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2 US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
3
4 WEST BANK AND VICINITY (WBV) HURRICANE AND STORM DAMAGE
5 RISK REDUCTION SYSTEM (HSDRRS) MITIGATION
6 JEFFERSON, LAFOURCHE, PLAQUEMINES AND
7 ST. CHARLES PARISHES, LOUISIANA
8 PROGRAMMATIC INDIVIDUAL ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT #37
9 (PIER #37)

10 HELD

11 WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2014

12 6:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.

13 AT

14 MATHEWS GOVERNMENT COMPLEX

15 4876 HIGHWAY 1

16 MATTHEWS, LOUISIANA 70375
17
18

19
20
21 REPORTED BY: DIANE W. MATHEWS

22 CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER
23
24
25

(WELCOMING STATEMENT)

MR. HOLDER:

Good evening, there are additional places to sit outside and there is an area in the room adjacent to this where you will be able to view the presentation and listen to the comments.

Our project manager is here, Soheila Holley, in the white shirt with the red Corps emblem in case you have a comment that you would like to make or ask a question.

We are going to do a presentation and we have a court reporter who is present and will take down any additional comments, or if you do not feel comfortable addressing the audience, you can fill out a comment card. Additionally, if you have any questions that you would like to ask about the project we will stick around to answer questions after the session.

I just wanted to welcome everyone for coming tonight and to let you know that you have about 20 minutes before we get started. If there is anything that you want to do, this is a great time to ask questions before you come in because I'm sure that if you have some questions about what we need to do, we will be happy to assist you.

Thanks again to everybody for coming.

1 (Informal discussions)

2 MR. HOLDER:

3 President Randolph, would you like to address
4 the audience before we get started with the
5 presentation?

6 MS. RANDOLPH:

7 Good evening, I'm Charlotte Randolph, I'm
8 the Parish President.

9 We're attempting at this point to allow
10 landowners in here first and I know that a lot of you
11 have a support person with you this evening meaning
12 landowner, husband and wife and family.

13 What we are attempting to do is show the
14 presentation here in this room that is already full,
15 however we are working on another area where you can see
16 the video and hear the audio as well. There is a fire
17 capacity of the number of people for this room and we
18 are probably exceeding it now, not by much, but we just
19 cannot allow any other people in here. That is why
20 we're working on getting other areas so everyone will
21 have an opportunity to hear. That clock is also a
22 little fast, so they will be getting started in a few
23 minutes so everyone who is in the room, please have a
24 seat.

25 (PUBLIC HEARING COMMENCED AT 6:30 PM)

1 MR. HOLDER:

2 Good evening, Ladies and Gentlemen, thank
3 you for attending this public meeting tonight.

4 Again, we will be getting started in a few
5 minutes, but in the meantime we're trying to find
6 alternative ways to get everybody who wants to be heard
7 in the main room.

8 We will start by introducing the city
9 leadership followed by congressional delegations and
10 state representatives and councilmembers as well.

11 The presentation is two parts, so I can
12 give you a rough idea where we are at with this project
13 and we're going to have comments immediately following.
14 The only thing is that tonight the comments will be on
15 Pier 37, you can comment on whatever you want, we will
16 take those comments and I don't mean to discourage that.

17 What we're here to talk about tonight is
18 Pier 37 and how Pier 37 will give the Corps permission
19 to work with mitigation banks. It doesn't give us
20 permission to take anybody's land or anything like that.
21 So I just wanted to make sure that everybody heard me on
22 the record as well.

23 This is about us being able to tell you
24 what we are planning to do with the project. It's also
25 very important at this point for me to tell you that

1 everything that we have is open to comments and we want
2 to get those comments. We have had over 500 meetings
3 with the general public since we started with the
4 hurricane and storm damage risk reduction system. With
5 those 500 meetings we have taken public comments and I
6 will tell you that on many occasions the comments that
7 came in were adapted into the system and used because
8 the folks that are closer to the project know a lot of
9 times better than we do about what everything is like in
10 that area. So I will tell you that your comments
11 tonight are really, really important.

12 Another thing that I want to tell you that
13 is really, really important for you to remember is that
14 we will not be answering project questions during the
15 public meeting, we will be taking comments. Tonight
16 what I need you to do when you're making your comments,
17 we have a video recording and we have a court reporter.
18 The most important thing that I can ask you is to make
19 your comments. The questions we will answer immediately
20 following by sticking around and doing that, but we need
21 your comments.

22 And again, Pier 37 doesn't allow us to take
23 anyone's land. All Pier 37 does is allow us to buy
24 mitigation bank credits. With that, I would like to
25 introduce the Deputy Commander Lieutenant Colonel

1 Handura and he will come up and give you just a little
2 background about why we're here.

3 DEPUTY COMMANDER HANDURA:

4 Thank you all and I'm the Deputy Commander
5 for the New Orleans District and I'm here on behalf of
6 Colonel Richard Hanson.

7 As Ken Holder said, we're here to hear your
8 comments tonight, that is the whole reason we're here
9 and I'm here because Col. Hanson is the ultimate
10 decision authority or decision maker on the mitigation
11 and the plans.

12 What we're going to do is to take comments
13 and make it to where an impartial decision as the
14 approval authority, so that is why I'm here. I'm the
15 Deputy Commander and like Kenneth said, we will stick
16 around afterwards and you will have an opportunity to
17 talk with us if you have any questions.

18 The key thing tonight is that no decision
19 has been made as to any particular mitigation. No
20 decision has been made, we are here to get your comments
21 and give us an opportunity to hear what your comments
22 are tonight.

23 MR. HOLDER:

24 President Randolph, would you like to make
25 any comments?

1 MS. RANDOLPH:

2 Why don't you do your presentation first and
3 then we'll work from there.

4 MR. HOLDER:

5 Okay, if I could, there are some folks here
6 who work with the congressional delegation tonight and
7 if I could start with Zach, so if you would introduce
8 yourself. I didn't get a chance to see everybody who is
9 back there but if you are here representing a
10 congressman, just tell us who you are representing and
11 tell us who you are.

12 Zach.

13 MR. MONROE:

14 Zach Monroe, the Southeast Regional
15 Representative for Senator Landrieu.

16 MR. JEWELL:

17 Matthew Jewell, the Bayou Field
18 Representative for Congressman Steve Scalise.

19 MR. CAVELL:

20 David Cavell with the U.S. Congressman Bill
21 Cassidy in the Thibodaux Regional Office.

22 MR. DOSS:

23 David Doss, I'm Senator David Vitter's
24 State Director.

25 MR. HOLDER:

1 Any other parish folk or councilmembers
2 that would like to identify the parish they represent,
3 or councilmember?

4 MR. RICHARD:

5 Dee Richard, I'm a State Representative and
6 Parish Representative of Thibodaux.

7 MR. GISCLAIR:

8 Jerry "Truck" Gisclair, District 54,
9 Central and Southeast State Representative.

10 MR. TOUPS:

11 Lindel Toups, Councilman, District 6,
12 Lafourche Parish.

13 MR. HOLDER:

14 Okay, folks, thank you very much. We will
15 start out tonight with the presentation and the
16 environmental manager for the project, Elizabeth
17 Behrens.

