

PEARL RIVER BASIN, MISSISSIPPI FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT PROJECT

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

**Virtual Public Meeting –
Info Meeting Only
June 27, 2024**



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US Army Corps
of Engineers®



Presentation Agenda

- Introductions
- Message from Vicksburg
- Rules of Engagement
- Meeting Purpose
- Public Meeting Schedule
- Project Details
- Findings
- Conclusion
- Project Timeline
- Opportunities to Comment





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Message from Colonel's of Vicksburg



Public Message from Prior Commander of
Vicksburg District: COL Klein



Public Message from Current Commander of
Vicksburg District: COL Gipson





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Rules of Engagement



- **Recording Notice:** Please be aware that the event video and chat box are being recorded. They will be made available to the public in the future for reference purposes. Be aware that phone numbers and email addresses that are entered into the chat will be available to the public.
- **Questions and Comments:** Please post all questions and comments in the chat box only. This helps us keep track of all inquiries and ensures everyone can participate in this informational meeting.
- **Avoid Spamming:** Please refrain from spamming the chat box with multiple messages. Post your question or comment once to avoid clutter.
- **Camera Usage:** Please keep your camera turned off throughout the session.
- **Microphone Mute:** Always keep your microphone on mute.
- **Respectful Communication:** Be respectful and courteous in your interactions with others in the chat. Avoid using inappropriate language or engaging in disruptive behavior.

Thank you for adhering to these rules to create a productive and enjoyable virtual information session for all participants.





Meeting Purpose



Why are we here?

- Present the Draft EIS
 - Provide background on the Proposed Action
 - Present alternative analysis
- Receive Comments
 - Comments received through August 6, 2024
 - Full participation is encouraged.
 - It is a priority to provide effective flood risk solutions to the Jackson metropolitan area.





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Public Meeting Schedule



In Person Meeting Schedule

Call In Information: 1-844-800-2712
Meeting Number:
2761 069 4978

Wednesday
July 10, 2024
2 p.m.

Mississippi Public
Broadcasting Auditorium,
3825 Ridgewood Road,
Jackson, MS 39211

Thursday
July 11, 2024
11 a.m.

Slidell Municipal
2056 2nd Street,
Slidell, LA 70458

Wednesday
July 10, 2024
6 p.m.

Mississippi Trade Mart,
1200 Mississippi St,
Jackson, MS 39202

Thursday
July 11, 2024
6 p.m.

Monticello Civic Center
125 E Broad Street,
Monticello, MS 39654

Virtual Public Meeting Schedule

Thursday
June 27, 2024
6 p.m.

- Information to log in or dial in to meeting are available on the web at:
- <https://usace1.webex.com/meet/VICKSBURGDISTRICT>
or for phone only
+1-844-800-2712 US Toll Free
+1-669-234-1177 US Toll
Access code: 2761 069 4978

Public Input

- Self-addressed comment cards provided at public meetings
- Traditional Mail
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, CEMVN-PDS
7400 Leake Ave. New Orleans, LA 70118
- E-Mail PearlRiverFRM@usace.army.mil





Public Review Period

- The Draft EIS is published for public review and comment.
- The 45-day public comment period is extended 15-days to August 6, 2024.
- Your comments and input are **welcomed** and **encouraged**.
- Once comment period closes, project team will consider all substantive comments and, if necessary, conduct further analysis.
- Responses to comments will be included in the final SEIS





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PROJECT INTRODUCTION



Scope

Developed a reasonable range of alternatives that meet the project purpose in consideration of the human built and natural environment to include a preliminary determination of the National Economic Development (NED) Plan

Purpose

To evaluate flood risk management alternatives that could be implemented under the authority.

Non-Federal Interest

Rankin-Hinds Pearl River Flood and Drainage Control District.

Authorization

Sec. 3104 of WRDA 2007 (may construct NED plan, the locally preferred plan (LPP), or a combination thereof subject to certain determinations).

Funding

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funding has been allocated to complete the validation study and initiate design and construction for a comprehensive flood damage reduction plan, to include channel improvements.

NFI Report

NFI submitted a Draft Final Integrated Feasibility Report and EIS, dated June 22, 2022, under Sec. 211 of WRDA 1996, to the ASA(CW) in July 2022.

USACE Process

In Oct. 2022, ASA(CW) charged the Corps with preparing a report and environmental compliance documentation for the Pearl River Basin, MS, project that addresses the statutory requirements and informs the ASA(CW)'s determinations. The DEIS was released for public review beginning June 7, 2024 and ending July 22, 2024. A 15-day extension has been published in the Federal Register extending the comment period through August 6, 2024





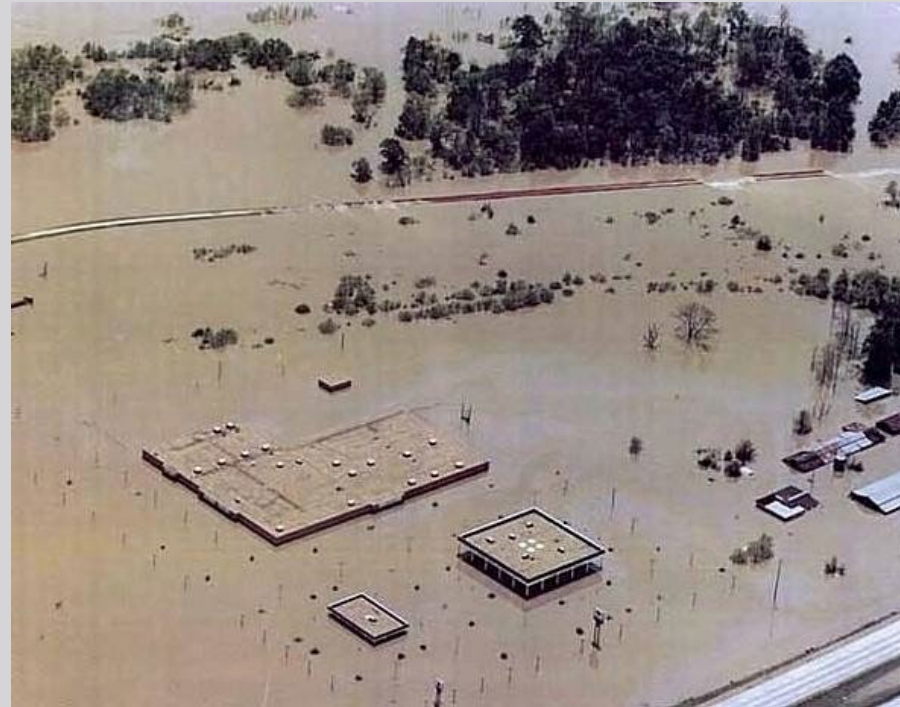
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PEARL RIVER FLOODING

9



- The Jackson, MS metropolitan area has repeatedly experienced devastating flooding from the Pearl River over the past 100 years. Major flooding incidents include 1961, 1979, 1982, 1983, and 2020.





