Mississippi Coastal Improvements Program

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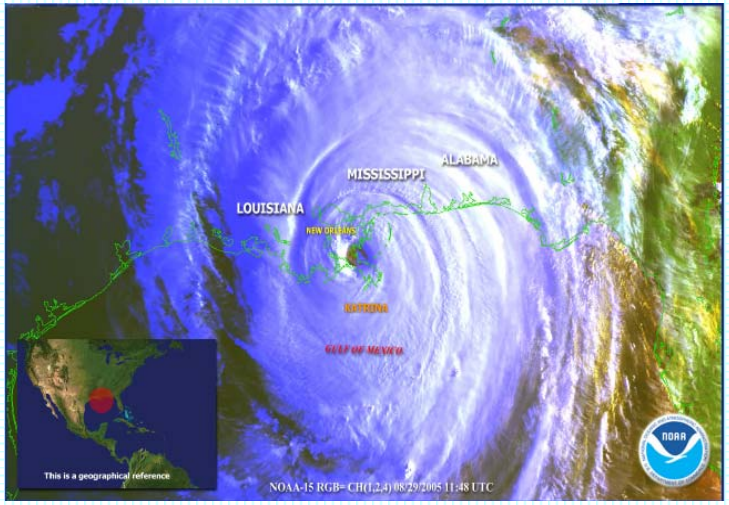
Topics

- Study Background
- Methodology
- Interim Recommendations
- ITR and External Peer Review
- Summary

Authority Language



Studies related to the consequences of the 2005 hurricanes

* All efforts fully coordinated with the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Project (LACPR) team

- $10 Million Emergency Supplemental Appropriations
- Cost Effective Projects in lieu of NED
- No Incremental Benefit-Cost Analysis
- 6 and 24 month report requirements
- Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction
- Salt Water Intrusion
- Shoreline Erosion
- Fish and Wildlife Preservation
- Other Water Related Resource Projects

Focus Area

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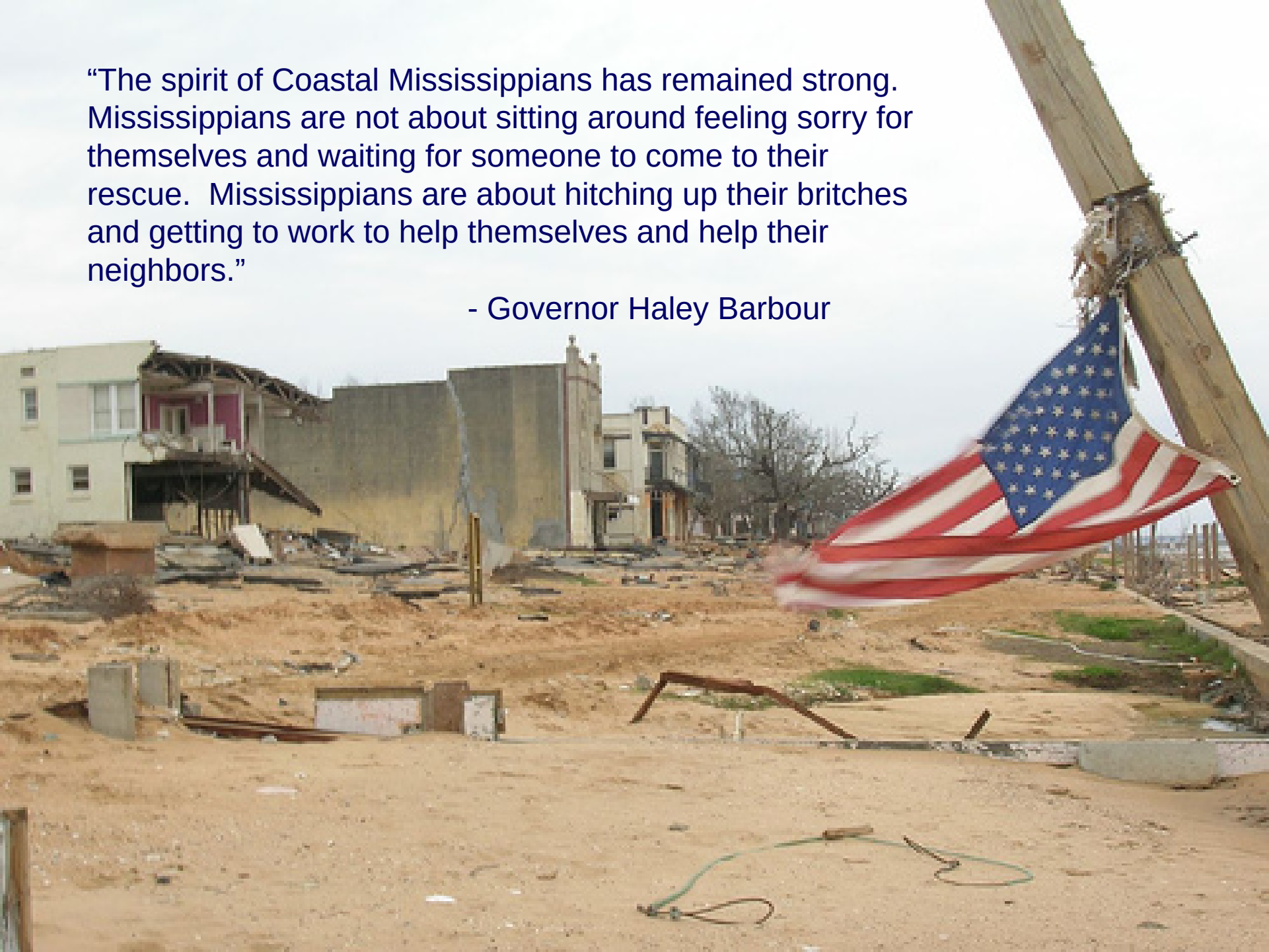
LA
Pearl River
Stone
George
Mobile
Mississippi
Harrison
Jackson
Hancock
Biloxi
Pascagoula
Waveland
St. Tammany
Orleans

