

# Welcome

## Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Environmental Impact Statement

# Public Meeting

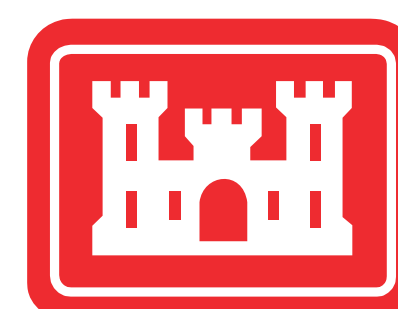
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers welcomes you to the  
**Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS  
Public Meeting**

**April 2021**

We are here tonight to present information about the Corps' permit application and permission request review process and the EIS.

What are your comments?

Your involvement will assist us in making an informed decision. Thank you for your participation. For more information, please visit the project website at: [www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Permits/Mid-Barataria-Sediment-Diversion-EIS/](http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Permits/Mid-Barataria-Sediment-Diversion-EIS/)

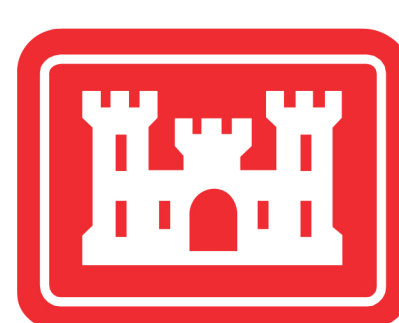
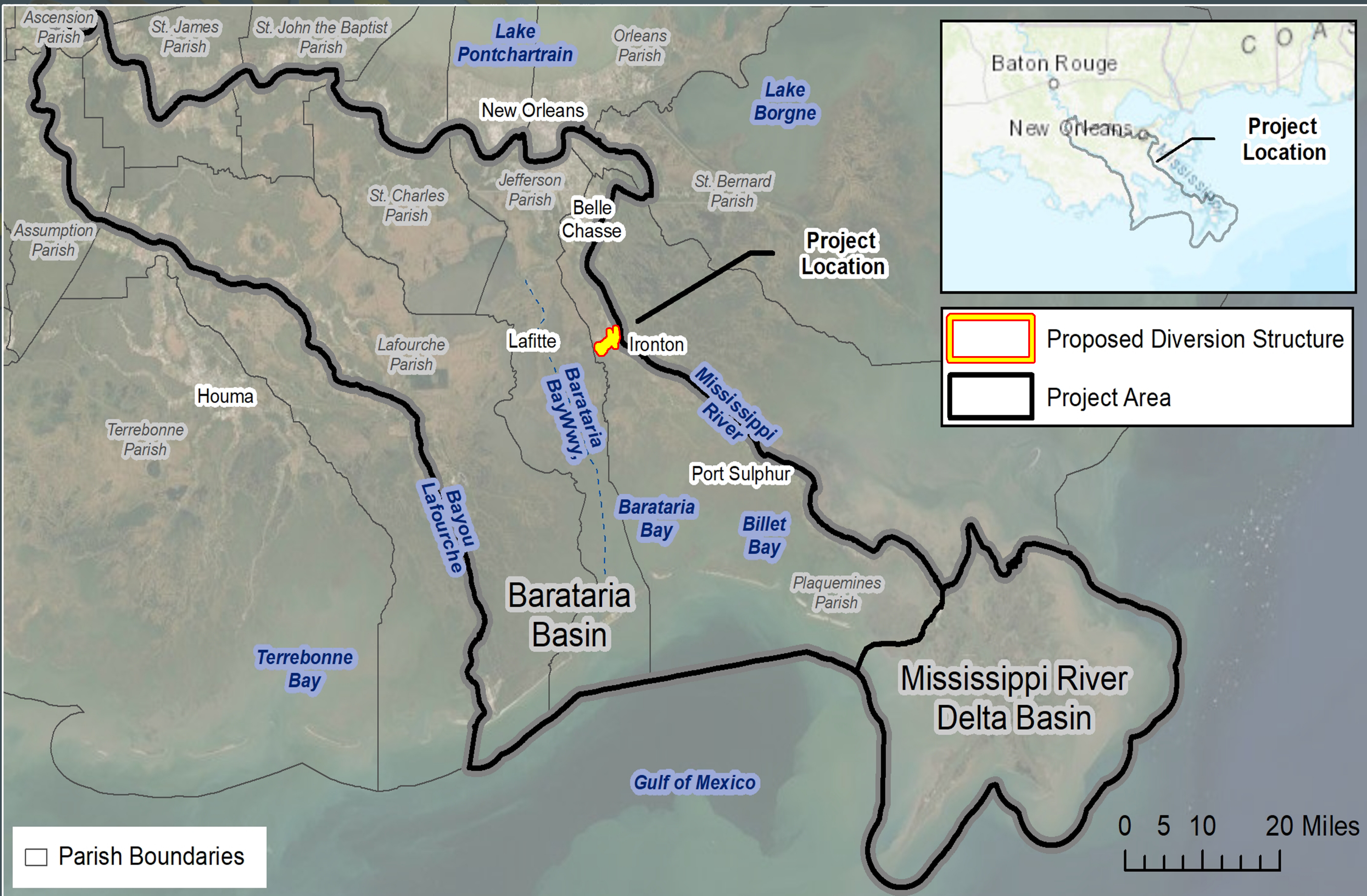