18 MS. BEHRENS:

19 Hi.

20 MR. HOLDER:

21 So this is the part where we talk about the
22 way the Corps must protect the environment and there are
23 several things that we do when we talk about how we are
24 going to reduce risks for a hurricane. There are a
25 number of things that go into it. Most importantly,

1 probably is the thing that goes into it is a good
2 evacuation plan, as we all know. All of those of you
3 that live in the area know that you have to have a good
4 evacuation plan. The other things that go into more
5 resilience of having reasonable verbal alternative
6 actions and ordinances for building and the way we use
7 land.

8 As you can see by the next slide
9 (indicating) and the reason that we're here tonight, the
10 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). You can read
11 all of those things up there, or I can just paraphrase
12 it for you because it's a lot. The most important, the
13 reason that we're doing this is because it's the law and
14 so we're here tonight to listen to what you have to say,
15 we are interested in your comments. Our intent is to
16 comply with the law, that's one reason for the meeting.
17 but the real reason is that we really want to hear to
18 what you have to say.

19 With that, Lizzie.

20 MS. BEHRENS:

21 And so what is involved in designing the
22 Hurricane and Storm Damage and Risk Reduction System
23 (HSDRRS). The Corps made a concerted effort to avoid
24 and minimize environmental impacts to the maximum extent
25 practicable. Through advanced engineering design the

1 Corps was able to reduce its anticipated impact from
2 around 5,000 acres to about 2,300 acres, half of which,
3 about half of which are on the West Bank.

4 As Ken mentioned, we're here tonight to
5 hear from you in implementing our plans and to mitigate
6 plans on a minimal impact as has been presented in Pier
7 37 and which many of you have already looked at.

8 So for the West Bank and Vicinity of this
9 work we impacted four different habitat types:
10 Bottomland Hardwood Wet and Dry, which are deciduous
11 hardwood forests generally found in lowland flood plains
12 adjacent to large rivers and lakes. Swamp, consisting
13 of floating spans of cypress and different species of
14 gum. And Fresh Marsh found in areas of little to no
15 salinity.

16 The areas looked at were impacted on both
17 the protected side and the flood side of the levees but
18 only on the flood side of the levees for swamp and
19 marsh.

20 So during our planning process the Corps
21 came to our nonfederal sponsor, a number of
22 nongovernmental organizations and other federal, state
23 and local agencies for professional ideas to mitigate
24 for these impacts. Our initial guidelines were that
25 these projects had to mitigate in kind for the same type

1 that project was impacted and also the project needed to
2 be in the same marsh that is where the impact occurred.
3 Often what we concerned with were Corps constructed
4 projects on private land and public land as well as
5 mitigation land. In total we received over 400
6 different projects. We took all of these projects and
7 ran them through some multiple screening criteria to
8 arrive at a tentatively selected plan. So the Corps in
9 coordination with a resource agency developed some
10 initial screening criteria and encouraged large
11 mitigation projects by grouping our impact into projects
12 mitigated on large contiguous tracts of manageable land
13 instead of looking for multiple projects throughout the
14 basin. That way we maximize our ecological outlook for
15 the project and also have cost efficiency for the
16 projects. The projects that remained after the initial
17 screening were then taken to the 35 level design for the
18 next level of evaluation.

19 So the next step of our selection process
20 was to compare the remaining projects to one another
21 bypass test sites based on some performance criteria.
22 Now these criteria were the same as we used for all of
23 the district projects, just modified to some degree for
24 mitigation. We looked at our liabilities; we looked at
25 the long run sustainability of the project based upon

1 how much of the project was left at the end of 50 years.
2 We also looked at were there any potential problems with
3 implementation. Were we sure of the ecological success
4 of these projects. We also looked at the environmental
5 impact from implementing these projects. We looked at
6 water and ecological site consideration, which is
7 basically does the project provide the linkages between
8 other habitat sites. Is it contiguous with another
9 resource managed area. Is it consistent with other
10 water system plans should it occur in the parish where
11 the impact occurred. We also looked at time and cost
12 during this comparison. So this is the result of that
13 screening and tentatively selected mitigation plan
14 alternative.

15 The properties that are in for the
16 Bottomland Hardwood Wet and for the Fresh Marsh impact
17 to the Jean Lafitte National Historic property and the
18 NEPA for the designated area with private funding with
19 each. For our Bottomland Hardwood Wet and Bottomland
20 Hardwood Dry impact only, the protected side of the
21 levee, we're going to a mitigation bank. So the
22 Bottomland Hardwood Wet, until they pass on the flood
23 plan on the levee through or Lake Boeuf. For the Fresh
24 Marsh flood site impact, we will be dealing with other
25 projects on Jean Lafitte.

1 So these (indicating) are the acres of
2 mitigation that are being completed at each of the
3 sites. Over half of our mitigation projects are being
4 done on public land and not on mitigation land.

5 These (indicating) are the projects that
6 are by Lake Boeuf, at that tentative site. The one that
7 is outlined in yellow is not part of the tentatively
8 selected plan but is a project that we might utilize if
9 we are unable to buy mitigation bank credits due to
10 there not being enough credits available at the time or
11 them being too costly. We believe that this is a likely
12 scenario based on current availability in the mitigation
13 bank, there is plenty of bank credits available and we
14 think that we would get a reasonable price.

15 **MALE SPEAKER:**

16 Would you repeat that?

17 **MS. BEHRENS:**

18 About the mitigation bank?

19 **MALE SPEAKER:**

20 About the yellow area.

21 **MS. BEHRENS:**

22 Okay. The yellow area is like a backup
23 project, so it is not currently a selected mitigation
24 plan. We have a mitigation bank for certain portions of
25 our impact. The backup project, if we are unable to do

1 that one (demonstrating) would be the yellow area, but
2 we really think that that is unlikely. Now according to
3 bank credits, Paradis area has a huge amount of credits
4 and we have gotten prices that are really quite
5 reasonable.

6 MALE SPEAKER:

7 Okay, thank you.

8 MS. BEHRENS:

9 So what is involved with the construction
10 of these projects is basically lowering the elevation of
11 the existing ground to an elevation that is able to
12 conform with the habitat that we have to mitigate to
13 provide for that hardwood conformance. For that
14 hardwood, you are looking at an elevation between two
15 and 2.5, for form you are looking at an elevation of 1.1
16 and 1.8. So any material that is generated off of this
17 lower elevation will be removed from the site and we
18 would go in and plant bottomland hardwoods.

