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

Notice of Intent & Public Scoping Meetings

New Orleans, Louisiana

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The above-entitled cause came in for a meeting at the Port of New Orleans, 1350 Port of New Orleans Place, New Orleans, Louisiana, on Thursday, April 12, 2012, commencing at 6:30 p.m.

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BEFORE:

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

A P P E A R A N C E S

LEE MUELLER, USACE, MODERATOR
RENEE SANDERS, CPRA OF LA
CHERIE PRICE, USACE
SANDRA STILES, USACE
BREN HAASE, CPRA OF LA

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I N D E X

P R O C E E D I N G S

MS. MUELLER:

Good evening ladies and gentlemen. My name is Lee Mueller. I work with the Public Affairs Office at the Army Corps of Engineers. I'd like to thank you for joining us tonight to discuss the Louisiana Coastal Area Mississippi River Hydrodynamic & Delta Management Study.

At this time, I'd like to introduce several team members we have here with us this evening. We have Bren Haase, who's a planning manager with CPRA; Wes

Leblanc, a program manager with CPRA; Renee Sanders, Study Manager, CPRA, Micaela Coner, Study Manager, CPRA; Summer Langlois, Environmental Manager, CPRA; Chuck Perrodin, Public Information Director is behind you; Ehab Meselhe, CPRA Contractor. And then for some of our Corps team members, we have Darryl Broussard, Senior Project Manager with the Corps; Tim Aston, Senior Planner with the

Corps; Sandra Stiles with the Environmental Branch; Cherie Price, the Planner for the Corps; and Danny Wiegand, Planner with the Corps as well.

As you can see, tonight is the second of six public scoping meetings we're going to be holding in the month of April, jointly with CPRA and the Corps. So if you have family and friends that you think will be interested, please let them know. We'll be out four more times this month.

Let's talk a little bit about what we'll be covering. First, we'll go ahead and start with talking about the LCA Program. Then we'll move into some details about the Hydrodynamic & Delta

Management Study. And then go ahead and outline the NEPA Scoping Process.

So we recognize some of our planners and study managers speaking lingo that you guys may not be familiar with. For that reason, we'll host an

informal question/answer session. We'll have a walk-around mic. You guys can go ahead and raise your hands. This is the opportunity for the team to address your questions as best as possible.

Now, if you don't have a question but you do have a comment, a complaint, complement, maybe, please save those for the last part. That's going to be the formal scoping period. Tonight, we do have a court reporter with us. She's going to go ahead and get all your comments on the record. The team cannot respond to your comments. This is strictly for a on-the-record purpose.

So just to reiterate why we're here tonight is to gather some public input on the development of the LCA Mississippi River Hydrodynamic & Delta Management Study.

So with that, I'll turn it over to Renee Sanders with CPRA.

(PRESENTATION BY RENEE SANDERS)

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On behalf of the State, welcome. We're excited to have you here and talk about the LCA Hydrodynamic & Delta Management Project. I'll give a little bit of an overview of the LCA Program.

It stands for the Louisiana Coastal Area Program. It was finalized in late 2004, 2005. It was a report that listed details on short-term projects, projects that were from about five to ten years that took to implement. And there was some other projects that were listed in there that required longer than five to ten years to implement. This project is one of those.

The report had six long-term studies identified in it. This project is going to take two of those studies and combine them into one.

This map is an LCA project map that shows the 15 near-term projects, most of which have not been developed or have been built. Two of them have, and that's Caernarvon and Davis Pond. Many of you are familiar with those. That's

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Nos. 14 and 15 on the slide.

The other projects that are listed

in there are in various stages of completion. Some of them are in design phase, engineering and design, for example, White Ditch, Blind River, Amite, Terrebonne. There have some other projects that are in the feasibility stage, meaning, they're still being studied. The benefits and the impacts are still being evaluated. Those include Myrtle Grove, as well as, Caernarvon and Davis Pond.

The next map shows the proposed project area. It begins around the Gulf of Mexico and extends all the way up to Vicksburg. The reason it goes to Vicksburg is because part of the modeling that will be in the river needs to be extended that far to capture some of the in-river impacts and intricacies that are going on around the Old River Control Structure.

