South Lake De Cade  
Freshwater Introduction (TE-39)

**Project Status**

- **Approved Date:** 2000  
- **Project Area:** 1,685 acres  
- **Approved Funds:** $3.43 M  
- **Total Est. Cost:** $4.90 M  
- **Net Benefit After 20 Years:** 202 acres  
- **Status:** Engineering and Design  
- **Project Type:** Freshwater Diversion and Shoreline Protection  
- **PPL #:** 9

**Location**

The project is located in Terrebonne Parish, approximately 15 miles southwest of Houma, Louisiana.

**Problems**

The project area is experiencing marsh deterioration due to subsidence, rapid tidal exchange, and human-induced hydrologic changes that result in increased salinities. Saltwater intrusion has caused a shift in marsh type and a conversion of over 30 percent of emergent vegetation to open water habitat. Shoreline erosion along the south embankment of Lake De Cade threatens to breach the hydrologic barrier between the lake and interior marshes.

**Restoration Strategy**

Proposed project components include installing three control structures along the south rim of the lake and enlarging Lapeyrouse Canal to allow the controlled diversion of Atchafalaya River water, nutrients, and sediments south into project area marshes. Outfall management structures are planned in the marsh interior to provide better distribution of river water. In addition, approximately 1.6 miles of foreshore rock dike is planned to protect the critical areas of the south lake shoreline from breaching.

**Progress to Date**

After initial engineer investigation the project was divided into two construction units. Construction unit one will consist of the shoreline protection components. The other will be freshwater introduction components. Engineering and design on the shoreline protection component is complete and constructions is pending Phase 2 approval. Data gathering and analysis is being conducted on the freshwater diversion aspects of the project.

This project is on Priority Project List 9.