

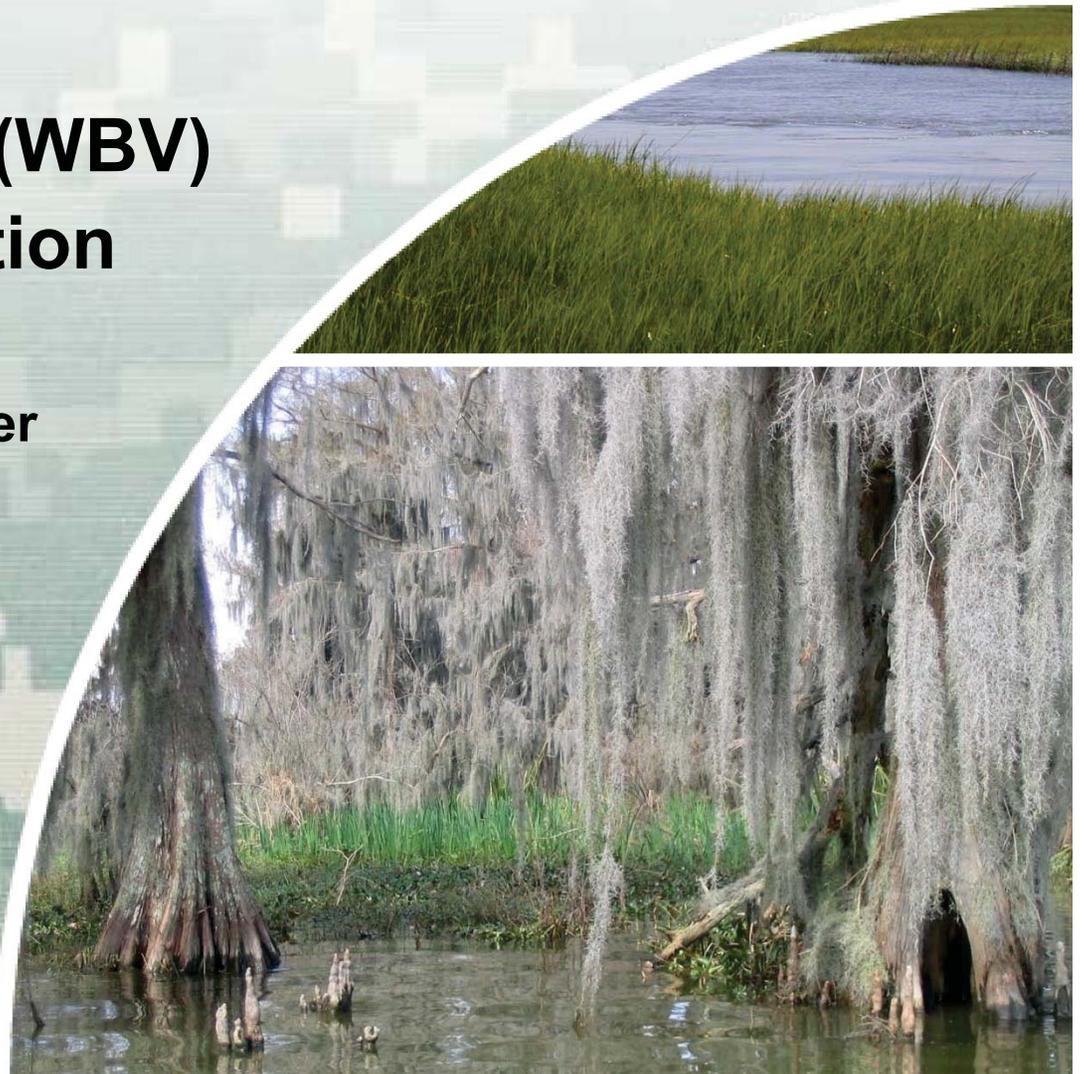
# Greater New Orleans Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS)

