

Transcript of the Testimony of **Public Meeting**

Date taken: April 7, 2021

Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Project

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US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT

DRAFT
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
FOR THE PROPOSED
MID-BARATARIA SEDIMENT DIVERSION PROJECT

VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING PRESENTATION
Wednesday, April 7, 2021
1:00 p.m. CDT

COMMENT PERIOD
March 5 to May 4, 2021

* * *

1 FACILITATOR:

2 PERRY FRANKLIN

3 PANELISTS:

4 BRAD LABORDE - USACE

5 NIK RICHARD - USACE

6 MEL LANDRY - NOAA/TIG

7 BRAD BARTH - CPRA Applicant

8 LIZ DAVOLI - CPRA

9 BRIAN LEZINA - CPRA

10 TRANSLATORS:

11 OFELIA SOTO (Spanish)

12 JOHN NGUYEN (Vietnamese)

13 BOUY TE (Kmer)

14

COURT REPORTER:

15

LINDA G. GRIFFIN, RPR

16

Certified Court Reporter

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5	and Mel Landry	
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(Meeting opened at 1:00 p.m. CDT)

MR. FRANKLIN:

Good afternoon. My name is Perry Franklin and I will be serving as your moderator for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Public Meeting.

Today we will be talking about the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, or EIS, and the Draft Natural Resource Damage Assessment Restoration Plan, or RP, for the proposed Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Project. Please keep in mind that both of these documents are still in draft form and today we are requesting your feedback before making our final decision.

Thank you for your interest in the proposed project and for attending today's virtual meeting. Whether you are listening in via telephone or your computer's audio, please know that we have all incoming audio muted at this time.

1 If you are experiencing
2 technical difficulties and would like to
3 request assistance, please use the
4 questions box located on the right-hand
5 side of the webinar interface, and we
6 will try to help you.

7 We have a court reporter who
8 will transcribe the entire meeting,
9 including your comments. We are also
10 joined by several language translators,
11 who will be introduced shortly.

12 The recording of today's
13 webinar will be posted on the U.S. Army
14 Corps of Engineers webpage, along with
15 the written transcript of the meeting in
16 the near future. We will share the link
17 with you via the chat box. The
18 PowerPoint presentation and the
19 transcript will also be posted on the
20 Deepwater Horizon Trustee Council
21 website.

22 When you registered for today's
23 webinar, you were asked if you would
24 like to make a verbal comment. We have
25 received a number of requests and we

1 responded to each person via email, with
2 instructions on how to make verbal
3 comments to our listening panel. After
4 the presentation portion of today's
5 webinar, we will take your public
6 comments.

7 If you didn't make a request to
8 provide a public comment before this
9 meeting, that's okay, and it is not too
10 late to do so. We will explain to you
11 how to do this shortly.

12 One last note, if you are
13 joining us today only via phone and are
14 not connected to the webinar system, you
15 will not be able to make a comment
16 during this meeting. If you are calling
17 in over the phone and you are not
18 connected to a computer and would like
19 to make a verbal comment, please call
20 866-211-9205 -- I'll say that number
21 again, 866-211-9205 -- at any time
22 before May 4th. We will review all
23 methods for submitting public comments
24 towards the end of today's webinar.

25 Now I'd like to introduce you

1 to the folks that you will be hearing
2 from this afternoon, either live or via
3 recording.

4 In addition to myself, you will
5 hear from Brad LaBorde, with the U.S.
6 Army Corps of Engineers; Brad Barth,
7 from the Louisiana Coastal Protection
8 and Restoration Authority (or known as
9 CPRA), as well as Mel Landry, who
10 represents the National Oceanic and
11 Atmospheric Administration (or NOAA).

12 We also have several language
13 translators with us today who will
14 translate any public comments that are
15 received in Spanish, Vietnamese, or
16 Khmer. There will be more on this
17 shortly.

18 As a reminder, this webinar
19 will be recorded. We thank you, in
20 advance, for using respectful language
21 during your public comment and for
22 adhering to the three-minute comment
23 rule.

24 All comments will be made
25 available to the public and gathered as

1 a part of the public record.

2 The public comment period is
3 open until May 4th. We are accepting
4 public comments in a number of ways,
5 including written comment by U.S. Mail,
6 electronic comments via our web-based
7 system, voicemail on a free line that
8 was mentioned earlier, and this
9 afternoon during our public comment
10 portion of the webinar, which will
11 follow these presentations.

12 Please note that you only need
13 to submit your comment via one of these
14 ways for it to become a part of the
15 public record.

16 This morning's webinar will
17 start with approximately 35 minutes of
18 video presentations, which cover details
19 of the proposed project. Then we will
20 move into the public comment portion of
21 the webinar. The webinar will run for a
22 total of three hours.

23 The video that will be shown
24 shortly is in English, but if you would
25 like to listen to the video in Spanish,

1 Vietnamese or Khmer, we have audio
2 recordings available at toll-free
3 numbers that will be listed on the
4 following slides.

5 Now, we will hear from each of
6 the translators we have with us today.
7 First, we will have Spanish, followed by
8 Vietnamese, followed by Khmer.

9 Ms. Soto.

10 MS. SOTO:

11 Thank you. (Spanish
12 translation). Thank you.

13 MR. FRANKLIN:

14 Thank you. Mr. Nguyen.

15 MR. NGUYEN:

16 Good afternoon. (Vietnamese
17 translation). Thank you.

18 MR. FRANKLIN:

19 Thank you, Mr. Nguyen. And
20 Mr. Te.

21 MR. TE:

22 Thank you. (Khmer
23 translation).

24 MR. FRANKLIN:

25 Thank you to the translators

1 who are with us here today. At this
2 time we will transition to the video
3 presentation.

4 (Prerecorded presentations were
5 played at this time. Presentations can
6 be found on the U.S. Army Corps of
7 Engineers website; Mid-Barataria
8 Sediment Diversion EIS.)

9 MR. FRANKLIN:

10 Thank you to all of the
11 speakers who recorded those
12 presentations. If you'd like to watch
13 the videos again, they are available on
14 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers website
15 at the link that is now being circulated
16 in the webinar chat.

17 Now, we are going to start the
18 public comment portion of today's
19 meeting. When you registered for the
20 webinar, we asked you if you wanted to
21 make a comment during the meeting. We
22 currently have four people signed up to
23 give comment so far.

24 We will keep the webinar
25 running for public comment for the next

1 two hours or so. If you did not sign up
2 to speak, but would like to do so,
3 please simply type your name into the
4 questions box at this time.

5 Again, if you initially did not
6 sign up to give public comment, but
7 would like to do so, and we invite you
8 to do so, simply go to the questions box
9 and type in your name and we will put
10 you into the queue.

11 I'll pause at this time and
12 give our interpreters a chance to give
13 instructions in Spanish, Vietnamese and
14 Khmer. Ms. Soto, the floor is yours.

15 MS. SOTO:

16 Thank you. (Spanish
17 translation). Gracias.

18 MR. FRANKLIN:

19 Thank you. Mr. Nguyen.

20 MR. NGUYEN:

21 Thank you. (Vietnamese
22 translation). Thank you.

23 MR. FRANKLIN:

24 Thank you, Mr. Nguyen. And
25 Mr. Te.

1 MR. TE:

2 Thank you. (Khmer
3 translation).

4 MR. FRANKLIN:

5 Thank you, translators. At
6 this time I'd like to remind you that
7 representatives of the U.S. Army Corps
8 of Engineers, CPRA, NOAA and other
9 Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group
10 Members, including the U.S. Department
11 of the Interior, the U.S. Environmental
12 Protection Agency and the U.S.
13 Department of Agriculture are on the
14 webinar to listen to your public
15 comments. The representatives will
16 listen to your comment. However, panel
17 members may provide clarifications and
18 additional information.

