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## **Mid-Breton Sediment Diversion Public Scoping Meeting Transcript**

### **Session 3 – July 16, 2020**

#### **Opening Remarks**

00:02 Hello and welcome. Thank you for joining the Mid-Breton Sediment

00:06 Diversion Public Scoping meeting. #3 and thank you for

00:09 your interest in the project. I am Stacy Mueller from GHD.

00:14 I'll be hosting today's event. Karen Miller and Simona Ramirez

00:18 -Dias also from GHD will assist in the production in

00:22 moderation of today's event.

00:25 As we are all likely adapting to new technology, I would like to

00:29 cover some items to expect while viewing or listening to our

00:32 event today. First, today's event is being recorded and

00:37 recordings from all three public scoping meeting sessions will be

00:41 made available for future viewing through links on the

00:44 project web page.

00:47 Secondly, you have joined us in listen only mode through the

00:51 Webex Event Center platform. There will be a period during

00:55 today's event when those of you who have joined us by Internet

00:59.51 will be able to ask questions with our Q&A feature on your

01:03 screen we will share instructions on how to submit

01:07 questions just before the question and answer session

01:10 begins. Please note that questions you submit today may

01:14 be published for all attendees to view during today's event and

01:18 will eventually be available on the project's web page.

01:22 If you are familiar with Webex or other similar video

01:26 conferencing products were going to remind you that the Webex

01:29 Event Center platform is very different from a meeting

01:32 platform. You will not be able to share your audio or video

01:37 feeds and we will not be using other features such as chat or

01:41 pulling or raise hand. Again, we're only going to be using



01:45 the Q&A feature if you are not familiar with Webex in the Q  
01:49 and a feature we will be providing verbal an on screen  
01:53 instructions on how you may participate prior to beginning  
01:56 the moderated question and answer portion of today's  
01:59 event.

02:00 If you have dialed into the audio conference only, you will  
02:04 not be able to submit questions today through the Q&A feature an  
02:08 you will remain in listen only  
02:09 mode. If you visit the project web page you were able to click  
02:14 on a button on the left hand side of the web page to submit  
02:18 your questions. Responses to questions submitted through  
02:21 the project web page may be addressed outside of today's  
02:25 event.

02:28 The presenters today will be sharing several ways for you to  
02:32 submit official scoping comments outside of today's event.  
02:35 We are sharing these ways on your screen now and we will  
02:39 also share them again throughout today's event.  
02:43 You may submit officials scoping comments by mailing to the US  
02:48 Army Corps of Engineers in New Orleans, LA. You may send email.  
02:54To CEMVN Dash Mid Breton MIDBRETON  
03:01 at USA CE dot Army dot  
03:07 MIL. Or you may call and leave your  
03:14 comments on a recorded voice line at  
03:18 1-855-643-2738.

03:20 At this time I would like to introduce Ricky Boyett of the US  
03:25 Army Corps of Engineers. Ricky you may begin.

### **Ricky Boyett (USACE) Begins Opening Remarks and Presentations**

03:49 Louisiana has a plan.  
03:52 Right now I'm going to interrupt you. I think I'm gonna ask you.  
03:56 Ricky, I'm going to interrupt you. I think you have been on  
03:59 mute, so if you don't mind that I'm going to start over an  
04:03 unmute your line. An Ricky Boyett. When you're ready to  
04:06 begin. Thank you, can you hear me? Thank you.



04:12 Perfect good evening everyone and again I am Ricky Boyett. I'm  
04:15 with the Army Corps of Engineers in the New Orleans district. I  
04:19 do want to thank you so much for joining us this evening for the  
04:23 scoping meeting regarding the Mid-Breton sediment diversion  
04:26 project. It's yes and and  
04:27 proposed project. The Coastal Protection and Restoration  
04:30 Authority of Louisiana has applied to the Army Corps of  
04:34 Engineers for the necessary permits and permissions to  
04:38 construct, maintain and operate the Mid-Breton sediment  
04:41 diversion project on the East Bank of the Mississippi River  
04:45 near Willis point, in Plaquemines Parish. It  
04:47 compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the  
04:50 Corps of Engineers will prepare an environmental impact  
04:54 statement to inform its permitting decisions. We are  
04:57 seeking public comments with  
04:58 system determining. The scope of issues, the resources, the  
05:02 impacts and the alternatives that need to be addressed. In  
05:05 this document you are an extremely important part of this  
05:09 process and we do want to hear from you. Our comments are we  
05:14 will collect comments from July the 2nd to August the 16th,  
05:18 2020. There's a wide variety of ways that you can submit  
05:22 comments at anytime during the scoping period, and it  
05:26 can be submitted by Mail by email, as well as by phone.  
05:30 For those of you who are listening only by audio, the  
05:34 best way to find list of ways to comment is by Googling. Army  
05:38 Corps of Engineers Mid-Breton, and that'll take you to the  
05:41 project web page with all of  
05:43 that information. As we move into the meeting, there will  
05:48 be 3 pre-recorded presentations. First, we'd like to present with  
05:52 you Colonel Steven Murphy, the New Orleans district commander  
05:55 for opening remarks at that point will turn it to Bradley  
05:59 Board with the Army Corps of engineers are regulatory manager  
06:02 for this this permit. Who will provide an overview of the



06:06 permitting process and he will be followed by Brad Bars,  
06:10 Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority who  
06:12 provide an overview of the Mid-Breton sediment diversion.  
06:15 Project. After that will turn the floor to you as we asked  
06:20 answer questions. We will answer as many questions as  
06:24 possible and as well any unanswered questions maybe  
06:27 responded to on the project web page. Again, I'd like to  
06:30 thank you for joining us today.

### **Welcome Video from Colonel Steven Murphy**

06:34 Hello, I'm  
06:39 Steven Murphy  
06:41 the Commander of the New Orleans district I want to  
06:47 thank you for participating today in this. First in a series  
06:52 of virtual meetings regarding mid button sediment diversion.  
06:55 Environmental impact statement Today will participation is  
06:58 invaluable to us because if your participation and the questions  
07:02 you provide us will help us come to the best decision possible  
07:07 that us is the permit applicant. The Coastal Protection and  
07:11 serration authority and the Corps  
07:13 of Engineers. And today we hope to provide an insight into the  
07:17 process and the authorities that govern this process. An really  
07:21 to address your questions and hear your feedback. We're doing  
07:24 this at virtual environment because of everything we've been  
07:27 experiencing with COVID-19, so I want to ask you for your  
07:31 patience as we move forward. This is a new process and I'm  
07:35 sure they will experience just a few flip flops along the way. So  
07:39 thank you again for participating. Appreciate it  
07:41 very much and I look forward to. Your feedback is provided, but.  
07:45 To help the Corps and the best

### **USACE Presentation, Brad Laborde, Regulatory Project Manager**

07:48 decision possible. Hello and welcome to the virtual  
07:51 scoping meetings for the proposed Mid-Breton  
07:54 sediment diversion project. My name is Bradley LaBorde. I



07:58 am the Corps regulatory project manager for the Mid-

08:01 Breton sediment to vary from project review and

08:05 environmental impact statement or EIS. This

08:07 presentation is available to you on the Corps Mid-Breton

08:11 Web page. It will also be part of our live events.

08:17 However you choose to participate myself in the

08:20 Corps Breton Review Team. Thank you for sacrificing some of your

08:24 time to actively participate and provide input on the proposed

08:28 project. Ideally, the Corps would host these meetings in person.

08:32 However, do the challenges with the ongoing public health

08:35 crisis. We cannot do that at

08:37 this time. The goals of this presentation in the scoping

08:42 meetings aren't in one provide you with brief details on CPRA,

08:47 raise or the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of

08:51 Louisiana's proposed Mid-Breton sediment diversion project.

08:55 Following my presentation, Brad Barth, of security would provide

08:59 more details on their proposed project and CPRA's overall

09:03 mission. To explain the Corps review process, including are

09:08 NEPA or National Environmental Policy Act review three and

09:12 most importantly, provide you with a platform to answer any

0:17 questions you may have so you can adequately prepare your

09:21 comments.

09:24 This presentation, along with additional visual aids and a

09:27 project, said she are available on the Corps of Engineers in

09:31 NOLA's district Breton web page.

09:33 If interested, please review this information and if you can

09:37 participate in one of our long list events scheduled for July

09:41 14th, 15th and 16th.

09:44 During these three will have a dense participants can call into

09:48 listen using the number and access code shown here.

