



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P.O. BOX 60267  
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70160-0267

APR 16 2013

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

Regional Planning and  
Environment Division South  
Environmental Planning Branch

Mr. Thomas Thompson  
217 Windward Passage  
Eden Isles, Louisiana 70458

Dear Mr. Thompson:

This letter is in response to your letter dated February 7, 2013, providing comments to our draft Comprehensive Environmental Document (CED) Greater New Orleans Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) February 2013." The US Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District (CEMVN) would like to thank you for your participation in the public review process. Items cited in your letter regarding your comments on the evaluation of the potential impacts of the HSDRRS are addressed below:

1. **"The CED must not be approved until the full impact of the HSDRRS on the Lake Pontchartrain basin is known.":**

CEMVN Response: The draft CED Phase I incorporates information from the Individual Environmental Reports (IERs) completed through November 15, 2010 and provides a cumulative impact assessment of the initial construction components for 217 miles of the HSDRRS implemented before July 2011. The Preface of the CED (P-1 to P-4) provides a summary of the hydrologic analysis that is currently available regarding impact of the pre- and post 100-year HSDRRS, specifically for Hurricane Isaac's impact outside the system. In the future, when all information is available, a CED Phase II will be released that will describe the cumulative impacts for all the HSDRRS construction, including a hydrologic assessment, transportation analysis, mitigation and monitoring as well as an Independent External Peer Review of specific features. Only after all phases of the CED have been released for public review, comments received and considered will the CEMVN District Commander approve the proposed recommended action and sign a Decision Record for the Final CED.

2. **"The Corps must revise all of their models and studies to include 100% of the HSDRRS before any CED of the system can be considered a valid and accurate representation of the environmental impact it has on the greater New Orleans area.":**

CEMVN Response: A "Cumulative storm surge comparison of the Historical Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity and West Bank and Vicinity and the 2012 100-year Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System hydrologic modeling assessment" is in progress to

evaluate impacts outside the system. This hydrologic assessment proposes to develop 1965, 2005, and 2012 versions of the SL16 mesh, representing the levee system in the years 1965, 2005, and 2012, and run simulations with ADCIRC+SWAN, of the following storms: Betsy, Camille, Juan, Katrina, Rita, Gustav, Ike, and Isaac with the best available data. Once complete, a hydrologic report would be released by November 2013 that would describe and evaluate the historical as well as the present cumulative storm surge impact of the completed HSDRRS and the surrounding area. This report and its findings would be incorporated into the CED Phase II.

I hope this addresses your comments. If you have any questions or need additional information concerning the CED in general please contact Ms. Laura Lee Wilkinson. She may be reached at (504) 862-1212 or email at [laura.l.wilkinson@usace.army.mil](mailto:laura.l.wilkinson@usace.army.mil). If you have specific questions concerning the hydrologic modeling please contact Ms. Nancy Powell. You may reach her at (504) 862-2449 or email [nancy.j.powell@usace.army.mil](mailto:nancy.j.powell@usace.army.mil).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joan M Exnicios". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

Joan M. Exnicios  
Chief, New Orleans  
Environmental Branch