

Project Status Update St. Bernard Parish

August 21, 2007



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

National Environmental Policy Act “NEPA”

- Required for all major federal actions
- Analyze potential impacts to the human environment and investigate alternatives
- Analyses documented in Environmental Assessments (EA), Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) or Individual Environmental Reports (IER)
- Public involvement is a **KEY** component of the process
- **Goal: more informed decision making**



Environmental Processes and NEPA Compliance

[What is NEPA?](#)

FEATURED PROJECT



USACE-MVN Emergency Alternative Arrangements
West Bank & Vicinity & Lake Pontchartrain & Vicinity
Hurricane Protection Projects

[USACE NEPA Questions & Answers](#)

[USACE Alternative Arrangements NEPA Process](#)

[USACE Alternative Arrangements NEPA Process Appendix](#)

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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). This process was implemented in order to expeditiously complete environmental analysis for the 100-year level of Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction effort authorized and funded by the Administration and the Congress. The proposed actions are located in southern Louisiana area and relate to the Federal effort to rebuild the Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction system in the New Orleans Metropolitan area as a result of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. [\(Learn More\)](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

[Public Meeting](#): July 26, 2007 7:00 pm, St. Charles Sub Basin ~ Ramada Inn 100 James Drive St. Rose, LA 70087

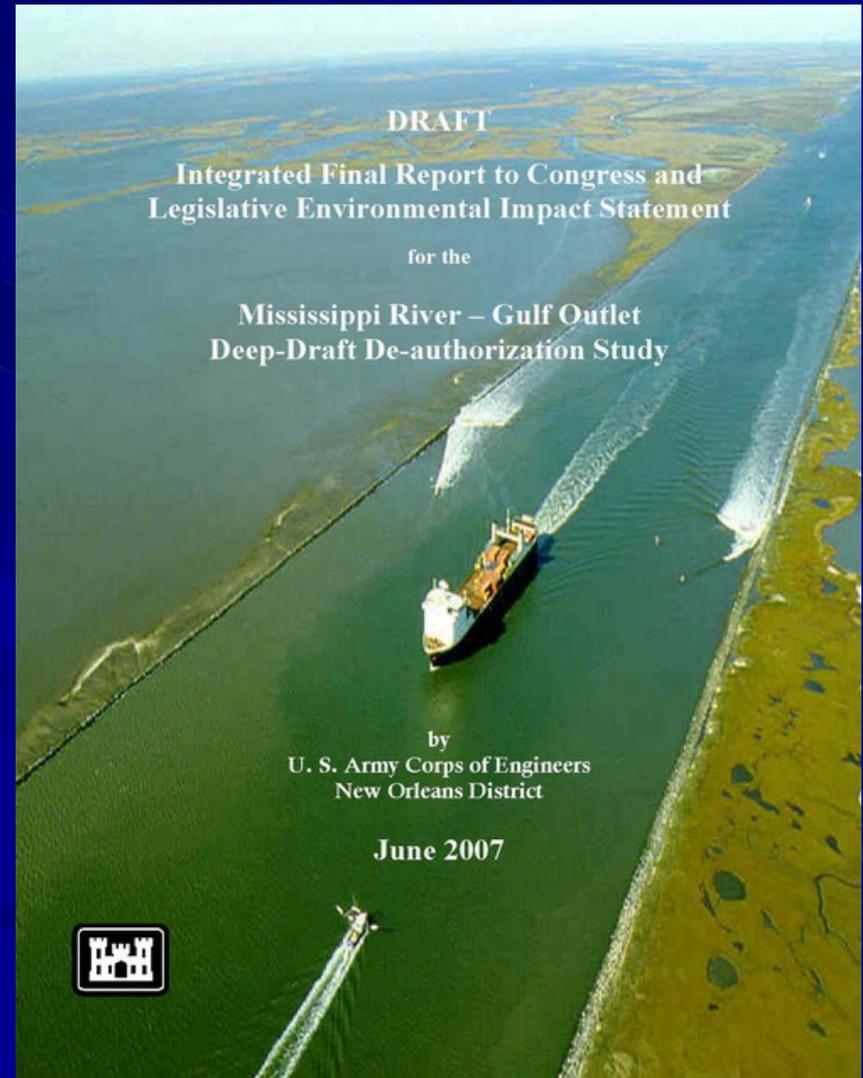
MRGO Deep Draft De-authorization

Public Law 109-234 reads:

- Chief of Engineers to develop a comprehensive plan to de-authorize deep draft navigation on the MRGO.
- Include recommended modifications to the existing authorized navigation uses of the MRGO and any navigation uses that should be maintained.
- Identify measures for hurricane and storm protection.
- Develop the plan in consultation with St. Bernard Parish, State of Louisiana, and affected Federal agencies.
- Funds available \$3,300,000 (full Federal expense).
- Submit interim report to Congress no later than 15 December 2006.
- Refine the plan if necessary to be fully consistent with the Final Technical Report for the LACPR Plan due in December 2007.

