

FACT SHEET
LOUISIANA COASTAL WETLANDS CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION TASK FORCE
WEST BAY SEDIMENT DIVERSION (MR-03)

PROJECT/STUDY NAME: WEST BAY SEDIMENT DIVERSION (MR-03)

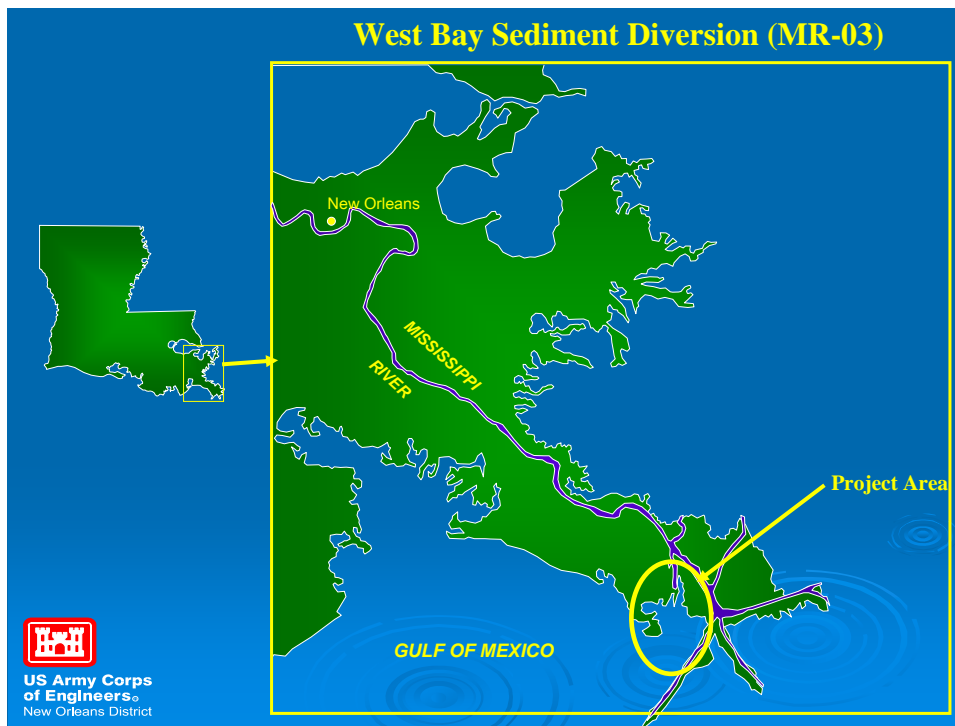
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AUTHORITY: CWWPRA Project Priority List 1

COST & FUND STATUS: \$22.3 million – 2002 project life cost estimate

The project received an \$11 million budget increase to cover 2009 expenses related to dredging shoaled material from the Pilottown anchorage area.

STUDY AREA: The diversion site is located on the west bank of the Mississippi River, in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, 4.7 miles above Head of Passes. The project diverts Mississippi River water and sediments into West Bay.



PROJECT PURPOSE & NEED:

Marshes along the lower Mississippi River are subsiding and converting to open water because of a lack of riverine sediment inputs and fresh water.

The objective of the project is to restore vegetated wetlands in an area that is currently shallow open water. The project diverts sediments to create, nourish, and maintain approximately 9,831 acres of fresh to intermediate marsh in the West Bay area over the 20-year project life.

The project consists of a conveyance channel for the large-scale diversion of sediments from the river.

The conveyance channel was constructed with an average discharge of 14,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) at the 50% stage duration on the Mississippi River. Since construction in 2003 the flow capacity of the conveyance channel has increased to 27,000 cfs at the 50% stage duration.

Material from the construction of the initial channel was used to create wetlands in the diversion outfall area. The diversion induces shoaling in the main navigation channel of the Mississippi River and the adjacent Pilottown anchorage area. Dredging of the main channel is accomplished under the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' ongoing Operations and Maintenance Program for the river, but additional dredging of the anchorage area is an added feature and cost of the project. The material dredged from the anchorage area is utilized to create wetlands in the West Bay diversion outfall area.

STATUS: Construction of the diversion channel was completed in November 2003.

The project includes ongoing Ecological and Engineering monitoring.

In 2009, the project has received an \$11 million budget increase to cover expenses related to dredging shoaled material from the Pilottown anchorage area.

A work plan is being developed to better assess the quantity of shoaling being induced by the project. The work plan is schedule for completion by November 24, 2009.

Federal Sponsor:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans, LA
(504) 862-1597

Local Sponsor:

Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
Baton Rouge, LA
(225) 342-7308

MAJOR MILESTONES:

Feasibility Scoping Meeting: Complete
Alternative Formulation Briefing: Complete
Draft Feasibility Report: Complete
Draft NEPA Document Public Review: Complete
FONSI/ROD: Complete
Construction Start: September 2003
Construction Completion: November 2003
Reevaluation (work plan) Start: May 2009