Mississippi Perspective

Dr. Bill Walker

Executive Director

Mississippi Department of Marine Resources



“The spirit of Coastal Mississippians has remained strong. Mississippians are not about sitting around feeling sorry for themselves and waiting for someone to come to their rescue. Mississippians are about hitching up their britches and getting to work to help themselves and help their neighbors.”

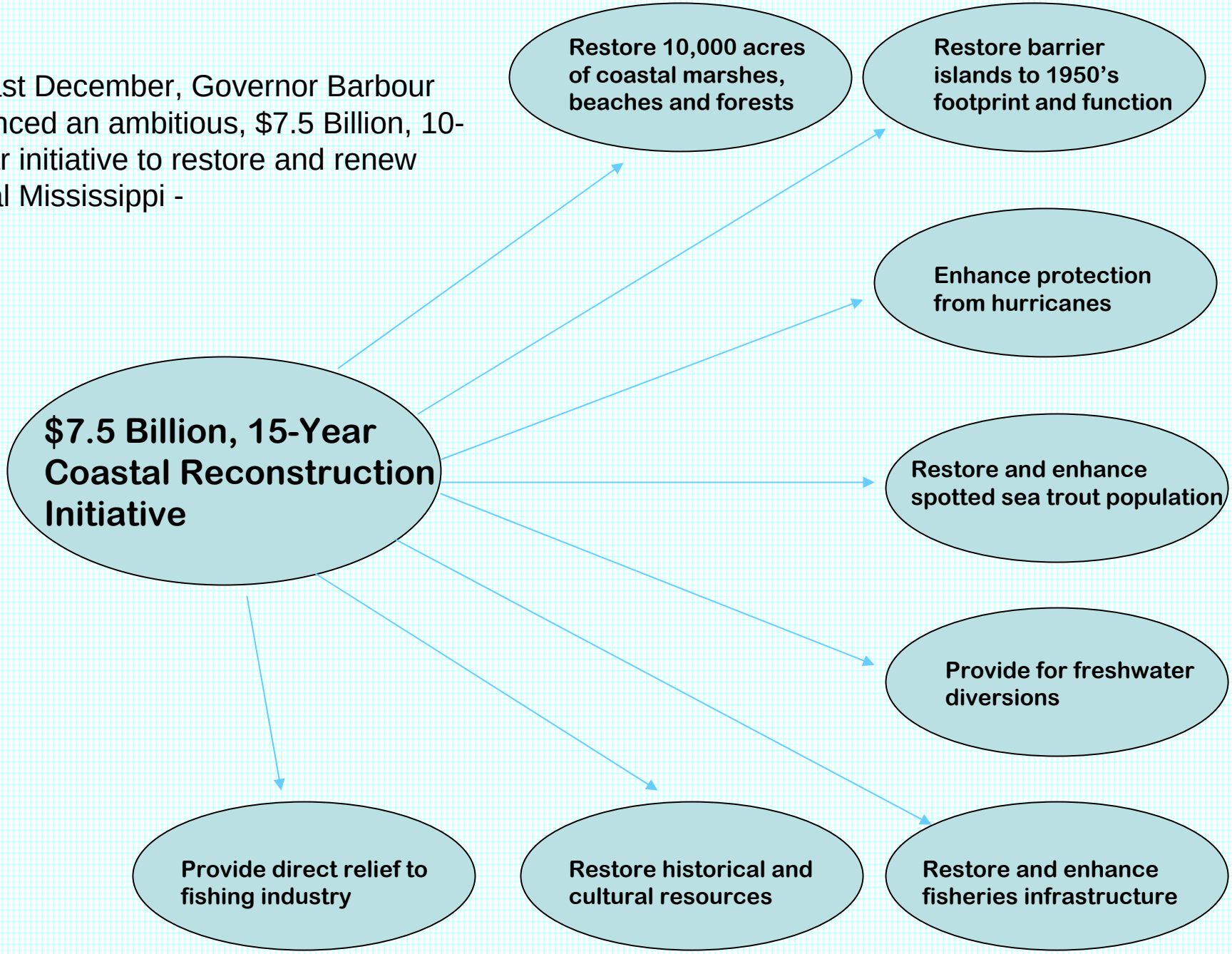
- Governor Haley Barbour

"We got a tall mountain in front of us… We're not only going to have to rebuild, but we're going to rebuild bigger and better than before."