## West Bank & Vicinity (WBV) Environmental Mitigation

Westwego Tassin Senior Center  
Westwego, LA  
July 31, 2012



US Army Corps of Engineers  
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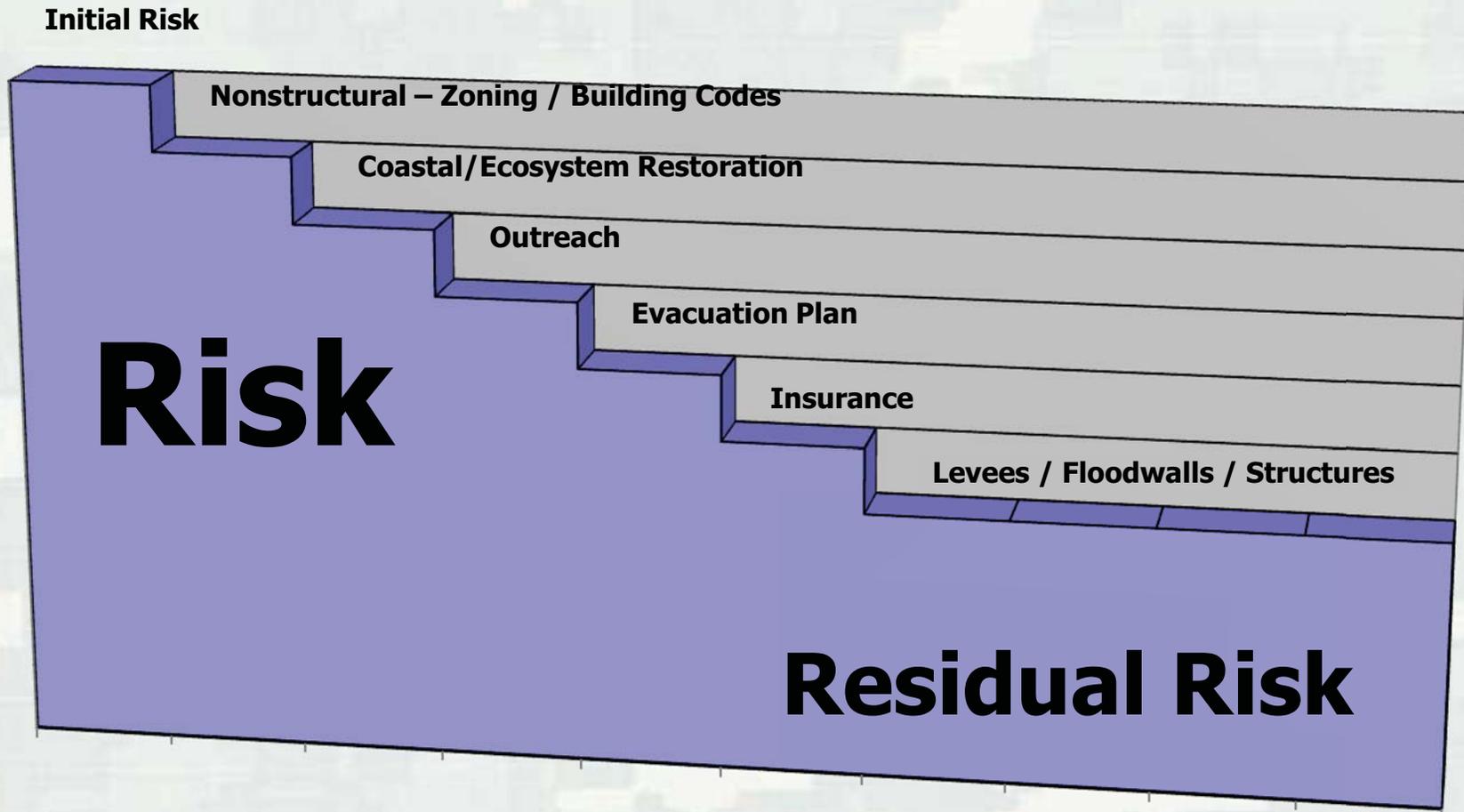


# Meeting Agenda

- Discuss Mitigation Program Objectives
- Review Mitigation Project Status
- Q&A / Feedback Session