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# Project Location Map

## Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Environmental Impact Statement

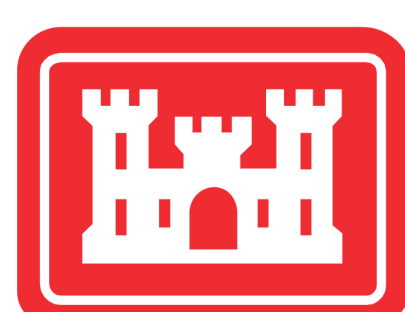
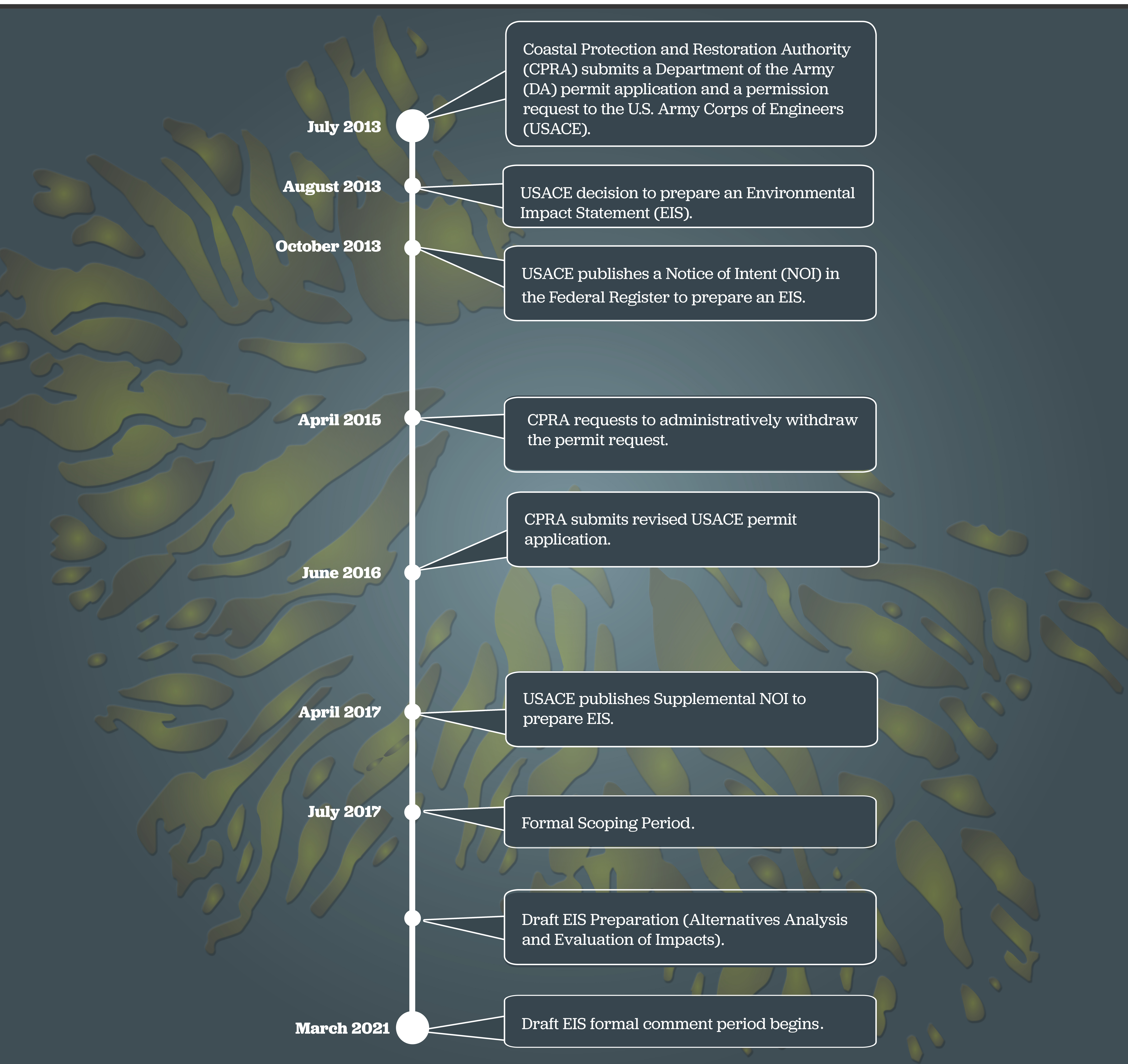


