



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
New Orleans District

# News Release

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Corps will acquire Mariner's Cove West building impacted by ongoing hurricane project work along 17<sup>th</sup> Street Canal**

NEW ORLEANS—The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said the ongoing construction of floodgates and pump station at the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Canal near the Mariner's Cove West complex requires the acquisition of property from 14 homeowners. The properties closely border the project, and that proximity has caused homeowners' concerns since the project's inception last year.

“Because of the ongoing and future work at this location we made the decision to acquire this property,” said Colonel Richard Wagenaar, commander of the New Orleans District. “This decision has been well received by the owners because it offers them the opportunity to move ahead with their housing plans.”

Work on the interim gated structure at the mouth of the 17<sup>th</sup> Street outfall canal has been in progress since February 2006 and improvements on the current pumping capacity will continue throughout the next hurricane season. The structure houses floodgates and a pump station which will reduce the risk of flooding from Lake Pontchartrain due to tropical storms and hurricanes. The Corps found it necessary to proceed with acquisition and demolition of the buildings in order to continue current work and to provide additional maintenance space for future projects.

Wagenaar said the Corps has contacted each homeowner to inform them of the Corps' decision. “We will also meet with them in the next week as a group to provide additional specifics about the acquisition process, to obtain permits to access the property for surveys, and to respond to any questions or issues they may have,” Wagenaar said.

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*The New Orleans District provides comprehensive water resources management to include navigation, flood and hurricane storm damage reduction and environmental stewardship for South Louisiana to ensure public safety and benefit the nation. And to be prepared to conduct contingency operations and support the national response plan.*