

**West Shore – Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana
Hurricane Protection Project**

Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority

Project Status Update

October 16, 2013



West Shore – Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana Hurricane Protection Project

Project Sponsors

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

Pontchartrain Levee District

St. Charles Parish

St. John the Baptist Parish

St James Parish

Ascension Parish

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Project Authorizations

Flood Control Act of 1965 - October 1965
Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity, Louisiana Hurricane
Protection Project

Committee on Public Works of the House of Representatives -
July 1971

Included the remaining portion of St. Charles Parish (from the
Bonnet Carre' Spillway Upper Guide Levee to the Parish line)
and St. John the Baptist Parish

Committee on Public Works of the Senate - September 1974
Included St. James Parish

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Project History

West Shore – Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana Hurricane Protection Project Reconnaissance Report, August 1987

West Shore – Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana Hurricane Protection Project Reconnaissance Report, re-initiated March 1996, completed June 1997

West Shore – Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana Hurricane Protection Project Feasibility Study, initiated April 1998, DRAFT Report January 2001, Parish Alignment submitted January 2001, Preferred Alignments presented September 2002

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Historical Hurricanes

- Hurricane Betsy - 1965
- Hurricane Juan - 1985
- Hurricane Andrew – 1992
- Hurricane Georges – 1998
- Hurricane Ivan – 2004
- Hurricane Katrina/Rita – 2005
- Hurricane Gustav/Ike – 2008
- Hurricane Isaac – 2012

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Tropical Storm Frances – 1998



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Tropical Storm Frances – 1998



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Tropical Storm Rita – 2005



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Tropical Storm Rita – 2005



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Hurricane Gustav– 2008



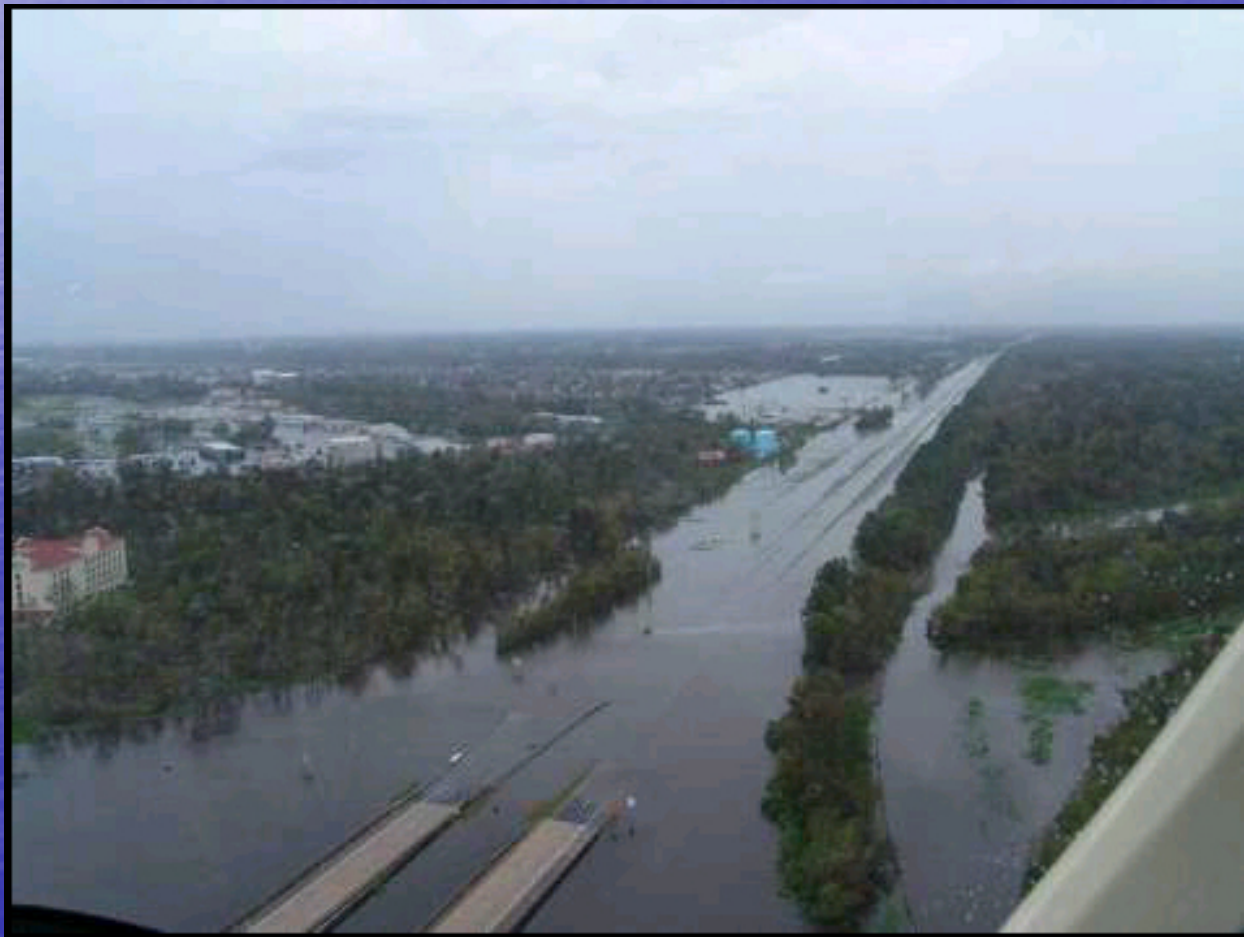
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Hurricane Isaac– 2012