# Risk – Shared Responsibility



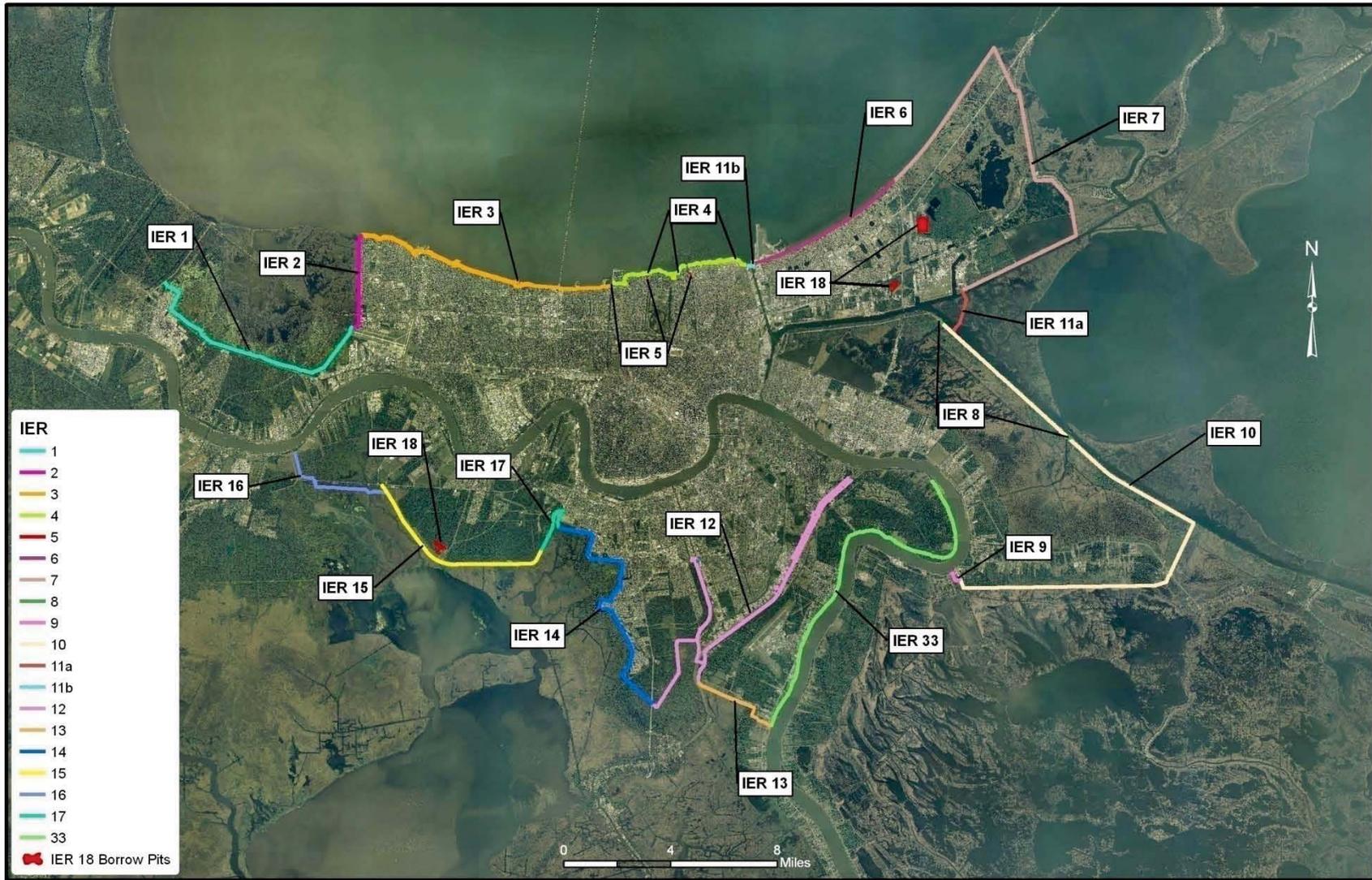
# National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

- Alternatives for all major federal actions must be analyzed
- Impacts to the human and natural environment are quantified
- Impacts are discussed in environmental documents
- Public Involvement is KEY. We want to hear from you!





# Individual Environmental Report Projects



Job No. EGIS-2010-065

Map created: 1 Sep 2011

# Environmental Mitigation

- Avoid impacts to natural resources
- Minimize impacts to the greatest extent possible
- Compensate for unavoidable impacts
- Mitigation plans will be discussed in environmental documents
- Mitigation is fully funded



