



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Mississippi Valley Division



Corps Hurricane Response

Task Force Hope Status Report Newsletter

November 7, 2011

SELA team moving projects full speed ahead

**63 of 79 contracts
for authorized and
funded work
have been awarded
to date**

By Susan Spaht

While the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) was designed and constructed as an **external** storm surge defense system, the Southeast Louisiana Urban Flood Control Project, known as SELA, is generally dedicated to reducing **internal** rainfall flooding. These two Corps of Engineers efforts are working in tandem to reduce the risk of flood damage in Orleans and Jefferson parishes.

SELA is dedicated to providing improvements to the storm water drainage systems in Jefferson, Orleans and St. Tammany parishes. It was authorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 with initial funding provided by the 1996 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act.

Under the SELA program, the chan-

Soniat Canal
Jefferson Parish



Lynnette to Lester: *Under Construction*



West Napoleon to Lynnette: **COMPLETE**

nel and pumping station improvements in Orleans and Jefferson Parishes support the parishes' master drainage plans and provide flood damage risk reduction up to a level associated with a 10-year rainfall event. A 10-year event is basically a rain storm that has a 10% annual probability of occurrence and equates to approximately nine inches of rain over a 24-hour period for our area.

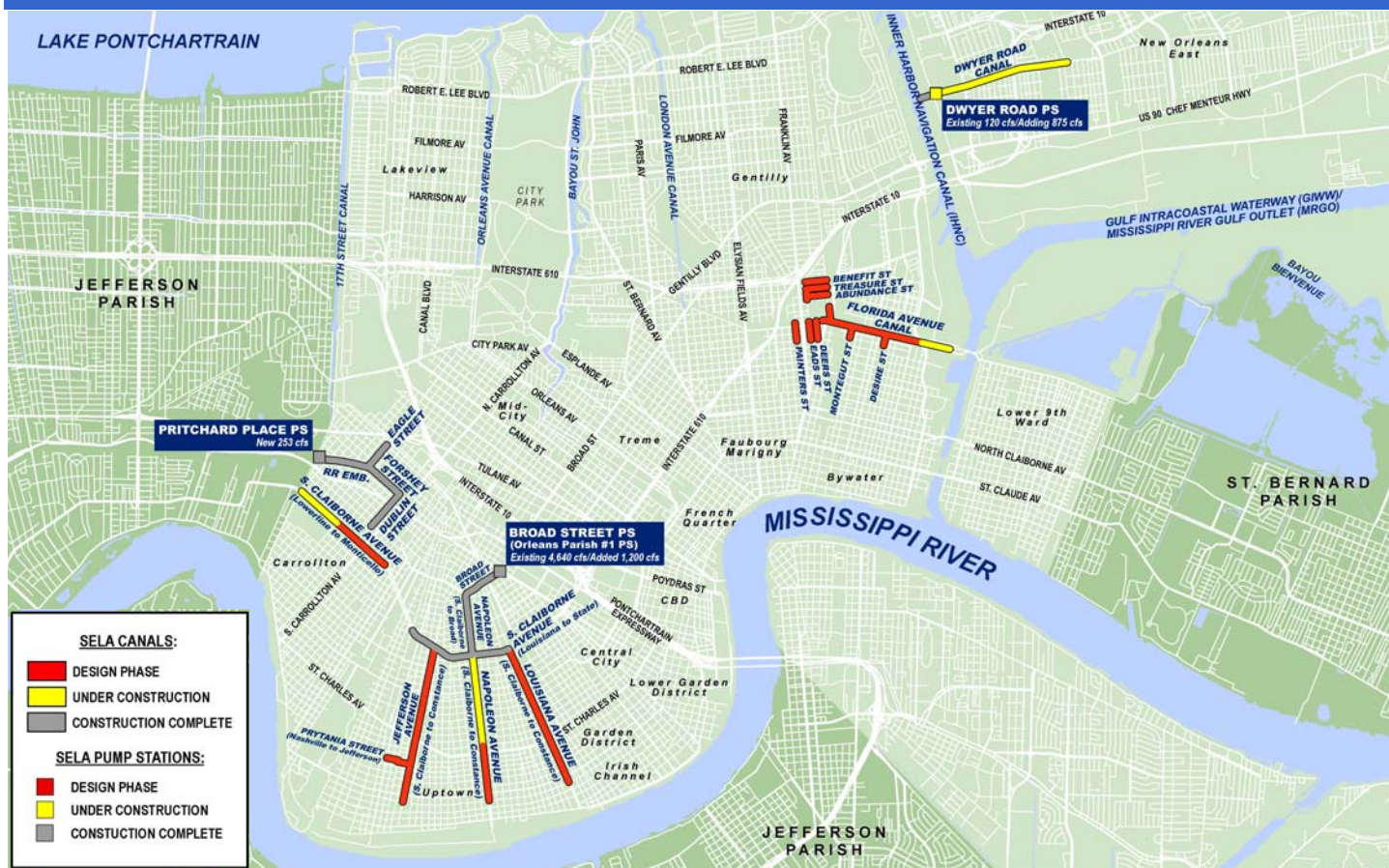
The SELA projects in St. Tammany Parish are currently in the study phase and include both flood damage risk reduction components along the north shore as well as a hurricane damage risk reduction near the City of Slidell.

