Opening Remarks
00:02 Hello and welcome. Thank you for joining the Mid-Breton Sediment Diversion Public Scoping meeting. #3 and thank you for 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-Dias also from GHD will assist in the production in moderation of today's event.
00:25 As we are all likely adapting to new technology, I would like to cover some items to expect while viewing or listening to our event today. First, today's event is being recorded and recordings from all three public scoping meeting sessions will be made available for future viewing through links on the project web page.
00:44 Secondly, you have joined us in listen only mode through the Webex Event Center platform. There will be a period during today's event when those of you who have joined us by Internet will be able to ask questions with our Q&A feature on your screen we will share instructions on how to submit questions just before the question and answer session begins. Please note that questions you submit today may be published for all attendees to view during today's event and will eventually be available on the project's web page.
01:22 If you are familiar with Webex or other similar video conferencing products were going to remind you that the Webex Event Center platform is very different from a meeting platform. You will not be able to share your audio or video feeds and we will not be using other features such as chat or 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.
Perfect good evening everyone and again I am Ricky Boyett. I'm with the Army Corps of Engineers in the New Orleans district. I do want to thank you so much for joining us this evening for the scoping meeting regarding the Mid-Breton sediment diversion project. It's yes and and proposed project. The Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana has applied to the Army Corps of Engineers for the necessary permits and permissions to construct, maintain and operate the Mid-Breton sediment diversion project on the East Bank of the Mississippi River near Willis point, in Plaquemines Parish. It compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the Corps of Engineers will prepare an environmental impact statement to inform its permitting decisions. We are seeking public comments with system determining. The scope of issues, the resources, the impacts and the alternatives that need to be addressed. In this document you are an extremely important part of this process and we do want to hear from you. Our comments are we will collect comments from July the 2nd to August the 16th, 2020. There's a wide variety of ways that you can submit comments at anytime during the scoping period, and it can be submitted by Mail by email, as well as by phone. For those of you who are listening only by audio, the best way to find list of ways to comment is by Googling. Army Corps of Engineers Mid-Breton, and that'll take you to the project web page with all of that information. As we move into the meeting, there will be 3 pre-recorded presentations. First, we'd like to present with you Colonel Steven Murphy, the New Orleans district commander for opening remarks at that point will turn it to Bradley Board with the Army Corps of engineers are regulatory manager for this this permit. Who will provide an overview of the
06:06 permitting process and he will be followed by Brad Bars, Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority who provide an overview of the Mid-Breton sediment diversion. Project. After that will turn the floor to you as we asked answer questions. We will answer as many questions as possible and as well any unanswered questions maybe responded to on the project web page. Again, I'd like to thank you for joining us today.

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

**USACE Presentation, Brad Laborde, Regulatory Project Manager**
07:48 decision possible. Hello and welcome to the virtual scoping meetings for the proposed Mid-Breton 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 Pontchartain 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.
Please submit your comments by mail or trim it traditional nail. You can also submit a verbal comment at one 855 mid Breton the number of hours, 4 minutes for your comment bro. Comments will be transcribed and included into the permit record. Verbal coms can be provided in multiple different languages and later translated. Also, if you're viewing this before a lot of events, please participate If you can, we will be addressing your questions during these times. Public involvement does not end with scoping. While preliminary work on the EIS has begun, we are early in the EIS process, which starts with public scoping. Once coping is complete, CPRA will provide all project modeling material in a series of technical reports. The Corps, with the help of the third party contractor and cooperating federal and state agencies, will independently review CPRA as material along with other best available science to draft the EIS. The draft EIS is scheduled to be completed in fall 2022. Shortly after the draft EIS the quarter will host the public hearing. The Corps will then revise the draft EIS based on public hearing feedback to produce the final EIS currently scheduled in the fall of 2023. Then the final EIS will go from public review before we all important permit and record of decision currently scheduled for January 2024. The permit decision can be a denial, proffering at least damaging alternative examined in the IIS or approval of CPRA as preferred alternatives. Lastly, I want to leave you with a list of potential issues that we will address along with you concerns. This list is part of the visual aids we have available to you on the Corps Breton webpage. When providing your scoping comment, please consider the following questions. What important issues, resources in impacts should be considered in the GIS? 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
600 the medium scenario. Potentially we are an order of 4200 square miles that we have the potential to lose over the next 50 years.