# Hurricane & Storm Damage Risk Reduction System Mitigation Policies

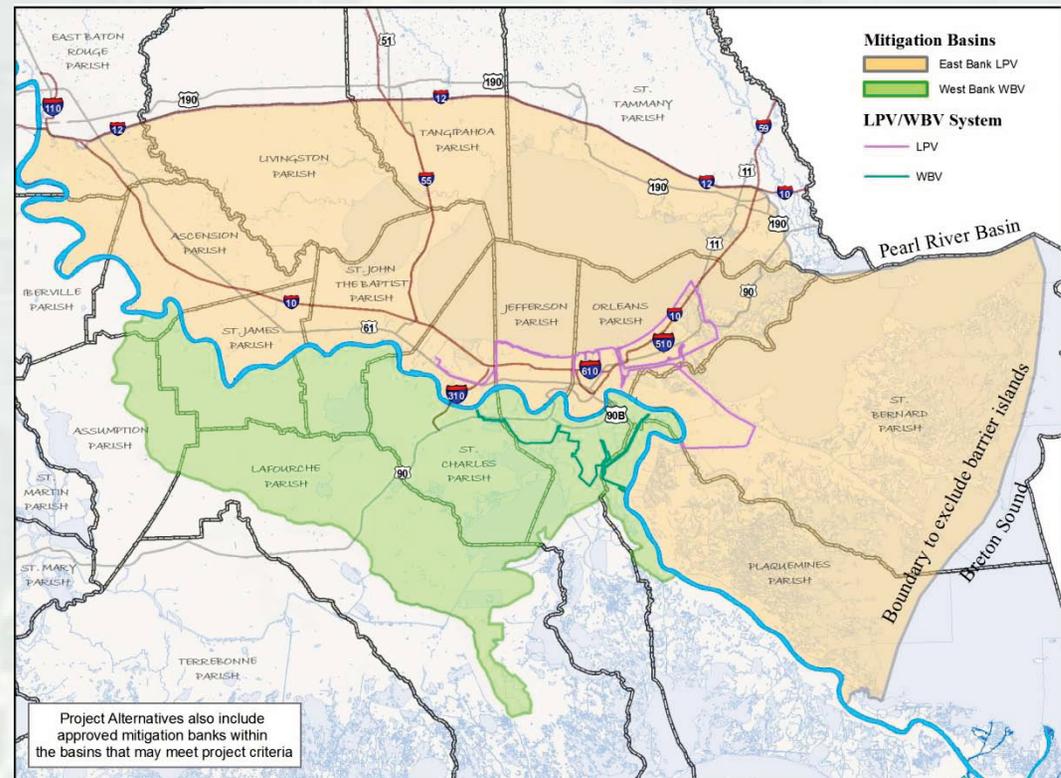
In accordance with Section 2036 of WRDA 2007, mitigation would occur:

- Within the same watershed / hydrologic basin (Barataria or Lake Pontchartrain)
- Mitigate in-kind - within same habitat type
  - Bottomland hardwood
  - Swamp
  - Fresh / Intermediate marsh
  - Brackish marsh

## Options under consideration

(not organized in order of priority):

- Corps constructed projects on public lands
- Corps constructed projects on private lands
- Mitigation Banks



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# West Bank & Vicinity (WBV) Affected Habitats



Bottomland Hardwoods Wet



Bottomland Hardwoods Dry



Swamp



Fresh Marsh



# Total WBV Impacts

## West Bank & Vicinity Projects – Current Working Estimate

Habitat Type	Quantity (acres)	Quality (AAHUs*)
Bottomland Hardwood Wet	321	204
Bottomland Hardwood Dry	471	243
Swamp	279	152
Fresh Marsh	147	69
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,219</b>	<b>668</b>

\*AAHU (Average Annual Habitat Unit) is a numerical value representing the quality of a habitat



