



**FEMA**

**U.S. Department of Homeland Security**  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Region VI - Louisiana Recovery Office  
1500 Main Street  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
FOR THE  
BAYOU SARA STREAMBANK STABILIZATION PROJECT  
ST. FRANCISVILLE, WEST FELICIANA PARISH, LOUISIANA  
HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM  
*HMGP 1603-0436/DR-1603-LA***

**BACKGROUND**

The West Feliciana Parish Government, the applicant, through the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) has requested federal funding through the Federal Emergency Management's (FEMA) 404 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) to prevent streambank erosion from damaging utility and road infrastructure in the Parish.

The east bank of Bayou Sara has experienced significant erosion on the reach between St. Francisville and the confluence with the Mississippi River. The streambank along a large bend on the east bank of the Bayou and an access road west of a sewage treatment lagoon at the St. Francisville Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) has experienced significant erosion since at least 1998. Streambank erosion at this location was estimated to average over five (5) feet per year from 1998 to 2005, over eight (8) feet per year in 2006 and 2007, over 14 feet per year from 2008 to 2010, and approximately four (4) feet per year from 2012 to 2014. An estimated 3.4 acres of land at this bench area has been lost to streambank erosion during this period.

This project would provide mitigation necessary to prevent erosion of the streambank and undercutting the sewage treatment lagoon, which serves more than 700 customers. The project would also provide erosion protection for Ferdinand Street, which provides access to a U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) storage facility to the east of the street, and a local boat launch. Ferdinand Street is also St. Francisville's sole road access to the Mississippi River, which is important for local tourism derived from riverboat visits.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared in accordance with the FEMA Instruction 108-1-1 and the Department of Homeland Security Instruction 023-01-001-01, pursuant to Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as implemented by the regulations promulgated by the President's Council on Environmental Quality (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508). The purpose of the EA was to analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed work, and

to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

The proposed action is to construct two (2) revetments along the large bends of the east bank of Bayou Sara adjacent to the STP (Reach 1) and downstream near the Oyster Bar (Reach 2). The EA also analyzed a No Action Alternative, and a Considered Alternative of constructing a continuous revetment from the St. Francisville STP to the Oyster Bar that would include the two (2) revetments included in the proposed action plus an additional section of streambank located between Reaches 1 and 2. A complete description of these alternatives is included in the EA, which is incorporated by reference in this document.

## **FINDINGS**

FEMA has evaluated the proposed project for significant adverse impacts to geology and soils, water resources (surface water, groundwater, and wetlands), floodplains, air quality, biological resources (vegetation, fish and wildlife, Federally-listed threatened or endangered species and critical habitats), cultural resources, environmental justice, climate change, traffic and transportation, public health and safety, noise, hazardous materials and cumulative impacts. The results of these evaluations as well as consultations and input from other federal and state agencies are presented in the EA.

## **CONDITIONS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

The following conditions must be met as part of the implementation of the project. Failure to comply with these conditions may jeopardize federal funds:

- The Applicant must follow all applicable local, state, and federal laws, regulations, and requirements and obtain and comply with all required permits and approvals prior to initiating work.
- Applicant must follow all conditions listed in U.S. Army Corps of Engineers MVN-2017-0368-CQ Nationwide Permit-13
- Applicant must, install and monitor appropriate erosion and sediment controls, and stabilization practices.
- Applicant must obtain and/or update all necessary approvals and environmental permits regarding this proposed project.
- If your project results in a discharge to waters of the state, submittal of a Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) application may be necessary.
- If the project results in a discharge of wastewater to an existing wastewater treatment system, that wastewater treatment system may need to modify its LPDES permit before accepting the additional wastewater.
- All precautions should be observed to protect the groundwater of the region.