19 We will also maintain land access, adding
20 any roads that are necessary for landowners to get to
21 their property. We will also have to add access to
22 areas that are necessary for our monitoring of this
23 process.

24 Many of you have already seen Programmatic
25 Individual Environmental Report #37 that has been out to

1 public review recently. Please remember that the
2 Programmatic Report #37 presents the whole plan for
3 mitigating all of the southeast areas in that but it
4 only recommends the portion of the plan that is
5 mitigated through the mitigation bank at this time.
6 Most construction level alternative designs are complete
7 but for the other alternative plan we will put out
8 another environmental document, a tailored IER for
9 public review.

10 That is part of the reason that it so
11 important for you all to be here right now because you
12 can give us your comments before we start working on
13 that document.

14 So this is the summary of the tasks that is
15 necessary to get to construction on the other projects
16 in the tentatively selected plans. The information, as
17 Ken has mentioned to, this document clears us to buy
18 mediation bank credits which would probably occur in the
19 fall of this year.

20 FEMALE SPEAKER:

21 We don't want it.

22 SPEAKER:

23 Why don't you go somewhere else?

24 MR. HOLDER:

25 Please wait until we finish and then we

1 will take any comments that you would like to make.
2 We are almost there.

3 So for those of you that I had received
4 some comments that there is an issue with a lot of you
5 folks in that they didn't hear anything as far as about
6 this project being built. I hope that everybody has
7 signed in, I would encourage you to. You can also go to
8 our Facebook and twitter, and other internet sites that
9 have pictures or other items on them. But the most
10 important thing is to go to the Facebook site because we
11 post everything that we're going to do on there and some
12 of the other things you may have questions or comments
13 about. So if you have access to the internet, this will
14 be really, really helpful.

15 At this time we're going to the feedback
16 session.

17 President Randolph.

18 MS. RANDOLPH:

19 Yes, thank you, Ken.

20 I think that the first thing that we needed
21 to hear is to interpret what she just said. And what
22 she said is that the first act that they are going to do
23 is look at buying mitigation credits for mitigation
24 banks. That doesn't involve any of your land. That is
25 as simple as I can put it, okay? The first step that

1 they are considering has nothing to do with your land.

2 I know Corps language, we've been around a
3 while, okay? And with all of the acronyms that have
4 been thrown around, that is the easiest thing to
5 understand.

6 The exploration she is talking about is
7 Plan B. If it does not work out that they can pay for
8 this mitigation, the damage that they caused from the
9 projects that they did, then they would go to Plan B and
10 Plan B is a whole other process. All right?

11 So the concern that we all had about, for
12 lack of understanding of this, was pretty relieved by
13 what she just explained to us. In that it is going to
14 be part of the larger picture that they're considering,
15 but it's not the first part of it. Is that accurate?

16 MS. BEHRENS:

17 The first part of it is buying the
18 mitigation bank credits.

19 MS. RANDOLPH:

20 We have to buy mitigation credits if we buy
21 a pump station and mess up a little bit of the wetlands
22 around it. Okay? If it's one-sixth of an acre, and
23 Lindel, you've had a fit because the stuff costs \$40,000
24 an acre to buy. But that is what the Corps is looking
25 at occurring elsewhere, in bank, that has ready been

1 established and again have nothing to do with your land.

2 I don't understand a universe where a
3 government could come in and build 14 billion dollars
4 worth of projects in another area and then come to this
5 area which doesn't benefit from that hurricane
6 protection system and take land.

7 That makes no sense and we're not going to
8 stand for that, okay?

9 (AUDIENCE APPLAUSE.)

10 But the good news is what was just
11 explained to you is that, and I know you are going to
12 have questions and maybe I can stand on the side of Ken
13 and interpret for you because the Corps does have a
14 tendency to talk in acronyms and in a different
15 language, I'm sorry. But I wanted you to know that what
16 they just said is the best news we could have heard.
17 And I don't mean to take over your meeting.

18 FEMALE SPEAKER:

19 Excuse me, but what you heard and what I
20 heard may be a little different. I heard her say that
21 the mitigation bank would be for one part and they are
22 not coming for the land, but the word is that they are
23 coming back for our land and that had nothing to do with
24 the mitigation bank.

25 MR. HOLDER:

1 I think Lizzie is going to go through that
2 again for Lake Boeuf again in a moment.

3 But remember, folks, what we are going to
4 try to do, what I would rather do is just let her answer
5 that but after that, that's it, then you can make your
6 comments. We want to keep it at making comments for
7 this public hearing. We will answer questions at the
8 end of the session; we're staying late after the meeting
9 to meet with anyone who has questions. So as many
10 questions that you want to ask, please stay and ask
11 after the public comments.

12 But let's get this down, because I think
13 this is the heart of the questions by most of the people
14 who are here.

15 MS. BEHRENS:

16 Okay. So when I was talking about the
17 backup project for the mitigation bank, that's the area
18 outlined in yellow. The areas outlined in blue and
19 brown are projects that are proposed projects but they
20 are not being recommended for construction at this time.

21 The only one being recommended to build at
22 this time is buying mitigation bank credits; the yellow
23 would be the backup if you couldn't, okay? So the
24 others in the blue and the brown are projects that we
25 would move forward with; but like I said, where the

1 Corps is at right now is for the Corps to buy mitigation
2 bank credit.

3 We are here to get your comments; because
4 it has not been set in stone, there has been no
5 decision. What you guys tell us is going to be sent to
6 the Commander and so it becomes part of the process of
7 determining what we are going to do. So it's not set in
8 stone but it is proposed if it's blue and brown.

9 MR. HOLDER:

10 Okay, folks, before we go any further, if
11 there is anyone who needs to move because they can't
12 hear or can't see, we set up another room there is a
13 room with a television screen over there.

14 Maybe we can clarify, where is the timeline
15 chart?

16 MS. BEHRENS:

17 It's up there now.

18 MR. HOLDER:

19 Okay, look at this chart, nowhere on this
20 chart is there any indication about doing anything with
21 anybody's private land. That (demonstrating) is how far
22 away we would be before even exploring that as a
23 possibility. Also there are other possible
24 opportunities and we can talk about that as well.

25 Sir, you have a question there in the back?

1 MR. FORET:

2 Yes, can you put it back up there on the
3 map?

4 MR. HOLDER:

5 Yes, sir, I will.

6 I want to stress again that we're not going
7 to do a question and answer session in open forum, but
8 we will answer any questions after the session. At this
9 time we will go ahead and hear what you have to say.

10 MR. FORET:

11 In the blue outlined area, that's what? Is
12 it basically that you all already approved the
13 mitigation bank for that and you have 115 different
14 landowners there, so have they all agreed for mitigation
15 there.