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# History of the Proposed MBSD Project

## Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Environmental Impact Statement



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# What is NEPA?

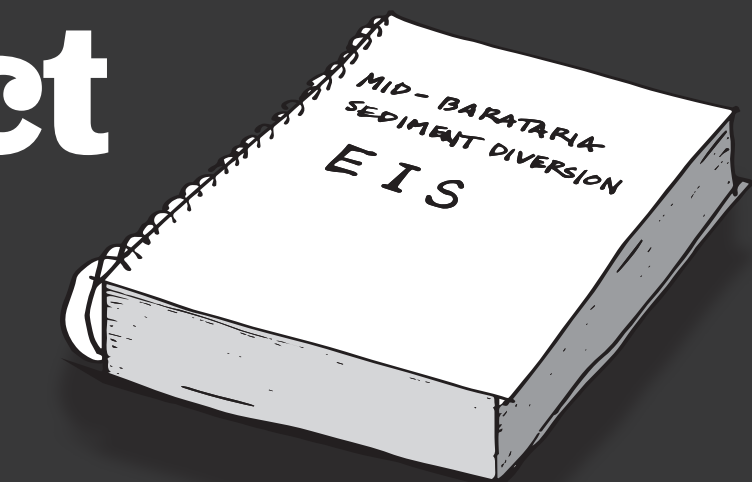
## Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Environmental Impact Statement

### National Environmental Policy Act

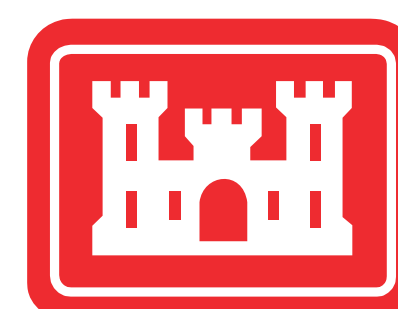
The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires all federal agencies to evaluate major federal actions\* and inform decision makers and the public of the likely environmental consequences of proposed projects and federal actions and alternatives.

*\*The major federal action that triggered NEPA for the proposed MBSD Project is the USACE evaluation of the necessary permits (Sections 10/404) and permissions (Section 408).*

### Environmental Impact Statement



A federal agency must prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) if a proposed project or major federal action could significantly affect the quality of the human environment. An EIS is a detailed study that analyzes the potential effects, both positive and negative, that a proposed project or federal action may have on the environment and local community.