19 As a reminder, all attendees
20 are muted automatically. We will unmute
21 you when it is your turn to speak.
22 Also, if you are viewing the webinar and
23 have called in using a PIN and are
24 planning to speak, you must enter your
25 individual audio PIN with a # sign in

1 front and after the PIN.

2 Note, this PIN is different
3 than the access code. Please also
4 follow any notifications to unmute
5 yourself.

6 As shown on the slide, if you
7 are using the phone, please make sure
8 your computer's audio is not selected.

9 We will call the first person's
10 name. At the same time, we will call
11 those who are in line, so that you can
12 have a little bit more time to prepare.
13 When we call your name, we will unmute
14 your line and you will have three
15 minutes to speak. I thank you, in
16 advance, for respecting the three-minute
17 rule.

18 Again, please state your name.
19 If you're representing an organization,
20 please state the name of the
21 organization, if you're doing so.

22 At this time we have four
23 individuals who have signed up to speak.
24 They are, in this order, David Muth,
25 George Howard, Mark Rees and Randy

1 Gegenheimer.

2 David Muth will be first, and
3 if you'll state the name of your
4 organization, Mr. Muth, we would
5 appreciate it. Please proceed with your
6 public comment.

7 MR. DAVID MUTH:

8 Hi, this is -- hold on one
9 second. Good morning, everyone. My
10 name is David Muth. I live in New
11 Orleans. I'm the Director of the Gulf
12 Program for the National Wildlife
13 Federation. The National Wildlife
14 Federation will be Providing detailed
15 written comments.

16 On behalf of NWF and our over
17 6 million members and supporters, I want
18 to say that NWF considers this project
19 to be one of our highest national
20 priorities for restoration.

21 We consider the restoration of
22 the Mississippi River Delta to be on a
23 par with restoration efforts elsewhere
24 in the country often better known,
25 including those in the Everglades, the

1 Great Lakes, and Chesapeake. No
2 restoration effort now under way is more
3 important for wildlife than this one,
4 and no one single project will have
5 greater positive impacts for wildlife,
6 wildlife habitat, and ecosystems
7 sustainability.

8 NWF urges the Corps to issue
9 permits for the Mid-Barataria Sediment
10 Diversion and the preferred alternative,
11 and we urge the Natural Resource Damage
12 Trustees to fund the construction of the
13 project, its operation and adaptive
14 management, and the mitigation proposed
15 in the trustees' Restoration Plan.

16 We are fully cognizant of the
17 fact that ecosystem change of the scale
18 contemplated here will have impacts on
19 people in communities and on some
20 estuarine organisms.

21 We commend the State and the
22 Trustees for identifying those impacts
23 and urge them to continue to work with
24 affected individuals, families and
25 communities to mitigate those impacts

1 and to monitor and adaptively manage
2 operations for effective wildlife and
3 fisheries resources, guided by the
4 ultimate critical purpose of the
5 project.

6 And I want to take off my NWF
7 hat and make the following personal
8 comments. In my decades of reviewing
9 NEPA documents and government plans, I
10 have never seen a more comprehensive
11 analysis, and I commend the team for
12 their hard work.

13 Of course, given the decades of
14 indepth scientific analyses that led to
15 the discussion to build a diversion near
16 this site, this is hardly surprising,
17 but still commendable.

18 About 40 years ago, like many
19 citizens of Louisiana, I became aware of
20 the dire straits and the dire rates of
21 land loss that our coast was
22 experiencing. Like many, I have watched
23 the Barataria Basin dissolve before my
24 eyes, and I have experienced the
25 increasing ferocity of hurricanes

1 hitting our coast.

2 Like many, I lost a home in
3 2005. I had been waiting that 40 years
4 for a project like this that is
5 conceived and built at the scale
6 necessary to begin to address the
7 problem. The Mississippi River built
8 the delta and only the river can rebuild
9 it. Let's get started. Thank you very
10 much.

11 MR. LaBORDE:

12 Thank you for your comment,
13 Mr. Muth, and we'll accept that positive
14 response on the quality of the document
15 and pass that on to our stellar
16 third-party contractor team here at the
17 Corps.

18 MR. FRANKLIN:

19 Thank you very much for your
20 comment. The next individual to give
21 public comment is George Howard,
22 followed by Mark Rees. Mr. Howard.
23 Please unmute yourself, Mr. Howard. If
24 you will see the microphone icon, and if
25 it's red, if you will just click on it

1 one time and it will turn to green,
2 you'll be ready to go.

3 MR. GEORGE HOWARD:

4 Can you hear me now?

5 MR. FRANKLIN:

6 I can hear you. Please
7 proceed. If you're representing an
8 organization, please state the name of
9 the organization. Please proceed.

10 MR. GEORGE HOWARD:

11 Yes, sir. My name is George
12 Howard and I am CEO of Restoration
13 Systems, a mitigation banking firm
14 headquartered in Raleigh, North
15 Carolina, who was the sponsor of the
16 Jesuit Bend Mitigation Bank, oh, about
17 10 miles north of you in a very similar
18 landscape position as the planned
19 project.

20 I'd like to second Mr. Muth's
21 comments, that it is an extraordinary
22 document and an extraordinary
23 undertaking you all have begun.
24 Irregardless of the diversion politics
25 that surround it, you should be saluted

1 for all the work that's gone into the
2 permitting and planning thus far.

3 Obviously my concern, as a
4 mitigation banker, is the opportunity to
5 sell credits for the project, and we
6 believe that the Jesuit Bend Mitigation
7 Bank is actually an ideal offset for the
8 particular project impacts.

9 My curiosity -- and we can ask
10 questions, correct? Is this purely
11 comment or can you ask a question here
12 or is that inappropriate?

13 MR. FRANKLIN:

14 Just proceed as you feel free.

15 MR. GEORGE HOWARD:

16 Yes. We feel comfortable --
17 the Corps of Engineers developed very,
18 very similar levee plans to build the
19 New Orleans to Venice levee, and in
20 2018, they determined that their impacts
21 to wet pasture would need to be
22 mitigated with credits, fresh to
23 intermediate salinity credits, and made
24 a fairly large purchase from the Jesuit
25 Bend Mitigation Bank from exactly the

1 same type soils.

2 After that, a large LNG firm,
3 Venture Global, developed in those same
4 soils again and they were allowed to
5 mitigate with bottomland hardwoods.

6 We are curious whether the 404
7 process will be consistent with the
8 Corps' own determination that wet
9 pasture be mitigated with fresh to
10 intermediate marsh, because that's what
11 Jesuit Bend has.

12 It's an honor to follow
13 Mr. Muth. He has been out to our
14 project and counted many, many birds out
15 there. We have been totally transparent
16 about what we've done at Jesuit Bend.

17 But if you're not aware of it,
18 we moved 1.3 million yards of sand off
19 of about a half-square-mile box in the
20 river, at Mile 69, pumped it five miles,
21 pumped it up and over the federal levee,
22 dug a tunnel underneath Highway 23 and
23 the New Orleans to Venice Railroad, up
24 through a neighborhood, and then put it
25 behind the Ollie pump station and

1 created the newest 300 acres of land in
2 Louisiana.