16 MR. HOLDER:

17 Ms. Behrens will explain it.

18 MS. BEHRENS:

19 No, that's not what -

20 MR. FORET:

21 So basically you all have approved the
22 mitigation bank before anybody, any of the landowners
23 agreed to it?

24 MS. BEHRENS:

25 When I say we are going to a mitigation

1 bank, those are mitigation banks that have been approved
2 from the regulatory program, they are everywhere.

3 MR. FORET:

4 I understand.

5 MS. BEHRENS:

6 We are not making a mitigation bank.

7 MR. FORET:

8 You approved that.

9 MS. BEHRENS:

10 Listen, wait, let me finish. This is a
11 mitigation bank that is already established. We are not
12 going to make a bank and sell credits to people and
13 stuff like that.

14 This is a mitigation project, just as if it
15 was an ecosystem restoration project. We would buy the
16 land at a fee; we would restore the habitat and then
17 give it to the state to manage. It's not run like a
18 mitigation bank, it is a restoration project.

19 MR. FORET:

20 But if it's already been approved without
21 landowners approval.

22 MS. BEHRENS:

23 No, no.

24 MR. FORET:

25 That is what you just said, that it is an

1 approved plan.

2 MR. HOLDER:

3 No.

4 MS. BEHRENS:

5 It's part of the overall plan right now,
6 but it's not recommended for construction, there is no
7 action on it. We are telling everybody, this is our
8 plan; this is what we think we are going to do. Tell us
9 what you think, that is why we're here right now.

10 MR. FORET:

11 How did you choose this area?

12 MR. HOLDER:

13 There are four things.

14 MS. BEHRENS:

15 This is the list.

16 MR. HOLDER:

17 This one (demonstrating) tells you why we
18 did what we did. It has the match; it has the in basin
19 and the in kind for us to be able to do it. So that is
20 what it was, it was in basin and in kind so we looked
21 for areas that matched these four criteria.

22 Again folks, I don't want to do this
23 tonight. We are not going to do questions all night
24 long, we are here for comments. If you have questions
25 we are going to stay here after the comment session and

1 answer them. So let's get the comments out of the way
2 so then we can get those going and then we will stay
3 behind and answer the questions. So comments please,
4 not questions, thank you.

5 MR. BLOCK:

6 My name is Jerald Block and I'm from
7 Thibodaux and I don't have any property in this area.

8 But if you go back to that map, would you
9 mind going back to that map?

10 MR. HOLDER:

11 Okay.

12 MR. BLOCK:

13 Okay. You wanted comments but I just
14 wonder of all of the people in this room, who are in
15 favor of any of this planned project here. Whether it's
16 either the yellow, the blue or the brown?

17 (NO RESPONSE.)

18 Who is in favor?

19 Nobody.

20 Who is against it?

21 (AUDIENCE APPLAUSE.)

22 Everybody is against it. Okay.

23 So all of these folks, many of whom called
24 me today to talk about this; all of these folks don't
25 want their property taken. Now you can say we're not

1 doing that, but the concern would be that if we don't
2 object to it, if the people don't object to it, then
3 what is going to happen is that this is going to become
4 a reality. And they don't want that to happen.

5 So in terms of comments, you want comments?
6 All of the people in this room, all of whom showed up
7 today are against any use of their property. We
8 understand that, I understand that mitigation banks are
9 a different animal, okay? Mitigation banks are
10 different in that you can buy mitigation credit
11 somewhere and you are going to try to mitigate property
12 for the protection levees. But the concern is right
13 now, the blue area, the brown area, and the potential
14 for the yellow area is what everybody is against.

15 That's very clear, none of these people
16 showed up because they are sitting there and saying,
17 well look, we want to sell our property or we want to
18 have the Corps use our property.

19 MR. HOLDER:

20 The Corps is not using their property at
21 this point, sir; I just want to clarify that.

22 MR. BLOCK:

23 No, I didn't miss anything. I didn't miss
24 the point that they are not using the property.

25 MR. HOLDER:

1 Wait -

2 MR. BLOCK:

3 No, no, I didn't miss anything. The point
4 is in the development of this, what you guys want is you
5 want comments to be made.

6 MR. HOLDER:

7 It's not up -

8 MR. BLOCK:

9 - Excuse me. You want comments to be made
10 so that you will know what the general lay of the land
11 is, what people feel about this.

12 MR. HOLDER:

13 Okay.

14 MR. BLOCK:

15 They are against any moving forward of
16 this project with the potential of losing their home and
17 that is what they are against.

18 MS. LUFT:

19 I would like to come up to the microphone.

20 MR. HOLDER:

21 Sure, anybody that wants to come up to the
22 mike, please come up, absolutely.

23 MS. LUFT:

24 My name is Myra Luft and unlike most of the
25 people here who have land that would be affected by this

1 mitigation process, I live in the middle of what is
2 being proposed as the mitigation area.

3 That (indicating) street right there called
4 Peltier Drive, has been my home for the last 38 years.
5 That area floods, we personally, not the parish, not the
6 city, haul sandbags whenever there's a hurricane
7 approaching or a hard rain, it floods. That area was
8 not swampland; other improvement in other areas caused
9 that particular area to flood. For 15 years that area
10 did not flood, it was high and dry.

11 I did not buy there to live in a peninsula
12 and that's what it looks like to me. My fear, cost of
13 flood insurance when I'm in the middle of a wetland.
14 My fear, losing my house and property when that area
15 floods. My fears are mosquito control, snakes,
16 alligators. I know what swampland is like, I put on my
17 hip-boots and I walk the swamp, I didn't choose to live
18 in a swamp.

19 I respect everybody here about not wanting
20 to lose a portion of your land, but it's not your home.
21 I am concerned about losing my home.

22 Thank you.

23 MR. HOLDER:

24 Ma'am, this lady's hand has been up for a
25 while, we will take you next.

1 MS. VEGA:

2 Hi, I'm Donna Vega and I live just north of
3 Peltier Drive. We lived in Chauvin for 20 years and we
4 weren't even considered in a real flood level, my house
5 leveled at seven and a half feet and I had water in my
6 house for Rita.

7 My son, my daughter, my grandkids, they are
8 extremely close to us so we decided that we was going to
9 buy a tract of land where both of our kids could move
10 behind us. My daughter is in the process of getting
11 prices to build in this area in my back yard. Both of
12 my children live in mobile homes at this time and have
13 future plans on building. My 12 year old grandchild
14 that lives with me, he lost his mother and he lives with
15 us now, already picked out his lot in the middle of that
16 blue area. Yeah, we had a tragedy happen to us, but
17 that was Mother Nature. Now who do we blame, our state
18 for this?