- Governor Haley Barbour

Recovery

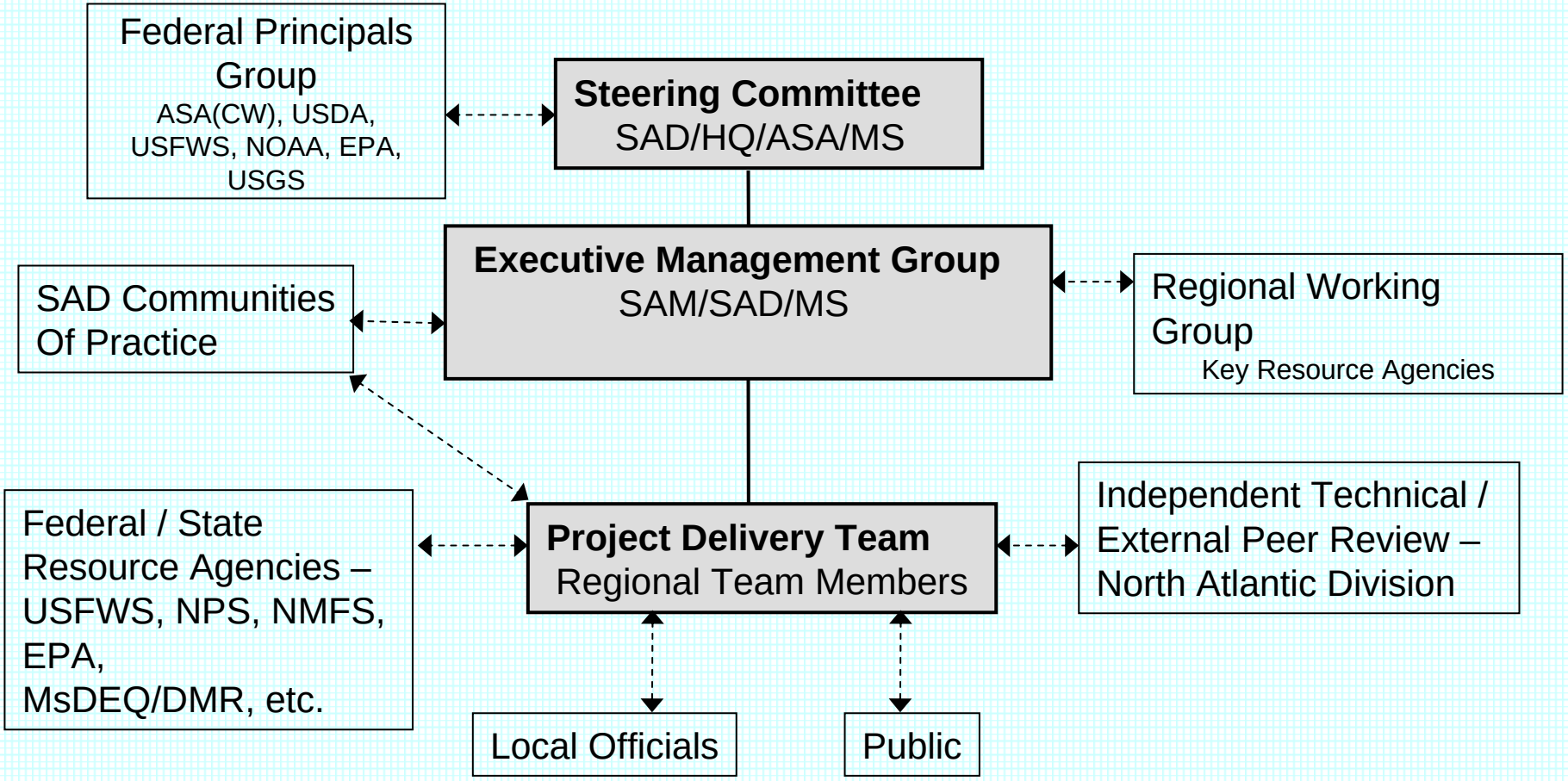
And, last December, Governor Barbour announced an ambitious, $7.5 Billion, 10-15-year initiative to restore and renew Coastal Mississippi -



Where are we now?

- Prior to Katrina, Congress appropriated $2.5 million to COE through WRDA for continued restoration of Deer Island.
- In the December 2006 supplemental, Congress appropriated an additional $12.5 million to the COE for restoration of Deer Island and other coastal systems.
- Also in December, Congress appropriated $199 million to USDA, some $20 million of which is designated for oyster reef restoration in Mississippi.
- Congress has directed COE to conduct a six-month study to determine what Coastal Mississippi needs to do to restore ecosystem function and mitigate against future storm damage, how that can best be done and how much it will cost.
- We continue to work with Congress to fund our Governor's Restoration Initiative.