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HISTORY

10



- **Jackson East & West Levees constructed 1968**
- **Flood of Record – April 1979**
- **Numerous Flood Risk Studies Conducted**
 - 2007 USACE Preliminary Draft Report
 - Evaluated a Levee Plan and the LeFleur Lakes Plan
 - 2018-2022 Rankin-Hinds (R-H) Feasibility Report
 - Prepared under Section 211 of WRDA 1996
 - Released for Public Review in Summer 2018
 - Modified plan to address public comments
 - Modified plan to address OASACW/USACE comments
 - 2022-2024 USACE DEIS
 - USACE in collaboration with R-H prepared a DEIS and Commander's Report

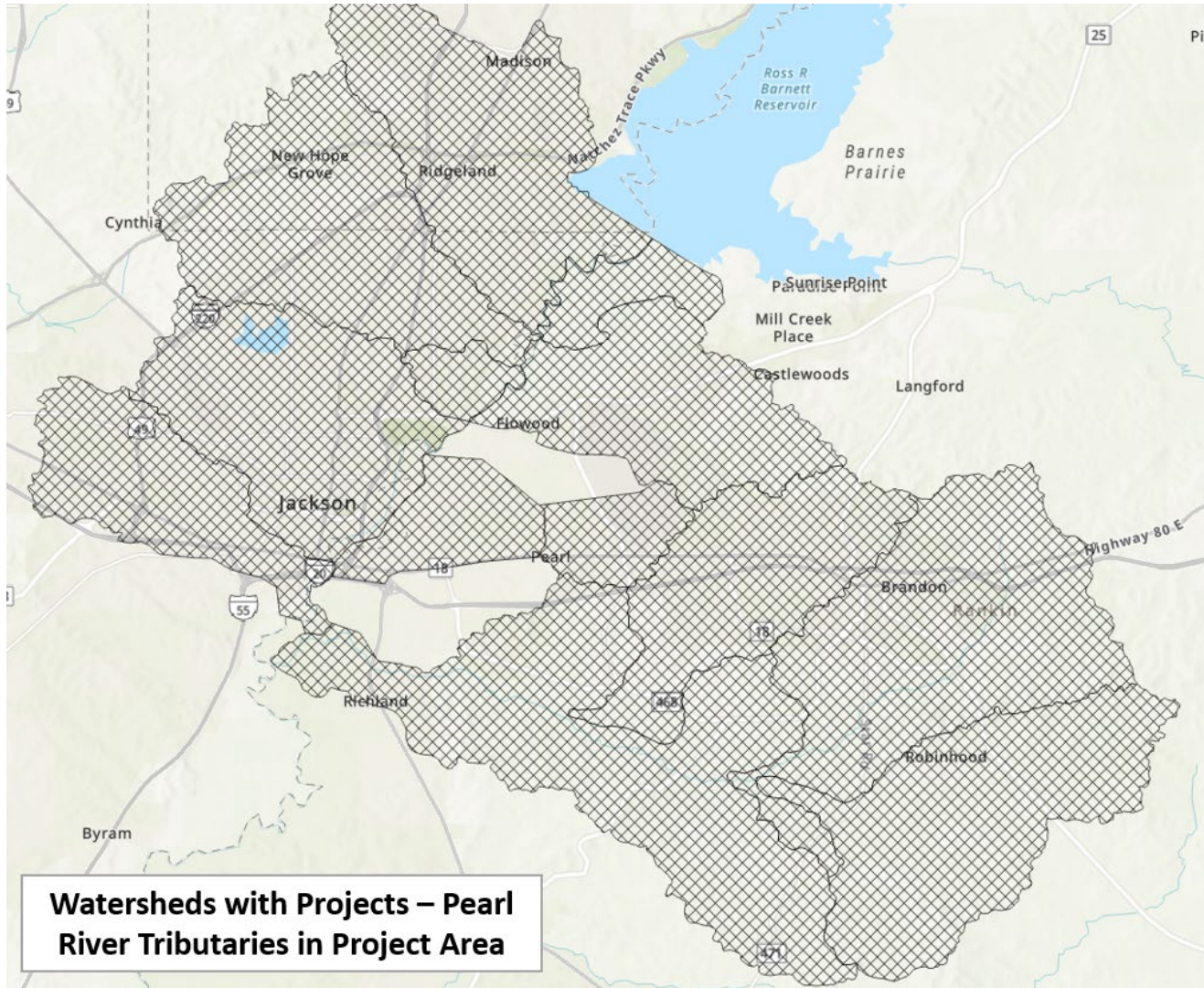




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Local Projects within the Pearl River Flood Risk Management Project Area



Below is the FRM estimated costs done by outside sources within project area:

Hinds County: 6 projects estimated total: \$8,144,00.00

Rankin County: 31 projects estimated total: \$69,095,713.00

Madison County: 3 projects estimated total: \$9,000,000.00

City of Jackson Funding





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PURPOSE AND NEED

PURPOSE: Evaluate flood risk management alternatives that could be implemented under Section 3104 of WRDA 2007.

NEED:

1. Severe rainfall in the Upper Pearl River Watershed causes a high risk of downstream flooding in the Study Area, impacting the Jackson MSA and thousands of residents within the surrounding area.
2. High risk of flooding threatens critical infrastructure, including an existing wastewater treatment facility.
3. Major transportation routes and evacuation routes become impassible and damaged during flood events in the Study Area.
4. Environmental justice communities are at the greatest risk to sustain damages from flooding.





