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## **CPRA, USACE, and TLCD Sign MOU Allowing Local Payments to be Credited Toward Morganza to the Gulf Project Costs**

**NEW ORLEANS** - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) and the Terrebonne Parish Levee and Conservation District (TLCD) that allows work accomplished and paid for by CPRA and TLCD to count toward the 35% local cost share. A local match is required for any federal appropriation to build projects associated with the Morganza to the Gulf Levee System, a multi-billion dollar project.

Authorized in 2004, the project was deemed financially infeasible by the Corps after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita when new standards dramatically increased the cost of constructing the system to a 100-year level of protection. Terrebonne Parish and the State of Louisiana, now represented by CPRA, chose to move forward without federal funding, partnering to provide as much protection as could be afforded. The Corps cooperated by advising on construction to keep the project within acceptable specifications should future federal funding be secured.

“The people of Terrebonne Parish chose to tax themselves rather than wait on anyone else,” said TLCD Executive Director Reggie Dupre. “Along with additional money from the CPRA, we’ve been incrementally building as much as we can. This MOU is validation that we chose well and acted well. Our hard work is paying off through greater protection and we now have our down payment on future federal funding.”

“If you want proof that state and local efforts to provide flood protection can be meaningful, you only have to look at what happened this year,” said CPRA Chairman Chip Kline. “In 2005 Hurricane Rita flooded 11,000 homes in the Terrebonne-Lafourche area. This year, with a similar storm surge from Hurricane Barry, only 12 homes in the area were flooded. We urge Congress to witness the benefits of

providing proactive investment in protection as compared to responding to a disaster, and to fully partner with Terrebonne Parish by funding the system to a 100-year level of protection.”

To date, a total of \$440 million has been spent by the state and the parish. Ultimately, the Morganza to the Gulf Levee system is seeking 98 miles of earthen levee, 22 floodgates on navigable waterways, 23 environmental water control structures, and a lock complex consisting of a lock in the Houma Navigation Canal measuring 110 feet wide by 800 feet long, an adjoining floodgate measuring 250 feet wide, and a dam closure.

In signing the MOU with CPRA and TLCD, the Corps agreed that work and expenditures on 33 increments of the system that have been completed, are under construction, or will be going to construction can count toward the local cost share if future federal funds get appropriated.

The agreement lists 18 reaches of levees and floodwalls that together span the entire 98 mile levee system. Another 15 floodgate structures are listed as eligible, including:

- Bayou Black Floodgate
- Bayou Grand Caillou Floodgate
- Bayou Little Caillou Floodgate
- Bayou Terrebonne Floodgate
- Bush Canal Floodgate
- Falgout Canal Floodgate
- GIWW East Floodgate
- GIWW West Floodgate
- Grand Bayou Floodgate
- Houma Navigational Canal Lock Complex
- Humble Canal Floodgate
- Larose Floodgate
- Minors Canal Floodgate
- Placid Canal Floodgate
- Pointe Aux Chenes Floodgate

The Houma Navigational Canal Lock Complex is being constructed with approximately \$415 million resulting from the aftermath of the BP oil spill. This MOU will allow that funding to count toward future local cost-share obligations.

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