MRGO De-authorization Status

- Draft report recommends total closure of the navigation channel with a rock structure near Hopedale, Louisiana
- Public comments on draft report and Legislative EIS accepted until September 4, 2007
- Final report to be sent to Congress with LACPR plans in December 2007

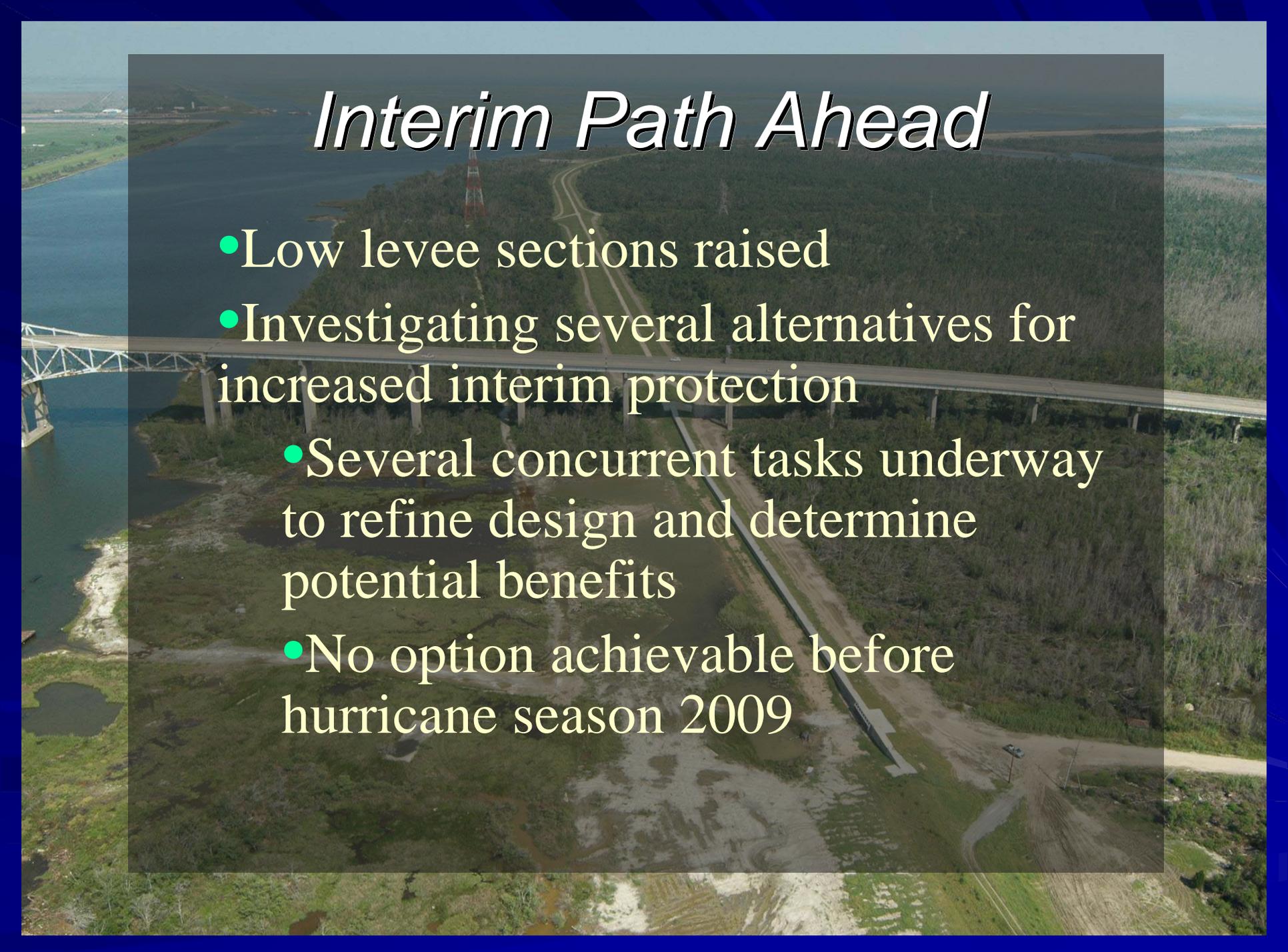


Inner Harbor Navigation Canal Lock Replacement

- In October 2006 the project was enjoined by order of Federal Court
- Construction Method Determination August 2007
- No Construction is to be done on the project until a Supplemental Environment Impact Statement (SEIS) is completed
 - Draft SEIS public review: September 2008
 - Final SEIS: February 2009

