

Transcript of the Testimony of **Public Meeting**

Date taken: April 8, 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
Thursday, April 8, 2021
6:00 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 (Khmer)

14

COURT REPORTER:

15

LINDA G. GRIFFIN, RPR

16

Certified Court Reporter

17

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5	and Mel Landry	
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(Meeting opened at 6:00 p.m. CDT)

MR. FRANKLIN:

Good evening. My name is Perry Franklin and I will serve as your facilitator for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Public Meeting.

Tonight we will be talking about the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (or more commonly known as the 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 tonight we are requesting your feedback before making our final decision.

Thank you for your interest in the proposed project and attending tonight's virtual meeting. Whether you are listening in via telephone or on your computer's audio, please note that we all have your 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 with
8 us tonight who will transcribe the
9 entire meeting, including your public
10 comments. We are also joined by several
11 language translators, who will be
12 introduced shortly.

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

23 When you registered for
24 tonight's webinar, you were asked if you
25 would like to make a verbal comment. We

1 have received a number of requests and
2 we have responded to each person via
3 email, with instructions on how to make
4 verbal comments to our listening panel.
5 After the presentation portion of
6 tonight's webinar, we will take your
7 important public comments.

8 If you didn't make a request to
9 provide a public comment before this
10 meeting, that's okay, as it is not too
11 late to sign up, and we will give you
12 those instructions shortly.

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

1 webinar.

2 Now I'd like to introduce you
3 to the folks that you will be hearing
4 from tonight, either live or via a video
5 recording.

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

15 We also have several language
16 translators with us tonight, and they
17 will translate any public comments that
18 are received in Spanish, Vietnamese, or
19 Khmer.

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

1 All comments will be made
2 available to the public and gathered as
3 a part of the public record.

4 The public comment period,
5 again, is open until May 4th. We are
6 accepting public comments in a number of
7 ways, including written comment by U.S.
8 Mail, electronic comments via our
9 web-based system, voicemail on a
10 toll-free line, and tonight during our
11 public comment portion of the webinar,
12 and, of course, the public comment
13 portion of tonight's webinar will follow
14 the PowerPoint presentation that we will
15 go into shortly.

16 Please note that you only need
17 to submit your comment via one of these
18 ways for it to become a part of the
19 official public record.

20 Tonight's webinar will start
21 with approximately a 35-minute video
22 presentation, which cover details of the
23 proposed project. Then we will move
24 into the public comment portion of
25 tonight's webinar. The webinar will run

1 for a total of three hours.

2 The video that will be shown
3 shortly is in English, but if you would
4 like to listen to the video in Spanish,
5 Vietnamese or Khmer, we have audio
6 recordings available at toll-free
7 numbers that will be listed on the
8 following slides.

9 Now, we will hear from each of
10 the translators we have with us today.
11 First will be Spanish, then Vietnamese,
12 and then Khmer. Ms. Soto, the floor is
13 yours.

14 MS. SOTO:

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

17 MR. FRANKLIN:

18 Thank you. Mr. Nguyen.

19 MR. NGUYEN:

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

22 MR. FRANKLIN:

23 Thank you, Mr. Nguyen. Mr. Te.

24 MR. TE:

25 Thank you. (Khmer

1 translation). Thank you.

2 MR. FRANKLIN:

3 Thank you to our translators
4 who are with us tonight. At this time
5 we will transition to the video
6 presentation.

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

12 MR. FRANKLIN:

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

20 Now, we are going to start the
21 public comment portion of tonight's
22 meeting. When you registered for the
23 webinar, we asked if you wanted to make
24 comment during the meeting. We
25 currently have six individuals signed up

1 to give comment so far.

2 We will keep the webinar
3 running for public comment for the next
4 two hours or so, so you have lots of
5 time if you change your mind. If you
6 did not sign up to speak, but would like
7 to do so, please type your name into the
8 questions box and that name will be
9 given to me and placed into the
10 speaker's queue. If you are not
11 comfortable speaking your public
12 comment, you also have the opportunity
13 to place your comment in the chat
14 function, and Mr. Brad LaBorde will
15 speak your comment.

16 I'll pause at this time and
17 give our interpreters a chance to give
18 instructions in Spanish, Vietnamese, and
19 Khmer. Ms. Soto, the floor is yours.

20 MS. SOTO:

21 Thank you. (Spanish
22 translation). Gracias.

23 MR. FRANKLIN:

24 Thank you. Mr. Nguyen.

25 MR. NGUYEN:

1 (Vietnamese translation).

2 Thank you.

3 MR. FRANKLIN:

4 Thank you. And Mr. Te.

5 MR. TE:

6 Thank you. (Khmer
7 translation).

8 MR. FRANKLIN:

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

23 As a reminder, all attendees
24 are muted automatically. We will unmute
25 you when it is your turn to speak.

1 Also, if you are viewing the webinar and
2 have called in using a phone and are
3 planning to speak, you must enter your
4 individual audio PIN, and please place a
5 # sign in front of the PIN number and a
6 # sign immediately following the PIN
7 number.

8 Please note that this PIN is
9 different than the access code that was
10 given to you. Please, also follow any
11 notifications to unmute yourself.

12 As shown on the slide, if you
13 are using the phone, please make sure
14 your computer audio is not selected.

15 We will call the first person's
16 name, and at the same time, the next
17 person in line so that you will have a
18 little bit more time to prepare. When
19 we call your name, we will unmute your
20 line and you will have three minutes to
21 speak. I thank you, in advance, for
22 respecting the three-minute rule.

23 Again, please state your name,
24 and if you're representing an
25 organization, please state the name of

1 the organization prior to making your
2 comments.

3 The first six individuals are
4 as follows: Cory Sparks, Barbara
5 Comeaux, Kimberly Reyher, Rosina
6 Philippe, Steve Dillard and Valerie
7 Ramirez.

8 At this time, Cory Sparks, you
9 have the floor, and please start off by
10 stating your name and if you're
11 representing an organization, the name
12 of your organization. Please proceed.

13 REV. CORY SPARKS:

14 I'm Reverend Cory Sparks and
15 I'm representing the Commission on the
16 Stewardship of the Environment of the
17 Louisiana Interchurch Conference.

18 We've worked since the 1980s to
19 protect the coast, and have been
20 involved in public hearings like this
21 one because we feel there is a moral
22 call to protect what's left of Louisiana
23 wetlands.

24 In Psalm 24, we hear, "The
25 earth is the Lord's, and all that's in

1 it."

2 I want to say that we strongly
3 support the Mid-Barataria Diversion.
4 We've followed the progress closely
5 since 2017, and see it as an opportunity
6 to correct a mistake that we made back
7 in 1927, when we levied the river and
8 disrupted deltaic processes.

9 We can correct that mistake
10 now. We have the way forward and, of
11 course, we understand that mitigation
12 needs to be taken in order to support
13 those who will be affected, including
14 fishers and oystermen.

15 I'll just yield the balance of
16 my time. Thank you very much.

17 MR. LaBORDE:

18 Thank you for your comment,
19 Reverend Sparks.

20 MR. FRANKLIN:

21 Thank you, Mr. Sparks. The
22 next individual to give public comment
23 is Barbara Comeaux, followed by Kimberly
24 Reyher. Ms. Comeaux, the floor is
25 yours.

1 MS. Comeaux, if you will look
2 at your webinar interface, if the
3 microphone icon is not green, if you
4 will take your mouse and click on the
5 microphone icon and turn it green, you
6 will unmute yourself.

7 If you can hear my voice,
8 Ms. Comeaux, you are up to give public
9 comment. And, again, if your microphone
10 icon is red, if you will just take your
11 mouse and hover over the microphone icon
12 and click on it once, it will turn
13 green, and then we can hear you, if
14 you're speaking.

15 MS. BARBARA COMEAUX:

16 Hello.

17 MR. FRANKLIN:

18 There you go. We can hear you,
19 Ms. Comeaux.

20 MS. BARBARA COMEAUX:

21 Can you hear me?

22 MR. FRANKLIN:

23 Yes, ma'am.

24 MS. BARBARA COMEAUX:

25 I'm sorry, I was out -- I

1 wasn't here and my husband was
2 listening, because I just walked in, so
3 I'm sorry for taking up your time.

4 MR. FRANKLIN:

5 No worries. Please proceed.

6 MS. BARBARA COMEAUX:

7 Yeah, we're just going to
8 comment, my husband and I. We have a
9 home in Lake Hermitage and we're very
10 concerned about the rising water due to
11 the diversion project and, you know,
12 there's just a lot down here as far as
13 the water rising over our docks, the
14 water coming in through the back yard,
15 into the boat shed. It's just -- it's a
16 constant, you know, and so we're really
17 concerned about the additional water
18 that's going to come in, and also
19 whether we'll be able to get to our
20 home, that's a concern. That's where we
21 stand right now. We're very concerned
22 about the rising water.

23 MR. LaBORDE:

24 Okay. Thank you, Mr. and
25 Mrs. Comeaux. Oh, if you have more,

1 please, go ahead.

2 MS. BARBARA COMEAUX:

3 No, he accidentally touched it.

4 MR. LaBORDE:

5 Oh, okay. So, yeah, if you are
6 interested in flooding impacts, I would
7 direct you to our Socioeconomic section
8 in the draft EIS. That's Chapter 4
9 Section 13, 4.13.5, for the operational
10 impacts. There are also mitigative
11 measures that CPRA is proposing for this
12 project. Mitigation can be found in
13 4.27, as well as Appendix R of the EIS.

14 We also have a Public Health
15 and Safety section where we talk about
16 the annual days of flooding that may
17 happen with respect to this project, as
18 well as the no-action, along with the
19 other alternatives that we've carried
20 forth. That section -- or that chapter,
21 Chapter 4.20, is the section for Public
22 Health and Safety.

23 In addition to the EIS, CPRA is
24 coordinating a series of community-level
25 meetings, so I would say to keep an eye

1 out for that. Those meetings would not
2 be held in conjunction with the Corps,
3 so it would be separate, but if you have
4 an opportunity to sit down with CPRA,
5 you may be able to provide your concerns
6 and input to them so that they can
7 consider it for their mitigation.

