

A new concrete subsurface box canal beneath South Claiborne Avenue is just one of many SELA projects completed, underway or in the design stage.

SELA Moves Full Speed Ahead With Start of New Projects and Continuation Of Those Interrupted by Katrina

Heavy rainfalls in the late 70s, 80s and 90s caused frequent flooding of thousands of homes, businesses, streets and cars in the City, with damages in the millions.

Citizens formed drainage committees and called on The Sewerage and Water Board to upgrade its aging network of canals and pumping stations.

The Board had developed a plan to greatly increase the capacity of the drainage system, but did not have the funds to do all of the massive construction projects needed throughout the City.

But then came the rain event of May of 1995, when as much as 18.75 inches of rain fell on the City, causing massive flooding and, again, millions in damages.

Prompted by the severity of damages associated with rainfall flooding in southeast Louisiana and pressure from citizens, local officials in the tri-parish area of Orleans, Jef-

erson and St. Tammany requested Federal assistance in developing and implementing solutions to the flooding problem.

In 1996, Congress authorized the design and construction of the Southeast Louisiana Urban Flood Control Project (SELA), in a partnership with the U.S Army Corps of Engineers.

Most of the SELA projects were large and expensive construction or improvements to canals, pumping stations and power facilities.

The SELA program consists of several individual project components that are being designed and constructed throughout the tri-parish area.

The Project Cooperation Agreement executed by the Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans (S&WB) in January 1997 required that the Federal government provide 75% of the total cost of the SELA projects in Orleans Parish, and that the S&WB provide 25%.

On a project, by project basis the S&WB

files applications with the Statewide Flood Control (SWFC) program, administered by the Louisiana Department of Transportation (LaDOTD). The SWFC program provides 75% of the 25% S&WB cost share for projects approved by the SWFC program.

The Phase One

SELA projects, completed before Katrina through August of 2005 at a cost of \$238 million were:

- Expansion of Drainage Pumping Station No. 1 at S. Broad and Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. by 2,400 cubic feet per second (cfs).
- New concrete box canals beneath Napoleon Ave. from S. Broad to S. Claiborne; on Claiborne from Nashville Ave. to Jena St. and on Claiborne from Jena to Louisiana Ave.
- New canals in Hollygrove beneath the railroad right of way and Eagle, Forshsey and Dublin streets.
- And the Dwyer Road Pumping Station Outfall Canal in eastern New Orleans.

In the years immediately preceding hurricane Katrina, the Federal funding level

did not support the start of many projects that had been approved as SELA projects in

Orleans Parish. But, in the aftermath of hurricane Katrina, Congress appropriated \$228.8 million to accelerate the completion of SELA projects. This appropriation was 100% federally funded.

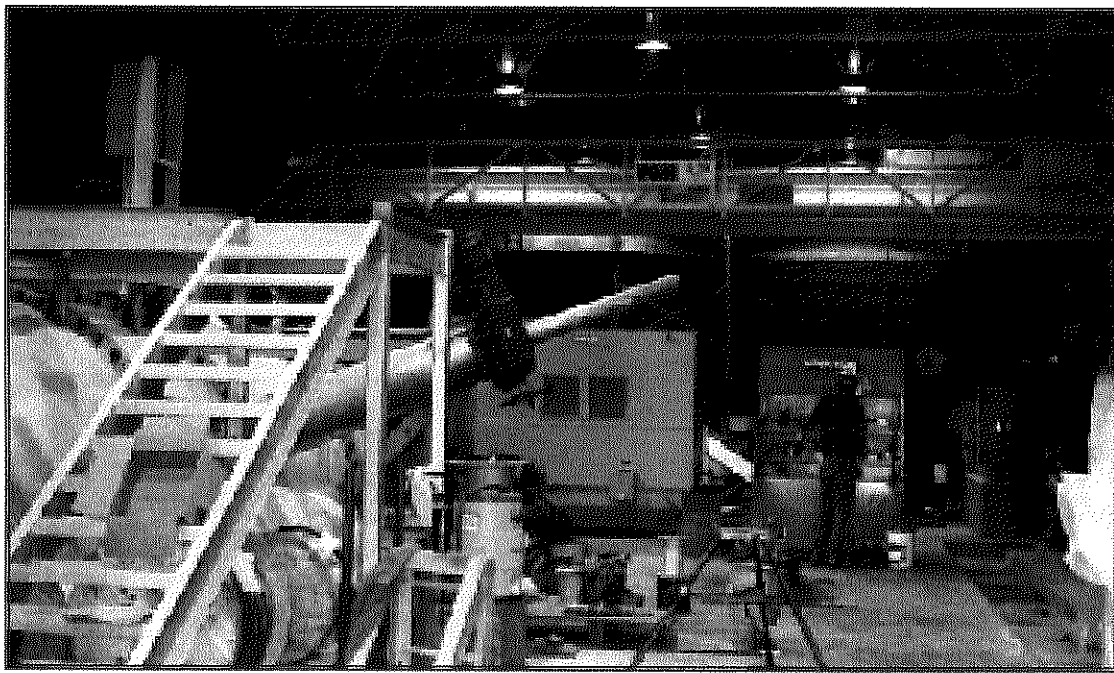
ADDITIONAL FUNDING OF \$224.8 MILLION HAS BEEN APPROPRIATED BY CONGRESS FOR AUTHORIZED SELA PROJECTS