09:51 Additionally, participants using the Internet and go to the Corps

09:55 that Breton Web page and click on the appropriate link to



09:59 direct you to the web meeting from their questions can be  
10:03 submitted using the chat box and the Webex online platform.  
10:08 During live events, a moderate are.  
10:11 Will relay questions for Corps or CPRA representatives answer all

10:15 three meetings will be recorded and posted on the Corps  
10:19 Breton webpage. Your participation in our scheduled  
10:22 laws events just for informational purposes. It does  
10:25 not count as your official scoping comment you're scoping.  
10:29 Comments can be submitted by traditional Mail, email, or by  
10:33 telephone and shown here.  
10:35 Here is a screenshot of the poor midbrain webpage. The main  
10:41 section has summary and schedule  
10:43 information. Also scoping meeting info will be on the  
10:47 left. You can click the submit scoping question box prior to  
10:51 our live events to send us a question to be answered during  
10:55 the live meetings on the right side of the web page you will  
10:59 see information about how to submit your official scoping  
11:02 comments. The two links at the bottom or for a quarter or for  
11:07 the Corps Mid-Breton web page and the permanent dashboard. These  
11:10 two links should be the top 2 results if you Google for Mid  
11:14 Breton. The permitting dashboard allows interested parties to  
11:18 track our progress during the big brain sediment diversion  
11:22 project review. Be sure to periodically check this link.  
11:26 After the scoping process to monitor all progresses.  
11:31 CPRA has proposed to construct, operate and maintain the mid  
11:36 threaten sediment diversion  
11:38 project. The concept of the versions has been studied as a  
11:43 coastal restoration tool for sometime now. Coastal Louisiana  
11:46 currently has two fresh water diversions in operation. Davis  
11:50 pawn on the West Bank. You can can Arvin on the East bank. CPRA  
11:55 is proposing Mid-Breton as a sediment divergent designed to  
11:59 convey water at volumes up to 75,000 cubic feet per second or



12:04 CFS, depending on Mississippi River level and low rates. When  
12:08 the diversion structured is  
12:10 closed. My base well about two 5000 CFS is proposed.

12:14 Get constructed the project slow print would be on the East bank.

12:18 In Wills Point, the platforms parish, Louisiana. At this point

12:22 you may be asking yourself if this is a CPRA, a project. Why is

12:27 the Corps of engineers involved?

12:29 Well, the Corps is directed to by Congress via the rivers and

12:33 harbors act and the Clean Water Act. If a member of the general

12:37 public has an action or project that the impact of course civil

12:40 works project. One must obtain a Section 4 way permission from

12:45 the Corps. This includes any federally mandated, whether or

12:48 water weigh. The applicant must demonstrate that the proposed

12:51 activity will not be injurious to the Public. Interested in

12:55 will not impair the usefulness of the federal projects.

12:59 It's a member of the public, has an action or project that

13:04 obstructs or alters a navigable waterway, such as a doctor or

13:08 water convenience. It would require ascension 10 permit as

13:12 the Corps regulatory program is tasked with maintaining

13:15 navigation in US waters. Similarly, if a member of the

13:19 general public has an action or project that requires excavating

13:22 and or failing into jurisdictional wetlands, a

13:25 section 404 permit would be required. It must be

13:29 demonstrated that the project is in the Public Interest.

13:32 And steps have been taken to taken to avoid and minimize

13:37 adverse impacts to our nation's wetlands and, if required,

13:40 provide mitigation for any outstanding

13:43 weapon impacts to proceed during all product reviews and during

13:47 the Mid-Breton sediment diverge. Interview the Corps

13:51 regulatory staff remains neutral and independence in our decision

13:54. making. Our mission is to make permit decisions off best

13:59 available science engineering standards and professional



14:01 judgment again. The Corps is neither for or against this or  
14:06 any other application. The  
14:08 reviews. OK, so here is CPRA as proposed project. Mid  
14:15 Breton sediment diversion footprint using money Gras  
14:19 colors. Did you have the full  
14:22. construction footprint? Within that, in LSU gold you can see  
14:26 the outline of the actual structure and changes to LA 39.  
14:31 Into in green CPRA anticipates  
14:33 modifications to the existing pump station  
14:36 along this back living.  
14:39 If you think back to the previous slide CPRA a hit the  
14:44 permitting trifecta requiring a section 10404 permits and a  
14:48 section 408 permission to better understand, you can break the  
14:52 project into three segments. One the area within in along the  
14:57 Mississippi River to the Mississippi River Levee has  
15:00 section 10404 and four late interests 2 between the  
15:04 Mississippi River and the back levy, where there are impacts to  
15:08 such in floral form buttons.  
15:11 And three, the outfall area into Brett and Sam were section 10  
15:16 and 404 would apply with perhaps some floor Lane interest to hear  
15:21 a conveyance. Structure extends through Wetlands Till River.  
15:25 This one offers two zoomed out shots of the project area on the  
15:30 left you can see the project footprint and CPRA as anticipated  
15:35 transition area and white.  
15:37 This is where it dealt it. Processes can be expected based  
15:42 on CPRA as pulmonary estimates, additional water quality and  
15:46 salinity impacts are anticipated outside this area.  
15:50 On the right you can get a better view of the project  
15:53 location with reference to the New Orleans Metropolitan area to  
15:56 the top left. So in the Mississippi River you can see  
16:01 the project location, the Breton Sound Basin and the  
16:04 Mississippi River basin. In Plaquemines and Saint Bernard  
16:07 Parish is unaware, most impacts will be how far impacts may go





16:11 to the East and North East into the Pontchartrain 16:16 Chandelier sound, if at all is unknown at this time the Corps is

16:20 independently reviewing all of CPRA as models to better

16:24 understand the extent of impacts, including land

16:26 building, an accretion storm surge and aquatic resources to

16:29 determine the overall.

16:31 Beneficial in adverse impacts associated with CPRA's projects.

16:37 So now that we've discussed Section 4 late permissions and

16:40 the section 10 and 4 four permits, it's important to know

16:44 what our decision making tool is, and that is neat, but the

16:49 National Environmental Policy Act and equal process.

16:52 And documents serve as our evaluation and decision making

16:55. tool. The Corps is believed. Federal agency for this effort,

16:59 a third party contractor has been selected to help write an

17:04 independently review. CPRA Mid-Breton sediment version

17:07 project. The level of our reviews is dependent on

17:11 the impacts. In this case, the court has already determined

17:14 that this project could significantly affect the quality

17:18 of the human environment, requiring an ES or environmental

17:21 impact statements. And Yeah, is a detailed study of a project

17:26 potential impacts to the human

17:28 environment. Deporres believe several agency is in charge of

17:33 drafting the EIS in coordination with the federal operating

17:37 agencies. The scoping comments you provide will help us

17:41 determine the appropriate amount of detail for each specific

17:44 resources to be impacted.

17:47 The end results or outputs from the IIS will be included into a

17:52 record of decision or rod which would announce the per the Corps

17:57 permitting decision in conjunction with other federal

18:00 laws. Typically the most important details in an EIS can

18:03 be found in chapters one through four. Chapter one outlines of

18:08 projects, purpose in need statement that explains why a

18:11 particular project is being pursued. Chapter 2. The



18:15 alternative section outlines the alternative projects that will  
18:18 be examined. In the EIS Analysis, Chapter 3 affected  
18:22 environment is a description of the project areas, existing  
  
18:26 conditions, conditions in trends, chapter 4, environmental  
18:29 consequences, and perhaps the most important part of the EIS,  
18:34 analyzes the impacts of the proposed project and  
18:37 alternatives, including the no  
18:39 action alternatives. So the Mid-Breton sediment version EIS  
18:44 the Koran coordination with our federal cooperating agencies  
18:47 establish a purpose in the statement based off the one  
18:52 provided by CPRA in their permit application. From there, we  
18:57 evaluated potential alternatives. CPRA has provided  
19:00 an alternatives analysis for cooler review. The Corps and  
19:04 coordination with the federal cooperating agencies did an  
19:08 independent review of alternatives from prior studies.  
19:11 CPRA race in middle and evaluated other potential Coastal  
19:15 Restoration tools are alternatives. Analysis is not  
19:19 complete. It is not complete until we also evaluate  
19:23 alternatives provided during the scoping process. Reasonable  
19:26 alternatives received during scoping will be given the same  
19:31 considerations established during our preliminary review.  
19:34 After pulmonary review, the list of alternatives to be evaluated  
19:38 in the ISR.  
19:40 Sentiment to virgins with maximum flows of 35,000 CFS  
19:46 75,000 CFS. The applicants preferred alternative and 100  
19:52 and 15,000 CFS.  
19:54 Alternative base Blues are also being evaluated by 2500 CFS and  
20:01 CFS Baslow scenario.  
20:04 To wrap up, the scoping process, is the Public opportunity to  
20:08 tell the Corps what you want to see addressed in the EIS. You  
20:13 play a central role in the regulatory process, particularly  
20:17 if you've listened to my presentation this this long.



