

Breaux Act

Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act



Technical Committee Meeting

March 16, 2005

New Orleans, Louisiana

BREAUX ACT
COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT
(CWPPRA)

Technical Committee Meeting

March 16, 2005, 9:30 a.m.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi Valley Division, New Orleans District (CEMVN)

District Assembly Room

7400 Leake Ave.

New Orleans, LA

AGENDA

Documentation of Task Force and Technical Committee meetings may be found at:

http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/pd/cwppra_mission.htm or

<http://lacoast.gov/reports/program/index.asp>

- 1 Decision: Selection of Six (6) Candidate Projects to Evaluate for PPL 15 (Podany) 9:30 a.m. to 9:55 a.m.** The committee will consider preliminary costs & benefits, and select 6 projects as Phase 0 candidates for further analysis for Project Priority List 15. The Technical Committee will also assign a lead agency to each project for further evaluation.
- 2. Discussion/Decision: Programmatic Assessment of the CWPPRA Program (Podany): 9:55 a.m. to 10:25 a.m.** The Task Force directed the Technical Committee to develop a proposal in response to the Task Force's outline of the CWPPRA Programmatic Assessment, detailing the work efforts and cost required to complete the assessment. The details of the Technical Committee's proposal will be submitted to the Task Force in May. The goal of the Programmatic Assessment is to evaluate the CWPPRA program and potentially refine the role of the CWPPRA, in light of fourteen years of CWPPRA program progress, the potential authorization of the LCA program and fourteen years of remaining CWPPRA authorization.
- 3. Decision: Proposed Changes to the CWPPRA Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) (LeBlanc): 10:25 a.m. to 10:40 a.m.** Ms. LeBlanc will present proposed changes to the CWPPRA Standard Operating Procedures as recommended by the CWPPRA Planning and Evaluation Committee.
- 4. Discussion: Status Report on the Avoca Island Diversion and Land Building Project (TE-49) and Potential Change of Scope (Podany) 10:40 a.m. to 10:55 a.m.** Mr. Greg Miller and Dr. Ken Duffy will present a status report for the Avoca Island Diversion and Land Building Project (TE-49). The Avoca Island Diversion and Building Project is in Phase I design. Modeling of the hydrology has indicated a possible need for a change in scope to include a marsh creation component along with a small diversion. This review is intended to keep the Technical Committee informed of a likely future change in scope.
- 5. Discussion: Initial Discussion Regarding FY06 Budget Development (Process, Size, Funding, etc) (Podany) 10:55 a.m. to 11:10 a.m.** The FY06 planning program budget discussion will be initiated.

6. **Presentation: Status of the Floating Marsh Demonstration Project (Paul) 11:10 to 11:30 a.m.** Dr. Jenneke Visser provide a status update presentation on the Floating Marsh Demonstration Project.

7. **Announcement: PPL 15 Demonstration Projects (Monnerjahn) 11:30 a.m. to 11:35 a.m.** Proposals for demonstration projects for consideration for PPL15 must be submitted to the Engineering Workgroup chair by COB June 1, 2005.

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c/o Chris Monnerjahn
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA. 70160-0267

8. **Additional Agenda Items (Podany) 11:35 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.**

9. **Date of Upcoming Task Force Meeting (Podany) 11:45 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.**

The spring Task Force meeting will be held May 4, 2005 at the
National Wetlands Research Center
700 Cajundome Blvd.
Lafayette, Louisiana

10. **Dates of Future Program Meetings (LeBlanc)**

2005

*May 4, 2005 9:30 a.m. Task Force Lafayette

**The April 13, 2005 meeting was re-scheduled for May 4, 2005.*

**June 8, 2005 9:30 a.m. Technical Committee Baton Rouge

***The June 15, 2005 meeting was re-scheduled for June 8, 2005.*

July 13, 2005 9:30 a.m. Task Force New Orleans

August 30, 2005 7:00 p.m. PPL 15 Public Meeting Abbeville

August 31, 2005 7:00 p.m. PPL 15 Public Meeting New Orleans

September 14, 2005 9:30 a.m. Technical Committee New Orleans

October 19, 2005 9:30 a.m. Task Force PPL 15 Approval New Orleans

December 7, 2005 9:30 a.m. Technical Committee Baton Rouge

2006

January 25, 2006 9:30 a.m. Task Force Baton Rouge

March 15, 2006 9:30 a.m. Technical Committee New Orleans

April 12, 2006 9:30 a.m. Task Force Lafayette

June 14, 2006 9:30 a.m. Technical Committee Baton Rouge

July 12, 2006 9:30 a.m. Task Force New Orleans

August 30, 2006 7:00 p.m. PPL 16 Public Meeting Abbeville

August 31, 2006 7:00 p.m. PPL 16 Public Meeting New Orleans

September 13, 2006 9:30 a.m. Technical Committee New Orleans

October 18, 2006 9:30 a.m. Task Force New Orleans

December 6, 2006 9:30 a.m. Technical Committee Baton Rouge

2007

January 31, 2007 9:30 a.m. Task Force Baton Rouge

Adjourn

Decision: Selection of Six (6) Candidate Projects to Evaluate for PPL 15

CWPPRA Technical Committee Selection of PPL15 Candidate Projects

Region	Basin	Type	Project	COE	EPA	FWS	NMFS	NRCS	State	No. of votes	Sum of Point Score
1	Pontchartrain	SP	East Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Protection	5		2			2	3	9
2	Breton Sound	FD	Bayou Lamoque Freshwater Diversion	6	4	6	6	1	6	6	29
2	Barataria	MC	Lake Hermitage Marsh Creation	2	5	5	5	3	3	6	23
2	Barataria	MC	Buras to Triumph Levee Fringe Marsh Restoration		6					1	6
2	Miss Riv Delta	MC/FD	Venice Ponds Marsh Creation and Crevasses	4	3	3	2			4	12
3	Terrebonne	TE	South Terrebonne Parish Marsh Terracing	3	2		1		5	4	11
3	Terrebonne	MC	North Lost Lake Marsh Creation			4		5		2	9
3	Atchafalaya	SP	Point Chevreuil Shoreline Protection							0	0
3	Teche-Vermilion	MC/SP	Bird Island/Southwest Pass Marsh Creation and Shoreline Protection	1		1	3	6		4	11
4	Mermentau	HR	South Pecan Island Freshwater Introduction		1		4	2	1	4	8
4	Calcasieu-Sabine	SP	Holly Beach Breakwaters West Extension					4	4	2	8
				No. of votes:	6	6	6	6	6	6	
				Sum of Votes:	21	21	21	21	21	21	

The following voting process will be used to select 6 candidate projects under PPL15:

1. Each agency represented in the Technical Committee will be provided one ballot for voting.
2. Each agency represented in the Technical Committee will cast weighted votes for 6 projects. All votes must be cast.
3. Each agency will vote for their top projects, hand-written on the above ballot form
4. Weighted scores will be assigned (for example with 6 votes: 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, and 1), to be used **ONLY** in the event of a tie. (6 highest...1 lowest).
5. Initial rank will be determined based upon the number of votes received for a project (unweighted).
6. The Technical Committee will select 6 projects for candidate phase of evaluation (Phase 0).
7. In the event of a tie at the cutoff of 6, the weighted score will be used as a tie-breaker.
8. The tied projects will be ranked based upon a sum of the weighted score.

CWPPRA Technical Committee Selection of PPL15 Candidate Projects

16 Mar 05

Region	Basin	Type	Project	COE	EPA	FWS	NMFS	NRCS	State	No. of votes	Sum of Point Score
2	Breton Sound	FD	Bayou Lamoque Freshwater Diversion	6	4	6	6	1	6	6	29
2	Barataria	MC	Lake Hermitage Marsh Creation	2	5	5	5	3	3	6	23
2	Miss Riv Delta	MC/FD	Venice Ponds Marsh Creation and Crevasses	4	3	3	2			4	12
3	Terrebonne	TE	South Terrebonne Parish Marsh Terracing	3	2		1		5	4	11
3	Teche-Vermilion	MC/SP	Bird Island/Southwest Pass Marsh Creation and Shoreline Protection	1		1	3	6		4	11
4	Mermentau	HR	South Pecan Island Freshwater Introduction		1		4	2	1	4	8
1	Pontchartrain	SP	East Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Protection	5		2			2	3	9
3	Terrebonne	MC	North Lost Lake Marsh Creation			4		5		2	9
4	Calcasieu-Sabine	SP	Holly Beach Breakwaters West Extension					4	4	2	8
2	Barataria	MC	Buras to Triumph Levee Fringe Marsh Restoration		6					1	6
3	Atchafalaya	SP	Point Chevreuil Shoreline Protection							0	0

NOTES:

- Projects are sorted by: (1) "No. of Votes" and (2) "Sum of Point Score"
- The "Sum of Point Score" is only used to break a tie at the Technical Committee's designated cutoff point.

CWPPRA

Technical Committee Meeting

16 Mar 05



Priority Project List 15

Nominees

Overview of Project Nomination Process

- Regional Planning Team meetings were held for each Coast 2050 region (Rockefeller Refuge, Morgan City, and New Orleans)
- Participants nominated project ideas by hydrologic basin within the regions
- Regional Planning Teams voted to select one project nomination per basin except for 2 projects in Barataria and Terrebonne Basins.
- A total of 11 projects were nominated by the teams

REGION 1

RPT Leader: Phil Pittman, DNR

RPT Co-Leader: Dan Llewellyn, DNR

RPT meeting held on February 3, 2005

Basins: Pontchartrain



Lake Pontchartrain

Lake Catherine

Lake Borgne

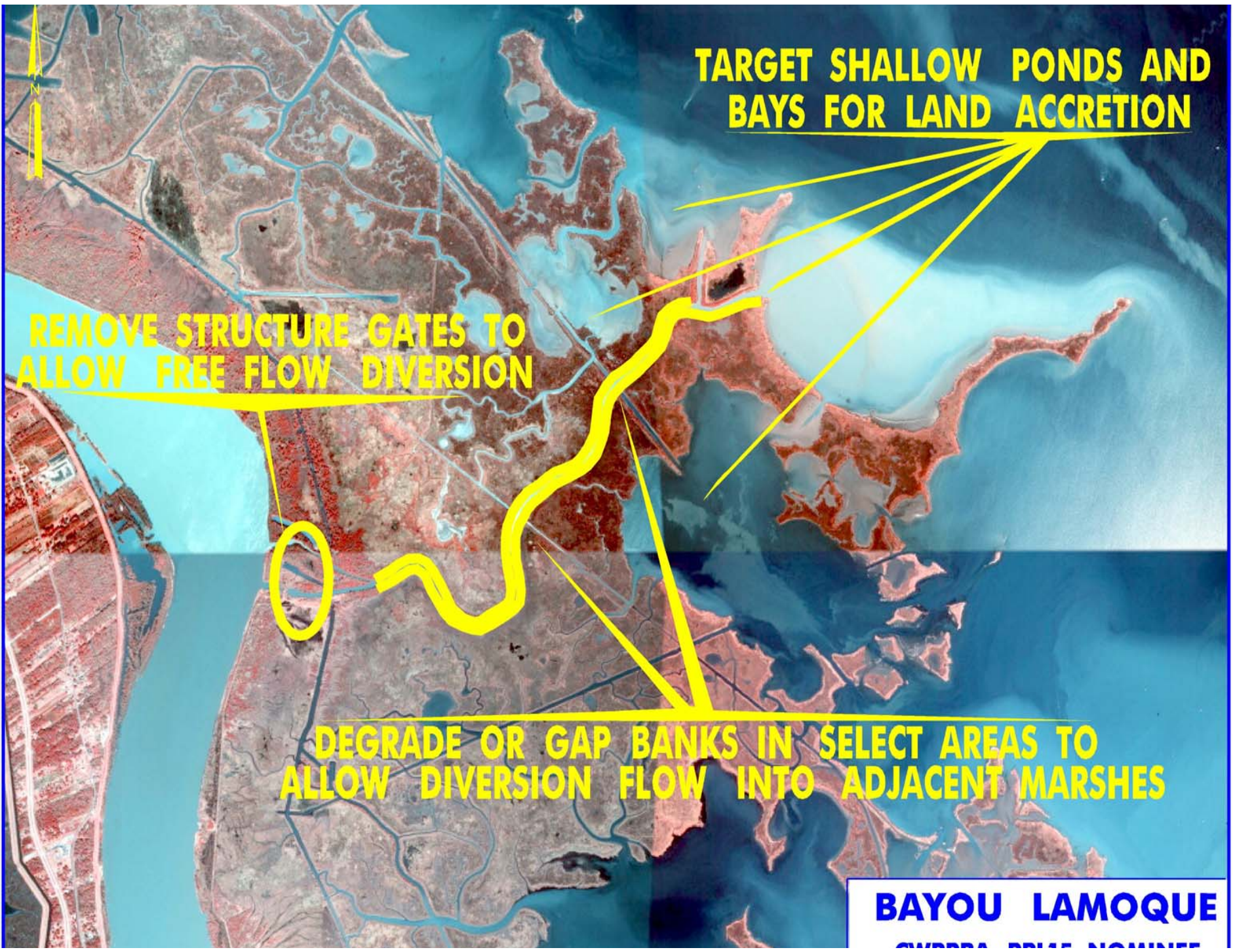
ORLEANS

REGION 2

RPT Leader: Greg Miller, USACE

RPT meeting held on February 3, 2005

Basins: Barataria, Breton, &
Mississippi River Delta



TARGET SHALLOW PONDS AND BAYS FOR LAND ACCRETION

REMOVE STRUCTURE GATES TO ALLOW FREE FLOW DIVERSION

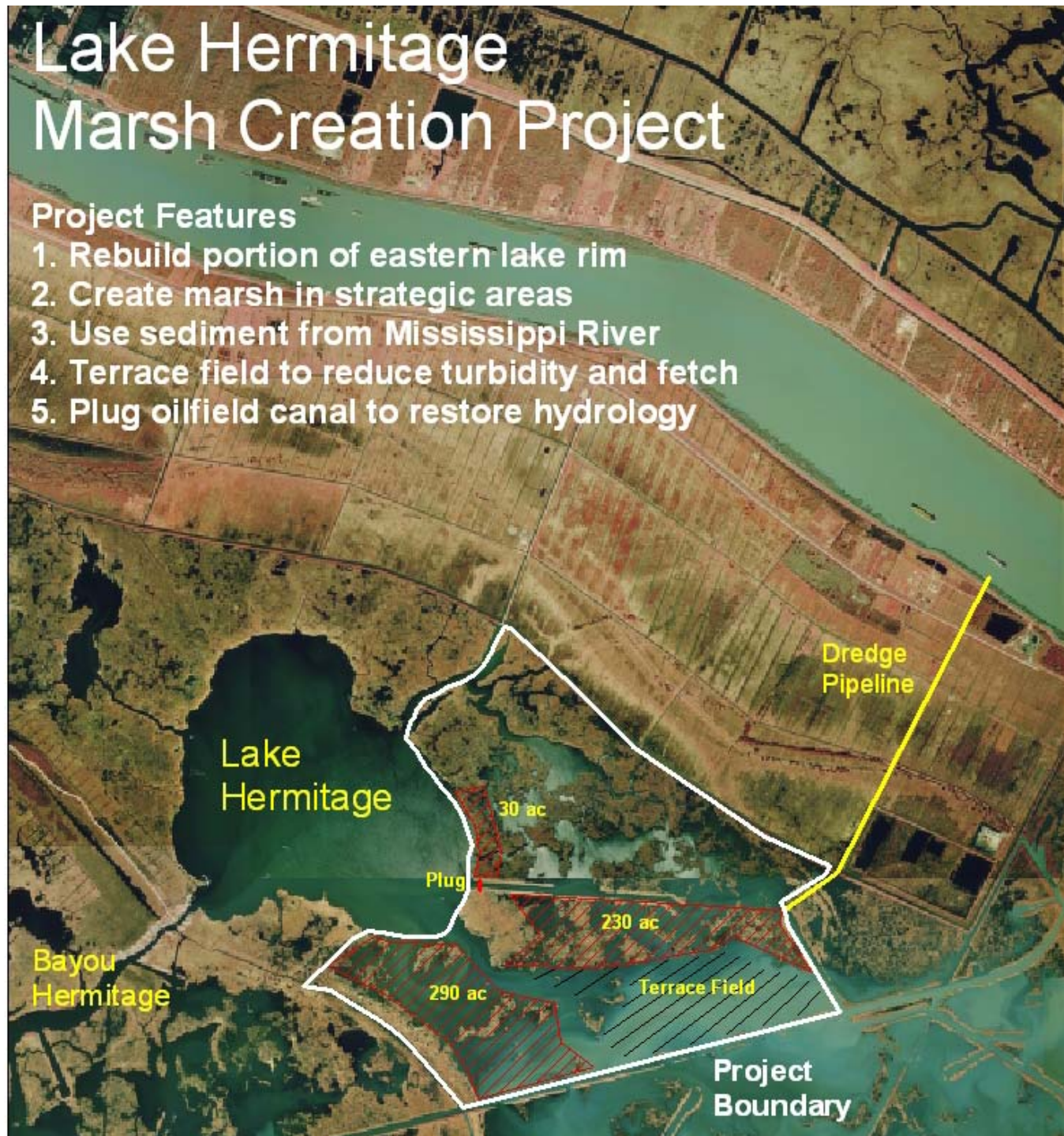
DEGRADE OR GAP BANKS IN SELECT AREAS TO ALLOW DIVERSION FLOW INTO ADJACENT MARSHES

BAYOU LAMOQUE
CURRRA BRUE NOMINE

Lake Hermitage Marsh Creation Project

Project Features

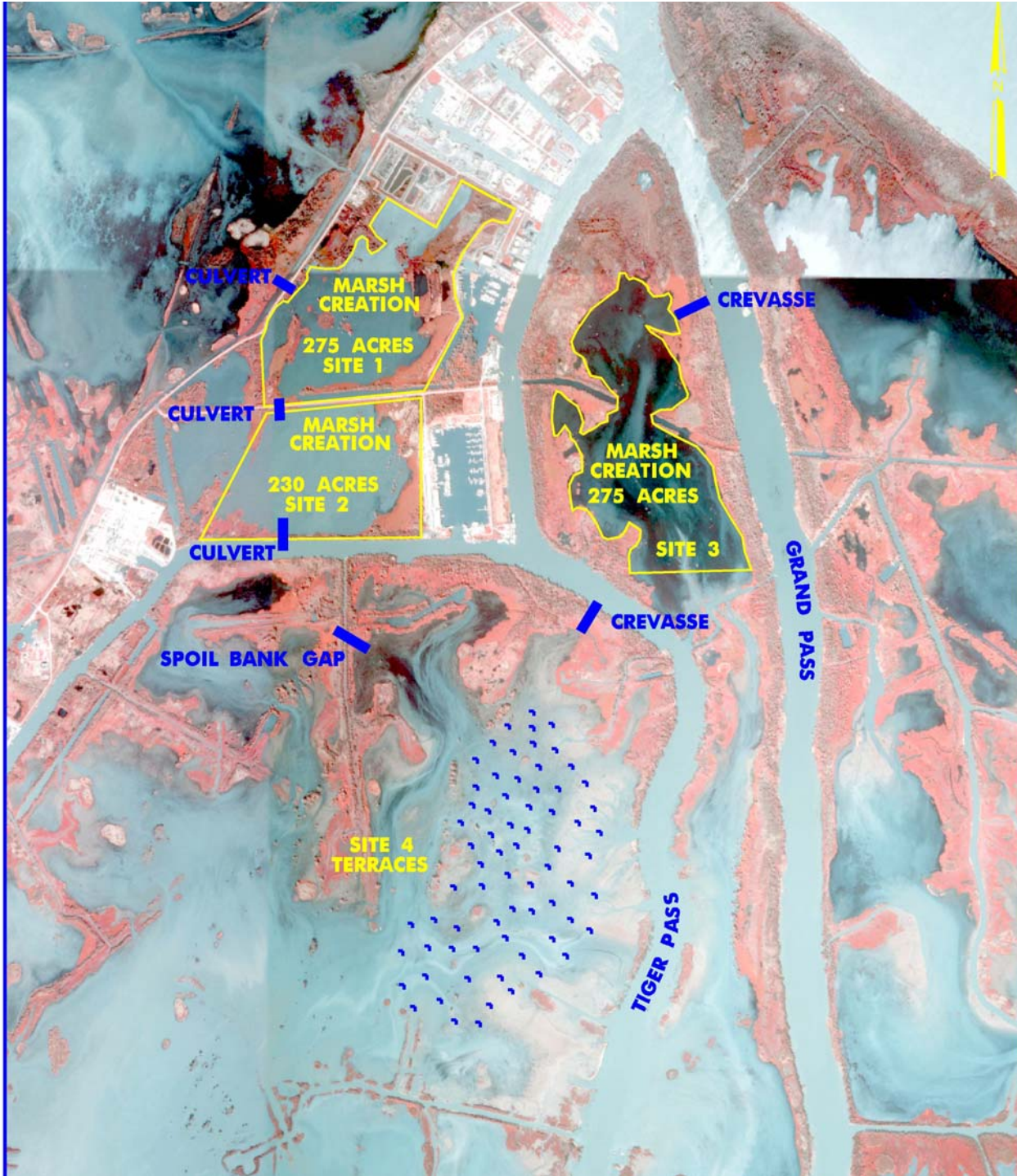
1. Rebuild portion of eastern lake rim
2. Create marsh in strategic areas
3. Use sediment from Mississippi River
4. Terrace field to reduce turbidity and fetch
5. Plug oilfield canal to restore hydrology



Buras to Triumph Back Levee Marsh Creation

Nominee Fact Sheet Map



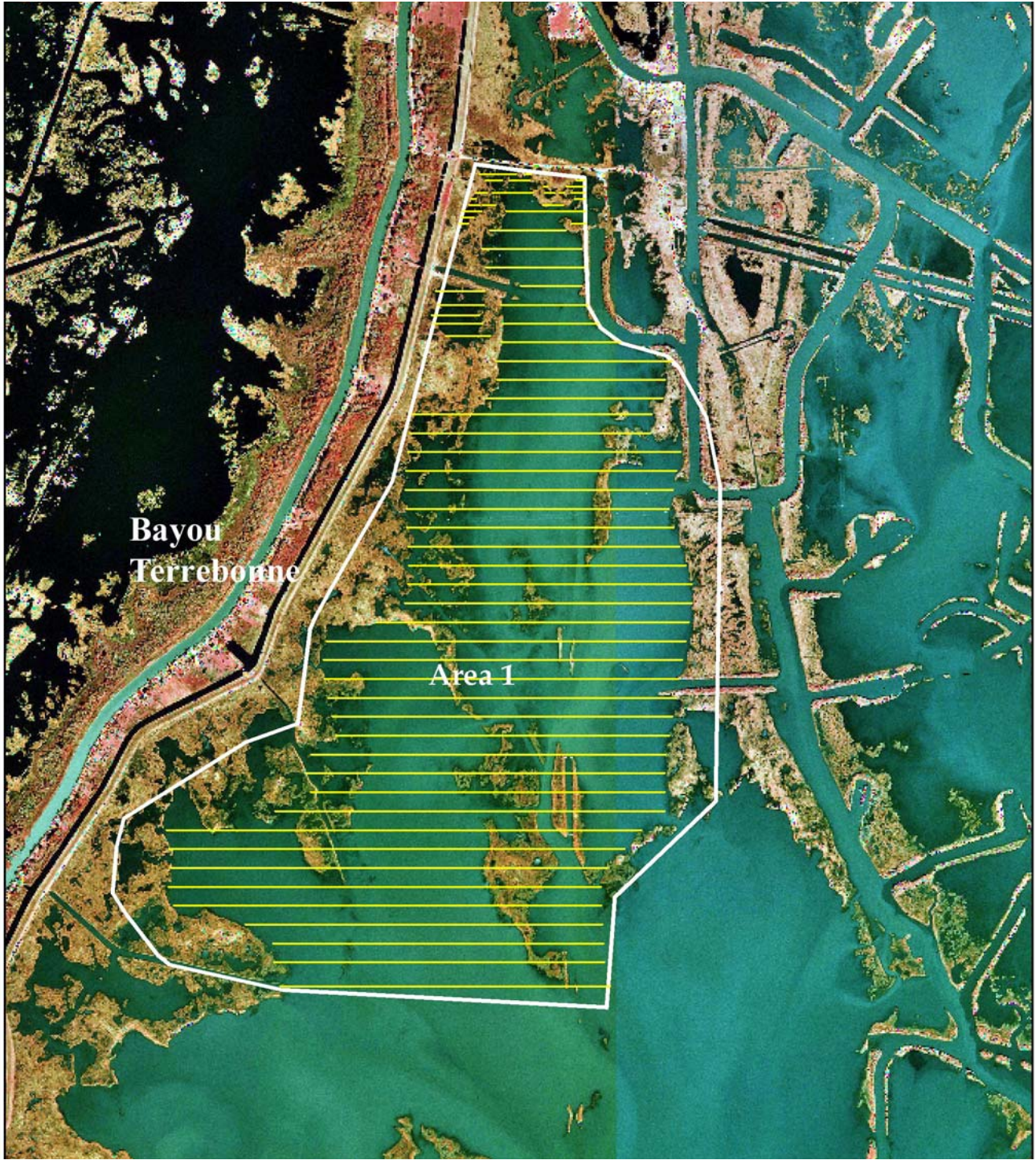


REGION 3

RPT Leader: Ronny Paille, USFWS

RPT meeting held on February 2, 2005

Basins: Atchafalaya, Teche/Vermilion, &
Terrebonne

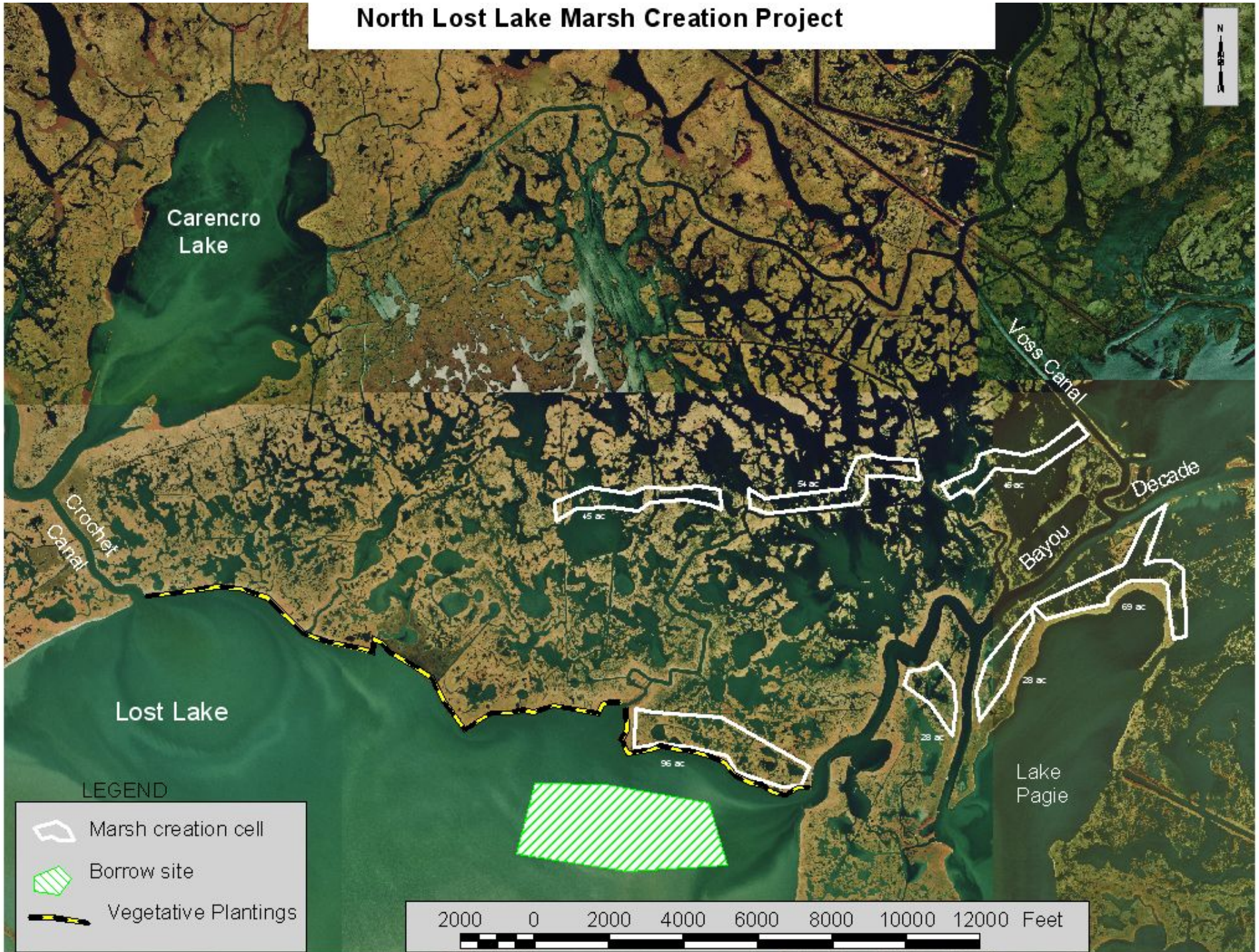


South Terrebonne Terracing Creation Project

Conceptual terrace field (not to scale)



North Lost Lake Marsh Creation Project







REGION 4

RPT Leader: Darryl Clark, USFWS

RPT meeting held on February 1, 2005

Basins: Calcasieu/Sabine & Mermentau

White Lake

Pecan Island

Pecan Island Terracing ME-14





Key to Features

----- Proposed Breakwaters

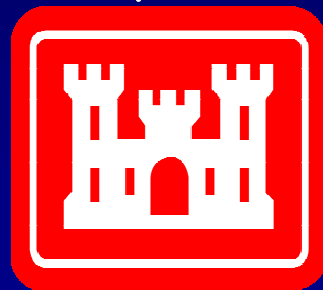
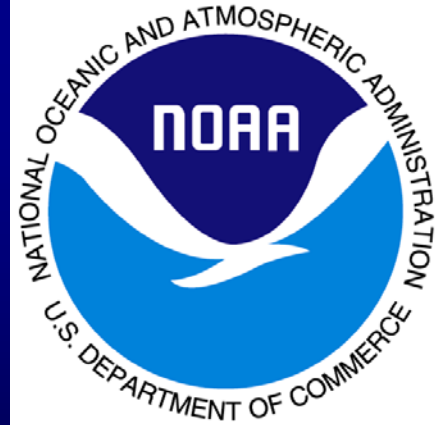


700 0 700 1400 Feet

Holly Beach Breakwaters - West
Cameron Parish, Louisiana

PPL 15 Nominees' Cost & Benefit Matrix

CWPPRA PPL15 Nominees										
Region	Basin	Type	Project	Preliminary Fully Funded Cost Range	Preliminary Benefits (Net Acres Range)	Potential Issues				
						Oysters	Land Rights	Pipelines /Utilities	O&M	Other Issues
1	Pontchartrain	SP	East Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Protection	\$10M - \$15M	150-200			X	X	X
2	Breton	FD	Bayou Lamoque Freshwater Diversion	\$0M - \$5M	500-550	X	X	X	X	
2	Barataria	MC	Lake Hermitage Marsh Creation	\$15M - \$20M	350-400		X	X		
2	Barataria	MC	Buras to Triumph Levee Fringe Marsh Restoration	\$40M - \$50M	450-500	X	X	X		
2	MR Delta	MC/FD	Venice Ponds Marsh Creation and Crevasses	\$10M - \$15M	450-500		X	X		
3	Terrebonne	TE	South Terrebonne Parish Marsh Terracing	\$15M - \$20M	150-200	X	X	X	X	
3	Terrebonne	MC	North Lost Lake Marsh Creation	\$10M - \$15M	250-300			X		
3	Atchafalaya	SP	Point Chevreuil Shoreline Protection	\$10M - \$15M	100-150				X	
3	Teche/Vermilion	MC/SP	Bird Island/Southwest Pass Marsh Creation and Shoreline Protection	\$15M - \$20M	150-200	X	X		X	
4	Mermentau	HR	South Pecan Island Freshwater Introduction	\$0M - \$5M	50-100		X	X	X	
4	Calcasieu/Sabine	SP	Holly Beach Breakwaters West Extension	\$10M - \$15M	50-100		X	X	X	X



U.S. Army
Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District



CWPPRA PPL15 Nominees

8-Mar-05

Region	Basin	Type	Project	Potential Issues							Comments on Other Issues
				Preliminary Fully Funded Cost Range	Preliminary Benefits (Net Acres Range)	Oysters	Land Rights	Pipelines/Utilities	O&M	Other Issues	
1	Pontchartrain	SP	East Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Protection	\$10M - \$15M	150-200			X	X	X	Gulf Sturgeon (threatened species)
2	Breton	FD	Bayou Lamoque Freshwater Diversion	\$0M - \$5M	500-550	X	X	X	X		
2	Barataria	MC	Lake Hermitage Marsh Creation	\$15M - \$20M	350-400		X	X			
2	Barataria	MC	Buras to Triumph Levee Fringe Marsh Restoration	\$40M - \$50M	450-500	X	X	X			
2	MR Delta	MC/FD	Venice Ponds Marsh Creation and Crevasses	\$10M - \$15M	450-500		X	X			
3	Terrebonne	TE	South Terrebonne Parish Marsh Terracing	\$15M - \$20M	150-200	X	X	X	X		
3	Terrebonne	MC	North Lost Lake Marsh Creation	\$10M - \$15M	250-300			X			
3	Atchafalaya	SP	Point Chevreuil Shoreline Protection	\$10M - \$15M	100-150				X		
3	Teche/Vermilion	MC/SP	Bird Island/Southwest Pass Marsh Creation and Shoreline Protection	\$15M - \$20M	150-200	X	X		X		
4	Mermentau	HR	South Pecan Island Freshwater Introduction	\$0M - \$5M	50-100		X	X	X		
4	Calcasieu/Sabine	SP	Holly Beach Breakwaters West Extension	\$10M - \$15M	50-100		X	X	X	X	erosional shadow

PPL15 PROJECT NOMINEE FACT SHEET
March 11, 2005

Project Name:

East Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Protection

Coast 2050 Strategies:

- Coastwide – Maintain bay and lake shoreline integrity.
- Regional 10 – Maintain shoreline integrity of Lake Pontchartrain.
- Regional 13 – Maintain Eastern Orleans Land Bridge by marsh creation and shoreline protection.
- Mapping Unit 36 – Maintain shoreline integrity.

Project Location:

Region 1, Pontchartrain Basin, Orleans Parish, East Orleans Landbridge Mapping Unit, along south shore of Lake Ponchartrain near Chef Pass and the Rigolets.

Problem:

High wave energy, sea level rise and subsidence levels are impacting the wetland shorelines of Lake Pontchartrain, Chef Pass, the Rigolets and Lake Catherine. Shorelines in these areas have exhibited increasingly higher erosion rates dating since the 1980s. Identified in both *Coast 2050* and the Louisiana Coastal Area Report, this critical landbridge forms a barrier between Lake Pontchartrain and Lake Borgne, an eventual passage to the Gulf of Mexico. This thin land mass of mostly brackish marsh is home to over 1,000 residents and protects an inland population of approximately 450,000 people in the city of New Orleans from direct storm surges from the gulf. The landbridge protects billions of dollars of infrastructure and historic communities in the city and surrounding parishes in the Pontchartrain basin. The disappearance of shoreline and marsh in this area is endangering this narrow landbridge that separates Lake Pontchartrain from Lake Catherine and Lake Borgne. Continued erosion without action will result in the acceleration of the loss of remaining marshes in the areas especially as shorelines breach into sensitive interior marsh ponds that rim most of the area lakes.

Proposed Project Features:

- Lake Pontchartrain west of the mouth Chef Pass – approximately 2,000 feet of rock shoreline protection.
- Lake Pontchartrain near Rigolets at Hospital Wall – approximately 3,000 feet of rock shoreline protection.
- East bank of Sawmill Pass near the Rigolets – approximately 10,000 feet of rock shoreline protection.
- West bank of Sawmill Pass near the Rigolets – approximately 10,000 feet of rock shoreline protection.

Goals:

- Maintain the East Orleans Landbridge by stopping shoreline erosion.
- Protect communities and infrastructure located on the landbridge and inland areas.

Preliminary Project Benefits:

Shoreline erosion rates in the project areas range from 10 ft to 60 ft per year. The project will protect 198 acres of wetlands over 20 years by reducing the shoreline erosion rate by 100% in three critical areas. Indirect benefits will cover larger wetland areas near the mouth of Chef Pass and Sawmill Pass that would be threatened if these wetlands are lost and the areas opened to greater tidal flows and erosion. The project would maintain part of the Lake Pontchartrain shoreline rim and protect nearby communities and infrastructure including a highway, fire house, historic fort, and businesses. The project would complement an existing CWPPRA project: Bayou Chevee Shoreline Protection (PO-22) and the Gulf of Mexico Program project on the Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge. Shoreline protection features would maintain important structural components of the East Orleans Landbridge including lake rim, marsh ponds, tidal creeks, bayous, and intact tracts of high quality wetlands.

Identification of Potential Issues:

The proposed project has the following potential issues: utilities/pipelines, operation and maintenance and the gulf sturgeon (threatened species).

Preliminary Construction Costs:

The estimated fully funded cost range is \$10 - \$15 million. The estimated construction cost with 25% contingency is \$6.7 million.

Preparers of Fact Sheet:

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PPL15 PROJECT NOMINEE FACT SHEET
February 3, 2005



Lake Pontchartrain

Lake Catherine

Lake Borgne

PPL15 PROJECT NOMINEE FACT SHEET
March 11, 2005

Project Name:

Bayou Lamoque Freshwater Diversion

Coast 2050 Strategies:

- Coastwide – Diversions and riverine discharge.
- Coastwide – Management of diversion outfall for wetland benefits.
- Regional – Operate existing diversions and manage their outfall.
- Regional – Construct a delta-building diversion into the American Bay/California Bay area.

Project Location:

Region 2, Breton Sound Basin, Plaquemines Parish, American Bay Mapping Unit, along the east bank of the Mississippi River approximately 3.4 miles north of Empire across from “Sixty-mile Point.”

Problem:

Two large freshwater diversion structures are located in Plaquemines Parish along the Mississippi River near Bayou Lamoque approximately 1,000 feet apart. The upriver structure was built in 1956 and is capable of diverting 4,000 cubic feet per second (CFS). The downriver structure was constructed in 1978 and is capable of diverting 8,000 cfs. Currently both structures are not utilized because of repair and operation issues and the lack of an interagency management plan. Land loss maps indicate shoreline erosion on the outer marsh edges along California Bay and Breton Sound. Some limited interior marsh break up and erosion of pond shorelines is evident in ERDC land loss maps covering 1932-2001. High spoil banks along the bayou prevent overbank flow of water into adjacent marshes.

Proposed Project Features:

- Repair the Bayou Lamoque freshwater diversion structures through the removal of the gates and their mechanical operating systems to allow free-flowing diversion at the maximum capacity of both structures.
- Develop an outfall management plan to maximize benefits to coastal wetlands including features necessary to promote the accretion of new wetlands through the deposition of diverted river water and sediments. Outfall management features could include gapping or degrading high spoil areas along the banks of the bayou and at canal intersections.

Goals:

- Refurbish the existing diversion structures at Bayou Lamoque.
- Manage outfall from the freshwater diversion structures to restore and conserve wetlands.

Preliminary Project Benefits:

The project will benefit over 6,000 acres intertidal marsh and open water in an area bounded by the Mississippi River, California Bay, Auguste Bayou, and Anderson Bay. Removing the gates from the structures will allow the introduction of freshwater, nutrients, and sediments into a system that currently receives no direct riverine influences. Introduction of Mississippi River

water into these wetlands will moderate salinity, deposit sediments, and augment marsh plant growth; all improving the health of the system. Input of sediments from the Mississippi River will promote wetland accretion in up to 1,200 acres of shallow water areas. The project would reduce land loss rates in the area >75% and would build new wetlands through the diversion of river water and sediments into shallow ponds and bays adjacent to the bayou. The project would maintain and restore estuarine structural components along the bayou and outer shorelines adjacent to Allen Bay and California Bay. Protecting and restoring wetlands in this area will help maintain the natural east bank of the Mississippi River that provides one of the Nation's most important commercial shipping routes. This project could be operated to compliment the benefits of the Caernarvon Freshwater Diversion project and other similar diversions along the east bank of the river flowing into the Breton Sound basin. The project would result in an additional 535 acres of marsh in the project area after 20 years.

Identification of Potential Issues:

The proposed project has the following potential issues: oysters, landrights, utilities/pipelines, land rights, and operation and maintenance.

Preliminary Construction Costs:

The estimated fully funded cost range is \$0 - \$5 million. The estimated construction cost with 25% contingency is \$2.2 million.

Preparers of Fact Sheet

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An aerial photograph of a coastal area, likely Bayou Lamoque, showing a network of waterways and marshland. The water is a light blue color, and the land is a mix of brown and green. A prominent yellow line traces a path through the waterways, starting from the left and moving towards the right. Several yellow lines radiate from a central point on the right side of the map, pointing to various shallow ponds and bays. A yellow circle highlights a specific area on the left side of the map. Three yellow text boxes with black outlines are overlaid on the map, providing instructions for land accretion. A north arrow is visible in the top left corner.

TARGET SHALLOW PONDS AND BAYS FOR LAND ACCRETION

REMOVE STRUCTURE GATES TO ALLOW FREE FLOW DIVERSION

DEGRADE OR GAP BANKS IN SELECT AREAS TO ALLOW DIVERSION FLOW INTO ADJACENT MARSHES

BAYOU LAMOQUE

CWPPRA PPL15 NOMINEE

PPL15 PROJECT NOMINEE FACT SHEET
March 1, 2005

Project Name

Lake Hermitage Marsh Creation Project

Coast 2050 Strategy

- Coastwide: Dedicated dredging to create, restore, or protect wetlands
- Coastwide: Off-shore and riverine sand and sediment resources
- Coastwide: Maintain, protect, or restore ridge function
- Coastwide: Maintenance of Gulf, bay and lake shoreline integrity

Project Location

Region 2, Barataria Basin, Plaquemines Parish, West Point a la Hache Mapping Unit, south and east of Lake Hermitage

Problem

From 1932 to 1990, the West Point a la Hache Mapping Unit lost 38% of its marsh. Through 2050, 28% of the 1990 marsh acreage is expected to be lost. That loss is expected to occur even with operation of the West Point a la Hache Siphon and implementation of the West Point a la Hache Outfall Management Project. Significant marsh loss has occurred south and east of Lake Hermitage and the eastern lake shoreline is deteriorating. Deterioration of the lake rim will expose interior marshes to the wave energy of Lake Hermitage and increase tidal exchange. Historically, the primary connection between the Lake Hermitage basin and the higher salinity, more tidal marshes to the west and south was through Bayou Hermitage. Now, with significant marsh loss and the construction of numerous oil and gas canals south of the lake, tidal connectivity has significantly increased.

This project will restore marsh south of Lake Hermitage and protect the integrity of the lake rim on the eastern side of the lake to prevent breaching into the interior marsh. Terraces will reduce fetch, promote submerged aquatic vegetation, and provide wetland habitat. The marsh creation cells and terraces fields are designed to recreate a “landbridge” between the Lake Hermitage basin and the open water and deteriorated marsh to the south. In addition, one of the cells is located to preserve the integrity of what remains of the Bayou Grande Cheniere ridge.

Proposed Project Features

1. Riverine sediments will be hydraulically dredged and pumped via pipeline to create approximately 550 acres of marsh in the project area. Containment dikes will be constructed as necessary. An approximate fill height of +2.5 ft was used for estimating costs. Vegetation may be planted on the site pending further investigation. Jacking and boring will required under LA Highway 23 for placement of the dredge pipeline.
2. Approximately 30,000 linear feet of terraces (19 acres) will be constructed to reduce fetch and turbidity and promote submerged aquatic vegetation. For estimating costs, it was assumed that the terraces will be 400 ft long, have a 10 ft crown width, a height of +3.5 ft and side slopes of 6:1. The terraces will be planted using plugs, 4 rows per terraces, with a 5-ft spacing.
3. A plug will be constructed on an oil and gas canal to return tidal exchange to natural waterways within the project area.

Goals

The goals of this project are to create approximately 550 acres of wetlands, reduce tidal exchange in marshes surrounding Lake Hermitage, protect a portion of the Bayou Grande Cheniere ridge, and reduce fetch and turbidity to enhance open water habitats.

Preliminary Project Benefits

This project is anticipated to benefit approximately 2,000 acres of marsh and open water habitats. It is anticipated that the created marsh will be lost at 50% of the historical marsh loss rate (1.011%/yr). It is estimated that the project would result in approximately 374 net acres of marsh over the project life. One of the marsh creation cells will directly benefit the Bayou Grande Cheniere ridge by increasing the ridge width. The project could afford some protection to the hurricane protection levee east of Lake Hermitage and the community of Hermitage located on the western side of the lake. The project would have a synergistic effect with the West Point a la Hache siphons and outfall management project. River water diverted through the siphons would provide sediments and nutrients to the created marsh and terraces.

Identification of Potential Issues

The major issues for this project will be the consideration of infrastructure (i.e., highway) and acquisition of landrights for placement of the dredge pipeline.

Preliminary Construction Costs

The estimated fully funded cost range is \$15M - \$20M. The estimated construction cost with 25% contingency is \$14,435,000.

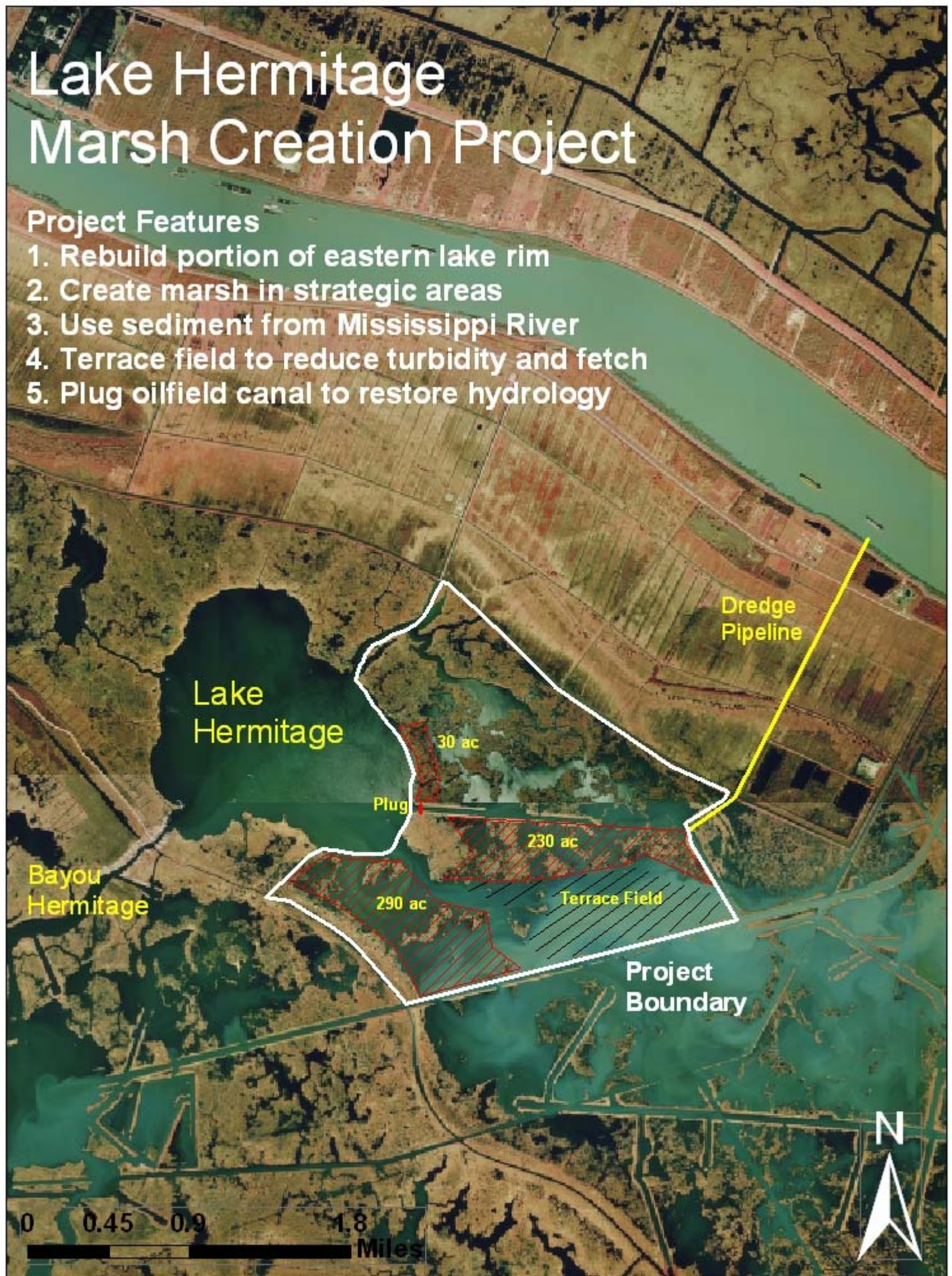
Preparer of Fact Sheet

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Lake Hermitage Marsh Creation Project

Project Features

1. Rebuild portion of eastern lake rim
2. Create marsh in strategic areas
3. Use sediment from Mississippi River
4. Terrace field to reduce turbidity and fetch
5. Plug oilfield canal to restore hydrology



PPL15 PROJECT NOMINEE FACT SHEET
FINAL
March 9, 2005

Project Name

Buras to Triumph Back Levee Marsh Creation

Coast 2050 Strategy

Coastwide Common Strategies

Dedicated dredging to create, restore or protect wetlands
Off-shore and riverine sand and sediment delivery systems
Vegetative plantings

Project Location

Region 2, Barataria Basin, Bastian Bay mapping unit, Plaquemines Parish, right descending bank of the Mississippi River between Buras and Triumph.

Problem

Extensive and continuous back levee marsh was created concurrent with construction of New Orleans to Venice/Plaquemines Parish flood protection levee. This back levee marsh has provided protection for the levee system from Empire to Venice. Over the last few decades, vast reaches of interior wetlands have been lost in the lower portion of the Bastian Bay and Grand Liard mapping units resulting in virtually no wetland buffer between the barrier shoreline and the back levee marshes. Review of aerial photography suggests that the Buras to Triumph reach appears the most vulnerable in the next 20 years. Increasing loss of back levee marshes is anticipated with increasing wind generated and water level setup erosion. Coast 2050 projected open water will encroach to the base of the hurricane protection levee by 2050. Continued deterioration of back levee marshes may adversely impact the adjacent to federal flood protection levee and area communities.

Land loss projections suggest that all marsh remaining south of the back levee marsh in the Buras to Empire reach is anticipated to be lost by 2050, and that some losses of the back levee marshes are also expected during that time frame. Coast 2050 reported extremely high loss rates for this mapping unit over the last three decades (i.e., 5.2%/year for 1974-1983 and 8.5%/year for 1983-1990). Coast 2050 also projected that only 220 acres of wetlands will remain in this mapping unit in 2050

Proposed Project Features

About 640 acres of intertidal marsh would be created in open water parallel to the back levee marshes between Buras and Triumph. Approximately 5.9 million cubic yards (cy) of material would be dredged from the Mississippi River and placed in confined disposal areas to elevations conducive to marsh development. It is estimated that the majority of Area A is about -3.0 feet NAVD and would require a 5.5-foot lift to reach an as-built elevation of +2.5 NAVD. About 10% of Area A is estimated to be about -5.0 NAVD and would require 7.5 feet of fill material to reach an as-built elevation of +2.5 NAVD.

About 23,700 feet retention dikes would be constructed on the southern, eastern and western perimeter to elevation +5 NAVD (fill density of 13.7 cy/foot) to ensure adequate containment during dewatering (1-3 years). Approximately 19,400 feet of retention dike would be constructed

on the northern perimeter to +3.5 NAVD because less erosion of the dike is anticipated during the dewatering period due to its orientation (fill density 9.7 cy/foot). About 512,000 cy of in situ material would be required for containment dikes.

Due to the geometry of the disposal site, it is not anticipated that tidal creeks would be constructed; however this issue will be evaluated during the design process. Containment dike gapping would be incorporated into the project design and cost estimate. Following consolidation of the marsh platform, vegetative plantings would be installed, although at a reduced planting cost (i.e., < \$3,500/acre) due to project scale.

Goals

Restore intertidal marsh to maintain buffer between levee and open bays.

Preliminary Project Benefits

1) *What is the total acreage benefited both directly and indirectly?*

The project is anticipated to benefit approximately 640 acres.

2) *How many acres of wetlands will be protected/created over the project life?*

Assuming a 1.5%/year loss rate for the created marshes, 480 acres would remain in the marsh creation portion of the project area after 20 years.

3) *What is the anticipated loss rate reduction throughout the area of direct benefits over the project life (<25%, 25-49%, 50-74% and >75%).*

It is projected that loss rates for the created marsh (1.5%/year) would be about 50% of an assumed 3.0%/year background loss rate for the mapping unit. The existing marsh in the project area has degraded to open water. Recent (1983 – 1990) background loss rates for the mapping unit are 8.5%/year. Use of 1.5%/year applied to the created marsh is similar to the Coast 2050 prediction of 1.58%/year for the period 1990 –2050.

4) *Do any project features maintain or restore structural components of the coastal ecosystem such as barrier islands, natural or artificial levee ridges, beach and lake rims, cheniers, etc.*

No

5) *What is the net impact of the project on critical and non-critical infrastructure?*

The project is anticipated to have marginal net positive impact to the Plaquemines Parish flood protection levee.

6) *To what extent does the project provide a synergistic effect with other approved and/or constructed restoration projects?*

No anticipated synergistic effects.