There's a little portion that's around the southwest column that goes

around the shoreline, and that's to include the longshore drifts. So whatever sediments, nutrients, and water are being transported along the coast to the Texas area, that's why that portion is being included.

Once we get further in the process,

this project area, the study area will be refined into a project area. And that's where we'll look more detailed into the particulars of that area, the soil properties, how much sediment is in the river, how can we best utilize those resources.

So some quick facts about this particular project, an overview. This project was part of the WRDA or the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 - did I go backwards. No problem.

So this project will produce one Environmental Impact Statement, and that will describe the benefits and the impacts of the project. So, again, this study is a combination of two completely different studies that are

being combined, and they're intimately related. One of them is the hydrodynamic portion that includes the in-river modeling. The second project is the delta management. And that's more of how do we best utilize the sediment, and how do we implement the projects.

The study is supposed to take somewhere around five years and $25.3 million to complete. It will build upon existing information. So we're

not starting from scratch. A lot of the model that we'll use are already designed. They'll just be tweaked or different things will be added to the model to best utilize the existing models that we have.

This project for the hydrodynamic portion of the study will evaluate the Mississippi River system. And what I mean by that is looking at how much sediment is available, what are the river resources, where are they, how do we bet utilize. We're going to develop

tools to evaluate those resources. And then we'll also figure out how to best implement the restoration strategies to achieve a more sustainable delta coast.

Traditionally, the river has been managed for flood protection and navigation. And this particular study will give us a chance to elevate the importance of ecosystem restoration as an important service that the river provides.

The delta management report, the portion of this project will focus on identifying features that will provide for a more sustainable delta coast. And, originally, the 2004 report mentioned large diversions greater than

50,000 cfs and alternative navigation alignments.

We've also expanded that to include other restoration features. The study will be heavily influenced by the 2012 Master Plan. So the study will help us better inform the placement and operations of diversions. It will

better define measurements and analysis that will need to occur to implement these diversions or other large-scale restoration features. And it will also provide us some information necessary for Congressional authorizations for these projects.

With that, I'd like to turn it over to Cherie.

(PRESENTATION BY CHERIE PRICE)

MS. CHERIE PRICE:

Hello, everyone. I am Cherie Price with the Corps of Engineers. I am the Planner on the study, along with Danny Weigand. And we want to thank you all for coming out tonight.

As part of the Corps planning process, we develop problems, we identify the problems and issues that we're dealing with in the study area, and we identify opportunities that are available to us through the execution

of the study. And we also identify goals and objectives. And I'm going to go through some of those with you.

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So, as Renee said, historically, there have been two focus areas on the Mississippi River: Navigation, which has benefitted this State and Nation very well and, also, the flood damages reduction system to protect communities surrounding the Mississippi River.

And now we're adding an additional layer of use on the river, which is trying to tap into the river resources of sediment, water, and nutrients for coastal restoration.

We're all familiar with the subsidence, the sinking of the land, and the erosional processes that coastal Louisiana faces. When we're looking at building or implementing coastal restoration measures through artificial means, such as diversions and dedicated dredging, we're looking at some very complex processes.

It's going to take us a little time through this study to try to understand those processes better to make sure that the investments made are worth it,

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and we are affecting the coast in the

best possible way.

The Gulf of Mexico, as everyone knows, is encroaching our communities currently and will continue to do that into the future.

So some of the study opportunities. This is going to be one of the most extensive data collection and comprehensive systemwide modeling efforts on the Mississippi River to date. And we need that information to fully understand the impacts of large-scale sediment removal, water removal. It's going to be very critical for us to get to that place so that we can make informed management decisions.

We would like to more effectively manage the river resources to get the sediment from the river and put it in the areas where it's needed to determine how to retain those sediments once we get them into the marsh.

Influence processes which support land forms and elevations. We've got

to keep the marsh. We've got to keep up with seal-level rise and with subsidence rates and keep the marsh above water.