Project Delivery Process



Interim Report Schedule

• December 30, 2005	Third Supplemental Appropriations Bill signed
• February 9, 2006	Funding allocation received
• Apr 28	Final PGM Received
• May 1	ITR Draft Interim Report
• May 1-4	Public workshops round 2
• May 9-10	Briefs to ASA and OMB, Senator Cochran
• May 16, 17	Congressional Briefs
• May 19	Start EPR and NEPA 30 day review
• June 5	Brief to Governor Barbour
• June 20	EPR & NEPA comments to SAD/HQ
• June 22-23	Field Trip with HQ and OMB
• June 27	Submit Revised Interim Report to SAD
• June 30	SAD transmits report to HQ
• June 30	ASA(CW) sends Status Letter to Congress
• July 20	Civil Works Review Board

ASA(CW) Letter to Congress – 30 June

- State and Agency Review Required
- "Issuance of a Chief of Engineers' Report"
- Transmittal of the Chief's Report – September 2006 for review and coordination with OMB
- Completion of Administration Review – December 2006

Louisiana Coastal Protection & Restoration Study

- **Similar (Collaborative) Efforts**
  - Design of probable maximum hurricane
  - Common modeling philosophy – engineering & environmental
  - Public Involvement – same process
  - Dialogue among PDT Members
  - Concurrent report timelines
  - ITR/EPR facilitated by HSDR National Center of Expertise
- **Differences**
  - MsCIP does not specify level of protection (LACPR requires Cat 5 protection)
  - MsCIP requires interim recommendations
  - MsCIP Interim report required NEPA review

Public Involvement Process

1st Regional Coordination Workshop

- ***Develop Project Principles***
- ***Generate Coastal Options***

April 7

2nd Regional Coordination Workshop

- ***Review Public Input***
- ***Provide Preferred Options***

April 26

Planning Team
- Refine Input
- Assess Feasibility
- Develop Next Meeting

1st Round Public Workshops
- ***Provide Overview, Options and Principles***
- ***Generate New Coastal Options***

April 10, 11, 13 (Workshops)
April 18 (Online)

2nd Round Public Workshops
Gather Comments on Proposed Options

May 1, 2, 4
May 3 (Online)

http://mscip.usace.army.mil

Public Involvement Process
(10 workshops in 30 days)

- Consensus Position
  - Link with Governor's Coastal Restoration Plan
  - Balance of natural and engineered solutions
  - Expectations for moderate protection from future storms
  - Continued public involvement in development of comprehensive plan
- Desire for additional near-term projects
- 28 June 2006 Letter of Support from Governor

Interim Report

- Over **180** problem areas identified; **15** recommended for interim improvements
- Near-term recommendations
  - By Category
    - 7 Hurricane Storm Damage Reduction Projects
    - 4 Flood Damage Reduction Projects
    - 4 Ecosystem Restoration Projects
  - By County
    - 7 Hancock County
    - 3 Harrison County
    - 5 Jackson County
- Discussion of the public interest and perceived need for stormwater management, stricter building codes, updated evacuation plans, etc.
- Study framework for comprehensive plan – next 18 months including a communication strategy

Plan Formulation / Cost Effectiveness

- Authorization: *"…the Secretary shall recommend a cost-effective project, but shall not perform an incremental benefit-cost analysis…"*

- Formulation methodology
  - Identify critical problem set
  - Identify all potential means to provide solution to problem
  - Determine most cost effective means of solving problem (i.e. least cost method of solving problem)

Plan Evaluation Analyses Interim Report

- Selection criteria
  - Need as a result of 2005 hurricanes
  - Minimal adverse environmental concern
  - Public support
  - Non-controversial
  - Provides relief from future storm events
  - Simplicity of design (no modeling required)
  - Accommodate on-going recovery actions (local, State, Federal)
- Benefits – System of Accounts
  - Risk and Consequences
  - Economic, Regional, Social Effects, Environmental Quality accounts
- Cost effectiveness – "*Least cost method of achieving desired output*"
- Environmental Assessment
- Engineering Design and Cost Estimate
- Independent Technical Review/External Peer Review