8 Because in the end, if the
9 Corps can issue a permit for this
10 project, CPRA would be responsible for
11 implementing any of the proposed
12 mitigation that you would see in that
13 mitigation plan. So I thank you, once
14 again, for your comments.

15 MR. FRANKLIN:

16 Ms. Comeaux, did that conclude
17 your comment?

18 (No response).

19 MR. FRANKLIN:

20 Okay, Ms. Comeaux, if you had
21 additional comment, if you will just
22 respond back and we'll put you back in
23 the queue.

24 Next individual to give public
25 comment is Ms. Kimberly Reyher, followed

1 by Rosina Philippe. And, Ms. Reyher, if
2 you'll just begin by stating your name,
3 for the record, and if you are
4 representing an organization, the name
5 of the organization. You have three
6 minutes. You are ready to proceed.

7 MS. KIMBERLY REYHER:

8 Okay. Hello, can you hear me?

9 MR. FRANKLIN:

10 We can.

11 MS. KIMBERLY REYHER:

12 Great. Hi, my name is Kimberly
13 Reyher. I'm a resident of Louisiana.
14 I'm raising three little girls here, and
15 I want them to have the opportunity to
16 live here safely into the future. I
17 hope they will grow to enjoy the
18 traditions and the bounty of Louisiana.
19 I'm hoping they will all become skilled
20 fishermen, but we'll see about that.

21 I'm also the Executive Director
22 of a group called the Coalition to
23 Restore Coastal Louisiana, or CRCL.

24 CRCL is the first coastal
25 advocacy organization in the state, and

1 the organization came together in the
2 eighties when we were all together
3 realizing the challenges around coastal
4 land loss.

5 And some of our earliest
6 reports concluded that sediment
7 diversions were the best solution and
8 perhaps the only long-term sustainable
9 solution for reversing our land loss.

10 Organizations have advocated
11 for sediment diversions for decades,
12 since the 1980s. We are pleased and
13 actually relieved, in a lot of ways, to
14 finally be at what we hope is the finish
15 line for moving forward with these
16 projects, for the first large-scale
17 sediment diversion in the state.

18 We recognize that there's still
19 questions about how we do this, but we
20 think it's time that we do it, and we
21 very much appreciate the thought and
22 diligence that's gone into the analysis
23 of what we could do and what it means
24 for all of us, in terms of the benefits
25 and also the challenges.

1 We believe the sediment
2 diversions will be the most impactful
3 projects among those proposed in the
4 Coastal Master Plan, that they are
5 needed for rebuilding our coast.

6 We support the general approach
7 of using the power of the river to
8 sustain the delta, and also the specific
9 approach of the proposed diversion. In
10 short, we support the preferred
11 alternative, and we support the use of
12 Deepwater Horizon funding to fund the
13 project.

14 I want to take the opportunity
15 to congratulate the Corps and all of
16 those involved on creating the ambitious
17 and extensive report.

18 We recognize a lot of work has
19 gone into it, and as the project
20 proceeds, we want to urge the Corps and
21 CPRA and all those involved to continue
22 in efforts to center community members
23 and community member concerns in
24 developing the mitigation stewardship
25 plans.

1 Although these projects will
2 have wide beneficial economic impacts,
3 we recognize they will provide or result
4 in negative impacts to some communities,
5 as we've been hearing, and we think it's
6 really important that we recognize this
7 and grapple with it. We really
8 appreciate just how clear and thorough
9 the analysis has been in considering
10 these challenges.

11 We envision safe communities,
12 thriving fisheries, as part of what
13 we're all working to achieve, and we
14 know all of you do, too.

15 We really appreciate the
16 efforts and we appreciate the
17 opportunity to talk tonight. We'll
18 provide extensive detailed comments that
19 are much more technical, but for now, I
20 just want to thank everyone who has
21 taken the time to comment on this, and
22 those presenting and all the teams they
23 represent, for working so hard to get us
24 to this stage and advancing our
25 understanding about the challenges we

1 face and what we can do. So thank you
2 for the option to comment.

3 MR. LaBORDE:

4 Okay. Thanks for that comment.
5 Your advocacy for the project or your
6 support for the project is noted.

7 I would let the group know, I
8 think you have an understanding of it,
9 but just for everyone else on the line,
10 that, you know, the project still very
11 much is in review by the Corps of
12 Engineers. We're still evaluating the
13 project and we do believe that the draft
14 EIS applies the best science,
15 engineering and information that we have
16 available. So your comments about the
17 thoroughness of the document is noted.

18 After we reevaluate and develop
19 the draft EIS, the Corps will have some
20 work to do with weighing the pros and
21 cons of the project to determine whether
22 or not the project's in the public's
23 interest, and at that point, we would
24 make our decision whether or not to
25 issue, deny or proffer another

1 alternative to CPRA for their project.

2 So I just wanted to remind
3 folks of that. And, also, I have the
4 same hopes, having a seven and a
5 4-year-old myself, that they'll be able
6 to grow up here as well, so thank you
7 for that.

8 MR. FRANKLIN:

9 Thank you for your comment.
10 Before we proceed with the next public
11 commenters, I just want to remind
12 everyone that if you want to make public
13 comment, simply type your name into the
14 questions box and we'll place you into
15 the speaker's queue, and you can also
16 utilize the chat function if you do not
17 want to give a verbal comment, but you
18 wanted to get your public comment into
19 the record via this meeting.

20 The next individuals to give
21 public comment are going to be Rosina
22 Philippe, or Philippe, Steve Dillard,
23 Valerie Ramirez and Thomas Hulco.

24 Rosina Philippe, you're next.

25 Please state your name.

1 MS. ROSINA PHILIPPE:

2 Okay. My name is Rosina
3 Philippe and I'm an Elder with the Grand
4 Bayou Village, Atakapa-Ishak/Chawasha
5 people, and my question, every day
6 Louisiana loses about an estimated
7 25 acres of wetlands, and I'm concerned
8 about how does this number, within the
9 same time frame, compare to the amount
10 of land proposed to be built by the
11 Mid-Barataria Diversion?

12 What is the projected amount of
13 land estimated to be lost before balance
14 is achieved, once the -- or if, and once
15 the Mid-Barataria Diversion comes
16 online?

17 And I know there has been some
18 talk about mitigation efforts for
19 communities during some of the negative
20 impacts, and I would like to know, will
21 there be proactive measures to this
22 mitigation, ahead of the implementation
23 of Mid-Barataria, and what does that
24 time frame look like?

25 MR. LaBORDE:

1 Thanks, Ms. Philippe, and it's
2 good to hear from you again. I know
3 that you were around to make comments
4 during the scoping period, as well, so
5 it is good to hear from you again.

6 Of course, you know a little
7 bit about this project. I can't give
8 you the technical responses to your
9 questions right now, on the fly, but it
10 is something that we can take a look at
11 and maybe provide some -- an update
12 later on in the meeting today, but your
13 comments are noted, and something that
14 we will evaluate and look at for the
15 final EIS.

16 MR. FRANKLIN:

17 Thank you for your comment.
18 The next individuals who will give
19 public comment, Steve Dillard, followed
20 by Valerie Ramirez, followed by Thomas
21 Hulco, or Halco, and Brian Moore.

22 At this time, Steve Dillard,
23 the floor is yours. Steve Dillard, if
24 you can hear my voice, you can go ahead
25 and proceed.

1 (ZOOM technical difficulties).

2 MR. FRANKLIN:

3 You appear to be unmuted and
4 should be able to give your public
5 comment. We will keep him in the queue
6 and proceed to Valeria Ramirez.

7 Ms. Ramirez, please start with
8 your name, and you have three minutes to
9 give your public comment.

10 MS. VALERIE RAMIREZ:

11 Hello, my name is --

12 MR. FRANKLIN:

13 Yes, please proceed.

14 MS. VALERIE RAMIREZ:

15 Hello, my name is Valerie
16 Ramirez. I'm originally not a native to
17 Louisiana. This is honestly the first
18 time I've heard about what was going on
19 with the situation.

20 So my question is, what are the
21 number -- what is the statistics of
22 Louisiana citizens that are aware of
23 this project, if there are any?

24 And I've been reading a couple
25 of articles and there isn't really one

1 number that is consistent on the amount
2 that is being spent on the project,
3 along with the time frame.

4 MR. LaBORDE:

5 Okay. Thanks for your comment
6 and thanks for your interest in the
7 project. It sounds like you've taken an
8 interest here recently, so we can give
9 you a little bit of an update there.

10 So the cost of the project is
11 going to fluctuate a bit just because
12 construction prices change over time, so
13 it will be hard to give, you know, an
14 exact amount of what the price may be to
15 construct the project.

16 With respect to once approved,
17 if approved, the project is expected to
18 take three to five years to construct.
19 Once it's constructed, it would begin
20 operating and it has a project life, or
21 at least for this review, it has a
22 project life of 50 years. Thanks for
23 your comment.

24 MR. FRANKLIN:

25 Thank you very much. I'd like

1 to return to Steve Dillard.

2 Mr. Dillard, if you can hear my voice,
3 please proceed with your comment.

4 And if you're having
5 difficulties with your audio, the screen
6 that is currently up will walk you
7 through unmuting yourself.

8 If you have a red microphone,
9 you will need to hover over it with your
10 mouse and click on it, and it will turn
11 green, and once you see the green
12 microphone, you're ready to proceed.

13 And if you are calling in with
14 your phone, the comments on the screen
15 at this time can help you walk through
16 on your phone. And if you get through
17 on the phone, please make sure the
18 computer itself is self-muted or we'll
19 get feedback. We'll keep trying
20 Mr. Dillard.

21 Next individual to give public
22 comment is Thomas Hulco, followed by
23 Brian Moore. Mr. Hulco, if you can hear
24 us, please proceed.

25 (ZOOM technical difficulties).

1 MR. FRANKLIN:

2 Thomas Hulco, you're now up to
3 speak. And, again, if you're having
4 audio difficulty, you can look at the
5 screen and it will walk you through to
6 unmute yourself.

