate all the diversions and siphons for the health of the basin.

Monitoring of the Davis Pond and Caernarvon diversions indicated that some chemicals were being introduced into the receiving areas from the Mississippi River at increased levels. Further examination by the Service of those increased levels revealed that the increase was not to a level that would cause adverse affects to bald eagles. To monitor chemicals transported by future diversions the Service recommends that during the study the USACE-MVN undertake periodic water quality sampling to help determine if their concentrations could begin to pose a threat to fish and wildlife resources.

The Service suggests the creation of basin-level, multi-agency Advisory Committees that would provide scientific recommendations to guide the operation of the structure, ensuring a watershed approach in the operation of the diversions and siphons of the entire basin. A multi-agency advisory committee could essentially expand and modify the roll of the existing State-Federal Davis Pond Advisory Committee, and ensure it carries forward into the future with a view of the entire basin. The advisory committee should be made up of State and Federal resource agencies and include an appropriate scientific assembly from fields such as of fisheries, oyster biology, wildlife ecology, water quality, ecological risk assessment, and wetland ecology/geology. The intent of these advisory groups would be to provide counsel on the operation and policy decisions for the basin diversion structures based on the groups' assessment of the overall health of the basin (striving toward sustainable wetlands with consideration given to fish and wildlife resources) and projected near-term and long-term needs to facilitate a sustainable approach to coastal restoration. These committees would conduct ongoing reviews of the operation, monitoring, and adaptive management results of the diversions along with the latest science available to assist CPRA in meeting restoration goals for the basin.

The pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*) is an endangered fish found in the Mississippi River. The pallid sturgeon is adapted to large, free-flowing, turbid rivers with a diverse assemblage of physical characteristics that are in a constant state of change. Many life history details and subsequent habitat requirements of this fish are known. However, the pallid sturgeon is believed to utilize Louisiana riverine habitat during reproductive stages of its life cycle. Entrainment issues through diversion structures off the Mississippi River and associated with dredging operations in the Mississippi are two potential effects that should be addressed in the study. With entrainment of pallid sturgeons through the diversion structure being a possible issue, potential methods (such as structure modifications) should be assessed to reduce possible entrainment and/or return entrained pallid sturgeons to the river. A population viability analysis (PVA) is recommended to evaluate the risk of the diversion on pallid sturgeons. Should any proposed project resulting from this study directly or indirectly affect the pallid sturgeon or its habitat, further consultation with this office will be necessary.

Federally listed as an endangered species, West Indian manatees (*Trichechus manatus*) frequently enter areas such as Lakes Pontchartrain and Maurepas, and associated coastal

waters and streams during the summer months (i.e., June through September). Manatee occurrences in Louisiana are increasing, and they have been reported just south of the project area. Manatees may also infrequently be observed in the Mississippi River. Cold weather and outbreaks of red tide may adversely affect these animals. However, human activity is the primary cause for declines in species number due to collisions with boats and barges, entrapment in flood control structures, poaching, habitat loss, and pollution.

During in-water work in areas that potentially support manatees all personnel associated with the project should be instructed about the potential presence of manatees, manatee speed zones, and the need to avoid collisions with and injury to manatees. All personnel should be advised that there are civil and criminal penalties for harming, harassing, or killing manatees which are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 and the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Additionally, personnel should be instructed not to attempt to feed or otherwise interact with the animal, although passively taking pictures or video would be acceptable. The following conservation actions should be undertaken during construction to reduce the risk of impacts to manatees.

- All on-site personnel are responsible for observing water-related activities for the presence of manatee(s). We recommend the following to minimize potential impacts to manatees in areas of their potential presence:
- All work, equipment, and vessel operation should cease if a manatee is spotted within a 50-foot radius (buffer zone) of the active work area. Once the manatee has left the buffer zone on its own accord (manatees must not be herded or harassed into leaving), or after 30 minutes have passed without additional sightings of manatee(s) in the buffer zone, in-water work can resume under careful observation for manatee(s).
- If a manatee(s) is sighted in or near the project area, all vessels associated with the project should operate at “no wake/idle” speeds within the construction area and at all times while in waters where the draft of the vessel provides less than a four-foot clearance from the bottom. Vessels should follow routes of deep water whenever possible.
- If used, siltation or turbidity barriers should be properly secured, made of material in which manatees cannot become entangled, and be monitored to avoid manatee entrapment or impeding their movement.
- Temporary signs concerning manatees should be posted prior to and during all in-water project activities and removed upon completion. Each vessel involved in construction activities should display at the vessel control station or in a prominent location, visible to all employees operating the vessel, a temporary sign at least 8½" X 11" reading language similar to the following: “CAUTION BOATERS: MANATEE AREA/ IDLE SPEED IS REQUIRED IN CONSTRUCTION AREA AND WHERE THERE IS LESS THAN FOUR FOOT BOTTOM CLEARANCE WHEN MANATEE IS PRESENT”. A second

temporary sign measuring 8½ " X 11" should be posted at a location prominently visible to all personnel engaged in water-related activities and should read language similar to the following: "CAUTION: MANATEE AREA/ EQUIPMENT MUST BE SHUTDOWN IMMEDIATELY IF A MANATEE COMES WITHIN 50 FEET OF OPERATION".

- Collisions with, injury to, or sightings of manatees should be immediately reported to the Service's Louisiana Ecological Services Office (337/291-3100) and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Natural Heritage Program (225/765-2821). Please provide the nature of the call (i.e., report of an incident, manatee sighting, etc.); time of incident/sighting; and the approximate location, including the latitude and longitude coordinates, if possible.

Should the proposed project involve activity in the aquatic environment in those areas during summer months, further consultation with this office will be necessary.

There is currently no requirement under the Endangered Species Act for consultation regarding project impacts to at-risk species. In the interest of conserving the Louisiana eyed silkmoth, saltmarsh topminnow and black rail, we encourage you to avoid planning project activities that would adversely affect those species or their habitats. Should these species be federally listed as threatened or endangered in the future, further consultation on potential project impacts to those species would then be necessary.

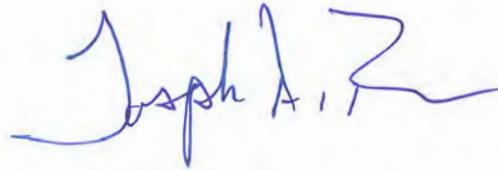
The proposed study area is known to provide nesting habitat for the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), which was officially removed from the List of Endangered and Threatened Species on August 8, 2007. Although the bald eagle has been removed from the List of Endangered and Threatened Species, it continues to be protected under the MBTA and the BGEPA. If a bald eagle nest is discovered within or adjacent to proposed project activities, then an evaluation must be performed to determine whether the project is likely to disturb nesting bald eagles. That evaluation may be conducted on-line at: <http://www.fws.gov/southeastJes/baldeagle>. Following completion of the evaluation, that website will provide a determination of whether additional consultation is necessary; a copy of that determination should be provided to this office. The Division of Migratory Birds for the Southeast Region of the Service (phone: 404/679-7051, e-mail: SEmigratorybirds@fws.gov) has the lead role in conducting such consultations. Should you need further assistance interpreting the guidelines or performing an on-line project evaluation, please contact this office.

