



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Mississippi Valley Division



Corps Hurricane Response

Task Force Hope Status Report Newsletter

March 18, 2010

Corps of Engineers and State of Louisiana sign PPA for PCCP

“ This agreement allows vital work to begin...”

- Garret Graves, Chairman, Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority

“Sustainable partnerships mean sustainable long term risk reduction for the people of Louisiana.”

- Karen Durham-Aguilera
Director, Task Force Hope

by Susan Spaht

On March 12 the State of Louisiana and the Army Corps of Engineers signed a Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) for the Permanent Canal Closures and Pump stations (PCCP) at the three outfall canals. This agreement is a major milestone in the Corps’ progress toward designing and constructing the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System.

The temporary gates and pumps at the three outfall canals prevent storm surge entering from Lake Pontchartrain, and provide removal of rain water from the canals. This agreement assures a long-term sustain-



Karen Durham-Aguilera, Director of Task Force Hope (center), helps hold up a ceremonial Project Partnership Agreement that was signed by the Corps and its partners: from left, Marcia St. Martin, Executive Director, New Orleans Sewerage & Water Board; Col. Alvin Lee, Commander, New Orleans District; Col. Robert Sinkler, Commander, Hurricane Protection Office; John Young and Tom Capella, Jefferson Parish Council; Tommie Vassel, President Pro Tem, New Orleans S&WB; Garret Graves, Chairman, LaCPRA; and Tim Doody, President, Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East.
USACE photo by Scott Riecke

able and permanent solution for risk reduction at the three outfall canals.

The Project Partnership Agreement outlines and affirms each organization’s commitment and responsibilities for the project. Neither design nor construction could move forward on the permanent solution without a

signed PPA. The approximately \$800 million design-build project,

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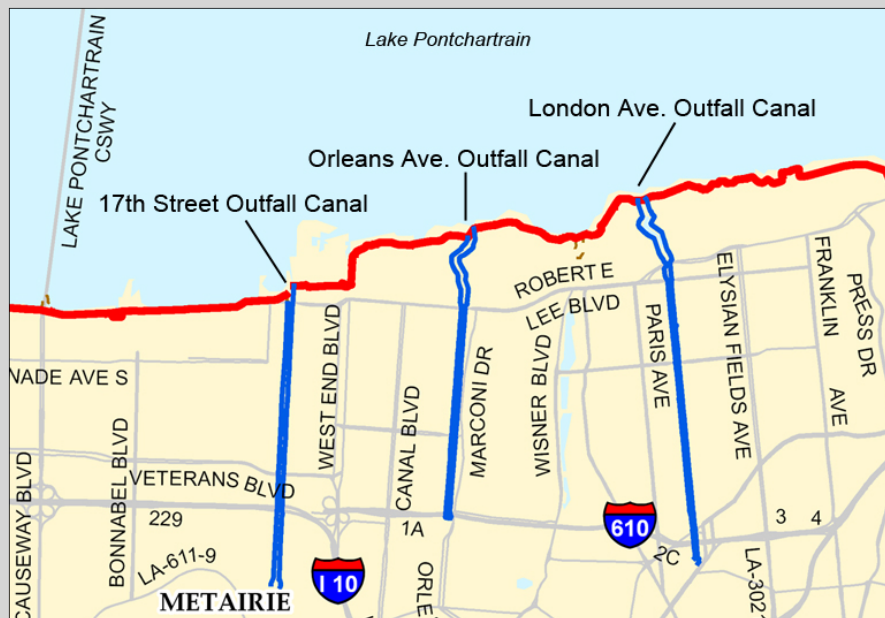
17th Street Outfall Canal



Orleans Ave. Outfall Canal



London Ave. Outfall Canal



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which will replace the temporary structures, is being designed and constructed at full Federal expense.

“We have been working closely with Jefferson and Orleans parishes, the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East and our congressional delegation,” said Garret Graves, Chairman of the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, “to ensure the best permanent fix is put into place. This agreement allows vital work to begin.”

Background

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the Corps built temporary pumps and gates, Interim Closure Structures, at the mouths of the 17th Street, Orleans Ave. and London Ave. outfall

canals, and had them in place for the 2006 Hurricane Season. These structures provide 100-year level of perimeter risk reduction but have only a five-to-seven-year project life.

In June 2006, Congress provided the Corps authorization and funding to design and construct the Permanent Canal Closures and Pump stations. Since that time, the Corps has hosted numerous public meetings to hear and consider the public’s views on placement of the permanent structures as well as elements of the structures’ design.

As outlined in the PPA

The Corps is responsible for design and construction of the three permanent outfall canal structures at 100% Federal expense.

The Corps will provide *adaptable features* that will “facilitate future modifications...to provide gravity drainage to the lakefront” in the event that such modifications are authorized and funded.

The State of Louisiana, through its Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA), has the responsibility to obtain all real estate interests, and will assume operations and maintenance of the structures upon completion of construction.

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The Corps will “collaborate...and work in consultation with” the State and the other non-Federal partners on certain features of the project and the development of the Request for Proposals.

Partnership

“To get to this stage,” said Mrs. Durham-Aguilera, “the Corps has worked very closely with our partners - the State of Louisiana, the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East, the New Orleans Sewerage & Water Board and Jefferson Parish, as well as members of industry and our stakeholders. And we look forward to working every step of the way with these partners as we build this important project.”

