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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
MISSISSIPPI VALLEY DIVISION, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
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REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

CEMVD-MD-PM (1105-2-10c)

- 5 AUG 2002

MEMORANDUM FOR Commander, New Orleans District, ATTN: CEMVN-PM-E

SUBJECT: Hurricane Protection, LA, Reconnaissance Report, Section 905(b) of WRDA 1986 Analysis

1. Reference memorandum, CEMVN-PM-E, 01 Jul 02, subject: Hurricane Protection, Louisiana, CWIS No. 014379.

2. The MVD staff has reviewed the subject report and offers the following comments:

a. Section 905(b) clearly states "Before initiating any feasibility study, a reconnaissance study of the water resources problem must be made in order to identify potential solutions to the problem in sufficient detail to enable the Secretary to determine whether or not planning to develop a project should proceed to the preparation of a feasibility report. Such reconnaissance study shall include a preliminary analysis of the Federal interest, costs, benefits, and environmental impacts of such project, and an estimate of the costs of preparing the feasibility report." Benefits for the proposed solutions are provided in the report. The source of potential NED benefit categories should be provided. Further, MVN should delineate at least one solution that demonstrates a Federal interest. The report should provide sufficient detail for the categories of benefits and how they were derived.

b. Suggest using the word "four" rather than "for" was meant at the beginning of the fifth sentence in paragraph "g" at the top of page 9.

c. At the bottom of page 9, the top of page 10, and a few scattered places throughout the remainder of the report, coastal wetlands losses and the LCA are mentioned; however, the report did not bother to get into the very dramatic impacts this study and that could have upon one another. Please provide justification of why the two studies should not be combined.

d. Considering the proposed feasibility schedule and the current LCA schedule, it is our opinion that the first phase should also benefit from the LCA study in additional to the second phase. It appears that the elevations of a two-hundred-year frequency storm would be dramatically altered, by any successful preservation or restoration of coastal islands, wetlands, and foliage. Those elevations are determined in the first stage of the proposed study.

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e. Page 1, paragraph 3 - plate 1 includes portions of Tangipahoa, Livingston, Ascension and St. James parishes in the area delineated as the study area but the description does not mention them. The study area are should be clarified.

f. Page 3, bullet 3 - the Morganza report was dated March 2002 and should be included in report.

g. The potential magnitude of this project, in addition to all the projects already being sponsored by the State of Louisiana, brings into question whether the State of Louisiana has the resources to fully participate in increasing the protection. A good financial plan to ensure that adequate resources are available should be a part of the feasibility effort.

h. Page 17, paragraph (6) Environmental Resources and Impacts. The paragraph indicates that the project impacts would be limited to the immediate area of the existing project footprint. The paragraph should identify whether there is a potential for impacts at offsite work locations, i.e. material handling such as levee raise materials, and the magnitude of these impacts.

i. MVN needs to ensure that each of the paragraph G-7 and Exhibit G-2 requirements in ER 1105-2-100 has been covered and is of adequate quality.

3. The POC in this office is Mr. John Ashley, CEMVD-MD-PM. He can be reached at (601) 634-5835.

D. L. BASHAM, P.E., L.S.
Management Director