The proposed project area contains colonial nesting waterbird colonies. Colonies may be present that are not currently listed in the database maintained by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF). That database is updated primarily by monitoring the colony sites that were previously surveyed during the 1980s. Until a new, comprehensive coast-wide survey is conducted to determine the location of newly-established nesting colonies, we recommend that a qualified biologist inspect the proposed work site for the presence of undocumented nesting colonies during the nesting season. In addition, we recommend that on-site contract personnel be informed of the

need to identify colonial nesting birds and their nests, and should avoid affecting them during the breeding season.

We appreciate the opportunity to review the Notice of Intent and associated permit application, and to provide comments during the DEIS scoping period. We look forward to our continued involvement in this project moving forward. If you or your staff have further questions regarding the above letter or would like to meet and discuss our recommendations, please contact Catherine Breaux (504-862-2689, for FWCA related questions) or Amy Trahan (337-291-3126, for ESA) of this office.

Sincerely,



Joseph Ranson
Supervisor
Louisiana Field Office

Enclosure

cc: EPA, Dallas, TX
NMFS, Baton Rouge, LA
LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
LDNR, CMD, Baton Rouge, LA
OCPR, Baton Rouge, LA

Literature Cited:

Cahoon, D.R., White, D.A., Lynch, J.C. 2011. Sediment infilling and wetland formation dynamics in an active crevasse splay of the Mississippi River delta. *Geomorphology* 131 (2011) 57–68.

Snedden, G.A., Cretini, K., Patton, B. 2015. Inundation and salinity impacts to above- and belowground productivity in *Spartina patens* and *Spartina alterniflora* in the Mississippi River deltaic plain: Implications for using river diversions as restoration tools. *Ecological Engineering* 81 (2015) 133–139.

From: lkveve@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Linda Van Aman](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 5:16:08 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

I recently saw a presentation about this project, and the scientific data showed that without it, we will be losing land at an alarming rate. It looks like our best chance to stem the loss, and with a process similar to what the river would have done naturally if levees had not been built to contain it.

Sincerely,
Linda Van Aman
Arabi, LA 70032

From: lkveve@aol.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, July 28, 2017 12:16:00 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I recently watched a presentation on the history of the area and possible futures, and the situation looks dire if nothing is done. This diversion project could improve the outlook considerably.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Linda Van Aman
701 Lebeau St
Arabi, LA, 70032-1531

From: julirevb@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 1:42:57 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
juli van brown
3243 ponce de leon
new orleans, la, 70119

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Juli Van Brunt](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 7:30:25 PM

Aug 17, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

* Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.

* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Ms. Juli Van Brunt
3243 Ponce De Leon St
New Orleans, LA 70119-3107
(504) 957-2326
julirevb@gmail.com

From: marylou.v4@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Mary Lou Van Teylingen](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 10:16:44 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Mary Lou Van Teylingen
New Orleans, LA 70117

1 RICHARD VASQUEZ
2 167 South Street
3 Port Sulphur, Louisiana 70083

4 RICHARD VASQUEZ:

5 Well, the thing about it is,
6 the diversions all sound good to try
7 to build up the land like it was
8 years ago before the levees was put
9 here. You know, there's a buildup
10 of alluvial soil, I know, pretty
11 much.

12 But what they're doing is
13 sitting there pumping water -- the
14 diversion is going to let more water
15 than sediment come in and it's going
16 to kill all the fish, it's going to
17 kill the oysters, and it's going to
18 change a lot of things back there.

19 And once that happens, once you
20 start knocking the fishermen down
21 for -- look at the coast of
22 Louisiana -- that's a lot of tax
23 money. When shrimping stops, the
24 brown shrimp season -- we used to
25 have a May season. We don't have a
 May season any more. I think I

1 worked maybe three trips this May
2 season, three or four trips. The
3 brown shrimp are getting less and
4 less.

5 I haven't been back here --
6 I've only been back here this year,
7 working back here. But before
8 Katrina -- I'm from down there and
9 worked all my life -- well, I seen
10 some of the results of the pumping
11 and it looks like it seems to be
12 working, but then all of a sudden,
13 we see the -- as the companies move
14 out of Plaquemines Parish, mainly
15 the oil companies, and then the
16 other companies that supply the oil
17 companies, they're going, well, all
18 of a sudden the pumping, all the
19 pumping done stopped, all the pumps
20 are gone. If you've got something
21 going, why do you stop? Is it too
22 much money? Well, what's more
23 money? To put a diversion that's
24 going to take forever to really --
25 it's going to take years to build it

1 up. It would be quicker with
2 pumping because pumping puts more
3 sediment and it goes where you want
4 it to go. A diversion, you have
5 no -- it's going to go and settle
6 where it wants, to where the -- what
7 I wanted to say -- the pumping was
8 working, you put more sediment, less
9 water, less fresh water, so there's
10 less of killing the fishing
11 industry.

12 But whereas, the diversion,
13 you're putting more water and less
14 sediment. It costs money to pump.
15 It costs money for the diversion.
16 But if it takes so long for a
17 diversion to build up sediment, how
18 long are we going to have to -- how
19 long is it going to be before we get
20 another big storm?

21 Then all that money that
22 they're saving not doing this, well,
23 now we've got to get it to rebuild
24 the people and we've got to rebuild
25 New Orleans and we've got to rebuild

1 this.

2 So we can weigh it any kind of
3 way you want, but the south is what
4 saved New Orleans and everything
5 else, years ago, before the oil
6 companies sucked all the oil out.
7 They should be responsible for the
8 oil and gas.

9 I mean, I look on my GPS and
10 you can see where those bays used to
11 be. I know where they used to be.
12 I'm 54. Well, with a couple little
13 bays, there's one giant bay and
14 there's a well field. It's like you
15 suck from underneath it, the land.
16 That was drilled mud they put;
17 that's water and dirt. Water and
18 dirt eventually separates. Dirt
19 goes down and the water comes up.

20 Well, the little bit of land on
21 top of that water is going to change
22 place, too. That's how come this
23 place is gone. I mean, 54 is pretty
24 young, considering what I seen going
25 in my lifetime, and I seen old maps

1 and the land they had. There was so
2 much protection with the land, the
3 coastline. Man, the coastline's
4 gone.