# WBV – Park / 404(c) Impacts

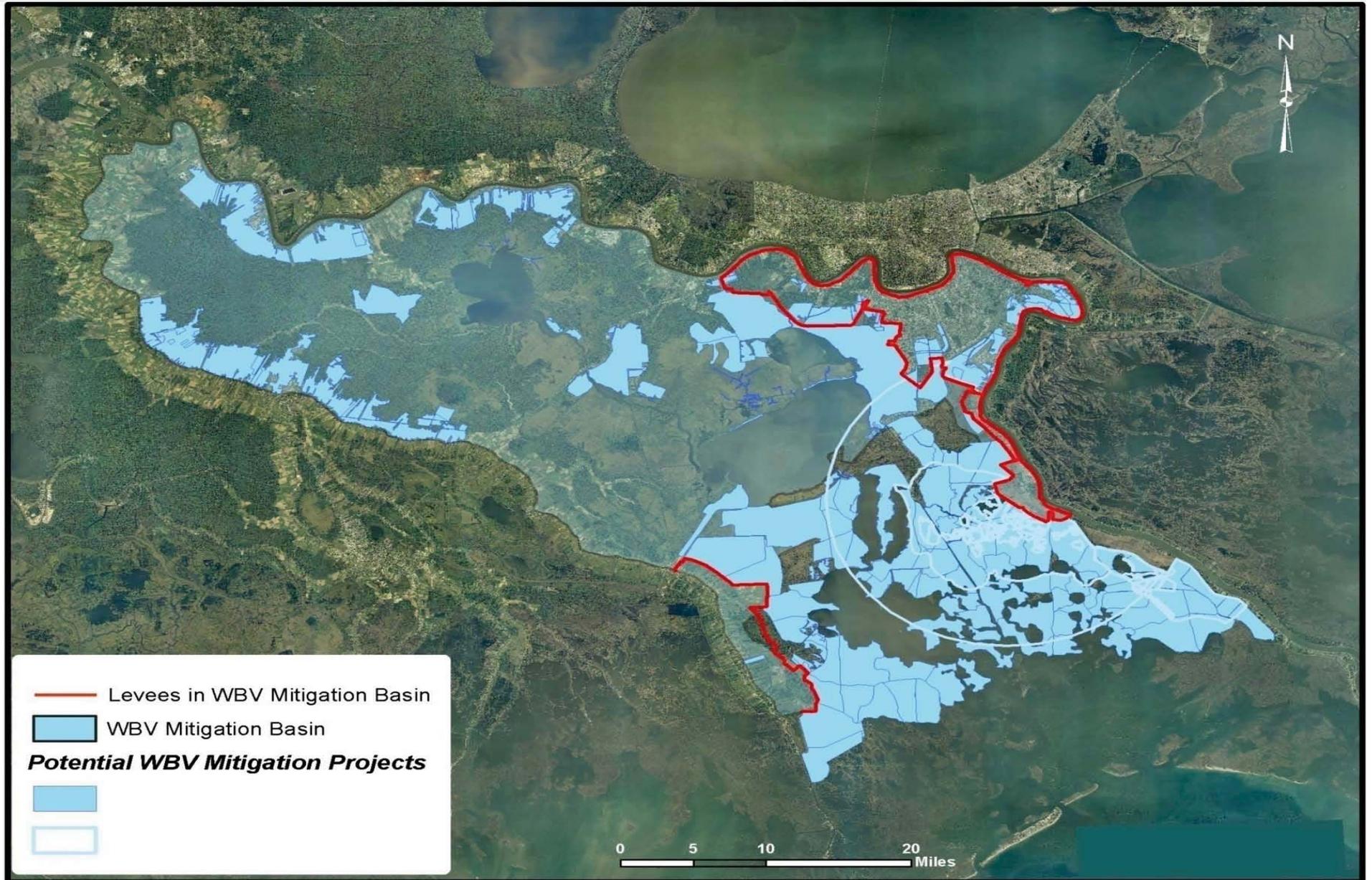
West Bank & Vicinity Projects – Current Working Estimate

Habitat Type	Quantity (acres)	Quality (AAHUs*)
Bottomland Hardwood Wet	2.5	2
Swamp	59	34
Fresh Marsh	14.5	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>39</b>

\*AAHU (Average Annual Habitat Unit) is a numerical value representing the quality of a habitat