20:20 Please submit your comments by mail or trim it traditional  
20:24 nail. You can also submit a verbal comment at one 855 mid  
20:29 Breton the number of hours, 4 minutes for your comment bro.  
20:33 Comments will be transcribed and included into the permit record.  
20:37 Verbal coms can be provided in multiple different languages and  
20:41 later translated. Also, if you're viewing this before a lot  
20:44 of events, please participate If you can, we will be  
20:48 addressing your questions during  
20:50 these times. Public involvement does not end with scoping. While  
20:55 preliminary work on the EIS has begun, we are early in the EIS  
21:00 process, which starts with public scoping. Once coping  
21:03 is complete, CPRA will provide all project modeling material in  
21:08 a series of technical reports. The Corps, with the help of the  
21:12 third party contractor and cooperating federal and state  
21:16 agencies, will independently review CPRA as material along  
21:19 with other best available science to draft the EIS.  
21:23 The draft EIS is scheduled to be completed in fall 2022.  
21:28 Shortly after the draft EIS the quarter will host the public  
21:32 hearing. The Corps will then revise the draft EIS based on  
21:37 public hearing feedback to produce the final EIS currently  
21:40 scheduled in the fall of 2023.  
21:43 Then the final EIS will go from public review before we  
21:48 all important permit and record of decision currently  
21:51 scheduled for January 2024. The permit decision can be a  
21:56 denial, proffering at least damaging alternative examined  
21:59 in the IIS or approval of CPRA as preferred alternatives.  
22:04 Lastly, I want to leave you with a list of potential issues that  
22:09 we will address along with you concerns. This list is part of  
22:14 the visual aids we have available to you on the Corps  
22:18 Breton webpage. When providing your scoping comment,  
22:22 please consider the following questions. What important  
22:24 issues, resources in impacts should be considered in the GIS?  
22:28 What alternatives would modifications to the existing



22:31 proposal should be considered in the EIS, and?

22:34 If there are other problems or opportunities, the poor

22:38 should be aware of, this concludes my presentation.

22:41 Thank you for your participation and be safe

22:43 during these Times Now will hand it over to Brad Barth from

22:48 CPRA. Thank you.

### **Mid-Breton Sediment Diversion (BS-0030) Presentation, CPRA, Brad Barth**

22:55 Welcome to the Mid-Breton Sediment Diversion Public

23:00 Scoping meeting, with Coastal Protection,

23:04 restoration authority in the settings diversion program

23:08 manager, and also in the operations group with CPRA a on

23:15 the operations assistant administrator. Thank you for

23:19 coming today. Rick will give an introduction talk a

23:24 little bit about our coast orland loss. Will talk about

23:28 Addressing the root cause from reconnecting on River.

23:32 Him to meet us in the target about the Mid-Breton sediment

23:36 diversion, and then Lastly will hit upon and talk a

23:39 little bit about our operations adaptive

23:41 management.

23:43 So do you think you are right

23:48 Post 2005 Hurricane Katrina,

23:51 What how the state was implementing coastal

23:56 She goes some

23:58 protection. You can find us to one group of one agency

24:03 to do integrated approach to handling restoration and

24:06 protection efforts leading to the creation of personal

24:09 protection. Restoration authority.

24:13 So you may be familiar with this map may have seen it

24:18 before since 1930, two 80years of actual data that

24:22 we've observed in USGS of land loss over 2000 square miles.

24:30 Or make it going forward over the next 50 years. If you're

24:34 familiar with that. Also masterplan you familiar with, we look

24:38 at a couple different sea level rise scenarios. This would be



24:41 600 the medium scenario. Potentially we are an order of 4200 square  
24:45 miles that we have the potential to lose over the next 50 years.

24:49 Should we do nothing?

24:52 So what is take

24:56 here? We look at coastal Louisiana. What does steak is

25:02 our flood protection or natural processes of the of the lower

25:07 coast of Louisiana. High coastal habitats are cultural heritage.

25:12 And I work in chemistry mistake.

25:16 How close to master plan is required by legislator every six

25:22 years? It's a 50 billion dollar plan. It's equally split between

25:27 restoration and protection or risk reduction. 25 billion to

25:32 each. It is required for us to look at this every six years.

25:36 And really, what this is.

25:38 It's really how we rank in elect projects for

25:42 implementation. Every six years it gives us the ability to put

25:46 the best projects on the landscape. Considering the

25:49 information science and analysis available to rank projects,

25:52 that's really what it is. We don't have \$50,000,000, but this

25:57 is gives us a pool of projects to select from. To put the best

26:02 projects on the ground with changing environmental

26:05 conditions. Are you

26:09 conscious? Early

26:12. Process of completing the lower Mississippi River

26:19 protection system. Great feat in terms of protecting our nation.

26:25 Our citizens hand in our navigation interest in

26:29 terms of economic, some of the entire United States. So what

26:33 that's done is less. A lot of areas that don't have that

26:38 access to the fresh water disseminate to the nutrients,

26:42 and that's really been starving. Those areas in waiting those

26:46 areas into a degrading nature or degrading wetland environment.

26:51 We look at some imagery across

26:54 coastal Louisiana. We can look to our neighbors to the West in



27:00 the Atchafalaya Wax Lake Delacroix was the only areas in  
27:04 coastal Louisiana and that is experiencing langgam no land  
27:08 loss. In these areas and neither is have that direct access to  
27:14 freshwater sediment and nutrients all combined together,  
27:17 we go look at areas further to the Breton found base and we  
27:23 don't have that same access to freshwater sediment from their  
27:27 transe. That's why you look at this. You see the blue from the  
27:32 wax? Like to chat flag called at the happy face you look at the  
27:36 Breton Sound side Frowny face.  
27:38 So let's talk a little bit more specifically why here today for  
27:43 the Mid-Breton sediment diversion project, some basic  
27:47 details. River Mile locations in  
68 on the Mississippi River on  
27:52 the East, or the left descending bank world point Birchrunville  
27:56 area. The funding is through this with all still dollars task  
28:01 currently that are being worked on right now are the engineering  
28:06 design and permitting past associated with this permit  
28:10 application. Does wire attending and watching this very scoping  
28:14 meeting so the details of this project will be looking to have  
28:19 an inlet all along the River in the minus 20 - 35 foot elevation  
28:25 range. The overall corridor with for permanent construction  
28:29 features is approximately 1400feet wide, price only half mile  
28:33 long. The capacity for the diversions estimated up to  
28:37 75,000 CFS. So it's a passive system, so it's relies on the  
28:42 water level of the River and the water level of basin to send the  
28:48 water. The nutrients in the sediment out into the base,  
28:52 and so at flow River flow in the beginning of the spring flood  
28:56 season, the diversion may only be able to flow on order of 30  
29:01 or 40,000 CFS as it approaches Max flood stage and reaches  
29:06 1,000,000 million plus on the flow of the River would be up  
29:10 closer to the 75,000 CFS and how  
29:13 it operates. Bass low up to 5000CFS is what we're pretty for.  
29:18 Asking for an appointment with that window based flow is a more



29:23 of an environmental conditions out in the future. Really only  
29:27 want to flow with make some sense environmentally going  
29:30 forward into the future based on conditions at the time they were  
29:35 operating. Major components and features of the project will  
29:38 consist of an inlet to convey in structure and how wet it will  
29:43 require us to do. Some interior drainage modifications to  
29:47 maintained range within the  
29:48 interior. In the Birch and Wills Point area and then also  
29:53 requires the relocate. Highwa  
29:54 This way I can get you a footprint of the project area.  
30:00 The main footprint includes temporary and permanent right  
30:04 always at this point, that's in very infancy of the engineering  
30:09 design process, but this give you idea perspective of the  
30:13 footprint of the project in terms of both temporary and  
30:18 permanent features. The lower blue got found data right would  
30:22 be the pump station where we're looking at some potential.  
30:26 Improvements to the pump station for that ensure drainage  
30:30 tournament diversions. What's the goal here? Really, the goal  
30:35 is selecting a  
30:36 Location along the River that Scott is super concentrated.  
30:40 Amount of sediment. Hybrid sleep from deposition under .1  
30:44 and we can use that material and concentrate that material off  
30:48 that point bar and then we can maximize that sediment  
30:52 diverted out into the basin and minimize that fresh water.  
30:56 Looking at over project operations, this is a  
31:03 rendition. Obviously the project is on East bank for  
31:09 the left descending bank. You can see here the flow  
31:12 through the intake into the gated structure and then out  
31:16 into the brightness on face.  
31:19 Looking at Plainview, you can see a little bit more detail  
31:24 here with permanent features and then potential temporary areas  
31:28 for construction way down or staging areas. Again, major  
31:32 major features or intake channel. The gate structure,



