

INTER-OFFICE MEMO

DEPARTMENT OF DRAINAGE

DATE: March 2, 2007

TO: Timothy A. Whitmer, CAA

FROM: Kazem Alikhani, Director, Department of Drainage

SUBJECT: Drainage Projects Status Report for week ending March 2, 2007

West Bank Safe Rooms

Construction on all of the West Bank Safe Rooms, Bayou Segnette, Whitney-Barataria, Cousins, and Ames, is complete. All West Bank facilities are fully operational and have officially been accepted by Jefferson Parish.

East Bank Safe Rooms

Construction on all of the East Bank Safe Rooms, Duncan, Elmwood, Bonnabel and Suburban, is 100% complete. All facilities are fully functional and have been inspected by the State Fire Marshal, Jefferson Parish Department of Engineering personnel, and the Construction Administrators assigned to this project. Final Acceptance of this project is contingent upon the results of the Fire Marshal review of the spiral stair systems at Duncan and Bonnabel.

Enhanced Backflow Prevention

The enhanced air suppression system is 100% complete and operational.

Hoey's Basin

All fourteen-pump installations are complete. Seven of the pump installations (Northline, Nassau, Falcon, Gilmore, Pontiff Playground Entrance, Pontiff Playground Ridgewood Drive, and Pontiff Playground Magnolia Drive) will be operated year-round and the seven remaining sites (Hoey's Gate (3), Airline Drive, Causeway, and Labarre Drive at Airline north and south side) will be used during storm events when the 17th Street Canal floodgates are closed by the C.O.E. A maintenance contract for all fourteen-pump installations has been approved and is in place for the next three-year period. The 60" Hoey's Bypass pump will be relocated to Hoey's Gate.

Pontiff Playground

Earthen levee berm, asphalt fire road, flap gates and boxes and road blocking sandbag placements are completed and in place. Raising of playground office and storage containers and leveling of playgrounds low areas are scheduled with preliminary work in progress.

Causeway/Earhart Retention Pond

Pond excavation is 98% complete with all tree clearing and flap gate installation complete. Sandbag placements at Airline Drive, Jefferson Highway, Amtrak and KCS railroad sites, Northline Bridge and Palmetto Bridge are complete. Hoey's Basin standard operating procedure (S.O.P.) is completed and added to Department Emergency plan. All flap gate and flap gate box construction at Jefferson Highway, Airline Drive, Metairie Road, and along the 17th Street Canal are completed.

Hoey's Gate

Raising of the gate operation electric panels above flood elevation has been complete. Backup system to fourteen (14) pump sites has been completed. Cost estimates for solar lighting and battery chargers for all fourteen pump sites has been completed and reviewed with a notice to proceed issued.

Interim Backflow

- East Bank - contract has been advertised with anticipation of awarding later this month
- West Bank – the COE is awaiting the other contract awards to see if there is sufficient funding for this project

Status of Pump Stations

Every Thursday all pump equipment including associated components is exercised and reports are distributed to your office, EOC, SCADA, and Department of Drainage.

Standard Operating Procedures

The East and West Bank Pump Stations test run all equipment at the stations that are controlled from the PLC's operator control room, the station floor, and Safe Room in a rotational order. Equipment not on the PLC's will be manually tested as well on a weekly basis. A video is in production process for each pump station outlining the procedures required to operate the pumps.

Remote Control Operation

In conjunction with construction of eight (8) Safe Rooms at major pumping stations, the horizontal pumps at these stations are equipped with remote operations capability from the Safe Rooms. This project is substantially complete; however, the contractor is in process of closing up the project and completing punch list items.

Additional Safe Rooms and Automation for Drainage Pump Stations

As part of storm proofing of Jefferson Parish Pump Stations, the COE, in cooperation with the Parish have targeted the construction of additional Safe Rooms and automation of the pumps at various manned drainage Pump Stations on the East and West Bank of Jefferson Parish.

Under storm proofing, Safe Rooms will be constructed at five (5) additional Pump Stations with capability of remotely controlling the pumps from these Safe Rooms.

To expedite implementing this project, the Parish, through its own funding, has selected engineers that previously designed and constructed Safe Rooms and remote operation of the pumps to prepare plans and specifications for the five (5) additional Safe Rooms and related automation to remotely control pumps from these Safe Rooms. Once the designs are complete, the Parish will turn the plans and specifications to the COE for construction. The Parish may select to build part of the above projects on its own money to the extent that finances allow to fast track construction.

Hoey's SELA PAC Projects

In 2000, Linfield, Hunter, and Junius, Inc. was retained to evaluate Hoey's Basin with the intent of acquiring funding from the Corps of Engineers, under the SELA program, for projects in the area. At that time, LHJ completed a report which requested approximately \$40M in improvements. This report has been submitted to the COE for review. The COE has been unable to review this report due to lack of finding from SELA. The projects identified by this study are the following:

- Hoey's Cut - completed
- Widening of the 17th Street Canal between Hoey's and Airline Hwy.
- New bridge at Airline Hwy.
- Transition structure at Hoey's and Monticello Canals
- Hoey's Bypass Canal – funding in place through Statewide Flood Control
- Weir structure in Geisenheimer Canal
- Geisenheimer Box culvert - constructed
- Railroad penetrations of Southern Railroad
- Replacement of two railroad culvert spurs in Hoey's Canal

Pump to the River

The Parish has requested the COE to fund a 2,500 CFS pump to the river project for Hoey's Basin. This will provide an independent pumping system of Orleans Parish drainage system for Hoey's Basin and also will provide operation flexibility for both Orleans and Jefferson. Parish officials are actively lobbying the COE and Congress to fund this critical project.

KA:mc

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