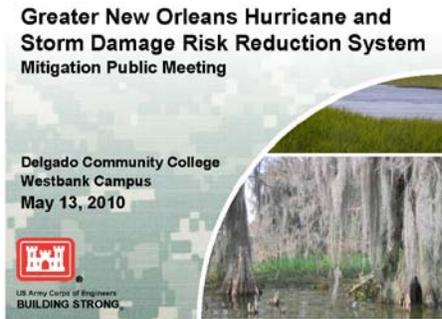


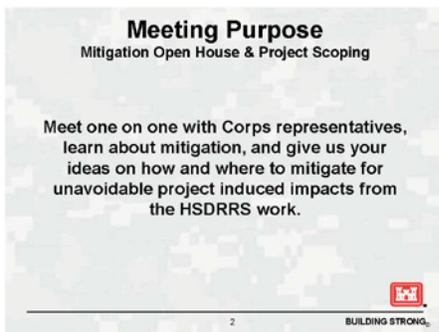
Public Meeting Summary

Westbank and Vicinity Mitigation Public Meeting May 13, 2010

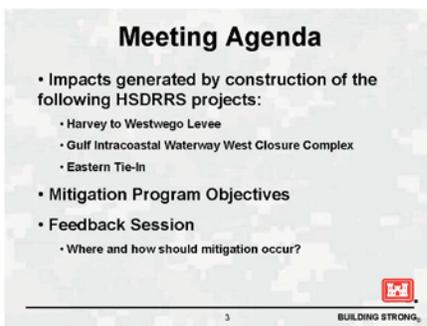
Location	Delgado Community College Westbank Campus 2600 General Meyer Ave., Room 130 New Orleans, LA 70114
Time	Presentation 6:00 – 6:30 p.m. Group Discussion 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.
Attendees	Approx. 9
Format	Presentation Discussion
Handouts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HSDRRS Mitigation Fact Sheet (May 2010) • Mitigation Fact Sheet (May 2010)
Facilitator	Rachel Rodi, Public Affairs



Rachel Rodi: Thanks for coming. I'm Rachel Rodi from Public Affairs, and we're going to talk about mitigation for the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System tonight.



Basically the purpose of tonight's meeting is to utilize the stations in the back of the room for you to meet one on one with our staff to talk about where and how the Corps should mitigate. We want to hear your ideas! So basically we'll do a quick presentation to go over projects we'll mitigate for.



Tonight we'll go over impacts generated by construction of the following Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System projects: Harvey to Westwego Levee, Gulf Intracoastal Waterway West Closure Complex and Eastern Tie-In project in Belle Chasse. Then we'll move on with describing our mitigation program objectives and finally take your feedback.

These notes are intended to provide an overview of the meeting. This account is not intended to be a legal document.



Public Meeting Summary



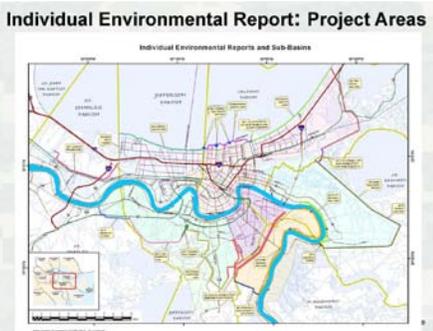
We always show the risk slide because there is always risk involved in living in Southeast Louisiana and we can reduce risk in a few ways: with non structural measures, coastal restoration, outreach, evacuation planning, insurance and at the bottom – structures. No matter where you live, there will always be risk. We have someone from FEMA here tonight in case you have any questions about insurance. You should make sure you have an evacuation plan.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

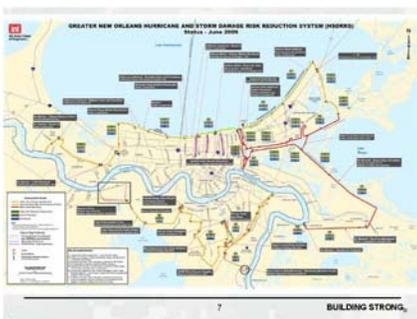
- Alternatives for all major federal actions must be analyzed
- Impacts to the human and natural environment quantified
- Impacts discussed in environmental documents
- Public Involvement is KEY. We want to hear from you!