Interim Actions

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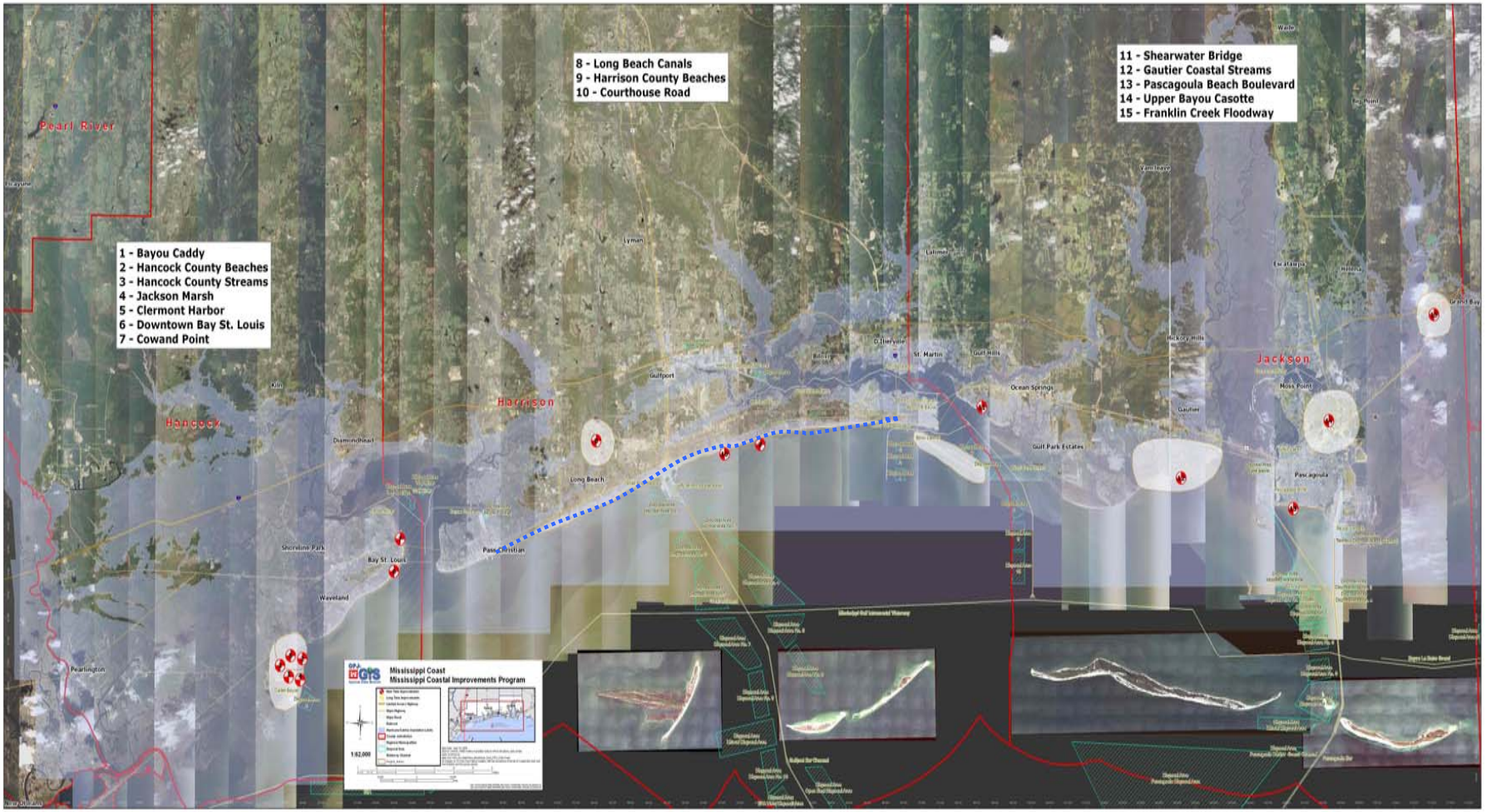

Near Term Recommendations

Name	Purpose	County	Estimated Cost
Hurricane Evacuation Planning	Public Safety and Storm Damage Reduction	All	$10,000,000*
Bayou Caddy	Ecosystem Restoration	Hancock	$5,690,000
Hancock County Beaches	Hurricane & Storm Damage Reduction	Hancock	$1,460,000
Hancock County Streams	Flood Damage Reduction & Ecosystem Restoration	Hancock	$6,820,000
Jackson Marsh	Ecosystem Restoration	Hancock	$3,030,000
Clermont Harbor	Hurricane & Storm Damage Reduction	Hancock	$1,350,000
Downtown Bay St. Louis	Hurricane & Storm Damage Reduction	Hancock	$29,140,000
Cowand Point	Hurricane & Storm Damage Reduction	Hancock	$3,860,000
Long Beach Canals	Flood Damage Reduction	Harrison	$23,480,000
Harrison County Beaches	Hurricane & Storm Damage Reduction & Ecosystem Restoration	Harrison	$13,580,000
Courthouse Road	Flood Damage Reduction & Ecosystem Restoration	Harrison	$520,000
Shearwater Bridge	Hurricane & Storm Damage Reduction	Jackson	$1,480,000
Gautier Coastal Streams	Flood Damage Reduction & Ecosystem Restoration	Jackson	$4,050,000
Pascagoula Beach Boulevard	Hurricane & Storm Damage Reduction & Ecosystem Restoration	Jackson	$7,450,000
Upper Bayou Casotte	Flood Damage Reduction	Jackson	$1,300,000
Franklin Creek Floodway	Flood Damage Reduction	Jackson	$4,160,000
Total			**$117,370,000**

Summary of Project Outputs

- Restore 35 miles of beach and dune systems
- Protect/enhance 3300 acres of coastal wetlands
- Restore 2 ½ miles of seawall systems
- Restore flood storage capacity and circulation in 11 miles of streams/canals
- Potential reduction in storm damage to over 41,000 structures
- Provide $11 million in annual recreation benefits

Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction Projects

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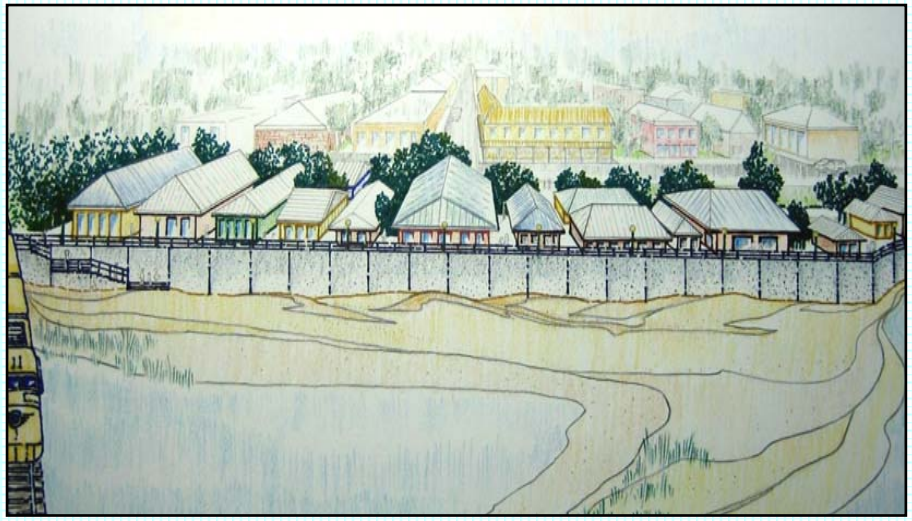
Downtown Bay St. Louis



Potential Improvement

Flood Damage Reduction Projects

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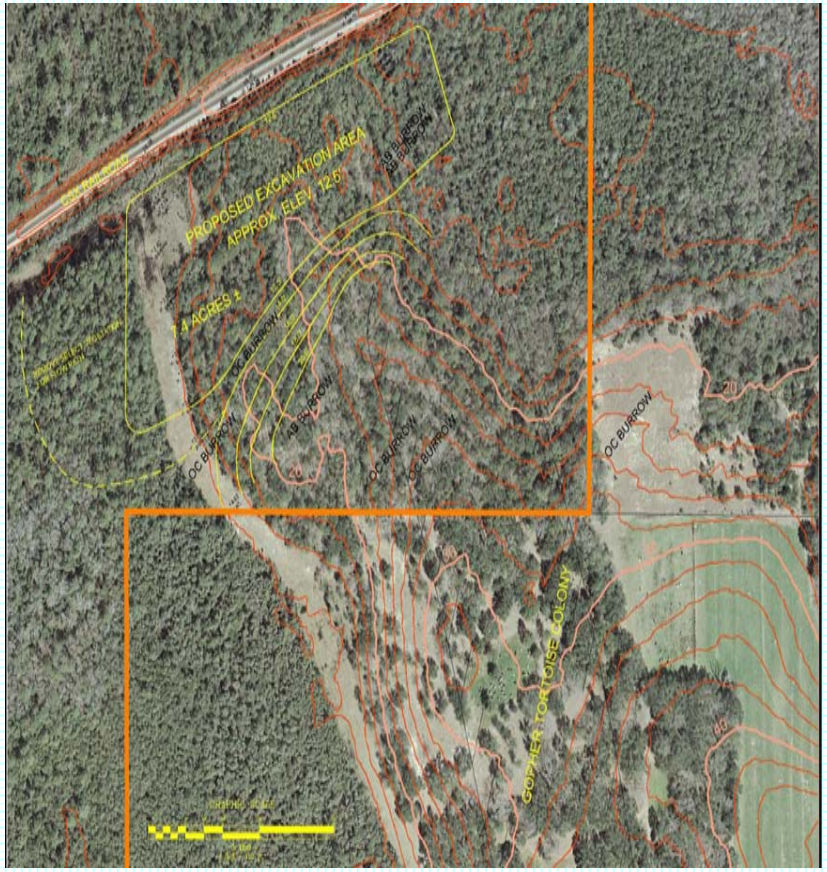
Hancock County Streams

Upper Bayou Casotte

Non-Structural Projects



Franklin Creek Floodway

Ecosystem Restoration Project

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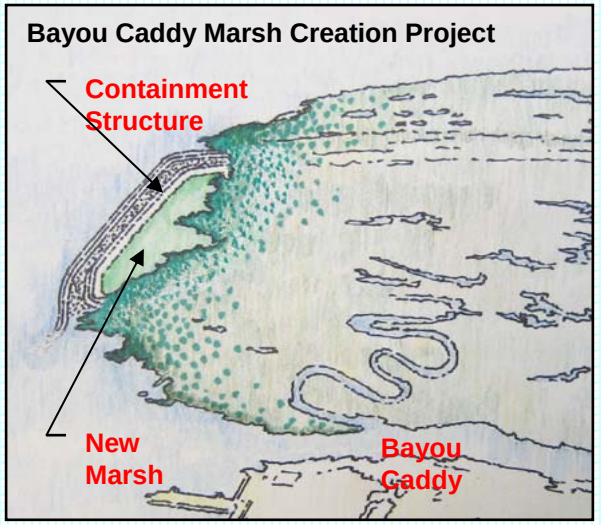
Bayou Caddy