# WBV Projects Considered

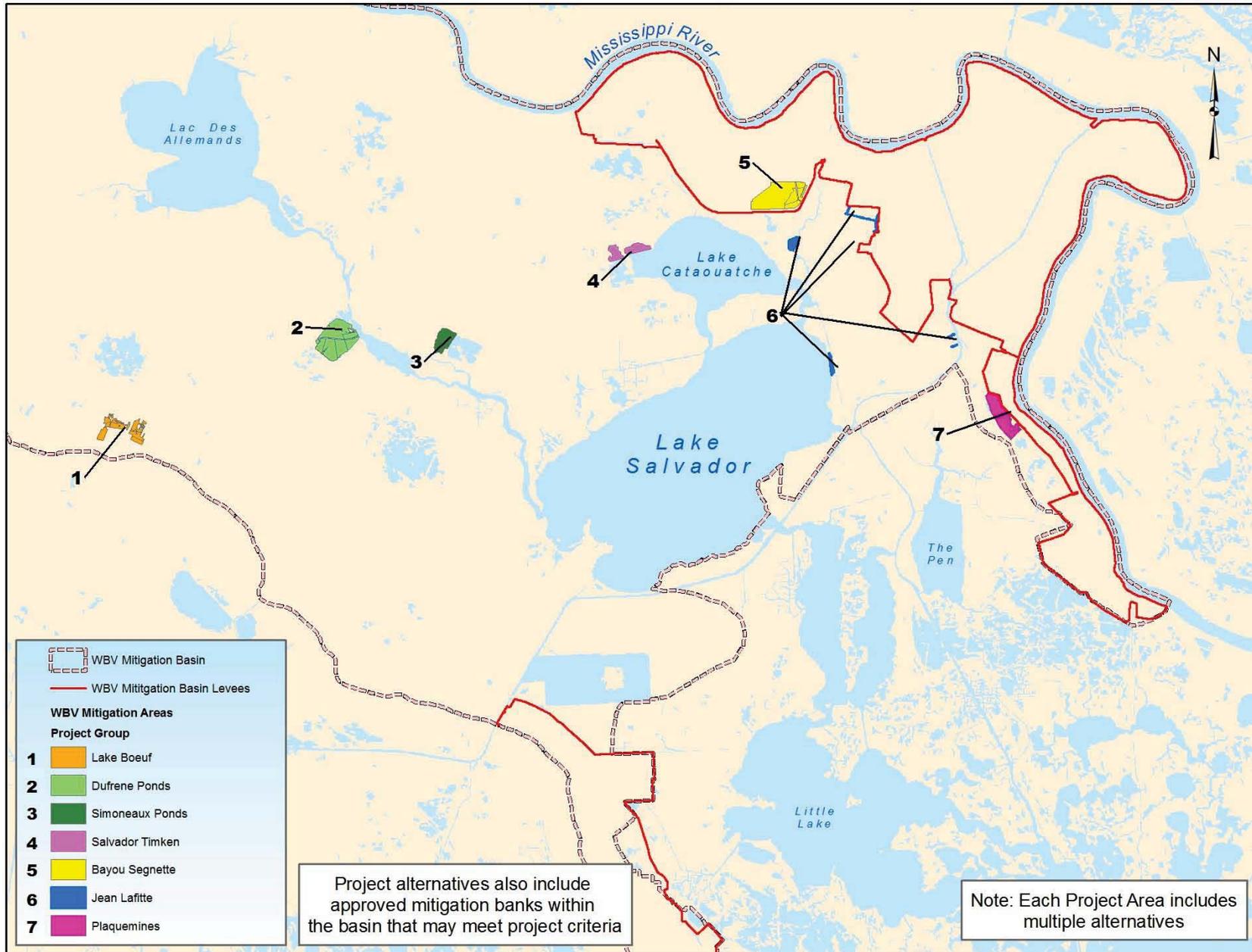


# Initial Screening Criteria Summary

- Compliance with laws, regulations and policies
- Avoid Hazardous Toxic and Radioactive Waste
- Within WBV Mitigation Basin (Barataria)
- Must address 100% of mitigation need in kind by habitat type
- Technically viable (e.g. correct salinity)
- No conflicts with other projects constructed or planned for construction
- Not dependent upon another project
- Can be adjusted to meet mitigation requirement only
- Addresses multiple mitigation requirements in one project area
- Addresses opportunities to expand existing resource-managed areas



# Initial Screening Results



# Mitigation Plan Selection Criteria

- **Risk & Reliability:**

e.g. Sustainability, Implementability, Uncertainty, Adaptability

- **Environmental:**

Environmental Impacts

- **Watershed & Ecological Site Considerations:**

e.g. Fragmentation, connectivity, habitat linkage, location in watershed, consistency with watershed plans

- **Time:**

Duration to contract award & time to physical construction complete/initial planting

