

Jefferson EDGE 2020 **FLOOD PROTECTION** Status Report 5: June 2012

Prepared by JEDCO and GCR Inc.

JEDCO
Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission



Flood Protection

In response to concerns about quality of life in Jefferson Parish and its impact upon the community's economic competitiveness, JEDCO initiated the Jefferson Edge 2020 Quality of Life initiative. This initiative has produced eight "strategic implementation plans" which include a series of action items to address particular quality of life issues. Implementing the action items requires the total cooperation and keen interest of all involved, including JEDCO, the Jefferson Parish government, numerous other entities, and frequently State and Federal agencies. In 2008, JEDCO retained GCR & Associates, Inc. to prepare semiannual reports outlining the status of each of these action items and overall progress toward implementation.

The following table summarizes the progress made toward each of the external flood protection (E) and internal flood protection (I) action items.

E = External Flood Protection I = Internal Flood Protection

Action ID #	Action Item	Progress as of June 2012		
		Action Item Complete	Substantial Progress	Little/No Progress
E1	Advocate for additional federal funding for 100 year flood protection			
E2	Advocate for reduced local share of the cost of 100 year protection			
E3	Explore alternative means of financing local component of 100 year protection			
E4	Push for federal authorization and funding of a polder system of compartmentalized flood protection			
E5	Advocate for expanded Corps of Engineers oversight and reform			
E6	Make a renewed call for 500 year protection	No longer applicable and removed from flood protection action items.		
E7	Initiate a public outreach campaign to keep the public informed about external flood control projects			
I1	Secure additional funding through the SELA program to implement SELA-authorized projects			
I2	Seek federal funding for automated climber screens for the pump stations			
I3	Work with federal government to obtain funding to improve "local" drainage system in Jefferson			
I4	Continue to communicate with the Louisiana congressional delegation about progress in securing the desired \$15.3 million for a feasibility study for Options 2 and 2a.			

Flood Protection

Action ID #	Action Item	Original Timeline	Accomplishments/Benchmarks Met	Next Steps	Progress as of June 2012		
					Action Item Complete	Substantial Progress	Little/No Progress
E1	Advocate for additional federal funding for 100 year flood protection	Secure funding in 2008	Action complete. For more information, refer to March, 2009 status update.	No further action needed			
E2	Advocate for reduced local share of the cost of 100 year protection	Pass legislation in 2008	Action complete. For more information, refer to March, 2009 status update.	No further action needed			
E3	Explore alternative means of financing local component of 100 year protection	Secure agreement and pass legislation in 2008	Action complete. For more information, refer to March, 2009 status update.	No further action needed			
E4	Push for federal authorization and funding of a polder system of compartmentalized flood protection	Complete study in 2008; secure Congressional authorization and funding by 2011	The Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA) awarded the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority East (SLFPA-E) a \$900,000 grant, which includes \$386,000 to study the polder system for St. Bernard and Orleans parishes and the East Bank of Jefferson Parish. This study is scrutinizing the St. Charles/Jefferson Parish line, with a particular emphasis on the levee and gates south of the Airport to the River. The study is being conducted by Taylor Engineering of Baton Rouge. The flood models that are a critical component of the report are nearing completion, though the final report is still several months away.	Monitor the progress of the polder study. Pending the outcome of the study, pursue implementation through the Corps of Engineers and Congressional delegation.			
E5	Advocate for expanded Corps of Engineers oversight and reform	Pass legislation in 2008	A suite of Corps of Engineers reform mandates were included in the 2007 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) legislation. However, the Louisiana congressional delegation is eager to push for further reform and oversight of the Corps. The central legislative challenge continues to be finding an appropriate legislative vehicle. As was the case in 2011, a WRDA renewal bill is unlikely to be introduced this year. It is also unlikely that any other water resources-related bill will be introduced in the current Congress. All the while, there is mounting pressure for Corps reform; this issue has most recently arisen because of concern of the Modified Charleston Method (MCM) for reviewing wetlands mitigation requirements.	Communicate with the Louisiana congressional to convey the continued importance of Corps of Engineers oversight and reform. Continue to work with the delegation to find an appropriate legislative vehicle in this Congress or the next.			

