

In The Matter Of:
La. Coastal Meeting

Notice of Intent & Public Scoping Meetings
April 17, 2012

Associated Reporters, Inc.
201 St. Charles Avenue
Suite 4315
New Orleans, LA 70170
(504) 529-3355

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LOUISIANA COASTAL AREA
MISSISSIPPI RIVER HYDRODYNAMIC AND DELTA
MANAGEMENT STUDY & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
STATEMENT

Notice of Intent & Public Scoping Meetings
Cutoff, Louisiana

The above-entitled cause came in for a
meeting at the Larose Civic Center, 307 East 5th
Street, Cutoff, Louisiana, on Tuesday, April 17,
2012, commencing at 6:30 p.m.

BEFORE:

TIFFENY SUIRE GALLARDO
Certified Court Reporter
In and For the State of
Louisiana

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A P P E A R A N C E S

LEE MUELLER, USACE, MODERATOR
RENEE SANDERS, CPRA OF LA
DANNY WIEGAND, USACE
NATHAN DAYAN, USACE
BREN HAASE, CPRA OF LA

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P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 MS. LEE MUELLER:

3 Good evening everybody. My name is
4 Lee Mueller. I work in the Public
5 Affairs Office with the Army Corps of
6 Engineers.

7 I'd like to take this opportunity
8 to introduce Lafourche Parish President
9 Charlotte Randolph.

10 PARISH PRESIDENT RANDOLPH:

11 Thank you, Lee. It's good to see
12 people out here of all walks of life
13 because this is going to impact us in
14 so many different ways. This is the
15 beginning of an exciting study that
16 will allow us to restore our coast in a
17 way that is acceptable to the
18 scientific community, to every
19 community involved.

20 So the opportunity needs to be one
21 we take advantage of and certainly
22 contribute to. We need to include our
23 comments. Kerry, if you have a comment
24 and anyone else too. Please for those
25 who you know are not in attendance

1 tonight, please alert them to the fact
2 that they can comment on this, despite
3 the fact that they're not here, and
4 that any input will be welcome.

5 This collaboration is an exciting
6 one. One with our state
7 representatives, as well as our federal
8 partners in this. So I welcome you
9 here tonight, and hope that you'll
10 continue to be a part of this process.
11 This is very important to Lafourche, as
12 well as Louisiana. So thank you again
13 for coming.

14 MS. LEE MUELLER:

15 Thank you. I'd like to take this
16 opportunity to introduce some team
17 members we have here with us. From
18 CPRA, Bren Haase, he's the Planner
19 Manager; Mr. Wes Leblanc, he's the
20 Program Manager; Renee Sanders, the
21 Study Manager, Micaela Coner, also
22 Study Manager. Where's Chuck Perrodin?
23 He's the Public Information Director.
24 It looks like he stepped out.

25 And from the Corps, we have Bill

1 Hicks, the Project Manager, Danny
2 Wiegand, the Planner, and Nathan Dayan,
3 the Environmental Branch.

4 As you can see, this is the third
5 of six public scoping meetings to get
6 this study started. It's a large-scale
7 long-term study. So your public input
8 is very important.

9 Tonight, we'll start with a
10 presentation. First, we'll go over the
11 Louisiana Coastal Area Ecosystem
12 Restoration Program. Then the team
13 will discuss some details regarding the
14 Mississippi River Hydrodynamic & Delta
15 Management Study. And then Nathan
16 Dayan will go over and the National
17 Environmental Policy Act Public Scoping
18 Process.

19 Now, we understand that our
20 presentation can often stir up a lot of
21 questions. So for that reason, we'll
22 have a question and answer session.
23 Sara McLaughlin in the back will walk
24 around with a mic and please raise your
25 hand, and she'll get to you. The team

1 will do the best they can to answer any
2 questions you may have.

3 Now, if you don't have a question
4 but you do have a comment, a complaint,
5 compliment, maybe, we will have a
6 formal scoping session. This is your
7 opportunity to submit comments. We
8 have a court reporter with us. That
9 comment will be considered a formal
10 comment on the record. So that is your
11 opportunity to really submit your
12 public input in a formal setting.

13 So just to reiterate why you're
14 here tonight is to kick off the study
15 and to gather your input on the
16 development of the study.

17 So with that, I'd like to turn it
18 over to Renee Sanders, Study Manager
19 with CPRA.

20 (PRESENTATION BY RENEE SANDERS)

21 Welcome. On behalf of the State,
22 we're super excited to work in
23 conjunction with the Corps on the
24 project. As everyone mentioned, this
25 is the first long-term large-scale

1 restoration project. We're just very
2 excited to get started.

3 I'm going to start with an overview
4 of the LCA Project. The LCA, which
5 stands for the Louisiana Coastal Area,
6 was a project, kind of, a coastwide
7 study that was finalized in late 2004,
8 beginning of 2005. It was written to
9 address both near-term issues, as well
10 as longer term issues.

11 The report identified six long-term
12 studies. This project will combine two
13 of those studies. The name of one of
14 the studies is the Hydrodynamic
15 Project, and the other one is the Delta
16 Management Project.

17 The hydrodynamic portion will focus
18 primarily on modeling in the river,
19 currents, and sediment patterns. And
20 then the delta management side will
21 look at what is occurring in the basin.
22 So where can we use the sediments, kind
23 of, identifying that happy medium
24 between where is the sediment in the
25 river, and how do we best utilize it in

1 the basin.

2 This project map shows the 15 near-
3 term study projects for the LCA
4 project, 1 through 15 are the 15 near-
5 term, most of which have not been
6 built. Two of them on the map have
7 been, and that's Caernarvon and Davis
8 Pond.

9 The other projects are in various
10 stages of completion. Some of them are
11 in design phase, which includes White
12 Ditch, Blind River, the Amite
13 Modification Study, the Terrebonne
14 study as well. And then some are still
15 in the feasibility stage, which is
16 where we're evaluating the benefits and
17 the impacts to the project. And some
18 examples of those are Myrtle Grove.
19 And there are two modification
20 projects, one for Caernarvon and one
21 for Davis Pond, as well, to look at
22 maximizing the outputs for those
23 structures.

24 This map is the study area and
25 extends from the Mouth of the Gulf of

1 Mexico up to Vicksburg. The reason it
2 goes to Vicksburg is we have some in-
3 river modeling that extends that far to
4 capture some of the complexities around
5 the Old River Control Structure.