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PROJECT AREA

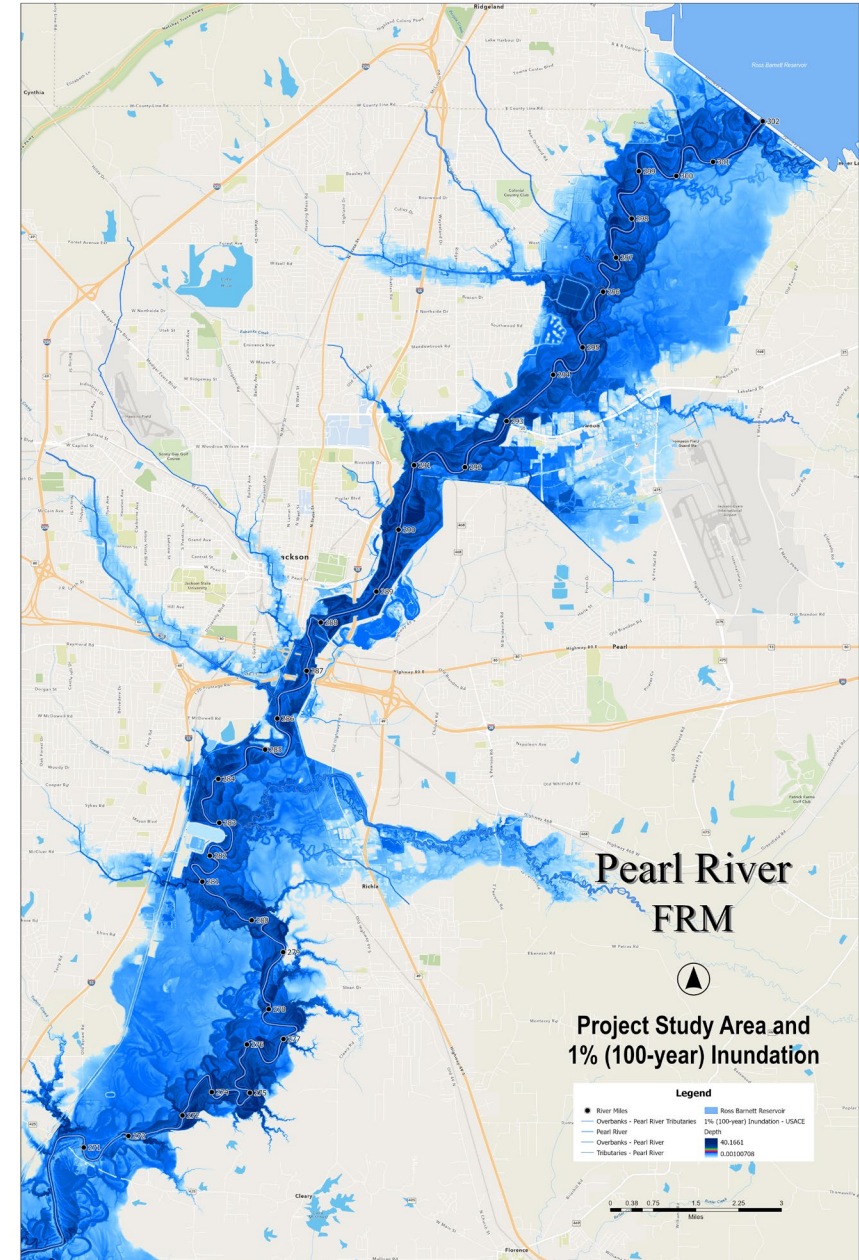


PROJECT AREA

- The project area comprises the Pearl River Basin in Rankin, Madison, and Hinds counties, MS between River Mile (RM) 270.0 just south of Byram, Mississippi, and RM 301.77 at the dam of Ross Barnett Reservoir.

AREA OF CONSIDERATION FOR DOWNSTREAM IMPACTS

- Located in the southern-central portion of Mississippi and in a small section of southeastern Louisiana.





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USACE ACTIVITIES

14



Per Section 3104, the Secretary may construct the NED plan, the LPP, or some combination thereof.

USACE in collaboration with R-H has prepared a DEIS to inform the Secretary decision.

- Identify NED plan
- Compare level of flood protection of alternatives
- Assess the environmental acceptability and technical feasibility of the alternatives





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ALTERNATIVES UNDER EVALUATION

NFI Alternatives Considered

- Alternative A – NS Plan. *Removed from further consideration*
- Alternative B – Levee Plan. *Removed from further consideration*
- Alternative C – LPP Plan. Channel Improvement/Weir/Levee Plan. Carried forward for further analysis.

USACE New Alternatives collaborated with RH

- Alternative A1 – Modified NS Plan
- Alternative D - Likely NED Plan. Combination Thereof (CTO) with Weir
- Alternative E - CTO Without Weir



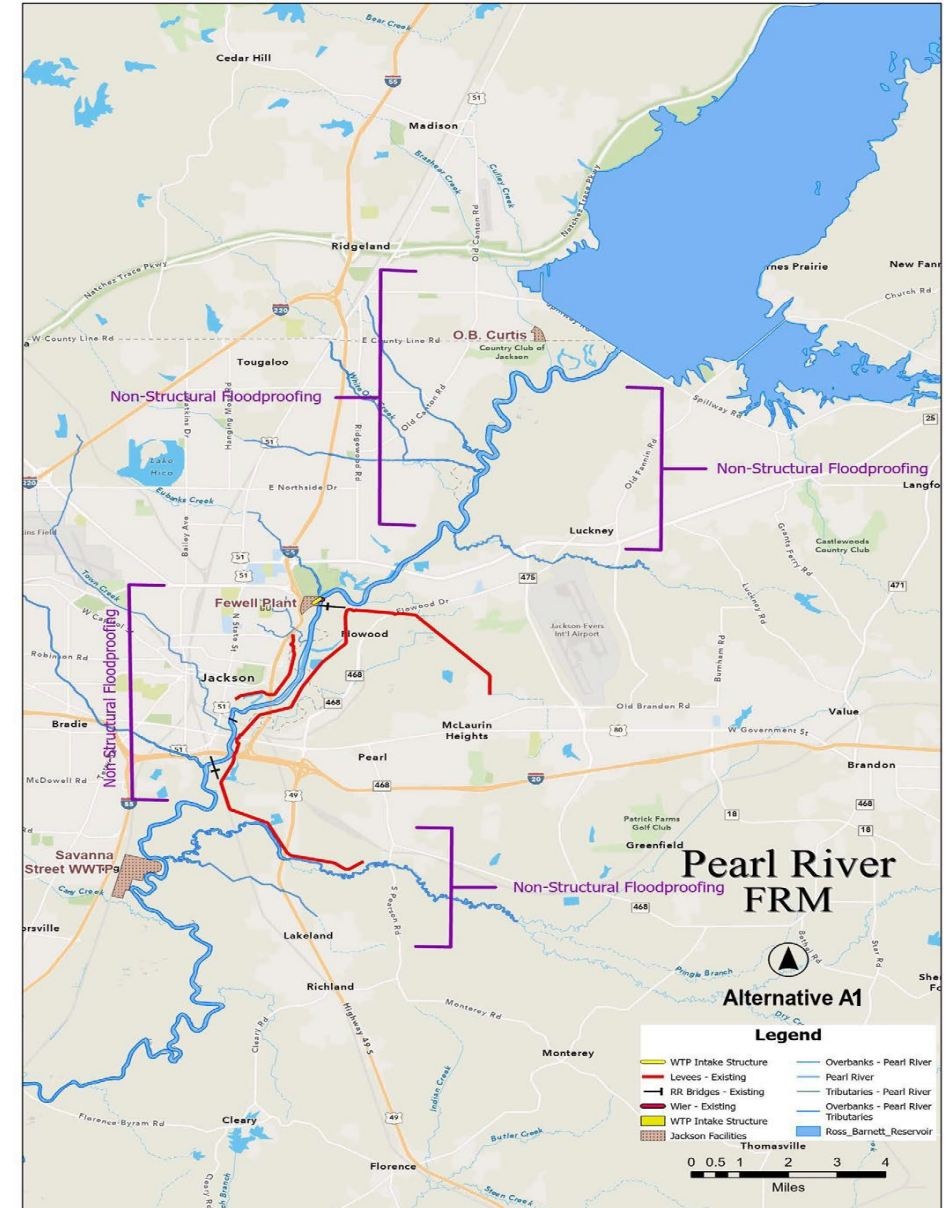


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ALT A1 (Non-structural)



- Elevation – Residential - Raised to the 100-year
- Floodproofing – Non-residential
- Voluntary property acquisition
Acquired properties would become greenspace
- Structures within the 25-year floodplain
- Identified Structures = 143 total structures
81 residential
62 number non-residential