3 We'd like that investment
4 respected and hope that you all will
5 seek pricing and availability from us as
6 soon as possible, and we promise to be
7 very fair in the pricing.

8 But we're very curious, again,
9 whether wet pasture will be mitigated as
10 the Corps has mitigated in the past,
11 with fresh to intermediate marsh.

12 Again, thank you very much, and
13 I look forward to participating entirely
14 through the process, and plan to have
15 extensive and perhaps expensive comments
16 by May 5th. Thank you very much.

17 MR. LaBORDE:

18 Mr. Howard, thank you for your
19 comment. Your questions about
20 mitigation are noted and that's
21 something that we can further address
22 with the final. Again, we'll take that
23 into consideration. Thank you.

24 MR. FRANKLIN:

25 Thank you very much for your

1 comment, Mr. Howard. The next four
2 individuals will come in this order:
3 Mark Rees, Randy Gegenheimer, Mary
4 Tucker and Katharine Poole. Mr. Rees,
5 you're next to give public comment.
6 Please proceed.

7 MR. MARK REES:

8 Thank you. Can I be heard?

9 MR. FRANKLIN:

10 You can be heard.

11 MR. MARK REES:

12 Thank you. So I appreciate the
13 opportunity to comment on the Draft
14 Environmental Impact Statement. I
15 understand the purpose and the need for
16 the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion,
17 and I want to say I'm supportive of it,
18 and specifically, I'm concerned with the
19 potential for impacts to cultural
20 resources.

21 I should pause and add that I'm
22 speaking as an individual, as a resident
23 of Louisiana, but I am also employed by
24 the University of Louisiana, at
25 Lafayette, and I am with the Louisiana

1 Public Archeology Lab. I'm not speaking
2 on behalf of the university, however.

3 Again, I'm particularly
4 concerned with the specific impacts to
5 cultural resources and the mitigation of
6 those adverse effects. So I've paid
7 specific attention to those portions of
8 the Draft Environmental Impact
9 Statement, as someone had mentioned.

10 I've gone through specifically
11 those sections. To summarize, first, in
12 case I don't get to everything, I'm
13 specifically concerned that alternative
14 mitigation and monitoring of the
15 resources in the DEIS are not sufficient
16 response, are not sufficient response to
17 the ongoing impact and the potential
18 adverse effects of the Mid-Barataria
19 Sediment Diversion. Specifically, the
20 information that might be provided by
21 archeological sites, including National
22 Register of Historic Places, eligible
23 historic properties, but also a regional
24 programmatic analysis of sites.

25 I'll just say a few words about

1 the sections that deal with cultural
2 resources. Chapter 3 specifically deals
3 with or takes into account potential
4 effects on historic properties, which
5 are defined by the National Register of
6 Historic Places. Typically,
7 archeological sites are found to be
8 eligible, based on the information they
9 can provide. That's important.

10 Also important is archeological
11 integrity, that the sites are not
12 entirely redeposited or that they have
13 integrity of location to be able to
14 provide that information.

15 The DEIS recognizes the
16 difficulty of distinguishing the
17 potential effects of the proposed
18 undertaking from all of the ongoing
19 impacts that have been going on for well
20 over a century.

21 I see my time's running out, so
22 I'm going to drop down to some comments.
23 I'm concerned that the undetermined
24 National Register eligibility of some
25 sites, that is, their undetermined

1 eligibility, is being equated with
2 ineligibility.

3 For example, 21 of the 31
4 sites, or 2/3, are presumed to be
5 inundated or destroyed and are
6 consequently ineligible.

7 I'm also concerned that the
8 lack of archeological integrity makes
9 individual sites ineligible, but
10 overlooks the fact that sites regarded
11 as ineligible together might contribute
12 information from a regional programmatic
13 approach.

14 I see my time is up. Can I
15 have another 60 seconds?

16 MR. FRANKLIN:

17 I will be more than happy to
18 put you back in the queue.

19 MR. MARK REES:

20 Okay.

21 MR. FRANKLIN:

22 At this time we'll go ahead and
23 proceed, but we'll put you back in the
24 queue. Mr. LaBorde?

25 MR. LaBORDE:

1 Yeah. Yeah, thank you for that
2 comment. Sorry, I was processing what
3 you were saying as your time ran out.
4 So, yeah, I would encourage you to hop
5 back in line here. We have two hours,
6 so, you know, I'd like to fully hear you
7 out this afternoon.

8 MR. FRANKLIN:

9 Thank you so much, Mr. Rees.
10 At this time we will proceed with Mary
11 Tucker, followed by Katharine Poole, and
12 then we're going to go back to Randy
13 Gegenheimer. Ms. Tucker, you are now up
14 to make a public comment.

15 MS. MARY TUCKER:

16 Hi. Good afternoon. My name
17 is Mary Tucker and I am a resident in
18 Myrtle Grove, and I am not speaking on
19 behalf of the association. I am
20 speaking for myself and my family.

21 And while I agree with
22 Mr. Muth, from the National Wildlife and
23 Fisheries, the first man, we do need to
24 rebuild our marsh; however, that being
25 said, not at the expense of my little

1 community. I spoke yesterday, so I am
2 not in favor of the diversion.

3 The reason being, we will have
4 water on our property more days than not
5 when the diversion is operating. When I
6 bought and built in Myrtle Grove,
7 everything was built to code. It was a
8 way of life.

9 The man before me spoke about
10 artifacts and culture. Well, what about
11 the culture of the Louisiana way of
12 life? I've raised my children. I'm now
13 raising the next generation of my
14 family. I chose to invest money outside
15 of the levee protection, so I accepted
16 that responsibility, for storms, but not
17 man-made damage.

18 Kids can ride bikes in the
19 street. They can play on the land. We
20 drive up to our camps. They fish off
21 the dock, catch crabs off the dock, and
22 shrimp.

23 When this diversion is
24 operational, that will affect the fish.
25 Again, my land will probably be

1 inundated with water, so raising the
2 road, hey, that will help me get there,
3 but once I get there, it's covered in
4 water.

5 Yesterday when I spoke, I was
6 directed to go to, I think it was 4.27,
7 Mitigation, and where I uncovered that
8 Wilkinson Canal will probably be
9 affected and they might have to redirect
10 how watercraft will operate in the area.
11 Again, that will take away my waterfront
12 community.

13 Also, I'm a little disappointed
14 that there's 33 million for shrimp and
15 oysters, approximately 20 million for
16 dolphins, but nowhere is it mentioned
17 the amount of money for mitigation to
18 property owners who have invested blood,
19 sweat, tears and money into property.
20 Thank you.

21 I do think the marsh does need
22 to be rebuilt, but we have to look at
23 other ways. And that's all I have to
24 say. I appreciate and I respect the
25 time that I was given. Thank you very

1 much.

2 MR. LaBORDE:

3 Thanks, Ms. Tucker. And, yeah,
4 you had mentioned that this is your
5 second time around, so you're
6 participating, once again, and I
7 appreciate you providing your input for
8 a second time here, and you're going to
9 hear this again, because we told you
10 yesterday, but just for today's group,
11 additional information on flooding can
12 be found in Chapter 4.20. That's the
13 Public Health and Safety section.
14 Community impacts related to flooding is
15 also in Chapter 4.13.5. That's the
16 Socioeconomic Operational Impacts
17 section.