6 You can see there's a little
7 portion along the southwest. And
8 that's to capture some of that
9 longshore drift that occurs around the
10 Gulf of Mexico. The map shows some of
11 the structures that have been built and
12 some that are still under design or in
13 feasibility.

14 The project area is going to be
15 smaller. It's going to be more
16 defined, and it's going to be based on
17 the potential locations of maximizing
18 that sediment output with what's
19 occurring in the river. So this is a
20 large study area. And once we get to
21 the point of picking locations, it will
22 be zoomed in and will be more
23 concentrated, and we'll start looking
24 at soil conditions and water depth, and
25 that sort of thing.

1 This is an overview, more some
2 quick facts on the project. The
3 project was authorized in WRDA. And
4 WRDA stands for the Water Resources
5 Development Act. The project will have
6 an Environmental Impact Statement, and
7 that's a typical output from a federal
8 project and that identifies the
9 benefits and the impacts the projects.
10 It looks at cost and benefit analysis.
11 Some of you may be familiar with some
12 other environmental Impact Statements
13 that have occurred. This will be what
14 they call a tiered off version. It
15 will be a subset of what happened in
16 the 2004 report. So it will be more
17 detailed for this particular project
18 than what was identified in the 2004
19 report.

20 There's a cost share agreement that
21 was signed in August 2011. And it
22 evaluates the project or identifies,
23 it's list the projects is going to take
24 about five years to completion. It's
25 \$25.3 million. And that's a 50/50 cost

1 share between the state and the federal
2 government. The 50/50 cost share is
3 almost a symbolic representation of how
4 we feel the study should go. That both
5 partners are equal in evaluation and
6 analysis of the project.

7 As I mentioned before, it's a
8 combination of two studies together.
9 So throughout the presentation, you
10 will hear specifics on the hydrodynamic
11 portion, which is the modeling,
12 primarily. And then the delta
13 management, which is where that
14 sediment and nutrients is going to be
15 located in the basin.

16 So the hydrodynamic portion is to
17 evaluate what's occurring in the
18 Mississippi River system. And simply
19 put, that's to look at quantifying how
20 much sediment and where the river
21 resources are available, sediment
22 nutrients, as well as freshwater. And
23 then evaluate or develop tools to
24 evaluate those resources over time, as
25 well as spatially. And then the third

1 thing when I say evaluate, to determine
2 how to best implement the restoration
3 strategies to maximize the use of the
4 available riverine resources.

5 Traditionally, the river has been
6 managed for two functions, which is
7 flood risk reduction and navigation.
8 And this study is going to elevate the
9 importance of ecosystem restoration.
10 Put it in more of a level playing field
11 with the other services that the river
12 provides.

13 The delta management portion of
14 this study is going to identify and
15 evaluate features for a sustainable
16 delta coast. And the 2004 report, it
17 said that it would identify diversions
18 greater than 50,000 cfs. That's cubic
19 feet per second. And this study will
20 evaluate all realms of possibilities,
21 whether it's above or below.

22 The other thing mentioned in the
23 2004 report is that it would analyze
24 alternative navigation channel
25 alignments. That's something that's

1 still part of this project. We
2 understand that's a huge undertaking.
3 That's not a phrase that is simply put
4 out there. That will require a lot of
5 analysis, but that's still a part of
6 this project.

7 The other restoration measures that
8 we have identified could be dedicated
9 dredging, marsh creation, some barrier
10 island restoration. The study will be
11 heavily influenced by what's included
12 in the 2012 Coastal Master Plan that
13 the state put together.

14 The three things that the Master
15 Plan is going to help us with for this
16 study is to better inform the placement
17 of restoration, large-scale restoration
18 strategies, whether it's diversions or
19 marsh creation. But where exactly do
20 we put this. It will also help us
21 define the level of analysis that's
22 needed for construction of these large-
23 scale projects. And it will help us
24 provide the information necessary for
25 Congressional authorizations for these

1 projects.

2 So the final deliverable for this
3 delta management portion is one
4 Environmental Impact Statement. Just
5 to be clear that the benefits and
6 impacts will be put in one report.

7 With that, I'd like to turn it over
8 to Danny.

9 (PRESENTATION BY DANNY WIEGAND)

10 MR. DANNY WIEGAND:

11 I'M Danny Wiegand. I'm with the
12 Corps of Engineers. I am one of the
13 planners on this study. Cherie Price
14 also works in my office, and she's
15 going to be leading this study along
16 with me, in case y'all run into her on
17 other studies. But she and I are both
18 tag-teaming these presentations over
19 the three-week period.

20 Similar to Renee's thoughts, we are
21 very excited to initiate this study.
22 This is the first large-scale long-term
23 study to come out of the 2004 report,
24 and we're excited to get this rolling,
25 and we're excited to hear from y'all

1 tonight on your thoughts and ideas to
2 present what we've thought of so far.

3 In the Corps' planning process,
4 whenever we're authorized to initiate
5 the study or a study, one of the first
6 things we need to do is, obviously,
7 there's some problems in the study area
8 that map that Renee showed you. So
9 we've taken a stab at some problems
10 that we think are happening in the
11 study area, and we will be developing
12 in coordination with our project
13 delivery team, which is made up of
14 people from CPRA, the Corps, as well as
15 other agencies and other organizations.
16 Let's step through some of these.

17 And, again, we're here to get your
18 feedback. So if you see something
19 missing, or if you see something
20 mischaracterized, let us know. We're
21 here to take that information and try
22 to build on it and add value to what we
23 already initiated. So chime in later.

24 The first problem that we have
25 outlined. So I like to look at this

1 problem is the river side. Renee
2 pointed this out earlier. This was two
3 separate studies: the hydrodynamic
4 study and the delta management study in
5 the 2004 report. Those have been
6 combined into one study.

7 The hydrodynamic portion was the
8 river side, looking at the dynamics of
9 the river, resources available, and
10 just the complexities that we know
11 exist in the river.

12 The delta management side is, once
13 those resources get into the basin,
14 what happens with the hydrology and the
15 dynamics of which can be very different
16 on that side from what's in the river.
17 But these are combined.