Identification of Potential Issues

Oysters, land rights, pipelines/utilities

Preliminary Construction Costs

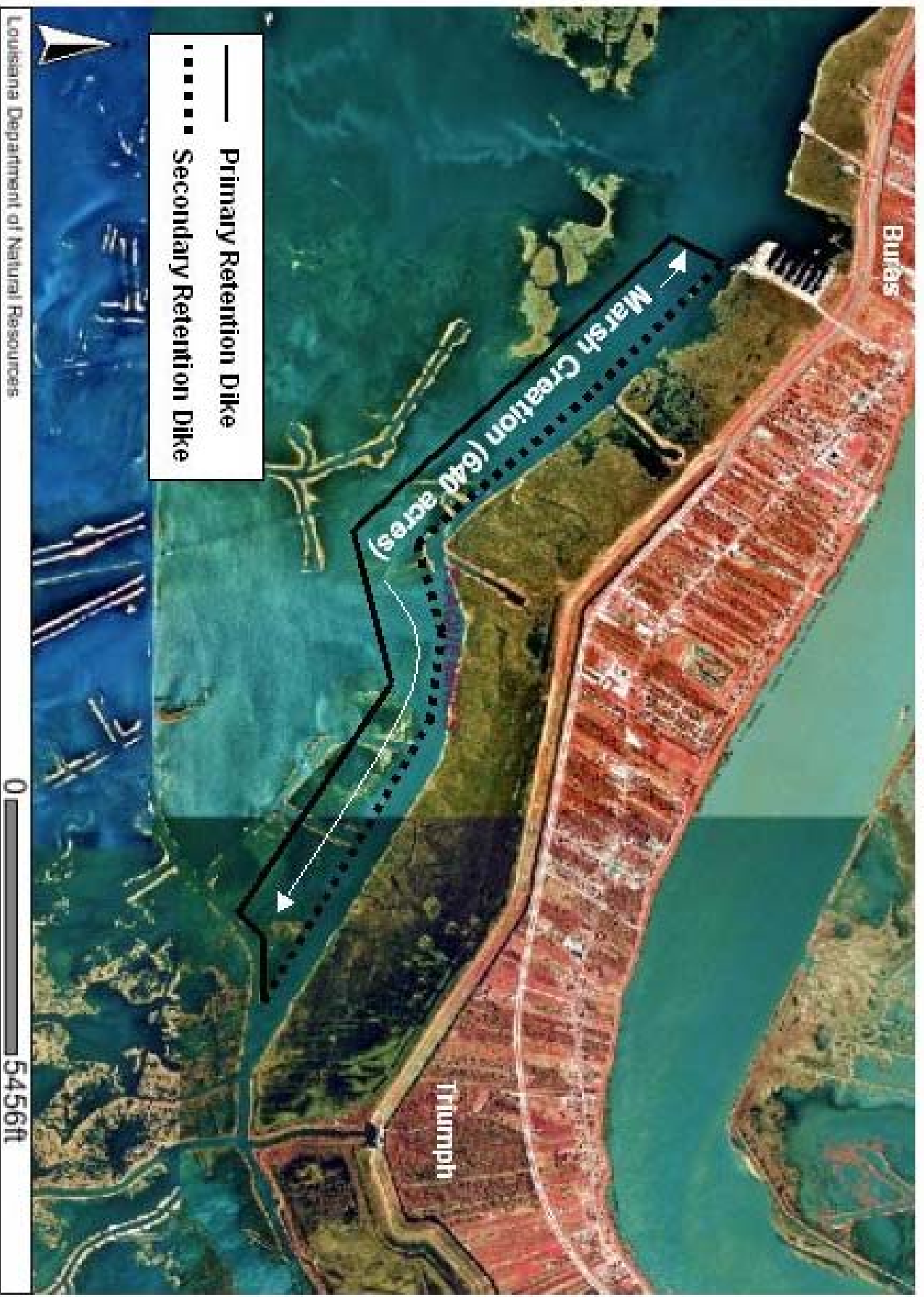
The estimated fully funded cost range is \$40 - \$50 million. Estimated construction cost with 25% contingency is \$32,119,917.

Preparer of Fact Sheet

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Buras to Triumph Back Levee Marsh Creation

Nominee Fact Sheet Map



March 9, 2006



PPL15 PROJECT NOMINEE FACT SHEET
March 11, 2005

Project Name:

Venice Ponds Marsh Creation and Crevasses

Coast 2050 Strategies:

- Coastwide: Dedicated dredging to create, restore, or protect wetlands.
- Coastwide: Off-shore and Riverine Sand and Sediment Resources.
- Coastwide: Vegetative Plantings

Project Location:

Region 2, Mississippi River Delta Basin, Plaquemines Parish, south of Venice, Louisiana, adjacent to the Red, Tiger, and Grand Passes.

Problem:

Between 1932 and 1974, the mapping unit lost 38,400 acres of the original 59,640 acres of marsh as a result of subsidence, tropical storm activity, canal creation and maintenance and hydrologic modification. Between 1974 and 1990 another 13,260 acres of land had been lost (LCWCRTF & WRCA 1998b). It is estimated that without restoration efforts over 91% of the remaining land would be lost by the year 2050. The project would create marsh in ponds that were nearly solid wetlands in 1956 and are now mostly open water. By constructing terraces, large amounts of sediment that flow down Tiger Pass would be trapped and diverted deeper into the project area thereby increasing deposition and accumulation of marsh building materials. In addition, the terraces will be planted with an appropriate vegetative species (i.e. Roseau Cane etc.) to help secure the footprint of each terrace and to provide anchorage. With a stable platform, it is anticipated that vegetative communities will spread of their own accord.

Proposed Project Features:

1. Marsh will be created in Sites 1, 2 and 3 (see Project Map) by hydraulically dredging material from Grand and Tiger Passes. The target elevation after one year in the Sites will be a maximum of +3.0 ft. NGVD and a minimum of +1.0 ft. NGVD. The marsh creation area will be contained with low-level earthen dikes in such a way as to provide a ratio of 70% marsh and 30% open water in Sites 1 and 2 and 60% marsh and 40% open water in Site 3. Existing marsh boundaries will also aid in the retention of dredged material and re-establishment of marsh habitat.
2. Two crevasses, which will convey approximately 100 cfs each, will be constructed to build and nourish marsh.
3. Culverts, breaches, or other structures will be constructed to maintain a hydrologic connection between Sites 1, 2, and 2 and the adjacent channel. A spoil bank of a pipeline canal will also be breached in order to bring sediment into one of the project areas.
4. Approximately 8,200 lf terraces will be constructed. Based on terracing projects in the surrounding vicinity, each terrace would be 200' in length with a 45' base width and a height conducive to the establishment of vegetation. The proposed construction areas exist on a 'shelf' off of the Pass and are relatively shallow (<3') in water depth.

Goals:

The goals of the project are:

1. To create, maintain, nourish, and replenish existing deteriorating wetlands.
2. To create a better mechanism for the accumulation of sediments to build marsh
3. To create a foothold for resilient vegetation to expand upon through the terrace creation

Preliminary Project Benefits:

- 1) What is the total acreage benefited both directly and indirectly?

Approx. 2,700 acres

- 2) How many acres of wetlands will be protected/created over the project life?

Approx. 490 net acres

- 3) What is the anticipated loss rate reduction throughout the area of direct benefits over the project life?

50-74%

- 4) Do any project features maintain or restore structural components of the coastal ecosystem such as barrier islands, natural or artificial levee ridges, beach and lake rims, cheniers, etc.?

This project would protect remaining natural and artificial ridges.

- 5) What is the net impact of the project on critical and non-critical infrastructure?

The net impact of the project on critical and non-critical infrastructure would be positive.

The project would offer protection to the many businesses located south of Venice as well as Tidewater Road. As the terrace sites fill in and accumulate marsh elevation, the integrity of the Tiger Pass navigation channel will also be maintained.

- 6) To what extent does the project provide a synergistic effect with other approved and/or constructed restoration projects?

A project funded under the community-based restoration program has been funded for construction in the area immediately north of the proposed terrace sites. Beneficial use areas, part of the MR-12 MS River Sediment Trap project, are located all around the project site. The project is also in the vicinity of the Spanish Pass Diversion Project.

Identification of Potential Issues:

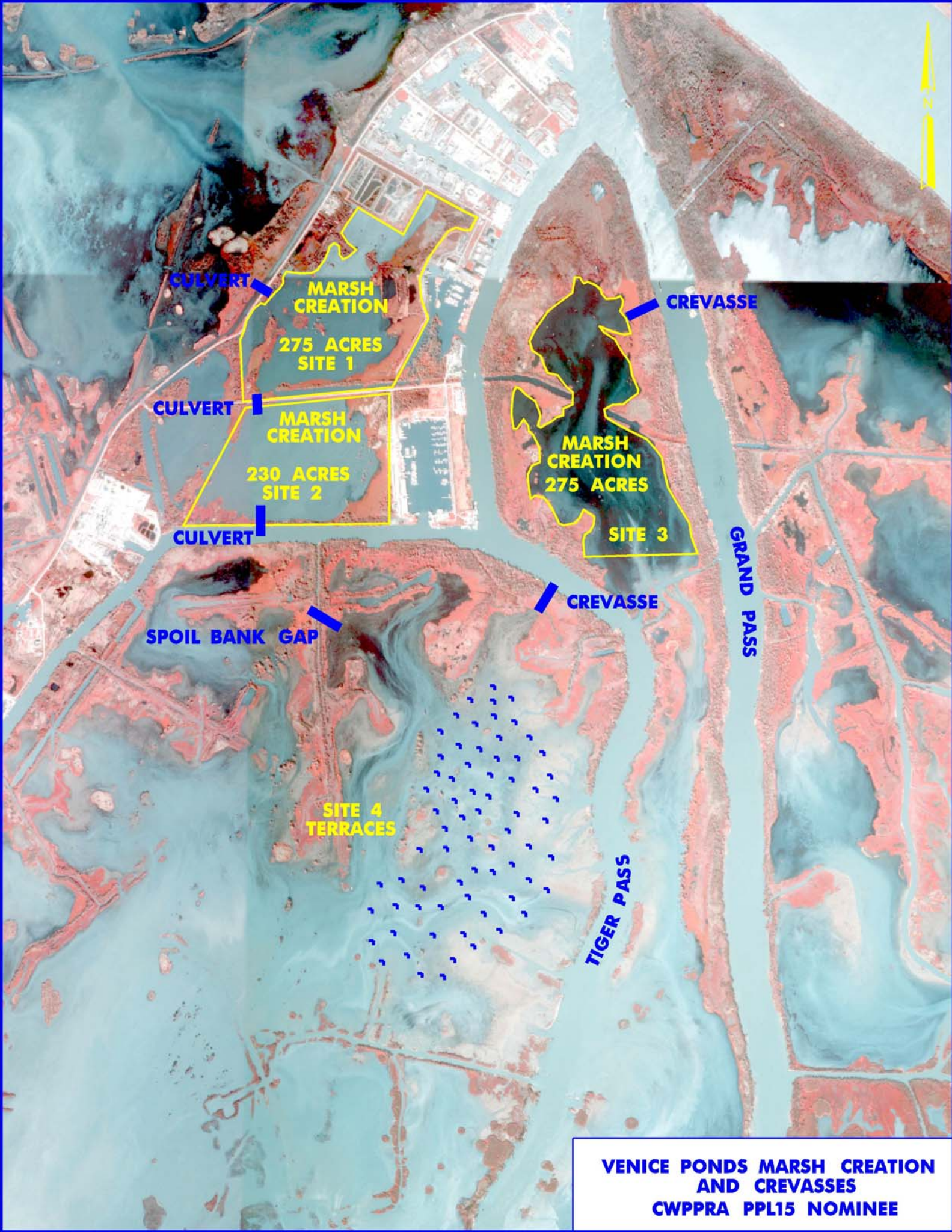
The proposed project has the following potential issues: utilities/pipelines and land rights.

Preliminary Construction Costs:

The estimated fully funded cost range is \$10 - \$15 million. The estimated construction cost with 25% contingency is \$11.3 million.

Preparer of Fact Sheet

Chris Monnerjahn, USACE, 504-862-2415, chris.monnerjahn@mvn02.usace.army.mil



CULVERT

MARSH CREATION

**275 ACRES
SITE 1**

CREVASSE

CULVERT

MARSH CREATION

**230 ACRES
SITE 2**

**MARSH CREATION
275 ACRES
SITE 3**

CULVERT

GRAND PASS

SPOIL BANK GAP

CREVASSE

**SITE 4
TERRACES**

TIGER PASS

**VENICE PONDS MARSH CREATION
AND CREVASSES
CWPPRA PPL15 NOMINEE**

PPL15 PROJECT NOMINEE FACT SHEET
March 11, 2005

Project Name:

South Terrebonne Terracing Creation Project

Coast 2050 Strategy

- Terracing
- Maintain marshes along Timbalier Bay

Project Location

Region 3, Terrebonne Parish, Madison Bay, Lake Boudreaux Basin

Problem

These two areas have experienced tremendous erosion due to a variety of forces including subsidence, salt water intrusion, a lack of sediment supply, and oil and gas activities. Loss of these marshes has exposed significant infrastructure to open water conditions, and has made the areas north less suitable for various wildlife. The proposed project would re-establish some semblance of marsh function in the Madison Bay vicinity and between Lake Boudreaux and Lake Quitman. The 1983 to 1990 loss rate of the Boudreaux mapping unit is 1.8%/yr and 3.5%/yr for the Montegut unit. Both mapping units have a 1.1 to 2.0 ft/century subsidence rate.

Proposed Project Features

The project consists of two separate areas of terracing within southeast Terrebonne Parish. Terrace fields depicted on the maps are conceptual. Terrace alignments would be revised during advanced evaluations to maximize cost effectiveness. The terraces would be constructed to 3.5 ft NGVD (initial height) with a 10 ft crown and 1:4 side slopes and an average fill height of 6.6 ft. Based on water depth data provided by the parish, an average water depth of 3.5 ft was assumed. Subaerial benefits were based on a settled elevation of 2.5 ft NGVD. In both areas, the terracing would be planted with four rows of smooth cordgrass plugs on 5-ft spacing.

Area One (1,364 acres) is located just east of Bayou Terrebonne in the vicinity of Madison Bay. In this area, 175,000 linear feet of terracing would be created. This would result in 108 acres of subaerial habitat and 112 acres of subaqueous habitat. This area was chosen because it is within the most rapidly deteriorating areas of the Terrebonne Basin and therefore most in need of restoration. In addition to creating this habitat, it would reduce wave energy affecting the adjacent marshes with some potential protection to residences around and below the community of Montegut.

Area Two (935 acres) is between Lake Boudreaux and Lake Quitman just west of Bayou Little Caillou. In Area Two, approximately 125,000 linear feet of terracing would be constructed resulting in 77 acres of subaerial habitat and 80 acres of subaqueous habitat. Construction of these project features would protect some remaining marsh near Lake Boudreaux from wave induced erosion.

Goals

Project goals include creating emergent marsh and associated edge habitat and reduce the wave erosion of marshes along the fringes of Lake Boudreaux, Lake Quitman, and Madison Bay.

Preliminary Project Benefits

1) What is the total acreage benefited both directly and indirectly?

The project would create 156 acres of subaerial habitat and 181 acres of subaqueous habitat (see table). There would be indirect benefits to 2,299 acres of predominantly open water, with lesser amounts of brackish marsh, and SAV (see conceptual boundary figures – limits do not represent the 20 year erosion setback).

2) How many acres of wetlands would be protected/created over the project life? There would be an estimated total net benefit after 20 years of 158 acres (138 ac + 20 ac). Assumed the terrace slopes are eroded, but rebuilt with a maintenance lift. Subsequently, assumed one-fourth of the terraces are eroded by TY20 leaving 138 acres $[(300,000 \times 26.8 \text{ ft}) - (300,000 \times 26.8 \text{ ft} \times 0.25)]$. Assuming there is approximately 3 ft/yr of shoreline erosion of the adjacent marsh and the terraces reduce that by 50%, there would be an additional net of 20 acres of marsh over 20 years $(30,019 \text{ ft} \times 1.5 \text{ ft/yr})$. To be conservative, not all of the shoreline was included because the project is not expected to affect interior wetland loss rates, which are primarily subsidence induced losses.

3) What is the anticipated loss rate reduction throughout the area of direct benefits over the project life (<25%, 25-49%, 50-74% and >75%).

Assuming the terraces are rebuilt and only partially eroded by the end of the project life and shoreline erosion was assumed to be decreased by 50% there is over a 50-74% reduction in loss.

4) Do any project features maintain or restore structural components of the coastal ecosystem such as barrier islands, natural or artificial levee ridges, beach and lake rims, cheniers, etc.

The project would provide some minor re-establishment of a portion of the rim of Madison Bay and Lake Quitman.

5) What is the net impact of the project on critical and non-critical infrastructure?

The project may provide marginal net impact to infrastructure along Bayou Terrebonne including a flood protection levee and a pump station.

6) To what extent does the project provide a synergistic effect with other approved and/or constructed restoration projects?

This project would work in conjunction with the authorized Lake Boudreaux Fresh Water Introduction Project currently in design.

Identification of Potential Issues

There are oyster leases within the project area (primarily area 1). The project area has been revised to avoid deeper water to improve constructability. Another issue has been the suitability of soils in the eastern part of the State for this type of project. This concern has been addressed by the recent success of the Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries (DW&F) in constructing similar terraces at the Pointe-aux-chenes Marsh Management Area. Landrights, pipeline/utilities, and maintenance also are issues associated with this project none of which should prevent project implementation.

Preliminary Construction Costs

The estimated fully funded cost range is \$15 - \$20 million. The estimate construction cost including 25% contingency is \$ 7,825,000.

Preparer of Fact Sheet

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Patrick Williams, NMFS, 225-389-0508, ext 208, patrick.williams@noaa.gov

Project Map

List name (same as on Fact Sheet)

Project features should be displayed in their exact locations.

Indicate proposed project boundary area.

Scale (1 inch = __) and north arrow.

Identify waterbodies and landmarks

One copy of map would be sent to each official Engineering and Environmental Work Group member.

Description	Terracing Length (linear feet)	Habitat Created (acres)	Subaerial Habitat (acres)*	Subaqueous Habitat (acres)**
Area 1	175,000	253	77	80
Area 2	125,000	84	108	112
Total Project	300,000	337	185	192

* Acres created are calculated from +0.4 ft NGVD to the settled elevation of the top of terrace (2.5 ft NGVD)

** Acres created are calculated from +0.4 ft NGVD to an average water bottom (-3.1 ft NGVD)

South Terrebonne Parish Terracing Creation Project



Conceptual Terrace Field

South Terrebonne Terracing Creation Project

Conceptual terrace field (not to scale)



PPL15 PROJECT NOMINEE FACT SHEET
March 8, 2005

North Lost Lake Marsh Creation Project

Coast 2050 Strategy:

Regional Strategy 8 - Dedicated delivery of sediment for marsh creation

Regional Strategy 10 - Restore/prevent adverse tidal exchange points between lake/marsh

Regional Strategy 11 - Protect and Maintain Ridge Function

Project Location:

Region 3, Terrebonne Basin, Terrebonne Parish, marshes north of Lost Lake

Problem:

Continued deterioration of broken marshes west of Brady Canal, from Lake Pagie and Lost Lake northward to Carencro Bayou, will expose fragile (organic and floating) Penchant Basin freshwater marshes to catastrophic storm-related damage and/or increase tidal exchange and saltwater intrusion problems during the salty season. The proposed project would create marsh in open water areas to reduce fetch and decrease wave related erosion in existing interior open water areas. Those created marshes would also dampen storm surges and reduce the potential for storm related marsh blow-outs.

The nature and scope of the problem is evident by the continued loss of marshes along Bayou Decade north of Lake Pagie, and by the continued deterioration of marshes west of Voss Canal. Continued enlargement of those interior open water areas will allow wind-induced wave action to more rapidly erode remaining project-area organic marshes. Because of the loss of natural levees along the southern bank of Bayou Decade near Lake Pagie, the narrow remaining natural rim along the north shore of Lake Pagie is the only obstacle preventing the connection of Lake Pagie with Bayou Decade. Given the deteriorated condition of tidal marshes south of the Penchant Basin float marshes, and the lack of natural ridges, natural levees, or spoil banks within those tidal marshes that could provide protection for Penchant Basin marshes from marine influence, those Penchant Basin marshes west of Voss Canal are presently vulnerable to storm impacts and increased marine influence. This vulnerability is increased further by the observed absence of natural ridges, natural levees, or spoil banks forming the southern boundary of Penchant Basin freshwater marshes. The lack of natural levees along the north rim of Lost Lake and the continuing erosion of that shore, adds an additional threat to those marshes west of Voss Canal. During Hurricane Lily, several new water exchange sites have developed between interior marshes and the Lake. Unless this shoreline is strengthened, development of additional water exchange sites is likely with resulting adverse consequences for interior project-area marshes.

Proposed Project Features:

The project consists of smooth cordgrass plantings along the north shore of Lost Lake (21,800 feet) and a total of 248 acres of marsh creation with 118 acres of marsh nourishment located within 6 cells. The northern tier of cells are located along the submerged Bayou Mauvais Bois ridge. The cell along the north shore of Lost Lake would help to maintain that section of lake rim. The remaining cells would strengthen the north rim of Lake Pagie and the natural banks of Bayou Decade. Marsh creation areas would not be initially planted, but not otherwise maintained. Vegetative plantings would be replaced if initially unsuccessful and if recommended by the planting experts.

Goals:

Project goals include reducing shoreline retreat on the north shore of Lost Lake, preventing shoreline blow-outs along that same north shore, and creating marsh in interior open water areas in a manner that reduces fetch and associated wind-induced marsh erosion.

Preliminary Project Benefits

- 1) The project area is approximately 2,600 acres (Figure 1)
- 2) TY20 FWOP acres = 909; TY20 FWP acres = 1,305; net created/protected acres = 276
- 3) marsh creation cells (365 acres) loss rate reduction = 50%
shoreline planting loss rate reduction = 50%
indirect effect of cells = 20% loss rate reduction
- 4) cells would help maintain & restore the Mauvois Bois Ridge, the north Lost Lake shore, and the banks of Bayou Decade.
- 5) Project would provide no benefits to critical or non-critical infrastructure. Project would achieve synergy with the Bayou Decade Hydrologic Restoration Project, the Penchant Basin Plan Project, the North Lake Mechant Landbridge Restoration Project, and the South Lake Decade Project.

Identification of Potential Issues

The proposed project-area borrow site has no oysters leases. There would be little if any O&M. The only possible issue might be the presence of utilities/pipelines, etc.

Preliminary Construction Costs

The estimated fully funded cost range is \$10 - \$15 million. The estimated construction cost with 25% contingency is \$10.7 million.

Preparer of Fact Sheet

Ronny Paille – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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PPL15 PROJECT NOMINEE FACT SHEET

March 7, 2005

Project Name

Point Chevreuil Shoreline Protection

Project Location

The project is located in Region 3, Teche/Vermilion Basin, St. Mary Parish, along the southeastern shoreline of East Cote Blanche Bay, around Point Chevreuil, and the northwestern shoreline of Atchafalaya Bay.

Coast 2050 Strategy

Regional: #10. Protect, restore and maintain ridge functions; #11. Maintain shoreline integrity and stabilize critical shoreline areas.

Coastwide: Maintenance of gulf, bay and lake shoreline integrity; maintain, protect or restore ridge functions.

Mapping Unit: East Cote Blanche Bay (73) – Protect Bay/Lake Shorelines
Wax Lake Wetlands (60) – Protect Bay/Lake Shorelines

Problem

Eroding shoreline caused by the open water fetch and resulting wave energy from East Cote Blanche and Atchafalaya Bays. The retreating shoreline has resulted in a substantial loss of emergent wetlands and critical habitat used by a multitude of wildlife and fish species. Project features will protect the natural ridge functions of the Bayou Sale Ridge and protect the adjacent marshes. Shoreline erosion rates have been estimated at 13.5 LF/year (USGS 2003).

Proposed Project Features

Construction of a foreshore rock dike or rock revetment parallel to the existing eastern shoreline of East Cote Blanche Bay, from Bayou Sale southward to Point Chevreuil and the northern shoreline of Atchafalaya Bay from Point Chevreuil eastward to an underground pipeline crossing. The linear footage of shoreline is approximately 20,000 linear feet (~3.8 miles). It is possible that marsh can be created with the fill material from dredging of an access channel to accommodate construction equipment, where needed. This created area will be from the existing shoreline out to the rock dike.

Goals

Reduce and/or reverse shoreline erosion rates and protect natural ridge and marsh habitat as well as maintaining the existing hydrology of the area by preventing the Atchafalaya Bay shoreline from intercepting an oilfield and pipeline canal. The ridge and marsh area provides important habitat for black bears, neo-tropical migrants, wintering migratory waterfowl, etc.

Preliminary Project Benefits

The project is anticipated to directly protect approximately 124 acres of forested wetlands and intermediate marshes by reducing the current erosion rate of 13.5 ft/yr by 75-100%. The project is also expected to indirectly benefit approximately 1034 acres of adjacent marsh complex protected by the shoreline. Project features will provide protection to and maintain the small remnant of natural ridge/chenier function that currently exists along the eastern bank of the once-defined Bayou Sale channel. The project is not expected to impact critical or non-critical infrastructure. The project will have an important synergistic effect with the TV-20 Bayou Sale CWPPRA-approved Project by extending similar benefits to the southern most extent of the East Cote Blanche Bay shoreline.

Identification of Potential Issues

No significant potential issues are expected from project implementation. Adjacent landowners are in full support of the project.

Preliminary Construction Costs

The estimated fully funded cost range is \$10 - \$15 million. The estimated construction cost with 25% contingency is \$9.2 million.

Preparers of Fact Sheet



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Legend

-  Shoreline Protection
-  Project Boundary



900 0 900 1800 Feet



Point Chevreuil
Shoreline Protection
St. Mary Parish, Louisiana

PPL15 PROJECT NOMINEE FACT SHEET
March 11, 2005

Project Name

Southwest Pass/Bird Island Marsh Creation and Shoreline Protection

Coast 2050 Strategy

Regional:

- #7 Stabilize banks/cross sections of navigation channels for water conveyance.
- #8 Dedicated delivery of sediment for marsh building by any feasible means.
- #10 Maintain shoreline Integrity and stabilize critical areas of Teche-Vermilion Bay systems including the gulf shorelines.

Coastwide:

- Dedicated dredging for wetland creation
- Vegetative planting

Mapping Unit (Rainey Marsh, Marsh Island/ Vermilion Bay):

- #67 Stabilize critical Gulf shorelines
- #68 Protect Gulf shorelines
- #69 Beneficial and dedicated use of dredged material

Project Location

Region 3, Teche/Vermilion Basin, Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge in Iberia Parish, and Paul J. Rainey Wildlife Sanctuary in Vermilion Parish

Problem

Erosion of peninsulas in the project area is reducing the effectiveness of the landmass as a mainland barrier to gulf storm surge, wave energy and tidal flux reduction. Interior marsh loss at Tojan Island land mass combined with the shoreline erosion and north/south oriented tidal creeks increase the vulnerability of the island to withstand storm surges, which threaten the peninsulas integrity. An existing colonial wading bird rookery (Bird Island) located north of Tojan Island within Southwest Pass has sustained severe subsidence and erosion. Such impacts have reduced the effectiveness of the island in providing nesting habitat for wading birds. Average losses of 11.4 ft/yr at Southwest Point and 12.35 ft/yr at Lighthouse Point were measured from 1974 to 2000 by the USGS (estimates recalculated from USGS data used for the 2001 WVA).

Proposed Project Features

We propose armored shoreline protection of either onshore revetment or foreshore rock dike along the south shoreline of Vermilion Bay at Southwest Point (8,759 linear ft) and the north shoreline of the Gulf of Mexico at Lighthouse Point (4,619 linear ft), enlarge (14 acres) and heighten Bird Island, and create 87 acres of marsh with tidal creeks north along the north side of Tojan Island. Shoreline protection would consist of typical rock construction, with foreshore rock dike constructed 20 ft from shore, and would require approximately 6 navigation aid warning signs and gaps every 1,000 ft. Marsh creation would be accomplished by hydraulically dredging material to a height that would settle at marsh height. Material would be confined by earthen containment dikes, with the exception of a section along a channel (estimated to be 1,200 ft long) near Bird Island requiring a rock dike construction to prevent sloughing into the channel. Earthen containment dikes would be constructed to retain hydraulically dredged fill material and would have 3 ft crowns, 3:1 slopes, and +3 elevations at both containment areas. Rock containment dikes would be constructed with a 4 ft crown, 3:1 slope on the channel side, 2:1

slope on the fill side, and a +3 elevation. Vegetative plantings of appropriate species would be placed in marsh creation areas at Tojan Island. Vegetation is expected to occur naturally through the delivery of seeds by birds. Proposed borrow areas include a wide tidal channel north of Tojan Island for the fill material to be used at Bird Island, and an undetermined location for the Tojan Island marsh creation site.

Goals

The project goal is to protect and stabilize critical points within Southwest Pass. The current width and subsequent flow pattern would be maintained by installing armor protection around the perimeter of Lighthouse Point and Southwest Point. The rock protection would prevent tidal currents from circumventing the restriction at the pass and breaching into adjacent marsh areas. An existing colonial wading bird rookery that is rapidly being lost would be heightened and enlarged to increase habitat area, which would create nesting bird habitat for wading birds and provide critical edge habitat for estuarine dependent fisheries.

Preliminary Project Benefits

1) What is the total acreage benefited both directly and indirectly? 503 acres would be benefited, including direct benefits of 180 (shoreline loss reduction 72 acres area, 101 acres created marsh, 1 acres of the existing bird island, and the 20 ft shorefront area of water protected by the structures at both shoreline protection area of 6 acres) and indirect benefits of 325 acres (the shoreline protection would protect interior acres marsh at Tojan Island). *2) How many acres of wetlands will be protected/created over the project life?* 172 acres, assuming the loss rates at the shoreline protection [shoreline loss reduction $(8,759 * 11.45 \text{ ft/yr} * 20) + (4,619 * 12.35 \text{ ft/yr} * 20) / 43560 = 72 \text{ ac net}$ and marsh creation net at year 20 $(87 + 14 = 101)$ with 1 acres lost by TY20 assuming 50% of the 0.06%/yr applied for the Lake Portage project WVA. *3) What is the anticipated loss rate reduction throughout the area of direct benefits over the project life (<25%, 25-49%, 50-74% and >75%).* The project would significantly reduce loss through shoreline protection and land would be gained through rehabilitation of Bird Island. From shoreline protection >75% of loss would be reduced. At marsh creation areas 50% reduction in 0.06%/yr is assumed (interior marsh area in Lake Portage WVA was applied to created marsh acres starting with 3 years instantaneous loss at TY3 with the rate applied annual from then on). *4) Do any project features maintain or restore structural components of the coastal ecosystem such as barrier islands, natural or artificial levee ridges, beach and lake rims, cheniers, etc.?* The project would maintain critical areas of the Gulf shoreline along a barrier island, and peninsula. The project would enhance a barrier island, which has critical wildlife and fisheries habitat. The project would help maintain a landmass that plays a significant role in regulating the hydrology of the Acadiana Bay system. *5) What is the net impact of the project on critical and non-critical infrastructure?* An oil and gas facility is located in the vicinity of the project area, which would receive benefits, if any impact, from the project. *6) To what extent does the project provide a synergistic effect with other approved and/or constructed restoration projects?* Maintaining the Gulf and Bay shoreline would protect existing CWPPRA restoration efforts to the north.

Identification of Potential Issues

There is a potential for oyster lease issues. There is a question of ownership between the State of Louisiana and Audubon. The project would not interfere with navigation. Because it is unknown how shoreline protection in this area will withstand the elements, an O&M replacement of 10% of shoreline may be necessary at year 10.

Preliminary Construction Costs

The estimated fully funded cost range is \$15 - \$20 million. The estimated construction cost with 25% contingency is \$10,829,650.

Preparer of Fact Sheet

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Bird Island/ Southwest Pass Shoreline Protection and Marsh Creation

Nominee PPL 15



- Marsh creation
- Island creation
- Bird island
- Shoreline Protection



PPL15 PROJECT NOMINEE FACT SHEET
March 11, 2005

Project Name

Freshwater Introduction at Pecan Island

Coast 2050 Strategy

Regional Ecosystem Strategy #4 Move water from north to south across Highway 82 with associated drainage improvements south of Highway 82.

Programmatic recommendation #4. Maintain Lake's Subbasin target water level.

Project Location

Region 4, Mermentau Basin, Vermilion Parish, Conveyance channel from White Lake under LA Highway 82 into CWPPRA Pecan Island Terracing Project (ME-14).

Problem

Highway (Hwy) 82 acts as a hydrologic barrier. The Chenier Subbasin south of Hwy 82 has been experiencing saltwater intrusion due to lack of freshwater and sediment input from the Lakes Subbasin north of Hwy 82, while north of the highway water is retained. As recommended in the Coast 2050, the Lakes Subbasin needs drainage to maintain a 2 ft MLG water level target. Although culverts were installed in some areas along the highway during construction, those have filled in over the years. Recent attempts to restore hydrology have been isolated and have included two projects with similar goals.

The CWPPRA project ME-16 Freshwater Introduction south of Hwy 82 is west of the proposed project area. The water input structure of ME-16 is approximately 7 miles to the west of this proposals' water input location. Model results indicate that the impact of the ME-16 structure does not extend to Rollover Bayou (this proposals western boundary).

The State of Louisiana ME-01 freshwater introduction project area encompasses this proposals project area and extends to the east. The water input structure of ME-01 is 2 miles to the east of the water structure being proposed. Monitoring reports and hydrologic evaluation of ME-01 indicate that the 3-48" pipe structure does not influence an area near as large as was expected (it's project boundary).

"Currently, it is not clear what affect the freshwater introduction through the project structures has had or will have on the Pecan Island project area (1996 Closeout monitoring report, ME-01)."

Recent land loss analysis by USGS (LCA Land loss), which includes impacts of these projects, indicates continued loss for the area. The projected marsh to be lost by the year 2050, includes the remaining marsh in the proposed project area.

Studies have shown that Chenier plain brackish marsh accretion (vertical growth) is limited by plant productivity. The limited freshwater supply/flow in the project area limits plant productivity. Fresh waters would supply the oxygen and nutrients interior marshes require to increase productivity, thus potentially increasing marsh area. The limited success of ME-01 may be a result of frontal passages (southerly winds stacking water in the project area preventing flow from the Lakes) during the limited months water is available, as indicated by monitoring, or a number of other constrains associated with that project. The fact remains that the proposed

project area continues to have problems that ME-01 was anticipated to overcome. A hydrologic model (as proposed with this project) would help determine the appropriate action to alleviate these marsh loss problems.

Proposed Project Features

The proposed project area is approximately 6,834 acres. The project would include a 7,366 linear ft conveyance channel from White Lake to an existing drainage culvert going under Hwy 82. At Hwy 82, four 48" pipes would be installed to allow freshwater and sediment introduction from White Lake into an existing conveyance channel south of Hwy 82. The existing channel both north and south of Hwy 82 would be armored with rock for approximately 200' on each side of the new structure to prevent erosion. The existing channel would be excavated approximately 4 ft in a channel with a 25 ft bottom width (40 ft top width). The excavated material would be used to build a 1,264 ft section of bank needed along the northeast portion of the channel, and to refurbish existing banks. An existing plug would be removed and replaced with a rock armored opening along the southern shoreline of White Lake. The project would be constructed to allow excess freshwater to drain, while preventing saltwater intrusion into the Lakes Subbasin, by installing flap gates south of Hwy 82. A hydrologic model would be completed prior to construction to evaluate water capacity, existing conditions of the project area and surrounding areas, and alternatives to meet project goals.

Goals

The project goal is to suppress saltwater intrusion by conveying freshwater from lakes subbasin into the ME-14 terrace field (completed August 2003) and surrounding marshes. The goal is to operate in conjunction with existing operating plans to the south in order to re-establish intermediate-brackish marsh in the project area. Restoring the hydrology would prevent the exposure of fragile interior marsh to seasonal salinity spikes around Rollover Bayou, and increase productivity of marshes receiving freshwater. Submersed aquatic vegetation that has appeared in the project area since construction of ME-14, and plantings of ME-14 would also benefit.

Preliminary Project Benefits

1) What is the total acreage benefited both directly and indirectly? An estimated 6,834 acres would benefit from the project, not including reduction of water level from White Lake or the benefit to marshes south of the project area. The opinion of the hydrologic modeler of the ME-16 project (therefore familiar with water flow in the vicinity) is that the proposed project area is a conservative estimate of the area likely to be influenced. This is a conservative benefit area because it is only a portion of the physical boundaries of the management area into which water would be discharged. For the purpose of comparison, ME-16 channel dimensions (192 SF cross section) can provide 334-507 cfs to a 9,700 acre area for 3-4 months per year, while the proposed channel dimensions (130 SF cross section), is estimated to provide 226-343 cfs to 6,563 acres for 3-4 months per year. *2) How many acres of wetlands will be protected/created over the project life?* About 76 acres of marsh would be protected over the project life. An estimated 2,160 acres of marsh exist in the project area, which includes the 100 acres of terraces constructed for ME-14 (an additional 300 acres are expected in the next 20 years as a result of that project, but are not included in this estimate); the acres of marsh estimated to be in Area 1 of ME-14 from the monitoring plan (GIS data); and the rough estimate that the remaining conservatively proposed project area contains 4 times the acres of marsh (visual estimate of 2000 DOQQ of 515 acres) that exist in the ME-14 area 2 (GIS data), which overlaps with the proposed project area. *3) What is the anticipated loss rate reduction throughout the area of direct benefits over the project*

life (<25%, 25-49%, 50-74% and >75%). For the purpose of calculating benefits the COE 1983-1990 loss rate of 1.53%/yr will be used. A water level gradient of .5-.75 ft occurs approximately 75% of the time (Swenson 1999). Based on the projected reduction of 0-2 ppt from ME-16 modeling, we assume a 15% reduction of FWOP landloss. 4) *Do any project features maintain or restore structural components of the coastal ecosystem such as barrier islands, natural or artificial levee ridges, beach and lake rims, cheniers, etc.?* The project would restore water access that has been limited by Hwy 82, and increased marsh productivity would help protect the Pecan Island ridge from hurricanes. 5) *What is the net impact of the project on critical and non-critical infrastructure?* Project construction will temporarily limit Hwy 82 to one lane during construction days. The net impact would be strengthening marshes north and south of Hwy 82, which buffer this hurricane evacuation route and increasing evacuation of floodwaters from the Lakes Subbasin. 6) *To what extent does the project provide a synergistic effect with other approved and/or constructed restoration projects?* This project would provide nutrients and freshwater into the CWPPRA ME-14 terraces, potentially increasing marsh building and vegetative success, and synergistically interact with freshwater introduced south of Hwy 82 in the state ME-01 and CWPPRA ME-16 projects.

Identification of Potential Issues

Construction would be coordinated with Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD), which has allowed similar projects in the past.

O&M may be required on the structures and conveyance channel over the project life. There is an active 12" Tennessee Gas pipeline near White Lake that crosses the conveyance channel.

Landrights would require some additional attention to address landowner concerns.

Preliminary Construction Costs

The estimated fully funded cost range is \$0-\$5 million. The estimated construction cost with 25% contingency is \$2,316,015.

Preparer of Fact Sheet

John Foret, National Marine Fisheries Service, 337-291-2107, john.foret@noaa.gov.

Freshwater Introduction at Pecan Island

Nominee PPL 15



- Project area
- Containment dike
- Armored opening
- Proposed culverts
- Terraces of ME-14



PPL15 PROJECT NOMINEE FACT SHEET
March 9, 2005

Holly Beach Breakwaters West Extension (BW and sand)

Coast 2050 Strategy

Coastwide: Maintain, Protect, or Restore Ridge Functions; Maintenance of Gulf, Bay, and Lake Shoreline Integrity.

Regional: 18. Stabilize Gulf of Mexico shoreline from Calcasieu Pass to Johnson's Bayou.

Project Location

Region 4, Calcasieu-Sabine Basin, Cameron Parish, Martin Beach Ship Canal Shore Mapping Unit, Extension of Holly Beach Breakwater Project (CS-1) west to Long Beach (Parish Road 530).

Problem

The project will be designed to reduce erosion of the Gulf Shoreline west of the Holly Beach Breakwater project, and incidentally protecting State Hwy 82 and the marsh system behind it. Landowners cite loss rates as high as approximately 40 ft/yr. Recent loss rates (1998-2004) were calculated from a survey at approximately 24 ft/yr.

Proposed Project Features

The project proposes approximately 6600 linear feet (1.25 miles) of breakwaters continuing on from the Holly Beach Breakwater Project (CS- 01). Breakwaters will be designed on the CS-01 template, using all the lessons learned from the Holly Beach Breakwater Enhancement and Sand Management Project (CS-31). Approximately 16 round rubble breakwaters (ranging from 150 – 170 ft with 250 - 300 ft gaps), placed 300 – 700 feet offshore and built to 3.8 ft NGVD. An additional sand component (approximately 88,000 yd³ of sand) will be added to create/nourish beach behind the breakwaters.

Goals

- 1.) Reduce Gulf shoreline retreat and restore chenier barrier shoreline and
- 2.) Protect Marsh and wooded chenier habitat threatened by encroaching gulf
- 3.) Protect/restore critical habitat for the piping plover, a threatened/endangered species

Preliminary Project Benefits

The project is designed to reduce wave energies on the gulf shoreline west of the Holly Beach Breakwater field and trap sediment between the breakwaters and shoreline and additional beach creation of approximately 23 acres. The total area benefited is 95 acres, with 77 acres directly protected as a result of 75% reduction in loss rate. This project maintains a beach rim component of the coastal ecosystem and has a positive net impact on critical infrastructure (pipelines and houses) and has a synergistic effect of the Holly Beach project to which it is tied. All of the land owners are behind the project. The Audubon Society supports this project as further protection to valuable chenier habitat. This project would also protect/restore critical habitat for the piping plover, a threatened/endangered species.

Identification of Potential Issues

The proposed project has the following potential issues: Landrights, pipelines, and O&M

Preliminary Construction Costs

The estimated fully funded cost range is \$10 - \$15 million. The estimated construction cost with 25% contingency is \$8.0 million.


Preparers of Fact Sheet

Marty Floyd, Biologist	Andy Tarver, Civil Engineer
318-473-7690	318-473-7685
marty.floyd@la.usda.gov	andy.tarver@la.usda.gov

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service
3737 Government Street
Alexandria, LA 71302



Key to Features

 Proposed Breakwaters



700 0 700 1400 Feet



Holly Beach Breakwaters - West
Cameron Parish, Louisiana

**Public Support for PPL15 Nominees
In the Selection of PPL15 Candidates
Updated March 22, 2005**

Letters of Support:

Eastern Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Protection

- Mary Landrieu, U.S. Senate, letter of support dated 14 Mar 2005
- Walter Boasso, Louisiana Senate, letter of support dated 7 Mar 05
- Mitchell J. Landrieu, State of Louisiana Office of Lieutenant Governor, letter of support dated 25 Feb 05
- Kenneth Odinet, Sr., Louisiana House of Representatives, letter of support dated March 7, 2005
- Mayor C. Ray Nagin, City of New Orleans, letter of support dated 2 Mar 05
- Glenn B. Ansardi, State Representative – District 92, dated 14 Mar 05
- Cynthia Willard-Lewis, New Orleans Council- Dist. E, dated 4 Mar 05
- The Council of the City of New Orleans, all 7 members, dated 4 Mar 05
- Col. Terry Ebbert, NO Homeland Security & Public Safety, dated 14, Mar 05
- Mark Ford Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana, dated 15 Mar 05
- Carlton Dufrechou, Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, dated 14 Mar 05
- Kenneth M. Carter, Cedar Bayou, LLC, letter of support dated 24 Feb 05
- Leo Richardson, landowner, letter of support dated 10 Mar 05
- John Ryan, citizen, letter of support dated March 11, 2005
- 46 letters of support signed by citizens in project area (no printed names on letters, therefore unable to provide names), various dates
- Randy Lauman, landowner, Letter dated 14 Mar 05
- Elizabeth R. Quaglino, L. Catherine Camp Landowner Civic Organization dated 12 Mar 05
- Ralph Bolotte, landowner, dated 12 Mar 05
- Richard R. Murphy Jr., landowner, dated 15 Mar 05
- Ronald Rauber, landowner, dated 15 Mar 05
- Blake Kinchen & Harry Willis, landowners, faxed 16 Mar 05

Bayou Lamoque Freshwater Diversion

Lake Hermitage Marsh Creation

Buras to Triumph Levee Fringe Marsh Restoration

Venice Ponds Marsh Creation and Crevasses

South Terrebonne Parish Marsh Terracing

- Mary Landrieu, U.S. Senate, letter of support dated 14 Mar 2005
- Reggie B. Dupre, Jr., Louisiana Senate, letter of support dated January 31, 2005
- Don Schwab, Terrebonne Parish President, letter of support (no date)
- Paul A. Labat, Terrebonne Parish Council, letter of support dated January 27, 2005 and resolution dated January 26, 2005
- Ms. C. Duplantis, Terrebonne Parish resolution # 05-86
- Kandy Theriot, President/CEO, Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce, letter of support dated February 1, 2005

North Lost Lake Marsh Creation

- Mary Landrieu, U.S. Senate, letter of support dated 14 Mar 2005
- Mickey Guillory, Stae Representative, dated 11 Mar 05
- Reggie B. Dupre, Jr., Louisiana Senate, letter of support dated January 31, 2005
- Damon Baldone, State Representative, dated 31, Jan 05
- Don Schwab, Terrebonne Parish President, letter of support (no date)
- Paul A. Labat, Terrebonne Parish Council, letter of support dated January 27, 2005 and resolution dated January 26, 2005
- Kandy Theriot, President/CEO, Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce, letter of support dated February 1, 2005
- Ms. C. Duplantis, Terrebonne Parish resolution # 05-86

Point Chevreuil Shoreline Protection

Bird Island/Southwest Pass Marsh Creation and Shoreline Protection

South Pecan Island Freshwater Introduction

Holly Beach Breakwaters West Extension

- Mary Landrieu, U. S. Senate, letter of support dated March 17, 2004
- Mickey J. Guillory, Louisiana House of Representatives, letter of support dated March 11, 2005
- Paul J. Cox, Law Offices of Cox, Cox, Filo & Camel, letter of support dated 22 Feb 05
- Dorothy Powell, Baton Rouge Audubon Society, letter of support dated 4 Mar 05
- Wendell Lindsay, citizen, letter of support dated January 31, 2005

MARY L. LANDRIEU
LOUISIANA

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1804

March 14, 2005

Colonel Peter Rowan
District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Post Office Box 60267
New Orleans, Louisiana 70160

RE: Landrieu Project No. 144500

Always refer to the Landrieu Project No. when communicating with this office.

Dear Colonel Rowan:

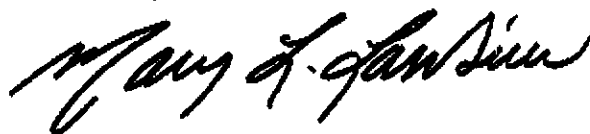
I am writing on behalf of the East Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Protection Project located in New Orleans, Louisiana which has submitted a proposal to the Coastal Wetland Planning, Protection and Restoration Act technical committee for funding under the Coastal Wetland Planning, Protection and Restoration Act funding program.

It is a pleasure for me to inform you of my support for the East Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Protection Project's effort to protect the East Orleans Landbridge. I believe you will find the application to be exemplary in every way, and I would appreciate every appropriate consideration, within the applicable guidelines, during the review.

In closing, I ask for any information that you may now provide on this matter and look forward to hearing from you about the final decision.

Thanking you for your consideration and with kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,



Mary L. Landrieu
United States Senator

MLL:amr



SENATE
STATE OF LOUISIANA

WALTER J. BOASSO

State Senator
District 1

100 Intermodal Drive
Chalmette, Louisiana 70043
(504) 270-9258
Toll Free 1(866) 926-2776
Fax (504) 277-0113

COMMITTEES:

Retirement, Vice Chair
Agriculture, Forestry,
Aquaculture &
Rural Development
Transportation, Highways,
and Public Works

March 7, 2005

Mr. Tom Podany
Acting Deputy Dist. Engineer
U.S. Army Engineer Dist. - N.O.
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

Mr. Gerry M. Duszynski
Acting Asst. Sec. - DNR
Ofc - Coastal Restor./Mgmt.
P.O. Box 44487
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4487

Mr. Darryl Clark
U.S. Fish/Wildlife
646 Cajundome Blvd.
Suite 400
Lafayette, LA 70506

Mr. Richard Hartman
NOAA - Baton Rouge ofc
National Marine Fisheries Serv.
c/o Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA 70803-7535

Ms. Sharron Parrish
Acting Chief - Marine/Wetlands
EPA - Region VI Water Quality
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

Mr. Brit Paul
Asst. Conservationist
USDA -Nat. Resrces.
3737 Government St.
Alexandria, LA 71302

RE: CWPPRA / PLL 15 - East Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Protection Project

Dear CWPPRA Technical Committee officials:

I am writing you to express my unwavering support for the East Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Protection Project. This vital project will strengthen the city's defenses against catastrophic storm surge, and not only protect my constituents in the Lake Catherine community, but protect the lives of residents and business owners in the entire Lake Pontchartrain basin.

The East Orleans Landbridge is at risk of continued deterioration due to tidal erosion, but the Orleans Parish proposal for this Landbridge Shoreline Protection Project can prevent further loss of this fragile land mass and ensure the continued use of Hwy. 90 as an evacuation route.

Thank you for your continued hard work, and I urge you to give favorable consideration to the East Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Protection Project throughout this review process.

With best regards,


Walter J. Boasso

WJB/kwt

PPL15 PROJECT NOMINEE FACT SHEET

February 18, 2005

Project Name

"East Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Protection"

Coast 2050 Strategy

- Coastwide – Maintain bay and lake shoreline integrity.
- Regional 10 – Maintain shoreline integrity of Lake Pontchartrain.
- Regional 13 – Maintain Eastern Orleans Land Bridge by marsh creation and shoreline protection.
- Mapping Unit 36 – Maintain shoreline integrity.

Project Location

Region 1, Pontchartrain Basin, Orleans Parish, East Orleans Landbridge Mapping Unit, along south shore of Lake Ponchartrain near Chef Pass and the Rigolets.

Problem

High wave energy, sea level rise and subsidence levels are impacting the wetland shorelines of Lake Pontchartrain, Chef Pass, the Rigolets and Lake Catherine. Shorelines in these areas exhibited increasingly higher erosion rates dating since the 1980s. Identified in both *Coast 2050* and the LCA Report, this critical landbridge forms a barrier between Lake Pontchartrain and Lake Borgne, an eventual passage to the Gulf of Mexico. This thin land mass of mostly brackish marsh is home to over 1,000 residents and protects an inland population of approximately 450,000 people in the city of New Orleans. The landbridge protects billions of dollars of infrastructure and historic communities in the city and surrounding parishes in the Pontchartrain basin. The disappearance of shoreline and marsh in this area is endangering this narrow landbridge that separates Lake Pontchartrain from Lake Catherine and Lake Borgne. Continued erosion without action will result in the acceleration of the loss of remaining marsh.

Proposed Project Features

- Lake Pontchartrain west of Chef Pass – approximately 2,000 feet of rock shoreline protection.
- Lake Pontchartrain near Rigolets at Hospital Wall – approximately 3,000 feet of rock shoreline protection.
- East bank of Sawmill Pass – approximately 10,000 feet of rock shoreline protection.
- West bank of Sawmill Pass – approximately 10,000 feet of rock shoreline protection.

Goals

- Maintain the East Orleans Landbridge by stopping shoreline erosion.
- Protect communities and infrastructure located on the landbridge and inland.

Preliminary Project Benefits

Shoreline erosion rates in the project areas range from ~~100 feet~~ per year. The project will benefit 2,000 acres and protect 750 acres by reducing the shoreline erosion rate by 100%. The project would maintain part of the Lake Pontchartrain shoreline rim and protect communities and infrastructure. The project would complement an existing CWPPRA project: Bayou Chevee Shoreline Protection (PO-22). Shoreline protection features would maintain important structural components of the East Orleans Landbridge.

Identification of Potential Issues

There are no known issues associated with this project.

Preliminary Construction Costs

~~\$7.5 Million~~

Preparers of Fact Sheet

Yarrow Etheredge
Director, Office of Environmental Affairs
City of New Orleans
YarrowE@new-orleans.la.us

Mr. Leo Richardson
Landowner/citizen
Chef Menteur Land Company
lfrichardson@cox.net

State of Louisiana

PM-C

MITCHELL J. LANDRIEU
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



POST OFFICE BOX 44243
BATON ROUGE, LA 70804-4243

OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

February 25, 2005

Mr. Tom Podnay
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
7400 Leake Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70118

Dear Mr. Podnay,

The Lake St. Catherine Landbridge project is essential for erosion control and protection of vital evacuation routes for residents of the region. For that reason, I seek to express my personal support for this project as you consider Project Priority List 15 candidates under the Breaux Act at your March 16 meeting.

This proposed project is essential in protection of the rapidly eroding shoreline in the southeast corner of Lake Pontchartrain and the disappearing banks of Sawmill Pass from the Rigolets into Lake St. Catherine. Your support of the Lake St. Catherine Landbridge project will ensure protection of the rapidly eroding shoreline. In the last 20 years, Sawmill Pass has increased from 1,200 feet wide to 3,000 feet wide. Erosion of the thin sliver of hard ground remaining between the northern shore of Lake St. Catherine and Lake Pontchartrain threatens U.S. 90, a critical hurricane evacuation route. Integrity of this evacuation route is essential for all parishes in the area.

Additionally, this project would provide critical protection for Fort Pike. Building of this facility began in 1819 and was completed in 1826 to protect Louisiana from attacks of land and sea. Today this historic site needs your support for this project to ensure protection from the onslaught of erosion.

The Breaux Act is critical to coastal restoration and conservation efforts. The Lake St. Catherine Landbridge is consistent with the Coast 2050 plan and I urge your continued support of this project to protect this important passage for the citizens of Louisiana.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Landrieu".