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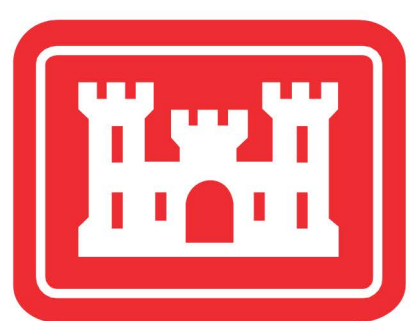
# Engaged Parties

## Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Environmental Impact Statement



**PUBLIC**

Input from the public will be considered for the EIS



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**Lead Agency**

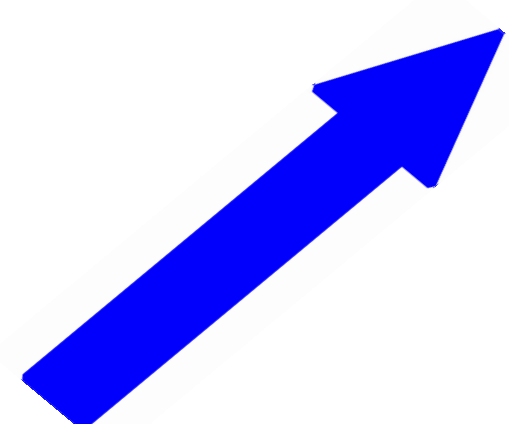
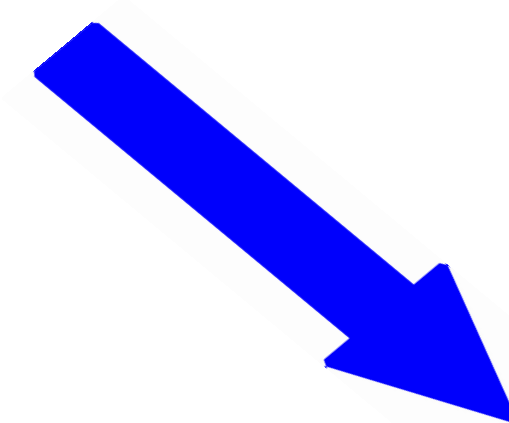
Section 10/404 permit and  
408 permission



**Other Cooperating &  
Coordinating Agencies**

**Cooperating Agencies**

There are other agencies that may use the EIS to inform decisions on necessary permits/approvals (see Chapter 5, Table 5.1-1 of DEIS). USACE is coordinating with these agencies on a regular basis.