An aerial photograph of a coastal city, likely New Orleans, showing a complex network of canals and levees. The city is built on a narrow strip of land between the Gulf of Mexico and Lake St. Charles. The canals are visible as dark lines winding through the urban and green areas. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, italicized font with a black outline.

*Improving Hurricane Protection
on the
Inner Harbor Navigation Canal*

An aerial photograph showing a long, straight concrete levee structure crossing a body of water. A bridge with a white truss structure is visible on the left side of the levee. The surrounding area is a mix of green vegetation and brown, possibly eroded or dry, soil. The sky is clear and blue.

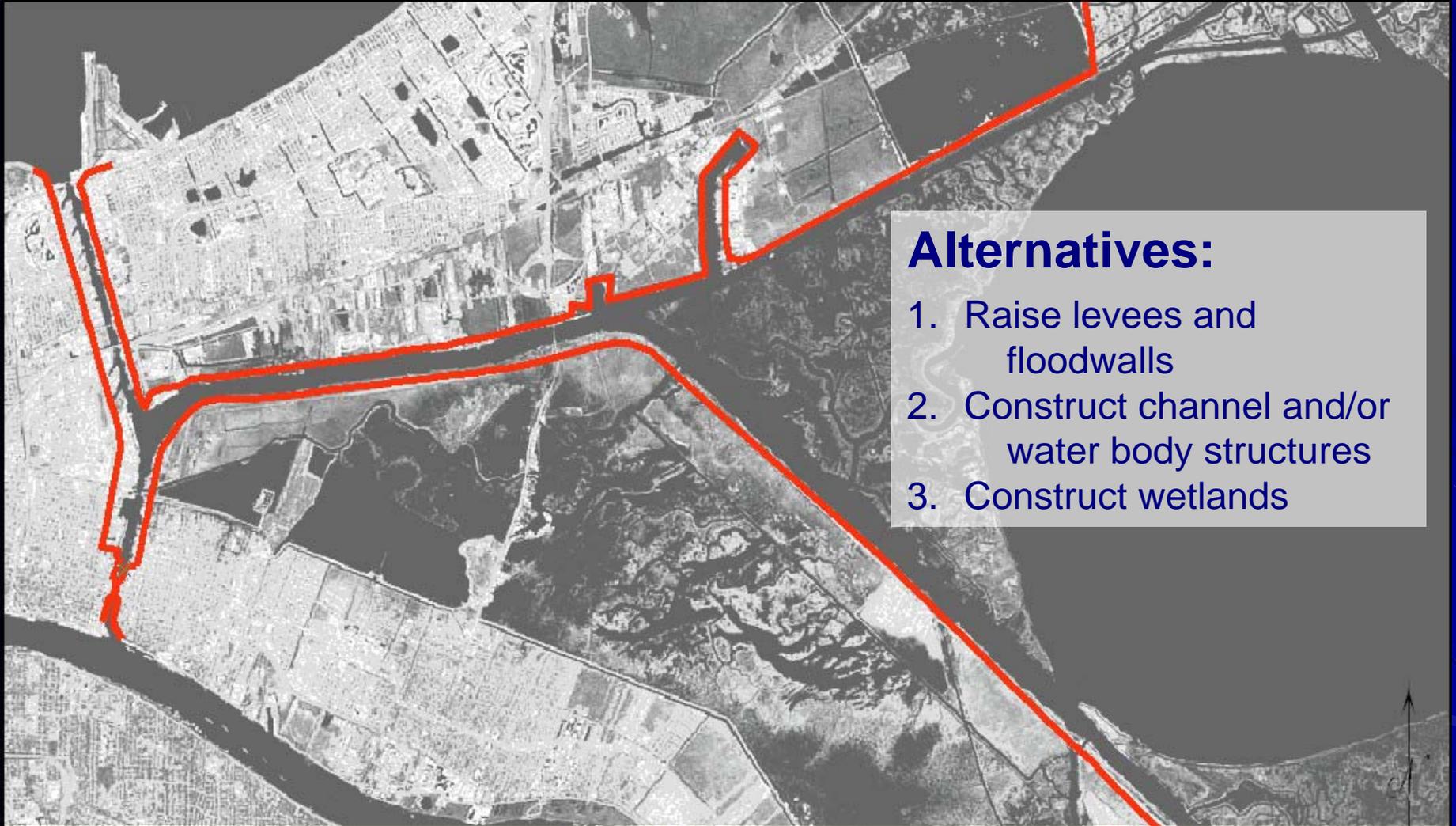
Interim Path Ahead

- Low levee sections raised
- Investigating several alternatives for increased interim protection
 - Several concurrent tasks underway to refine design and determine potential benefits
 - No option achievable before hurricane season 2009

Design-Build Acquisition Update

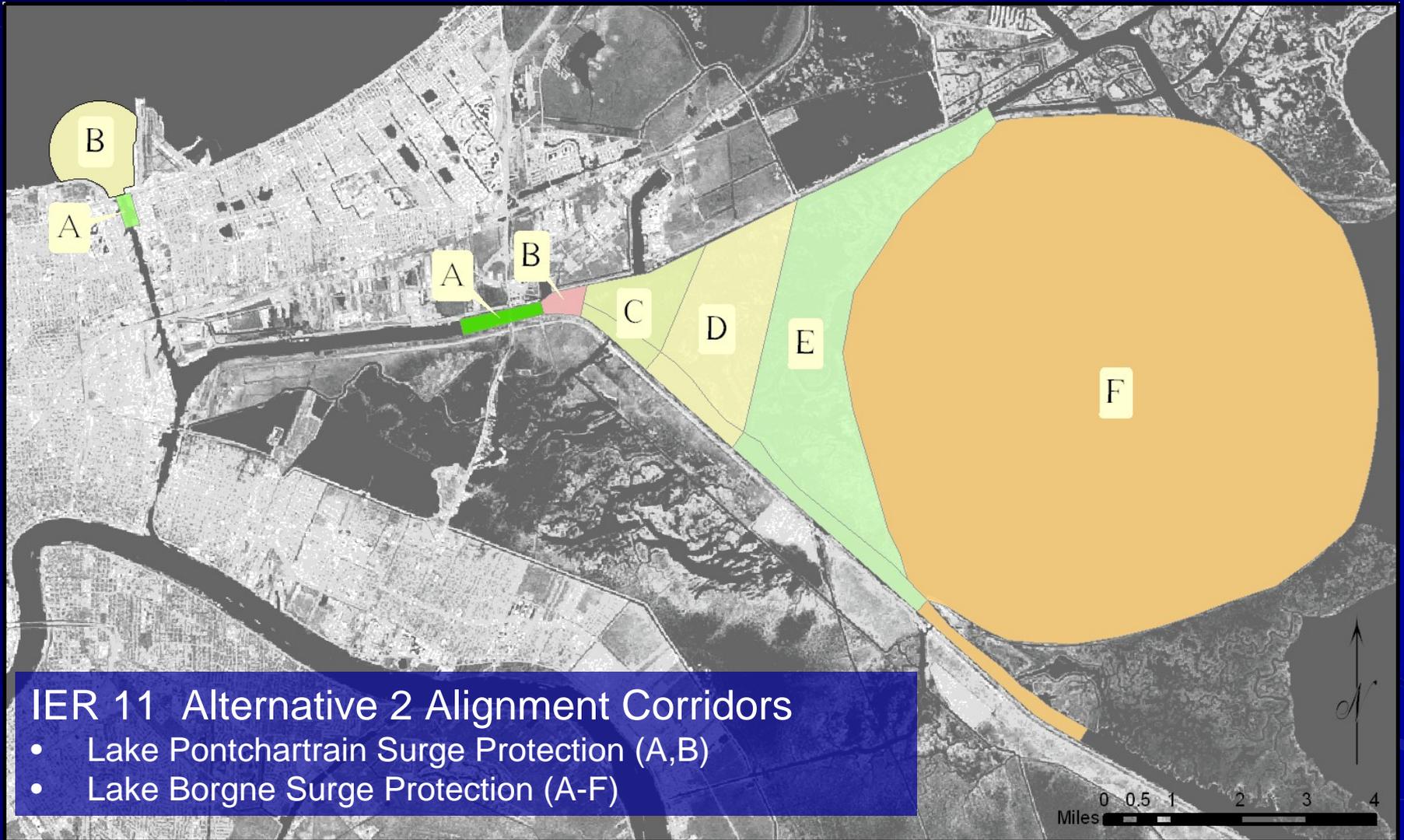
- Request for Proposals, Phase I complete
 - Short-listed to 4 most qualified firms
- Next Step: Request for Proposals Phase II
 - Firms will propose design solutions for IHNC protection
- Contract Award: expected March 2008
- Construction Start: expected September 2008
- Construction Complete by June 2011