18 So this first problem is tackling
19 what's on the river side. So
20 Historically, we have probably focused
21 on navigation and flood risk reduction
22 more than we have for ecosystem
23 restoration. As Renee said, we are
24 elevating ecosystem restoration be on a
25 level playing field with the other two

1 services. So we have identified a
2 problem that that lack of understanding
3 and what resources are available is
4 something that we need to address as we
5 move forward.

6 Getting into the delta management
7 side, this is nothing new to many of
8 you. Having conversations with a few
9 of you back there. I know you know we
10 are experiencing subsidence and land
11 loss at an alarming rates. And we all
12 want to see something done about it.
13 So we recognize -- I don't think there
14 will be any contradictions to this
15 problem being out there.

16 Another problem that we face on
17 that delta management side is that it's
18 a very complex large dynamic system.
19 And I know some of you are very
20 familiar with that as well, the
21 fishermen and other people, who rely on
22 the basin side to provide your income
23 and support your life, recognize there
24 is a very dynamic and complex system.
25 So we are lacking in understanding of

1 some of those things.

2 We have a lot of data on hand, and
3 there's been lots of studies done over
4 the years that we will definitely look
5 to to inform us as we move forward.
6 But we definitely have some data gaps
7 that we want to try to fill in as we
8 move forward.

9 And then, lastly, this is something
10 that I think has gotten a lot more
11 press in the recent years. But sea-
12 level rise is an issue, and it's
13 becoming more of a thought in front of
14 people's minds because they realize
15 that it's happening, and it's time to
16 do something about it.

17 So now that we've identified some
18 problems, let's start looking on the
19 bright side and look for some
20 opportunities. We want to move forward
21 and figure out how we're going to
22 approach those problems.

23 First thing we'd like to do with
24 this study is, I'd like to think of
25 this as an inventory. We're going to

1 do a lot of analysis complex modeling
2 on the river side, on the bay side.
3 And we see this as an opportunity to
4 really get an inventory of data,
5 science, and other tools that we can
6 develop and then they are going to be
7 developed and out there and pull all
8 this together in this first large-scale
9 effort in the coastal area.

10 Second opportunity is to address
11 that first problem I talked about from
12 the previous side. We want more to
13 more effectively manage those river
14 resources. And we want to do this in a
15 sustainable way, and we want to do it
16 in a way that supports the three
17 services that we talked about:
18 ecosystem restoration, navigation, and
19 flood risk reduction. We want to get
20 all of those in balance and recognizing
21 that they're all very important to
22 coastal Louisiana and figure out how to
23 find some synergy between the three of
24 them as we move forward.

25 We have an opportunity here on a

1 large-scale. There are lots of smaller
2 scale projects out there on the ground
3 already where we have some reconnection
4 of the river to the bay side. But we
5 want to look at it on a large scale,
6 how we're going to reconnect those
7 resources in the river, get them into
8 the basin where they're needed. And
9 then make that a sustainable system.

10 We also have an opportunity here to
11 - sustainability is kind of a key word
12 in these last two bullets. I think we
13 have an opportunity here to influence
14 the processes where we can create these
15 new land forms and approach it in a
16 more sustainable way and make sure
17 they're not just here five years or a
18 very short period. We want to identify
19 ways to make it there long-term and
20 make it more a permanent part of the
21 landscape.

22 And lastly, in doing that, we're
23 going to need to really consider the
24 hydrology on the basin side. There's
25 some things that we can do, and we

1 recognize that. And it just kind of
2 goes without saying, the better the
3 hydrology is the better your wetlands
4 are going to be.

5 So after we looked through or work
6 with the team to develop these problems
7 and opportunities, we came up with a
8 study goal, and we hope y'all like it.
9 It's essentially a lot of the things I
10 just talked about kind of boiled down
11 to one statement. It's getting those
12 resources out of the river into the bay
13 side and keeping them there and
14 maintaining those three services we
15 talked about: navigation, flood risk
16 reduction, and ecosystem restoration.

17 So how we're going to get there.
18 We have this grand goal. To get there,
19 we have come up with three objectives.
20 First thing is to identify those
21 resources and quantify what those
22 resources are, what the availability of
23 those resources is to us so that we can
24 put them into the basins where they're
25 needed and then do that in conjunction

1 with maintaining the services of the
2 navigation and flood risk reduction
3 without jeopardizing those services.

4 Second, this study is not only
5 going to help this one single state.
6 This is going to establish a more
7 programmatic framework for moving
8 forward with coastal restoration.
9 Again, this is a large-scale look at
10 the coast where, as a lot of the
11 previous studies have been the near-
12 term, kind of, smaller scope, a little
13 more narrow in focus. But this is
14 going to give us an opportunity to look
15 at a systemwide approach and watershed
16 approach. And figure out how to
17 establish that framework making
18 decisions down the road, not just for
19 the study.

20 And lastly, again, the word
21 "sustainable" seems to be a buzz word
22 lately. But we want to see on the
23 basin side, we want to see those
24 sediments and nutrients and everything
25 that go along with it to support

1 healthy coastal areas. We want to see
2 those get in there. We want to see
3 increase in elevation, and we want to
4 make it stay as best we can,
5 sustainability. So that's a key part
6 of this study.

7 We've got a lot of work to do. But
8 we know that a lot of people are out
9 there with a lot of information, such
10 as yourselves. We look forward to
11 hearing from you tonight and getting
12 feedback on what you've seen and giving
13 us feedback on things that you think
14 would help us as we move forward.

15 With that, I turn it to Nathan.

16 (PRESENTATION BY NATHAN DAYAN)

17 MR. NATHAN DAYAN:

18 The main reason we're here tonight
19 is the National Environmental Policy
20 Act. It tells us that we have to go to
21 the communities, get their information,
22 and provide that information back to
23 y'all and back to the decision-makers.
24 That's what we're here for.

25 What we're doing, we're doing the

1 scoping process. That's coming to you
2 early in the process and multiple times
3 asking for your information, asking for
4 the information that's out there,
5 getting community as part of the
6 project. Identify what resources out
7 there that we might not know about
8 because we're not experts on
9 everything. Y'all are experts on your
10 communities. Y'all are experts on the
11 river. You know a lot. We've been
12 doing it for a while, but we don't know
13 everything until y'all tell us.