19 This is very unfair. We searched and
20 searched and searched for a piece of property that was
21 in that same flood line, you didn't have to pay flood
22 insurance. That was where we felt protected, we was
23 higher. We may never flood in my lifetime, maybe my
24 kids lifetime, but at least we was going to have a place
25 for me, my kids and my grandkids to all grow up together

1 the way my family did and we could cut up all day long.

2 We wanted to get on higher ground. We paid
3 a higher premium price for that tract of land so that we
4 can live out our future there. I had no plans on
5 moving. If they do this, my kids cannot live in my back
6 yard. And that means that all of us would have to
7 relocate so that we can live together.

8 Who is it that is doing this to us, our
9 state or our federal government, who do you blame this
10 on? This is very unfair. Nobody asked us when we
11 bought and paid a premium price for our property. We
12 paid a higher price per acre. Any other property in
13 Lafourche Parish wasn't that high, but it was a place
14 where the ground was high. You didn't need flood
15 insurance.

16 My kids, my grandkids all have plans. I
17 have been to this Board, to this building many a time
18 dealing with getting the paperwork done for all of our
19 lots to be subdivided. It's already planned. My
20 daughter's lot, my son's lot, even my grandson's lot is
21 going to put under my daughter's name and all of that so
22 that he has a future.

23 Who do we thank?

24 (AUDIENCE APPLAUSE.)

25 MR. HOLDER:

1 I just wanted to real quickly mention that
2 if you don't get a chance to say anything tonight or you
3 don't feel comfortable talking to this group, the email
4 address is mvnenvironmental@usace.army.mil you can make
5 your comments there and that will go on the record as
6 well. Thank you.

7 MS. ZERINGUE:

8 Lisa Zeringue.

9 I'm a landowner but I wanted to touch on
10 another part for this lady in Lafourche Parish. When I
11 was looking at what they are looking at doing, now how
12 are they taking soil from this area and putting it
13 somewhere else? I thought that you weren't supposed to
14 cross soil unless that unit had the exact same soil that
15 unit has that you are taking from. That is my one of my
16 questions.

17 We also looked at where they were talking
18 about what is happening to Lafourche Parish. Urban
19 encroachment is taking away farmland every day of our
20 lives.

21 We started off with six sugarcane mills in
22 Lafourche Parish, we are down to two. Sugar value in
23 Lafourche Parish at \$63 million, what is the value right
24 now for Lafourche Parish?

25 Cattle is \$13 million. And soybean is

1 1.55.

2 We cannot keep losing farmland. The land
3 that we live on is farmland. It was sugarcane. We also
4 had hay on it and now its soybean.

5 When I look at this and she (indicated) is
6 talking about bottomland hardwood and fresh marsh. The
7 land that is around there is Coteau, I have never seen
8 bottomland hardwood grow on that or in Pistolet.

9 If I wanted to have the federal government
10 with my land, I would enroll in WRAP, WRP or GRP, WRP is
11 a Wetland Preserve Program. You can enroll in the
12 program, you retain the ownership of that land or you
13 can have a permanent easement and you get paid for your
14 land, you have the use of your land. And they do not
15 take away the royalties on that property; it stays with
16 your family. It's a 30 year easement or a permanent.
17 Most people go with the 30 year easement. It's the same
18 thing with GRP.

19 I want to let all of the farmers know in
20 this audience that if you any of this land that you are
21 looking at you have a contract on it and that life span
22 is not as its being used, you will be paying back that
23 money plus ten percent to the government.

24 The economic effect for Lafourche Parish
25 for this project, and it doesn't even benefit us, is

1 utterly ridiculous to even think about it.

2 The land that we live on, my mother-in-law
3 is 93 years old and she lives on the land. She was born
4 and raised on the land. My sister-in-law, who is
5 mentally handicapped lives on the land, she is 53 years
6 old. Their income comes from this land. Who is going
7 to pay for the income that they will lose off of this
8 land?

9 All of our land will flood if you come in
10 to where they want because they want, like I'm telling
11 you, is the middle of our property. When your house
12 starts to sink, walls start to crack, what do you do?

13 The road that they were talking about
14 building over by the railroad track, who is going to
15 maintain that road? I don't think that they will. I
16 don't want to maintain it.

17 Every day we listen to President Obama and
18 his wife Michelle tell us about feeding the United
19 States, but here they come up and they want farmland.
20 They are not taking marginal property, they are taking
21 farmland.

22 They talk about exercise. I don't know
23 about the rest of you, but I know that I walk my
24 property and that is where I get my exercise. My
25 children and grandchildren play in the back of the

1 property.

2 If you take the middle of the property,
3 what good is the back of the property for me? The value
4 has dropped, who is going to buy it?

5 I think that everybody should think about
6 this.

7 Thank you.

8 (AUDIENCE APPLAUSE.)

9 MR. HOLDER:

10 Are there any other comments?

11 MR. BOURGEOIS:

12 I would like to speak.

13 MR. HOLDER:

14 Would you like to come forward?

15 MR. BABIN:

16 I'm fine; I think that everybody can hear
17 me here. I talk loud.

18 I think I'm like most of these people in
19 here. I was born and raised in this area; I'm a fourth
20 generation sugarcane farmer. I don't own any of the
21 land, I lease it all. I believe that if the Corps has
22 their way and I'm directing it to you, the Corps of
23 Engineers, do you realize the trickling effect that this
24 is going to have when you take it from the sugarcane
25 farmers? Sugar mills are going to have less to grind.

1 We're not going to need as much diesel fuel, as much
2 fertilizer. Everybody in this room is going to feel it.

3 These people that is here, I'm sure it's
4 been generations that has been on that land. They have
5 families that have lost their lives in wars to save this
6 country to have their families to be free. What is
7 happening to America?

8 You consider this, we want to keep the
9 land, we want to keep farming the land. I am sure that
10 there is other places you can find to do this project.
11 I am not against you doing this project, just find
12 somewhere else that is not as important and not as dear
13 and entrusted to the people in this room. Okay?

14 (AUDIENCE APPLAUSE.)

15 MR. FORET:

16 Thank you.

17 I don't have that gentleman's voice so I am
18 going to use the mike.

19 I don't have property there but I do have
20 property in Raceland that has been affected by some of
21 the previous work of the Corps of Engineers and I guess
22 my question is: Do we really trust what the Corps
23 proposes to do? And can they do what they say they will
24 do?

25 The second comment is, based on the

1 comments that other people made it sounds a little bit
2 like distribution of wealth aka President Obama's plan.

3 Thirdly, if the law that causes this has no
4 paragraphs in it or anything extensive that would allow
5 being in a negative on these mitigation credits to build
6 facilities that will save lives and property, then I
7 urge our elected representatives to go back to
8 Washington and change the law. We have lost all common
9 sense at both the federal and the state and local levels
10 regarding laws.