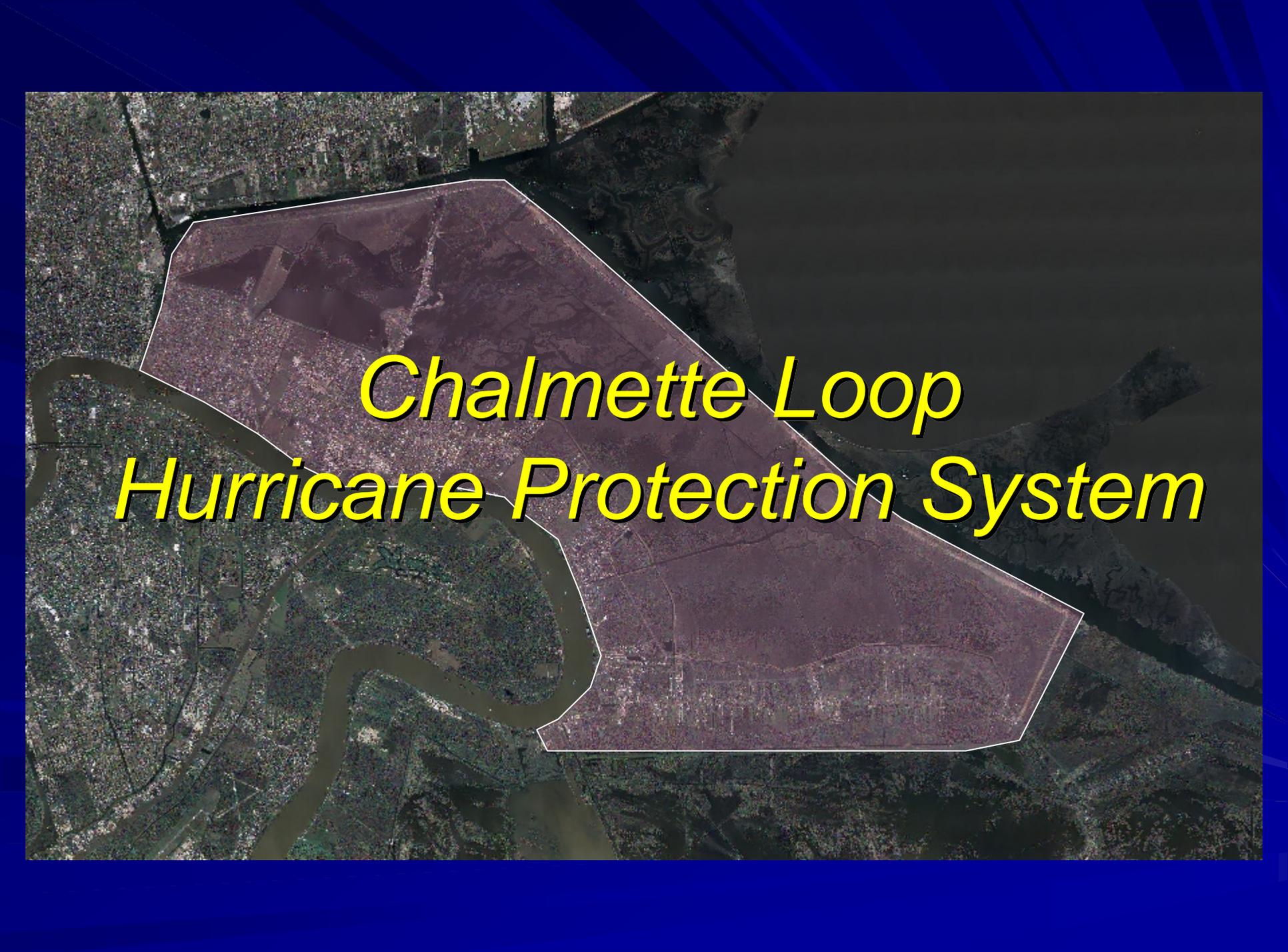
Individual Environmental Report (IER) #11



