



US Army Corps
of Engineers
New Orleans District

Public Meeting Summary

Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity Mitigation Public Meeting May 19, 2010

Location	NP Trist Middle School 1 Pirates Cove, Cafeteria Meraux, LA 70075
Time	Open House 6:00 p.m. Presentation 6:30 p.m., followed by a discussion
Attendees	Approx. 17
Format	Open House Presentation
Handouts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HSDRRS Mitigation Fact Sheet (May 2010) • Mitigation Fact Sheet (May 2010)
Facilitator	Ken Holder, Public Affairs

**Greater New Orleans Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System
Mitigation Public Meeting**



NP Trist Middle School
Meraux
May 19, 2010



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
BUILDING STRONG_®

Meeting Purpose
Mitigation Open House & Project Scoping

Meet one on one with Corps representatives, learn about mitigation, and give us your ideas on how and where to mitigate for unavoidable project induced impacts from the HSDRRS work.



2 BUILDING STRONG_®

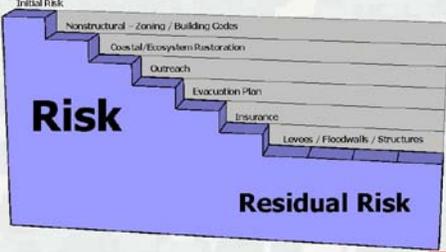
Meeting Agenda

- Impacts generated by construction of the following HSDRRS projects:
 - Bayou Dupre Control Structure
 - Caernarvon Floodwall
 - Chalmette Loop Levee T-Walls
 - Inner Harbor Navigation Canal Surge Barrier – Lake Borgne
- Mitigation Program Objectives
- Feedback Session
 - Where and how should mitigation occur?



3 BUILDING STRONG_®

Risk – Shared Responsibility



4 BUILDING STRONG_®

Ken Holder: We buy down risk through a number of activities. We have our initial risks and then through our zoning and local laws we can bring it down. Coastal restoration will bring down risk a little bit further. Talking to people and getting feedback on what you think will work also helps us to buy down risks. Of course, having a good evacuation plan, insurance and finally floodwalls, levees and other structures are also important for reducing risk. The most important thing to get out of this slide is that no system will completely protect you, there is always residual risk.

The following notes were recorded by USACE contractors. These notes are intended to provide an overview of the presentations and public questions and comments, and are not intended to provide a complete or verbatim account of the meeting. This account is not intended to be a legal document.



Public Meeting Summary

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!



The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is one of the reasons why we are here. Alternatives for all major federal actions have to be analyzed. Part of the NEPA process is to find out what impact the process will have on people and of course, the natural environment. The impacts will be discussed in the environmental documents, and public involvement is key. So we want to hear from you!

Individual Environmental Report: Project Areas



These are the project areas of the hurricane system separated by individual environmental reports. Chris, I will turn this over to you.



Chris Gilmore: My name is Chris Gilmore and I'm the senior project manager for the Hurricane Protection Office for St. Bernard Parish. We have three IERs in St. Bernard Parish: IER 8, IER 9 and IER 10. IER 8 covers the Bayou Dupre Floodgate. IER 9 covers LPV 149, which is the Caernarvon Floodwall. IER 10 covers everything else from Bayou Bienvenue to the Bayou Dupre stretch of levee. The Bayou Dupre to Highway 46 stretch of levee is LPV 147 and the Verret to Caernarvon stretch is LPV 148.02.

LPV 144 - Bayou Dupre Floodgate Individual Environmental Report 8 Under Construction



For LPV 144, we are rebuilding the Bayou Dupre Floodgate. The existing floodgate is at elevation 15.5. The new floodgate is going to be at elevation 32, so we are essentially doubling the height of that floodgate itself. This is a conceptual view of the project. We are currently under construction. Bayou Dupre is now closed to marine traffic and will be closed until next summer. Construction is due to be completed on that new floodgate before June 1, 2011.



Public Meeting Summary

Bayou Dupre Floodgate
Individual Environmental Report 8
Impacts – Current Working Estimate

Habitat Type	Quantity (acres)	Quality (AAHUs*)
Bottomland Hardwood Wet	0	0
Bottomland Hardwood Dry	0	0
Swamp	0	0
Marshlands	0	0
Total	0	0

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

9 BUILDING STRONG

Because it's replacing an existing feature, we have no mitigation impacts for the Bayou Dupre Floodgate project.