West Shore – Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana Hurricane Protection Project

Hurricane Isaac– 2012



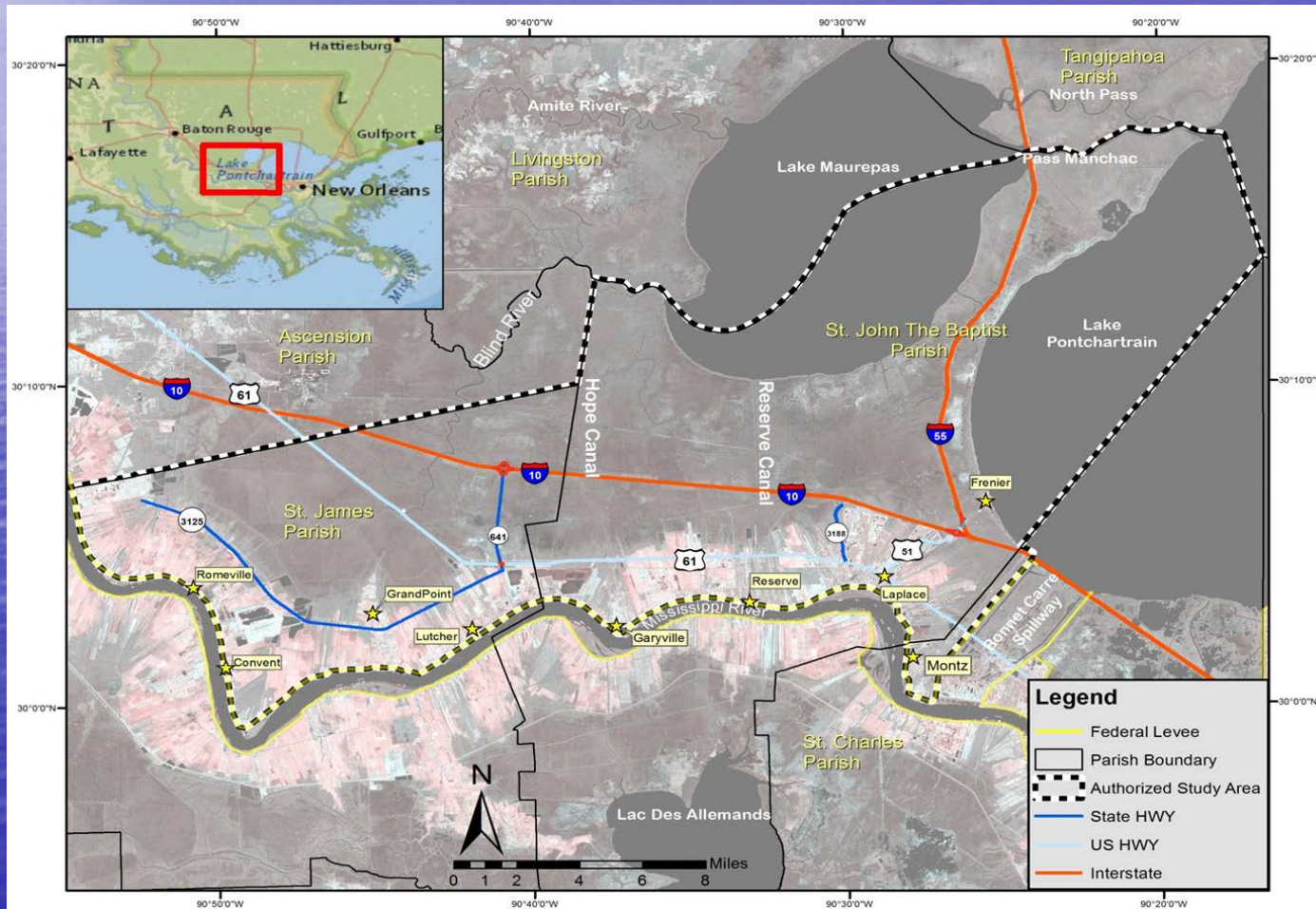
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Study Area