Potential Improvement

Compliance with PGM

April 28, 2006 – HQ/ASA(CW) Policy Guidance Memorandum

- Close Coordination with LACPR – *Fully coordinated and joint development and use of critical models. Jointly attended IPR meetings.*
- ITR and EPR will be conducted – *Accomplished and certified*.
- Analysis will be limited to what can be completed in 6-months – *Existing information and models used to identify outputs and costs.*
- All 4 benefit accounts used (NED, EQ, RES, and OSE) – *System of accounts developed for each project.*
- NED and NER analysis will not be done – *System of accounts used and most cost effective alternative identified.*
- Reports should acknowledge existing law and policy with respect to cost sharing – *Traditional cost-sharing identified for each mission area.*
- PDT to conduct regular vertical team – in progress reviews (IPR) – *Weekly update meetings held with SAD and HQ. Several IPR meetings held.*
- PMP and fact sheets will be developed – *PMP developed and updated. Fact sheets developed for each project.*

Compliance with Office of Water Project Review

June 27, 2006 – Office of Water Project Review

- Cost Sharing/Project Costs – *Complied with identification of cost sharing requirements and adjusting costs to remove escalation.*
- Environmental Coordination/Environmental Policy Compliance –*Comments about SHPO, endangered species, environmental justice addressed.*
- Identify significance of ecosystem restoration benefits – *Outputs of environmental features have been quantified where possible and significance identified.*
- Real Estate – clarify relocation benefits, estate information, and O&M responsibilities – *Real Estate Appendix has been revised to address comments.*
- Bayou Caddy Project – clarify impacts to Bayou Caddy from Katrina and explain importance of wetland system being protected – *Comment addressed to define impacts of Katrina and the total acreage and significance of wetlands protected.*

Independent Technical Review

- Facilitated by the National Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction Planning Center of Expertise, Philadelphia District
- Approximately 400 review comments received; able to satisfactorily document concur and non-concur
- Constructive comments; comments on Real Estate and Engineering particularly helpful
- Early engagement and regular conference calls with NAB/ITR team facilitated review

External Peer Review

- 3 Reviewers – 2 Academics and a Coastal Engineer
- Charged to review Roadmap for Comprehensive Plan Development, not Interim Recommendations
- 70 Review Comments Provided
  - Interim Report generally well done
  - PMP needs more detail and discussion of integration of efforts
  - Need to evaluate non-structural measures including retreat as means of avoiding risk vs. re-establishment of pre-Katrina status quo
  - Discussed need for establishing the economic and social significance of the Gulf Coast to the nation
- Would like to be more intimately involved during development of comprehensive plan

NEPA Review

- Comments received from the following
  - US FWS (USFWS Coordination Act), NMFS, USEPA, USGS, USDOI, NPS
  - MSDMR, MSDEQ, MSHPO
  - Harrison County
- Comment Summary
  - Concur with FONSI
  - Supported MsCIP near-term recommendations
  - Requested additional projects
  - Expressed philosophical support for natural solutions for hurricane storm damage reduction

Environmental Operating Principles

- Public views sought and respected: active public involvement with significant two-way dialogue
- Balance between natural and engineered solutions a program goal for both near-term and comprehensive planning effort
- The majority of the near-term recommendations have an ecosystem restoration component
- Near-term projects support environmental sustainability and contribute to present and future environmental well-being
- Complies with all Federal and State environmental laws
- Supports Governor’s Strategy for environmental restoration of the coast

Recommendations

- **Approve release of the Chief's Report for State and Agency Review**

- **Complete Chief's Report**

US Army Corps
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One Team – Relevant, Ready, Responsive, Reliable

Presentation
to the

Civil Works Review Board

Interim Report
Mississippi Comprehensive Improvement Program
Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson Counties, Mississippi

by

BG Michael J. Walsh

Commander
South Atlantic Division

20 July 2006

Strong NAD Support

- Hurricane Storm Damage Reduction Planning Center of Expertise – Larry Cocchieri
  - Independent Technical Review – J.B. Smith, ITR Leader, Philadelphia District
  - External Peer Review – Facilitated by Claire O'Neill, Baltimore District
    - 3 Independent Professional Reviewers

Key New Orleans District Support

- Gregg Miller
- Edmond Russo
- Tim Axtman
- Gil Kim
- Bruce Baird

Key Partners

- State of Mississippi
- Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson Counties, MS
- National Park Service
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- US Environmental Protection Agency Region 4
- Other Federal Agencies

Key Headquarters Team Members

- Gary Hardesty, SAD-RIT
- Zoltan Montvai, MVD- RIT
- Jay Warren, OWPR
- William Thompson, SAD Real Estate

Rationale for SAD Support

- Concur with SAM District Commander's findings & recommendations.
- Report complies with specific policy directives.
- Anticipate favorable State and Agency response to the draft Chief's Report.
- Plan strongly supported by State of Mississippi and Congressional delegation.
- Interim Plan Supported by Federal Agencies.

