

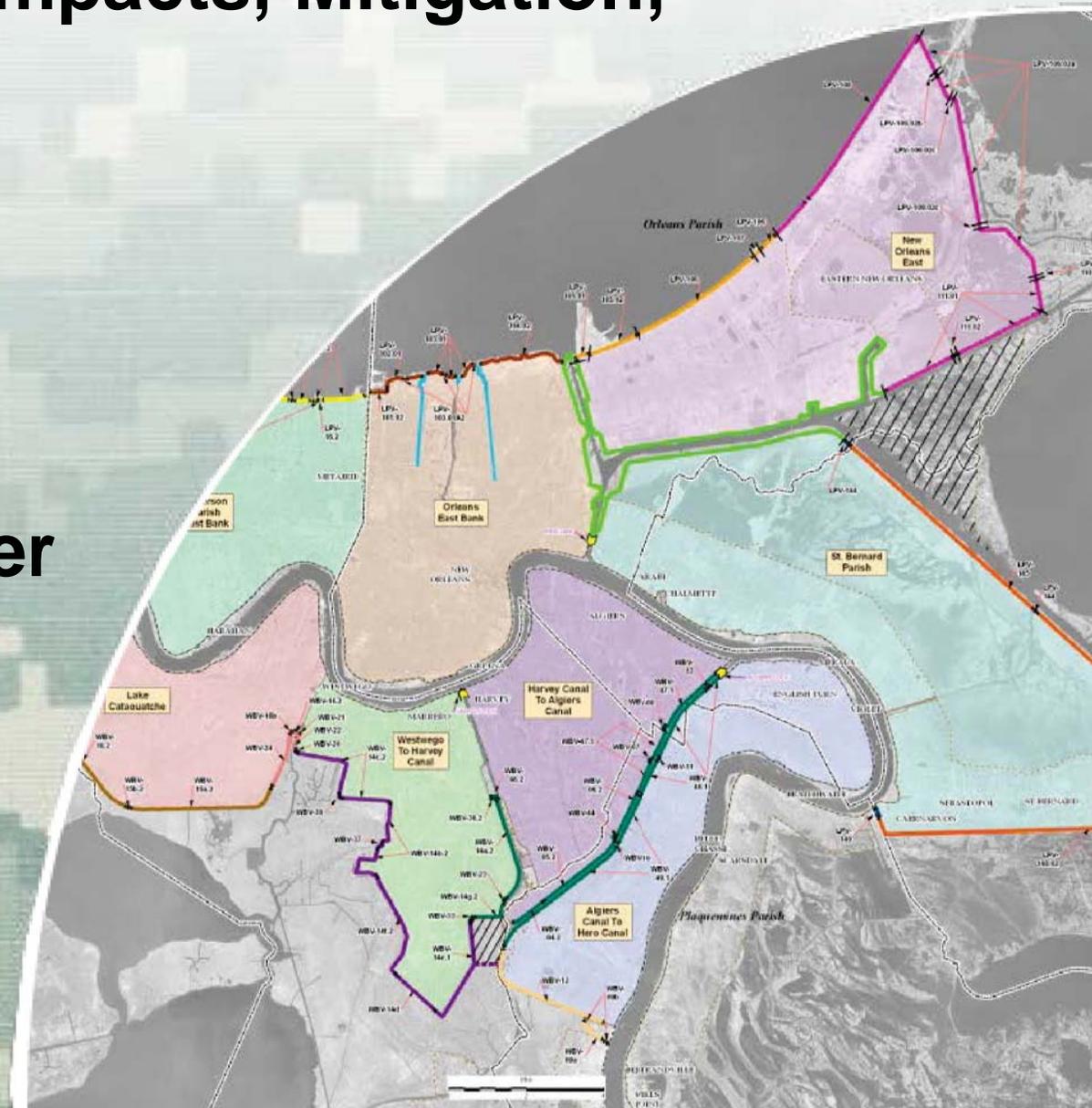
Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System Comprehensive Environmental Document