- **Cost Effectiveness:**

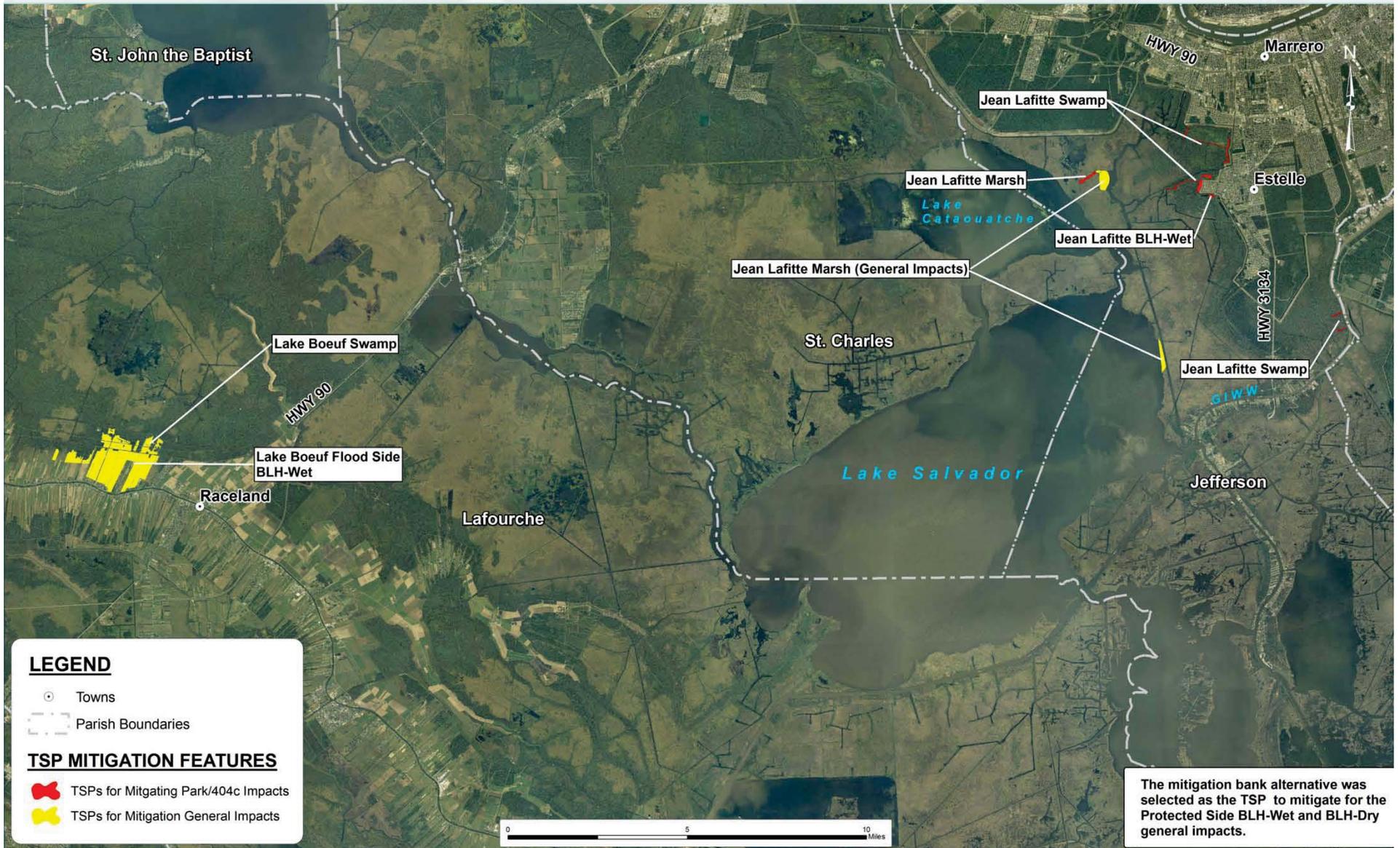
Average annual cost per average annual habitat unit

- **Other Cost Considerations:**

Cost included Construction, Engineering & Design, Construction Supervision and Administration, Real Estate, and Operation and Maintenance



# WBV Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP)



# **WBV Mitigation NEPA Compliance and Implementation**

- **Programmatic Individual Environmental Report (PIER)**
- **Implement Mitigation Bank TSP (contingent upon cost / availability)**
- **Tiered Individual Environmental Reports (TIERs)**
- **Implement TSP covered in each TIER following TIER approval**



# WBV Mitigation Tentative Timeline (Pre-construction)

Initiated Study	May 2010	(Completed)
5 Scoping Meetings	May 2010	(Completed)
Initial Screening of Measures	Sep 2010	(Completed)
Project Status Public Meetings	Dec 2010	(Completed)
Refine Measures	Apr 2011	(Completed)
Assemble Alternative Plans	Aug 2011	(Completed)
Identify Proposed Action	Nov 2011	(Completed)
Public Meeting	Jul 2012	
Release Programmatic Individual Environmental Report	May 2013	
Division Decision on Mitigation Plan	Jul 2013	
Release Tiered Individual Environmental Report(s)	<i>Pending Finalization of Design</i>	