5 What we call levees, they pump,
6 they build a little spot, then they
7 stop, they build another spot and
8 they stop. It's not going to take
9 long for that pile of river sand to
10 wash away. They really need to rock
11 the coastline.

12 Go with an old map, look at the
13 coastline, put the coastline back,
14 fill in some of these islands. Put
15 the islands and the land back
16 between the coastline and the levee
17 system, because if you got nothing
18 between the coastline and the levee
19 system, against mother nature, what
20 do you think's going to stop that?

21 Them levees, you're putting all
22 the brunt on the levee. If you're
23 not putting no land before the levee
24 to slow it down, then all the brunt
25 is going to be on the levee, and,

1 buddy, once them levees go, if that
2 river side levee ever goes -- I live
3 in Plaquemines -- I could stand on
4 my roof and I'm even with the ships.
5 I mean, we're way below it, if it
6 ever busts. Anybody below where it
7 breaks at is probably not coming
8 back. And we really need to build
9 the coastline up.

10 Diversion is going to put more
11 water than sediment. Pumping was
12 putting more sediment than water.
13 You can place it where you need it.

14 You take an old map and try to
15 put back as much as you can because
16 that's the natural way. The old map
17 is the natural way, not what you
18 might think or the biologists might
19 think or I might think. Put it back
20 like it was and there will be some
21 protection, plus levees.

22 Back in the old days, they
23 didn't have levees. Imagine if you
24 would have had that land with the
25 levees. New Orleans would have

1 never got all that damage. Look at
2 the millions and millions and
3 millions of dollars the government
4 and the state wouldn't have had to
5 put out to save New Orleans. It
6 already had its -- its savior would
7 have been out there already.

8 So I think the diversion is
9 going to ruin -- it's going to ruin
10 the fishing all across the board.
11 Fresh water is going to -- we fish
12 because it's salt water. It's not
13 going to grow in fresh water. White
14 shrimp can tolerate the brackish
15 water. Brown shrimp can't. They
16 won't come in. They'll quit
17 spawning. It will dry up for brown
18 shrimp.

19 There's a whole lot of reasons,
20 if you -- I mean -- and I'm younger
21 than a lot of these guys. These
22 older guys that's -- you know, you
23 can't train your kids to be
24 fishermen any more. You've got to
25 get them to do something else

1 because this is dying. We don't
2 want it to die. Why let people
3 that's supporting their self, why
4 let that die?

5 Once you take that away from
6 us, well, now you've got to give us
7 jobs or you've got to give us
8 government help. We need something.

9 So if you keep the fishermen
10 going, if they could keep the pumps
11 going, I think the money situation
12 will come out about the same.

13 I mean, you're going to cut
14 some holes in the levee and put some
15 pipes and divert some water, okay.
16 How many years is that going to
17 take? It's quicker if you pump it,
18 you know. If you have a bucket and
19 you're grabbing mud and water, and
20 I'm over here with a shovel, I'm
21 grabbing just mud, who's going to
22 make a pile, a hill quicker?

23 And we don't have a lot of time
24 the way the weather's been and all
25 that, and this place here, I think

1 the only reason they're keeping it
2 alive is because of the New Orleans,
3 the Port of New Orleans and the
4 Mississippi River. If it wouldn't
5 be for that river, they would
6 probably just let this end of the
7 world go, this end of the country.

8 And coastal erosion is -- it's
9 not coastal erosion that's killing
10 Plaquemines Parish. It's the fact
11 that you sucked everything that was
12 supporting the land from underneath
13 it. Coastal erosion is not really
14 eating up Mississippi. It's not
15 really eating up Texas. It's not
16 really eating up Florida or Alabama.
17 How come it's just eating Louisiana?
18 The majority of the oil pumped out
19 was in Louisiana. You know, a lot
20 of them have sand. From Mississippi
21 to Texas, all that's a lot of mud
22 bottom. That's the reason that the
23 TED device ain't -- you know? What
24 do you need -- turtles don't come up
25 in muddy water.

1 If you're working out on the
2 beach, in the sand, I can
3 understand, there you need to have
4 TEDs. If you don't have TEDs,
5 you're going to get a ticket. But
6 if you're working up in muddy oyster
7 bottoms -- I watch stuff on
8 Discovery like everybody else --
9 them turtles don't -- they go for
10 sand, lay their eggs and they go
11 back. They want clear water. They
12 don't want muddy water. Can't see
13 where you're going. I know they got
14 special senses. I dropped out in
15 eighth grade, but, I mean, I've got
16 common sense.

17 But they're pushing the TEDs on
18 us. They're flooding it with fresh
19 water. It's -- that and the
20 diversions are killing the industry.
21 Well, what they have on the east
22 side, most of the oysters on the
23 east side, a lot of them, they're
24 dead. They killed the oysters.
25 They killed many oysters, not all of

1 them, but it's just a matter of time
2 before it's all dead.

3 And mind you, I don't have no
4 oyster leases, but there's a lot of
5 them that's got oysters and I know
6 they're not hurting for money after
7 BP. They well got paid after BP.

8 But the idea is, you know, you
9 still have to keep your oysters, but
10 put some land back to protect the
11 land above it, and they need to
12 build the coastline up and have some
13 kind of barrier. If not, they're
14 going to get a big storm and these
15 new and improved levees --
16 everything new and improved breaks
17 quicker, I know -- but these new and
18 improved levees they're putting in
19 New Orleans, they already know the
20 pumps can't keep up.

21 EDDIE CARTER:

22 Thank you for your comment. I
23 appreciate it.

24 RICHARD VASQUEZ:

25 All right, man. I hope it goes

1 somewhere.

2 * * *

3 ANONYMOUS

4 ANONYMOUS:

5 My comments surround the
6 Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion.
7 They center around adaptation of
8 climate change. I think the
9 proposed bridge structure needs to
10 be high enough to accommodate future
11 marine traffic and smaller marine
12 traffic, for instance, a commercial
13 fishing fleet. There is likely
14 going to be a time when the gates of
15 the structure will need to be
16 removed, probably towards the end of
17 its project life. That task needs
18 to be accommodated in an easy,
19 simple way.