14 We're going to take all this
15 information, all this modeling effort.
16 We're going to prepare a document
17 called an Environmental Impact
18 Statement. That document is what's
19 going to tell you benefits of the
20 project and the impacts, the negatives,
21 both. We're going to come back, send
22 it out to the public, have more
23 meetings. And y'all will get to inform
24 the decision-makers in Washington. Is
25 this a good idea, is this not a good

1 idea, what we did right, what we didn't
2 do right. So this is your chance in
3 the process, at the beginning of the
4 process to give us that information for
5 this document.

6 This is probably going to be a big
7 shock right here. This is the schedule
8 we're on. This schedule is long
9 because this is a complex project,
10 unfortunately. But we're going to keep
11 ya'll involved during the process. The
12 modeling work on the Mississippi River
13 is going to take time. We got to go
14 out there and get data; so it's a long
15 process. But you're involved. Right
16 now, you see scoping, today. You're
17 involved. We're going to send that
18 draft out to the public. You're
19 involved again. Between there, have
20 comments. You're involved.

21 What's the scoping process? We put
22 a notice in the Federal Register that
23 we're going to to this study. We're
24 inviting y'all to participate. Again,
25 it's for y'all to participate through

1 this whole process. We want to know
2 what you have to say. You don't have
3 anything to say, or you do and don't
4 tell us, we don't know.

5 We're going to take this
6 information from tonight's meeting and
7 from the other meetings that we're
8 having from information that you
9 emailed to us, send us a fax, call us.
10 Any information we get in, we're going
11 to put it in a document called "Scoping
12 Report," which will be sent out. In
13 that report, it's going to say, these
14 are the things of concerns by the
15 citizens. And this is the section of
16 the document that that information is
17 going to be in so that you can go back
18 and check on it. At least in the
19 document now to say, you know what, I
20 made this comments. Yeah, they talked
21 about that information. So this is the
22 first step in making sure we do our
23 job.

24 Then we're going to have a little
25 question and answer session. Then

1 we'll get back to the scoping process.

2 Thank you.

3 MS. LEE MUELLER:

4 So like I said, Sara McLaughlin in

5 the back, she has a walk-around mic.

6 So we have a lot of information. Any

7 questions you may have, go ahead and

8 raise your hand.

9 We have a question up front.

10 (INFORMAL Q&A SESSION)

11 MR. EDDIE ST. PIERRE:

12 It's going to take you to 2015.

13 That's too long. We're losing an acre

14 every 42 minutes. If that takes to

15 2015, I live in downtown, I'm going to

16 be flooded. Y'all need to tighten up.

17 Go talk to the old fisherman and the

18 old people around. They'll tell you.

19 We need more freshwater coming down.

20 Open the deal in Bayou Lafourche and

21 Donaldsonville. Let that water flow.

22 Turn around and you want to stop

23 the erosion, get the navy offered some

24 ships to Grand Isle quite a few years

25 ago. See if they still got them. Go

1 put them around the barrier islands and
2 sink them. That will stop the erosion.
3 There's a lot of stuff. It seems
4 stupid but it works. All you got to do
5 is just talk to these old people, the
6 old fisherman. They'll tell you what
7 it used to be like years ago. And we
8 never had any problems.

9 And when the rigs came in, they
10 started digging canals. Because of dry
11 hole, everybody goes home, left the
12 canal open. Shut that down. From now
13 on, you dig a canal, you got to fill it
14 back up if you don't have a well out
15 there. Thank you.

16 MR. DANNY WIEGAND:

17 Thank you for your comment. We
18 recognize that it is a long time frame
19 up there, especially, given the -
20 sorry, I'm a little soft-spoken -
21 given the urgency that I know is felt
22 out here in coastal communities.

23 We are looking for ways to
24 streamline and get things through a
25 little quicker. I would say that a lot

1 of the up-front work on the
2 hydrodynamic side is, I think I touched
3 on this in my talk, it's not just for
4 this study. It's going to inform all
5 other LCA projects that are ongoing, as
6 well as ones that may be coming up in
7 the future. And so we think that a lot
8 of the tools that we're going to
9 develop in the near-term on this study,
10 the first part of those five years will
11 help us make better decisions on these
12 other projects that are ongoing.

13 MR. EDDIE ST. PIERRE:

14 Danos (phonetic), they were
15 supposed to hire us. I got a \$500,
16 \$600 radio system at my house that they
17 gave us to keep when they call us to go
18 plant rosos, grass, whatever it was
19 that wanted. That's never been done.
20 I think the money is there. But if
21 that's part of the deal to help stop
22 the erosion, let's get it done. Let's
23 move this project forward. Quit
24 playing around. An acre every 42
25 minutes, that's not good. That's not

1 good at all.

2 **MR. BREN HAASE:**

3 My name is Bren Haase. I work for
4 the CPRA. I certainly take your
5 comment to heart. I don't want the
6 impression to be made that we're not
7 doing anything else while this is going
8 on. I want to emphasize that there's a
9 tremendous amount of restoration
10 activity that's going on that's going
11 to be parallel with this study.

12 So we're not holding anything up
13 and waiting on the study to get done
14 before we decide what we're going to do
15 in the future. There are 15 near-term
16 projects identified within this
17 program. All of those are moving in
18 one way or another. There's the CWPPRA
19 program, the CIAP program, a number of
20 other restoration programs that are
21 ongoing right now.

22 So certainly your comment is taken
23 to heart by all of us up here. We need
24 to do things faster, do things better.
25 But I don't want there to be a

1 misunderstanding that we're waiting for
2 this study to accomplish anything that
3 we know we can accomplish now. Thank
4 you.

5 MR. BOB BOOTH:

6 I'm Bob Booth. I live in Cutoff.
7 This study seems to be somewhat of a
8 repeat of other studies. Couldn't the
9 study be shorter by incorporating some
10 of the other things? And as the
11 gentlemen says, we're losing a lot of
12 land quickly. FEMA is coming in and
13 telling us we have to build 16, maybe,
14 14, 12 feet in the air. Economic
15 development is at a standstill.

16 I've been working with our great
17 Parish President trying to put a
18 project together. But if my basement
19 of my front door of my business is
20 going to look next door, and I'm going
21 to step out on Walmart's roof, how can
22 I do that. I got 150 acres I want to
23 develop for this lady to put in an
24 industrial park. But if I got to put
25 15 feet of dirt in the air for 150

1 acres, I can't afford that. We're
2 giving money to Hugo Chavez. I guess
3 maybe I can go borrow some from him.

