



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
New Orleans District

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

SCOPING REPORT

**Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA),
Mississippi River Hydrodynamic and Delta Management
Feasibility Study and Environmental Impact Statement**

August 2012

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July 2012

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (Public Law 91-190; 42 U.S.C 4321 *et seq*) and the Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the NEPA (40 CFR §§ 1500-1508) require the federal government to use all practicable means to create and maintain conditions under which man and nature can exist in productive harmony. The NEPA procedures insure that environmental information is available to the public before decisions are made and before actions are taken. All federal agencies are required to prepare detailed statements assessing the potential environmental impacts of and alternatives to major federal actions significantly affecting the environment. Such detailed statements are referred to as environmental impact statements (EIS).

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi Valley Division, New Orleans District (CEMVN) published a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS for the Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) – Louisiana, Mississippi River Hydrodynamic and Delta Management restoration study (LCA MRHDM) in the *Federal Register* (volume 77, number 57, 17037) on March 23, 2012. The NOI announced the intent of the CEMVN and its local sponsor, the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA), to prepare an EIS that analyzes the potential impacts of implementing the LCA MRHDM project.

The LCA MRHDM project is the first large scale, long term critical restoration project in the November 2004, programmatic EIS for the Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) - Louisiana, Ecosystem Restoration Study (LCA Ecosystem Restoration Study). The Record of Decision (ROD) for the programmatic EIS was signed on November 18, 2005. The EIS analyzing the LCA MRHDM study, consistent with §1502.20 of the NEPA, will be tiered off of the programmatic EIS.

The NEPA requires an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action. This process is referred to as scoping. NEPA scoping meeting announcements were advertised in several area newspapers before the meeting dates. Six NEPA public scoping meetings were held throughout the study area.

This NEPA Scoping Report outlines the NEPA scoping process, provides background information regarding the proposed action and describes the scoping issues identified during the scoping comment period. Section 5.0 of this report describes the scoping comments and where in the EIS comments would likely be addressed. The top five scoping themes identified during the scoping meetings include:

1. Urgency of project implementation.
2. Stakeholders and local landowner's desire engagement with the study.
3. Mississippi State residents concerned with restoration projects adversely impacting, especially causing flooding, of Mississippi residents.
4. Will the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluate changes to the Mississippi River / Atchafalaya River flow split at the Old River Control Structure?
5. Will the study look at realignment of the lower Mississippi River?

2.0 STUDY AUTHORITY

The LCA MRHDM Study is the first large-scale, long-term restoration assessment investigated under the LCA Program. The LCA MRHDM is a combination of two LCA studies described in the programmatic 2004 LCA Ecosystem Restoration Study:

- the Mississippi River Hydrodynamic Study component, and
- the Mississippi River Delta Management Study component.

The LCA MRHDM study will identify and evaluate a combination of large-scale management and restoration features to address the long-term sustainability of the lower Mississippi River Deltaic Plain, as authorized under Section 7003 of the Water Resource Development Act (WRDA) 2007.

3.0 PROPOSED ACTION

Study Area

The LCA MRHDM study area covers the lower Mississippi River and the surrounding deltaic regions. The hydrodynamic study effort will focus on the Mississippi River, while the delta management study effort will focus on the adjacent basins (**figure 1**).

Project Goal

The overall project goal is to reconnect Mississippi River water, sediment and nutrient resources to the surrounding basins sufficient to provide a sustainable coastal ecosystem that allows for the coexistence of navigation and flood risk reduction.



Figure 1. LCA Mississippi River Hydrodynamic and Delta Management Study Area.

Project Objectives

Study objectives include:

- Identify Mississippi River resource quantities and locations that can be effectively directed to support long term sustainable restoration in balance with multiple river and basin functions.
- Provide a decision making framework (e.g. models, etc.) and criteria for making programmatic management decisions of managing sediment and water for restoration.
- In areas surrounding coastal communities, achieve a sustainable net positive elevation change relative to sea level rise and subsidence by adjusting bayside hydrology and re-establishing geomorphic connectivity of the Mississippi River to the receiving basins to introduce and retain sufficient volumes of sediment, freshwater, and nutrients.

4.0 NEPA SCOPING PROCESS

The NEPA (40 CFR §1501.7) provides the following description of the scoping process:

§1501.7 Scoping.

There shall be an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action. This process shall be termed scoping. As soon as practicable after its decision to prepare an environmental impact statement and before the scoping process the lead agency shall publish a notice of intent (Sec. 1508.22) in the Federal Register except as provided in Sec. 1507.3(e).

As part of the NEPA scoping process the lead agency may hold an early scoping meeting or meetings especially when the potential impacts of a particular action are confined to specific sites. In addition, as part of the scoping process the lead agency shall:

- Invite the participation of affected Federal, State, and local agencies, any affected Indian tribe, the proponent of the action, and other interested persons (including those who might not be in accord with the action on environmental grounds).
- Determine the scope and the significant issues to be analyzed in depth in the environmental impact statement.
- Identify and eliminate from detailed study the issues which are not significant or which have been covered by prior environmental review, narrowing the discussion of these issues in the statement to a brief presentation of why they will not have a significant effect on the human environment or providing a reference to their coverage elsewhere.

The Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS for the LCA MRHDM Study, published in the *Federal Register* (volume 77, number 57, 17037) on March 23, 2012, identified the NEPA public scoping meeting locations and dates (**table 1**).

Table 1. Dates and Locations of NEPA Public Scoping Meetings.

<p>Tuesday, April 10, 2012 LA Dept of Natural Resources, LaBelle Room 617 North 3rd Street Baton Rouge, LA</p>	<p>Thursday, April 12, 2012 Port of New Orleans, Auditorium 1350 Port Of New Orleans Place New Orleans, LA</p>
<p>Tuesday, April 17, 2012 Larose Civic Center 307 East 5th Street Larose, LA</p>	<p>Thursday, April 19, 2012 Boothville-Venice Elementary School #1 Oiler Drive Boothville, LA</p>
<p>Tuesday, April 24, 2012 Waveland Civic Center 335 Coleman Avenue Waveland, MS</p>	<p>Thursday, April 26, 2012 St. Bernard Parish Council Chambers 8201 W. Judge Perez Drive Chalmette, LA</p>

Scoping meeting announcements requesting comments regarding the scope of the LCA MRHDM Study were mailed to Federal, State, and local government and agencies; and interested groups and individuals on March 26, 2012. An overview of the meeting purpose and dates was sent via email to parish government representatives, non-governmental organizations, stakeholders and interested parties on March 23, 2012. A media advisory announcing the scoping meeting was provided to over 350 media outlets on March 23, 2012 and April 10, 2012, and posted on CEMVN's Facebook page.

Advertisements for the NEPA scoping meeting appeared in the following publications:

- The Times-Picayune, April 8 and 12, 2012
- The Baton Rouge Advocate, April 8 and 10, 2012
- The Lafourche Gazette, April 11 and 15, 2012
- The Daily Comet, April 13 and 17, 2012
- The Sea Coast Echo, April 18 and 21, 2012
- The Plaquemines Gazette, April 10 and 17, 2012
- The Sun Herald Times, April 22, 2012
- The St. Bernard Voice, April 13 & 20, 2012

The schedule for the NEPA scoping meetings was:

- 6:00 – 6:30 p.m. Open House
- 6:30 – 7:00 p.m. LCA Ecosystem Restoration Program/LCA Mississippi River Hydrodynamic and Delta Management Study
- 7:00 – 7:30 p.m. Question and Answer Session
- 7:30 – 7:55 p.m. Formal NEPA Scoping Comments Session
- 7:55 - 8:00 p.m. Wrap-up

The open house session provided attendees with an opportunity to visit a series of poster stations staffed by project delivery team (PDT) members and subject matter experts regarding the following topics:

- LCA MRHDM Proposed Study Area map
- LCA MRHDM Study Timeline and Milestones
- Overview of the study and its Goals and Objectives
- Resource Considerations to be included in the planning process

Following the open house, there was a brief presentation on the LCA MRHDM Study and a description of the NEPA process. During this segment, the LCA Environmental Manager and both the CEMVN Project Managers and the Louisiana Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration Study Manager presented introductory remarks, including the agenda, purpose of the meeting, public involvement under NEPA, a brief history leading to the study, the scope of the analysis, and the intent to prepare an EIS for the LCA MRHDM Study.

The question and answer portion of the scoping meetings focused on explaining the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers study process and responding to general questions from meeting attendees. Following this part of the meeting, scoping comments were accepted from attendees. Individuals were invited to present their verbal and/or written scoping comments to be recorded without interruption. This part of the meeting continued until no further scoping comments were offered.

Scoping meeting attendees were reminded during the wrap-up part of the meeting to pick up postage-paid comment cards if they wished to submit additional comments at a later date, and to drop off the meeting evaluation forms at the registration table.

This NEPA Scoping Report presents and summarizes the scoping comments expressed at the public scoping meetings, as well as all other scoping comments received during the scoping comment period beginning March 23, 2012, and ending May 4, 2012. This NEPA Scoping Report indicates where in the EIS individual comments would likely be addressed. This NEPA Scoping Report will be published on the LCA web site (www.lca.gov). A transcript of comments made at each scoping meeting was prepared by a certified court reporter; copies of the entire transcript from each scoping meeting will be available on the LCA web site. Individual formal scoping comments from each scoping meeting are presented in **Appendix A**.

5.0 SCOPING COMMENTS

NEPA scoping comments document interested parties' concerns about the scope of the proposed course of action as well as identify significant issues, resources and suggested alternatives. NEPA scoping comments will be considered during the study process and in preparation of the draft EIS.

Summary of NEPA Scoping Comments

A total of 136 people signed the attendance records for the six NEPA scoping meetings. These included, but were not limited to, private citizens, industry stakeholders, non-governmental organizations and political representatives. A copy of the sign-in attendance record sheets for each public NEPA scoping meetings is provided in **Appendix A**.

A total of 39 comments were received during the NEPA scoping comment period. Of these, twenty-eight verbal comments were articulated during the six NEPA scoping meetings (**table 2**; see **Appendix B**). One post card (**Appendix C**) and 10 letter/email comments were also received (see **Appendix D**). Email comments were copies of the letter comments.

A NEPA scoping comment may contain several multi-part comments directed at multiple areas of concern. Hence, a single comment could potentially be addressed in multiple sections of the EIS. A total of 264 specific comments were expressed during the NEPA scoping comment period (**table 3**). Court reports of scoping meeting comments were not modified and public comments may have grammatical or spelling errors.

Table 2. Number of Scoping Meeting Participants and Scoping Meeting Comments.

Scoping Meeting Location	Number of Participants	Number of Comments
April 10, 2012, LA Dept of Natural Resources, LaBelle Room, 617 North 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA	40	6
April 12, 2012, Port of New Orleans, Auditorium, 1350 Port Of New Orleans Place, New Orleans, LA	30	6
April 17, 2012, Larose Civic Center, 307 East 5th Street, Larose, LA	19	5
April 19, 2012, Boothville-Venice Elementary School, #1 Oiler Drive, Boothville, LA	5	2
April 24, 2012, Waveland Civic Center, 335 Coleman Avenue, Waveland, MS	17	4
April 26, 2012, St. Bernard Parish Council Chambers, 8201 W. Judge Perez Drive, Chalmette, LA	25	5

Table 3. Categorization of Scoping Comments by SEIS Subject Matter.

Source of Scoping Comment	PN	ALT	AE	EC	CC	Totals
Scoping Meeting Comments	20	24	19	16	22	101
Scoping Comment Cards	3	1	3	3	0	10
Scoping Comment Letters and Emails	18	21	39	38	39	155
Totals	41	46	62	57	61	267

* PN = Purpose and Need, ALT = Alternatives, AE = Affected Environment, EC = Environmental Consequences, and CC = Consultation, Coordination, and Compliance with Regulations.

NOTE: A single scoping comment may be categorized under multiple EIS subject matter headings.

NEPA scoping comments were categorized according to the chapter of the EIS where the subject matter of the comment would likely be addressed. **Table 3** displays the categorization and number of specific comments by EIS subject matter. The standard EIS format includes the following chapters:

- Purpose and Need
- Alternatives
- Affected Environment
- Environmental Consequences
- Consultation, Coordination, and Compliance with Regulations

Purpose and Need

A total of 41 comments were received regarding purpose and need. Comments received in this category included the need to conduct a regional study of, not only coastal Louisiana, but also

coastal Mississippi and Alabama. Mr. Tony Ladner commented at the April 24, 2012, Waveland Civic Center, Waveland, Mississippi NEPA scoping meeting: *“Let me reiterate what I said earlier that there needs to be a formal study with New Orleans, Vicksburg, and Mobile districts involved for a total impact of not only the Louisiana coast, Mississippi coast, also the Alabama coastline for a regional study instead of putting it just on Louisiana with it adversely affecting all three states.”*

Several comments stressed consideration of sustainability and navigation. By email dated May 3, 2012, R. King Milling commented: *“...In that regard, there is a growing understanding among the technically proficient, that the lower Mississippi River is probably not sustainable in its present configuration. This opinion has been enunciated by scientists and engineers, including senior members of the Corps of Engineers (albeit not all) on numerous occasions. Obviously, the critical economic and life style results which would flow from such an event should be self evident and would be devastating....”*

Alternatives

A total of 46 comments were received concerning alternatives. Concerns related to managing the Mississippi River dominated the comments received in this category. Mr. Steve Peyronnin for the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana commented at the April 10, 2012 Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, Baton Rouge, Louisiana NEPA scoping meeting: *“We've been looking at what's happening in coastal area of Louisiana. That's just one small component of our future without action. Restoration of our coast is going to require bold action. We believe that this is the type of effort that is going to start that bold action. And given the level of collapse that we're experiencing, it's reasonable to expect there are going to be large-scale changes if ultimately the decision is made to move forward with a complete rethinking of how the river is managed.”*

By letter and email dated May 2, 2012, Mr. Scott Eustis with the Gulf Restoration Network mentioned several major points, with supporting discussion, regarding the Mississippi River: *“...The study should enable us to employ the River more intelligently for Coastal Restoration....The study needs to take into account the changes likely in the River due to Sea Level Rise....The study should take into identify sources of sediment contamination along the project route, and include analysis of the effects of such contamination on the bayside....”*

Affected Environment

A total of 62 comments were received concerning the affected environment. Comments received in this category concerned expanding the study area and fish and wildlife within the study area. At the April 24, 2012, Waveland Civic Center, Waveland, Mississippi NEPA scoping meeting Tony Ladner commented: *“Let me reiterate what I said earlier that there needs to be a formal study with New Orleans, Vicksburg, and Mobile districts involved for a total impact of not only the Louisiana coast, Mississippi coast, also the Alabama coastline for a regional study instead of putting it just on Louisiana with it adversely affecting all three states.”*

By letter dated May 4, 2012, William A. Fontenot commented: *“...The Corps of Engineers and the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority are proposing to leave out of the study more than 50 percent of the Mississippi River Delta system of water and wetlands. At the recent public hearing I was told that the Atchafalaya River Basin will be picked up in future studies. Clearly this sort of piecemeal approach is prohibited by federal laws and court rulings and the Corps of Engineers and Louisiana officials should be more aware of their financial, legal and ethical responsibilities....”*

Environmental Consequences

A total of 57 comments were received regarding the environmental consequences. Comments received in this category included concerns not only of potential impacts of the proposed action on natural resources (vegetation, fish and wildlife resources) but also the accessibility of restored lands to the people. At the April 12, 2012, NEPA scoping meeting held at the Port of New Orleans, Auditorium, 1350 Port Of New Orleans Place, New Orleans, LA, George Duffy commented: *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 as 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.*

By letter dated April 25, 2012, Virginia M. Fay, Assistant Regional Administrator, Habitat Conservation Division, National Marine Fisheries Service, commented: *“...NMFS recommends the EIS include separate sections titled “Essential Fish Habitat” and “Marine Fishery Resources” that identify the EFH and fisheries resources of the study area. These sections should describe the potential impacts, both positive and negative, to those resources that could be caused by river diversions.... NMFS recommends the EIS include a section titled “Cumulative Impacts” which includes an evaluation of project impacts and benefits, in combination with other similar projects proposed for, or implemented, in the area....”*

Consultation, Coordination, and Compliance with Regulations

A total of 61 comments were received regarding consultation, coordination and compliance with regulations. Several comments were made requesting coordination between the PDT and landowners, as well as coordination with other Federal and state resource agencies, and with other ecosystem restoration projects. Tami Fucich commented at the April 26, 2012, St. Bernard Parish Council Chambers, in Chalmette, Louisiana NEPA scoping meeting: *“...And you've got landowners and you've got high industry. Don't wait until you're finished and all your work that*

you've done is being bulked because you didn't go to the landowner first. It's time wasted, it's money wasted, it's cost that is wasted. So whatever your plans and your goals are you really need to include the landowners in each and every step of the way, because it's going to benefit everyone, and I think that, right now, there's a lack within the State and within the federal government for how you include the landowners....”

By letter dated April 24, 2012, Jeffrey D. Weller, Supervisor, Louisiana Field Office U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service commented: “...*The Service suggests the creation of a basin level Advisory Committees that would provide scientific recommendations to guide the operation of the structures, ensuring a watershed approach in the operation of the diversions and siphons of each basin. The advisory committee should be made up of State and Federal resource agencies and an appropriate academic assembly (from fields such as of fisheries, oyster biology, wildlife ecology, water quality, ecological risk assessment, and wetland ecology/geology). The intent of these advisory groups would be to provide counsel on the operation and policy decisions for the basin diversion structures based on the group's assessment of overall health of the basin (striving toward sustainable wetlands with consideration given to fish and wildlife resources) and projected near-term and long-term needs to facilitate a sustainable approach to coastal restoration....”*

Table 4 summarizes each scoping comment and indicates by EIS subject matter, where an individual comment would likely be addressed in the draft EIS. EIS categories include: Purpose and Need for Action; Alternatives; Affected Environment; Environmental Consequences; and Consultation and Coordination. Compliance with Regulations (Federal, state and local environmental laws and regulations) is also included in this latter category. An individual scoping comment may be categorized under more than one EIS subject matter heading.

Table 4. LCA Mississippi River Hydrodynamic and Delta Management Study-- Summary of Scoping Comments. This table categorizes scoping comments by EIS subject matter, which is where an individual comment would likely be addressed in the draft EIS. EIS categories include: PN = Purpose and Need; ALT = Alternatives; AE = Affected Environment, EC = Environmental Consequences; CC = Consultation, Coordination, and Compliance with Regulations (Federal, state, and local environmental laws and regulations) is also included in this latter category. An individual scoping comment may be categorized under more than one EIS subject matter heading. A transcript of oral scoping comments from the six NEPA public scoping meeting is provided on the LCA web site (www.lca.gov). Copies of all written scoping comments are provided in the Appendix. NOTE: Court reports of scoping meeting comments were not modified and public comments may have grammatical or spelling errors.

EIS Section Where Comment Addressed						NEPA SCOPING COMMENTS
#	PN	ALT	AE	EC	CC	
Scoping Meeting Comments 10 April 2012 Department of Natural Resources, LaBelle Room, 617 North 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA						
1					X	Richard Goyer: <i>My comment would be to involve private landowners in the process up front, instead of trying to get support later on after a decision has been made on projected outcomes. 83 percent of our coastal land is owned by private landowners. And often times, they're left completely out of the box and are not involved until somebody says, well, we're going to do this with your land. What are their rights to manage the land after it has been restored? So that is a very prime consideration. These people own tens of thousands of acres of land. They're not just Joe's Hunting Camp. They are large concerns owning thousands of acres. And they have the power of our state representatives, our parish presidents, Congress. And they're often left out of this mix in the process. So my advice, if you want to call it that or comment, would be to involve landowners up-front so that they know what their benefits are and maybe what their constraints are. And are there chances for easement potentially, for instance, to utilize their land. This has to be done, these studies. And I conducted research for years. The biggest problem is to find the landowner that would allow me to study on their land without just going out there and being a trespasser. And that will become very important, as Dr. Gagliano mentioned, in your study objective -- and don't get them up-front. You can call them in meetings, other than just scoping process required by NEPA.</i>
		X		X		X

Table 4. LCA Mississippi River Hydrodynamic and Delta Management Study-- Summary of Scoping Comments. This table categorizes scoping comments by EIS subject matter, which is where an individual comment would likely be addressed in the draft EIS. EIS categories include: PN = Purpose and Need; ALT = Alternatives; AE = Affected Environment, EC = Environmental Consequences; CC = Consultation, Coordination, and Compliance with Regulations (Federal, state, and local environmental laws and regulations) is also included in this latter category. An individual scoping comment may be categorized under more than one EIS subject matter heading. A transcript of oral scoping comments from the six NEPA public scoping meeting is provided on the LCA web site (www.lca.gov). Copies of all written scoping comments are provided in the Appendix. NOTE: Court reports of scoping meeting comments were not modified and public comments may have grammatical or spelling errors.

EIS Section Where Comment Addressed						NEPA SCOPING COMMENTS
#	PN	ALT	AE	EC	CC	
2	X	X		X	X	Maura Wood: <i>Hi. I'm Maura Wood with the National Wildlife Federation. I'm very happy to hear you say that restoration and navigation and flood control will be equal in the study. That's a very important part of what needs to happen here. I also should come up and ask a question about the data collection that you're planning as part of this study. Hopefully, you're out there gathering data now. I know it takes a while. But we need to use this as an opportunity to fill some of the data gaps that, surprisingly, we have quite large data gaps, even with this river that's so closely watched. And we need this information to be able to make these informed decisions that you're talking about on how we can create a system of management that includes all of the restoration features as well. And they can be part of the flood control system and the navigation maintenance as well. I encourage you to look to the State and the State Master Plan as the model of how you can involve stakeholders over time in the formation of a plan in the framework development team and in the focus groups. You have an example there of how, what you've heard at least twice now tonight, you know, requested. And those requests come from the heart from people who care about the coast, who work on the coast, who depend on the coast, who grew up there like you, who have a tremendous amount of knowledge that is also a piece of what you need to pull together in this study.</i>
	X	X	X		X	Maura Wood: <i>Well, for instance, one of the things on the Myrtle Grove Diversion that our NGO partnership and the State was able to do was a very site specific data collection looking at all of the parameters of the river right in that section where we want to put a diversion, not at Torbert's Landing, or not an annual average ratings curve, but right here at these times of year, what's happening, where's the current, where's the sediment, what does the river look like, how can we grab that sediment. So we need very -- so where we're planning diversions, we need very specific information in those reaches of the river in particular.</i>

Table 4. LCA Mississippi River Hydrodynamic and Delta Management Study-- Summary of Scoping Comments. This table categorizes scoping comments by EIS subject matter, which is where an individual comment would likely be addressed in the draft EIS. EIS categories include: PN = Purpose and Need; ALT = Alternatives; AE = Affected Environment, EC = Environmental Consequences; CC = Consultation, Coordination, and Compliance with Regulations (Federal, state, and local environmental laws and regulations) is also included in this latter category. An individual scoping comment may be categorized under more than one EIS subject matter heading. A transcript of oral scoping comments from the six NEPA public scoping meeting is provided on the LCA web site (www.lca.gov). Copies of all written scoping comments are provided in the Appendix. NOTE: Court reports of scoping meeting comments were not modified and public comments may have grammatical or spelling errors.

EIS Section Where Comment Addressed						NEPA SCOPING COMMENTS
#	PN	ALT	AE	EC	CC	
3	X		X		X	<p>William Fontenot: <i>I think what would be very important in your Environmental Impact Study is to identify what information processes are missing. If a project is focusing on a part of the country which has been adversely impacted or greatly altered by thousands of other projects in other parts of the country. And I think in some way of connecting those things together leaves a tremendous hole or void in your Environmental Impact Statement. Because you're not really identifying what the environment is that is impacting what's going on in coastal Louisiana. So it's only a partial Environmental Impact Statement is what you're proposing. And that's not bad that you're doing this project. But I think it's important to identify what is not included. So if somebody reads it, they will understand or, hopefully, be able to understand it, a member of Congress from Ohio will be able to, or Montana, or New York would be able to look at this and say, oh, these are some of the things we should of included in the statute. And next time look at this, identifying something like this. We should be looking at something more comprehensive. I think if you say this is the Environmental Impact Statement on restoration in coastal Louisiana without including part, a major part of the Delta where some land building has actually occurred one of the few places in the world that land building is occurring in the Delta. And you don't include information about all of the other 43,000 structures, major dams that built in this system, then the person reading it won't be able to understand what information is not there. So I think that's part of what's missing in just about every environmental impact statement I've ever looked at, and I've looked at a lot of them. It's hard for people to make an informed, get their thought process working. Dr. Gagliano is somebody, and people who have gotten up and spoken, are people you ought to be sitting around a table with saying, okay, what is it we ought to be trying to do, and how can we have a much better outcome, a more complete document that will be useful that will use the work the individual groups that work on for decades. We've got in this room lots of people who worked on lots of things. We need to find some way to get them and other folks, who have worked on these issues and studies to be able to bring their information to you and include their information in what they're looking at. Otherwise, you're only doing a one percent environmental impact statement.</i></p>

Table 4. LCA Mississippi River Hydrodynamic and Delta Management Study-- Summary of Scoping Comments. This table categorizes scoping comments by EIS subject matter, which is where an individual comment would likely be addressed in the draft EIS. EIS categories include: PN = Purpose and Need; ALT = Alternatives; AE = Affected Environment, EC = Environmental Consequences; CC = Consultation, Coordination, and Compliance with Regulations (Federal, state, and local environmental laws and regulations) is also included in this latter category. An individual scoping comment may be categorized under more than one EIS subject matter heading. A transcript of oral scoping comments from the six NEPA public scoping meeting is provided on the LCA web site (www.lca.gov). Copies of all written scoping comments are provided in the Appendix. NOTE: Court reports of scoping meeting comments were not modified and public comments may have grammatical or spelling errors.