Adjusting bayside hydrology is focusing primarily on actions such as

degrading oil and gas canals, spoilbanks, determining what widths and depths of the outfall area are going to be the best suited to build land to retain sediments in certain areas. It's not just going to be the river. The delta management part of the study is going to be focused mostly on trying to determine how to be affective in the bay areas.

Our broad-based overall study goal here is to reconnect Mississippi River resources to the surrounding delta, and to also do that in balance with our existing missions on the river of navigation and flood control.

Again, these are our more specific study objectives. These are the things that we're going to be targeting

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specifically as we go through the study. And all of these are drafts at this point and time because we have just started the study. We're looking for input from the public and from others to help guide this process so that we can develop the best objectives as possible.

So our first objective is to identify those quantities that support long-term sustainable restoration. We

don't want to just build land that's going to be there now. We want it to be there over the 50-year period of analysis at year 50 and even beyond.

Providing a decision-making framework is important. All of the data that we're going to be collecting through the study to fill those data gaps that we've had on the river historically. All of that data and all of the modeling tools that are going to be developed will be used - that's my phone.

So everything that's produced

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through the study. The bayside models, the riverine models, the data that we collect, any other analysis, the ecological modeling is going to be an important component of the study as we look at tradeoffs throughout the study. All this information is going to be used together as a decision-making framework to help us make the best decisions through the study.

So in areas around coastal communities, to achieve a sustainable net positive elevation. That's the goal here is to build something sustainable that will stay there. We are going to be limited in what we can

do because we have such a large coastal area of Louisiana. We're going to have to focus our resources very smart and in a smart and effective way to make a big impact.

And that's it. With that, I'll turn it over to Sandra Stiles, who is going to talk about the NEPA process.

(PRESENTATION BY SANDRA STILES)

MS. SANDRA STILES:

Good evening. Good to see you come out tonight. I'm a substitute speaker. I am not the Environmental Manager on this study. The Environmental Manager is Mr. Bill Klein. He happens to be sick. So I have graciously stepped in to help him out.

So the National Environmental Policy Act was enacted to ensure that environmental information from federal actions is available to the public and decision-makers prior to decisions being made. It's like a disclosure law to allow people to have input into what is going on.

Part of that law includes the require for scoping. It's an open process to determine the scope, the issues to be addressed on the study to go out to agencies and the public and

to hear from you on how you think an action should be handled, and what is important to you to guide the study. The document is spelled out that the

information is developed into either an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement. And it's prepared whenever there's a major federal action that will have significant impacts on the environment. I should of advanced my slide so that you can see that.

So we're doing an Environmental Impact Statement for this study. Basically, it details the effects of a federal action, whether they be beneficial or adverse.

The schedule for the EIS, the Notice of Intent was published in the Federal Register on March 23, 2012. And that pretty much kicks off the scoping process. And then we host several public meetings like we're doing now , these scoping meetings, to get your feedback. And that information goes into guiding how the report is developed, and where we should focus our interests in the writing of the Environmental Impact

Statement.

We will publish a draft EIS around November of 2015, where the public and agencies will get an opportunity to provide comments, less than 45 days public comment period. And then we respond to those comments and make whatever adjustments need to happen to the document and come up with a final EIS, which would be available in January 2016. And that will go forward, and we would have a record of decision on a plan.

So the scoping process, as I said, it initiated with the Notice of Intent published in the Federal Register. And these meetings are scheduled throughout the state area to get input from the people that have an interest in the study and we want to help guide the direction, and what we look at from an environmental aspect from the action. And it's an opportunity to express your concerns, things that you're most interested in, where you think the

study should go, your ideas for what the study should be about. And that's why we're here tonight.

From these public meetings over the

next three weeks, we will take that information and compile it into a scoping report that will, basically, outline the comments, the themes, what people thought were important. And it's going to be pulled into a report.

All those who would like to have a copy of that report, we'll make sure you get a copy of it. We need your comments within the 30-day period in order to get them into the report. However, the scoping process really goes all throughout the study. We're asking for you to get your comments back to us in 30 days or so. But really from the beginning to the end, your input is valuable and we'll be seeking it all throughout the study.