18 You can read more about the
19 proposed mitigation measures in
20 Appendix R of the EIS. That's the
21 Mitigation and MAM section.

22 In addition to this, if you
23 want to get a little bit more refined
24 with your review, Table 4.20-2, it
25 outlines the number of annual days it

1 will be tidal flooding, under the
2 applicant's preferred alternative.

3 So the project that we're here
4 to talk about today and the examples in
5 that table cover Grand Bayou, Myrtle
6 Grove and Lafitte. So you may have
7 already looked at that, but, you know,
8 just to let today's crowd know that that
9 information is available to you.

10 In addition to this, because we
11 had some conversations after the call
12 yesterday, CPRA is intending to hold
13 community-level meetings to further
14 engage with the public, so I would urge
15 you to reach out to them if you haven't
16 received notification about those
17 meetings. Those meetings would be
18 independent of the Corps and the EIS
19 process, but, you know, after this
20 process is complete with the public
21 involvement, we are going to go back to
22 CPRA and request that they provide
23 information or further information about
24 mitigation.

25 So if you do have some direct

1 interaction with CPRA, your feedback may
2 feed into the response that we get from
3 them. So thank you.

4 MR. FRANKLIN:

5 Thank you, Ms. Tucker. For
6 those of you who are participating in
7 the webinar and you would like to give
8 public verbal comment, as our previous
9 five individuals, simply go to the
10 questions box and type in your name, and
11 that will place you into the speakers
12 queue. Again, if you would just simply
13 go to the questions box and type in your
14 name, that will put you in the speaker's
15 queue.

16 At this time, we have next in
17 the queue, Katharine Poole, followed by
18 Mark Rees. Ms. Poole.

19 MS. KATHARINE POOLE:

20 Hi, I'm Katharine Poole. I'm a
21 climate scientist, who works at
22 Columbia, but I do not represent them; I
23 represent myself.

24 If your EIS states that black
25 and low-income communities will be

1 highly and disproportionately impacted
2 by a project, that is where exploration
3 should end, full stop.

4 If your EIS states that
5 dolphins will be harmed via this
6 project, more than were killed in the
7 oil spill that it was designed to
8 rectify, that is where it should end.

9 If your EIS states that
10 flooding will increase in areas that are
11 already highly vulnerable and
12 underserved as a result, that is where
13 it should end.

14 If your EIS states that
15 wildlife will have their habitats
16 destroyed on an expedited timeline,
17 hurting not only the animals, but the
18 ecosystems and people who depend on them
19 for their livelihood, that is where it
20 should end.

21 If your EIS doesn't properly
22 address the implications of diverting
23 one of the most toxic and polluted
24 rivers in the world into another
25 ecosystem, that is where exploration

1 should end.

2 If your EIS doesn't properly
3 address the fact that Louisiana is in
4 the crosshairs of hurricanes multiple
5 times of the year, potentially delaying
6 the timeline of this project, that's
7 where it should end.

8 If you don't address that these
9 jobs are temporary and dangerous, due to
10 geographic vulnerability and heat
11 concerns during the summer months,
12 that's where it should end.

13 If your EIS doesn't properly
14 address that this project will be
15 spending \$2 billion just to be fully
16 under water by the end of the century,
17 if not sooner, that is where it should
18 end.

19 We need to stop pretending that
20 we have any meaningful control over what
21 is about to happen to our coast through
22 gray and green infrastructure. We must
23 stop working against climate change,
24 which is a losing battle, and start
25 working with it.

1 Use 2 billion to move people
2 out of harm's way, not line the pockets
3 of contractors; full stop.

4 And please stop with the
5 propaganda in media outlets, because
6 it's very transparent.

7 This project is a direct threat
8 to environmental justice. Why would we
9 ever trust the Army Corps when they have
10 shamelessly lied to the public for
11 decades and are a large reason we are in
12 the mess we're in because of their
13 infrastructure failures.

14 Why trust CPRA, when their
15 board doesn't represent or look like the
16 people it is supposed to serve?

17 And I really hope you take
18 those comments to heart, because it is
19 terrible that you think that black and
20 brown communities are expendable,
21 because they are not; that you think
22 wildlife is expendable, because it is
23 not.

24 You know, you need to think
25 more into this. It's really a matter of

1 life and death, not only for animals,
2 but for the livelihood of people.

3 MR. LaBORDE:

4 Thank you for your comment. I
5 can tell that, you know, the project is
6 important to you, or the lack thereof.
7 But, you know, just to let the rest of
8 the group know, I mean, the Corps, we're
9 reviewing this in strictly a regulatory
10 fashion.

11 So we received an application
12 from CPRA, and it's upon us to review
13 that application fully and then we'll
14 take into consideration these comments
15 as well as best available science,
16 engineering and practices to make that
17 permit decision that you had mentioned.

18 And that permit decision could
19 be to issue the permit, as proposed,
20 deny the permit, or proffer one of the
21 other alternatives that we're analyzing
22 with this EIS. So, again, I thank you
23 for that.

24 MR. FRANKLIN:

25 Thank you, Ms. Poole. Next

1 individual to speak is Mark Rees.

2 Mr. Rees.

3 MR. MARK REES:

4 Okay. So thank you for being
5 given a chance to speak a little bit
6 more, to talk about the cultural
7 resources and the expected impacts. The
8 Draft Environmental Impact Statement
9 indicates there are no expected impacts
10 on cultural resources within the APE for
11 construction.

12 That is because there are no
13 historic properties that have been
14 determined eligible for listing on the
15 National Register.

16 One of the key points I want to
17 make is that information could also be
18 obtained from sites in a regional
19 approach rather than a piecemeal
20 approach of site by site.

21 Regarding the operational
22 impact APE, the larger area, there are
23 numerous sites, and I had mentioned 21
24 previously recorded sites could not be
25 relocated and are presumed inundated or

1 presumed destroyed. They automatically
2 become ineligible and are not
3 considered.

4 The adverse effects within the
5 operational APE are considered for only
6 five historic properties, which are
7 regarded as eligible for listing on the
8 National Register.

9 I'm concerned that their
10 undetermined eligibility is being
11 equated with ineligibility, and that
12 inundated and inaccessible sites are
13 presumed to be ineligible merely because
14 they are submerged and then
15 inaccessible.

16 Lack of integrity makes
17 individual sites ineligible for National
18 Registry. This sort of piecemeal
19 approach, I don't think, is the right
20 way to approach a regional scale
21 project. After all, the APE are defined
22 as geographic regions.

23 To get to the Draft
24 Programmatic Agreement regarding those
25 five historic properties, the

1 programmatic agreement indicates, on
2 consultations and public involvement,
3 that the public has an interest.

4 Members of the public and stakeholders
5 should be considered.

6 Well, the public, at large, has
7 an interest in and can benefit from
8 public education. I think public
9 education is largely left out, which is
10 ironic, because it is the information
11 potential of those sites that is deemed
12 making them important, or eligible for
13 the National Register. Yet, when it
14 comes to public education, it's nearly
15 absent, again, information from
16 individual sites, as well as from a
17 regional programmatic approach to
18 cultural resources.

19 Other consulting parties that
20 could be added? Public university
21 archeology programs that have an
22 interest, a public interest in
23 education; the Louisiana Archeological
24 Society, as related to public interest
25 in Louisiana's heritage; the Louisiana

1 Archaeological Survey and Antiquities
2 Commission, which advises the Secretary
3 of the Department of Culture, Recreation
4 and Tourism.