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SELA Projects and Status in Orleans Parish



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Background

SELA projects that were initially authorized in 1996 were incrementally funded by Congress in accordance with normal Civil Works procedures. Congressional appropriations in the years immediately preceding Hurricane Katrina were inadequate to permit awarding of new contracts and, in some years, were not sufficient to continue ongoing work.

In 2005, after Hurricane Katrina, Congress appropriated more than \$1.5 billion – primarily on a 65/35 cost-share arrangement - to complete the authorized and approved SELA projects in Orleans and Jefferson parishes. In addition to providing full funding for the approved SELA projects, Congress also appropriated

the non-Federal sponsor’s cash contribution, included in their 35% cost share, subject to a 30-year payback, just like the HSDRRS arrangement.

The Plans

In Orleans Parish, plans involve improving 12 major drainage lines, adding pumping capacity to one pump station, and constructing two new pump stations for a total cost of over \$1 billion. The recently-approved Algiers plan adds additional features to the original Orleans plan. In Jefferson Parish, plans include improvements to about 24 drainage canals, additional pumping capacity for four pump stations, and the construction of two new pump stations for a total cost of almost \$1 billion.

Planned improvements in St. Tammany Parish include channel enlarge-

ments, bridge replacement, detention ponds, levees, floodwalls and elevation of flood-prone structures. The cost estimate for this work will be defined through the planning process.

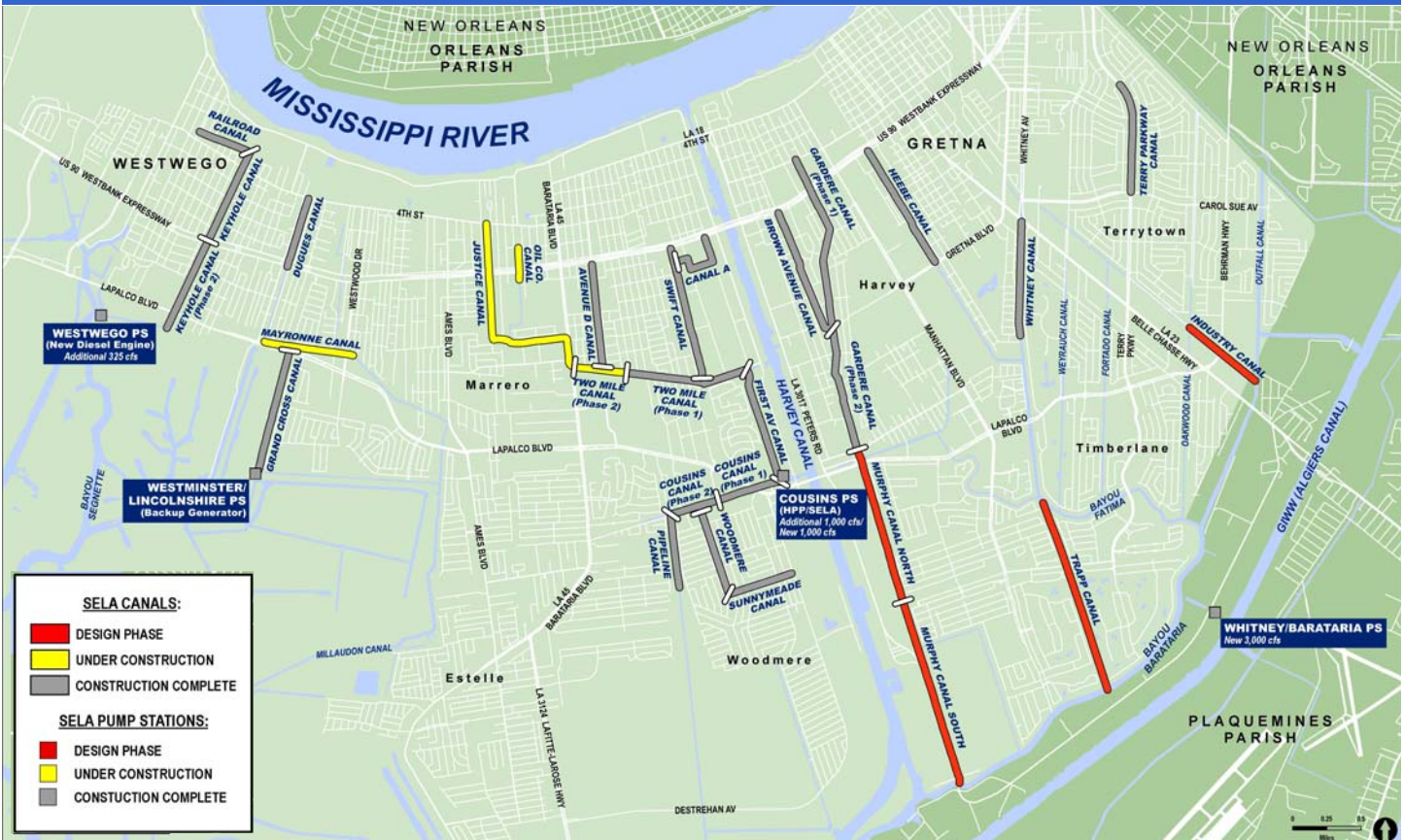
A substantial amount of SELA work has been completed in Jefferson and Orleans parishes and work is almost complete on the W-14 Canal Improvements 533d Study in St. Tammany although no construction has been started yet in St. Tammany.