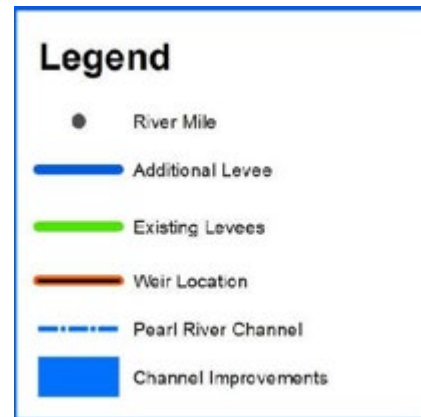
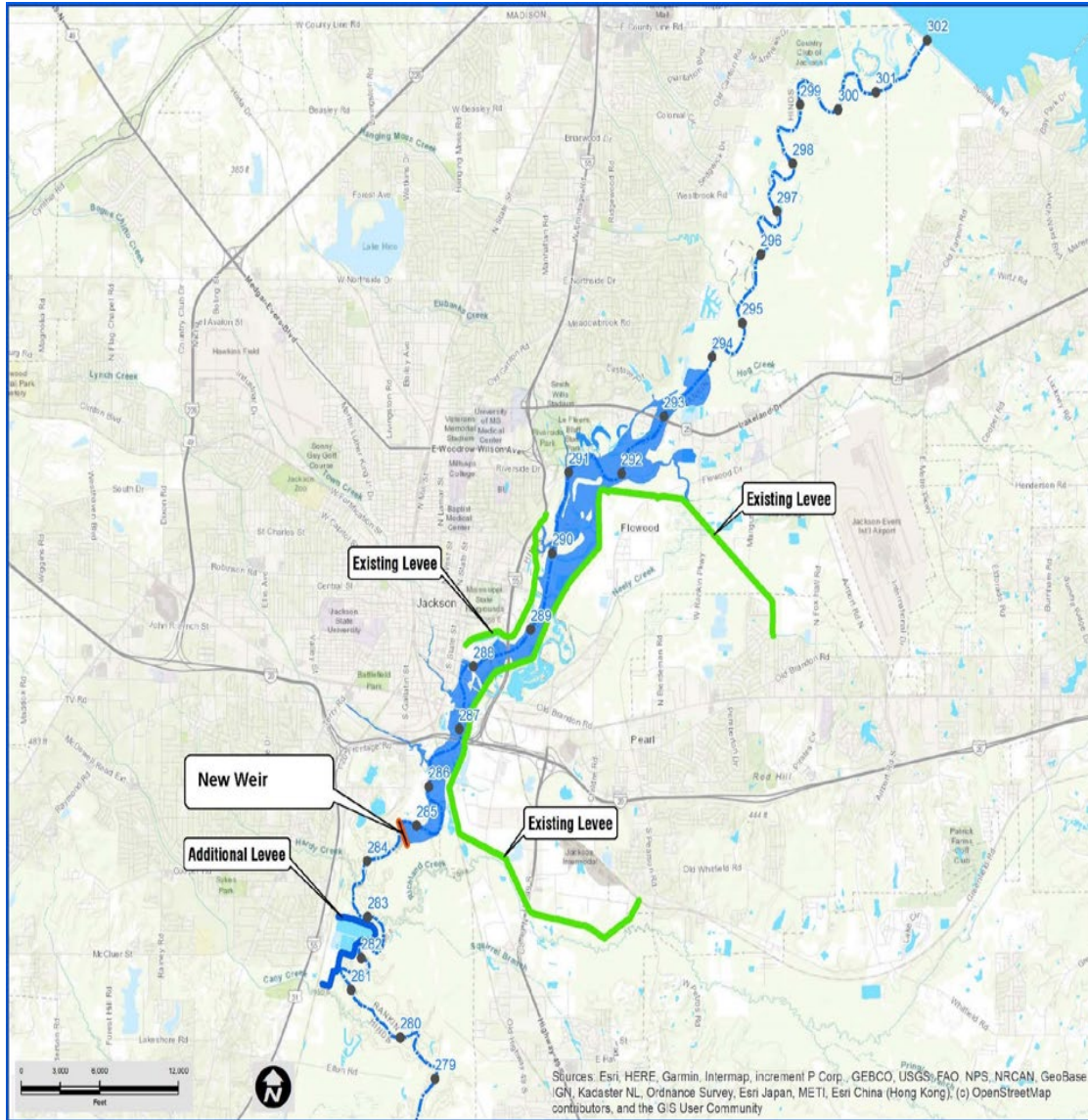
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Alternative C – Locally Preferred Plan



Improved conveyance results in FRM benefits in the northern floodplain.

- Clearing and lowering of the channel overbanks to increase hydraulic conveyance
- demolition of the existing weir near the J. H. Fewell Water Treatment Plant (WTP)
- Construction of a new weir with a low-flow gate structure further downstream to Elevation 258.0
- Upgrading an existing non-Federal levee into a Federalized ring levee around the Savannah Street Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)
- Upgrades to interior drainage of existing Federal Levees