4 But this is wrong what we're
5 waiting, killing the beautiful place we
6 live. There's a quick solution as I
7 mentioned to him earlier. Take a vote
8 for a large ship, dock it off of the
9 Mississippi River. Set up what looks
10 like a set of popiers and collect that
11 sediment that's going. Dump it off
12 into the back, just as it would be in
13 an exhaust system for a truck. And
14 that water goes into a barge. That
15 barge has stair steps coming down. The
16 dirt stops. The water runs out the
17 back. I then take that barge over to
18 Port Fourchon that needs space to fill,
19 and the bottom of that barge opens up,
20 and I drop that sediment. I've reduced
21 the dead zone in the Gulf. I haven't
22 affected any environmental impacts.
23 I've built that dirt, and I recovered
24 that dirt that's coming down the
25 Mississippi.

1 Yes, you want to do it with a
2 diversion. But if you do a major
3 diversion to build this area up, I want
4 to see what that Senator in New Orleans
5 has got to say when there's not enough
6 water to pull up boats up to the docks
7 in New Orleans. She goes stop that
8 project, just because you can't float
9 anything to the port. Because you
10 won't have enough water if you do a
11 major diversion.

12 So you're going to do a minor
13 diversion. That might mean that after
14 a five-year study, when now 25 years in
15 trying to protect ourselves. Thibodaux
16 is going to the next - he's not going
17 to have any land. I won't have any
18 land. Thibodaux is going to be where
19 you're docking the boats next. We need
20 to get together as a group and listen
21 to what we do down here.

22 She has some great ideas. She's
23 worked hard to try to do everything for
24 us. But we need to come together with
25 people who's going to shorten studies

1 and give us some impact.

2 You could take from Leeville going
3 across to Pointe-au-Chien, put in a
4 rock jetty going across with weirs.
5 Another set of rock jetties halfway
6 behind it where boats can travel and
7 come and go. You can stop all of that.
8 You don't need to build up the levee
9 structure any higher here. You have
10 two levees here.

11 You can tell the Corp of Engineers,
12 not the Corps of Engineers, but the
13 other people, FEMA, that you don't have
14 to build 16 feet in the air. Italy's
15 doing it. They're over there with
16 Venice that's sinking. They put in
17 that structure. They put in boats and
18 docks and barges that lift up and down
19 and close when the water gets bad.
20 They invented technologies available
21 over there, spend it here.

22 But what you're doing is when you
23 take from us build a levee, what 100
24 people, 150 people that had land. You
25 take our land, build a levee. We're

1 getting 2 cents a cubic yard for the
2 dirt that you're digging, not good.
3 Walmart takes all their money, and they
4 go off to Arkansas with it. I'm paying
5 for the dirt at 2 cents a cubic yard as
6 my rebate. But what's happened is
7 Walmart is taking all the money. No
8 skin in the game.

9 When you said it's time to get
10 equal coming across, everybody should
11 have some skin in the game. Everybody
12 should be able to turn around and say,
13 my house is here, I'm going to help
14 protect it. But right now, it's only a
15 few. When you take my dirt, you take
16 my land, and there's no levee there,
17 that sand is protecting me. But I'm
18 still paying sales tax on that. I'm
19 paying tax on that land every year.
20 When Mike comes along and he says,
21 okay, here's your taxes. I got to pay
22 to that land that's underwater that's
23 under that levee. Nobody's giving me a
24 break. Took my land, didn't pay for
25 it. And then you're going to come back

1 - the last lady that I was at over at
2 the VFW, we talked about when the storm
3 was just right, it would come in
4 towards Terrebonne Bay and Terrebonne
5 Parish. It would bounce off that levee
6 and come back over towards our land.
7 We're going to have two waters. One,
8 the input water; and two, the rebound
9 water. So they said, yeah, we're going
10 to come back and we're going to top off
11 your levee ever higher. Where is that
12 dirt coming from. Me gain. It's not
13 fair.

14 It should be some kind of crisis
15 where everybody has something in the
16 game. There's a lot of little things
17 that we can do to save our land,
18 beautiful land with beautiful people.
19 But we need to come together and not
20 study. I think the studies are over
21 there. And he worked out in the marsh.
22 He used to come across and take marsh
23 buggies all the way from Golden Meadow
24 to Pointe-au-Chien on land. It's not
25 there. Because we invented the marsh

1 we remove a bunch of sediment via a
2 pipeline to build marsh. Everybody can
3 get behind that. Certainly, that's
4 some thing we support, diversions, as
5 well, potentially and any other number
6 of potential alternatives on the bay
7 side.

8 You're absolutely right. We know
9 an awful lot about data. I think we
10 can capitalize on the amount of work
11 that's been done. But a big piece of
12 this has to be that river side for the
13 reasons you stated, navigation,
14 obviously. We can't compromise
15 navigation. That's just not going to
16 happen. And flood control is the same
17 way. Appreciate your comments.

18 MS. RENEE SANDERS?

19 So I have something to add really
20 quick is that the modeling efforts
21 that's going on both in the river and
22 the bay side are existing models. So I
23 want to make sure that everybody
24 understands that we're building upon
25 the information that we have, and that

1 we're not starting from scratch.

2 This effort is going to be able to
3 combine the existing models together so
4 that we can see both what's going on in
5 the river and in the basin. So I hope
6 that also addresses your concern that
7 we're not starting from scratch. We're
8 building upon existing information.

9 MS. LEE MUELLER:

10 Just to remind you that this is the
11 question and answer session. We will
12 have the scoping comment session where
13 you can submit comments for the scoping
14 report.

15 If you have a question, this would
16 be a good time for them.

17 MR. DARRYL PAUL WARD:

18 Darryl Paul Ward, Garden of Eden,
19 plants, food, and fuel. This is the
20 water sediment diversion and nutrients.
21 A place that's building a path forward
22 with engineers, scientists, and
23 educated by the new world tomorrow.
24 Coastal wetland planning and protection
25 is our gateway to our second story of

1 engineers, scientists, and natural
2 awareness to more jobs and education of
3 our Louisiana coastal areas.