EIS Section Where Comment Addressed						NEPA SCOPING COMMENTS
#	PN	ALT	AE	EC	CC	
4		X	X	X	X	Steven Peyronnin for Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana: <i>I guess to follow-up on the informal portion. I was very encouraged to hear that the environmental impact will look at a future without action. We've been looking at what's happening in coastal area of Louisiana. That's just one small component of our future without action. Restoration of our coast is going to require bold action. We believe that this is the type of effort that is going to start that bold action. And given the level of collapse that we're experiencing, it's reasonable to expect there are going to be large-scale changes if ultimately the decision is made to move forward with a complete rethinking of how the river is managed. And from the Environmental Impact Statement, that can often be something that sets the project back. But measuring it for future without action, what's happening in our coast, it's clearly important that that be given some contents. And I bring that up, not just for the purpose of talking about habitat or wetlands, but we're talking about the radical changes we might expect to see from a project of this nature to fisheries to communities to economies to navigation and flood control. I say that, not from the perspective of trying to simply maintain the things the way they are, primarily, flood control and navigation. Because, as I think many people are beginning to understand, highest levels of the Corps, highest levels of Congress, people who use those resources, that those current uses of the river are unsustainable in their current operation. Sea-level rise changes are shifting the epicenter of the river. Dredging costs are rising. Fuel costs aren't coming down any time soon. Expansion of the Panama Canal is going to mean increased pressure in economic incentives for maintaining depths of the river. Those are all critical context- sensitive pieces that need to be considered. When we look at the challenge of re-engaging and reconnecting this river to a delta, that it's going to mean bold change with the environment and our coast. But that has to be measured against the consequences, not just to the environment, but to the very principles of the MRNT (phonetic) if we do nothing. Thank you.</i>

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5		X		X	X	Daniel Becker. <i>I wanted to know what you would do with the oilfield canals? Because most of this land that the projects takes place are in private land. And the oil canals are still there. They're all dredged by dredge boats. And most of these projects that you propose have dredge boats as the source of the material that they're going to put back in there. And what are you going to do with all the spoilbanks that are just sitting there and you've already created a problem with the dredge boats by dredging canals once? How do you think more canals are going to be a solution? And I don't think you have enough river sediment and that you can get it far enough away from the river to make that bit of good where you can just look on any map and Google, and you'll see how many oilfield canals are there, canals on top of canals, turnaround canals. So you can't dredge and fill over a pipeline. I once proposed a project to look at how many flow lines were in the state and to use some space shuttle data, ground penetrating radar. And I think it would be an interesting study to know how many flow lines are in the state. And they're full of naturally occurring radioactive material. They're supposed to replace those flow lines. So how are they going to replace the flow line if you build wetlands there? And I think what they want to do is play in their sandbox. They bought up a bunch of oyster leases to go play in, and they're letting the oil companies do whatever they want.</i>

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	X		X	X	X	<p>Daniel Becker: <i>I'm full of ideas. Well, I'll submit a project at the proper time. And I've already submitted a project for one of the early CWPPRAs for demonstration. But I just wanted to hear from you. Aren't most of these projects taking place away from the oil and gas production areas because you can't bury a pipeline, you can't dredge over a buried pipeline? Pipeline canals are always going to be over open water conduits. It would be like having a pie that's running, and you cut holes off through it. The pie leaks out. Well, you can do whatever you want with the river sediment. As long as these canals are there, the saltwater is going to continuously invade. The No. 1 problem we have is saltwater invasion. Then you have freshwater plants die. And I'd like to say, most of these islands that you build are just vegetating by whatever grows there. They dredge these things 4 feet high. So you have a 4-foot high pile of sand. Anything will grow on it. First flood, saltwater takes over and kills all those plants. So until you stop the saltwater from coming up all these millions of oilfield canals that we have, anything you do is going to be, just to preserve land can be a land building event. So I'll tell you what you did was that you changed the definition of what a wetland was first. You had a proposed amendment. You voted on it. You changed the definition from wetland to coastal, which included roads, bridges. The guy from CWPPRA just said he wanted more navigation. They can't bring supertankers up the Mississippi River anymore. The supertankers are going to go to Houston. They're closing the Port of New Orleans. They're going to build a millennium or some sort of port down by Fouchon. That's the main plan. The hardened loop is the offshore oil platform is the soft target. They're going to build that as a hardened infrastructure. Billy Nungesser already has his dredge boat waiting at the mouth of the river to build the berm around Grand Isle. The Dutch want to build it better berm around Grand Isle. I think that's a waste of funds. And I think your project is going to not help the average fisherman that lives in the area. And I mean you can study how much river sediment is there. It's going to change every year. They already have them, I'm sure, sediment gages and structures like that in place. This is the Corps of Engineers. They've been watching the river since I was born. Thank you.</i></p>

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6	X				X	<p>Sherwood Gagliano: <i>Since some of the other speakers have already set the precedent, I'll do the same too. I have a prime suggestion. Louisiana has a federally approved coastal management program that's been authorized since the 1970s. Most of our coastal parishes have been in the effected area here have approved local government programs. And those are extremely effective as a forum for collecting ideas. First of all, NEPA, as you well know, is a three-legged stool, social, economic, and environmental benefits have to be considered. And one of the big economic benefits is this coastal restoration effort, including the proponents that you're working on, is without a doubt the largest new industry is this state. It should employ people. An important part of this should be to look ahead at what kind of jobs we're going to create to reach sustainability, not just put these things out and walk away. We put them out and manage them and make sure they're operating properly, functioning properly. That requires a whole array of skills. We've got some indication of this, the BP Oil Spill. We had fishermen go out and apply oil booms and do tasks. And we really didn't have a trained workforce for it. It worked, but it wasn't very efficient. So what I'm suggesting is that we incorporate the local government coastal management programs, which are legally in place and have considerable weight because they make recommendations to local public officials. And local public officials can act on that, as the primary way of exchanging data and getting public input into this process. And to forever demonstrate the importance of that, President Obama, a year or so ago, several years ago now, developed, made a strong commitment for restoration of hurricane damage to the Gulf Coast. And if you read the white paper documents that came out of these committees, they all say that what the President says and those documents reflect is that we need vision plans that develop at local levels. And those vision plans in my view need to incorporate social, economic, and environmental benefits. For example, St. Bernard Parish has been working -- first of all, they had the first coastal management program in the State of Louisiana that's been approved. That was in the 1970s. And they still meet religiously at least once a month and look at permits to develop recommendations. And they are active. It was the efforts of that board and the citizens of that parish that recognized the danger of MRGO and, ultimately, resulted in having it closed. So it is a platform, framework, for collecting information. And instead of waiting until the draft EIS is put in the public library, before you start working with the local folks, that's the (inaudible). Again, I really like this forum. This is great, and you're on the right path. My name is Sherwood Gagliano.</i></p>

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April 12, 2012, Port of New Orleans, Auditorium, 1350 Port Of New Orleans Place, New Orleans, LA						
7	X		X		X	John Lopez, Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation: <i>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.</i>
8	X		X			Darryl Paul Ward, Garden of Eden Plants: <i>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. 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 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.</i>
9	X	X				Harley Winer: <i>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?</i>

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10	X	X		X		Randy Caire: <i>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.</i>
11	X	X	X	X		Gary Robert: <i>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.</i>
12	X	X		X	X	George Duffy: <i>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 as 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.</i>

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April 17, 2012, Larose Civic Center, 307 East 5th Street, Larose, LA						
13		X	X		X	Dwayne Bourgeois: <i>I'm the Director for with the North Lafourche Levee District. The point about data source. This may be something that's probably new. USGS is using second generation linear for the specific purpose to try to track levee systems and stuff like that, basically. It's the proof of concept. It's already been flown in Lafourche Parish and all over the levees in Lafourche Parish. Very high resolution linear ranging thing. Maybe you don't know about it because it's, kind of, just proof of concept. I can give you any additional information on that. Thank you very much.</i>
14	X	X	X	X		Darryl Paul Ward: <i>What are the critical natural human and environmental issues? Natural and human environmental issues should be - this should take in everybody. Like I had mentioned, plants, food. If something like that can affect all of us. And we all have to be brought into this to be a part of the human environmental issues. What are the important resources in the natural and human? The important resources is the food and fuel that that part of the coastal is not - it's a whole new world out there that I think that everybody has to be a part of in the future. Right now, it's only the coastal people that - it's going to be the new world of jobs and education is what I'm trying to say. Jobs and education. Everything out there is going to be new. You're talking about natural, natural resources, air, wind, water, geothermal, waves, tides. All this is energy, energy, energy. Some of this should be allowed to produce something to make us leaders. We have more natural resources in the State of Louisiana than any other country in the world. I think that we ought to put together a natural and human environment for us to participate together as a team to be a impact for our future. The United States needs this. We need clean air, clean fuel, and new jobs, and new education. I believe this coastal is going to be the new jobs, new education, if a leader with a vision is allowed to participate in the forward advancement of all of us in Louisiana to realize that we have all the natural resources. But we have to do something with it. We can sit up here and talk, make a canal, make a diversion, and go throw nutrients here and there. But you need a leader that's going to bring everybody else in on it to benefit everybody in the United States of America and make Louisiana No. 1. And we can be No. 1. We have the natural resources. We have the power. We have the people. But you need somebody to organize it to put this together. I understand Army Corps of Engineers is doing a lot. That's why a lot can be done when we have scientists and engineers. But you need somebody with common sense to work together with Army Corps of Engineers and the State. And this is why I wrote to these people. This is why I'm here today. This is the natural and human environment of the benefits of our natural resources for our people to stand together with a leader. Thank you very much.</i>

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15	X	X	X		X	Kerry St. Pe': <i>My name is Kerry St. Pe'. I'm the Director of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program. One of the objectives of this study is to assess all the resources of the river. And I'm glad to see that finally being done, know where all the sediment is on the bottom of the river, water column. And I would - that leads me to the dedicated dredging component of the study. I firmly believe as one of the answers to the future of Louisiana is to use sediments in the river on the bottom, pump it out and to create marshes, ridges, barrier islands to restore those features. But what's kept us from doing that on a large scale to this point is cost. I think the Master Plan has \$71 million dedicated to marsh creation. But the acreage is, I think, underestimated in the Master Plan because of the cost attributed to building marshes. And I believe that the cost of rebuilding these marshes with the dredge pipe is based on the cost up to now. It's the way we price, and we cost out projects on a project by project basis. We need to be looking at this on a large-scale programmatic level. We need to look at using the dredge until this project runs out of money and keeping a dredge and pipe and infrastructure out there until we can find another source of money and continue using that same infrastructure, pipes, to create more marshes. That way you reduce the cost on a per cubic yard basis. That's how you reduce the cost. I would hope that y'all would look at identifying areas where the sediment load on the bottom is greatest and pick those sites to build to cross over infrastructure to facilitate the use of dredges and pipes on those locations. When you use up all the sediment on that location, perhaps, you could come up with a way to deposit what you're dredging on a navigation basis in the same hole in the same area where it can be used in the future to build marshes. I think that's all I have. Does that make sense?</i>
16	X	X	X		X	Rodney Dufrene: <i>With this Davis Pond project, I'd like to see y'all divert more water to the wildlife management area on the east side of Lake Salvadore and catch all of it, not just a section of on through (inaudible). With the David Pond Project, I'd like to see y'all divert more water through the wildlife management area east side of Lake Salvadore. That way, it will catch the whole lake, instead of just a portion of the lake going straight across it. That is a big benefit I've seen with that project.</i>
17					X	Eddie St. Pierre: <i>I'd like to thank y'all for coming tonight informing us and helping us out. And I hope in the future we can help you out too. Thank you.</i>

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April 19, 2012, Boothville-Venice Elementary School, #1 Oiler Drive, Boothville, LA						
18	X	X			X	Byron Marijovich: <i>I'm from Buras also. I would encourage you-all to listen to some of the feedback from some of the citizens. We've gone through a lot of study sessions and we ain't got no where. I would encourage you-all to look into some of the parish we made as far as low lined dredging and I've given most of you my card and some of the information for the parish as far as some of the proposals. I also encourage you again to look at the smaller natural diversions as far as like meeting across the river that you might want to look at and see what their cause or what their human thoughts are. I feel like something like that.</i>
19	X	X	X			Robert Thomas: <i>I'm from Buras, Louisiana. My statement is that I'm scared to death of these large-scale diversions. If you come into Myrtle Grove, the Bonnet Carre Spillway and you especially the fisheries on the west side of Plaquemines Parish and unfortunately, there's nothing in the Master Plan that addresses compensating residents, oyster fishermen, seafood dealers. There's nothing in here about that. I don't know if it's not scientific yet, I don't know if a small diversion would work. And what is the Bonnet Carre Spillway it's been there for 60 years. But you can get where I'm going with that. I wanted to clear something up that was said before. Well, this is reverting back to your question and answer period, if that's okay. When Ken asked you the cost analysis between the diversions and the direct sediment costs. I'm not sure if you-all connected on exactly what he was saying. The cost of a yard of material through diversion versus the cost of a yard of material through the pipeline. I don't know if you-all were together, but I would love to see that figure also.</i>
April 24, 2012, Waveland Civic Center, 335 Coleman Avenue, Waveland, MS						
20	X	X	X	X	X	Tony Ladner: <i>Let me reiterate what I said earlier that there needs to be a formal study with New Orleans, Vicksburg, and Mobile districts involved for a total impact of not only the Louisiana coast, Mississippi coast, also the Alabama coastline for a regional study instead of putting it just on Louisiana with it adversely affecting all three states.</i>
21			X	X	X	Steve Landry: <i>Could the study, the boundary studies include for looking at transportation and also look at baseline in Hancock County things like recreation, fishing, and tourism?</i>
22		X	X	X	X	Stradford Goins: <i>I have several comments. One, specifically, how are you going to address getting the sediment to the marshes, one, with the limitations under regulations on depositing dredging material; two, with the climbing of the river with the levees, starving the wetlands of the nutrients. You know, are any considerations given to, you know, putting significant breaches, not just diversions, significant breaches in levees to allow the sediment and the fresh water to flow naturally? Is there also any consideration to telling the shipping industry that the river is maxed out, you know, we've reached the point to where we're not going to harm the environment anymore to their benefit?</i>

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	X	X		X	X	Stradford Goins: <i>The other question I'd like to see addressed is how this is -- the future depth of the river to accommodate the Panama ships, you know, if we can fit it in this study. If they have to dredge the river deeper than it's currently dredged, the river's going to end up with higher velocity, more sediment that's just going to fall off the continental shelf. And that's the sediment we're going to need for these projects that we won't have. I'd like to see how you're going to address that.</i>
			X	X		Stradford Goins: <i>The final thing I'd like to see them address is the economic impact, the true economic impact of not only this coast and the wetland restoration but the existing conditions you have in Louisiana, the levees and floodwalls and future projects that they're considering for flood protection. How does that consider the negative economic impacts that those projects will have along coast of Mississippi?</i>
23		X	X	X		David Garcia, Mayor of Waveland. <i>I think what needs to be added to that is if this is completely restored as planned, what would be additional total storm surge that we could expect and how far inland as well should be added to that.</i>
April 26, 2012, St. Bernard Parish Council Chambers, 8201 W. Judge Perez Drive, Chalmette, LA						
24		X				Anthony Stipelcovich: <i>Anthony Stipelcovich, a St. Bernard resident. I have a suggestion. For our coastal erosion, what about building bulkheads all along the Louisiana Coast to prevent coastal erosion?</i>
25	X	X		X		Mr. Alfonso: <i>Well, I know some people don't like and some people do like freshwater diversions now. But that's only if you're not impacted by it. My thing is we've got a hundred-- generation after generation, five, six, 800, 1,000, 2,000 acres of land that was directly impacted by freshwater diversion. We only have 50 acres left. We might only have 75 acres left. Where the freshwater diversion has the biggest impact on land loss, and y'all all know that, y'all all had the studies come to y'all, but what y'all are talking about doing by getting the sediment out the river and putting it back on land, I think y'all will make a lot of people very happy who lost their land; who are paying all the taxes on 500 acres and only can see three. I think that's going to be a change. That's going to give--If y'all can provide that, y'all are going to give the people a better feeling of what the Corps does and how they can help. Because, so far, all we've seen is land loss. Thank you.</i>

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26	X	X			X	<p>Tami Fucich. My comment is based on landowners. Sometimes it's difficult to understand how, as an entity group, that the progress that you for landowners, there's no foundation, there's no standard, there's no rules, there's no regulations. It's, more or less, like an individual going out and building a shopping mall on private property and telling that landowner about it after the fact. I believe that there is a big omission when it comes to including landowners in what your objectives are, what your goals are. I think that you could eliminate a lot of the delays, a lot of the problems that occur after the fact if you would just let the landowners know the priority, your reasoning, and the overall goal and what you want to establish when it comes to your study. I mean, you're just beginning with two studies. You've got four more to go. And you've got landowners and you've got high industry. Don't wait until you're finished and all your work that you've done is being bulked because you didn't go to the landowner first. It's time wasted, it's money wasted, it's cost that is wasted. So whatever your plans and your goals are you really need to include the landowners in each and every step of the way, because it's going to benefit everyone, and I think that, right now, there's a lack within the State and within the federal government for how you include the landowners. So that's my only comment. Yes. Uhm, I really believe that you need to have a landowners' forum in regards to they need the State's ability--They need someone to understand their own viewpoint. To understand what they're going through. Unless you're directly involved, it's hard for anyone else to understand. So landowner to landowner--First of all, I need to let you know, I am totally, 100%, and my family is, too, behind coastal restoration. I know the importance of the sediment needed from the Mississippi River for land building. I know the importance of navigation. I had to educate myself. Because no one educated me within the state, so I had to educate myself, and sometimes I think I know more than I need to know. But someone had to do it. Uhm, I really think, though, that there needs to be some type of foundation for landowners so we can all get together and discuss the ins and outs. What we would like. What we don't like. Just like you have your round table, we need to have our own round table. You know, whether it starts at the Violet Canal all the way down to Venice, as landowners we need to participate together. Progress is only going to assured and seen if we all work together, and I see no effort. I've seen no effort, whatsoever, and I really believe that is your starting point. That is going to make smooth sailing for everyone involved, and you don't have your bumps and bruises along the way. Your bumps and bruises are eliminated before the process even begins, even if you have to have, uhm, disclosures, even if you have to have, uhm, rights of first refusal, you know, that we do with some of these landowners. I mean, I'm sure you guys have thought of this. If not, I'm going to tell you what I've thought of. But yeah, that's on my mind, and I think yours, too.</p>

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27		X	X	X		<p>Becky Livadais: <i>I'd like to compliment the Corps in including environmental issues in this study. Sometimes environmental impact is just kind of stated, but it sounds like you all are really going to consider the environmental conditions that are necessary. What would I like to see? I'd like to see a return of the freshwater Cypress swamp instead of wetlands. We lost it. Maybe you agree, maybe you don't, but I think we lost it due to the construction of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet and not protecting our land from saltwater intrusion. I would like to see some dams along the way, and then sediment pumped in and restored to what the ecological balance was back in the 1950's before the ship channel was done. I would also like to see that Proctor's Point, which is a whole extra piece of ground outside of the protected area for flooding, I'd like to see some of that protected, too, because it, also, was never--No one ever put the spoiler ridge on that side until much later than any of the others and it has really become a piece of Swiss cheese, if you could take a look at it. It wasn't always this way. It was a barrier, a natural barrier. I'd like to see some of the ridges restored in St. Bernard Parish that were there before the ship channel was done. Reasonable restoration? Maybe it's not reasonable anymore, maybe it's too far gone. But I'd like for that to be considered and not just tossed aside. After all, that's what studies are for. And maybe the study will show that it's not reasonable to restore Proctor's Point, but I think you'll find that it will be reasonable to restore the central wetlands, especially with some sediment, and then, at that time, of course, you have to consider landowners' rights. Thank you. Oh. My name is Becky Livadais. I'm a resident of St. Bernard Parish; I live in Meraux. I also serve as a supervisor of the Crescent Soil and Water Conservation District. I was, actually, thinking of dams along the Violet Canal and some of the tributaries that are there. When I say tributaries, man-made tributaries; your retainer canal and pipeline canals, and such, which allow just the natural breakthroughs, or whatever, and allow salt water intrusion into there. The dam along the ship channel and our flood gates, et cetera, and the large wall should prevent a lot of salt water from coming in through the Violet Canal, and then, if you put freshwater coming from the river, that should take care of that, too, because that would be a natural flow of freshwater into there. But I don't know what you all think. In your study would you just allow the freshwater to just flow from the Violet Canal into the central wetlands? I'm sure you're going to have to study what's the best way to distribute that and to put sediment in. I don't know, that's your job to study it. I'm just saying consider restoring the central wetlands to what it was in the 1950's. Thank you.</i></p>

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28		X	X		X	Darryl Paul Ward: <i>Darryl Paul Ward, calling for alternating plans. Naturally, a human element in this is somebody that has a picture of understanding, and the wisdom that we can all agree upon could be a subject to further our education. For instance, we're talking about diversions. If we wanted freshwater sometimes we can just drill straight down and get the water, and get all these problems over with for some of this that we're discussing. So that would solve that problem. Now, as far as energy goes, you pump. If you want something pumped you take air, water and gravity. This is the natural resources, so I'm speaking to scientists and engineers, here, that can pump this stuff here, there, everywhere, and build, very easily, using the natural resource of air, water and gravity. So something that's got to be allowed to be an input into this study, because why are we going to study something that don't have all this in there? Like you say, no, we ain't got no food. We ain't got no fuel. We can't change anything. We ain't going to do nothing. No, we can't build now. We get no good water. We can't do nothing that makes any sense to help none of these people. We need somebody on a new study that understands and has a little bit of a different picture than what some of y'all understand. For instance, I wrote to Mary Landrieu, Nancy Pelosi, (inaudible) the Speaker, and spoke to all of these people. And I used to ask them questions for their engineers that work with them, so they gave the answers to these questions and I hope the Congress listens to what I have to say. Because they all know me. I spoke to Congress three different times. So some of this had better come into this study and some understanding, some kind of light had better enter on this study for some of these things that the people--I want to represent all these people that's been going to all these meetings. I've been to four or five myself, and, yes, they all should be represented to give them the answer of how this can be done. You see, if the price tag's cut in half because we have the energy, we have the power, we have the gravity, and water, and the force to move all this soil and nutrients, sediment, a different equation steps in on this. And I'd like to be involved in all this, so let's keep this in mind. We want a new direction, a new tomorrow, is why we're all here. We want to do something that's going to benefit the State of Louisiana to make us number one. We're not going to spend 50 million dollars on virgin territory to wind up with the same old thing. Come on, give me a break! Louisiana's got to change. We've got to step up to the plate. Some kind of common sense has to enter and we have to allow somebody to go along with the study language. Thank you very much.</i>
Scoping Comment Postcards						
29	X		X	X		Darryl Paul Ward April 17, 2012 Larose, LA: <i>the Mississippi sediment with fresh water diversion would allow plants, trees, algae, & seaweed to grow fuel food for our future. This is the time to incorporate these ideas. Plants should be our Master Plan of our new Frontier, tool to create new jobs of a new tomorrow? In a natural + human clean environmental awakening! Hello? Master Plan to use fish for fertilizer to create a hybrid mutant..The hybrid mutant will rise from Earth. The rising means the animal died. The hybrid plant rises to our Second Story from swamp land or Earth?</i>

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	X	X	X	X		Darryl Paul Ward, April 26, 2012, Chalmette LA: Boom. <i>Ant talk? We are our Natural Resources or our animal and plant hybrid? Mutant. Our people yes our Coast; yes when we see it with faith, feel proud to be part of our natural resources. We lived as animals? We were taught that we come from real monkeys? We are to wake up in our second story. This second story about a plant hybrid mutant person through Baptism rises as a plant, to be a shoot that sprouts good seeds fertile to allow the fertilizer to be fish. Please allow God in natural resources to be used.</i>
	X		X	X		Darryl Paul Ward, April 26, 2012, Chalmette LA: <i>Coastal MRGO. My Army of Scientists and Engineers, to create life a recycle to create chosen plants to be our future energy eager for food and fuel of our new earth of air water gravity solar gas to see the wave for the tide is here. Boom. Baptism for the dead to rise? Reborn plant!? Educated picture of the monkey of alchol [sic] cigarette, dope in a monkey to die reborn from Earth to be the plant monkey died. Our second story plants in our energy drink to awaken green zone. Alive reborn anew.</i>
Scoping Comment Letters and Emails						
30	X	X	X	X	X	Allan Ensminger letter dated May 23, 2012: <i>We have addressed salt water intrusion on Point au Fer Island in other meetings and have received a CWPPRA project in the form of the Lake Chapeau Hydrologic Restoration program... Within the past year, shoreline erosion on the Gulf side of the Island has breached into a small interior bayou know [sic] as Burks Bayou in T21S-R11E, Section 12. This small bayou provided surface drainage for the back marsh in this section of the island, however, with the breach into the gulf, we now have saltwater entering into the very heart of the Island and connecting to the headwaters of Locust Bayou. Attempts have been made to obtain funds from LOSCO collected from Williams Inc. for a spill from a broken pipeline north of their main Production Platform on the north bank of Mosquito Bayou. The spilled petroleum from the break was burned within a few days and has allowed the impacted marsh to recover. We have not been able to convince LOSCO that closure in the break of the shoreline would be good environmental use of the funds and would play a critical role in protecting a very large section of broken marsh in the center of the Island. It is the hopes the Owners of Point au Fer Island that closure of the break in the shoreline can be accomplished before excessive amounts of saltwater enters the interior marsh. We look forward to be included in the upcoming Study and armoring of the beach on this important Barrier Island.</i>
31	X		X	X		Scott Eustis, Gulf Restoration Network (GRN) letter (also email with letter) dated 2 May 2012: <i>We're happy to see the LCA Mississippi River Hydrodynamic and Delta Management Study (LCA Hydrodynamic study) proceed. Detailed information on the river is urgently necessary for Coastal Restoration, which requires replacing the flow of the river into the estuary.</i>