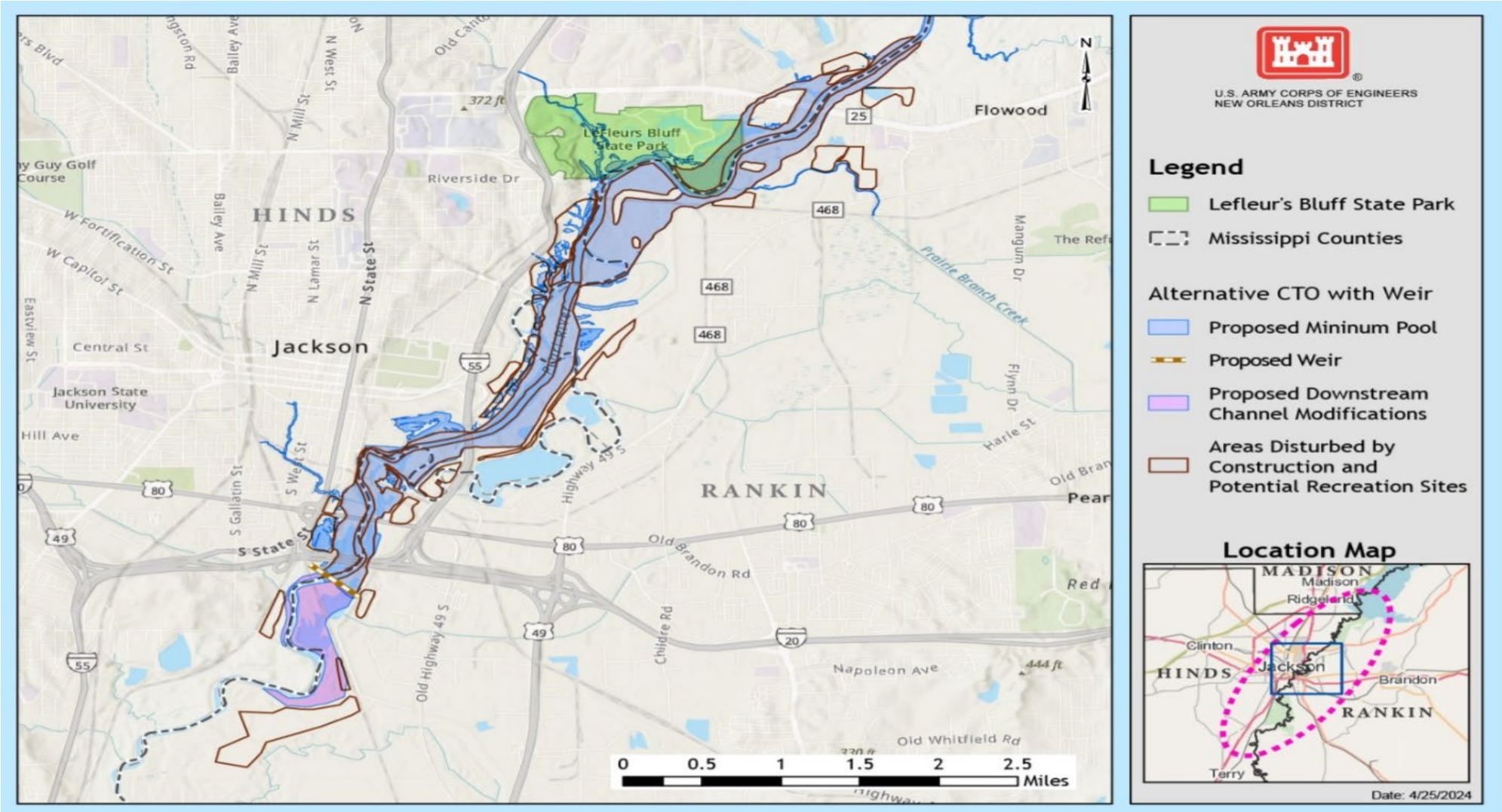


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CTO Alternates (Alt D w/Weir & Alt E w/o Weir)

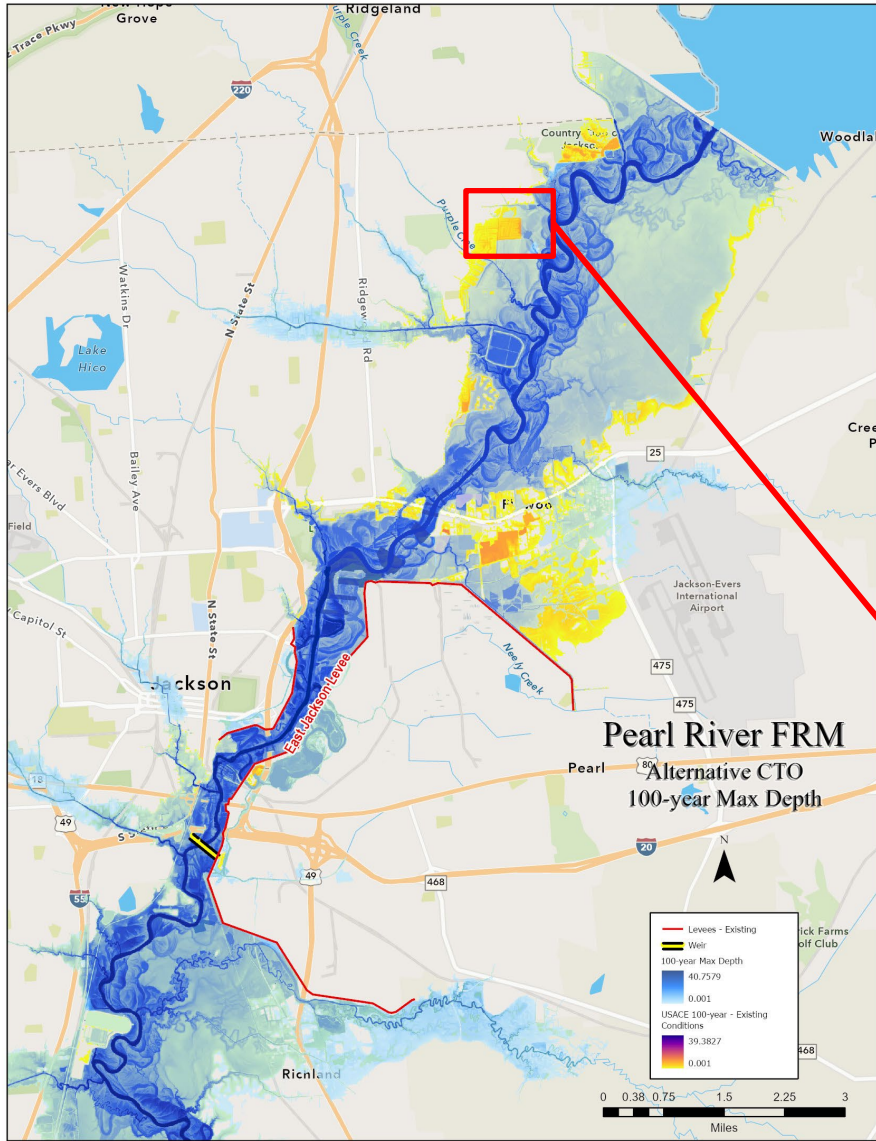


Secretary of the Army may select any or all the features associated with the presented alternatives to create a final project array, so long as this final project array provides the same or better flood risk reduction as the NED Plan.





CTO with weir (Alt D) – Potential NED Plan**



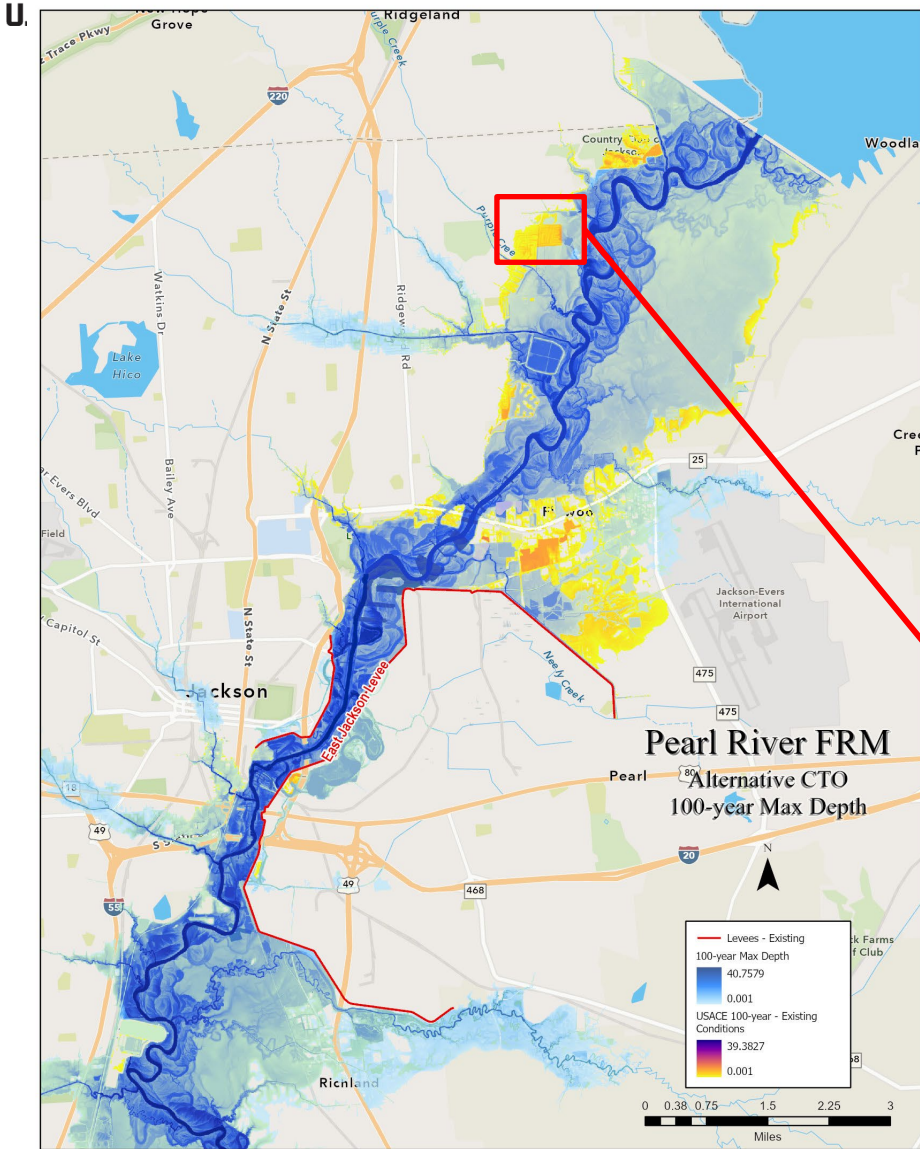
1. Improved conveyance results in FRM benefits in the northern floodplain similar to Alternative C.
2. Weir just downstream of Interstate 20, Elevation 256.0 feet
3. Addition of Canton Club Levee results in additional FRM benefits



