

1 U. S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
2 GALVESTON DISTRICT
3 JEFFERSON COUNTY WATERWAY AND NAVIGATION DISTRICT
4

5 EIS SCOPING MEETING
6 FOR SABINE- NECHES WATERWAY
7 FEASIBILITY STUDY
8
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10 PRESENTED BY:

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12 GALVESTON DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
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19 The EIS Scoping Meeting regarding the
20 Sabine- Neches Waterway Feasibility Study was held
21 on Tuesday, May 28, 2002, at Best Western Hotel,
22 2600 Moeling Street, Highway 171 and I- 10, Lake
23 Charles, Louisiana, commencing at 7:00 p.m.
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1	A P P E A R A N C E S	
2		
3	OPENING REMARKS	4
4	(Paul Beard)	
5		
6	WELCOME	4
7	(Lloyd Saunders)	
8		
9	PROJECT INTRODUCTION	8
10	(Thomas Jackson)	
11		
12	FEASIBILITY STUDY UPDATE	13
13	(Lizette Richardson)	
14		
15	EIS STUDY AND ICT PROCESS	16
16	(Janelle S. Stokes)	
17		
18	GREG DUCOTE	24
19	(Louisiana Department of Natural Resources	
20	Coastal Management Division)	
21		
22	DAVID RICHARD	26
23	(Stream Property Management)	
24		
25		

1	RUSTY VINCENT	28
2	(Landowner)	
3		
4	LYNN JONES	32
5	(Executive Assistant - Congressman Chris John)	
6		
7	JIM ROBINSON	34
8		
9	JAMES L. ROBINSON	35
10	(Director of Navigation - Lake Charles	
11	Urban and Terminal District)	
12		
13	RODNEY GUILBEAUX	36
14	(Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana, Cameron	
15	Parish Drainage District, Sabine Parish	
16	Lighthouse, Cameron Parish Chamber of Commerce,	
17	Cameron Lions Club, West Cameron Port Commission)	
18		
19	HAROLD SCHOEFFLER	46
20	(Sierra Club)	
21		
22	TERRY O'CONNOR	52
23	(Louisiana Organic Farmers)	
24	CONCLUDING REMARKS	53
25	(Lloyd Saunders)	

1 MR. BEARD:

2 My name is Paul Beard and I'm the
3 Chairman of the Jefferson County Waterway and
4 Navigation District. It's my pleasure to welcome
5 each of you to the Jefferson County Waterway and
6 Navigation District and Corps of Engineers
7 Galveston District Scoping Meeting. Hopefully,
8 after listening to the Corps explain complex
9 issues being undertaken, we'll all have a better
10 understanding of the issues involved involving our
11 waterways.

12 The study of possible navigational
13 improvements to the Sabine- Neches Waterway is
14 entering its third year now. We've spent millions
15 of dollars studying the possibilities of making
16 the waterway more efficient. It's our hope that
17 the results of these studies will help guide us to
18 make our waterway more beneficial to all our
19 citizens.

20 I'd like now to introduce and turn the
21 meeting over to Mr. Lloyd Saunders, Chief of
22 Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division of
23 the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers of Galveston.
24 Mr. Saunders.

25 MR. SAUNDERS:

1 Thank you, Paul. Good evening, ladies
2 and gentlemen. On behalf of Colonel Waterworth
3 I'd like to welcome you to tonight's public
4 scoping meeting for the Sabine- Neches Waterway
5 Feasibility Study. For the record, let me state
6 that this public scoping meeting is being convened
7 at seven o'clock on May 28th, 2002 at the Best
8 Western Richmond Suites Hotel in Lake Charles,
9 Louisiana.

10 As you know, the Corps of Engineers and
11 Jefferson County Waterway and Navigation District
12 are conducting a study to determine the economic,
13 engineering and environmental feasibility of
14 improvements to the Sabine- Neches Waterway. We're
15 especially seeking your input tonight concerning
16 issues related to changes in salinity and
17 circulation, changes to fresh and Saltwater
18 marshes, issues associated with water and sediment
19 quality, erosion along the navigation channels,
20 threatened and endangered species impacts,
21 opportunities for beneficial uses of dredge
22 material, and opportunities for ecosystem
23 restoration.