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	X	X	X	X		Scott Eustis GRN: <i>The study should enable us to employ the River more intelligently for Coastal Restoration. The work of Dr.s Ehab Meselhe and Mead Allison, as part of the design for the Myrtle Grove sediment diversion, has advanced our understanding of where the necessary kinds of sediment are in the river at what times in the River's rise and fall, as well as the appropriate times to capture that sediment for land-building. The LCA Hydrodynamic study should study the sediment in the same three-dimensional manner as these ground-breaking studies. The LCA Hydrodynamic study should also collect enough data on sediment dynamics in the river bed so that a cost-benefit analysis of beneficial use of dredged sediments can be done. We question whether it is cost-effective to dredge the river repeatedly within the LCA study area, from Old River Control to the Birdfoot Delta, when compared to barging sediment from an upriver dredge, and pumping the sediment into bayside areas to create marsh and ridge elevations. The study should be detailed enough to avoid another West Bay. West Bay was a functioning restoration project that was too narrowly defined on the bayside, and defined largely as a dredging project. The cost / benefit was inappropriately calculated, because two-thirds of the project cost was spent dredging the Pilotown anchorage. The West Bay diversion did not cause two-thirds of the shoaling, but only one fifth to one half.</i>
	X	X	X	X		Scott Eustis GRN: <i>The study needs to take into account the changes likely in the River due to Sea Level Rise. The LCA Hydrodynamic study should account for the effects of the changed climate, particularly sea level rise. The commonly cited upper bound is 1.9 meters of rise by 2100, based on the latest and most-supported semi-empirical modeling, and this study should attempt to model the river's hydrodynamics for that scenario. The river has shown increased shoaling at Head of Passes since 1984. Even if carbon emissions drop radically in a short period of time, the River will continue to drop more and more of its sediment load further and further upriver over time as the Gulf of Mexico rises. There should be a separate study to tackle the question of where to re-align the shipping channel of the Mississippi River, to reduce the costs of dredging the nationally important shipping channel within the River, but that study will more than likely be heavily informed by this one.</i>

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	X		X	X	X	Scott Eustis GRN: <i>The study should take into identify sources of sediment contamination along the project route, and include analysis of the effects of such contamination on the bayside. On the most recent high water tour through New Orleans, General Burcham brought up the issue of sediment contamination. We were glad to hear that someone on the Mississippi River Commission is concerned about whether these sediments we are using for coastal restoration are contaminated. It speaks to our desperate straits in coastal Louisiana that we prioritize using sediment from the Mississippi River, which is not exactly a clean river, to build marshes. It also speaks to the long legacy pits that litter our state. The Mississippi sediment is probably cleaner in many cases. Sediments from the Bonnet Carre' spillway have been used to remediate New Orleans' soils post-Katrina. But this study should evaluate likely sources of metals, PAH, and other contamination within the project area. At the least, the Corps should adopt the sediment standards in place for beneficial use on the Mississippi Coast as part of the MsCIP plan. The Corps needs to account for cumulative impacts of PAHs and metals in the river upon the marshes and fishes, and other wildlife on the bayside, given the large amount of drilling waste pits on the bayside. There are already Coal terminals that offload directly on top of the sediments we are targeting for use in building wetlands, and these terminals release many pounds of contaminants into the waters of the Mississippi, and these contaminants likely settle in the sand beds which are the source of marsh and ridge creation.</i>
32		X			X	J.D. McKerall letter undated: <i>My question is, could more water be forced down natural waterways like Bayou Lafourche and Terrebonne, without causing property damage to local populations? To avoid populated areas north of the Flood protection levees, a large pipeline system would be the answer, but costly. I have always been interested in coastal protection projects. If you need to hire extra personel [sic] to help with the study, I would like to apply.</i>
33	X	X	X	X	X	W. Pat Weber, Creative Forestry, LLC letter dated April 1, 2012: <i>As a landowner in St. Bernard Parish and as a Professional Forester projects of this type always concern me because of their potential impact on private property rights. What control will any government agency have over the opportunity for private landowners to continue to manage their timber and marsh lands? During the discussion of diversion projects in St. Bernard, the Corps planned to restore the Central Wetlands by diverting river sediment into the marshland. On some of the restored wetlands they would plant trees suitable to the new site. That was the good The bad news was the landowner would maintain no control of the management of those trees. All the Corps is doing is try to replace the millions of board feet of private timber and restore the highly productive freshwater marsh that the Corps destroyed with MRGO. I hope, if the Corps decides to restore some of these marshlands, the landowner will have input on what is planted, and maintain control of the management of these forests and marshlands. If not, I, as a landowner will fight tooth and nail to kill this project or fight to make it compatible to private property rights.</i>

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	X	X	X	X	X	<p>W. Pat Weber, Creative Forestry: <i>The area north of what is now the limits of the coastal zone contains tens of thousands of acres of well managed forests and farmlands. Most of this area is in private ownership, large and small. There are already initiatives in place to assure that these lands are managed on a sustainable basis, such as the American Tree Farm System, the Sustainable Forest Imitative and Louisiana Best Management Practices for Wetlands. The Louisiana Forestry Association, the Louisiana Landowners Association and The St. Bernard Wetlands Foundation work diligently with landowners in this area to encourage sustainable forest and farmland practices.</i></p> <p><i>Not only is the area within the scope of this project highly productive timberland and farmland, it is excellent wildlife habitat, thanks to the continuous hard work of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.</i></p> <p><i>Please, while developing this Study, listen to and heed the comments of the private landowner. Also include representatives of the above organizations on your team and especially heed the comments of the owners of the former cypress swamps and marshlands in St. Bernard Parish who have suffered greatly through the mismanagement of MRGO.</i></p>
34			X	X	X	<p>Virginia M Fay Assistant Regional Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) letter dated April 25, 2012: <i>Aquatic and tidally influenced wetland habitats in portion of the study area are designated as essential fish habitat (EFH) for various federally managed species identified in the attached table. These species are managed by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC) or are highly migratory species managed by NMFS. The attached table lists life stages and subcategories of EFH for these species that would potentially be benefitted or impacted by this project. Primary categories of EFH in the study area include estuarine emergent wetlands; submerged aquatic vegetation; mud, sand and shell substrates; and estuarine water column. Detailed information on federally-managed fisheries and their EFH is provided in the 2005 generic amendment of the Fishery Management Plans for the Gulf of Mexico prepared by the GMFMC. The generic amendment was prepared as required by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act, P.L. 104-297).</i></p>
			X	X	X	<p>Virginia M Fay (NMFS): <i>In addition to being designated as EFH for the species listed in the attached table, water bodies and wetlands in the study area provide nursery and foraging habitats supportive of a variety of economically important marine fisheries species, such as striped mullet, Atlantic croaker, gulf menhaden, spotted seatrout, sand seatrout, southern flounder, black drum, and blue crab. Some of these species also serve as prey for other fish species managed under the Magnuson-Stevens Act by the GMFMC (e.g., mackerels, snappers, and groupers) and highly migratory species managed by NMFS (e.g., billfishes and sharks).</i></p>

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#	PN	ALT	AE	EC	CC	
		X	X	X	X	<p>Virginia M Fay (NMFS): NMFS recommends the EIS include separate sections titled “Essential Fish Habitat” and “Marine Fishery Resources” that identify the EFH and fisheries resources of the study area. These sections should describe the potential impacts, both positive and negative, to those resources that could be caused by river diversions. While NMFS believes that overall project implementation could be beneficial to protecting and restoring EFH and to maintaining the productivity of marine fishery resources, there are some potential localized adverse impacts to marine fishery productivity that could be caused by diversions, especially during high flow periods. Those impacts may include; 1) displacement of less freshwater tolerant, or cold water tolerant, marine fishery species from large areas of wetlands and water bodies that serve as nursery and foraging areas; 2) destruction of productive oyster reefs that serve as habitat and a food source for some fishery species; 3) increased turbidity and associated decreases in coverage of submerged aquatic vegetation in some areas; and 4) potential low dissolved oxygen levels in water bodies caused by decomposition of large quantities of algae and/or phytoplankton resulting from high nutrient levels in diverted river water. The EFH and marine fishery resource sections of the EIS should evaluate the potential for any or all of these impacts to occur as a result of the proposed diversions. NMFS recommends these sections of the document also discuss the potential beneficial effects of the proposed diversions on EFH and marine fishery resources. These effects may include the maintenance of marsh habitats through accretion or direct placement of sediment. The EFH and marine fishery resources sections of the document also should describe and quantify the potential impacts and benefits of the proposed activities on EFH sub-categories (e.g., marsh, marsh edge, submerged aquatic vegetation/seagrass beds, mud bottoms, oyster reefs, and estuarine water column). The appropriate sections should describe the potential impacts and benefits of the diversions and marsh creation sites on the utilization of these sub-categories of EFH by those fishery species and life stages included in the enclosed table. The EIS should evaluate alternatives to any activities that would result in an adverse impact to those resources to determine if there is a less damaging methods to achieve the same result. The overall net benefits of the project on wetland habitats supportive of marine fishery resources should not preclude consideration of alternatives or measures to minimize the negative impacts of river diversions on fishery resources. Such alternatives may include: 1) reduced fresh water inflows during low river stages and periods when less fresh water tolerant species may be found in the project area; 2) direct placement of sediment into the outflow channel during high flow periods to maximize delivery to area marshes; 3) placement of marsh terraces or silt fences to help trap sediments and reduced turbidity; and 4) breaching of containment dikes for marsh creation areas to restore tidal influence and marine fishery access to those areas.</p>

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#	PN	ALT	AE	EC	CC	
		X	X	X	X	Virginia M Fay (NMFS): <i>NMFS recommends the EIS include a section titled "Cumulative Impacts" which includes an evaluation of project impacts and benefits, in combination with other similar projects proposed for, or implemented, in the area. Presently the existing Caernarvon diversion located near Braithwaite can divert up to 8,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) into the Breton Sound Basin and the Davis Pond diversion can divert 10,000 cfs into the Barataria basin. In addition, diversions in both Breton Sound and the Barataria Basin have been authorized by Water Resources Development Act of 2007. Although the latter two projects have yet to receive construction authorization, we recommend the cumulative impact section include them because they have been authorized under various COE programs and would impact/benefit the same general area. Considering that these diversions, in addition to those evaluate in this study, would impact large areas of the Breton Sound and Barataria basin estuaries, the EIS should evaluate the cumulative impacts, including beneficial effects of multiple diversions of Mississippi River water on resources of concern.</i>
			X	X	X	Virginia M Fay (NMFS): <i>Please note that our Protected Resources Division is responsible for all issues regarding threatened and endangered species and marine mammals for which NMFS is responsible. For information regarding those resources, please contact Mr. David Bernhart of our Protected Resources Division at (727) 824-5312. For additional information regarding EFH, marine fisheries, or National Environmental Policy Act issues, please contact Mr. Richard Hartman of our Habitat Conservation Division, Baton Rouge Office at (225) 389-0508, ext 203.</i>

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35	X	X	X	X		<p>R. King Milling email dated May 3, 2012; Jim Tripp email dated May 3, 2012 forwarding R. King Milling email (dated May 3, 2012): <i>As I appreciate it the State and Corps are in the process of assessing the ultimate scope of the Hydro and Delta Management Study and have requested comments or suggestions by the end of this week.</i></p> <p><i>In that regard, there is a growing understanding among the technically proficient, that the lower Mississippi River is probably not sustainable in its present configuration. This opinion has been enunciated by scientists and engineers, including senior members of the Corps of Engineers (albeit not all) on numerous occasions. Obviously, the critical economic and life style results which would flow from such an event should be self evident and would be devastating. Our ports, navigation interests and the thousands of citizens employed in that sector would all be threatened. While it may appear subtle to some, the ramifications are such that it is difficult for others to digest this reality. This seems to be true even though the mere threat of unsustainability should resonate clearly to those dependent upon that essential navigation route.</i></p> <p><i>The unsustainability question as it relates to the Mississippi not only should be serious concern to the individuals, companies, and port systems within this state, but should be equally as concerning to all of the manufacturers, farmers, and other individual businesses located in those states north of Louisiana which have historically utilized that unique navigation resource to receive and deliver products worldwide at a price competitive in the international market. The very same observation can be made regarding the owners and the employers of tugs, work boats, barges, and other vessels which have preformed as the critical delivery mechanism for those exporting and importing product over decades. Finally, of course, the issue of unsustainability should create serious concern among local, state, and national politicians from those very same states, whose constituency may well lose the ability to ply their navigation trade as they have for centuries. Lord only knows the economic impact on each state, if and when the event occurs.</i></p>

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	X	X	X	X	X	<p>R. King Milling email: <i>Thus I suggest that the Hydro and Water Management Study further expands the analysis to respond to these additional issues and thus bring greater clarity to the discussion. An analysis of events which may give rise to a condition of unsustainability and the probability of such occurrences in the near term would be helpful for those dependent upon the river for economic survival.</i></p> <p><i>As I appreciate the nuanced opinions, there are a few scenarios which could result in lack of sustainability.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The inability of the birds foot to provide a method of transportation from head of the passes to the Gulf, whether as a result of subsidence, sea level rise, excess accumulation of dredge material or a combination of those. Those in the know have suggested that the navigational relevancy of this man-made structure is limited.</i> • <i>Many have focused upon the high water river event of 2011 and have opined that other events in the future could well end up with the river taking a new path south of New Orleans. While no singular location has been suggested clearly, these observations reflect conditions on the ground before, during or after the 2011 flood.</i> • <i>Finally, the dependence of the Mississippi River levees built south of New Orleans on the existence of a vibrant delta composed of marsh, swamp, and forest seems equally as clear. A healthy ecosystem has protected the levees from storm surges over decades. With the inundation of salt water combined with natural subsidence and the resulting destruction of the ecosystem, that protection will no longer be provided. Maps prepared by CPRA, and USGS depicting the State of the Coast in 2060 and Blum & Roberts as of 2100 leave little doubt that the basins east and west of the Delta south of New Orleans will become open bodies of water.</i> <p><i>In such an event, the question that must be posed is, when a hurricane hits Louisiana Coast east of Bayou Lafourche thereby creating significant surges and wave action within the Barataria Basin, can the levees constricting the Mississippi River withstand the dual stresses of a high river event caused by counter cycles winds and at the same time withstand the external forces of surges and waves.</i></p> <p><i>An analysis of the impacts of the protection provided historically by a healthy wetland and ecosystems on infrastructure including levees seems to be in the best interest of everyone involved. The collapse of such structures in a no action scenario appears almost self explanatory and the devastating results could bear greatly upon the vitality of the Mississippi Valley. I would hope that this analysis being undertaken look in depth at the focus at work to both within the confines of the levee system and without to defer the dependent or lack thereof on the continued sustainability of the River.</i></p>

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36					X	Simone Theriot Maloz, Restore or Retreat, Inc., letter dated May 3, 2012: <i>Restore or Retreat, Inc. is a non-profit coastal advocacy group created by coastal Louisiana residents and stakeholders who recognize the Barataria and Terrebonne basins are the two most rapidly eroding estuaries on earth. Representing over 200 businesses and individuals throughout the region, Restore or Retreat (ROR) would like to respectfully submit the following comments on the Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) Mississippi River Hydrodynamic and Delta Management Study.</i>
	X	X	X	X	X	<p>Simone Theriot Maloz: <i>Authorized by section 7003 Title VII of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (WRDA), this "Investigation of Other Large Scale Concepts" encompasses the scope of identifying implementable alternatives that can make the maximal use of river resources through the Mississippi River gulf delta and vicinity, including reducing of factors contributing to hypoxia and maintaining navigation for the Barataria Basin, lower Mississippi River and Breton Sound. We think this study vehicle provides an excellent opportunity to create a path forward for strategic management of the lower Mississippi River and should be aggressively pursued as such.</i></p> <p><i>To achieve the stated goal of reconnecting the Mississippi water, sediment and nutrient resources to the surrounding basins sufficient to provide a sustainable coastal ecosystem that allows for the coexistence of navigation and flood risk reduction, the study should not fit the traditional mold of a feasibility study as other LCA projects (this is even reflected in the project's authorization). We believe MRHDMS should incorporate certain element of the Comprehensive Restoration Plan, also authorized in Section 7002 of WRDA, such as:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Remain consistent with the State of Louisiana's updated 2012 Comprehensive Master Plan.</i> • <i>Investigate the maximum effective use of the water and sediment of the Mississippi River for coastal restoration purposes consistent with flood control and navigation;</i> • <i>Provide a schedule for the design and implementation of large scale water and sediment reintroduction projects and an assessment of funding needs from any source;</i> • <i>Investigate and assess of alterations in the operation of the Old River Control Structure</i> • <i>(While we are aware the Atchafalaya River is not included in the purview of this study, obviously, any changes to the operation of the Old River Control Structure will greatly impact the Atchafalaya Basin.)</i> • <i>Integrate with other authorities and statutes such as the Mississippi River and Tributaries and the Coastal Zone Management Act, as well as the authority of the Mississippi River Commission.</i>

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	X	X	X	X	X	<p>Simone Theriot Maloz: <i>More specifically, we recommend the study include a near-term conceptual evaluation of the larger system-level questions surrounding the management of the Lower River:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What are the expected 21st century needs of the navigation industry? Where will major port facilities likely be located?</i> • <i>What are the likely industrial and municipal needs for freshwater in the late 21st century and where will they be located?</i> • <i>What is the best use of river freshwater and sediments to sustain the coastal ecosystem independent of other users needs?</i> • <i>What is the likely consequence for channel maintenance and ecosystem restoration of adjusting the allocation of flow and sediment delivery between the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers?</i> • <i>Where will structural storm protection measures for high value and strategic assets most benefit from the restoration of sustainable wetland and barrier islands and where should those wetlands and barrier islands be located to provide that benefit?</i> • <i>What are the engineering challenges of integrating expected navigation uses with full utilization of river sediment for ecosystem restoration?</i> <p><i>We think these questions must be addressed conceptually before a complete study can be planned to put any specific project evaluations in the broader forward-thinking context. We encourage you to work with us and others interested in the future of this system to engage experts from across the country and around the world in dialog about possible futures for the Lower River.</i></p>
	X	X	X	X	X	<p>Simone Theriot Maloz: <i>Finally, regarding the extended timeline, we do believe the necessary time and care is needed to complete this study and maximize the study's potential to become the "road map" of how to best utilize the modern Mississippi River. However, we do hope that as planning milestones are completed, early products of the MRHDMS, e.g., improved river models, could be used independently and incorporated into ongoing LCA studies such as the Modification to Davis Pond and Myrtle Grove.</i></p>
					X	<p>Simone Theriot Maloz: <i>In order to increase transparency and ensure that the many interested parties can track progress and understand what the study is and is not addressing, we encourage the study team to hold quarterly meetings to brief coastal advocacy groups, scientists, local governments, and business interests on study progress, findings and products.</i></p>

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	X	X			X	Simone Theriot Maloz: <i>In conclusion, we think the Mississippi River Hydrodynamic and Delta Management study is an appropriate, authorized vehicle to develop a strategic management plan the lower Mississippi River. The study should not and is not intended to follow the traditional feasibility study model, and should include considerations beyond those in the original scope, including some of the parameters of the Comprehensive Plan as outlined in WRDA 2007 Section 7002. Major overarching issues must be addressed early by the study before a full project management plan can be developed, and these early steps are the most important place to bring national and international expertise to bear on the future of the lower River. We look forward to intently following the progress of this study. Thank you for your time and for the opportunity to submit these comments. If you have any questions or need more information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (985) 448-4485.</i>
					X	Jeffrey D. Weller, Supervisor, Louisiana Field Office U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service letter dated April 24, 2012: <i>The Service submits the following comments in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (83 Stat. 852, as amended; 42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA, 40 Stat. 755, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 703 et seq.), the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) (54 Stat. 250, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 668a-d), and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.)....</i>
37		X	X	X	X	Jeffrey D. Weller (USFWS): <i>Historically, wetlands in the Barataria, Breton, and Pontchartrain Basins were nourished by the fresh water, sediments, and nutrients delivered via overbank flooding of the Mississippi River and through its many distributary channels such as Bayous Lafourche, Barataria, Terre Aux Boeufs, and Bayou La Loutre. As the flow of fresh water and sediments from the Mississippi River was restricted by flood protection levees and the closure of those and other distributaries, the basins began to gradually succumb to saltwater intrusion, soil subsidence, wave action erosion, and sediment deprivation. To effectively address the above-mentioned issues the Service encourages the proposed diversions carry as much sediment (suspended and/or bedload) from the river as possible and to incorporate pulsing (i.e., fluctuating the amount of water diverted) to optimize sediment delivery to receiving area wetlands. In order to determine the best time to pulse, the project should incorporate a network of sediment monitoring stations/gauges upriver of potential diversions to provide advanced notification of sediment pulses moving down-river so that opening of diversion structures can be planned/coordinated a few days in advance (and affected interested can be forewarned). Placement of sediment/turbidity gauges early during the planning phase would greatly improve the data needed to develop and select alternatives that would maximize sediment delivery.</i>

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#	PN	ALT	AE	EC	CC	
			X		X	Jeffrey D. Weller (USFWS): <i>The Service recommends consideration be given to estuarine resources when developing the operation plan for each diversion structure. Though a within basin shift of aquatic resources, from estuarine to fresh, may be expected and is acceptable, our preference is not to overwhelm the receiving basins with diverted water, but rather to optimize benefits for terrestrial and fresh and estuarine resources, land building and sustainability. In order to fully disclose benefits and impacts to aquatic resources, the Service recommends the use of ecological aquatic modeling during the feasibility study.</i>
		X	X	X	X	Jeffrey D. Weller (USFWS): <i>The Service recommends this study consider cumulative impacts of the multiple diversions in each basin. The report should discuss how all diversions and siphons could be operated in conjunction with each other to minimize adverse impacts and maximize beneficial effects. The Service suggests that a comprehensive basin-wide operation plan be developed to better coordinate all the diversions and siphons for the health of each basin. In addition, the report should include a discussion on the integration of diversions and wetland restoration measures with existing and planned hurricane risk-reduction projects and other existing/proposed projects basin-wide.</i>
		X	X	X		Jeffrey D. Weller (USFWS): <i>Monitoring of the Davis Pond and Caernarvon diversions indicated that some chemicals were being introduced into the receiving areas from the Mississippi River at increased levels. Further examination by the Service of those increased levels revealed that the increase was not to a level that would cause adverse affects to bald eagles. To monitor chemicals transported by future diversions the Service recommends that during the study the Corps undertake periodic sampling to help determine if their concentrations could begin to pose a threat to fish and wildlife resources.</i>
		X	X	X	X	Jeffrey D. Weller (USFWS): <i>The Service suggests the creation of a basin level Advisory Committees that would provide scientific recommendations to guide the operation of the structures, ensuring a watershed approach in the operation of the diversions and siphons of each basin. The advisory committee should be made up of State and Federal resource agencies and an appropriate academic assembly (from fields such as of fisheries, oyster biology, wildlife ecology, water quality, ecological risk assessment, and wetland ecology/geology). The intent of these advisory groups would be to provide counsel on the operation and policy decisions for the basin diversion structures based on the group's assessment of overall health of the basin (striving toward sustainable wetlands with consideration given to fish and wildlife resources) and projected near-term and long-term needs to facilitate a sustainable approach to coastal restoration. These committees would conduct ongoing reviews of the operation, monitoring, and adaptive management results of the diversions along with the latest science available to accommodate the goals and restoration needs of the basin.</i>

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#	PN	ALT	AE	EC	CC	
			X	X	X	Jeffrey D. Weller (USFWS): <i>The pallid sturgeon (Scaphirhynchus albus) is an endangered fish found in the Mississippi River. Entrainment issues associated with dredging operations in the Mississippi and through diversion structures off the Mississippi River are two potential effects that should be addressed in the study. Should any proposed project resulting from this study directly or indirectly affect the pallid sturgeon or its habitat, further consultation with this office will be necessary.</i>
			X	X	X	Jeffrey D. Weller (USFWS): <i>The Gulf sturgeon (Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi), federally listed as a threatened species, is an anadromous fish that occurs in many rivers, streams, and estuarine waters in the proposed study area. In Louisiana, Gulf sturgeon have been reported at Rigolets Pass, rivers and lakes of the Lake Pontchartrain basin, and adjacent estuarine areas. On March 19, 2003, the Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) published a final rule in the Federal Register (Volume 68, No. 53) designating critical habitat for the Gulf sturgeon in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. Portions of the Pearl and Bogue Chitto Rivers, Lake Pontchartrain east of the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway, all of Little Lake, The Rigolets, Lake St. Catherine, and Lake Borgne within Louisiana were included in that designation. In that critical habitat designation, responsibility for consultation with specific Federal agencies was also identified for the Service and for the NMFS. In riverine ecosystems, the Service is responsible for all consultations regarding Gulf sturgeon and critical habitat, while in marine ecosystems the NMFS is responsible for consultation. For estuaries in Louisiana, the NMFS is responsible for consultations regarding impacts to the sturgeon and its critical habitat with all Federal agencies, except the Department of Transportation (DOT), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which consult with the Service. Therefore, if the proposed project occurs in estuaries and is not funded, permitted, or otherwise authorized by the DOT, EPA, USCG, or FEMA, please contact Dr. Stephania Bolden (727/824-5312) in S1. Petersburg, Florida, for information concerning that species and its critical habitat. Should the proposed study develop plans that would directly or indirectly affect the Gulf sturgeon or its critical habitat in Louisiana, further consultation with either the Service or NMFS (as described above) will be necessary.</i>

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#	PN	ALT	AE	EC	CC	
			X	X	X	Jeffrey D. Weller (USFWS): <i>The proposed study area is known to provide nesting habitat for the bald eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus), which was officially removed from the List of Endangered and Threatened Species on August 8, 2007. Although the bald eagle has been removed from the List of Endangered and Threatened Species, it continues to be protected under the MBTA and the BGEPA. If a bald eagle nest is discovered within or adjacent to proposed project activities, then an evaluation must be performed to determine whether the project is likely to disturb nesting bald eagles. That evaluation may be conducted on-line at: http://www.fws.gov/southeastJes/baldeagle. Following completion of the evaluation, that website will provide a determination of whether additional consultation is necessary; a copy of that determination should be provided to this office. The Division of Migratory Birds for the Southeast Region of the Service (phone: 404/679-7051, e-mail: SEmigratorybirds@fws.gov) has the lead role in conducting such consultations. Should you need further assistance interpreting the guidelines or performing an on-line project evaluation, please contact this office.</i>
			X	X	X	Jeffrey D. Weller (USFWS): <i>The proposed study area contains colonial nesting waterbird colonies. Colonies may be present that are not currently listed in the database maintained by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF). That database is updated primarily by monitoring the colony sites that were previously surveyed during the 1980s. Until a new, comprehensive coast-wide survey is conducted to determine the location of newly-established nesting colonies, we recommend that a qualified biologist inspect the proposed work site for the presence of undocumented nesting colonies during the nesting season. In addition, we recommend that on-site contract personnel be informed of the need to identify colonial nesting birds and their nests, and should avoid affecting them during the breeding season.</i>
			X	X	X	Jeffrey D. Weller (USFWS): <i>The study area contains nesting habitat for the brown pelican (Pelecanus occidentalis), which was officially removed from the List of Endangered and Threatened Species on December 17, 2009. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' Coastal and Nongame Resources Division (225/765-2811) should be contacted to obtain the most current information about the nesting chronology of individual brown pelican colonies. Brown pelicans are known to nest on barrier islands and other coastal islands in St. Bernard, Plaquemines, Jefferson, Lafourche, and Terrebonne Parishes. Although the brown pelican has been removed from the List of Endangered and Threatened Species, brown pelicans and their nests continue to be protected under the MBTA. To minimize disturbance to nesting colonies of brown pelicans, all activity occurring within 2,000 feet of a rookery should be restricted to the non-nesting period (i.e., September 15 through March 31).</i>

