

Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) Stabilize Gulf Shoreline at Point au Fer Island

Jammie Favorite

LCA Program Manager
Louisiana Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration

Joseph “Wes” LeBlanc

Coastal Resources Scientist
Louisiana Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration

Andrew MacInnes

Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Dr. William Klein

Environmental Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

September 28, 2009

Morgan City Auditorium



US Army Corps of Engineers
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▪ Agenda

- ▶ Open House
- ▶ Welcome and Introductions / Opening Remarks
- ▶ Presentation by State of Louisiana LCA Program Manager: Jammie Favorite
- ▶ Presentation by State of Louisiana Study Manager: Wes LeBlanc
- ▶ Presentation by CEMVN Environmental Manager: Bill Klein
- ▶ Question and Answer Session
- ▶ Submission of Scoping Comments



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Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) Program

History and Milestones

- **January 2005**
Chief's Report signed for LCA Ecosystem Restoration Program ("Near-term Plan")

- **Spring 2006**
 - ▶ Continue LCA Barataria Basin Barrier Shoreline Feasibility Study
 - ▶ Initiate LCA Beneficial Use of Dredged Material Program Feasibility Study
 - ▶ Establish LCA Science and Technology (S&T) Program

- **November 2007**
Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 2007 authorizes LCA Program



Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA), Louisiana

Ecosystem Restoration Study



November 2004
Final
Volume 1:
LCA Study - Main Report



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LCA Program Goal

Reverse the current trend of degradation of the coastal Louisiana ecosystem by maximizing restoration strategies that

- ▶ Reintroduce historic flows of water, nutrients, and sediment to coastal wetlands, and
- ▶ Maintain the structural integrity of the coastal ecosystem



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LCA Program Components

Five Initial Projects (Construction Reports)

Ten Additional Projects (Feasibility Studies)

Beneficial Use of Dredged Material Program

Science and Technology (S&T) Program

Demonstration Project Program

Investigations into Modifications of Existing Structures

Large-Scale and Long-term Studies

TOTAL PROGRAM COST: **approx \$2.0 billion**



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Why Are We Here?

- To determine the scope of significant issues and potential alternatives related to the LCA – Stabilize Gulf Shoreline at Point au Fer Island Project.

We welcome your comments!



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■ Project Authorization

- ▶ The Stabilize Gulf Shoreline at Point au Fer Island project was recommended for authorization in the Chief of Engineers' Report, for the Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) study, dated January 31, 2005. Study authority and conditional project construction authorization for the study, as described in the LCA study, is provided to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) through Section 7006 of Public Law 110-114, WRDA (2007).



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- **Shoreline Change:** Average loss of 22 ft/yr

Transect	Approximate Distance Alongshore (ft)	Shoreline Change (ft)	Annualized Shoreline Change (ft/yr)
1	0	-115	-16
2	5,285	-124	-18
3	10,606	-38	-5
4	15,661	-277	-40
5	20,816	-9	-1
6	26,036	-110	-16
7	31,198	-301	-43
8	36,464	-269	-38
9	41,759	-193	-28
10	47,042	-50	-7
11	51,896	-83	-12
12	57,140	-169	-24
13	62,320	-265	-38
14	67,649	-151	-22
15	73,229	-162	-23
Average (ft)		-154	-22



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■ Problem Statement

- ▶ Wetland loss, subsidence, storm damage, salt water intrusion, and lack of sediment inputs have all caused significant adverse impacts to the project area resulting in habitat loss and ecosystem degradation.



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■ Project Goal

- ▶ Reduce the current trend of degradation of Point Au Fer Island to achieve and sustain a coastal ecosystem that can support and protect the environment, economy and culture of southern Louisiana.



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■ Project Objectives

- ▶ Maintain Point Au Fer Island, which separates Four League Bay from the Gulf of Mexico, and provides the eastern boundary of Atchafalaya Bay.
- ▶ Increase the island's resistance to shoreline retreat.
- ▶ Increase marsh habitat.
- ▶ Sustain socioeconomic resources including culture, community, infrastructure, business and industry.

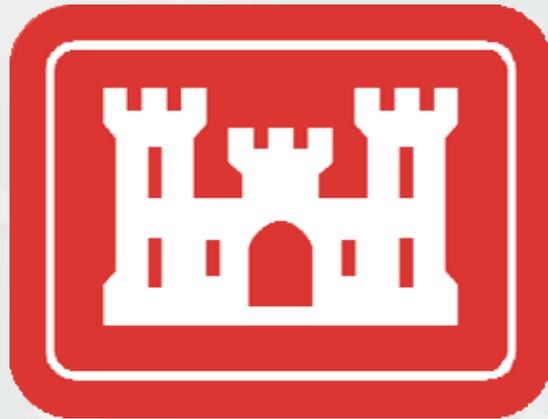
■ Authorized Project Cost

- ▶ \$43 Million



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Louisiana Office of Coastal Protection & Restoration



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National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA)

NEPA procedures ensure environmental information is available to the public and decision-makers before decisions are made and before actions are taken.



