



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

646 Cajundome Blvd.

Suite 400

Lafayette, Louisiana 70506

September 2, 2015

Colonel Richard L. Hansen
District Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Post Office Box 60267
New Orleans, Louisiana 70160-0267

Dear Colonel Hansen:

Please reference Programmatic Individual Environmental Report 36 (PIER #36) and the Supplemental Individual Environmental Report (SIER #1) addressing the final array of mitigation alternatives for on-refuge and non-refuge impacts. Work proposed under this SIER would mitigate impacts to on-refuge non-tidal intermediate marsh (protected-side), on-refuge and non-refuge brackish marsh (floodside), and bottomland hardwood (BLH) wetland habitats resulting from the improved hurricane protection measures to the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity (LPV) project. The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) provides this report to assist your staff in fulfilling mitigation needs associated with those efforts in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA) (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.).

This report constitutes the report of the Secretary of the Interior as required by Section 2(b) of the FWCA. Copies of the draft report were provided to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. NMFS comments have been incorporated into this final report, as well as comments transmitted by the Natural Resource Conservation Service to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Furthermore, additional comments are provided in accordance with provisions of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

Should you or your staff have any questions regarding this letter and our attached report, please contact David Walther (337/291-3122) of this office.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey D. Weller

Field Supervisor

Louisiana Ecological Services Office

cc: U.S Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg, MS
Fish and Wildlife Service, Atlanta, GA (AES)
Fish and Wildlife Service, Bayou Lacombe, LA
National Marine Fisheries Service, Baton Rouge, LA
Environmental Protection Agency, Dallas, TX
LA Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries, Baton Rouge, LA
LA Dept. of Natural Resources, CMD, Baton Rouge, LA
Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, Baton Rouge, LA