20 The width of the structure at
21 the river needs to be a sufficient
22 width to accommodate potential
23 future marine traffic. As the delta
24 retreats inland due to rising seas,
25 this structure project may have a

From: attwil@cox.net
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 5:31:22 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Melanie Vaughn
5668 Gen. Diaz St.
NewOrleans, LA, 70124

From: vick744@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Michael Vickers](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 8:55:04 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Michael Vickers
New Orleans, LA 70121

From: vidrinec@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 12:57:09 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Curt Vidrine
2601 Carondelet st
New orleans, La, 70130

From: aaronv@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Aaron Viles](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Tuesday, August 29, 2017 9:26:16 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of wildlife as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.
- *I am very concerned that "streamlining" federal infrastructure regulations could weaken the public's ability to benefit from a comprehensive and robust environmental analysis. Please engage in a complete process and clearly address the more challenging elements of a project this significant, such as dolphin and human impacts.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Aaron Viles
New Orleans, LA 70125

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Gene Vincent	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) word of mouth
Street Address 3432 Marie Ct.	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code Lafitte, LA 70067	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

As a 39 year commercial shrimper who lives in Lafitte and works in Barataria Bay, I am against the building of this diversion. The adverse affects such as altering brown shrimp crop and size, greatly outweigh the benefits. The creation or swing of marsh land of any type will be minute compared to other methods such as dredging. Hundreds of shrimpers who depend on this area to make their living will be all but put out of business.

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Joseph Vincent](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 3:29:03 PM

Aug 17, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations
and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30
years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this
Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

* Please regularly share information with the public and other
stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of
the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin
should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which
could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife
and culture.

* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion
should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations
over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we
learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and
request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.
We've already lost 40 years!

Sincerely,

Mr. Joseph Vincent
509 3rd Ave
Harvey, LA 70058-2727
(504) 328-5215
conrua@juno.com

From: glen.vizier@chouest.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 10:22:10 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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Thank you,
Glen Vizier
244 E 59TH ST
CUT OFF, LA, 70345

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Tuesday, July 25, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Belle Chasse Auditorium
8398 Highway 23, Belle Chasse, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name My Lynn Vo	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
Street Address 2301 Westmere St	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code Harvey La 70058	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

Do not break the dam
do not want to lose brown shrimp
when Fresh water and salt water
Mix

1 MY LYNN VO
2 2301 Westmere Street
3 Harvey, Louisiana 70058

4 INTERPRETER:

5 They're afraid they're going to
6 lose the brown shrimp. Do not break
7 the dam. Do not want to lose brown
8 shrimp when fresh water and salt
9 water mix.

10 * * *

11 VAN NGUYEN
12 2024 S. Village Green Street
13 Harvey, Louisiana 70058

14 INTERPRETER:

15 They're afraid they're going to
16 lose the brown shrimp. Do not break
17 the dam. Do not want the project
18 because the salt water mix with
19 fresh water will lose brown shrimp.

20 * * *

21 JOHN CHIEN
22 1117 Wyndham Street
23 Gretna, Louisiana 70056

24 INTERPRETER:

25 They're afraid they're going to
lose the brown shrimp. Do not break
the dam. Do not want to lose brown
shrimp. Do not want salt water

From: gumbo_30@hotmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 10:51:36 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
Bart Voisin
552 Sunset Knoll Road
Pasadena, MD, 21122

September 5, 2017.

August 29, 2017

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name

Bo Vong

Street Address

183 Delta Aire Dr.

Mailing Address

(if different from street address)

City, State, Zip Code

Buras, LA 70041

Email Address

xseanax@yahoo.com

Affiliation

How did you learn about this public scoping meeting?

Newspaper Notice

Notice in Mail

Email

Website

Other (please explain)

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

My name is Bo Vong. I am new to the Industry. This is my first year Shrimping. If they close the gate here and let the water flow to the Ocean. It meant there will be no Shrimp here so we have to go to the Ocean to Shrimp. I have a 31 ft boat. That is a small small to go Shrimping in the Ocean. I am a single dad to four kids and elder mom I have to take care off. I can't travel back and forth to the Ocean and come back home everyday to take care my family. I will lost my money a lot just to travel back & forth

Aug. 31, 2017

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name NEANG VONG	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
Street Address 210 DELTA AIRE DR BURAS LA 70041	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code BURAS LA 70041	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

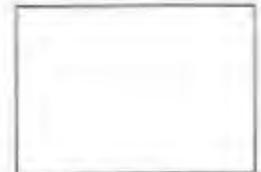
This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

My name is Neang Vong and I'm a commercial fisherman, a Shrimper to be exact. I've been shrimping for 18 yrs and counting! I love what I do, couldn't imagine myself doing anything else but shrimping out on the open water. I OPPOSE the diversion!! I understand the reason behind the diversion. But as someone who works on the water for a living what happens to us and our source of income? I rely solely on the water for income and sometimes food also. If more land is built how are we guaranteed our way of life and income isn't jeopardized. How do we know the diversion won't scare the shrimp away? We are already struggling to find shrimp and are also competing with imported shrimp.

My main concern is - Will there be shrimp
once the diversion is complete?

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118



Place postage here

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

Aug. 31, 2017

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Noeun Vong	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
Street Address 210 Delta Ave Dr.	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code Buras, LA, 70041	
Email Address Nvong80@gmail.com	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

My name is Noeun Vong I'm a second generation shrimper. I recently moved to Buras, LA to continue the tradition of shrimping in our family. I oppose the diversion because it puts our source of income in jeopardy. We rely solely on the water for income and sometimes food. How do we know the diversion won't scare the shrimp away? We are already struggling to catch shrimp now! What will happen to the shrimp once the diversion is over?

Aug. 31, 2017

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Nonh Vong	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
Street Address 210 Delta Aike Dr	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code Buras, LA 70041	
Email Address Patvong215@aol.com	
Affiliation	

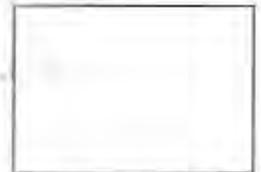
This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

My name is Nonh Vong, and I'm a second generation shimper. My wife and I moved to Buras, LA in 2002 to continue the family tradition of working on the water. I worked on my dad's shrimp boat as his deckhand while also working a daily job for benefits for my family. I recently purchased my own shrimp boat in 2014. I love working on the water and honestly couldn't imagine myself doing anything else. I oppose the diversion because it will kill or move the shrimp out to the gulf before they are big enough to harvest. We own a smaller shrimp boat that can't fish in the gulf and this will severely hurt my business. I rely solely on shrimping the water for income and sometimes food also. How will I be guaranteed

our way of life isn't jeopardized because of the diversion? I would want the EIS to study the impacts to shrimpers businesses, their families, their quality of life, and the communities that are dependent on this fishery if they are not able to make a profit catching shrimp in the inshore waters within the Barataria Basin.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: GEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118



Place postage here

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

August 3rd, 2017

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name PO, VORN.	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 100 - Choceat Lane	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code Buras, LA 70011	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

If the diversion happens in Mid-Barataria, there will be no shrimps. I have been a shrimper since 2009 and this is all I know how to do. I will need assistance training new job skills if I can't shrimp anymore because diversion will impact me. I also need assistance with financial help to pay the bills, insurance, or increase the shrimp prices in order to survive.