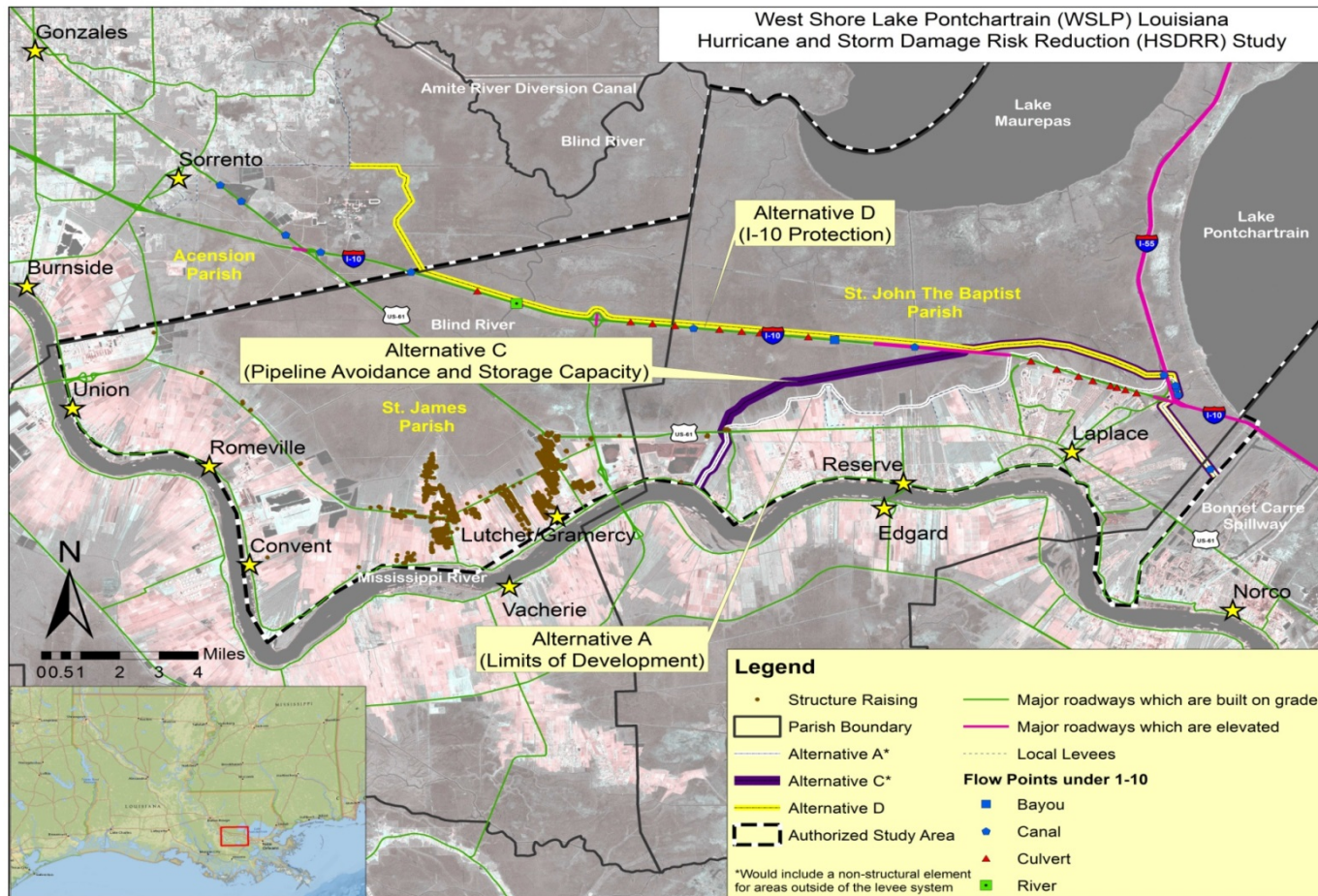
- The Study Area is located west of the Bonnet Carre Spillway to the St. James/Ascension Parish line and north of the Mississippi River to Lakes Pontchartrain and Maurepas.
- The Study Area includes portions of St. Charles, St. John the Baptist, St. James Parishes.
- The Project extends into Ascension Parish for closure with a non-Federal levee system.