31:36 relocation, the channel, convenience and then out to the  
31:41 outfall area with a pilot channel counter reversion.  
31:45 Morrow, clever. I need another 3D rendition here.  
31:49 Looking at you see some kind of the bottom left at the top  
31:54 right, the Mississippi River levee or an inlet channel,  
31:57 the gate structure. So this is a controlled gated  
32:00 facility, so we're not operating. The gates were not  
32:03 just gonna be closed channel conveyance out for the  
32:07 outfall area and then head into the basement.  
32:11 Kind of looking North South. You are looking at the gate complex  
32:18 in the inconvenience channels.  
32:21 So let's talk a little bit about operations. So as part of this  
32:28 permanent initial operations plan is included in such that  
32:32 the Corps can evaluate this project are trigger for the on  
32:38 off the start and stop of the diversion. Is foremen 50,000 CFS  
32:45 in Belle Chase?  
32:46 That also includes up to 5000CFS base flow when we're below  
32:51 that form, and 50,000 CFS. That based flow is for future  
32:57 changing environmental conditions, and again, it's up  
33:00 to number. We would expect the base flow to only operates and  
33:05 flow at a level needed based on the future operational  
33:10 conditions or environmental conditions we see in the base,  
33:14 and we expect that to be lower than the 5000.  
33:19 Adaptive management plan. So this is a key part of dealing  
33:25 with environmental changes in the future and really gets at  
33:29 the heart of our mission is to be able to consider our changing  
33:35 environment to be able to manage at or below those levels stated  
33:41 above based on the conditions we  
33:43 see. Additional emergency stops. Tropical activity, spills and  
33:50 navigation. It's part of our charge as CPRA is flood  
33:56 protection but don't want to have conflicting messages there  
34:00 in terms of flood protection, so no desire or intention to  
34:05 have this thing operating during a tropical storm or





34:08 hurricane and thus won't have a plan in place to close the  
34:13 gates during any kind of hurricane or tropical storm  
34:17 activity.  
34:20 Adaptive management again. Really this is all the  
34:23 information all our real time monitoring information that's  
34:26 gathered for anything from looking at the performance for  
34:30 project to providing this data and information in our changing  
34:33 environment which will allow us to make operational changes as  
34:37 needed. Based on our current conditions. So some of the  
34:41 things that we may be looking at our assignment load the flowing  
34:46 River salinity in the basin on the stage in the River and.  
34:50 Another water quality parameters  
34:52 and such. As we go forwarding his permitting process.  
34:58 I will continue to have some both out in the River on a  
35:03 regular basis to do some River sediment sampling. The community  
35:07 gathered the information necessary for us to have an  
35:11 efficient design in terms of understanding the hydraulic  
35:14 hydrology, the hydraulics, and the sediment transport so we  
35:18 can maximize that sediment. Capture source site specific  
35:21 data information leading into our effort. There will,  
35:24 continuing in 30% line effort, about 30% design effort will  
35:28 then directly support.  
35:29 The permitting process and provide the necessary  
35:32 information to public in terms of what the project looks like.  
35:36 The features of the project, the components of the project, such  
35:40 that the Corps can assess those things based on this public  
35:44 scoping meeting in your input. Physical model testing as part  
35:47 of that Hydrology and hydraulic testing. One of the things we  
35:51 want to do is also have physical scale model of the  
35:56 project as well, and so that way we can look at both numerical.  
36:01 Physical modeling and be able to have input there in terms of  
36:07 getting the best design and that way it's also tested as well and  
36:13 not. Nothing happen. Experiment we've already done that physical



36:18 scale model testing.

36:19 And obviously will continue for outreach and engagement where we

36:23 try to put as much information that we can maintain the

36:26 transparency of information we have and where we're at in the

36:30 process of the project.

36:33 And appreciate your time today. Thank you.

### **Panel and Q&A Introduction**

36:41 We're going to thank those of you who were attending

36:48 for your patience and your attention during those

36:53 presentations before we begin our question and answer session.

36:59 We would like to take a moment to introduce you

37:06 to the panel. So in just a moment.

37:11 Will make sure it's you.

37:14 Share the list of the panel on our screen for you.

37:21 And I'm going to ask that our panel take a moment to turn your

37:26 webcams on. At this time. Anne, I'll ask that you stay muted

37:30 until you respond to a question.

37:32 We're going to see all of them assembling a man. Thank you

37:36 panel for attending. You know some of you are together. Some

37:40 of you are a remote from the US Army Corps of Engineers. We have

37:45 Bradley LaBorde Landon Parr, Brenda Archer, Ricky Boyett.

37:48 And from the State Coastal Protection and Restoration

37:52 Authority Brad Barth, Brian Lezina Liz Davoli, Heather

37:57 Layrisson and Tim Smith.

37:59 We will now begin the question and answer session and we have

38:04 opened the Q&A feature you may begin submitting your

38:08 questions now, and while we wait for questions to come in, we're

38:12 going to ask Karen Miller or moderate are to give us

38:16 instructions on how to use the Q&A feature. Her and Are you

38:20 ready to begin? Yes I am. Thanks JC. And that evening everyone,

38:24 uhm, can everyone hear me Stacy?

38:28 Yes, Karen, we hear you very well. OK, great, thank you.



38:32 So we hope to respond to all questions today. It is important  
38:36 to the Corps and CPRA A to help clarify Z theories. Proposed

38:40 project in the Corps review of that project so that everyone  
38:44 can develop their official  
38:46 scoping comments. Any questions not addressed today may be  
38:50 answered on the project webpage. We have included  
38:53 instructions on the screen for how to participate using the  
38:57 Webex Q&A feature.

38:58 So if you take a moment to find the Q&A feature by hovering your  
39:03 mouse or clicking in the middle of the screen, we may see a  
39:07 question mark icon, or you may need to find the icon with three  
39:11 dots. That's the more options icon, and that'll bring up the  
39:15 Q&A icon for you. These icons may be located on the right side  
39:19 or in the center of your screen, and if you're on a mobile  
39:23 device, it may be that you need to tap either at the bottom or  
39:27 the top of your screen.

39:30 Type your question, then select all panelists and finally select  
39:34 send will acknowledge receipt of questions with the general  
39:37 response and published the question so that other attendees  
39:41 maybe them during this live  
39:43 event. Please use appropriate language. We will manage your  
39:47 messages as well as did warnings for those that do not comply  
39:51 with this request. Repeat use of inappropriate language will be  
39:54 cause for removal from today's  
39:56 event. Is a reminder an for those who have joined late.

40:00 If you have dialed into the audio conference only, he  
40:04 will not be able to submit questions today in more of a  
40:08 listen only mode. We will encourage you to submit  
40:11 official scoping comments through the channels that  
40:14 were mentioned during the previous presentations and  
40:16 that we will share again near the end of today's events.

## **Q&A**



40:22 So actually Stacy we have some questions coming in already, so

40:26 if you're ready Ricky L. I'll hand you the first question from

40:31 Alex Bucklew- How will Mississippi be

40:34 involved in the EIS?

40:38 So thanks, Alex and Mississippi's involvement. Uhm,

40:42 I guess would be up to, uh, I guess where the analysis takes

40:48 us right now. We anticipate looking at impacts within the

40:52 Breton bait. However, like I said if our investigation of

40:58 the potential impacts takes us further into the Pontchartrain

41:02 Basin or the Mississippi Gulf Coast then we'll certainly look

41:07 into those impacts.

41:08 Great, thank you.

41:11 John McClain asks, can you explain the base flow? Figure

41:17 2500 CFS or 5000C test. Is this kind adjusted since the 2017

41:24 master plan is the trigger flow ordered and 50,000 CFS changed

41:30 since the 2017 master plan? We thought it was previously

41:36 600,000 CPS CFS, thanks.

41:39 I thank you for that. I think this is a question best suited

41:43 for the applicant CPRA.