So Lee is going to lead us in the question and answer session.

(QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION)

MS. MEULLER:

Like we said, we do have a walk-around mic. Ms. Christine Pendrick is going to be walking around. So just raise your hand.

So this is your chance to ask questions and have the team clarify anything you'd like to know more about.

So once again, Sandra Stiles, Bren

Haase, Renee Sanders, and Cherie Price.

MR. JOHN LOPEZ:

John Lopez, Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation. The way this is described, it sounds like a Corps feasibility study. And normally under a feasibility study, there will be an alternative analysis. And the initial presentation, it sounded more like the technical analysis and developing technical products to evaluate the river.

And I'm trying to understand more which of it is, and if it's kind of a formal process, a more truthful analysis. It seems like you're kind of

reinventing the State Master Plan that just went and chose a number of diversion projects and how to reform the river to a large degree.

I'm trying to understand the interplay. Is this more of a technical study or is this kind of a more of a planning document going through normal alternative analysis?

MS. CHERIE PRICE:

The hydrodynamic portion of the study, like Renee said earlier, we're combining two of the large-scale long-term LCA studies into one. And the

original intent and the current intent of the hydrodynamic study is to provide technical tools. It's to allow us to go in and collect the data that's needed and form the modeling that's needed to make the analysis and to understand some of the transport process over time, spatially, temporally. And the delta management part of the study is still following the traditional Corps planning process.

But the hydro part of that will feed into the delta management part. So we still are going through the six steps. But we will take the information that we get from the hydrodynamic part and feed that into the bayside part of the study.

Does that help explain to you a little bit?

MR. JOHN LOPEZ:

Yeah. It definitely does. But, obviously, the alternatives you might analyze for the delta management are dependent on the other diversions that might be strung up and down the river. It seems like your delta managing alternative would be to include a complement of these other projects. You seem to be segregating those two

things.

MS. RENEE SANDERS:

I just want to make sure I understand the question. When we're using the technical tools, the models that are being tweaked, we're saying

they're not being developed from scratch, I would say they're being tweaked. They will look at existing and authorized diversions. So it's a combination thereof. And I think the intent is to take some of the ideas from the Master Plan and further develop those to make sure that, say, for instance, is a diversion, to make sure it's in the location that it needs to be in and decides that it's optimal for that location.

We're going to use the resources that we have, as well as the small scale physical model, to better define what works best in what area.

MR. GARY ROBERT:

Gary Robert. I work at the Corps and, actually, on this study at one point a long time ago. I wanted to follow-up on what John was saying. I had done a study management plan on this very study with the hydrodynamic model and the delta management in one

study.

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And now from what John is pointing out, you don't seem to be having a stated objective for your delta management study that says, okay, this is the objective of this study, and these are the alternatives that can lead you to that objective. You just seem to be doing some technical analysis on, maybe, ideas that are already out there, like, he's saying, some diversions that are in the Master Plan.

So do you have an objective to this? At the time I wrote the case study plan for this very study, I had an objective stated that it would be to maximize the sediments that are retained in the literal system so that they stay somehow as a resource.

In your case, you don't have an objective to this study that's looking at how do you compare alternatives to get the most, whatever it is you're going to define with the objective to the study.

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MS. CHERIE PRICE:

To answer your question, the last objective that we showed in the list of

objectives up there, there may even be one more. But the one that talked about maintaining a sustainable net positive elevation for the marsh areas, that is specific to delta management. That's referring to the bayside area. So that we will have to develop an initial ray of alternatives to accomplish that.

So we will start off like we do in Corps planning studies, and we'll include the State Master Plan alternatives in that process. But there will be other alternatives too that may not be in the State Master Plan.

MS. RENEE SANDERS:

And, I think, just to reiterate on that too. When we looked at the slide of what was included in the 2004 report, it mentioned, you know, study large-scale diversions that are greater

than 50,000 cfs and that said, study alternative channel alignments.