E = External Flood Protection I = Internal Flood Protection

Prepared by



Flood Protection

						Progress as of June 2012		
Action ID #	Action Item	Original Timeline	Accomplishments/Benchmarks Met	Next Steps	Action Item Complete	Substantial Progress	Little/No Progress	
E6	Make a renewed call for 500 year protection	Complete study in 2008; secure Authorization and funding by 2011	This item has been removed from the list of EDGE 2020 action items. Refer to the July, 2011 status report for more information.	No further action at this time.	No longer applicable and removed from flood protection action items.			
E7	Initiate a public outreach campaign to keep the public informed about external flood control projects	Unveil website and issue newsletter in 2008	<p>The public outreach campaign to support Jefferson EDGE 2020 has stalled in the past year due to budget shortfalls. Jefferson Life magazine, after a promising start, saw its advertising revenue wane. As a result, the magazine is on indefinite hold. Attempts to find a new publisher to purchase Jefferson Life have been unsuccessful to date.</p> <p>In the meantime, the Parish continues to maintain a Facebook presence.</p>	<p>Continue to maintain a social media presence.</p> <p>In an era of declining print publications, determine whether it makes sense to continue to pursue the concept of a community magazine.</p> <p>Continue to advocate for marketing dollars from past supporters—the Parish, school system, and Sheriff's office.</p>				

E = External Flood Protection I = Internal Flood Protection

Prepared by



Flood Protection

Action ID #	Action Item	Original Timeline	Accomplishments/Benchmarks Met	Next Steps	Progress as of June 2012		
					Action Item Complete	Substantial Progress	Little/No Progress
I1	Secure additional funding through the SELA program to implement SELA-authorized projects	Secure funding by 2009	Action complete. For more information, refer to March, 2009 status update.	No further action required			
I2	Seek federal funding for automated climber screens for the pump stations	Secure funding by 2009	While funding for some climber screens at Parish pump stations was secured several years ago, additional funding has been elusive. The Parish continues to seek outside funding for the additional needed climber screens.	Continue to work with Louisiana's congressional delegation to identify and secure additional funding for climber screens for pump stations.			
I3	Work with federal government to obtain funding to improve "local" drainage system in Jefferson	Secure authorization and funding by 2011	Construction is underway for the priority "Phase I" projects for the local drainage system,. The \$100 million in Phase I projects is being funded by Parish bond funds, CDBG funding, and FEMA Hazard Mitigation grants. The Parish continues to seek funding from State and Federal agencies to fund the approximately \$800 million in remaining costs to comprehensively improve the local drainage network.	Monitor the progress of the implementation of Phase I improvements to the local drainage system. Continue to work with congressional delegation to develop a strategy for obtaining external funding for the remaining cost of upgrading the local drainage system.			

E = External Flood Protection I = Internal Flood Protection

Prepared by



Flood Protection

Progress as of June 2012							
Action ID #	Action Item	Original Timeline	Accomplishments/Benchmarks Met	Next Steps	Action Item Complete	Substantial Progress	Little/No Progress
14	Work with the Army Corps of Engineers to authorize Hoey's Basin pump to the river and work with Congress to secure funding	Complete study in 2008; secure authorization and funding by 2009	<p>Jefferson Parish and the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans have met with members of Louisiana's congressional delegation to request that \$15.3 million be allocated for a design and feasibility study of Options 2 and 2a—design options for the outfall canals that would place pump stations at the mouths of the canals and that (in the case of Option 2a) would also build the Hoey's Basin pump to the river.</p> <p>To date, the delegation has been unsuccessful in securing funding for this design and feasibility study.</p>	Continue to work with the Louisiana congressional delegation to secure the desired \$15.3 million for the Option 2 and 2a feasibility study.			



700 Churchill Pkwy.
Avondale, LA 70094
504 875 3908 fax 504 875 3908



GCR Inc.

2021 Lakeshore Drive, Ste. 500
New Orleans, LA 70122
504 304 2500 fax 504 304 2525