4 Human and natural life of our
5 coastal wetlands are the new future of
6 using plants for food and fuel of new
7 world to new. We are to harness
8 freshwater diversion and marsh creation
9 to restore barrier islands restoration
10 with food and fuel plants to be a
11 factor.

12 The question is: We have to allow
13 the food plants and the fuel plants to
14 grow to give the right to individuals
15 to watch over and protect this land and
16 to put some common sense into the
17 protection of our future. That's the
18 main thing that I wanted to say because
19 we haven't come up with the answers to
20 what the food is going to be or what
21 the fuel is going to be.

22 So I'd like to be part of that to
23 find out that answer as we go along to
24 be part of this. I'm asking for this.
25 I wrote a letter to the Governor Bobby

1 Jindal, and I wrote a letter to the
2 Army Corps of Engineers and one to
3 Barack Obama to see if I can help
4 forward the food and the fuel. Thank
5 you very much.

6 PARISH PRESIDENT CHARLOTTE RANDOLPH:

7 My name is Charlotte Randolph. And
8 my question stems from our earlier
9 conversation. There exists the
10 potential for some funding to be
11 provided to this area through the NRDA
12 process from BP, optimistically, soon.

13 If you begin the study, are there
14 aspects of the study that can be
15 applied to projects prior to the
16 completion of the study? What you will
17 learn in this process. We don't want
18 to wait until the study is over in
19 order to complete the projects.

20 But will there be aspects of this
21 process that we can apply to some of
22 the projects we have planned already?

23 MR. DANNY WIEGAND:

24 In short, we, kind of, talked a
25 little bit about this, especially,

1 earlier. There are going to be interim
2 products through the process from this
3 study, especially, the hydrodynamic
4 side and in forming what we are going
5 to be modeling. We got all the
6 different models that we're doing on
7 the river side looking at the
8 nutrients, the sediment, and all the
9 resources available that we're going to
10 model from the river.

11 And so, yes, I do think there will
12 be an opportunity for that information
13 to be available to inform you as you
14 move through your process. We are
15 going to have an outreach component to
16 this study through the five years where
17 we come back to the communities and
18 share where we are. So I think that
19 might be an opportunity to share the
20 information that we've got so far.

21 PARISH PRESIDENT CHARLOTTE RANDOLPH:

22 Benchmarks? Is that what you're
23 thinking, some sort of benchmarks?

24 MR. DANNY WIEGAND:

25 Benchmarks as in - where we're

1 going to have yearly. We're planning
2 to have yearly updates to the public on
3 the study and where we are and what
4 we've learned.

5 **MR. BREN HAASE:**

6 This is a big matzo ball, right.
7 So it's certainly broken up - can
8 everybody hear me?

9 Certainly, it's broken up into
10 smaller pieces. And those pieces are
11 the way we've designed or hope to
12 design this is that those pieces will
13 be useful independently. So that if we
14 get down the road and whatever happens,
15 and we can't move forward, at least
16 we've got some useful product that can
17 form the kinds of things you're talking
18 about.

19 So the answer is yes.

20 **MR. NATHAN DAYAN:**

21 Just so you have an example of one
22 of those. We have an LCA project,
23 Myrtle Grove, that's ongoing parallel
24 to this project. Part of the issue
25 with the Myrtle Grove is what impact

1 will it have on navigation. One of the
2 initial things that's coming out of
3 this project in a model, one-
4 dimensional model, a simple model of
5 the Mississippi River. And that model
6 will help us determine on the Myrtle
7 Grove project what impacts we have on
8 navigation.

9 So we'll be able to go to the
10 navigation industries and say, if we do
11 this diversion here, this is what we
12 expect potentially could happen. And
13 then as we do the other models, we'll
14 come back and say, yeah, we're
15 confirming that information. Here's
16 the better information as we go.

17 So we are having steps through the
18 process to get there and get
19 information as it comes available.

20 MR. EDDIE ST. PIERRE:

21 About two years ago - I watch the
22 history channel constantly - the Shaw
23 of Dubai put some islands out in the
24 middle of the ocean somewhere.

25 Is there any information that you

1 can get from these guys to help y'all
2 with our problem?

3 They learned to divert the water
4 and to build land instead of losing
5 land. And they built islands. They
6 built the whole United States, the
7 continent, everything, out of sand and
8 dredging it and used a ship that was
9 about 75 people on it, sucking from the
10 stern and pushing out the bow. I think
11 that guy is unbelievable, but that's my
12 thought.

13 Is there anything that you can
14 maybe send somebody over there just to
15 learn a little bit and come back and
16 bring it home?

17 MR. NATHAN DAYAN:

18 Actually, our engineers have looked
19 at some of that process, the ship that
20 was used, the sand, the size grain that
21 was looked at. And a lot of that
22 information is being used. We're a
23 different habitat here. We have a
24 different geologic underneath us. What
25 he built with the sand there and what

1 you can build with the sand here is not
2 the same.

3 I'm a biologist, and it's just what
4 I understand from my engineers. But we
5 have looked at that. We've gone to
6 other countries and looked at a lot of
7 that. Our Corps of Engineers do that.
8 They look at the most recent
9 literature. So they are aware of that.

10 MR. BREN HAASE:

11 I would just add at it's most
12 basic, we're talking about the dredge
13 and fill project, which is what they
14 did in Dubais. And we do that here all
15 the time. Not that we can't learn new
16 techniques and new things, but
17 certainly, what was done at Bayou
18 Dupont, I don't know if you're familiar
19 with that project, we dredged sand from
20 the river and built wetlands across the
21 levee and built wetlands. We do that
22 routinely.

23 MR. EDDIE ST. PIERRE:

24 Maybe, it's something we can use to
25 help us to shorten the span of time it

1 takes to study this thing so we can get
2 it done.

3 MR. BREN HAASE:

4 Right. And that has to do with the
5 state of technology. And, certainly,
6 we don't want to miss anything that's
7 somebody's doing on the other side of
8 the globe that can help us expedite
9 what we're doing here. I don't think
10 that that's the case. Certainly, we
11 take that into consideration.

12 MR. RODNEY DUFRENE:

13 Rodney Dufrene. I'm a commercial
14 fisherman. I fished in most of the
15 Barataria Estuaries. The Davis Pond
16 Project, I see the impacts it has on
17 Lake Salvadore.