5 I have some comments on the
6 resolution of adverse effects, so I'll
7 add my name to the queue and maybe I can
8 get to those.

9 MR. LaBORDE:

10 Thank you, sir. And, yeah, I
11 don't know what our queue is looking
12 like, but -- yeah, I'd appreciate it if
13 you circled back to continue your
14 comment.

15 MR. FRANKLIN:

16 And so we want to remind
17 everyone, if you are participating in
18 this webinar and you would like to make
19 verbal comment, that you can do so, and
20 it is as simple as going to the
21 questions box and typing in your name.
22 And so, Brad, I didn't know if you had
23 any chat to go through at this time.

24 MR. LaBORDE:

25 We're looking a little light on

1 the chat. We did get an email that we
2 can address. It was about the potential
3 impacts to Mississippi Sound and aquatic
4 life in Mississippi Sound, and I think
5 our response to that is being that the
6 Mid-Barataria Basin is west of the
7 Mississippi River, it's not anticipated
8 that there would be any impacts to
9 Mississippi Sound or the nearby
10 Chandeleur and Breton Basins.

11 We did -- oh, there was a
12 second question here about the openings
13 of the Bonnet Carré Spillway and how
14 that may impact the Mississippi Sound.
15 And Bonnet Carré Spillway is a separate
16 project, so you may need to reference
17 other material to find some more
18 information there, but we did look at
19 Bonnet Carré openings with respect to
20 cumulative impacts for this EIS. That
21 information can be found in Chapter 4,
22 4.25, where we have the cumulative
23 impacts with this project, in
24 coordination with Bonnet Carré Spillway.

25 Let's see. We did get a chat

1 acknowledging the CPRA community
2 meetings, so it does seem like there has
3 been some outreach there, from CPRA, and
4 further coordination for feedback to the
5 applicant about mitigation and some of
6 the issues that may happen and how to
7 offset that, if this project is approved
8 and constructed. And that's it on my
9 end, Perry.

10 MR. FRANKLIN:

11 Very good. I would like to
12 invite the translators to assist with
13 this slide. Again, if you're on this
14 webinar and you would like to give
15 verbal public comment, you simply just
16 need to type your name into the
17 questions box to get into the speaking
18 queue. Ms. Soto.

19 MS. SOTO:

20 (Spanish translation).
21 Gracias.

22 MR. FRANKLIN:

23 Thank you. Mr. Nguyen.

24 MR. NGUYEN:

25 (Vietnamese translation).

1 Thank you.

2 MR. FRANKLIN:

3 Thank you, Mr. Nguyen. And
4 Mr. Te.

5 MR. TE:

6 (Khmer translation). Thank
7 you.

8 MR. FRANKLIN:

9 Thank you, Mr. Te. At this
10 time we've reinvited Mr. Rees to come
11 back into the queue. And, Mr. Rees, you
12 can continue with your public comment.

13 MR. MARK REES:

14 Thank you. I will try to
15 finish up here this last time. So I was
16 talking specifically about the Draft
17 Programmatic Agreement, in Appendix K of
18 the Draft Environmental Impact
19 Statement.

20 And so I wanted to note that
21 the public, at large, has an interest in
22 public education, obviously, which I
23 think is lacking from it. Other
24 consulting parties I mentioned that
25 should be added, I think that would

1 be -- that would strengthen the public
2 education component.

3 Also, on the assessment of
4 effects, or the resolution, excuse me,
5 of adverse effects, there are three sort
6 of legs to the resolution of adverse
7 effects, which make up an alternative
8 mitigation plan, the peer-reviewed
9 publication of ethnohistoric overview on
10 tribes of the Barataria Basin.

11 Well, ethnohistory involves
12 archeology, as well as oral and archival
13 sources, so it would make sense that an
14 overview should draw on information from
15 archeology, and that could include a
16 regional analysis.

17 This does not appear to be
18 included in the alternative mitigation
19 plan; rather, it would be sort of a
20 summary of existing literature.

21 The lack of such information in
22 such an overview might raise questions
23 from any peer-reviewed scholarship,
24 which would cause problems for the
25 mitigation plan.

1 Secondly, compilation of
2 information for tribes, on their
3 history, for future consultation.
4 Again, it's unclear if such a database
5 would include any new information on the
6 sites, including the eligible sites that
7 are going to be affected.

8 Public information is the third
9 part of the alternative mitigation, and
10 a website is suggested, or other
11 accessible information or materials.
12 Websites are great, but may have a
13 limited effectiveness in public
14 education.

15 Again, I think support for
16 public education, including Louisiana's
17 universities that are teaching
18 archeology, recommended -- I would
19 recommend support for the Louisiana
20 Archeology Month. This is the Louisiana
21 Department of Culture, Recreation and
22 Tourism's main means of educating the
23 public on Louisiana's heritage.

24 I recommend support for public
25 archeology outreach initiatives that are

1 absent. I would recommend support for
2 public archeology in K12 and higher
3 education.

4 Overall, I would recommend an
5 alternative mitigation plan that
6 includes site monitoring and involves
7 both APE, construction and operations,
8 in a programmatic approach to regional
9 analysis, such as a systematic
10 archeological sampling, including
11 historic properties of undetermined
12 eligibility, as well as those determined
13 to be eligible for the National
14 Register.

15 I've said my piece and I hope
16 it's of some value.

17 MR. LaBORDE:

18 Quite valuable. I appreciate
19 your feedback here, and by far, you are
20 more of an expert on NHPA than I am, but
21 what I can do is take your comments
22 today and any additional comments that
23 you may provide, up until May 4th, bring
24 that back to our 106 folks and have them
25 take a look at that information.

1 Because, you know, the
2 consultation for 106 is still very much
3 within the process, so we're working
4 through that. And you've given us some
5 things to consider today, so, thank you.

6 MR. FRANKLIN:

7 Thank you for your comment,
8 Mr. Rees. I want to give this gentleman
9 a shot. I think he is offline, but he
10 may have called back in via telephone,
11 and we cannot pick it up. Mr. Randy
12 Gegenheimer, if I'm saying that
13 correctly, if you can hear us, you can
14 proceed with your public comment.

15 Okay. We were just making
16 sure. We have all indication that you
17 are offline.

18 So if everyone can familiarize
19 themselves with this slide. If you're
20 considering making public comment, this
21 slide is of help and it sort of gives
22 you a walk-through of what needs to be
23 in place in order for us to receive your
24 verbal public comment.

25 If you just follow from left to

1 right, making sure that you're connected
2 to the webinar audio and have entered
3 your webinar PIN. And, again, you have
4 to use the # sign, the five-digit audio
5 PIN, and then the # sign. (2) Click the
6 phone icon and unmute. And, of course,
7 where the (2) is pointed needs to be
8 green. And then (3), if the organizer
9 still cannot hear you, please make sure
10 you are not directly muted on your
11 phone, if you're calling in via phone.
12 And so those are just some helpful tips.

13 If you are considering making a
14 public comment and you are having some
15 audio difficulty, those are some tips to
16 walk you through a few of the
17 trouble-shooting items.