Mitchell J. Landrieu
Lieutenant Governor

ML:ch



932 Angela Avenue
Arabi, Louisiana 70032
Telephone: (504) 361-6685
(504) 279-2555
Fax: (504) 277-5664

STATE OF LOUISIANA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

KENNETH L. ODINET, SR.
District 103

Joint Legislative Committee on Capital Outlay
Labor and Industrial Relations
Natural Resources
Ways and Means

March 7, 2005

Mr. Tom Podany
Acting Deputy District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District Office, New Orleans
P.O. 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160

RE: CWPPRA/PLL 15
East Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Protection

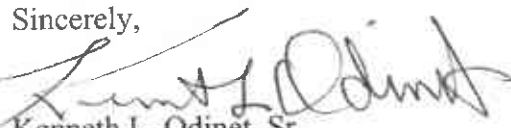
Dear Mr. Podany:

This letter is to advise you of my unqualified support for the efforts of Orleans Parish to prevent further loss of fragile landmass between Chef Menteur Pass and the Rigolets. It is easy to see from an aerial photograph of the Ponchartrain Basin that the area functions as a barrier island and that parts of it are obviously deteriorated. Substantive loss on the eastern side of the landbridge would more fully open up Lake Ponchartrain to the Gulf and increase the prospects for flooding in all of the lake's communities.

I believe that the East Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Protection Project will strengthen the city's defenses against catastrophic storm surge and help to assure the availability of Hwy. 90 as an evacuation route. In addition, wetlands and recreational areas will be preserved and private homes will be protected. The entire Ponchartrain Basin Potentially benefits from the project.

On behalf of my constituents in the Lake Catherine community, I urge you to give it favorable consideration throughout the review process.

Sincerely,


Kenneth L. Odinet, Sr.

Cc:

Mr. Gerry M. Duszynski,
Acting Assistant Secretary
La. Dept. Of Natural Resources
Office of Coastal Restoration and Management

CITY OF NEW ORLEANS
C. RAY NAGIN, MAYOR

78
PM-C



March 2, 2005

Mr. Thomas J. Podany
Acting Deputy District Engineer
U.S. Army Engineer District, New Orleans
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

Dear Mr. Podany:

I am writing to express my support of the East Orleans Land Bridge Shoreline Protection project nominated in CWPPRA PPL 15. As you know, the benefits of coastal restoration are immeasurable; however, the geographic location of New Orleans makes coastal restoration projects imperative to our city because the marsh infrastructure that maintains Lake St. Catherine and Lake Pontchartrain also protects our city and the outlying parishes from hurricanes.

This area is rapidly eroding, and our project proposal would stabilize critical erosion hot spots in the East Orleans Land Bridge in order to maintain the integrity of our lakes, the city, and the lower-lying parishes. This project will benefit 2,000 acres and protect 750 acres by reducing the shoreline erosion rate by 100 percent. Because of its importance to the City Of New Orleans and the coast, this area was identified in both the Louisiana Coastal Area Study and the Coast 2050 plan as integral components of the state's total coastal restoration plan.

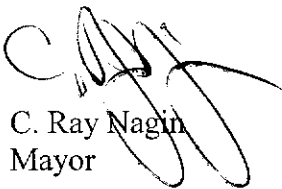
New Orleans sits between the Mississippi River and Lake Pontchartrain, and the topography dips gradually below sea level like a bowl. Because of this we rely on an elaborate pumping system and levees to safeguard us from flooding produced by rainfall. When storms enter the Gulf of Mexico, storm surge enters Lake Pontchartrain. As pressure systems change, this storm surge can cause water to breach the levees on the south shore of the lake, and swamp the city.

Illustrative of the benefit of the East Orleans Land Bridge to the safety of our city, when Hurricane Betsy hit New Orleans, water levels in Lake St. Catherine were two feet higher than those in Lake Pontchartrain because of the land bridge. This area has disintegrated over time and has caused tidal influences from the Gulf of Mexico through The Rigolets and into Lake Pontchartrain to become stronger as a result of coastal erosion. The proposed project would stabilize these marshes against the daily pressures of the tides while preserving our coastal infrastructure, insuring that our lakes do not become part of the Gulf of Mexico. Highway 90, which sits upon the East Orleans Land Bridge, is also a

critical hurricane evacuation route for the lower-lying parishes and an alternative to Interstate 10.

There are 450,000 citizens living in Orleans Parish and billions of dollars of infrastructure and historic communities in the city and surrounding parishes. At least 100,000 of these citizens do not have transportation to evacuate in the case of a hurricane. The disappearance of shoreline and marsh in this area endangers the narrow land bridge that keeps Lake Pontchartrain from joining Lake St. Catherine and Lake Borgne. Without action, continued erosion will accelerate the depletion of remaining marsh. Preventive measures must be taken to ensure the safety of the people living in Orleans Parish. I hope you understand my sense of urgency and give favorable consideration to our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Nagin', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

C. Ray Nagin
Mayor

cc: Yarrow Etheredge

LOUISIANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



1940 I-10 Service Road, Suite 125
Kenner, LA 70065
Email: larep092@legis.state.la.us
Phone: 504.466.1331
Fax: 504.466.6677

Chairman, Civil Law and Procedure

GLENN ANSARDI
State Representative - District 92

March 14, 2005

Mr. Tom Podany
Acting Deputy District Engineer
U.S. Army Engineer District, New Orleans
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA

Via Fax No. 862-1892

RE: CWPPRA/PLL 15
East Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Protection

Dear Mr. Podany:

This letter is to advise you of my unqualified support for the efforts of Orleans Parish to prevent further loss of fragile landmass between Chef Menteur Pass and the Rigolets. It is easy to see from an aerial photograph of the Ponchartrain Basin that the area functions as a critical barrier island and that parts of it obviously deteriorated. Substantive loss on the eastern side of the landbridge would more fully open up Lake Ponchartrain to the Gulf and increase the prospects for flooding in all of the lake's communities. On behalf of my constituents, I can assure you that Kenner is just as concerned about that eventuality as our neighbors in New Orleans.

I believe that the East Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Protection Project will both strengthen our community's first-line defenses against catastrophic storm surge and help to assure the availability of Hwy. 90 as an evacuation route. Those issues are of vital importance to the entire Ponchartrain Basin.

I urge you to give the East Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Protection Project favorable consideration throughout the review process.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn B. Ansardi".

GLENN B. ANSARDI

GBA/rsd

gba\staterp\EastOrleans Landbridge Shoreline Protection



The Council
City of New Orleans

CYNTHIA WILLARD - LEWIS
COUNCILMEMBER, DISTRICT E

CITY HALL, SUITE 2W60
1300 PERDIDO STREET
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70112
(504) 658-1050
FAX (504) 658-1058

March 4, 2005

Mr. Thomas J. Podany
Acting Deputy District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
ATTN: PM-C
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

Dear Mr. Podany:

I represent the residents in eastern New Orleans as Councilwoman of District E. My district includes the communities of Venetian Isles, Lake Catherine, Irish Bayou and Fort Pike, all of which are located in quickly eroding wetlands. It's an area of outdoor-oriented living with abundant opportunities to enjoy wildlife and a waterfront lifestyle not available anywhere else in a city surrounded by levees and concrete shorelines. In terms of its physical and cultural uniqueness within the borders of an American metropolis, the area is on a par with the French Quarter or Uptown New Orleans, although it is generally overlooked.

In March of 2004, I spoke with residents from these areas who expressed interest and support for wetland restoration projects. In January of 2005, the Mayor's Office of Environmental Affairs held a public meeting and presented specific locations along the shorelines of Lake Pontchartrain, Lake Catherine and the Rigolets where erosion is highest. The public response was reported as supportive and in shock of how much wetland loss is occurring along a land mass that protects inland areas from flooding.

On behalf of Council District E, I fully support the Eastern Orleans Land Bridge Shoreline Protection project, which was nominated in Region 1 under the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Preservation and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) PPL 15. It is the last remaining barrier island for all of the lakeside communities in the Ponchartrain Basin. Simply stated, the East Orleans Land Bridge holds back the Gulf of Mexico from Lake Ponchartrain. Residents of Lake Catherine can tell you that, in times of hurricanes, the water level on the south side of Hwy 90 may be two to three feet higher than the north side; a testament to the effectiveness of the barrier.

Mr. Thomas J. Podany
March 4, 2005
Page 2

I am proud to serve the residents and landowners of the Eastern New Orleans Land Bridge, many of whom are helping to lead in these efforts to implement coastal restoration strategies outlined in the comprehensive *Coast 2050* plan. These residents tell the story of the erosion of these wetlands to as many people who will listen. It seems clear that if action is not taken, the bridge will disappear, which will result in the loss of property, infrastructure, inland flood protection, fisheries and wildlife habitat. I will continue to do whatever is possible to support this project in order to meet the coastal restoration needs of District E residents and the entire city.

Sincerely,



Cynthia Willard-Lewis
Councilmember ~ District E

CWL/kb

cc: Yarrow Etheredge



THE COUNCIL
City of New Orleans

EDDIE L. SAPIR
 Councilmember at Large

OLIVER M. THOMAS, JR.
 Councilmember at Large

JOHN A. BATT, JR.
 Councilmember District "A"

RENEE GILL PRATT
 Councilmember District "B"

JACQUELYN BRECHTEL CLARKSON
 Councilmember District "C"

DAVID B. PAYTON
 Councilmember District "D"

CYNTHIA WILLARD-LEWIS
 Councilmember District "E"

March 4, 2005

Mr. Thomas J. Podany
 Acting Deputy District Engineer
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 ATTN: PM-C
 P.O. Box 60267
 New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

Dear Mr. Podany:

The City Council is unanimous of its support of the Eastern Orleans Land Bridge Shoreline Protection project, nominated in Region 1 under the Breaux Act, PPL 15. We are aware of the comprehensive plan to restore Louisiana's coast described in *Coast 2050* and the reason why it was devised. The measured annual loss of approximately 25 to 35 square miles of wetlands or a football field every 30 minutes, is reason enough to implement this publicly supported plan. As you know, to "Maintain Critical Landforms" is one of the ecosystem strategies in Region 1 identified in *Coast 2050*. The Eastern Orleans Land Bridge was identified as one of these landforms and we plan to do as much as possible to protect preserve and restore this area.

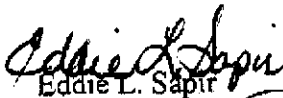
The wetlands in eastern New Orleans form a land bridge that separates Lake Borgne from Lake Pontchartrain and maintains the physical integrity of these two water bodies. The appearance that the land is stable is false and if action is not taken, the bridge will disintegrate, opening the wetlands to even more high-energy winds and waves that will ultimately advance land loss and flooding problems. Our staff has shown us U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Department of Natural Resources land loss maps that indicate hundreds of feet of wetlands have been lost over past decades and is picking up speed as of late. We realize that these wetland areas are also important migration grounds for pelicans and ducks, and they support fisheries, a viable economic resource for our city and the region.

Mr. Thomas Podany
March 4, 2005
Page 2

Of great concern to the Council are the erosive threats experienced by one of our hurricane evacuation routes: U.S. Highway 90. We are already aware that the Department of Transportation had to conduct an emergency fill operation to counteract Tropical Storms Lili and Isidore in 2002.

We appreciate that the New Orleans Metropolitan Area is of concern regarding coastal restoration efforts in our great state of Louisiana. We are well aware how wetlands are necessary to protect the culture, economy and well-being of both our city and the nation. Please continue to consider this project which will directly impact a diverse population of over one million people.

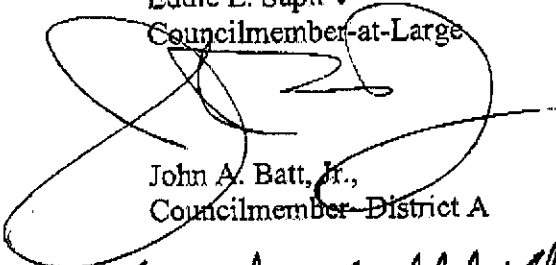
Sincerely,



Eddie L. Sapir
Councilmember-at-Large



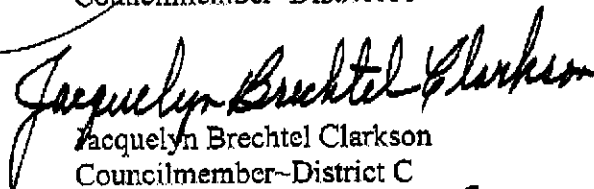
Oliver M. Thomas, Jr.
Councilmember-at-Large



John A. Batt, Jr.,
Councilmember-District A



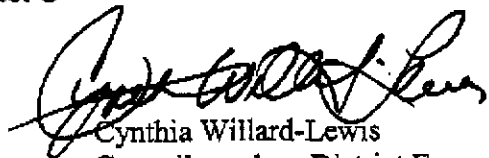
Renee Gill Pratt
Councilmember-District B



Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson
Councilmember-District C



David B. Payton
Councilmember-District D



Cynthia Willard-Lewis
Councilmember-District E

CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

C. RAY NAGIN
MAYOR

COL. TERRY J. EBBERT
DIRECTOR

March 14, 2005

Mr. Tom Podany
Acting Deputy District Engineer
USACE- New Orleans District
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA. 70160-0267

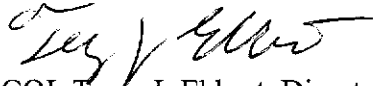
Dear Mr. Podany:

I want to take this opportunity to make the point of how very important Highway 90 is as a hurricane evacuation route. This highway serves much of the lowland area in our Southeast LA region.

As you are aware, we are at great risk during any Category 2 or greater storm making landfall in our area. Our limited number of access routes and reduced time period make each route vital to the safety of our citizens.

I support expanded conservation efforts which will continue to protect this and all other regional hurricane evacuation routes. If I can provide any further assistance please feel free to contact this office at any time.

Very Respectfully,



COL Terry J. Ebbert, Director
Homeland Security & Public Safety
City of New Orleans





Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana

746 Main Street, Suite B101; Baton Rouge, LA 70802

225.344.6555-224.344.0590fax-1.888.522.6278-www.crcl.org

March 15, 2005

Mr. Tom Podany
Acting Deputy District Engineer
U.S. Army Engineer
New Orleans District
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70610

RE: East New Orleans Landbridge

Dear Mr. Podany,

We are well aware of the fragile nature of the area called the East New Orleans Landbridge. This strip of land is narrow, rapidly deteriorating, and if lost, will open up Lake Pontchartrain to direct influences from the Gulf of Mexico. We encourage the CWPPRA Task Force to seriously consider projects which will help protect this area and which will restore lands that have been lost. The settlement of Lake Catherine, Highway 90 and railroad lines which run through this area are all in danger of greater exposure to waves, erosion and subsidence if something isn't done to reverse the effects of these processes.

Please contact us if you have any questions in regards to projects proposed for this area.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Ford
Deputy Director

SAVE OUR LAKE
LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN BASIN FOUNDATION

March 14th, 2005

Mr. Tom Podnay
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

Dear Tom,

The Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation supports the City of New Orleans Coastal Wetlands Planning Protection and Restoration Act proposal, East New Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Protection. Most recent data indicates that coastal wetland land loss rates have increased in the lower Pontchartrain Basin. This area includes the proposed project. We believe the New Orleans project will help protect and preserve remaining wetlands near the Rigolets, Lake Catherine and Highway 90.

Very truly yours,



Carlton Dufrechou
Executive Director

Cc: Yarrow Etheredge
Director, Office of Environmental Affairs
Mayor's Office of Economic Development

nt:
Podn031405

CEDAR BAYOU, LLC
Suite 1230 Entergy Centre
1100 Poydras Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70163

PM-C
TP



February 24, 2005

Mr. Thomas J. Podany
Acting Deputy District Engineer
U.S. Army Engineer District, New Orleans
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

RE: East Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Protection
PPL 15 - Regional 1 - Project 9

Dear Mr. Podany:

Our company owns approximately 2100 acres within the "Lake Catherine area" bounded by Lake Pontchartrain, Lake St. Catherine, the Rigolets, and Chef Menteur Pass. A Department of Natural Resources officials has informed us that it is the last and most pristine marshland along the whole of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin. It contains alligators (up to 15'), ducks and other indigenous Louisiana wildlife. The property has about four (4) miles of shoreline along Lake Pontchartrain and about two (2) miles along Chef Menteur Pass. Only 15-50 acres can and is contemplated for development.

It has come to our attention that the entire Lake Catherine Land bridge is in jeopardy of erosion. Our company is committing private funds to address the most endangered portion of our property. However, there are other shorelines in the area along the Rigolets, Chef Menteur Pass, Lake St. Catherine, and Lake Pontchartrain which requires immediate action and it's for those, Cedar Bayou LLC requests your favorable action on the referenced project.

The benefits of such shoreline protection include:

- 1) Maintaining the integrity of the landbridge to break storm waters from the Gulf from threatening all parish shorelines and property along the Lake Pontchartrain basin.
- 2) Protection of U.S. Highway 90 which is one of two eastern evacuation routes for all of Southeast Louisiana.

Mr. Thomas J. Podany
February 24, 2005
Page -2-

- 3) Protection of both the habitat of both humans, wildlife, and aquatic life. There are over 1000 residents (some who've lived in the subject area for over 50 years). The area is known for the best fishing, shrimping, crabbing, etc. in Southeast Louisiana. There has been a recent surge in individual property ownership and the trend is clearly upward.
- 4) The area includes the historic Fort Pike, one of the few remaining forts open for tourist in Louisiana.
- 5) Economic Development, including an increased tax base, will continue its upward trend particularly in home ownership and ecotourism.

We realize that there are many worthy projects presented to you for prioritization of limited funds. However, the benefits of this project have implications for most of the parishes in Region 1, be it for public safety, environmental protection, or economic development. We respectfully request your selecting the subject property as a candidate to be evaluated fro PPL 15.

Sincerely,



Kenneth M. Carter
Managing Partner

cc: Mr. Gerry M. Duszynski
Mr. Darryl Clark
Mr. Richard Hartman
Ms. Sharron Parrish
Mr. Brit Paul

Leo F. Richardson, II

107 Stella St
Metairie, LA 70005

Tel 504-835-2282
Fax 504-835-9199
lfrichardson@cox.net

March 10, 2005

Mr. Tom Podany
Acting Deputy District Engineer
U.S. Army Engineer district, New Orleans
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA.

By Fax 862-1892
1 page

Re: CWPRA / PLL 15
East Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Protection

Dear Mr. Podany

My wife and I are minority stockholders in a family company that owns property along Hwy 90 near Chef Menteur Pass, as well as some acreage on the east side of Lake Catherine.

This letter is to advise you of our unqualified support for the efforts of Orleans Parish to prevent further loss of fragile landmass in those areas. It is easy to see from an aerial photograph of the Ponchartrain Basin that the area functions as a critical Barrier Island and that parts of it are obviously deteriorated. Substantive loss on the eastern side of the landbridge would more fully open up Lake Ponchartrain to the Gulf and increase the prospects for flooding in all of the lake's communities. I believe that the East Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Protection Project will both strengthen our community's first line defenses against catastrophic storm surge and help to assure the availability of Hwy. 90, an important community artery as well as an evacuation route. Those issues are of vital importance to the entire Ponchartrain Basin.

I urge you to give the East Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Protection Project favorable consideration throughout the review process.

Sincerely,



Leo F. Richardson, II

Page 2
March 7, 2005

P.O. Box 44487
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Mr. Darryl Clark
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
646 Cajundome Blvd., Suite 400
Lafayette, LA 70506

Mr. Richard Hartman
Baton Rouge Field Office
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
c/o Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA 70803-7535

Ms. Sharron Parrish
Acting Chief
Marine & Wetlands Section
Environmental Protection Agency
Region VI Water Quality Protection Division (6WQ-EM)
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

Mr. Brit Paul
Assistant State Conservationist/Water Resources
USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service
3737 Government Street
Alexandria, LA 71302



East Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Protection

Purpose

Location

Problem

Public Support

**“Maintain Eastern
Orleans Land Bridge by
shoreline Protection”**

Coast 2050 Strategies

Public Support Comments

Yarrow Ethredge

City of New Orleans

Mr. Lee Richardson

Chef Menteur Land Company



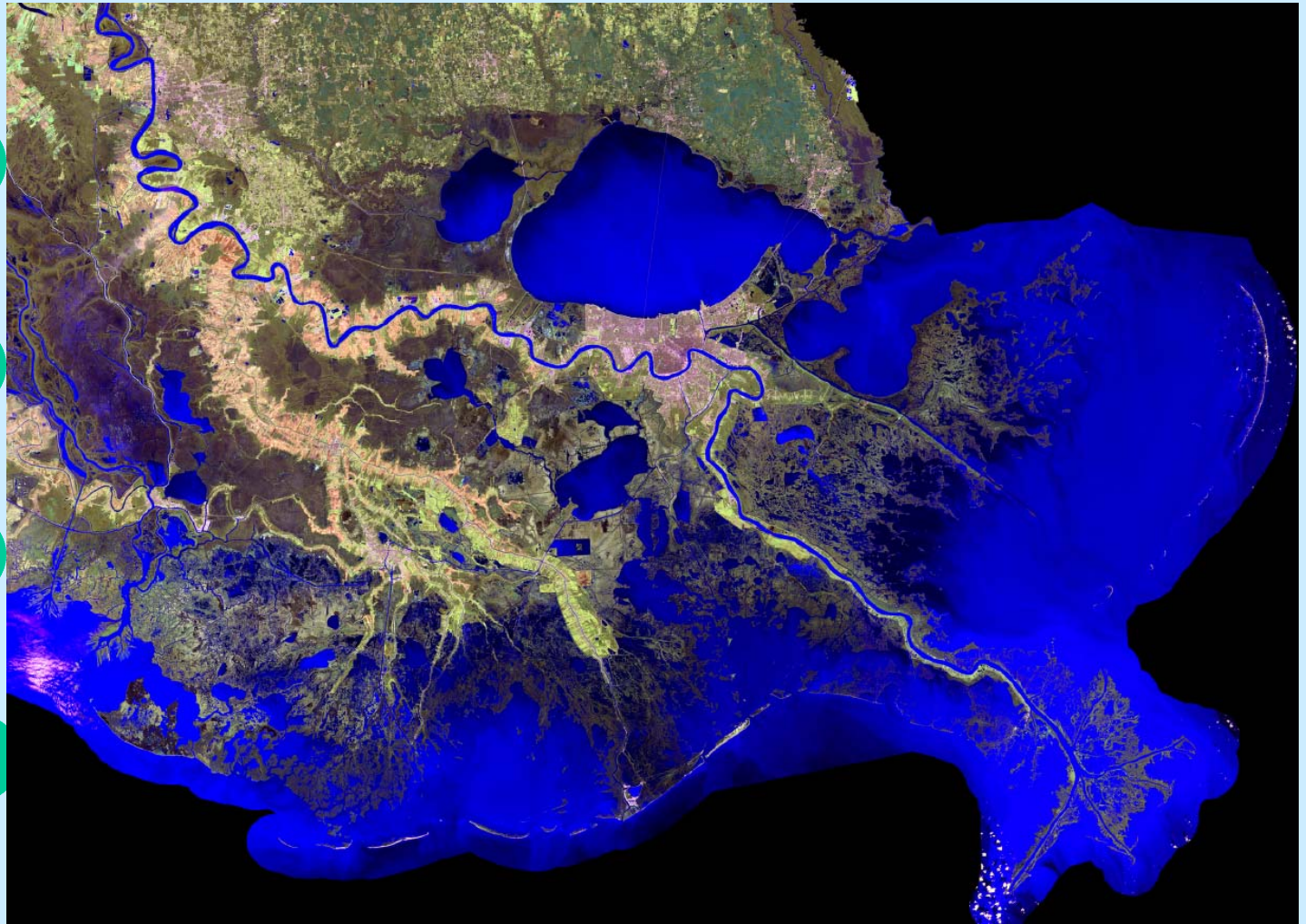
East Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Protection

Purpose

Location

Problem

Public Support



CITY OF NEW ORLEANS
C. RAY NAGIN, MAYOR



March 2, 2005

Mr. Thomas J. Podany
Acting Deputy District Engineer
U.S. Army Engineer District, New Orleans
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

Dear Mr. Podany:

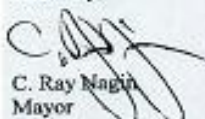
I am writing to express my support of the East Orleans Land Bridge Shoreline Restoration Project nominated in CWPPRA PPL 15. As you know, the benefits of coastal restoration are many; however, the geographic location of New Orleans makes coastal restoration particularly important for our city because the marsh infrastructure that maintains Lake St. Catherine and Lake Borgne protects our city and the outlying parishes from hurricanes.

New Orleans sits between the Mississippi River and Lake St. Catherine, which gradually below sea level like a bowl. Because of this we have built levees to safeguard us from flooding produced by rainfall. When a storm surge enters Lake Pontchartrain. As pressure systems change, the water level rises on the levees on the south shore of the lake, and swamp the city.

Illustrative of the benefit of the East Orleans Land Bridge to the city, when Betsy hit New Orleans, water levels in Lake St. Catherine were raised in Lake Pontchartrain because of the land bridge. This area has disintegrated because of influences from the Gulf of Mexico through The Rigolets and into Lake St. Catherine stronger as a result of coastal erosion. The proposed project would stabilize the daily pressures of the tides while preserving our coastal infrastructure, which would otherwise become part of the Gulf of Mexico. Highway 90, which sits upon the East Orleans Land Bridge, is a critical hurricane evacuation route for the lower-lying parishes and an alternative

There are 450,000 citizens living in Orleans Parish and billions of dollars of infrastructure in communities in the city and surrounding parishes. At least 100,000 of these citizens need transportation to evacuate in the case of a hurricane. The disappearance of shorelines in this area endangers the narrow land bridge that keeps Lake Pontchartrain from joining Lake St. Catherine and Lake Borgne. Without action, continued erosion will accelerate the depletion of our coastal infrastructure. Preventive measures must be taken to ensure the safety of the people living in Orleans Parish. I hope you understand my sense of urgency and give favorable consideration to our request.

Sincerely,


C. Ray Nagin
Mayor

“This area is rapidly eroding, and our project proposal would stabilize critical erosions hot spots on the East Orleans Land Bridge.”

“...this area was identified in both the LCA Study and Coast 2050 Plan as integral components of the state’s total coastal restoration plan.”

“I hope you understand my sense of urgency and give favorable consideration to our request.”

C. Ray Nagin
Mayor, New Orleans



East Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Protection

Purpose

***East Orleans
Land Bridge***

Location

Problem

Public Support



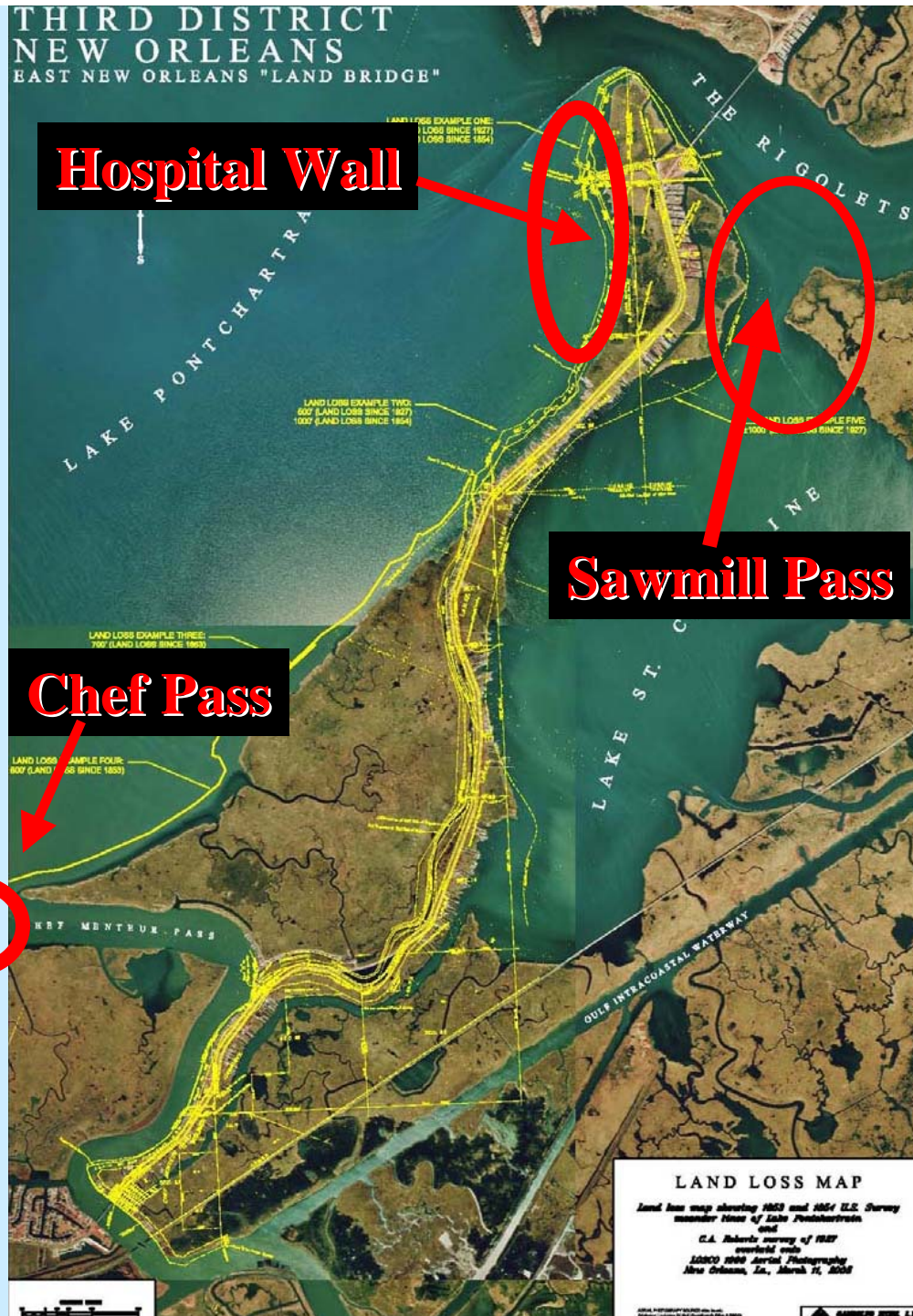


Purpose

Location

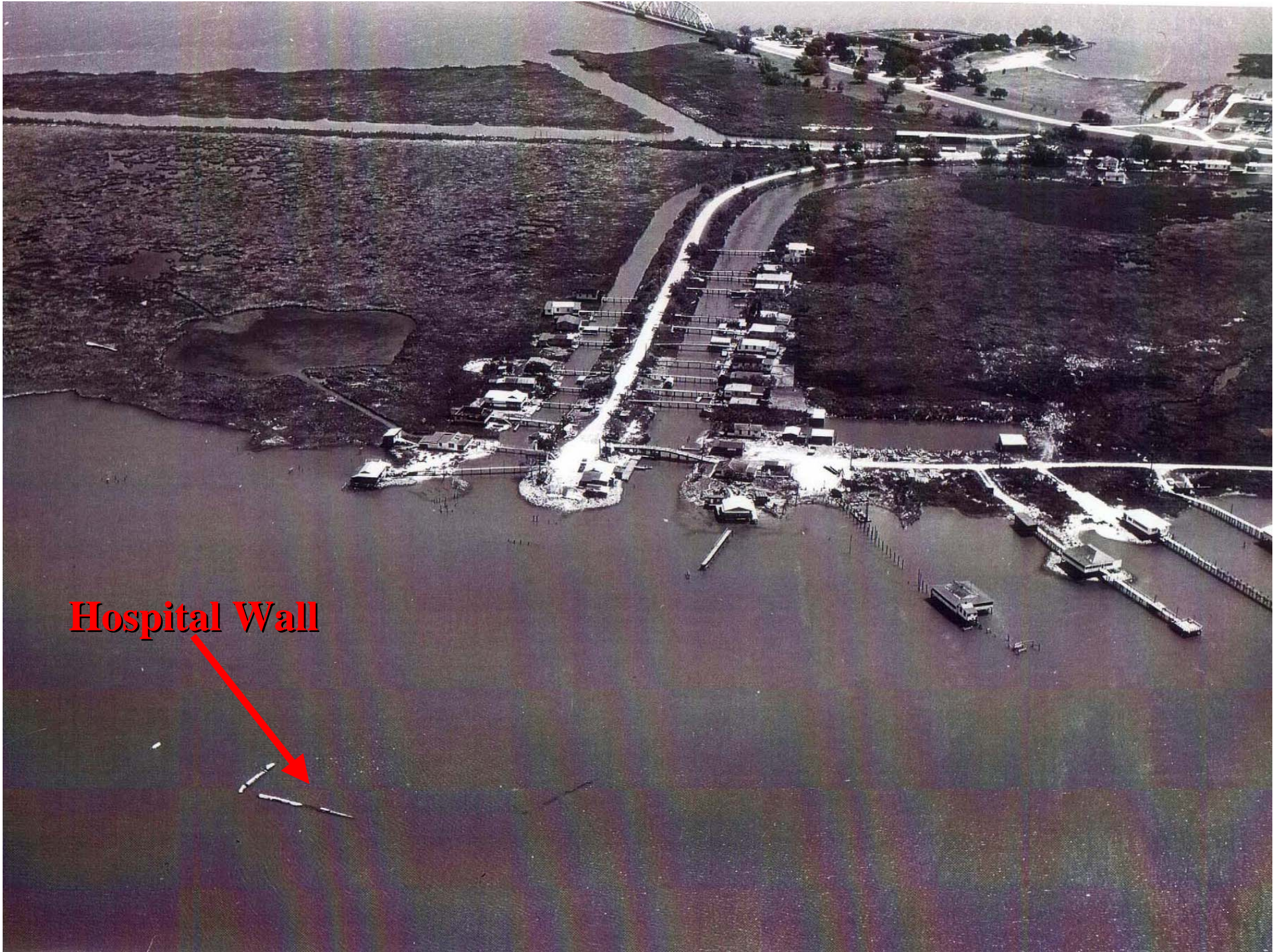
Problem

Public Support



East Orleans Landbridge Land Loss

Example	145 yrs loss	1854-1927 loss	Per Year	1927-1999 loss	Per Year
Pontchartrain					
#1	1,000 ft	600 ft	8.2 ft	400 ft	5.5 ft
#2	1,000 ft	500 ft	6.8 ft	500 ft	6.9 ft
#3				700 ft	4.8 ft
#4				600 ft	4.1 ft
Lake Catherine					
#5				1,000 ft	13.9 ft
Marquez Canal Entrance					
#6				1,500 ft–2,000 ft	21ft- 28ft



Hospital Wall



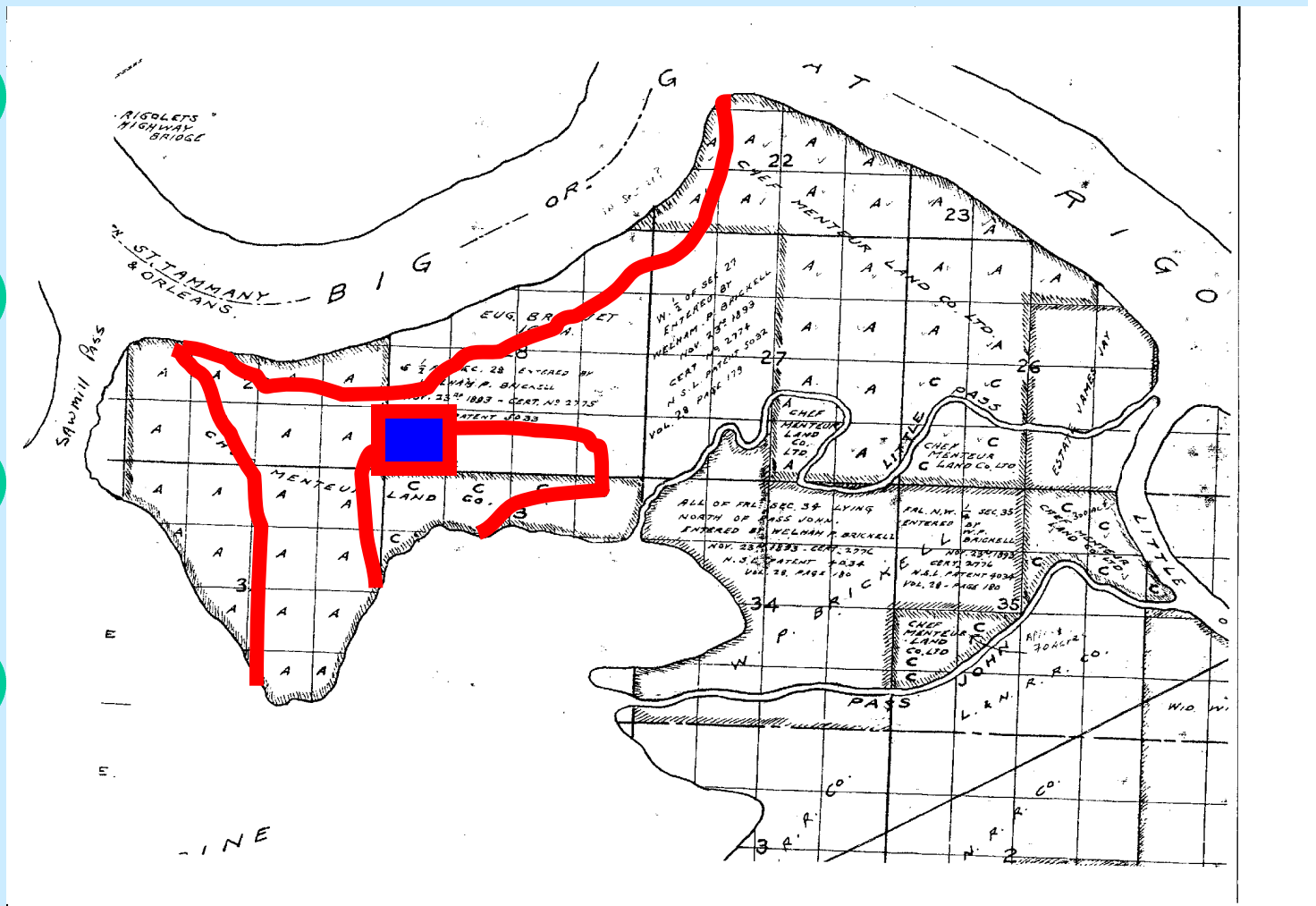
East Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Protection

Purpose

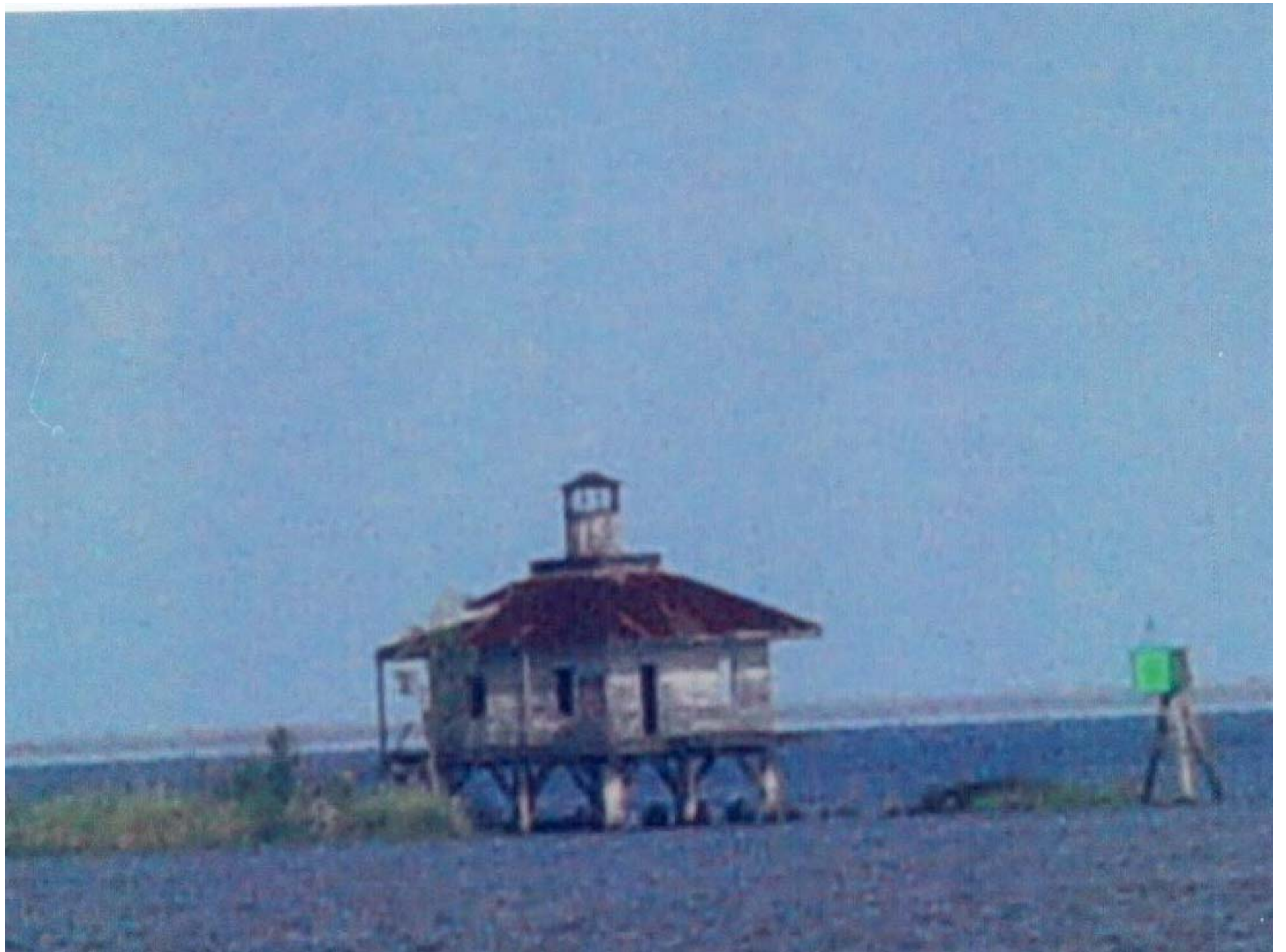
Location

Problem

Public Support











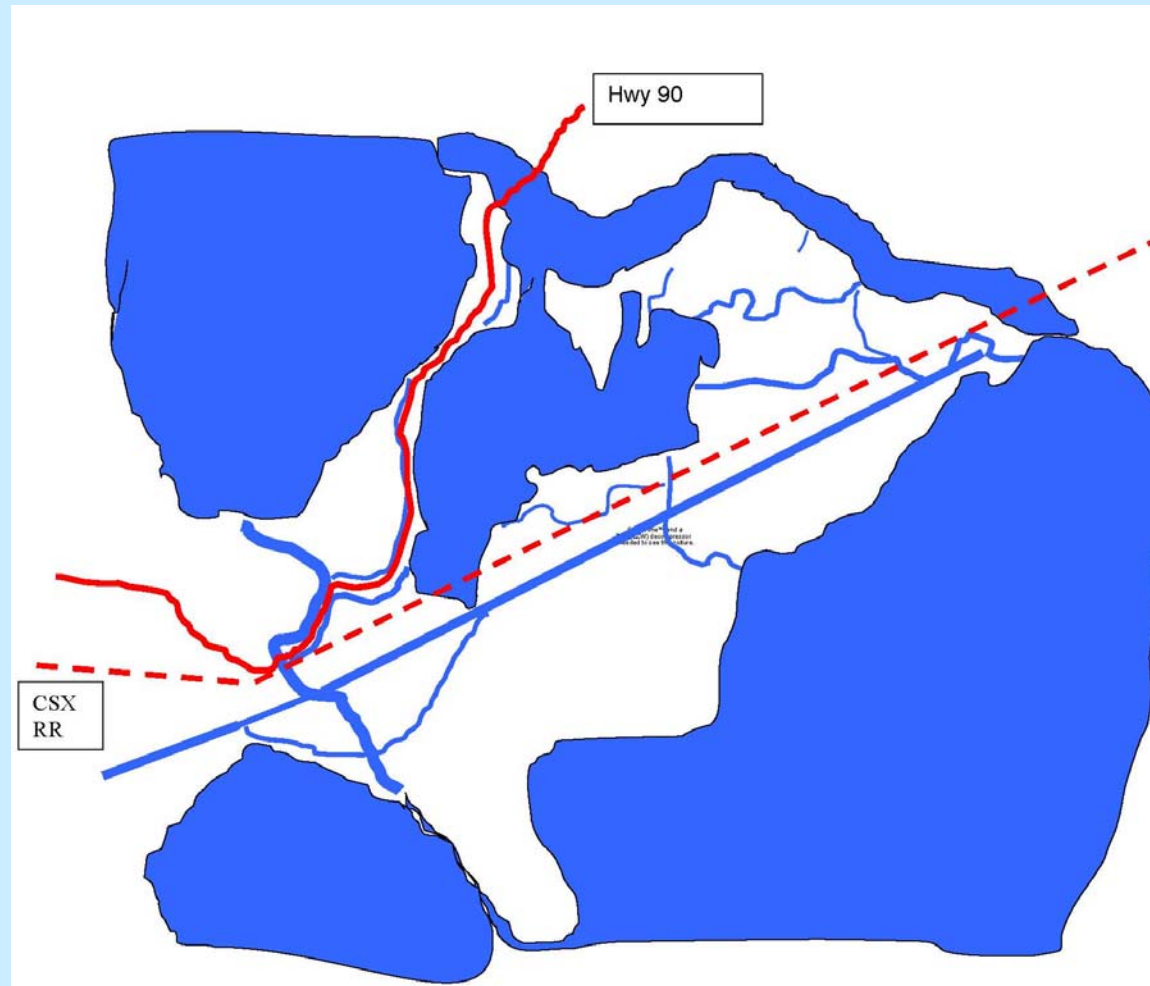
East Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Protection

Purpose

Location

Problem

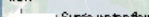

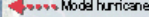
Public Support



EXTENT OF LANDBRIDGE EXPOSURE TO EROSION
SOURCES

IF GEORGES HADN'T TURNED

New Orleans most recently dodged catastrophic flooding in 1998, when Hurricane Georges cut across the Gulf of Mexico on a beeline to the mouth of the Mississippi River. As half the population fled, the storm veered to the east and made landfall in Mississippi. The hurricane caused flooding in St. Bernard Parish and also pushed waves from Lake Pontchartrain up against its south shore levees, leaving many to ponder: What if?

KEY:
 Surge water flow
 Wind direction
 Model hurricane track

5 ST. CHARLES SUBMERGED
 Here, water in the lake would reach heights of 3-8 feet above normal, spilling into wetlands and towns in St. Charles and St. John parishes. The water would be deepest near the river levees.

4 LAKE LEVEES HOLD
 Winds on the west side would push water against the hurricane protection levees.

3 SLIDELL SOAKED
 Large parts of Slidell would be inundated, but the waters would recede rapidly with no levees to contain them.

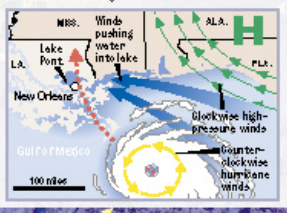
6 GRAVITY'S GATEWAY
 Relentless winds from the stalled hurricane push a dome of water 14 feet above sea level at the levee. The model says that water would top low levees and floodwalls and move east into Jefferson and Orleans parishes. Jefferson Parish officials say some areas would be sandbagged to 10 feet but protection would be lower near the river.

7 FILLING THE BOWL
 With the storm stalled, water continues to pour into Jefferson and Orleans, filling the bowl with as much as 8 feet of water until it reaches natural ridges on the Mississippi River levees.

2 PUMPED UP LAKE
 Easterly winds in advance of the storm would pump water from Lake Borgne and from Breton and Chandeleur sounds into Lake Pontchartrain, raising the lake's surface by 5 feet.

1 THE MODEL

A computer model designed by LSU scientists Joseph Sufayda and Wobas Araveno urban and used by government agencies to prepare evacuation plans shows what would have happened if Georges had not turned. This scenario assumes that the storm continued on the track and intensity forecast by the National Hurricane Center on Saturday, Sept. 26, 1998, at 4 a.m. In the model, Georges intensifies to a Category 3 with 115-mph winds when it makes landfall just west of the mouth of the Mississippi. During the next two days, it moves slowly northwest, weakening to a Category 1 and stalling over eastern New Orleans.



Map's artist: Wally Tompkins



East Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Protection

Purpose

Mayor Nagin

**Lake Pontchartrain Basin
Foundation**

Councilwoman Willard-Lewis

Lake Catherine Land Co.

Councilman Thomas

Chef Menteur Land Co.

Location

Lt. Governor Landrieu

**Lake Catherine Camp and
Landowners Civic Org.**

Problem

Sen. Boasso

Rep. Odinet

Venetian Isles Civic Assoc.

Public Support

Orleans Levee Board

Cedar Bayou, LLC

E. Jefferson Levee Board

Numerous individual residents



East Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Protection

Purpose

Location

Problem

Public Support



East Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Protection

Purpose

Location

Problem

Public Support

ATT: Mr. Tom Podany

ACTING Deputy District Engineer

U.S. Army Engineer District, New Orleans

P.O. Box 60267 NOLA.

THIS LETTER IS IN REGARD TO THE EAST
ORLEANS LANDBRIDGE SHORELINE PROTECTION PROJECT, I
LIVE IN THE LAKE ST. CATHERINE AREA, BETWEEN
THE CHEF PASS AND THE RIGOLETS, MY SHORELINE IS
DISAPPEARING DAILY AND I WILL NOT BE ABLE TO
ATTEND THE REVIEW MEETING ON MARCH 16 2005 AS I WILL
BE OUT OF TOWN. SO I PLEASE ASK YOU FOR SUPPORT
TO HELP US. THANK YOU.

John Ryan

John Ryan
23592 Chef Menteur Hwy
NOLA 70129-3032

Mr. Tom Podany
Acting Deputy District Engineer
U.S. Army Engineer district, New Orleans
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA.

Re: CWPPRA / PLL 15
East Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Protection

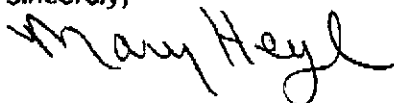
Dear Mr. Podany

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I believe that the East Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Protection Project will both strengthen our community's first-line defenses against catastrophic storm surge and help to assure the availability of Hwy. 90 as an evacuation route. Those issues are of vital importance to the entire Ponchartrain Basin.

I urge you to give the East Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Protection Project favorable consideration throughout the review process.

Sincerely,



Note: Mr Podany's fax is 862-1892

Cc:
Mr. Gerry M. Duszynski
Acting Assistant Secretary
LA. Dept. of Natural Resources
Office of Coastal Restoration and Management
617 North 3rd St.
10 floor
P.O. Box 44487
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4487

Mr. Darryl Clark
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
646 Cajundome Blvd
Suite 400
Lafayette, LA 70506

From:

03/08/2005 08:56 #757 P.002/006

03/01/2005 10:24 004 000 0100 E:\INFORMATION\... FILE 02

Mr. Tom Podany
Acting Deputy District Engineer
U.S. Army Engineer district, New Orleans
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA.

Re: CWPPRA / PLL 15
East Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Protection

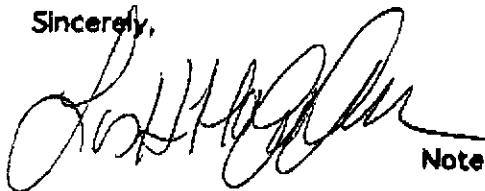
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Sincerely,



Note: Mr Podany's fax is 862-1892

Cc:
Mr. Gerry M. Duszynski
Acting Assistant Secretary
LA. Dept. of Natural Resources
Office of Coastal Restoration and Management
617 North 3rd St.
10 floor
P.O. Box 44487
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4487

Mr. Darryl Clark
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
646 Cajundome Blvd
Suite 400
Lafayette, LA 70506

Mr. Tom Podany
Acting Deputy District Engineer
U.S. Army Engineer district, New Orleans
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA.

Re: CWPPRA / PLL 15
East Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Protection

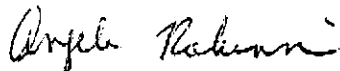
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Sincerely,



Note: Mr Podany's fax is 862-1892

Cc:
Mr. Gery M. Duszynski
Acting Assistant Secretary
LA. Dept. of Natural Resources
Office of Coastal Restoration and Management
617 North 3rd St.
10 floor
P.O. Box 44487
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4487

Mr. Darryl Clark
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
646 Cajundome Blvd
Suite 400
Lafayette, LA 70506

Mr. Tom Podany
Acting Deputy District Engineer
U.S. Army Engineer district, New Orleans
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA.

Re: CWPPRA / PLL 15
East Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Protection

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From:

03/08/2005 08:56 #757 P.005/006

03/08/2005 10:24 004 000 0000

E. NICHOLSON

PAGE 01

Mr. Tom Podany
Acting Deputy District Engineer
U.S. Army Engineer district, New Orleans
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA.