# *Opportunities for Public Input*

- Public meetings throughout the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) area
- Sign in tonight to be added to our meeting notification mailing list!
- *Construction Impacts Hotline: 1- 877- 427- 0345*
- Comments can be submitted at any time at:

**[www.nolaenvironmental.gov](http://www.nolaenvironmental.gov)**

Questions and comments may be submitted to:

Telephone: 504 - 862 - 2201

**[E-mail: AskTheCorps@usace.army.mil](mailto:AskTheCorps@usace.army.mil)**





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# Resources

[www.nolaenvironmental.gov](http://www.nolaenvironmental.gov)

**NOLA Environmental**  
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA  
Environmental Compliance Data Bank  
[www.nolaenvironmental.gov](http://www.nolaenvironmental.gov)

PROJECTS MEETINGS LIBRARY DATA VIEWER GET INVOLVED RELATED LINKS

Welcome to NOLA Environmental! This site has been set up to share with the public the efforts being made by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other federal and state agencies in south Louisiana regarding the environmental compliance for proposed federal and state Hurricane Risk Reduction Projects. Additional information pertaining to other federal and state agencies' hurricane recovery efforts in southeast Louisiana will also be posted on the site as it becomes available.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi Valley Division, New Orleans District implemented Alternative Arrangements on March 13, 2007 under the provisions of the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR § 1506.11) Learn more...

### Announcements

- Draft **EA 426, Comite River Diversion** Public Comment Period 6/15 - 7/16 (*Public Notice*)
- The Decision Record for **IERS 11.d** has been signed by the District Commander (*5/30/12*)
- The Decision Record for **IERS 2.a** has been signed by the District Commander (*2/9/12*)
- The Decision Record for **IERS 25.a** has been signed by the District Commander (*11/13/12*)
- The Decision Record and Section 404(b)(1) Evaluation for **IERS 33.a** has been signed by the District Commander (*11/11/12*)

[More...](#)

### Upcoming

- 07/31/2012 - Public Meeting West Bank & Vicinity Mitigation

[More...](#)

### Newly Available

**NEW >>** [NOLA Environmental Mitigation](#)

- 31 May 2012 Mitigation Scoping Meeting Presentation Plaquemines Parish New Orleans to Venice (NOV) and Non-Federal Levee(NFL) Project Status
- 31 May 2012 Public Meeting Summary Plaquemines Parish Federal and Non-Federal Mitigation Public Meeting
- News Release 29 May 2012 Mitigation Scoping Meeting Presentation Plaquemines Parish New Orleans to Venice (NOV) and Non-Federal Levee(NFL) Project Status

**FEATURED PROJECT**

USACE-MVN Emergency Alternative Arrangements Greater New Orleans Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System Projects

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

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**RECON - The Big Muddy**  
*Maintaining the shipping channel.*  
This video by The Pentagon Channel will show the US Army Corps of Engineers role in maintaining the shipping channel in the Mississippi River.  
[See for yourself >>](#)

**PUBLIC INFORMATION**

**HSDRRS** [How the Corps is reducing risk](#)

**Construction Impact Hotline** - 1-877-427-0345  
**Public Meetings** 7/31/12 - Westwego, LA  
[PERMITS](#)

[Review the MRGO Ecosystem Restoration Final Environmental Impact Statement](#)

[Design the MRGO Ecosystem Restoration Final](#)

**TOP HEADLINES**

[Final MRGO ecosystem restoration plan available for public review](#)  
Posted On: 7/27/2012

[South Farm to host Wood Stork & Wading Bird Event](#)  
Posted On: 7/18/2012

[Corps releases Record of Decision for proposed highway between I-12 and Bush, La.](#)  
Posted On: 7/12/2012

[RSS \(What is RSS?\)](#)

**ASK THE CORPS**

**The Corps wants to hear from you!**

**Q. Where can I find information related to bidding on contracts advertised by the Corps?**

**A. For more information on Corps contracts and registering your business, please click here.**

Submit questions or comments to [askthecorps@usace.army.mil](mailto:askthecorps@usace.army.mil).

**FEATURED VIDEOS**

**Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) Flyover**  
The System is comprised of numerous features including levees, floodwalls, floodgates, surge barriers and pump stations. This computer-generated video provides an aerial "flyover" view of the entire System and

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# Q & A / Feedback Session