- All precautions should be observed to control nonpoint source pollution from construction activities. Louisiana Department of Environment Quality (LDEQ) has stormwater general permits for construction areas equal to or greater than one (1) acre. It is recommended that you contact the LDEQ Water Permits Division at (225) 219-9371 to determine if your proposed project requires a permit.
- If your project will include a sanitary wastewater treatment facility, a Sewage Sludge and Biosolids Use or Disposal Permit is required. An application or Notice of Intent will be required if the sludge management practice includes preparing biosolids for land application or preparing sewage sludge to be hauled to a landfill.
- Please be advised that water softeners generate wastewaters that may require special limitations depending on local water quality considerations. Therefore, if your water system improvements include water softeners, you are advised to contact the LDEQ Water Permits to determine if special water quality-based limitations will be necessary.
- Any renovation or remodeling must comply with Louisiana Administrative Code (LAC) 33:III.Chapter 28, Lead-Based Paint Activities; LAC 33:III.Chapter 27, Asbestos-Containing Materials in Schools and State Buildings (includes all training and accreditation); and LAC 33:III.5151, Emission Standard for Asbestos for any renovations or demolitions.
- Vehicle operation times should be kept to a minimum. Area soils must be covered and/or wetted, if necessary, during construction to minimize dust
- After construction of revetments, restore existing access roads to pre-project conditions.
- Use all practicable measures to minimize hazards to wetlands.
- Conduct revetment construction activities during low-flow periods to the maximum extent possible.
- If any solid or hazardous wastes, or soils and/or groundwater contaminated with hazardous constituents are encountered during the project, notification to LDEQ's Single-Point-of-Contact (SPOC) at (225) 219-3640 is required. Additionally, precautions should be taken to protect workers from these hazardous constituents.
- If any species that are tracked by the Louisiana Natural Heritage Program (LNHP) are encountered, contacting the LNHP Data Manager at 225-765-2643 is required.
- Use existing access roads to the maximum extent possible.
- Execute the Phase III Data Recovery Project (LA Statewide PA TM IX).
- Develop and implement Public Interpretation (LA Statewide PA TM III).
- Louisiana Unmarked Human Burial Sites Preservation Act: If human bone or unmarked grave(s) are present within the project area, notify the West Feliciana Parish Sheriff's Office within 24 hours of discovery. The Applicant shall also notify FEMA and the Louisiana Division of Archaeology at 225-342-8170 within 72 hours of discovery.

- Construction activities must comply with Occupational Safety and Healthy Act (OSHA) Construction Industry Standards.
- Implementation of a “no wake” zone on Bayou Sara during construction near the revetments is recommended.
- Installation of temporary fencing between the Oyster Bar parking lot and the Reach 2 revetment is also recommended.
- The following steps should be taken to comply with West Feliciana Parish Code Chapter 115: Install, if necessary, a screen or a buffer between uses in order to minimize the harmful impact of noise, dust and other debris, motor vehicle headlight glare or other artificial light intrusion, and other objectionable activities or impacts conducted on or created by an adjoining or nearby use. Install silt fences, if necessary, to prevent storm and run-off erosion, particularly along embankments on water ways and road ways.
- The applicant shall handle, manage, and dispose of petroleum products, hazardous materials and/or toxic waste in accordance with all local, state and Federal agency requirements. All coordination pertaining to these activities should be documented and copies forwarded to the state and FEMA as part of the permanent project files.
- The applicant shall handle, manage, and dispose of petroleum products, hazardous materials and toxic waste in accordance with all local, state and Federal requirements.
- If spills of fuels, oils or hydraulic fluids from vehicles and equipment occur, use sorbent pads or other spill control supplies to stop the release of these materials and promptly containerize any contaminated materials and/or sediment/soil. Leaky vehicles and equipment must be taken out of service for repair before returning them to service. If any hazardous wastes, or soils and/or groundwater contaminated with hazardous constituents are encountered during the project, notification to LDEQ’s SPOC at (225) 219-3640 is required.
- Notification to the National Response Center at 800-424-8802 if an oil discharge to water occurs.
- The construction contractor shall comply with Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) hazardous substance release reporting requirement, if an applicable release occurs.
- If hazardous materials are unexpectedly encountered in the project area during the proposed construction operations, appropriate measures for the proper assessment, remediation, management and disposal of the contamination would be initiated in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations.
- Failure to comply with these conditions may make part of all of the project ineligible for FEMA funding.