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#	PN	ALT	AE	EC	CC	
			X	X	X	Jeffrey D. Weller (USFWS): <i>Federally listed as an endangered species, West Indian manatees (Trichechus manatus) frequently enter the study area including Lakes Pontchartrain and Maurepas, and associated coastal waters and streams during the summer months (ie., June through September). Manatee occurrences in Louisiana are increasing, and they have been regularly reported in the Amite, Blind, Tchefonct, and Tickfaw Rivers, and in canals within the adjacent coastal marshes of southeastern Louisiana. Manatees may also infrequently be observed in the Mississippi River. Should the proposed project involve activity in the aquatic environment in those areas during summer months, further consultation with this office will be necessary.</i>
			X	X	X	Jeffrey D. Weller (USFWS): <i>Federally listed as a threatened species, the piping plover (Charadrius melodus), as well as its designated critical habitat, occur along the Louisiana coast. On July 10, 2001, the Service designated critical habitat for wintering piping plovers (Federal Register Volume 66, No. 132). Their designated critical habitat identifies specific areas that are essential to the conservation of the species. Should the proposed project directly or indirectly affect the piping plover or its critical habitat, further consultation with this office will be necessary.</i>
			X	X	X	Jeffrey D. Weller (USFWS): <i>The interior least tern (Sterna antillarum) is an endangered migratory shorebird that breeds, nests, and rears its young on non-vegetated portions of sandbars and islands in the Mississippi River. On the lower Mississippi River, the listed interior least tern population is concentrated within approximately 500 river miles between its confluence with the Ohio River at Cairo, Illinois, and Vicksburg, Mississippi. In Louisiana, the interior least tern historically occurred along the Mississippi River north of Baton Rouge. Few birds have been observed in Louisiana along the Mississippi River in surveys conducted over the last few years. Major threats to this species include habitat loss and human disturbance at nesting colonies. Therefore, the absence of nesting should be confirmed before initiating any work in or adjacent to the river during the breeding season (May 15 to August 31). In order to minimize impacts to nesting terns, the Service recommends that no activity should be conducted within 650 feet of a nesting colony. If least terns should be observed in proximity to any proposed project feature during the breeding season, all work should cease and the Service should be contacted immediately for further consultation. Should any proposed project feature developed by the study directly or indirectly affect an interior least tern nesting colony, this office should be contacted for further consultation.</i>

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#	PN	ALT	AE	EC	CC	
			X	X	X	<p>Jeffrey D. Weller (USFWS): <i>The red knot (Calidris canutus ssp. rufa), is a candidate bird species for federal listing as a threatened or endangered species. Candidate species are those taxa for which the Service has on file sufficient information regarding biological vulnerability and threat(s) to support issuance of a proposal to list, but issuance of a proposed rule is currently precluded by higher priority listing actions. In Louisiana, the red knot can be found in marine and estuarine habitats during the winter months (generally October through March). In the southeastern United States, red knots forage along sandy beaches, tidal mudflats, salt marshes, and peat banks. Observations along the Texas coast indicate that red knots forage on beaches, oyster reefs, and exposed bay bottoms and roost on high sand flats, reefs, and other sites protected from high tides. In wintering and migration habitats, red knots commonly forage on bivalves, gastropods, and crustaceans. Coquina clams (Donax variabilis), a frequent and often important food resource for red knots, are common along many Gulf beaches. Major threats to this species along the Gulf of Mexico include the loss and degradation of habitat due to erosion and shoreline stabilization development, disturbance by humans and pets, and predation.</i></p> <p><i>Sprague's pipit (Anthus spragueiz), is also a candidate bird species for federal listing as a threatened or endangered species. It winters in Louisiana, arriving from its northern breeding grounds in September and remaining until April. Migration and wintering ecology of this species is poorly known, but Sprague's pipit exhibits a strong preference for open grassland (i.e., native prairie) with native grasses of intermediate height and thickness, and it avoids areas with too much shrub encroachment. Its use of an area is dependent upon habitat conditions. This species is a ground feeder and forages mainly on insects but will occasionally eat seeds.</i></p> <p><i>There is currently no requirement under the Endangered Species Act for consultation regarding project impacts on candidate species. In the interest of conserving the red knot and Sprague's pipit, we encourage you to avoid planning project activities that would adversely affect that species or its habitat. Should either be federally listed as threatened or endangered in the future, further consultation on potential project impacts to those species could then be necessary.</i></p>
					X	<p>Jeffrey D. Weller (USFWS): <i>We appreciate the opportunity to review the Notice of Intent and to provide comments in the early planning stages of the proposed study and look forward to our continued involvement in this study. If you or your staff have further questions regarding the above letter or would like to meet and discuss our recommendations, please contact Catherine Breaux of this office at (504) 862-2689.</i></p>

Table 4. LCA Mississippi River Hydrodynamic and Delta Management Study-- Summary of Scoping Comments. This table categorizes scoping comments by EIS subject matter, which is where an individual comment would likely be addressed in the draft EIS. EIS categories include: PN = Purpose and Need; ALT = Alternatives; AE = Affected Environment, EC = Environmental Consequences; CC = Consultation, Coordination, and Compliance with Regulations (Federal, state, and local environmental laws and regulations) is also included in this latter category. An individual scoping comment may be categorized under more than one EIS subject matter heading. A transcript of oral scoping comments from the six NEPA public scoping meeting is provided on the LCA web site (www.lca.gov). Copies of all written scoping comments are provided in the Appendix. NOTE: Court reports of scoping meeting comments were not modified and public comments may have grammatical or spelling errors.

EIS Section Where Comment Addressed						NEPA SCOPING COMMENTS
#	PN	ALT	AE	EC	CC	
	X	X			X	<p>William A. Fontenot letter (with attachment) dated May 4, 2012: <i>The public meeting and hearing which were held in Baton Rouge last month by the Louisiana Coastal Protection and restoration [sic] Authority and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was one of the best public meetings I have ever attended. The staff was very receptive, informative and helpful. There was adequate time provided for both a public meeting and formal hearing and the information available at the function was very informative and helpful.</i></p> <p><i>According to the information available at the public meeting ... "This study will identify and evaluate a combination of large scale management and restoration features to address the long-term sustainability of the lower Mississippi River Deltaic Plain, as authorized under Section 7003 of the Water Resource Development Act (WRDA) 2007.</i></p>
38	X	X	X	X		<p>William A. Fontenot: A PROPOSED PIECEMEAL STUDY</p> <p><i>Based on my more than 40 years of participating in a variety of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and State of Louisiana studies, reports and public hearings on the construction, operation and management of canals, rivers, estuaries and bays I must conclude that the MRHDMS study, as presently structured, will not work to solve the problems in the Mississippi River delta in coastal Louisiana.</i></p> <p><i>The Corps of Engineers and the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority are proposing to leave out of the study more than 50 percent of the Mississippi River Delta system of water and wetlands. At the recent public hearing I was told that the Atchafalaya River Basin will be picked up in future studies. Clearly this sort of piecemeal approach is prohibited by federal laws and court rulings and the Corps of Engineers and Louisiana officials should be more aware of their financial, legal and ethical responsibilities. Because most of the waters and wetlands of the delta system are not to be included this study will not adequately identify the problems and possible solutions to land losses, water quality, quantity and distribution issues, the sustainability of navigation, flood control, wetlands and fish and wildlife habitats and resources in coastal Louisiana and especially in the lower delta system of the Mississippi River, which clearly includes the Atchafalaya, Vermillion, Teche and Bayou Lafourche. All of these valuable and very important natural resources will continue to be critically threatened and compromised. Over the last hundred years the US. Army Corps of Engineers has, under the direction the US. Congress, focused almost exclusively on navigation and flood control and many, if not all, of their projects have caused devastating problems in coastal Louisiana. Many tens of thousands of acres of wetlands have been lost along the Mississippi and the Atchafalaya Rivers, the Intracoastal Waterway and many other extremely destructive and very costly projects like the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet.</i></p>

Table 4. LCA Mississippi River Hydrodynamic and Delta Management Study-- Summary of Scoping Comments. This table categorizes scoping comments by EIS subject matter, which is where an individual comment would likely be addressed in the draft EIS. EIS categories include: PN = Purpose and Need; ALT = Alternatives; AE = Affected Environment, EC = Environmental Consequences; CC = Consultation, Coordination, and Compliance with Regulations (Federal, state, and local environmental laws and regulations) is also included in this latter category. An individual scoping comment may be categorized under more than one EIS subject matter heading. A transcript of oral scoping comments from the six NEPA public scoping meeting is provided on the LCA web site (www.lca.gov). Copies of all written scoping comments are provided in the Appendix. NOTE: Court reports of scoping meeting comments were not modified and public comments may have grammatical or spelling errors.

EIS Section Where Comment Addressed						NEPA SCOPING COMMENTS
#	PN	ALT	AE	EC	CC	
	X	X	X	X		<p>William A. Fontenot: <i>Historically the US. Congress and the Corps of Engineers have failed to consider an appropriately large enough geographic area when studying a project. The Corps has also broken down, or segmented, projects into more convenient smaller segments so that the overall adverse economic and environmental impacts of the proposed project will never be adequately identified and evaluated. In the United States there has been extensive attention given to cumulative and comprehensive impacts of projects but the Corps of Engineers has routinely failed to adequately identify and consider the comprehensive impacts of their navigation and flood control projects. In the proposed study of the Lower Mississippi River Basin the Corps of Engineers and the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority are only considering less than half of the bird foot delta complex of the river. About two hundred and fifty miles from where the Mississippi River empties into the Gulf of Mexico a very significant, thirty to fifty percent, of the river branches off and flows down the hundred miles of the Atchafalaya River to the Gulf of Mexico. Unless the Corps of Engineers and the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority considers and studies this entire river delta complex as one dynamic, interconnected system of waters, wetlands and fast lands then the massive problems now being experienced in this dramatically altered river basin will never be understood and revitalized. For the Corps of Engineers and the State of Louisiana to start a five year, \$25 million study which will only involve less than half of the bird foot delta complex which was created by the Mississippi River, and predecessor rivers, over the last 7,000 years is incomprehensible and dumbfounding. If the Corps and Louisiana officials do not include the entire river delta system from the eastern end of the Chandeleur Islands to the western end of Vermillion Bay they will never be able to fully understand and explain why and how this important delta system, and the rest of Coastal Louisiana is collapsing and how this extremely valuable natural resource can be restored, replenished and preserved for present and future generations. At the recent public hearing in Baton Rouge I asked representatives of the Corps of Engineers and the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority why the Atchafalaya River Basin system was not being included in this proposed study. I was told that there were too many problems and not enough money to adequately include the Atchafalaya River Basin in this Mississippi River Delta study. Last year when the Corps of Engineers opened the flood control structures about fifty percent, 50%, of the water and sediment flowing down the Mississippi River was diverted into the Atchafalaya River Floodway. Normally the Atchafalaya carries 30% of the Mississippi River water and sediment moving through Louisiana. This 70 - 30percent division of Mississippi - Atchafalaya River water was established by the US. Congress a number of years ago. For the US. Army Corps of Engineers and the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority to be starting a five year, \$25 million, study of less than half of the Mississippi River Delta Complex which does not include from 30 to 50 percent of the water in the bird foot delta system indicates that this study will not be a "real" study of the Mississippi River Basin Complex in Louisiana.</i></p>

Table 4. LCA Mississippi River Hydrodynamic and Delta Management Study-- Summary of Scoping Comments. This table categorizes scoping comments by EIS subject matter, which is where an individual comment would likely be addressed in the draft EIS. EIS categories include: PN = Purpose and Need; ALT = Alternatives; AE = Affected Environment, EC = Environmental Consequences; CC = Consultation, Coordination, and Compliance with Regulations (Federal, state, and local environmental laws and regulations) is also included in this latter category. An individual scoping comment may be categorized under more than one EIS subject matter heading. A transcript of oral scoping comments from the six NEPA public scoping meeting is provided on the LCA web site (www.lca.gov). Copies of all written scoping comments are provided in the Appendix. NOTE: Court reports of scoping meeting comments were not modified and public comments may have grammatical or spelling errors.

EIS Section Where Comment Addressed						NEPA SCOPING COMMENTS
#	PN	ALT	AE	EC	CC	
			X	X	X	<p>William A. Fontenot: <i>IMPORTANT STATE ENVIRONMENTAL LEGAL ISSUES</i></p> <p><i>There are at least a couple of very relevant and important issues which the US. Army Corps of Engineers and the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority must apply to any studies and projects which they undertake in Louisiana. Back in 1974, when Edwin W. Edwards was governor, Louisiana voters adopted a new Constitution. Article 9 deals with the natural resources of the state, like oil, natural gas, air, water, wetlands, forest, historical things and the healthful qualities of the environment. Article 9. Natural Resources and Environment; Public Policy, Section 1. The natural resources of the state, including air and water, and the healthful, scenic, historic, and esthetic quality of the environment shall be protected, conserved, and replenished insofar as possible and consistent with the health, safety, and welfare of the people. The legislature shall enact laws to implement this policy. In 1984 the Louisiana Supreme Court gave us a 9-0 decision which was the first interpretation of what Article 9, Section 1 of the 1974 Louisiana Constitution means. This decision is 452 So.2d 1152 and has the title of Save Our Selves, Inc. versus the Louisiana Environmental Control Commission, or SOS v ECC for short. This decision is also often called the IT Decision because a hazardous waste disposal facility was planned by the IT Corporation near the Mississippi River near Gonzales in Ascension Parish. Basically the Supreme Court ruled that Article 9, Section 1 of the state constitution requires that all state officials must make sure that their decisions, if they may adversely impact human health or the environment, that they have considered alternative, sites, alternative projects and alternative processes and that the most protective of human health and the environment have been selected. The National Environmental Policy Act, NEPA, is a federal statute which applies to all "major" actions by the federal government and that such actions may require an environmental impact statement. The SOS v ECC decision applies to "all decisions of state officials which may adversely impact human health or the environment" and not just "major" state projects. This SOS v ECC requirement is also based on the state Constitution while NEPA is a law which was passed! by Congress rather than an Article of the Federal Constitution. Thus I believe that the officials in the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority have to make sure that whatever projects and alternatives they select that the most protective of human health or the environment will have been selected. Since the Corps of Engineers is "partnering" with state officials then the Corps must make sure that they are also selecting the projects and processes which protect and restore the natural resources of the state, including air and water and the healthful, scenic, esthetic and historic qualities of Louisiana's environment for present and future generations.</i></p>

Table 4. LCA Mississippi River Hydrodynamic and Delta Management Study-- Summary of Scoping Comments. This table categorizes scoping comments by EIS subject matter, which is where an individual comment would likely be addressed in the draft EIS. EIS categories include: PN = Purpose and Need; ALT = Alternatives; AE = Affected Environment, EC = Environmental Consequences; CC = Consultation, Coordination, and Compliance with Regulations (Federal, state, and local environmental laws and regulations) is also included in this latter category. An individual scoping comment may be categorized under more than one EIS subject matter heading. A transcript of oral scoping comments from the six NEPA public scoping meeting is provided on the LCA web site (www.lca.gov). Copies of all written scoping comments are provided in the Appendix. NOTE: Court reports of scoping meeting comments were not modified and public comments may have grammatical or spelling errors.

EIS Section Where Comment Addressed						NEPA SCOPING COMMENTS
#	PN	ALT	AE	EC	CC	
	X		X	X		William A. Fontenot: <i>While the Corps of Engineers and the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority have not included enough of the Mississippi River Delta Coastal System in their proposed study I believe they have left out other important resources which should be included in this study. At the public hearing there was a map of the project on the wall which stopped at Vicksburg, Mississippi. There was a project boundary drawn on the map which did not include all of the Florida Parishes which are definitely part of the coastal area of Louisiana. The project area should also include that part of the state of Mississippi east to the Pearl River and the Gulf of Mexico. This would include the Stennis Space Center which houses a small EPA office which supports the Gulf of Mexico program. This EPA staff and folks from other federal agencies stationed at Stennis could provide some excellent support for the study if they are identified as being within the area of interest of the study. I believe the northern end of the project should include all of the Mississippi river Basin rather than stopping at Vicksburg, Mississippi. As I mentioned at the public meeting there are more than 43,000 major dams in the Mississippi River Basin and almost another 1,000,000 structures, like smaller dams, sils [sic], weirs, levees and many other man made alterations to the basin which have dramatically altered the quantity and quality of water and silt traveling down the river.</i>
			X	X	X	William A. Fontenot: <i>An Associated Press article, Sinking Missouri River hazardous, could damage bridges, communities, of February 9, 2009 [sic] by Chris Blank came to us from Kansas City. The article is attached below for your convenience. According to local officials there are real problems in the Missouri River which have been happening because all of the sand and silt which used to be carried down to the Mississippi River is dropping down in the major lakes created by the massive dams built in the Missouri River in the last century. Most of these massive dams were built by the Corps of Engineers and no consideration was given to what would happen downriver when no sediment was being carried by the Missouri River once the water passed over the dams. The river needs to carry sediment and with nothing coming down below the big dams the river has scoured out eight to twelve feet of the Missouri River bed in the states of Kansas and Missouri and that has lowered the river and all of the bridges and water intake systems in those two states will have to be rebuilt. This multi billion dollar cost was never identified by officials with the Corps of Engineers when these big dams were being proposed to Congress, state government, businesses, farmers and land owners There are problems like these in every major river basin in the Mississippi river Basin but if we only look at a very small part of the river basin then we will never have to identify, discuss, study, justify and correct these very costly and destructive problems.</i>

Table 4. LCA Mississippi River Hydrodynamic and Delta Management Study-- Summary of Scoping Comments. This table categorizes scoping comments by EIS subject matter, which is where an individual comment would likely be addressed in the draft EIS. EIS categories include: PN = Purpose and Need; ALT = Alternatives; AE = Affected Environment, EC = Environmental Consequences; CC = Consultation, Coordination, and Compliance with Regulations (Federal, state, and local environmental laws and regulations) is also included in this latter category. An individual scoping comment may be categorized under more than one EIS subject matter heading. A transcript of oral scoping comments from the six NEPA public scoping meeting is provided on the LCA web site (www.lca.gov). Copies of all written scoping comments are provided in the Appendix. NOTE: Court reports of scoping meeting comments were not modified and public comments may have grammatical or spelling errors.

EIS Section Where Comment Addressed						NEPA SCOPING COMMENTS
#	PN	ALT	AE	EC	CC	
			X	X		William A. Fontenot: <i>There are at least two things just north of Vicksburg which I believe should be included in the study area. Just west of Vicksburg is the Poverty Point National Historic Site which was a Native American site on the western side of the Mississippi River basin more than 3,000 years ago. This is one of the most important pre historical sites along the Mississippi River and in North America and dramatically adds to the historical value of the basin. While the Corps of Engineers has not been very interested in Native American artifacts and settlements millions of people are. We might better understand the Mississippi River Basin if we look at sites like Poverty Points. This settlement was built on the loess deposits which are found on either side of the Mississippi River valley. Like the earthen mounds on the Louisiana State University campus in baton Rouge the native Americans who built the complex of earthen mounds at Poverty Point knew they were out of the area which the great river flooded on a regular basis. State and federal officials who deal with Native American sites in the project area should be intimately involved with this project.</i>
					X	William A. Fontenot: <i>You should also contact the Louisiana State Geologist, Chacko J. John and his office is on the LSU Campus, 3079 Energy, Coastal and Environmental Building, Baton Rouge, LA 70803 and his telephone number is 225-578-5320. In 2008 he produced a small eight page document, Loess Deposits in Louisiana. There is a map on page 8 which clearly illustrates why places like Baton Rouge, Natchez and Vicksburg are completely out of the Mississippi River Flood Plain and why these and other cities like Lafayette, New Iberia, Washington and Opelousas did not flood last year and in 1927. If the Corps of Engineers and the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority would include information about the wind blown loess deposits then people will begin to better understand why Vicksburg and Baton Rouge areas built on the loess deposits will not be flooded by the Mississippi River.</i>
					X	William A. Fontenot: <i>Immediately north of Vicksburg is the Yazoo River Basin and a few years ago the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service successfully opposed the Corps of Engineers plans to install a massive pumping system to pump out this river basin. Thus some 250,000 acres of bottom land forest and wetlands are still connected with the Mississippi river. This successful challenge by the EPA and the Fish and Wildlife Service under the National Environmental Policy Act was the largest and most effective challenge ever brought by these agencies against the Corps of Engineers since the NEP A was adopted in 1970.</i>
					X	William A. Fontenot: <i>The Corps of Engineers and the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority must include other federal and state agencies like the EPA, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Department of Health, the U.S. Coast Guard, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, the Department of Environmental Quality and all other appropriate agencies of government.</i>

Table 4. LCA Mississippi River Hydrodynamic and Delta Management Study-- Summary of Scoping Comments. This table categorizes scoping comments by EIS subject matter, which is where an individual comment would likely be addressed in the draft EIS. EIS categories include: PN = Purpose and Need; ALT = Alternatives; AE = Affected Environment, EC = Environmental Consequences; CC = Consultation, Coordination, and Compliance with Regulations (Federal, state, and local environmental laws and regulations) is also included in this latter category. An individual scoping comment may be categorized under more than one EIS subject matter heading. A transcript of oral scoping comments from the six NEPA public scoping meeting is provided on the LCA web site (www.lca.gov). Copies of all written scoping comments are provided in the Appendix. NOTE: Court reports of scoping meeting comments were not modified and public comments may have grammatical or spelling errors.