7 Okay. We think that Mr. Hulco
8 is getting close. If you see that
9 microphone icon next to the word
10 "audio," if it is red, if you will just
11 click on that, it will turn green and
12 then we can hear you.

13 Okay, we'll continue to reach
14 out to Mr. Hulco, and we'll go next to
15 Brian Moore. Brian Moore, you are now
16 up to give your public comment.

17 MR. BRIAN MOORE:

18 Hi, good evening. Thanks for
19 having me. Thanks for doing all you're
20 doing. And really, thanks to everyone
21 on the panel for all you've done to move
22 the ball forward with the Mid-Barataria
23 Sediment Diversion. It's important to
24 me and it's important to the
25 organization I represent, which is the

1 National Audubon Society, and our over
2 2 million members nationally, and also
3 important to us is 26,000 acres that we
4 own and manage and operate in Louisiana
5 that we've had for nearly a hundred
6 years. So we feel like we have a pretty
7 big stake in what's happening to the
8 Louisiana coast, but for lots of
9 reasons, and we would like to stand in
10 support of the Mid-Barataria Sediment
11 Diversion.

12 It's important for a whole lot
13 of reasons. One reason for us, as the
14 National Audubon Society, our focus is
15 on wildlife and habitat, and
16 particularly birds, and 40 percent of
17 birds that migrate through the U.S., the
18 United States, at some point in time in
19 their migration or other habits, stop on
20 the coast of Louisiana, so there could
21 not be a more important place for
22 habitat for birds and other wildlife,
23 and this Mid-Barataria Sediment
24 Diversion has a real chance to help
25 bring back some of the wetlands that

1 birds and other wildlife find important.

2 I think, also important is what
3 the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion
4 will do to help stabilize the whole
5 ecosystem and also help provide some
6 protection for people and communities,
7 and, of course, for the economy in
8 coastal Louisiana, which are all
9 important to us.

10 And, finally, I'd like to say
11 I'm glad to see that there is a
12 significant amount of funding in the
13 proposal to work with potentially
14 impacted communities. We think that the
15 trustees and everyone involved should
16 really work as closely and
17 collaboratively with the potentially
18 affected communities as possible, and do
19 that in a transparent way so that, you
20 know, we can all be a part of the
21 process.

22 And that is it for me. Thank
23 you very much and have a great evening.

24 MR. LaBORDE:

25 Thank you for your comment,

1 Mr. Moore.

2 MR. FRANKLIN:

3 The next individual to give
4 public comment is Dian Campbell. And
5 please state your name, for the record,
6 and if you're representing an
7 organization, please give the name of
8 the organization. You now have three
9 minutes, Ms. Campbell.

10 MS. DIAN CAMPBELL:

11 Hi, my name is Dian Campbell.
12 I'm a resident of the Lake Hermitage
13 area and I had a couple of questions and
14 I also have a comment.

15 I, too, living in the Lake
16 Hermitage area, can see a need for us to
17 take some type of action for the coastal
18 erosion. Actually, you can tell within
19 the last 10 years how massive it's
20 become.

21 But part of my question has to
22 do with the type of diversion that we're
23 speaking of. If it's -- if I'm
24 understanding correctly, you're going to
25 transport the sediment by moving water,

1 and I'm just wondering why is that
2 favorable to actually -- I know when we
3 had now Lieutenant Governor Billy
4 Nungesser as Parish President, he had
5 proposed doing dredges and moving the
6 fill in that manner, to be successful.
7 That was one of my questions.

8 And the other part that I'm
9 questioning is, by pumping in all of
10 this water from the river, we all know
11 that the river is not free of any type
12 of hazards or chemicals. We just
13 recently had where millions or billions
14 of tiny pellets were discharged and no
15 one took claim to that being a hazardous
16 material, and they're still sitting out
17 there, so you're going to have that type
18 of contamination introduced into the
19 bayous. What are you doing for
20 protecting fish from that?

21 MR. LaBORDE:

22 Okay. Thank you for your
23 comment. It did sound like, at least
24 the beginning of your comment, you had a
25 question that fell along the lines of

1 alternatives. We do have a
2 comprehensive alternative writeup in
3 Chapter 2 of the EIS and it does talk
4 about different coastal restoration
5 tools, including marsh creation and some
6 of the dredging alternatives that maybe
7 you were making reference to with your
8 comment. So I would suggest that you
9 reference that section.

10 In addition to that, there are
11 other projects that are going on in the
12 Basin that, you know -- this project is
13 being reviewed as a sediment diversion,
14 but there are other projects in the
15 works that are along the lines of
16 coastal restoration, and it's not really
17 a choice of one or the other.

18 It's -- I think CPRA would say
19 the diversion would work in conjunction
20 with some of these projects.

21 So, let's see, we may have to
22 circle back for a couple of your other
23 comments and we can update you where to
24 reference some of the material to answer
25 some of your other questions in a bit.

1 MR. LANDRY:

2 Right, Brad. And this is Mel
3 Landry from the Louisiana Trustee
4 Implementation Group. I work for NOAA,
5 as a trustee with that group, and I just
6 wanted to also point to our Strategic
7 Restoration Plan for the Barataria
8 Basin, where the trustees evaluated
9 multiple approaches to restoring for
10 injuries caused by the spill in the
11 Basin, and the trustees actually
12 selected, in that plan, three
13 approaches, one of which is this
14 large-scale sediment diversion, which
15 we're evaluating here.

16 But we also selected
17 large-scale marsh creation and ridge
18 restoration, and those other two
19 projects will harvest sediment from the
20 river and pump it via pipeline to
21 restore wetlands in the Basin, and those
22 two have actually already been approved
23 for construction and are expected to
24 begin construction this year.

25 MR. FRANKLIN:

1 Thank you very much. I'd like
2 to go back to Mr. Thomas Hulco.
3 Mr. Hulco, you can proceed with your
4 public comment.

5 (ZOOM technical difficulties).

6 MR. FRANKLIN:

7 And, Mr. Dillard, if you are
8 still on and you can hear us, we're
9 going to come to you next. We know that
10 we're working through your technical
11 difficulties as well.

12 Okay. Mr. Hulco did something
13 that is very useful and helpful and I'd
14 like to explain what he did. He sort of
15 pivoted to the chat box, and he has
16 placed his comments in the chat box, and
17 so at this time, I'll ask Mr. LaBorde to
18 go through those items in the chat box.

19 And that is an option. If you
20 are having a technical issue or you just
21 don't want to give a verbal comment, but
22 you still want your comment to be a part
23 of this meeting, I invite you to go to
24 the chat box and simply type in your
25 comment or your question and we'll get

1 to those at this time. Mr. LaBorde.

2 MR. LaBORDE:

3 Yeah, so I can run through some
4 of the chats here. I don't know if this
5 will capture all of his comments, so if
6 there's more that he would like to say
7 here, verbally, I would hope that he
8 would stick around and try to work
9 through his issues.

10 But there was a comment that he
11 made, or a question, about whether or
12 not the Park Service, the Jefferson
13 Parish Council, the Lafitte Area
14 Independent Levee District, and the town
15 of Lafitte, what were their positions on
16 the project. I don't know what their
17 position is on the project.

18 We have about 2,000 comments
19 inhouse. We have people monitoring the
20 comments as they roll in. I don't
21 believe that we've gotten comments from
22 any one of those entities at this time.

23 I will say that the Department
24 of Interior, to which the National Park
25 Service is a bureau of, is a cooperating

1 agency on the EIS, and they're also part
2 of the Trustee Implementation Group
3 which drafted the Restoration Plan, and
4 you heard from Mel a little bit earlier
5 and he's one of the leads on that.

6 So we haven't received any
7 official comments, but they are, at
8 least the National Park Service, by way
9 of the Department of Interior, is
10 involved with the review.

11 We had a second chat here that
12 had to do with oyster beds in the
13 Barataria Basin, whether there was
14 historical information.

15 In Chapter 3 of the EIS, in
16 Aquatics, that would be
17 Section 3.10.5.2., there is background
18 information regarding oyster beds that
19 can be found there. In addition to that
20 section in Chapter 3, we have the
21 Commercial Fisheries section, which is
22 3.14.3 of the draft EIS, to find some
23 information about oysters.

24 Your question was specific
25 maybe to references and historical

1 information, so when you do reference
2 that information, there will be
3 references available to you, that you
4 could then reference Chapter 10, which
5 is our References section, that you can
6 line up some of the references that are
7 cited in Chapter 3. And if you wanted
8 to find those specific papers, you could
9 find the citations there and look those
10 up.

11 And, once again, I don't know
12 if that addresses your full comment,
13 sir, but, you know, if it doesn't, then
14 please continue to try and work through
15 the technical difficulties that we all
16 experience with these virtual calls.

17 I know, you know, we've done
18 one today that I had an issue with, so
19 it's -- I can relate to that.

20 We did get a comment via the
21 chat that was asked to be read in its
22 entirety, so I'll do so now. It's from
23 Mr. Haaland Drake.

24 Has any consideration been
25 given to aerial seeding of black

1 mangroves in order to stabilize newly
2 formed land from hurricanes and other
3 storms? Even if a frost kills seeded
4 trees every decade or so, the dead trees
5 will stabilize new soil, and more can be
6 seeded the next year.

7 Thank you for that suggestion.
8 I do not think that aerial seeding of
9 blank mangroves or any other plant or
10 shrub species has been considered, but
11 it is something that maybe we can look
12 at for the final.

13 There is a full suite of
14 alternatives that you can review and
15 take a look at -- well, both
16 alternatives and project design features
17 that you can consider, in Chapter 2, for
18 your review. That's the Alternative
19 section. And then there's a little bit
20 more information in Appendix D. That
21 would be the Alternative section.
22 Again, that's Appendix D.

23 Let's see. I can circle back.
24 Do we want to try the folks on the
25 phone, once again, or do you want me to

1 circle back with some of these other
2 items here, Mr. Franklin?