Partnership is Key

The Corps is working very closely with its partners at the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, Jefferson Parish government and the Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans. Monthly

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SELA Projects and Status in Jefferson Parish, West Bank



Shown during a recent SELA sponsors' meeting are, seated, clockwise from left, Mike Voich, Senior Project Manager for SELA; Kazem Alikhani, Director of Public Works for Jefferson Parish; John Young, President of Jefferson Parish; Joe Becker, General Superintendent, Sewerage & Water Board; Mike Stuart, SELA Program Manager for Jefferson Parish; Travis Woodard, Program Manager, CPRA; Chad Chauvin, Program Manager, CPRA; Bruce Terrell, Chief, Corps' Construction Division; Tom Podany, Chief, Corps' Protection and Restoration Office; Chris Accardo, Chief, Corps' Operations Division; and Tom Holden, Corps' Deputy District Engineer for Project Management. Also in attendance are Paul Carroll, Drainage Engineer, St. Tammany Parish; Dan Bradley, Corps' Senior Project Manager; Mark Arnold, SELA Program Manager for Sewerage & Water Board; and Dan Bolinger, Corps' Project Manager.

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meetings are standard procedure where all projects are discussed and any possible design and construction issues and challenges are solved. "We have formed very strong partnerships with our non-Federal sponsors and partners," explained Mike Voich, Senior Project Manager for SELA, "and we are all excited about getting this work completed to provide these benefits for our community. This strong partnership will be the key to our ultimate success."

Recent Contracts

In the past few months, the Corps has awarded four very important contracts for SELA work in Jefferson and Orleans parishes.

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SELA Projects and Status in Jefferson Parish, East Bank



Continued from page 3

1. A \$3.3 million contract was awarded to Louisiana-based Fleming Construction Company, LLC to improve Mayronne Canal from Dugues Canal to Westwood Drive on the West Bank of Jefferson Parish.
2. A \$55.1 million contract was awarded to Louisiana-based Boh Brothers Construction Company, LLC to provide increased drainage for Uptown New Orleans with canal improvements along Napoleon Avenue between South Claiborne and Carondelet Street.
3. The Corps awarded a \$29.9 million contract to Louisiana-based M.R. Pittman Group, LLC to construct a pump station for the Harahan Pump to the River project on the

East Bank of Jefferson Parish. This is one of five remaining contracts to complete the entire Pump to the River system.

4. The Corps awarded a \$27.1 million contract to Louisiana-based Cajun Constructors, Inc. to provide increased drainage for the Carrollton area with canal improvements along South Claiborne Avenue from the Monticello Canal to Leonidas Street near the Sewerage & Water Board's Carrollton Water Purification Plant.