EIS Section Where Comment Addressed						NEPA SCOPING COMMENTS
#	PN	ALT	AE	EC	CC	
	X		X	X		William A. Fontenot: <i>If the Corps of Engineers and the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority would expand the study area so that they might be able to bring in relevant information from other states and districts of the Corps of Engineers within the Mississippi River Basin then they would be able to dramatically improve the information their five year study would provide without increasing the cost and time needed to complete this project.</i>
					X	William A. Fontenot: <i>Hopefully the Corps of Engineers and the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority already have plans to offer more opportunities for the public to be able to obtain information as this study progresses. Also we hope these officials will provide more opportunities for the public to comment as this study progresses over the next five years. We also strongly suggest that at the end of this project that a final public hearing will be held and that more time will be provided for interested people to be able to read the draft document and get in comments.</i>
39			X	X	X	Beth Altazan-Dixon, EPS III, Performance Management, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality/Office of the Secretary, Business and Community Outreach and Incentives Division: <i>After reviewing your request, the department has no objections based on the information provided in your submittal. However, for your information, the following general comments have been included. Please take any necessary steps to obtain and/or update all necessary approvals and environmental permits regarding this proposed project. ...If your project results in a discharge to waters of the state, submittal of a Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) application may be necessary. ...All precautions should be observed to control nonpoint source pollution from construction activities. LDEQ has stormwater general permits for construction areas equal to or greater than one acre. It is recommended that you contact the LDEQ Water Permits Division at (225) 219-9371 to determine if your proposed project requires a permit. If any of the proposed work is located in wetlands or other areas subject to the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, you should contact the Corps directly regarding permitting issues. If a Corps permit is required, part of the application process may involve a water quality certification from LDEQ. ... All precautions should be observed to protect the groundwater of the region. ... If any solid or hazardous wastes, or soils and/or groundwater contaminated with hazardous constituents are encountered during the project, notification to LDEQ's Single-Point-of-Contact (SPOC) at (225) 219-3640 is required. Additionally, precautions should be taken to protect workers from these hazardous constituents. ...Additionally, based on the information provided, the Assessment Division has no comments regarding this project at this time.</i>

APPENDIX A

Scoping Meetings Attendance Records



ATTENDANCE RECORD

Date: April 10, 2012

Meeting Name: LCA - MS River Hydrodynamic and Delta Management

Location: La DNE, Baton Rouge, LA

*** PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY ***

First & Last Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Email	Phone
1 Richard Goyer	2506 Brithman Rd	Jackson	LA	70748	rgoyer99@gmail.com	
2 Dr Jon Stairer	5213 Butter Ck Ln.	BIR	LA	70804	jstairer@eci-la.com	225 768 1982
3 Clint Willeson	5925 Forsyth Ave.	BR	LA	70808	clwilsm@lsu.edu	225-766-0206
4 Charles Calloway	39124 Camp Dr.	Perreville	LA	70709	charlesc@basinbuilders.org	225-366-2874
5 Willie Fortnot	632 Drehn Ave.	BR	LA	70806	wfortnot@cox.net	225-383-5673
6 Daniel Baker	1332 Brivaridge Ave	BR	LA	70810	dbaker@sportingfarms.com	225-766-920
7 Lance LaPlace	PO Box 5103	BR	LA	70821	lance@laplacecs.com	225-615-824
8 Brett McLana	451 FLEA-121 ST suite 650	BR	LA	70801	BretMcLane@brwnald.com	225 456 250
9 Melinda Savaris	450 Land St.	BR	LA	70801	melanie.savaris@brwnald.com	225-372-455
10 Nedra Davis	622 Steale Blvd	BR	LA	70801	nedra.davis@atkins.com	225-323-8224
11 Summer Langlois	CRRA	BR			summer.langlois@ca.gov	225-342-159
12 Jamie Baeter	445 N Blvd	BR	LA	70802	baeterjim@calm.com	2256633044
13 Aaron Bass	537 Cousain	BR	LA	70801	aaron.bass@cocham.com	225-325-455
14 Jerry Hauske	ADRAQUARRIS	DAF	LA	70804	jerry.hauske@adraik.com	331-456-0091
15 Amghwolla	Baton Rouge	BR		70802	waldamg@ch2m.com	225-388-0320
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ATTENDANCE RECORD

Date: April 10, 2012
Meeting Name: LCA-Mississippi River Hydrodynamic and Delta Management
Location: LCA DNR, Baton Rouge

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

First & Last Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Email	Phone
1 Terri Daniels	1615 Doydars St. Shreveport	New Orleans	LA	70112	jdaniels@delaware.com	504-330-0554
2 HARIM BECHASTAL	CPR A				HARIM.BECHASTAL@LCA.DNR	3422412
3 Whitney Thompson	Shaw				whitney.thompson@shawgrp.com	225-932-2561
4 ROUVIE RABEAU	S JB Group, LLC				RABEAU@SJBGROUP.COM	571-4337
5 Cheryn Robbs	45010 Rustenia St	MOBILE			CHERYNROBBS@LYPINC	504-223-2294
6 Sherwood Gagliano	1260 Main St.	Baton Rouge	LA	70802	sgagliano@coastalenv.com	225-992-5252
7 Marel Wickse	1260 Main St	Baton Rouge	LA	70802	kwickse@coastalenv.com	225-393-7855
8						4119
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ATTENDANCE RECORD

Date: April 10, 2012

Meeting Name: LCA - MS River Hydrodynamic and Delta Management

Location: LA DNE, Baton Rouge, LA

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

1	First & Last Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Email	Phone
1	Dampf Carol	724 Oakburn Dr	Madison	LA	70005	disampc@t.com	504-234-9526
2	Lucila Silva	451 Florida, 1050	BRL	LA	70801	lsilva@brown.cad	225-235-0122
3	Eraig Gordon	1728 Grand oak Dr	BR	LA	70110	cgordon@STBGroup.com	225-333-231
4	Will Norman	455 North Blvd, Baton Rouge	LA	LA	70802	normanwill@edsmithy.com	225-443-303
5	Kobay Cayetano	5745 Essex Ln, #200	BRL, LA	LA	70810	ecan@esri.com	225-387-3402
6	Natalie S						
7	Steven Terkannin	1110 Perkins Road	B.R.	LA	70806	stev@p@crcl.org	225-767-418
8	RAY GAROFALO	100 PORT BLVD	CHATELAIN	LA	70013	RAYGAROFALO@EATIS.AA	277-47
9	Falisha Hue	10532 Pinyon Avenue	BRL	LA	70316	Falisha.Hue@DeltaDNE.com	225-292-1004
10	Blair Herder	600 Mission Fields	Lafayette	LA	70508	blair.j.herder@gmail.com	504-397-149
11	Alaina Owens	451 Florida St. Site 1050	BR	LA	70801	alaino@brunard.com	225-361-362
12	Mike Romero	619 Engineers Rd	Belle Chasse	LA	70037	mromero@cfbean.com	504-255-566
13	JEN HIRD	301 MAIN ST, WHITE BLD	BR	LA	70825	jbird@dfathward.com	225-346-2075
14	Angelina Freeman	1875 Connecticut Ave NW	Washington DC		20009	a.freeman@edfwp	202-421-4576
15	Suzanne CWS	3535 S. Swannod Ford	GRAND			CSW@gen@usf.com	
16	Melina Wood	6160 Peakings Rd #120	BRL	LA	70802	mwood@nwf.org	225-205-2804
17	Pam Gonzalez	600 Jefferson St	Shreveport, LA		70501	pamela.gonzales@hdra.com	337-266-3341
18	Bill Tyson					ABLDOT@hdra.com	225-387-2374



ATTENDANCE RECORD

Date: 4/12/12 Meeting Name: NEDA LCA Scoping Meeting Location: Port of N

First & Last Name Address City State Zip Email Phone

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
FRANCIS V. DRAPER	DARRYL PETER WARD	CECILEE DUFFY	BRET CARRERAS	JOE BURGESS	BRIAN S. LITTLE	Summer Langlois	Tim K. Allen	Brian Draper	Saan Duffy	Mark Schelshahn	Mike Flores	Scott Enstis	MARIA TAVASZI	Paul T. Woyt	Felton Sutton	Alex Kalker	
450 JOHN GUYERHILL CIRCLE #304	724 Oakburn Dr.	123 VIKINGS DR	4900 MANDEVILLE ST	5035 AUSTIN		CPRA	2045 Lakeshore Dr	300 STATE ST	4741 UHCG ST STE 200	3800 Heuband Ave	3021 Lakeshore Dr	338 Buronne St	25479 HWY 190	Chaste Engineers 601 Baydus	8224 Kyring St		
LA	Missouri LA	DESBOROUGH LA	NO LA	Lakeview LA		LA	LA	ALABAMA	LA	LA	LA	LA	LA	LA	LA	LA	
70130	70007	70504	70122	33559					70074	70125	70132	70112	70445	70130	70130		
DRAPER54@cox.net	draperglenn@yahoo.com	cednee.duffy@tandem.com	pbcd4900@aol.com	Joe.Burgess@lauge.com	brian.little@reconserver.com	Summer.Langlois@la.gov	tim.k.allen@la.gov	bdraper@courier.org	s.duffy@me.com	mschelshahn@gmail.com	mflores@getreconsulting.com	scott@healthysgulf.org	m-tavasz@yahoostation.com	pwest@chasteengineers.com	fe@ge-wic.com	akalker@limesn.edu	
504-450-4855	504-234-9936	504-442-449	504-288-6578	503-588-1240	713-416-9545	225-342-1574	504-282-4020	504-858-142	504-338-316	504-826-3327	504-304-2500	504-525-1682	417-576-3111	504-584-554	504-528-2044	504-579-292	



ATTENDANCE RECORD

Date: 4/12/12 Meeting Name: LCA NEPA Scoping Meeting Location: Port of NOLA

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First & Last Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Email	Phone
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3 Amanda Moore	8222 Maple St.	ND	LA	70118	moore@nmt.org	225 229 1944
4 Alisha Rentero	8222 Maple St.	ND	LA	70118	rentero@nmt.org	
5 Daniella Tommaso	1222 Bordeaux St.	ND	LA	70115	juiced-tommaso@yadacom	
6 Laurel Landry	4809 Ferrville St	N.O.	LA	70119	llandry12@cox.net	
7 Morgan Crutcher	6160 FERKINS -CRCL	BR	LA	70808	morgan.c@crcl.org	504 421-73
8 Samuel O'Neil	387 Carr D	LA	LA	70958	SamuelO@fdrba.com	
9 Geny Duszkoski	647 N BUI PAR	76802			geny@fastenmkn.com	
10 HARLEY WINNER	950 RICHMOND PL	NO LA	LA	70119	HARLEY.WINNER@ATKINS&COB.AE.COM	
11 Billy [unclear]	2012 [unclear] Dan NOLA	70112			bill@ogal.com	504 397-5500
12 Caitlin Berni	365 Canal St.	NOLA	LA	70119	cberni@ognoint.org	
13 Alton James Jr	USDA NRES Brouth, LA				alton.james@usda.gov	
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ATTENDANCE RECORD

Date: 04/17/2012 Meeting Name: LCA Mississippi River Hydrodynamic and Delta Management Location: Larose Cive Camp

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First & Last Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Email	Phone
1. Danny Paul Wall	724 Oaklawn Dr.	Watauga	LA	70001	dwall@tnt.com	504-234-9934
2. Todd J. Demaree	376 Polk Ave	Barrow	LA	70373		
3. Freddy Suidry	287 East 57th	East of	LA	70345		(855) 632-3369
4. N.C. Mathern	8026 Main St. Houma, LA 70360				nmathern@tpcg.org	(985) 873-6899
5. Rodney Dufrene	2224 Hwy, 654	Shoens	LA	70355		985-859-5182
6. Neil Angelette	P.O. Box 970 Larose 70373	Larose	LA	70373	neilangelette@picrida.com	985 798 7702
7. Cathryn Breaux		Barrow	LA		Cathryn.M.Breaux@usace.com	(520) 862-2685
8. Romyln. H. H.	BINIER	Thib	LA	70316	Kerry@shore.org	985-447-081
9. Duane Bourgeois	NORTH LAFOURCHE LEVEE DISTRICT	THIBODAX	LA	70309	duane@rcwlcdd.com	985-537-2244
10. Andrews Pierce	25474 ST CUT OFF LA. 70345				revival1988@yahoo.com	985-632526
11. Prudent Randolph	Info on file					
12. Simone Mulder	Box 2046-NAL	Thib	LA	70310	simone.mulder@usace.com	985-448
13. Alan Matherne	511 Bousseil St	Houma	LA	70360	amatherne@agcator.lsu.edu	985-4485
14. Archie Christiansen						985-232-0365
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ATTENDANCE RECORD

Date:

04/17/2012

Meeting Name:

LCA Mississippi River Hydrodynamic and Delta Management

Location:

Larose Civic Center

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#	First & Last Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Email	Phone
1	Robert L Huth	PO Box 1116	Cutoff	LA	70345		985-697-1851
2	Edgar Stiffman	211 South Texas	Drac	LA	70345		985-860666
3	Walter Davis	915 West 58th St	Cutoff	LA			985-635-311
4	ARLENE CARTSALL	110241 E. MAIN St.	STE B10	Cutoff	LA	Chairsman@lafourchassons.org	985-
5	Ted Folgot	720 Hami Hon St.	Larose	LA	70372	inf@infassoc.org	985-258-7181
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ATTENDANCE RECORD

Date: 04/19/2012 Meeting Name: MISSISSIPPI River Hydraulics & Management ... Location: Baton Rouge, LA

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First & Last Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Email	Phone
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2 R. L. THOMAS	P.O. BOX 369, BURAS, LA	BURAS	LA	70041		504-342-8909
3 FRED THOMAS	372 BIRAS RIVER ROAD	BURAS	LA	70041		504-358-1311
4 KEN RAGANS	1311 MORNING PLACE, NOLA	LA			8246 buras@att.net	504-342-8909
5 MATT WINKLEY	4176 Canal St. New Orleans, LA	LA			m.winkley@hls.usa.com	504-301-6542
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ATTENDANCE RECORD

Date: April 24, 2012 Meeting Name: Missis sippi Riv w/ the academy... Location: Waveland, MS

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First & Last Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Email	Phone
1 Fred Sullivan	5513 Kai Kai Dr	Diamondhead	MS	39525	Fred.Sullivan@gmail.com	228-234-0465
2 W/ Cagnazzo Palazzo						
3 David A Garcia	800 Rue De La Salle	Waveland	MS	39576	Waveland Cricketball South	228-493-662
4 Gary Taylor	311 Birchwood St, BIL MS			39580	gary.taylor@bell.net	228-774-7987
5 STEVE LANDRY	336 ST. CHARLES ST.	BIL	MS	39520	SLANDRY@ATT.NET	228-323-32
6 W/ Ramsey	127 Felicity St	BIL	MS	39520	W/Ramsey@yahoo.com	228-966-952
7 Tony Mardini	427 HT 90	Waveland	MS	39576	FIREMAN39576@ATT.NET	467-2042
8 Tony W LAWRE	625 Howard E Howard	KIL	MS	39556	tonylawrence@comcast.net	228-669-7031
9 Patrick Hinson	SAL 8th St	Bay St Louis	MS	39520	patrick.hinson@engr.com	228-467-4811
10 Stoddard Goins	202 W. Thane	Palenville	MS	39470	stoddardgoins@yahoo.com	601-467-3000
11 MARK HIDD	1101 TAPANTO SC	Waveland	MS	39576		228-363-231
12 SHANE LARSEN	812 EDNA ST	Waveland	MS	39576		228-467-225
13 Robert Bellard	P.O. Box 16	Palenville	MS	39576		228-493-3318
14 Jeff Pate	129 Cant St	Bay St Louis	MS	39520	gabriel@seacoastecol.edu	228-332-0257
15 LISA Coward	1005 Dunham Ave	BIL	MS	39570	lcoward@gmail.com	228-216-5706
16 Tracie Lynn Tracie Lynn Simpson						
17 Eddie PETERS	809 Conroe St.	Waveland	MS	39576	eddiecamp5@gmail.com	228-493-8553
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ATTENDANCE RECORD

Date:

4/26/12

Meeting Name:

LCA WRHDM Public Scoping Mtg.

Location:

St. Bernard

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3 Simmer Langlois	CREA	RR			Simmer.Langlois@lagriv	225-342-1594
4 David Paul Wood	727 Oldham Dr.	Melrose	La	70007	Davidpaulwood@yahoo	504-234-9954
5 Dineen Reins	6020 Catfish Ct	Deer Lake	La	70131	dineen.reins@army.mil	504-216-5057
6 Nicholas Altano	2306 Bird St	Bernard	LA	70085		504-222-0058
7 Anthony LaCoppo	40 Woodchase Court	Violet	La	70072	Scramm16@aol.com	504-628-7316
8 Praes Leon	2525 Bayou Road	St. Bernard	La.	70085	charesleon@aol.com	504-460-3270
9 William A. McFarley	8201 W. Judge Perez	Chalmette	LA	70043	wmcfarley@sbgq.net	504 442 2424
10 Yene Nunez	2039 Deocragas Lane	BRAITHWAITE	LA	70040		504-228-5088
11 MARIA M. TAVAZZI	25479 HWY 190	LACOMBE	LA	70445	matavazzie@yahoo.com	417.576.3111
12 CATHERINE SERPAS	2012 BAYOU ROAD	TOGA	LA	70085	DanzPas@aol.com	984-1363
13 Jacob Gribby III	P.O. Box 1272	Chalmette	La	70044	Jgribby@sbgq.net	504-221-0261
14 Jacob B. Gribby III	29354 Lyon Ln 2	Lacombe	LA	70445	Jbgribby@stogov.org	504-221-0261
15 Rebecca Livaudais	4626 E. Saint Bernard	MERMAUX	LA	70075	Rlivaudais@aol.com	
16 Joe Beclin	3500 N. Laneway	Blind	Metairie	70002		504-837-6326
17 Gretchen Bonfort	1329 Southside Street	NO LA		70130	gretchenbonfort@hotmail.com	504-355-8107
18 Wendy Cleve Olson	4521 E. St Bernard Hwy	Newry		70075		504-279-5482



ATTENDANCE RECORD

Date: 4/26/12 Meeting Name: LCA MRHDM Study Scoping Mtg. Location: St. Bernard

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First & Last Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Email	Phone
1 Anthony Stipela	3231 Pakenham	D Chalmet	LA	70043		576-3909
2 Deanne Kasper	1200 Baegoe Blvd	St Bern	LA	70085		473-7477
3 Jessica Bannitt	2833 Bayou Rd	St. Bernard	LA	70085		
4 Phillip G. Livaudais	4628 E. SAINT BERNARD	ME RAY	LA	70075	LG986@COX.NET	
5 Jim Hosik	2209 Sylvia Blvd	St Bernard	LA	70085		54-688-708
6 Nancy Polenberg	Verona					682-2851
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APPENDIX B

Scoping Meetings Comments

Scoping Meeting 10 April 2012 Department of Natural Resources, LaBelle Room, 617 North 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA

MR. RICHARD GOYER:

My name is Richard Goyer. My comment would be to involve private landowners in the process up front, instead of trying to get support later on after a decision has been made on projected outcomes. 83 percent of our coastal land is owned by private landowners. And often times, they're left completely out of the box and are not involved until somebody says, well, we're going to do this with your land. What are their rights to manage the land after it has been restored? So that is a very prime consideration. These people own tens of thousands of acres of land. They're not just Joe's Hunting Camp. They are large concerns owning thousands of acres. And they have the power of our state representatives, our parish presidents, Congress. And they're often left out of this mix in the process. So my advice, if you want to call it that or comment, would be to involve landowners up-front so that they know what their benefits are and maybe what their constraints are. And are there chances for easement potentially, for instance, to utilize their land. This has to be done, these studies. And I conducted research for years. The biggest problem is to find the landowner that would allow me to study on their land without just going out there and being a trespasser. And that will become very important, as Dr. Gagliano mentioned, in your study objective -- and don't get them up-front. You can call them in meetings, other than just scoping process required by NEPA. I would think that you would try to identify the organizations that are represented. For instance, there are many foundations, non-profit organizations, that are conducting restoration projects of their own. I work for one, just as an example, St. Bernard Wetland Foundation as one of their board of directors. We are constantly doing restoration work within the geographic areas in the parish. But we don't necessarily have an option to visit with Mr. Klein, personally, and say, okay, this is where we think we can do this, that, or the other thing, and what are my benefits, or what are my cons of this project. Are you going to dig a hole in my land? What resources do I have to do that? Somebody points a finger and says, this will happen. And yet, it's often without any provided input from the landowners. A less formal version of the scoping process. But begin with the people that are planning, you for instance. We don't need Colonel so and so or General so and so. We need the person who's planning the study to specifically find out what their interests are.

MS. MAURA WOOD:

Hi. I'm Maura Wood with the National Wildlife Federation. I'm very happy to hear you say that restoration and navigation and flood control will be equal in the study. That's a very important part of what needs to happen here. I also should come up and ask a question about the data collection that you're planning as part of this study. Hopefully, you're out there gathering data now. I know it takes a while. But we need to use this as an opportunity to fill some of the data gaps that, surprisingly, we have quite large data gaps, even with this river that's so closely watched. And we need this information to be able to make these informed decisions that you're talking about on how we can create a system of management that includes all of the restoration features as well. And they can be part of the flood control system and the navigation maintenance as well. I encourage you to look to the State and the State Master Plan as the model of how you can involve stakeholders over time in the formation of a plan in the framework development team and in the focus groups. You have an example there of how, what you've heard at least twice now tonight, you know, requested. And those requests come from the heart

from people who care about the coast, who work on the coast, who depend on the coast, who grew up there like you, who have a tremendous amount of knowledge that is also a piece of what you need to pull together in this study. Well, for instance, one of the things on the Myrtle Grove Diversion that our NGO partnership and the State was able to do was a very site specific data collection looking at all of the parameters of the river right in that section where we want to put a diversion, not at Torbert's Landing, or not an annual average ratings curve, but right here at these times of year, what's happening, where's the current, where's the sediment, what does the river look like, how can we grab that sediment. So we need very -- so where we're planning diversions, we need very specific information in those reaches of the river in particular.

MR. WILLIAM FONTENOT:

William Fontenot, again, Baton Rouge. I think what would be very important in your Environmental Impact Study is to identify what information processes are missing. If a project is focusing on a part of the country which has been adversely impacted or greatly altered by thousands of other projects in other parts of the country. And I think in some way of connecting those things together leaves a tremendous hole or void in your Environmental Impact Statement. Because you're not really identifying what the environment is that is impacting what's going on in coastal Louisiana. So it's only a partial Environmental Impact Statement is what you're proposing. And that's not bad that you're doing this project. But I think it's important to identify what is not included. So if somebody reads it, they will understand or, hopefully, be able to understand it, a member of Congress from Ohio will be able to, or Montana, or New York would be able to look at this and say, oh, these are some of the things we should of included in the statute. And next time look at this, identifying something like this. We should be looking at something more comprehensive. I think if you say this is the Environmental Impact Statement on restoration in coastal Louisiana without including part, a major part of the Delta where some land building has actually occurred one of the few places in the world that land building is occurring in the Delta. And you don't include information about all of the other 43,000 structures, major dams that built in this system, then the person reading it won't be able to understand what information is not there. So I think that's part of what's missing in just about every environmental impact statement I've ever looked at, and I've looked at a lot of them. It's hard for people to make an informed, get their thought process working. Dr. Gagliano is somebody, and people who have gotten up and spoken, are people you ought to be sitting around a table with saying, okay, what is it we ought to be trying to do, and how can we have a much better outcome, a more complete document that will be useful that will use the work the individual groups that work on for decades. We've got in this room lots of people who worked on lots of things. We need to find some way to get them and other folks, who have worked on these issues and studies to be able to bring their information to you and include their information in what they're looking at. Otherwise, you're only doing a one percent environmental impact statement.

MR. STEVEN PEYRONNIN:

Steven Peyronnin for Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana. I guess to follow-up on the informal portion. I was very encouraged to hear that the environmental impact will look at a future without action. We've been looking at what's happening in coastal area of Louisiana. That's just one small component of our future without action. Restoration of our cost is going to require bold action. We believe that this is the type of effort that is going to start that bold

action. And given the level of collapse that we're experiencing, it's reasonable to expect there are going to be large-scale changes if ultimately the decision is made to move forward with a complete rethinking of how the river is managed. And from the Environmental Impact Statement, that can often be something that sets the project back. But measuring it for future without action, what's happening in our coast, it's clearly important that that be given some contents. And I bring that up, not just for the purpose of talking about habit or wetlands, but we're talking about the radical changes we might expect to see from a project of this nature to fisheries to communities to economies to navigation and flood control. I say that, not from the perspective of trying to simply maintain the things the way they are, primarily, flood control and navigation. Because, as I think many people are beginning to understand, highest levels of the Corps, highest levels of Congress, people who use those resources, that those current uses of the river are unsustainable in their current operation. Sea-level rise changes are shifting the epicenter of the river. Dredging costs are rising. Fuel costs aren't coming down any time soon. Expansion of the Panama Canal is going to mean increased pressure in economic incentives for maintaining depths of the river. Those are all critical context-sensitive pieces that need to be considered. When we look at the challenge of re-engaging and reconnecting this river to a delta, that it's going to mean bold change with the environment and our coast. But that has to be measured against the consequences, not just to the environment, but to the very principles of the MRNT (phonetic) if we do nothing. Thank you.

MR. DANIEL BECKER:

Daniel Becker. I wanted to know what you would do with the oilfield canals? Because most of this land that the projects takes place are in private land. And the oil canals are still there. They're all dredged by dredge boats. And most of these projects that you propose have dredge boats as the source of the material that they're going to put back in there. And what are you going to do with all the spoilbanks that are just sitting there and you've already created a problem with the dredge boats by dredging canals once? How do you think more canals are going to be a solution? And I don't think you have enough river sediment and that you can get it far enough away from the river to make that bit of good where you can just look on any map and google, and you'll see how many oilfield canals are there, canals on top of canals, turnaround canals. So you can't dredge and fill over a pipeline. I once proposed a project to look at how many flow lines were in the state and to use some space shuttle data, ground penetrating radar. And I think it would be an interesting study to know how many flow lines are in the state. And they're full of naturally occurring radioactive material. They're supposed to replace those flow lines. So how are they going to replace the flow line if you build wetlands there? And I think what they want to do is play in their sandbox. They bought up a bunch of oyster leases to go play in, and they're letting the oil companies do whatever they want.

MR. DANIEL BECKER:

I'm full of ideas. Well, I'll submit a project at the proper time. And I've already submitted a project for one of the early CWPPRAs for demonstration. But I just wanted to hear from you. Aren't most of these projects taking place away from the oil and gas production areas because you can't bury a pipeline, you can't dredge over a buried pipeline? Pipeline canals are always going to be over open water conduits. It would be like having a pie that's running, and you cut holes off through it. The pie leaks out. Well, you can do whatever you want with the river sediment. As long as these canals are there, the saltwater is going to continuously invade. The

No. 1 problem we have is saltwater invasion. Then you have freshwater plants die. And I'd like to say, most of these islands that you build are just vegetating by whatever grows there. They dredge these things 4 feet high. So you have a 4-foot high pile of sand. Anything will grow on it. First flood, saltwater takes over and kills all those plants. So until you stop the saltwater from coming up all these millions of oilfield canals that we have, anything you do is going to be, just to preserve land can be a land building event. So I'll tell you what you did was that you changed the definition of what a wetland was first. You had a proposed amendment. You voted on it. You changed the definition from wetland to coastal, which included roads, bridges. The guy from CWPPRA just said he wanted more navigation. They can't bring supertankers up the Mississippi River anymore. The supertankers are going to go to Houston. They're closing the Port of New Orleans. They're going to build a millennium or some sort of port down by Fouchon. That's the main plan. The hardened loop is the offshore oil platform is the soft target. They're going to build that as a hardened infrastructure. Billy Nungesser already has his dredge boat waiting at the mouth of the river to build the berm around Grand Isle. The Dutch want to build it better berm around Grand Isle. I think that's a waste of funds. And I think your project is going to not help the average fisherman that lives in the area. And I mean you can study how much river sediment is there. It's going to change every year. They already have them, I'm sure, sediment gages and structures like that in place. This is the Corps of Engineers. They've been watching the river since I was born. Thank you.

MR. SHERWOOD GAGLIANO:

Since some of the other speakers have already set the precedent, I'll do the same too. I have a prime suggestion. Louisiana has a federally approved coastal management program that's been authorized since the 1970s. Most of our coastal parishes have been in the effected area here have approved local government programs. And those are extremely effective as a forum for collecting ideas. First of all, NEPA, as you well know, is a three-legged stool, social, economic, and environmental benefits have to be considered. And one of the big economic benefits is this coastal restoration effort, including the proponents that you're working on, is without a doubt the largest new industry is this state. It should employ people. An important part of this should be to look ahead at what kind of jobs we're going to create to reach sustainability, not just put these things out and walk away. We put them out and manage them and make sure they're operating properly, functioning properly. That requires a whole array of skills. We've got some indication of this, the BP Oil Spill. We had fishermen go out and apply oil booms and do tasks. And we really didn't have a trained workforce for it. It worked, but it wasn't very efficient. So what I'm suggesting is that we incorporate the local government coastal management programs, which are legally in place and have considerable weight because they make recommendations to local public officials. And local public officials can act on that, as the primary way of exchanging data and getting public input into this process. And to forever demonstrate the importance of that, President Obama, a year or so ago, several years ago now, developed, made a strong commitment for restoration of hurricane damage to the Gulf Coast. And if you read the white paper documents that came out of these committees, they all say that what the President says and those documents reflect is that we need vision plans that develop at local levels. And those vision plans in my view need to incorporate social, economic, and environmental benefits. For example, St. Bernard Parish has been working -- first of all, they had the first coastal management program in the State of Louisiana that's been approved. That was in the 1970s. And they still meet religiously at least once a month and look at permits to develop

recommendations. And they are active. It was the efforts of that board and the citizens of that parish that recognized the danger of MRGO and, ultimately, resulted in having it closed. So it is a platform, framework, for collecting information. And instead of waiting until the draft EIS is put in the public library, before you start working with the local folks, that's the (inaudible). Again, I really like this forum. This is great, and you're on the right path. My name is Sherwood Gagliano.