41:46 Hey great guys thanks this is Brad Barth CPRA yeah good

41:50 question on the base flow so the base flows for a combination of

41:55 things is for looking at future involvement nations and changing

41:59 environment. It's also at the outlet there for stability for

42:02 vegetation as well so there's a couple things there that it's

42:06 considered for in terms of your question about the 600,000 CFS

42:10 that was from a previous planning effort. So when we look

42:14 at the engineering and design

42:16 phase. For the Breton sediment version and the permit process,

42:20 it's always been a trigger at 450,000 CFS, so thanks.

42:25 Thank you, Brad.

42:27 Alicia Renfro says over what time span will the benefits

42:32 and impacts of this project be considered?



42:37 For this project 50 years.

42:41 years of operation. So we look at those impacts as well

42:46 as the construction phase impacts as well.

42:50 Thank you, Brad.

42:52 Lynette

42:54 Dash asks will this increase flooding in Burlington and the

42:59 Mississippi Gulf Coast area?

43:03 Highland ad, uhm. I don't think we expected to. Uh. However,

43:08 again, if we will look at CPRA as models with concerns full of

43:13 water levels. If the investigation of the water

43:16 levels takes us to the Mississippi Coast, will

43:20 certainly look into what the changes in elevation might be.

43:26 Thank you, a cancer asks In addition to the Mid-Breton

43:31 Diversion. Well, the.

43:35. Can now I'm gonna probably butcher this Navara. Narvon

43:40 diversion.

43:42 In Mardi Gras pass be open also.

43:47 So please correct mispronunciation there.

43:51 It's can Arvin. I'm not 100% sure of the operation of

43:55 Kenarban so we can hand it to see CPRA to address this one.

44:00 Yes, I am Brad. This is Brad again. Uhm, I think uh on these

44:05 two they'll operate just as they would on the landscape today. So

44:10 can Arvin. Has specific operating criteria. So in the no

44:14 action and an preferred alternative it would operate in

44:17 the same manner as it's already project on the landscape. Same

44:21 way with Mardi Gras past its existing part of the lower

44:26 Mississippi River and Bohemia spillway so it would be modeled

44:29 in the existing condition or

44:31 the. No action alternative addition to the prefer.

44:35 Thanks, Brad and just to point out 'cause we had questions on

44:41 this and prior meetings at Mardi Gras passes is a natural

44:45 feature. It's part of the Bohemia Spillway. There's a



44:49 structure there during High River. There was a scouring  
44:53 event that opened Mississippi River up to that portion of the  
44:58 Breton base. And so there is no real opening. Closing of that  
45:03 that location, it's the flows are strictly based off of the  
45:07 Mississippi River. Level and slow.  
45:12 Thank you. Alex buckle, here's another question, will the Gulf  
45:17 Gulf Stream during the water from the Mid-Breton diversion  
45:21 into Mississippi waters?  
45:26 Alex, it's unknown at this time. It'll be part of our analysis  
45:30 and again, if the water quality changes in the Breton Basin and  
45:34 then in the punch train bass and lead us to investigating the  
45:38 changes and what might happen in the Mystic along the Mississippi  
45:42 coast and will certainly include that as part of our review.  
45:48 Thanks, Brad. Gene Turner. Would like to know what is the range  
45:53 of sea level rise months years  
45:56 estimates? Or after 50 years.  
46:03 CPRA? Do you want to address this one please?  
46:09 Why is millimeters  
46:13 per year? Yeah, so they'll be a couple things looked at  
46:19 that will be determined by the team, but generally  
46:24 speaking. We look at sort of the moderate from 2017, so  
46:27 that's a meter and a half. By 2100 you got me on the map  
46:32 question. There would have to break it down, but it's the  
46:35 meter and a half sea level needed half ride by 2100, so  
46:39 thanks for the question on there.  
46:42 Yeah, sorry about my, uh, my mistake there it's millimeters  
46:46 for years what they meant.  
46:49 So I don't see any other questions coming in. You might  
46:52 have a little bit of a pause  
46:55 here. No Turner ask.  
46:59 What is the timeline of loss and gain an near?  
47:04 Of Net land lost with version.  
47:10 Thanks doctor Turner. I believe that CPRA has just begun their



47:14 Delph modeling so for us to give you a firm answer on  
47:20 that we would have to analyze that further. Once be dealt,  
47:24 modeling outputs are available.  
47:30 Alex Buckalew asks migratory marine life be affected by  
47:36 the new version.  
47:41 Well, so there's a number of factors that may impact marine  
47:46 life and that would be something that we would look at an I know  
47:52 a big issue would be salinity, an part of our review. We would  
47:58 look into those salinity changes as we mentioned in our  
48:02 presentation the course working with a third party contractor  
48:06 6 who has a team of subject matter experts to review all of CPRA as  
48:12 material as well as the best available science that's.  
48:16 That's currently out there to make part of this review, so  
48:21 salinity and any changes in the base and as a result of the  
48:26 projects, the project alternatives, as well as the no  
48:30 action will be reviewed and analyzed for their respective  
48:34 impact. Thank you, let's seems like we have a little clauson  
48:41 questions here. Uhm, but we can wait to take a little time to  
48:46 see if people. You have some  
48:48 more questions. Um, we have probably a few comments and we  
48:53 want to remind you that those comments who will be made an  
48:58 official part of this meeting, along with questions.  
49:03 Stacy, I'll pass it back to you.  
49:06 Thank you, Karen.  
49:08 Um, just a reminder that, uh, the question and answer session  
49:13 today is to help our attendees to, uh, get some responses from  
49:18 both CPRA a in the Corps on the proposed project and help you  
49:23 develop your official scoping comments. Any questions that we  
49:27 don't address today may be answered on the project web  
49:31 page, but we are hoping to answer all questions today and I  
49:37 will let CPRA a as well as.  
49:40 Uh, the Corps know that we have 30 people who are in attendance  
49:45 for today's event, so we appreciate everybody. Um,



49:48 hanging on with us and submitting those questions.  
49:51 There is plenty of time to do  
49:54 so. Um, we have plenty of time left into the event, so  
50:00 just a reminder as you develop your officials. Scoping comments  
50:06 were showing on the screen those ways to submit your official  
50:12 scoping comments by traditional Mail or by sending email to  
50:17 CEMVN Dash Mid Breton am IDBRETON at USACE Dot Army dot  
50:23 MIL. Or you may call and leave your comments on a recorded  
50:29 voice line at 1-855-643-2738. Ann, just a reminder. Those of  
50:33 you who have joined us in the audio conference only.  
50:38 Um? Do not have access to our Q&A feature today, but you  
50:45 are welcome to find the recordings of this session  
50:48 Previous sessions, all of the slides, all of the  
50:52 presentations. When you are able to access the Internet through  
50:56 the course project page. So Karen, do you see any new  
51:01 questions coming in?  
51:03 No, I don't OK.  
51:07 And will continue to pause for just a moment and allow people  
51:11 to find. Um, the QA feature on their screen will be  
51:17 showing those Q&A instructions on the slide.  
51:22 You'll be looking for that question icon or those of you on  
51:25 a mobile phone you may see.  
51:28 The more options icon the three dots.  
51:32 In the middle of your screen and then you can find the Q&A  
51:36 selection when you type your question, we're going to ask  
51:39 that you select all panelists and then you can select send.  
51:44 And we are publishing other questions in the comments we get  
51:48 today. In the panel will be responding to those  
51:53 questions will take just a moment. I believe the Corps  
51:56 has had a email questions come in so will use this  
52:01 break to wait for alive questions to come in. A  
52:04 couple of questions have come through an email from  
52:08 Mark Winter. An mark asks.





52:14 Is there anything that you were doing from the Breton diversion  
52:18 that might complicate a future project? He anticipates a future  
52:22 diversion might be redirect. Excuse me. May be directed to  
52:26 rebuild bariatric basin.

52:28 So Ricky or Brad would you like to comment? Is there  
52:32 anything you are doing from the Breton diversion that  
52:34 might complicate a future project?

52:37 Um, that's that would be something that's part of our  
52:41 analysis, and it's also a good example of a comment or a  
52:45 scoping comment that we would expect to receive as part of  
52:49 this process, as well as a lot of the questions that we've  
52:54 received today is important to submit those as your official  
52:57 scoping comments so that we can make him part of the  
53:02 scoping report, which then feeds into the EIS. And it's basically  
53:06 a list of questions that.

53:08 We would we would aim to answer with the draft EIS that we are  
53:14 working through now.

53:16 Thank you and I will also, uh, add the another question that  
53:22 we've gotten from Mark Winter asks, will lowering the  
53:26 gradient of the Mississippi River downstream slow the flow  
53:30 of the upriver sections?

53:35 It's possible that something that we would also be  
53:39 considering within the Mississippi River basin itself.