3 MR. FRANKLIN:

4 The phone queue is idle. If
5 you would proceed.

6 MR. LaBORDE:

7 Okay. So earlier, there was a
8 comment that involved comparing land
9 building and land loss. I would suggest
10 that folks that have an interest in that
11 can take a look at Chapter 4 of the EIS.
12 That would be Chapter 4, Section 6.5,
13 and that's the Wetland Resources and
14 Waters of the U.S. chapter. In
15 particular, there's a table in there,
16 Table 4.6-3, that provides information
17 for each alternative, by decade, over
18 the 50-year analysis period.

19 So, again, that writeup would
20 include a discussion about the projected
21 acres of wetlands created and/or
22 maintained by the proposed project over
23 time as compared to the projected
24 acreage that would exist over time if
25 the project were not implemented, or the

1 no-action alternative of the EIS.

2 I think there was a prior
3 comment, too, about funding, and I had
4 said that, you know, it's a little bit
5 of an unknown, but I do have a note here
6 that says, "The Louisiana Trustee
7 Implementation Group has identified this
8 project as a preferred alternative," and
9 they're willing to provide up to \$2
10 billion in funding for the diversion, so
11 I wanted to make an update there.

12 There was also -- Ms. Ramirez's
13 comment had a question about how many
14 people are aware of the project. We do
15 have a pretty extensive mailing list, so
16 all of our public notices have been
17 mailed out to those folks, either by
18 email or traditional mail, and folks
19 that participate today that may not be
20 on that address, that address list, if
21 you registered, we can add you to that
22 for future mailings.

23 Let's see. The number of
24 commenters and state of residency is
25 provided in Chapter 7. So public

1 involvement, the Public Involvement
2 section of the FEIS. Hold up, I'm kind
3 of botching this.

4 Yeah, so we don't have an exact
5 percentage. It's impossible for us to
6 know that, but we do monitor the people
7 who do comment, and that will be
8 available in Chapter 7, the Public
9 Involvement chapter of the final EIS.

10 Let's see. Scrolling through
11 to a couple other chats here. This is
12 Ms. Ramirez's again. All right.
13 There's a chat question about the
14 companies that will be associated with
15 this project. The implementation of the
16 project will be conducted by CPRA if we
17 can -- if we can issue a permit for this
18 project, and it would be required to
19 follow Louisiana's Public Procurement
20 laws, which I am not aware of, so I
21 can't give you -- shed any light on
22 that, but companies that have already
23 been involved in the project can be
24 found through the Louisiana Division of
25 Administration and the Coastal

1 Protection and Restoration Authority.
2 Give me a moment here. All
3 right. There was part of a verbal
4 comment that had to do with chemicals,
5 hazards and contamination. We do have a
6 section in the EIS that can cover that
7 in more detail. Folks can check out
8 Chapter 4, Section 5. That's the
9 Surface Water and Sediment Quality, for
10 contamination. Chapter 4, Section 10,
11 that's the Aquatic Resources section.
12 You can get some information about
13 potential impacts to fish at that
14 location. And then Chapter 4.21, for
15 navigation, information on dredging due
16 to the project. So I wanted to follow
17 up there.

18 I think that pretty much
19 catches us up on the chat. There's a
20 few more here that we need to further
21 flesh out before we talk about it in
22 detail, so --

23 I'm showing 7:30, Mr. Franklin.
24 I don't know if now is a good time for a
25 bit of a break, and we can work on some

1 of these responses, as well as see if
2 there's folks that still want to get in
3 the queue for additional comment or for
4 a new comment.

5 MR. FRANKLIN:

6 We've got one gentleman who has
7 been very resilient. If we can get him
8 in.

9 MR. LaBORDE:

10 Great.

11 MR. FRANKLIN:

12 Mr. Dillard, we are ready for
13 your comment. Mr. Dillard, please
14 proceed.

15 MR. STEVE DILLARD:

16 Can you hear me now?

17 MR. FRANKLIN:

18 We can hear you, sir.

19 MR. STEVE DILLARD:

20 Oh, awesome. I thank you all
21 for your patience. My IT neighbor just
22 showed up and pressed the right button,
23 so -- I thank you all. Thank you,
24 James.

25 All right, guys. Look, I

1 appreciate it. Thank you for your
2 patience. I know I only have three
3 minutes and it took 45 to connect, so
4 here we go.

5 My name is Steve Dillard. I
6 live at 603 Martin Lane, commonly known
7 as Happy Jack, down in Port Sulphur.
8 I've been a resident down there a long
9 time, been in and out. It's a great
10 place. I want to see it stay. I
11 appreciate and love the coastal
12 restoration that you all are doing. I'm
13 all for it, for coastal restoration.

14 I don't know if your approach
15 is correct, but this is not the time or
16 place to go into that. It's too
17 detailed and I only have three minutes.

18 My immediate concern is the
19 flooding of the road on Happy Jack. If
20 you all are going to raise this water to
21 the levels you all are talking about, we
22 already can't get in and out of the
23 road, to begin with. You all are going
24 to have to significantly raise and
25 modify this road. This is nothing but a

1 little bitty shell gravel road, that's
2 all we got, and it floods out right now
3 beaucoup times a year. So that's issue
4 one.

5 Secondly, my dock, at present,
6 goes under water, so if you're going to
7 add more water to it, I'm not going to
8 be able to use the underside of my
9 house. If I can't use the underside of
10 my house, you're going to say, okay,
11 we'll mitigate and raise your dock.
12 There you go, I like that, go ahead and
13 raise my dock.

14 But now you've got to turn
15 around and you've got to raise my camp,
16 because now I can't get underneath my
17 house. So I've got some issues.

18 And the only other comment I
19 got out there -- and I appreciate all
20 the translators that's on there -- but
21 how come we ain't got no cajun
22 translator? And that's just a joke, but
23 I love you all. So that's what I've
24 got.

25 And the other thing in your

1 presentation, Brad, that you had
2 ongoing, I believe, you all talked about
3 you don't have any present -- you all
4 did a bunch of computer models, and
5 this, that and the other, that you all
6 created to speculate what may happen
7 with this river diversion and so on.
8 Well, you got a great model right across
9 the street, Mardi Gras Pass. What has
10 Mardi Gras pass done for us? Has it
11 been positive? Has it been negative?

12 And I'll go ahead and leave all
13 my comments there, and I hope someone
14 circles back, and please don't cite
15 chapters of books for me to read. I
16 love you, Brad, thank you, but no.

17 I want to know specifically,
18 are you all going to take care of the
19 road, the docks, the houses. What are
20 you all going to do to mitigate the
21 increased water? And I thank you all
22 for your patience.

23 MR. LaBORDE:

24 Thank you for the comment. I
25 like the energy that you brought, so I

1 appreciate that, and I know it is -- it
2 maybe is a little frustrating to hear me
3 read off sections and chapters to you,
4 but at least for us at the Corps, we do
5 feel like the document kind of speaks
6 for itself. I'm not going to tell you
7 to go read it, but I can't necessarily
8 give you an answer there either.

9 But I will say, also, that as
10 far as mitigation goes, it wouldn't be
11 the Corps that would be implementing
12 that. If the Corps did approve of this
13 project, it would be CPRA that's
14 responsible for implementing any of the
15 mitigation that would be addressed in
16 their mitigation plan.

17 Again, mitigation is something
18 that's in the EIS. I believe it's
19 Chapter 4.27, and also we have an
20 appendix that would cover that as well.
21 For raising roads and docks, I do
22 believe that there is some information
23 in there. Let's see. I lost my spot on
24 the page here, but --

25 Yeah, so I don't know if

1 there's anything else to add there, and
2 I apologize for being a little bland
3 with my responses, but it's important
4 for the Corps to point to the document,
5 as needed, because the Corps, we're just
6 here in a regulatory capacity at this
7 time.

8 The project is still very much
9 in review and we're non-biased with our
10 review. We have a team of third-party
11 contractors and subject matter experts
12 that are going through, you know, best
13 available science and some of the
14 information, putting together some of
15 the information that's in the EIS.

16 So I don't want to say
17 something that would, you know, make you
18 believe that we're leaning one way or
19 the other on this, because at this time
20 we don't know ourselves where we're
21 headed with our decision, so -- that's
22 it for me.

23 MR. FRANKLIN:

24 Thank you. At this time we're
25 going to go on a break, and let me

1 advise you that this does not mean that
2 the portal is going to be closed. If
3 you would like to get into the speaking
4 queue, simply go into the questions box
5 and type in your name and you will be
6 first in line when we come back from
7 break. And we're going to propose to
8 come back at 7:45 p.m. Central Standard
9 Time. 7:45 p.m. Central Standard, we'll
10 come back. If you also want to place
11 your items in the chat box, feel free to
12 do that as well.

13 We will resume at 7:45. This
14 portal will not close, and we'll come
15 back on at that time. Thank you very
16 much.

17 (Break was taken).

18 MR. FRANKLIN:

19 Okay, ladies and gentlemen, we
20 are now back from that brief break, and
21 I would just like to remind everyone, if
22 they would like to get into the speaking
23 queue, simply type your name into the
24 questions box and we will call on you to
25 do so.

1 If you would like to give your
2 public comment via the chat, that is
3 also an option for you, and later on
4 this evening, we will give you the other
5 methods of which you can offer your
6 public comment.

7 If I can ask Ms. Soto, followed
8 by Mr. Nguyen and Mr. Te, to assist with
9 giving these instructions, I would
10 appreciate it. Ms. Soto.

11 MS. SOTO:

12 Thank you. (Spanish
13 translation). Gracias.

14 MR. FRANKLIN:

15 Thank you. Mr. Nguyen.

16 MR. NGUYEN:

17 (Vietnamese translation).

18 Thank you.

19 MR. FRANKLIN:

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

22 MR. TE:

23 Thank you. (Khmer
24 translation). Thank you.

25 MR. FRANKLIN:

1 Thank you to our translators.
2 At this time, Mr. LaBorde, the speaker's
3 queue is idle. Do you have anything in
4 the chat?