24 I'd like to introduce some folks that are
25 here from the Corps of Engineers this evening.

1 Ms. Carolyn Murphy, Chief of Environmental
2 Section; Ms. Diana Laird, Chief of Planning
3 Section; Ms. Lizette Richardson, Project Manager;
4 Ms. Paula Wise, the Planning Lead for Feasibility
5 Study; and Ms. Janelle Stokes the Environmental
6 Lead for the Sabine- Neches Waterway Feasibility
7 Study.

8 I hope that you've all had an opportunity
9 to read the announcement of a public meeting. An
10 additional fact sheet is also available at the
11 entrance. We encourage you to take that also.
12 The announcement, the mailing list and a list of
13 those present will be made a part of the record of
14 this meeting. We also have a reporter present
15 this evening who will transcribe the proceedings.

16 I hope that everyone has completed an
17 attendance card. If not I ask that you do so now.
18 If you'll raise your hand, someone will bring you
19 a card. The attendance card is used to record
20 participants in this public meeting and to inform
21 me of your desire to make an oral statement and/or
22 present a written statement. If you've indicated
23 on the attendance card that you want to make an
24 oral statement, you will be given an opportunity
25 to do so.

1 As I said, the purpose of the meeting is
2 to solicit your views, opinions and
3 recommendations concerning the Sabine Neches
4 Waterway Feasibility Study. The information you
5 present will be used to identify environmental
6 concerns, adjust the study efforts and to meet the
7 National Environmental Policy Act requirements for
8 preparing an Environmental Impact Statement.

9 Every effort will be made to address the
10 concerns and issues identified here tonight.
11 There will be additional opportunities for the
12 public to express their views in other meetings
13 and workshops in the future.

14 Let me discuss the format of the meeting.
15 First, Mr. Tom Jackson of the Jefferson County
16 Waterway and Navigation District will present an
17 overview of the Sabine- Neches Waterway. Next,
18 Ms. Richardson from the Corps of Engineers will
19 provide an overview of the study process. Then
20 Ms. Stokes, Corps of Engineers will provide an
21 overview of the Environmental Impact Study and
22 Interagency Coordinating Team process.

23 We're terrible about abbreviating things,
24 so you'll hear people mention ICT. That's the
25 Interagency Coordinating Team. Following these

1 presentations I will accept public comments. I
2 will first recognize Federal and State officials
3 who have requested to make a statement, then
4 Federal and State resource agencies will be able
5 to make presentations. Finally I will recognize
6 each individual from the registration cards that
7 has indicated that they wish to make a statement.
8 Everyone who has indicated a desire to comment
9 will have the opportunity to do so. Is there
10 anyone who needs to turn in a card?

11 Please give the speakers the courtesy of
12 not making any comments during their presentation.
13 All individuals have an equal right to be heard.
14 I now call on Mr. Tom Jackson.

15 MR. JACKSON:

16 I do want to extend my heartfelt
17 gratitude for your attendance. Keep in mind that
18 this project that we've been working on now for
19 the past couple of years will have a tremendous
20 impact upon our communities. We've always
21 considered Louisiana and Orange County as
22 neighbors of ours in Jefferson County, and also
23 that Jefferson County has solely funded this
24 project up to date.

25 I'm going to go through some slides with

1 you real quick. What these slides will do will
2 bring us both up to date on where we have been and
3 where hopefully we are going as well as the
4 purpose of why we are in this project.

5 To start with, this is a picture of our
6 waterway. If you don't mind I'll move over. The
7 brown locations are what we call placement areas
8 or PAs. When we do maintenance dredging on the
9 current, the existing waterway, the dredges will
10 take and utilize those areas to put the material
11 in. When we get onshore, the areas are leveed.
12 If you're not familiar with these sites, it's kind
13 of like a levee around a rice mill or a crawfish
14 pond except they get to be huge. Some of them are
15 in the thirty foot range. Quite a bit of money to
16 build these.

