



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
New Orleans District

## Project Fact Sheet

Date: 5 February 2009

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### Morganza, Louisiana to the Gulf of Mexico Hurricane Protection Project

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**PROJECT PURPOSE:** Protect development and the remaining fragile marsh from hurricane storm surge. The area is significantly affected by tides emanating from the Gulf of Mexico. Deterioration of coastal marshes, as a result of saltwater intrusion, land subsidence and the lack of interchanges from the MR&T systems have increased hurricane and storm surge inundation.

**PROJECT AUTHORITY:** Congress authorized the Morganza to the Gulf Feasibility Study in the Energy and Water Resources Development Appropriations Act of 1995 (PL 103-316). The Morganza to the Gulf final feasibility report, including a programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS), was released to the public in March 2002. The Chief of Engineers letter was forwarded to the Secretary of the Army in 23 August 2002 and supplemented in July 2003. In addition, the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 authorized the USACE to conduct an independent study of a lock to be located in the Houma Navigation Canal (HNC). Following the 1997 completion of that study, in 2000 Congress authorized the USACE to initiate detailed design of the multipurpose lock complex in the HNC.

In December 2003, the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act provided Partial Authorization for a segment of levee (J1) identified as work-in-kind in the Chief of Engineers' report.

The project was authorized for construction by the Water Resources Development Act of 2007.

**PROJECT LOCATION:** The proposed work is located in coastal Louisiana approximately 60 miles southwest of New Orleans, and includes portions of Terrebonne and Lafourche Parishes. The area is bounded on the west by Bayou Du Large and State Highway 311 and on the east by Bayou Lafourche with the east and west boundaries forming an apex at Thibodaux, LA. The southern boundary is the Gulf of Mexico.

**PROJECT SPONSORS:** The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD) acted as the local sponsor for the feasibility study. The newly formed Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (LACPRA) has agreed to sponsor detailed design and construction. Terrebonne Levee and Conservation District (TLCD) will provide Operation, Maintenance, Repair, Rehabilitation and Replacement (OMRR&R).

**PROJECT FEATURES:** The authorized hurricane protection plan consisted of approximately 72-miles of earthen levee, ten 56-foot-wide sector gate structures, three 125-foot wide floodgates, 13-tidal exchange structures, and a lock complex consisting of a lock in the Houma Navigation Canal measuring 110-ft wide by 800-ft long, an adjoining floodgate measuring 250 feet wide and a dam closure. The structural features are integrated into the levee alignment to provide flood protection, drainage, environmental benefit, and navigational passage. Construction of this plan is estimated to cost \$968 million (Oct. 2008 Price levels) and would be cost-shared 65/35 with LACPRA, the local sponsor. This estimate does not reflect the new 100-year design elevations or post-Katrina construction costs.

#### **PROJECT STATUS:**

Features under construction

Levee Reach J-1, First Lift, 95% complete (WIK)

Levee Reach H-3, First Lift, 0% complete (awarded DEC 2008) (WIK)

Features under Design

Levee Reach J-2, First Lift, 100% P&S (WIK)

Pointe Aux Chenes Levee, First Lift, 50% P&S (WIK)

Houma Navigation Canal (HNC) Lock and Floodgate, 50% P&S complete July 2008

Levee Reach F-1, 25% DDR

Levee Reach G-1, 35% DDR

Bayou Grand Caillou Floodgate, 35% DDR

Post Authorization Change (PAC) Report

The Congressionally-mandated Section 902 Limit (WRDA 1986) requires reauthorization by Congress when construction costs are estimated to exceed the authorized project cost by a 20% increase. Due to post-Katrina design criteria changes, including new 100-year levee elevations and new borrow standards,

Morganza to the Gulf will clearly exceed this 20% cost increase limit. The Morganza to the Gulf project will need reauthorization from Congress to start construction. A PAC report is being developed that will serve as the basis for reauthorization. The PAC report will include detailed designs incorporating the post-Katrina design criteria, new project costs and updated economic benefits.

**FUNDING:** Construction of this plan is currently estimated to cost \$968 million (based on the 2002 Feasibility Costs corrected to Oct. 2008 price levels) and would be cost shared 65%/35% with LACPRA, the local sponsor. The project was authorized for construction in WRDA 07.

<b>PROJECT COST:</b>	<u>Total Project</u>
Total Project Cost	\$968,000,000
Total Federal Cost	\$629,200,000
Total Non-Federal Cost	\$338,800,000

**For more information, visit the project web page at:**

**<http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/prj/mtog>**