5 BUILDING STRONG

The National Environmental Policy Act is the reason we’re here tonight. For every federal project we have to do NEPA, it takes into account human and natural environments not just bugs and bunnies. Once we finish assessing the impacts we will write an environmental report called an Individual Environmental Report or IER. We’re here to hear from you.



This map shows the different reports we did. It will give you details on portions of the system. This map represents how the whole system has been divided into IERs and we have copies of this map in the back.



Julie Vignes: I’m the Senior Project Manager for the West Bank and Vicinity and I manage these projects. Tonight I’ll explain project features that were described in previous environmental reports called IERs. In those reports we described impacts which we’ll have to reconcile in our mitigation plan. This is the hurricane system map which shows specific features where you see the alignment. On the East Bank the levees are a part of the Lake Pontchartrain Vicinity project and you can see that alignment. This map shows the status of the system as we continue our construction efforts.

Public Meeting Summary

Westbank & Vicinity



This is the Westbank and Vicinity map. We have the Harvey to Westwego Levee (IER 14) noted here, along with the GIWW West Closure Complex that goes along the Harvey and Algiers canals (IER 12), and the Eastern Tie-In project which is in Belle Chasse (IER 13).

Harvey to Westwego Levees and Floodwalls

Individual Environmental Report 14

- Construction began Fall 2009
- Five of eight contracts in this area are under construction

Plan is to:

- Raise earthen levees along the current alignment to elevation 10.5 ft
- Shift current earthen levee alignment to the flood side
- Replace existing I-walls with T-walls



The Harvey to Westwego Levees and floodwalls are a part of the project described in IER 14. The proposed action is raising levees and replacing some floodwalls. Much of the construction is ongoing, the yellow line shows where existing levees are and we're raising those to provide 100-year risk reduction. Reaches in red are where floodwalls are being replaced with T-walls. Those walls will provide a 100-year level of risk reduction. A majority of that project is under construction and was described in IER 14.

Harvey to Westwego Levees and Floodwalls

Individual Environmental Report 14
Impacts – Current Working Estimate

Habitat Type	Quantity (acres)	Quality (AAHUs*)
Bottomland Hardwood Wet	90.50	67.17
Bottomland Hardwood Dry	0	0
Swamp	71.5	41.02
Marshlands	0	0

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

This table represents the impacts we've generated to different habitat types by the construction of the Harvey to Westwego Levees and floodwalls. It shows acres and AAHU's, which are a numerical value that represent the quality of a habitat.

GIWW - West Closure Complex

Individual Environmental Report 12

- Construction began in Summer 2009
- All contracts in this area are under construction

Plan is to:

- Construct a 19,140 cfs Drainage Pumping Station
- Build a 225-foot navigation gate
- Construct five sluice gates and a Water Control Structure
- Build a concrete T-wall along edge of Bayou aux Carpes CWA 404(c) wetlands



This is the GIWW - West Closure Complex. This is a schematic for the West Closure Complex which was described in IER 12. It's under construction. We began construction in the summer of 2009 and it's currently about 30 percent complete already. This is a major project consisting of a 19,000 cubic feet per second pump station, a navigation gate, sluice gates, drainage pumping station and a T-wall along the banks of the Harvey and Algiers canals near the Estelle Canal.

GIWW - West Closure Complex

Individual Environmental Report 12
Impacts – Current Working Estimate

Habitat Type	Quantity (acres)	Quality (AAHUs*)
Bottomland Hardwood Wet	254.00	179.20
Bottomland Hardwood Dry	0	0
Swamp	74.90	36.50
Marshlands	0	0

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

These are the impacts from the West Closure Complex and IER 12 noted by habitat type – we had some impacts to bottomland hardwoods and swamps.

by USACE contractors. These notes are intended to provide an overview of the findings and comments, and are not intended to provide a complete or verbatim account intended to be a legal document.



