

# Jefferson EDGE 2020 **FLOOD PROTECTION** Status Report 4: July 2011

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Prepared by JEDCO and GCR & Associates, Inc.

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**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 July 2011		
		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E6	Make a renewed call for 500 year protection	No longer applicable and removed from flood protection action items.		
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	Continue to communicate with the Louisiana congressional delegation about progress in securing the desired \$15.3 million for a feasibility study for Options 2 and 2a.			

## Flood Protection

Action ID #	Action Item	Original Timeline	Accomplishments/Benchmarks Met	Next Steps	Progress as of July 2011		
					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) awarded the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority East (SLFPA-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 is scrutinizing the St. Charles/Jefferson Parish line, with a particular emphasis on the levee and gates south of the Airport to the River. The study, which is being conducted by Taylor Engineering of Baton Rouge, has commenced and should be completed by the end of 2011.	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, the Louisiana congressional delegation is eager to push for further reform and oversight of the Corps. The central legislative challenge at this point is finding an appropriate legislative vehicle. A WRDA renewal bill is unlikely to be introduced this year, but there is the possibility that a water component could be included in the transportation reauthorization bill that is currently in the embryonic stages in Congress.	Communicate with the Louisiana congressional delegation to monitor the status of a new WRDA bill and/or the transportation reauthorization bill. Advocate for increased Corps oversight in either or both pieces of legislation.			

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Progress as of July 2011							
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.	No longer applicable and removed from flood protection action items.		
E7	Initiate a public outreach campaign to keep the public informed about external flood control projects	Unveil website and issue newsletter in 2008	Action complete. For more information, refer to October, 2010 Status Update	Continue to monitor the effectiveness and the financial self-sufficiency of Jefferson Life magazine.  JEDCO should remain vigilant in pursuing additional marketing funds and opportunities to market the Parish.			

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Action ID #	Action Item	Original Timeline	Accomplishments/Benchmarks Met	Next Steps	Progress as of July 2011		
					Action Item Complete	Substantial Progress	Little/No Progress
11	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			
12	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. Additional climber screens at other pump stations are a desired component of storm proofing measures. However, the total federal budget for storm proofing in Jefferson (\$135 million) is not sufficient for obtaining additional climber screens. As was discussed in the October, 2010 Status Report, a supplemental funding source must still be identified to pay for these storm proofing measures.	Work with Louisiana's congressional delegation to identify and secure additional funding for climber screens for pump stations			
13	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/Improvement Study has been completed by the engineering firm CDM for the West Bank and the firm Digital Engineering for the East Bank. The study has identified priority "Phase I" projects for the local drainage system,. A total of \$100 million in Phase I projects are already in the design phase with some to begin construction using Parish bond funds, CDBG funding, and FEMA Hazard Mitigation grants.  However, the total price tag for a comprehensive overhaul of the "local" drainage system has been estimated at over \$900 million. Funding for the remainder of this work has not yet been identified.	Monitor the progress of the implementation of Phase I improvements to the local drainage system. Develop a strategy in coordination with the congressional delegation for obtaining sufficient local, state, and federal funding for a long term overhaul of the local drainage system, beyond the Phase I projects in the design stage			

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Progress as of July 2011							
Action ID #	Action Item	Original Timeline	Accomplishments/Benchmarks Met	Next Steps	Action Item Complete	Substantial Progress	Little/No Progress
14	Continue to communicate with the Louisiana congressional delegation about progress in securing the desired \$15.3 million for a feasibility study for Options 2 and 2a.	Complete study in 2008; secure authorization and funding by 2009	<p>To date, 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. As per the request of LaCPRA, the Corps of Engineers insisted that the more affordable Option 1 approach be designed in such a way as to potentially accommodate the more robust and costly options 2 or 2a. That design work has been completed, and the construction of the permanent gates and pump stations at Lake Pontchartrain should commence within six months to a year.</p> <p>In the meantime, Jefferson Parish and the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans met with members of Louisiana’s congressional delegation in March of 2011. The purpose of the meeting was to request that \$15.3 million be allocated for a design and feasibility study of Options 2 and 2a. LaCPRA was also included in the discussions of this funding request.</p>	Support congressional delegation and La. CPRA efforts to pressure the Corps and Congress to authorize Option 2a for Hoey’s Basin and protection of the outfall canals.			



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