- During the project impact analysis process developers should identify project-related impacts to migratory birds and the conservation measures that will be used to mitigate them. For additional Migratory Bird Conservation recommendations, guidance and tools to help reduce impacts to birds and their habitats please visit the LESO webpage: [https://www.fws.gov/lafayette/Migratory\\_Birds/MigBird.html](https://www.fws.gov/lafayette/Migratory_Birds/MigBird.html) and the Service's Migratory Bird Program Webpage (<https://www.fws.gov/birds/bird-enthusiasts/threats-to-birds/collisions/communication-towers.php>).
- The applicant must review the National Bald Eagle Management (NBEM) Guidelines is available at: <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/pdf/management/nationalbaldeaglenanagementguidelines.pdf> to minimize potential project impacts to bald eagles, particularly where such impacts may constitute "disturbance," which is prohibited by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA).
- If a bald eagle nest occurs or is discovered within 660 feet of the proposed project area, then USFWS requires an evaluation to be performed to determine whether the project is likely to disturb nesting bald eagles. The applicant is required to conduct the evaluation on-line at: <https://www.fws.gov/southeast/our-services/eagle-technical-assistance>. Following completion of the evaluation, that website will provide a determination of whether additional consultation is necessary. All coordination pertaining to these activities should be documented and copies forwarded to the state and FEMA as part of the permanent project files
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) recommends that a qualified biologist inspect the proposed work site for the presence of undocumented nesting colonies during the nesting season because some waterbird colonies may change locations year-to-year. To minimize disturbance to colonial nesting birds please refer to the colonial nesting waterbird guidance on the Louisiana Ecological Services Office (LESO) Web page [https://www.fws.gov/lafayette/Migratory\\_Birds/MigBird.html](https://www.fws.gov/lafayette/Migratory_Birds/MigBird.html).

The following conservation measures for Pallid sturgeon must be employed by construction personnel as a requirement of FEMA funding:

- All personnel related to the construction project will receive worker awareness training on the Pallid sturgeon. This training will include at a minimum: the laws protecting the sturgeon (Endangered Species Act of 1973) as a federally threatened species, a definition of "take" as it applies to the Endangered Species Act § 3.19, the fines and possible imprisonment for take of a sturgeon, and images of the sturgeon as it is likely to be seen in Bayou Sara and the Mississippi River. All personnel must sign a worker awareness training *sign-in sheet* as a record of their attendance and training received. Any new workers that did not receive the initial training will need to be trained before working in or near construction areas.
- Informational signs will be posted at visible locations in any construction area where in-water work occurs, including all project-related vessels. The signs will have an image of a sturgeon as it is likely to be seen in Bayou Sara, the federal listing status of the sturgeon, possible punishment for

take of a sturgeon, and phone numbers to immediately call in the event a sturgeon is seen: USFWS's Lafayette Field Office, (337) 291-3100, and the LNHP, (225) 765-2800.

- These informational signs will be weather-proofed (laminated) and large enough so that they can be read from a distance of 20 feet. Signs will be posted prior to and for the duration of the construction project.
- One (1) person per construction site will be made responsible by their crew lead (if not the lead personally) to call the phone numbers stated above in the event a sturgeon is sighted.
- All construction personnel will be responsible for monitoring water-related activities for the presence of sturgeons as part of their regular duties.
- The following are special conditions that will be followed in the event a sturgeon is sighted within 100 yards of the project area:
  - i. All construction personnel will have “*Stop Work*” authority if they see a sturgeon within 50 feet of a construction activity, including moving vessels.
  - ii. All vessels will operate at no-wake/idle speeds within 100 yards of the work area.
  - iii. In-water sediment barriers or siltation barriers will need to be re-secured and monitored.
  - iv. Work will only resume without restriction when a previously sighted sturgeon is greater than 100 yards away from the project area.
- Construction work shall only be done during fall low water, outside the spawning season of Pallid sturgeon.
- Per 44 CFR 9.11(d)(4) “there shall be no encroachments, including fill, new construction, substantial improvements of structures or facilities, or other development within a designated regulatory floodway that would result in any increase in flood levels within the community during the occurrence of the base flood discharge. Until a regulatory floodway is designated, no new construction, substantial improvements, or other development (including fill) shall be permitted within the base floodplain unless it is demonstrated that the cumulative effect of the proposed development, when combined with all other existing and anticipated development, will not increase the water surface elevation of the base flood more than one foot at any point within the community.”
- Coordination with the West Feliciana Parish Floodplain Administrator is required.