Re: CWPPRA / PLL 15
East Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Protection

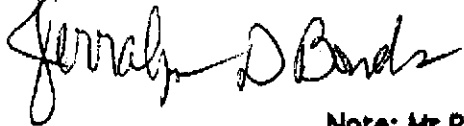
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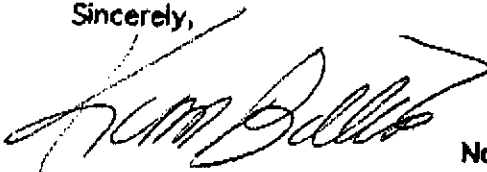
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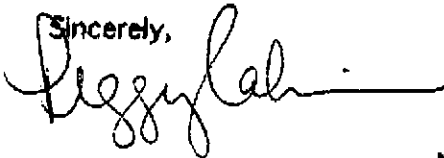
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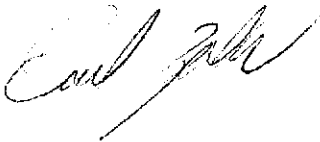
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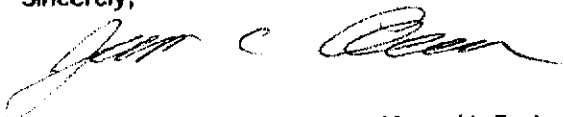
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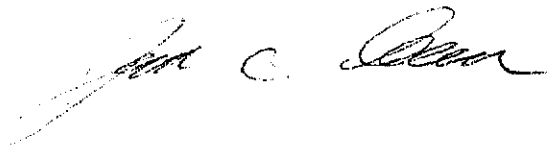
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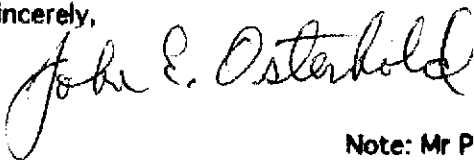
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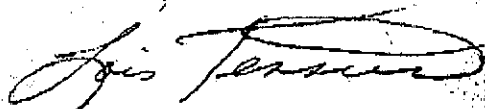
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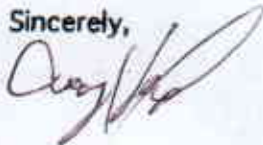
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Adrian Germany RDM

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05/01/2003 10:24 304 033 3133

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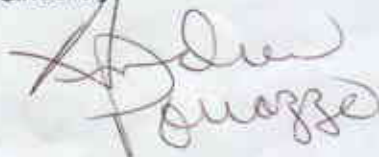
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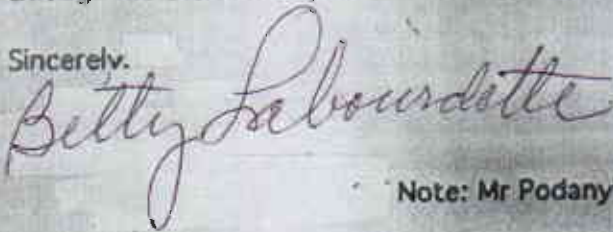
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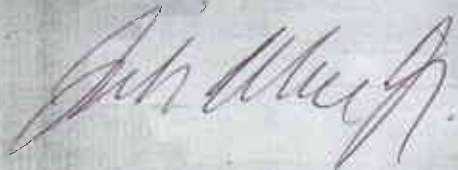
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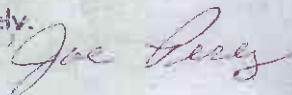
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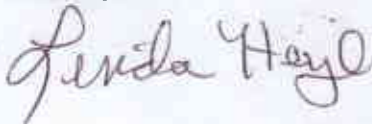
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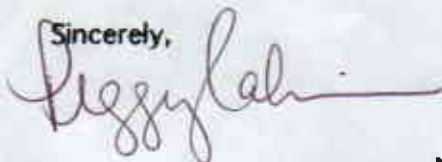
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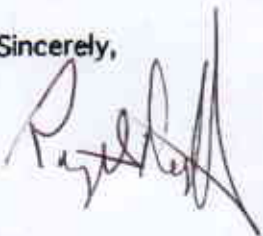
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I urge you to give the East Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Protection Project favorable consideration throughout the review process.

Sincerely,



Note: Mr Podany's fax is 862-1892

Cc:
Mr. Gerry M. Duszynski
Acting Assistant Secretary
LA. Dept. of Natural Resources
Office of Coastal Restoration and Management
617 North 3rd St.
10 floor
P.O. Box 44487
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4487

Mr. Darryl Clark
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
646 Cajundome Blvd
Suite 400
Lafayette, LA 70506

Mr. Tom Podany
Acting Deputy District Engineer
U.S. Army Engineer district, New Orleans
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA.

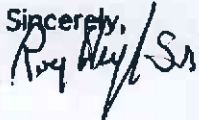
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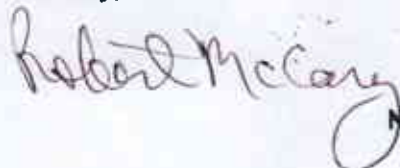
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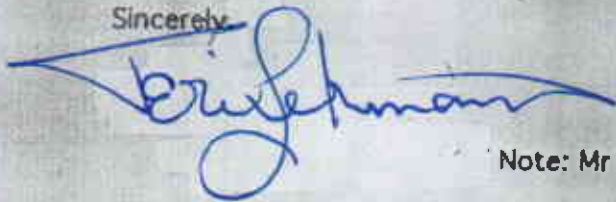
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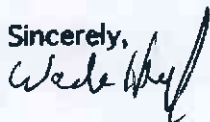
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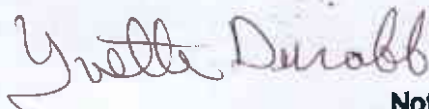
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3/14/05

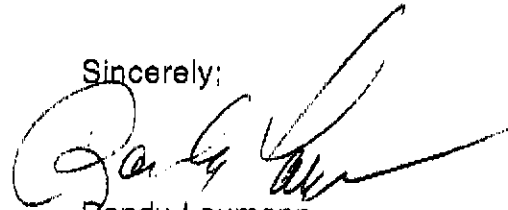
Mr. Tom Podany
Acting Deputy District Engineer
U.S. Army Engineer District, New Orleans
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans LA

Re: CWPPRA/PLL15
East New Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Protection

Mr. Podany;

In reference to the above Landbridge Proposal; as a landowner myself and a member of the Civic Association any help in this matter would be greatly appreciated by myself, all members of the association, and the landowners on the island. With each new day that passes we see coast and land disappearing even more prevalent in winter months when winter fronts move in. I sincerely hope that you will give the East Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Protection Project a high priority in this process. I can be reached if need be at cel# 512-4791.

Sincerely;



Randy Laumann

**Lake Catherine Camp and Land Owners
Civic Organization, Inc.
Rt. 6 Box 207 VA
New Orleans, Louisiana 70129**

March 14, 2005

Mr. Tom Podany
Acting Deputy District Engineer
U.S. Army Engineer District, New Orleans
P.O. Box 60267 New Orleans, La.

Re: CWPPRA / PLL 15
East Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Protection

Dear Mr. Podany,

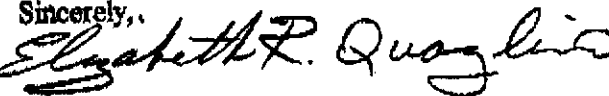
This letter is to advise you that Lake Catherine Camp and Land Owners Civic Organization supports the efforts of Orleans Parish to prevent further loss of fragile landmass between the Chef Menteur Pass and the Rigolets. As shown in aerial photographs of the Ponchartrain Basin the area functions as a critical barrier island and that parts of it are obviously deteriorated. Substantive loss on the eastern side of the landbridge would more fully open up Lake Pontchartrain to the Gulf and increase the prospects for flooding in all of the lake's communities.

Our Civic Organization membership represents not only residents of Orleans Parish but also Jefferson, St. Bernard and St. Tammany. WE know first hand how rapidly the land is disappearing.

The East Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Protection Project will strengthen our community's first-line defenses against catastrophic storm surge and help to assure the availability of Hwy. 90 as an evacuation route. These issues are of vital importance to the entire Ponchartrain Basin.

We urge you to give the East Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Protection Project favorable consideration throughout the review process.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Randy Laumann (733-1569) Roy Heyl (662-5778) or Elizabeth Quaglino (261-2343).

Sincerely,

Elizabeth R. Quaglino
Recording Secretary

3/12/05

Mr. Tom Podany

I am a resident of Lake Catherine. I understand there's a meeting on March 16th about the shoreline erosion in the Lake Catherine area. I am very concerned about the effects it's having on my property, Hwy. 90 and the potential flooding for the entire Ponchartraine basin. I would appreciate your support at this meeting for all of the residents in this area.

Thank you
RALPH BOLOTTE
95754 CHEFMENTEUR HY.
N.O. LA. 70129

March 15, 2005

Mr. Tom Podany
Acting Deputy District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA

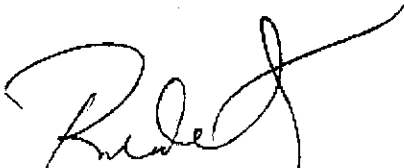
Re: Shore line Erosion in Lake Catherine

Dear Mr. Podany:

I am writing with great concern regarding the erosion of Lake Catherine. As a homeowner on Lake Pontchartrain I am very aware of the wonderful beauties of life in Lake Catherine, Lake Pontchartrain, and Lake Borgne. The lakes are a tremendous source of recreational activity for boating, fishing (both commercial and sport) and it is a way of life for many New Orleans residents.

With the entire movement well underway to Save our Lake we need your help to provide funding for protection levee to prevent further shoreline erosion in the Lake Catherine area. The affects of erosion will reduce the property I as well as my neighbors own and therefore reduce value. The potential loss of Highway 90 as the only means of access to the island would be devastating. Don't forget that Highway 90 was the only road to the east for travel to Mississippi, Alabama and Florida prior to the construction of I-10. The more shoreline erosion along the Lake Catherine will only serve to increase the potential for flooding in the entire Lake Pontchartrain basin.

Please respond positively to our concerns and support our cause to provide funding for the East Orleans Landbridge Project.

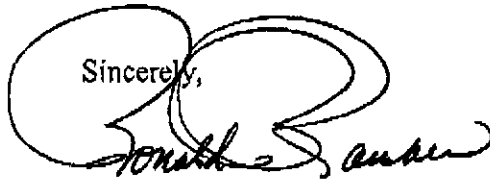


Richard R. Murphy, Jr.
Route 6 PO Box 206 AD Highway 90
(504) 835-6018

Dear Mr. Podany,

I am a homeowner on Lake St. Catherine. My home is situated on a narrow strip of land between Lake St. Catherine and Lake Pontchartrain. The width of Saw Mill Pass, which connects the Rigolets to Lake St. Catherine, has more than doubled in size in the last ten years, so more water flows in and out of Lake St. Catherine, taking more of the lake shoreline with it every day. In addition, the Rigolets itself is constantly widening. That brings more tidal flow to the shoreline of Hwy. 90 and pushes more and more water all the way down the Marquez Canal to Chef Pass. The canal is getting wider as a result and so is Chef Pass. I am writing to ask for your support for the **East Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Protection Project** as a candidate for the CWPPRA PPL15.

Sincerely,



3/15/05

RONALD R. RAUBER
25716 CHEF MENTEUR HWY.
NEW ORLEANS, LA. 70129
(504)915-3689

Tom Podany
Acting Deputy District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineer District, New Orleans
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160

RE: East Orleans Land-Bridge Shoreline Protection Project

Mr. Podany,

We are writing this letter in support of the East Orleans Land-Bridge Protection Project in the Lake St. Catherine, Rigolets, and Chef Pass area of Orleans and St Tammany parishes through funds available from the Breaux Act.

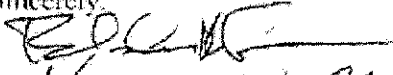
We feel as land owners on the island that this is the best way to protect our property and homes that we have worked all of our lives to build. This project will protect our property for years to come. There is very little we can do as a people to fight the effects of Mother Nature and the impact on our property, however, with properly placed, reinforced barriers or seawalls, the impact can be minimized.

We feel, as land owners, that this project is our best bet for the future of the Island that so many of us call home! And make no mistake about it, many of us call the Island home. For years it was thought that Lake St. Catherine was a resort of sorts, that most of the development was for recreational (camp) purposes only. This is not true! **We live here!**

We are calling on the Army Corps of Engineers, the EPA, and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service to help protect us and our property by getting behind this project and help protect our Island as well as New Orleans, Slidell, Mandeville, and all other communities in the Lake Pontchartrain basin. With the funding from the Federal program "The Breaux Act" these improvements can and should be made.

We appreciate your consideration in this matter and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,


Harry Willis
Blake Kinchen
Harry Willis
Rt. 6 Box 184 HW
New Orleans, LA 70129

MARY L. LANDRIEU
LOUISIANA

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1804

March 14, 2005

Colonel Peter Rowan
District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Post Office Box 60267
New Orleans, Louisiana 70160

RE: Landrieu Project No. 107702

Always refer to the Landrieu Project No. when communicating with this office.

Dear Colonel Rowan:

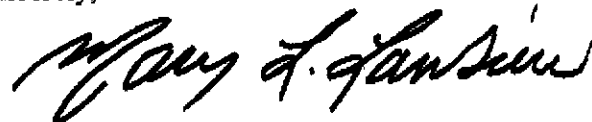
Because of my desire to be responsive to all inquiries and communications, I respectfully request your attention to the enclosed resolution adopted by the Terrebonne Parish Council on February 23, 2005.

I would appreciate you reviewing the resolution carefully and providing me with any relevant information you deem appropriate.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration of this very important issue.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,



Mary L. Landrieu
United States Senator

MLL:amr



REGGIE P. DUPRE, JR.
District 20

P. O. Box 3893
Houma, Louisiana 70361
Telephone: (985) 876-9902
Fax: (985) 873-2016

STATE OF LOUISIANA
SENATE

COMMITTEES

Senate & Government
Vice Chairman
Judiciary A
Revenue & Fiscal Affairs
Transportation, Highways
Public Works
Select Committee on Coastal
Restoration & Flood Control
Chairman

January 31, 2005

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Re: Proposed CWPPRA Projects
Terrebonne Basin

Please accept this letter as an expression of my support for the North Lost Lake and South Terrebonne Terracing Projects. These projects will be proposed and supported by the Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government through the Coastal Zone Advisory Committee. The Terrebonne Parish Coastal Zone Advisory Committee reviewed several available projects and formed a consensus that these two projects presented the best opportunities to restore eroding marshlands within Terrebonne Parish.

Please give great consideration to accepting these projects as nominated and moving them through the CWPPRA process.

Sincerely,

Reggie P. Dupre, Jr.
State Senator
District 20



DON SCHWAB
PARISH PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT
TERREBONNE PARISH CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT
P. O. Box 6097
HOUMA, LOUISIANA 70361



(985) 873-6401
FAX: (985) 873-6409

CWPPRA
Regional Planning Team
Region 3 – Terrebonne Basin

RE: Priority Project List 15

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Please allow this letter to document my support of the following two projects for inclusion in PPL15:

1. North Lost Lake Marsh Creation Project
2. South Terrebonne Parish Terracing Project

Both of these projects have also been recommended for approval recently by the Terrebonne Parish Coastal Zone and Restoration Committee; the Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce, and by unanimous support of the Terrebonne Parish Council.

We look forward to your favorable consideration of these important projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Don Schwab".

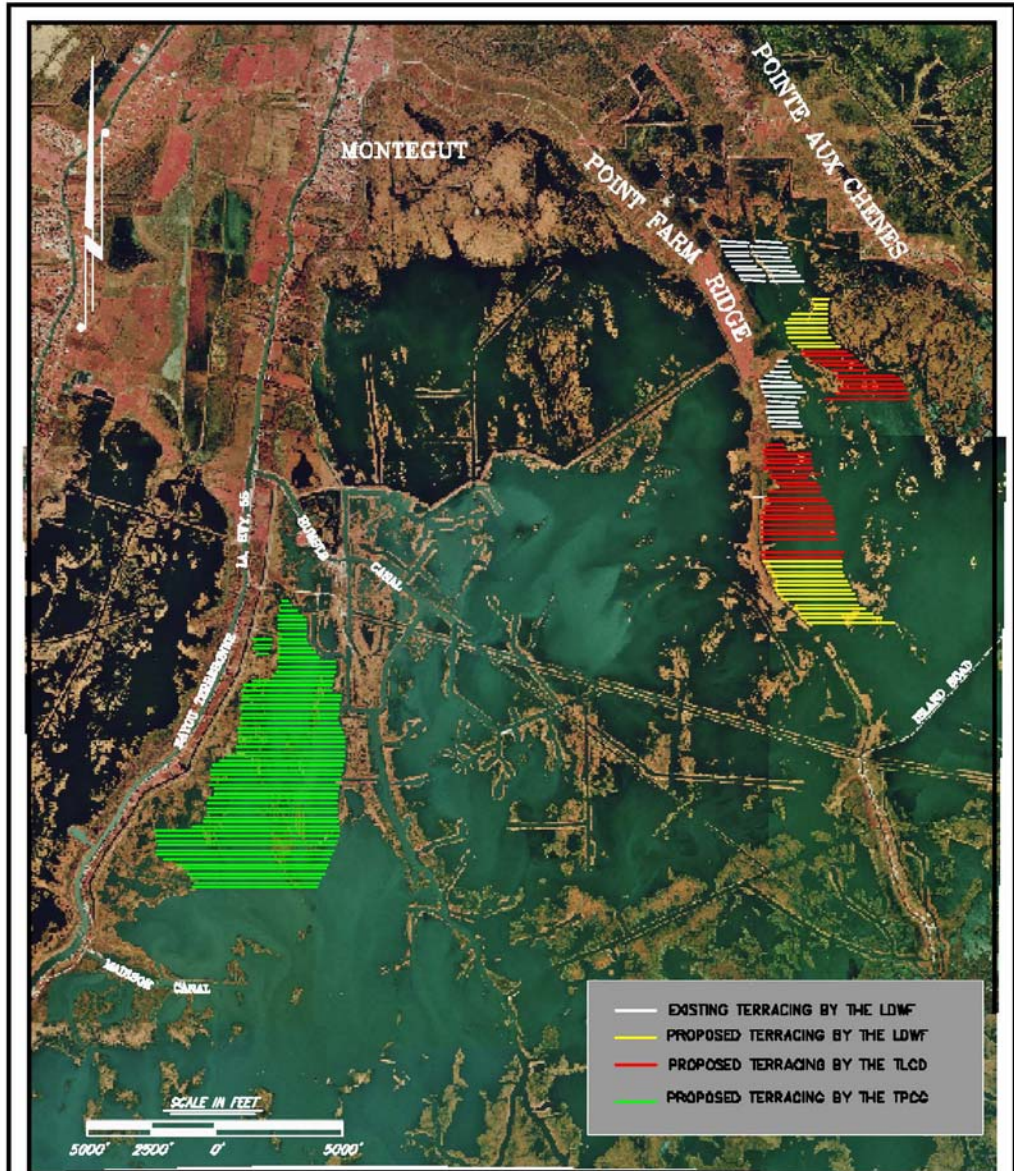
Don Schwab
Parish President

cc: Peter Rhodes
Harold Lapeyre
Nolan Bergeron
Al Levron
James Miller



March 16, 2005

Region 3 - PPL15



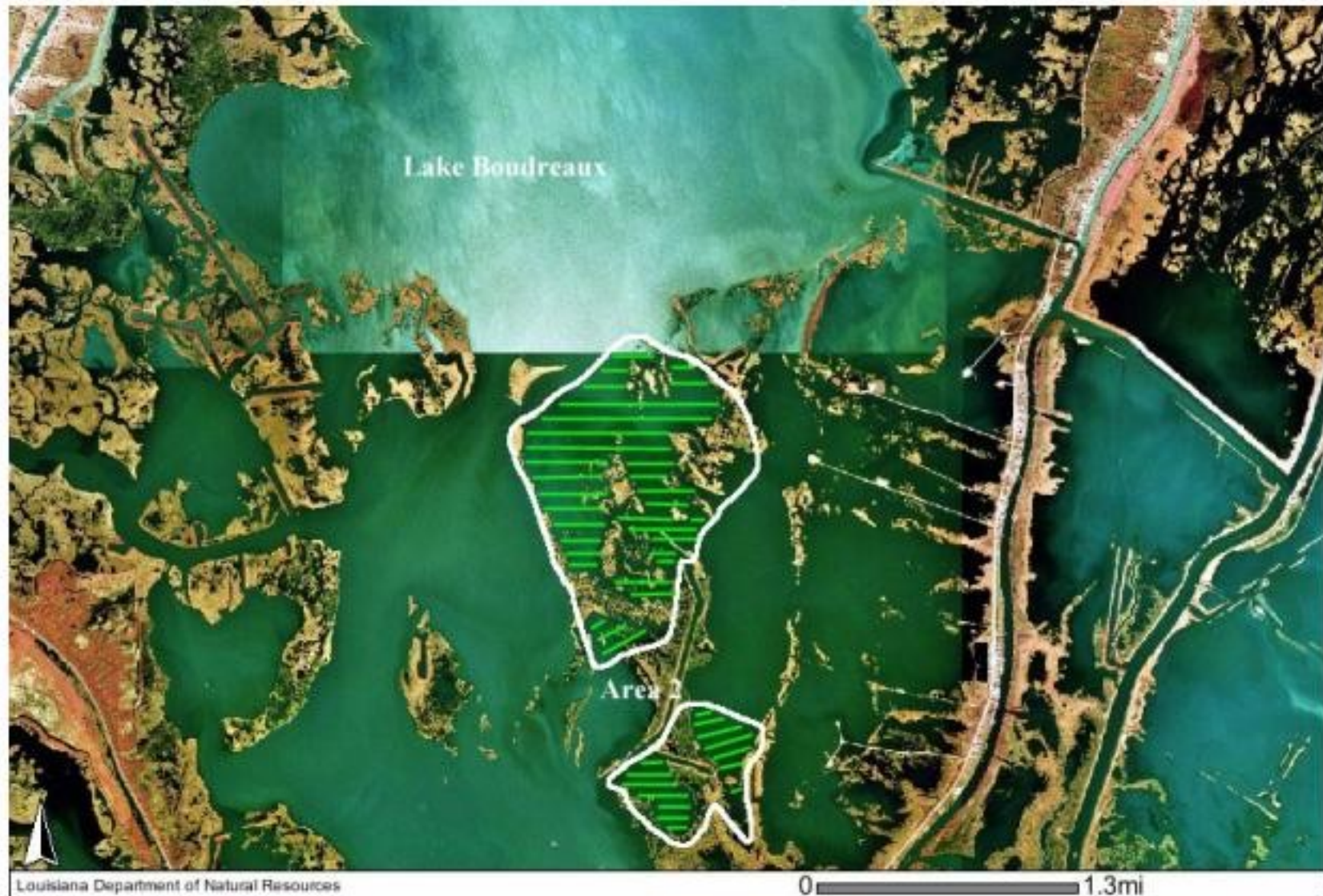
SOUTH TERREBONNE TERRACING PLAN





South Terrebonne Terracing Creation Project

Conceptual terrace field (not to scale)











March 16, 2005

Region 3 - PPL15

PETER RHODES, CHAIRMAN

CLAYTON J. VOISIN, CHAIRMAN

PAUL A. LABAT, CLERK

ALVIN TILLMAN, SR., VICE-CHAIRMAN

PETER RHODES, VICE-CHAIRMAN

DISTRICT 5

CHRISTA M. DUPLANTIS, R.N.

DISTRICT 1

ALVIN TILLMAN, SR.

PARISH COUNCIL

DISTRICT 6

HAROLD LAPEYRE

DISTRICT 2

WAYNE THIBODEAUX

PARISH OF TERREBONNE

DISTRICT 7

CLAYTON J. VOISIN

DISTRICT 3

KIM ELFERT

POST OFFICE BOX 2768

DISTRICT 8

PETER RHODES

DISTRICT 4

TERI C. CAVALIER

HOUMA, LOUISIANA 70361

DISTRICT 9

PETE LAMBERT

(985) 873-6519

FAX (985) 873-6521

plabat@tpcg.org

www.tpcg.org

January 27, 2005

MEMO TO: Al Levron

FROM: Paul A. Labat 

RE: CWPPRA Funding



As per our discussion, I have attached an original resolution adopted by the Council that supports the Coastal Zone Management & Restoration Advisory Committee's recommendation to submit the North Lost Lake Marsh Creation Project and the South Terrebonne Parish Terracing Project as the two top projects to be considered for receipt of CWPPRA funding in the upcoming funding cycle. As I understand, you will be the lead person in making the presentation to the proper officials.

Please let me know if you need anything more from this office prior to the presentation.

PAL

Attachment

cc: Mr. Nolan Bergeron (with attachment)

Mr. James Miller (with attachment)

Mr. Steve Smith (with attachment)

OFFERED BY: Mr. P. Lambert.
SECONDED BY: Mr. C. Voisin.

RESOLUTION NO. 05-038

WHEREAS, each year, grants from the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act are awarded to projects that are designed to lengthen the life of coastal communities throughout this country, and

WHEREAS, Terrebonne Parish has been the recipient of these grant funds on more than one occasion and the projects funded by this program have helped to make tremendous strides in protecting the coastline of Terrebonne Parish, and

WHEREAS, following many weeks of substantial review and the evaluation of several needed projects, the Terrebonne Parish Coastal Zone Management and Restoration Committee has recommended that two projects in Terrebonne Parish receive priority status in the CWPPRA funding review process, and

WHEREAS, the Terrebonne Parish Council has received the recommendations of the Committee and would like to express its support for both of these projects to receive CWPPRA funding.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Terrebonne Parish Council, on behalf of the Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government that this governing body accepts the recommendations of the Terrebonne Parish Coastal Zone Management & Restoration Committee and supports the following two projects for funding from the 2005 grant cycle of the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection & Restoration Act:

1. North Lost Lake Marsh Creation Project
2. South Terrebonne parish Terracing Project

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to all members of the Terrebonne Parish Congressional and Legislative Delegations so that they may be aware of the Council's position on this most important matter.

THERE WAS RECORDED:

YEAS: P. Rhodes, P. Lambert, A. Tillman, W. Thibodeaux, K. Elfert, T. Cavalier, C. Duplantis, H. Lapeyre and C. Voisin.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAINING: None.

ABSENT: None.

The Chairman declared the resolution adopted on this, the 26th day of January, 2005.

* * * * *

I, PAUL A. LABAT, Council Clerk for the Terrebonne Parish Council, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Assembled Council in

OFFERED BY: Ms. C. Duplantis.
SECONDED BY: Mr. A. Tillman.

RESOLUTION NO. 05-086

WHEREAS, the Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government and the residents and landowners are constantly faced with tremendous problems due to the persistent erosion of the coastline, batture property and marshlands in coastal Louisiana, and

WHEREAS, the cost of properly correcting the extensive erosion problems is in excess of the budget of local government and the receipt of state and federal government funds is crucial to winning the battle on coastal erosion, and

WHEREAS, the Parish Government and the Coastal Zone Management Advisory Committee have evaluated the many needed projects eligible for CWPPRA funds and have recommended the North Lost Lake Marsh Creation Project and the South Terrebonne Terracing Project (PPL15) be placed in the highest priority for funding, and

WHEREAS, the North Lost Lake Marsh Creation Project will help maintain the shoreline of the lake, will strengthen the banks of nearby water bodies and will create 247 acres of marsh, and

WHEREAS, the South Terrebonne Terracing Project is the sight of the highest rate of land loss in coastal Louisiana and will provide intermediate protection to the nearby parish levee system, and

WHEREAS, both of these projects have ranked highly in the preliminary round of scoring of projects eligible for CWPPRA funding and their chance of being implemented is contingent upon high ranking by members of the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act Task Force.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Terrebonne Parish Council, on behalf of the Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government, that Sen. Mary Landrieu, Sen. David Vitter and Congressman Charles Melancon be advised of the tremendous need for the South Terrebonne Terracing Project (PPL 15) and the North Lost Lake Marsh Creation Project and that the future of the property in the vicinity of these two projects is vitally linked to the receipt of CWPPRA funding, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this governing body expresses its full support for the funding of the aforementioned projects and urges the CWPPRA Task Force to proceed in an expeditious manner to review and authorize PPL 15 projects, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to all members of Terrebonne Parish's Legislative Delegation in order that they may know of this Council's position.

THERE WAS RECORDED:

YEAS: A. Tillman, W. Thibodeaux, K. Elfert, T. Cavalier, C. Duplantis, H. Lapeyre, P. Rhodes and P. Lambert.

NAYS: C. Voisin.

ABSTAINING: None.

** TOTAL PAGE.04 **



6133 Hwy. 311
Houma, LA 70360

Phone: (985)876-5600
Fax: (985)876-5611

www.houmachamber.com

February 1, 2005

Dear CWPPRA Nominating Committee,

The Houma Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce supports the recommendations of the Terrebonne Parish Coastal Zone Management and Restoration Advisory Committee in regard to the CWPPRA projects proposed for Terrebonne Parish.

The projects supported are in order of importance:

Project 1- North Lost Lake Marsh Creation Project

Project 2 – South Terrebonne Parish Terracing Project

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kandy Theriot".

Kandy Theriot
President/CEO

MARY L. LANDRIEU
LOUISIANA

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1804

March 17, 2004

Colonel Peter Rowan
District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Post Office Box 60267
New Orleans, Louisiana 70160

RE: Landrieu Project No. 102804

Always refer to the Landrieu Project No. when communicating with this office.

Dear Colonel Rowan:

Recently, several landowners in Cameron Parish contacted me regarding the West Extension of the Holly Beach Breakwater Project.

I understand that this project is being considered for funding through the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA). I also understand that over the last two years this area has felt the cumulative loss of 80 feet of vegetated beachfront which is a necessary barrier to saltwater intrusion. I am pleased to inform you of my support for the residents of Long Beach, Johnson Bayou's efforts to halt the loss of coastal land. Therefore, I respectfully request that every possible consideration is given, within guidelines, during the review.

Thanking you for your consideration and with kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,



Mary L. Landrieu
United States Senator

MLL:mgt

cc: Bill Good - La. DNR
Troy Hill - EPA
Darryl Clark - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Britt Paul - NRCS
✓ Rick Hartman - NOAA
✓ John Saia - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Paul Cox
Libra LaGrone



REGGIE P. DUPRE, JR.
District 20

P. O. Box 3893
Houma, Louisiana 70361
Telephone: (985) 876-9902
Fax: (985) 873-2016

STATE OF LOUISIANA
SENATE

COMMITTEES

Senate & Government
Vice Chairman
Judiciary A
Revenue & Fiscal Affairs
Transportation, Highways
Public Works
Select Committee on Coastal
Restoration & Flood Control
Chairman

January 31, 2005

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Re: Proposed CWPPRA Projects
Terrebonne Basin

Please accept this letter as an expression of my support for the North Lost Lake and South Terrebonne Terracing Projects. These projects will be proposed and supported by the Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government through the Coastal Zone Advisory Committee. The Terrebonne Parish Coastal Zone Advisory Committee reviewed several available projects and formed a consensus that these two projects presented the best opportunities to restore eroding marshlands within Terrebonne Parish.

Please give great consideration to accepting these projects as nominated and moving them through the CWPPRA process.

Sincerely,

Reggie P. Dupre, Jr.
State Senator
District 20

LOUISIANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



P. O. Box 986
Eunice, LA 70535
Email: larc041@legis.state.la.us
Phone: 337.457.0194
800.660.6819
Fax: 337.457.5649

Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture
and Rural Development
Transportation, Highways and Public Works
Health and Welfare

MICKEY J. GUILLORY
State Representative ~ District 41

March 11, 2005

Tom Podany
Chairman of Technical Committee
Post Office Box 60267
New Orleans, Louisiana 70160
Attention: P.M.

Dear Chairman Podany,

I understand there will be a meeting on March 16th. in regards to Coastal Restoration for our Louisiana Coast. I believe it is necessary that steps be taken to prevent further erosion of our coast line and restoration should begin as soon as possible.

The area along the western coast line of our state is in need of immediate attention. The Johnson Bayou and Long Beach area is a place I would recommend to start if at all possible. It is an area with a lot of camps which required a large investment by property owners. I believe we need to protect this area to assure its continuing growth.

Again I support your efforts with the restoration of our coast and ask for your consideration with our recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mickey J. Guillory".

Mickey J. Guillory
State Representative
District 41

PM-C

LAW OFFICES
COX, COX, FILO & CAMEL
*A Registered Limited Liability
Partnership*

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723 BROAD STREET
LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA 70601

TELEPHONE
(337) 436-6611

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(337) 436-9541
*Also Admitted in Texas

TINA L. WILSON
CLAUDE P. DEVALL

February 22, 2005

U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
New Orleans District
Secretary of the Army (Chairman)
Colonel Peter J. Rowan
PO Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

*FOR
24 FEB 05*

RE: Holly Beach Breakwater West Extension

Dear Colonel Rowan,

Enclosed please find a copy of the following documents:

- 1) Holly Beach Breakwater West Extension Project nominee fact sheet;
- 2) A survey done in 2004 inside the project area that shows land loss between 1998 and 2004 to be 144 feet;
- 3) A photo of a pipeline in the project area which shows concrete padding laid to prevent the pipeline from exposure to more erosion;
- 4) A photo of the project area; and
- 5) A letter of support from the Audubon Society.

The Long Beach residents are in full support of the Holly Beach Breakwater West Extension. The coastal erosion behind the breakwater field has decreased by 90%, while the coastal erosion in our area has increased to a rate of approximately 30 feet per year over the last five years.

Our project has been the number one nominee of both the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury and Cameron Parish Police Jury for the last two years.

The CWPPRA (Coastal Wetlands Planning Protection and Restoration Act) meeting to vote on the 11 project nominees is March 16, 2005 in New Orleans. The Long Beach residents, Cameron Parish Police Jury and the Audubon Society requests that you please. The enclosed Audubon letter describes the portion of millions of songbirds that need the chenier of woodlands which would be protected by an extension of the Holly Beach Breakwater Project.

The survey shows land loss between 1999 and 2004 to be 144 feet. Our area is considered to be a "hot spot" on the Louisiana coast. Dr. Shea Penland, Louisiana's premier coastal geologist at the University of New Orleans, has stated that the "shadow" of a breakwater system will have an increased rate of erosion. Dr. Penland is correct.

Lastly, the area to the west of our proposed project is not a wetland area which means if the erosion is "passed on" it is not passed on to a wetland area.

Our seventeen (17) beach homes and the marshland and woodlands behind them are in jeopardy. We appreciate your support, help, and attention to protecting Louisiana's coastline and would appreciate your support for our project on March 16, 2005.

Sincerely,



PAUL J. COX

PJC/bhf
Enclosure

PPL15 PROJECT NOMINEE FACT SHEET
February 1, 2005

CS-16-1 Holly Beach Breakwaters West Extension

Coast 2050 Strategy

Coastwide: Maintain, Protect, or Restore Ridge Functions; Maintenance of Gulf, Bay, and Lake Shoreline Integrity.

Regional: 18. Stabilize Gulf of Mexico shoreline from Calcasieu Pass to Johnson's Bayou.

Project Location

Region 4, Calcasieu-Sabine Basin, Cameron Parish, Martin Beach Ship Canal Shore Mapping Unit, Extension of Holly Beach Breakwater Project (CS-1) west to Long Beach (Parish Road 530).

Problem

The project will be designed to reduce erosion of the Gulf Shoreline west of the Holly Beach Breakwater project, and incidentally protecting State Hwy 82 and the marsh system behind it. While total marsh loss from 1932 to 1990, was only 1,200 acres out of 6,720 acres (17.9%); construction of the segmented breakwater system between 1991 and 1994 may have accelerated this rate. Landowners cite loss rates as high as approximately 40 ft per year.

Proposed Project Features

The project proposes approximately 6600 linear feet (1.25 miles) of breakwaters continuing on from the Holly Beach Breakwater Project (CS- 01). Breakwaters will be designed on the CS-01 template, using all the lessons learned from the Holly Beach Breakwater Enhancement and Sand Management Project (CS-31). Approximately 16 round rubble breakwaters (ranging from 150 - 170 ft with 250 - 300 ft gaps), placed 300 - 700 feet offshore and built to 3.8 ft NGVD.

Goals

1.) Reduce Gulf shoreline retreat and restore Chenier barrier shoreline 2.) Protect State Hwy 82 (Hurricane Evacuation Route) 3.) Protect Marsh habitat threatened by encroaching gulf.

Preliminary Project Benefits

The project is designed to reduce wave energies on the gulf shoreline west of the Holly Beach Breakwater field and trap sediment between the breakwaters and shoreline.

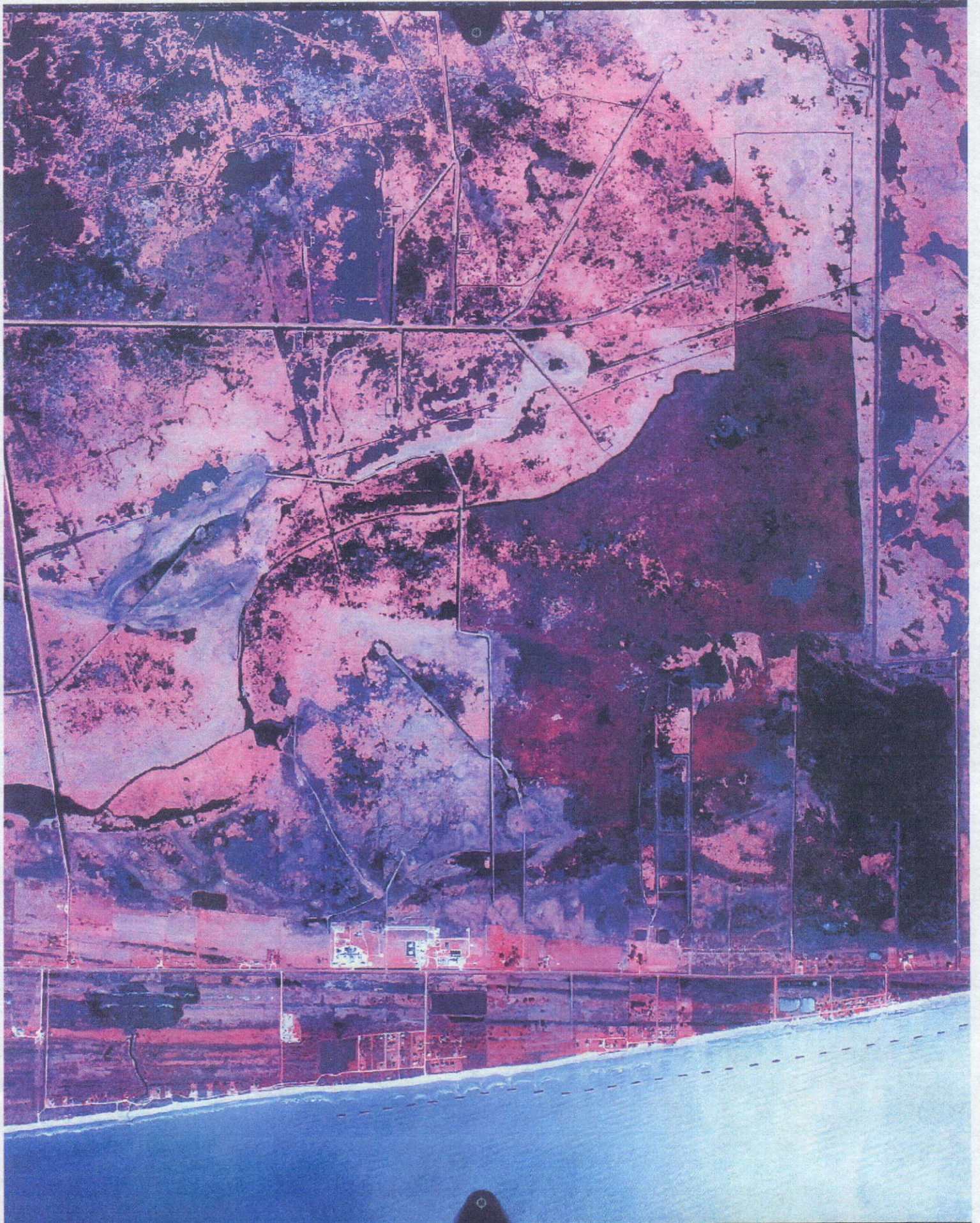
Identification of Potential Issues

The proposed project has the following potential issues: All of the land owners are behind the project, there are no oyster issues; landrights is looking into possible utilities/pipelines issues. The Audubon Society supports this project as further protection to valuable chenier habitat.

Preliminary Construction Costs

\$3 - \$4 million





U1519M DATE:02/10/01 UTC-TIME:16:46:21 LAT:294645.8N LONG:0933607.6N HDG: 99 EPS:3

Baton Rouge Audubon Society

P.O. Box 82525, Baton Rouge, LA 70884-2525

March 17, 2004

Mr. Bill Good
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 44487
Baton Rouge, LA 70804



Dear Mr. Good, CWPPRA Tech. Com. Member,

We are writing a letter of support on behalf of Baton Rouge Audubon Society (BRAS) regarding the Hollybeach Breakwater West Extension Project. BRAS owns the Peveto Woods Sanctuary, a 40 acres tract of chenier woodlands adjacent to the beach in Little Florida Subdivision, Cameron Parish. We have benefited from the existing breakwaters because they are halting beach erosion and minimizing subsequent salt water intrusion. Both of these processes would ultimately destroy our woods. We are in favor of the westward extension of the breakwater because it would give greater protection to our woods and to other cheniers that are part of our woodland corridor.

These chenier woodlands are of critical importance because Louisiana lies in the center of the flight path of migratory birds crossing the Gulf of Mexico. An enormous number of migratory songbirds pass over the Cameron Parish coast each spring and fall. As many as two million birds use our sanctuary each year. Research findings have documented the importance of this habitat to songbirds. When birds reach the Louisiana coast, their energy reserves are exhausted. Without coastal woodlands for a resting and feeding area and for protection from predators and weather, some portion of millions of songbirds which nest in the United States and Canada probably would not survive.

In addition, these woodlands will be a primary destination on the Great Gulf Coast Birding Trail that is being developed now in Louisiana. This will bring thousands of tourists into Cameron Parish, specifically to see birds in the Peveto Woods chenier. Therefore, it is desirable to protect woodlands for the tourist trade that generates revenue for Cameron Parish.

The Hollybeach Breakwater West Extension will help to halt the loss of our coastal woodlands. Without this project, the area will continue to suffer from coastal land loss such as occurred when hurricane Claudette in 2003 swept away 40 feet of vegetated beachfront just west of our sanctuary in Johnson's Bayou. Moreover, freshwater sources that are replaced with saltwater will ultimately result tree deaths and loss of this habitat.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns as you prioritize projects for funding. Thanks also for dedicating your time and effort to help protect our Louisiana coastline.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Prowell, President of BRAS
Victoria Moseley Bayless, Sanctuary Chair of BRAS

Project Area



(4)

W Lindsay

From: "W Lindsay" <wlindsay@cox-internet.com>
To: <paul.cox@coxcofile.com>
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2005 5:42 PM

It is far easier to stop an beach erosion than it is to repair a beach erosion.

We the residents and friends of Long Beach Subdivision are here to ask you so stop the erosion that is sure to occur at Long Beach subdivision when the next medium or strong storm hits the area.

The time and cost have been brought into the picture. I have a suggestion that might be worthy of your consideration, that seems to fit the picture at Long Beach.

To build a retaining ; Make the wall of concrete. And use the same method as laying brick. Use slabs of concrete. Some people , like those that sell sand, state the use of salt water sand, or gulf sand, results in a weakened structure that might fail. Ask people of Galveston. Their sea wall, built of concrete, built over a hundred years ago, is still performing perfectly.

The high cost of concrete for something like this is usually the high cost of sand and the cost of transporting that sand to the building site. There is a suggestion that the Parish of Cameron would donate all the gulf sand that is needed, ,plus would probably haul it to constrjuction site, free of charge. That would make the cost of construction relatively low to other places and conditions.

There should be, a foot or so from each end of the slab a circular hole, 12 inches in diameter, and one in the center of the slab. These holes are for alignment purposes.

Pour the concrete into the mold or molds. When it hardens, slide the mold onto the sand at the location you wish the wall to be. The next layer of slabs is to be laid brick style. Each slab being laid on half the slab at on end and half on the other. Brick style.

it is figured out that 5 laborers, two Cranes and operators and a couple of supervisors could do the job in about 3 months. Even after a portion of the wall is completed, trucks could start hauling the fill sand for the area between the retaining wall and the shore. When all of that is completed, If a source of supply can be found for the kind of vegetation that grows in salt water, it is apparent from the interest shown, that the Lake Charles and Sulphur Garden clubs would declare a planting holiday, and have its members and others, bring out picnic lunches, and maybe drinks can be furnished, thus completing the task.

This is certainly worthy of your consideration.

Use my name if you have to. I, and others would be glad to sit in on a conference about this.

Wendell C. Lindsay
 WENDELL C. LINDSAY
 2017 Bayle St
 S.C. Co. 70601
 Ph. 437-4931

01/31/2005

Discussion/Decision: Programmatic Assessment of the CWPPRA Program

**Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA)
Programmatic Assessment**

Comments Received on DRAFT Outline

March 13, 2005

<u>Description</u>	<u>Pages</u>
<u>Draft CWPPRA Programmatic Assessment (dated March 2, 2005)</u>	2-9
<u>CWPPRA Agency Comments</u>	
Richard Hartman's (NMFS) Comments (email dated March 7, 2005)	10
Darryl Clark's (USFWS) Comments (email dated March 10, 2005)	11-16
John Jurgensen's (NRCS) Comments (email dated March 11, 2005)	17-18
<u>Parishes Against Coastal Erosion (PACE) Comments</u>	
Marnie Winter's (PACE/Jefferson) Comments (email dated March 11, 2005)	19-23
Tina Horn's (Cameron) Comments	24
Yarrow Etheredge's (Orleans) Comments	25
Al Leveron's (Terrebonne) Comments	26
Windell Curole's (Lafourche) Comments	27-28
Ted Falgout's (Port Fourchon, Lafourche) Comments	29-30
Wayne Martin's Comments	31-33
Ram Ramchanchran (St. Charles) Comments	34-36

Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) Programmatic Assessment

DRAFT

March 2, 2005

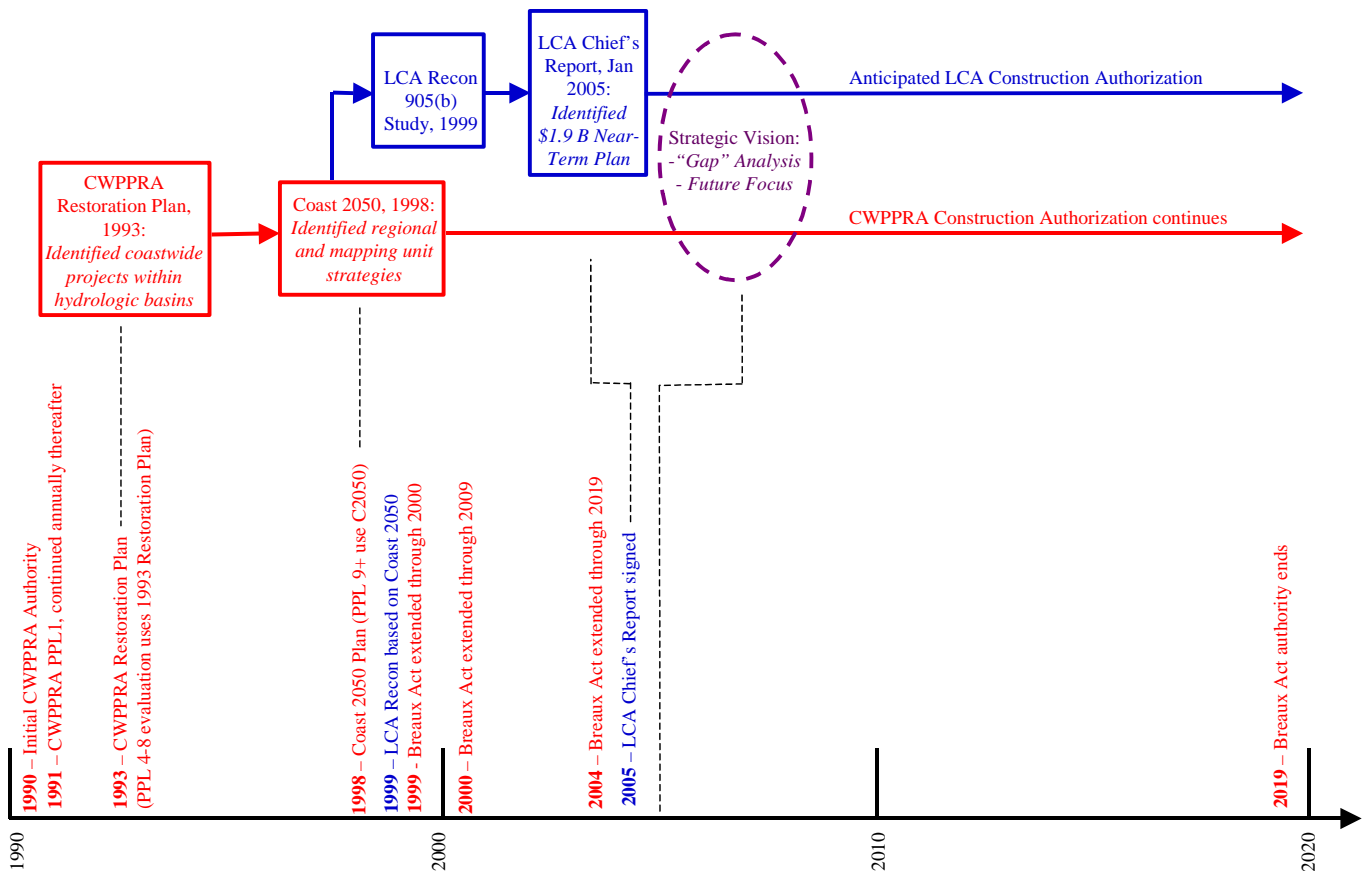
Purpose:

Perform a programmatic assessment of the CWPPRA program to evaluate: (1) what we've accomplished since program authorization and (2) provide a vision for the future of CWPPRA in consideration of the re-authorization of CWPPRA through 2019 and the potential for authorization of the Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) program. The assessment will aid in determining the role of the CWPPRA program in future Louisiana coastal wetland restoration activities. It will also identify means to convey results of the assessment to targeted audiences (Congressional interests, agency chains-of-command, local and national environmental groups, business community, local and national stakeholders).

Timeframe to Complete: Target draft assessment by August 2005 Task Force meeting, target final by January 2006 Task Force meeting

Outline:

I. Strategic Vision (*historical perspective of CWPPRA program, evolution of coastal restoration in Louisiana, direction for future of CWPPRA*)



- Historic perspective/timeline of coastal restoration in Louisiana:
 - Historic land loss, projected land loss “facts”
 - 4 CWPPRA authorizations
 - 1993 CWPPRA Restoration Plan
 - 1998 CWPPRA Coast 2050 Report
 - Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) reconnaissance study
 - LCA Chief’s Report outlining Near-Term Plan
- Evolution of coastal restoration in Louisiana (goals and visions of coastal restoration plans and how their focus has evolved over time)
- Update pie chart showing existing programs to address coastal wetland loss:
 - CWPPRA completed projects (1990-2004)
 - CWPPRA projected projects (2005-2019)
 - LCA Near-term Plan
 - Other WRDA Freshwater Diversions
 - Corps’ Continuing Authorities Program (CAP)
 - Breaux Act Conservation Plan
 - Navigation Maintenance Beneficial Use
 - Other Programs
 - Remaining “need” (important to show the unreserved “need” remaining after updating for CWPPRA extension to 2019 and LCA Near-term Plan)
- Comparison/Contrast between LCA and CWPPRA, and “Gap” Analysis:
 - Map with footprint of CWPPRA project boundaries, LCA Near-term Plan boundaries, other WRDA project boundaries (Davis Pond, Caernarvon, etc.), state project boundaries, etc. Consider using different colors/fill types on map to show program and project types.
 - Discuss synergistic/complimentary nature of CWPPRA, LCA, other WRDA, state, etc.
 - Discuss CWPPRA’s bottom-up planning (grass roots) versus LCA’s top-down planning and the need to preserve grass roots planning.
 - Discuss LCA Near-term Plan possible areas of influence, CWPPRA project boundaries, other WRDA project areas of influence, State project areas of influence, etc. and identify overlap areas and areas of continued “need” (“Gap” Analysis).
 - Discuss Breaux Act ability to respond quickly to areas of need versus typical WRDA process.
 - Discuss synergistic effect of a group of smaller-scale CWPPRA projects.
- Given the above evaluation and continued “need” in coastal Louisiana, where should Breaux Act focus efforts for remaining authorization through 2019?
 - Should Breaux Act focus on particular strategies, project types, or project scale/cost? What strategies lend themselves to one program over the other (large-scale, diversions from the River, impact to navigation, impact Mainline levee or other infrastructure, impacting life and property)?
 - How should CWPPRA re-focus evaluation and prioritization of project nominees/candidates/projects to best fit this niche given the re-authorization of the program through 2019?

II. Programmatic Assessment (*a holistic view of the coastal restoration in Louisiana – including the role of the CWPPRA program in abating coastal erosion in Louisiana*)

See outline from Colonel's Subgroup (previously outlined, see attached)

III. Project Assessment (*a project-level view of the CWPPRA program, required by Act*)

Typical 3-year CWPPRA Report to Congress outlining the effectiveness of the program's coastal wetland restoration projects

Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA)
The Effectiveness of the CWPPRA Program

I. CWPPRA Program Overview (**brief** section)

A. Need for restoration

B. Status of legislation (authorized in 1990, reauthorized. until 2019)

C. Program structure

1. Funding (appropriation approximately \$60 million per year)

2. Task Force management (5 federal agencies and the State)

3. Project development (The Task Force and Technical Committee holds quarterly public meetings to develop and implement coastal restoration projects.)

4. Priority Project List (by law, must submit a PPL each year)

II. CWPPRA Program effectiveness

Sidebar: Program statistics (# of active projects, projects constructed, acres benefited, etc (distinguish between net acres and project area)

A. Projects on the ground (CWPPRA preserves critical landscape ecosystem structures that future projects will be built upon.)

B. Landscape level planning and projects/adaptive management [CWPPRA led the effort to landscape level planning through the development of the Coast 2050 plan, which is the basis for LCA. (maybe mention of LCA projects developed using CWPPRA funds) CWPPRA is still focused on addressing areas of critical need and hotspots of loss, but through the vision of responsible agencies, has been able to address the needs of certain coastal regions (landbridge, barrier islands) by implementing a suite of projects that work synergistically.]

See landscape level impacts below.

- C. Task Force management (brings the collective expertise of various agencies to the table; It has fostered a collaborative effort that encourages open discussion in order to minimize conflicts and maximize progress.)
- D. Coalitions and Partnerships – federal, state, and local government officials as well as private citizens (land owners, business owners, environmentalists, sportsmen, and other stakeholders); have built coalitions valuable to the current, as well as future, efforts.
- E. “Grassroots” Project Development - Project concepts are developed at the local level with local officials, citizens, and landowners working with program staff. Projects compete at the regional, and then coastwide level, for funding. The public is involved in every step of the project’s life cycle. Public comment is requested, received and used concerning project selection, programmatic matters, and other issues at quarterly Task Force and Technical Committee meetings.
- F. Flexibility of program/Adaptive management/Addresses immediate needs (Annual project selection cycle based on a prioritization system using the latest science and technology allows for the chance to address the immediate needs of La’s changing coast. Projects can be designed and built within two to four years, in many cases. Project designs and objectives are adapted as data about constructed projects become available.)
- G. Monitoring/CRMS – CWPPRA’s monitoring program verifies results, as well as feeds back into the design of other projects, including WRDA.
- H. Advanced overall coastal science effort; field tests innovative restoration techniques; demo projects; interagency database linkages.