Note: Yellow shows areas no longer flooding for the 100-year return interval. See Alt C Slide for inducements.



CTO without weir (Alt E)



1. Identical to Alternative D, except no weir for permanent impoundment for future water supply and recreation.
2. Same level of flood reduction and inducements as Alternative D.



Note: Yellow shows areas no longer flooding for the 100-year return interval. See Alt C Slide for inducements.



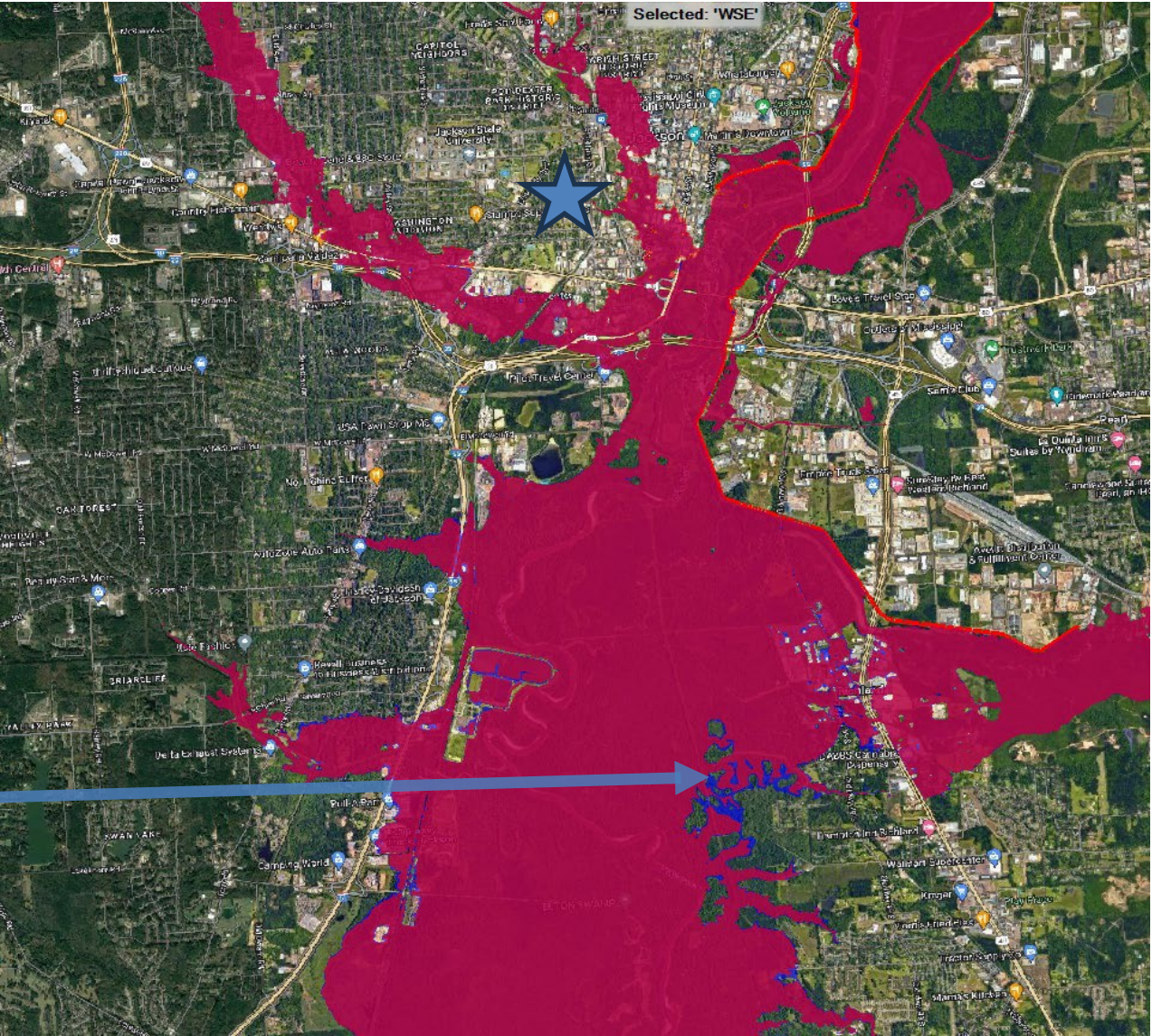
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AREA OF CONSIDERATION FOR DOWNSTREAM IMPACTS



AREA OF CONSIDERATION FOR DOWNSTREAM IMPACTS

- Alternative C, D, and E
- Local impact Considered
- Regional Impacts considered though the southern-central portion of Mississippi and in southeastern Louisiana.
- Impacts Considered negligible from 5 miles north of Monticello, MS downstream.