17 The history started off in about 1912
18 where the channel was deepened fifteen feet.
19 Along the Sabine- Neches, the Port Arthur Canal
20 was completed prior to this and therefore it was
21 extended later on, but as you see, in 1962 the
22 channel went to forty feet. Now we're looking at
23 deepening the channel. Also with those depths you
24 will notice, for the history buffs, the size of
25 the vessels that are utilizing not only the

1 waterways of Jefferson County, but also
2 nationwide. These ships have gotten larger as
3 well as the draft has gotten deeper.

4 In 1875 the federal government came in
5 and started looking at our channel. The channel
6 to Beaumont was authorized in 1912 primarily
7 because of the petrochemical industry which more
8 or less spurred the growth of our region including
9 the Lake Charles area. The federal funds to pay
10 for the maintenances, we don't have to pay for the
11 dredge to come in, but we do have to pay for the
12 placement areas as well as the levee.

13 We have tried to -- continuing to try to
14 diversify our channel, but as it goes, much like
15 in Lake Charles, it's primarily a petrochemical
16 port and probably will be for quite some time. We
17 use these large ships to carry the petroleum. The
18 more petroleum you can get on a ship, the more
19 efficient these ships are.

20 Again, we want, the size of the vessels
21 warrants our deepening our channel and widening
22 our channel for two-way traffic. Again, to
23 increase the efficiency as well as we've got some
24 safety concerns on our waterway where these ships
25 come in and as they have widened -- become wider

1 in their -- the channel of course is remaining
2 approximately the same. We do have some safety
3 issues that we're aware of.

4 Again, we're back to the existing
5 placement areas. These are the four offshore
6 placement areas as our channel runs quite a ways
7 offshore, much like it is here in Lake Charles,
8 and our onshore sites go all the way up into
9 Beaumont. Of course we limited capacity in those
10 sites. We are looking at some means by which to
11 beneficially use this material by putting it on
12 our shores to help circumvent shoreline erosion as
13 well as some marsh restoration.

14 This of course is just a demonstration of
15 what these ships look like. These ships really
16 took off right after the Second World War. These
17 old Liberty ships were big ships back then, and
18 since that time where they will stop growing, I
19 don't know, but I do know that we need to be ready
20 for them, otherwise they'll find some other place
21 to go.

22 Our channel currently is about four
23 hundred feet along the bottom. Our pilots, Sabine
24 pilots who man our ships in the Sabine- Neches
25 Waterway restricts one- way traffic in specific

1 areas. The majority of the Waterway is one- way.
2 There is a rather complicated formula they use to
3 determine whether ships get by each other, but
4 then we're further complicated with the formula
5 being used and then having a ship pulled up in a
6 dock loading or offloading of product. Again,
7 we're looking at reducing our ship delays.

8 And, again, to demonstrate the length of
9 time, it has taken us, a little over two years
10 into this project. And we've got another two
11 years to go. It's very slow. It's very
12 cumbersome and very efficient. And hopefully with
13 the numbers that will come out of this and save us
14 a lot of trial and error later on.

15 But anyway, later on in the meeting we
16 will have an opportunity hopefully for any
17 questions. If not then -- what I know I will
18 convey to you. We're not going to keep any
19 secrets. Again, this is a -- appreciate the
20 community involvement. Tomorrow night we'll be in
21 the Beaumont area presenting this to the taxpayers
22 of Beaumont.

23 Lizette Richardson is our -- is currently
24 the lady who is in Galveston that I ask questions
25 of concerning this project. She's done a real

1 good job for us.

2 MS. RICHARDSON:

3 Thank you, Tom. Good evening. This
4 slide shows the process that Tom alluded to, the
5 Corps Civil Works Project and how it's initiated,
6 in this case by the locally sponsored Jefferson
7 County Waterway and Navigation District, and it
8 shows the process through the feasibility stage
9 that we are currently in through design, and then
10 construction and operations, and we're about the
11 midway point of the feasibility process for
12 Sabine- Neches Waterway. We started the
13 reconnaissance study in 1997 and then went into
14 the feasibility in March of 2000.