That's not the only thing that we're going to do. The Master Plan is not the only thing that we're going to analyze. So we're open to whatever large-scale restoration ideas the public has and whatever we come up

with. And I do think that the overall goals, kind of, captures what we're saying. It's reconnecting the Mississippi River with the basin and optimize sediment and nutrients.

I think that meets what you're saying. We are going to go through the feasibility study. We are going to start with alternatives and develop those and figure out which alternative is the best one. Maybe, a combination of measures, it may be one measure, it may be, ten. Just like the Master Plan, their recommended plan had a combination of measure that they said was a good solution. Does that answer your question?

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MR. GARY ROBERT:

Yes.

MR. HARLEY WINER:

Harley Winer, former Corps employee, presently, an engineer with Atkins. I'm concerned about the study area. I see on the map that you're going all the way up to Vicksburg, but you're not including the ATchafalaya. And if we look at the Atchafalaya, that is one of the most successful diversion points in the river right now. It's the only place in Louisiana where we

actually see delta formation.

So why is the Atchafalaya not included in the study area?

MS. RENEE SANDERS:

I think Cherie touched on it a little bit in her presentation. You know, $25 million seems like a lot of money until you start parceling down what needs to be done and what data gaps are on the river that we need to fill. The question has been asked before about why we haven't included

the Atchafalaya River.

I can give you two main reasons. One of which is, simply, we don't have the financial resources to be able to do the in-depth analysis that we need to do. We wanted to focus our efforts and have a really good product and have some useful information out of it.

The other portion of it is that we've been working with some people in the Atchafalaya Basin, Paul Kemp, specifically. And we're going to see if we can't find a way to take those models and possibly integrate them into what we have. I'm not saying they're going to be completely placed together. But there's, potentially, going to be an opportunity to take the information

their collecting and see how we can possibly connect it into what we're doing.

MS. CHERIE PRICE:

There is also, currently, in the 2004 report, there is a large-scale study that's focused. It's not being

executed currently, but it is in the report that focuses on the Old River Control Structure and the Atchafalaya River system.

MR. RANDY CAIRE:

My name is Randy Caire. I'm from St. Charles Parish, St. John Parish. I can sure appreciate all the science that you guys are going through with this study. One diversion that I don't see on any of the proposals is diverting water from the Mississippi to Lake Des Allemands. And I don't know why that didn't attract the scientist, as far as sediment possibilities there.

But I do know that if there was such a diversion, it would greatly help the wildlife and fishing in Lake Des Allemands. There is a letter that Kevin Vandant sent me that if we were to have a diversion from the Mississippi for the sake of Lake Des Allemands as it was presently exist for

Lake Cataouatche via the Davis Pond Diversion that it would be a mecca for

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fishing.

I want to suggest that to you guys to look at that. Because you would not only be having another way to help the coast, but you'd also be improving the sport fishermen possibilities in that area. And we ought to have the office of tourism, as well, involved in the decision you make. But there's great possibility right there.

MS. CHERIE PRICE:

That's a great idea. Thank you.

MR. SCOTT EUSTIS:

My name is Scott Eustis, Gulf Restoration Network. And I just got a question about climate change, and how the study was accounting for this, the different predictions of how climate change is going to affect the hydrodynamics of the river, whether it's the different flood stages or through sea-level rise?

MS. CHERIE PRICE:

As part of the study, we'll be looking at future scenarios at year 50.

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And that includes sea-level rise. And

the Corps currently has sea-level rise guidance that applies three different relative sea-level rise rates to, will be applied to the hydrodynamic models, as well as to the bayside models.

Does that answer your question completely?

MR. SCOTT EUSTIS:

Is there any consideration how climate change might change the pattern of flooding?

MS. CHERIE PRICE;

That's a good question. The Institute of Water Resources within the Corps of Engineers is currently developing guidance for our studies to analyze that. It's not currently available to us yet. But it's something that is coming down the road fairly soon. And we will be taking a look at it.

MR. SEAN DUFFY:

Sean Duffy, Big River Coalition. I have to ask. One of the terms used in

a couple of places was "dedicated dredging." I'd like to hear a definition of "dedicated dredging"?