LPV 149 - Caernarvon Floodwall
Individual Environmental Report 9
Contract Award – June 2010



10 BUILDING STRONG

LPV 149 is the Caernarvon Floodwall. This project features a T-wall with a sector gate in the Caernarvon Canal that continues on with the T-wall tying into the Mississippi River Levee. We will have a floodgate at Highway 39, a floodgate at the railroad and we will be constructing an emergency access road over the Mississippi Levee for when those two gates are closed. This is the last contract we have in St. Bernard Parish that has not been awarded yet. It has been advertised and we are looking to have this contract awarded late this month or early June.

LPV 149 - Caernarvon Floodwall
Individual Environmental Report 9
Contract Award – June 2010



11 BUILDING STRONG

This shows you where the new sector gate is going to go.

Caernarvon Floodwall
Individual Environmental Report 9
Impacts – Current Working Estimate

Habitat Type	Quantity (acres)	Quality (AAHUs*)
Bottomland Hardwood Wet	1.16	.66
Bottomland Hardwood Dry	10	4.65
Swamp	0	0
Marshlands	1.9	1.2
Total	13.06	6.51

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

12 BUILDING STRONG

For the Caernarvon Floodwall project we are going to cross some virgin property so we are going to impact some of the various habitat types for a total of a little over 13 acres of area impacted. This equates to about 6.51 AAHU, which is an average annual habitat unit. That's basically a measure of the function and the value of the habitat that we are impacting.



Public Meeting Summary

LPV 145 - Chalmette Loop Levee

Individual Environmental Report 10 - Bayou Bienvenue to Bayou Dupre
Under Construction



This is LPV 145, the Chalmette Loop Levee, and again this project stretches from Bayou Bienvenue to Bayou Dupre. It consists of the construction of a T-wall on top of the existing levee. This contract has been awarded and we are under construction. We actually have a T-wall in place as of Monday. We are pouring concrete and driving steel as we speak.

LPV 145 - Chalmette Loop Levee

Individual Environmental Report 10 - Bayou Bienvenue to Bayou Dupre
Under Construction



These are some construction photos of LPV 145. This image is looking south toward Bayou Dupre. We have a sheet pile cutoff wall that extends about 30 feet down, and H-piles on either side that are about 115 to 125 feet long.

LPV 145 - Chalmette Loop Levee

Individual Environmental Report 10 - Bayou Bienvenue to Bayou Dupre
Under Construction



This is what the T-wall is going to look like. The man in the foreground of the photo is a little over six feet tall so you can see the T-wall is pretty substantial in height, and that is on top of a 20 foot levee.

LPV 145 - Chalmette Loop Levee

Individual Environmental Report 10 - Bayou Bienvenue to Bayou Dupre
Under Construction



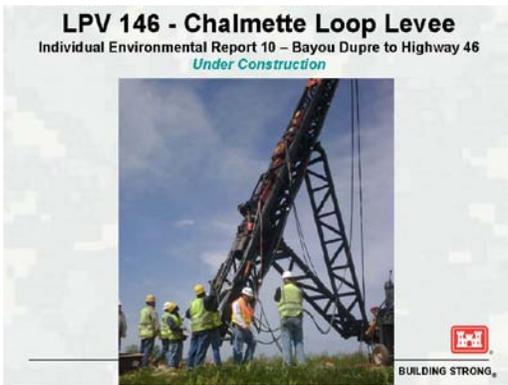
Again, these are just some construction photos.



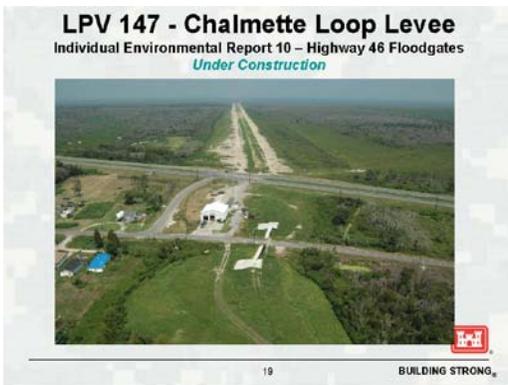
Public Meeting Summary



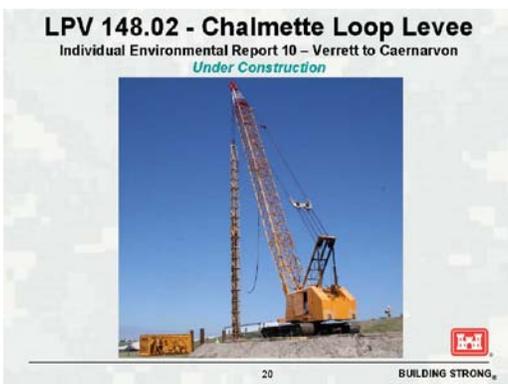
LVP 146 stretches from Bayou Dupre to Highway 46. This is the same alternative. We are constructing a T-wall on top of an existing levee. We are currently under construction, driving steel H-piles and sheet piles. This is a construction photo showing a steel H-pile being driven into the ground. This reach does not have a T-wall in place yet, but they are very close to forming one and pouring concrete.



