

Jefferson EDGE 2020 **FLOOD PROTECTION** Status Report 3: October 2010

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 eight "strategic implementation plans" 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 August 2010		
		Action Item Complete	Substantial Progress	Little/No Progress
E1	Advocate for additional federal funding for 100 year flood protection			
E2	Advocate for reduced local share of the cost of 100 year protection			
E3	Explore alternative means of financing local component of 100 year protection			
E4	Push for federal authorization and funding of a polder system of compartmentalized flood protection			
E5	Advocate for expanded Corps of Engineers oversight and reform			
E6	Make a renewed call for 500 year protection	<i>No longer applicable and removed from flood protection action items.</i>		
E7	Initiate a public outreach campaign to keep the public informed about external flood control projects			
I1	Secure additional funding through the SELA program to implement SELA-authorized projects			
I2	Seek federal funding for automated climber screens for the pump stations			
I3	Work with federal government to obtain funding to improve "local" drainage system in Jefferson			
I4	Work with the Army Corps of Engineers to authorize Hoey's Basin pump to the river and work with Congress to secure funding			

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Progress as of August 2010

Action ID #	Action Item	Original Timeline	Accomplishments/Benchmarks Met	Next Steps	Action Item Complete	Substantial Progress	Little/No Progress
E1	Advocate for additional federal funding for 100 year flood protection	Secure funding in 2008	Action complete. For more information, refer to March, 2009 status update.	No further action needed			
E2	Advocate for reduced local share of the cost of 100 year protection	Pass legislation in 2008	Action complete. For more information, refer to March, 2009 status update.	No further action needed			
E3	Explore alternative means of financing local component of 100 year protection	Secure agreement and pass legislation in 2008	Action complete. For more information, refer to March, 2009 status update.	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	The Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA) recently awarded the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority East (SLF-PA-E) a \$900,000 grant, which includes \$386,000 to study the polder system for St. Bernard and Orleans parishes and the East Bank of Jefferson Parish. This study will scrutinize the St. Charles/Jefferson Parish line. The study is being conducted by Taylor Engineering of Baton Rouge. The statement of work has been approved and work should begin shortly.	Monitor the progress of the polder study. Pending the outcome of the study, pursue implementation through the Corps of Engineers and Congressional delegation.			
E5	Advocate for expanded Corps of Engineers oversight and reform	Pass legislation in 2008	A suite of Corps of Engineers reform mandates were included in the 2007 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) legislation. However, recently the Corps has scaled down the number of projects that it claims are subject to external, independent review. The next iteration of WRDA (WRDA 2010), currently being evaluated by Congress, could be an opportunity to review the oversight measures that are in place and to institute further reform and oversight provisions.	Work with the Louisiana congressional delegation to ensure that adequate Corps reform and oversight measures are included in the pending WRDA legislation.			

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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	The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is nearing completion of a 1 in 100 year hurricane protection system. The feasibility of and funding for a more ambitious 1 in 500 year system remains highly uncertain. While 1 in 500 year protection remains the ultimate goal for Jefferson and the New Orleans metropolitan area, a consensus has emerged that it is beyond the purview and influence of JEDCO to advocate for this level of hurricane protection. As a result, this item is being removed from the list of EDGE 2020 action items.	No further action at this time. Continue to monitor hurricane protection and coastal restoration efforts to gauge the feasibility of 1 in 500 year protection.	<i>No longer applicable and removed from flood protection action items.</i>		
E7	Initiate a public outreach campaign to keep the public informed about external flood control projects	Unveil website and issue newsletter in 2008	There are two major prongs of Jefferson Parish's ongoing quality of life outreach effort: Jefferson Life magazine and JEDCO's annual marketing budget (approximately \$200,000 for 2010-2011). Jefferson Life is already covering its production costs through advertising revenues and has increased production to six times per year. Twice per year, Jefferson Life will cover each of the quality of life issues addressed by Jefferson EDGE 2020 to update the public on progress underway. Additionally, JEDCO's annual marketing budget goes toward print advertisements, billboards, radio advertisements, and social media efforts. Collectively, these marketing efforts spread news about positive developments in all aspects of quality of life.	Given the fact that Jefferson Life magazine is sustaining itself through advertising revenues and given its expanded production schedule, this action item is effectively complete. The health of Jefferson Life should continue to be monitored, and JEDCO should remain vigilant in pursuing additional marketing funds.			

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Progress as of August 2010

Action ID #	Action Item	Original Timeline	Accomplishments/Benchmarks Met	Next Steps	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	Action complete. For more information, refer to March, 2009 status update.	No further action required			
I2	Seek federal funding for automated climber screens for the pump stations	Secure funding by 2009	Funding for climber screens at the Westminster and Parish Line pump stations was originally secured through federal funds for storm proofing. However, the total budget for storm proofing in Jefferson Parish (\$135 million) will likely not be sufficient for obtaining additional climber screens for additional pump stations. A supplemental funding source must be identified.	Work with Louisiana's congressional delegation to secure additional funding for climber screens for pump stations.			
I3	Work with federal government to obtain funding to improve "local" drainage system in Jefferson	Secure authorization and funding by 2011	The Parish's Subsurface Drainage Master Plan is underway with CDM providing engineering services for the West Bank and Digital Engineering for the East Bank. Both consultants are in the process of developing a plan and specific projects for high priority areas, and both are in the process of finalizing the drainage modeling for those areas. The Master Plan will be the basis for "phase I" improvements to the local drainage system with a price tag of \$50 million. This phase will be funded through a local 7/8 sales tax. However, funding for the hundreds of millions of dollars in additional local drainage work that is needed has not yet been identified.	Pending completion of Subsurface Drainage Master Plan, develop a strategy for obtaining sufficient local, state, and federal funding for a long term overhaul of the local drainage system, beyond those priority projects identified within the Master Plan.			
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	The New Orleans area has been unable to secure sufficient funding for design options 2 or 2a for the construction of permanent pump stations at the mouths of the three major outfall canals in New Orleans. Option 2a would have provided for the "pump to the river" project serving the Hoey's Basin area of Jefferson. In the absence of this funding, the LaCPRA insisted that the more affordable (and less robust) Option 1 approach be designed in such a way as to potentially accommodate the more robust and costly options 2 or 2a. Thus, there is hope that funding will ultimately be secured for the more expensive, comprehensive approach, including the pump to the river, though no imminent funding source has been identified.	Continue to work with congressional delegation to obtain funding for the pump to the river project.			

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