MS. CHERIE PRICE:

You want my definition. Basically, dredging outside of maintenance

dredging. Dredging that's dedicated specifically to restoration that's not part of maintenance dredging. That's how I use it.

MR. BREN HAASE:

Dredging for the purpose of wetland creation.

MR. BRIAN LITTLE:

Brian Little. I work for Remedial Construction Services, and I'm teaming up with Noranda Lumina over in Gramercy, Louisiana, working with them. Some of they're byproducts that they have at their facility could be possibly used in the future for beneficial reuse. And I see a lot of this what y'all speak of, and this study has to do more with sediment controls and hydrodynamic studies.

Are y'all looking at any studies for structural protection or other materials that the state or the area might have to better the integrity, I guess, of the river or the area?

MS. CHERIE PRICE:

You're talking about resources outside of just sediment from the river?

MR. BRIAN LITTLE:

Yes, correct.

MS. RENEE SANDERS:

Or structures of some kind?

MR. BRIAN LITTLE:

Yes, ma'am.

MS. CHERIE PRICE:

I would think that that's something we could include that we can look at when we're developing an initial ray of alternatives. And if something pops to the surface that we see would be beneficial, then that would be something we can consider.

Primarily, we are looking at river resources for restoration. But if

there is opportunities there for us to look at other structural features for protection, then we would definitely not exclude it from the study.

MS. LEE MUELLER:

Any other questions?

From here, we're going to move into the formal scoping period.

(FORMAL SCOPING SESSION)

MS. SANDRA STILES:

This is your opportunity to give us comments on what you think are the important human natural resources that you think we should focus on. What you think we, maybe, don't need to focus on. What are your ideas for the

project. Where should be look; where shouldn't we look. This is your opportunity to give feedback.

I'm going to open the floor up, and we'll wonder around with the mic to whoever would like to offer a comment.

MR. JOHN LOPEZ:

John Lopez, Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation. We've already

touched, obviously, on the value of coastal habitats and maintaining the land forms. However, what I would suggest is that as you look at the delta, I think you have to look at the unique systems that the delta represents, your riverine and oceanic system. And also that there are two major conservation areas in the delta: Pass a Loutre Wildlife Management Area and Delta National Wildlife Refuge.

So those are really irreplaceable resources. I'm not saying that -- we may be that ultimately we relinquish those somehow. But if you look at redesigning the delta, you have to, in my opinion, consider what resources are still there and what can we save.

MR. DARRYL PAUL WARD:

Darryl Paul Ward, Garden of Eden plants. The critical nature in human

environmental issues, the main thing is plants for fuel and food. And maybe we can take a step to look at hybrid, like, automobiles, two forms of fuel.

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We as humans, we eat animals and plants. And resources, which are natural and human environment in this, is to take the animal, allow the spirit to die, and be reborn as a plant. And how this is done is: Boom, you're dead and reborn in the name of Messiah. All has spoken. You are a plant of God.

And when you think and you study as a plant, instead of the animal realizing that you're not the ape, that you're reborn as an animal, all your outlook changes, and this is what brings out the plant of Jesus Christ was the cross. And he knew the plan was the cross. The plan, if you state it, which the cross is the plant.

So the plant is the Messiah to rise out of the earth as a plant. So if we plant all of this, and the plant rises, then we'll know that we are part of the plant, and we'll know that Christ allowed us to come from earth and not from ape. But there's a lot of us who would like to stay as ape as the

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animal, which is their prerogative. But if you're reborn as a plant, you'll see life natural, and the human environment that would benefit. Thank you very much.

MS. SANDRA STILES:

Does anybody else have a comment? Specific ideas on where you'd like to see this study go? Anything you think is a waste of our time?

MR. HARLEY WINER:

My name is Harley Winer. Question No. 3. What are reasonable restoration alternatives that should be considered in the EIS?

And to me, the objective is: How do we get sediment into the system rather than being deposited offshore? And it seems to me there's a -- a channel needs to deliver the sediment some place. Right now, the Mississippi River channel is delivering the sediment offshore. But the Atchafalaya channel is delivering sediment and creating a delta in ATchafalaya Bay.