Certification of Legal & Policy Compliance

- Legal certification of the Interim Report made by SAM District Counsel, June 2006
- Technical and Policy Compliance:
  - ITR compliance review completed Jun 06
  - ITR conducted and certified by NAD
  - External Peer Review (EPR) completed by NAD
  - All ITR comments have been addressed
  - Policy compliance issues have been addressed

SAD Quality Assurance Activities

- Established ITR and EPR teams
- Held Weekly Conference call with National PDT
- Insured close coordination with HQ and MVD
- Held On-Site Policy Review Sessions

SAD Recommendation

- Release for State and Agency Review
- Complete Chief's Report

Civil Works Review Board

Significant Policy Review Concerns

Mississippi Coastal Improvements Program, Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson Counties, Mississippi

Jay Warren, P.E.
Office of Water Project Review
Policy and Policy Compliance Division

Washington, DC – 20 July 2006

Areas of Policy Concern:

- Non-Federal Sponsor Not Identified
- Non-policy Compliant Plan Formulation and Evaluation
- Inconsistent Description of Project Features and Costs
- Cost Sharing for Separable Features
- Significance of Environmental outputs
- Items of Local Cooperation

Non-Federal Sponsor Not Identified

Concern: The report does not explicitly identify non-Federal sponsors for the project proposals.

Reason: CW project guidance requires that final feasibility reports identify an entity that is willing and able to perform the obligations specified in the items of local cooperation

Resolution: Explicitly identify non-Federal sponsors that are willing and able to perform the obligations of local cooperation prior to initiating S&A review.

Resolution Impact: Concern will be resolved upon identifying non-Federal sponsors

Non-policy Compliant Plan Formulation and Evaluation

Concern: The plan formulation and evaluation presented in the interim report is limited and at less than feasibility level of detail.

Reason: The level of plan formulation and evaluation detail presented calls to question the accuracy of the estimates of project outputs and project costs

Resolution: The project proposals are not unusually complex. However, the conceptual nature of many of the project proposals dictate that more detailed analysis be conducted and presented in appropriate PED documents.

Resolution/Impact: Major design refinements during PED would result in costs that may be significantly different from those presented in the Chief of Engineers Report.

Inconsistent Description of Project Features and Costs

Concern: The project features and costs for the Pascagoula Beach Boulevard Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction project are not consistently described in the main report and economics appendix.

Reason: Project description and costs cited in the report of the Chief of Engineers may be incorrect.

Resolution: Revise the interim report to cite consistent project descriptions and costs through the report documents

Resolution Impact: Concern resolved upon verification of the selected plan features and associated costs

Cost-Sharing for Separable Features

Concern: It appears that the final interim report does not indicate correct cost sharing for a separable feature of the Hancock County Streams project proposal.

Reason: The report must show costs allocated to appropriate project purposes and apportioned as specified in law.

Resolution: Revise the final interim report to explicitly identify cost sharing requirements for structural flood control, non-structural flood control, ecosystem restoration, hurricane and storm damage reduction and navigation project purposes, as applicable.

Resolution Impact: Concern will be resolved upon revision of the final interim report.

Significance of Environmental Outputs

Concern: The report relies on general descriptions of benefits expected to accrue to the EQ account as justification for the costs associated with ecosystem restoration proposals

Reason: The significance of ecosystem restoration outputs must also be described, as noted in section E-37 of ER 1105-2-100.

Resolution: Revise the report to discuss why the resources and functions that are to be restored are important

Resolution Impact: Concern will be resolved upon inclusion of significance statements in the final interim report.

Items of Local Cooperation

Concern: The interim report does not list items of local cooperation associated with the various project purposes

Reason: Feasibility reports and the Final Chief's Report typically list the items of local cooperation associated with each project purpose.

Resolution: Revise the interim report to include items of local cooperation for non-structural flood damage reduction, ecosystem restoration, hurricane and storm damage reduction, structural flood damage reduction, and navigation

Resolution Impact: Concern will be resolved upon inclusion of items of local cooperation for each project purpose, including any desired special provisions, in the final interim report.

HQUSACE Policy Compliance Review Team RECOMMENDATION

Release the report and EA for S&A Review upon resolution of pending policy concerns including receipt of a letter of intent from the State of Mississippi, or others, to act as non-Federal Project sponsors for the proposed projects

Lessons Learned

- Regional teaming worked well
- Time is most precious resource -- time for plan formulation vs. ITR/EPR vs. NEPA review vs. for upward reporting
- Vertical coordination and integration essential
- Extensive regional agency and public participation instrumental in identifying immediate needs and building public support
- Engaging ASA, OMB and Congress early/continuously and with on-site visits invaluable
- Collaboration with LACPR essential
- Standard planning processes not geared to support emergency directives
- Developing rationale to support cost effective projects is a challenge

SAD Lessons Learned

- Active Public Involvement by Public and State improved the responsiveness of the decision document recommendations.
- External Peer Review Process still evolving (cost, process, product, etc)
- Planning Centers of Expertise ITR process still evolving
- Vertical coordination and integration essential
- Standard planning processes not geared to support planning emergency directives

SAD Lessons Learned

- Regional teaming worked well
- Developing rationale to support cost effective projects is a challenge
- Extensive regional agency and public participation instrumental in identifying immediate needs and building public support
- Engaging ASA, OMB and Congress early/continuously and with on-site visits invaluable
- Constant dialogue with LaCPR a big benefit