
March 24, 2017

Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
Post Office Box 44027
Baton Rouge, LA 70804
Submitted via masterplan@la.gov

RE: Draft 2017 Coastal Master Plan

In 2006, a group of Terrebonne Parish community leaders created the Morganza Action Coalition (MAC) to promote federal authorization and funding of the Morganza-to-the-Gulf Hurricane Protection System. In 2016, we expanded our work to support levee projects of the North Lafourche Levee District and South Lafourche Levee District in addition to the work of the Terrebonne Levee and Conservation District on the Morganza project.

We are pleased to see the Morganza system once again proposed for inclusion in the 2017 Coastal Master Plan. MAC urges the CPRA, Governor Edwards and our Louisiana Legislature to continue to make the completion of this system, particularly the HNC Lock Complex, a high priority for funding in our state's integrated coastal protection and restoration plan.

The Morganza levee, lock and floodgate system consists of approximately 98 miles of earthen levee, 22 floodgates on navigable waterways, 23 environmental water control structures, and a lock complex in the Houma Navigation Canal with an adjoining floodgate and a dam closure. After nearly 30 years of studies on the Morganza system, it was federally authorized by Congress in 2014.

Morganza is designed to protect more than 150,000 residents in Terrebonne and Lafourche. Morganza is also essential to the sustainability, economic viability, and growth of Terrebonne and Lafourche Parishes, as well as our ability to continue to fuel and feed this entire nation. In fact, the entire Morganza system and Lafourche levee tie-ins – from Golden Meadow to Gibson – protects the homes and businesses of thousands of workers who provide vital services to the Gulf of Mexico energy hub of Port Fourchon, not to mention miles of pipelines and other critical energy infrastructure.

These reasons are why the residents of Terrebonne Parish and Lafourche Parish have voted to tax themselves to fund construction of Morganza and other local levees, despite the federal government's unwillingness to fund such a critical project for our nation's energy and economic security. The State of Louisiana has recognized the importance of Morganza, and thanks to state appropriations and local tax revenue, \$350 million in local and state money has been spent or committed to date on the Morganza

system – a federally approved system that currently receives NO Federal funding.

With these local and state funds, the Terrebonne Levee District is working diligently to build the first lift of the Morganza system, with the help of the North Lafourche Levee District and South Lafourche Levee District for tie-ins on the eastern end of the hurricane protection system.

Before the start of our 2017 hurricane season, we anticipate Reach E to be completed, providing at least 36 miles of levees along the Morganza alignment – all built with only local and state funding. Design is also underway for the HNC Lock Complex, which is the centerpiece of the Morganza system, protecting the city of Houma and providing significant environmental benefits.

MAC continues to aggressively advocate for state and federal dollars to fund completion of the lock complex as soon as possible, as well as the remaining levee segments and floodgates in the Morganza system. The survival of our critical Bayou Region depends on it.

Once again, thank you for recognizing the value of the Morganza to the Gulf in Louisiana's Coastal Master Plan and for supporting our region's efforts to fund and build the system. Our Bayou Region communities not only need the protection Morganza will provide - we deserve it!

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Walker".

Jay Walker
President