

The 2009 hurricane season ended peacefully, and for that everyone in southeast Louisiana is thankful. The Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority – West (SLFPA-W), in cooperation with the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, worked hard in 2009 to help provide protection from hurricane flooding for citizens living and working within its jurisdiction of the west bank of Orleans Parish and most of the west bank of Jefferson Parish.

We feel it is our responsibility to review the complex and extensive series of hurricane flood-protection projects that were either launched in 2009 or experienced significant progress during the year and to take a look ahead to 2010.

Currently, the Authority is focusing attention on the West Bank and Vicinity Hurricane Protection Project, a hurricane flood protection project covering parts of St. Charles, Jefferson, Orleans and Plaquemines parishes. This project, once completed, will help provide protection from 100-year storms, or storms with a 1 percent chance of hitting in any year. This major hurricane flood protection project is scheduled to be completed in June 2011.

Several key features of the West Bank and Vicinity Hurricane Protection Project are now under construction, and construction on several other projects will begin in early 2010. Some of those projects are:

- **Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) West Closure.** This structure, the single most important effort by the Corps to provide 100-year flood protection for the west bank, will be one of the largest of its kind in the world, featuring one sector gate, a large water control structure and the largest pumping station in the world. The structure will remove approximately 26 miles of levees along the Harvey and Algiers canals from surge threat and avoid the costly and disruptive need of relocating thousands of homes and businesses along the Algiers Canal that would have been in the way of the levees. The Corps has estimated that interim protective measures will be completed by 2011, with total completion in 2013.
- **Harvey Canal.** Navigable sector gates, north of the Lapalco Bridge, designed to be closed in the event of a storm to prevent surges from entering the canal were completed in 2007. However, to guard against surges to the south, the Corps is adding 3.5 miles of T-walls along the canal's east side to provide 100-year protection. With the estimated completion date before the peak of this year's hurricane season, citizens on the east side of the Harvey Canal finally will have true hurricane protection. However, 100-year protection will not protect citizens on the east side of the Harvey Canal until 2011.
- **Eastern Tie-In.** When completed in 2011, the project, near Oakville, will connect the Hero Canal levee to the river levee in Plaquemines Parish. A major feature includes construction of

floodgates across Highway 23 in Oakville and a control structure in the Hero Canal, to be closed during a storm. This control structure will consist of a pump station and a stop log gate.

- **Western Tie-In.** Designed to reduce surge risk to the western-most portion of Jefferson Parish on the west bank of the river and eastern St. Charles Parish, this project connects the Lake Cataouatche levee to the river levee and includes features such as drainage structures, a sector gate, earthen levees, floodwalls and, at its crossing of Highway 90, railroad floodgates. Completion is expected in 2011.
- **Bayou Segnette.** Designed to reduce flooding risk and provide 100-year flood protection along Bayou Segnette near the Company Canal, this project consists of a navigable sector gate and pump station across a new navigation channel, to be closed during a tropical event, and replacement of existing floodwalls along the Company Canal. Estimated completion is 2011.

Beyond construction, however, an important issue related to the Harvey Canal gates and the GIWW complex still must be addressed; those solutions rest with Congress.

The issues arise from the fact that the Harvey Canal gates and the GIWW complex lie directly in the middle of federal navigable waterways. In all other cases where structures of these types are located in federal waterways, opening and closing decisions before and after surge events, as well as operations and maintenance, are responsibilities of the Corps, not local flood-protection agencies like ours.

We have asked members of Louisiana's congressional delegation to draft legislation directing the Corps to operate and maintain the GIWW complex and the Harvey Canal gates. We will keep the community informed about our progress.

As part of our efforts to keep the community informed, we also took steps to help citizens fully understand our priorities. With the passage of legislation in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, as of Jan. 1, 2007, the West Jefferson Levee District (WJLD) became a part of SLFPA-W. In July of the same year, the Algiers Levee District (ALD) was created under SLFPA-W. In 2009, we designed a logo that reflects our name and mission. Shortly, citizens no longer will see our vehicles and tractors with the old, familiar logo of the WJLD, but the new SLFPA-W logo encompassing both the WJLD and ALD.

Also this past year, the Authority launched a new Web site to provide citizens with accurate, relevant and up-to-date information on the progress of projects under our supervision. The Authority is committed to transparency and accountability, and we believe this Web site is an ideal vehicle for the community to see evidence of our values. **We invite you to visit our new site at www.slpaw.org.**

We join you in looking forward to a healthy and safe 2010.

Susan Maclay

President

Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-West