

Appendix E:
Cultural and Historical Resources Coordination
General Coordination and SoV letters



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Region 6
1201 Elm Street, Suite 500
Dallas, TX 75270

February 28, 2023

Ms. Kristin Sanders, State Historic Preservation Officer
Louisiana Office of Cultural Development
Division of Archaeology
P.O. Box 44247
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-4247

Dear Ms. Sanders:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 is requesting consultation for proposed features associated with the Reggio Marsh Creation and Hydrologic Restoration Project (BS-43) project including the marsh creation fill area and the dredge pipeline corridor. BS-43 is located east of the Reggio community in St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana and may plug two canals to counter saltwater intrusion. Sediment will be hydraulically dredged from Lake Lery to create 291 acres and nourish 193 acres of wetlands. This project is being funded under the authority of the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA). CPRA is the local sponsor and designing the project. EPA is the Federal sponsor.

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) [i.e., the “geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause changes in the character of or use of historic properties, if any such properties exist” (36 C.F.R. § 800.16(d))] for BS-43 includes all terrestrial and marine areas of disturbance (i.e., the pipeline corridors, marine equipment access, and canal plug locations). The March 2022 survey and marine data analysis identified 528 magnetometer anomalies, 32 side scan sonar contacts and one sub-bottom paleochannel. The majority of the anomalies and contacts represent woody debris/trees/stumps, fishing gear, ferrous debris, pipelines and other man-made objects. No submerged cultural resources were identified within the remote sensing data and no further work is recommended in the APE. A terrestrial survey of the marsh creation area and the canals was conducted from an airboat and involved systematic probing of high probability areas and examination of shorelines for shell accumulations and artifacts. This survey located no cultural resources, and no further work is recommended.

No evidence of cultural resources, cultural material, or cultural features were identified during the examination of the marsh creation area or within the footprint of the dredge pipeline corridor. We believe no historic properties will be affected by this project as proposed and request your concurrence with this determination. Should you require further information, please feel free to contact Sharon Osowski, Ph.D. at (214) 665-7506 or e-mail at osowski.sharon@epa.gov.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen McCormick", is written over the typed name.

Karen McCormick
Marine, Coastal and Non-Point Source Section Chief

ecc: Travis Moore, CPRA
Elizabeth Davoli, CPRA

Enclosures: Negative Finding Archaeological Assessment of a Marine Remote Sensing Survey for the Reggio Marsh Creation and Hydrologic Restoration (BS-43), St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana
Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of the Reggio Marsh Creation and Hydrologic Restoration Project (BS-0043), St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana



BILLY NUNGESSER
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM
OFFICE OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF ARCHAEOLOGY

KRISTIN P. SANDERS
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

28 April 2023

Karen McCormick
Marine, Coastal and Non-Point Source Section Chief
EPA Region 6
1201 Elm Street, Suite 600
Dallas, TX 75270

Re: Draft Report
La Division of Archaeology Report No. 22-7289
*Negative Findings Archaeological Assessment of a marine Remote Sensing Survey for the Reggio Marsh
Creation and Hydrologic Restoration (BS-43), St. Bernard parish, Louisiana*

Dear Karen McCormick:

We acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 28 February 2023 and one copy of the above referenced report.

Based on the description of the Area of Potential Effect (APE), the proposed ground-disturbing activities, and the identification of historic properties within the APE, our office concurs with the assessment that no historic properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places will be affected by this project. Our office has no further concerns for this project.

Consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office does not constitute consultation with Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, other Native American tribes, local governments, or the public. If archaeological materials are encountered during construction, the procedures codified at 36 CFR 800.13(b) will apply. Archaeological materials consist of any items, fifty years old or older, which were made or used by man. These items include but are not limited to, stone projectile points (arrowheads), ceramic sherds, bricks, worked wood, bone and stone, metal, and glass objects. The federal agency or the applicant receiving federal assistance should contact our office immediately. If human remains are encountered, the provisions of the Louisiana Unmarked Human Burial Sites Preservation Act (Revised Statute 8:671-681) should be followed.

We have accepted the report as final; no further submissions are necessary. If you have any questions, please contact Chip McGimsey at cmcgimsey@crt.la.gov or 225-219-4598.

Sincerely,

Kristin Sanders
State Historic Preservation Officer



BILLY NUNGESSER
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM
OFFICE OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF ARCHAEOLOGY

KRISTIN P. SANDERS
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

28 April 2023

Karen McCormick
Marine, Coastal and Non-Point Source Section Chief
EPA Region 6
1201 Elm Street, Suite 600
Dallas, TX 75270

Re: Draft Report
La Division of Archaeology Report No. 22-7288
Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of the Reggio Marsh Creation and Hydrologic Restoration (BS-0043), St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana

Dear Karen McCormick:

We acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 28 February 2023 and one copy of the above referenced report.

