

## Report to Congress for Future Water Resources Development (WRRDA 7001) Submission Package

Proposal Name: The Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity; Louisiana Project

Submission Date: 08/10/2017

Proposal ID Number: 5d859106-7e20-4b80-8eda-f98d219de8b9

Purpose of Proposal: The mission of Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority East (SLFPAE) is to ensure the Authority's flood defense infrastructure is properly planned, designed, operated and maintained. The mission is accomplished by partnering with federal, state and local agencies to plan, design, construct and improve flood defense infrastructure; conducting quality assurance inspections during construction of federal levee projects; planning and designing projects to supplement, repair or enhance the Authority's existing flood defense infrastructure; regularly inspecting all levee system components; monitoring environmental and levee system component conditions; maintaining accurate records; developing and implementing emergency operations plans; and communicating flood risk to the public. The required 100 year event levee maintenance height will allow for continuous coverage of the metropolitan area under the National Flood Insurance Program. After hurricane Katrina in 2005, the Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) for The Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity; Louisiana Project required the cost of raising existing levees to be cost shared program that was completed in June 2011. Since completion, due to the soft deltaic and marsh soils in the area, subsidence and settlement continue and exceeds more than anticipated. The cost of recent levee raising in East Jefferson and Orleans up to the authorized height has been funded solely by the SLFPAE. This request is for the Federal Government (thru United States Army Corps of Engineers) to enter into a cost share agreement with SLFPAE for the funding of future levee lifts within East Jefferson and Orleans Parishes. The funding provided by the PPA for the Hurricane Storm Damage Risk Reduction System did not define cost share responsibility for future levee lifts as had been done prior in 2005 levee system agreements and therefore has left the local sponsors responsible for 100% of future levee raising.

*1. Administrative Details*

**Proposal Name: The Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity; Louisiana Project**

**by Agency: Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (SLFPAE)**

**Locations: LA**

**Date Submitted: 08/10/2017**

**Confirmation Number: 5d859106-7e20-4b80-8eda-f98d219de8b9**

*Supporting Documents*

<b>File Name</b>	<b>Date Uploaded</b>
WRRDA Support Letter1.pdf	08/10/2017

*2. Provide the name of the primary sponsor and all non-Federal interests that have contributed or are expected to contribute toward the non-Federal share of the proposed feasibility study or modification.*

Sponsor	Letter of Support
SLFPAE(Primary)	Attached

*3. State if this proposal is for a feasibility study, a modification to an authorized USACE feasibility study or a modification to an authorized USACE project. If it is a proposal for a modification, provide the authorized water resources development feasibility study or project name.*

Modification to an Authorized USACE Project : The Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity; Louisiana Project

***4. Clearly articulate the specific project purpose(s) of the proposed study or modification. Demonstrate that the proposal is related to USACE mission and authorities and specifically address why additional or new authorization is needed.***

The mission of Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority East (SLFPAE) is to ensure the Authority's flood defense infrastructure is properly planned, designed, operated and maintained. The mission is accomplished by partnering with federal, state and local agencies to plan, design, construct and improve flood defense infrastructure; conducting quality assurance inspections during construction of federal levee projects; planning and designing projects to supplement, repair or enhance the Authority's existing flood defense infrastructure; regularly inspecting all levee system components; monitoring environmental and levee system component conditions; maintaining accurate records; developing and implementing emergency operations plans; and communicating flood risk to the public. The required 100 year event levee maintenance height will allow for continuous coverage of the metropolitan area under the National Flood Insurance Program. After hurricane Katrina in 2005, the Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) for The Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity; Louisiana Project required the cost of raising existing levees to be cost shared program that was completed in June 2011. Since completion, due to the soft deltaic and marsh soils in the area, subsidence and settlement continue and exceeds more than anticipated. The cost of recent levee raising in East Jefferson and Orleans up to the authorized height has been funded solely by the SLFPAE. This request is for the Federal Government (thru United States Army Corps of Engineers) to enter into a cost share agreement with SLFPAE for the funding of future levee lifts within East Jefferson and Orleans Parishes. The funding provided by the PPA for the Hurricane Storm Damage Risk Reduction System did not define cost share responsibility for future levee lifts as had been done prior in 2005 levee system agreements and therefore has left the local sponsors responsible for 100% of future levee raising.