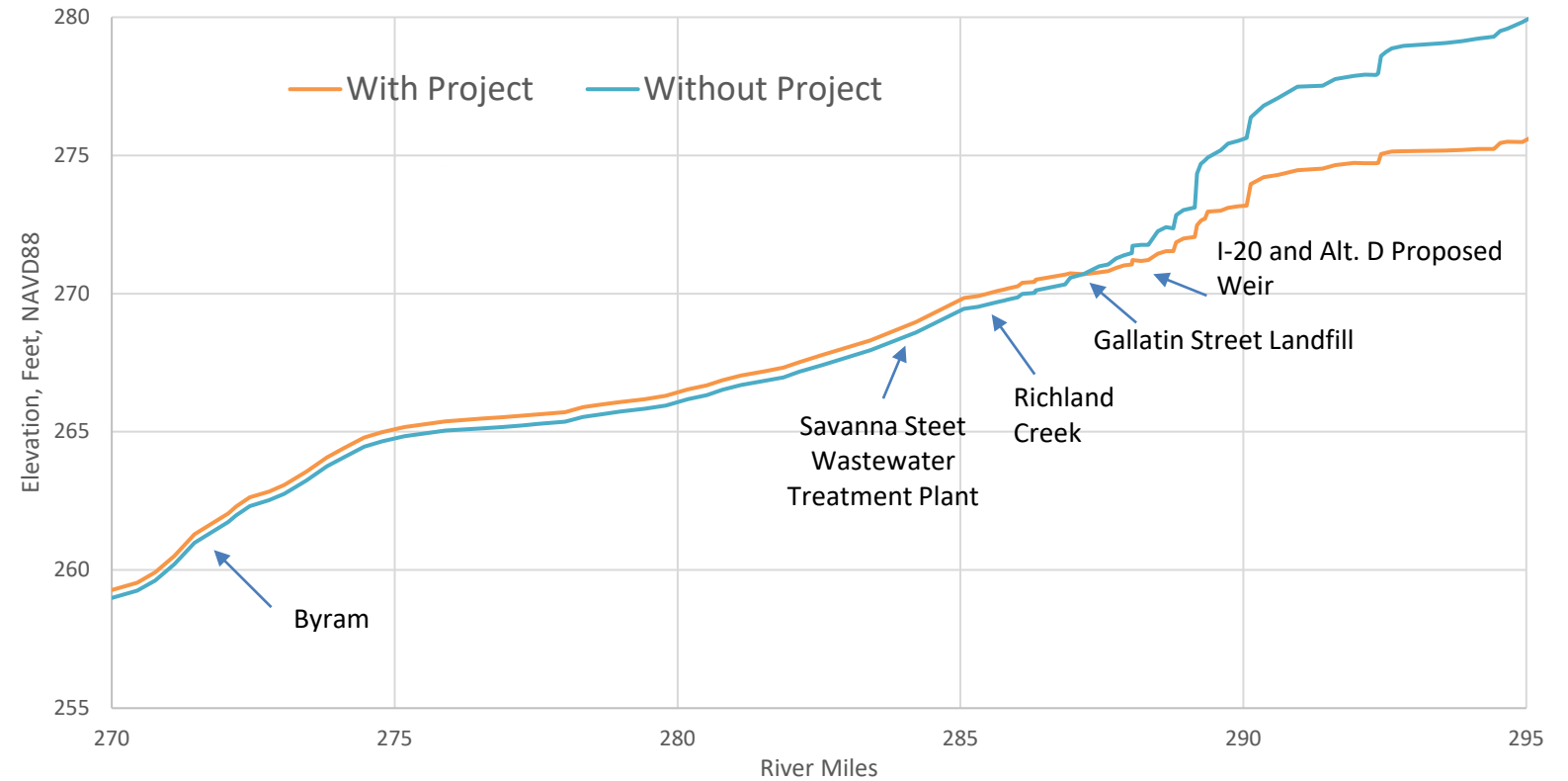
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H&H: Downstream Impacts



1. Construction of Alternatives C, D, E raise the downstream water levels from 3 to 5 inches for the 100-year Flood Event as compared to a no action scenario.
2. Hydraulic downstream impacts negligible beyond 5 miles north of Monticello, MS.
3. Sedimentation Modeling accomplished in subsequent phase.

Water Surface Elevations for the 100-year Event





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Habitat Mitigation



Habitat	Alt C Acres of Impact	CTO (Alt D & Alt E) Acres of Impact	Alt C AAHUs	CTO (Alt D & Alt E) AAHUs
Lacustrine/Open Water	200	81	1,232	497
BLH wet	1,224	689	3,011	1,695
Swamp	150	55	368	135
Forested Uplands	710	223	2,733	859
Riverine*	287	232 (Alt D only)	TBD	TBD



- There are no anticipated habitat impacts associated with Alternative A1 and therefore no mitigation requirements.
- Lacustrine impacts would be self-mitigating with both Alt C and Alt D (CTO with weir).
- The mitigation team is currently assessing the NFI mitigation plan presented in the 2022 EIS to determine how much terrestrial habitat mitigation it can produce.
- Prior to construction activities, appropriate riverine species will be used to run habitat models to determine potential lost riverine functions and values and mitigation requirements.
- A detailed mitigation plan will be developed prior to any construction activities.





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Threatened and Endangered Species



Alternative A1 is not expected to impact any of the listed species in the area.

Species in the project area and effects determinations

Species	Alt C	Alt CTO with weir (Alt D)	Alternative CTO w/o weir (Alt E)
Gulf Sturgeon (T)	LAA	LAA	NLAA
Ringed Sawback Turtle (T)	LAA	LAA	LAA
Northern Long-eared Bat (E)	NLAA	NLAA	NLAA
Pearl River map Turtle (PT)	LAA	LAA	LAA
Alligator Snapping Turtle (PT)	LAA	LAA	LAA
Louisiana pigtoe (PE)	LAA	LAA	NLAA
Tricolored bat (PT)	NLAA	NLAA	NLAA
Monarch Butterfly (C)	LAA	LAA	NLAA



- T – threatened
- E – endangered
- PT – proposed threatened
- PE – proposed endangered
- C – candidate species

LAA – likely to adversely affect but not likely to jeopardize the continuing existence of
 NLAA – not likely to adversely affect

A biological assessment (Appendix D of DEIS) was prepared and submitted to USFWS with the above effects determinations. Consultation is ongoing and is anticipated to be completed by release of the Final EIS.





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CULTURAL RESOURCES



Impacts:

- All Alternatives (A1, C, CTO [D and E]) have the potential to affect Cultural Resources, including National Register listed or eligible buildings, districts, sites, or structures within the project construction areas.

Section 106 NHPA Programmatic Agreement (PA):

- In accordance with 36 CFR 800.14, a PA is appropriate because the Undertaking is complex; may adversely affect significant historic properties; and the extent of effects is not fully known.
- USACE is negotiating a PA with the SHPO, Federally-Recognized Tribal Governments, and other stakeholders that will govern the Undertaking and all its parts and allow USACE to comply with the National Historic Preservation Act during the project's construction.
- The PA will be executed before a Record Of Decision is signed, ideally before the final EIS is complete.





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TRIBAL RESOURCES



- It is the policy of the Federal government to consult with Federally-Recognized Tribal Governments on a Government-to-Government basis as specified in E.O. 13175 (“Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments;” U.S. President 2000) The E.O. is further specified through USACE Tribal Consultation Policy, dated Dec. 5, 2023.
- Per policy, USACE is required to determine if any of three categories of resources would be significantly adversely affected by the proposed action:
 - 1) **Tribal Rights;**
 - 2) **Tribal Lands;** or
 - 3) **Protected Tribal Resources.**
- Accordingly, coordination and consultation with Federally-Recognized Tribes who have identified the study area as part of their Area of Interest is ongoing. No **Tribal Lands** or **Rights** have been identified. Consulting Tribes have identified Protected Tribal Resources, however.
- **Protected Tribal Resources** within the Study Area, and surrounding vicinity, include:
 - 1) Cultural Keystone Species (CKS) (which can be a plant, animal, or other natural resource that has greatly shaped the cultural identity of a group of people);
 - 2) A wide variety of places and landscapes: archaeological sites, cemeteries, trails and pathways, campsites and villages, fisheries, hunting grounds, plant gathering areas, holy lands, landmarks, important places in Native American history and culture, and places of persistence and resistance.