**TIG Agencies**

Draft Phase II Restoration Plan  
#3.2: Mid-Barataria Sediment  
Diversion



**Coastal Protection and  
Restoration Authority**

**Applicant**

**MBSD Project Applicant**

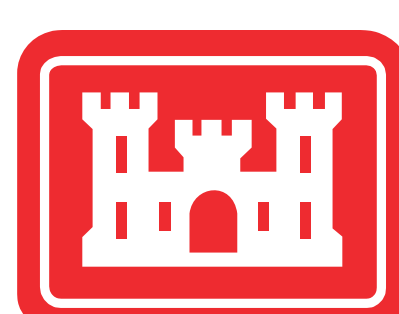


Gulf Engineers & Consultants

**GEC Team**

**Third Party Contractor**

**Preparing the MBSD EIS**



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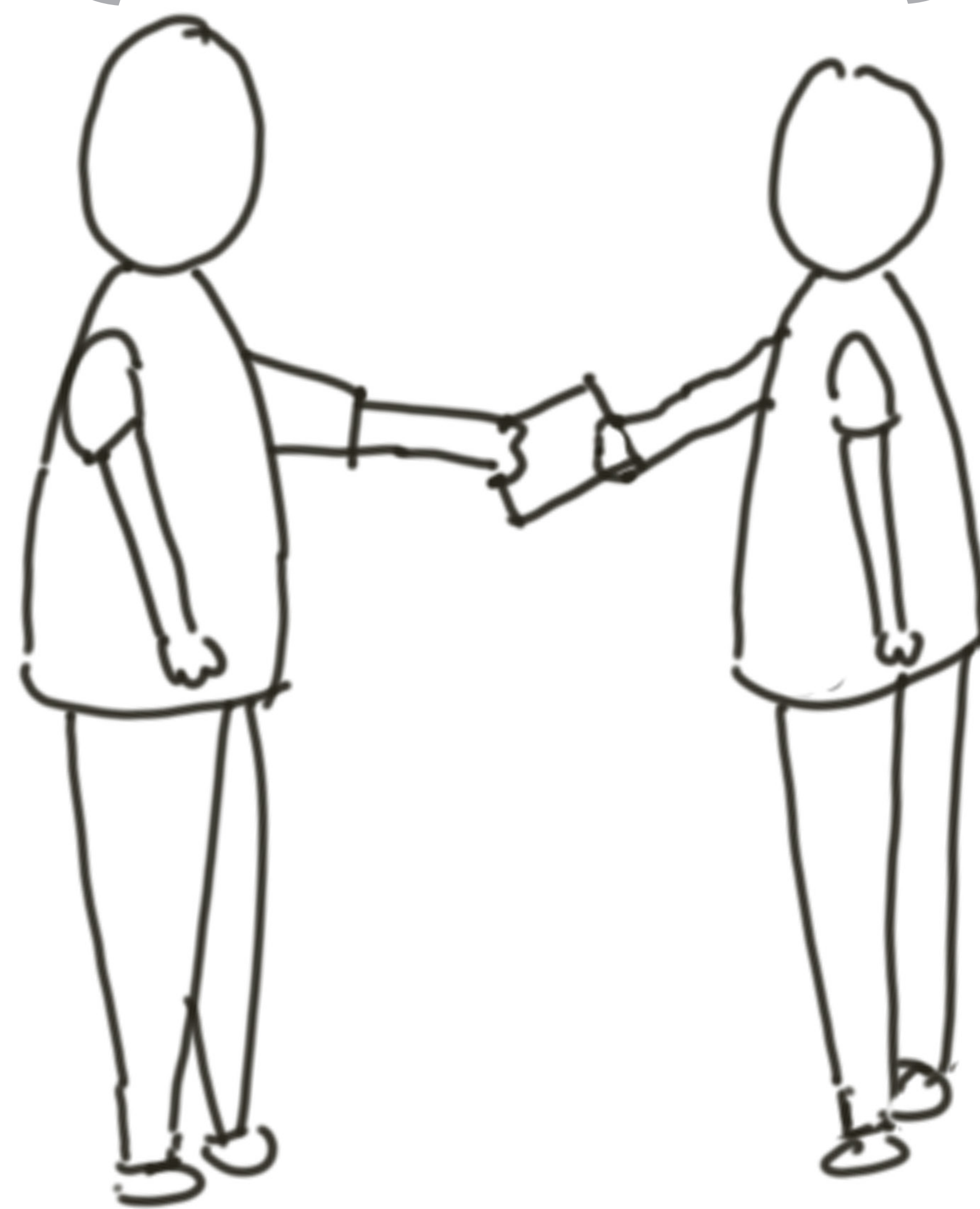