11 And finally, this is not a question, this
12 is a statement, I have to turn it into a statement.
13 Mother Nature, due to some of the previous Corps work,
14 levees, between Mississippi and other projects have
15 caused this area of South Lafourche to lose hundreds of
16 acres. Many of these acres were once high property
17 areas and now they are flooding. Why can't that acreage
18 be included as the mitigation? It's affecting
19 everybody, what do we do, do we just let it flood?

20 Fly from Houma to Raceland and you will see
21 what I'm talking about, there is water on both sides of
22 Highway 90. You cross the Des Allemands Bridge and you
23 head towards New Orleans. That used to be called
24 Seminole Mounds back when I was a kid, that is all open
25 water. All of this property back was pristine hunting

1 land and habitat. What these people were trying to
2 create was taken away because of the federal
3 government's action or lack of action regarding coastal
4 erosion and subsidence.

5 Thank you.

6 (AUDIENCE APPLAUSE.)

7 MR. BOURGEOIS:

8 Hello, my name is Roger Bourgeois.

9 I grew up here in Raceland and I graduated
10 from Raceland High School and I see many of my
11 classmates in the audience. I live in Houma now.
12 I purchased four acres here in Raceland to build my
13 dream house on. My dream house has been put on hold
14 because I'm not sure at my age and my wife's age that we
15 want to build a plus six in an area that has never been
16 affected by a hurricane.

17 And furthermore, you can take this message
18 back to the federal government. If I can afford to
19 build my house and I don't need flood insurance, I don't
20 think the federal government should be able to tell me a
21 damn thing about how high I need to build my house.
22 That is a personal risk that I should be allowed to
23 take. And I urge our representatives to take that
24 message back to Washington.

25 Thank you.

1 (AUDIENCE APPLAUSE.)

2 MR. HOLDER:

3 One of the things that I forgot to mention
4 before the public meeting concludes. If you have any
5 comments, if you would stop by before you leave and
6 speak to the court reporter and give her your name so
7 that we can identify the speaker.

8 MR. TOUPS:

9 I have a comment.

10 MR. HOLDER:

11 Yes, sir.

12 MR. TOUPS:

13 Lindel Toups, Councilman, District 6.

14 We can hold this meeting until 2:00
15 o'clock, 10:00 o'clock, 12 o'clock and you ain't going
16 to get nobody to agree with you to do what you want to
17 do.

18 Myself, as a Councilman, I am asking you
19 all to back off. I'm going to call a special meeting to
20 the Council and get a Resolution from all of our elected
21 officials and ask all of you all to back off.

22 We can be in this meeting all night. I
23 don't think it will do any good; so far nobody that has
24 talked is for it. Why this area was picked, I don't
25 know. I don't know why you all picked here.

1 MALE SPEAKER:

2 According to what I read in the report it
3 is because of the poverty level.

4 MR. TOUPS:

5 The what?

6 MALE SPEAKER:

7 The report uses the poverty level of the
8 town.

9 MR. TOUPS:

10 And?

11 MALE SPEAKER:

12 The poor people take less money for their
13 land.

14 MR. TOUPS:

15 That is what I mean, we don't. I don't
16 care if we talk here all night, nobody wants it. I'm
17 asking you all as a Councilman to back off and I'm
18 asking the Parish President to call a special meeting
19 and go ahead and send a resolution in. And I'm going to
20 call the representatives to ask them to back us up on
21 that and I'm sure they will

22 Thank you.

23 MR. HOLDEN:

24 Thank you very much.

25 MS. RANDOLPH:

1 Charlotte Randolph.

2 Let me just correct what I said earlier
3 after reviewing a report.

4 MR. HOLDER:

5 Yes, ma'am.

6 MS. RANDOLPH:

7 Because, I'm sorry, Charlotte Randolph.

8 Ms. Zeringue is correct, according to this
9 (indicating) that this will need to be addressed because
10 of the different types of trees and ground and
11 everything else surrounding it. Which, I still cannot
12 make sense of it, but that is okay.

13 Important to note that today at the Coastal
14 Protection Restoration Authority meeting in Baton Rouge
15 they passed a resolution against this action, the State
16 did.

17 In 2010 there was a bill passed concerning
18 the Amite River Diversion project. Our state
19 representatives are here, we've already contacted the
20 author of that bill to ask for information on this and
21 for our state representatives to do this.

22 And finally, during Hurricane Isaac, we
23 talked about sandbags earlier, the area Bayou Boeuf was
24 threatened severely with flooding because of the water
25 that came up and that is the same storm that affected La

1 Place and ports of that water shift. If we would shore
2 up Bayou Boeuf with the coastal protection there rather
3 than taking land away and we could build some land
4 around the areas that were threatened during that last
5 storm which is in the same water shift. Then everyone
6 would benefit from the actions here, not just the people
7 who live in one area and then the cost just to people
8 that live in another area.

9 We are in the epicenter of the coastal
10 erosion; we need to build land, not taking land.

11 (AUDIENCE APPLAUSE.)

12 MR. FIELDS:

13 My name is Brad Fields and I'm an
14 Agricultural Technician for Lafourche Parish.

15 My comment is for the Corps. Next time
16 that you all propose something like this, make sure that
17 you inform the people, the landowners, so that they can
18 explore what you all are asking for, what you all want
19 to do, because these people were not informed. They
20 were not informed and that is very poor on your part and
21 you all need to take that back with you.

22 (AUDIENCE APPLAUSE.)

23 MALE SPEAKER:

24 I just want to clarify something just real
25 quickly about this. The first time when the Corps came

1 out, supposedly the Corps was to come in on our land and
2 look for artifacts and you would save artifacts.

3 When you all mentioned oil somewhere in all
4 of these documents you mentioned some people were in
5 favor of it. People were in favor of wanting to save a
6 few of those artifacts and clay, not doing this project
7 on our land.

8 MR. HOLDER:

9 I understand, thank you.

10 MS. KLINGMAN:

11 Hello everybody. Heather Klingman and I'm
12 a Lafourche resident.

13 My family has property in the area here and
14 I do have several questions but I will just hold those
15 until after.

16 MR. HOLDER:

17 Yes, ma'am, no problem.

18 MS. KLINGMAN:

19 My one comment is that if this project
20 could possibly lead to private property being
21 appropriated for wetland mitigation. I object
22 vehemently and I think I would speak for everyone in
23 this room.

24 So that is my comment.

25 MR. HOLDER:

1 Thank you.

2 (AUDIENCE APPLAUSE.)

3 MR. CARLTON:

4 Everybody here, can I see a show of hands
5 - my name is Dan Carlton (spelled phonetically).

6 In this group here, has anybody ever done
7 business with the Corps? I would just like to see a
8 show of hands. Well I have, many, many times. They are
9 the worst people.

