



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

January 6, 2010

The Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy
Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
108 Army Pentagon
Washington D.C. 20310-0108

Dear Ms. Darcy:

As required by Executive Order 12322, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has completed its review of your recommendation concerning the Comprehensive Report for the Mississippi Coastal Improvements Program (MsCIP) – Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson Counties, Mississippi.

We concur with your recommendation that the standard 65 percent Federal and 35 percent non-Federal cost-share be applied to both the hurricane and storm damage risk reduction and ecosystem restoration construction activities as proposed in the comprehensive MSCIP program. In addition, the future storm damage reduction studies that the report recommends the Corps undertake as a follow-on to this effort should assure adequate consideration of both ecosystem values and the evaluation of non-structural solutions, as opposed to strictly structural alternatives. It is also important that the Corps continue to coordinate its planning efforts in the MsCIP program with the Louisiana Coastal Restoration and Protection study to assure the hydrological and ecological compatibility of these two efforts.

We do not object to you forwarding this report to Congress for authorization. Please share your draft transmittal letter with OMB prior to transmittal to the Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard A. Mertens", written over a horizontal line.

Richard A. Mertens
Deputy Associate Director
Energy, Science and Water