# The EIS Process

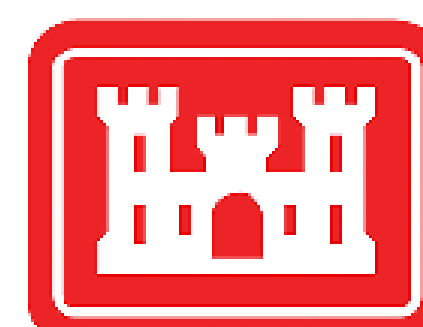
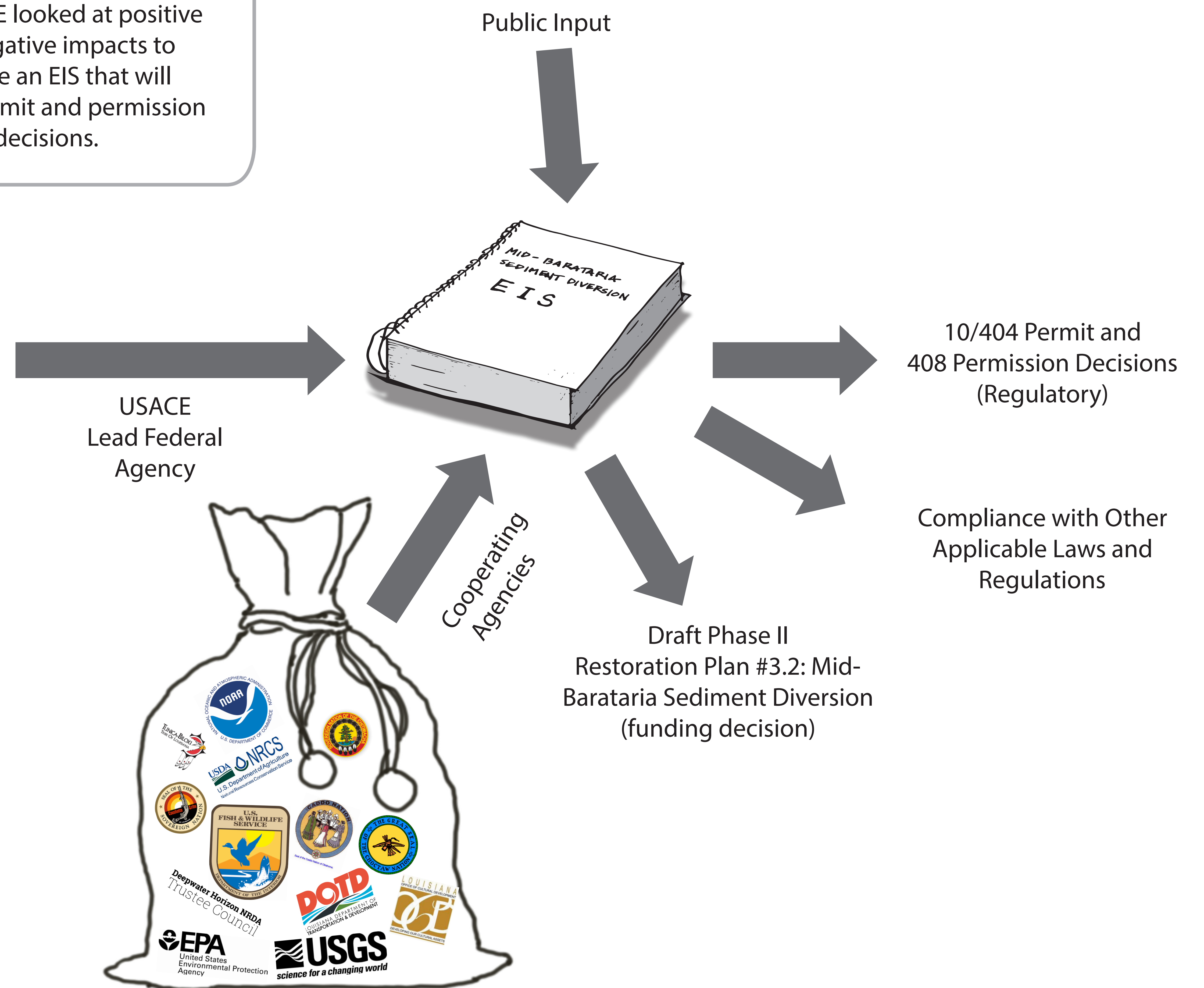
## Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Environmental Impact Statement

CPRA wants to build the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion, but it needs to get the appropriate permits and approvals.

The USACE looked at positive and negative impacts to produce an EIS that will inform permit and permission decisions.



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# **Applicable Laws and Regulations**

## **Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Environmental Impact Statement**

**Section 404 of the Clean Water Act • Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 • Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (Section 408) • Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (Water Quality Certification) • National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) • Oil Pollution Act (Natural Resource Damage Assessment) • Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act • Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Essential Fish Habitat) • Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act • Section 9 of Rivers and Harbors Act (U.S. Coast Guard Bridge Permit) • Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act • Farmland Protection Policy Act • Louisiana Department of Natural Resources Coastal Use Permit (CUP) • Louisiana Office of State Lands Waterbottom Permit**

