

Jefferson EDGE 2020 FLOOD PROTECTION Status Report 1: March, 2009

Prepared by JEDCO and GCR & Associates, Inc.

JEDCO
Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission



Flood Protection

In response to concerns about quality of life in Jefferson Parish and its impact upon the community's economic competitiveness, JEDCO initiated the Jefferson Edge 2020 Quality of Life initiative. This initiative has produced seven "strategic implementation plans" to date which include a series of action items to address particular quality of life issues. Implementing the action items requires the total cooperation and keen interest of all involved, including JEDCO, the Jefferson Parish government, numerous other entities, and frequently State and Federal agencies. In 2008, JEDCO retained GCR & Associates, Inc. to prepare semiannual reports outlining the status of each of these action items and overall progress toward implementation.

The following table summarizes the progress made toward each of the external flood protection (E) and internal flood protection (I) action items.

E = External Flood Protection I = Internal Flood Protection

Action ID #	Action Item	Progress as of March 2009		
		Action Item Complete	Substantial Progress	Little/No Progress
E1	Advocate for additional federal funding for 100 year flood protection	Complete		
E2	Advocate for reduced local share of the cost of 100 year protection	Complete		
E3	Explore alternative means of financing local component of 100 year protection	Complete		
E4	Push for federal authorization and funding of a polder system of compartmentalized flood protection			Little/No Progress
E5	Advocate for expanded Corps of Engineers oversight and reform			Little/No Progress
E6	Make a renewed call for 500 year protection			Little/No Progress
E7	Initiate a public outreach campaign to keep the public informed about external flood control projects		Substantial Progress	
I1	Secure additional funding through the SELA program to implement SELA-authorized projects	Complete		
I2	Seek federal funding for automated climber screens for the pump stations			Little/No Progress
I3	Work with federal government to obtain funding to improve "local" drainage system in Jefferson			Little/No Progress
I4	Work with the Army Corps of Engineers to authorize Hoey's Basin pump to the river and work with Congress to secure funding			Little/No Progress

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Action ID #	Action Item	Original Timeline	Accomplishments/Benchmarks Met	Next Steps	Progress as of March 2009		
					Action Item Complete	Substantial Progress	Little/No Progress
E1	Advocate for additional federal funding for 100 year flood protection	Secure funding in 2008	In June 2008, Congress passed a supplemental funding bill (P.L. 110-252) for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan that included \$5.8 billion for hurricane protection.	No further action needed			
E2	Advocate for reduced local share of the cost of 100 year protection	Pass legislation in 2008	Following substantial advocacy by the Louisiana Delegation, in August 2008, the President used his authority under the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 to allow Louisiana to repay the federal government its \$1.5 billion share of hurricane protection funding thirty years from the date of project completion. On January 16, 2009, the State's financing terms for hurricane protection were finalized with the signing of an agreement by the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority and the Army Corps of Engineers.	No further action needed			
E3	Explore alternative means of financing local component of 100 year protection	Secure agreement and pass legislation in 2008	The delayed cost share repayment schedule mentioned in E2 will allow Jefferson Parish to prioritize its resources and avoid delays as it continues to capitalize on the 2006 bill awarding coastal states a portion of oil drilling revenues.	No further action needed			
E4	Push for federal authorization and funding of a polder system of compartmentalized flood protection	Complete study in 2008; secure Congressional authorization and funding by 2011	Although having a polder flood protection system in place is the Parish's goal, Jefferson is concentrating on ensuring that its 100 year protection needs are met while awaiting the release of the Corps' Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration (LACPR) report. A draft of the report was released in March of 2009, but it will likely be extensively revised.	Complete study in 2009; secure Congressional authorization and funding by 2011.			
E5	Advocate for expanded Corps of Engineers oversight and reform	Pass legislation in 2008	In 2007, Senators Landrieu and Vitter succeeded in having language included in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) that requires the Corps to include explicit recommendations within its Category 5 storm protection plan. Additionally, the language includes a provision for streamlining the approval process for all Corps' project recommendations. Despite the federal momentum behind this initiative, the Corps has failed to release its final technical report for comprehensive category 5 hurricane protection. Both Senator Landrieu and Vitter have stated that Corps reform will be a priority during the 111th Congressional Session.	Pass legislation in 2009			

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Progress as of March 2009							
Action ID #	Action Item	Original Timeline	Accomplishments/Benchmarks Met	Next Steps	Action Item Complete	Substantial Progress	Little/No Progress
E6	Make a renewed call for 500 year protection	Complete study in 2008; secure Authorization and funding by 2011	Again, as is the case with the polder flood protection system (E4), Jefferson Parish is concentrating on 100 year protection while awaiting the results of the Corps' final Louisiana Coastal and Restoration Report.	Complete study in 2009; secure Congressional authorization and funding by 2011.			
E7	Initiate a public outreach campaign to keep the public informed about external flood control projects	Unveil website and issue newsletter in 2008	Jefferson Parish has made significant progress with the public outreach campaign. JEDCO launched its first commercial, "Jefferson Parish: Opportunity Lives Here", on January 19, 2009 and will release its second on March 9th. Over the coming year, the commercials will air over 3,000 times. JEDCO has also scheduled approximately 2,000 public service announcements that will run on WWL, WDSU, WGNO, FOX and COX. Additionally, JEDCO unveiled the www.opportunityliveshere.com website in February 2009. In place of the newsletter previously planned, JEDCO is producing a custom publication, "Jefferson Life Magazine", which will highlight a different quality of life initiative every issue and will include information updates for all the initiatives. "Jefferson Life Magazine" will be mailed to select households and will be made available at multiple pick-up points around Jefferson Parish. The first edition of "Jefferson Life Magazine" will highlight beautification and is scheduled to be released in April 2009 with two additional magazines following later in the year.	Release the first edition of "Jefferson Parish Magazine" in late April 2009 and two subsequent issues later in the year			

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					Action Item Complete	Substantial Progress	Little/No Progress
I1	Secure additional funding through the SELA program to implement SELA-authorized projects	Secure funding by 2009	In 2008, lawmakers approved adding \$1.3 billion to the SELA programs and on January 16, 2009, the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority and the Corps signed an agreement sharing the costs of the SELA flood control projects.	No further action required			
I2	Seek federal funding for automated climber screens for the pump stations	Secure funding by 2009	Jefferson Parish will include this item in the next federal appropriations request.	FY10 appropriations bill passed by Congress and signed into law			
I3	Work with federal government to obtain funding to improve "local" drainage system in Jefferson	Secure authorization and funding by 2011	The Jefferson Parish government has been investigating several avenues that may provide funding for local drainage improvements including the Economic Stimulus Package, SELA, and the 100 year protection projects.	Secure authorization and funding by 2011			
I4	Work with the Army Corps of Engineers to authorize Hoey's Basin pump to the river and work with Congress to secure funding	Complete study in 2008; secure authorization and funding by 2009	Despite continued pressure at the local and state levels, this action item has failed to gain momentum. As a member of the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, Senator David Vitter continues to promote the pump to the river option. This is also under consideration by the Corps as one of several options for limiting storm surge and enhancing pump capacity for the areas in the immediate vicinity of the outfall canals in New Orleans, including Hoey's Basin in Metairie.	Complete study in 2009; secure authorization and funding by 2010.			