5 MR. LaBORDE:

6 Yeah, I can circle back.
7 Mr. Dillard, I had responded to his
8 comment and I had mentioned it earlier,
9 but I don't think it was part of my
10 response to him, so it sounded like, you
11 know, instead of directing him to parts
12 of the EIS, he wanted to speak with
13 people, and that's completely
14 understandable, and I just wanted to
15 remind folks of the community level
16 meetings that CPRA is in the process of
17 coordinating with residents of different
18 communities, further in the Barataria
19 Basin.

20 So I would suggest that you
21 reach out to CPRA. You can do that by
22 email at coastal@la.gov to get more
23 information about those meetings. I
24 think there is also some mail-outs
25 proposed for those, so be on the lookout

1 for that.

2 I'll remind folks that that's
3 not necessarily something that's going
4 to be facilitated or attended by the
5 Corps, but folks can attend those
6 meetings and try to provide feedback to
7 CPRA about these impacts for
8 consideration for their future
9 mitigation efforts. So just a reminder
10 there.

11 Let's see. So there's a chat
12 question about additional virtual
13 meetings. This is our last meeting.
14 However, we've held, counting this one,
15 a total of three now, so those meetings
16 will be available on the Corps website
17 once we have them recorded and the
18 transcripts ready; all of that will be
19 available there so people can go back
20 and re-review that.

21 Also, these meetings are
22 available on the Corps of Engineers
23 Facebook page, so if people are more
24 familiar with Facebook, they can check
25 out the meetings there.

1 And also to remind folks that,
2 you know, this meeting and these
3 settings aren't the only way to comment.
4 You can comment via traditional mail or
5 comment portal, or we have a phone
6 number for folks, and we've reiterated
7 that a few times here, but I just wanted
8 to bring that up again.

9 How ever you choose to comment,
10 they all carry similar weight. You
11 know, we don't favor a verbal comment
12 over a written comment or vice versa.
13 So go ahead and get your comments in.
14 We will accept those through May 4th.
15 That means if, on May 4th, you're
16 reviewing your last bit of the EIS and
17 you want to get something out then, you
18 can either email it or drop it in the
19 mailbox, and as long as it's postmarked
20 for May 4th, we'll go ahead and take
21 that comment and make it a part of the
22 record for consideration with the final
23 EIS.

24 Oh, there's a question here
25 about potential internships for working

1 on the project. That's a smart and good
2 question. We didn't outline internships
3 in the EIS or the Restoration Plan, but
4 Appendix R does have a monitoring and
5 Adaptive Management Plan, so you can see
6 the ongoing efforts that are being
7 conducted through operations, again, if
8 we work through this process and the
9 Corps determines that we can issue a
10 permit for it, as well as our TIG folks
11 decide that they are going to fund this
12 effort.

13 So, again, we're very much into
14 the review portion of this project, so
15 details aren't known at this point, but
16 over time, once, you know, it's known,
17 the direction of the project, and if
18 there is construction activities, I
19 think at that time CPRA might be ramping
20 up, or some local universities or
21 entities may be looking for intern
22 options. But maybe by that point,
23 you'll have -- you'll have a job at the
24 Corps, or CPRA, too, so don't sell
25 yourself short there.

1 Okay. We have another question
2 here about land loss, day-to-day loss as
3 a result of the diversion.

4 Yeah, so when it comes to land
5 loss and the review of the project, I
6 don't think we did a day-to-day
7 comparison. If you do reference the
8 section of the EIS -- I apologize for my
9 issues with the spreadsheet here today.
10 I'll get that to you all in a second.

11 But we do have, you know, a
12 comparison by decade that kind of shows
13 land loss rates versus what's expected
14 as a result of the diversion, if
15 constructed. Not just for the
16 applicants preferred, but also the
17 alternatives as well.

18 All right. So I think we
19 talked about black mangroves earlier.
20 There's another comment here about red
21 mangroves being planted by shallow draft
22 vessels for newly formed land. Again,
23 that's a suggestion that we can make
24 part of the record and we'll consider
25 that while we're developing the final

1 EIS. Okay.

2 MR. FRANKLIN:

3 And while you're going through
4 those chats, we do have another
5 individual to give public comment.

6 MR. LaBORDE:

7 Great.

8 MR. FRANKLIN:

9 Okay. At this time I'd like to
10 acknowledge Ms. Natalie Snider to give
11 public comment. You have three minutes,
12 Ms. Snider, and if you're representing
13 an organization, if you'll state the
14 name of the organization, following your
15 name. Please proceed.

16 MS. NATALIE SNIDER:

17 Thank you, Perry. I am the
18 Senior Director of Coastal Resilience at
19 the Environmental Defense Fund, and a
20 few things I would like to compliment
21 the team on is, No. 1, as in my previous
22 life, working on a lot of EIS's and
23 tracking those, it's a very complete and
24 amazing document that you've put
25 together.

1 No. 2, having the translation
2 here on the webinar, it's unfortunate it
3 hasn't been used as much as we would
4 have hoped, but for all the translators
5 that are here, we appreciate you being
6 here and spending your time here,
7 because it's important to at least have
8 that inclusion and that availability of
9 inclusion in these, in this work. And
10 we know, in coastal Louisiana, we are
11 diverse and that's what makes us the
12 gumbo, right? And I do look forward to
13 the cajun translating on this project,
14 so I'm looking forward to that coming.

15 You know, Brad, you mentioned
16 the operations and adaptive management,
17 and I think that's where I want to focus
18 my comment is, you know, making sure
19 that people understand, and being more
20 clear about how this is not a project
21 that is put in place and you walk away
22 from. It is operated every day, every
23 year, multiple years, and there's a lot
24 of decisions that have to be made on a
25 daily and annual basis about how

1 operations occur, when it's open, when
2 it's not.

3 So I commend CPRA for putting
4 in the monitoring, putting in
5 substantial money for the monitoring to
6 make sure that we understand what the
7 response is of this ecosystem and these
8 communities to this project, which is
9 fundamentally important.

10 I request that the adaptive
11 management be expanded, the governance
12 be more inclusive of not only the
13 natural resource users, but the
14 communities that are being impacted
15 should be part of that conversation and
16 that adaptive management program.

17 But all in all, great job to
18 all you guys in doing a very robust
19 scientific analysis, and we look forward
20 to working with you, as the Adaptive
21 Management Program evolves over time.
22 Thank you.

23 MR. LaBORDE:

24 All right. Thanks for the
25 comment, and the kudos, we'll certainly

1 accept that. Much appreciated. And I
2 did like that you recognized our
3 translators. It's important to us that
4 they are here and available to folks,
5 should they want to comment, so that's
6 definitely noted as well.

7 MR. FRANKLIN:

8 Thank you so very much. We
9 also would like to remind anyone --
10 there's still 66 individuals attending
11 this webinar -- and if you would like to
12 make a comment, and we're in that
13 portion of tonight's webinar to receive
14 your comment, you simply just need to
15 type your name into the questions box to
16 get it into the speaking queue, and I'll
17 ask Ms. Soto to assist with those
18 instructions.

19 MS. SOTO:

20 Thank you. (Spanish
21 translation). 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. Mr. Te.

4 MR. TE:

5 (Khmer translation). Thank

6 you.

7 MR. FRANKLIN:

8 Thank you, Mr. Te. Kieran, if
9 you could bring me to the slide, how to
10 comment. I'd like to remind everyone
11 that there are multiple ways to comment
12 on the draft EIS or NRDA RP.

13 You can take the final hour of
14 tonight's meeting and you can make
15 verbal comment. You can also go and
16 submit your comments electronically at
17 the top URL. You can use traditional
18 mail and submit your written comments to
19 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at the
20 address shown, and, of course, that
21 needs to be postmarked on or before
22 May 4th. You can submit your oral
23 comments after this evening's meeting by
24 calling the toll-free number,
25 866-211-9205. And tonight represents

1 the last of three consecutive public
2 meetings, and so there's an hour
3 remaining on tonight's public meeting.

4 And, Mr. LaBorde, do we have
5 any items in the chat?

6 MR. LaBORDE:

7 Yeah, the chat is a little bit
8 more active than yesterday, so -- we
9 have another request from Mr. Thomas
10 Hulco, to read a comment aloud, which I
11 will do. He says, I am a property owner
12 in lower Lafitte. It represents my home
13 and business. I am an environmental
14 armchair historian and believe in the
15 concept of living with water. I am
16 particularly concerned about mitigation.
17 I will reserve my viewpoint.

18 So, first, I'd like to
19 apologize and, you know, I understand
20 the frustrations with the technical
21 issues, and remind folks that the
22 meeting is being recorded and will be
23 available to folks on the Corps website,
24 and, again, it is on the Corps of
25 Engineers, New Orleans District, their

1 Facebook page as well.

2 For information on mitigation
3 measures, I would suggest that you check
4 out Appendix R of the EIS. That's the
5 Mitigation and Monitoring and Adaptive
6 Management Plan. All of that is CPRA's
7 suggested measures for both mitigation
8 and monitoring and adaptive management.

9 I've got a couple more here.
10 From Mr. Drake, what about the potential
11 of a category four or a five hurricane
12 straight up the mouth of the Mississippi
13 River, which is definitely a concern,
14 with or without the diversion. It is
15 about storm surge.

16 So the Corps did review an
17 Ad-Circ Study from CPRA, so we did do an
18 analysis on that. I can get you some
19 additional information where maybe you
20 could find that here in a bit.

21 But I would also remind you
22 that, per CPRA's operation plan, they do
23 propose to close the structure during
24 hurricanes and tropical storm activity,
25 so there would be the potential for

1 water to draw down in the Basin before
2 we have a tropical event, should the
3 project be constructed.

4 There's one about -- okay, so
5 this might be a misunderstanding and
6 it's probably my fault. So when I say
7 50-year design life, I don't mean the
8 project, from an engineering standard.
9 It's the Corps' review period for the
10 EIS. So we're just looking at the
11 benefits and the detriments over time of
12 the project, over the 50-year analysis
13 period. So we're not referring to the
14 design life of the project itself.