53:48 Thank you outside of marks comments that we received an  
53:51 email. I see that we've been addressing um at least 12  
53:54 questions that have come in on the line, Karen. We'll check  
53:57 back with you to see if any new questions have come in. Yes,  
54:01 they have. So Gene Turner asks, is the CTR a models  
54:06 calibrated with the results from existing diversion into  
54:10 shallow water organic wetlands like in the path of  
54:14 the Mid-Breton Diversion.

54:19 Thanks doctor Turner up handed over to see PRA  
54:22 to address this one.



54:28 Thanks Doctor Turner. The short answer is yes it is and you  
54:33 can certainly share some more information on that in in  
54:37 detail, but they are calibrated to existing diversions,  
54:41 specially to look at how that interacts with subsidies in those  
54:45 areas of wetland response and exactly what you're asking for  
54:49 their. So yes, we do take advantage of that calibration.  
54:53 Invalidation of these models. Thank you for the question.  
54:59 Yes, we do a lap.  
55:01 A little further, uhm, so as part of the EIS, we will have a  
55:07 number of appendices, and one of them will be adult modeling  
55:11 appendix. That basically goes through both the inputs and  
55:15 Outputs and how we handle some of the data and came to  
55:20 some of the.  
55:21 Determination is that we did in  
55:23 the IIS. So that will be something that you'll be able to  
55:27 review as part of the draft EIS.  
55:32 Great thank you. Alex Bucklewasks, won't the nutrients and  
55:36 sediment in the diversion water be a more significant  
55:40 harm for marine life then salinity? This has been  
55:44 identified as the root cause of the oyster and shrimp  
55:48 decimation in the Mississippi sound.  
55:53 So once again, that's a good question, Alex  
55:58 and it has to do with scope and the reach that the  
56:03 potential impacts what the potential impacts would be  
56:07 as a result of operation of this project. If  
56:10 constructed. Again, if the potential for impacts,  
56:13 whether it be to water quality or sediment, it  
56:17 would be something that we would look at if our review  
56:22 takes us in that direction.  
56:25 Thank you Mark.Schleifsteinasks, can you explain in a bit  
56:31 more detail how you will determine the effects of the  
56:37 diversion alternatives on oysters, shrimp and fish if  
56:41 models? What models?



56:45 Thanks Mark, we have what's called or CPRA a will be  
56:50 performing habitat suitability indexes. That's one of the tools  
56:54 that will be using to look into what changes that would be in

57:00 the basin for marine life.

57:02 Will also be using our subject matter experts to use their best  
57:07 professional judgment and trying to determine what the potential  
57:11 impacts would be as a result of operation of the diversion.

57:15 OK, and I think we have another little pause in questions, so  
57:25 we'll take a pause and wait for people to ask more.

57:36 Thank you Karen, and while we take that pause, uhm I'm gonna  
57:41 ask the Corps. We did have a comment come in um if we can  
57:47 switch back to the ways to a fish two ways to submit your  
57:52 official scoping comment. Slide a comment that the 1-855-643-2738  
57:55 number may require an access code. Is that something that we  
58:00 have today or that can be provided on the course webpage  
58:04 when it's appropriate?

58:11 Yes, uh, we will post to any access 'cause you're any  
58:15 information that we need to ensure that we can get the  
58:19 comments to our web page.

58:22 Perfect thank you Ricky for responding to that um will  
58:26 just continue to take a pause. Those questions and answers  
58:31 come in and remind everyone that official scoping comments  
58:35 should come through the Mail by sending email or by calling  
58:40 uh the 1-855-643-2738 recorded voice line up.

58:45 With the access code that will be provided.

58:50 And as a reminder that the purpose of today's event is for you to  
58:55 have your questions answered and that the panel from both the  
58:59 Army Corps of Engineers and CPRA can provide those responses on  
59:05 the proposed project in the Corps review of the projects so  
59:09 that you can develop your official scoping comments.

59:12 Again, we have plenty of time to address your questions. We still  
59:17 have 30 minutes left in today's



59:19 events and. Um, we're still holding steady now at about 29  
59:25 attendees. Um, so we will stay on the line and keep our Q&A  
59:30 feature open until our event time expires. A man will go back  
59:35 to the instructions on the screen for how to participate  
59:39 using. Thank you and a feature.  
59:52 And Karen, do you see any new questions coming in?  
59:57 I do not OK and will continue to pause. You may hear a pause in  
01:03.09 our audio, but will remain with the Q&A Line Open.  
01:09: do have one now. AA Katcher asks I may have missed this,  
01:14.07 but if the Mid-Breton diversion gets approved, what  
01:18.39 is the estimated construction start date in completion date?  
01:24.06 I will direct that to you, Ricky.  
01:27.19 Yeah, and I think that's best for CPRA to address.  
01:33.29 Yeah hey, great question. I think Brad presented earlier on  
01:37.19 the final EIS in the regular decision date in the first  
01:42.55 quarter of 2024. Uh, a major infrastructure project of this  
01:47.25 nature. We'd be looking five year construction schedule, so  
01:51.26 that would put us into the 2029 time frame for operations.  
01:56.19 Thanks for the question.  
01:01:04 Thank you. I don't see another question. We have another little  
01:01:10 pause but were willing to wait and be patient and give you time  
01:01:15 to fill out your questions and send them in.  
01:01:38 So we're here for the duration, so don't  
01:01:44 be shy, there's no getting out of this  
01:01:51 early for us, so please, if you have  
01:01:57 any questions, go ahead and submit him through  
01:02:04 the Q&A feature.  
01:02:09 Thank you Brad, and thank you to the panel for being patient and  
01:02:14 for your time this evening and thank you to our attendees. Uhm,  
01:02:18 who have a lot of good feedback and a lot of good questions  
01:02:23 tonight. I will let um both panels know that, uh, we are  
01:02:27 seeing a decrease in attendees so we're down to 27 up attendees  
01:02:31 that are still with us in the event. Again, this is likely not



01:02:36 the way. Uh, well you prefer to meet with you, but we're glad

01:02:41 that you've joined us today so that we, uh?

01:02:44 Can I have the Corps and CPRA? A help clarify the CPRA raise

01:02:48 proposed project in the Corps review of the project so that

01:02:52 you can develop.

01:02:54 Those officials scoping comments.

01:02:58 And Stacy to this point, we've answered 13 questions and had

01:03:02 just a few comments.

01:03:05 Thanks Karen.

01:03:40 Hi everybody, why we're what we're waiting and hopefully more

01:03:43 questions. Do you come in? I do want to take this opportunity to

01:03:47 just kind of reiterate.

01:03:48 And that the part of the scoping process and the IS is to get

01:03:54 your input because that's gonna help us formulate that. Scoping

01:03:58 the scope of the EIS is going to understand what resources and

01:04:02 what element we need to know as we begin this process of looking

01:04:07 in. Creating the IS were very early. There's a lot of

01:04:11 questions we don't have the answers to. There's a lot of

01:04:15 comments that will help better inform us from the start, so I

01:04:20 do ask that.

01:04:21 Even if you don't have questions today to please go onto the

01:04:25 project website again. I think the easiest way is to Google

01:04:29 Corps of Engineers Mid-Breton or Corps Mid-Breton and look at the

01:04:34 information that we have. We will look into the 800 number.

01:04:38 We're not sure why it's asking for an extension today, that's

01:04:42 new so we will find that I will have that corrected as soon as

01:04:47 possible. But I I have I have to again just reiterate to everyone

01:04:51 please. Take this time today, but also up until the August

01:04:56 16th lines to submit those comments. Let us I have a better

01:05:02 understanding as we move forward

01:05:04 because. At the end of the day, we need to make sure we're

01:05:09 making the right decision and the right decision will be based



01:05:13 on the best science and engineering you know your  
01:05:17 area. You know you're part of Louisiana better than anyone,  
01:05:21 and so your insight will help us create the right document. It  
01:05:25 will inform our processes so I do take this time to just ask  
01:05:30 the definitely look at what we have on our web page and submit  
01:05:35 any comments. Don't assume.

01:05:36 That someone else has submitted that comment. We'd  
01:05:39 rather have more or multiple versions of the same comment,  
01:05:42 then have missed a comment that can help us create the  
01:05:46 best document. So I do thank you and I will check again to  
01:05:50 see if there are any questions or any information that's come  
01:05:54 in.

01:05:56 Actually, it

01:06:00. looks like

01:06:04 I do.

01:06:09 Yeah, another question here. John Lee asks what is the level  
01:06:15 of EIS metric that would halt the construction of the project?

01:06:21 This would help focus attention and the impact factors.