Public Meeting Summary

Eastern Tie-In
Individual Environmental Report 13

- Construction began in April 2010
- One of four contracts has been awarded

Plan is to:

- Raise existing earthen levees along the current alignment to elevation 10.5 ft
- Build a stoplog gate and two pump stations
- Construct a levee and T-wall
- Build a swing gate at Hwy 23



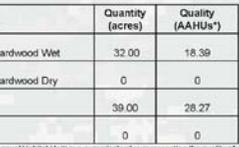
13 BUILDING STRONG

The third piece of this meeting is the Eastern Tie-In project which is at the end of the Westbank system where it ties into the Mississippi River Levee in Plaquemines Parish. That project is under construction and we just started the levee work. We will soon be awarding other portions of the project. The yellow marks show where the levee will be raised and we will have a structure at Hwy 23, then it will tie in to the Mississippi River Levee.

Eastern Tie-In
Individual Environmental Report 13
Impacts – Current Working Estimate

Habitat Type	Quantity (acres)	Quality (AAHUs*)
Bottomland Hardwood Wet	32.00	18.39
Bottomland Hardwood Dry	0	0
Swamp	39.00	26.27
Marshlands	0	0

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



14 BUILDING STRONG

These are the impacts for the Eastern Tie-In project. This is a summary of the impacts in that area.

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 funded



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Just as we've gone through planning and engineering, we have also gone through the National Environmental Policy Act compliance and avoided and minimized impacts where we could. Sometimes our numbers change because we're in design and will be left with unavoidable impacts for which we must do compensatory mitigation. Our impacts will be described in IERs that will go through public review. Our authority does include funding for mitigation.

Mitigation Policies

Generally mitigation would occur:

- As close as possible to the impact area
- Within the same hydrologic basin (Barataria or Lake Pontchartrain)
- Within same habitat type
 - Replace quantity (acres)
 - Replace quality (AAHUs)
- Before or concurrent with impacts



16 BUILDING STRONG

These are our policies for executing the mitigation program. In general mitigation will be done as close to the areas that have been impacted as possible. We will look to do that in the same basin so the Westbank and Vicinity mitigation will be in Barataria Basin and the Eastbank mitigation will be in the Lake Pontchartrain Basin. We will replace habitat units within the same habitat type and our goal is to have construction happen concurrently with the project itself.

Impact types

There are three types of impacts:

- Direct
- Indirect
- Cumulative



As an example, construction of the GWV West Closure Complex risk reduction feature will generate each type of impact for which the Corps will mitigate.

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Impacts can be direct, indirect and cumulative. A direct impact is the project feature itself. For example we may rebuild a levee in a wetland area, that's a direct impact or we could have an indirect impact like at the West Closure Complex's T-wall along the Bayou aux Carpes area. The wall will indirectly affect the water exchange into the wetland. Cumulative impacts are the total of each IER. We will be describing the cumulative impacts in the comprehensive environmental document.

Public Meeting Summary

Affected Habitats



Bottomland Hardwoods Salt Marsh Brackish Marsh

Swamp Intermediate Marsh Fresh Marsh

18 BUILDING STRONG

This is a list of examples of the habitats we have in Southeast Louisiana. There are different marsh types and swamps. We're keeping track by habitat units so we can know the basis for the mitigation plan that we have to execute.

Total WBV Impacts

Westbank & Vicinity Projects
Original Construction and HSDRRS – Current Working Estimate

Habitat Type	Quantity (acres)	Quality (AAHUs*)
Bottomland Hardwood Wet	1887.70	1168.55
Bottomland Hardwood Dry	29.90	10.62
Swamp	204.65	124.88
Marshlands	137.80	66.30

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

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This is similar to our previous impact slides, this represents our current estimate for the total Westbank projects by habitat type.