15 This is a specific time line for the
16 project. We're scheduled to have the final
17 Feasibility Report in the July, 2004 time frame,
18 and then we'll finish the entire Feasibility Study
19 with the Environment Impact Statement in November
20 of '04, and if the project is authorized we
21 anticipate construction in the fall of 2005.

22 The purpose of the feasibility phase is
23 to evaluate all alternatives and to select the one
24 that has the greatest economic benefit and also is
25 consistent with protecting the environment.

1 Jefferson County as our sponsor is cost sharing in
2 the project, and fifty- fifty cost share, and as
3 part of the feasibility phase we'll do the
4 Environmental Impact Statement and we'll also have
5 Jan, she'll be talking later in the briefing.
6 She'll go through the Environmental Impact Study
7 and the Interagency Coordination Team that was
8 established more in detail.

9 As part of evaluating the alternatives,
10 we're going to be looking at various engineering
11 issues, environmental impacts and opportunities,
12 and the economic benefits of the project.

13 Under engineering we're going to be
14 looking at depths of forty- five, forty- eight and
15 fifty feet with potential widenings of the
16 channel. To address the navigation and safety
17 issue we have our Waterways Experiment Station,
18 which is located in Vicksburg, Mississippi. They
19 simulated the movement of vessels up and down the
20 waterway, and that happened in the April-May time
21 frame. We actually did the simulations and the
22 report is going through the analysis right now of
23 the results from the actual pilots.

24 We are also looking at the dredge
25 material quantities to come up with a management

1 plan that we can insure we can accept all this
2 maintenance dredge material over the fifty year
3 life of the project. And, also, in the real
4 estate arena we're having real estate studies,
5 looking at possibly having to relocating around
6 seventy pipelines.

7 In the environmental area the following
8 concerns on the slide were raised at the May, 2000
9 public meeting, and Saltwater intrusion impacts,
10 the tidal movements, vessel effects. We currently
11 have modeling and study efforts underway at
12 various stages right now to address these
13 concerns, and also the Environmental Impact Study
14 will also address some of the concerns that were
15 raised at the last public meeting such as the
16 hydrodynamic and salinity model. That is
17 currently underway with our Waterways Experiment
18 Station out of Vicksburg.

19 In the economics arena we're going to
20 look at the overall project benefits and costs.
21 For the Sabine- Neches Waterway most of the
22 benefits will be related to transportation costs
23 benefits. We have conducted interviews with the
24 pilots and the shipping industry to try to come up
25 with the actual transportation costs benefits to

1 feed into the project, and we've also looked at
2 the types of vessels and the shipping patterns and
3 the long term trends were also conducted as part
4 of the economic analysis.

5 Again, I'd like to state as Tom had
6 mentioned, this is an open process. We encourage
7 participation of all the stakeholders. We have
8 had local, state and federal agency involvement
9 and have established the Interagency Coordination
10 Team to provide technical guidance throughout the
11 feasibility phase as well as the entire project.

12 That concludes my portion of the program,
13 and I'd like to turn it over to Ms. Jan Stokes.
14 Thank you.

15 MS. STOKES:

16 Thank you, Lizette. Good evening. The
17 Corps of Engineers and the Jefferson County
18 Waterway and Navigation District are conducting
19 studies in support of the Environmental Impact
20 Statement for the Feasibility Study. The
21 boundaries for the study were established in
22 consultation with resource agencies from both
23 Louisiana and Texas. The study area includes all
24 areas which could potentially be affected by
25 changes in salinity and circulation patterns. It

1 extends from Salt Bayou in Texas on the west to
2 Gum Cove Ridge in Louisiana to the east, and
3 inland to north of Interstate 10.

4 The EIS will evaluate potential changes
5 in physical processes such as circulation and
6 sedimentation, biological resources and habitats,
7 water and sediment quality, hazardous, toxic and
8 radioactive waste, air quality and noise,
9 socioeconomic resources, historic properties and
10 cumulative impact.

