FACT SHEET: Southeast Louisiana Urban Flood Control Program - SELA

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS **BUILDING STRONG®**

Updated October 2010

Project Purpose

The purpose of the project is to reduce damages due to rainfall flooding in Orleans, Jefferson, and St. Tammany parishes. Improvements in Orleans and Jefferson parishes support the parishes' master drainage plans and generally provide flood protection on a level associated with a ten-year rainfall event, while also reducing damages for larger events. St. Tammany Parish plans would provide flood protection for various rainfall events.

Project Location

The proposed work is located on both the east and west banks of the Mississippi River in Orleans and Jefferson parishes. In Jefferson Parish, work is limited to the more densely populated northern portion of the parish. St. Tammany Parish work is located in and around the communities of Slidell, Mandeville, Covington, Madisonville, Abita Springs, and Lacombe.

Project Features

In Orleans Parish, plans involve improving twelve major drainage lines, adding pumping capacity to one pump station, and constructing two new pump stations. In Jefferson Parish, plans include improvements to about twenty-four drainage canals, additional pumping capacity for four pump stations, and the construction of two new pump stations. Planned improvements in St. Tammany Parish include channel enlargements, bridge replacements, a pump station, detention ponds, levees, and elevation of flood-prone structures. A substantial amount of this work has been completed in Jefferson and Orleans Parishes; no construction has been done yet in St. Tammany Parish.

Project Status

In Jefferson Parish, 41 contracts have been awarded to date, with 39 having been completed. In Orleans Parish, 11 contracts have been awarded, with 8 having been completed. Overall, the currently scheduled work in Orleans and Jefferson parishes is about 60 percent complete and should be finished in 2016. The St. Tammany Parish work is still unscheduled.

Studies are in progress under the authority of Section 533 of WRDA '96; these reports are used to obtain construction approval for authorized portions of SELA and can be used to add work within certain limits. Areas presently under study are the Algiers Subbasin (Orleans Parish), Hoey's Basin (Jefferson Parish), and the W-14 Basin and Schneider Canal in Slidell (St. Tammany Parish). Additional studies are planned in St. Tammany Parish once the W-14 study has been completed. In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, the London/Orleans Outfall Subbasin study in Orleans Parish was suspended until a more accurate assessment of future conditions can be made. The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans is interested in resuming the study, but Federal funds have not been appropriated for the work. The West of Bayou Segnette Basin study in Jefferson Parish is on hold pending availability of funds.

Of work authorized and approved under SELA, 23 contracts remain to be awarded—13 in Jefferson Parish and 10 in Orleans Parish. The 16 January 2009 execution of a Project Partnership Agreement with the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) makes available for expenditure nearly $1.3 billion appropriated by Congress for completion of this work.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT
7400 LEAKE AVE, NEW ORLEANS, LA 70118
WWW.MVN.USACE.ARMY.MIL