



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT
7400 LEAKE AVE
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70118-3651

April 23, 2021

SPECIAL PUBLIC NOTICE

SUBJECT: 30-day Extension of the Public Comment Period for the Draft Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Project Environmental Impact Statement

ASUNTO: Ampliación de 30 días del período de comentarios públicos para el Proyecto de Declaración de Impacto Ambiental del Desvío de Sedimentos de Barataria Media

CHỦ ĐỀ: Bình Luận/Ý Kiến được Gia Hạn thêm 30 ngày cho Dự Án Đập Bồi Đất ở Hồ Nam

PERMIT APPLICATION NUMBER: MVN-2012-2806-EOO (Section 10/404)
2013-0634 (Section 408)

APPLICANT: Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana

SUMMARY: The 60-day public review and comment period for the Draft Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion EIS and Draft Phase II Restoration Plan #3.2: Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has been extended by 30 days. The 90-day review period began on March 5, 2021 **and will end on June 3, 2021** (rather than May 4, 2021). All comments submitted electronically or by mail via the U.S. Postal Service on or before June 3, 2021 will be considered.

The Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana (CPRA or Applicant) submitted a Permit Application to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New Orleans District (CEMVN) for a Department of the Army (DA) permit under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 United States Code [USC] 403) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) (33 USC 1344) (collectively referred to as "Section 10/404") and submitted a Section 408 Permission Request Letter (33 USC 408) to construct, maintain, and operate the proposed Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion (MBSD) on the right descending bank of the Mississippi River, at approximately 60.7 miles above "Head of Passes" in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), CEMVN has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to analyze the potential impacts of the proposed MBSD Project and a range of reasonable alternatives, including No Action, on the natural and human environment. The Draft EIS will be used to inform CEMVN's decisions regarding CPRA's permit application and permission request and may inform the decisions of other agencies that will review the proposed MBSD Project as part of their regulatory or permit processes. The information in the Draft EIS will help decision makers, public officials, and citizens to understand the potential environmental impacts of the proposed MBSD Project and its alternatives before decisions regarding the proposed MBSD Project are made.

In addition to informing the CEMVN decisions, the Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Damage Assessment Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group (LA TIG) has prepared a Draft Phase II Restoration Plan #3.2: Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion (Draft Restoration Plan) that evaluates granting funding to construct the proposed MBSD Project. The proposal to adopt a final restoration plan to fund construction of the MBSD Project is a separate major Federal action requiring NEPA review by the LA TIG. The LA TIG has cooperated in preparing the Draft EIS, and intends, after independent review, to adopt the EIS to satisfy its NEPA obligations for the Restoration Plan. The LA TIG will issue a separate public Federal Register notice and

related information on its website and elsewhere announcing the availability of its Draft Restoration Plan.

All interested persons and organizations are encouraged to review the Draft EIS and Draft Restoration Plan and to submit any comments regarding the proposed MBSD Project, the Draft EIS, and/or Draft Restoration Plan as explained below. Comments will be considered as part of CEMVN's and LA TIG's decision-making processes. The Draft EIS and supporting documents are available on the Project website at:

<http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Permits/Mid-Barataria-Sediment-Diversion-EIS/>, or upon request. The Draft Restoration Plan and supporting documents are available at: <https://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/louisiana>. Hard copies of the Draft EIS and Draft Restoration Plan may also be viewed at the following locations:

Lafitte Library
4917 City Park Drive
Lafitte, LA 70067

Belle Chasse Library
8442 Highway 23
Belle Chasse, LA 70037

South Lafourche Branch Library
16241 East Main Street
Cut Off, LA 70345

West Bank Regional Library
2751 Manhattan Blvd.
Harvey, LA 70058

Port Sulphur Library
139 Civic Drive
Port Sulphur, LA 70083

St. Charles Parish Library,
Paradis Branch
307 Audubon St,
Paradis, LA 70080

East New Orleans Regional
Library
5641 Read Boulevard
New Orleans, LA 70127

Buras Library
35572 Highway 11
Buras, LA 70041

HOW TO PROVIDE DRAFT EIS AND DRAFT RESTORATION PLAN COMMENTS: In addition to the oral comment period during the Public Meetings, interested parties are encouraged to comment on the proposed MBSD Draft EIS, and Draft Restoration Plan, and may do so at any time during the public review and comment period time-frame as follows:

- Submit comments **electronically** at: <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/MBSD>
- Submit comments via **email** at: CEMVN-Midbarataria@usace.army.mil
- Submit **written comments** by mail to:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-ODR-E, MVN-2012-2806-EOO
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118
- Submit oral comments via the **toll-free phone number** at: 866-211-9205

You only need to submit your comment via one of these methods. All comments submitted will be reviewed by both the CEMVN and the LA TIG. Instructions for submitting your official comments can also be found on the Project webpage under "Ways to Submit Draft EIS Comments." All comments made during the comment period time-frame as described above will become part of the record.

for: Martin S. Mayer
Chief, Regulatory Branch