Cumulative Benefits, Impacts, Mitigation, Data Gaps

Laura Lee Wilkinson
Environmental Manager
March 26, 2013



US Army Corps of Engineers
BUILDING STRONG



Meeting Agenda

- National Environmental Policy Act Overview
- Comprehensive Environmental Document Overview
- Q&A / Feedback Session



FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT

Buying Down Risk

Initial Risk

Insurance

Building Codes

Zoning

Levee

Contingency/Response Plans

Outreach

Residual Risk

**Risk Reduction Actions
(Cumulative)**

All stakeholders contribute to reducing risk

Purpose of Alternative Arrangements

- Emergency use approved by the Council on Environmental Quality following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.
- To allow the Hurricane & Storm Damage Risk Reduction (HSDRRS) work to be completed in segments and reduce the risk of hurricane damage as quickly as possible.
- To meet the urgent need to provide a 1 percent hurricane risk reduction system.
- To complete the environmental analysis in a timeframe consistent with the expedited planning and construction.



National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

Traditional

- Two Supplemental Environmental Impact Statements (SEIS) would have been required
 - ▶ LPV and WBV
- Cumulative impacts described in SEIS
- No Real Estate acquired or construction started until all environmental compliance completed
- Supplemental Environmental Assessments or SEIS's required for project feature changes
- Preliminary engineering designs are used to develop alternatives and analyze impacts
- Meetings – Scoping / Interagency