- I. Public outreach (LaCoast Web site, educational workshops and presentations, conference and event exhibits, dedication ceremonies, project and program fact sheets, *WaterMarks*, educational CD-ROMs, brochures, flyers, etc. The various formats and mediums allow access to a variety of groups.)
- J. Economic impacts of loss and restoration related to acres/program effectiveness/program economic benefits
 - A. Transportation Infrastructure – Navigation
 - B. Oil and Gas (Duet)
 - C. Flood Protection
 - D. Fisheries (Hartman)
 - E. Wildlife (Clark)
 - F. Water quality – purification function of La’s coastal wetlands estimated to be \$325 per acre per year (Waldemar S. Nelson & Co., 2002) (Ettinger)
 - G. Cultural

IV. CWPPRA landscape level impacts – *Map or graphic*

- A. Barataria Landbridge projects
- B. Terrebonne Basin Barrier Island projects (cover Isles Dernieres and Timbalier islands)
- C. Barataria Basin Barrier Island projects/Mermentau Freshwater Introduction projects/Birdsfoot Delta projects (mention of these)

V. Chart - Comparison of CWPPRA to WRDA civil works projects (LCA) (Synergies of projects and programs)

Nature of the programs, speed, cost, flexibility, cost share, schedule, project development, construction timetables, funding, number of studies, types of studies, OM &M requirements, types of authorization, program authority, permitting

VI. Justification for more action

A. Infrastructure in the coastal zone of Louisiana is estimated at \$100 billion.

Current estimates are that CWPPRA can only address % of the need at the current funding level.

B. Restoration work ongoing in Louisiana is undoubtedly the most comprehensive and complex in the world. The program is building projects rapidly, however a backlog of projects is beginning to accumulate due to funding limitations.

(Include data on number of projects backlogged with projected benefited acreage)

C. CWPPRA has amassed the technical expertise and strategic vision for landscape restoration planning and construction. Funding for critical long term wetlands restoration is the primary limiting factor.

Map: Benefited area vs. potential future loss

VII. Potential integration of CWPPRA to complement civil works projects, such as LCA, Caernarvon and Davis Pond, and how they could work together/need for both/potential relationship (Fifteen years of focused coastal wetlands restoration has positioned the CWPPRA organizations and implementation structure to lead and/or complement coastal restoration carried out through WRDA and related programs (LCA). No other organization exists with the conglomerate of landscape restoration technical and management expertise currently housed in CWPPRA agencies, participating academic institutions and participating NGOs.)

Brief summary of points already made concerning the strengths of CWPPRA and the assets of what CWPPRA can bring to the effort:

- A. CWPPRA program structure already in place
- B. Strengths of CWPPRA [proven protocols for project development/implementation, flexibility, stable funding stream, interagency cooperation already established (a program permitting all at the table)]; emphasize grassroots of CWPPRA
- C. Assets to LCA framework

Possible Graphics:

- Map with location of CWPPRA Projects. Each dot would be proportionate to the benefited area.
- CWPPRA and WRDA project/program comparisons
Side bar with Program Statistics
- Pictures of Restoration Projects
Map: Benefited area vs. potential future loss

-----Original Message-----

From: Richard Hartman [mailto:Richard.Hartman@noaa.gov]

Sent: Monday, March 07, 2005 12:34 PM

To: LeBlanc, Julie Z MVN

Cc: betty.jones@la.usda.gov; bpaul@la.usda.gov; cheryl.walters@la.usda.gov; chrisk@dnr.state.la.us; cynthia.duet@gov.state.la.us; daniel.llewellyn@gov.state; deetra.washington@gov.state.la.us; don.gohmert@la.usda.gov; erik.zobrist@noaa.gov; flores.miguel@epa.gov; gautreak@gov.state.la.us; gerryd@dnr.state.la.us; gsteyer@usgs.gov; john_hefner@fws.gov; jonathan.porthouse@la.gov; mcquiddy.david@epa.gov; parrish.sharon@epa.gov; pat.forbes@GOV.STATE.LA.US; Rowan, Peter J Col MVN; randyh@dnr.state.la.us; rolland.schmitten@noaa.gov; russell_watson@fws.gov; sam_hamilton@fws.gov; sidney.coffee@gov.state.la.us; Constance, Troy G MVN; britt.paul@la.usda.gov; darryl_clark@fws.gov; john.jurgensen@la.usda.gov; jonathan.porthouse@gov.state; kevin_roy@fws.gov; kirkr@dnr.state.la.us; philp@dnr.state.la.us; rachel.sweeney@noaa.gov; Hawes, Suzanne R MVN; Podany, Thomas J MVN; Monnerjahn, Christopher J MVN; comvss@lsu.edu; daniell@dnr.state.la.us; finley_h@wlf.state.la.us; Rauber, Gary W MVN; Browning, Gay B MVN; Miller, Gregory B MVN; jonathanp@dnr.state.la.us; ruiz_mj@wlf.state.la.us; Lopez, John A MVN; Goodman, Melanie L MVN; Martinez, Wanda R MVN; darryl_clark@fws.gov

Subject: Re: CWPPRA Programmatic Assessment

Julie - I've looked at the document and believe the Colonel has hit the major points. There are some things there that I hope we don't spend a lot of time and space on as we want the document to be short and highlight the key points. One thing I think we have to do though, that CEQ and others are pushing for, goes under the title of "standardize and quantify". That is, we need to standardize our use of terms like "enhance, project area, acres created, restored, protected" etc with those terms as they are being requested from Washington. Then we need to quantify our accomplishments to as current a level as possible. This information would provide a basis for a lot of the programmatic and project specific assessment identified in sections II and III of the Colonel's outline. A spreadsheet could be created that uses WVA projections for project we have funded but don't have good or usable monitoring data yet, and those data could be traded out with more up to date monitoring results, if available. The WVA projections and monitoring data could be used to extrapolate net increases in acreage of marsh and SAV habitats future with the program, as compared to future-without.

The value per acre that comes from the various economic analyses can then be used to project "benefit to the public" from the CWPPRA program.

In terms of getting this done this summer, I think we might need to have the Environmental WG and Monitoring WGs convene with some directions on what we want done. This would not be an easy task, but may well be worth the investment. Such work might well force PPL15 to be postponed for a while to free up the people to work on this. (notice I said "might")

Congress wants the numbers and if we don't give them what they want, they may well find excuses to cut/gut the program. Besides, I think the numbers might stack up well against other programs and help justify continued funding.

Rick Hartman

-----Original Message-----

From: Darryl_Clark@fws.gov [mailto:Darryl_Clark@fws.gov]

Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2005 7:50 PM

To: LeBlanc, Julie Z MVN; Richard Hartman

Cc: betty.jones@la.usda.gov; bpaul@la.usda.gov; britt.paul@la.usda.gov;

cheryl.walters@la.usda.gov; chrisk@dnr.state.la.us; Monnerjahn,

Christopher J MVN; comvss@lsu.edu; cynthia.duet@gov.state.la.us;

daniell@dnr.state.la.us; daniel.llewellyn@gov.state;

deetra.washington@gov.state.la.us; erik.zobrist@noaa.gov;

finley_h@wlf.state.la.us; Rauber, Gary W MVN; gautreak@gov.state.la.us;

Browning, Gay B MVN; gerryd@dnr.state.la.us; Miller, Gregory B MVN;

gsteyer@usgs.gov; Lopez, John A MVN; john.jurgensen@la.usda.gov;

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jonathan.porthouse@gov.state; jonathan.porthouse@la.gov; LeBlanc, Julie

Z MVN; kevin_roy@fws.gov; kirkr@dnr.state.la.us; mcquiddy.david@epa.gov;

Goodman, Melanie L MVN; parrish.sharon@epa.gov;

pat.forbes@GOV.STATE.LA.US; philp@dnr.state.la.us;

rachel.sweeney@noaa.gov; ruiz_mj@wlf.state.la.us;

russell_watson@fws.gov; sidney.coffee@gov.state.la.us; Hawes, Suzanne R

MVN; Podany, Thomas J MVN; Constance, Troy G MVN; Martinez, Wanda R MVN

Subject: Re: CWPPRA Programmatic Assessment Comments

Julie,

We have reviewed the draft Programmatic Assessment outline and agree that the important items have been covered. Attached are minor comments to some of the items. We will be discussing these points in the future to produce a final outline and draft narrative.

We agree with Rick's comments that we should ensure that CWPPRA benefit numbers are reported in the five wetland benefit category format recommended by the Council on Environmental Quality. To do so, all we have to do is add a "wetland enhancement" category. Those five CEQ benefit categories include - Wetland Establishment, Wetland Re-establishment, Wetland Rehabilitation, Wetland Enhancement and Wetland Protection.

We stress that the CWPPRA benefit numbers should include an "enhanced" category for each project. The definition of enhanced benefited acres would be the acres of wetlands in the project area minus any protected acres (i.e., project area - water and protected acres). We feel that we would sell CWPPRA short by not including enhanced-acre benefits.

Definitions of the CEQ benefit categories include the following with our CWPPRA interpretation in parentheses:

Wetland Establishment - Develops a wetland on an upland or deepwater site. (We have no CWPPRA alternative for this category. Most CWPPRA projects are in water 2-3 feet deep or less and not uplands or deepwater.)

Wetland Re-establishment - Returns natural/historic functions to former wetlands and results in a gain in wetland acres. (Equal to CWPPRA Acres restored (e.g., marsh creation, terraces, etc.), and equals number of new wetland acres created/restored by CWPPRA projects vs acres protected by those projects.)

Wetland Rehabilitation - Returns full functions to degraded wetland and results in a gain in wetland quality. (In CWPPRA, at least partially covered under "wetland enhancement" below.)

Wetland Enhancement - Heighten, intensify, or improve specific functions, or to change the growth stage or composition of the vegetation present. (CWPPRA wetland acres within the project area determined by the project area minus water and protected acres.).

Wetland Protection - Acres protected from erosion. (It is equal to the protected acres reported by CWPPRA. Those protected acres are defined as those acres protected from erosion by the project over the 20-year project life not counting restored acres. This number equals the Future With Project acres benefited minus the Future Without Project acres, minus any restored acres.)

We are in the process of calculating "wetland enhancement" acres for each approved CWPPRA project and will be updating the CWPPRA benefits spreadsheet to include "enhanced" acres in the near future.

Darryl

Darryl Clark
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
646 Cajundome Blvd., Suite 400
Lafayette, LA 70506
337-291-3111
291-3139 fax

(See attached file: CWPPRA-Programmatic-Assessment-DRAFT FWS Comments 3-10-05.doc)

Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) Programmatic Assessment

DRAFT – FWS Comments

March 2, 2005

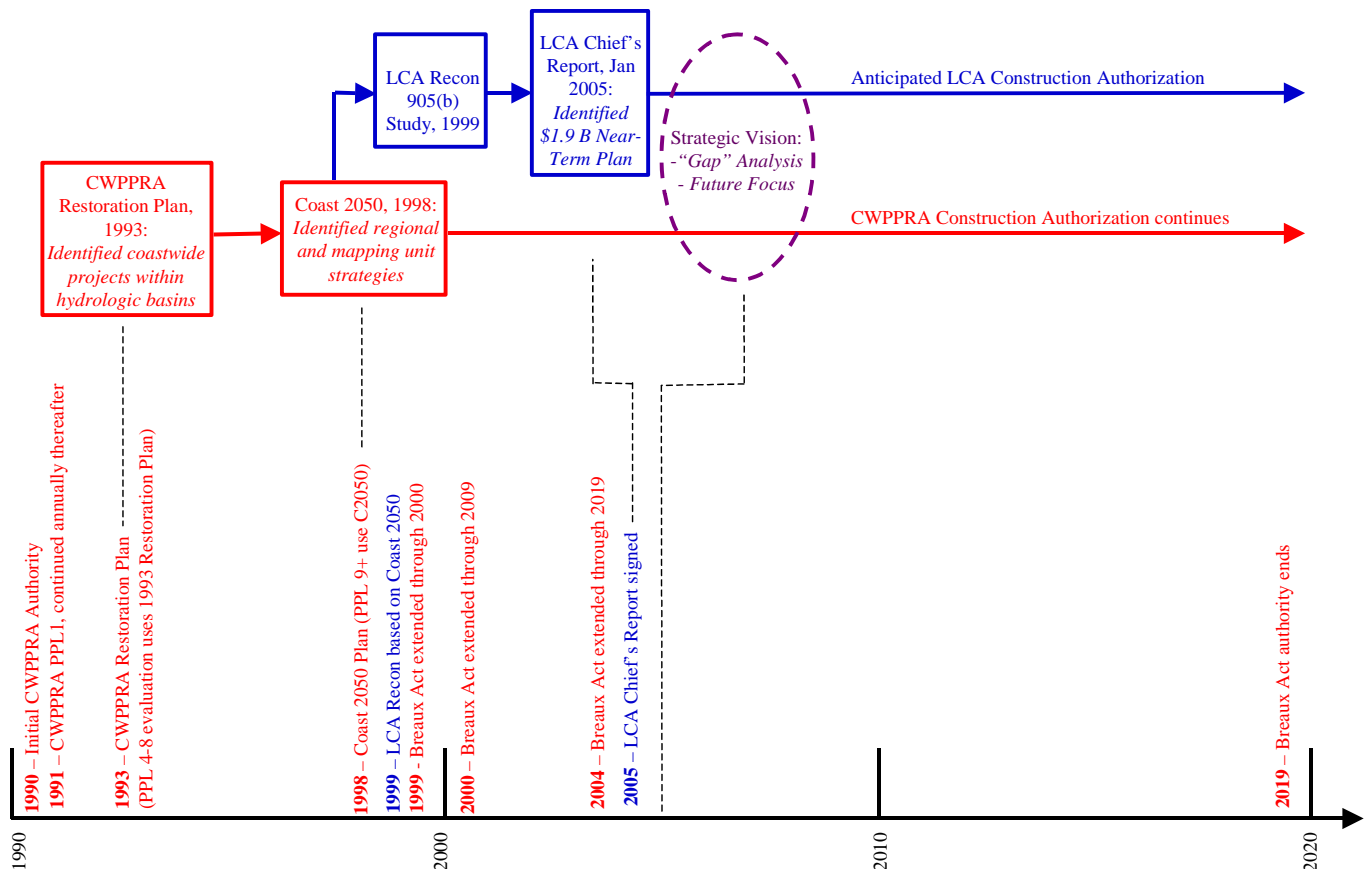
Purpose:

Perform a programmatic assessment of the CWPPRA program to evaluate: (1) what we've accomplished since program authorization and (2) provide a vision for the future of CWPPRA in consideration of the re-authorization of CWPPRA through 2019 and the potential for authorization of the Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) program. The assessment will aid in determining the role of the CWPPRA program in future Louisiana coastal wetland restoration activities. It will also identify means to convey results of the assessment to targeted audiences (Congressional interests, agency chains-of-command, local and national environmental groups, business community, local and national stakeholders).

Timeframe to Complete: Target draft assessment by August 2005 Task Force meeting, target final by January 2006 Task Force meeting

Outline:

I. Strategic Vision (*historical perspective of CWPPRA program, evolution of coastal restoration in Louisiana, direction for future of CWPPRA*)



Comment: Page 1, CWPPRA Chronology Graph – CWPPRA 1993 Restoration Plan box - add “and strategies”. Coast 2050 box - Add “Identified coastwide, regional and mapping unit strategies”. We were not aware of the very short Breaux Act extension from 1999 to 2000 reported in 1999.

- Historic perspective/timeline of coastal restoration in Louisiana:
 - Historic land loss, projected land loss “facts”
 - 4 CWPPRA authorizations
 - 1993 CWPPRA Restoration Plan
 - 1998 CWPPRA Coast 2050 Report
 - Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) reconnaissance study
 - LCA Chief’s Report outlining Near-Term Plan

- Evolution of coastal restoration in Louisiana (goals and visions of coastal restoration plans and how their focus has evolved over time)

Comment: There has been a gradual evolution in LA coastal restoration from 1990 to 2005, but the basic nature and goals of that restoration through CWPPRA has not changed dramatically during that period. The primary coastal restoration goals articulated in the 1993 CWPPRA Restoration Plan have not changed that much as expressed in the recent 1998 CWPPRA Coast 2050 strategies.

- Update pie chart showing existing programs to address coastal wetland loss:
 - CWPPRA completed projects (1990-2004)
 - CWPPRA projected projects (2005-2019)
 - LCA Near-term Plan
 - Other WRDA Freshwater Diversions ([Davis Pond and Caernarvon](#))
 - Corps’ Continuing Authorities Program (CAP)
 - Breaux Act Conservation Plan
 - Navigation Maintenance Beneficial Use
 - Other Programs

Comment: The “Other Programs” section above could include LA “state-only” restoration projects; NRCS programs – Wetland Reserve Program, Conservation Reserve Program, Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIPS), Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQUIP), and others; FWS programs – Partners for Fish and Wildlife, and the North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA); EPA programs, other Corps programs, NOAA restoration programs, and other agency programs.

- Remaining “need” (important to show the unpreserved “need” remaining after updating for CWPPRA extension to 2019 and LCA Near-term Plan)
-
- Comparison/Contrast between LCA and CWPPRA, and “Gap” Analysis:
 - Map with footprint of CWPPRA project boundaries, LCA Near-term Plan boundaries, other WRDA project boundaries (Davis Pond, Caernarvon, etc.), state project boundaries, etc. Consider using different colors/fill types on map to show program and project types.

Comment: This map exists and was produced by the USGS (“Selected LA Coastal Restoration Projects;” October 2004; No. USGS-NWRC 2005-11-0003).

- Discuss synergistic/complimentary nature of CWPPRA, LCA, other WRDA, state, etc.
- Discuss CWPPRA’s bottom-up planning (grass roots) versus LCA’s top-down planning and the need to preserve grass roots planning.
- Discuss LCA Near-term Plan possible areas of influence, CWPPRA project boundaries, other WRDA project areas of influence, State project areas of influence, etc. and identify overlap areas and areas of continued “need” (“Gap” Analysis).
- Discuss Breaux Act ability to respond quickly to areas of need versus typical WRDA process.
- Discuss synergistic effect of a group of smaller-scale CWPPRA projects.

Comment: These synergistic smaller-scale projects are exemplified in land bridge and barrier island projects (i.e., Barataria Basin Land Bridge and Terrebonne Basin Barrier Island projects) mentioned in Section II (B) (Landscape Level Plan) of the Programmatic Assessment Section (Colonel’s Subgroup).

- Given the above evaluation and continued “need” in coastal Louisiana, where should Breaux Act focus efforts for remaining authorization through 2019?
 - Should Breaux Act focus on particular strategies, project types, or project scale/cost? What strategies lend themselves to one program over the other (large-scale, diversions from the River, impact to navigation, impact Mainline levee or other infrastructure, impacting life and property)?

Comment: There seems to be an emphasis on “impacts” to navigation and levees in this bullet. Restoration projects have usually avoided impacts to both. Perhaps the word “impact” could be replaced with “benefit,” such as, “...(the benefits of large-scale, diversions from the River, ~~impact~~ benefits to navigation, ~~impact~~ benefits to Mainline levees or other infrastructure, and benefits to human ~~impacting~~ life and property)? The restoration strategies between different LA coastal restoration programs should be similar and complementary, but the scales may be different. CWPPRA must stay within the smaller to medium cost scale (scale of > \$50 M), due to annual appropriations below \$60 M, while WRDA-type programs can be larger (> \$50 M). Individual CWPPRA projects must thus be below basin-wide scale while WRDA projects can be basin-wide or even cross basins in scale (i.e., Third Delta).

- How should CWPPRA re-focus evaluation and prioritization of project nominees/candidates/projects to best fit this niche given the re-authorization of the program through 2019?

Comment: After restoration niches and gaps are identified, the current CWPPRA project selection criteria can be revised to reflect that refocusing. Currently CWPPRA projects must support the Coast 2050 regional strategies, and many of the 8 Prioritization Criteria

support the LCA Hydrogeomorphic objectives showing a linkage between those programs.

II. Programmatic Assessment (*a holistic view of the coastal restoration in Louisiana – including the role of the CWPPRA program in abating coastal erosion in Louisiana*)

See outline from Colonel's Subgroup (previously outlined, see attached)

Comment: The Programmatic Assessment section outline is comprehensive, but a number of items appear in both the Strategic Vision and the Programmatic Assessment (Colonel's Subgroup) outlines [i.e., "CWPPRA Authorizations" (= Subgroup "Status of Legislation," Section I(B); "CWPPRA Completed Projects" (= Subgroup "Projects on the Ground," Section II(A); and "Discuss synergetic effect of a group of smaller-scale CWPPRA projects" (= Subgroup "Landscape Level Planning," Section II(B)]. Items can be presented in both sections if the emphasis is different and efforts are made to reduce redundancies.

III. Project Assessment (*a project-level view of the CWPPRA program, required by Act*)

Typical 3-year CWPPRA Report to Congress outlining the effectiveness of the program's coastal wetland restoration projects

-----Original Message-----

From: Jurgensen, John - Alexandria, LA [mailto:john.jurgensen@la.usda.gov]
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2005 9:41 AM
To: LeBlanc, Julie Z MVN
Cc: Kinler, Quin - Baton Rouge, LA; Paul, Britt - Alexandria, LA
Subject: NRCS Comments on the Draft Outline of CWPPRA Programmatic Assessment

Julie,

Please find attached the comments from NRCS regarding the draft outline of the CWPPRA Programmatic Assessment, dated March 2, 2005. If you have any questions or need clarification on any of our comments please let me know.

Thanks,

John

John Jurgensen, P.E.
Civil Engineer
Water Resources Office
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Louisiana
Phone (318) 473-7694
Fax (318) 473-7747
Email john.jurgensen@la.usda.gov
WebPage www.la.nrcs.usda.gov

NRCS Comments Regarding
March 2, 2005, Draft Outline of CWPPRA Programmatic Assessment

General Comments

- 1) Would CWPPRA statistics (# projects, acres, etc) be presented under section II?
- 2) Where would the document address economic impacts / benefits?
- 3) There are a lot of references to the LCA reconnaissance study and the LCA Near Term Plan. This document needs to focus on the successes of CWPPRA, the history of CWPPRA, and the intent of CWPPRA in the future, and not get overshadowed by LCA by trying to find a way to make CWPPRA compatible with LCA. CWPPRA is funded and actively producing projects that are addressing areas of need based on strategies already developed and documented. LCA should have looked at the projects being developed by CWPPRA and found a way to supplement the existing work.
- 4) The cost of CWPPRA and LCA should be highlighted. Specifically the cost share of the local sponsor needs to be prominently discussed. The means of getting funds for the 15% cost share of CWPPRA is already established and working well. LCA has a 35% local cost share and the fact that the local sponsor has yet to find a means of acquiring these funds has been downplayed.

Specific Comments

1. The timeline should include realistic projections for LCA construction (for example, 10+ years before any project is on the ground) to highlight the effectiveness of CWPPRA “delivery”.
2. What is “Gap” Analysis? “Gap” is a previously used acronym for Geographic Approach to Planning for Biological Diversity. Define, explain, and change this term.
3. Section I, Historic perspective... Need to present a realistic picture of when LCA might actually complete construction of its first projects. In contrast we need to show a timeline of constructed CWPPRA projects to emphasize that CWPPRA has shown the ability to get projects built within a short time.
4. Section I, Evolution... This part of the document should highlight, and cite examples of, the following CWPPRA changes: small individual projects to much larger, more complex projects; academic involvement; 1993 plan (list of projects) vs. Coast 2050 (regional strategies); planning and construction for project synergy (i.e., grouping of small projects to focus on basin-wide goal); use of contemporary science and technology (hydrodynamic and coastal geomorphic modeling), etc.; evolution of WVA formula used to derive anticipated benefits (with emphasis on academic involvement in this evolution); planning of large scale projects that could be built via other programs.
5. Section I, Update.... Need to distinguish 3 categories of CWPPRA projects: constructed, funded for construction, and not yet funded for construction to show what will not get built if CWPPRA is terminated.
6. Section I, Comparison/Contrast...Map with footprint... A map with just CWPPRA and WRDA makes it look like all of Barataria, most of Breton, and good portions of all other basins are “covered”. These areas may be influenced, but that does not mean that the loss is stopped or reversed. The map could be misleading. Need to show that CWPPRA is addressing areas of concern in every region of the coastal zone, and that the LCA Near Term plan does not. Need to highlight the fact that the public has a major role in the proposed candidate projects each year, and LCA does not.
7. Section I, Comparison/Contrast...Suggest adding timelines that compare implementation timeframe for WRDA (Caernarvon or Davis Pond) vs. a typical CWPPRA project vs. a realistic projection for an LCA-type project.
8. Section I, Comparison/Contrast...Discuss synergistic...could use Timbalier BIs, Barataria BIs, and/or Barataria Landbridge as vignettes/examples.
9. Section I, Given the above...Add a bullet to explain/emphasize that CWPPRA has a group of projects not yet funded for constructed, some of which will go to construction each/every year that CWPPRA remains authorized, while LCA or WRDA construction will be perhaps 10, 20 or more years away.
10. Section I, Given the above... Emphasize CWPPRA’s ability to plan “landscape-level” projects that could be built under other programs. Show that CWPPRA has the ability to build projects quickly, whereas LCA will take a lot of time to develop a project. Small scale projects are needed to reduce or prevent further erosion to critical areas of the state to allow large scale projects like LCA and WRDA projects, time to research and develop.

-----Original Message-----

From: MWinter [mailto:MWinter@jeffparish.net]

Sent: Friday, March 11, 2005 8:13 PM

To: LeBlanc, Julie Z MVN

Cc: Yarrow Etheredge; Al Levron; Albert Laque; Andrew MacInnes; Benny Rousselle; Bill Cefalu; Bill Oiler; Candace Watkins; Charlie Reppel; Charlotte Randolph; Clayton Faucheux; Cullen Curole; Dale Hymel; David Carmadelle; Don Schwab; Don Schwab's Secretary; Donald Burgess; Elizabeth McDougall; Frank Fink; Gordon Burgess; Guy Cormier; Henry LaGrange; Hubert Faulk; James Smith; Jerry Bostic; Junior Rodriguez; Junior Rodriguez's Secretary; Kenya Smith; Kevin Davis; L.J. Durel, Jr.; Mark Black; Martin Triche; Mike Grimmer; Nickie Monica; Pam Mattingly; Paul Rainwater; Ram Ramchandran; Randy Roach; Ray Nagin; Ray Santiny; Robert Billiot; Steve Trahan; Tim Kerner; Tim Tregle; Tina Horn; Walter Brooks; Will Langlinais; Windell Curole; Yarrow Etheredge

Subject: RE: CWPPRA Programmatic Assessment

Julie,

First, let me apologize for getting this to you a bit later than you had requested. This was a particularly difficult time to get quick feedback from PACE members as many of them were meeting with congressional delegates in Washington, D.C. last week and this week.

The Draft CWPPRA Programmatic Assessment Outline dated March 2, 2005 has been circulated via e-mail to all Louisiana PACE members for review and comment. Many of the comments received were not specific to the outline, but rather are comments on the actual content of the report. Based on comments received, I have added some suggested items to the outline that you provided; these are in **GREEN**.

I have also attached all the responses that I received from various PACE members, which include specific issues that they would like to see addressed in the body of the report. Windell Curole (Lafourche) requested comments from the Lafourche Parish CZM Committee Members, and Wayne Martin's and Ted Falgout's comments are responding to Windell's request.

Tina Horn (Cameron), Yarrow Etheredge (Orleans), and Al Levron (Terrebonne) submitted comments. My own comments on behalf of Jefferson Parish are contained in the **GREEN** suggested items.

Due to the short turn around time allowed for this review and response, I was not able to poll PACE members to get consensus on the comments received or on the suggested items in **GREEN**.

I am copying PACE members on this e-mail, and am requesting that if anyone disagrees with any of the **GREEN** suggested items or has additional comments on the Draft CWPPRA Programmatic Assessment Outline; they e-mail them directly to Julie LeBlanc at the Corps and copy me.

Julie, according to your March 2 e-mail, the final version of the outline will be provided to the Technical Committee for discussion at their March 16 meeting, with the expectation that the Technical Committee will flesh out the details on how the assessment will be conducted. As PACE would like to be involved in discussion of the final outline

as well as how the assessment will be conducted, I am recommending that PACE members attend this meeting, if possible. Please provide a time and location of the March 16 meeting so I can pass it on to PACE members.

Finally, you can tell by the comments received that PACE is very interested in commenting on the body of the assessment report, so please keep us informed of all meetings and developments related to this effort.

PACE very much appreciates the opportunity to comment on and be a participant in this assessment of the CWPPRA Program.

Thanks.

Marnie Winter
(504) 736-6440

Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) Programmatic Assessment

DRAFT

March 2, 2005

Purpose:

Perform a programmatic assessment of the CWPPRA program to evaluate: (1) what we've accomplished since program authorization and (2) provide a vision for the future of CWPPRA in consideration of the re-authorization of CWPPRA through 2019 and the potential for authorization of the Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) program. The assessment will aid in determining the role of the CWPPRA program in future Louisiana coastal wetland restoration activities. It will also identify means to convey results of the assessment to targeted audiences (Congressional interests, agency chains-of-command, local and national environmental groups, business community, local and national stakeholders).

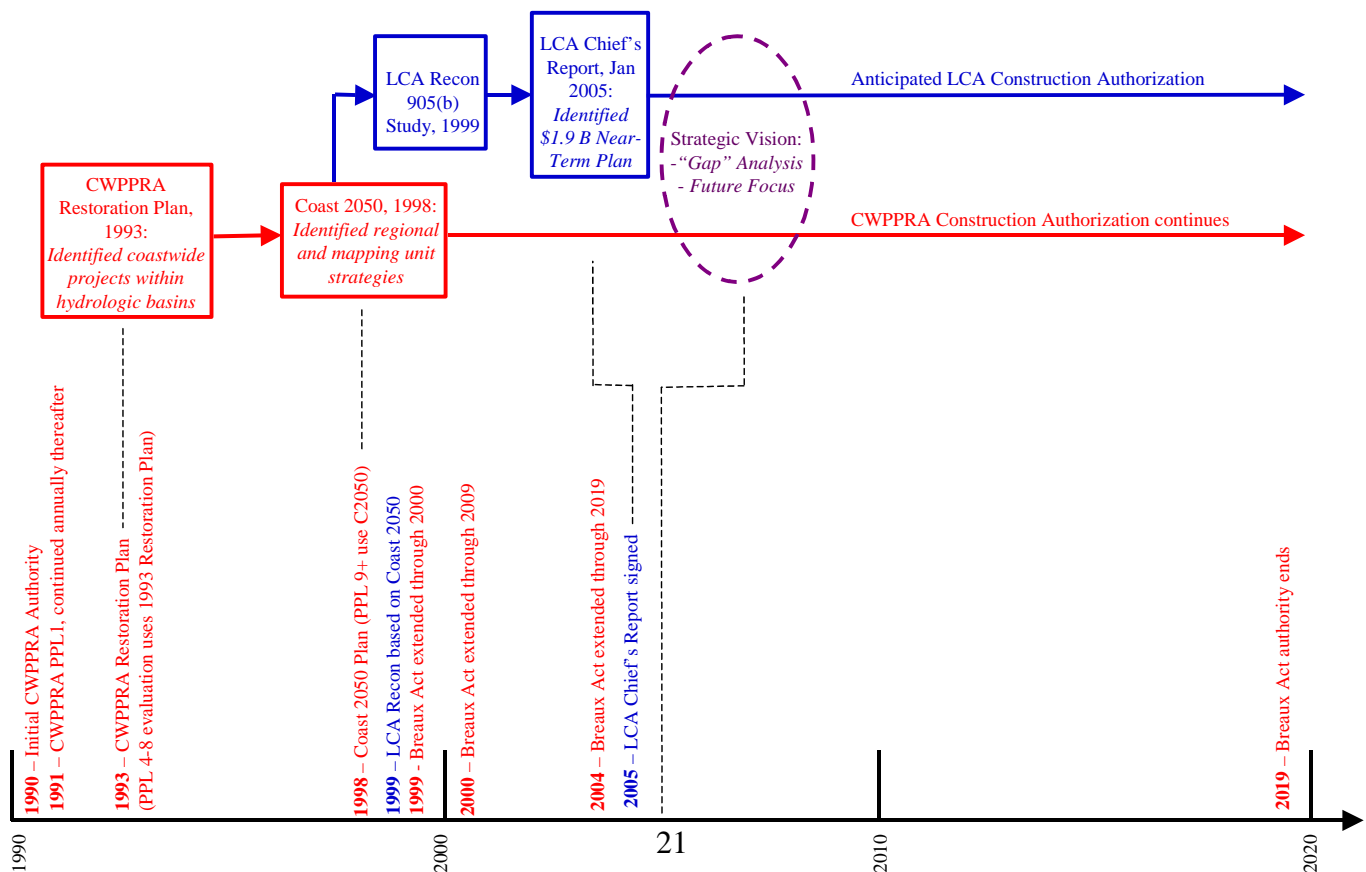
Timeframe to Complete: Target draft assessment by August 2005 Task Force meeting, target final by January 2006 Task Force meeting

Outline:

Abstract that clearly defines the report layout and contents of each section.

Executive Summary that succinctly makes the case for the conclusions and recommendations resulting from the report discussion.

I. Strategic Vision (*historical perspective of CWPPRA program, evolution of coastal restoration in Louisiana, direction for future of CWPPRA*)



- Historic perspective/timeline of coastal restoration in Louisiana:
 - Historic land loss, projected land loss “facts”
 - 4 CWPPRA authorizations
 - 1993 CWPPRA Restoration Plan
 - 1998 CWPPRA Coast 2050 Report
 - Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) reconnaissance study
 - LCA Chief’s Report outlining Near-Term Plan
 - Evolution of coastal restoration in Louisiana (goals and visions of coastal restoration plans and how their focus has evolved over time) (include discussion of geological/biological processes and technologies such as barrier island restoration, marsh enhancement, and pipeline slurry)
- Update pie chart showing existing programs to address coastal wetland loss:
 - CWPPRA completed projects (1990-2004)
 - CWPPRA projected projects (2005-2019)
 - LCA Near-term Plan
 - Other WRDA Freshwater Diversions
 - Corps’ Continuing Authorities Program (CAP)
 - Breaux Act Conservation Plan
 - Navigation Maintenance Beneficial Use
 - Other Programs
 - Remaining “need” (important to show the unpreserved “need” remaining after updating for CWPPRA extension to 2019 and LCA Near-term Plan)
- Comparison/Contrast between LCA and CWPPRA, and “Gap” Analysis:
 - Map with footprint of CWPPRA project boundaries, LCA Near-term Plan boundaries, other WRDA project boundaries (Davis Pond, Caernarvon, etc.), state project boundaries, etc. Consider using different colors/fill types on map to show program and project types.
 - Discuss synergistic/complimentary nature of CWPPRA, LCA, other WRDA, state, etc. (discuss possibility of LCA Plan being added to CWPPRA)
 - Discuss CWPPRA’s bottom-up planning (grass roots) versus LCA’s top-down planning and the need to preserve grass roots planning.
 - Discuss LCA Near-term Plan possible areas of influence, CWPPRA project boundaries, other WRDA project areas of influence, State project areas of influence, etc. and identify overlap areas and areas of continued “need” (“Gap” Analysis).
 - Discuss Breaux Act ability to respond quickly to areas of need versus typical WRDA process.
 - Discuss synergistic effect of a group of smaller-scale CWPPRA projects.
 - Discuss need for flexibility to address diversity of conservation needs across basins and evaluate project value based on comprehensive region needs (i.e., conservation, social, economic not just by WVA)
 - Discuss how more funding can be directed to construction costs and reduce project funding being spent on planning
 - What strategies lend themselves to one program over the other (demonstration projects, large-scale, diversions from the River, impact to navigation, impact Mainline levee or other infrastructure, impacting life

and property)? (need for more demonstration projects to encourage new technology?)

- Given the above evaluation and continued “need” in coastal Louisiana, where should Breaux Act focus efforts for remaining authorization through 2019?
 - Should Breaux Act focus on particular strategies, project types, or project scale/cost? ~~What strategies lend themselves to one program over the other (demonstration projects, large scale, diversions from the River, impact to navigation, impact Mainline levee or other infrastructure, impacting life and property)?~~
 - How should CWPPRA re-focus evaluation and prioritization of project nominees/candidates/projects to best fit this niche given the re-authorization of the program through 2019?
 - Should CWPPRA purchase equipment such as dredges and establish an operations and maintenance program?
 - Should CWPPRA focus on shortening time between project authorization and construction?

II. Programmatic Assessment (*a holistic view of the coastal restoration in Louisiana – including the role of the CWPPRA program in abating coastal erosion in Louisiana*)

See outline from Colonel’s Subgroup (previously outlined, see attached)

III. Project Assessment (*a project-level view of the CWPPRA program, required by Act*)

Typical 3-year CWPPRA Report to Congress outlining the effectiveness of the program’s coastal wetland restoration projects

Parishes Against Coastal Erosion
Cameron Parish, Louisiana

Comments on the CWPPRA Programmatic Assessment Draft dated 03/02/2005

Page 2 – Comparison/Contrast between LCA and CWPPRA and “Gap” Analysis

Add:

- Discuss possibility of *Louisiana Coastal Area* plan being added to CWPPRA

Reasoning:

- We **do not** need another WRDA type funding mechanism
- We **need** projects and studies to be scrutinized by the State Government and their Agencies, the Federal Agencies, the Local Governments and the public sector before project or study funding is approved


Problems:

The Coastal Wetland Planning Protection Restoration Act currently needs more funding. Adding the LCA plan to CWPPRA would need to be done **after the funding is increased** through Congress.

If LCA is added to CWPPRA we can have the same meetings that will include the same groups of people.

General Comments:

- We already have CWPPRA PPL 1-13 project lists. It should not take a whole lot of time and effort to do this assessment. We do not need to recreate the wheel.
- The Programmatic Assessment needs to show before and after project pictures, (as they say “*a picture is worth a thousand words*”)
- The locals need to be involved in the whole process of this assessment.

 The new “*Coastal Restoration Annual Project Reviews, Dec. 2004*” report is out. I think the Coastal Restoration and Management Office in DNR did an **excellent job** on this report. We can use this report, the “*2050 Plan*”, and the PPL 1-13 Project Files in the assessment.

Questions?

Call Tina Horn, Parish Administrator

CAMERON PARISH POLICE JURY

(337) 775-5718 Ext. 115

(337) 775-5567 – Fax

cppjury@camtel.net - email

From: Yarrow J. Etheredge [yjetheredge@cityofno.com]
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2005 10:40 AM
To: MWinter
Cc: Kenya Smith (MayorOfNO)
Subject: RE: FW: CWPPRA Programmatic Assessment

Marnie - my comments are below, related to further consideration that I think would be helpful in evaluating CWPPRA:

- (1) What other federal programs can be used to compliment the objectives of CWPPRA and CWPPRA projects?
- (2) Are there needs identified in Coast 2050 that can not be met by LCA or CWPPRA? If so, are there other programs that can address these needs?
- (3) Is there a need to increase the number of demonstration projects authorized in order to encourage development of new restoration methods?

Thanks

Yarrow Etheredge
Director, Mayor's Office of Environmental Affairs
Office of Economic Development
1300 Perdido Street, Suite 8E06
New Orleans, LA 70112
(504)658-4075 - direct line
(504)658-4076 - fax

From: Al Levron [allevron@tpcg.org]

Sent: Friday, March 11, 2005 2:02 PM

To: MWinter

Subject: RE: CWPPRA Programmatic Assessment

I don't see where I can add anything to the outline.
Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

From: Windell Curole [slld@mobiletel.com]

Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2005 6:50 PM

To: MWinter

Subject: RE: Goofed again! CZM Members_08MAR05

Marnie, I think in the history of restoration, two major discussions may need to be discussed. The geology or biology approach to solutions. The other issue has been barrier island or marsh enhancement.

One other issue is the extent that natural systems affect tidal flooding. And last is the absence of slurry pipeline technology until recently.

These issues may be too specific ,but place what you think may be appropriate in the PACE comments. Windell

-----Original Message-----

From: MWinter [mailto:MWinter@jeffparish.net]

Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2005 6:02 PM

To: slld@mobiletel.com; Charlotte Randolph; Charlotte Randolph; Cullen Curole

Cc: Mary Punch

Subject: RE: Goofed again! CZM Members_08MAR05

Windell:

I want to clarify what the Corps is asking PACE to submit by noon tomorrow. They want us to review and provide a consolidated response on the draft *CWPPRA Programmatic Assessment Outline*. This is the first attachment above. They are not asking us, at this time, to comment on the actual CWPPRA Program; just comment on the attached Outline. Our comments on the CWPPRA Program itself will come later. I think the letter you sent to your CZM Committee members would come later.

In case anyone was confused by the 2 attachments, as I was, here is what I found out. The second attachment, *CWPPRA Success Outline*, was developed by a Working Group of agency representatives (Colonel's Subgroup) tasked with highlighting CWPPRA's successes and discussing how CWPPRA might work with LCA. This document was prepared prior to the Feb. 17, 2005 Task Force meeting. At that Task Force meeting, the Colonel noted that, based on questions from Washington, there is a need to prepare a full Programmatic Assessment, including not only CWPPRA's successes, but also how CWPPRA might be improved. Attachment # 1 is the *draft Outline for that full Programmatic Assessment*. PACE is being asked to review the Outline and comment on the general content. For instance, does the outline include everything that should be included in the Assessment? Are there any items we feel should be added to the outline? Is there duplication?

However, please note that, as drafted, the Corps is suggesting that the second attachment, *CWPPRA Success Outline*, be incorporated in the *Section II. Programmatic Assessment*.

If you have questions, call me (504-736-6440) or Julie LeBlanc at Corps (# below).

REMEMBER: CONSOLIDATED COMMENTS ARE REQUESTED by NOON TOMORROW.

Marnie

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 8, 2005
To: CZM Members
Cc: Jess Curole, CZM
Charlotte Randolph, LPC President
Cullen Curole, LFG
From: Windell A. Curole, CZM Administrator
Lafourche Parish
Subject: Reassessment of CWPPRA

The CWPPRA Task Force is reassessing the work since the inception of the program. Please take an hour if you have it, and less if you don't, to write your assessment of CWPPRA today, and what you feel it should be in the future. Please return your comments by 12:00 noon Thursday, March 10, 2005.

We apologize for this late request, but the Corps just informed us on Monday afternoon of the deadline. I believe this is a challenge to our ability to move quickly.

If you believe that CWPPRA is beneficial in dealing with our land loss problem, please comment. You may email your comments to my office at sld@mobiletel.com. In addition, we ask that you also send a copy to Marnie Winter at mwinter@jeffparish.net, or by fax at (504) 736-6445. Your timely response is appreciated.

WAC/mp

File: Main/Letters & Memos/CZM08MAR05

March 8, 2005

Windell A. Curole, CZM Administrator
Lafourche Parish

Re: Reassessment of CWPPRA

Windell,

Sorry we have such little time for comment on such a very important subject. Let me preface my remarks by saying that a lot of very hard working and very dedicated people have devoted much time to developing the only “bird in the hand” source of dedicated federal funding for coastal restoration. I know I could be the “Monday Morning Quarterback” and tell you what would have worked better, but I would rather focus my remarks on the future and what role this important source of funding should play out into the future for Coastal Louisiana.

This state’s coastal restoration needs are very diverse and complex and I believe now is the time for the CWPPRA leadership to recognize that this program must develop more flexibility to address this huge diversity in needs.

A prime example of this diversity is the February 16, 2005 letter written by Tina Horn of Cameron Parish to the Coastal Parishes, Governor and others. By her testimony, it is clear that the current CWPPRA process works well for Southwest Louisiana where coastal land loss is not so severe and perhaps not on the verge of the threatening the existence of entire communities. Believe me, I wish the Barataria and Terrebonne estuaries were in the same shape as the Cameron watershed. Small to medium size projects seem to produce rewarding results in the Cheniere Plains.

Unfortunately this is not the case in our basin where we need to leverage every penny available to implement mega projects that are well thought and help to achieve a clear basin-wide strategy. A strategy that recognizes that “all acres are not created equal” and that project selection cannot be determined by a WVA or wetland benefits alone, but by determining what that project contributes to a master basin plan which properly weights culture, infrastructure at risk and the many other factors that must be considered when selecting a project within a basin in peril.

The time is now to make these adjustments to this critically important program. There is no reason why this program cannot be flexible enough to adequately meet the diverse needs of each basin. It is my opinion that the current project selection system is not yielding the best projects for the Barataria and Terrebonne Basins and is in considerable need of an overhaul.

Finally, I would like to comment on the huge amount of CWPPRA money not being spent on construction. I honestly do not know what the breakdown is, but it

certainly appears that there is a great deal of CWPPRA dollars being spent on things other than construction. I really believe this process should be thoroughly reviewed and revamped. It appears we have let this program supplement the budgets of the agencies involved which inherently works against the urgency of construction. A case in point is that the agency I run does not have this system and we spend at minimum 85% of a project's total cost on actual construction. Even on similar environmental projects like creating hundreds of acres of marsh or a maritime forest ridge. I would venture to say that CWPPRA comes no where close to this percentage and it should!

Again, this is not an attempt to “throw the baby out with the bathwater.” CWPPRA is an essential part of this state's coastal restoration effort. It is time to “tweak” it into a program that better meets the diverse needs of the different basins, better recognizes economic and social values in project selection, and devotes at minimum, 70% of its total funding to actual construction.

Ted M. Falgout
Port Director, Port Fourchon
Chairman, Lafourche CZM

Windell Curole, CZM Administrator
Lafourche Parish

Marnie Winter, CZM Administrator
Jefferson Parish

Wayne Martin, CZM Member
Lafourche Parish

March 8, 2005

Re: Reassessment of CWPPRA

In my assessment, CWPPRA is a model of how Federal Agencies could get together for the overall good of this states wetland problems. However, It has become a competitive feeding trough for subsidizing such agencies.

We are in year 14 of the CWPPRA process. With approximately \$50 million appropriated each year, we have received over \$700 million over that time span.

How many acres have we reclaimed? How many projects were studied and never constructed? How many studies were duplicated by competing agencies?

Suggestions as to how CWPPRA could operate in a more efficient manner.

Based on how many projects were de-authorized, have we thoroughly investigated potential pit falls with these projects before we approved them. It seems that significant time and money were wasted on some projects that were eventually de-authorized.

All past projects that were submitted and or approved for each basin needs to be accounted for and all research and on such projects need to be in a data base that is accessible by all agencies and parishes. Instead of having to come up with new projects each year, lets look at past projects that have not been completed or were de-authorized, with half the work done, and look at the feasibility of completing those projects. They should be less costly than starting a project from scratch.

A research bank should be established requiring all agency research work to be submitted to and accessable for retrival by agencies when working on new projects. Why duplicate efforts among agencies. When projects require research on certain areas, agencies should be able to find this information in the research bank and use this information without having to study it again.

We need to look at changing the current system of allowing the agencies to conduct all research on projects and start bidding it out to the private sector. Perhaps the ratio of cost of research to construction might tip the scales more to the construction side, where we

should be spending most of the funds. In addition, the time frame from project approval to construction needs to be shortened so that research and studies don't become obsolete.

The CWPPRA process which has some inherent strengths, should be the model by which we restore this state wetlands. The process though, should bring in other funding sources such as other agency programs, state programs, local governments, and private interest in partnering on projects. This could create a more comprehensive plan and could create larger projects. Thus far, it has been a piecemeal approach. The state has coastal 2050, LCA, CWPPRA, Coastal Zone Mgt., and other boards and committees that to me confuses the general public and I'm sure the people that are involved with the effort. After 14 years, you would think that we should have studied the situation enough, and that the state should have one voice, one plan, one approach, and one committee that our efforts can be channeled through.

I'm a business owner. I see things in an efficient manner. With the amount of monies that have flow through CWPPRA, Equipment such as suction dredges, draglines, and such, could have been purchased, and operated by either state or local agencies. Each year, Operations and Maintenance monies could have been approved from the CWPPRA funding to keep this equipment operating and restoring wetlands. Ongoing work to obtain right ways and landowner approval could be handled by agencies and or local gov't. I believe that if this approach would have been taken in the past that we would have not only stopped the total acres lost but have been adding acres to the overall total.

The state needs to realize that 90% of all wetlands in Louisiana are privately held. When private land erodes to waterbottoms the state claims that lost land as theirs. This is an unjust acquisition by the state of private land by inaction of the state and by deliberate actions by the corps. If the corps had not levied off the river, private lands would have stayed intact by the replenishing nature of flooding. These lands are not like any other land in this country, therefore they need to be treated in such a manner. A reasonable and consistant law needs to be enacted that protects landowners rights to the surface as well as the mineral rights when land restoring takes place. If this is not done and the state claims all newly reclaimed land as theirs, more landowners will not cooperate with any restoration projects.

In the overall picture of things, the quickest, most efficient, and least intrusive method of restoration is suction dredging. We can pin-point where land use to be, such as is shown in many maps, the land loss that has occurred in the 80's, 70's, 60's and 50's. We can determine how far back we want to restore to. Suction dredging can restore back the traditional property lines and water bodies to that time. Now, to maintain such efforts from being washed away again, we need to reestablish the natural waterways that created these ridges and plains from the Mississippi River and flow waters and sediments through them again. If this is not possible due to human development, then alternate flows that can tie into those systems need to be created. We can not wait for these alternate flows to come first in this struggle. They will take too long to complete. They can come after we have mechanically restored what we can, in order to maintain what we have rebuilt.

I submit these comments respectfully of the work that CWPPRA has done over the past 14 years and hope that the efforts continue in order to improve the system.

Respectfully,

Wayne J. Martin

-----Original Message-----

From: Ram Ramchandran [mailto:ramacg@cox.net]

Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2005 8:57 AM

To: MWinter; LeBlanc, Julie Z MVN

Cc: Yarrow Etheredge; Al Levron; Albert Laque; Andrew MacInnes; Benny Rousselle; Bill Cefalu; Bill Oiler; Candace Watkins; Charlie Reppel; Charlotte Randolph; Clayton Faucheux; Cullen Curole; Dale Hymel; David Carmadelle; Don Schwab; Don Schwab's Secretary; Donald Burgess; Elizabeth McDougall; Frank Fink; Gordon Burgess; Guy Cormier; Henry LaGrange; Hubert Faulk; James Smith; Jerry Bostic; Junior Rodriguez; Junior Rodriguez's Secretary; Kenya Smith; Kevin Davis; L.J. Durel, Jr.; Mark Black; Martin Triche; Mike Grimmer; Nickie Monica; Pam Mattingly; Paul Rainwater; Ram Ramchandran; Randy Roach; Ray Nagin; Ray Santiny; Robert Billiot; Steve Trahan; Tim Kerner; Tim Tregle; Tina Horn; Walter Brooks; Will Langlinois; Windell Curole; Yarrow Etheredge

Subject: RE: CWPPRA Programmatic Assessment

Julie/Marnie

From personal knowledge I know that we are the Parish on the west bank without any levee protection for over 25,000 people. We have made the beginning with 1/3 permit for the west end of the planned protection levee in co-operation with LaFourche levee district. We spent over \$2 Million just applying for the permit from USACE in the last 14 years. We can not continue this when budgets are tight. We badly need the permit to build the rest of the levee and the funding that goes with it. We will be happy to fit in the LCA2020,2050, USACE or any thing if it protects our population. HELP!!! Public safety is every body's business.

Here is my personal thought I conveyed to Scott Angelle DNR Secretary; Look at it seriously to solve Louisiana's coastal problems with an integrated approach, long term, not piece meal!! I mentioned the same to Gen Don Riley in our meeting. I will write a separate letter on that topic giving more details.

Scott

Nice talking to you all this afternoon. Time slot in steering committee meeting is difficult because we receive much early request from the White House and the EPA secretary to promote their agenda, plus all the resolutions have to be voted on before the NACo executive board meeting that after noon. Last year I set aside EPA and allotted ONE full hour for Our state.

I am doing the same this year at the Energy subcommittee meeting to accommodate our state cause and wetland issues. They don't just come under my sub committee. The twist I am giving is " Energy needs of the country is at peril" if we don't do some thing about Louisiana wetlands and gas/ oil field infrastructure. Pipe line support systems are washing away! That is the twist for my subcommittee topic.

Now here are some ideas and useful power points. Please build on it. They are from sources, put together by different people including USACE. My focus is get away from the obvious drum beat of needing more money. Stay technical and factual as an educational tool for the rest of the country. Demand recognition of this national problem and seek short term and long term solutions. Expert opinions should be subordinated to Political Leadership. Now give an estimate of what it takes to fix the problem immediately and long-term. Here is my approach, I raised it during LSU Dr. Jenkins's meeting :

* **Wetland protection** is to save the high grounds where people live, industry, commerce, and culture of Louisiana are located today from further loss due to subsidence, erosion, sea-level rise, geological activities and all other factors based on scientific facts starting with comprehensive vertical datum measurements. We need to base our levee systems on accurate data[e.g.: NAVD88] and plan evacuation routes, hurricane preparedness and public safety- for category III storms etc.. All existing scientific theories should be proven with field data avoiding perpetuation of further studies so that funding produces immediate and concrete results to the people. Funding for this efforts should be secured immediately and state wide plan to set up the network should be drawn without any delay.

* **Wetland restoration** is to keep up marshlands as a long-term effort to protect and maintain the existing infrastructure of pipe lines, their support systems located in coastal marsh lands, oil and gas production facilities, supply and service access roads as a homeland security priority, industrial canal and navigational systems to enhance existing commerce. No effort should be made to recover lost lands or to resettle people or maintain small communities against nature at great cost to tax payers. Similar to Dutch efforts of coastal restoration, a **Great Wall of Louisiana paralleling the south bank of industrial canal [intra-coastal water way]** from Lake Charles to the mouth of the river and on to the Mississippi state line should be designed as a national economic recovery act. This unitized concrete block structure[6'X6'X6'& Hollow] can be factory made at a centralized location using Mexican spar for concrete, River sand and Arkansas steel with local labor force at a minimum cost. Transport by barges to location and filling with sand is easier, fast and economical. This federally funded project will be the largest construction project of its kind and will be an economic boon to Louisiana. This effort is similar to LCA 2050 or USACE levee project. Strategic diversion of Mississippi River at selected locations similar to Davis Pond will help alleviate salinity problems in due course.