Alternatives:

1. Raise levees and floodwalls
2. Construct channel and/or water body structures
3. Construct wetlands





*Chalmette Loop
Hurricane Protection System*



**Bayou
Bienvenue
Control
Structure**

**40 Arpent Canal
Non-Federal
Levee**

**Bayou
Dupre
Control
Structure**

**Caernarvon
Floodwall**

ORLEANS

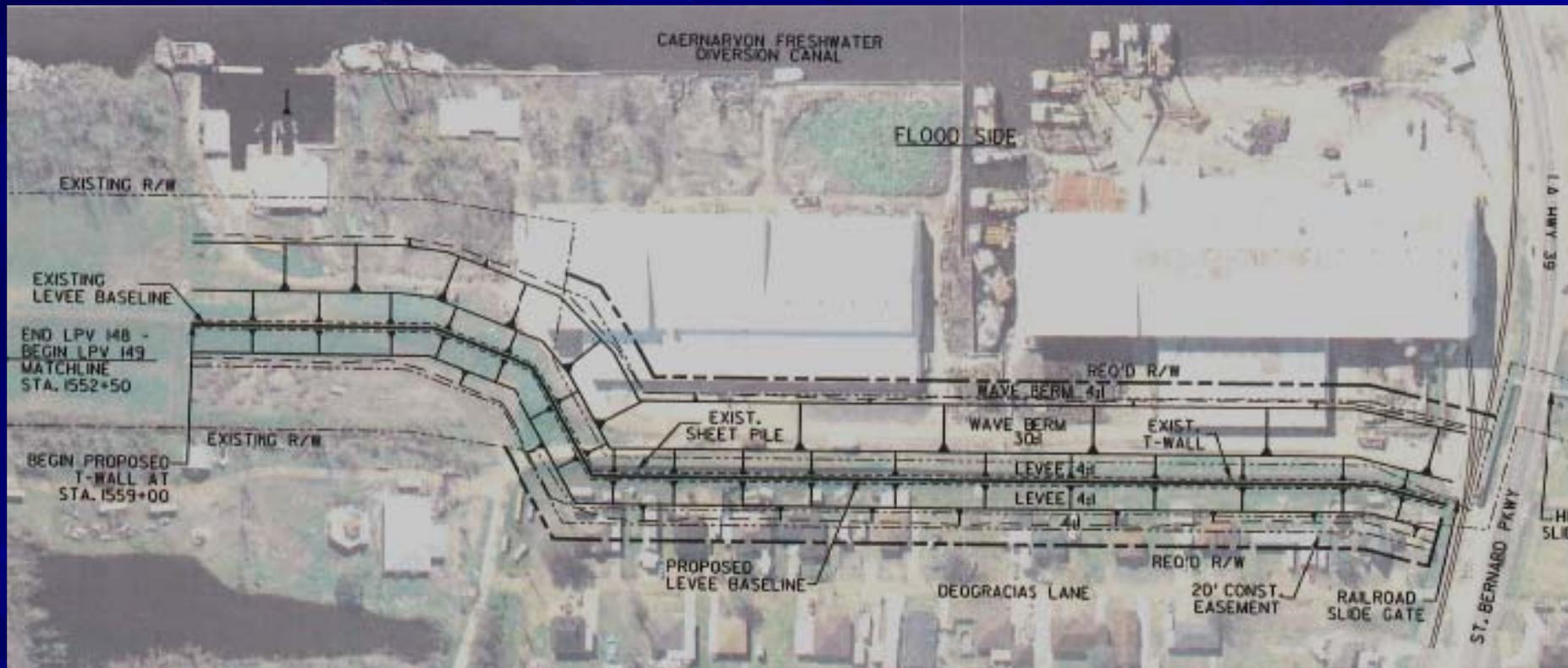
ST. BERNARD

JEFFERSON

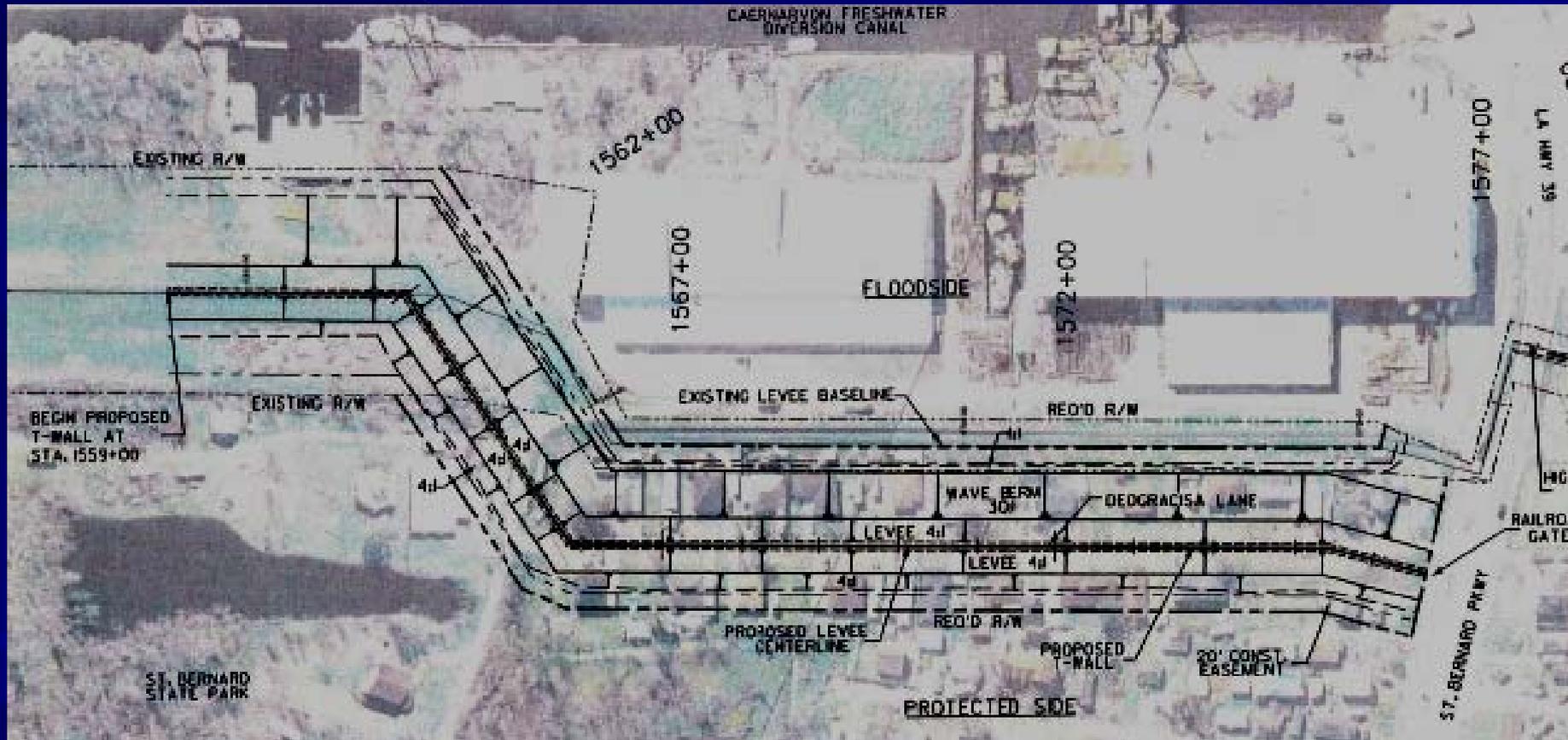
PLAQUEMINES



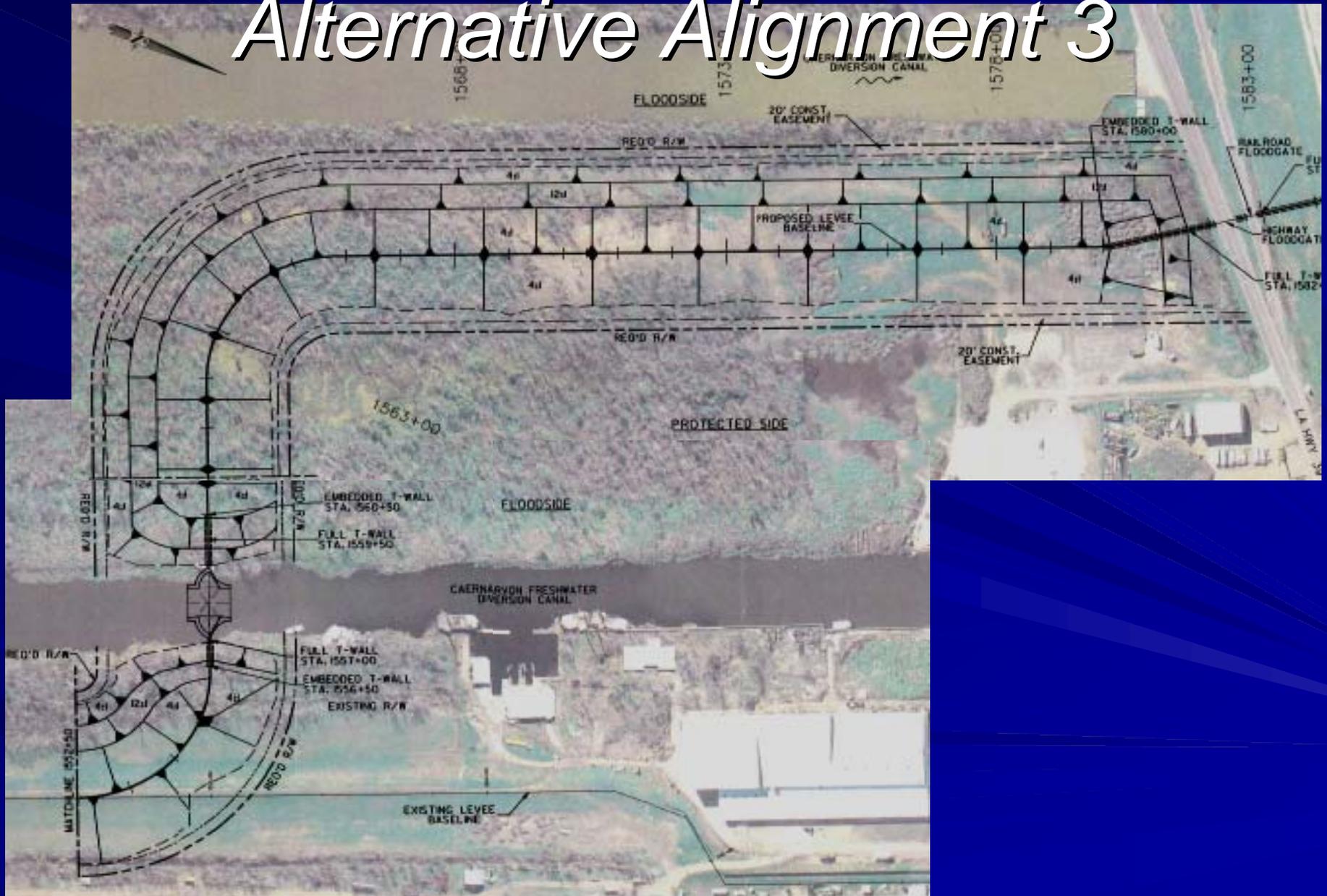
Caernarvon Floodwall *Alternative Alignment 1*



Caernarvon Floodwall *Alternative Alignment 2*



Caernarvon Floodwall *Alternative Alignment 3*