18 At this time I think we'll just
19 kind of hold tight for about 60 seconds
20 and see if we have additional public
21 that would like to make public comment,
22 and if, at the end of that 60 seconds,
23 we don't have anyone who does, we're
24 going to go into a break for
25 approximately 15 minutes, which will

1 typically give the chat time to
2 repopulate, give individuals an
3 opportunity to collect their thoughts.

4 When we do go to break, the
5 portal will remain open and you can
6 still put your name into the questions
7 box and the chat is still live, and then
8 at 2:45 p.m., the cameras will come back
9 on and we'll continue at that time.

10 So we'll give about a minute
11 here to see if we have any individuals
12 who would like to go into the queue at
13 this time.

14 And, again, I'll bring your
15 attention to the URL that is on the
16 screen currently, and that is where you
17 can find these materials. So if you
18 wanted to make friends and family and
19 colleagues aware of the PowerPoint
20 presentation that you received today,
21 they can see it at this website, at the
22 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers website.

23 And I also just want to make
24 everyone aware that this same meeting
25 will take place on tomorrow evening, so

1 if there are individuals who are working
2 right now and who would like to
3 participate, there will be an evening
4 webinar tomorrow evening at 6:00 p.m.

5 Okay. So at this time we're
6 going to go ahead and proceed to a break
7 and we will resume at 2:45 p.m. sharp
8 Central. Thank you all. The portals
9 will remain open if you want to put your
10 name into the questions box to be in the
11 speaker's queue.

12 (Break was taken).

13 MR. FRANKLIN:

14 Okay. We want to thank
15 everyone for your participation in
16 today's Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion
17 virtual public meeting. The meeting
18 started at 1:00 p.m. and will last
19 approximately until 4:00 p.m., and this
20 is the public comment portion of today's
21 meeting, and so we encourage you, if you
22 would like to make public comment, this
23 would be that time of the meeting to do
24 so. The slide that is currently up will
25 give you further instructions on how to

1 do that.

2 We do have one individual who
3 is in the speaking queue at this time,
4 and so I'd like to turn to Ms. Cindy
5 Kuehne, if I'm saying that correctly.
6 You have three minutes to make your
7 public comment, and if you are
8 representing an organization, if you
9 will state the name of the organization,
10 for the record. Please proceed.

11 MS. CINDY KUEHNE:

12 Hi. My name is Cindy Kuehne.
13 I am a resident in Myrtle Grove, and I
14 am against the diversion, but not
15 against saving our wetlands. I don't
16 understand why this location is the only
17 location for the project, when there is
18 several acres of vacant land very near
19 by the project on Highway 23 that would
20 have a lot less impact on the, you know,
21 parish, you know, people that live
22 there.

23 And, also, I see in the EIS
24 about assisting property owners to
25 elevate homes and other structures. So

1 if they're going to run the diversion,
2 what is it, approximately half the time
3 of the year, what about the other half
4 of the year? How are we going to access
5 our boats when you all raise our homes
6 and boathouses, so they're so high in
7 the sky that we won't be able to access
8 our boats because they're so far down?

9 I mean, I'm not sure, you know,
10 what the solution is to remedy the
11 problem, but, I mean, you know, we're
12 hoping to get answers, which we haven't
13 gotten any so far.

14 And, I mean, when I built down
15 here, I knew we were outside of the
16 levee system and could accept that, if
17 we had natural disasters. But I can't
18 accept that my investment and my way of
19 life will be totally altered for a
20 man-made project.

21 I hope you all take all these
22 comments into consideration, and we are
23 looking forward to having a meeting next
24 week with the CPRA that maybe they can
25 give us some more information on it.

1 Thank you.

2 MR. LaBORDE:

3 Thank you. And earlier, you
4 had mentioned about alternatives, so
5 just to remind you -- it sounded like
6 you had already reviewed that
7 information, but just to let the group
8 know, Chapter 2 is where we go into
9 detail about alternatives. We don't
10 only talk about the alternatives that we
11 carried forward in the EIS, but we also
12 talk about some of the restoration tools
13 that CPRA and other agencies that do
14 coastal restoration use, and why maybe
15 some of those weren't carried forth for
16 this review. And for more information
17 about how we got to where we did, we
18 kind of show our work in the appendix,
19 and I believe that's Appendix D, for the
20 alternatives information.

21 So if you haven't already, and
22 alternatives is something that you're
23 interested in, and you want to dig into
24 the details a little bit, those are two
25 locations where you can find that

1 information.

2 And, also, you had mentioned
3 the community meetings that CPRA is
4 holding, so it sounds like you will be
5 attending that, and, you know, if folks
6 out there do have time to participate in
7 those, I would suggest it. Again,
8 they're not Corps meetings and they're
9 not associated with the EIS, but some of
10 the feedback that you may give CPRA at
11 those meetings may help them with their
12 mitigation, being that they will be the
13 ones -- if the Corps can issue a permit
14 for this project, they would be the ones
15 to implement any of the proposed
16 mitigation that you see in the EIS, so
17 your feedback for them would be helpful.

18 And just to go back and
19 reiterate some of the comments that we
20 received before we took our break today,
21 we did get a passionate comment with
22 good information and just -- you know, I
23 want to once again thank the people for
24 providing comments that way and, you
25 know, that's why we're having these

1 meetings. That's why you have members
2 on a panel here from the Corps, the TIG
3 and CPRA that are, you know, live and
4 available to hear your feedback. So
5 once again, that's appreciated.

6 We also heard detailed comments
7 about cultural resources, and for
8 folks -- I know the gentleman that was
9 providing information was well-versed,
10 but for folks who aren't who may want to
11 take a look at that, our cultural
12 section is in Chapter 4.24, so you can
13 find information about cultural
14 information there.

15 Also, Appendix K, for more
16 detailed information on cultural
17 resources. And the gentleman who had
18 provided that response brought up the
19 programmatic agreement, and I do believe
20 a draft is available there for folks to
21 review and potentially comment, if they
22 see fit.

23 I'm checking to see. It looks
24 like the chat is still idle, so we can
25 go ahead and -- you know, folks out

1 there, if you do not want to speak live,
2 the chat is available to you, so I would
3 urge you, that if you are participating
4 this way, and anything that we have said
5 today raises an issue for you or
6 anything in the document, you know, to
7 the extent that you've reviewed, if you
8 want to bring something up there,
9 please, you know, either get in the
10 queue to speak verbally, or again, we do
11 have the chat, so you can participate
12 that way. Thanks.

13 MR. FRANKLIN:

14 So, again, we are waiting for
15 additional public comments, and to do
16 so, if you want to do it verbally, you
17 will just need to type your name into
18 the questions box to get into the
19 speaking queue. I'll ask Ms. Soto if
20 she could make others aware of this
21 opportunity.

22 MS. SOTO:

23 (Spanish translation).

24 Gracias.

25 MR. FRANKLIN:

1 Thank you. Mr. Nguyen.

2 MR. NGUYEN:

3 (Vietnamese translation).

4 Thank you.

5 MR. FRANKLIN:

6 Thank you. And Mr. Te.

7 MR. TE:

8 (Khmer translation). Thank

9 you.

10 MR. FRANKLIN:

11 Thank you, Mr. Te. And at this
12 time it looks like the speaking queue is
13 without any speakers and it looks like
14 the chat -- Mr. LaBorde, is the chat
15 still idle?