Local parishes in coastal areas can participate in building this great wall with available funding as time progresses as economic development project. Access is easy via Industrial canal and maintenance is made easy by adding more blocks as settling takes place. No new studies or engineering required, except to copy the great pyramids of Giza built 3000 years ago. The idea is to save the marshes from further washing away, keep the existing grass lands as a buffer, prevent salt water intrusion, help mitigate and minimize Tsunami or Hurricane ravages.

These are my thoughts which you can see as executable and actionable. Folks in Washington don't believe we are sincere in meeting the challenge. They think we are looking for hand outs with out a plan or any hope of success. God forbid another Ivan like storm will wake up the country from the slumber. Our energy dependence will be aggravated with the loss of Louisiana wetlands.

Ram Ramachandran
Councilman
St Charles Parish La
985 764 1692.

Decision: Proposed Changes to the CWPPRA Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)

Summary of Revisions to CWPPRA SOP, Revision 10

P&E Subcommittee revisions presented to the Technical Committee, 16 Mar 05

1. Incorporate Task Force final decisions:
 - a. Limit new Phase I/II cost to 100% - *approved at Aug 04 TF meeting*
 - b. Limit existing Phase I/II to new 100% caps – *approved at Oct 04 TF and Feb 05 TF meetings*
 - c. Limit request for approval of O&M funding increases above 20-year cost for non-cash flow projects to 3-year increments – *approved at Oct 04 TF meeting*
 - d. Revise Annual funding cycle approval dates – *approved at Feb 05 TF meeting*
 - Sep/Oct meetings – PPL Phase I approval, planning budget approval, O&M and monitoring approvals, Corps administrative cost approvals
 - Dec/Jan meetings – Phase II approvals

2. Additional SOP revisions:
 - a. Demonstration Project Appendix
 - Clarifications
 - New date for submissions (1 Jun)
 - b. Changes to SOP as a result of the After Action Review (AAR)
 - Possible Policy Changes (may require Task Force approval)
 - Require an updated WVA for all projects between 30 and 95% design
 - Non-Policy Clarifications
 - Economic Workgroup review of fully funded cost estimates
 - 95% design review meetings scheduled 4 weeks in advance of Technical Committee meetings where Phase II request is made
 - Local sponsor letter of concurrence following 95% design review
 - Appendix C, Phase II Checklist: Item F (EA submission), Item L (budgetary), Item P (delete), Item M (delete), Item H (Permit application)
 - P&E Subcommittee and Technical Committee Chair mailing addresses removed since SOP requires submission of information to all members of committees
 - Updated prioritization score required at 95% design review

3. Future Potential SOP Changes:
 - a. Modifications to SOP resulting from changes in project monitoring (CRMS program)
 - b. Engineering/Environmental WG Chairmen were tasked with drafting SOP language to outline implementation guidelines for demos selected for funding (to report back to P&E in time for consideration at June Technical Committee meeting)

P&E Subcommittee Recommendation

The P&E Subcommittee recommends acceptance of the SOP changes, as outlined in redline/strikeout document. Items thought to be “policy related” by the P&E (therefore requiring Task Force approval) are highlighted in yellow.

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes from the 10 Mar 05 CWPPRA P&E Subcommittee Meeting

1. A copy of the agenda is included as **Encl 1**. A copy of the sign-in sheet is included as **Encl 2**.

P&E Subcommittee members in attendance included:

Ms. Julie Z. LeBlanc, Chairman, Corps of Engineers (COE)
Mr. John Jurgensen, NRCS, Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS)
Mr. Kevin Roy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)
Ms. Rachel Sweeney, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
Mr. Dan Llewellyn, Louisiana Department of Natural Resource (LDNR)
Mr. Brad Crawford, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), substituting for Wes McQuiddy

Additional attendees at the meeting included: Mr. Phil Pittman, LDNR; Dr. Jenneke Visser, LSU; and Mr. Chris Monnerjahn, COE.

2. The resulting redline/strikeout version of the CWPPRA Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), DRAFT Revision 10.0, is included as **Encl 3**. The draft revisions will be presented to the CWPPRA Technical Committee at their March 16th, 2005 meeting for review and approval. The P&E Subcommittee believes that a majority of the revised language changes are not “policy related”, and therefore, require Technical Committee review and approval only. These changes are either (1) items previously decided upon by the Task Force or (2) clarifications of procedures that are already in-place. Items that the P&E Subcommittee deems as possibly “policy related” are highlighted in yellow in the DRAFT SOP and will be discussed in the following summary of the meeting.

3. Agenda Item I.A. Incorporate Task Force Final Decisions. The P&E Subcommittee first reviewed the Corps’ proposed SOP changes related to previous Task Force decisions, as outlined in Item I.A on the agenda. Following a few minor changes, the P&E Subcommittee agreed to revised language related to these Task Force decisions. See agenda (Encl 1) for Task Force decisions that were integrated into the draft SOP.

4. Agenda Item I.B. Additional SOP Revisions.

a. Demonstration Project Appendix.

- All P&E Subcommittee members agreed to the changes proposed by the Corps within Appendix E of the SOP and additional minor changes were incorporated for clarification purposes.
- The subcommittee talked about the discussion that took place during the December 2004 Technical Committee meeting regarding the screening of submissions that do not meet demonstration project requirements and the possibility of allowing some entity (workgroups, P&E) to eliminate demonstration

projects from consideration. The subcommittee agreed that the decision to eliminate a demonstration project from consideration should not be made behind closed doors (i.e. workgroup meetings) and recommended that the screening should be handled as in past years (make Technical Committee aware of the fact that particular proposals do not fit the definition of demos and allow for possible discussion during the public meeting, if necessary). As in the past, one option is for the sponsoring agency could pull the project from further consideration.

- The P&E Subcommittee then discussed the need to include a section in the appendix regarding implementation procedures for demos after they are selected for funding. The subcommittee asked that the Engineering and Environmental Workgroup Chairmen jointly draft language outlining implementation procedures including clarification of the need to request construction approval (in the Demo Appendix as well as in main body of SOP). All agreed that the implementation procedures should include an agency review prior to construction approval request. The Chairmen will submit the suggested changes to the P&E Subcommittee for review and approval in time for discussion/decision at the June Technical Committee meeting.

- b. Additional Items from Sept/Oct 2004 After Action Review (AAR). See **Encl 4** for list of issues and agency responses/opinions on listed issues. Some items resulted in suggested revisions to the SOP; others did not (as noted after each issue).

Issue #1, WVA updates – The subcommittee recommended that agencies be required to update their Wetland Value Assessment (WVA) between the 30 and 95% design review meetings, to be reviewed/approved by the Environmental Workgroup. Language in Paragraph 6.h.(1) and Appendix C was revised. It was noted that this effort should be minimal if the project did not experience a change in scope. This item was identified as a potential “policy related” revisions and has been identified in yellow in the redline/strikeout file.

Issue #2, Fully-funded cost updates – The subcommittee recommended adding that the Economics Workgroup must review/approve the fully funded cost estimate in Paragraph 6.h.(1) and Appendix C.

Issue #3, 95% design review meeting deadline – The subcommittee agreed that design review meetings should be scheduled no later than 4 weeks prior to the Technical Committee meeting where Phase II funding is requested. Language in Paragraph 6.h.(1) was revised accordingly.

Issue #4, Letter of Concurrence – LDNR agreed with the added requirement to provide a letter of concurrence following 95% design review. Paragraph 6.h.(1) was revised accordingly.

Issue #5, Phase II Checklist – Item F: EA Requirements – For clarification, Appendix C, Item F was revised to clarify that draft EAs must be submitted two weeks before the Technical Committee at which Phase II approval is requested.

Issue #6, Phase II Checklist, Item L – For clarification, Appendix C, Item L was revised to clarify that the budget information requested constitutes a fully funded cost estimate, reviewed/approved by the Economics Workgroup. Item P was deleted and the funding spreadsheet was moved under Item L.

Issue #7, Phase II Checklist, Item M – Appendix C, Item M was deleted because the information in Item M is already included in the fully funded cost estimate.

Issue #8, Phase II Checklist, Items B, K, and I –

- The subcommittee agreed that it was not necessary to delete Item B, CSA Statement. No change was incorporated.
- The Corps indicated that the Item K, Overgrazing Determination, is required as part of the 303(e) approval process, and therefore recommended not deleting the item. No change was incorporated.
- The subcommittee agreed that it was not necessary to delete item I, HTRW Assessment. No change was incorporated.

Issue #9, Phase II Checklist, Item H: Permit – For clarification, the subcommittee agreed to revise Appendix C, Item H to indicate that application for and/or issuance of the public notices for permits must be completed at least 2 weeks before the Technical Committee at which Phase II approval is requested.

Issue #10, Non-Cash Flow Requests for Construction Approval - The subcommittee agreed to remove the addresses for the P&E Subcommittee and Technical Committee because only the Chairman's addresses are shown. Agencies should send announcements to all members of the respective committees, as required in the SOP.

Issue #11, Phase I Accounting in Phase II Request – The subcommittee agreed that it would be difficult to accurately reconcile budget amounts for Phase I at the time when projects request Phase II approval (W-I-K credits not finalized, project may require additional Phase I efforts if not selected for Phase II funding). No language changes to the SOP were incorporated.

Issue #12, Project Revision Guideline – The subcommittee agreed that the SOP language could not capture requirements in these unique situations, and suggested that the Technical Committee provide guidance on a case-by-case basis in these situations.

Issue #13, Phase II Checklist – Item J: Section 303(e) – No action taken, added to Action List for follow up by Corps by June 2005.

Issue #14, Prioritization – Paragraph 6.h.(1) was revised to clarify that an updated prioritization score, reviewed/approved by the Workgroups is required at 95% Design Review. No changes to the prioritization criteria were recommended. The subcommittee agreed that the prioritization process may be addressed in CWPPRA Programmatic Assessment and there is no need to revise criteria at this time.

Issue #15, Phase II Checklist Shortfalls – The Corps could compile a matrix that lists projects that are requesting Phase II approval along with the completion status of checklist items prior to annual funding meeting. The Corps will send to agencies for review when binder submissions are received, to allow input to matrix prior to submitting the matrix to the Technical Committee. No language changes to the SOP were incorporated.

Issue #16, Materials Submitted for Binders – The Corps will continue to impose a 2-week deadline to ensure material is received in time to include in Technical Committee binders. No language changes to the SOP were incorporated.

Issue #17, Presentations – The subcommittee agreed that a list of items that must be addressed in the 5-minute agency presentations for Phase II approval should be provided to agencies via email prior to the annual budgeting Technical Committee meeting. The Corps will take the lead. The subcommittee agreed that the status of checklist items did not need to be addressed in the agency presentations.

Issue #18, Protection of Government Estimates – The subcommittee agreed that in order to protect Government Estimates detailed estimates should only be included in one location in Phase II binder material. The Corps will provide explicit instructions to the agencies when requesting binder materials for the Phase II approval meeting. The Corps will ask agencies to only include detailed cost breakdowns in the budget spreadsheet and not throughout the package and cover letter. This will allow ease in posting binder material by necessitating that only the budget spreadsheet must be removed from the binder material prior to public posting. No SOP changes were recommended.

Issue #19, Design Review Courtesy – The subcommittee agreed that, as a courtesy, agencies should refrain from scheduling 30 and 95% design review meetings for projects not anticipated to request Phase II funding approval during the 3 months prior to the Technical Committee's annual funding meeting. The P&E Subcommittee Chairman will send an announcement out to the P&E Subcommittee asking that the email be forwarded to PMs. No SOP changes were recommended.

Issue #20, Voting Process – No action taken, to be addressed during Technical Committee meeting. No SOP changes were recommended.

Issue #21, Funding Spreadsheet – The Corps agreed to revise future funding spreadsheets to express funding amounts in Fed + non-Federal dollars. No SOP changes were recommended.

Issue #22, Archives of Minutes – The Corps will look into scanning historic documents (minutes, etc.) so they are available in electronic format. No SOP changes were recommended.

Issues #23, 24, and 25 – O&M Plans, Monitoring Reports, and Materials for 30% Design Reviews – At the request of NRCS, LDNR to review process to determine if changes need to be made. No SOP changes were recommended.

Other Issues addressed during meeting:

The subcommittee discussed a possible need to make revisions to the SOP in light of the changes to the monitoring program (addition of CRMS and phasing out of project-specific monitoring). Items discussed included: need for monitoring plans for projects, SOP language addressing budget increases for CRMS, and other process related items. Further action to be determined once CRMS briefing takes place on March 15, 2005.

5. Agenda Item II, PPL16 Process. The subcommittee discussed an email suggestion sent by Dan Llewellyn, LDNR, on February 10, 2005 regarding possible changes to the next PPL cycle to require submission of potential projects prior to RPT meetings to allow for agency review before to final vote/decision on nominees. Discussion of the P&E Subcommittee on this item included:

- The requirement of submitting projects prior to RPT meetings may eliminate public presentation of projects at RPT meetings.
- The possibility exists to hold two meetings (one for project nomination and one for voting).
- Two sets of meetings were held in the past and included application of Coast 2050 criteria. This was lost when process was streamlined.
- NMFS likes the bottom-up process that exists when the public nominates projects. Maybe we could hold 2 nomination meetings (West and East) and 1 voting meeting at a later date. RPT meetings could be conducted by basins and not regions so that the time is equally divided for the 2 nomination meetings. The subcommittee agreed that folks in Region 4 and 3 may perceive this negatively and suggested against it.
- Four RPT meetings over 3 days could still be held, along with one voting meeting coastwide for all 4 regions (allowing the vote to still be public). Agencies/parishes could send representatives to the voting meeting. The subcommittee agreed that this could create more behind-the-scenes discussions between the nomination meetings and the voting meeting
- The subcommittee concluded that the P&E Subcommittee would not provide a position/recommendation on this issue at the March 16th, 2005 Technical Committee meeting.

6. The meeting adjourned at approximately 1pm.

7. Action Items resulting from the meetings are summarized in the below table.

1#	Description	By Whom?	By When?
1	Draft language changes outlining implementation procedures for demos in appendix and main body of SOP, submit to P&E Subcommittee for review/comment	Engineering/ Environmental WG Chairman	6 May 05
2	Issue #13 – Section 303(e) – Followup with Corps attorneys on possibility of a programmatic determination for all	Corps	June 2005

	CWPPRA projects		
3	Issue #19 - Send out email to P&E members regarding "Design Review Courtesy"	Corps	April 2005 and July 2005 reminder
4	Item #22 – Look into scanning historical documents into electronic format	Corps	June 2005
5	Other Issue – Modifications to SOP resulting from addition of CRMS program	P&E Subcommittee	After March 15, 2005 briefing on CRMS

AGENDA
P&E Subcommittee Meeting
Thursday, 10 Mar 05, 9:30 am
LDNR LaSalle Building, Room 1026

I. Revisions to CWPPRA Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

- A. Incorporate Task Force final decisions
- a. Limit new Phase I/II cost to 100% - *Aug 04 TF meeting*
 - b. Limit existing Phase I/II to new 100% caps - *Oct 04 TF and Feb 05 TF meetings*
 - c. Limit request for approval of O&M funding increases above 20-year cost for non-cash flow projects to 3-year increments - *Oct 04 TF meeting*
 - d. Revise Annual funding cycle approval dates - *Feb 05 TF meeting*
 - i. Sep/Oct meetings – PPL Phase I approval, planning budget approval, O&M and monitoring approvals, Corps administrative cost approvals
 - ii. Dec/Jan meetings – Phase II approvals
- B. Additional SOP revisions
- a. Demonstration project appendix
 - i. New date for submissions (1 Jun)
 - ii. Discuss process for screening submissions that don't meet demonstration project requirements (who has ability to eliminate submissions from consideration?)
 - iii. Discuss clarifications for other agency review of individual demonstration projects after funding approval
 - b. Additional items resulting from After Action Review following Sep/Oct 04 funding cycle meeting
 - i. Discussion and consensus on Item #1 – 24 (see separate document)

II. PPL16 Process

- A. Discuss potential PPL16 process changes
- a. Typically, the upcoming PPL process is first discussed at the March Technical Committee meeting when initial discussions start on Planning Budget
 - b. P&E Subcommittee will discuss and provide feedback to the Technical Committee (including Dan Llewellyn's, LDNR, suggestions). The P&E must also consider how the CWPPRA Programmatic Assessment may change the PPL process
 - c. Modifications to PPL appendix in the SOP will be made using direction from Task Force at April 2005 meeting

P+E Subcommittee Mtg
10 Mar 05 / Baton Rouge

Julie ZleBlanc	Corps	504-862-1597
John Jurgensen	NRCS	318-413-7694
Kevin Roy	FWS	337-291-3120
DAN LLEWELLYN	DNR	225-342-5159
Phil Pittman	DNR/CRD	225-342-6981
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Chris Monnerjahn	WACE	504-862-2415
Brad Crawford	EPA	214 665-7255
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COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT (CWPPRA)

PROJECT STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES MANUAL

Revision 910.0
~~April 14, 2004~~March 16, 2005

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COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND
RESTORATION ACT
(CWPPRA)

PROJECT STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES MANUAL

1. **APPLICABILITY.** This manual is applicable to all Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) Agencies and the Local Sponsor in the management of the CWPPRA projects. These standard procedures shall not supersede nor invalidate any rules or regulations internal to any Agency.

2. **REFERENCES.**

- a. Pub. L. 101-646, Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act, hereinafter referred to as the "CWPPRA."
- b. Pub. L. 91-646, Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended by Title IV of Pub. L. 100-17, the Surface Transportation and Uniform Relocation Assistance Act of 1987.

3. **PURPOSE.** The purpose of the SOP is to establish standard procedures among the separate Agencies and the Local Sponsor in the managing of CWPPRA projects.

4. **DEFINITIONS.**

- a. The definitions in Section 302 of the CWPPRA are incorporated herein by reference.
- b. The term "Agencies" shall mean the agencies listed in the CWPPRA that makeup the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force, and the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources.
- c. The term "Federal Sponsor" shall mean the Federal Agency assigned to a CWPPRA project with responsibility to manage the implementation of the project.
- d. The term "Local Sponsor" shall mean the State of Louisiana, as represented by the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) unless otherwise specified.
- e. The term "Technical Committee" shall mean the committee established by the Task Force to provide advice on biological, engineering, environmental, ecological, and other technical issues.
- f. The term "Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee" shall mean the working level committee established by the Technical Committee to form and oversee special technical workgroups to assist in developing policies and processes, and recommend

procedures for formulating plans and projects to accomplish the goals and mandates of CWPPRA.

- g. The term “Priority Project List (PPL)” shall mean the annual list of projects submitted by the Task Force to Congress in accordance with Sec. 303.(a) of the CWPPRA.
- h. The term “total project cost” shall mean all Federal and non-Federal costs directly related to the implementation of the project, which may include but are not limited to engineering and design costs; lands, easements, servitudes, and rights-of-way costs; project construction costs; construction management costs; relocation costs; pre-construction, construction, and post-construction monitoring costs; operation, maintenance, repair, replacement, and rehabilitation (OMRR&R) costs; supervision and administration costs; environmental compliance (cultural resources, NEPA, and HTRW); and other costs as otherwise provided for in the Cost Sharing Agreement.
- i. The term “total project expenditures” shall mean the sum of all Federal expenditures for the project and all non-Federal expenditures for which the Federal Sponsor has granted credit.
- j. The term “Cost Sharing Agreement” shall mean any Agency agreement entered into by the Federal Sponsor and the Local Sponsor for engineering and design, real estate activities, construction, monitoring, and OMRR&R of a project in accordance with Sec. 303. (f) of the CWPPRA.
- k. The term “life of the project” shall mean 20 years from completion of construction of the project or functional portion of the project, unless otherwise stated in the Cost Sharing Agreement for the project.
- l. The term “project funding categories” shall mean the six distinct project-funding areas:
 - (1) Engineering and Design (E&D)
 - (2) Real Estate
 - (3) Construction
 - (4) Monitoring
 - (5) Operation, maintenance, repair, replacement, and rehabilitation (OMRR&R)
 - (6) Corps of Engineers Program Management Costs

For cash flow-managed projects (See paragraph 4.r. below), the Real Estate and Monitoring project funding categories will be further sub-categorized as Phase 1 and Phase 2. E&D will be categorized as Phase 1 only while Construction and OMRR&R will be categorized as Phase 2 only.

- m. The term “escrow account” shall mean the bank account established by the Local

Sponsor in accordance with the CWPPRA Escrow Agreement executed between the Corps of Engineers, the Local Sponsor, and the financial institution selected by the Local Sponsor to act as custodian for the escrow account.

- n. The term “overgrazing” shall mean allowing cattle and other grazing animals to forage within the project lands, easements or rights-of-way to the detriment of the wetlands.
- o. The term “State fiscal year” shall mean one fiscal year of the State of Louisiana, beginning July 1 and ending June 30 of the following calendar year.
- p. The term “Federal fiscal year” shall mean one fiscal year of the Government, beginning October 1 and ending September 30 of the following calendar year.
- q. The term “Conservation Plan” shall mean the Coastal Wetlands Conservation Plan prepared by the State of Louisiana in accordance with Section 304 of the CWPPRA.
- r. The term “cash flow-managed projects” shall mean those projects which are approved and funded in two phases during the October (Phase 1) and January (Phase 2) Task Force budgeting meetings. Phase 1 will generally mean those pre-construction activities as defined in paragraph 4.s. below and Phase 2 will generally mean those activities approved by the Task Force as defined in paragraph 4.t. below. While the two phases will be fully funded when approved by the Task Force, long term Phase 2 OMRR&R and post-construction monitoring funds will only be made available on a yearly basis (to be approved at September Technical Committee and October Task Force meetings) in three year increments. Cash flow-managed projects are generally those projects approved on PPLs 9 and later.
- s. The term “Phase 1” shall include, but not be limited to, a determination of environmental benefits, any necessary hydrologic data collection and analysis, Pre-construction Biological Monitoring, Monitoring Plan Development, and Engineering and Design, and draft OMRR&R Plan (named the Projects Operations and Schedule Manual when referring to Corps projects) Development. Engineering and Design includes Engineering, Design, environmental compliance (cultural resources, NEPA, HTRW) and permitting, Project Management, and Real Estate requirements up to, but not including, the purchase of real estate.
- t. The term “Phase 2” shall mean Construction (including Project Management, Contract Management, and Construction Supervision & Inspection), Post-construction Biological Monitoring (to include construction phase biological monitoring), OMRR&R, and the Purchase of Real Estate.
- u. The term “October and January budgeting meetings” shall mean the ~~October~~ budget meetings at which the Task Force approves planning and construction funding levels for the program, ~~the exception being that the Task Force will approve PPL14 Phase 1~~

funds in January 2005. The following will be considered at the October budgeting meeting: demonstration project approvals, PPL Phase 1 approvals, planning budget approval, O&M and monitoring approvals, and Corps administrative cost approvals. Phase 2 approvals will be considered at the January budgeting meeting.

5. **GENERAL.**

a. RESPONSIBILITIES

(1) Federal Sponsor:

- (a) Assure that funds spent on a project are spent in accordance with the project's Cost Sharing Agreement and the CWPPRA.
- (b) Perform any audits of the Local Sponsor's credits for the project as required by the project's Cost Sharing Agreement and the individual agency's regulations.
- (c) No later than September 30 of each year, the Federal Sponsor shall provide the Local Sponsor with an annual statement of prior State fiscal year expenditures in a format agreeable to the Local and Federal Sponsor.
- (d) Each quarter, Federal Sponsors will review funds within each approved project under their purview and determine whether funds may be returned to the Task Force. Funds may be returned to the Task Force by the simple deobligation process covered in paragraph 6.p. below. Federal Sponsors should provide the status of potential obligations in the "Remarks" section of the program summary database.

(2) Local Sponsor:

- (a) Provide the necessary funds as required by the project's Cost Sharing Agreement.
- (b) Perform any work-in-kind required by the Cost Sharing Agreement.
- (c) Furnish the Federal Sponsor with the documentation required to support any work-in-kind credit requests.
- (d) Unless otherwise specified, all correspondence to the Local Sponsor shall be addressed to:

Deputy Assistant Secretary
Office of Coastal Restoration and Management

Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 44027
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4027

(3) Corps of Engineers (as funds administrator):

(a) For the purposes of funds control, and at the request of the Task Force, the Corps of Engineers will act as bookkeeper, administrator, and disbursing officer of all Federal and non-Federal funds. All correspondence from the Agencies and the Local Sponsor to the Corps of Engineers regarding funding requests and the status of funding requests shall be addressed to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
ATTN: CEMVN-PM-C
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

(b) Use Corps of Engineers financial accounting procedures.

(c) Manage the funds for the project.

(d) Disburse project funds as requested by the Federal Sponsor.

(e) Regularly report to the Agencies and the Local Sponsor on the status of the project accounts.

(f) By August 31 of each year, furnish each Federal Sponsor a report on project expenditures for the last State fiscal year.

(g) By the 20th of the month following the end of a fiscal quarter, the Corps of Engineers will prepare and furnish all the Agencies and the Local Sponsor a report on the status of funding and cost sharing for each of their projects. The most current version of this report will be posted by the Corps on the internet. (www.lacoast.gov)

(h) Provide program management duties, e.g. PPL reports, minutes of meetings, distribution of planning documents, etc.

b. COST SHARING

(1) Pre-State Conservation Plan: As provided in Section 303(f) of the CWPPRA, prior to the approval of the State Conservation Plan, the Federal share of the total project cost shall be 75% and the non-Federal share of the total project

cost shall be 25%.

(2) Post-State Conservation Plan¹

(a) General: As provided for the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation Plan, effective December 1, 1997, cost sharing is revised for unexpended funds from 75% Federal and 25% non-Federal to 85% Federal and 15% non-Federal for all future Priority List projects and Priority Lists 1 through 4 projects. For Priority Lists 5 and 6 projects, cost sharing is reduced from 75% Federal and 25% non-Federal to 90% Federal and 10% non-Federal.

(b) Definitions²: The term "total project expenditures", as stated in paragraph 4.i., shall mean the sum of all Federal expenditures for the project and all non-Federal expenditures for which the Federal Sponsor has granted credit. An expenditure is a disbursement of funds for charges incurred for goods and services.

(c) Implementation: All expenditures that were incurred through November 30, 1997 (invoices that were submitted to CEMVN-PM-C and all funds disbursed by check), will be considered part of the original cost sharing percentages. These expenditures will be subtracted from the approved current estimates and cost shared at 75% Federal and 25% non-Federal. The remaining funds expended beginning December 1, 1997 will be considered part of the revised cost sharing provisions.

(d) Cost Sharing Agreements: Future cost sharing agreements will reflect the new cost sharing percentages and existing cost sharing agreements will be amended to reflect the new cost sharing percentages.

(e) Database: As stated in paragraph 5.a.(3)(a), the Corps of Engineers will act as bookkeeper, administrator, and disbursing officer of all Federal and non-Federal funds. A database is in place at present to record all estimates, obligations, and expenditures. Federal Sponsors will keep the Corps of Engineers informed of current approved project estimates and schedules in order to have the latest information in the database.

c. MANAGEMENT OF FUNDS

¹Formally approved at the January 16, 1998 Task Force meeting.

²At the December 16, 1997 Joint Meeting of the P&E Subcommittee and the Technical Committee the term "expenditure" was further clarified as being on a cash basis. For example, work-in-kind (WIK) and costs paid would be considered expenditures. However, costs submitted would not be considered an expenditure.

(1) Escrow Agreement:

(a) There will be only one escrow account established for all CWPPRA projects. The Corps, the Local Sponsor and the financial institution chosen by the Local Sponsor shall execute the basic escrow account agreement in a form agreeable to all parties.

(b) Within the one escrow account, the Corps of Engineers shall maintain separate sub-accounts (one for each project covered by the escrow agreement) and allocate project funds only to the extent that funds are available in the project sub-account. Non-government escrow shall be in the project sub-accounts.

(c) Upon execution of the Escrow Agreement, and in accordance with the Cost Sharing Agreement, the Local Sponsor shall deposit in the escrow account established for the CWPPRA projects an amount equal to the difference between 25 percent (15 percent after the Conservation Plan is approved except 5th and 6th list projects for which the percentage is 10 percent) of the total project expenditures to date and the amount of expenditures by the Local Sponsor for which the Federal Sponsor has granted credit. In addition, the Local Sponsor shall also deposit 25 percent (15 percent after the Conservation Plan is approved except 5th and 6th list projects for which the percentage is 10 percent) of the estimated total project costs for the remainder of the State fiscal year less any anticipated expenditures by the Local Sponsor.

(d) In accordance with Section 303(f)(3) of the CWPPRA the Local Sponsor shall provide a minimum of 5% of the total project cost in cash. In order to properly account for these funds, the Local Sponsor shall deposit into the escrow account at least 5% of the estimated expenditures for the following State fiscal year. For projects where the Local Sponsor is the construction agency, the 5% escrow requirement is waived. However, in those cases, the Local Sponsor must provide a letter indicating that they are the primary construction agency and that the required cash contribution is provided through their award and management of the construction contract.

(2) Work-in-Kind: Credit for work-in-kind or other activities performed by the Local Sponsor will be granted as follows:

(a) By September 1 of each year the Local Sponsor shall submit to the Federal Sponsor a statement of expenditures in a format agreeable to the Federal Sponsor. It is the Federal Sponsor's responsibility to assure that the amount of credit given is in accordance with the Cost Sharing Agreement and

applicable regulations and that audits, if required, are performed.

(b) After review and approval, but no later than 90 days after receipt of the statement of expenditures from the Local Sponsor, the Federal Sponsor shall forward to the Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, ATTN.: CEMVN-PM-C, with copy to the Local Sponsor, a request that credit be given the Local Sponsor for the work performed. This statement shall indicate the amount of credit to be granted to the Local Sponsor, by project funding category, and the period covered.

(c) The Corps of Engineers will give credit to the Local Sponsor on the project in the amount stated and inform both the Local Sponsor and the Federal Sponsor of the current status of funding and cost sharing for the project.

(3) Funding Adjustments: Whenever the Corps of Engineers determines that:

(a) The Local Sponsor's share of the project cost to date, including cash and credits granted under paragraph 5.c.(2)(b), is less than the required 25 percent (15 percent after the Conservation Plan is approved except 5th and 6th list projects for which the percentage is 10 percent) of the total project cost to date; and/or

(b) The Local Sponsor has paid, in cash, less than the required 5 percent of the total project cost to date; and

(c) Insufficient funds for the project are on deposit in the escrow account to cover the deficit; then the Corps of Engineers will inform both the Local Sponsor and the Federal Sponsor of the deficiency and request that the Local Sponsor deposit into the escrow account the necessary funds or, if allowed, furnish the Federal Sponsor sufficient proof of additional credits in the amount necessary to maintain the required cost sharing percentage.

(4) Transfer of Funds Between Projects: The Local Sponsor may request the transfer of excess project funds in its escrow account from one project to another provided that:

(a) The Corps of Engineers agrees, in writing, that the funds are excess to the project; and,

(b) The Federal Sponsor of the project losing the funds agrees, in writing, to release the funds; and,

(c) The Federal Sponsor of the project gaining the funds agrees, in writing, to the funds transfer.

d. PROJECT COST LIMITS

(1) Non-Cash Flow Projects: The total project cost may exceed the original PPL estimate by 25% without the Federal Sponsor formally requesting a cost increase from the Task Force. If the estimated total project cost exceeds the original PPL estimate by more than 25%, the Federal Sponsor, with the concurrence of the Local Sponsor, may request approval from the Technical Committee with subsequent approval by the Task Force for additional funds as indicated in paragraph 6.e.(2). If the increase is approved by the Task Force, no additional increase shall be allowed without the explicit approval of the Task Force. An increase of more than 25% for an individual funding category, except for monitoring as stated in 5.d(3), does not require specific Task Force approval unless the increase causes the total project cost to exceed the original PPL estimate by more than 25%. Demonstration projects are capped at 100%, even though they follow non-cash flow procedures.

(2) Cash-Flow Projects:

a. PHASE 1: The Phase 1 cost may not exceed the original PPL Phase 1 estimate ~~by 25%~~ without the Federal Sponsor formally requesting a cost increase from the Task Force. If the estimated total cost of Phase 1 exceeds the original PPL Phase 1 estimate ~~by more than 25%~~, the Federal Sponsor, with the concurrence of the Local Sponsor, may request approval from the Technical Committee with subsequent approval by the Task Force for additional Phase 1 funds as indicated in paragraph 6.e.(2). If the increase is approved by the Task Force, no additional increase shall be allowed without the explicit approval of the Task Force. ~~An increase of more than 25% for an individual funding category, except for monitoring as stated in 5.d(3), does not require specific Task Force approval unless the increase causes the total project cost to exceed the original PPL estimate by more than 25%.~~

b. PHASE 2: The Phase 2 cost may not exceed the Phase 2 estimate ~~developed during Phase 1 by 25%~~ without the Federal Sponsor formally requesting a cost increase from the Task Force. If the estimated total cost of Phase 2 exceeds the Phase 2 estimate developed during Phase 1 ~~by more than 25%~~, the Federal Sponsor, with the concurrence of the Local Sponsor, may request approval from the Technical Committee with subsequent approval by the Task Force for additional Phase 2 funds. If the increase is approved by the Task Force, no additional increase shall be allowed without the explicit approval of the Task Force. ~~An increase of more than 25% for an individual funding category, except for monitoring as stated in 5.d(3), does not require specific Task Force approval unless the increase causes the total~~

~~project cost to exceed the original PPL estimate by more than 25%.~~

- (3) Exceptions: For those monitoring and OMRR&R category estimates that were formally reviewed and approved by the Task Force on 23Jul98 and 20Jan99, respectively, increases in those categories above the approved estimates shall be requested by the Federal Sponsor, with the concurrence of the Local Sponsor, from the Technical Committee with subsequent approval by the Task Force. These requests may occur at any Task Force meeting. Additionally, the monitoring category is capped for all projects at 100% of the original estimate approved by the Task Force and may not exceed this amount without the explicit approval of the Task Force.
- e. **DISPUTES**: Neither the Corps of Engineers, as funds administrator, nor any Federal Sponsor shall be a party to any disputes that may arise between another Federal Sponsor and the Local Sponsor under a project Cost Sharing Agreement.

6. **PROCEDURES.**

a. **PROJECT PLANNING AND SELECTION:**

- (1) CWPPRA Committees: Following is a description of duties of the primary organizations formed under CWPPRA to manage the program:

(a) Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force: Typically referred to as the “Task Force” (TF), it is comprised of one member each, respectively, from five Federal Agencies and the State of Louisiana. The Federal Agencies of CWPPRA include: the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) of the Department of Interior, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) of the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the National Marine Fisheries Service of the Department of Commerce (USDC), the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The Governor’s Office of the State of Louisiana represents the state on the TF. The TF provides guidance and direction to subordinate organizations of the program through the Technical Committee (TC), which reports to the TF. The TF is charged by the Act to make final decisions concerning issues, policies, and procedures necessary to execute the Program and its projects. The TF makes directives for action to the TC, and the TF makes decisions in consideration of TC recommendations. The District Commander of the USACE, New Orleans District, is the Chairman of the TF. The TF Chairman leads the TF and sets the agenda for action of the TF to execute the Program and projects. At the direction of the Chairman of the TF, the New Orleans District: (1) provides administration, management, and oversight of the Planning and Construction Programs, and acts as

accountant, budgeter, administrator, and disbursing officer of all Federal and non-Federal funds under the Act, (2) acts as the official manager of financial data and most information relating to the CWPPRA Program and projects.

The State of Louisiana is a full voting member of the Task Force except for selection of the Priority Project List [Section 303(a)(2) of the CWPPRA], as stipulated in President Bush's November 29, 1990, signing statement of the CWPPRA. In addition, the State of Louisiana may not serve as a "lead" Task Force member for design and construction of wetlands projects on the priority project list.

(b) Technical Committee: The Technical Committee (TC) is established by the TF to provide advice and recommendations for execution of the Program and projects from a number of technical perspectives, which include: engineering, environmental, economic, real estate, construction, operation and maintenance, and monitoring. The TC provides guidance and direction to subordinate organizations of the program through the Planning & Evaluation Subcommittee (P&E), which reports to the TC. The TC is charged by the TF to consider and shape decisions and proposed actions of the P&E, regarding its position on issues, policy, and procedures towards execution of the Program and projects. The TC makes directives for action to the P&E, and the TC makes decisions in consideration of P&E recommendations. The TC approves changes to this SOP. In the event that such changes would reflect policy-level changes, then these changes must first be approved by the Task Force. Additionally, the TC appoints the chairs of the various workgroups that report to the TC. The State of Louisiana is represented on the TC by DNR. The Chair's seat of the TC resides with the USACE, New Orleans District. The TC Chairman leads the TC and sets the agenda for action of the TC to make recommendations to the TF for executing the Program and projects. At the direction of the Chairman of the TF, the Chairman of the TC guides the management and administrative work charged to the TF Chairman.

(c) Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee: The Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee (P&E) is the working level committee established by the TC to form and oversee special technical workgroups to assist in developing policies and processes, and recommend procedures for formulating plans and projects to accomplish the goals and mandates of CWPPRA. The seat of the Chairman of the P&E resides with the USACE, New Orleans District. The P&E Chairman leads the P&E and sets the agenda for action of the P&E to make recommendations to the TC for executing the Program and projects. At the direction of the Chairman of the TC, the Chairman of the P&E executes the management and administrative work directives of the TC and TF Chairs.

(d) Environmental Workgroup: The Environmental Workgroup (EnvWG), under the guidance and direction of the P&E, reviews candidate projects to: (1) suggest any recommended measures and features that should be considered during engineering and design for the achievement and/or enhancement of wetland benefits, and (2) determine the estimated annualized wetland benefits (Average Annual Habitat Units) of those projects.

(e) Engineering Workgroup: The Engineering Workgroup (EngWG), under the guidance and direction of the P&E, provides engineering standards, quality control/assurance, and support, for the review and comment of the cost estimates for: engineering, environmental compliance (cultural resources, NEPA, and HTRW), economic, real estate, construction, construction supervision and inspection, project management, operation and maintenance, and monitoring, of candidate and demonstration projects considered for development, selection, and funding under the Act.

(f) Economic Workgroup: The Economic Workgroup (EcoWG), under the guidance and direction of the P&E, reviews and evaluates candidate projects that have been completely developed, for the purpose of assigning the fully funded first cost of projects, based on the estimated 20-year stream of project costs.

(2) October and January Budgeting Meetings: Each year the Task Force shall have ~~one two budgeting~~ meetings (referred to below as the October and January budgeting meetings). ~~at which~~ Phase 2 funding may be approved at the January budgeting meeting at the discretion of the Task Force after considering the recommendations of the Technical Committee. At the October budgeting meeting, the Task Force will ~~also~~ select demonstration projects and projects for Phase 1 funding on the annual priority project list ~~(with the exception of PPL14 which will be approved at the January 2005 Task Force meeting), and will approve, and approve the planning budget,~~ monitoring and O&M funding and Corps administrative costs as recommended by the Technical Committee. Demonstration projects are considered non-cash-flow managed projects. The Task Force will review the process each year to determine the effect on the overall program and may decide at any time to modify the process. The current process for selection of the annual priority list projects is included as Appendix A. Beginning with PPL13, and then on all subsequent priority lists, candidate projects will be assigned a Prioritization Criteria ranking score as part of the Phase 0 analysis. The Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee will provide a quarterly report on the total funds associated with all phases of approved projects versus the estimated total funding available through the current authorization and estimate at what point these two

values would be approximately equal.

(3) Planning:

(a) Each year, no more than \$5.0 million will be set aside from out of the total available annual program allocation for planning, in accordance with Section 306 (a) (1) of PL 101-646. These funds shall remain available for budgeting and reprogramming during any fiscal year after the funds are set aside. At the October budgeting meeting, the Task Force shall review unallocated funds from previous years and may program some or all of these funds in addition to the \$5.0 million for the current year. Nevertheless, in no case will more than \$5.0 million be set aside annually for planning from the total available annual program allocation. Generally, the planning process shall include the nomination, development and evaluation of proposed projects by the Engineering, Environmental and Economic workgroups.

(b) During the evaluation of Priority Project List Candidate projects, Federal Sponsors will provide cost estimates and spending schedules for each project to the Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee prior to project ranking³. Spending schedules will be developed through the end of the project life. The cost estimates and schedules will be comprised of the following subcategories:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Subcategory A. | Phase 1 Engineering and Design (includes Engineering and Design, Phase 1 Real Estate Requirements ⁴ , environmental compliance (cultural resources, NEPA compliance and HTRW) and Permitting, Project Management, and draft OMRR&R Plan (named the Projects Operations and Schedule Manual when referring to Corps projects) Development) |
| Subcategory B. | Phase 1 Pre-construction Biological Monitoring (includes Monitoring Plan Development) |
| Subcategory C. | Phase 2 Construction (includes Phase 2 Real Estate Requirements (including oyster leases), Project Management, Contract Management, and Construction Supervision and Inspection) |
| Subcategory D. | Phase 2 Post-Construction Biological Monitoring |

³ Note the previously designated complex projects from PPL 9 are considered candidate projects and may be evaluated in accordance with this paragraph and paragraphs 6.a.(3)(c) and (d). Complex projects would then compete at the October budgeting meeting for Phase 1 authorization.

⁴ Includes Real Estate requirements up to but not including the purchase of Real Estate.

(includes Construction-Phase Biological Monitoring)

Subcategory E. **Phase 2 OMRR&R**

(c) The Engineering Work Group and Monitoring Work Group will review these estimates for consistency among projects. The Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee will provide a table of these subcategories along with the results of the Environmental Work Group's evaluation to the Technical Committee.

(d) The Technical Committee will review these results along with the project budget requirements and schedules. The Technical Committee will determine a recommended cutoff point, based on project cost effectiveness and other criteria to recommend to the Task Force.

(4) Annual Priority List:

(a) The CWPPRA project approval and budgeting process is to be accomplished in two phases as described below. Approval and budgeting of Phase 1 would not guarantee approval and budgeting of Phase 2, which would involve competition among successful projects from Phase 1. At the October budgeting meeting (~~with the exception being that the Task Force will approve PPL14 Phase 1 funds in January 2005~~), the Task Force may select projects for Phase 1 funding on the annual Priority Project List, after considering the recommendation of the Technical Committee. In the first year, projects will generally receive budget approval for Subcategories A and B, even though these activities may take 2 to 3 years. During the second and third year the project may not need additional funding (unless Subcategories A and B require additional funds or the project is ready to begin construction). Priority Project Lists for subsequent years will also follow this procedure.

(b) The Corps will provide a status report and update at each Task Force meeting on the six funding subcategories to include expenditures, obligations, and disbursements.

b. **COST SHARING AGREEMENTS:**

(1) For non-cash flow-managed projects, prior to requesting permission from the Task Force to proceed with construction of the project, the Federal Sponsor and the Local Sponsor shall negotiate and execute the necessary Cost Sharing Agreement using their own internal procedures. For cash flow-managed projects, a Cost Sharing Agreement will be negotiated and executed as soon as possible after Phase 1 approval by the Task Force.

(2) Normal Cost Sharing Agreement processing is as follows:

(a) Federal Sponsor, if applicable, forwards draft Cost Sharing Agreement to the Local Sponsor. For cooperative agreements, the Local Sponsor will initiate the agreement.

(b) After review and negotiations, the Local Sponsor, upon approval by the State of Louisiana Office of Contractual Review, signs the Cost Sharing Agreement and forwards document(s) to the Federal Sponsor.

(c) The Federal Sponsor signs and executes the document(s) and forwards copies to the Local Sponsor and forwards a copy to the Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, ATTN: CEMVN-PM-C, for Task Force records and to aid in managing funds disbursement.

c. ESCROW ACCOUNT AMENDMENT:

(1) Once the Cost Sharing Agreement is executed, the Federal Sponsor shall request from the Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District ATTN: CEMVN-PM-C, that an amendment to the escrow agreement be executed.

(2) The Corps of Engineers shall forward to the Local Sponsor, in triplicate, the amendment for the escrow agreement.

(3) After execution by the Local Sponsor and the financial institution, the Local Sponsor shall forward all copies of the amendment to the Corps of Engineers.

(4) After execution by the Corps of Engineers of the escrow agreement amendment, an original copy of each shall be forwarded to the Local Sponsor and the financial institution. A copy of the Escrow Agreement Amendment shall be forwarded to the appropriate Federal Sponsor.

(5) The escrow agreement shall be amended, as required, to incorporate new projects as Cost Sharing Agreements are executed.

(6) The Local Sponsor is required to furnish an estimate of work-in-kind credits for the next State fiscal year of projects for which the corresponding Federal Sponsor or Corps has requested such information.

d. PRE-CONSTRUCTION FUNDS DISBURSEMENT:

(1) Upon approval of a Priority List by the Task Force, the Corps of Engineers will set up the necessary accounts for each project-funding category or subcategory and reserve funds in the amount estimated in the Priority List report.

- (2) Within 30 days after receipt of a request for initial funds from the Federal Sponsor, the Corps of Engineers will prepare a Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request (DD Form 448), hereinafter referred to as MIPR, obligating funds up to a maximum of 85% of the PPL estimate for those pre-construction activities for which funds are being requested (except 5th and 6th list projects, where the maximum is 90%), to each Federal Sponsor in accordance with their request and subject to the availability of funds.

e. PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING AND DESIGN:

(1) Workplan Review : Federal and State Sponsors shall develop a plan of work for accomplishing Phase 1. This plan shall include, but not be limited to: a detailed task list, time line with specific milestones, and budget which breaks out specific tasks such as geo-technical evaluations, hydrological investigations, modeling, environmental compliance (cultural resources, NEPA, and HTRW), Ecological Review (See Appendix B), surveying, and other items deemed necessary to justify the proposed project features. The plans shall be developed within 3 months following Phase 1 approval and shall be reviewed by the P&E Subcommittee.

(2) 30% Design Review: In order to resolve problems and anticipate cost growth at the earliest possible point, a 30% Design Review shall be performed upon completion of a Preliminary Design Report. The Preliminary Design Report shall include: 1) Recommended project features, 2) Engineering and Design surveys, 3) Engineering and Design Geotechnical Investigation (borings, testing results, and analysis), 4) Draft Modeling Report (if applicable), 5) Draft Ecological Review for cash flow-managed projects (See Appendix B), 6) Land Ownership Investigation, 7) Preliminary Cultural Resources Assessment, 8) Revised project construction cost estimates based on the current preliminary design, 9) Description of changes from Phase 0 approval, 10) Map prepared by the Local Sponsor and provided to the Federal Sponsor indicating any oyster leases potentially impacted by the proposed project and a data sheet listing: lease number, lease acreage, lessee name, and other pertinent data. The Federal Sponsor shall hold a "30% Design Review Conference" with the Local Sponsor to obtain their concurrence to continue with design. However, if the Local Sponsor has responsibility for the design of the project, then both Local and Federal Sponsors shall hold a "30% Design Review Conference" to obtain concurrence to continue with design. The other Agencies shall be notified by the Federal Sponsor at least four weeks prior to the conference of the date, time and place and invited to attend. Any supporting data shall be forwarded to the other Agencies for their review, with receipt two weeks prior to the conference. Invitations and supporting data shall be sent to agency representatives of the Technical Committee, Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee, Project Manager of the Local Sponsor and the Governor's Office of Coastal Activities.

This review will verify the viability of the project and whether or not the Federal and Local Sponsors agree to continue with the project. This review must indicate the project is viable before there are expenditures of additional Phase 1 funds.

After the conference, the Federal Sponsor shall forward a letter (or e-mail) to the Technical Committee with a copy to the Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee along with the revised estimate, a description of project revisions from the previously authorized project, and a letter of concurrence from the Local Sponsor, informing them of the agreement to continue with the project. The Technical Committee may make a recommendation on whether or not to continue with the project.

~~Technical Committee
c/o U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
ATTN: CEMVN-PM-C
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267~~

~~Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee
c/o U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
ATTN: CEMVN-PM-C
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267~~

For cash flow-managed projects, if the estimate indicates that the Phase 1 cost will exceed ~~125% of~~ the original approved amount, the Federal Sponsor may, with local sponsor concurrence, request approval from the Technical Committee with subsequent approval by the Task Force for additional funds to continue at a quarterly meeting. For non-cash flow-managed projects, if the revised estimate indicates that the total project cost will exceed 125% of the original PPL estimate, the Federal Sponsor shall request approval from the Technical Committee with subsequent approval by the Task Force, at any Task Force meeting, to continue with the project.

In some cases, the Task Force may require an additional formal review, involving all the Agencies, of the project design at an intermediate level to ensure that optimum benefits to wetlands and associated fish and wildlife resources are achieved. In those cases the Federal Sponsor shall be responsible for coordinating the review with the other Agencies and the Local Sponsor.

(3) Changes in Project Scope: If a project undergoes a major change in scope or a change in scope resulting in a variance of 25 percent from the original approved design, in either: (1) the total project cost, (2) the number of acres benefited, or (3) the ratio of the total project cost to the number of acres benefited, the Federal or Local Sponsor will submit a report to the Technical Committee explaining the

reason(s) for the scope change, the impact on cost and benefits, and a statement from the Local Sponsor endorsing the change. The Technical Committee will review the report and recommend to the Task Force approval or rejection of the change. Changes in project scope resulting in an increase in total project cost are discussed in paragraph 5.d.

- f. PRE-CONSTRUCTION MONITORING: For monitoring plan development and by the preliminary 30% design review, the Federal Sponsor shall provide at a minimum project-specific goals and strategies that the Local Sponsor will use to prepare a monitoring plan and a budget. The monitoring plan and budget must be submitted to the Technical Committee for review and subsequent approval by the Task Force.
- g. REAL ESTATE:
 - (1) General
 - (a) Each Federal or Local Sponsor shall follow the real estate procedures in use by that agency.
 - (b) During preliminary engineering and design, the Federal or Local Sponsor shall identify all real estate potentially impacted by the project.
 - (c) After determining the property rights required, the Federal or Local Sponsor shall obtain an estimated value of the real estate interest to determine the value of the lands, easements, and rights-of-way to be acquired.
 - (d) For cash flow-managed projects, real estate purchase will take place only during Phase 2.
 - (e) For cash flow-managed projects, between the 30% and 95% design reviews, the Local Sponsor will have any potentially impacted oyster leases appraised and will forward to the Federal Sponsor the projected acquisition costs, as well as the supporting documentation for these cost projections except for legally proprietary information. In the case of non-cash-flow projects, this information will be provided prior to soliciting construction approval from the Task Force.
 - (2) Section 303(e) Approval:
 - (a) In accordance with Section 303(e) of the CWPPRA, the Federal Sponsor shall, prior to acquiring any lands, easements or rights-of way for a CWPPRA project, obtain Secretary of the Army, or his designee, approval that the "project is subject to such terms and conditions as necessary to

ensure that the wetlands restored, enhanced or managed through that project will be administered for the long-term conservation of such lands and waters and dependent fish and wildlife populations."

(b) In order to obtain approval in accordance with paragraph 6.g.(2)(a), the Federal Sponsor shall furnish the Corps of Engineers the following information before requesting approval to proceed to construction for non-cash flow-managed projects or before requesting approval to proceed with Phase 2 for cash flow-managed projects:

- i. Plan showing project limits and type of land rights required.
- ii. Language of land rights.
- iii. Certification that land acquisition is in accordance with all applicable Federal and State laws and regulations.
- iv. Statement that all standard real estate practices will be followed in acquiring land rights.
- v. Overgrazing determination:
 - Statement as to whether overgrazing in the project area is a problem and whether easements restricting grazing are required.
 - The Corps of Engineers, in the review of the determination, may request concurrence from the Natural Resource Conservation Service as to the need for any grazing restricting easements.

(c) All requests for Section 303(e) approval shall be sent to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
ATTN: CEMVN-RE-L
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

- (3) Real Estate for Non-Cash-Flow Managed Projects: Federal Sponsors shall ensure that real estate acquisition of easements requiring a significant expenditure of funds and pre-construction monitoring are not begun until the Engineering and Design is substantially completed and there is a reasonably high level of certainty that the project will proceed to the next phase.
- (4) Real Estate for Cash-Flow Managed Projects: The purchasing of real estate shall not occur until Phase 2. Preliminary real estate investigations, including

preliminary ownership determination, should be initiated early in the project design activities.

h. FINAL ENGINEERING AND DESIGN:

- (1) 95% Design Review: A “95% Design Review Conference”, shall be held at least four weeks prior to the Technical Committee meeting by the Local Sponsor and the Federal Sponsor to review and mutually agree to a Final Design Report. The Final Design Report shall include: 1) a revised project cost estimate (fully-funded, approved by the Economic Work Group), 2) environmental benefits a revised Wetland Value Assessment (WVA), reviewed/approved by the Environmental Workgroup, 3) constructability, and 4) a draft OMRR&R Plan (named the Projects Operations and Schedule Manual when referring to Corps projects), and 5) updated prioritization score, reviewed/approved by the Engineering and Environmental Workgroups. All projects will be assigned an updated Prioritization Criteria ranking score as part of the 95% design review. The updated Prioritization Score shall be reviewed by the Engineering and Environmental Workgroups at least one week prior to the 95% design review conference.

The other Agencies shall be notified by the Federal Sponsor at least four weeks prior to the conference of the date, time and place and invited to attend. The Federal Sponsor shall forward the Final Design Report (95%) and a set of Plans and Specifications to the other Agencies and the Local Sponsor for their review and comment, for receipt at least two weeks prior to design review conference. The Final Design Report shall include all supporting data, along with a description of how the project differs in cost, features, and environmental benefits from the project approved during Phase 0. It should also include a response to the comments brought up at the 30% Design Review Conference. Invitations and supporting data shall be sent to agency representatives of the Technical Committee, Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee, Project Manager of the Local Sponsor, and the Governor’s Office of Coastal Activities. However, if the Local Sponsor has responsibility for the design of the project, then the Local Sponsor shall forward to the other Agencies and the Federal Sponsor those items listed above.

After the conference, a letter of concurrence from the Local Sponsor indicating their willingness to continue with the project shall be sent to the Technical Committee and the P&E Subcommittee.