Scoping Meeting April 12, 2012, Port of New Orleans, Auditorium, 1350 Port Of New Orleans Place, New Orleans, LA

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. 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 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.

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 tough 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:

Gary 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 as 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.

Scoping Meeting Tuesday April 17, 2012, Larose Civic Center, 307 East 5th Street, Cutoff, LA.

MR. DWAYNE BOURGEOIS:

Dwayne Bourgeois. I'm the Director for with the North Lafourche Levee District. The point about data source. This may be something that's probably new. USGS is using second generation linear for the specific purpose to try to track levee systems and stuff like that, basically. It's the proof of concept. It's already been flown in Lafourche Parish and all over the levees in Lafourche Parish. Very high resolution linear ranging thing. Maybe you don't know

about it because it's, kind of, just proof of concept. I can give you any additional information on that. Thank you very much.

MR. DARRYL PAUL WARD:

Darryl Paul Ward. What are the critical natural human and environmental issues? Natural and human environmental issues should be - this should take in everybody. Like I had mentioned, plants, food. If something like that can affect all of us. And we all have to be brought into this to be a part of the human environmental issues. What are the important resources in the natural and human? The important resources is the food and fuel that that part of the coastal is not - it's a whole new world out there that I think that everybody has to be a part of in the future. Right now, it's only the coastal people that - it's going to be the new world of jobs and education is what I'm trying to say. Jobs and education. Everything out there is going to be new. You're talking about natural, natural resources, air, wind, water, geothermal, waves, tides. All this is energy, energy, energy. Some of this should be allowed to produce something to make us leaders. We have more natural resources in the State of Louisiana than any other country in the world. I think that we ought to put together a natural and human environment for us to participate together as a team to be a impact for our future. The United States needs this. We need clean air, clean fuel, and new jobs, and new education. I believe this coastal is going to be the new jobs, new education, if a leader with a vision is allowed to participate in the forward advancement of all of us in Louisiana to realize that we have all the natural resources. But we have to do something with it. We can sit up here and talk, make a canal, make a diversion, and go throw nutrients here and there. But you need a leader that's going to bring everybody else in on it to benefit everybody in the United States of America and make Louisiana No. 1. And we can be No. 1. We have the natural resources. We have the power. We have the people. But you need somebody to organize it to put this together. I understand Army Corps of Engineers is doing a lot. That's why a lot can be done when we have scientists and engineers. But you need somebody with common sense to work together with Army Corps of Engineers and the State. And this is why I wrote to these people. This is why I'm here today. This is the natural and human environment of the benefits of our natural resources for our people to stand together with a leader. Thank you very much.

MR. KERRY ST. PE':

My name is Kerry St. Pe'. I'm the Director of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program. One of the objectives of this study is to assess all the resources of the river. And I'm glad to see that finally being done, know where all the sediment is on the bottom of the river, water column. And I would - that leads me to the dedicated dredging component of the study. I firmly believe as one of the answers to the future of Louisiana is to use sediments in the river on the bottom, pump it out and to create marshes, ridges, barrier islands to restore those features. But what's kept us from doing that on a large scale to this point is cost. I think the Master Plan has \$71 million dedicated to marsh creation. But the acreage is, I think, underestimated in the Master Plan because of the cost attributed to building marshes. And I believe that the cost of rebuilding these marshes with the dredge pipe is based on the cost up to now. It's the way we price, and we cost out projects on a project by project basis. We need to be looking at this on a large-scale programmatic level. We need to look at using the dredge until this project runs out of money and keeping a dredge and pipe and infrastructure out there until we can find another source of money and continue using that same infrastructure, pipes, to create more marshes.

That way you reduce the cost on a per cubic yard basis. That's how you reduce the cost. I would hope that y'all would look at identifying areas where the sediment load on the bottom is greatest and pick those sites to build to cross over infrastructure to facilitate the use of dredges and pipes on those locations. When you use up all the sediment on that location, perhaps, you could come up with a way to deposit what you're dredging on a navigation basis in the same hole in the same area where it can be used in the future to build marshes. I think that's all I have. Does that make sense?

MR. RODNEY DUFRENE:

Rodney Dufrene. With this Davis Pond project, I'd like to see y'all divert more water to the wildlife management area on the east side of Lake Salvadore and catch all of it, not just a section of on through (inaudible). With the Davis Pond Project, I'd like to see y'all divert more water through the wildlife management area east side of Lake Salvador. That way, it will catch the hole lake, instead of just a portion of the lake going straight across it. That is a big benefit I've seen with that project.

MR. EDDIE ST. PIERRE:

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

Scoping Meeting April 19, 2012, Boothville-Venice Elementary School, #1 Oiler Drive, Boothville, LA

MR. MARIJOVICH:

My name is Byron Marijovich. I'm from Buras also. I would encourage you-all to listen to some of the feedback from some of the citizens. We've gone through a lot of study sessions and we ain't got no where. I would encourage you-all to look into some of the parish we made as far as low lined dredging and I've given most of you my card and some of the information for the parish as far as some of the proposals. I also encourage you again to look at the smaller natural diversions as far as like meeting across the river that you might want to look at and see what their cause or what their human thoughts are. I feel like something like that.

MR. THOMAS:

My name is Robert Thomas. I'm from Buras, Louisiana. My statement is that I'm scared to death of these large-scale diversions. If you come into Myrtle Grove, the Bonnet Carre Spillway and you especially the fisheries on the west side of Plaquemines Parish and unfortunately, there's nothing in the Master Plan that addresses compensating residents, oyster fishermen, seafood dealers. There's nothing in here about that. I don't know if it's not scientific yet, I don't know if a small diversion would work. And what is the Bonnet Carre Spillway it's been there for 60 years. But you can get where I'm going with that.

I wanted to clear something up that was said before. Well, this is reverting back to your question and answer period, if that's okay. When Ken asked you the cost analysis between the diversions and the direct sediment costs. I'm not sure if you-all connected on exactly what he was saying. The cost of a yard of material through diversion versus the cost of a yard of material through the pipeline. I don't know if you-all were together, but I would love to see that figure also.

Scoping Meeting April 24, 2012, Waveland Civic Center, 335 Coleman Avenue, Waveland, MS

MR. LADNER:

Tony Ladner. Let me reiterate what I said earlier that there needs to be a formal study with New Orleans, Vicksburg, and Mobile districts involved for a total impact of not only the Louisiana coast, Mississippi coast, also the Alabama coastline for a regional study instead of putting it just on Louisiana with it adversely affecting all three states.

MR. LANDRY:

Steve Landry. Could the study, the boundary studies include for looking at transportation and also look at baseline in Hancock County things like recreation, fishing, and tourism?

MR. GOINS:

Stradford Goins. I have several comments. One, specifically, how are you going to address getting the sediment to the marshes, one, with the limitations under regulations on depositing dredging material; two, with the climbing of the river with the levees, starving the wetlands of the nutrients. You know, are any considerations given to, you know, putting significant breaches, not just diversions, significant breaches in levees to allow the sediment and the fresh water to flow naturally? Is there also any consideration to telling the shipping industry that the river is maxed out, you know, we've reached the point to where we're not going to harm the environment anymore to their benefit? The other question I'd like to see addressed is how this is -- the future depth of the river to accommodate the Panama ships, you know, if we can fit it in this study. If they have to dredge the river deeper than it's currently dredged, the river's going to end up with higher velocity, more sediment that's just going to fall off the continental shelf. And that's the sediment we're going to need for these projects that we won't have. I'd like to see how you're going to address that. The final thing I'd like to see them address is the economic impact, the true economic impact of not only this coast and the wetland restoration but the existing conditions you have in Louisiana, the levees and floodwalls and future projects that they're considering for flood protection. How does that consider the negative economic impacts that those projects will have along coast of Mississippi?

MR. GARCIA:

David Garcia, Mayor of Waveland. Added to his comment, I think what needs to be added to that is if this is completely restored as planned, what would be additional total storm surge that we could expect and how far inland as well should be added to that.

Scoping Meeting April 26, 2012, St. Bernard Parish Council Chambers, 8201 W. Judge Perez Drive, Chalmette, LA

MR. STIPELCOVICH:

Anthony Stipelcovich, a St. Bernard resident. I have a suggestion. For our coastal erosion, what about building bulkheads all along the Louisiana Coast to prevent coastal erosion?

MR. ALFONSO:

Well, I know some people don't like and some people do like freshwater diversions now. But that's only if you're not impacted by it. My thing is we've got a hundred-- generation after generation, five, six, 800, 1,000, 2,000 acres of land that was directly impacted by freshwater diversion. We only have 50 acres left. We might only have 75 acres left. Where the freshwater diversion has the biggest impact on land loss, and y'all all know that, y'all all had the studies come to y'all, but what y'all are talking about doing by getting the sediment out the river and putting it back on land, I think y'all will make a lot of people very happy who lost their land; who are paying all the taxes on 500 acres and only can see three. I think that's going to be a change. That's going to give--If y'all can provide that, y'all are going to give the people a better feeling of what the Corps does and how they can help. Because, so far, all we've seen is land loss. Thank you.

MS. TAMI FUCICH:

Tami Fucich. My comment is based on landowners. Sometimes it's difficult to understand how, as an entity group, that the progress that you for landowners, there's no foundation, there's no standard, there's no rules, there's no regulations. It's, more or less, like an individual going out and building a shopping mall on private property and telling that landowner about it after the fact. I believe that there is a big omission when it comes to including landowners in what your objectives are, what your goals are. I think that you could eliminate a lot of the delays, a lot of the problems that occur after the fact if you would just let the landowners know the priority, your reasoning, and the overall goal and what you want to establish when it comes to your study. I mean, you're just beginning with two studies. You've got four more to go. And you've got landowners and you've got high industry. Don't wait until you're finished and all your work that you've done is being bulked because you didn't go to the landowner first. It's time wasted, it's money wasted, it's cost that is wasted. So whatever your plans and your goals are you really need to include the landowners in each and every step of the way, because it's going to benefit everyone, and I think that, right now, there's a lack within the State and within the federal government for how you include the landowners. So that's my only comment. Yes. Uhm, I really believe that you need to have a landowners' forum in regards to they need the State's ability--They need someone to understand their own viewpoint. To understand what they're going through. Unless you're directly involved, it's hard for anyone else to understand. So landowner to landowner--First of all, I need to let you know, I am totally, 100%, and my family is, too, behind coastal restoration. I know the importance of the sediment needed from the Mississippi River for land building. I know the importance of navigation. I had to educate myself. Because no one educated me within the state, so I had to educate myself, and sometimes I think I know more than I need to know. But someone had to do it. Uhm, I really think, though, that there needs to be some type of foundation for landowners so we can all get together and discuss the ins and outs. What we would like. What we don't like. Just like you have your round table, we need to have our own round table. You know, whether it starts at the Violet Canal all the way down to Venice, as landowners we need to participate together. Progress is only going to assured and seen if we all work together, and I see no effort. I've seen no effort, whatsoever, and I really believe that is your starting point. That is going to make smooth sailing for everyone involved, and you don't have your bumps and bruises along the way. Your bumps and bruises are eliminated before the process even begins, even if you have to have, uhm, disclosures, even if you have to have, uhm, rights of first refusal, you know, that we do with

some of these landowners. I mean, I'm sure you guys have thought of this. If not, I'm going to tell you what I've thought of. But yeah, that's on my mind, and I think yours, too.

MS. BECKY LIVADAIS:

I'd like to compliment the Corps in including environmental issues in this study. Sometimes environmental impact is just kind of stated, but it sounds like you all are really going to consider the environmental conditions that are necessary. What would I like to see? I'd like to see a return of the freshwater Cypress swamp instead of wetlands. We lost it. Maybe you agree, maybe you don't, but I think we lost it due to the construction of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet and not protecting our land from saltwater intrusion. I would like to see some dams along the way, and then sediment pumped in and restored to what the ecological balance was back in the 1950's before the ship channel was done. I would also like to see that Proctor's Point, which is a whole extra piece of ground outside of the protected area for flooding, I'd like to see some of that protected, too, because it, also, was never--No one ever put the spoiler ridge on that side until much later than any of the others and it has really become a piece of Swiss cheese, if you could take a look at it. It wasn't always this way. It was a barrier, a natural barrier. I'd like to see some of the ridges restored in St. Bernard Parish that were there before the ship channel was done. Reasonable restoration? Maybe it's not reasonable anymore, maybe it's too far gone. But I'd like for that to be considered and not just tossed aside. After all, that's what studies are for. And maybe the study will show that it's not reasonable to restore Proctor's Point, but I think you'll find that it will be reasonable to restore the central wetlands, especially with some sediment, and then, at that time, of course, you have to consider landowners' rights. Thank you. Oh. My name is Becky Livadais. I'm a resident of St. Bernard Parish; I live in Meraux. I also serve as a supervisor of the Crescent Soil and Water Conservation District. I was, actually, thinking of dams along the Violet Canal and some of the tributaries that are there. When I say tributaries, man-made tributaries; your retainer canal and pipeline canals, and such, which allow just the natural breakthroughs, or whatever, and allow salt water intrusion into there. The dam along the ship channel and our flood gates, et cetera, and the large wall should prevent a lot of salt water from coming in through the Violet Canal, and then, if you put freshwater coming from the river, that should take care of that, too, because that would be a natural flow of freshwater into there. But I don't know what you all think. In your study would you just allow the freshwater to just flow from the Violet Canal into the central wetlands? I'm sure you're going to have to study what's the best way to distribute that and to put sediment in. I don't know, that's your job to study it. I'm just saying consider restoring the central wetlands to what it was in the 1950's. Thank you.

MR. DARRL PAUL WARD:

Darryl Paul Ward, calling for alternating plans. Naturally, a human element in this is somebody that has a picture of understanding, and the wisdom that we can all agree upon could be a subject to further our education. For instance, we're talking about diversions. If we wanted freshwater sometimes we can just drill straight down and get the water, and get all these problems over with for some of this that we're discussing. So that would solve that problem. Now, as far as energy goes, you pump. If you want something pumped you take air, water and gravity. This is the natural resources, so I'm speaking to scientists and engineers, here, that can pump this stuff here, there, everywhere, and build, very easily, using the natural resource of air, water and gravity. So something that's got to be allowed to be an input into this study, because why are we going to

study something that don't have all this in there? Like you say, no, we ain't got no food. We ain't got no fuel. We can't change anything. We ain't going to do nothing. No, we can't build now. We get no good water. We can't do nothing that makes any sense to help none of these people. We need somebody on a new study that understands and has a little bit of a different picture than what some of y'all understand. For instance, I wrote to Mary Landrieu, Nancy Pelosi, (inaudible) the Speaker, and spoke to all of these people. And I used to ask them questions for their engineers that work with them, so they gave the answers to these questions and I hope the Congress listens to what I have to say. Because they all know me. I spoke to Congress three different times. So some of this had better come into this study and some understanding, some kind of light had better enter on this study for some of these things that the people--I want to represent all these people that's been going to all these meetings. I've been to four or five myself, and, yes, they all should be represented to give them the answer of how this can be done. You see, if the price tag's cut in half because we have the energy, we have the power, we have the gravity, and water, and the force to move all this soil and nutrients, sediment, a different equation steps in on this. And I'd like to be involved in all this, so let's keep this in mind. We want a new direction, a new tomorrow, is why we're all here. We want to do something that's going to benefit the State of Louisiana to make us number one. We're not going to spend 50 million dollars on virgin territory to wind up with the same old thing. Come on, give me a break! Louisiana's got to change. We've got to step up to the plate. Some kind of common sense has to enter and we have to allow somebody to go along with the study language. Thank you very much.

APPENDIX C.

Scoping Comment Postcards

LCA Mississippi River Hydrodynamic and Delta Management Study

April 17, 2012

Larose, LA

NEPA Scoping Comment

Comment: The Mississippi sediment with fresh water diversion would allow plants, trees
edges of swamps to grow ^{fast} for our future. This is the time to incorporate these ideas.
Plants should be our Master Plan of our new Frontier, tool to create new jobs of a
new tomorrow? in a natural + human clean environmental awakening! Hello?
Master Plan to use fish for fertilizers to create a hybrid mutant.
This hybrid mutant will rise from Earth. The rising means the animal died
The hybrid Plant rises to our Second Story from Swamp land on Earth?

Name Donald Paul Ward Affiliation Gardens of Eden - Plant
Street 724 Oaklawn Dr. Phone 504 234-9536
City, State, Zip Mitairie La 70005
E-mail Disciplant yahoo

www.lca.gov

Comments may also be submitted via e-mail to LCA-MRHDM@usace.army.mil. Written comments must be postmarked by **May 4, 2012**.

LCA Mississippi River Hydrodynamic and Delta Management Study

April 26, 2012

Chalmette, LA

Boom

Art Talk?

NEPA Scoping Comment

Comment: Our people ^{We are our natural resource of ~~the~~ animal and plant hybrid? mutant} Yes All Coast, yes when we see it with faith,
feel proud to be part of our natural resources. We lived as animals?
We never thought that we come from real monkeys?

We are to wake up in our second story.
This second story about a plant hybrid mutant person, through Baptism
rise as a plant, to be a plant that sprouts good seeds fertile to
allow the fertility to be fish. Don't allow that's natural resource to be used!

Name Darryl Paul Ward Affiliation Garden in the Garden of Eden
Street 724 Osprey Dr Phone 504-216-6444
City, State, Zip Metairie LA 70005 504 234 9936
E-mail circusplant@yahoo

www.lca.gov

Comments may also be submitted via e-mail to LCA-MRHDM@usace.army.mil. Written comments must be postmarked by **May 4, 2012**.

LCA Mississippi River Hydrodynamic and Delta Management Study

April 26, 2012

Chalmette, LA

Coastal MRCO

NEPA Scoping Comment

Comment: My Army of Scientists and Engineers, to create life, a recycle
to create chosen plants to be our future energy crops for food and fuel of our
new earth of air water gravity solar gas to see the wave for the tide is here.
Boom Baptism, for the dead to rise? reborn plant! ?

Edvent picture of the monkey of alcohol cigarette, close in
a monkey to die reborn from earth to be the plant monkey died our second story
plant is our energy drink to awake green zone. alive reborn new!

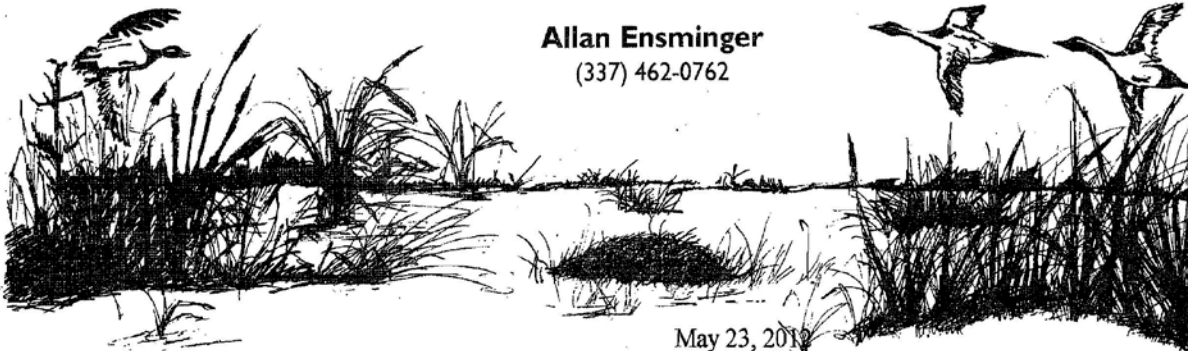
Name Darryl Paul Ward Affiliation Garden of Eden Plant
Street 724 Oaklawn Dr. Phone 504-234-9936
City, State, Zip M. St. Louis La. 70005 504 316-6448
E-mail drcarpent@yaho.com

www.lca.gov

Comments may also be submitted via e-mail to LCA-MRHDM@usace.army.mil. Written comments must be postmarked by **May 4, 2012**.

APPENDIX D

Scoping Comment Letters/Emails



Allan Enslinger
(337) 462-0762

May 23, 2012

Dr. William P. Klein, Jr.
CEMVN-PM-RS
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

Dear Dr. Klein,

Reference is made to information contained in a Document I obtained during the Public Meeting of the Technical Committee of CWPPRA held at the Corp on May 19, 2012 outlining the coverage of southeast Louisiana in the Mississippi River Hydrodynamic and Delta Management Study. We have addressed salt water intrusion on Point au Fer Island in other meetings and have received a CWPPRA project in the form of the Lake Chapeau Hydrologic Restoration program.

Within the past year, shoreline erosion on the Gulf side of the Island has breached into a small interior bayou know as Burks Bayou in T21S-R11E, Section 12. This small bayou provided surface drainage for the back marsh in this section of the Island, however, with the breach into the gulf, we now have saltwater entering into the very heart of the Island and connecting to the headwaters of Locust Bayou.

Attempts have been made to obtain funds from LOSCO collected from Williams Inc. for a spill from a broken pipeline north of their main Production Platform on the north bank of Mosquito Bayou. The spilled petroleum from the break was burned within a few days and has allowed the impacted marsh to recover. We have not been able to convince LOSCO that closure in the break of the shoreline would be a good environmental use of the funds and would play a critical role in protecting a very large section of broken marsh in the center of the Island.

It is the hopes of the Owners of Point au Fer Island that closure of the break in the shoreline can be accomplished before excessive amounts of saltwater enters the interior marsh. We look forward to be included in the upcoming Study and armoring of the beach on this important Barrier Island.

Sincerely yours,

Allan B. Enslinger
Allan B. Enslinger

Cc. Charles I. Denechaud

Wetlands and Wildlife Management Co. • 246 Allan Enslinger Rd. • DeRidder, LA 70634



UNITED FOR A HEALTHY GULF

338 Baronne Street, Suite 200 New Orleans, LA 70112
Phone: 504.525.1528 Fax: 504.525.0833

2 May 2012

LCA-MRHDM Study
Attn: Dr. William P. Klein, Jr. CEMVN-PM-RS
P.O.Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267
william.p.klein.jr@usace.army.mil

Re: Scoping Comments on the Mississippi River Hydrodynamic and Delta Management Study

Dr. Klein,

I am writing on behalf of the Gulf Restoration Network (GRN), a diverse coalition of individual citizens and local, regional, and national organizations committed to uniting and empowering people to protect and restore the resources of the Gulf of Mexico.

We're happy to see the LCA Mississippi River Hydrodynamic and Delta Management Study (LCA Hydrodynamic study) proceed. Detailed information on the river is urgently necessary for Coastal Restoration, which requires replacing the flow of the river into the estuary.

The study should enable us to employ the River more intelligently for Coastal Restoration.

The work of Drs Ehab Meselhe and Mead Allison, as part of the design for the Myrtle Grove sediment diversion, has advanced our understanding of where the necessary kinds of sediment are in the river at what times in the River's rise and fall, as well as the appropriate times to capture that sediment for land-building. The LCA Hydrodynamic study should study the sediment in the same three-dimensional manner as these ground-breaking studies.

The LCA Hydrodynamic study should also collect enough data on sediment dynamics in the river bed so that a cost-benefit analysis of beneficial use of dredged sediments can be done.

We question whether it is cost-effective to dredge the river repeatedly within the LCA study area, from Old River Control to the Birdfoot Delta, when compared to



UNITED FOR A HEALTHY GULF

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Phone: 504.525.1528 Fax: 504.525.0833

barging sediment from an upriver dredge, and pumping the sediment into bayside areas to create marsh and ridge elevations.

The study should be detailed enough to avoid another West Bay. West Bay was a functioning restoration project that was too narrowly defined on the bayside, and defined largely as a dredging project. The cost / benefit was inappropriately calculated, because two-thirds of the project cost was spent dredging the Pilotown anchorage. The West Bay diversion did not cause two-thirds of the shoaling, but only one fifth to one half.

The study needs to take into account the changes likely in the River due to Sea Level Rise.

The LCA Hydrodynamic study should account for the effects of the changed climate, particularly sea level rise. The commonly cited upper bound is **1.9 meters of rise by 2100**, based on the latest and most-supported semi-empirical modeling, and this study should attempt to model the river's hydrodynamics for that scenario.

The river has shown increased shoaling at Head of Passes since 1984. Even if carbon emissions drop radically in a short period of time, the River will continue to drop more and more of its sediment load further and further upriver over time as the Gulf of Mexico rises.

There should be a separate study to tackle the question of where to re-align the shipping channel of the Mississippi River, to reduce the costs of dredging the nationally important shipping channel within the River, but that study will more than likely be heavily informed by this one.

The study should take into identify sources of sediment contamination along the project route, and include analysis of the effects of such contamination on the bayside.

On the most recent high water tour through New Orleans, General Burcham brought up the issue of sediment contamination. We were glad to hear that someone on the Mississippi River Commission is concerned about whether these sediments we are using for coastal restoration are contaminated. It speaks to our desperate straits in coastal Louisiana that we prioritize using sediment from the Mississippi River, which is not exactly a clean river, to build marshes. It also speaks to the long legacy

of pollution we have on the Louisiana coast, from thousands of oil wells and waste pits that litter our state.

The Mississippi sediment is probably cleaner in many cases. Sediments from the Bonnet Carre' spillway have been used to remediate new orleans' soils post-Katrina. But this study should evaluate likely sources of metals, PAH, and other contamination within the project area.

At the least, the Corps should adopt the sediment standards in place for beneficial use on the Mississippi Coast as part of the MsCIP plan. The Corps needs to account for cumulative impacts of PAHs and metals in the river upon the marshes and fishes, and other wildlife on the bayside, given the large amount of drilling waste pits on the bayside.

There are already Coal terminals that offload directly on top of the sediments we are targeting for use in building wetlands, and these terminals release many pounds of contaminants into the waters of the Mississippi, and these contaminants likely settle in the sand beds which are the source of marsh and ridge creation.