PO Vorn

I, Cristina Duong, at Coastal Communities Consulting, Inc., hereby certify that I translated the above statement from the Cambodian into English to the best of my ability; and I am fluent in both languages.

Cristina Duong, Translator
cristinaduong

August 17th, 2017

**Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017**

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? Yes No

If yes, please specify the position.

First and Last Name Vu Phuc H.	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) CCC
Street Address 307 E. 74 st	
Mailing Address <i>(if different from street address)</i>	
City, State, Zip Code Cut off LA 70345	
Email Address philquynh@yahoo.com	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: *(Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)*

1) Shrimps die.

August 17, 2017

Ý kiến đóng góp phải được gửi trước ngày 5 tháng 9 năm 2017

Comment Form

Họp Đánh giá Công khai, Thứ 5, ngày 20 tháng 7, 2017
EIS cho Dự án Chuyển động Trầm tích Trung Barataria
Leo E. Kemer Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

BẠN LÀ NHÂN VIÊN CÔNG VỤ? CÒ KHÔNG

Nếu có, vị trí: _____

Họ và Tên Vu, Phuc H.	Bằng cách nào quý vị biết về cuộc họp đánh giá công khai này? <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo Báo chí <input type="checkbox"/> Thông báo qua Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Khác (hãy nêu rõ) ecc
Địa chỉ Đường phố 307 E. 74 th	
Địa chỉ Hộp thư (nếu khác với địa chỉ đường phố)	
Thành phố, Tiểu bang, Mã vùng Cwt off LA 70345	
Địa chỉ Email philquynh@yahoo.com	
Cơ quan/Tổ chức	

Thông tin này sẽ được bổ sung vào danh sách mail dự án. Nếu bạn không muốn đưa vào danh sách mail, hãy đánh dấu vào hộp kiểm.

Ý KIẾN: (Hãy viết tiếp vào mặt sau nếu không đủ chỗ)

1) chết tôm

2) mua tàu lớn hơn, mua Tàu Tõi lại

COMMENT 2 OF 2:

Thao Vu

Ms Coalition for Vietnamese American
Fisher Folks & Families
1636 Popp's Ferry Road, Suite 223
Biloxi, MS 39532

Ms. THAO VU:

My name is Thao Vu and I
am the director of the Mississippi
Coalition for Vietnamese American
Fisher Folks and Families. We're a
community based organization located
in Biloxi, Mississippi.

And I would like to make
some comments about, first of all,
about this meeting format. Right now
is the active shrimping season right
now. It just started less than a
month ago so it's not the most
convenient time. If in the future
meetings could be held at a more
convenient accessible time,
particularly for the fishing
community. That's the first
comment.

The second comment is I'm
aware that it was posted on the

federal register I think in early July so a two-week notice is very short and we don't think that's adequate notice. It's inadequate notice. I know there was a lot of time to prepare this but the public needs more time, particularly if they are on the waters a lot. Second comment.

The third comment is that this public meeting really needs a public comment presentation time. I think if significant resources are taken, for example, having a court reporter here, that there should be maybe 30 minutes to an hour for the public to be able to make their three-minute comments and everyone has an opportunity to hear the comments.

My next comment is that we are aware that Louisiana Coastal Protection Restoration Authority recently gave the Army Corps of Engineers over a million dollars to

expedite the permitting process.

Part of that presentation says that The Army Corps of Engineers wants to maintain its independence. That to us is not very independent if one of the lead trustees, proponent of this project, has to deal with the Army Corps of Engineers who also has a stake in this because the Army Corps of Engineers is a trustee under the Restore Act which may provide some funding to support this type of project in the future.

The other thing we're troubled by is that we're aware that a lead engineer contracting firm has been selected. If this is a scoping process to determine if the feasibility of this project moving forward, should it move forward or not, we think that's very premature and it comes across as a meeting that is a miracle malady.

Another comment I would like to make is that the NOAA

trustee -- the NOAA representing the Louisiana TIG here stated that this EIS may be used for the Louisiana TIG EIS process. We think that the Louisiana TIG should conduct its own EIS. That's critically vitally important because of any deficiencies from this one. And note that the Louisiana TIG has its own criteria and regulations, rules and policies it has to abide by and it should not be commingled with any EIS process undertaken by the Army Corps of Engineers who is leading the permitting process.

Now, I want to speak about the project itself. We're in a fishing community. These fishermen beside me, these are long-standing livelihoods at stake here. They bore the disproportionate impact of BP which has really devastated their livelihoods. They more than anyone depend on healthy water, healthy clean waters to keep up the

ecosystem and habitat.

Fishing communities help build up this Gulf Coast. It would be very egregious if any restoration measures are used and it would further destroy and impact these fishing communities who have greatly contributed to not only to the economy but it's their way of life, tradition and help build this region.

And we have great concerns about the freshwater inflow as well as the sediment, the massive amount of freshwater and sediment that may impact the shrimp habitat because Barataria Bay is a key habitat for -- lead area for shrimping here for not only Louisiana fishermen but fishermen where I'm from. I'm from Mississippi, right. And there are many Mississippi fishermen who also shrimp and harvest oysters and go crabbing in Louisiana's water. So healthy fisheries know no state

boundaries. We're here, I'm here to help bring up these issues and we're also going to try to submit written comment letters.

We think that the fishing community has not been properly consulted on the front end before proposing these types of projects and that's very egregious.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

(End of Comment)

From: mikealswoods@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [M.W.](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 10:46:06 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
M W
New Orleans, LA 70123

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Ryan Waldron](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 2:54:27 PM

Aug 17, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

* Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.

* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

We need this project ASAP. We can't afford to miss another once in 10-yr. river event before this diversion is constructed.