And this goes back to my initial question. Why is the Atchafalaya and a diversion at the Atchafalaya not considered as an alternative?

MR. RANDY CAIRE:

Randy Caire, once again. When you do your studies, all the money and effort that we're going to be putting into this, consider the accessibility to the people to be able to enjoy whatever results. In other words, it's very hard for people to access these areas of wildlife. The current boating facilities, it's only for touch Louisiana fishermen that can for the most part gain access to all these areas.

So whatever area we wind up rebuilding or whatever, consider those facilities that would make it more accessible to people so that in years to come, more and more people will find value in just getting out on the water and seeing the wildlife and, eventually, that will gain us a lot of

support.

MR. GARY ROBERT:

Gay Robert. I think you have this in the study, but I just want to make sure it goes down as an alternative. In looking at ways that the river distributes sediments now, as Harley was pointing out, a lot of it still goes off the Continental Shelf. And when I had worked on this study myself,

I kind of envisioned an objective being to maximize sediment, contain the sediment, but in the literal system somehow. So that would probably mean looking at realigning the navigation channel.

I know I talked to some folks in the hallway that said, well, this study wouldn't get that far. But I think in your list of alternatives, that ought to be in there, looking at how do you maximize hanging on to the sediment. That would probably mean moving the navigation channel some kind of way, blocking off Southwest Pass and ships

in the channel.

MR. GEORGE DUFFY:

My name is George Duffy. And I'm with the Louisiana Maritime Association. First of all, not all the spoil materials go out in the Gulf. There's deposited at the Head of Passes over 8 million cubic yards that are then re-pumped into the wetlands.

When there is sufficient funding, cutterhead dredges are used, and they pump it over into the restoration area along with Mississippi River Channel in Southwest Pass. Realignment of the channel has been discussed for many,

many years. And what people miss with that is that the economic impact on this channel to this nation is horrendous.

We just finished with the study by Dr. Tim Ryan with tremendous numbers s to what the economic impact is. Discussions on realignment have been talked about in a lock here and a lock there and do this and do that. But if

you look in the state's plan, they're basically looking at abandoning the material in the lower river from Southwest Pass or Venice down because it doesn't meet the quality that they're looking for for restoration.

So I think that's going to be an important aspect. I was told earlier that eventually navigation will be brought into these discussions with that. That's all I have to say. Thank you.

MS. SANDRA STILES:

Do we have any other questions?

Lee's going to come up and close us out.

MS. LEE MUELLER:

Like I said, we have a court reporter here, and she's captured all your comments. You also have comment

cards available at the front table for you to mail in if you prefer to submit a written comment. We also have a study email as you see up there. And as Sandy said, Bill Klein is actually

the Environmental Manager on this project, and there's his contact information for you to send in comments until May 4 to be captured in the scoping report.

We do want you guys to stay engaged. The project team does plan to participate in several coastal restoration conferences. We do plan very elaborate stakeholder engagement throughout the five years. Speaker requests at the Corps has an active program. You can submit a request and come speak to an association, a military organization, et cetera. And also, the team is also planning yearly formal updates. LCA.gov is a great source.

And here is the project web page. You're also able to submit a comment from the web page. With that said, here is some additional contacts of several team members to reach out to them if you have further questions. We'll also hang around this evening and

answer any more questions you may have out in the foyer.

Thank you very much for attending. We appreciate your input.

(THE PROCEEDINGS ENDED AT 7:17 P.M.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

This certification is valid only for a

transcript accompanied by my original signature and original raised seal on this page.

That this testimony was reported by me in the Stenomask method (voice-writing), was prepared and transcribed by me or under my personal direction and supervision, and is a true and correct transcript to the best of my ability and understanding;

That I am not related to counsel or to the parties herein; am not otherwise interested in the outcome of this matter; and am a valid member in good standing of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Certified Shorthand Reporters.

_____

TIFFENY SUIRE GALLARDO
Certified Court Reporter
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