



# March 2022

THE PONTCHARTRAIN LEVEE DISTRICT  
UPDATE

## West Shore Lake Pontchartrain Hurricane & Storm Damage Risk Reduction Project, St. James, St. John the Baptist, & St. Charles Parishes, Louisiana

### Project Description & Scope

- The alignment is approximately 23 miles in length, consisting of 22 miles of levee and 1 mile of T-wall  
St. Charles Parish = 0.5 miles  
St. John Parish = 18.0 miles  
St. James Parish = 4.5 miles
- The project includes pump stations, drainage structures, gated road crossings, railroad gates, utility relocations, culvert valves / gates, and raising / floodproofing of a limited number of structures.
- \$760M appropriation for the project includes funding for real estate, design, construction, etc., authorized as part of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018.

### Project Status

- The WSLP project groundbreaking took place on July 26, 2021.
- Currently, there are five (5) construction contracts issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) that include stockpiling clay and sand materials from the Bonnet Carré Spillway, construction of Access Roads, and construction of the WSLP-101 Test Section.
- Access Roads A, B, C, F, G, P, and S are under construction in St. John the Baptist and St. Charles Parishes. Access Road J has been completed.

- From Hope Canal to the Bonnet Carré Spillway, 100% of the requested right of way for Access Roads has been acquired and 96% of the requested right of way for the levee footprint has been acquired.
- The acquisition of the remaining levee right of way was on hold pending modifications to the right of way requested by USACE based on outcomes of the USACE hosted design summit and ensuing modeling efforts.
- USACE is in the process of moving forward with survey work for the St. James Ring Levees.



### Disaster Supplemental Funds

- \$3M in funds were appropriated for a West Shore Lake Pontchartrain General Reevaluation Report (GRR) focused on resiliency.
- Pending completion of a report with an economically justified and environmentally acceptable plan, up to \$450M in additional construction funds have been set aside for WSLP Project.

“The importance of this project is underscored by Congress’ decision to provide upfront funding through the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 and it shines a light on the importance of Louisiana to the nation. You do not engage in flood risk management in South Louisiana if you are afraid of challenges and unforeseen obstacles. I know that we have the right ‘team of teams’ in place and when construction is complete, we will have accomplished an effort that will be a model for future flood risk management efforts in South Louisiana. That being a hybrid system that uses every tool in the box, combining nonstructural and structural features to deliver risk reduction across a large project area.”

~ Colonel Stephen Murphy, Commander & District Engineer  
New Orleans District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



## Ascension Parish Storm Surge Project, Ascension & Livingston Parishes, Louisiana

The Ascension Storm Surge Protection Project will provide storm surge protection to the east bank of Ascension Parish. Project scope includes 2.8 miles of new earthen levee, 3 miles of upgrades to existing levees, the addition of 320 cfs of pumping capacity, other pump stations improvements, and two new flood gates. The project has been separated into two phases: Phase 1 consisting of work north of I-10 and Phase 2 consisting of work south of I-10.

This project is a joint effort between the Pontchartrain Levee District, the East Ascension Consolidated Gravity Drainage District 1, and the Louisiana Office of Facility Planning and Control Capital Outlay Program. The Louisiana Office of Facility Planning and Control authorized the start of the project in January 2022. The design team has begun work including design coordination, rights of entry, topographic and bathymetric surveys, geotechnical investigations and analysis, cultural resources investigations, and wetland delineations for the Phase 1 area.

## Approved & Pending Project Credits & PLD Cash Contributions

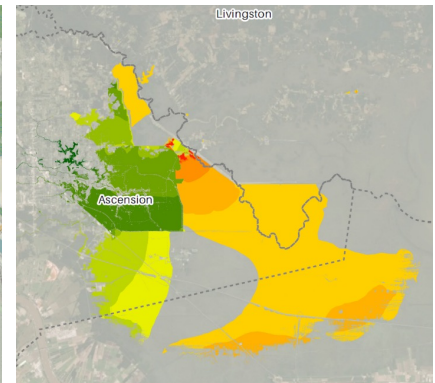
Based on a 2016 interim accounting of the Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana and Vicinity (LPV), Hurricane Protection Project, St. Charles Parish as conducted by USACE, PLD has made excess cash contributions to USACE of \$6.7 million. Additionally, PLD has accumulated project credits (USACE approved and pending) of \$17.1 million. PLD is seeking appropriations for excess cash contributions and accumulated project credits to be used as a funding source for other federal and local projects within PLD's six parish jurisdiction. Project credits include expenditures for the LPV project approved by USACE between 2011 and 2016.