- (2) Changes in Project Scope: Changes in project scope will be addressed as stated in paragraph 6.e.(3).

i. CONSTRUCTION APPROVAL FOR NON-CASH-FLOW MANAGED PROJECTS

For non-cash flow-managed projects, prior to advertising for bids for the first construction contract, the Federal Sponsor shall request permission from the Technical Committee with subsequent approval by the Task Force, at any Task Force meeting or by fax vote, to proceed to construction. The request shall be addressed to the Technical Committee and P&E Subcommittee.⁵

~~Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee
c/o U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
ATTN: CEMVN-PM-C
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267~~

The request to proceed to construction will include at a minimum:

- (1) Description of the project to include an easily reproducible PPL/Fact Sheet scale map which clearly depicts the current project boundary and project features, detailed description of project features/elements, updated assessment of benefits, and an updated fact sheet suitable for inclusion in the formal PPL documentation. In cases of substantial modifications/scope changes to original conceptual design or costs, describe the specific changes both qualitatively and quantitatively.
- (2) Section 303(e) Certification from the Corps of Engineers.
- (3) Overgrazing determination statement.
- (4) ~~The current estimated total project cost, including inflation through the life of the project.~~ Revised fully funded cost estimate, approved by the Economic Work Group; a revised Wetland Value Assessment (WVA), reviewed and approved by the Environmental Work Group; and a breakdown of the Prioritization Criteria ranking score, finalized and agreed to by all agencies.
- (5) A statement that the Cost Sharing Agreement between the Federal Sponsor and the Local Sponsor has been executed.
- (6) A statement that:
 - (a) ~~all NEPA, environmental, and cultural requirements, have been complied with a draft Environmental Assessment of the Project, as required under NEPA has been completed;~~ and,
 - (b) a hazardous, toxic, and radiological waste (HTRW) assessment, if required, has been performed⁵.

⁵Note: Agencies are cautioned to review the requirements for the “innocent landowner defense” under CERCLA, 42

~~(7) — An estimate of project expenditures by State fiscal year and further subdivided by project funding category.~~

j. PHASE 2 APPROVAL FOR CASH-FLOW MANAGED PROJECTS: For cash flow-managed projects, at the end of Phase 1 the Federal Sponsor may request permission from the Technical Committee with subsequent approval by the Task Force to proceed to Phase 2. Permission to proceed to Phase 2 implies permission to proceed to construction. The request to proceed to Phase 2 will be in accordance with Appendix C – Information Required in Phase 2 Authorization Requests.

(1) Phase 2 approval and funding requests will usually be evaluated at the ~~October~~ January budgeting meeting, in accordance with Section 6.a.(2). Federal Sponsors should provide a list of projects eligible for Phase 2 approval. Projects shall not be eligible for Phase 2 approval and funding until the requirements listed in Appendix C are satisfied. Approval to proceed to Phase 2 implies permission to proceed to construction. Due to limited funding, approval and budgeting of Phase 2 would involve competition among successful projects from Phase 1.

(2) At the time that a Federal Sponsor requests Phase 2 approval, the Federal Sponsor shall provide an estimate of the project based on the 5 subcategories along with a spending schedule. The Task Force shall approve the total funds necessary for Phase 2 implementation, but shall only allot funds on an as needed basis and will therefore generally fund the entire amount of Subcategory C (Construction) and the first 3 years of both Subcategory D (Post-Construction Monitoring) and Subcategory E (OMRR&R) upon Phase 2 approval.

At subsequent September Technical Committee and October Task Force meetings, the Federal Sponsor and the Local Sponsor should request approval to maintain 3 years of Subcategory D and E funding for each approved project; however, any additional funding (after the initial 3-year funding) shall not be allotted until project construction is completed. Individual project requests will be grouped with other requests and submitted for approval. Requests should be consistent with the previously approved budget for the project, unless additional information can be provided to justify the need for additional funds. When the request is more than the amount in the approved project's budget, the Technical Committee should review each specific request to determine if the amount should be approved. This programming procedure will ensure that, at any one time, an approved project has sufficient funds for

U.S.C. 9601(35)(B), in cases involving the discovery of HTRW on lands, easements, servitudes and/or rights-of-way acquired for a project.

about 3 years of Subcategories D and E.

- (3) Subsequent to the October ~~and January~~ budgeting meetings, Federal Sponsors may make a request to the committees at any time for additional funding that is needed for the current fiscal year when there is evidence that the project is progressing faster than expected, as long as those funds are utilized for the current phase of the project. Federal Sponsors shall specify under which subcategory additional funding is being requested.
- (4) If construction award has not occurred within 2 years of Phase 2 approval, the Phase 2 funds will be placed on a revocation list for consideration by the Task Force at the next Task Force meeting. Requests to restore these funds may be considered at subsequent ~~October-January~~ budgeting meetings.

k. CONSTRUCTION FUNDS DISBURSEMENTS:

- (1) Upon approval to begin Engineering and Design (E&D) by the Task Force, the Corps of Engineers will issue to the Federal Sponsor a MIPR in the amount requested to cover up to a maximum of 75% of the E&D phase (85 percent after the Conservation Plan is approved except 5th and 6th list projects for which the percentage is 90 percent), as described in paragraph 6.d.(2).
- (2) Upon approval to begin construction for non-cash flow-managed projects or upon approval to begin Phase 2 for cash flow-managed projects by the Task Force and deposit by the Local Sponsor of the required funds into the escrow account, the Federal Sponsor shall request that the Corps of Engineers issue a MIPR in the amount sufficient to cover the total construction and related costs of the project.
- (3) In those cases where the Local Sponsor's annual work-in-kind plus cash contribution exceeds the project expenditures required cost sharing percentage, and at the request of the Federal Sponsor, the Corps of Engineers will disburse funds directly to the Local Sponsor to bring the project expenditures to the required cost sharing. The Federal Sponsor must approve the "work-in-kind" exceedance in advance.
- (4) Annually, agencies shall review all projects approved for funding in Phases 1 or 2, identify excess funds in those phases, and make a recommendation to the Task Force as to how much of these funds to return at that time. Returned funds shall be available for reprogramming. At the October ~~and January~~ budgeting meetings, the Task Force may also consider reprogramming excess funds that have not yet been returned to the Task Force. Agencies may return funds by returning a MIPR to the Corps of Engineers with a request to deobligate funds.

1. PROJECT BID OVERRUNS - Pre-award (Amended by Task Force on 21 Oct. 98):

(1) Statement of Problem: Occasionally bids on CWPPRA projects may exceed the project cost limits. When bids exceed the project cost limits, the options are:

(a) Option 1): allow the acceptance period to expire and abandon the project

(b) Option 2): reject all bids, reduce the scope of the project and re-advertise

(c) Option 3): request additional funding from the Technical Committee and subsequently the Task Force and award the contract

(2) Discussion:

(a) Option 1): is not an acceptable option if the project is needed.

(b) Option 2): may be required if the bids are obviously so far over the available funding that the Technical Committee and/or Task Force would not consider additional funding requests.

(c) Option 3): the most desirable option if the overrun is not excessive enough to be considered under Option 2) as a candidate for rejection, scope reduction and re-advertisement.

If option 2 or 3 is selected, the resulting cost effectiveness should be evaluated for substantial increases in cost/habitat unit (i.e. 25% above original). This will require a review of the change in benefits by the Environmental Work Group and approval by the Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee. Provisions in bidding procedures by the State of Louisiana allow for acceptance of a bid within a 30-calendar day window after the offer is made. Provisions in bidding procedures by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, under the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) allow for acceptance of a bid within a 60-calendar day window after the offer is made. Provisions in bidding procedures by the Corps of Engineers, under the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR), mandate acceptance of a construction bid within a 30 calendar day window after the offer is made, unless the bidder grants an extension in 30 day increments.

(3) Required Procedure:

(a) The final engineers cost estimate must have been reviewed and updated within 90 days prior to advertisement.

(b) If the final estimate, prior to advertising, equals or slightly exceeds the project cost limits, the bid package should contain a base bid, and additive or deductive alternatives that would allow the project to be awarded within the project cost limits. The base bid with additive or deductive alternates provides additional flexibility if the base bid is lower than anticipated.

(c) If the final estimate is within the available funds (authorized amount) prior to bidding and the base bid without alternates approach was used but the bid exceeded the project cost limits, the Federal Sponsor, with the concurrence of the Local Sponsor, will notify each of the agencies on the Task Force of their intention to request additional funds within 15 days of receipt of bids. The Federal Sponsor should also provide the other members of the Task Force bid data and any information that supports the request for additional funds at the same time.

(d) If the final estimate is within the available funds (authorized amount) prior to bidding and the base bid with alternates approach was used but the bid exceeded the project cost limits, the Federal Sponsor, with the concurrence of the Local Sponsor, would apply deductive alternates to get the project within available funds. In no case should the Federal Sponsor implement, without Task Force approval and Local Sponsor concurrence, a deductive alternative that would reduce the original project's cost-effectiveness by more than 25%; this will require prior consultation with the Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee and the appropriate work groups. If after taking deductive alternatives the base bid still exceeds the project cost limits, the Federal Sponsor, with the concurrence of the Local Sponsor, will notify each of the agencies on the Task Force of their intention to request additional funds within 15 days of receipt of bids. The Federal Sponsor should also provide the other members of the Task Force bid data and any information that supports the request for additional funds at the same time.

(4) Mandates:

(a) The State of Louisiana must agree to cost share in the additional funds requested prior to bid acceptance.

(b) If a project has already received approval for a cost increase above project cost limits then it must stay within the budgeted amount for construction.

m. MONITORING:

- (1) The Monitoring Plan and OMRR&R Plan (named the Projects Operations and Schedule Manual when referring to Corps projects) shall be developed in conjunction with the engineering and design to ensure that the plan will be completed prior to the Task Force granting approval for construction in accordance with paragraph 6.i. and j.
 - (2) Project monitoring shall be accomplished following the monitoring plan developed for the project by the Technical Advisory Group and as specified in the Cost Sharing Agreement. Funding for the monitoring activities shall be as required in paragraphs 5.c.(2), 6.a.(4)(a), 6.j.(2), and 6.k.
 - (3) Federal Sponsors shall maintain oversight over the Local Sponsor's expenditure of Post-Construction Biological Monitoring funds. The Local Sponsor shall submit invoices, requests for work-in-kind credits, etc., to the Federal Sponsor for its review. Subsequent to its review and approval of the expenditures, and within 90 days of receipt from the Local Sponsor, the Federal Sponsor shall forward the appropriate documentation to the Corps for payment.
 - (4) Monitoring contingency funds are available for both project-specific and programmatic activities as outlined in "Monitoring Contingency Fund - Standard Operating Procedure" dated December 8, 1999. The P&E Subcommittee has authority to approve or disapprove requests submitted by the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources Monitoring Program Manager.
- n. OMRR&R: Project OMRR&R shall be as specified in the project's Cost Sharing Agreement. Funding for OMRR&R activities shall be as required in paragraphs 5.c.(2), 6.j.(2), and 6.k.
- (1) Federal Sponsors shall maintain oversight over the Local Sponsor's expenditure of OMRR&R funds. The Local Sponsor shall submit invoices, requests for work-in-kind credits, etc., to the Federal Sponsor for its review. Subsequent to its review and approval of the expenditures, and within 90 days of receipt from the Local Sponsor, the Federal Sponsor shall forward the appropriate documentation to the Corps for payment.
 - (2) From time to time there will be projects that have completed construction, but that need modification to ensure their success, cover a design deficiency, or to handle some critical unanticipated requirement. Federal Sponsors may make a request through the Technical Committee to the Task Force for funding of such modifications. In its recommendation to the Task Force, the Technical Committee will make a determination whether the funds are needed to meet a

time critical requirement or whether funding could be postponed for consideration during the October budgeting meeting.

(3) For those non-cash-flow projects that require additional O&M funding above the approved 20-year estimate, the Task Force will treat the O&M cost increase in a similar manner as cash flow approvals for O&M. The Task Force will consider requests for 3-year incremental O&M funding at their October budgeting meeting.

o. PROJECT CLOSEOUT:

- (1) The Local Sponsor and the Federal Sponsor shall keep books, records, documents, and other evidence pertaining to costs and expenses incurred by the project to the extent and in such detail as will properly reflect total project costs. The Local Sponsor and Federal Sponsor shall maintain such books, records, documents and other evidence for a minimum of three (3) years after completion of construction, operation, maintenance, repair, replacement, rehabilitation, and monitoring of the project and resolution of all relevant claims arising therefrom, and shall make available at their offices at reasonable times, such books, records, documents, and other evidence for inspection and audit by authorized representatives of the Local Sponsor and Federal Sponsor.
- (2) Upon completion of all work and certification by the Federal Sponsor of the final accounting on the project, the Corps of Engineers shall release any excess project funds from the escrow account and/or reimburse the Local Sponsor for any overpayment of their cost sharing requirements, provided funds are available, in accordance with the provisions of the applicable Cost Sharing Agreement and the Escrow Agreement.
- (3) If the Corps of Engineers advances funds to a Federal Sponsor for a project, any excess funds identified at the completion of the project shall be returned to the Corps of Engineers for credit to the CWPPRA accounts.
- (4) Any excess funds in an escrow account shall be returned to the Local Sponsor, or at its option, transferred to another project in accordance with paragraph 5.c.(4).

p. PROJECT DEAUTHORIZATION: (amended by Task Force on June 21, 1995)

- (1) When the Federal Sponsor and the Local Sponsor agree that it is necessary to deauthorize a project prior to construction, they shall submit a letter to the Technical Committee explaining the reasons for requesting the deauthorization and requesting approval by the Task Force.

- (2) If agreement between the Federal Sponsor and the Local Sponsor is not reached, either party may then appeal directly to the Technical Committee. The Technical Committee will forward to the Task Force a recommendation concerning deauthorization of the project. Nothing herein shall preclude the Federal Sponsor or the Local Sponsor from bringing a request for deauthorization to the Task Force irrespective of the recommendation of the Technical Committee.
- (3) Upon submittal of a request for deauthorization to the Technical Committee, all parties shall suspend all future obligations and expenditures as soon as practicable, until the issue is resolved.
- (4) Upon receiving preliminary approval from the Task Force to deauthorize a project, the Chairman of the Technical Committee shall send notice to Louisiana Congressional delegation, the State House and Senate Natural Resources Committee chairs, the State Senator (s) and State Representative (s) in whose district the project falls, senior parish officials in the parish (es) where the project is located, any landowners whose property would be directly affected by the project, and any interested parties, requesting their comments and advising them that, at the next Task Force meeting, a final decision on deauthorization will be made.
- (5) When the Task Force determines that a project should be abandoned or no longer pursued because of economic or other reasons, all expenditures shall cease immediately or as soon as practicable. Congress and the State House and Senate Natural Resources Committee chairs will be informed of the decision.
- (6) Once a project is deauthorized by the Task Force, it shall be categorized as "deauthorized" and closed-out as required by paragraph 6.o.

q. STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES AMENDMENTS AND TRACKING :

An official, current version of these Standard Operating Procedures shall be maintained by the COE New Orleans District as part of their support of the Technical Committee. This document shall be available on the internet, and shall be appended with sufficient documentation so that the origin and approval of amendments can be traced. Approval will involve, at a minimum, formal acceptance by the Technical Committee at a regularly scheduled meeting. If the changes involve policy-level decisions, then any such changes must also be ratified by the Task Force. Amendments to the SOP are tracked in Appendix G.

Enclosures:

Appendix A - Priority List 15 Selection Process
Appendix B - Ecological Review
Appendix C - Information Required in Phase 2 Authorization Requests
Appendix D - Calendar of Required Activities
Appendix E - Demonstration SOP
Appendix F - Prioritization Criteria
Appendix G - Tracking of Changes

APPENDIX A

PRIORITY LIST 15 SELECTION PROCESS

Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act Guidelines for Development of the 15th Priority Project List Final, 14 Jul 04

I. Development of Supporting Information

A. COE staff prepares spreadsheets indicating status of all restoration projects (CWPPRA PL 1-14; Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) Feasibility Study, Corps of Engineers Continuing Authorities 1135, 204, 206; and State only projects). Also, indicate net acres at the end of 20 years for each CWPPRA project.

B. DNR/USGS staff prepares basin maps indicating:

- 1) Boundaries of the following projects types (PL 1-14; LCA Feasibility Study, COE 1135, 204, 206; and State only).
- 2) Locations of completed projects,
- 3) Projected land loss by 2050 with freshwater diversions at Caernarvon and Davis Pond plus PL 1-6) (Suhayda).
- 4) Regional boundary maps with basin boundaries and parish boundaries included.

II. Areas of Need and Project Nominations

A. The four Regional Planning Teams meet, examine basin maps, discuss areas of need and Coast 2050 strategies, and choose no more than one project per basin, except that two projects may be selected from Terrebonne and Barataria basins because of the high loss rates in those basins. A total of up to 11 projects could be nominated. Selection of the projects nominated per basin will be by consensus, if possible. If voting is required, each officially designated parish representative in the basin will have one vote and each federal agency and DNR will have one vote.

B. The nominated projects will be indicated on a map and paired with Coast 2050 strategies. A lead Federal agency will be designated to assist LDNR and local governments in preparing preliminary project support information (fact sheet, maps, and potential designs and benefits). The Regional Planning Team Leaders transmit this information to the P&E subcommittee, Technical Committee and members of the Regional Planning Teams.

III. Preliminary Assessment of Nominated Projects

A. Agencies, parishes, landowners, and other individuals informally confer to further develop projects. Nominated projects should be developed to support one or more Coast 2050 strategies. The goals of each project should be consistent with those of Coast 2050.

B. Each sponsor of a nominated project will prepare a brief Project Description (no more than one page plus a map) that discusses possible features.

C. Engineering and Environmental Work Groups meet to review project features, discuss potential benefits, and estimate preliminary fully funded cost ranges for each project.

D. P&E Subcommittee prepares matrix of cost estimates and other pertinent information and furnishes to Technical Committee and State Wetlands Authority (SWA).

IV. Selection of Phase 0 Candidate Projects

A. Technical Committee meets to consider the project costs and potential wetland benefits of the nominees. Technical Committee will select six candidate projects for detailed assessment by the Environmental, Engineering, and Economic work groups.

B. Technical Committee assigns a Federal sponsor for each project to develop preliminary Wetland Value Assessment data and engineering cost estimates for Phase 0 as described below.

V. Phase 0 Analysis of Candidate Projects

A. Sponsoring agency coordinates site visits for each project. Visit is vital so each agency can see the conditions in the area and estimate the project area boundary. Field trip participation should be limited to two representatives from each agency.

B. Environmental and Engineering Work Groups and the Academic Advisory Group meet to refine project features and develop boundaries based on site visits.

C. Sponsoring agency develops Project Information Sheets on assigned projects, using formats developed by applicable work groups; prepares preliminary draft Wetland Value Assessment Project Information Sheet; and makes Phase 1 engineering and design cost estimates and Phase 2 construction cost estimates.

D. Environmental and Engineering Work Groups evaluate all projects using the WVA and reviews design and cost estimates.

E. Engineering Work Group reviews and approves Phase 1 and 2 cost estimates.

F. Economics Work Group reviews cost estimates and develops annualized (fully funded) costs.

G. Environmental and Engineering Work Groups apply the Prioritization Criteria and develop prioritization scores for each candidate project.

H. Corps of Engineers staff prepares information package for Technical Committee and State Wetlands Authority. Packages consist of:

- 1) updated Project Information Sheets;
- 2) a matrix for each region that lists projects, fully funded cost, average annual cost, Wetland Value Assessment results in net acres and Average Annual Habitat Units (AAHUs), cost effectiveness (average annual cost/AAHU), and the prioritization score.
- 3) qualitative discussion of supporting partnerships and public support; and
- 4) oyster lease impact areas delineated for the State's Restricted Area Map (this map should also be provided to DNR).

I. Technical Committee hosts two public hearings to present information from H above and allows public comment.

VI. Selection of 15th Priority Project List

A. Technical Committee meets and considers matrix, Project Information Sheets, and public comments. The Technical Committee will recommend up to four projects for selection to the 15th PPL.

B. The CWPPRA Task Force will review the TC recommendations and determine which projects will receive Phase 1 funding for the 15th PPL.

C. State Wetlands Authority reviews projects on the 15th Priority List and consider for Phase I approval and inclusion in the upcoming Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Plan.

15th Priority List Project Development Schedule

October 2004	Distribute public announcement of PPL15 process and schedule
February 1, 2005	Region IV Planning Team Meeting (Rockefeller Refuge)
February 2, 2005	Region III Planning Team Meeting (Morgan City)
February 3, 2005	Regions II and I Planning Team Meetings (New Orleans)
February 8, 2005	Mardi Gras
February 17, 2005 (rescheduled date)	Task Force Meeting (PPL 14 selected)
February 4 – February 25	Agencies prepare fact sheets for RPT nominated projects
February 21, 2005	President’s Day Holiday
March 7 - 8, 2005	Engineering/ Environmental work groups review project features, benefits & prepare preliminary cost estimates for nominated projects (Baton Rouge)
March 10, 2005	P&E Subcommittee prepares matrix of nominated projects showing initial cost estimates
March 16, 2005	Technical Committee meets to select PPL15 candidate projects (New Orleans)
April 13, 2005	Spring Task Force meeting (Lafayette)
April/May	Candidate project site visits
May/June/July/August	Env/Eng/Econ work group project evaluations
June 1, 2005	Demonstration project submissions due
June 15, 2005	Technical Committee meeting (Baton Rouge)
July 13, 2005	Task Force meeting (New Orleans) – announce public meetings
August 30, 2005	PPL 15 Public Meeting (Abbeville)
August 31, 2005	PPL 15 Public Meeting (New Orleans)
September 14, 2005	Technical Committee meeting - recommend PPL15 (New Orleans)
October 19, 2005	Task Force meeting to select PPL 15 (New Orleans)
December 7, 2005	Technical Committee meeting (Baton Rouge)
January 25, 2006	Task Force meeting (Baton Rouge)
February 2006	RPT meetings for PPL 16

**APPENDIX B
ECOLOGICAL REVIEW**

Project Ecological Review (revised 2/23/01)

The transition to a planning-phase/phase-one/phase-two approach was done to ensure a higher standard of project development and evaluation prior to the decision to commit construction dollars. It is essential that proposed projects have been well designed and evaluated and can demonstrate a high probability of successfully achieving the purpose as assigned by Congress in CWPPRA, i.e. "...significantly contribute to the long-term restoration or protection of the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the coastal wetlands in the State of Louisiana..."

While there exists clear guidance as to how planning efforts develop proposed projects prior to Phase One, there is little in the way of a clear rationale for how a proposed project's biotic benefits will be assessed during Phase One. The following approach will allow for a consistent, clear, and logical assessment. The goal, strategy and goal-strategy relationship should have been worked out prior to Phase One. They are listed again in this Phase One process in order to ensure that these vital links between planning and Phase One are stated in a consistent manner and readily available to those responsible for Phase One project E&D and evaluation. The Project Feature Evaluation and Assessment of Goal Attainability would be Phase One activities - these are being done to varying degrees already; however, not on a consistent, standardized basis.

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Ecological Review

Phase 0 activities:

- A **Goal statement.** What is (are) the main biotic goal(s) of the proposed project?
State the biotic response desired from the project, *e.g. restore intermediate marsh acreage, increase marsh sustainability, reduce loss rates, increase productivity and or biodiversity, restore barrier island plant communities, etc.* The goal should be determined in the planning phase (pre-Phase One).
- B **Strategy statement.** What is (are) the strategy(ies) for achieving the goal stated in "A"?
Describe the physical factors that will cause the desired biotic responses, *e.g. periodically expose water bottoms, reduce water and/or salinity levels, create sheet-flow over the marsh in designated areas, use rock rip-rap along the canal bank to reduce erosion rates, reintroduce alluvial sediments, create a barrier island platform that after settlement will support the desired habitat, etc.* The strategy(ies) should be determined in the planning phase.
- C **Strategy-goal relationship.** How will the strategy(ies) achieve the goal(s)?
Describe how the physical factors affected by the project will cause the desired

biotic response, *e.g. by reducing the average salinities and tidal amplitudes the marsh loss rate will be reduced in this predominantly intermediate marsh, by reducing edge erosion the marsh will be protected, by creating a stable platform from dredged material a barrier island plant community can be reestablished.*

The strategy-goal relationship should be defined in the planning phase.

Phase 1 activities:

- D Project Feature evaluation.** Do quantitative, engineering evaluations of specific project features such as weirs, culverts, siphons, etc. support the contention that the intended strategy will be achieved? If so, to what degree?

Quantitatively evaluate the project features and evaluate them in terms of the desired physical causal factors, *e.g. compute how many cfs of river water the culverts will discharge into the project area, and how much sediment will be associated with it over the course of an average twelve-month period, quantify average water level or salinity reduction, etc.* If there are more than one design alternative, this step should be performed on each alternative. This evaluation would be conducted during the initial E&D of Phase One with the results being reviewed during the 30% design conference.

- E Assessment of goal attainability.** Does the relative degree of the project's physical effects, as determined in step "D", support the contention that the project will achieve the desired biotic goal(s) stated in "A"?

Assess the degree to which the project features would cause the stated biological goal: based on expert judgment, assisted with appropriate statistical and other computational tools, such as computer models, and a review of monitoring data and other scientific information. This would also be the appropriate time to identify and assess the potential risks associated with the project. Again, if more than one design alternatives are involved, step "E" should be performed on each alternative. Steps "D" and "E" may be used in an iterative fashion, such that if designs do not support biological goal attainment other designs could be developed and reassessed. This step evaluates the desired project biotic response based on the level of physical changes induced by the project, *e.g. determine the results are associated with projects that have caused similar hydrological responses in similar marsh settings, evaluate the evidence that supports the contention that a barrier island platform with the predicted after-settlement profile and grain-size composition will sustain the desired plant community, etc.* This evaluation would be conducted during the initial E&D of Phase One with the results being reviewed during the 30% design conference.

APPENDIX C
INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PHASE 2 AUTHORIZATION REQUESTS

1. Description of Phase One Project

Describe the candidate project as selected for Phase One authorization, including PPL/Fact Sheet scale map depicting the project boundary and project features, written description of the conceptual features of the project as authorized for Phase One, a summary of the benefits attributed to the Phase One project (e.g., goals/strategies, WVA results and acreage projections) and project budget information as estimated at Phase One authorization (e.g., anticipated costs of construction, O&M, monitoring, etc.).

2. Overview of Phase One Tasks, Process and Issues

Brief description of Phase One analyses and tasks (engineering, land rights, environmental compliance (cultural resources, NEPA, and HTRW), etc.), including significant problems encountered or remaining issues.

3. Description of the Phase Two Candidate Project

- Easily reproducible, PPL/Fact Sheet scale map which clearly depicts the current project boundary and project features, suitable for inclusion in the formal PPL documentation.
- Detailed description of project features/elements, updated assessment of benefits, current cost estimates, and updated Fact Sheet suitable for inclusion in the formal PPL documentation. In cases of substantial modifications to original conceptual design or costs, describe the specific changes both qualitatively and quantitatively.

4. Checklist of Phase Two requirements:

- A. List of Project Goals and Strategies.
- B. A Statement that the Cost Sharing Agreement between the Lead Agency and the Local Sponsor has been executed for Phase I.
- C. Notification from the State or the Corps that landrights will be finalized in a short period of time after Phase 2 approval.
- D. A favorable Preliminary Design Review (30% Design Level). The Preliminary Design shall include completion of surveys, borings, geotechnical investigations, data analysis review, hydrologic data collection and analysis, modeling (if necessary), and development of preliminary designs.

E. Final Project Design Review (95% Design Level). Upon completion of a favorable review of the preliminary design, the Project plans and specifications shall be developed and formalized to incorporate elements from the Preliminary Design and the Preliminary Design Review. Final Project Design Review (95%) must be successfully completed prior to seeking Technical Committee approval.

F. A draft of the Environmental Assessment of the Project, as required under the National Environmental Policy Act must be submitted ~~thirty days~~two weeks before the Technical Committee meeting request at which for Phase 2 approval is requested.

G. A written summary of the findings of the Ecological Review (See Appendix B).

H. Application for and/or issuance of the public notices for permits at least two weeks before the Technical Committee meeting at which Phase 2 approval is requested. ~~If a permit has not been received by the agency, a notice from the Corps of when the permit may be issued.~~

I. A hazardous, toxic and radiological waste (HTRW) assessment, if required, has been prepared.

J. Section 303(e) approval from the Corps.

K. Overgrazing determination from the NRCS (if necessary).

L. Revised ~~cost estimate of Phase 2 activities~~fully funded cost estimate, approved by the Economic Work Group, based on the revised Project design and the specific Phase 2 funding request as outlined in below spreadsheet.

REQUEST FOR PHASE II APPROVAL

PROJECT: _____

PPL: _____ Project No. _____

Agency: _____

Phase I Approval Date: _____

Phase II Anticipated Approval Date: _____

	Original Baseline Phase I (100% Level) 1/	Original Baseline Phase II (100% Level) 2/	Recommended Baseline Phase II (100% Level) 3/	Recommended Baseline Phase II Incr 1 (100% Level) 4/
Engr & Des				
Lands				
Fed S&A				
LDNR S&A				
COE Proj Mgmt				
Ph II Const Phase				
Ph II Long Term				
Const Contract				
Const S&I				
Contingency				
Monitoring				
Ph II Const Phase				
Ph II Long Term				
O&M				
Total	-	-	-	-
Total Project		-	-	-

Prepared By: _____

Date Prepared: _____

NOTES:

- 1/ Original Baseline Phase I: The project estimate at the time Phase I is approved by Task Force.
- 2/ Original Baseline Phase II: The Phase II estimate reflected at the time Phase I is approved.
- 3/ Recommended Baseline Phase II (100%): The total Phase II estimate at the 100% level developed during Phase I, and presented at the time Phase II approval is requested.
- 4/ Recommended Baseline Phase II Increment 1 (100%): The funding estimate (at the 100% level) requested at the time Phase II approval is requested. Increment 1 estimate includes Phase II Lands, Phase II Fed S&A, Phase II LDNR S&A, Phase II Corps Proj Mgmt, Phase II Construction Costs, Phase II S&I, Phase II Contingency, Phase II Monitoring, 3 years of Long Term Monitoring, 3 years of Long Term O&M, and 3 years of Long Term Corps PM.

Funding/Budget information:

- ~~1.) Specific Phase Two funding request (updated construction cost estimate, three years of monitoring and O&M, etc.)~~
- ~~2.) Fully funded, 20 year cost projection with anticipated schedule of expenditures~~

~~M. Estimate of project expenditures by state fiscal year subdivided by funding category.~~

~~MN. A revised Wetland Value Assessment, reviewed and approved by the Environmental Work Group, must be prepared if, during the review of the preliminary NEPA documentation, three of the Task Force agencies determine that a significant change in project scope occurred.~~

~~NO. A breakdown of the Prioritization Criteria ranking score, finalized and agreed-upon by all agencies during the 95% design review.~~

~~P. Agencies should submit a spreadsheet with the categorical breakdown for Phase 2, as outlined below:~~

APPENDIX D
CALENDAR OF REQUIRED ACTIVITIES

- Jan 1 Agencies return updated copy of Project Status Report to Corps of Engineers.
- Jan 15 Agencies send quarterly Project Fact Sheet to Local Sponsor.
- Jan 20 Corps of Engineers sends report on financial status of Projects to Agencies and Local Sponsor.
- Mar 10 Corps of Engineers sends copy of Project Status report to Agencies for updating.
- Apr 1 Agencies return updated copy of Project Status Report to Corps of Engineers.
- Apr 15 Agencies send quarterly Project Fact Sheet to Local Sponsor.
- Apr 20 Corps of Engineers sends report on financial status of Projects to Agencies and Local Sponsor.
- Jun 10 Corps of Engineers sends copy of Project Status report to Agencies for updating.
- Jun 15 Corps of Engineers informs Local Sponsor of funds required to be placed in escrow account for each Project by July 1.
- Jul 1 Agencies return updated copy of Project Status Report to Corps of Engineers.
- Jul 1 State fiscal year starts. Local Sponsor receives funds. Funds placed in escrow account.
- Jul 15 Agencies send quarterly Project Fact Sheet to Local Sponsor,
- Jul 20 Corps of Engineers sends report on financial status of Projects Agencies and Local Sponsor.
- Aug 31 The Corps of Engineers and the Local Sponsor forwards the Agency a tabulation of actual project expenditures for the last State fiscal year.
- Sep 10 Corps of Engineers sends copy of Project Status report to Agency for updating.

- Sep 30 Agencies forward to the Local Sponsor a report on all project expenditures for the last State fiscal year.
- Oct 1 Agencies return updated copy of Project Status Report to Corps Engineers.
- Oct 1 Federal fiscal year starts. Federal funds received.
- Oct 15 Agencies send quarterly Project Fact Sheet to Local Sponsor.
- Oct 20 Corps of Engineers sends report on financial status of Projects Agencies and Local Sponsor
- Nov 1 For budgetary purposes, the Agencies furnish the Local Sponsor estimate of funds required for next State fiscal year.
- Nov 30 Priority List submitted to HQUSACE or ASA (CW).
- Dec 10 Corps of Engineers sends copy of Project Status report to Agency for updating.
- Dec 31 Corps of Engineers furnishes MIPR to Agencies for Preliminary Engineering and Design

APPENDIX E DEMONSTRATION SOP

Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act Revised Standard Operating Procedure for Demonstration Projects

Section 303(a) of the CWPPRA states that in the development of Priority Project List, “. . . [should include] due allowance for small-scale projects necessary to demonstrate the use of new techniques or materials for coastal wetlands restoration.”

The CWPPRA Task Force on April 6, 1993, stated that: “The Task Force directs the Technical Committee to limit spending on demonstration projects to \$2,000,000 annually. The Task Force will entertain exceptions to this guidance for projects that the Technical Committee determines merit special consideration. The Task Force waives the cap on monitoring cost for demonstration projects.”

What constitutes a demonstration project:

1. Demonstration projects contain technology that has not been fully developed for routine application in coastal Louisiana or in certain regions of the coastal zone.
2. Demonstration projects contain technology which can be transferred to other areas of the coastal zone.
3. Demonstration projects are unique and are not duplicative in nature.

What is required to evaluate a demonstration project:

1. Demonstration projects must be submitted to the Engineering Work Group **Chairman** by a sponsoring agency prior to ~~June~~**August** 1 of any calendar year to allow time for evaluation prior to the public meetings that are held to present the results of the annual evaluation of candidate projects.
2. The Engineering **and Environmental** Work Groups will select a site for the proposed demonstration project based upon criteria provided by the sponsoring agency.
3. No Wetland Value Assessments (WVA) will be performed on candidate demonstration projects.
4. CWPPRA projects are designed and evaluated on a 20-year project life. However, demonstration projects are unique and each project must be developed accordingly. A specific

plan of action must be developed, and operation and maintenance and project monitoring costs included. Monitoring plans are developed to evaluate the demonstration project's technique and the wetland response. Monitoring plans should provide sufficient details of the status of all constructed features of the project such that the performance of all engineered features can be determined. Monitoring should be only long enough to evaluate the demonstration's performance and may be less than 20 years.

5. The evaluation must include a comparison of the demonstration project's method of achieving the project objectives vs. a traditional method of accomplishing the project objectives, if available, including a concise statement as to what is going to be demonstrated and how the demonstration project meets the project objectives;

6. The Engineering Work Group will review costs to ensure consistency and adequacy; address potential cost effectiveness; compare the cost of the demonstration project to the cost of traditional or other methods of achieving project objectives, when such information is available; and report the pros and cons of the demonstration vs. traditional or other methods. The Engineering Work Group will check monitoring costs with the Monitoring Work Group [Chairman](#).

7. Demonstration projects do not need to be in the Restoration Plan.

The evaluation criteria:

Each candidate demonstration project will be evaluated and compared to other demonstration projects competing for funding on the annual priority list based on the following criteria:

- innovativeness
- applicability (or transferability)
- potential environmental benefits
- recognized need for the information to be acquired
- potential for technological advancement
- ~~potential cost-effectiveness adequacy of the monitoring plan described in paragraph 4 above to determine the success or failure of the project and the relative performance of the constructed project features~~

The lead Federal agency will present the information shown in the evaluation section to the CWPPRA work groups and committees during the annual evaluation of candidate projects. The Environmental and Engineering Work Groups will review the information on each candidate demonstration project and will prepare a joint evaluation to the Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee outlining the merits of each project. The recommendation will be based on the above established evaluation criteria. The Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee will present information on the demonstration projects at the public meetings that are held to present the results of the annual evaluation of candidate projects, including any such meetings of the

Technical Committee or the Task Force. At these meetings the public will be notified that demonstration projects are testing unproven technology and, for that reason, have a relatively high risk of being unable to provide long-term wetlands benefits.

Funding approval:

Demonstration projects shall only be funded on an annual basis as (a) part(s) of a priority project list.

Demonstration projects do not need to be funded under the cash flow procedures in place for regular priority list projects. Agencies may choose to employ cash flow procedures if they feel it is necessary to maintain consistent accounting procedures or if they feel it would improve dissemination of project information to the Task Force and public.

Reporting of results:

The sponsoring agency will prepare a report for the Technical Committee as soon as meaningful results of the demonstration project are available. The report will describe the initial construction details, including actual costs and the current condition of all constructed features. The report will summarize the results and assess the success or failure of the project and its applicability to other similar sites. The sponsoring agency will prepare follow-up reports for the Technical Committee if and when more information becomes available.

**APPENDIX F
PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA**

**PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA FOR UNCONSTRUCTED PPL 1 - 12 PROJECTS
8 Oct 2003**

I. Cost-effectiveness

Scoring for this criterion should be based on current estimated total fully funded project cost and net acres created/protected/restored at Target Year (TY) 20. See appendix for calculation of swamp net acres. The fully funded cost estimate (100%) must be reviewed and approved by the Engineering and Economics Workgroups. Monitoring costs should be removed from the fully funded cost estimate, unless the project has a project-specific monitoring cost not covered by CRMS. The net acreage figure must be derived from the official WVA conducted for the project and any new figures must be reviewed and approved by the Environmental Workgroup.

Less than \$20,000/ net acre	10
Between \$20,000 and \$40,000/net acre	7.5
Between \$40,000 and \$60,000/net acre	5
Between \$60,000 and \$80,000/net acre	2.5
More than \$80,000/net acre	1

Alternate Net Acres for Swamps: The “cost/net acre” approach used above does not work for swamp projects because the wetland loss rates estimated for Louisiana coastal wetlands using historical and recent aerial photography have not detected losses for swamps. However, future loss rates for swamps have been estimated by Coast 2050 mapping unit. This information, combined with other information regarding project details/benefits can be used to provide an “alternate net acres” estimate for swamp projects. Attachment 1 contains a description of how alternate net acres will be derived for the purposes of assessing the cost-effectiveness of swamp projects, along with the assessment of alternate net acres for two listed swamp projects.

II. Address area of need, high loss area

The purpose of this criterion is to encourage the funding of projects that are located in basins undergoing the greatest loss. Additionally, projects should be located, to the maximum extent practicable, in localized “hot spots” of loss when they are likely to substantially reduce or reverse that loss. The appropriate basin determination on the following table should be selected based on the location of the majority of the project benefits, and the project’s Future Without Project (FWOP) loss rates should be applied. Either table or a combination of both tables (pro-rating) may be used for scoring depending upon what type of loss rates were developed for use in the WVA. Specific basins are assigned to high, medium, low, and stable/gain categories based on recent basin-wide loss rates (1990 to 2001).

For projects with sub-areas affected by varying land loss or erosion rates, the score shall be a weighted average which reflects the proportion of the total project area affected by each loss rate.

*Example: Project located in Calcasieu/Sabine basin. Project area of 1,000 acres of which sub-area 1 is 200 acres and experiences a shoreline internal loss rate of 3%/yr, and 800-acre subarea 2 has an internal loss rate of 1%/yr. The project would receive a score of $(0.2*7)+(0.8*5) = 5.4$*

For project areas affected by both internal wetlands loss and shoreline loss, the score shall be a weighted average which reflects the proportion of the total project area affected by each loss rate.
*Example: Project located in Calcasieu/Sabine basin. Project area of 1,000 acres of which sub-area 1 is 200 acres and experiences a shoreline erosion rate of 30 feet/yr, and 800-acre subarea 2 has an internal loss rate of 0.1%/yr. The project would receive a score of $(0.2*7.5)+(0.8*3) = 3.9$*

FOR NON-SHORELINE PROTECTION PROJECTS

Internal Loss Rates

Basin	High ≥2.0%/yr	Medium < 2.0% to ≥ 0.5%/yr	Low < 0.5%/yr to ≥ 0.01%/yr
Barataria and Terrebonne	10	7.5	5
Calcasieu/Sabine, Mermentau, and Pontchartrain	7.5	5	4
Breton, Mississippi River	5	4	3
Atchafalaya and Teche/Vermilion	4	3	1

FOR SHORELINE PROTECTION AND BARRIER ISLAND PROJECTS

Average Erosion Rate

Basin	High ≥ 25 ft/yr	Medium ≥ 10 to < 25 ft/yr	Low 0 to < 10 ft/yr
Barataria Terrebonne	10	7.5	5
Calcasieu/Sabine Mermentau Pontchartrain	7.5	5	4
Breton Mississippi River	5	4	3
Atchafalaya Teche/Vermilion	4	3	1

III. Implementability

Implementability is defined as the expectation that a project has no serious impediment(s) precluding its timely implementation. Impediments include issues such as design related issues, land rights, infrastructure relocations, and major public concerns. The Workgroups will, by consensus or vote, agree on impediments which will warrant a point score deduction. Other

issues which sponsoring agencies believe may significantly affect implementability may also be identified.

The predominant land rights issue affecting implementability is identified as non-participating landowners (i.e., demonstrated unwilling to execute required servitudes, rights-of-way, etc.) of tracts critical to major project features, unless the project is sponsored by an agency with condemnation authority which has confirmed its willingness to use such authority. Other difficult or time-consuming land rights issues (e.g., reclamation issues, tracts with many owners/undivided interests) are not defined as issues affecting implementability unless identified as such by the agency procuring land rights for the project.

Infrastructure issues are generally limited to modifications/relocations for which project-specific funding is not included in estimated project costs, or if the infrastructure operator/owner has confirmed its unwillingness to have its operations/structures relocated/modified.

Significant concerns include issues such as large-scale flooding increases, significant navigation impacts, basin-wide ecological changes which would significantly affect productivity or distribution of economically- or socially-important coastal resources.

The project has no obvious issues affecting implementability 10 pts

Subtract 3 points for each identified implementability issue, negative scores are possible.

IV. Certainty of benefits

The Adaptive Management review showed that some types of projects are more effective in producing the anticipated benefits. Factors that influence the certainty of benefits include soil substrate, operational problems, lack of understanding of causative factors of loss, success of engineering and design as well as construction, etc. Scoring for this criterion should be based on selecting project types which reflect the planned project features. If a project contains more than one type of feature, the relative contribution of each type should be weighed in the scoring, as in the example below.

Example: A project in the Chenier plain with two major project components: inland shoreline protection and hydrologic restoration. Approximately 80% of the anticipated benefits (i.e., net acres at TY20) are expected to result from shoreline protection features and approximately 20% of the benefits (i.e. net acres at TY 20) are anticipated to result from hydrologic restoration. Scoring for this project should generally be $(0.8*10)+(0.2*5) = 9$

Certainty of Benefits – Project Type Table

Inland shoreline protection - chenier plain	10
River diversions- deltaic plain	9
Terracing - chenier plain	8
Inland shoreline protection - deltaic plain	8

Marsh creation - chenier plain	7
Marsh creation - deltaic plain	7
Barrier island projects*	7
Gulf shoreline protection - chenier plain**	6
Gulf shoreline protection - deltaic plain**	5
Freshwater diversion -chenier plain	5
Freshwater diversion - deltaic plain	5
Hydrologic restoration - chenier plain	5
Vegetative plantings (low energy area)	5
Terracing - deltaic plain	3
Hydrologic restoration - deltaic plain	2
Vegetative plantings (high energy area)	2

* Refers to traditional barrier island projects creating marsh and dune habitats by dedicated dredging. If shoreline protection is a project component, then the score should be weighted by apportioning the benefits between shoreline protection (score of 5) and traditional dedicated dredging techniques (score of 7).

** Gulf shoreline protection means typical structures currently being used around the state and nation such as breakwaters, revetments, concrete mats, etc. Does not include experimental structures being tested at various locations.

V. Sustainability of benefits

This criterion should be scored as follows:

The net acres (i.e., TY20 FWP acres – TY20 FWOP acres) benefited at TY 20 should be projected through TY 30 based on application of FWOP conditions (i.e., internal loss) to the TY20 net acres. The net acres benefited at TY 20 and the percent decrease in net acres from TY20 to TY30 are combined in the matrix below to produce an indicator of sustainability. Assume that, after year 20, project features such as water control structures would be locked open, controlled diversions and siphons would be closed, and shoreline protection structures only would provide full protection until the next projected maintenance event would be necessary (i.e, future with project (FWP) conditions would continue from TY20 until the next maintenance event would be required.

For shoreline protection projects in the Deltaic Plain, shoreline protection effectiveness will be reduced by 50% from the year the next scheduled maintenance event is required to TY30. For shoreline protection projects in the Chenier Plain, shoreline protection effectiveness will be reduced by 25% from the year the next scheduled maintenance event is required to TY30. The effectiveness of shoreline protection projects utilizing concrete panels will be reduced by 10%. A 50% reduction in effectiveness will also be applied to barrier island projects using rock shoreline protection. Vegetative plantings used for shoreline protection return to FWOP

erosion rates after TY20. For all shoreline protection projects, it is critical that information be provided to substantiate when the next projected maintenance event would occur.

Selected project types (e.g., uncontrolled sediment diversions) may be considered for continued application of FWP conditions provided that a valid rationale is provided.

% decrease in net acres between TY20 and TY30	Score
0 to 5% (or gain)	10
6 to 10%	8
11 to 15%	6
16 to 20%	4
21 to 30%	2
> 30%	1

VI. Consistent with hydrogeomorphic objective of increasing riverine input in the deltaic plain or freshwater input and saltwater penetration limiting in the Chenier plain

DELTAIC PLAIN PROJECTS

- The project would significantly increase direct riverine input into the benefitted wetlands (structure capable of diverting $\geq 2,500$ cfs) 10
- The project would result in the direct riverine input of between 2,500 cfs and 1,000 cfs into benefitted wetlands 7
- The project would result in some minor increases of direct riverine flows into the benefitted wetlands (structure or diversion $<1,000$ cfs) 4
- The project would result in an increase of indirect riverine flows into the benefitted wetlands 2
- The project will not result in increases in riverine flows 0

CHENIER PLAIN PROJECTS

- The project will divert freshwater from an area where excess water adversely impacts wetland health to an area which would be benefitted from freshwater inputs OR the project will provide a significant level of salinity control to an area where it is in need 6
- The project will result in increases in freshwater inflow to an area where it is

in need OR the project may provide some minor and/or local salinity control benefits	3
The project will not affect freshwater inflow or salinity	0

VII. Consistent with hydrogeomorphic objective of increased sediment input

The purpose of this criterion is to encourage projects that bring in sediment from exterior sources (i.e., Atchafalaya River north of the delta, Mississippi River, Ship Shoal, or other exterior sources). Therefore, for projects to score on this criterion at all, they must have some outside sediment sources as project components. Large river diversions similar to Benny’s Bay (i.e. >-12 ft bottom elevation) and large marsh creation projects (i.e. ≥ 5 million cubic yards) can be expected to input a substantial amount of sediment into areas of need and should rank higher than diversions and marsh creation projects of smaller magnitude. Quantities of sediment deposited by river diversions must be reviewed and approved by the Engineering Workgroup. Mining sediment from outside systems should receive emphasis. Large scale mining of river sediments such as proposed in the Sediment Trap project represent a major input of sediment from outside the system. Major mining of Ship Shoal for use on barrier islands also should be considered to be more beneficial than dredging minor volumes of sediment for placement on barrier islands. Mining ebb tidal deltas also should receive less emphasis than major mining of Ship Shoal due to the limited quantity of high quality sand available from ebb tidal deltas. Ebb tidal deltas are sediment sinks disconnected from input into the system and should be emphasized over flood tidal deltas or other similar interior bay borrow sites. In all cases, to receive any points, the source of the sediment should be considered to be exterior to, and have no natural sediment input into, the basin in which the project is located. Because of the recognized differences in logistics between river-source marsh creation projects/diversions and barrier island projects, a separate scoring category is used for barrier island projects. Projects which do not supply sediment from external sources cannot receive points for this criterion.

Scoring categories for diversions and marsh creation projects utilizing the Mississippi River or Atchafalaya River as a sediment source:

The project will result in the significant placement of sediment (≥ 5 million cubic yards) from exterior sources	10
The project will input some sediment (< 5 million cubic yards) from external sources	5
The project will not increase sediment input over that presently occurring	0

Scoring categories for barrier island projects utilizing offshore and ebb tidal delta sediment sources:

The project will result in the significant placement of sediment (≥ 1 million cubic yards) from an offshore sediment source	10
The project will input some sediment (> 2 million cubic yards) from an ebb tidal delta	

source 5

The project will not increase sediment input over that presently occurring 0

VIII. Consistent with hydrogeomorphic objective of maintaining or establishing landscape features critical to a sustainable ecosystem structure and function

Certain landscape features provide critical benefits to maintaining the integrity of the coastal ecosystem. Such features include barrier islands, lake and bay rims/shorelines, cheniers, landbridges, and natural levee ridges. Projects which do not maintain or establish at least one of those features cannot receive points for this criterion.

The project serves to protect, for at least the 20 year life of the project, landscape features which are critical to maintaining the integrity of the mapping unit in which they are found or are part of an ongoing effort to restore a landscape feature deemed critical to a basin (e.g., Barataria land bridge, Grand and White Lake land bridge) or the coast in general (e.g., barrier islands) 10

The project serves to protect, for at least the 20 year life of the project, any landscape feature described above. 5

The project does not meet the above criteria 0

Once all the projects have been evaluated and scored by the Environmental and Engineering Work Groups, each score will be weighted using the following table and the following formula to create one final score. A maximum of 100 points is possible.

Weighting per criteria:

1. Cost-Effectiveness	20
2. Area of Need	15
3. Implementability	15
4. Certainty of Benefits	10
5. Sustainability	10
6. HGM Riverine Input	10
7. HGM Sediment Input	10
8. HGM Structure and Function	10
TOTAL	100%

$$(C1*2.0) + (C2*1.5) + (C3*1.5) + (C4*1.0) + (C5*1.0) + (C6*1.0) + (C7*1.0) + (C8*1.0)$$

Attachment 1

COST / “ALTERNATE NET ACRES” (SWAMP)

“COST / NET ACRE” does not work for swamp projects because the wetland loss rates estimated for Louisiana coastal wetlands using historical and recent aerial photography, have not detected losses for swamps. In spite of this, swamp ecologists and others know that the condition of many of swamps is very poor, and that the trend is for rapid decline. They also know that the ultimate result of this trend will be conversion of the swamps to open water. This conversion is expected to happen very quickly when swamp health reaches some critical low threshold. Because of this, it is not possible to estimate “net acres” as is done for marsh projects. However, future loss rates for swamps have been estimated by Coast 2050 mapping unit (Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force and the Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Authority 1998). This information, combined with other information regarding project details/benefits can be used to provide an “**alternate net acres**” estimate for swamp projects.

EXAMPLES

Maurepas Diversion Project: Wetland loss rates for the Coast 2050 Amite/Blind Rivers mapping unit for 1974-90 were estimated by USACE to be 0.83% per year for the swamps, and 0.02% per year for fresh marsh. Based on these rates, about 50% of the swamp, and 1.2% of the fresh marsh will be lost in 60 years (LCWCRTF 1998. Appendix C). For the purposes of this example, in order to be consistent with other approaches, one can estimate the acres that would be lost in the project area in 20 years without the project. The project area is 36,121 acres (Lee Wilson & Associates 2001). The Amite/Blind Rivers mapping unit consisted of 138,900 acres of swamp and 3,440 acres of fresh marsh in 1990 (LCWCRTF 1998. Appendix C). Since we don’t have an estimate of the proportion of swamp and fresh marsh in our study area, we will assume the same proportions as in the Amite/Blind Rivers mapping unit, 98% swamp, 2% fresh marsh. Applying these proportions and the loss rates for the mapping unit, to the project area, about 17,699 acres of swamp and about 9 acres of fresh marsh will be lost in 60 years in the Maurepas project area, without the project. With the project, we assume none of this will be lost. Assuming a linear rate of loss (not really the case for swamps), 5,900 acres of swamp and 3 acres of fresh marsh will be lost in 20 years without the project. With the project, we assume none of this will be lost, so the “alternate net acres” for this project are 5,903. COST / “ALTERNATE NET ACRES” is equal to the project cost estimate, \$57,500,000, divided by 5,903 = \$9,741. This then would fall within the “Less than \$20,000 / net acre” category for a score of 10.

Small Diversion into NW Baratavia Basin: This project is in the Coast 2050 Des Allemands mapping unit. It is estimated that 60% of the swamp and 30% of the marsh in this unit will be lost in 60 years (LCWCRTF 1998. Appendix D). The project area includes 4,057 acres of swamp and 20 acres of fresh marsh (USGS & LDNR 2000). Applying the estimated future loss rates from Coast 2050 to this project area, we estimate that 2,434 acres of swamp and 6 acres of fresh marsh will be lost in 60 years without the project. Assuming a linear rate of loss (not really the

case for swamps), we estimate that 811 acres of swamp and 2 acres of fresh marsh will be lost in 20 years without the project. With the project, we assume none of this will be lost. In addition, this project will restore 200 acres of existing open water to swamp (U.S. EPA 2000), for a total “alternate net acres” for this project of 1,013 acres. COST / “ALTERNATE NET ACRES” is equal to the project cost estimate, \$7,913,519, divided by 1,013 = \$7,812. This then would fall within the “Less than \$20,000 / net acre” category for a score of 10.

REFERENCES

Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force and the Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Authority. 1998. Coast 2050: Toward a Sustainable Coastal Louisiana. Appendices C and D. Louisiana Department of Natural Resources. Baton Rouge, La.

Lee Wilson and Associates. 2001. Diversion Into the Maurepas Swamps. Prepared for U.S. EPA Region 6, Dallas, Texas.