Based on the description of the Area of Potential Effect (APE), the proposed ground-disturbing activities, and the identification of historic properties within the APE, our office concurs with the assessment that no historic properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places will be affected by this project. Our office has no further concerns for this project.

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We have accepted the report as final; no further submissions are necessary. If you have any questions, please contact Chip McGimsey at cmcgimsey@crt.la.gov or 225-219-4598.

Sincerely,

Kristin Sanders
State Historic Preservation Officer

Osowski, Sharon

From: John Helmers <jhelmers@ppgov.net>
Sent: Friday, October 6, 2023 10:24 AM
To: Osowski, Sharon
Cc: John Lane; Robert Spears; Krista Clark
Subject: RE: Solicitation of views for BS43 Reggio Marsh Creation CWPPRA project

Categories: Printed, Record Saved - Shared

Caution: This email originated from outside EPA, please exercise additional caution when deciding whether to open attachments or click on provided links.

Good morning, Sharon,

We stand in support of this important marsh creation project BS-43 for St. Bernard Parish.

John

John Helmers
Director of Coastal Resources & Protection
Plaquemines Parish Government
333 F. Edward Hebert Blvd, Bldg. 100
Belle Chasse, La. 70037
www.plaqueminesparish.com

Main 504-934-6297
Cell 504-351-3556

jhelmers@ppgov.net



From: Osowski, Sharon <Osowski.Sharon@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, October 6, 2023 9:09 AM
To: Osowski, Sharon <Osowski.Sharon@epa.gov>
Subject: Solicitation of views for BS43 Reggio Marsh Creation CWPPRA project

[NOTICE: This message originated outside of the Plaquemines Parish mail system -- DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Good Morning Stakeholder,

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the federal sponsor for the BS-0043 "Reggio" project. The project is funded through the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) and is currently in Phase I Engineering and Design. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, EPA is requesting comments at this stage of project.

Attached to this email is a Solicitation of Views (SOV) letter, fact sheet, and the official project map. Please provide any comments by October 27, 2023. If you have further questions or concerns, my contact information appears below; please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thanks,
Sharon Osowski Morgan, Ph.D., CSE
Certified Senior Ecologist, Ecological Society of America

Marine, Coastal, and Non-Point Source Section
(WD-AM)
US Environmental Protection Agency Region 6
1201 Elm St., Suite 500
Dallas, TX 75270

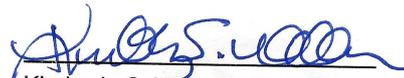
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Our records and oral traditions do not indicate that a specific Chitimacha archaeological site or Traditional Cultural Property is within the APE and could be affected; therefore we have no objection to the implementation of the proposed activity; however, if human remains or cultural resources are discovered, you should stop immediately and contact me and the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office.


Kimberly S. Walden, THPO

10/13/23
Date



October 5, 2023

SOLICITATION OF VIEWS (SOV)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 6 is preparing NEPA documentation for the proposed project "Reggio Marsh Hydrologic Restoration and Marsh Creation," (BA-43) under the authority of the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA). By this SOV notice, EPA is requesting your views and comments on any potential economic, social, or environmental adverse or beneficial impacts in the area of this project.

The BS-43 project is located in the Breton Sound Basin in St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana. The community of Reggio, LA is located approximately twenty-one (21) miles southeast of New Orleans, in St. Bernard Parish. The Reggio Marsh Creation project area is bounded on the north by an existing tidal levee, on the south by the Reggio Canal, and on the west by the Reggio community, and will serve as an important buffer to protect this coastal community from storm surge. Originally, the project included canal closures and less marsh creation acreage (484 acres) (see enclosed factsheet). The canal closures were removed during Phase 1 Engineering and Design because they would not accomplish the goal of meaningful salinity reduction. As currently designed, the project will restore approximately five hundred and nineteen (519) acres of intermediate marsh by hydraulically dredging sediment from Lake Lery (see enclosed map). The project is funded through CWPPRA and has been approved by the Task Force.

Please provide EPA with your views and comments by October 27, 2023. Comments can be sent by mail to Dr. Sharon Osowski, EPA Region 6, 6WD-AM, 1201 Elm St., Suite 500, Dallas, TX 75270 or by e-mail to osowski.sharon@epa.gov. If you have questions or require further information, please contact Dr. Osowski at (214) 665-7506.

Sincerely,



Karen McCormick, Supervisor
Marine, Coastal, and Non-Point Source Section
6WD-AM

Enclosures