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Environmental Justice:



ALTERNATIVE COMPARISONS: No Action, Alt A1, Alt C and Alt CTO









- For the no-action alternative, all of the structures in the 100-yr floodplain (n= 773) are in EJ areas of concern.
- A vast majority of the 143 structures making up Alt A1, the Non-Structural plan, are in areas of EJ concern.
- Alternative C provides flood risk reduction benefits to those in EJ areas of concern, but less than CTO.
- Over 2/3 of structures flooding under no action would no longer flood under Alt CTO.
- Structure flooding inducements occur from Alt C and CTO, 83 vs 52, and all are in areas of EJ concern.



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Recreation Benefits



	       	Incidental Water-Based Recreation Benefits	Incidental Shoreline-Based Recreation Benefits	Impacts to Lafleur's State Park (Grant Money Spent)*
Alternative				
No Action	NO	NO	N/A	
A1	NO	NO	N/A	
C	YES	YES	\$1,422,993	
CTO	YES (less than Alt C)	YES (less than Alt C)	\$1,422,993	

- Incidental recreation **Benefits** would apply to development on public, project lands only.
 - Potential **Impacts** to Lefleur's Bluff State Park:
 - 9 recreation projects/grants have been supported through Section 6(f)(3) of the Land Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) since 1965.
 - "No property acquired or developed with assistance under this section shall, without the approval of the Secretary, be converted to other than public outdoor recreation uses."
- * Grant money spent does not include inflation.





Economics: Summary of Results



- Alt D (CTO with Weir) has a project first cost ranging from \$487 million to \$655 million. It yields net benefits from \$8.2 million to \$1.6 million and has a benefit to cost ratio from 1.4 to 1.1.
- Alt E (CTO without Weir) has a project first cost ranging from \$400 million to \$508 million. It yields net benefits from \$6.8 million to \$2.4 million and has a benefit to cost ratio from 1.4 to 1.1.
- Alt A1 (Nonstructural Only) has a project first cost of \$50 million. It yields net benefits of \$2.1 million and has a benefit to cost ratio of 2.2.
- Alt A1 with Canton Club Levee has a project first cost of \$60 million. It yields net benefits of \$2.6 million and has a benefit to cost ratio of 2.1.





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Hazardous, Toxic, and Radiological Waste

- An American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM) Phase I & Limited Phase II Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) was conducted by the Non-Federal Interest (NFI): September 2014 (Phase I & II), August 2021 (Phase I), and December 2023 (Phase I)
- The reports were reviewed by USACE according to the Engineering Regulation (ER) 1165-2-132 guidance and will inform the next steps.
- Once an alternative is selected, additional assessment will be conducted per ER guidelines, ER 1165-2-132, ASTM E1527-13, and ASTM Phase II ESA

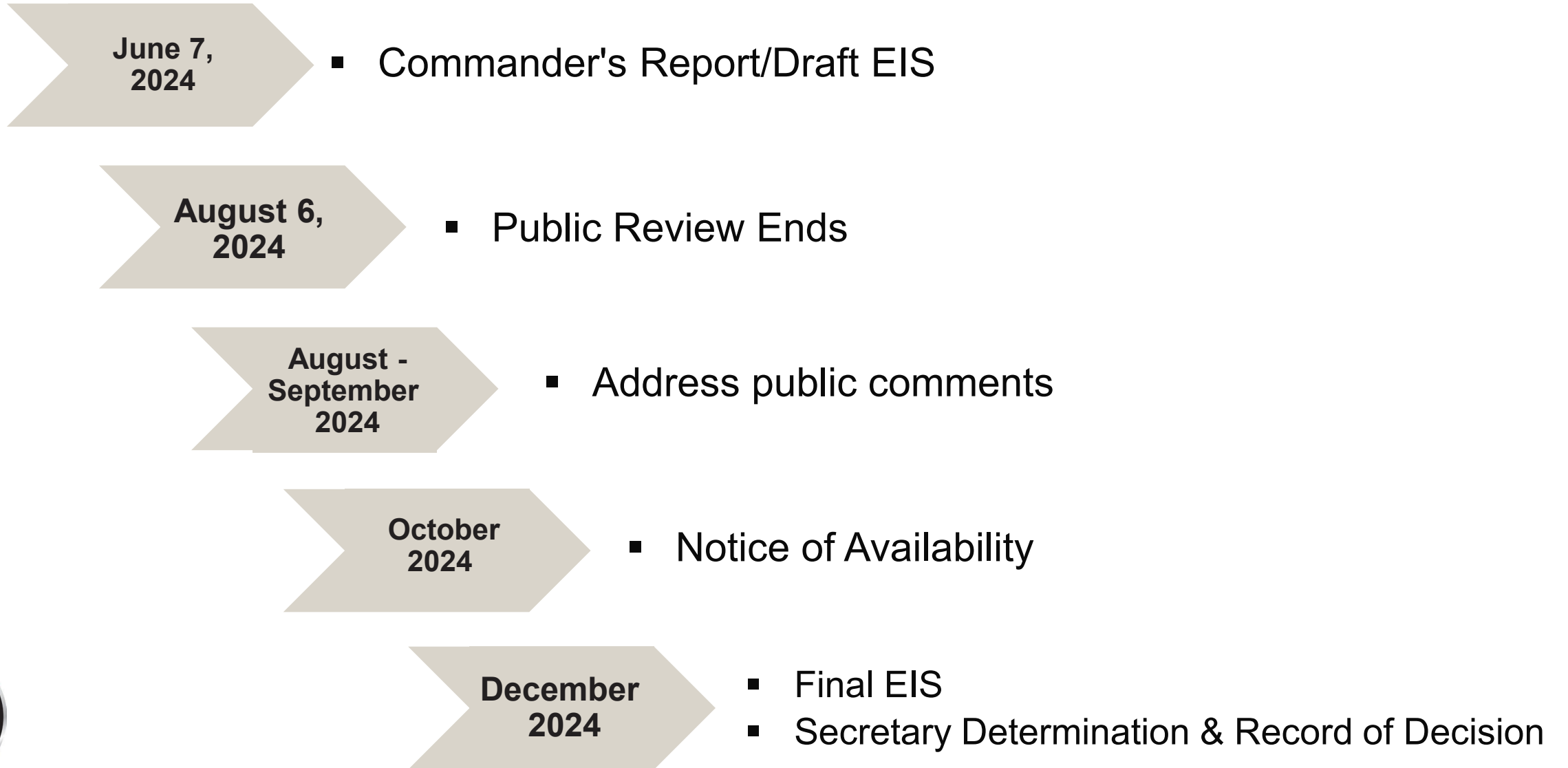




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TIMELINE





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TO SUBMIT FEEDBACK / PROVIDE INPUT

Feedback/input will be accepted through August 6, 2024

Email: PearlRiverFRM@usace.army.mil

Address for feedback via Mail:

Mr. Eric Williams; Chief, Environmental Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
CEMVN-PDS
7400 Leake Ave
New Orleans, Louisiana 70118

Project Website:

<http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/Missions/Programs-and-Project-Management/Project-Management/Pearl-River/>