At a signing ceremony for the project on March 16, Mrs. Durham-Aguilera thanked the Corps’ partners for their “ideas, hard work and for standing side-by-side with us to achieve our mutual goal: a permanent and sustainable hurricane risk reduction system for the people of Greater New Orleans.”

The Permanent Canal Closures and Pump stations are anticipated to be completed in the fall of 2014.

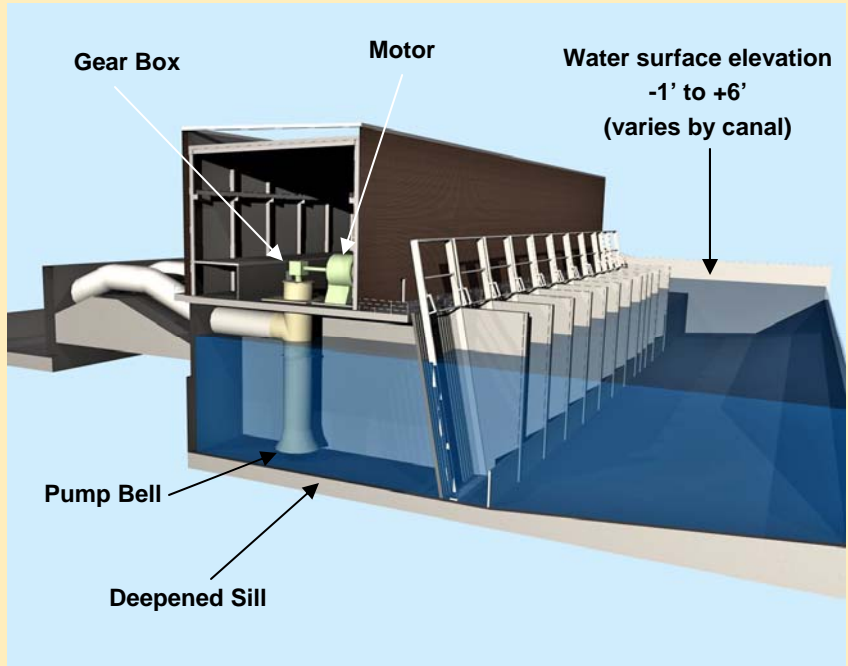


“The Corps builds projects for the people - and with the people.”

- Col. Robert Sinkler, Commander, Hurricane Protection Office, on Corps partnerships.

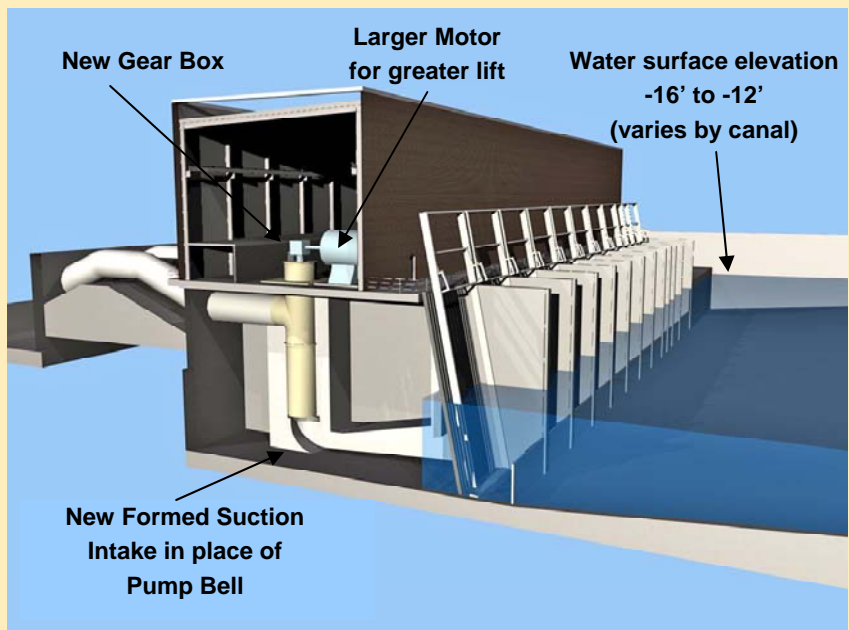


**Adaptable Pump Station
Authorized and Funded by Congress**



USACE conceptual drawings

**If authorized and funded in future:
Pump Station with deepened canal**



Corps announces Public Meetings through end of March



**Wednesday
March 24, 2010**

Permanent Canal Closures and Pumps RFP

Dillard University
Lawless Chapel
2601 Gentilly Blvd.
New Orleans, LA 70122

*Open House 6 to 6:30 p.m.
Presentation 6:30—9:00 p.m.*



**Tuesday
March 30, 2010**

St. Charles Parish Eastbank Construction and IER 24

St. Charles Borromeo
Catholic Church - Auditorium
13396 River Road
Destrehan, LA 70047

*Open House 6 to 6:30 p.m.
Presentation 6:30—9:00 p.m.*

www.nolaenvironmental.com

This site has been set up to share with the public the efforts being made by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other federal and state agencies in south Louisiana regarding the environmental compliance for proposed federal and state Hurricane Risk Reduction Projects.

Additional information pertaining to other federal and state agencies' hurricane recovery efforts in southeast Louisiana will also be posted on the site as it becomes available.



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The *Status Report Newsletter* supports the information program for Task Force Hope and its stakeholders. It also serves as the primary tool for accurately transmitting the Corps' hurricane risk reduction efforts to stakeholders.

*This is an online publication
that is open
to public distribution.*

This issue and past issues can be found at:
<http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/hps>

Comments and questions
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