<b>Description</b>	<b>Approved for Credit</b>
Corps Approved Project Credits -Project Management and Lands, Easements Rights of Way, Relocations and Disposal Areas (LERRDs)	\$10,579,810.39
Project Credits Pending Corps Approval-Project Management, LERRD's and Construction	\$6,529,682.37
Total Project Credits - Approved and Pending	<u>\$17,109,492.76</u>
PLD's 30% Share of Project Costs	\$20,855,479.05
PLD's Actual Cash Contributions to Corps	\$29,081,131.16
Excess Cash Contributions made by PLD	<u>\$8,225,652.11</u>
Corps Refund issued in 2016	\$1,510,919.73
PLD Excess Contributions to Corps	<u>\$6,714,732.38</u>
Total PLD Project Credits (Approved and Pending) and Excess Cash Contributions	<u>\$23,824,255.14</u>



## LA 22 Gapping Project, Louisiana Watershed Initiative, Ascension & Livingston Parishes, Louisiana

The LA 22 Gapping Project commenced as a master planning project which involved analysis of multiple projects that have a flood risk impact on the Lower Amite River Basin. Multiple concepts were developed based on old studies, stakeholder input, and new modeling information. The results of this effort showed a great need for gapping of LA 22 near the Amite River Diversion which was emphasized during the August Flood of 2016. This project restores flow to McElroy Swamp by placing structures through LA 22 near the Diversion Canal.



This project will help reduce water surface elevation along the Amite River and improve the health of the wetlands located within the floodplain of the Amite River Diversion Canal. Pontchartrain Levee District received full funding of \$42 million dollars through the Louisiana Watershed Initiative.

## Bayou Manchac Regional Flood Risk Reduction Project, Iberville, Ascension, & East Baton Rouge Parishes, Louisiana



The Bayou Manchac Regional Flood Risk Reduction Project is in the conceptual planning phase and will benefit three Parishes: Iberville, Ascension, and East Baton Rouge. The project scope envisioned by the three Parishes and Pontchartrain Levee District involves three phases: clearing and snagging, channelization/ dredging (including channel improvements projects) and pump stations to enhance the drainage and provide flood risk reduction for the area. Current work on the project includes preliminary modeling, exhibit preparation, cost estimation, and project summaries to be utilized by PLD to apply for funding during Round 2 of the Louisiana Watershed Initiative.



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## Pontchartrain Levee District Board of Commissioners

**Senecca D. Boudreaux, President**  
Representing St. James Parish

**Blaine J. Sheets, Vice President**  
Representing Canadian National Railroad

**Matthew Butler**  
Representing East Baton Rouge Parish

**Aaron Pourciau**  
Representing St. Charles Parish

**Percy Hebert, Jr.**  
Representing Iberville Parish

**Allen J. St. Pierre, Sr.**  
Representing St. John the Baptist Parish

**Randy T. Clouatre, Sr.**  
Representing Ascension Parish

**Claude "Trey" Granier, III**  
At Large

**Leonard C. Irvin, Sr.**  
Representing Canadian National Railroad



## Board Executive Staff

**Monica Salins Gorman**  
Executive Director

**Dwight D. Poirrier**  
Special Counsel

**Joseph Sevario**  
Executive Assistant to the Board

## Mission

- To maintain the existing levee systems in a condition that will ensure their integrity and capability to withstand river stages and hurricane tidal surges, as anticipated by their design and condition;
- To improve, by construction or supporting construction by others, of new or enhanced levels of protection as design parameters change or higher levels of protection are authorized; and
- To anticipate weaknesses in the system as and before they develop, and to respond actively with necessary emergency measures when the levees are being subjected to river stages or hurricane tidal surges that would cause flooding within the jurisdiction of the Pontchartrain Levee District.

## March 2022

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