



# Morganza to the Gulf

Updated January 2013

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

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## Project Purpose

The primary purpose of the Morganza to the Gulf project is hurricane and storm damage reduction. The area is significantly affected by tides emanating from the Gulf of Mexico. Deterioration of coastal marshes, as a result of saltwater intrusion, land subsidence and the lack of interchanges from the Mississippi River and Tributaries systems, has increased hurricane and storm surge inundation.

The proposed work is located in coastal Louisiana, approximately 60 miles southwest of New Orleans, and includes portions of Terrebonne and Lafourche parishes. The authorized project area is bounded on the west by Bayou Du Large and State Highway 311 and on the east by Bayou Lafourche with the east and west boundaries forming an apex at Thibodaux, LA. The recommended plan described in the January 2013 Post Authorization Change Report (PAC) consists of 98 miles of grass-covered earthen levees tying into US 90 near the town of Gibson to the west and Hwy 1 near Lockport, LA to the east. The southern boundary is the Gulf of Mexico.

## Project Features

The tentatively selected plan in the PAC report consists of approximately 98-miles of earthen levee, 22 floodgates on navigable waterways, 23 environmental water control structures, a lock complex consisting of a lock in the Houma Navigation Canal measuring 110-ft wide by 800-ft long, an adjoining floodgate measuring 250 feet wide, a dam closure, nine road gates, and fronting protection for four (4) existing pump stations.

## Project Status

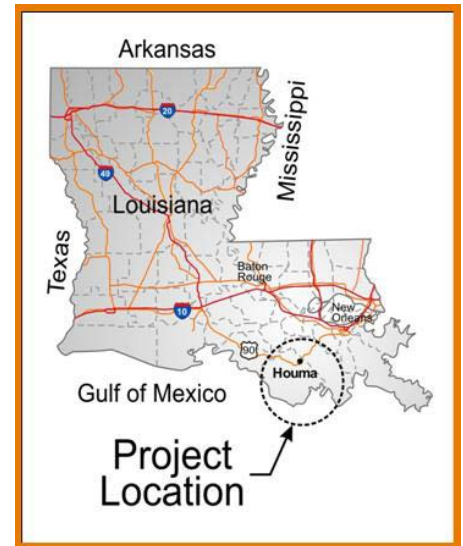
No Federal funds have been appropriated for construction of the Morganza to the Gulf project; however, the non-Federal sponsor is using state and local funds to construct interim features along the authorized alignment in advance of the Federal project.

### Features under construction by Local Sponsor

- Levee Reach J-1, First Lift, complete
- Levee Reach H-3, First Lift, complete
- Levee Reach H-2, First Lift, complete
- Bush Canal Interim Barge Gate, complete
- Placid Canal Interim Barge Gate, complete
- Houma Navigation Canal Interim Barge Gate, under construction
- Bayou Grand Caillou Interim Barge Gate, under construction
- Levee Reach F, First Lift, under construction
- Levee Reach J-2, First Lift, under construction
- Levee Reach J-3, First Lift, under construction

### Post Authorization Change (PAC) Report

Morganza to the Gulf of Mexico, Louisiana was authorized in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2007, based on 2002 and 2003 reports of the Chief of Engineers, prior to development and implementation of post-Katrina design criteria. In the interest of public safety, and to be consistent with the design policy established for the Greater New Orleans area, the Corps has now incorporated lessons learned from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita into the designs for Morganza to the Gulf.