01:06:27 Hygiene are John, so is part of the IS as we said in the

01:06:32 presentation. It's a decision making tool, so the EIS is

01:06:36 dear, just to layout the facts for us, and so we use that with

01:06:41 our decision making. So as part of our 10404 and 408 review

01:06:46 specifically for section 404, we have what's called the Public

01:06:49 Interest Review, and that's where we weigh a number of

01:06:53 factors both for and against the project, and then make a

01:06:57 decision if it.

01:06:58 To determine if it's in the best interest of the public to

01:07:03 construct that projects deny that project or select a least

01:07:07 damaging alternatives. So there is no, uhm, you know there is no

01:07:13 one specific factor that could skew this one way or the other.

01:07:18 It's more of just a trying to objectively weigh each issue and

01:07:23 come out with a decision that's beneficial for the public.

01:07:34 Thank you Ricky. It looks like we got another little pause



01:07:37 here, but we're willing to wait and, uh, just remind you to  
01:07:41 know, hover your mouse over the middle of your screen by. Net  
01:07:45 team and a feature and send us your questions. No need to be  
01:07:50 shot and you know no questions are too big or too small.  
01:08:34 We also want to remind you that if you have comments on  
01:08:38 them and they will be made part of the official meeting.  
01:08:48 Thanks Karen Ann. I will let our panel know that will  
01:08:53 continue to take questions for least 20 more minutes before  
01:08:57 beginning are closing remarks and we do have 23 attendees  
01:09:01 that are still on the line. It looks like we've gotten through  
01:09:06 of their questions and we published some additional  
01:09:10 comments.  
01:09:15 And we'll take a moment to share on our screen that of course,  
01:09:19 outside of today's event were encouraging you to develop your  
01:09:23 official scoping comments.  
01:09:25 Uh, using the Waze on the screen to submit those by mail to the  
01:09:30 US Army Corps of Engineers in New  
01:09:32 Orleans. Send a email to CEMVN-  
01:09:39 Dash Mid Breton at USACE  
01:09:46 dot Army dot MIL.  
01:09:51 Or you can call the recorded voice line at 1-855-643-2738  
01:09:57 This is the final session of  
01:10:02 our public scoping meetings, and again  
01:10:05 recordings of all three scoping meetings, as well  
01:10:08 as a copy of the slides that were used for today's  
01:10:13 presentations. All the recordings of those  
01:10:15 presentations are available on the US Army  
01:10:18 Corps Project Web page.  
01:10:25 And will continue to be patient while questions come in will  
01:10:29 have about 20 minutes left in our event and we see 21  
01:10:33 attendees on the line.  
01:11:21 And just in case she have joined the audio conference only  
01:11:24 letting you know that we are again taking a pause.



01:11:28 Or just a moment to allow questions to come in.

01:11:34 We appreciate your patience.

01:11:36 So here at the New Orleans district, we've been taking a

01:11:41 poll to see who would be the entertainment for no questions.

01:11:45 We have decided that Bradley Boards Ave Maria is by far the

01:11:50 best. Yes, please sit back and enjoy the tenor sounds

01:11:56 available. I'm kidding, he.

01:12:00 We thought you were going to do the Ricky in the Bretons show,

01:12:04 you know that's what we're

01:12:06 waiting for. We were going to switch seats since we both

01:12:10 have beers and see if you could tell the difference.

01:12:14 Hey, there's still 20 said there's still a chance the

01:12:19 quality of answer would go down

01:12:21 significantly if. Would be more polished though.

01:12:30 So.

01:12:32 Yeah. OK, well ask everyone to hang in there with us. Uh,

01:12:38 there's still plenty of time to get those questions in. And of

01:12:43 course, as we mentioned, will not be ending early. Um, we'll

01:12:47 be sticking around, so if you have a few questions or comments

01:12:52 on your mind, uh, send those in and will come get those

01:12:56 published an the questions can be elevated to the panel.

01:13:01 Uhm, I have 13 after the hour and 20 attendees on the line.

01:13:06 Again, it looks like we have responded to at least 15

01:13:11 questions, UM, which is three additional comments that I've

01:13:15 come in that have been published as well. Not yet. Stacy question

01:13:20 #15 just came in from Gene Turner. Thank you, gene.

01:13:24 Will there be a plan in IS? In case the diversion is

01:13:29 stopped in the event that is not successful?

01:13:34 Thanks, I could turn are part of CPRA. A submittal package will be

01:13:40 an adaptive management, and so we will have that to review and

01:13:46 provide as part of the DEIS an I'd like for questions similar

01:13:51 this to be part of the scoping meeting record so that

01:13:57 we can further engage with CPRA area on developing what may





01:14:02 happen with different.  
01:14:04 Potential outcomes and how they would react to such a  
01:14:07 thing in the basin.  
01:14:11 So will encourage, uhm,  
01:14:17 the 20 attendees that  
01:14:23 are still on the  
01:14:29 line.  
01:14:32 Don't make us listen to anyone  
01:14:35 seeing. Provide those questions. Provide those comments again,  
01:14:39 uh, we do hope to respond to all your questions today. It looks  
01:14:43 like we will have plenty of time to do that. Again, it's  
01:14:48 important to both the Corps and CPRA A to help clarify CPRA as  
01:14:52. proposed project and the Corps review of that project so that  
01:14:56 everyone can of course developed their official scoping comments  
01:14:59 and again will show the slide on the screen for the three ways to  
01:15:04 submit your official scoping comments, either by traditional  
01:15:07 Mail sending email or by calling the recorded voice line.  
01:15:12 Uh, if for some reason there any questions that come in through  
01:15:17 the course, a web page or email address on the web page? Uh,  
01:15:22 man, they may not be addressed in today's events. They may be  
01:15:27 answered outside of today's event. Uhm, and so the Corps is  
01:15:31 hoping to make sure that those are addressed on the project web  
01:15:36 page. In the future, we've included the instructions again  
01:15:39 on the screen for how to participate in today's event  
01:15:43 using the Q&A feature.  
01:15:46 So again, take a moment.  
01:15:48 To find the question mark icon or the more options icon with  
01:15:53 the three dots and Select Q&A.  
01:15:59 We still have 19 people on the line. I have 16 minutes after  
01:16:04 the hour so will continue to be patient together.  
01:16:24 OK, do you have another question coming in Ricky?  
01:16:28 Mark Schluchsee asks the experts reviewing fishery  
01:16:32 Are they chosen by Corps or state and who pays



01:16:37 them?

01:16:40 Thanks Mark. So the state pays them under the third party

01:16:45 contract agreement that we have with them. However, they work

01:16:49 under the direct. They work for the Corps specifically, so the

01:16:54 third party contractor it goes to the Corps for everything when

01:16:58 it comes to the S and the analysis itself, the CPRA does

01:17:03 have the ability to reach out to the third party contractor for

01:17:08 contract ING issues, but that's

01:17:10 the extent. As to how they were

01:17:14 selected. We had a list of minimum qualifications that were

01:17:18 provided an agreed upon before we see PRA went through their

01:17:22 bidding process. I can't go into how they do their bidding

01:17:27 process but there was a list of contractors that would provide

01:17:31 it to the Corps and we made sure that they met our minimum

01:17:36 qualifications before the state made their selection.

01:17:42 In market a follow-up question, who chooses them?

01:17:48 That's the extent of my knowledge on 3rd party contract

01:17:51 So CPRA. If you have anything that you'd like to add

01:17:55 to that, Please do.

01:17:58 Yeah, hey Brad, thanks. Excellent question. One point to

01:18:02 point out as well on the outside cooperating agencies from our

01:18:06 federal family. So no, an US fish will also serve as his

01:18:11 fishery experts in terms of their roles in relationships and

01:18:16 in reviewing as a cooperating agency. So that's another check

01:18:20 there on the federal family side of the shop in terms of the

01:18:25 third party contractor. As Brad said, the state.

01:18:29 Received the minimum qualifications for the subject

01:18:31 matter experts from the Corps of Engineers and that was put

01:18:36 into our advertisement package for selection of the third

01:18:39 party contractors. So all third party contractors had to

01:18:43 meet those minimum qualifications before they

01:18:45 were even reviewed for selection.

01:18:48 Thanks for question.



01:18:50 Thank you, Brad.

01:18:52 John Lee asks so you will consider a group of the eyes in

01:18:57 their level in deciding what decision would be best for

01:19:01citizens. Is there a ranking system that indicates what eyes

01:19:05 carry more weight than others?

01:19:09 Thanks John. So I think we're going back to a prior question

01:19:14 that had to do with the Public Interest Review as part of the

01:19:19 404 decision making.