Because of the increased construction costs in southeast Louisiana as the region rebuilds from Hurricane Katrina, the Supplemental Appropriation was not enough to fund the remaining project components of SELA. Subsequently, in 2008 Congress appropriated an additional \$1.3 billion for SELA for the region. These funds are to be cost shared at 65% Federal and 35% local with payback via a 30-year plan granted by the Administration.

Following Hurricane Katrina, the Federal government acknowledged that the interior drainage of Orleans Parish by its many canals and pump stations is an integral part of the Federal hurricane and storm protection system for Orleans Parish.

To this end, additional funding in the

Drainage pumping station renovations are a key part of SELA's work.



amount of \$ 224.8 million has been appropriated by Congress for the completion of authorized SELA projects.

The SELA projects completed with this funding will be at 100% Federal expense. It is anticipated that this funding will be used to complete the SELA Orleans projects of a new Dwyer Road Drainage Pump Station, a new Dwyer Road Intake Canal and a new subsurface canal along Dwyer Road—6,800 feet of 12-by-10-foot culverts from the St. Charles canal to the pump station at Jourdan Road.

Also underway are the Florida Avenue Canal Phase One improvements. This \$49.1 million project is the first phase of a four-phase Southeast Louisiana Urban Flood Control Program (SELA) drainage improvement program. It consists of widening the canal from 25 feet to 42 feet and heightening the canal from 7 feet to 15 feet.

Because of increased construction costs in the area post Katrina, the SELA program required even more funding to construct the balance of the SELA projects. Congress therefore appropriated in 2008 an additional \$1.3 billion Supplemental Appropriations.

A new Project Partnership Agreement was executed in January 2009 which provides that 65% of the total project cost will be Federal, and 35% will be S&WB. Also, the agreement allows for the S&WB to pay its share over a 30-year period. It is anticipated that over \$800 million of this money will be utilized to complete SELA Orleans projects.

Federal SELA Projects – Phase 2 – Construction starts in 2010 and beyond:

The next Federal SELA projects to be constructed in Orleans Parish with post-Katrina 6th and 7th Emergency Supplemental Funds of \$838M with a 65/35 cost share (\$545M Federal/\$293M S&WB):

- Florida Ave. Canal Phase 2 (Mazant to Piety) Florida Ave. Canal Phase 3 (Piety to St. Ferdinand)
- Florida Ave. Canal Phase 4 (St. Ferdinand to Deers & Peoples)
- Louisiana Ave. Canal (Claiborne to Constance)
- Napoleon Ave. Canal Phase 2 (Claiborne to Carondelet)
- Napoleon Ave. Canal Phase 3 (Carondelet to Constance)
- Jefferson Ave. Canal Phase 1 (Claiborne to Dryades)
- Jefferson Ave. Canal Phase 2 (Dryades to Constance)
- S. Claiborne Canal Phase 1 (Monticello to Leonidas) S. Claiborne Canal Phase 2 (Leonidas to Lowerline)

So, as citizens travel around the City, they will see that millions in drainage improvements are underway, nearing completion and under design—all to add protection against flooding.

For more info on SELA and projects, see the S&WB website: www.swbno.org. On the home page click Current Projects and then select Drainage (SELA).

The capacity of Drainage Pumping No. 1 was increased by 2,400 cubic feet per second (CFS) with the addition of two new pumps. The station is located at South Broad St. and Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