Sincerely,

Mr. Ryan Waldron
1423 Cadiz St
New Orleans, LA 70115-3907
(504) 452-2632
rwaldron@gmail.com

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Arthur Walker](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 1:05:25 PM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,

Mr. Arthur Walker
1020 Creswell Ave
Shreveport, LA 71101-3918
(318) 424-0400
artw@communicationsone.com

From: etruscanmiss@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Karen Wallsten](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 1:37:18 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Karen Wallsten
Hammond, LA 70403

From: wee@loyno.edu
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 8:52:24 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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- The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
James Wee, Ph.D.
1820 Pine St
New Orleans, LA, 70118-5324

From: jimweems06@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [James Weems](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 1:28:30 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
James Weems
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

From: danielweiner@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 11:13:41 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Daniel Weiner
4116 Vincennes Pl
New Orleans, LA, 70125

From: penn.weldon@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Sunday, August 20, 2017 10:13:27 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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Thank you,
Penn Weldon
340 Hwy 20
Thibodaux, La, 70301

From: rwells78@charter.net
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 8:58:21 AM

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in the continued coastline loss that threatens our communities, wildlife, and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, the Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Richard Wells
516 Cross Gates Blvd
Slidell, LA, 70461

From: josephwenzel@msn.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Tuesday, August 1, 2017 8:56:54 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Joseph Wenzel
93 Midwest Ave N
Lake Elmo, MN, 550429662

From: [Allison West](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: La. Oyster Task Force Scoping Comments to the DEIS for the proposed Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion
Date: Tuesday, September 5, 2017 2:47:57 PM
Attachments: [E2165C77-5EF4-4306-947B-A1EEB833E5E5.png](#)

Good Afternoon,

It is my understanding that today is the deadline to submit comment regarding the EIS for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. I wanted to follow up with the below submission from the Louisiana Oyster Task Force to confirm that the comment and supporting documents were received? Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Kind regards,

Allison West

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

504-286-8739 (o)

504-472-4484 (c)

From: John Tesvich <jtesvich@ameripure.com <<mailto:jtesvich@ameripure.com>>>
Reply-To: John Tesvich <jtesvich@ameripure.com <<mailto:jtesvich@ameripure.com>>>
Date: Friday, September 1, 2017 at 2:10 PM
To: "CEMVN-Midbarataria@usace.army.mil <<mailto:CEMVN-Midbarataria@usace.army.mil>>" <CEMVN-Midbarataria@usace.army.mil <<mailto:CEMVN-Midbarataria@usace.army.mil>>>
Cc: Allison West <AWest@wlf.la.gov <<mailto:AWest@wlf.la.gov>>>
Subject: La. Oyster Task Force Scoping Comments to the DEIS for the proposed Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion

To: USACE

Please accept these comments from the Louisiana Oyster Task Force regarding the DEIS for the Proposed Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion in Plaquemines Parish. The attached files include the written comments and supporting documentation that is referenced in the letter.

Thank You,

John A. Tesvich, Chair
La. Oyster Task Force

From: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) on behalf of [Katherine Wheeler](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Friday, August 25, 2017 11:10:10 AM

Aug 25, 2017

Mr. Brad LaBorde

Dear Mr. LaBorde,

I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,

Ms. Katherine Wheeler
2369 Wisteria St
Baton Rouge, LA 70806-5353
(225) 247-6718
kwhee10392@gmail.com

From: kwhee10392@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Katherine Wheeler](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 1:19:17 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Sincerely,
Katherine Wheeler
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

From: susan_whipple@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 8:38:50 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
Susan Whipple
105 Saxony Dr
Houma, LA, 70364

From: carsharp2000@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 7:03:30 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
Carla White
6575 Highway 71
Colfax, LA, 71417-5603

From: waitingclumsily@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Monday, July 31, 2017 7:55:52 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

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Thank you,
Mallory Whitfield
547 Hyman Drive
Jefferson, LA, 70121

From: kalei.lw@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Saturday, August 5, 2017 2:18:38 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
Lynn Wilbur
617 Katlian Street A7
Sitka, AK, 99835

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Tuesday, July 25, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Belle Chasse Auditorium
8398 Highway 23, Belle Chasse, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

<p>First and Last Name Elizabeth Williams</p> <p>Street Address 1632 Washington Ave Apt C</p> <p>Mailing Address (if different from street address)</p> <p>City, State, Zip Code New Orleans, LA 70130</p> <p>Email Address lizabethannwilliams@gmail.com</p> <p>Affiliation Foundation for Louisiana</p>	<p>How did you learn about this public scoping meeting?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Email</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Website</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)</p>
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This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

Considering the history of the natural and controlled Mississippi River delta, I want to know more about the future of coastal Louisiana without the reintroduction of freshwater and sediment that would occur with the construction of the Mid-Barataria sediment diversion. I am deeply concerned about the continued loss of our wetland buffer, even with millions & billions of dollars spent on restoration. I want to know more about what happens if we don't build the diversion - what happens to the marshlands already vulnerable to saltwater intrusion? What happens to our existing fisheries? Without the diversion, do fish/shrimp/lobsters move elsewhere because there is no suitable habitat for spawning & growth? Do oyster middens collapse because of salinity levels that become too high? Do our communities face even greater risk to increased

Storm surge further inland? Please consider all of the effects possible without the construction of this project. It is critical that we understand the effects of a future without action.

The longer that we wait to take steps to address our deteriorating delta, the more of a possibility there is that a catastrophic storm will destroy communities that would benefit from an increased wetland buffer. Land creation takes time and the river has the ability to rebuild its delta. Please, wherever possible, move through this permitting process as quickly as possible. The future of Louisiana's industries, culture, communities and existence depends on it.



NEW ORLEANS LA 700

28 AUG 2017 PM 2 L

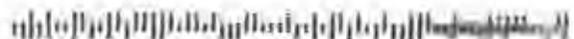
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

NEW ORLEANS LA 700

28 AUG 2017 PM 2 L



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118



Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Tuesday, July 25, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Belle Chasse Auditorium
8398 Highway 23, Belle Chasse, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

<p>First and Last Name John Williams</p> <p>Street Address 1008 Carrelia Ave, Baton Rouge, LA 70806</p> <p>Mailing Address (if different from street address)</p> <p>City, State, Zip Code Baton Rouge, LA, 70806</p> <p>Email Address johnchristianwilliams@gmail.com</p> <p>Affiliation Concerned Citizen</p>	<p>How did you learn about this public scoping meeting?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Email</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Website</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) Referral from friend</p>
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This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

Please look at what the future of coastal Louisiana without implementing this project. This is a project that should've been implemented a long time ago. What is the effect every day on the economy and livelihood of South Louisiana with every day that we do nothing?
What happens to the other infrastructure that is already in place - how will this project affect it?
How much land will be grown from this project on an annual basis? How will LA be better protected with this project in place with rising sea levels and stronger storms?
Please look at how you can speed up the

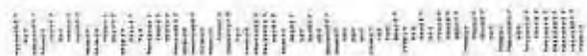
permit process for this. Return everything is all gone.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-E00
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

701183351 0000



From: jolie.williams@sulzer.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 8:12:12 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Jolie Williams
1424 Ross Avenue
Baton Rouge, LA, 70808

From: bishwake@yahoo.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Saturday, July 29, 2017 3:11:44 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