18 How come y'all don't flow it more
19 than y'all flow it?

20 MR. BREN HAASE:

21 Are you sure you're not Ted
22 (inaudible)?

23 There are a number of reasons. I
24 guess, initially, the reasons it hasn't
25 flown at that capacity or what it

1 potentially could have flowed at was
2 some engineering concerns, concerns of
3 the levee. Some things that I believe
4 some problems with the ponding area in
5 terms of keeping too much water within
6 the ponding area.

7 And then we have a Davis Pond
8 Advisory Committee that recommends an
9 operational plan for Davis Pond. And
10 since the engineering concerns, I
11 think, have been resolved or beginning
12 to be resolved, the diversion is
13 operated based on the recommendation of
14 that advisory committee right now. So
15 that's kind of a short answer and
16 perhaps a bit of a vague answer.

17 I will tell you that one of the
18 near-term studies that's part of this
19 program is the modification of
20 operations of Davis Pond. And we are
21 looking at means to improve the wetland
22 benefits, outputs that we're getting
23 from that structure. And generally,
24 that means targeting sediment,
25 increasing flows, increasing the

1 footprint of the diversion to try to
2 help with marsh health within the
3 Barataria Basin.

4 MR. RODNEY DUFRENE:

5 My other thing is: All these
6 structures they're building on the
7 westbank of Jefferson Parish, we have a
8 protection levee right here in South
9 Lafourche. I'm seeing more and more
10 being pushed up Bayou Pugasot. On a
11 storm event, we're going to end up
12 flooding St. Charles and Lafourche
13 Parish from the east side and also
14 creating drainage problems.

15 Are y'all going to be addressing
16 some of those issues?

17 MR. BREN HAASE:

18 Yeah. Certainly, we know, as
19 wetlands are lost within the basin and
20 the volume of water, the tidal prism,
21 that's in the basin increases, that
22 becomes more and more of an issue.
23 It's easier for those tides to get into
24 the upper basin.

25 So one way to address that,

1 obviously, is by restoring the wetlands
2 that needs to prevent that extreme
3 tidal fluctuation to happen. So
4 certainly a rebuild of those wetlands
5 and maintaining a sustainable, I keep
6 using that term, but sustainable coast
7 is a big part of addressing that issue.

8 MR. NATHAN DAYAN:

9 I'm not 100 percent sure that LCA
10 Convey Atchafalaya Water to Western
11 Terrebonne Parish, I think one of the
12 subplans in that has some components to
13 prevent saltwater from flowing up the
14 bayou. I don't remember 100 percent
15 off the top of my head. I haven't
16 looked at that plan. That's one of our
17 near-term plans that is being worked on
18 right now.

19 We're awaiting funds from the
20 federal government to build parts of
21 it. You can look at LCA.gov. and you
22 can look up the different plans and
23 Convey Atchafalaya Water to Northern
24 Terrebonne Parish, I believe, that's
25 part of that plan. I'm trying to

1 remember off the top of my head.

2 Sorry.

3 MS. LEE MUELLER:

4 Any other questions?

5 Our team will definitely stick
6 around after the presentation is
7 finished to answer any questions you
8 may have.

9 Now, we turn back to Nathan to the
10 scoping process.

11 (FORMAL SCOPING SESSION)

12 MR. NATHAN DAYAN:

13 What we're going to do now is take
14 official comments. And these can be in
15 the form of questions. They can be
16 statements about where we need to
17 gather data. They can be -- here's
18 some suggestions that make you think,
19 actually.

20 What are the critical natural human
21 environmental issues that need and
22 should be addressed in this?

23 Navigation should be addressed.

24 Flooding should be addressed. Wetland
25 loss should be addressed. Whatever you

1 feel needs to be in there.

2 What are the important resources
3 that would benefit or be impacted if we
4 do these actions? What are the
5 reasonable alternatives? What can you
6 think of that we haven't thought of, or
7 maybe we have and don't need it. What
8 can we do to help coastal restoration
9 in Louisiana?

10 I'm going to throw a fourth one up.
11 Is there a data source, information
12 that we don't know of, that can make
13 our model go faster, that can help us
14 shorten this time scale. I know it's
15 big one. Or do you know of a college
16 professor here or a local high school
17 teacher who's been sampling these areas
18 for a long time and has information
19 that can help us. We want that
20 information. This is the time to give
21 us those comments.

22 We're going to sit there and take
23 them, record them and, again, report
24 back to you on how we're going to
25 discuss them and look at them in our

1 project.

2 MR. DWAYNE BOURGEOIS:

3 Dwayne Bourgeois. I'm the Director
4 for with the North Lafourche Levee
5 District. The point about data source.
6 This may be something that's probably
7 new. USGS is using second generation
8 linear for the specific purpose to try
9 to track levee systems and stuff like
10 that, basically. It's the proof of
11 concept. It's already been flown in
12 Lafourche Parish and all over the
13 levees in Lafourche Parish. Very high
14 resolution linear ranging thing.

15 Maybe you don't know about it
16 because it's, kind of, just proof of
17 concept. I can give you any additional
18 information on that. Thank you very
19 much.

20 MR. NATHAN DAYAN:

21 I know I heard some comments out
22 there when y'all were asking your
23 questions. That includes some of those
24 alternatives that you want to throw out
25 there that you're looking at.

1 MR. DARRYL PAUL WARD:

2 Darryl Paul Ward. What are the
3 critical natural human and
4 environmental issues? Natural and
5 human environmental issues should be -
6 this should take in everybody. Like I
7 had mentioned, plants, food. If
8 something like that can affect all of
9 us. And we all have to be brought into
10 this to be a part of the human
11 environmental issues.

12 What are the important resources in
13 the natural and human? The important
14 resources is the food and fuel that
15 that part of the coastal is not - it's
16 a whole new world out there that I
17 think that everybody has to be a part
18 of in the future.

19 Right now, it's only the coastal
20 people that - it's going to be the new
21 world of jobs and education is what I'm
22 trying to say. Jobs and education.
23 Everything out there is going to be
24 new. You're talking about natural,
25 natural resources, air, wind, water,

1 geothermal, waves, tides. All this is
2 energy, energy, energy.