Should we do nothing?

So what is take here? We look at coastal Louisiana. What does steak is our flood protection or natural processes of the of the lower coast of Louisiana. High coastal habitats are cultural heritage. And I work in chemistry mistake.

How close to master plan is required by legislator every six years? It's a 50 billion dollar plan. It's equally split between restoration and protection or risk reduction. 25 billion to each. It is required for us to look at this every six years. And really, what this is. It's really how we rank in elect projects for implementation. Every six years it gives us the ability to put the best projects on the landscape. Considering the information science and analysis available to rank projects, that's really what it is. We don't have $50,000,000, but this is gives us a pool of projects to select from. To put the best projects on the ground with changing environmental conditions. Are you conscious? Early process of completing the lower Mississippi River protection system. Great feet in terms of protecting our nation. Our citizens hand in our navigation interest in terms of economic, some of the entire United States. So what that's done is less. A lot of areas that don't have that access to the fresh water disseminate to the nutrients, and that's really been starving. Those areas in waiting those areas into a degrading nature or degrading wetland environment. We look at some imagery across 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 trance. 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 1400 feet 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 5000 CFS is what we're pretty for.
29:18 Asking for an appointment with that window based flow is a more
of an environmental conditions out in the future. Really only
want to flow with make some sense environmentally going
forward into the future based on conditions at the time they were
operating. Major components and features of the project will
consist of an inlet to convey in structure and how wet it will
require us to do. Some interior drainage modifications to
maintained range within the
interior. In the Birch and Wills Point area and then also
requires the relocate. Highwa
This way I can get you a footprint of the project area.
The main footprint includes temporary and permanent right
always at this point, that's in very infancy of the engineering
design process, but this give you idea perspective of the
footprint of the project in terms of both temporary and
permanent features. The lower blue got found data right would
be the pump station where we're looking at some potential.
Improvements to the pump station for that ensure drainage
tournament diversions. What's the goal here? Really, the goal
is selecting a.
Location along the River that Scott is super concentrated.
Amount of sediment. Hybrid sleep from deposition under .1
and we can use that material and concentrate that material off
that point bar and then we can maximize that sediment
diverted out into the basin and minimize that fresh water.
Looking at over project operations, this is a
rendition. Obviously the project is on East bank for
the left descending bank. You can see here the flow
through the intake into the gated structure and then out
into the brightness on face.
Looking at Plainview, you can see a little bit more detail
here with permanent features and then potential temporary areas
for construction way down or staging areas. Again, major
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 at450,000 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 pas 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. By2100 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
46:59 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 that might complicate a future project? He anticipates a future diversion might be redirect. Excuse me. May be directed to rebuild bariatric basin.

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

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

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

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

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

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

54:19 Thanks doctor Turner up handed over to see PRA to address this one.
54:28 Thanks Doctor Turner. The short answer is yes it is and you can certainly share some more information on that in detail, but they are calibrated to existing diversions, specially to look at how that interacts with subsides in those areas of wetland response and exactly what you're asking for their. So yes, we do take advantage of that calibration. 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 number of appendices, and one of them will be adult modeling appendix. That basically goes through both the inputs and Outputs and how we handle some of the data and came to some of the. Determination is that we did in the IIS. So that will be something that you'll be able to review as part of the draft EIS.

55:23 Great thank you. Alex Bucklew asks, won't the nutrients and sediment in the diversion water be a more significant harm for marine life than salinity? This has been identified as the root cause of the oyster and shrimp decimation in the Mississippi sound. So once again, that's a good question, Alex and it has to do with scope and the reach that the potential impacts what the potential impacts would be as a result of operation of this project. If constructed. Again, if the potential for impacts, whether it be to water quality or sediment, it would be something that we would look at if our review takes us in that direction.

