



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

# News Release

Public Affairs Office  
504-862-2201

[www.mvn.usace.army.mil](http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil)

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: John Wm. Hall, 504-862-2545

August 25, 2006

## **Stage set to speed St. Charles hurricane work**

*Federal-state agreement is first with U.S. paying all the costs*

NEW ORLEANS—Hurricane protection construction will be accelerated in St. Charles Parish by an agreement signed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Pontchartrain Levee District that opens the way for the federal government to pay 100 percent of the costs.

“This is for construction planned before Katrina, when costs were shared 70 percent federal and 30 percent non-federal. Post-Katrina, the Congress has provided the money to accelerate the work, and do it all at federal expense,” said Al Naomi, a Corps senior project manager.

To put the Congress’s wishes into effect, the project cooperation agreement was signed Wednesday by the Corps of Engineers and the Pontchartrain Levee District for \$39 million of levee and floodwall construction in east St. Charles Parish.

The agreement and another with Jefferson Parish officials are the first to take advantage of the federal government paying 100 percent of the costs.

Levee elevations will be increased by two to three feet along the 11 miles from Jefferson Parish to the Bonnet Carré Spillway’s east protection levee. In addition, floodwall will be further developed to make it stronger, taller and more resilient beneath the elevated Interstate 310 and Airline Highway interchange. The levee and floodwall are designed to protect against hurricane storm surge from Lake Pontchartrain.

The Corps and locals officials are developing comprehensive plans for additional work beyond this initial effort. Those plans will involve long-

term solutions to hurricane protection for the entire project on the east bank of St. Charles Parish.