



## United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

646 Cajundome Blvd.

Suite 400

Lafayette, Louisiana 70506

July 16, 2014

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 (PIER #36) and the forthcoming Tiered Individual Environmental Report (TIER #2) addressing the final array of mitigation alternatives for on-refuge impacts. Work proposed under this TIER would mitigate impacts to on-refuge 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 draft 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 does not constitute the report of the Secretary of the Interior as required by Section 2(b) of the FWCA. Copies of this draft report will be provided to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and their comments will be incorporated into the final report. 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  
LA Dept. of Natural Resources, CRD, Baton Rouge, LA