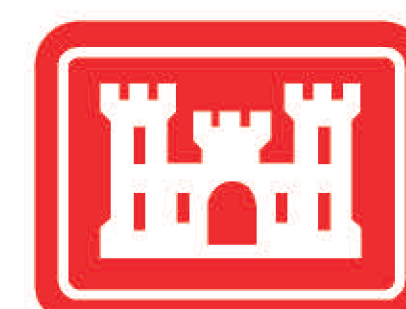
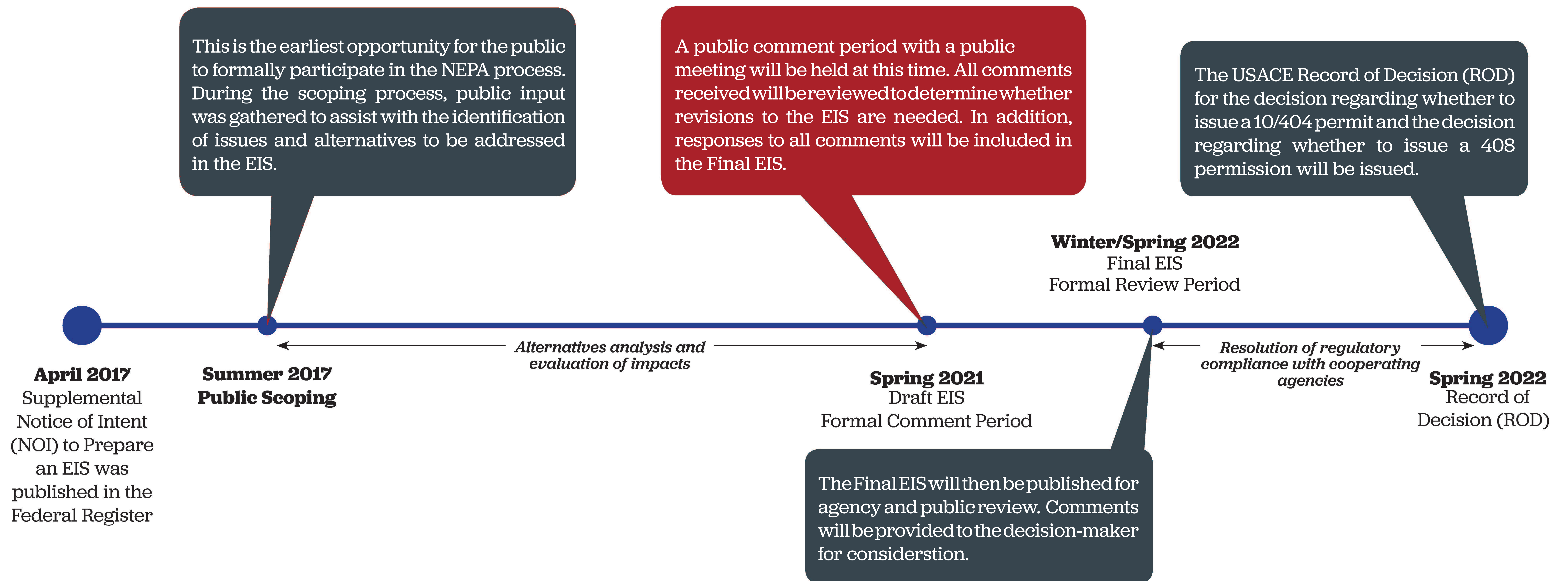


# NEPA Process Timeline

## Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Environmental Impact Statement

### What Will Happen Next?

### We Are Here



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# Purpose and Need & Alternatives

## Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Environmental Impact Statement

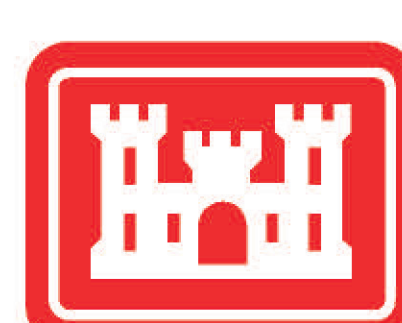
### NEPA Purpose and Need:

Consistent with the LA TIG's Strategic Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment #3 and the Louisiana Coastal Master Plan, the purpose is to restore for injuries caused by the DWH oil spill by implementing a large-scale sediment diversion in the Barataria Basin that will 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.