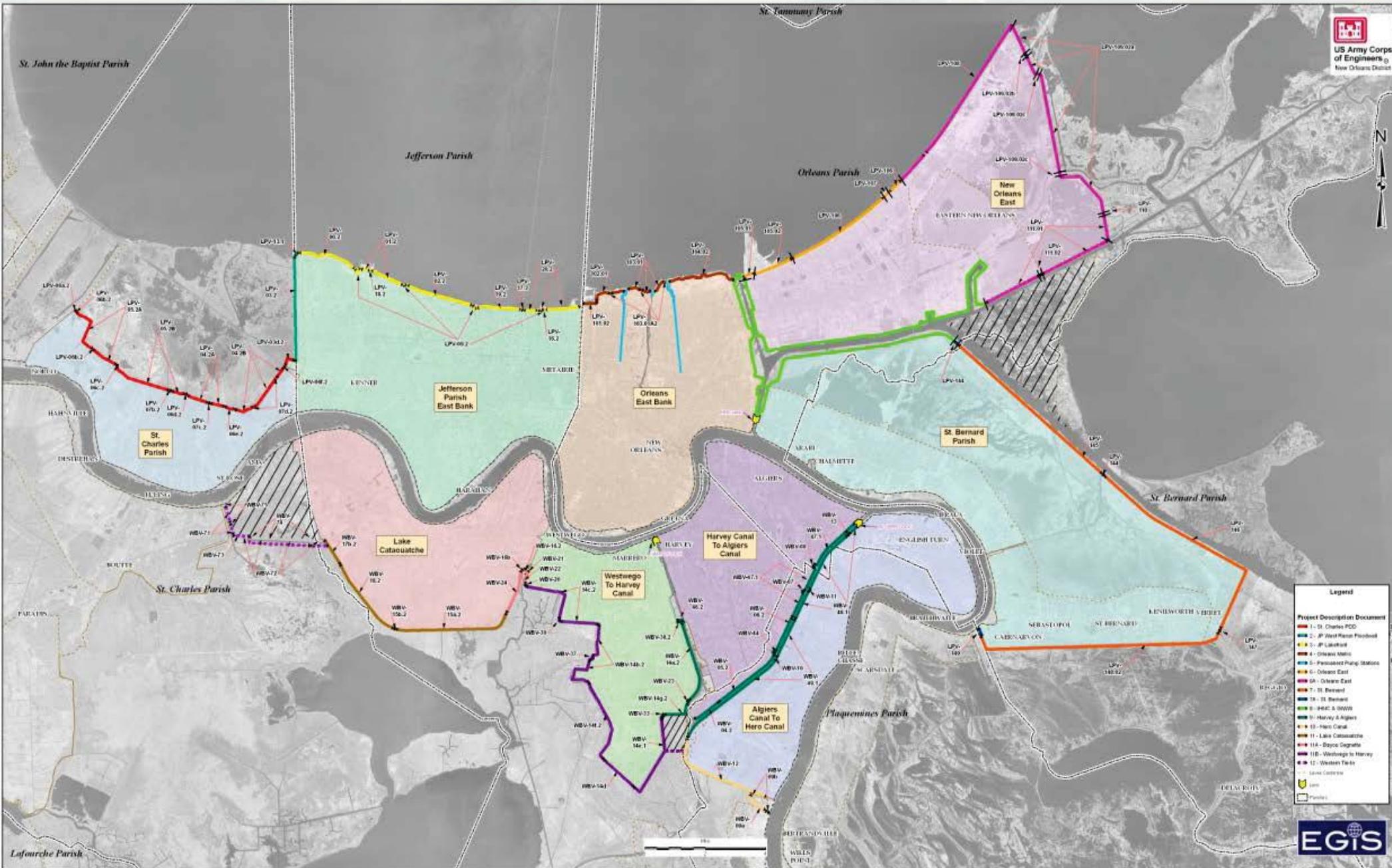


Alternative Arrangements (HSDRRS)

- Individual Environmental Reports (IER) - 35
- IER completed for stand alone reaches (approved segmentation)
- Real Estate acquired and construction started following IER completion
- Supplemental IER required for project feature changes.
- Comprehensive Environmental Document
- Preliminary engineering designs are used to develop alternatives and analyze impacts
- Meetings - Scoping / Interagency / Public
- Web Site – www.nolaenvironmental.gov



Hurricane & Storm Damage Risk Reduction System



Direct, Indirect & Cumulative Impact

- Direct
 - ▶ Caused by an action and occurring at the same time and place
- Indirect
 - ▶ Caused by an action and occurring later in time or further removed in distance but still reasonable foreseeable
- Cumulative
 - ▶ Caused by the incremental impact of an action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions



Resources / Impacts Analyzed

- Air Quality
- Water Quality
- Terrestrial Habitat
- Aquatic Habitat
- Fish and Wildlife
- Wetlands
- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Recreational Resources
- Aesthetic (Visual) Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Prime and Unique Farmland
- Displacement of Population and Housing
- Impacts to Employment, Business and Industry Activity
- Availability of Public Facilities and Services
- Effects on Transportation
- Disruption of Desirable Community and Regional Growth
- Impacts to Tax Revenues and Property Values
- Changes in Community Cohesion
- Environmental Justice
- Hazardous, Toxic and Radioactive Waste