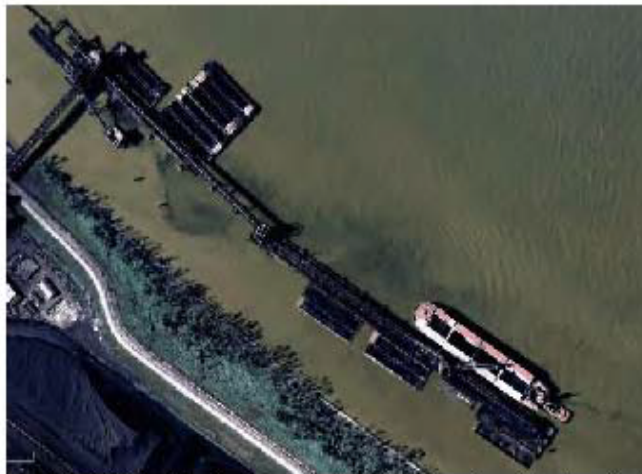


Figure 1 International Marine Terminals westbank facility, downriver of Baton Rouge, showing coal pile runoff in the Mississippi River

Thanks for the opportunity to comment. Please reply in receipt of this comment.



UNITED FOR A HEALTHY GULF

338 Baronne Street, Suite 200 New Orleans, LA 70112
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For a healthy Gulf,

Scott Eustis,
Coastal Wetland Specialist, Gulf Restoration Network

To: Dr. Klein

My question is, could more water be forced down natural waterways like Bayou Lafourche and Terrebonne, without causing property damage to local population?

To avoid populated areas north of the Flood protection levees, a large pipeline system would be the answer, but costly.

I have always been interested in coastal protection projects. If you have need to hire extra personnel to help with the study, I would like to apply.

Sincerely,
J.D. McKeerall

Address:
J.D. McKeerall
107 Gros St.
Schriever, LA.
70395

W. Pat Weber
CREATIVE FORESTRY, LLC
150 White Ave., Fairhope, AL 36532
FAX/Home 251-517-7317
Cell 225-933-4719
e-mail creatfrsty@aol.com
April 1, 2012

Dr. William P. Klein, Jr., CEMVN-PM-RS
P. O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

Dear Dr. Klein,

As a landowner in St. Bernard Parish and as a Professional Forester projects of this type always concern me because of their potential impact on private property rights. What control will any government agency have over the opportunity for private landowners to continue to manage their timber and marsh lands?

During the discussion of diversion projects in St. Bernard, the Corps planned to restore the Central Wetlands by diverting river sediment into the marshland. On some of the restored wetlands they would plant trees suitable to the new site. That was the good The bad news was the landowner would maintain no control of the management of those trees. All the Corps is doing is try to replace the millions of board feet of private timber and restore the highly productive freshwater marsh that the Corps destroyed with MRGO.

I hope, if the Corps decides to restore some of these marshlands, the landowner will have input on what is planted, and maintain control of the management of these forests and marshlands. If not, I, as a landowner will fight tooth and nail to kill this project or fight to make it compatible to private property rights.

The area north of what is now the limits of the coastal zone contains tens of thousands of acres of well managed forests and farmlands. Most of this area is in private ownership, large and small. There are already initiatives in place to assure that these lands are managed on a sustainable basis, such as the American Tree Farm System, the Sustainable Forest Initiative and Louisiana Best Management Practices for Wetlands. The Louisiana Forestry Association, the Louisiana Landowners Association and The St. Bernard Wetlands Foundation work diligently with landowners in this area to encourage sustainable forest and farmland practices.

Not only is the area within the scope of this project highly productive timberland and farmland, it is excellent wildlife habitat, thanks to the continuous hard work of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Please, while developing this Study, listen to and heed the comments of the private landowner. Also include representatives of the above organizations on your team and especially heed the comments of the owners of the former cypress swamps and marshlands in St. Bernard Parish who have suffered greatly through the mismanagement of MRGO.

Sincerely,

W. Pat Weber

Cc: Buck Vandersteen (LFA)
Becky Livaudais (St. Bernard Wetlands Foundation)
Philip Livaudais (Landowner)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

April 25, 2012 F/SER46/RH:jk
225/389-0508

Dr. William P. Klein, Jr.
CEMVN-PM-RS
New Orleans District
Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers
Post Office Box 60267
New Orleans, Louisiana 70160-0267

Dear Dr. Klein:

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has received the public notice advertising scoping meetings to be held for the Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) Mississippi River Hydrodynamic and Delta Management study. According to the public notice, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) intends to undertake a feasibility study and prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to evaluate a combination of large-scale management and restoration features to address the long-term sustainability of the lower Mississippi River delta. According to the public notice, the study will provide a decision-making framework for the management of a sustainable coastal ecosystem that allows for the coexistence of navigation and flood control. The COE has requested the public and natural resource agencies provide recommendations on: 1) the environmental problems and needs that should be addressed in the EIS; 2) the important resources in the project area; and, 3) reasonable restoration alternatives to be considered in the feasibility study and EIS.

NMFS staff are participating on the Project Delivery Team for this study. It is our understanding that ecosystem restoration features to maximize the deposition of Mississippi River sediment in coastal areas and restore delta growth and improve wetland sustainability will be identified and evaluated. Such measures include large-scale river diversions, dredging of Mississippi River water bottoms, and outfall management.

Aquatic and tidally influenced wetland habitats in portions of the study area are designated as essential fish habitat (EFH) for various federally managed species identified in the attached table. These species are managed by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC) or are highly migratory species managed by NMFS. The attached table lists life stages and subcategories of EFH for these species that would potentially be benefitted or impacted by this project. Primary categories of EFH in the study area include estuarine emergent wetlands; submerged aquatic vegetation; mud, sand and shell substrates; and estuarine water column. Detailed information on federally-managed fisheries and their EFH is provided in the 2005 generic amendment of the Fishery Management Plans for the Gulf of Mexico prepared by the



GMFMC. The generic amendment was prepared as required by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act, P.L. 104-297).

In addition to being designated as EFH for the species listed in the attached table, water bodies and wetlands in the study area provide nursery and foraging habitats supportive of a variety of economically important marine fishery species, such as striped mullet, Atlantic croaker, gulf menhaden, spotted seatrout, sand seatrout, southern flounder, black drum, and blue crab. Some of these species also serve as prey for other fish species managed under the Magnuson-Stevens Act by the GMFMC (e.g., mackerels, snappers, and groupers) and highly migratory species managed by NMFS (e.g., billfishes and sharks).

NMFS recommends the EIS include separate sections titled "Essential Fish Habitat" and "Marine Fishery Resources" that identify the EFH and fisheries resources of the study area. These sections should describe the potential impacts, both positive and negative, to those resources that could be caused by river diversions. While NMFS believes that overall project implementation could be beneficial to protecting and restoring EFH and to maintaining the productivity of marine fishery resources, there are some potential localized adverse impacts to marine fishery productivity that could be caused by diversions, especially during high flow periods. Those impacts may include: 1) displacement of less freshwater tolerant, or cold water intolerant, marine fishery species from large areas of wetlands and water bodies that serve as nursery and foraging areas; 2) destruction of productive oyster reefs that serve as habitat and a food source for some fishery species; 3) increased turbidity and associated decreases in coverage of submerged aquatic vegetation in some areas; and, 4) potential low dissolved oxygen levels in area water bodies caused by decomposition of large quantities of algae and/or phytoplankton resulting from high nutrient levels in diverted river water. The EFH and marine fishery resource sections of the EIS should evaluate the potential for any or all of these impacts to occur as a result of the proposed diversions. NMFS recommends these sections of the document also discuss the potential beneficial effects of the proposed diversions on EFH and marine fishery resources. These may effects include the maintenance of marsh habitats through accretion or direct placement of sediment.

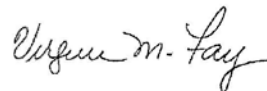
The EFH and marine fishery resources sections of the document also should describe and quantify the potential impacts and benefits of the proposed activities on EFH sub-categories (e.g., marsh, marsh edge, submerged aquatic vegetation/seagrass beds, mud bottoms, oyster reefs, and estuarine water column). The appropriate sections should describe the potential impacts and benefits of the diversions and marsh creation sites on the utilization of these sub-categories of EFH by those fishery species and life stages included in the enclosed table. The EIS should evaluate alternatives to any activities that would result in an adverse impact to those resources to determine if there are less damaging methods to achieve the same result. The overall net benefits of the project on wetland habitats supportive of marine fishery resources should not preclude consideration of alternatives or measures to minimize the negative impacts of river diversions on fishery resources. Such alternatives may include: 1) reduced fresh water inflows during low river stages and periods when less fresh water tolerant species may be found in the project area; 2) direct placement of sediment into the outflow channel during high flow periods to maximize delivery to area marshes; 3) placement of marsh terraces or silt fences to

help trap sediments and reduce turbidity; and, 4) breaching of containment dikes for marsh creation areas to restore tidal influence and marine fishery access to those areas.

NMFS recommends the EIS include a section titled "Cumulative Impacts" which includes an evaluation of project impacts and benefits, in combination with other similar projects proposed for, or implemented, in the area. Presently, the existing Caernarvon diversion located near Braithwaite can divert up to 8,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) into the Breton Sound basin and the Davis Pond diversion can divert 10,000 cfs into the Barataria basin. In addition, diversions into both Breton Sound and the Barataria Basin have been authorized by Water Resources Development Act of 2007. Although the latter two projects have yet to receive construction authorization, we recommend the cumulative impact section include them because they have been authorized under various COE programs and would impact/benefit the same general area. Considering that these diversions, in addition to those to be evaluated in this study, would impact large areas of the Breton Sound and Barataria basin estuaries, the EIS should evaluate the cumulative impacts, including beneficial effects, of multiple diversions of Mississippi River water on resources of concern.

Please note that our Protected Resources Division is responsible for all issues regarding threatened and endangered species and marine mammals for which NMFS is responsible. For information regarding those resources, please contact Mr. David Bernhart of our Protected Resources Division at (727) 824-5312. For additional information regarding EFH, marine fisheries, or National Environmental Policy Act issues, please contact Mr. Richard Hartman of our Habitat Conservation Division, Baton Rouge Office at (225) 389-0508, ext 203.

Sincerely,



Virginia M. Fay
Assistant Regional Administrator
Habitat Conservation Division

Enclosure

c:
FWS, Lafayette
EPA, Dallas
LA DNR, Consistency
F/SER46, Swafford
F/SER4, Dale, Rolfes
F/SER3, Bernhart
Files

EFH Requirements for Species Managed by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council or Highly Migratory Species Managed by NMFS that occur in the study area.

Species	Life Stage	System ^a	EFH
Brown shrimp	larvae	M	<82 m; planktonic, sand/shell/soft bottom, SAV, emergent marsh, oyster reef
	juvenile	E	<18 m; SAV, sand/shell/soft bottom, SAV, emergent marsh, oyster reef
White shrimp	juvenile	E	<30 m; SAV, soft bottom, emergent marsh
Red drum	larvae/postlarvae	E	all estuaries planktonic, SAV, sand/shell/soft bottom, emergent marsh
	juvenile	E/M	GOM <5 m W from Mobile Bay; all estuaries SAV, sand/shell/soft/hard bottom, emergent marsh
	adults	M/E	GOM 1-46 m W from Mobile Bay; all estuaries SAV, pelagic, sand/shell/soft/hard bottom, emergent marsh
Lane snapper	larvae	E/M	4-132 m; reefs, SAV
	juvenile	E/M	<20 m; SAV, mangrove, reefs, sand/shell/soft bottom
Dog snapper	juvenile	E/M	SAV, mangrove, emergent marsh
Blacktip shark	juvenile	E/M	<25 m
Bonnethead shark	juvenile	E/M	inlets, estuaries, coastal waters <25 m
Atlantic sharpnose shark	juvenile	E/M	<40 m, Mississippi Delta
Blacknose shark	adults	E/M	<25 m, Mobile Bay to Terrebonne Parish

^a E=estuarine, M=marine

-----Original Message-----

From: Jim Tripp [mailto:jtripp@edf.org]
Sent: Thursday, May 03, 2012 2:30 PM
To: LCA-MRHDM
Cc: william.p.klein@usace.army.mil; R. King Milling
Subject: FW: Hydro Study

Since he is on the road away from his computer, Mr. Milling asked me to forward these comments on the scope of the hydro and delta management study to the official e-mail recipient since his email was rejected. It would appear that he made an error in the address below with "usca" rather than "usace".

From: R. King Milling [mailto:rmilling@uptownnola.net]
Sent: Thursday, May 03, 2012 10:46 AM
To: william.p.klein@usace.army.mil; lca-mrhdm@usca.army.mil;
john.w.peabody@usca.army.mil; Edward.R.Fleming.Col@usace.army.mil;
kurk.rhinehart@la.gov; bren.haase@la.gov; kyle.graham@la.gov;
barbara.a.kleiss@usace.army.mil; renee.sanders@la.gov; meselhe@louisiana.edu
Cc: Paul Harrison; Jim Tripp
Subject: Hydro Study

As I appreciate it the State and Corps are in the process of assessing the ultimate scope of the Hydro and Delta Management Study and have requested comments or suggestions by the end of this week.

In that regard, there is a growing understanding among the technically proficient, that the lower Mississippi River is probably not sustainable in its present configuration. This opinion has been enunciated by scientists and engineers, including senior members of the Corps of Engineers (albeit not all) on numerous occasions. Obviously, the critical economic and life style results which would flow from such an event should be self evident and would be devastating. Our ports, navigation interests and the thousands of citizens employed in that sector would all be threatened. While it may appear subtle to some, the ramifications are such that it is difficult for others to digest this reality. This seems to be true even though the mere threat of unsustainability should resonate clearly to those dependent upon that essential navigation route.

The unsustainability question as it relates to the Mississippi not only should be serious concern to the individuals, companies, and port systems within this state, but should be equally as concerning to all of the manufacturers, farmers, and other individual businesses located in those states north of Louisiana which have historically utilized that unique navigation resource to receive and deliver products worldwide at a price competitive in the international market. The very same observation can be

made regarding the owners and the employers of tugs, work boats, barges, and other vessels which have preformed as the critical delivery mechanism for those exporting and importing product over decades. Finally, of course, the issue of unsustainability should create serious concern among local, state, and national politicians from those very same states, whose constituency may well lose the ability to ply their navigation trade as they have for centuries. Lord only knows the economic impact on each state, if and when the event occurs.

Thus I suggest that the Hydro and Water Management Study further expands the analysis to respond to these additional issues and thus bring greater clarity to the discussion. An analysis of events which may give rise to a condition of unsustainabiity and the probability of such occurrences in the near term would be helpful for those dependent upon the river for economic survival.

As I appreciate the nuanced opinions, there are a few scenarios which could result in lack of sustainability.

- The inability of the birds foot to provide a method of transportation from head of the passes to the Gulf, whether as a result of subsidence, sea level rise, excess accumulation of dredge material or a combination of those. Those in the know have suggested that the navigational relevancy of this man-made structure is limited.

- Many have focused upon the high water river event of 2011 and have opined that other events in the future could well end up with the river taking a new path south of New Orleans. While no singular location has been suggested clearly, these observations reflect conditions on the ground before, during or after the 2011 flood.

- Finally, the dependence of the Mississippi River levees built south of New Orleans on the existence of a vibrant delta composed of marsh, swamp, and forest seems equally as clear. A healthy ecosystem has protected the levees from storm surges over decades. With the inundation of salt water combined with natural subsidence and the resulting destruction of the ecosystem, that protection will no longer be provided. Maps prepared by CPRA, and USGS depicting the State of the Coast in 2060 and Blum & Roberts as of 2100 leave little doubt that the basins east and west of the Delta south of New Orleans will become open bodies of water.

In such an event, the question that must be posed is, when a hurricane hits Louisiana Coast east of Bayou Lafourche thereby creating significant surges and wave action within the Barataria Basin, can the levees constricting the Mississippi River withstand the dual stresses of a high river event caused by counter cycles winds and at the same time withstand the external forces of surges and waves.

An analysis of the impacts of the protection provided historically by a healthy wetland and ecosystems on infrastructure including levees seems to be in the best interest of everyone involved. The collapse of such structures in a no action scenario appears almost self explanatory and the devastating results could bear greatly upon the vitality of the Mississippi Valley.

I would hope that this analysis being undertaken look in depth at the focus at work to both within the confines of the levee system and without to defer the dependent or lack thereof on the continued sustainability of the River.

R. King Milling

This e-mail and any attachments may contain confidential and privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately by return e-mail, delete this e-mail and destroy any copies. Any dissemination or use of this information by a person other than the intended recipient is unauthorized and may be illegal.



P.O. Box 2048-NSU · Thibodaux, Louisiana 70310 · (985) 448-4485 · Fax (985) 448-4486
simone.maloz@nicholls.edu · www.restoreorretreat.org

May 3, 2012

LCA- MRHDM Study
Attn: Dr. William P. Klein, Jr.
CEMVN-PDN-CEP
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

Re: Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) Mississippi River Hydrodynamic and Delta Management Study

Dear Dr. Klein:

Restore or Retreat, Inc. is a non-profit coastal advocacy group created by coastal Louisiana residents and stakeholders who recognize the Barataria and Terrebonne basins are the two most rapidly eroding estuaries on earth. Representing over 200 businesses and individuals throughout the region, Restore or Retreat (ROR) would like to respectfully submit the following comments on the Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) Mississippi River Hydrodynamic and Delta Management Study.

Authorized by section 7003 Title VII of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (WRDA), this "Investigation of Other Large Scale Concepts" encompasses the scope of identifying implementable alternatives that can make the maximal use of river resources through the Mississippi River gulf delta and vicinity, including reducing of factors contributing to hypoxia and maintaining navigation for the Barataria Basin, lower Mississippi River and Breton Sound. We think this study vehicle provides an excellent opportunity to create a path forward for strategic management of the lower Mississippi River and should be aggressively pursued as such. To achieve the stated goal of reconnecting the Mississippi water, sediment and nutrient resources to the surrounding basins sufficient to provide a sustainable coastal ecosystem that allows for the coexistence of navigation and flood risk reduction, the study should not fit the traditional mold of a feasibility study as other LCA projects (this is even reflected in the project's authorization). We believe MRHDMS should incorporate certain element of the Comprehensive Restoration Plan, also authorized in Section 7002 of WRDA, such as:

- Remain consistent with the State of Louisiana's updated 2012 Comprehensive Master Plan.
- Investigate the maximum effective use of the water and sediment of the Mississippi River for coastal restoration purposes consistent with flood control and navigation;
- Provide a schedule for the design and implementation of large scale water and sediment reintroduction projects and an assessment of funding needs from any source;
- Investigate and assess of alterations in the operation of the Old River Control Structure
- (While we are aware the Atchafalaya River is not included in the purview of this study, obviously, any changes to the operation of the Old River Control Structure will greatly impact the Atchafalaya Basin.)
- Integrate with other authorities and statutes such as the Mississippi River and Tributaries and the Coastal Zone Management Act, as well as the authority of the Mississippi River Commission.

More specifically, we recommend the study include a near-term conceptual evaluation of the larger system-level questions surrounding the management of the Lower River:

- What are the expected 21st century needs of the navigation industry? Where will major port facilities likely be located?
- What are the likely industrial and municipal needs for freshwater in the late 21st century and where will they be located?

- What is the best use of river freshwater and sediments to sustain the coastal ecosystem independent of other users needs?
- What is the likely consequence for channel maintenance and ecosystem restoration of adjusting the allocation of flow and sediment delivery between the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers?
- Where will structural storm protection measures for high value and strategic assets most benefit from the restoration of sustainable wetland and barrier islands and where should those wetlands and barrier islands be located to provide that benefit?
- What are the engineering challenges of integrating expected navigation uses with full utilization of river sediment for ecosystem restoration?

We think these questions must be addressed conceptually before a complete study can be planned to put any specific project evaluations in the broader forward-thinking context. We encourage you to work with us and others interested in the future of this system to engage experts from across the country and around the world in dialog about possible futures for the Lower River.

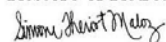
Finally, regarding the extended timeline, we do believe the necessary time and care is needed to complete this study and maximize the study's potential to become the "road map" of how to best utilize the modern Mississippi River. However, we do hope that as planning milestones are completed, early products of the MRHDMS, e.g., improved river models, could be used independently and incorporated into ongoing LCA studies such as the Modification to Davis Pond and Myrtle Grove.

In order to increase transparency and ensure that the many interested parties can track progress and understand what the study is and is not addressing, we encourage the study team to hold quarterly meetings to brief coastal advocacy groups, scientists, local governments, and business interests on study progress, findings and products.

In conclusion, we think the Mississippi River Hydrodynamic and Delta Management study is an appropriate, authorized vehicle to develop a strategic management plan the lower Mississippi River. The study should not and is not intended to follow the traditional feasibility study model, and should include considerations beyond those in the original scope, including some of the parameters of the Comprehensive Plan as outlined in WRDA 2007 Section 7002. Major overarching issues must be addressed early by the study before a full project management plan can be developed, and these early steps are the most important place to bring national and international expertise to bear on the future of the lower River.

We look forward to intently following the progress of this study. Thank you for your time and for the opportunity to submit these comments. If you have any questions or need more information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (985) 448-4485.

Sincerely,
Restore or Retreat, Inc.



Simone Theriot Maloz
Executive Director

Cc: Garret Graves, Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
Jerome Zeringue, Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

646 Cajundome Blvd.

Suite 400

Lafayette, Louisiana 70506

April 24, 2012

Colonel Edward R. Fleming
District Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Post Office Box 60267
New Orleans, Louisiana 70160-0267

Dear Colonel Fleming:

The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers (Corps), Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) – Louisiana, Mississippi River Hydrodynamic and Delta Management Study. The NOI was published in the Federal Register on March 23, 2012 (77 FR 17038; Department of Interior No. ER 12/0205). The study is identified as a large-scale, long-term restoration feature recommended the 2004 LCA Study. The study is authorized under Section 7003 of the Water Resource Development Act (WRDA) 2007 (Pub. L. 110-114), as well as via resolutions of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate Committees on Public Works, dated April 19, 1967 and October 19, 1967, respectively. The Service submits the following comments in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (83 Stat. 852, as amended; 42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA, 40 Stat. 755, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 703 et seq.), the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) (54 Stat. 250, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 668a-d), and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.).

The Corps will identify and evaluate a combination of large-scale management and restoration features to address the long-term sustainability of the lower Mississippi River Deltaic Plain. Hydrodynamic models and other forecast methods will be used to determine existing water and sediment resources in the Mississippi River available to restore and sustain delta growth in the Mississippi River Delta and assess benefits and impacts of large-scale strategies that balance the interests of ecosystem restoration, flood risk reduction, and navigation.

Historically, wetlands in the Barataria, Breton, and Pontchartrain Basins were nourished by the fresh water, sediments, and nutrients delivered via overbank flooding of the Mississippi River and through its many distributary channels such as Bayous Lafourche, Barataria, Terre Aux Boeufs, and Bayou La Loutre. As the flow of fresh water and sediments from the Mississippi River was restricted by flood protection levees and the closure of those and other distributaries,

the basins began to gradually succumb to saltwater intrusion, soil subsidence, wave action erosion, and sediment deprivation.

To effectively address the above-mentioned issues the Service encourages the proposed diversions carry as much sediment (suspended and/or bedload) from the river as possible and to incorporate pulsing (i.e., fluctuating the amount of water diverted) to optimize sediment delivery to receiving area wetlands. In order to determine the best time to pulse, the project should incorporate a network of sediment monitoring stations/gauges upriver of potential diversions to provide advanced notification of sediment pulses moving down-river so that opening of diversion structures can be planned/coordinated a few days in advance (and affected interested can be forewarned). Placement of sediment/turbidity gauges early during the planning phase would greatly improve the data needed to develop and select alternatives that would maximize sediment delivery.

The Service recommends consideration be given to estuarine resources when developing the operation plan for each diversion structure. Though a within basin shift of aquatic resources, from estuarine to fresh, may be expected and is acceptable, our preference is not to overwhelm the receiving basins with diverted water, but rather to optimize benefits for terrestrial and fresh and estuarine resources, land building and sustainability. In order to fully disclose benefits and impacts to aquatic resources, the Service recommends the use of ecological aquatic modeling during the feasibility study.

The Service recommends this study consider cumulative impacts of the multiple diversions in each basin. The report should discuss how all diversions and siphons could be operated in conjunction with each other to minimize adverse impacts and maximize beneficial effects. The Service suggests that a comprehensive basin-wide operation plan be developed to better coordinate all the diversions and siphons for the health of each basin. In addition, the report should include a discussion on the integration of diversions and wetland restoration measures with existing and planned hurricane risk-reduction projects and other existing/proposed projects basin-wide.

Monitoring of the Davis Pond and Caernarvon diversions indicated that some chemicals were being introduced into the receiving areas from the Mississippi River at increased levels. Further examination by the Service of those increased levels revealed that the increase was not to a level that would cause adverse affects to bald eagles. To monitor chemicals transported by future diversions the Service recommends that during the study the Corps undertake periodic sampling to help determine if their concentrations could begin to pose a threat to fish and wildlife resources.

The Service suggests the creation of basin level Advisory Committees that would provide scientific recommendations to guide the operation of the structures, ensuring a watershed approach in the operation of the diversions and siphons of each basin. The advisory committee should be made up of State and Federal resource agencies and an appropriate academic assembly (from fields such as of fisheries, oyster biology, wildlife ecology, water quality, ecological risk assessment, and wetland ecology/geology). The intent of these advisory groups would be to provide counsel on the operation and policy decisions for the basin diversion structures based on

the group's assessment of overall health of the basin (striving toward sustainable wetlands with consideration given to fish and wildlife resources) and projected near-term and long-term needs to facilitate a sustainable approach to coastal restoration. These committees would conduct ongoing reviews of the operation, monitoring, and adaptive management results of the diversions along with the latest science available to accommodate the goals and restoration needs of the basin.

The pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*) is an endangered fish found in the Mississippi River. Entrainment issues associated with dredging operations in the Mississippi and through diversion structures off the Mississippi River are two potential effects that should be addressed in the study. Should any proposed project resulting from this study directly or indirectly affect the pallid sturgeon or its habitat, further consultation with this office will be necessary.