Total LPV Impacts

Lake Pontchartrain & Vicinity Projects
HSDRRS – Current Working Estimate

Habitat Type	Quantity (acres)	Quality (AAHUs*)
Bottomland Hardwood Wet	473.59	227.51
Bottomland Hardwood Dry	236.00	73.44
Swamp	113.71	70.81
Marshlands	1006.39	497.53

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

20 BUILDING STRONG

These are the impacts for the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity projects.

Example Mitigation Project

Terrebonne Parish Non-Federal Levee

- In 2009, USACE constructed a 6.5 mile surge protection levee in Dulac, LA
- To mitigate the levee construction
 - Marshlands are currently under construction
 - Bottomland hardwood credits will be purchased from a mitigation bank



View of mitigation Cell #8 under construction. Containment dikes at left, new levee at right. (View to southward)

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This is an example of a mitigation project. In 2009, there was construction to provide a 6.5 mile long surge protection levee in Dulac, LA. There was a marsh creation project to compensate for the impacts to bottomland hardwoods and credits will be purchased from a mitigation bank.

Mitigation Tentative Timeline

• Initial Public Meetings	May 2010
• Initial Screening of Measures	Summer 2010
• Final Screening of Measures	Spring 2011
• Identify Proposed Mitigation Plan	Summer 2011
• Release Individual Environmental Reports	Spring 2012
• Individual Environmental Reports Signed	Spring 2012
• Design Mitigation Projects	Fall 2012
• Start Construction	Fall 2013

22 BUILDING STRONG

This is our mitigation timeline showing how we will schedule and execute mitigation. We are continuing scoping, this is the first of five meetings we will be holding in May. We will continue public meetings and then screen the options. We will identify a proposed plan, and publish an environmental document that describes the plan and the action for mitigation once we have decisions. We're planning to go to construction in the fall of 2013.



Public Meeting Summary

Opportunities for Public Input

- Regular public meetings throughout the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) Area
- Sign in tonight to get on our meeting notification mailing list!
- Construction Impact Hotline: 1- 877- 427- 0345
- Comments can be submitted at any time at www.nolaenvironmental.gov

Questions and comments may be submitted to
Telephone: 504 - 862 - 2201
E-mail: AskTheCorps@usace.army.mil

23 BUILDING STRONG

Rachel Rodi: We have several opportunities for public input. You can reach out to us to ask us your questions and concerns. We have four more mitigation meetings coming up. Please sign in tonight and get on our mailing list. You can also fill out a comment card. If you're not quite ready, you can fill it out and it's self-addressed so you can send it to us later. You can also go to www.nolaenvironmental.gov or call us at 862-2201. Sandy Stiles, Lissa Lyncker and Libby Behrens will be taking your suggestions of where to put the dots on the map and we will be taking notes.

Resources

www.nolaenvironmental.gov <http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil>

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You can download the presentation from tonight on www.nolaenvironmental.gov and the Corps' Web site.

Visit the following links to follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Flickr:

<http://www.facebook.com/people/New-Orleans-District/100000017439096>

<http://twitter.com/teamneworleans>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/37671998@N05>

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We're on Facebook, Twitter and Flickr, which is a good option to see progress on the West Closure Complex. Twitter will be very useful during hurricane season.

Upcoming Mitigation Meetings

- Monday May 17 6:00 pm – Westwego Senior Center
- Wednesday May 19 6:00 pm – NP Trist Middle School, Meraux
- Monday May 24 6:00 pm – Resurrection of Our Lord Elementary, NOLA
- Wednesday May 26 6:00 pm – American Legion Post 366, St. Rose

26 BUILDING STRONG

There are more public meetings coming up. We'll be in Westwego, Meraux, New Orleans East and St. Rose.

What type of feedback are we looking for tonight?

Where and how should the Corps mitigate?

- Where should we restore and create habitats?
- Where are large tracks of undeveloped land?
- Which critical natural areas should be preserved?
- Is one mitigation method preferable to another?

27 BUILDING STRONG

When we go to our breakout stations we're looking for information on where and how we should mitigate so please raise questions. Please go to the stations and give us your feedback. Thanks for coming tonight.