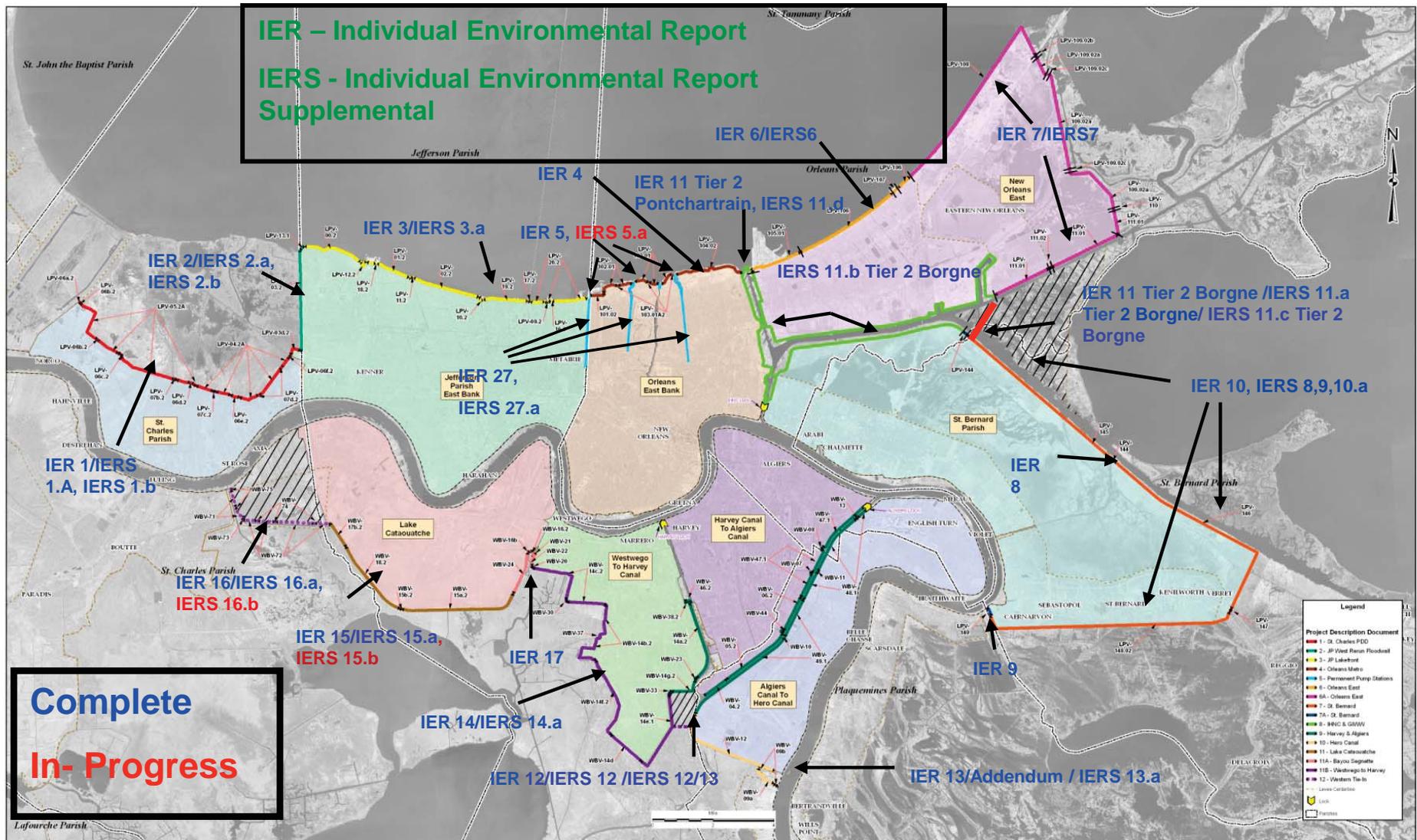
Individual Environmental Report (IER) Current Status

- 17 Individual Environmental Reports (IERs) completed describing impacts of building the system
- 13 IERs completed describing impacts of excavating clay (borrow) and utilizing borrow stockpile sites
- Supplemental IERs addressing changes in project design
 - ▶ 22 Supplementals have been completed
 - ▶ 3 additional Supplementals are in preparation
- Additional IERs under development
 - ▶ HSDRRS Mitigation IERs recommending a TSP for satisfying compensatory mitigation requirements



Individual Environmental Report (IER) Current Status

PROJECT DESCRIPTION DOCUMENTS



Comprehensive Environmental Document (CED)

Milestone Dates

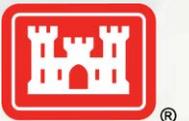
23 Oct 12	USFWS Draft Coordination Act Report received
13 Nov 12	Received H&H analysis to incorporate in draft CED phase I
18 Jan 13	Legal Sufficiency obtained
5 Feb 13	60 day public review for draft CED phase I
<hr/>	
8 Apr 13	End public review
8 May 13	Address public comments
8 May 13	Finalize CED phase I
22 May 13	Release Final CED phase I for 30 day public review

Future: Draft CED phase II (cumulative impacts assessment for all HSDRRS work from Nov 2010 till complete)



CED Contents

- Describes the components of the HSDRRS
- Integrates the results of each IER into a single report
- Evaluates cumulative impacts of HSDRRS and all projects in southeastern Louisiana
- Describes mitigation process and measures
- Provides updated information
- Limited to:
 - ▶ NEPA documents completed by November 15, 2010
 - ▶ Construction implemented by July 2011



Other Regional Projects

- Flood Risk Reduction
 - ▶ New Orleans to Venice, Louisiana Project
 - ▶ Plaquemines Parish Non-Federal Levee Project
 - ▶ Grand Isle and Vicinity Project
 - ▶ MRGO Deep-draft Deauthorization
 - ▶ SELA
 - ▶ IHNC Lock Replacement Project
- Coastal and Wetlands Restoration Projects
 - ▶ CWPPRA
 - ▶ LCA Plan
 - ▶ LACPR
 - ▶ CIAP
 - ▶ State Master Plan