01:19:21There isn't really a ranking. There could be an issue that

01:19:25 that pushes the decision one way or the other. I think in this

01:19:31case it would have to do with the overall impacts, whether it

01:19:36 be socioeconomic or just the overall performance of the

01:19:40 diversion itself through the peer reviewed modeling that's

01:19:43 done. But this early in the process it's hard for me to kind

01:19:49 put my thumb on my be the factor that you know would

01:19:55 be the deciding factor on whether or not the project is

01:20:00 approved, denied or again we choose another alternative to

01:20:04 proffer permit to CPRA 4.

01:20:09 And it looks like another pause

01:20:16 in the questions.

01:20:22 Thanks Karen and all and take this time to let the panel now.

01:20:27 We still have 18 attendees in we have 10 minutes left uh on the

01:20:33 Clock forward. Today's event or reminder that this is today's

01:20:37 today's event is the final session of the three that were

01:20:41 provided this week to help respond to your questions so

01:20:45 that you may develop your official scoping comments.

01:20:49 Uh, again the Corps web page on the left hand side. You'll find

01:20:54 many of the resources that were shared today, including the

01:20:58 slide deck of each of the presentations. Recordings of

01:21:02 those presentations, an recordings of all three live

01:21:06 events sessions this week, where the panel has answered um

01:21:10 questions so that others can submit their officials scoping



01:21:13 comments. Remember, if we didn't hear from you today, maybe you  
01:21:18 dialed in on the audio  
01:21:20 conference only? Or if you have had difficulty navigating the  
01:21:24 Q&A feature. Uhm, the Corps will, uh, be taking questions on that  
01:21:30 left hand side of their project page. You can still submit your  
01:21:35 scoping questions on the left hand side of the page and then  
01:21:40 again the right hand side of the Corps. Project pages reserved  
01:21:45 for. Submitting official scoping comments.  
01:21:50 And Ricky, we have another question from John Lee with  
01:21:55 the level of predicted storm protection being important  
01:21:58 factor.  
01:22:00 Yes, Sir, so part of that would have to do with the  
01:22:05 expected changes and water elevations as opposed or as  
01:22:10 result of the operation of the diversion itself, along with  
01:22:14 its alternatives. And then we'd have to weigh the  
01:22:18 potential benefits if it's determined throughout the life  
01:22:21 of the project that we have increased land building an  
01:22:25 increase storm buffer, we would take that int  
01:22:29 consideration too.  
01:22:32 Thank you and again, we're paused for a little bit here,  
01:22:38 but feel free to hand it. Send in your questions.  
01:22:48 Looks like I have another one coming in from Glenn cats.  
01:22:53 Since diversion water flow does not exceed existing  
01:22:57 Marche elevation, except short-term weather events of  
01:23:01 the storm surges, how can diversions rebuild existing  
01:23:05 Marsh? Much less build new march when sediment is  
01:23:09 deposited in existing waterways not over March.  
01:23:18 Thanks Glenn. CPRA . I think it would be best that you  
01:23:23 addressed this one, please.  
01:23:25 I go ahead and thanks for the question on their side. Double  
01:23:31 muted. Appreciate that. Actually with the version operations and  
01:23:35 in the way that the versions signed on there, the water  
01:23:40 actually will be above the elevation of what you would



01:23:44 normally have for existing Marsh. So so your question is  
01:23:49 right, if we didn't elevate that water above, the more she  
01:23:54 wouldn't get that that kind of  
01:23:56 platform building. But you will have that also. You will  
01:24:00 have not only that, but sediment put into the system  
01:24:03 that's been able to be there worked during frontal  
01:24:06 passage and times. When we have higher tides. So great  
01:24:10 question, but yet they will. He will at times elevate the  
01:24:13 water over the March elevation. Thanks.  
01:24:31. And again we have another pause at this point. We  
01:24:35 answered about 20 questions and had just a few comments.  
01:24:51 Thank you, Karen, and I'll let the Corps and the state know that  
01:24:57 we have 17 attendees now on the line and we have 5 minutes left  
01:25:03 in today's events, so those of you who are still composing your  
01:25:08 questions or maybe a comment uhm will leave the QA feature open.  
01:25:13 We will start making some closing comments in a few  
01:25:17 moments with the Q&A feature will remain open through the end  
01:25:21 of the event today.  
01:25:25 So that we can capture any of the last questions or comments.  
01:25:31 Prior to our closing remarks.  
01:25:34 Again, we'll show information on the screen, those ways to submit  
01:25:40 official scoping comments.  
01:25:42 I believe we have responded to other questions that have come  
01:25:46 into Q&A will continue to monitor the Q and a future for  
01:25:51 incoming questions. It's important to the Corps and a CPRA  
01:25:55 to help clarify CPRA as proposed project and the Corps  
01:25:59 review of that project so everyone can develop their  
01:26:03 official scoping comments.  
01:26:32 And Ricky, it does look like we have another question that is  
01:26:36 just coming from Glen catch.  
01:26:38 How do you plan to combat nitrogen enrichment in River  
01:26:43 water? Decreasing root development and making Marsh  
01:26:46 more vulnerable to erosion?



01:26:51 Thanks Glenn, that is a good example of a scoping comment  
01:26:56 that that we would like to see provided. Beyond that, though,  
01:27:00 I'd have to turn it over to CPRA to address further.  
01:27:06 Yep, couple things. So uh. Wanna know folks I've seen a lot about  
01:27:12 that to a couple things. That is, one is where some plant  
01:27:18 switching. So what you have is some different species on  
01:27:23 there. A constant infusion of sediment is another one on it  
01:27:28 and the ability to take that upon there. So we have the  
01:27:35 opportunity for these plants  
01:27:37 that. To pick that night is in a lot on this. It's not a constant  
01:27:42 supply on there, it's really during some specific times in in  
01:27:45 the growing season and so really what we're doing is, is  
01:27:49 it, say, a mimic of the natural system on there. So a little  
01:27:53 different in some other areas on its are really what we're doing.  
01:27:57 This kind of resetting that system on it. So the way we  
01:28:01 don't want to take combat nitrogen, but the way we do that  
01:28:05 is reestablished, sort that natural process that  
01:28:08 begins. Uh, with the freshwater introduction to  
01:28:11 the system and the establishment of sort of  
01:28:15 that that that ecosystem there.  
01:28:33 Thanks for that answer Breton. I have another question from John  
01:28:37 Lee. Is increased storm protection considered an EII?  
01:28:41 Would storm protection enter into the EIS?  
01:28:48 So the potential impact to the Mississippi River Levee an the  
01:28:53 back levee along this portion or the extent of the back levy,  
01:29:00 the impacts will be evaluated. Beyond that, it would be well,  
01:29:05 the Mississippi River Levee that would be part of the four way  
01:29:11 process and then the back levy. Any impacts to that if it was  
01:29:17 required to elevate.  
01:29:18 Uh, a levy, or if they wanted to elevate a levy as a  
01:29:23 result of whatever the change would be that would be outside  
01:29:26 of the Corps purview.  
01:29:29 Stacy, I think that's our last question for



01:29:37 right now. Thank you Karen. I agree we're gonna go ahead and

**Closing Remarks**

01:29:43 close the Q&A and make some closing remarks. We certainly  
01:29:46 want to thank the panel, um, for your participation for hanging  
01:29:50 in there with us this evening as those important questions from  
01:29:54 the public or answered. And of course, those of you who are  
01:29:58 still on the line. I think there's 16 of the attendees have  
01:30:02 still a hung in there. We want to thank you for your time and  
01:30:07 your attention up. If you're on the panel, you're welcome to.  
01:30:11 Um, mute yourselves if you haven't already, and you can,  
01:30:15 uh, unshare your webcam or turn off at this time the questions  
01:30:19 and the responses, of course, will come. Become part of the  
01:30:23 project record. They'll be made available for public review, but  
01:30:27 a reminder that all questions received will be reviewed by  
01:30:30 members of the panel were hopeful that their responses  
01:30:34 given will encourage you to develop your official scoping  
01:30:37 comments and submit them in a manner as indicated on the  
01:30:41 screen again. By mailing those to the Army Corps New Orleans by  
01:30:46 sending email to CEMVN Dash Mid-Breton at USACE Dot Army dot  
01:30:52 MIL, or by calling and leaving a recorded voice message at  
01:30:58 1-855-643-2738 in. This concludes today's event. Thank  
01:31:01 you for joining. Thank you for participating. You may exit the  
01:31:06 event by clicking the red icon with an X and selecting.  
01:31:12 Leave.