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Study Area



West Shore – Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana Hurricane Protection Project Current Alignments- 2013



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Status of Study

- Final Array of alternatives for design selected March 2013.
- Evaluating damages to area if project is not built.
- Evaluating three levee alignment alternatives, non-structural measures such as elevating and flood-proofing are also being investigated.
- Early economic modeling suggests there is the potential for a justifiable hurricane and storm risk reduction project.
- A Tentatively Selected Plan was identified in July 2013.

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Concerns with Draft TSP

- Economic benefits only looked at losses to residential and commercial structures. Ignored infrastructure and agricultural losses.
- The non-structural approach assumes everyone will participate. The cost of the non structural approach does not match the timing of structural components,
- The O&M costs are 100% non-federal and the locals fully embrace the responsibility for these costs, why is this a decision factor for alternative selection?

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Concerns with Draft TSP (cont.)

- Why are we being assessed mitigation costs against the project, when the report clearly indicates these wetlands will be lost by 2070 due to subsidence and sea level rise?
- The impact to St James Parish under Alternatives A and C from Biggert Waters Act is going to have a MAJOR adverse impact to community and regional growth, yet the draft says there will be no impact.
- The indirect and cumulative damage to wetlands does not acknowledge that Interstate 10 already serves as a barrier to the wetlands as a “levee” and claims impacts as though this was a new condition.

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Concerns with Draft TSP (cont.)

- Impacts due to encapsulating wetlands has been overstated, while benefits to encapsulated wetlands has been ignored.
- The direct and indirect impacts of the non-structural approach have not accounted for temporary interruption to service, inconveniences, and possible relocation of commerce elsewhere.
- The pipeline outage cost and cost of lost product was not included in pipeline relocations costs.
- What are the induced flooding impacts to St James Parish due to Alternatives A and C? What are the induced flood impacts for the entire LP&V Project from creation in 1965?

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Concerns with Draft TSP (cont.)

- The benefits for protection of Interstate and State Highways have not been calculated.
- Damages to Port of South Louisiana during Hurricane Isaac mentioned in report but not included in benefits.
- Impacts to industry not included in benefits.
- Has the Hurricane Isaac damages been compared to the projected losses in the study for validation of loss estimates?
- Ascension Parish benefits have been completely ignored while costs to close the levee was included.

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Future Tasks

- The Tentatively Selected Plan will be evaluated in higher detail to confirm Benefit to Cost Ratio.
- After completion of a favorable Chief's Report in 2014*, an authorization for construction would be sought in a Water Resources Development Act (WRDA).
- Design for construction will be initiated upon approval of a favorable Chief's Report and availability of funding.
- Rough order of magnitude project costs indicate a range of costs between \$700M and \$1B.

* Requires allocation of Federal Funds



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