This is another construction photo showing H-piles being driven in the Chalmette Loop Levee project.



This is LPV 147, a short little reach right around Highway 46, right across from the Verret Fire Station. This project consists of construction floodgates across Highway 46. A feature of the LPV 146 project that would actually impact LPV 147 is the construction of an emergency access gate. During an evacuation or storm event the floodgates in that area will close. However, the people in lower St. Bernard Parish will still be able to evacuate and get out of lower St. Bernard into the protection system. The project has been awarded. The current schedule projects construction complete in February 2011.



LPV 148.02 is the Verrett to Caernarvon reach. This contract has been awarded. The contractor will be mobilizing to the project site very soon. He will be constructing access roads and setting up his office trailers. He has placed his first order of steel, H-piles, and sheet piles to be delivered very soon. This is a picture of a pile test that is currently ongoing.



US Army Corps
of Engineers
New Orleans

Public Meeting Summary

Chalmette Loop Levee
Individual Environmental Report 10
Impacts – Current Working Estimate

Habitat Type	Quantity (acres)	Quality (AAHUs*)
Bottomland Hardwood Wet	74	31.66
Bottomland Hardwood Dry	0	0
Swamp	0	0
Marshlands	430	267.25
Total	504	298.91

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

21 BUILDING STRONG

For the three reaches that make up the Chalmette Loop Levee, we have a total impact area of 504 acres, broken down here by habitat types.

Inner Harbor Navigation Canal – Lake Borgne
Individual Environmental Report 11

22 BUILDING STRONG

Another project we have that ties into St. Bernard Parish and New Orleans East is the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal Surge Barrier (also called the Lake Borgne Barrier). These are some construction photos showing the construction.

Inner Harbor Navigation Canal – Lake Borgne
Individual Environmental Report 11

23 BUILDING STRONG

This is a good picture showing the surge barrier tying in the LPV 145 reach in St. Bernard Parish and the LPV 111 reach in New Orleans East. The project is well under construction. It's actually almost complete.

Inner Harbor Navigation Canal
Individual Environmental Report 11
Impacts – Current Working Estimate

Habitat Type	Quantity (acres)	Quality (AAHUs*)
Bottomland Hardwood Wet	15	2.59
Bottomland Hardwood Dry	0	0
Swamp	0	0
Marshlands	122	24.33
Total	137	26.92

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

24 BUILDING STRONG

Again, these are the habitat types we've impacted with the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal project. A total of 137 acres will be mitigated for.

The following notes were recorded by USACE contractors. These notes are intended to provide an overview of the presentations and public questions and comments, and are not intended to provide a complete or verbatim account of the meeting. This account is not intended to be a legal document.



Public Meeting Summary

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



25

BUILDING STRONG

There are several components of the mitigation process. We want to try to avoid any impacts on natural resources, and if we can't avoid, we want to minimize any impact to the natural environment. If we have to impact a natural environment, we want to compensate for anything that we can't avoid. We will put together mitigation plans in our IERs and we have discussed proposed mitigation in all our IERs, especially 8, 9 and 10 for St. Bernard Parish and all the others throughout the system. Mitigation is a funded feature, so we do have the funds to do this work.

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



26

BUILDING STRONG

Generally, mitigation would occur as close to the impact area as possible. If we impact St. Bernard Parish we would like to do the mitigation close to St. Bernard, if not in St. Bernard, if we can. We want to stay within the same hydrologic basin, which is the Lake Pontchartrain Basin for us. And we attempt to mitigate within the same habitat type, replacing the quantity and quality of the impacted areas. Ideally, this would all happen before or concurrent with impacts.

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 #2 under construction
Containment dikes at left, new levee at right.
(View to the right)



27

BUILDING STRONG

We have a couple of examples of mitigation projects. This is one in Terrebonne Parish, a non-federal levee. In 2009, we constructed 6.5 miles of levees. To mitigate our impacts, we are creating marsh land and we have purchased credits in a bottomland hardwood bank.

Example of Project Impacts

IHNC Surge Barrier

- Construction began May 2009
- Types of impacts:
 - Direct
 - Indirect
 - Cumulative



28

BUILDING STRONG

There are three main types of impacts for which we must mitigate: direct, indirect and cumulative. As an example, the direct impacts for the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal Surge Barrier project would be dredging a channel through the marsh to build the wall pictured here. Indirect impacts for this project are the marine traffic going through this canal that we've dredged. Wave wash is widening that channel so we are going to mitigate that as well. Then there are the cumulative impacts of the system as a whole and all that will be mitigated for.