15 The Corps, we do have an
16 interest in maintaining the federal
17 levees at that location, and in CPRA's
18 structure, we would expect them to
19 maintain it to Corps standard as well,
20 so that's a separate process that we
21 have here at the Corps. And it is part
22 of this review. So, sorry for the
23 misunderstanding there.

24 Okay. So there's an additional
25 comment here about provisions being made

1 for flows, based upon real world
2 experience rather than computer models.

3 There's a comment about 5,000
4 cfs, which is the base flow or proposed
5 base flow; tides and winds should
6 require adjustments in flow as well as
7 sea level rise. So, again, that
8 comment's noted.

9 I mean, we understand that, and
10 for a review purpose, it's not really --
11 you don't want to throw in too many
12 variables for the review. For us, it
13 was important to understand when CPRA
14 planned to turn the diversion both off
15 and on, so that we could get the full --
16 we could try and capture the full
17 impacts, whether it be benefit or a
18 detriment associated with the project.

19 There is some additional
20 information. So, yeah, this can be
21 further explained in Section 4.1 of the
22 draft EIS, so -- I think it was brought
23 up in Brad Barth's presentation, but --
24 when the river flow at Belle Chasse, at
25 the Belle Chasse gauge in the

1 Mississippi River is above 450,000 cfs,
2 that's cubic feet per second, the flow
3 through the diversion will be in
4 relation to the flow of the river.

5 And, again, my spreadsheet's
6 jumping around today, and maybe it's my
7 eyes, too, it's getting late here, so I
8 apologize if I'm not being clear, but --

9 Okay. So when the flow of the
10 river is at 450K, the diversion would be
11 in operation, and that flow, through the
12 diversion, would be dependent upon the
13 flow at the gauge at that time, once it
14 goes over 450 cfs.

15 All right. There's one or two
16 more here that we're trying to flesh out
17 more before we address those any
18 further.

19 MR. FRANKLIN:

20 And while the team is working
21 on those comments, again, we'll ask to
22 see if there are any individuals who
23 would like to make public comment at
24 this time. If so, if you will simply
25 just type your name into the questions

1 box, we can then acknowledge you
2 properly.

3 So we'll just take a brief
4 pause here and see if there are any
5 names that will come in through the
6 questions box.

7 MR. LaBORDE:

8 Okay. We have one here about
9 the design life again, so -- I just want
10 to remind people, I mean, for our review
11 period, the 50 years was something that
12 was a reasonable and realistic time
13 frame that we could make our best
14 analysis guesses, I guess, so to speak,
15 so beyond 50 years -- or you could just
16 say, you know, as time goes on, your
17 guesses are going to be more and more --
18 there's going to be more uncertainty
19 there.

20 So after 50 years, it was
21 considered to us to be no longer useful
22 to make those guesses, so -- it is a
23 little arbitrary on, you know, where you
24 pick to stop with your review, but 50
25 years was what we did for this analysis.

1 And that's not to say if the
2 project is still viable after 50 years,
3 it wouldn't continue. It may, if
4 constructed and permitted. But a lot of
5 the things that we're talking about with
6 respect to mitigation and adaptive
7 management, I believe those things would
8 still apply as well.

9 And I think that gets us up to
10 date with the chat.

11 MR. FRANKLIN:

12 Okay. We're going to go ahead
13 and go on a break. This portal will not
14 close, and if you are one of the 64
15 individuals who are still participating
16 in this webinar, there's multiple things
17 that you can do on this break. You can
18 type your name into the questions box to
19 get into the speaking queue, and when we
20 return, we will call upon you. You can
21 type your comment or question into the
22 chat box and we will speak those out
23 aloud and respond accordingly.

24 And we will be back at
25 8:30 p.m. It is now 8:11 p.m. Central

1 Standard Time. We will return at
2 8:30 p.m. This portal will remain open
3 during that break, and we will resume
4 with any speakers that are in the queue
5 at that time and also resume with going
6 through the chat at that time.

7 We will turn cameras off and
8 return at 8:30 p.m. The portal will
9 remain open. Thank you.

10 (Break was taken).

11 MR. FRANKLIN:

12 All right, ladies and
13 gentlemen, thank you for participating
14 in tonight's webinar, the Mid-Barataria
15 Sediment Diversion Virtual Public
16 Meeting. Tonight marks the third of
17 three meetings that have been held.

18 The first was on Tuesday,
19 April 6th, at 9:00 a.m. The second one
20 was on Wednesday, April 7th, at
21 1:00 p.m., and tonight's meeting began
22 at 6:00 p.m., all Central Standard Time.

23 At this time, there are no
24 speakers in the speaking queue, but I
25 believe that there are some chats that

1 have been coming in, and I'll turn to
2 Brad LaBorde, with the U.S. Army Corps
3 of Engineers, to discuss those chats.

4 MR. LaBORDE:

5 All right. We do have a couple
6 more here. One has to do with the
7 sediment diversion being, I guess, a
8 channel builder that, you know, flows
9 and leads to different channels and
10 rivers. Has there been any discussion
11 about building a man-made river. The
12 man-made river might help with flooding
13 if constructed right.

14 So I would say that the
15 diversion, as proposed, is a bit of a
16 man-made river that is short in scale or
17 distance, I would say, but it does -- it
18 does reconnect the Basin, or that's as
19 it's proposed to do.

20 So we do have Chapter 2, the
21 Alternative section that describes the
22 features, the project features in
23 detail, and also we have the Impacts
24 section in Chapter 4, Section 2, of
25 Geology and Soils, for you to take a

1 look at with respect to addressing maybe
2 this comment in more detail.

3 Before our break, I think,
4 about the 8:00 o'clock hour, and being
5 that, the folks that are still on, we
6 got quite a bit of rain last night, and
7 I had company at about 3:00 a.m., so I
8 don't know, maybe at 8:00 o'clock, I
9 kind of ran out of gas, but --

10 I did get tripped up when
11 describing the project and some of the
12 flows, so maybe it would be a good
13 idea -- I know, maybe we can get some
14 clarification on that, and also we have
15 a comment here about sand particle size,
16 which is important. It's something that
17 we looked at in detail when we were
18 drafting the EIS. We talk about that
19 quite a bit in Chapter 2, as well as
20 Sections 4.2 and 4.4, where we talk
21 about land building from the diversion.
22 That's explained in detail there.

23 But with respect to the flows
24 and maybe some of the sand particle
25 discussion, we can turn it over to the

1 applicant, CPRA, to shed some light on
2 that maybe with the rest of our time
3 today. Brad?

4 MR. FRANKLIN:

5 You're on mute, Mr. Barth.

6 MR. LaBORDE:

7 I'm sorry if I surprised you,
8 Brad. All right, that may have been a
9 bad idea. See, they had bad weather up
10 in Baton Rouge as well last night, so --

11 MR. BARTH:

12 Hey, can you hear me now?

13 MR. LaBORDE:

14 We sure can.

15 MR. FRANKLIN:

16 We can. Proceed.

17 MR. BARTH:

18 Sorry about that. The wifi
19 went out here at the State, so we had to
20 reboot and it just wouldn't reconnect
21 me.

22 But I think some of the
23 question was about the sand and the silt
24 and the clay distribution and the
25 sediment particles related to the river

1 and so forth.

2 And just to give you a little
3 bit of background, we have looked at
4 numerous different invert elevations and
5 such, in terms of being deeper or being
6 shallower, and relatively, what we see
7 is not necessarily a big difference in
8 the depth of the invert, but how big the
9 arm of your capture is or your width of
10 your structure to bring the water from
11 the river into the structure with the
12 sediment.

13 So more of the capture zones,
14 if you kind of think of a vacuum cleaner
15 catching stuff out of the river, the
16 bigger nozzle you have to catch it with,
17 it seems to be a little bit more
18 important than what we see on the
19 actual, the depth of the invert of
20 pulling stuff from the river. So
21 hopefully that helps out a little bit on
22 your comment.

23 MR. LaBORDE:

24 Yeah, and, Brad, I got -- I'm
25 sorry. So I wanted to see if you want

1 to address -- I got tripped up on the
2 operations with the flows in the Belle
3 Chasse gauge, so I didn't know if you
4 wanted to take an opportunity to clean
5 up my mess there.

6 MR. BARTH:

7 No, I think, generally you had
8 it pretty good. So the operational
9 criteria is 450,000 cfs in the river, in
10 terms of that capacity to turn on or
11 open up the gates.

12 At that point, approximately,
13 depending on what the head differential
14 is between the river and the basin, it
15 would be approximately about 35,000 cfs
16 at that initial opening, and then as you
17 approach the million cfs, that's when
18 you would reach more of the 75,000 cfs
19 and the max capacity of the diversion
20 design.

21 And, again, that's generally in
22 the flood season or the high-river
23 season, and the times outside of the
24 high-river season, where we're below
25 450,000 cfs, there would be a base flow

1 of up to 5,000 cfs.

2 So hopefully that helps clarify
3 that comment as well.

4 MR. LaBORDE:

5 Appreciate it. Okay, I think
6 that catches us up on the chat, so -- I
7 don't see anything that needs further
8 addressing on our sheet here.

9 So I think we can take a second
10 and see if folks have any additional
11 information, give folks a minute to
12 provide their chat, if needed, and we'll
13 sit tight here. We are here till 9:00,
14 so --

15 MR. FRANKLIN:

16 So we would just like to remind
17 everyone that it is very simple to get
18 your name into the speaker's queue.
19 Simply type your name into the questions
20 box to get into the speaking queue.

21 At this time, I would like to
22 ask Ms. Soto to assist, then Mr. Nguyen
23 and Mr. Te, on those instructions,
24 please.

25 MS. SOTO:

1 (Spanish translation).

2 Gracias.

3 MR. FRANKLIN:

4 Thank you. Mr. Nguyen.

5 MR. NGUYEN:

6 (Vietnamese translation).

7 Thank you.

8 MR. FRANKLIN:

9 Thank you, Mr. Nguyen. And

10 Mr. Te.

11 MR. TE:

12 Thank you. (Khmer

13 translation). Thank you.