**Levee Reach J-1 Construction**

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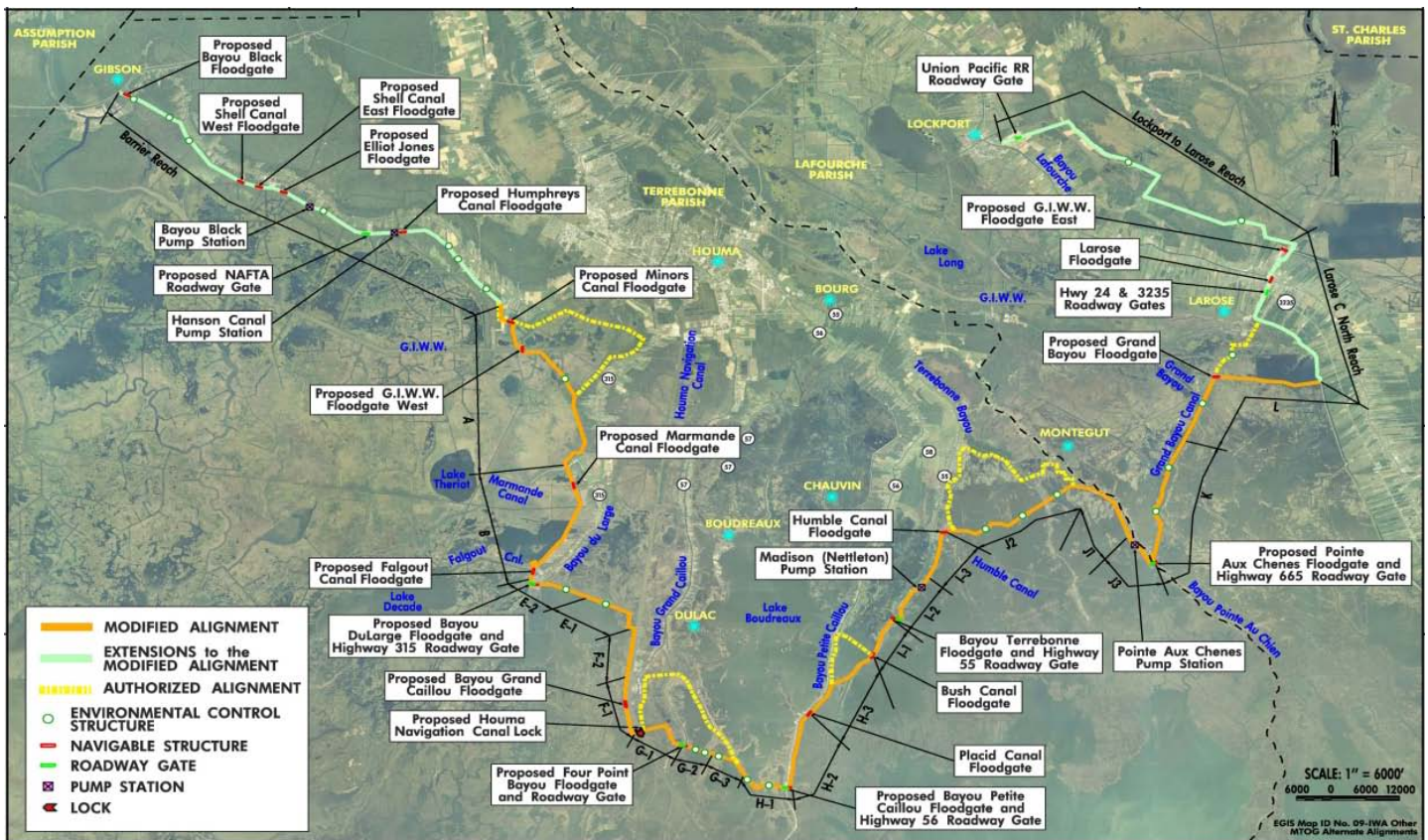
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The need to incorporate post-Katrina design criteria into the Morganza project has driven project costs more than 20% higher than the cost authorized in WRDA 07, thereby exceeding the Section 902 Limit (WRDA 1986) and triggering the need for reauthorization. A Post Authorization Change (PAC) Report is being developed to seek reauthorization. The PAC report includes feasibility-level designs incorporating the post-Katrina criteria, new project costs and updated economic benefits.

The revised, post-Katrina hydraulic modeling method yields significantly higher storm surge elevations, so higher levees are required to reduce risk. Overall, the levee elevations for the 100-year alternative have increased by an average of 10 feet from the 2002 Feasibility Report to the 2013 PAC report. In accordance with the recommendations of the Interagency Performance Evaluation Task Force (IPET), the robust post-Katrina design criteria requires higher factors of safety, more stringent criteria for levee fill and improved guidelines for soil testing, all contributing to higher project costs.

The draft PAC Report and corresponding Environmental Impact Statement are currently available for public review. The final PAC Report is on schedule to be complete later in 2013.



Morganza to the Gulf Map Showing Authorized and Modified PAC Alignments and Project Features

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