16 MR. LaBORDE:

17 It does look that way. I do
18 see, we still have 89 attendees on, so
19 we're here. Last time we engaged with
20 the public was August of 2017, so we'll
21 sit tight until -- for our allotted time
22 here, until 4:00, and we'll be back
23 tomorrow evening, so please, don't be
24 shy. It's good to hear different
25 viewpoints, especially from the public,

1 so chime in if you feel it's
2 appropriate.

3 MR. FRANKLIN:

4 And as Mr. LaBorde did mention,
5 there's going to be one additional
6 duplicate webinar, which is going to
7 present the same information, and we
8 believe it's important to have one of
9 these webinars in the evening, as many
10 individuals may be working at this time.

11 And so 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
12 tomorrow evening, the same information
13 will be presented, and so if you have
14 any colleagues who would like to
15 participate and could not because of
16 work, tomorrow, April 8th, Thursday,
17 April 8th, 6:00 p.m., this same webinar
18 will take place.

19 If there are any individuals
20 who are just joining us, one of the
21 things that we do want to remind you of
22 is that there are numerous ways to give
23 public comment, and the public comment
24 period is open until May 5th.

25 If we can have the slide up

1 that gives the multiple methods in order
2 to give public comment. Giving verbal
3 comment at this meeting is not the only
4 method to do so.

5 You can submit comments
6 electronically at that first URL, you
7 can submit written comments by U.S. Mail
8 to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New
9 Orleans District, at that address, and
10 that needs to be postmarked on or before
11 comment deadline, which is May 4th,
12 2021.

13 You can submit oral comments
14 via the toll-free number, 866-211-9205.
15 Again, you can submit oral comments via
16 a toll-free number, which is
17 866-211-9205. Or you can do that at
18 this meeting, which is April 7th, or
19 tomorrow evening's meeting, April 8th.
20 And you only need to submit your
21 comments via one of these methods, as it
22 will reach the public record.

23 So, again, if you wanted to
24 give verbal comment, you simply just
25 need to place your name into the

1 questions box and you will be put into
2 the speaker's queue.

3 MR. LaBORDE:

4 The chat was rocking yesterday.
5 It's quiet today. I think we're a
6 minute or two out from 3:00 o'clock, so
7 I think if we don't get anything here in
8 the next minute or so, we can go ahead
9 and potentially take another break here
10 maybe till 3:15, if you see fit,
11 Mr. Franklin.

12 MR. FRANKLIN:

13 Absolutely.

14 MR. LaBORDE:

15 Okay.

16 MR. FRANKLIN:

17 Okay. So we're going to go on
18 a break. The portal will remain open
19 and so nothing's being turned off. If
20 you want to go into the questions box
21 and place your name, we encourage that
22 during this next break. If you want to
23 send it in the chat, the chat will still
24 be active, and then we will call on
25 those individuals who may be in the

1 speaker's queue, or respond to
2 information placed into the chat during
3 the break.

4 So it is now 3:00 p.m. Central
5 Time. We will go on to a break until
6 3:15 p.m. Central Time. So at this time
7 we'll go on and take a break. Thank you
8 very much.

9 (Break was taken).

10 MR. FRANKLIN:

11 All right. So we still have a
12 number of participants, but we have no
13 one in the speaker's queue, and I think
14 no one in the chat at this time.

15 MR. LaBORDE:

16 Okay. And before we took our
17 break here, I said that the chat
18 yesterday was rocking and I realized
19 that during our break that some people
20 may be feeling left out now, so during
21 the break, I did learn that the first
22 recording is available on the Corps
23 Facebook page, so if you do want to go
24 back and review yesterday's meeting,
25 that that's available to you there.

1 In addition, once the
2 transcripts and these meetings are
3 complete, they are being recorded and
4 they will be available on the Corps
5 webpage, so, for future reference,
6 they'll be there as well.

7 MR. FRANKLIN:

8 Okay. And so when we have
9 webinars like this, there's really no
10 way that we know if the 81 individuals
11 that are online right now are the same
12 81 that were online earlier on, so I
13 apologize if you have heard us say the
14 instructions prior, but we'll just go
15 through these instructions to ensure
16 that we don't have any new participants
17 who may not know how to actively engage.

18 And so if you would like to
19 make a public comment verbally, all you
20 will need to do is simply go into the
21 questions box, and it's on the interface
22 of "Go to Webinar," and type in your
23 name, and then that will place you into
24 the speaking queue. And for those who
25 may be of other languages, I'll ask

1 Ms. Soto, followed by Mr. Nguyen,
2 followed by Mr. Te to ensure that
3 everyone understands how to engage in
4 the process. Ms. Soto.

5 MS. SOTO:

6 (Spanish translation).

7 Gracias.

8 MR. FRANKLIN:

9 Thank you, Ms. Soto.

10 Mr. Nguyen.

11 MR. NGUYEN:

12 (Vietnamese translation).

13 Thank you.

14 MR. FRANKLIN:

15 Thank you, Mr. Nguyen. And

16 Mr. Te.

17 MR. TE:

18 (Khmer translation). Thank

19 you.

20 MR. FRANKLIN:

21 Thank you so very much. Also,

22 while you do see representatives from

23 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, CPRA

24 and NOAA, there are also individuals

25 from many other organizations who are

1 listening in on this process, and they
2 are other Louisiana Trustee
3 Implementation Group members, including
4 the U.S. Department of the Interior, the
5 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and
6 the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
7 They also have representatives who are
8 listening in on today's webinar and who
9 will also be participating in tomorrow
10 evening's webinar at 6:00 p.m.

11 And so, again, if you have the
12 email with the link to register for
13 today's webinar and you would like
14 others to be engaged and to learn what
15 you have learned today, we ask you to
16 extend that invite to others. Okay.

17 MR. LaBORDE:

18 I would remind those who are on
19 the line still that, you know, if
20 commenting today, either through the
21 chat or verbally isn't your thing, we do
22 have those other options available to
23 you, whether it be traditional mail, our
24 comment portal, or the phone. Those
25 comments that you would provide there

1 will carry equal weight to today, so I
2 just want to remind folks of that, as
3 well as maybe bring up some of the main
4 points that we hit on today.

5 You know, one of the recurring
6 things that we've heard, either
7 yesterday and today, has to do with
8 public flooding, which -- or water
9 levels, which is completely
10 understandable, and remind folks that
11 they can find that information in
12 Chapter 4.20. That's the Public Health
13 and Safety section. And Section 4.13 is
14 the Socioeconomic section.

15 In addition to that, we have a
16 more detailed appendix, Appendix R, that
17 talks about mitigation, in that there is
18 an adaptive management plan there for
19 people to review as well if you are
20 concerned about mitigation due to water
21 levels or any other, you know,
22 mitigative measure that CPRA is
23 proposing with respect to this project,
24 to offset some of the impacts that you
25 see in the EIS.

1 I'll remind folks that if the
2 chapters are a bit too detailed or the
3 appendix is more than maybe what you're
4 looking for, we do have that table at
5 the end of Chapter 2, which is -- it's a
6 summary of all the impacts that you
7 would see in Chapter 4.

8 And for a nontechnical read,
9 you can check out the Executive Summary,
10 which is a very -- is a condensed
11 version of the EIS, which is quite
12 lengthy. So if the large document
13 intimidates you somewhat, I know that --
14 I have a printed copy and it is
15 intimidating. The executive summary is
16 available to you, for review.

