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Coastal Protection and
Restoration Authority of Louisiana

NEWS RELEASE

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West Bank and Vicinity Project Partnership Agreement signed

Construction contracts may begin in early 2009

Today the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, the Honorable John Paul Woodley, Jr., and the Director of the State of Louisiana's Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA), Garret Graves, announced the signing of the West Bank and Vicinity Project Partnership Agreement.

This agreement enables the Corps of Engineers to continue to move forward with construction of the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS).

The West Bank and Vicinity project is a very significant milestone in advancing to 100-year hurricane protection for the West Bank of the Mississippi River. Located in the vicinity of New Orleans and in Jefferson, Orleans and Plaquemines Parishes, the project will reduce storm surge from Lake Cataouatche, Lake Salvador and other waterways leading to the Gulf of Mexico.

"The State of Louisiana and the Corps of Engineers are moving forward with more than \$2 billion in projects on the West Bank and vicinity and more than \$4 billion on the East Bank on the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity project," said Garret Graves, chairman of the CPRA. "The signing of these agreements is essential to providing the 100-year level of protection the Corps of Engineers has assured will be provided the citizens of the New Orleans area by 2011."

Karen Durham-Aguilera, Director of Task Force Hope in New Orleans, said, "Today's agreement highlights the results of continued teamwork and collaboration with the state of Louisiana, the federal government and all the stakeholders and partners. This agreement brings the area one step closer to completion of the entire HSDRRS."

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