### Alternatives:

Seven alternatives were evaluated for their ability to meet the overall purpose and need for the proposed Project including:

- **No Action Alternative:** None of the action alternatives evaluated in the EIS would be permitted or built;
- **Alternative 1:** variable flow up to 75,000 cfs maximum sediment diversion (Applicant's Preferred Alternative);
- **Alternative 2:** variable flow up to 75,000 cfs maximum sediment diversion including marsh terracing outfall feature;
- **Alternative 3:** variable flow up to 50,000 cfs maximum sediment diversion;
- **Alternative 4:** variable flow up to 50,000 cfs maximum sediment diversion including marsh terracing outfall feature;
- **Alternative 5:** variable flow up to 150,000 cfs maximum sediment diversion; and
- **Alternative 6:** variable flow up to 150,000 cfs maximum sediment diversion including marsh terracing outfall feature.



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# What Are Some Potential Issues Addressed in the EIS?

## Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Environmental Impact Statement

The following are some of the potential issues which are addressed in the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS.

### MARINE MAMMALS

To what extent could the proposed MBSD Project impact marine mammals and their habitat?



### SEDIMENTATION AND INUNDATION

If the proposed MBSD Project operates, will we see more sediment deposited in the Barataria Basin and less open water? Will property or adjacent areas be flooded when it operates?



### AQUATIC SITES

Will special or rare aquatic sites such as sea grasses, essential fish habitat, or reefs be impacted by the proposed MBSD Project?



### WATER QUALITY

How could the proposed MBSD Project potentially affect the drinking water sources or surface waters (e.g. salinity, turbidity, nutrients/eutrophication, and pesticides) in the area?



### SOCIOECONOMICS/ ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Will the proposed MBSD Project impact the local economy? Are minority or low-income communities going to be impacted more than other communities?



### HURRICANE RISK REDUCTION LEVEES

The proposed MBSD Project could impact two levees. Will they still function as intended and provide the same level of risk reduction during storm events?



### SEA-LEVEL RISE/SUBSIDENCE

How could sea-level rise and subsidence affect the way the proposed MBSD Project functions or the success of the project?



### FISHERIES (RECREATIONAL AND COMMERCIAL)

How could changes from the proposed MBSD Project impact fisheries resources (finfish and shellfish) used by commercial and recreational fishermen?



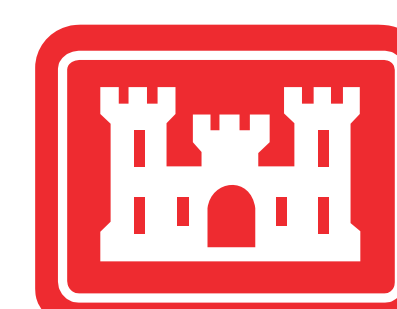
### NAVIGATION CHANNEL

Will construction of the proposed MBSD Project cause any safety concerns for ship traffic on the Mississippi River or will operation of the Project change flow in the river that could impact ship traffic?



### WETLAND HABITAT

Are wetlands in the Barataria Basin going to be helped (nourished and enhanced) or hurt (flooded) as a result of the proposed MBSD Project?



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# Ways to Comment

## Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Environmental Impact Statement

**Your comments and concerns are important. Please submit your comment in one of these ways:**

**Provide your comment electronically at the following link:**

**<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/MBSD>**



**Mail letter to:**

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



**Visit the USACE project webpage:**

**[www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Permits/Mid-Barataria-Sediment-Diversion-EIS/](http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Permits/Mid-Barataria-Sediment-Diversion-EIS/)**

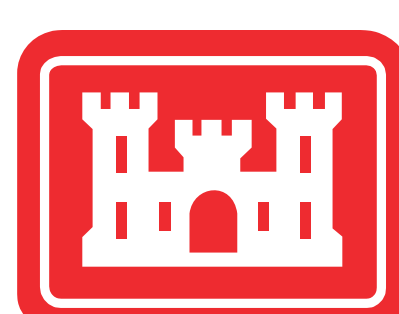


**Submit oral comments via the toll-free phone number:**

**866-211-9205**



**Please submit comments by May 4, 2021**



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