The Gulf sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrhynchus desotoi*), federally listed as a threatened species, is an anadromous fish that occurs in many rivers, streams, and estuarine waters in the proposed study area. In Louisiana, Gulf sturgeon have been reported at Rigolets Pass, rivers and lakes of the Lake Pontchartrain basin, and adjacent estuarine areas. On March 19, 2003, the Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) published a final rule in the Federal Register (Volume 68, No. 53) designating critical habitat for the Gulf sturgeon in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. Portions of the Pearl and Bogue Chitto Rivers, Lake Pontchartrain east of the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway, all of Little Lake, The Rigolets, Lake St. Catherine, and Lake Borgne within Louisiana were included in that designation. In that critical habitat designation, responsibility for consultation with specific Federal agencies was also identified for the Service and for the NMFS. In riverine ecosystems, the Service is responsible for all consultations regarding Gulf sturgeon and critical habitat, while in marine ecosystems the NMFS is responsible for consultation. For estuaries in Louisiana, the NMFS is responsible for consultations regarding impacts to the sturgeon and its critical habitat with all Federal agencies, except the Department of Transportation (DOT), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which consult with the Service. Therefore, if the proposed project occurs in estuaries and is not funded, permitted, or otherwise authorized by the DOT, EPA, USCG, or FEMA, please contact Dr. Stephania Bolden (727/824-5312) in St. Petersburg, Florida, for information concerning that species and its critical habitat. Should the proposed study develop plans that would directly or indirectly affect the Gulf sturgeon or its critical habitat in Louisiana, further consultation with either the Service or NMFS (as described above) will be necessary.

The proposed study area is known to provide nesting habitat for the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), which was officially removed from the List of Endangered and Threatened Species on August 8, 2007. Although the bald eagle has been removed from the List of Endangered and Threatened Species, it continues to be protected under the MBTA and the BGEPA. If a bald eagle nest is discovered within or adjacent to proposed project activities, then an evaluation must be performed to determine whether the project is likely to disturb nesting bald eagles. That evaluation may be conducted on-line at: <http://www.fws.gov/southeast/es/baldeagle>. Following completion of the evaluation, that website will provide a determination of whether additional consultation is necessary; a copy of that determination should be provided to this office. The Division of Migratory Birds for the

Southeast Region of the Service (phone: 404/679-7051, e-mail: SEmigratorybirds@fws.gov) has the lead role in conducting such consultations. Should you need further assistance interpreting the guidelines or performing an on-line project evaluation, please contact this office.

The proposed study area contains colonial nesting waterbird colonies. Colonies may be present that are not currently listed in the database maintained by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF). That database is updated primarily by monitoring the colony sites that were previously surveyed during the 1980s. Until a new, comprehensive coast-wide survey is conducted to determine the location of newly-established nesting colonies, we recommend that a qualified biologist inspect the proposed work site for the presence of undocumented nesting colonies during the nesting season. In addition, we recommend that on-site contract personnel be informed of the need to identify colonial nesting birds and their nests, and should avoid affecting them during the breeding season.

The study area contains nesting habitat for the brown pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*), which was officially removed from the List of Endangered and Threatened Species on December 17, 2009. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' Coastal and Nongame Resources Division (225/765-2811) should be contacted to obtain the most current information about the nesting chronology of individual brown pelican colonies. Brown pelicans are known to nest on barrier islands and other coastal islands in St. Bernard, Plaquemines, Jefferson, Lafourche, and Terrebonne Parishes. Although the brown pelican has been removed from the List of Endangered and Threatened Species, brown pelicans and their nests continue to be protected under the MBTA. To minimize disturbance to nesting colonies of brown pelicans, all activity occurring within 2,000 feet of a rookery should be restricted to the non-nesting period (i.e., September 15 through March 31).

Federally listed as an endangered species, West Indian manatees (*Trichechus manatus*) frequently enter the study area including Lakes Pontchartrain and Maurepas, and associated coastal waters and streams during the summer months (i.e., June through September). Manatee occurrences in Louisiana are increasing, and they have been regularly reported in the Amite, Blind, Tchefuncte, and Tickfaw Rivers, and in canals within the adjacent coastal marshes of southeastern Louisiana. Manatees may also infrequently be observed in the Mississippi River. Should the proposed project involve activity in the aquatic environment in those areas during summer months, further consultation with this office will be necessary.

Federally listed as a threatened species, the piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), as well as its designated critical habitat, occur along the Louisiana coast. On July 10, 2001, the Service designated critical habitat for wintering piping plovers (Federal Register Volume 66, No. 132). Their designated critical habitat identifies specific areas that are essential to the conservation of the species. Should the proposed project directly or indirectly affect the piping plover or its critical habitat, further consultation with this office will be necessary.

The interior least tern (*Sterna antillarum*) is an endangered migratory shorebird that breeds, nests, and rears its young on non-vegetated portions of sandbars and islands in the Mississippi River. On the lower Mississippi River, the listed interior least tern population is concentrated within approximately 500 river miles between its confluence with the Ohio River at Cairo,

Illinois, and Vicksburg, Mississippi. In Louisiana, the interior least tern historically occurred along the Mississippi River north of Baton Rouge. Few birds have been observed in Louisiana along the Mississippi River in surveys conducted over the last few years. Major threats to this species include habitat loss and human disturbance at nesting colonies. Therefore, the absence of nesting should be confirmed before initiating any work in or adjacent to the river during the breeding season (May 15 to August 31). In order to minimize impacts to nesting terns, the Service recommends that no activity should be conducted within 650 feet of a nesting colony. If least terns should be observed in proximity to any proposed project feature during the breeding season, all work should cease and the Service should be contacted immediately for further consultation. Should any proposed project feature developed by the study directly or indirectly affect an interior least tern nesting colony, this office should be contacted for further consultation.

The red knot (*Calidris canutus ssp. rufa*), is a candidate bird species for federal listing as a threatened or endangered species. Candidate species are those taxa for which the Service has on file sufficient information regarding biological vulnerability and threat(s) to support issuance of a proposal to list, but issuance of a proposed rule is currently precluded by higher priority listing actions. In Louisiana, the red knot can be found in marine and estuarine habitats during the winter months (generally October through March). In the southeastern United States, red knots forage along sandy beaches, tidal mudflats, salt marshes, and peat banks. Observations along the Texas coast indicate that red knots forage on beaches, oyster reefs, and exposed bay bottoms and roost on high sand flats, reefs, and other sites protected from high tides. In wintering and migration habitats, red knots commonly forage on bivalves, gastropods, and crustaceans. Coquina clams (*Donax variabilis*), a frequent and often important food resource for red knots, are common along many Gulf beaches. Major threats to this species along the Gulf of Mexico include the loss and degradation of habitat due to erosion and shoreline stabilization development, disturbance by humans and pets, and predation.

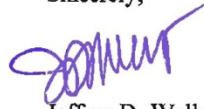
Sprague's pipit (*Anthus spragueii*), is also a candidate bird species for federal listing as a threatened or endangered species. It winters in Louisiana, arriving from its northern breeding grounds in September and remaining until April. Migration and wintering ecology of this species is poorly known, but Sprague's pipit exhibits a strong preference for open grassland (i.e., native prairie) with native grasses of intermediate height and thickness, and it avoids areas with too much shrub encroachment. Its use of an area is dependent upon habitat conditions. This species is a ground feeder and forages mainly on insects but will occasionally eat seeds.

There is currently no requirement under the Endangered Species Act for consultation regarding project impacts on candidate species. In the interest of conserving the red knot and Sprague's pipit, we encourage you to avoid planning project activities that would adversely affect that species or its habitat. Should either be federally listed as threatened or endangered in the future, further consultation on potential project impacts to those species could then be necessary.

We appreciate the opportunity to review the Notice of Intent and to provide comments in the early planning stages of the proposed study and look forward to our continued involvement in

this study. If you or your staff have further questions regarding the above letter or would like to meet and discuss our recommendations, please contact Catherine Breaux of this office at (504) 862-2689.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey D. Weller

Supervisor
Louisiana Field Office

cc: DOI, OEPC, Washington, D.C. (Attn.: Loretta Sutton)
DOI, OEPC, Albuquerque, NM (Attn.: Steven Spencer)
FWS, BAP & HC (ERT), Arlington, VA (Attn.: Stephanie Nash)
FWS, Atlanta, GA (ES/PP; Attn.: Jerry Ziewitz)
EPA, Dallas, TX
NMFS, Baton Rouge, LA
USACE, New Orleans, LA (Attention: William Klein, CEMVN-PM-RS)
LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA (Attn.: Kyle Balkum)
CPRA, Baton Rouge, LA
LDNR, CMD, Baton Rouge, LA

William A. Fontenot
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Baton Rouge, LA 70806
225-383-5673
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May 4, 2012

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

Re: LCA-MRHDM Study
Attention: Dr. William P. Klein
CEMVN-PDN-CEP

Dear Dr. Klein,

The Mississippi River Hydrodynamic and Delta Management Study, MRHDMS.

“...to provide a decision-making framework for the management of a sustainable coastal ecosystem that allows for the coexistence of navigation and flood control uses while supporting the needs of Louisiana and the Nation.”

The public meeting and hearing which were held in Baton Rouge last month by the Louisiana Coastal Protection and restoration Authority and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was one of the best public meetings I have ever attended. The staff was very receptive, informative and helpful. There was adequate time provided for both a public meeting and a formal hearing and the information available at the function was very informative and helpful.

According to the information available at the public meeting... “This study will identify and evaluate a combination of large scale management and restoration features to address the long-term sustainability of the lower Mississippi River Deltaic Plain, as authorized under Section 7003 of the Water Resource Development Act (WRDA) 2007.

A PROPOSED PIECEMEAL STUDY

Based on my more than 40 years of participating in a variety of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and State of Louisiana studies, reports and public hearings on the construction, operation and management of canals, rivers, estuaries and bays I must conclude that the MRHDMS study, as presently structured, will not work to solve the problems in the Mississippi River delta in coastal Louisiana.

The Corps of Engineers and the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority are proposing to leave out of the study more than 50 percent of the Mississippi River Delta system of water and wetlands. At the recent public hearing I was told that the Atchafalaya River Basin will be picked up in future studies. Clearly this sort of piecemeal approach is prohibited by federal laws and court rulings and the Corps of Engineers and Louisiana officials should be more aware of their financial, legal and ethical responsibilities.

Because most of the waters and wetlands of the delta system are not to be included this study will not adequately identify the problems and possible solutions to land losses, water quality, quantity and distribution issues, the sustainability of navigation, flood control, wetlands and fish and wildlife habitats and resources in coastal Louisiana and especially in the lower delta system of the Mississippi River, which clearly includes the Atchafalaya, Vermillion, Teche and Bayou Lafourche . All of these valuable and very important natural resources will continue to be critically threatened and compromised.

Over the last hundred years the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has, under the direction of the U.S. Congress, focused almost exclusively on navigation and flood control and many, if not all, of their projects have caused devastating problems in coastal Louisiana. Many tens of thousands of acres of wetlands have been lost along the Mississippi and the Atchafalaya Rivers, the Intracoastal Waterway and many other extremely destructive and very costly projects like the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet.

Historically the U.S. Congress and the Corps of Engineers have failed to consider an appropriately large enough geographic area when studying a project. The Corps has also broken down, or segmented, projects into more convenient smaller segments so that the overall adverse economic and environmental impacts of the proposed project will never be adequately identified and evaluated. In the United States there has been extensive attention given to cumulative and comprehensive impacts of projects but the Corps of Engineers has routinely failed to adequately identify and consider the comprehensive impacts of their navigation and flood control projects.

In the proposed study of the Lower Mississippi River Basin the Corps of Engineers and the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority are only considering less than half of the bird foot delta complex of the river. About two hundred and fifty miles from where the Mississippi River empties into the Gulf of Mexico a very significant, thirty to fifty percent, of the river branches off and flows down the hundred miles of the Atchafalaya River to the Gulf of Mexico. Unless the Corps of Engineers and the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority considers and studies this entire river delta complex as one dynamic, interconnected system of waters, wetlands and fast lands then the massive problems now being experienced in this dramatically altered river basin will never be understood and revitalized.

For the Corps of Engineers and the State of Louisiana to start a five year, \$25 million study which will only involve less than half of the bird foot delta complex which was

created by the Mississippi River, and predecessor rivers, over the last 7,000 years is incomprehensible and dumbfounding.

If the Corps and Louisiana officials do not include the entire river delta system from the eastern end of the Chandeleur Islands to the western end of Vermillion Bay they will never be able to fully understand and explain why and how this important delta system, and the rest of Coastal Louisiana is collapsing and how this extremely valuable natural resource can be restored, replenished and preserved for present and future generations.

At the recent public hearing in Baton Rouge I asked representatives of the Corps of Engineers and the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority why the Atchafalaya River Basin system was not being included in this proposed study. I was told that there were too many problems and not enough money to adequately include the Atchafalaya River Basin in this Mississippi River Delta study.

Last year when the Corps of Engineers opened the flood control structures about fifty percent, 50%, of the water and sediment flowing down the Mississippi River was diverted into the Atchafalaya River Floodway. Normally the Atchafalaya carries 30% of the Mississippi River water and sediment moving through Louisiana. This 70 – 30 percent division of Mississippi -Atchafalaya River water was established by the U.S. Congress a number of years ago.

For the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority to be starting a five year, \$25 million, study of less than half of the Mississippi River Delta Complex which does not include from 30 to 50 percent of the water in the bird foot delta system indicates that this study will not be a ‘real’ study of the Mississippi River Basin Complex in Louisiana.

IMPORTANT STATE ENVIRONMENTAL LEGAL ISSUES

There are at least a couple of very relevant and important issues which the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority must apply to any studies and projects which they undertake in Louisiana.

Back in 1974, when Edwin W. Edwards was governor, Louisiana voters adopted a new Constitution. Article 9 deals with the natural resources of the state, like oil, natural gas, air, water, wetlands, forest, historical things and the healthful qualities of the environment.

Article 9. Natural Resources and Environment; Public Policy, Section 1.
The natural resources of the state, including air and water, and the healthful, scenic, historic, and esthetic quality of the environment shall be protected, conserved, and replenished insofar as possible and consistent with the health, safety, and welfare of the people. The legislature shall enact laws to implement this policy.

In 1984 the Louisiana Supreme Court gave us a 9-0 decision which was the first interpretation of what Article 9, Section 1 of the 1974 Louisiana Constitution means. This decision is 452 So.2d 1152 and has the title of Save OurSelves, Inc. versus the Louisiana Environmental Control Commission, or SOS v ECC for short. This decision is also often called the IT Decision because a hazardous waste disposal facility was planned by the IT Corporation near the Mississippi River near Gonzales in Ascension Parish.

Basically the Supreme Court ruled that Article 9, Section 1 of the state constitution requires that all state officials must make sure that their decisions, if they may adversely impact human health or the environment, that they have considered alternative, sites, alternative projects and alternative processes and that the most protective of human health and the environment have been selected.

The National Environmental Policy Act, NEPA, is a federal statute which applies to all “major” actions by the federal government and that such actions may require an environmental impact statement. The SOS v ECC decision applies to “all decisions of state officials which may adversely impact human health or the environment” and not just “major “ state projects.

This SOS v ECC requirement is also based on the state Constitution while NEPSA is a law which was passed by Congress rather than an Article of the Federal Constitution.

Thus I believe that the officials in the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority have to make sure that whatever projects and alternatives they select that the most protective of human health or the environment will have been selected. Since the Corps of Engineers is “partnering” with state officials then the Corps must make sure that they are also selecting the projects and processes which protect and restore the natural resources of the state, including air and water and the healthful, scenic, esthetic and historic qualities of Louisiana’s environment for present and future generations.

While the Corps of Engineers and the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority have not included enough of the Mississippi River Delta Coastal System in their proposed study I believe they have left out other important resources which should be included in this study. At the public hearing there was a map of the project on the wall which stopped at Vicksburg, Mississippi.

There was a project boundary drawn on the map which did not include all of the Florida Parishes which are definitely part of the coastal area of Louisiana. The project area should also include that part of the state of Mississippi east to the Pearl River and the Gulf of Mexico. This would include the Stennis Space Center which houses a small EPA office which supports the Gulf of Mexico program. This EPA staff and folks from other federal agencies stationed at Stennis could provide some excellent support for the study if they are identified as being within the area of interest of the study.

I believe the northern end of the project should include all of the Mississippi river Basin rather than stopping at Vicksburg, Mississippi. As I mentioned at the public meeting

there are more than 43,000 major dams in the Mississippi River Basin and almost another 1,000,000 structures, like smaller dams, sils, weirs, levees and many other man made alterations to the basin which have dramatically altered the quantity and quality of water and silt traveling down the river.

An Associated Press article, Sinking Missouri River hazardous, could damage bridges, communities, of February 9, 2009 by Chris Blank came to us from Kansas City. The article is attached below for your convenience.

According to local officials there are real problems in the Missouri River which have been happening because all of the sand and silt which used to be carried down to the Mississippi River is dropping down in the major lakes created by the massive dams built in the Missouri River in the last century. Most of these massive dams were built by the Corps of Engineers and no consideration was given to what would happen downriver when no sediment was being carried by the Missouri River once the water passed over the dams.

The river needs to carry sediment and with nothing coming down below the big dams the river has scoured out eight to twelve feet of the Missouri River bed in the states of Kansas and Missouri and that has lowered the river and all of the bridges and water intake systems in those two states will have to be rebuilt. This multi billion dollar cost was never identified by officials with the Corps of Engineers when these big dams were being proposed to Congress, state government, businesses, farmers and land owners There are problems like these in every major river basin in the Mississippi river Basin but if we only look at a very small part of the river basin then we will never have to identify, discuss, study, justify and correct these very costly and destructive problems.

There are at least two things just north of Vicksburg which I believe should be included in the study area.

Just west of Vicksburg is the Poverty Point National Historic Site which was a Native American site on the western side of the Mississippi River basin more than 3,000 years ago. This is one of the most important pre historical sites along the Mississippi River and in North America and dramatically adds to the historical value of the basin. While the Corps of Engineers has not been very interested in Native American artifacts and settlements millions of people are.

We might better understand the Mississippi River Basin if we look at sites like Poverty Points. This settlement was built on the loess deposits which are found on either side of the Mississippi River valley. Like the earthen mounds on the Louisiana State University campus in baton Rouge the native Americans who built the complex of earthen mounds at Poverty Point knew they were out of the area which the great river flooded on a regular basis. State and federal officials who deal with Native American sites in the project area should be intimately involved with this project.

You should also contact the Louisiana State Geologist, Chacko J. John and his office is on the LSU Campus, 3079 Energy, Coastal and Environmental Building, Baton Rouge, LA 70803 and his telephone number is 225-578-5320. In 2008 he produced a small eight page document, Loess Deposits in Louisiana. There is a map on page 8 which clearly illustrates why places like Baton Rouge, Natchez and Vicksburg are completely out of the Mississippi River Flood Plain and why these and other cities like Lafayette, New Iberia, Washington and Opelousas did not flood last year and in 1927.

If the Corps of Engineers and the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority would include information about the wind blown loess deposits then people will begin to better understand why Vicksburg and Baton Rouge areas built on the loess deposits will not be flooded by the Mississippi River.

Immediately north of Vicksburg is the Yazoo River Basin and a few years ago the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service successfully opposed the Corps of Engineers plans to install a massive pumping system to pump out this river basin. Thus some 250,000 acres of bottom land forest and wetlands are still connected with the Mississippi river.

This successful challenge by the EPA and the Fish and Wildlife Service under the National Environmental Policy Act was the largest and most effective challenge ever brought by these agencies against the Corps of Engineers since the NEPA was adopted in 1970.

The Corps of Engineers and the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority must include other federal and state agencies like the EPA, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Department of Health, the U.S. Coast Guard, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, the Department of Environmental Quality and all other appropriate agencies of government.

If the Corps of Engineers and the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority would expand the study area so that they might be able to bring in relevant information from other states and districts of the Corps of Engineers within the Mississippi River Basin then they would be able to dramatically improve the information their five year study would provide without increasing the cost and time needed to complete this project.

Hopefully the Corps of Engineers and the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority already have plans to offer more opportunities for the public to be able to obtain information as this study progresses. Also we hope these officials will provide more opportunities for the public to comment as this study progresses over the next five years. We also strongly suggest that at the end of this project that a final public hearing will be held and that more time will be provided for interested people to be able to read the draft document and get in comments.

Sincerely yours,



William A. Fontenot

ATTACHMENT

Associated Press

Kansas City relies on the Missouri River for its drinking water. With the river level steadily dropping, the city has lowered its water intake pipes.

Published: February 8, 2009 3:00 a.m.

Sinking Missouri River hazardous Could damage bridges, communities

CHRIS BLANK | Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – The Missouri River is sinking.

As engineers try to figure out why, the phenomenon threatens to damage billions of dollars in property, weaken levees and bridges, and expose navigation hazards such as sunken piers and underwater pipelines.

The problem is this: Parts of the nation's longest river are losing elevation. The so-called "degradation" process is not affecting the amount of water, but the water sits lower because the river bottom is eroding.

The water depth is not changing, and the situation is nearly imperceptible from shore. But for engineers, it's a costly headache.

"Part of the whole problem is, it's not visible," said John Grothaus, chief of planning for the Army Corps of Engineers in Kansas City, where the river bed has dropped by about 12 feet over the last 50 years.

Consequences

Degradation has been observed in waterways across the country, but many scientists are focused on the Missouri River, which is used for shipping many agricultural products and provides drinking water to many cities.

Researchers do not know why the channel is sinking in places from southeast Nebraska to St. Louis, but possible causes include natural erosion and the effects of man-made structures.

Researchers are unsure whether the process can be reversed or how much it would cost to do so.

As the river drops, it also erodes the banks and bottoms of tributaries that flow into the main channel, causing similar problems there.

But the greatest risk is to infrastructure such as bridges. When the river bed erodes, it exposes more of the pylons that hold up bridges. That reduces the support the foundation gets from being buried in the ground. If not corrected, the erosion can increase the risk for collapse.

Also at risk are levees such as those separating the Missouri River from an estimated \$20 billion in developments, including Kansas City's downtown airport.

River's degradation

The Missouri begins in Montana and flows south into the Mississippi north of St. Louis. Since at least the 1920s, its elevation has gradually fallen, but the drop has been precipitous in the last decade.

The start of the most rapid decline seems to have been the 1993 flood, which took several feet out of the river. And through the middle part of the 2000s, the average annual elevation has fallen by nearly a foot a year. Compounding the problem has been a drought that also reduced river levels.

That's what concerns Missouri's six dredging companies, which can scoop up from the river about 7 million tons of sand and gravel every

year to make concrete and build roads. The effects of the sinking river are becoming clear.

In Kansas City, officials have spent more than \$4 million to ensure that the community's drinking-water pumps reach lower river levels. The water supplier in Jefferson City has applied for a permit to lower its intake pipes.

Kansas City leaders are also considering using a horizontal well to tap underground liquefied sands and ease dependence.

In the Kansas City suburb of Parkville, degradation in a creek upstream from the Missouri River caused the stream banks to collapse.

In 2007, the town had to stabilize the banks at a cost of about half the community's budget for parks, streets, public works and sewers.

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-----Original Message-----

From: Beth Altazan-Dixon [mailto: Beth.Dixon@LA.GOV]

Sent: Thursday, May 10, 2012 11:24 AM

To: Klein, William P Jr MVN

Subject: 120330/0775 USACE-NOI-Mississippi River Hydrodynamic - CORRECTED LETTER

Importance: High

May 10, 2012

LCA-MRDHM Study

Attn: Dr. William P. Klein, Jr., CEMVN-PM-RS

P.O. Box 60267

New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

william.p.klein.jr@usace.army.mil <<mailto:william.p.klein.jr@usace.army.mil>>

RE: 120330/0775

USACE-NOI-Mississippi River Hydrodynamic

and Delta Management Study and

Draft EIS

Multi-Parishes

Dear Mr. Klein:

The Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ), Business and Community Outreach Division has received your request for comments on the above referenced project.

After reviewing your request, the department has no objections based on the information provided in your submittal. However, for your information, the following general comments have been included. Please be advised that if you should encounter a problem during the implementation of this project, you should immediately notify LDEQ's Single-Point-of-contact (SPOC) at (225) 219-3640.

· Please take any necessary steps to obtain and/or update all necessary approvals and environmental permits regarding this proposed project.

* If your project results in a discharge to waters of the state, submittal of a Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) application may be necessary.

* If the project results in a discharge of wastewater to an existing wastewater treatment system, that wastewater treatment system may need to modify its LPDES permit before accepting the additional wastewater.

* All precautions should be observed to control nonpoint source pollution from construction activities. LDEQ has stormwater general permits for construction areas equal to or greater than one acre. It is recommended that you contact the LDEQ Water Permits Division at (225) 219-9371 to determine if your proposed project requires a permit.

· If your project will include a sanitary wastewater treatment facility, a Sewage Sludge and Biosolids Use or Disposal Permit application or Notice of Intent must be submitted no later than January 1, 2013. Additional information may be obtained on the LDEQ website at <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2296/Default.aspx> <<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2296/Default.aspx>> or by contacting the LDEQ Water Permits Division at (225) 219- 9371.

* If any of the proposed work is located in wetlands or other areas subject to the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, you should contact the Corps directly regarding permitting issues. If a Corps permit is required, part of the application process may involve a water quality certification from LDEQ.

* All precautions should be observed to protect the groundwater of the region.

* Please be advised that water softeners generate wastewaters that may require special limitations depending on local water quality considerations. Therefore if your water system improvements include water softeners, you are advised to contact the LDEQ Water Permits to determine if special water quality-based limitations will be necessary.

* Any renovation or remodeling must comply with LAC 33:III.Chapter 28, Lead-Based Paint Activities; LAC 33:III.Chapter 27, Asbestos-Containing Materials in Schools and State Buildings (includes all training and accreditation); and LAC 33:III.5151, Emission Standard for Asbestos for any renovations or demolitions.

* If any solid or hazardous wastes, or soils and/or groundwater contaminated with hazardous constituents are encountered during the project, notification to LDEQ's Single-Point-of-Contact (SPOC) at (225) 219-3640 is required. Additionally, precautions should be taken to protect workers from these hazardous constituents.

Additionally, based on the information provided, the Assessment Division has no comments regarding this project at this time.

Please send all future requests to my attention. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (225) 219-3958 or by email at beth.dixon@la.gov <<mailto:beth.dixon@la.gov>> .

Sincerely,

Beth Altazan-Dixon, EPS III

Performance Management

LDEQ/Office of the Secretary

Business and Community Outreach and Incentives Division
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