3 Some of this should be allowed to
4 produce something to make us leaders.
5 We have more natural resources in the
6 State of Louisiana than any other
7 country in the world. I think that we
8 ought to put together a natural and
9 human environment for us to participate
10 together as a team to be a impact for
11 our future.

12 The United States needs this. We
13 need clean air, clean fuel, and new
14 jobs, and new education. I believe
15 this coastal is going to be the new
16 jobs, new education, if a leader with a
17 vision is allowed to participate in the
18 forward advancement of all of us in
19 Louisiana to realize that we have all
20 the natural resources.

21 But we have to do something with
22 it. We can sit up here and talk, make
23 a canal, make a diversion, and go throw
24 nutrients here and there. But you need
25 a leader that's going to bring

1 everybody else in on it to benefit
2 everybody in the United States of
3 America and make Louisiana No. 1. And
4 we can be No. 1. We have the natural
5 resources. We have the power. We have
6 the people. But you need somebody to
7 organize it to put this together.

8 I understand Army Cops of Engineers
9 is doing a lot. That's why a lot can
10 be done when we have scientists and
11 engineers. But you need somebody with
12 common sense to work together with Army
13 Corps of Engineers and the State.

14 And this is why I wrote to these
15 people. This is why I'm here today.
16 This is the natural and human
17 environment of the benefits of our
18 natural resources for our people to
19 stand together with a leader. Thank
20 you very much.

21 MR. NATHAN DAYAN:

22 Thank you for your comment. Anyone
23 else?

24 MR. KERRY ST. PE':

25 My name is Kerry St. Pe'. I'm the

1 Director of the Barataria-Terrebonne
2 National Estuary Program.

3 One of the objectives of this study
4 is to assess all the resources of the
5 river. And I'm glad to see that
6 finally being done, know where all the
7 sediment is on the bottom of the river,
8 water column. And I would - that
9 leads me to the dedicated dredging
10 component of the study.

11 I firmly believe as one of the
12 answers to the future of Louisiana is
13 to use sediments in the river on the
14 bottom, pump it out and to create
15 marshes, ridges, barrier islands to
16 restore those features.

17 But what's kept us from doing that
18 on a large scale to this point is cost.
19 I think the Master Plan has \$71 million
20 dedicated to marsh creation. But the
21 acreage is, I think, underestimated in
22 the Master Plan because of the cost
23 attributed to building marshes.

24 And I believe that the cost of
25 rebuilding these marshes with the

1 dredge pipe is based on the cost up to
2 now. It's the way we price, and we
3 cost out projects on a project by
4 project basis. We need to be looking
5 at this on a large-scale programmatic
6 level. We need to look at using the
7 dredge until this project runs out of
8 money and keeping a dredge and pipe and
9 infrastructure out there until we can
10 find another source of money and
11 continue using that same
12 infrastructure, pipes, to create more
13 marshes. That way you reduce the cost
14 on a per cubic yard basis. That's how
15 you reduce the cost.

16 I would hope that y'all would look
17 at identifying areas where the sediment
18 load on the bottom is greatest and pick
19 those sites to build to cross over
20 infrastructure to facilitate the use of
21 dredges and pipes on those locations.
22 When you use up all the sediment on
23 that location, perhaps, you could come
24 up with a way to deposit what you're
25 dredging on a navigation basis in the

1 same hole in the same area where it can
2 be used in the future to build marshes.
3 I think that's all I have. Does that
4 make sense?

5 MR. NATHAN DAYAN:

6 Yes, sir. Thank you. Do we have
7 any other comments?

8 MR. RODNEY DUFRENE:

9 Rodney Dufrene. With this Davis
10 Pond project, I'd like to see y'all
11 divert more water to the wildlife
12 management area on the east side of
13 Lake Salvadore and catch all of it, not
14 just a section of on through
15 (inaudible).

16 MR. NATHAN DAYAN:

17 Thank you.

18 MS. LEE MUELLER:

19 Would there be a way for you to
20 repeat that so she can hear? My
21 apologies.

22 MR. RODNEY DUFRENE:

23 With the David Pond Project, I'd
24 like to see y'all divert more water
25 through the wildlife management area

1 east side of Lake SALvadore. That way,
2 it will catch the hole lake, instead of
3 just a portion of the lake going
4 straight across it. That is a big
5 benefit I've seen with that project.

6 MR. NATHAN DAYAN:

7 Unless someone comes up with
8 another comment, this is other ways to
9 get in touch to give us comments. We
10 have an email address dedicated to this
11 project. Bill Klein is the
12 Environmental Manager, who should have
13 been here tonight. Unfortunately, he's
14 been sick. You can call him or mail
15 him. These are all ways you can send
16 comment, or your friends can send
17 comments, or people you hate can send
18 comments. We want to hear from you.

19 Any other comments?

20 MR. EDDIE ST. PIERRE:

21 Eddie St. Pierre. I'd like to
22 thank y'all for coming tonight
23 informing us and helping us out. And I
24 hope in the future we can help you out
25 too. Thank you.

1 MR. NATHAN DAYAN:

2 Thank you.

3 MS. LEE MUELLER:

4 So we also have comment cards with
5 us here this evening, which you can
6 mail in if you prefer a written
7 comment.

8 Again, as I said, this is not the
9 only time we're gong to come out.
10 We're going to continue engaging with
11 you guys throughout the five-year study
12 process. We understand it's a long
13 time. So we will continue coming out
14 to you guys.

15 LCA.gov is a great source of
16 information. We have a project page
17 that will continually update as we go
18 on.

19 UNKNOWN PERSON:

20 Including tonight's presentation.

21 MR. LEE MUELLER:

22 Including tonight's presentation,
23 correct. Here's just a screenshot of
24 that project page. Also, you can
25 submit a comment or a question via that

1 little box with an envelope. It will
2 automatically generate an email to the
3 project team, and it will be captured.
4 If it's prior to May 4, it will be
5 captured in the scoping report. If
6 not, the team will also see it and
7 consider it during the planning
8 process.

9 With that said, here's also the
10 contact information of all the people
11 that presented this evening, if you
12 have further questions for them.

13 Once again, thank you very much for
14 joining us this evening. Your input is
15 very important and we appreciate it.

16 (THE PROCEEDINGS ENDED AT 7:41 P.M.)
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C E R T I F I C A T E

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3 This certification is valid only for a
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