*5. To the extent practicable, provide an estimate of the total cost, and the Federal and non-Federal share of those costs, of the proposed study and, separately, an estimate of the cost of construction or modification.*

	<b>Federal</b>	<b>Non-Federal</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Study</b>	\$2,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$3,000,000
<b>Construction</b>	\$56,225,000	\$30,275,000	\$86,500,000

**Explanation (if necessary)**

The requested study and construction is planned to be cost shared 65/35 between the Federal Government and the SLFP AE. The study will involve the preliminary geotechnical design and design feasibility of raising the levees and obtaining borrow from local sources. Construction of the earthen levees will follow. The anticipated monetary and nonmonetary benefits of the study will be defined as to infrastructure and protection of human life and property. Raising the earthen levees within the SLFP AE jurisdictional area, to insure that the 100 year risk reduction elevations are maintained by 2028 will require phased construction amounting to \$86.5 M in today's dollars. The projects will be public bid projects in accordance with local state laws.

***6. To the extent practicable, describe the anticipated monetary and nonmonetary benefits of the proposal including benefits to the protection of human life and property; improvement to transportation; the national economy; the environment; or the national security interests of the United States.***

The Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) lowers the flood damage from expected future storm surge within the alignment and no current estimates are available with respect to the dollar values of flood damage avoided either over the project life or for a catastrophic overtopping or breach. The HSDRRS protects a regional population using the 2010 Census of 842,615 individuals, 404,687 households, 963 miles of highways, 3,161 miles of streets, and 258 miles of railroads. The estimated depreciated total value of HSDRRS protected structures and content valuables using 2011 FEMA HAZUS-MH loss tool for residential, commercial, industrial, public, agriculture and vehicles is \$98 billion. The national economy would be greatly impacted by a catastrophic flood damage event in that the closure of the Port of New Orleans - the sixth largest port in the United States will result in direct impacts of \$9 million dollars per day, direct economic impacts of the rerouting of six Class 1 rail services, and economic impacts to oil production and oil refining service industries of federally owned waters in the Gulf of Mexico.

**7. Does local support exist? If 'Yes', describe the local support for the proposal.**

Yes

### **Local Support Description**

City and State support this work to maintain the NFIP coverage for the recently completed HSDRSS system. They realize the need for the earthen levee lift projects in Orleans and East Jefferson to maintain the congressionally authorized level of flood risk reduction through 2057

**8. Does the primary sponsor named in (2.) above have the financial ability to provide for the required cost share?**

Yes

# Primary Sponsor Letter of Support

(As uploaded)

**WRRDA Support Letter1.pdf**



# TH FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY

Your Your Flood Defense System

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Robert A. Turner Jr., P.E., CFM  
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**EAST JEFFERSON LEVEE DISTRICT**  
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Hahnhan, LA 70123  
504.733.0067

**LAKE BORGNE BASIN LEVEE DISTRICT**  
P.O. Box 216  
6136 E. St. Bernard Highway  
Violet, LA 70092  
504.682.5941

**ORLEANS LEVEE DISTRICT**  
8920 Franklin Ave  
New Orleans, LA 70122  
504.286.3100

August 8, 2017

RE: The Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity,  
Louisiana Project

Dear Sir/Maddam,

On behalf of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority – East, I am pleased to submit the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity, Louisiana Project - Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) Levee Lifts for inclusion in your Report to Congress required under Section 7001 of WRRDA 2014.

The earthen levee lifts project in Orleans and East Jefferson will maintain the congressionally authorized level of flood risk reduction through 2057.

Benefits include prevention of economic losses due to flooding across the Greater New Orleans area. This major metropolitan area is comprised of over 800,000 residents and has national strategic interests with the Port of New Orleans and provides oil production and refining services for federally owned waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Turner, Jr.  
Engineering and Operations Director

GJG:pmj