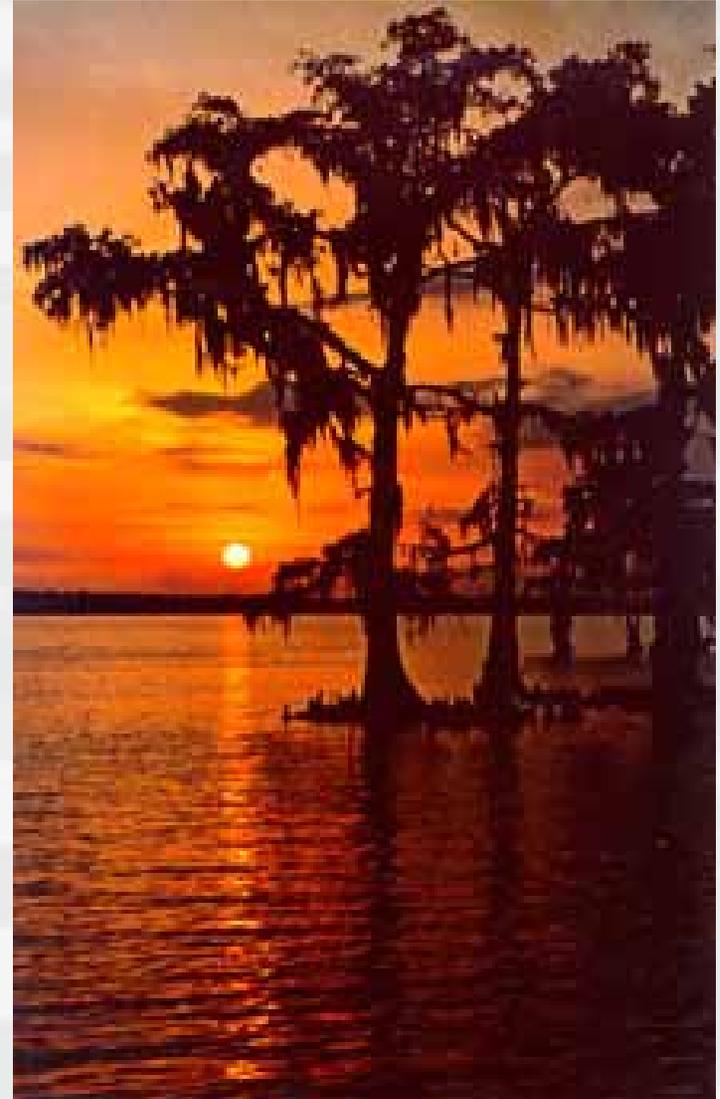
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NEPA and the SCOPING PROCESS

“There shall be an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to the proposed action.”



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Before NEPA

National philosophy to ignore negative environmental effects during planning stages.

After project completion when negative environmental effects were apparent, the attitude was: "Too bad, impacts couldn't be avoided."