Looking Forward

"It is critical that we stay on schedule and on budget with these current projects," said Voich, "as successful completion of this work should lead to Congress' future approval of funding for the remaining authorized work."

The remaining authorized work in Orleans Parish includes the recently-approved Algiers Sub-basin Improvements as well as proposed improvements to London/Orleans Sub-basin.

Future Jefferson Parish 533d studies include improvements to the existing storm water systems in Hoey's Basin and areas west of Bayou Segnette Sub-Basin.

In addition to the W-14 Canal Improvements in St. Tammany Parish, future efforts include improvements in Mandeville, Bayou Chinchuba, Abita Springs and Bayou Lacombe as well as the Schneider Canal Study near the City of Slidell.

Construction on authorized and funded SELA projects will continue through 2017.



Two Mile Canal
(Patriot Canal)
Jefferson Parish



Two Mile Canal: *Under Construction*



Two Mile Canal: *Completed Section*



Two Mile Canal: *Completed Section*

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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.

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http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/hps2/hps_newsletters.asp

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The Corps SELA Team gathers for a photo. From left, front row, are Alex Chatters, Donna Urban, Greg Carter and Mat Crawford. Middle row are Nicole El-sasser, Charles Everhardt, Connie Rodgers, Rachel Calico and Mark Hamilton. Back row are T.A. Holliday, Gary Allmond, Renato Basurto, Ione Cataldo, Jennifer Wedge, Lori Wingate, Mike Voich and John Defraites. USACE Photos

Dwyer Road Pump Station
Orleans Parish



Above: construction proceeds on the intake culvert toward the recently-completed Dwyer Road Pump Station. Inset: this is a Giken Hammer, a silent pile driver that is used by SELA contractors to reduce noise and vibration in residential areas.



A Farewell Letter from our Commander



**MG Michael J. Walsh
Commander**

**Mississippi Valley Division
20 Feb. 2008 - 20 Nov. 2011**

Soon we will stand on the stage and the mantle of command will pass. It has been a tremendous privilege and honor to serve alongside you, the Soldiers, Civilians and family members who make the Mississippi Valley Division the world's preeminent water resource force.

There are many ways of saying goodbye. In the Army, when it's a change of command, we pass the unit flag. On November 10, I will be handing over the flag to Maj. Gen. John W. Peabody.

Behind the formality of a change of command ceremony there's also a lesson. It's about passing the flag of responsibility and authority on to a new commander. The flag represents all the duties and obligations that we are passing on, so this is a very significant ceremony.

As I prepare to move on to my next assignment, I am able to see that real knowledge, like perspective and understanding, is best judged from a distance. It is often only after an event has passed that we really come to grips with what we have achieved. I think that may well apply to what we have done here in the valley (part of the third largest watershed in the world) over the past 3-1/2 years. I am immensely proud of what we have achieved. Above all I believe that the effort and the sacrifices we have made will be seen to be justified. In the larger scheme of things our work is vital to the economy and security of our nation.

We have worked hard and accomplished much, to include: completion of the larg-



est design-build construction project in United States history – the Hurricane & Storm Damage Risk Reduction System which will provide 100-year level protection to the greater New Orleans area; fighting five major floods in both the upper and lower Mississippi valleys; responding to two hurricanes; support of Overseas Contingency Operations by deploying dozens of Mississippi Valley Division volunteers to Iraq and Afghanistan; the successful launch of a Forward Engineer Support Team (FEST-M) -- the 579th -- to Afghanistan; creation of a comprehensive and sustainable 200-year vision for the Mississippi River watershed; and execution of more than one billion dollars in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act projects; among many others.

If I have contributed to those successes, then I am satisfied that I have managed to do my job and my duty.

We could not have done what we have without you, the men and women in this

command. You are the backbone, the arms, the muscles and the legs of this command. You got the job done.

It has been a great privilege. I remain forever humbled by your courage, dedication and selfless service. You are indeed Army Strong, and we are Building Strong!!

I thank every one of you who has helped me during the past 3-1/2 years. In particular, I would like to pay tribute to my family – my wife Susan, sons Ryan and Scott, and new daughters-in-law Lindsay and Lindsey. Every Soldier knows that he or she could not do it without the back up and support of family.

Thank you for the privilege of being your commander. Essayists!!!

Michael Walsh

Maj. Gen. Michael J. Walsh, Commander
Mississippi Valley Division