HSDRRS Cumulative Impacts

- Permanent impacts on soils
 - ▶ Loss of prime farmland soils
- Both short-term and permanent impacts
 - ▶ Water quality
 - ▶ Wetlands
 - ▶ Transportation
- Only short-term impacts
 - ▶ Noise
 - ▶ Aesthetics
 - ▶ Wildlife and fisheries
- Beneficial impacts on socioeconomic in the region
 - ▶ Expenditure of ~ \$14 billion
 - ▶ 100-year risk reduction improves confidence of residents and businesses



Impacts on Soils and Water Quality

- Potential loss of 5,181.3 acres of prime farmland soils from HSDRRS
 - ▶ 99% of prime farmland soils impacted at borrow sites
 - ▶ Only 25 of the 48 borrow sites containing prime farmland soils have been utilized for construction
 - ▶ Potential for future impacts from borrow use for other risk reduction projects regionally
- Water quality impacts
 - ▶ Construction stormwater runoff
 - ▶ Hydro-modification
 - ▶ Dredging activities
 - ▶ Increased impervious surfaces
 - ▶ Levee expansion



Impacts on Wetlands & Transportation

- Potential loss of 1,637.2 acres of wetlands and 3,565.4 acres of non-jurisdictional BLH
 - ▶ Including regional loss of wetland and BLH habitats, cumulative impacts not quantifiable
 - ▶ All impacts on wetlands and non-jurisdictional BLH from HSDRRS will be mitigated
- Impacts on transportation
 - ▶ Short-term impacts
 - Temporary road closures
 - Increased construction traffic
 - Increased congestion
 - ▶ Long-term impacts due to pavement damage



CED Data Gaps, Monitoring Commitments, Other Pending Actions

- Transportation Impacts: Final Transportation Report, March 2010
- Mitigation Impacts: Mitigation IERs for LPV and WBV are in progress and public review is anticipated in near future
- Air Emissions
- System Cumulative Impacts
- Monitoring of Bayou Aux Carpes (IER 12) Area and analysis of data are ongoing. Preliminary augmentation plan will be in WBV mitigation IER
- Monitoring of IHNC (IER 11) and analysis of data - Expected to be complete in 2013
- Independent External Peer Review for HSDRRS features / products including IHNC Lake Borgne and other structures - Estimated to be complete by 2014, and 2016 for Permanent Pumps PCCP-01.



CED Data Gaps, Monitoring Commitments, Other Pending Actions cont.

H&H performed an “alignment analysis” to compare the pre-Katrina hurricane protection system with data collected during Hurricane Isaac, to assess what areas of the system would / or would not have hydraulically over topped during Isaac in their pre-HSDRRS condition. This report titled “Hurricane Isaac With and Without 2012 100-year HSDRRS Evaluation” includes IEPR comments and can be downloaded from <http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/pao/Hurrlsaacwapp.pdf>.

*The CED phase I contains a summary in the Preface, the future CED phase II will include a systems hydraulic analysis.



Opportunities for Public Input

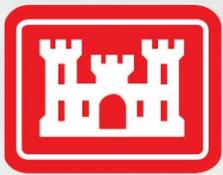
- Public meetings throughout the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) area
- Sign in tonight to be added to our meeting notification mailing list!
- *Construction Impacts Hotline: 1- 877- 427- 0345*
- Comments can be submitted at any time at:

www.nolaenvironmental.gov

Questions and comments may be submitted to:
Sandra Stiles
Regional Planning and Environmental Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

Phone: 504-862-1583 | Fax: 504-862-2088 | E-mail: mvnenvironmental@usace.army.mil





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Resources

www.nolaenvironmental.gov

NOLA Environmental
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
Environmental Compliance Data Bank
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 (1/13/12)
- The Decision Record and Section 404(b)(1) Evaluation for [IERS 33.a](#) has been signed by the District Commander (1/11/12)

[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

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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](#)

[Review 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

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

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

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