14 MR. FRANKLIN:

15 Thank you, Mr. Te. And all of
16 the materials that have been presented
17 at tonight's meeting can be found on the
18 URL that's on the slide and you can
19 also -- we just want to remind you of
20 the many, many ways to make comment on
21 the draft EIS and on the NRDA RP.

22 You can do that electronically
23 by going to that first URL. You can
24 submit your written comments by U.S.
25 Mail at the address for the U.S. Army

1 Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
2 there.

3 And those comments just need to
4 be in, all comments, by or before
5 May 4th, and U.S. Mail, it just needs to
6 be postmarked by May 4th.

7 And if you're comfortable
8 speaking your comment, after tonight's
9 meeting, you can do so as well until
10 May 4th by calling 866-211-9205.
11 866-211-9205.

12 And there's about 20 minutes
13 remaining on this third and final public
14 meeting and we're here until 9:00 p.m.,
15 and, again, you only need to submit your
16 comments via one of these methods and
17 they all carry equal weight.

18 So at this time we will just
19 pause and see if there's additional
20 chats that come in or additional
21 individuals who may desire to give
22 verbal comment at this time, and so we
23 will just take a pause.

24 (Pause).

25 MR. FRANKLIN:

1 And if you joined us late in
2 the evening, in addition to the
3 representatives of the U.S. Army Corps
4 of Engineers, and NOAA and CPRA, that
5 you see on the screen, there are also
6 other Louisiana Trustee Implementation
7 Group members who are also listening in
8 on tonight's proceedings, including the
9 U.S. Department of the Interior, the
10 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,
11 and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
12 They're also listening and participating
13 in tonight's webinar.

14 MR. LaBORDE:

15 Thank you. And we can circle
16 back to a few more items here. I know
17 we talked about the design life quite a
18 bit, being 50 years, or clarifying the
19 50 years, that being the review period
20 for the EIS. And I know that if folks
21 are familiar with the CWPPRA process, I
22 know that those types of restoration
23 projects typically have a 20-year design
24 life or project review life.

25 The 50 years, one of the civil

1 works guys on our team chimed in and
2 said, hey, 50 years is a standard, so I
3 may have misspoke earlier, but I just
4 wanted to clarify that.

5 We have a question here about
6 sea level rise in the future. Did you
7 talk about sea level rise?

8 MR. BARTH:

9 Hey, Brad, I can clarify a
10 little bit on that, on the structure
11 side.

12 MR. LaBORDE:

13 Sure, go ahead.

14 MR. BARTH:

15 The design life is 50 years and
16 the service life is 100 years on the
17 structure, so real similar to what we
18 would see for making infrastructure type
19 projects, some other entities, how they
20 would tackle major infrastructure.

21 MR. LaBORDE:

22 Okay. Yeah, and there is a
23 question here about sea level rise and
24 that is something that we considered
25 throughout the EIS. How CPRA might

1 handle sea level rise with operations in
2 the future is certainly something that
3 folks can reference in Appendix R of the
4 EIS. That's CPRA's Monitoring and
5 Adaptive Management Plan. That's where
6 that's located.

7 We have another chat here
8 about -- oh, it has to do with the three
9 major projects referenced. So
10 perhaps -- and most of you are probably
11 tired of hearing from me anyway, so Mel,
12 if you want to chime in here, please do.

13 MR. LANDRY:

14 Yeah, happy to, Brad. So the
15 question was in reference to the three
16 projects that I mentioned earlier that
17 the Louisiana Trustee Implementation
18 Group approved as part of our Strategic
19 Restoration Plan, and those were a
20 large-scale marsh creation project just
21 north of the proposed diversion outfall,
22 called the Large-Scale Barataria Marsh
23 Project.

24 The other one is the Spanish
25 Pass Ridge and Marsh Restoration

1 Project, and the third one is a
2 Large-Scale Sediment Diversion that
3 we're further evaluating in this plan.

4 The question relates to how do
5 those -- what are the synergistic
6 benefits or how do they work together.

7 So the three projects provide
8 benefits all on their own, so they could
9 exist without the others and provide
10 benefits, particularly to meet the needs
11 of the Trustee Implementation Group
12 related to restoring for injuries caused
13 by the spill.

14 But because the spill caused
15 injuries at an ecosystem level, it's
16 important for us, as the Trustee
17 Implementation Group, to provide the
18 full suite of ecosystem benefits in the
19 basin that we can using a plethora and a
20 number of different approaches to
21 restoration.

22 So by building a marsh
23 platform, we help provide the benefits
24 that that habitat project provides. By
25 providing a ridge restoration project,

1 it provides different habitat benefits,
2 particularly some upland benefits and
3 benefits to birds, as well as the
4 adjacent marsh benefits.

5 And then this project, if
6 approved, would provide marsh creation
7 benefits. It would also sustain other
8 nearby wetlands projects, and it
9 provides additional benefits from the
10 connection of the river back to the
11 estuary, particularly related to helping
12 to bolster the base of the food web
13 through the inflow of sediment,
14 nutrients and fresh water into the
15 basin.

16 MR. LaBORDE:

17 Thanks, Mel. Okay. Moving
18 down the list here -- when will the
19 structure be operational, what year?

20 Of course, there's a lot of
21 variables at play with that, right. So,
22 again, the Corps is still reviewing
23 CPRA's proposed project and evaluating,
24 using the EIS as an evaluation tool, to
25 weigh all of the pros and cons of the

1 project. Once the final EIS is ready,
2 the Corps would then do a public
3 interest review, which would be the
4 final review of the Corps that would
5 determine whether or not it's in the
6 public's interest to issue, deny or
7 proffer another alternative to CPRA with
8 respect to their application.

9 So with that being the case,
10 it's hard to pinpoint the year, but if
11 the Corps did issue a permit for this
12 project, I'm certain that CPRA would act
13 quickly in beginning construction, and
14 that's -- also, I'm forgetting another
15 component here. There's the Restoration
16 Plan, the funding aspect with this
17 project as well.

18 So if there's a Corps approval
19 and CPRA has the money to begin work,
20 I'm sure they will do so. At that time
21 the construction time frame is expected
22 to be between three and five years.

23 We have a couple of thank-yous,
24 so I'll share that with the panel. As
25 well, Mel, you got a thank-you for your

1 explanation on the three projects as
2 well. And I think that gets us up to
3 date on the chat.

4 MR. FRANKLIN:

5 Okay. I think we'll just pause
6 here for another second.

7 MR. LaBORDE:

8 Okay. Yeah, and I will say,
9 for those that are still participating,
10 we did get some technical questions and
11 responses today, and if you are feeling
12 like we didn't fully address something
13 or, you know, we directed you somewhere
14 and that's not really what you wanted, I
15 mean, with all of these comments we do,
16 we will take them into consideration.

17 We will go back and look at the
18 draft EIS with reference to your
19 comments and see if there's any updates
20 that need to be done there before we
21 publish the final. And once that final
22 is complete, you know, it will go out to
23 the public. You know, that will be the
24 third step of our public involvement.

25 So back in 2017, we had our

1 scoping meetings, and here we are now,
2 reconvening with you all here virtually
3 to get comments on the draft EIS. And
4 what's currently scheduled for the
5 spring of next year, we hope to have a
6 final for you to, once again, to review
7 and comment on.

8 There's a question here about
9 maintaining and dredging navigation
10 channels. So with respect to this one,
11 the Corps is the main -- or the entity
12 that will maintain federal channels
13 affected by the project, so that would
14 be the Mississippi River, Southwest Pass
15 in the Mississippi River, Barataria
16 Basin Waterway, Bayou Lafourche, GIWW.
17 That's the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway.

18 The channels that are not
19 federal channels will either continue to
20 be maintained by local entities, if that
21 is a thing; it may be maintained by
22 CPRA, but it depends on the channel more
23 so in the outfall area where there isn't
24 Corps jurisdiction or Corps funding to
25 maintain navigation.

1 We do have information on
2 dredging in Chapter 4, Section 27, so
3 that's 4.27, and that's the Summary of
4 Mitigation where there might be some
5 more information there.

6 Okay. So we're all caught up
7 here with our eight minutes remaining.

8 MR. FRANKLIN:

9 And the speaker's queue is idle
10 at this time. And we would just remind
11 you, if there's still individuals who
12 are participating in the webinar, if you
13 wanted to take advantage of this moment
14 to make a verbal comment, please just
15 type your name in the questions box and
16 we will call upon you immediately.

17 MR. LaBORDE:

18 All right. The chat is still
19 quiet, on my end. So, Mr. Franklin, if
20 all is clear on your end, we can go
21 ahead and start wrapping up here. We
22 will keep the Go to Webinar open until
23 9:00 o'clock, but I think we're okay to
24 move forward with some of the closing
25 slides now.

1 MR. FRANKLIN:

2 Very well. Seeing that there
3 are no further requests to make public
4 comment at this time, this will conclude
5 the public comment portion of tonight's
6 webinar.

7 As Mr. LaBorde mentioned, we
8 will keep the portal open and active,
9 and so if you do send a chat in, we will
10 receive that chat.

11 We want to thank you for your
12 participation. If you find that you
13 have additional comments you would like
14 to make, or you were unable to make a
15 verbal comment tonight, please note that
16 you can do so in a number of ways,
17 including by regular mail,
18 electronically, through our online
19 forum, or by calling into a dedicated
20 phone line where you can leave a
21 four-minute message.

22 We appreciate all the input we
23 have received thus far and will continue
24 to receive through May 4th. As a
25 reminder, the feedback you provide will

1 be considered as part of the final EIS
2 and Restoration Plan that is scheduled
3 to be released in the spring of 2022,
4 which will inform the permit decisions
5 that will be made shortly thereafter.

6 Thank you all for attending
7 this webinar. We hope you found this
8 meeting informative. Please have a
9 great rest of your evening. Good night.

10 (Meeting closed at 9:00 p.m.)

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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.