U.S. EPA Region 6. 2000. Wetland Value Assessment Project Information Sheet- Small Freshwater Diversion to the Northwestern Barataria Basin.

USGS & LDNR. 2000. Northwestern Barataria Basin Habitat Analysis.

APPENDIX G TRACKING OF CHANGES

Revisions 1-5 of this document were maintained in a “draft” format that utilized redline and strikeout text in an attempt to track changes. Because of the extensive changes that had been made throughout the years, this “draft” format made it very difficult to follow the intent of the procedures. Beginning with Revision 6 (15 Apr 03), the document will be maintained in a “clean” format. This appendix was added in Revision 7 to track the origin and approval of amendments made to the document in all future revisions of the SOP. The table below outlines all amendments to the SOP, beginning in Revision 7 (approved by the Technical Committee on 30 Sep 03).

#	First Appears in Revision #	Requested Change/Reason for Requested Change	Amendment Requested by?	When Amendment Was Approved	Approval Date
1	7	All instances where the words “OMRR&R Plan” occur, replace with “Project Operations & Schedule Manual” when referencing the Corps of Engineers. Change was requested to satisfy the requirements of Corps’ attorneys. The name change is only applicable to the Corps.	Proposed by LDNR, Dr. Bill Good.	Technical Committee, at regularly scheduled meeting (Agenda Item #8).	16 Jul 03
2	7	During the 15 Apr 03 meeting to modify the SOP, it was agreed that the Corps would provide suggested language in order to clarify the funding cap for cash flow and non-cash flow projects. The Corps-suggested revisions to all of Section 5.d. were incorporated into the SOP.	Requested by USACE, Ms. Gay Browning, as a clarification of the baseline estimate. At the 10 Dec 02 Technical Committee meeting, the Engineering Workgroup was tasked with looking at this issue and developing a proposal for consideration by the Technical Committee. At the 26 Mar 03 Technical Committee meeting (Agenda Item F), the Technical Committee accepted the Engineering Workgroup recommendation that the most current Phase 2 estimate should be used as the baseline estimate and that there was no basis for changing the currently-allowable 25% cap above the baseline estimate.	Technical Committee, at regularly scheduled meeting (Agenda Item #8).	16 Jul 03
3	7	Incorporation of language to allow Phase 2 authorizations at any regular quarterly Task Force meeting into the SOP.	Originally proposed by USFWS, Mr. Darryl Clark. Approved by the Technical Committee at the	Task Force, at a regularly scheduled meeting (Agenda Item #4)	14 Aug 03

			16 Jul 03 meeting (Agenda Item #8), for recommendation to the Task Force.		
4	7	Incorporation of language into the SOP regarding updates to the Prioritization Criteria scoring of un-constructed projects at the 95% design review. Incorporation of language into the SOP regarding prioritization of candidate projects as part of the Phase 0 analysis.	Originally proposed by the Engineering/ Environmental Workgroups. Approved by the Technical Committee at the 16 Jul 03 meeting (Agenda Item #1), for recommendation to the Task Force.	Task Force, at a regularly scheduled meeting (Agenda Item #5)	14 Aug 03
5	7	Incorporation of language into the SOP outlining the process for requesting approval for OM&M funding beyond the first three years.	Originally proposed by the USACE, Ms. Julie Z. LeBlanc, in order clarify the procedure for the monitoring funding request under consideration at the 14 Aug 03 Task Force meeting. Approved by the Technical Committee via email vote on 13 Aug 03 (LDNR abstaining), for recommendation to the Task Force.	Task Force, at a regularly scheduled meeting (Agenda Item #5)	14 Aug 03
6	8	Incorporation of clarifications to 30/95% design review requirements, as recommended by the Engineering and Environmental Workgroups.	At the 30 Sep 03 Technical Committee meeting, the Technical Committee tasked the Engineering and Environmental Workgroups with providing clarifications on what is included in 30/95% design reviews. Following a joint workgroup meeting on 13 Nov 03, the workgroups recommended changes to the language.	Technical Committee, at regularly scheduled meeting (Agenda Item #9). In accordance with Section 6.a (1)(b), these changes are not "policy-level" and therefore are at the discretion of the Technical Committee for review and approval.	10 Dec 03
7	8	Revision of SOP language to clarify that requests for Phase 2 funding, construction approval, and other funding approvals must first be obtained from the Technical Committee prior the requesting same from the Task Force. In practice, this is how the process is currently working (requests before the Task Force must first be recommended by the Technical Committee), but it is not clearly reflected in the SOP.	Originally proposed by Dr. Bill Good to more clearly define the CWPPRA approval process.	Technical Committee, at regularly scheduled meeting (Agenda Item #9). In accordance with Section 6.a (1)(b), these changes are not "policy-level" and therefore are at the discretion of the Technical Committee for review and approval.	10 Dec 03
8	8	Revision of SOP language to require successful 95% design review prior	Requested during 10 Dec 03 Technical Committee	Technical Committee, at	10 Dec 03

		requesting funding approval from the Technical Committee. The previous revision of the SOP allowed completion of 95% design review after the Technical Committee recommendation, but prior to Task Force approval. This change allows the Technical Committee to take the material provided as part of the 95% design review into account in making their recommendation.	meeting.	regularly scheduled meeting (Agenda Item #9). In accordance with Section 6.a (1)(b), these changes are not “policy-level” and therefore are at the discretion of the Technical Committee for review and approval.	
9	8	Include Demonstration SOP and most recent Prioritization Criteria as appendices to the CWPPRA SOP.	Originally proposed by the Corps of Engineers to consolidate the location of other procedures used by the CWPPRA agencies.	Technical Committee, at regularly scheduled meeting (Agenda Item #9). In accordance with Section 6.a (1)(b), these changes are not “policy-level” and therefore are at the discretion of the Technical Committee for review and approval.	10 Dec 03
10	9	Modify SOP language to reflect 14 Apr 04 Task Force decision to move to an annual cycle for Phase 1/ Phase 2 funding (September Technical Committee/October Task Force). The exception is that Phase 1 funding for PPL14 will be approved in January 2005	Task Force	Task Force, at regularly scheduled meeting (Agenda Item #4). Revisions approved by Technical Committee during regularly scheduled meeting on 14 Jul 04 (Agenda Item #2).	14 Apr 04
11	9	Replaced Appendix A language to include PPL15 process. In addition to only making changes to the dates, the process was modified to move Phase 1 funding approval up to October (in lieu of January).	Task Force	Task Force, at regularly scheduled meeting (Agenda Item #4). Revisions approved by Technical Committee during regularly scheduled meeting on 14 Jul 04 (Agenda Item #2).	14 Apr 04
<u>12</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>Modify SOP language to reflect Aug 04 Task Force decision to limit new Phase I and II approvals to 100%, and modify SOP language to reflect Oct 04 and Feb 05 Task Force decisions to limit existing Phase I and II costs to 100% (previously allowed to increase to 125% without Task Force approval)</u>	<u>Task Force</u>	<u>Task Force, at regularly scheduled meeting (Agenda Item # 4), Oct 04 (Agenda Item #5), and Feb 05 (Agenda Item #3). Revisions approved</u>	<u>18 Aug 04 13 Oct 04 12 Feb 05</u>

				<u>by Technical Committee during meeting on 16 Mar 05 (Agenda Item #3). Changes drafted by P&E Subcommittee on 10 Mar 05.</u>	
<u>13</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>Modify SOP language to reflect Oct 04 Task Force decision to limit request for approval of O&M funding increases above the 20-year cost for non-cash-flow projects to 3-year increments</u>	<u>Task Force</u>	<u>Task Force, at regularly scheduled meeting (Agenda Item #6). Revisions approved by Technical Committee during meeting on 16 Mar 05 (Agenda Item #3). Changes drafted by P&E Subcommittee on 10 Mar 05.</u>	<u>13 Oct 04</u>
<u>14</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>Modify SOP language to reflect Feb 05 Task Force decision to hold two yearly funding meetings in Oct and Jan. Oct funding meetings would consider demonstration project approvals, PPL Phase 1 approvals, planning budget approval, O&M and monitoring approvals and Corps administrative cost approvals. January funding meetings would consider Phase 2 approvals.</u>	<u>Task Force</u>	<u>Task Force, at regularly schedule meeting (Agenda Item #9). Revisions approved by Technical Committee during meeting on 16 Mar 05 (Agenda Item #3). Changes drafted by P&E Subcommittee on 10 Mar 05.</u>	<u>17 Feb 05</u>
<u>15</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>Modify SOP language in main body, Appendices C and E to clarify project requirements related to annual funding meetings. Suggested changes were compiled as part of an After Action Review (AAR) following the Sept/Oct 2004 funding meeting.</u>	<u>Technical Committee</u>	<u>Technical Committee, at regularly schedule meeting (Agenda Item #3) on 16 Mar 05. P&E Subcommittee met to discuss and draft language on 10 Mar 05.</u>	<u>16 Mar 05</u>

Potential Clarifications/Changes to SOP

Issue #1: WVA updates

USACE:

Currently, the SOP does not *explicitly* state that any required WVA updates must be completed prior to the project's 95% design review meeting. It could be *deduced* that the WVA must be done prior to the 95% design review meetings since the prioritization scoring must be updated prior to the 95% design review meeting (and the WVA is required to calculate the prioritization score). The Corps recommends modifying the SOP to state that if a revised WVA is required, it shall be submitted to the Environmental Workgroup for review two weeks prior to the 95% design review meeting.

USFWS:

Project Information: Project information reviews (WVA, Prioritization, costs) should occur before or at the 95% Design Review meeting (per the CWPPRA SOP).

Issue #2: Fully-funded cost updates

USACE:

The Corps recommends that the SOP be clarified (in Section 6.h.(1)) to state that the revised fully funded project cost estimate be approved by the Economics Workgroup.

USFWS:

Project Information: Project information reviews (WVA, Prioritization, costs) should occur before or at the 95% Design Review meeting (per the CWPPRA SOP).

Issue #3: 95% design review meeting deadline

USACE:

The Corps recommends that the SOP be modified to state that 95% design review meetings must be held 4 weeks prior to the Technical Committee meeting where Phase II funding will be requested. This will allow for an approximate 2 week timeframe to incorporate any changes made during the 95% design review conference and still meet the Corps' deadline for submitting binder material 2 weeks prior to the meeting. The Corps requires material 2 weeks prior to meeting so that material can be provided to all Technical Committee members in a timely enough manner to allow adequate review time prior to making a decision.

NRCS:

Vagueness about deadlines should be clarified; for example, is deadline, a) one week before Tech Committee meeting when materials are due, b) Tech Committee meeting, c) two weeks before Task Force meeting when material are due, or d) Task Force meeting.

Issue #4: Letter of Concurrence

USACE:

SOP should be modified to specify that a letter of concurrence from LDNR is required after 95% design review meetings (as required after 30% design review meetings) to ensure that the local sponsor is “on board” with construction the project prior to adding the project to the agenda for Phase II funding consideration. The current process does not provide an adequate means for LDNR concurrence to be provided.

USFWS:

The letter of concurrence from DNR is unnecessary in our view, because each project that makes it to the Phase II approval request already has concurrence from the local sponsor (at 30% and 95% Design).

NRCS:

The letter of concurrence prior to Phase 2 approval is an unnecessary step. If you do not already have this at the 30% and 95% review meetings, then you should not be on the agenda at the Technical Committee meeting for approval request. Pre-Cash flow projects could still have this as a requirement since no 30%/95% meetings are necessary. The approval should take place prior to the Technical Committee meeting for those projects.

The State:

Although we have no comments per se, USFWS suggests (in their recommendation 5 and 7) that a letter of concurrence from the local sponsor be dropped as a requirement to request Phase II funding since concurrence is theoretically given at 30% and 95%. We believe that this letter is still necessary to ensure the integrity of the process. 95% concurrence may be given conditionally because some small items may need clean-up, and we would prefer to leave this requirement in, even as just a courtesy to the local sponsor.

Issue #5: Phase II Checklist – Item F: EA Requirements

USACE:

The SOP is currently ambiguous relative to the EA requirements. The Corps recommends that the SOP be modified to state (in Appendix C, checklist item 4f) that the EA must be submitted for public comment at least 30 days prior to the

Technical Committee annual funding meeting where the project is requesting Phase II approval.

USFWS:

The SOP could be revised to indicate that the Draft EA must be released 30 days prior to the Phase II request to the Technical Committee, or at the 95% Design Review Meeting.

Issue #6: Phase II Checklist – Item L

USACE:

Modify item L to indicate that the information required under this item is the “Economic Analysis” (and keep the description of the items).

Issue #7: Phase II Checklist – Item M

USACE:

Item M states that agencies must provide an “estimate of project expenditures by state FY, subdivided by funding category”. The Corps recommends deleting this requirement because the information is included in the Economic Analysis.

Issue #8: Phase II Checklist – Items B, K, & I

USFWS:

There are three items, the CSA statement, the Overgrazing Determination, and, the HTRW assessment that could be removed from the Phase II checklist, because they are unnecessary.

The State:

USFWS suggests that HTRW determinations be removed from the Phase II requirements, stating that it is not a CWPPRA requirement, varies from one agency to the next, and is the agencies' determination whether or not to perform it. We believe that it should be clarified that HTRW determinations are required from all agencies on all projects. In most cases, this will not require much effort to assess the likelihood of CERCLA issues. It would be irresponsible, however, to fail to assess this aspect of the project as it may lead to substantial cost increases and could affect the viability of a project.

Issue #9: Phase II Checklist – Item H: Permit

USFWS:

The Permit checklist item should be changed from requiring an estimated permit issuance date from the Corps, to a requirement that permit applications be submitted prior to submitting the Phase II request to the TC.

Issue #10: Non-Cash Flow Requests for Construction Approval

USACE:

The Corps suggests that the SOP (Section 6.i.) be revised to indicate that requests for construction approval for non-cash flow projects be submitted to the Technical Committee and the P&E Subcommittee (currently the SOP requires that requests be sent to the P&E Subcommittee). In addition, Section 6.j. of the SOP should be revised to require requests to the Technical Committee and P&E Subcommittee (currently the SOP does not list any address(es) to which requests must be sent). Including both the Technical Committee and the P&E Subcommittee in these sections will be consistent with the 30% design review requirement to send letters to both under Section 6.e.(2).

Issue #11: Phase I Accounting in Phase II Request

USFWS:

All projects requesting Phase II funds should be required to provide Phase I accounting expenditure information. Rather than being another checklist item, this information could be added to the budget spreadsheet that is already required for the Phase II request.

Issue #12: Project Revision Guidelines

USFWS:

The Lake Mechant effort underscores the need for the TC to develop guidelines for revisions of Phase II requests between the TC and TF meetings.

Potential Improvements to Program that may or may not require changes in the SOP

Issue #13: Phase II Checklist – Item J: Section 303E

USFWS:

We suggest that the Corps and DNR consider some sort of CWPPRA Programmatic Section 303(e) determination for all CWPPRA projects.

NRCS:

We support the USFWS position that 303e approval could be improved using some type of programmatic approach.

Issue #14: Prioritization

USACE:

The Corps believes that projects should continue to be “scored” using the current prioritization method. Although the scoring method is not perfect, the method and the resulting project score is one of the “tools” that is used by the agencies in making decisions on project funding. The Corps does not believe that re-hashing the scoring process would result in a better scoring process. The Corps believes that the current prioritization method is a useful tool.

NMFS:

Do want Environmental Workgroup to continue prioritizing projects.

The State:

Is prioritization of projects worth the effort? Prioritization is worth the effort if we commit to using it to guide funding and planning decisions. A properly constructed prioritization methodology would allow consensus on which projects are most important to accelerate and allow agencies to apply their resources accordingly. If the process continues to select projects that are lower on the prioritization scale than projects that are not funded, then there is a problem with the prioritization process in that it does not adequately capture all of the important decision criteria. If we keep a prioritization process, it should be reviewed to make sure it considers the full range of decision criteria and that it would be more useful. Otherwise, the whole issue should be dropped. The Governor’s office added that they believe that we should improve the prioritization process, not drop it.

NRCS:

Is prioritization of projects worth the effort? Prioritization scoring and updates are not overly burdensome and time consuming. Prioritization is a valid tool that an agency can use to help rank projects. Phase II approval has demonstrated that agencies don’t use prioritization as an absolute guide, but it was not intended as

such. If we totally scrap prioritization from CWPPRA, then a void will happen with regard to our resources that we use to evaluate and rank these projects. Someone will eventually try to fill this void with something similar to prioritization, and it may not be something that everyone agrees on, therefore we will go full circle again and end up right back where we are now. A lot of staff time will be wasted getting to that point. Not everyone is entirely satisfied with prioritization, but all of the agencies had a hand in the development of it to date, and all of us have indicated that we agree to the consensus scoring of what has been developed. If we use it as a tool, then it is effective.

Prioritization scores do not appear to be used by every agency, or at least they are not all being used the same way. We have no problem using the Prioritization Score as one of many decision making tools made available to the Task Force. However, this should be clarified to the public so it does not appear that we are solely using the Prioritization Score for decision making, nor totally dismissing the scores either. We have always maintained that the Implementation Score is a problem. We believe that anything in a project that causes a substantial delay in the progress of a project should cause that project to receive a lower score in this criteria. We understand that the consensus of the workgroups is not to use this criteria as a means of showing which projects can be built faster than others, but we respectively disagree. We believe that simple easy to construct projects should have a higher implementation criteria score than complex, time consuming, controversial projects.

EPA:

Keep prioritization as a tool in our project evaluation tool box.

Issue #15: Phase II Checklist Shortfalls

USFWS:

The TC or P & E chairmen could make the other TC members aware of the Phase II checklist shortfalls. CWPPRA should be in the business of building the best restoration projects within the available funding. The P & E or TC chair should provide Phase II “checklist” deficiency information to the TC prior to the meeting.

USACE:

The Corps agrees that projects should *not* be excluded from Phase II funding consideration for not meeting all SOP requirements. However, compliance with the SOP requirements is important information for the agencies to know. The Corps recommends compiling a matrix of SOP requirements/deficiencies to be submitted to the agencies for review prior to the Technical Committee meeting. After agencies provide input, the Corps will provide the SOP matrix to the Technical Committee/Task Force. In order to do this, however, the Corps must

have items from agencies by the requested deadline for submission of binder material.

NRCS:

A report identifying questionable violations of the SOP was given to each agency at the Tech Committee Meeting. This report should have been issued in advance of the meeting, and discussed with each agency to ascertain their reasoning. Those items with differing interpretations need to be clarified prior to the next funding meeting.

Project Managers are capable of tracking their own requirements. We do not need additional “police action”. As suggested above, have the PM report at Tech Committee and Task Force meetings on any Phase II checklist item that is not complete. If Tech Committee or Task Force member is concerned about an incomplete item, they can vote to not approve the project.

EPA:

We feel like several projects were rushed through the process without fully meeting intended funding requirements. Maybe the P&E Subcmt could serve as a filter/tough guy in regard to those projects that are not fully meeting the Phase 2 requirements.

The State:

We believe that the checklists were created for a reason- to ensure that projects are completely evaluated and are truly ready to request phase II funding. Therefore, full completion of the Phase II checklists should be required. With adequate time to complete Phase I, completion of all requirements should not be a problem. This may force agencies to make decisions on where to place their resources to ensure that the best projects are completed in time. If application of the Phase II checklist consistently shows that projects are failing to meet the requirements for consistent reasons, the checklist could be reviewed to make sure it contains the vital information but does not place undue burdens on the process.

All projects should adhere to the published CWPPRA SOP, as well as the SOP presented by the Restoration Technology Section, regarding getting documents ready for review, etc. We now have enough time to incorporate these steps into the project schedules for next year's funding cycle. Required material for binders should be made available in advance of the meetings. As I understand it, some material was not made available in time for inclusion in the binders.

A checklist that could be included in the binder at the beginning of each project would be helpful. A glance would tell the committee members if the items required are in the binder, and the list would provide a template for the presentation of the information, making the binder materials more standard, and thus easier to digest..

Issue #16: Materials Submitted for Binders

USFWS:

The Corps should set the material submission deadlines no earlier than two weeks prior to the TC and TF meetings.

USACE:

It should be noted that the reason that the Corps requires binder material 2 weeks prior to all meetings is to provide the information to the Technical Committee members and allow their review. When changes/new information is submitted to the Corps after the binder is sent to Technical Committee members, the Technical Committee members are not given the opportunity to review this new material prior to having to make a decision on the item.

NRCS:

Many 95% meetings were scheduled for the week before the Tech Committee, but additional deadlines (not in the SOP) were imposed to allow binder preparation. This created an unanticipated time crunch. Deadlines should be established well ahead of time, not just as the meeting approaches. Some requirements are not specific as to when certain items are due. This led to different interpretations by the agencies.

Issue #17: Presentations

NMFS:

In terms of presentation of projects, the project manager should describe the project in general details, provide some general justification for the project and describe how the project will address the need, and give costs. Going through a list of all the SOP requirements in the meeting is unnecessary. That information should be provided in the documentation, but does not need to be verbalized.

USACE:

The Corps agrees that a standard Powerpoint template should be developed to layout the requirements to be presented to the Technical Committee/Task Force. Project Managers should be encouraged to use this template as a “guide” and not as a strict requirement in order to assist in keeping within the 5-minute timeframe.

The State:

Presentations are useful to the public who are present as well as the Tech Committee and Task Force members to visualize the projects in ways that cannot be made with the binder information. However, they should be kept to a minimum, (five minutes?). Presentations should include a map of the location, pictures of the area if necessary, design description (not in too much detail - that should be in the binder), costs (first and total), benefits, and reasons why the restoration project should be a priority (significance). Top Ten Lists:

Although humorous, I don't think they are appropriate in light of time and content criteria described above.

NRCS:

A three minute time limit should be used. Only the key items should be discussed: Project map, List of Features, AAHU's, Net acres, Fully-funded cost, Cost per net acre, and Prioritization Score. Report only those checklist items not complete. State why project should be funded this year and how project fits with overall restoration of basin.

USFWS:

The Corps can outline the requirements for the presentations in an email before the meeting, as Julie did before the recent TC and TF meetings. That outline could contain such items as: 1) Project Location; 2) Area Problems; 3) Project Features; 4) Slides of the Project Area; 5) Benefits and Statement of Need; 6) Phase II Completion Checklist (TC meeting only); and 7) Other Items (i.e., brief modeling results).

Issue #18: Protection of Government Estimates

USACE:

Because of the requirement to protect Government Estimates, the Corps requests that agencies refrain from including cost information in their cover letter requesting Phase II/funding approval as well as elsewhere in the material submitted for the binder. The Government Estimate should be limited to one location in the binder submission (the financial spreadsheet included in Appendix C of the SOP) so that this sheet can be pulled from the binder that is released to the public.

Issue #19: Design Review Meeting Courtesy

USACE:

As a courtesy, projects that are not seeking Phase II funding approval should avoid holding 30 and 95% design review meetings immediately prior to the Technical Committee annual funding meeting, or between the Technical Committee annual funding meeting and the Task Force annual funding meeting. This would allow all agencies adequate time to review and comment on these projects.

Issue #20: Voting Process

EPA:

Voting should be done primarily by weighted vote. Reduce the number of "yes" votes, or make it at the discretion of the agency. EPA was forced to vote "yes" on several projects that ordinarily we would not support.

Issue #21: Funding Spreadsheet

NRCS:

Use of spreadsheets worked well.

EPA:

The use of interactive funding spreadsheets seemed to work very well.

The State:

The funding spreadsheet should be in total dollars, not just Federal dollars. The projects are presented with total costs, not Federal share, so tracking was awkward. However, both first costs and total costs should be considered to ensure that overprogramming of O&M money doesn't occur.

Issue #22: Archives of Minutes

NMFS:

What type of document storage is the COE providing? If I wanted to go back to a 1994 Task Force decision for example, is there a hard copy easily producible of the minutes of that meeting?

Issue #23: O&M Plans

NRCS:

We would like to see a 95% design review of the O&M Plan before it is released.

Issue #24: Monitoring Reports

NRCS:

We would like to see monitoring reports reviewed prior to release. We don't take part in writing or reviewing any monitoring reports, and more times than not we are addressing items in the report that may put LDNR on the defensive when we ask questions after it has been written.

Issue #25: Materials for 30% Design Review

NRCS:

LDNR requires a 9-week review period for all materials prior to the 30% design review, primarily for the Ecological Review team to review these materials. This is not currently in the SOP, nor are other stipulations required before concurrence is granted. These items should be included in the SOP if we are going to be held to them.

Discussion: Status Report on the Avoca Island Diversion and Land Building Project (TE-49) and Potential Change of Scope

Avoca Island Diversion and Land Building (TE-49)
Phase I Status Report – March 2005

The TE-49 project, located in St. Mary Parish, Louisiana, was approved for Phase I tasks by the CWPPRA Task Force in January 2003.

Project area landowners have worked closely with the Corps of Engineers and the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources to help develop a project to address some of the wetland loss and habitat degradation that has occurred in the area. Habitats on Avoca Island have been impacted through human modification of the landscape including land clearing, levee construction, drainage, agricultural impoundment, and oil and gas exploration. Large portions of the island have converted from swamps and vegetated marsh to open water since 1927. Ongoing loss of wetlands is due to wave erosion, subsidence, and altered hydrology. Wetlands in the area previously benefited directly from overbank flow of Bayou Schaffer but now have limited riverine influences and poor circulation due to a levee. The result of these processes and other factors has been a dramatic loss in wetland habitat on Avoca Island through the conversion of vegetated habitat to open water. This proposed project would benefit approximately 7,200 acres through a combination of marsh creation and river reintroduction.

Beginning in spring 2003, the Corps and LDNR project delivery team inspected the project area and developed a work plan to guide the design efforts. The work plan called for obtaining right of entry permissions to conduct engineering data collection for design work, surveying the work sites, drilling to obtain soil samples for geotechnical investigations, completing a cultural resources survey, analyzing the engineering data, and producing a recommended design template, alignment, and cost estimate for the proposed features.

Preliminary designs for a diversion structure led to two critical conclusions that altered the scope of the project. Due to the backwater effects from the south end of Avoca Lake, and the resulting low head differential, the team concluded that velocities in the alternative conveyance channel routes would be insufficient to transport significant quantities of sand to the benefit area. It was also recognized that sediment samples from Bayou Schaffer indicated very low concentrations of sand available in Bayou Schaffer. These observations suggest a severe limit to the land building capacity of a diversion structure as originally envisioned for this project.

In August 2004 the preliminary hydraulic design results were discussed with the project design team and landowner representatives. The conclusion of these discussions was to add a marsh creation component to the project and retain a smaller freshwater diversion component, which would help sustain existing and created marsh in and around Avoca Lake. The current working design includes both of these features.

Preliminary designs have been developed for two restoration project features that are recommended for further evaluation and development of full plans and specifications. The two restoration project features are:

- Construction of a freshwater diversion structure using a 60-inch culvert to introduce 80 cubic feet per second from Bayou Schaffer into Avoca Island. The Diversion structure 3

would reestablish the historic flows that were diverted onto the island prior to the construction of the East Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee in 1985.

- Creation of 280 acres of marsh in Avoca Lake in a strategic placement pattern to reduce north-south wave fetch in the lake through the creation of a landbridge between the Bayou Traine peninsula and the western levee of the Gray Duck Hole. Material would be borrowed from Bayou Schaffer using a cutterhead dredge and hydraulic pumped to the marsh creation site.

Construction of the two proposed features would benefit ~7,200 acres of marsh through the creation of new wetlands, the introduction of river water, and the prevention of shoreline erosion. As noted above, changes in design features and locations are proposed over the originally approved 12th priority list project. Detailed information about the rationale for these changes and the supporting engineering materials are provided in this design milestone report.

The team notes that the project construction cost estimate is now estimated at \$5.9 million rather than the original PPL12 estimate of \$11.8 million. A revised fully funded cost estimate will be developed after completion of the 30% design review meeting and following the review of the project changes at the CWPPRA working groups.

To complete Phase I activities for a 30% design review, the team estimates that approximately \$400,000 of additional engineering data collection will be required. This additional effort will provide surveys and soil borings in the added marsh creation area and in other sites on the island that are important for completing project design elements.

Avoca Island Diversion and Land Building (TE-49)

Coast 2050 Strategies

- Diversions and riverine discharge
- Stabilize banks
- Beneficial use of dredged material
- Protect lake shoreline

Project Location

Region 3. Terrebonne and Atchafalaya Basins, St. Mary Parish, Avoca Island.

Problem

The Coast 2050 Plan reported that the Avoca Island mapping unit lost ~5,000 acres of marsh between 1932 and 1990. Natural overbank flooding into the Avoca Island area has been eliminated by channelization and construction of flood protection levees.

Goals

Rebuild eroded wetlands through the diversion of freshwater, sediment and nutrients.

Proposed Solution and Features

1. A diversion structure would be installed through the Avoca levee to allow fresh water, sediment, and nutrients from Bayou Schaffer to enter Avoca Lake. The projected diversion design volume is 1,000 cfs.
2. A natural bayou would be used as the primary outfall channel for the diversion.
3. Outfall management measures will be evaluated and incorporated to increase benefits to aquatic habitats in the island system.

Project Benefits

The project would benefit about 7,233 acres of fresh marsh, cypress forest, and open water. Approximately 143 acres of marsh would be created/protected over the 20-year project life.

Construction Costs

Total fully funded cost is \$19,157,200.

Risk/Uncertainty and Longevity/Sustainability

There is a low degree of risk associated with this project because river diversions are an effective wetlands restoration technique. The project should continue providing benefits 30 - 40 years after construction.






Project Contacts

Gregory Miller, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, (504) 862-2310
Ken Duffy, LA Department of Natural Resources, (225) 342-4106
Wade Walk, URS Corporation, (504) 599-5379



**Avoca Island Diversion
and Land Building**

PPL12 Project Candidate

-  Diversion Structure*
 -  Diversion Channel*
 -  Subunit Boundaries
 -  Land Creation*
 -  Project Boundary
- *Denotes proposed feature



Map Produced By:
 U.S. Department of the Interior
 U.S. Geological Survey
 National Wetlands Research Center
 Coastal Restoration Field Station

Background Imagery:
 1998 Digital Orthophoto Quarter Quadrangle

Map Date: September 18, 2002
 Map ID: USGS200311021
 Data accurate as of: September 18, 2002

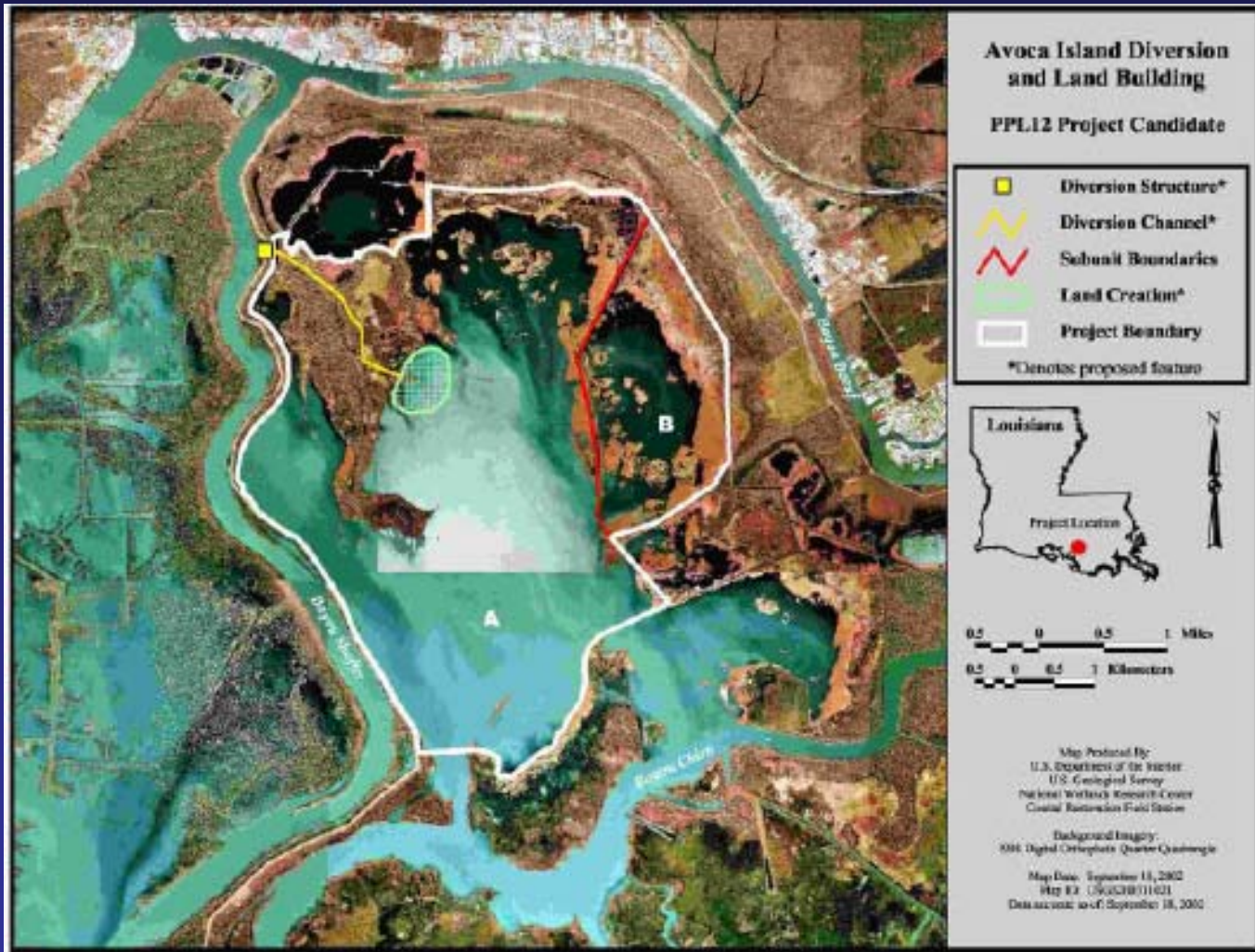


**Avoca Island Diversion and
Land Building (TE-49)**

Change in Scope

March 16, 2005

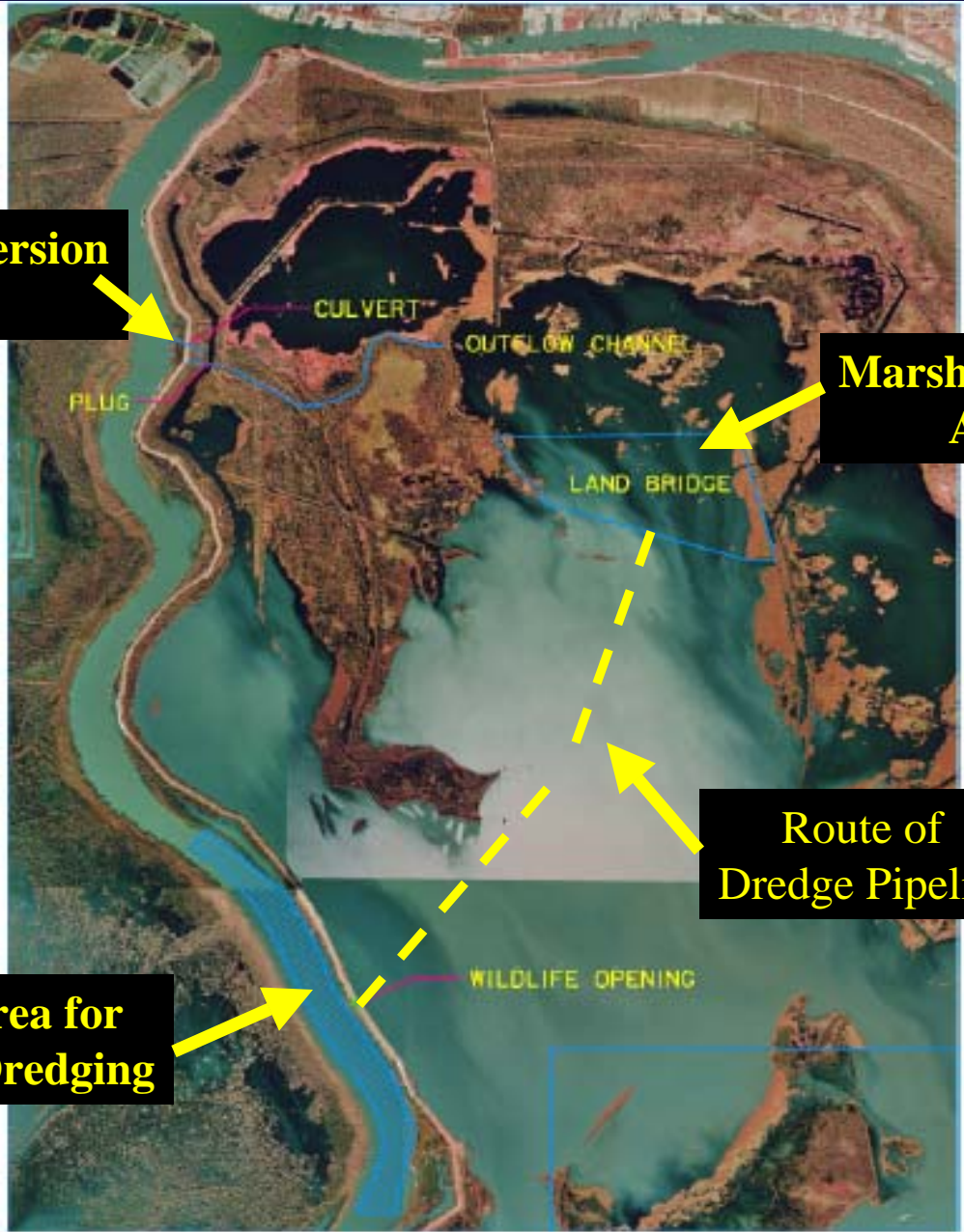
Original Project Map



Hydraulics Investigations

- Team investigated flows of 1,000 cfs – 3,000 cfs
- Velocities in outfall channel would be too low to move coarse sediment
- Sediment load in Bayou Shaffer is ~185 ppm (Miss River = ~250 ppm)
- The percentage that is coarse is low (~7 ppm)
- **Conclusion: Not enough flow, and not enough sediment for land-building diversion**

Current Concept



**Freshwater Diversion
Culvert**

**Marsh Creation
Area**

**Route of
Dredge Pipeline**

**Borrow Area for
Dedicated Dredging**

Comparison to Original Concept

	Original	Current
Construction Cost	\$11.8 million	\$5.9 million
Total Cost	\$19 million	<\$12 million
Net Benefits	143 acres	280+ acres
Diverted water	1,000 cfs	180 cfs

Phase 1 Implications

- Additional Surveys and Geotech Investigations needed
- Supplement existing cultural resources survey
- Anticipate 30% Design Review Meeting by July/August 2005
- On schedule for next Task Force funding meeting in January 2006

Discussion: Initial Discussion Regarding FY06 Budget Development (Process, Size, Funding, etc)

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Tech Committee Recommendation,
Approved by Task Force,

13-Oct-04

NOTE: Number shown in parentheses in line item tasks represents the number of meetings for that task.					CWPPRA COSTS												
Task Category	Task No.	Task	Start Date	End Date	Dept. of Interior				State of Louisiana				EPA	USDA	USDC	Other	Total
					USACE	USFWS	NWRC	USGS BR	DNR	DWF	Gov. Ofc.						
PPL 15 TASKS																	
PL	15200	Envr and Eng WG's prioritization of PPL 15 projects	10/4/05	10/5/05													0
PL	15300	Prepare project information packages for P&E.	10/30/05	11/3/05													0
PL	15400	P&E holds 2 Public Meetings	11/17/05	11/18/05													0
PL	15500	TC Recommendation for Project Selection and Funding	12/16/05	12/16/05													0
PL	15600	TF Selection and Funding of the 15th PPL (1)	1/26/06	1/26/06													0
PL	15700	PPL 15 Report Development	1/11/06	7/31/06													0
PL	15800	Upward Submittal of the PPL 15 Report	8/1/06	8/1/06													0
PL	15900	Submission of the PPL 15 Report to Congress	8/2/06	9/30/06													0
FY06 Subtotal PL 15 Tasks					0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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					USACE	USFWS	NWRC	USGS BR	DNR	DWF	Gov. Ofc.						
PPL 16 TASKS																	
PL	16200	Development and Nomination of Projects															
PL	16210	DNR/USGS prepares base maps of project areas, location of completed projects and projected loss by 2050. Develop a comprehensive coastal LA map showing all water resource and restoration projects (CWPPRA, state, WRDA projects, etc.)	0/13/2005	1/31/05													0
PL	16220	Sponsoring agencies prepare fact sheets and maps prior to and following RPT nomination meetings.	10/13/05	1/31/06													0
PL	16230	RPT's meet to formulate and combine projects. Each basin nominates no more than 1 project, with exception of 2 in Barataria and Terrebonne (3 meetings) [11 nominees]	2/1/06	2/3/06													0
PL	16300	Ranking of Nominated Projects															
PL	16310	Envir and Engr WG's to revise the Prioritization Criteria, WVA Models, etc (1 or 2 meetings).	10/1/05	9/30/06													0
PL	16320	Engr Work Group prepares preliminary fully funded cost ranges for nominees.	3/8/06	3/9/06													0
PL	16330	Environ/Engr Work Groups review nominees	3/8/06	3/9/06													0
PL	16340	P&E develops and distributes project matrix	3/10/06	3/10/06													0

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					USACE	USFWS	NWRC	USGS BR	DNR	DWF	Gov. Ofc.					
PL	16400	Analysis of Candidates														
PL	16410	Sponsoring agencies coordinate site visits for all projects	4/1/06	5/31/06												0
PL	16420	Engr/Environ Work Group refine project features and determine boundaries	5/1/06	8/30/06												0
PL	16430	Sponsoring agencies develop project information for WVA; develop designs and cost estimates	5/1/06	8/30/06												0
PL	16440	Environ/Engr Work Groups project wetland benefits (with WVA)	5/1/06	8/30/06												0
PL	16450	Engr Work Group reviews/approves Ph 1 and Ph 2 cost estimates from sponsoring agencies	5/1/06	8/30/06												0
PL	16460	Economic Work Group reviews cost estimates, adds monitoring, O&M, etc., and develops annualized costs	5/1/06	8/30/06												0
PL	16475	Envr and Eng WG's prioritization of PPL 16 projects	5/1/06	8/30/06												0
PL	16480	Prepare project information packages for P&E.	5/1/06	8/30/06												0
PL	16485	P&E holds 2 Public Meetings	8/30/06	8/31/06												0
PL	16490	TC Recommendation for Project Selection and Funding	9/14/06	9/14/06												0
FY06 Subtotal PPL 16 Tasks					0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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					USACE	USFWS	NWRC	USGS BR	DNR	DWF	Gov. Ofc.						
Project and Program Management Tasks																	
PM	16100	Program Management--Coordination	10/1/05	9/30/06													0
PM	16110	Program Management--Correspondence	10/1/05	9/30/06													0
PM	16120	Prog Mgmt--Budget Development and Oversight	10/1/05	9/30/06													0
PM	16130	Program and Project Management--Financial Management of Non-Cash Flow Projects	10/1/05	9/30/06													0
PM	16200	P&E Meetings (3 meetings preparation and attendance)	10/1/05	9/30/06													0
PM	16210	Tech Com Mtngs (6 mtngs; prep and attend)	10/1/05	9/30/06													0
PM	16220	Task Force mtngs (4 mtngs; prep and attend)	10/1/05	9/30/06													0
PM	16300	Prepare Evaluation Report (Report to Congress) NOTE: next update in FY06 budget	10/1/05	9/30/06													0
PM	16400	Agency Participation, Review 30% and 95% Design for Phase 1 Projects	10/1/05	9/30/06													0
PM	16410	Engineering & Environmental Work Groups review Phase II funding of approved Phase I projects (Needed for adequate review of Phase I.) [Assume ___ projects requesting Ph II funding in FY06 (present schedule indicates ___ projects). Assume ___ will require Eng or Env WG review; 2 labor days for each.]	10/1/05	9/30/06													0
PM	16500	Helicopter Support: Helicopter usage for the PPL process.	10/1/05	9/30/06													0
PM	16600	Miscellaneous Technical Support	10/1/05	9/30/06													0
FY06 Subtotal Project Management Tasks					0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FY06 Total for PPL Tasks					0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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					USACE	USFWS	NWRC	USGS BR	DNR	DWF	Gov. Ofc.					
SUPPLEMENTAL PLANNING AND EVALUATION TASKS																
SPE	16100	Academic Advisory Group [NOTE: MOA between sponsoring agency and LUMCON will be necessary to provide funding.] [Prospectus, page 8-9]	10/1/05	9/30/06												0
SPE	16200	Maintenance of web-based project reports and website project fact sheets. [Prospectus, page 10]	10/1/05	9/30/06												0
SPE	16300	Establish linkage of CWPPRA and LCA study efforts.	10/1/05	9/30/06												0
SPE	16400	Core GIS Support for CWPPRA Task Force Planning Activities. [NWRC Prospectus, pg 11] [LDNR Prospectus, page 12]	10/1/05	9/30/06												0
SPE	16500	Phase 0 analyze of impacts to oyster leases for PPL project development [NWRC prospectus, pg 13] [DNR Prospectus, pg 14]	10/1/05	9/30/06												0
SPE	16700	Media Training for CWPPRA Project Managers. [Prospectus, page 15]	10/1/05	9/30/06												0
SPE	16900	Update Land Loss Maps (\$62,500 in FY04, \$63,250 in FY05, \$63,250 FY06) [Del Britsch] [Prospectus, page 16]	10/1/05	9/30/06												0
SPE	16950	Storm Recovery Procedures (2 events) [Prospectus, page 17-19]	10/1/05	9/30/06												0
FY06 Total Supplemental Planning & Evaluation Tasks					0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FY06 Agency Tasks Grand Total					0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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					USACE	USFWS	NWRC	USGS BR	DNR	DWF	Gov. Ofc.					
Otrch	16100	Outreach - Committee Funding	10/1/05	9/30/06												0
Otrch	16200	Outreach - Agency	10/1/05	9/30/06												0
																0
FY06 Total Outreach					0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total FY06					0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disallowances																
Proposed Revised Grand Total FY06									0	0	0					

Presentation: Status of the Floating Marsh Demonstration Project



FLOATING MARSH CREATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (LA-05)

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Louisiana Department of Natural Resources

LSU Agricultural Center: Charles Sasser, Mike Materne, and
Jenneke Visser. Subcontractor Mark Hester (UNO)





Objective

- To develop methods for the restoration of open water areas within existing thin and deteriorated floating marsh habitat.

Project Phases

➤ Phase 1

- Component 1: Development of a floating system (AFS) which provides the structure that keeps the substrate and vegetation in place and provides the buoyancy during the period in which *Panicum hemitomon* plants establish.
- Component 2: Increase knowledge of the plant response to environmental effects in order to develop methods to maximize the establishment and growth of *Panicum hemitomon* in an AFS.

➤ Phase 2

- Test three selected designs under sheltered and exposed conditions in a natural setting.

Phase 1 Component 1

Test of 8 different
Artificial Floating Systems at the LSU
Agricultural Center Aquaculture facility in
Baton Rouge



Pictures soon after planting
September 2004

Phase 1 Component 1

AFS	Structure	Fabric	Vegetation	Dimensions
1	Wood	Burlap	Large plugs	10' x 10'
2	Wood	Jute	Small plugs	10' x 10'
3	PVC & wood	Straw-coconut	Bare stems	4' x 10'
4	PVC	Coconut	Bare stems	10' x 10'
5	Billets & wood	Burlap	Bare stems	10' x 10'
6	Wood	Birch	Bare stems	4' x 4'
7	PVC	Coconut	Bare stems	4' x 4'
8	None	Burlap	Bare stems	4' x 4'

Phase 1 Component 2

Tests of different growing conditions on the performance of *Panicum hemitomon*. Tests are performed at UNO and USDA facilities in New Orleans



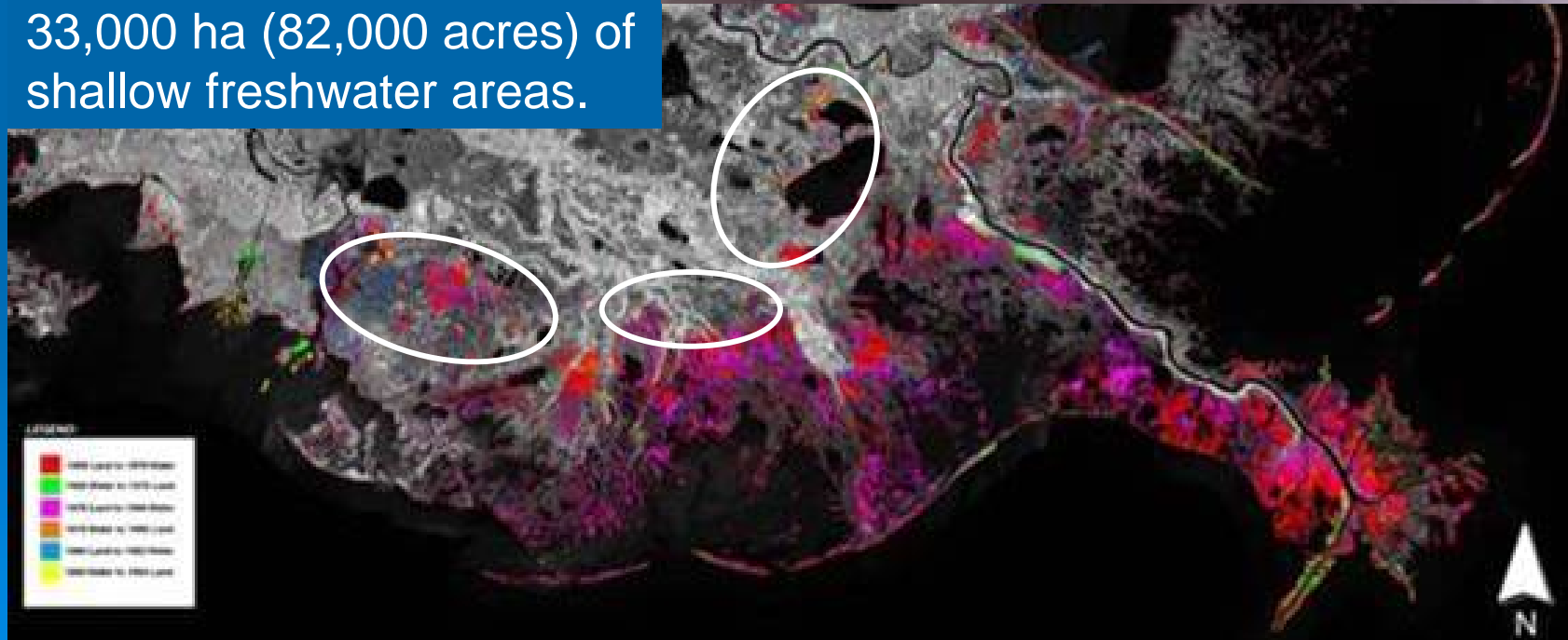
Pictures from Ellery Mayence

Phase 2

- Construction expected in June 2005.
- Mandalay Refuge has been identified as the preferred site by the LSU Agricultural Center
 - Refuge management has expressed interest in housing the project
 - Proposed location still needs to be reviewed by the Environmental and Engineering Workgroups

Restoration Potential

If successful recommendations will be made on how to translate the developed restoration methods to approximately 33,000 ha (82,000 acres) of shallow freshwater areas.



Milestones

Component	Status
Interagency Agreement (NRCS and DNR)	Signed June, 2003
Interagency Agreement (DNR and LSU AgCenter)	Signed June 21, 2004 with start date of July 1, 2004
Comprehensive Plan	Completed November 2004
Monitoring Plan	First Draft December 2004 Final Draft March 2005 Final Plan April 2005 (expected)
Environmental Assessment	First Draft February 2005 Final Draft March 2005 (expected)
Phase 1: Controlled Environments	Work started July 2004
Phase 2: Field Deployment	Construction June 2005 (expected)

CWPPRA SOP Requirements

Component	Status
Total Project Cost \$1,080,891	Unchanged
Environmental Assessment	First Draft February 2005 Submitted March 2005 Completion expected May 2005
404 permit/CZM consistency	Submitted March 2005 Completion expected May 2005
Overgrazing Statement	Submitted March 2005 Completion expected April 2005
303e Certification	Submitted March 2005 Completion expected May 2005

Announcement: PPL 15 Demonstration Projects

Proposals for demonstration projects for consideration for PPL15 must be submitted to the Engineering Workgroup chair by COB June 1, 2005.

Email to: christopher.j.monnerjahn@mvn02.usace.army.mil

Mail to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – PM-C
c/o Chris Monnerjahn
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA. 70160-0267

Additional Agenda Items

Date of Upcoming Task Force Meeting

The spring Task Force meeting will be held May 4, 2005 at the

National Wetlands Research Center
700 Cajundome Blvd.
Lafayette, Louisiana

Dates of Future Program Meetings

2005

*May 4, 2005	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	Lafayette
<i>*The April 13, 2005 meeting was re-scheduled for May 4, 2005.</i>			
**June 8, 2005	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee	Baton Rouge
<i>**The June 15, 2005 meeting was re-scheduled for June 8, 2005.</i>			
July 13, 2005	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	New Orleans
August 30, 2005	7:00 p.m.	PPL 15 Public Meeting	Abbeville
August 31, 2005	7:00 p.m.	PPL 15 Public Meeting	New Orleans
September 14, 2005	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee	New Orleans
October 19, 2005	9:30 a.m.	Task Force PPL 15 Approval	New Orleans
December 7, 2005	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee	Baton Rouge

2006

January 25, 2006	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	Baton Rouge
March 15, 2006	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee	New Orleans
April 12, 2006	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	Lafayette
June 14, 2006	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee	Baton Rouge
July 12, 2006	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	New Orleans
August 30, 2006	7:00 p.m.	PPL 16 Public Meeting	Abbeville
August 31, 2006	7:00 p.m.	PPL 16 Public Meeting	New Orleans
September 13, 2006	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee	New Orleans
October 18, 2006	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	New Orleans
December 6, 2006	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee	Baton Rouge

2007

January 31, 2007	9:30 a.m.	Task Force	Baton Rouge
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