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Thank you,
mary williams
28 West Elm Street
Tucson, Arizona, 85705

From: naythonwilliams@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Naython Williams](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Tuesday, August 29, 2017 9:57:24 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Sincerely,
Naython Williams
New Orleans, LA 70124

From: williamsdesign1@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Sally Williams](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Monday, August 7, 2017 10:05:32 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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Sincerely,
Sally Williams
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

September 5, 2017

121 Hazel Dr.
River Ridge, LA
70123

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District
c/o Brad LaBorde
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

Re: Comment on Proposed Mid-Barataria Diversion

Dear Mr. LaBorde:

Historically, when the government has pursued Mississippi River diversion projects, governmental agencies have oftentimes failed to adequately consider the potential economic impacts, or the likely response of those who are impacted such as commercial fishing interests, and in particular, oyster fishermen. At other times, the government has chosen to distribute outrageous cash awards particularly to oyster fishermen when the impacts would likely be minimal. Meanwhile, the oyster industry takes few steps to mitigate their potential losses in advance of planned projects. To paraphrase the Captain in *Cool Hand Luke*, "What we've got here is failure to communicate."

In the lead up to this project, as former defense counsel for the State of Louisiana in the litigation brought by oyster fishermen resulting from diversion projects in the past, I see a recurrence of the same disturbing pattern of dysfunctional interaction and lack of communication between the government and commercial fishing interests whereby neither side is taking the necessary steps to mitigate impacts or to communicate concerning same. Unless those mitigation steps are taken or considered in the assessment of impacts and/or in any cost/benefit analysis for the Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS") for this project, the actual impacts may be woefully overstated. This, in turn, may prevent the project from going forward altogether, or alternatively, require compensation from the State to commercial fishing interests to address the perceived impacts so as to simply allow the project to proceed. Accordingly, this is to suggest that the Corps ensure that all interested parties, particularly the State and the oyster industry, have undertaken all necessary mitigation measures so that the likely impacts are accurately assessed in the preparation of the EIS for this project.

As to the details, at present there are approximately 440,000 acres of State water bottoms leased to commercial oyster fishermen in Louisiana. Many of these oyster leases are located in the outfall area that forms the footprint for this project. The last time a diversion project began operating under similar circumstances, i.e., the Caernarvon fresh water diversion project which was in 1991, the oyster leaseholders filed multiple lawsuits, including a class action, which resulted in a 14 year delay in the implementation of an effective operational scheme for several diversion projects as well as the postponement of a multitude of other coastal restoration projects. Sadly, Hurricane Katrina would eventually make landfall in Breton Sound, the exact same area the Caernarvon project should have benefitted.

Complicating the present situation, in an effort to limit the State's liability in the Caernarvon litigation and other related suits, in 2002 the State had instituted a moratorium on new leases and chose not to renew many others which were located near coastal restoration projects. The State has now begun the process to lift that moratorium. When that occurs, due to erosion over the past 15 years since the moratorium was implemented, as many as 1 million acres of State water bottoms may now become available for oyster leasing. Many of these new areas are located in this project's footprint.

Although the prior litigation eventually resulted in a decision from the Louisiana Supreme Court which rendered the State effectively immune from damage to oyster leases, still, if oyster leases are allowed to remain in the project footprint, or new oyster leases issue in those areas, this will unnecessarily increase if not skew the extent of economic impacts to the oyster industry for purposes of the EIS analysis. Indeed, if the oyster industry is allowed to remain in, or expand into the project's footprint, the oyster industry could claim that most of their leased acreage has been rendered useless by the project. Moreover, if allowed the oyster industry's expansion to cover an area of over 1.4 million acres of State water bottoms could place nearly the entire Louisiana coast under lease to the oyster industry. If this occurs, the oyster industry could also take the position that the synergistic effect of this project when combined with any diversions in the future could wipe out the entire oyster industry all along the coast.

Based on this scenario involving an unbridled expansion of oyster leasing along the coast, the oyster industry could claim it is simply "too big to fail" such that without a reduction in flow-rates from the diversion, or some type of "bailout" in the form of compensation, the oyster industry will go out of business. This is the exact same scenario that occurred with Caernarvon and the other projects. This is a scenario that can be easily prevented with proper planning and mitigation measures such as relocation or the difficult decision not to renew or issue new leases in project areas.

Another important consideration for mitigation purposes is the nature of oyster cultivation on water bottoms. Unlike other marine fisheries which involve species that can migrate away from unfavorable environmental conditions, oysters when cultivated on oyster reefs or within oyster beds cannot migrate. As a result, an adverse change in environmental conditions, particularly changes in salinity or the introduction of suspended sediment as will occur with diversions, can result in extensive oyster mortality. A solution to this problem is "alternative oyster culture" using off-bottom technology. The primary purpose of this technology is to keep oysters apart from bottom dwelling predators such as oyster drills (snails), starfish, stone crabs, black drum fish and the like. The technology is varied and can involve floating cages of oysters; long lines mounted between pilings on which bags of oysters are suspended just below the water's surface; or, rafts equipped with solar powered "upwellers" which pump water containing nutrients to feed the oysters located inside.

The additional benefit from this technology is that if environmental conditions become unfavorable, an oyster fisherman can literally "pull up stakes" and relocate his entire operation to an area with more favorable environmental conditions. From a practical standpoint, this is not really an option for on-bottom oyster cultivation. Significantly, while the oyster industry in other states from Maine to Mississippi have experienced extensive growth in alternative oyster culture, the State of Louisiana has done little to support this technology. Not surprisingly, the Louisiana oyster industry remains fixated with on-bottom culture involving oyster reefs and beds. This off-bottom technology should be evaluated as another mitigation measure.

Lastly, the governmental agencies involved with this proposed project should consider better methods of communicating the likely changes in the environment, both positive and negative, resulting from the project. These communications would include advisories concerning likely changes to the salinity regime which is critical to oyster production; the results of any modeling of sediment distribution since sediment and siltation can smother oysters; and, the development of a habitat suitability index ("HSI") which would identify areas that have become or are likely to become more favorable for oyster cultivation.