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LINDA G. GRIFFIN, RPR
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**Attachment: Virtual Webinar Question/Comment
Chat Report**

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

Chat Report

Thursday, April 8, 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
Campbell	Dian	Dian Campbell - Lake Hermitage (question was asked verbally)	<p>*See oral transcript for additional verbal response.</p> <p>Thank you. We have added you to the speaking queue. See Chap 2 (Alternatives) for the full suite of alternatives considered in the EIS. See Chap 4, Section 4.21 (Navigation) for information on dredging due to the project. See Chap 4, Section 4.10 Aquatic Resources for discussion on impacts to fish. Chap 4, Section 4.5 (Surface Water and Sediment Quality) for contamination. The trustees evaluated other methods to restore the Barataria Basin as part of the Strategic Restoration Plan, including creating marshes by pumping sediment. The trustees selected multiple approaches to restoration including large scale marsh creation using dredges, ridge restoration, and a large scale sediment diversion.</p>
Drake	Alan S.	Has any consideration been given to aerial seeding of black mangrove in order to stabilize newly formed "land" from other hurricanes and storms? Even if a frost kills seeded trees every decade or so, the dead trees will still stabilize new soil. And more can be seeded the next year.	<p>*See oral transcript for additional verbal response.</p> <p>We have received your question. Our panelists may verbally summarize questions and provide clarifying answers.</p> <p>Aerial seeding of black mangrove has not been considered as a design feature for this project. The full suite of alternatives and project design features considered are described in Chapter 2: Alternatives and Appendix D: Alternatives Information.</p>
Drake	Alan S.	<p>I would like to add a red mangrove as a species to seed, potentially by a shallow draft boat, to stabilize newly formed land. This species currently exists in extreme southern Louisiana but floating seeds are unlikely to reach the project site in numbers.</p> <p>Again frost may kill it once a decade, but dead trees still stabilize land & they can be reseeded (by boat in this case per my understanding).</p>	<p>*See oral transcript for additional verbal response.</p> <p>Thank you. We have received your comment.</p>
Drake	Alan S.	One devastating path for a Cat 4 or 5 hurricane is straight up the Mississippi River. The hurricane shoves storm surge up the river. Standard operating plans should include diverting as much water as possible from the MS River when such a storm approaches. This would reduce loss of life & damage to property.	<p>*See oral transcript for additional verbal response.</p> <p>Thank you. We have received your comment.</p>
Drake	Alan S.	<p>I am appalled at the 50 year design life. I have worked on a hydroelectric project in Iceland with a 400 year design life! Steel headrace linings would be replaced every 250 years - and design provision was made to do so.</p> <p>This project should have a design life of at least 125 years - when sea level rise should overwhelm it.</p>	<p>*See oral transcript for additional verbal response.</p> <p>Thank you. We have received your comment.</p>
Drake	Alan S.	<p>Provisions should be made for adjusting flows based upon real world experience rather than computer models. I really question the "round number" of 5,000 cfs minimum flow. Tides & wind should require adjustments in flow - as well as sea level rise.</p> <p>I suggest performance criteria with "an estimated flow of roughly 5,000 cfs average" rather than a strict 5,000 cfs.</p> <p>The same is true for other flows as well.</p>	<p>*See oral transcript for additional verbal response.</p> <p>Thank you. We have received your comment.</p>
Drake	Alan S.	Addendum to 50 year design life: There is little question that this diversion structure and associated auxiliary structures will be in service beyond 50 years.	<p>*See oral transcript for additional verbal response.</p> <p>Thank you. We have received your comment.</p>

Drake	Alan S.	<p>Larger silt or river sand particles will be more stable and provide more enduring new land. On the other hand they typically settle closer to the diversion.</p> <p>Larger particles tend to be deeper in the river.</p> <p>Does the proposed structure capture at least some of the water from deeper in the river, seeking to capture these larger particles?</p> <p>May I suggest getting at least 10,000 cfs from deeper in the river - creating the option of getting all the minimum flow water from deep in the river with larger particle sizes.</p>	<p>*See oral transcript for additional verbal response.</p> <p>Thank you. We have received your question and will do our best to get you a response.</p>
Drake	Alan S.	<p>How will operations and goals change as sea level rises in the future ?</p> <p>At what level of sea level rise will the structure become useless ?</p>	<p>*See oral transcript for additional verbal response.</p> <p>Thank you. We have received your question and will do our best to get you a response.</p>
Drake	Alan S.	<p>When will the structure be operational? What year ?</p>	<p>*See oral transcript for additional verbal response.</p> <p>Thank you. We have received your question and will do our best to get you a response.</p>
Duong	Cristina	<p>Will you have more virtual meeting available after today?</p>	<p>*See oral transcript for additional verbal response.</p> <p>Thank you. We have received your question and will do our best to get you a response.</p>
Duong	Cristina	<p>Can I leave a public comment in a different language or it has to be in English?</p>	<p>Thank you Cristina, if you hang on the line a few more minutes we will try to get you an answer. Yes, you may submit a written or verbal comment in another language and it will be translated prior to review by the Corps and TIG.</p>
Duong	Cristina	<p>Great! Thank you so much. Good night and take care.</p>	<p>Thank you for attending!</p>
Halko	Thomas	<p>I am curious as to whether the Park Service, that now owns 5000+ acres on the East side of Bayou Barataria, has issued a view point related to this project. Additionally, I am interested in knowing as to whether Jefferson Parish Council, the Lafitte Area Independent Levee District and the Town of Jean Lafitte have taken positions on the project. And, if so, what are their respective positions?</p>	<p>*See oral transcript for additional verbal response.</p> <p>Thank you. We have received your question and will do our best to get you a response.</p> <p>Thank you for your comment. The Department of Interior, to which the National Park Service is a bureau, is a cooperating agency on the EIS, and a member of the Trustee Implementation Group which drafted the NRDA Restoration Plan and actively reviewed and commented on the development of the DEIS. We have not received comments yet from the other entities you list but if and when we do, they will be part of the public record for the Project and publicly available. Their input will be taken into consideration when we draft the Final EIS.</p>
Halko	Thomas	<p>Is there historical information as to Oyster Beds in the Barataria Basin? If so, can you cite specific references?</p>	<p>*See oral transcript for additional verbal response.</p> <p>Thank you. We have received your question and will do our best to get you a response.</p> <p>Background information regarding oyster beds in the Barataria Basin can be found in Chapter 3, Sections 3.10.5.2 in Aquatic Resources and 3.14.3 in Commercial Fisheries of the EIS.</p>
Halko	Thomas	<p>I have audio technical problems. Thanks for this venue. I am a property owner in lower Lafitte. It represents my home and business. I am an environmentalist arm chair historian and believe in the concept of living w/water. I am particularly concerned about mitigation. I will reserve my viewpoint.</p>	<p>*See oral transcript for additional verbal response.</p> <p>Thank you. We have received your comment.</p>
Halko	Thomas	<p>Please read in meeting.</p>	<p>We have noted this request for the panelists.</p>
Mason	Lalise	<p>Can you describe how the three major referenced Barataria projects (including MBSD) complementary? IE: As it pertains to the earlier Lake Hermitage resident's query about dredge projects versus river diversion, the point might be more clearly made in the public forum that diversion sediments ideally serve to nourish and maintain local constructed marsh restoration projects over time, just as they do for native marsh. It is not just "we are doing both".....</p>	<p>*See oral transcript for additional verbal response.</p> <p>Thank you. We have received your question and will do our best to get you a response.</p>
Mason	Lalise	<p>**...are complementary...</p>	<p>Thank you. We have noted the clarification.</p>
Mason	Lalise	<p>Thanks, Mel.</p>	
Mason	Lalise	<p>Excellent project.</p>	<p>Thank you. We have received your comment.</p>
McGarry	Darlene	<p>Who will be responsible for maintaining/dredging the navigation channels in the areas the diversion will affect?</p>	<p>*See oral transcript for additional verbal response.</p> <p>Thank you. We have received your question and will do our best to get you a response.</p>

McGarry	Darlene	I live in Happy Jack and am very concerned about the oil sediment that will be disturbed by this project. Has this been addressed in the draft?	Thank you. We have received your question and will do our best to get you a response.
Philippe	Rosina	Question about land building and land loss during the day to day operation of Mid-BS-Diversion...will we continue to lose more land that the diversion is proposing to build (per day)? Not if we do or if we don't do.	*See oral transcript for additional verbal response. Thank you. We have received your question and will do our best to get you a response.
Philippe	Rosina	Thanks everyone. We appreciate the outreach and efforts to be inclusive.	
Ramirez	Valerie	I am a college student, will there be any internships in the future working on this project?	*See oral transcript for additional verbal response. Thank you. We have received your question and will do our best to get you a response.
Ramirez	Valerie	I get that the sediment diversion will be channels that lead to rivers. But has there been any discussions about building a man made river? The man made river might also help with flooding if constructed right.	*See oral transcript for additional verbal response. Thank you. We have received your question and will do our best to get you a response.
Ramirez	Valerie	I am working on a project for my engineering class. Are there any questions you would like to ask. I will be submitting comments through mail.	Thank you.
Ramirez	Valerie	What are the statistics of Louisiana citizens that are aware of this project? What is the total amount of the project along with the time frame of this project?	*See oral transcript for additional verbal response. Thank you. We have received your question and will do our best to get you a response. The Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group has identified a preferred alternative that would provide up to \$2B in funding for the diversion. If approved, the project is expected to take 3-5 years to construct. Once it begins operating, it will operate continuously. Additional details about the preferred alternative including costs and operational details are provided in Chap. 2 Alternatives of the DEIS. We are not certain what the statistics are of Louisiana citizens who are aware of the project. However, the number of commenters and state of residency of commenters will be provided in Chap. 7 Public Involvement of the FEIS.
Ramirez	Valerie	What are the companies that will be associated with this project?	*See oral transcript for additional verbal response. Thank you. We have received your question and will do our best to get you a response. The implementation of the project will be conducted by the Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority following Louisiana public procurement laws. Companies that have already been involved in the project can be found through the Louisiana Division of Administration and the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority.
Snider	Natalie	Thank you all!	Thank you.