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New Orleans District

**Draft Supplemental
Environmental
Impact Statement**



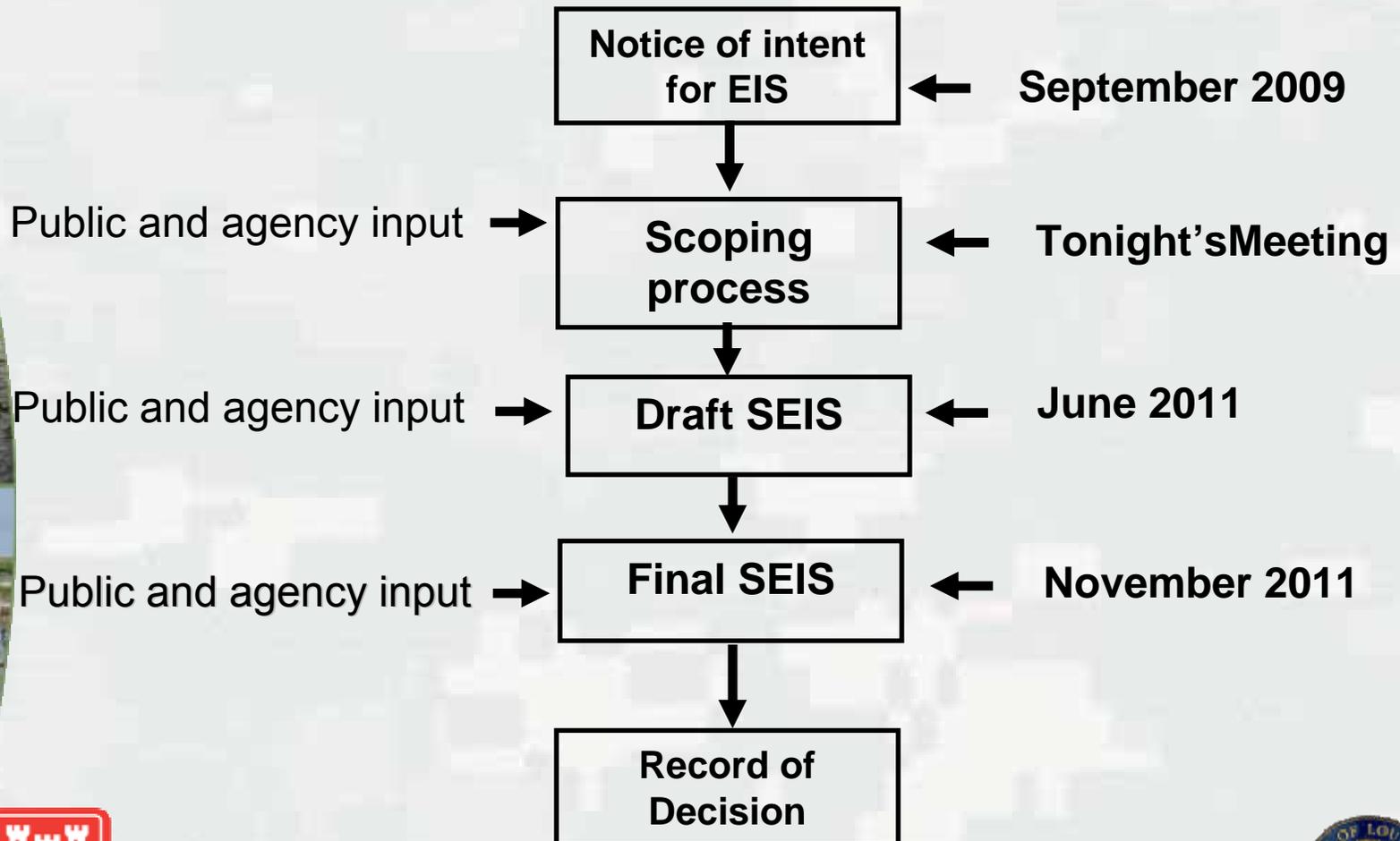
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SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (SEIS)

NEPA requires that whenever a major Federal action significantly affects the environment, a detailed statement on the supplemental environmental impact, (i.e., an SEIS) of the proposed action shall be prepared.



Schedule for Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement



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Scoping

The Scoping Process includes:

- Publish Notice of Intent in the *Federal Register* (September 4, 2009).
- Invite participation of affected and interested parties.
- Provide opportunity to express their concerns and identify significant issues, resources, alternatives, and potential impacts to be considered in the SEIS.



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**US Army Corps
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New Orleans District

Scoping Report

Scoping Comments
November 2009

Scoping Report
will summarize the
significant issues,
feasible alternatives,
and concerns as
determined from
scoping comments.



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Questions and Answers

The Ground Rules:

- Question and Answer Session is not a forum to debate differing opinions
- Be polite and courteous
- Questions will be taken in order and recorded



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Question and Answer Session



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Scoping Questions

- *Question #1: What are the critical problems and needs that should be addressed in the SEIS?*
- *Question #2: What are the most important issues, resources, and impacts that should be considered in the SEIS?*
- *Question #3: What are the reasonable alternatives that should be considered in the SEIS?*



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Submit Scoping Comments



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Provide Scoping Comments

- Scoping meeting (verbal or written comments accepted)
- E-mail to william.p.klein.jr@usace.army.mil
- Letter postmarked not later than October 12, 2009 to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Attn: William P. Klein, Jr.
CEMVN-PM-RS
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267



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Contact Information

- **Joseph “Wes” LeBlanc, Study Manager**
Louisiana Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration
joseph.leblanc@la.gov
(225) 342-4117
- **Andrew MacInnes, Project Manager**
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
andrew.d.macinnes@usace.army.mil
(504) 862-1062
- **William P. Klein, Jr.**
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
william.p.klein.jr@usace.army.mil
(504)-862-2540



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