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New Orleans District

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COASTAL RESTORATION NEWS www.lca.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Coastal Area Restoration Plan, Draft Environmental Impact Statement available for public review

NEW ORLEANS – The New Orleans District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources announce the availability of the draft Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) Ecosystem Restoration Study report and Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (DPEIS) for public review and comment.

The DPEIS and draft report are located at www.lca.gov and are available (CD or hard copy) upon request by contacting Dr. William P. Klein Jr. at 504-862-2540.

The comment period is open for 45 days, from July 9 through August 23, 2004.

Comments on the **DPEIS** should be mailed (postmark no later than August 23, 2004) to:

Dr. William P. Klein Jr.
CEMVN-PM-RS
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

Questions about the **DPEIS** can be directed to Dr. Klein at 504-862-2540.

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ADD 1 – LCA public review

Comments on the **LCA Study Report** should be mailed (postmark no later than August 23, 2004) to:

Mr. Tim Axtman
CEMVN-PM-C
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

Questions about the **LCA Study Report** can be directed to Mr. Axtman at 504-862-1921.

As required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), a series of public meetings requesting comments on the DPEIS and the draft LCA Study Report will also be jointly hosted by the Corps and State during the comment period. A public notice describing the specific times and locations of these meetings will be mailed separately to interested parties.

The draft report proposes a \$1.9 billion multi-component, near-term and long-term approach to addressing the most critical ecological needs of Louisiana's coast. These critical natural and human ecological needs include: preventing predicted future land loss; restoring connections to river sediment resources in degrading areas; restoring endangered geomorphic structures such as specific barrier island reaches; and protecting socioeconomic resources.

The draft LCA report includes a proposal for:

- Programmatic authority for five near-term critical restoration features that would provide significant restoration benefits for the most critical areas of the coast, are presently in the initial design phase (\$786 million);
- Authorization of a science and technology program that would provide scientific data and technological tools to facilitate effective program implementation (\$100 million over the next 10 years);
- Authorization of science and technology demonstration projects to resolve critical scientific and engineering uncertainties (\$175 million over the next 10 years)
- Programmatic authority for the beneficial use of dredged material to take advantage of on-going maintenance dredging to restore barrier islands and, in some cases, supplement river water reintroductions (\$100 million over the next 10 years);
- Programmatic authority for modifications to existing structures to achieve cost-effective, expedited restoration benefits (\$10 million over the next 10 years);
- Approval of an implementation plan of ten additional near-term critical restoration features using the standard authorization process (\$730 million); and
- Approval of a proposed plan for assessing potentially promising large-scale restoration concepts (\$60 million).

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ADD 2 – LCA public review

The LCA Study report and a final programmatic EIS are scheduled for completion in December 2004. Inclusion of the report's components in the Water Resources Development Act currently under consideration by Congress will give the Corps and State the go-ahead to begin implementation of this critical restoration effort.

Visit www.lca.gov for additional information on LCA.

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