10 (LAUGHTER.)

11 Hitler's Gestapo has less power than the
12 Corps of Engineers has. Nobody is above these people,
13 nobody, but the army. And when you are going to find
14 out who is in charge, it's certainly not the ones that
15 you are talking to.

16 Many of my projects were turned down; they
17 are just terrible to do business with. I had a \$5,000
18 report saying it wasn't wetland and they threw it in the
19 garbage can and told me, we can do what we are doing.
20 That is my experience with the Corps.

21 So I want to tell you all, if they want
22 your land, they are going to take it. And we can do all
23 we want, but they are worse than the Gestapo, big time.

24 MR. RICHARD:

25 My name is Dee Richard, State

1 Representative, and I'm glad to have everybody out here.

2 I just want to follow what Mr. Fields said,
3 except for the next time you send. The next time --
4 we've got to fight this time. I like what you're saying
5 but I'm not satisfied. We can't get a permit to put in
6 a cell tower in Kramer because you guys won't give us a
7 permit for six years in these wetlands. And you're
8 taking land away, I just don't buy it. So I'm not here
9 to get the Council to help with that.

10 MR. HOLDER:

11 Is the permit still outstanding, or has it
12 been signed?

13 MR. RICHARD:

14 The permit was signed after six years of
15 fighting for it to be signed.

16 MR. HOLDER:

17 And there certainly was some backlog after
18 Katrina with permits, so I didn't know if yours got in
19 or not.

20 MS. BIER:

21 I am just going to speak from here if that
22 is all right.

23 MR. HOLDER:

24 Can you just identify yourself, ma'am, so
25 we can get that on the record.

1 MS. BIER:

2 My name is Cathy Bier.

3 MR. HOLDER:

4 Thank you.

5 MS. BIER:

6 I do own some property along the lake. I
7 looked up some of the information in the reports that
8 you have on the Internet. I just looked over it
9 yesterday and today, but you all have three other sites
10 that you can do the project, Bayou Segnette; and Dufrene
11 Ponds I think in Plaquemines, something else. None of
12 those areas have residents in the areas that are going
13 to be affected. The only people that are going to be
14 affected would be the Lake Boeuf project. There has to
15 be property somewhere else where you can do what you
16 have planned for this Lake Boeuf area that will not have
17 any residents in the project area.

18 And I also have an opinion, some of the
19 people talked about flooding and that if the project
20 goes through to the phase to where you are going to take
21 the land, then something like 519,000 cubic yards of
22 soil would have to be excavated from there. Now what is
23 going to happen to the people's property when water
24 comes back from Lake Boeuf if you have a storm surge of
25 some sort or a storm is pushing water in, it's going to

1 keep coming. So we think we have flooding problems now.

2 I don't live on the land that I own now, I
3 live in Thibodaux, but my heart goes out to the people
4 that do live on the land. I have had that, it was no
5 picnic.

6 MR. ROBICHAUX:

7 Our land is -

8 MR. HOLDER:

9 If you could identify yourself, sir, first
10 of all. Thank you.

11 MR. ROBICHAUX:

12 Dickie Robichaux.

13 We have property in the area. The land in
14 Louisiana, Sorrento, south, La Place, has been sinking
15 for about three or four years, I'm not sure, but it's
16 continuing to happen and it didn't when we were kids.

17 You all are going to take prime dirt, Cy,
18 am I correct in the location as to what's defined as
19 perfect?

20 You all are going to take perfect dirt so
21 you can build a perfect levee and that's because you
22 don't want erosion. This area's got good sand and clay
23 and so when you build that level you won't have erosion.
24 You are going to take it from our land that is
25 constantly sinking and our land is even going to go

1 quicker because you just took our good dirt.

2 You are going to have to explain to me why
3 you are taking it from us. I'm not going to do it, we
4 will not do it.

5 MR. HOLDER:

6 All right, if you will stick around I will
7 answer any questions that you have.

8 Folks, I'm not going to do it here. Please
9 stick around and we will answer any questions that you
10 have.

11 MR. GISCLAIR:

12 Representative Truck Gisclair.

13 Are there going to be any more hearings, or
14 is this the last one?

15 MR. HOLDER:

16 So the important part to remember, thank
17 you very much for that.

18 The important part to remember is that the
19 project does not affect anything but mitigation credits
20 and mitigation banks. Before we would move to anything
21 else, we would have to deal with other engagements, make
22 sure that there is another engagement situation with you
23 guys.

24 So there would be a whole, another process
25 where we took public comments.

1 MR. GISCLAIR:

2 Okay.

3 MR. HOLDER:

4 The basic timeframe, when I put the chart
5 up before and that is why I put the chart up, it's not
6 even on the chart yet. It's obviously not this year,
7 it's not even on the chart.

8 MR. GISCLAIR:

9 You want to come back?

10 MR. HOLDER:

11 We will come back.

12 MR. GISCLAIR:

13 You want to come back, I will come back
14 too.

15 MR. HOLDER:

16 We will come back; I understand that it's
17 important.

18 Yes, sir.

19 MR. CABALLERO:

20 My name is George Caballero and I have
21 property along the 308.

22 Over the past several years I have observed
23 water levels in Lake Boeuf rising to flood stage and
24 staying there. The water doesn't go down. We had an
25 inch of rain a couple of weeks ago, the water in Lake

1 Boeuf rose about six inches. So we're obviously in a
2 watershed for a very large area and it seems to be
3 increasing over the last, I'd say three to four years.

4 I worked at Nicholls at Bayou Lafourche and
5 you know what, they have been under water for six months
6 out of the year. Lafourche Parish does not have a lot
7 of land; we are on an alluvial bank that we built over a
8 period of hundreds of years. To go and excavate that
9 and take it out, we will lose farm land permanently.
10 There will be no restoration.

11 So Lafourche Parish doesn't have a lot of
12 land and dirt and soil to give away. We should be
13 working to improve the drainage, the outflow from Lake
14 Boeuf because it's a trap.

15 MR. HOLDER:

16 I believe that is what President Randolph
17 said as well. The public comments will be submitted as
18 well.

19 MR. CABALLERO:

20 So that is all I have to say. If you take
21 away what little land that we have will increase
22 mosquito control, alligators. I have alligators on my
23 property, I see them and there are about a half a dozen
24 or a dozen. So the Corps needs to work on some other,
25 not take away the soil.

1 MR. HOLDER:

2 Thank you. Back here.

3 MR. PELTIER:

4 My name is Stephen Peltier and I am the
5 manager of Peltier Farms, which is a large part of the
6 property that you're looking at, especially if you go
7 to, I think it's the yellow phase.