Public Meeting Summary

Affected Habitats

Bottomland Hardwoods Salt Marsh Brackish Marsh

Swamp Intermediate Marsh Fresh Marsh

29 BUILDING STRONG_®

Here are the different types of affected habitats. We have bottomland hardwood, brackish marsh, salt marsh, swamp, intermediate marsh, and fresh marsh. Every project is not going to impact all six types; these are just the possible areas for mitigation.

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
Total	1829.69	869.29

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

30 BUILDING STRONG_®

Here are the total Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity impacts, which total to about 1,800 acres.

Total WBV Impacts

West Bank & Vicinity Projects
Original Construction and HSDRRS – Current Working Estimate

Habitat Type	Quantity (acres)	Quality (AAHUs*)
Bottomland Hardwood Wet	1887.70	1067.55
Bottomland Hardwood Dry	29.90	10.62
Swamp	204.65	124.88
Marshlands	137.80	66.30
Total	2260.05	1269.35

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

31 BUILDING STRONG_®

One thing we also want to mention for the Westbank and Vicinity projects - We are mitigating the entire system, not just St. Bernard or Lake Pontchartrain, but the whole risk reduction system. For the Westbank we have a total of about 2,200 acres that will be mitigated.

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

32 BUILDING STRONG_®

We are starting our public meetings now and I believe we have another one Monday in New Orleans East. Initial screening of the measures is projected for this summer and the final screening of the measures will be in the spring of 2011. Then we will identify the proposed mitigation plan next summer and release the individual environmental reports in the spring of 2012. At that point we will get the IER signed. In the fall of 2012 we will work to design the mitigation projects. Construction will be in the fall of 2013.



Public Meeting Summary

Opportunities for Public Input

- Regular public meetings throughout the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSRRS) 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

There are plenty of opportunities for public input. We have regular meetings throughout the hurricane system and will continue to have them. Make sure you sign in tonight so you can join the mailing list. We also have a construction impact hotline: 1-877-427-0345. Our goal is to respond within a 24-hour period. Our website can be accessed at www.nolaenvironmental.gov. There is an "Ask the Corps" number: 504-862-2201, and an email: askthecorps@usace.army.mil that you can use to get information as well.

Resources

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

01 BUILDING STRONG

If you want some additional information again there's www.nolaenvironmental.gov and then the Corps of Engineers New Orleans District website is listed here: www.mvn.usace.army.mil.

Social Web Networking Communities
and what they mean to you

twitter is an online messaging and social networking system that allows people to share their daily life experiences minute-by-minute. Hour-by-hour, and/or day-by-day via their computer or mobile phones. Team New Orleans is joining in and taking on the opportunity to tweet with the public and offer reports on developments, additions, changes, and upcoming public meetings and events that will affect local communities. Check it out by going to twitter.com/teamneworleans.

Flickr is an online community platform for global photo management and sharing applications via the web. Team New Orleans has become a part of the movement and is using Flickr to visually explain our projects. Check out our photos at www.flickr.com/photos/37671998@N05.

facebook is a global social networking Web site that links people from across the world and is currently ranked as the most popular of its kind. Team New Orleans is following in the trend and is using Facebook to update the public about projects, events, activities and public meetings. Become friends with Team New Orleans by visiting www.facebook.com, search New Orleans District.

We are also on the various social networking sites. There's Twitter, Flickr and Facebook. St. Bernard Parish has its own Facebook site and they have quite a few construction photos.

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>

02 BUILDING STRONG

These are the direct links to our various social networking sites.



Public Meeting Summary

Upcoming Mitigation Meetings

- Monday May 24 6:00 pm – Resurrection of Our Lord Elementary, NOLA
- Wednesday May 26 6:00 pm – American Legion Post 366, St. Rose



37

BUILDING STRONG[®]

We have upcoming public meetings on Monday at 6 PM and Wednesday, May 26th at the American Legion in 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?



38

BUILDING STRONG[®]

Ken Holder: We are going to ask you today to please share your feedback with us and how best we should mitigate for the impacts that Chris talked about. At the back of the room we have a couple of stations set up and we ask you to please go and visit them and talk with the environmental managers. So please talk with our environmental managers and feel free to share anything that would help us serve you. As you are going through the areas you might consider where we could restore and create habitats, where there are large tracks of undeveloped land, which critical natural methods should be preserved and is one mitigation method preferable to another.

Feedback Session

Please visit the stations at the back of the room to ask questions about the presentation and share ideas about how the Corps should mitigate.

Thank you!



39

BUILDING STRONG[®]

Thank you very much.