- 44 CFR 9.11(d)(6), no project should be built to a floodplain management standard that is less protective than what the community has adopted in local ordinances through their participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. The applicant is required to coordinate with the local floodplain administrator regarding floodplain permit(s) prior to the start of any activities. All coordination pertaining to these activities and applicant compliance with any conditions should be documented and copies forwarded to the LA GOHSEP and FEMA for inclusion in the permanent project files.
- Sediment control features (Best Management Procedures [BMPs]) will be implemented on land to limit sediment delivery to the Bayou Sara and Mississippi River. Sediment control features will be required around all dredged material, unclean gravel, sand, and/or soil stockpiles. These features may include, but would not be limited to: sediment (silt) fences, straw wattles (fiber rolls), straw bales, sandbag barriers, plastic sheeting, storm drain inlet protection, and street sweeping/vacuuming. As with any stormwater control methods, the implementation of the appropriate controls will be dictated by the type and amount of sediment being controlled and the forecasted environmental conditions. Monitoring of sediment control features will be required prior to and during rain events to ensure control features are installed correctly and are functioning properly.
- In-water silt barriers (turbidity curtains) will be utilized within the Bayou Sara for all aspects of the project, including bank cut and installation of geo-fabric and riprap. Silt barriers will need to be installed in a manner that contains the dislodged sediments within the immediate work area.
- The applicant agrees that if it receives any Federal aid as a result of the attached project application, it will accept responsibility, at its own expense if necessary, for the routine maintenance of any real property, structures, or facilities acquired or constructed as a result of such Federal aid. Routine maintenance shall include, but not be limited to, such responsibilities as keeping vacant land clear of debris, garbage, and vermin; keeping stream channels, culverts, and storm drains clear of obstructions and debris; and keeping detention ponds free of debris, trees, and woody growth.
- The choice of erosion control measure to be employed will be based on the type and duration of disturbance. For example, areas disturbed due to heavy equipment may receive mulch or hydroseeding to control sediment runoff, as needed.
- Any floating debris will be trapped by the silt barrier and removed from the water, and in-water work will only be conducted when waters are calm enough to allow for the efficacy of the silt barrier system. Disposal of all debris will conform to local, state, and federal laws and standards.
- In-water work and all BMPs identified above may be subject to additional stipulations based on permitting requirements by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer under § 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and § 404 of the Clean Water Act under the Nationwide Permit No. 13 (Bank Stabilization), dated March 9, 2018.

- Applicant must comply with all conditions listed in following permits: The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) issued the Water Quality Certification (WQC) 160629-02 for the USACE Reissuance of Nationwide Permits, including NWP 13, to the New Orleans District (NOD) on February 14, 2017. The WQC is subject to the State of Louisiana NWP Regional Conditions, February 2017.
- All coordination pertaining to these activities and applicant compliance with any conditions should be documented and copies forwarded to GOHSEP and FEMA for inclusion in the permanent project files. New construction must also be compliant with current codes and standards.

## CONCLUSIONS

Based upon the incorporated EA, and in accordance with Presidential Executive Orders 12898 (Environmental Justice), 11988 (Floodplain Management), and 11990 (Wetland Protection), FEMA has determined that the proposed action implemented with the conditions and mitigation measures outlined above and in the EA will not have any significant adverse effects on the quality of the natural and human environment. As a result of this FONSI, an EIS will not be prepared (FEMA Instruction 108-1-1) and the proposed action alternative as described in the EA may proceed.

## APPROVALS

**JERAME J  
CRAMER**

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Jerame Cramer	Date
Environmental Liaison Officer	
Louisiana Recovery Office	

*Thomas M. Womack*

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Thomas M. "Mike" Womack	Date
Director of the Louisiana Recovery Office	
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