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SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY-WEST LAUNCHES WEB SITE DESIGNED TO KEEP WEST BANK SAFE FROM SURGES

NEW ORLEANS – To help West Bank families and businesses remain safe from flooding caused by storm surges, the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-West has launched a Web site – www.sfpaw.org – containing a wealth of information, including incident reporting and guidance, project descriptions and updates, news, emergency contacts and more.

The authority, which provides flood protection for nearly all land on the west bank of the Mississippi River in Jefferson and Orleans parishes, is made up of the West Jefferson Levee District and the Algiers Levee District.

“We’re committed to keeping the process transparent and the community as informed and up-to-date as possible,” said Susan Maclay, president. “Work on bringing the West Bank and Vicinity Hurricane Protection Project to completion is under way, and we’ve made a lot of progress. Our site is a good way for those who call the West Bank home to stay current with the work under way and receive useful information should we face a storm.”

Features of the site include:

- *Updates regarding surge-generated flooding incidents.* In the event of a threat from tropical weather, this section of the site, located on the home page, will provide critical information designed to help families and businesses prepare for, survive and understand the situation.
- *Descriptions of flood-control projects under way, all part of the overall West Bank and Vicinity Hurricane Protection Project.* Arranged by zip code, project information can be accessed easily and quickly from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers databases. Available are **inspection reports** and photos designed to update West Bank residents and businesses about projects in their neighborhoods, project descriptions, contract

information and value, and construction impacts. “We believe the public will find this section of the Web site extremely helpful,” Maclay said.

- *Information about the authority.* This includes news releases; a history of West Bank hurricane protection; the names of commissioners and committees; a calendar of meetings; employment opportunities; and the organization’s mission statement.
- *Resources and guidance.* Included are activities requiring, and how to apply for, a levee permit; a glossary of flood-protection-related terminology; links to partner agency sites, such as Jefferson Parish government, the Corps, the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development; and more.

“We encourage citizens to bookmark the site on their computers and mobile devices,” Maclay said. “Should we be faced with a storm, and especially if residents are forced to evacuate, having ready access to the site and the news and updates we’ll provide will be very important, possibly life-saving.”

The Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-West is one of two levee authorities serving metropolitan New Orleans. It provides flood protection for nearly all land on the West Bank of the Mississippi River in Jefferson and Orleans parishes by building, operating and maintaining flood control systems. The authority is made up of two levee districts: the West Jefferson Levee District, serving West Bank portions of Jefferson Parish, and the Algiers Levee District, serving West Bank areas of Orleans Parish. Its jurisdiction covers approximately 67 miles of hurricane flood protection levees, floodwalls and floodgates and approximately 33 miles of Mississippi River levees and floodwalls. A seven-member board of commissioners oversees the organization. Appointed by the governor, commissioners must fulfill a board quota as either residents of Jefferson or Orleans parishes or be professionals in engineering and other fields.

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