56:22 Thank you Mark. Schleifstein asks, can you explain in a bit more detail how you will determine the effects of the diversion alternatives on oysters, shrimp and fish if 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 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 he 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
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
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 an
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 male 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 and 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
them?

01:16:40 Thanks Mark. So the state pays them under the third party contract agreement that we have with them. However, they work under the direct. They work for the Corps specifically, so the third party contractor it goes to the Corps for everything when it comes to the S and the analysis itself, the CPRA does have the ability to reach out to the third party contractor for contract ING issues, but that's the extent. As to how they were selected. We had a list of minimum qualifications that were provided an agreed upon before we see PRA went through their bidding process. I can't go into how they do their bidding process but there was a list of contractors that would provide it to the Corps and we made sure that they met our minimum 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. If you have anything that you'd like to add, Please do.

01:17:56 Yeah, hey Brad, thanks. Excellent question. One point to point out as well on the outside cooperating agencies from our federal family. So no, an US fish will also serve as his fishery experts in terms of their roles in relationships and in reviewing as a cooperating agency. So that's another check there on the federal family side of the shop in terms of the third party contractor. As Brad said, the state.

01:18:29 Received the minimum qualifications for the subject matter experts from the Corps of Engineers and that was put into our advertisement package for selection of the third party contractors. So all third party contractors had to meet those minimum qualifications before they were even reviewed for selection.

01:18:48 Thanks for question.
Thank you, Brad.

John Lee asks so you will consider a group of the eyes in their level in deciding what decision would be best for citizens. Is there a ranking system that indicates what eyes carry more weight than others?

Thanks John. So I think we’re going back to a prior question that had to do with the Public Interest Review as part of the 404 decision making.

There isn’t really a ranking. There could be an issue that pushes the decision one way or the other. I think in this case it would have to do with the overall impacts, whether it be socioeconomic or just the overall performance of the diversion itself through the peer reviewed modeling that’s done. But this early in the process it’s hard for me to kind put my thumb on my be the factor that you know would be the deciding factor on whether or not the project is approved, denied or again we choose another alternative to proffer permit to CPRA 4.

And it looks like another pause in the questions.

Thanks Karen and all and take this time to let the panel now.

We still have 18 attendees in we have 10 minutes left uh on the Clock forward. Today’s event or reminder that this is today’s event is the final session of the three that were provided this week to help respond to your questions so that you may develop your official scoping comments.

Uh, again the Corps web page on the left hand side. You’ll find many of the resources that were shared today, including the slide deck of each of the presentations. Recordings of those presentations, an recordings of all three live events sessions this week, where the panel has answered um 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
normally have for existing Marsh. So so your question is
right, if we didn't elevate that water above, the more she
wouldn't get that that kind of
platform building. But you will have that also. You will
have not only that, but sediment put into the system
that's been able to be there worked during frontal
passage and times. When we have higher tides. So great
question, but yet they will. He will at times elevate the
water over the March elevation. Thanks.
And again we have another pause at this point. We
answered about 20 questions and had just a few comments.
Thank you, Karen, and I'll let the Corps and the state know that
we have 17 attendees now on the line and we have 5 minutes left
today's events, so those of you who are still composing your
questions or maybe a comment uhm will leave the QA feature open.
We will start making some closing comments in a few
moments with the Q&A feature will remain open through the end
of the event today.
So that we can capture any of the last questions or comments.
Prior to our closing remarks.
Again, we'll show information on the screen, those ways to submit
official scoping comments.
I believe we have responded to other questions that have come
into Q&A will continue to monitor the Q and a future for
incoming questions. It's important to the Corps and a CPRA
to help clarify CPRA as proposed project and the Corps
review of that project so everyone can develop their
official scoping comments.
And Ricky, it does look like we have another question that is
just coming from Glen catch.
How do you plan to combat nitrogen enrichment in River
water? Decreasing root development and making Marsh
more vulnerable to erosion?
01:26:51 Thanks Glenn, that is a good example of a scoping comment
01:26:56 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 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 an
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, unshared 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.