In sum, this is to suggest that the Corps and any other interested agencies confirm that all necessary mitigation measures related to economic impacts on the oyster industry be explored before the determination is made as to actual impacts. These measures would include: (1) the relocation of oyster leases in the project's footprint for this or any other planned diversion projects; (2) the prohibition of new oyster leases within project footprints; (3) the promotion of alternative oyster culture to render the oyster industry more mobile and less vulnerable to changes in salinity and other environmental impacts resulting from this and other diversion projects; and, (4) the continuous sharing of all governmental data and modeling information related to salinity or sediment distribution from diversion projects so as to allow oyster fishermen to plan ahead and mitigate any adverse impacts related to oyster production.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew C. Wilson

Aug. 28, 2017

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Johannie Wilson	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) ccc
Street Address 151 Suzie Rd.	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code Port Sulphur, LA 70083	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

The freshwater diversions will ruin our (fishermen) lifestyle. More freshwater species, like catfish and bass, are invading spawning grounds of both brown and white shrimp and destroying the oyster beds. I think dredging more sand to build land would be better than diversions, dredge the sand on the river side and truck it into places where beaches already exist. The oil spill severely impacted the commercial fishing industry and diversions will do the same. Money shouldn't be an issue especially since Plaquemine Parish and the state received BP revenues.

Johannie R. Wilson

From: ruskat@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Ralph Wilson](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 4:47:28 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- * Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
- * The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible--ideally by the end of September 2017.

Sincerely,
Ralph Wilson
Hammond, LA 70401

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Tuesday, July 25, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Belle Chasse Auditorium
8398 Highway 23, Belle Chasse, LA

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Charles A. Woessner	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
Street Address 2132 Suwannee Dr.	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code Marrero, La. 70072	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

- (1) Concern about River pollutants entering Barataria basin.
- (2) What is timing new land growth, is there experience or science to base this on
- (3) If Final meeting is not scheduled until 2017, what is schedule for completion.
- (4) What will happen to existing plants, fish, animals and shellfish when these much fresh and polluted water is introduced

From: therachelswoof@gmail.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 11:15:13 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Rachel Wolf
403 Emeline Ave
Santa Cruz, CA, 950602244

From: [National Wildlife Federation](#) on behalf of [Mikeal Woods](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Scoping comments on CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 2:47:23 PM

Aug 17, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District (Mid-Barataria
Comments Only)
LA

Dear (Mid-Barataria Comments Only),

I urge the Corps for swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Please consider my recommendations and questions for the scoping period of this project:

* The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS.

* Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process.

* What does a future look like without this project? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which could result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.

* Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of this diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project, and request that the scoping report be completed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Mr. Mikeal Woods
9415 Belle Cherie Pl
River Ridge, LA 70123-2633
(504) 737-2122
mikealswoods@gmail.com

From: Pat-woods@ntlworld.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 4:25:06 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

My husband. and I had the privilege of visiting Louisiana from London, England,earlier this year were overwhelmed by the beauty of the Wetlands. You have the power to impact on the future of this very precious landscape.

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act – and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
- Be transparent. Please regularly share information with the public and other stakeholders throughout the process and at critical milestones.
- Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Patricia Woods
48 Shakespeare Road
Hanwell, England, W71LS

From: jimwyerman@rcn.com
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Monday, August 21, 2017 4:52:41 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

The recent unanimous passage of Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan by the state Legislature reflects the state's unwavering commitment to coastal protection and restoration and reiterates the importance of reconnecting the Mississippi River to its wetlands through sediment diversions to build and sustain land and reestablish a functioning, productive estuary.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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- The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been studied for over 30 years. Please incorporate existing research and resources into this Scoping Report, and from there into the EIS

There is no time to waste. Under the master plan's Future Without Action scenario, Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land over the next 50 years. I urge the Corps to act swiftly through all phases of the project. Please complete the Scoping Report as quickly as possible – ideally by the end of September 2017.

Thank you,
Jim Wyerman
1418 Spain St.
New Orleans, LA, 70117

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

JUL 27 2017

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name FRANK H. WYMAN	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
Street Address 2705 Jean Lafitte Blvd	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code Lafitte LA 70067	
Email Address Capt Frank Wyman @ Cox.net	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

I am opposed to the diversion. It will not help us be having more river water. We need help to protect our home immediately, not years from now. Many of our businesses depend on our seafood industry. We can not grow seafood in river water. The diversion will destroy our community. Please repair our coast in a safer manner. You do not care about us when you plan on us having this problem and not provide help to handle the problems that will come up.

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

JUL 27 2017

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Pearl C WYMAN	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
Street Address P.O Box 553	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code Lafitte, LA 70067	
Email Address PearlCWyman @ ymail.com	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

I am opposed to this large diversion
It will flood my area and destroy
my life. I will not vote for
anyone who does not help me &
my family to have a safe and healthy
life. This diversion will make my
area a swamp with all of its problems.
Please repair my area with levee protection
This diversion will raise the water level
so much higher that we will have
no hurricane protection. The diversion will
not help for the next 25-50 years!
Are you crazy.

Aug. 31, 2017
Comment Form

Public Scoping Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2017
Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS
Leo E. Kerner Jr. City Park Multipurpose Complex
235 City Park Drive, Lafitte, LA

Comments should be submitted by
September 5, 2017.

ARE YOU A PUBLIC OFFICIAL? YES NO If yes, position: _____

First and Last Name Phonmy Yeon	How did you learn about this public scoping meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Notice in Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) ccc
Street Address 130 Chouest Ln	
Mailing Address (if different from street address)	
City, State, Zip Code Buras, LA 70041	
Email Address	
Affiliation	

This information will be added to the project mail list. If you do not wish to be on the mail list, check this box.

COMMENTS: (Please make additional comments on the back, if needed.)

I have been a deckhand for my husband, Punty Keo, ever since I came to America. I do not want diversion b/c the freshwater will kill the shrimps & crabs. We would need financial assistance to survive b/c we are old, and we do not know how to do other things besides shrimping & harvesting crabs.

From: jujubowser@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Faruk Yetiker](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 31, 2017 8:53:03 PM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

My recommendations and questions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to consider during the scoping period for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion are:

- * What does a future look like without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion? All analyses of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and its effects on the Barataria Basin should also consider the effects of NOT building this project, which would result in continued loss that threatens our communities, wildlife and culture.
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- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
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Sincerely,
Faruk Yetiker
Erath, LA 70533

From: ddyoung100@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Deedy Young](#)
To: [CEMVN-Midbarataria](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2808-EOO
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 11:53:08 AM

Dear Mr. Brad LaBorde,

As someone who cares about coastal Louisiana and the value its rich habitat provides to a wide variety of bird species as well as people who rely on its wetlands for storm protection, I support reconnecting the Mississippi River to the delta through sediment diversions to build and sustain land. Louisiana's land loss crisis is urgent and will only worsen unless we act--and that means ensuring swift, effective implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. This vital project will reconnect the river with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres in this crucial area over time.

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- * Allow for flexibility of operations. The operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion should provide as much flexibility as possible to modify operations over time in response to changing environmental conditions and what we learn from monitoring the project.
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Sincerely,
Deedy Young
Lafayette, LA 70503