Opportunities for Public Input

Summary

- MRGO De-authorization:
 - Sept. 4, 2007: Deadline for Comments on draft report and Legislative EIS
- IHNC Lock:
 - Comments welcome throughout EIS process
 - September 2008: SEIS Public Comment Period

For both projects, send comments to:

**Ms. Elizabeth Wiggins, Chief
Environmental Planning and Compliance Branch
Planning, Programs and Project Management
Division**

**New Orleans District, U.S. Army Corps of
Engineers**

P.O. Box 60267

Opportunities for Public Input

Summary

■ Hurricane Protection Projects

- Monthly Public Meetings throughout New Orleans Metro Area
 - Make sure to sign in tonight to get on our meeting notification mailing list
- “Get Involved” at www.nolaenvironmental.gov
- Individual Environmental Reports (IER) 30-day Public Review
 - IER 8: Bayou Bienvenue & Bayou Dupre Control Structures
 - Begins Nov 21, 2007

**Questions and comments regarding Hurricane Protection Projects
should be addressed to:**

**Laura Lee Wilkinson
CEMVN-HPO
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267**

Telephone: 504-862-1212

E-mail: Laura.L.Wilkinson@mvn02.usace.army.mil

**Your comments are welcome anytime now until the close
of the IER Public Review Period**



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