8 It's all of the farmland on that tract of
9 land. That property has been in my family for four
10 generations. We are vehemently opposed to this project.

11 I read through your proposal on the
12 Internet and one of the things that struck me is that
13 there is a priority that the mitigation project should
14 be as close to the area damaged as possible. That area
15 of damage is 40 or 50 miles away from here. You can't
16 tell me that there is nothing in between that could be
17 used. Those areas are all having tremendous erosion
18 problems because of the levee system surrounding New
19 Orleans. And this is all about protecting New Orleans.

20 (AUDIENCE: That's right, who dat.)

21 MR. PELTIER:

22 It seems like to me that that's the area
23 that should be mitigated. You've got those marshlands,
24 those hardwood areas, those swamps should be rebuilt in
25 that area, in Orleans, Jefferson and Plaquemines, not in

1 Lafourche Parish.

2 MR. HOLDER:

3 Thank you, sir.

4 (AUDIENCE APPLAUSE.)

5 MR. FORET:

6 My name is Ralph Foret, 3001 Highway 308 in
7 Raceland.

8 And Mr. George was right, there is water in
9 the back the railroad tracks and you see dry land. My
10 grandfather farmed it, my father farmed it for a few
11 years and then it started getting wet. Why can't you
12 people decide to go to the canal that runs from
13 Thibodaux all the way down to Raceland from Highway 90
14 and drain that, fix that, dig that out so that the water
15 can move away from here? No, you want to back it up.
16 Thibodaux's is building houses, day after day after day.
17 More concrete, all of that water is filtered in the back
18 of our property and we're flooding. And now you are
19 going to come over there and dig some more land.

20 The next thing I know my back yard is going
21 to have two feet of water, that is what you're looking
22 to do, sir?

23 MR. HOLDER:

24 Sir, I don't think that is what we're
25 looking to do, but thank you for your comments.

1 MR. WAGUESPACK:

2 Yes, my name is Matthew Waguespack, I live
3 in the middle of the blue area and I have a question
4 directed to the Corps.

5 Will you all continue to pursue this? I
6 would like a simple yes or no answer to my question,
7 please.

8 MR. HOLDER:

9 It's not as simple as a yes or no because
10 it has to go to the Commander so after we get all of the
11 comments in, then the recommendation will go to the
12 Commander. And that is why he is not here tonight
13 because he is the honest broker and will make the
14 decision on that.

15 The folks that work on the project have a
16 vested interest, your comments are important to us, so
17 he has to weigh through all of this equally so that is
18 why he is not here tonight. That is why he is not here
19 because he has to look at all of the comments and then
20 make a decision based on the information.

21 So that is the best that I can answer that
22 question.

23 MR. TOMMY:

24 My name is Tommy (inaudible) I actually
25 live on 308 and I actually inherited property from my

1 grandfather who actually bought this property over 90
2 years ago.

3 Up until about last week I didn't know
4 anything about what was going on. I never was notified.
5 I got a little insight about what was going on and went
6 on the website and read it. I haven't heard anything
7 yet that is in it for me, that is for my benefit. And I
8 just want to say that if you are going to come back to
9 us on the next step, I think you better get the people
10 that is involve, more oriented with what is going on,
11 than to blindsides us with it. Everyone in this room has
12 been blindsided and they are against it, no matter what
13 you tell us. So your next step is to make sure that we
14 are informed.

15 I didn't say that I was for it, but I'm not
16 going to vote against it or for it if I don't have
17 enough information on it.

18 MR. HOLDER:

19 I think that is a valued point that came
20 out of this meeting and I will make sure that that gets
21 back, we can do a better job.

22 (AUDIENCE APPLAUSE.)

23 Thank you, sir.

24 MR. TEMPLETT:

25 My name is Troy Templett and I'm from

1 Terrebonne Parish and I'm going to try to make just a
2 comment.

3 Who is going to make the decision to
4 expropriate this land?

5 MR. HOLDER:

6 So the process that we will have in place,
7 we're not sure at this point whether it will be the
8 state or whether will be us. Let me clarify that, if we
9 ever got to that place. At this point it's not, we're
10 in mitigation credits but there will be a recommendation
11 if we were to go forward. But it would have to be us or
12 the state and I'm not sure, I'll have to ask our legal
13 department before I come out with that answer so I don't
14 think I have an answer for you at this point.

15 Okay, folks, this is more questions than
16 comments.

17 FEMALE SPEAKER:

18 This is more of a question than a comment.

19 MR. HOLDER:

20 So why don't you just stick around and you
21 can ask that question?

22 FEMALE SPEAKER:

23 I just want to ask one question.

24 MR. HOLDER:

25 Okay.

1 FEMALE SPEAKER:

2 Who is going to make the recommendation to
3 the individual who is going to make the final decision?

4 MR. HOLDER:

5 There will be a report that is written and
6 the report that is written will go up with the comments
7 that are made here and whatever other comments are
8 submitted. We have comment cards and we have some
9 internet comments. So I would recommend that if you
10 want to fill out one of those comment cards out and give
11 it to us or the email address is up there,
12 mvenvironmental@usace.army.mil. All of those are good
13 avenues for hearing your comments. After we review all
14 of your comments, then we will make the decision.

15 MR. RICHARD:

16 My name is Russ Richard and I work for the
17 federal government and I know that our base problem of
18 putting it anywhere is drainage.

19 What is going to happen, once you all do
20 mitigation, you cannot do any more digging, so what
21 happens to all of our drainage water? We have a seven
22 foot drop to LA 308 all of the way through the area,
23 what happens to our water.

24 MR. HOLDER:

25 Thank you for all of your comments.

1 Any additional comments?

2 All right, folks, we are going to sit down
3 and answer questions, thank you for coming.

4 If we move forward, there will be more of
5 these public hearings and sessions.

6 Thank you for coming.

7 FEMALE SPEAKER:

8 I don't want to give my name, I just want
9 to know why questions wasn't answered. We weren't
10 informed of this meeting; we should be able to have all
11 our questions answered. We all want the answers.

12 MS. LUFT:

13 Myrna Luft, I just want to make sure that
14 you heard my comments about my fears of losing my home
15 and living in a peninsula.

16 Okay, the gentleman wasn't sure that it was
17 on there, thank you.

18 (END OF PUBLIC HEARING.)
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REPORTER'S PAGE

I, Diane Mathews, Official Court Reporter, do hereby state on the record that due to the interaction and the spontaneous discourse of these proceedings, dashes (--) have been used to indicate pauses, changes in thought, interruptions, and/or simultaneous speech; that this is the proper method for a court reporter's transcription of the proceedings; and that the dashes (--) do not indicate that words or phrases have been left out of the transcript Any words and/or names which could not be verified through reference material have been denoted with the phrase "(phonetic)" or "(inaudible)"

1
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