

ABSTRACT

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**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
FOR THE
PROPOSED MID-BARATARIA SEDIMENT DIVERSION PROJECT
PLAQUEMINES PARISH, LOUISIANA**

LEAD AGENCY: Department of the Army
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-New Orleans District

COOPERATING AGENCIES: National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration/National Marine Fisheries Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION,
CONTACT:** Mr. Brad LaBorde
Attn: CEMVN-ODR-E, MVN-2012-2806-EOO
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118
CEMVN-Midbarataria@usace.army.mil
(504) 862-2225

ABSTRACT:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New Orleans District is evaluating the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana's (CPRA) application for a Department of the Army permit under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and a permission request under Section 14 (33 U.S. Code [USC] 408) (Section 408) of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 to construct, operate, and maintain the proposed Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Project (proposed MBSD Project or Project) in Plaquemines and Jefferson Parishes, Louisiana. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, and U.S. Department of Agriculture are federal cooperating agencies for the preparation of this Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The USACE has prepared this EIS to assess the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed Project. In addition to informing the USACE decisions, this EIS will be used to inform decisions that the Deepwater Horizon (DWH) Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group (LA TIG) may make regarding restoration planning in the Barataria Basin under the Oil Pollution Act (OPA).

The USACE has determined that the Project's purpose is to restore for injuries caused by the DWH oil spill by implementing a large-scale sediment diversion in the Barataria Basin that would reconnect and re-establish sustainable deltaic processes between the Mississippi River and the Barataria Basin through the delivery of sediment, fresh water, and nutrients to support the long-term viability of existing and planned coastal restoration efforts. The proposed Project is needed to help restore habitat and ecosystem services injured in the northern Gulf of Mexico as a result of the DWH oil spill. Seven proposed MBSD Project alternatives, including the No Action Alternative, were evaluated to determine the potential impacts on the natural and human environment resulting from the proposed Project.

All comments concerning this EIS are requested to be submitted by May 4, 2021.

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