17 If you did make a comment
18 during the live meeting process, feel
19 free to make more, based off of the, you
20 know, the other options that we have.
21 You know, if you are reviewing -- if you
22 are currently reviewing the EIS and
23 you're not finished with that review,
24 if, you know, up till May 4th, if you
25 have things that you come across that

1 either raise a question with you or
2 maybe make you -- prompt you to make a
3 comment, please, we urge you to do so.

4 MR. FRANKLIN:

5 And I know this is a little bit
6 of awkward silence, but we want to give
7 everybody an opportunity to sort of
8 raise their hands virtually so that we
9 can acknowledge them.

10 Okay. Seeing that the chat is
11 idle and no one is in the speaking
12 queue -- again, when we go off of camera
13 for a break, the portal will remain
14 active and open, and so if you want to
15 make that verbal public comment, just
16 simply type your name into the questions
17 box, and that way, we will have your
18 name to call upon you, and you can also
19 make your comment via the chat, and
20 Mr. LaBorde will speak that into the
21 record, and so there's multiple ways you
22 can participate during this opportunity.

23 And, of course, the screen
24 shows you multiple other ways that you
25 can comment, and the only date that you

1 need to be aware of is the May 4th date,
2 and if you mail a comment in, it needs
3 to be postmarked before May 4th.

4 And so at this time I think
5 we're going to go on a break until
6 3:45 p.m. It is right now 3:26 p.m.,
7 according to my monitor, and we're going
8 to put a slide up that's going to say,
9 "On Break," but just please note, if
10 you're one of the 73 individuals that
11 are still logged on and you change your
12 mind, simply put your name into the
13 questions box and we will call upon you
14 when we return at 3:45 p.m. Thank you
15 very much.

16 (Break was taken).

17 MR. FRANKLIN:

18 Okay. So we are coming back
19 from break. We want to thank everyone
20 for participating in the Mid-Barataria
21 Sediment Diversion virtual public
22 meeting today. This is the second of
23 three virtual public meetings for the
24 Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion
25 Project.

1 The first one was on yesterday
2 morning, today, at 1:00 p.m., and then
3 again at 6:00 p.m. tomorrow evening, and
4 so we want to share that information to
5 ensure that individuals are aware of
6 these three opportunities to gain
7 insights, gain new information and to
8 also offer public comment and/or
9 questions.

10 So there is one clarification.
11 If you look on the slide, about halfway
12 down, it says, "Mailed comments must be
13 postmarked on or before the comment
14 deadline of May 4th," and I just want to
15 make sure everyone understands, all
16 comments submitted electronically or by
17 mail, via the U.S. Postal Service, on or
18 before May 4th, 2021, will be
19 considered.

20 And so we didn't want anyone
21 thinking that if you waited until
22 May 4th, it would not be considered; it
23 will be considered, as long as it is
24 postmarked by May 4th, and so I just
25 want to make sure everyone was on the

1 same page there.

2 And to comment on the Draft EIS
3 or the NRDA RP, you can do it
4 electronically, you can do it by written
5 comment, U.S. Mail, and I don't believe
6 that there's a page limit when people
7 want to submit by U.S. Mail, and so
8 maybe if you're a little long-winded,
9 that might be your method.

10 Submit oral comments via a
11 toll-free number, and that toll-free
12 number has a four-minute time limit, and
13 that's at 866-211-9205. And there's one
14 additional meeting beyond today's
15 meeting, which is at 6:00 p.m. Central
16 Time. It will be a virtual webinar, as
17 is today's webinar.

18 Okay. So Mr. LaBorde, is there
19 anything in the chat?

20 MR. LaBORDE:

21 It appears the chat is still
22 idle.

23 MR. FRANKLIN:

24 Okay.

25 MR. LaBORDE:

1 So I see we're about 12 minutes
2 out from, you know, our allotted time
3 today. Since the chat is idle, and I
4 don't think we have anyone lined up to
5 make an oral comment, what we can do is
6 roll through our close and just keep the
7 chat open, along with the webinar. If
8 there are people who want to provide
9 feedback, we'll be here. It's just
10 probably prudent to wrap up at this
11 time.

12 MR. FRANKLIN:

13 Okay. And so the portal will
14 remain open until 4:00 Central. And
15 seeing that there are no others
16 indicating that they would like to make
17 a comment, at this time we will move to
18 our formal conclusion, but the portal
19 will remain open until 4:00 p.m.

20 And so thank you for your
21 participation at today's meeting. If
22 you find that you have additional
23 comments or would like to make
24 additional comments, or you were unable
25 to make a verbal comment this afternoon,

1 please note that you can do so in a
2 number of ways, including regular U.S.
3 Mail, electronically, through the online
4 forum, or by calling into a dedicated
5 phone line, where you can leave a
6 four-minute message, and that number is
7 on the screen, 866-211-9205.

8 We appreciate all the input
9 that we have received thus far and will
10 continue to receive through May 4th,
11 2021. As a reminder, the feedback you
12 provide will be considered as a part of
13 the final EIS and restoration plan that
14 is scheduled to be released in the
15 spring of 2022, which will inform the
16 permit decisions that will be made
17 shortly thereafter.

18 Thank you all for attending
19 this webinar. We will keep this portal
20 open until 4:00 p.m., if you would like
21 to put something into the chat. We hope
22 you found this meeting informative and
23 we thank you for your participation.

24 Mr. LaBorde, at this time, we
25 want our cameras to go off and we will

1 just keep the portal open; is that
2 correct?

3 MR. LaBORDE:

4 Correct, we can do that.

5 MR. FRANKLIN:

6 Okay. Thank you for your
7 participation.

8 (Portal remained open until
9 4:00 p.m. CDT and the meeting concluded
10 at that time.)

11 * * *

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

This certification is valid only for a transcript accompanied by my original signature and original required seal on this page.

I, Linda G. Griffin, RPR, Certified Court Reporter in and for the State of Louisiana, as the officer before whom this meeting was taken, do hereby certify that this was reported by me in the stenotype reporting method, was prepared and transcribed by me or under my personal direction and supervision, and is a true and correct transcript to the best of my ability and understanding; that the transcript has been prepared in compliance with transcript format guidelines required by statute or by rules of the board, that I have acted in compliance with the prohibition on contractual relationships, as defined by Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure Article 1434 and in rules and advisory opinions of the board; that I am not related to counsel or the parties herein, nor am I otherwise interested in the outcome of this matter.

LINDA G. GRIFFIN, RPR
CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER

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**Attachment: Virtual Webinar Question/Comment
Chat Report**

**Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion (MBSD)
Virtual Public Meeting**

Chat Report

Wednesday, April 7, 2021

This report details the written questions and comments that were received from a commenter via the virtual webinar's chat box function. Where applicable, responses to the questions and comments were provided either written via the chat box function or verbally by a panelist. Reviewers are referred to the oral transcript for details on the verbal responses given during the webinar.

Last Name	First Name	Comment/Question via Chat	Response Given via Chat
Sadler	Lou	*questions received via email: 1. To what degree will your project impact the entire Mississippi Sound and its aquatic life? 2. With the more frequent openings of the Bonne Carre Spillway and their devastating affect on the Mississippi Sound aquatic life and the coastal Mississippi economy, to what degree will your project add to these problems caused by the Bonnet Carre Spillway openings?	*See oral transcript for verbal response. N/A
Tucker	Mary	Thank you. Just wanted to let the gentleman know that I am appreciative of the community mtgs and I will be there on Monday	Thank you Mary. Will we remove you from the speaking order then unless we hear otherwise.
Tucker	Mary	Thanks	