11 Concerns have been expressed over the
12 proposed project's potential impacts to salinity
13 levels and circulation patterns in the Sabine Lake
14 estuarine system. These are being addressed with
15 a hydrodynamic/salinity model which will predict
16 changes resulting from the proposed improvements.
17 Resource agencies from Texas and Louisiana have
18 been involved in setting requirements for this
19 model.

20 Other studies and models will be used to
21 evaluate effects on shallow groundwater aquifers,
22 changes in the movement of sediment in the river
23 channels and Sabine Lake, and changes in erosion
24 rates along the coastal shoreline at Sabine Pass,
25 the eastern shore of Sabine Lake and the

1 navigation channels.

2 To assist in model development, field
3 data on existing conditions was collected by the
4 Corps, the Texas Water Development Board and Lamar
5 University from May to December, 2001. Data were
6 collected on salinities, water velocities, channel
7 cross sections, water levels and weather
8 conditions.

9 The EIS is evaluating the effects of
10 project alternatives on biological resources and
11 critical habitats. The impacts associated with
12 channel improvements and associated placement
13 areas are being studied. Increased salinity
14 intrusion into brackish and freshwater wetlands is
15 being evaluated. Habitat losses will be discussed
16 in terms of impacts on wildlife, especially
17 waterfowl and shorebirds. Project impacts to
18 wetlands will be predicted by salinity,
19 circulation and sediment transport models.

20 A biological assessment will be prepared
21 as required by the Endangered Species Act to
22 determine project impacts on federally listed
23 threatened or endangered species.

24 The effects of project alternatives on
25 essential fish habitat will also be evaluated and

1 related to losses in sports and commercial
2 fisheries.

3 The EIS is evaluating existing water and
4 sediment quality and changes associated with
5 project alternatives. The evaluation will include
6 the primary past and present sources of pollution
7 in the project area and the results of physical
8 and chemical analyses of the water and sediments.
9 These studies will be used to evaluate alternative
10 locations for the placement of dredged material.

11 A hazardous, toxic and radioactive waste
12 assessment is being conducted to identify areas of
13 concern and to determine potential project
14 impacts.

15 Existing regional air quality data will
16 be assessed and changes in shipping practices are
17 being studied. A Clean Air Act conformity
18 analysis will be necessary because the
19 Beaumont/Port Arthur area is currently designated
20 a non- attainment area.

21 Data on noise levels currently associated
22 with traffic and industry on the Sabine- Neches
23 Waterway will be compiled and projections of
24 changes associated with project alternatives will
25 be generated.

1 A socioeconomic profile of the project
2 area is being prepared to provide a basis for
3 predicting positive and negative social and
4 economic effects associated with project
5 alternatives.

6 Environmental justice issues will also be
7 investigated by identifying social groups within
8 the study area which may be disproportionately
9 impacted by the proposed alternatives.

10 Historical and archival research are
11 being conducted to identify known and potential
12 prehistoric and historic archeological sites,
13 historic structures and shipwrecks which could be
14 affected by project alternatives.

15 Remote- sensing underwater surveys will
16 be conducted in affected areas where there is a
17 high probability for shipwrecks.

18 Terrestrial archeological surveys will be
19 conducted in high probability areas which may be
20 affected by upland placement areas or other
21 project impacts.

22 The EIS will identify past, present and
23 reasonably foreseeable future environmental
24 impacts in the project area. Changes associated
25 with project alternatives will be added to past

1 and present impacts to evaluate cumulative effects
2 on the Sabine Lake estuarine system.

3 An Interagency Coordination Team, or ICT,
4 has been established to identify environmental
5 concerns associated with the Sabine- Neches
6 Feasibility Study, to develop scopes of work for
7 studies needed to address these concerns, to
8 promote effective teamwork among state and federal
9 agencies, and to contribute to the completion of
10 the EIS and Feasibility Study.

11 One representative from each interested
12 state and federal resource agency, the Study's
13 sponsor and the Corps is designated as a voting
14 member on the ICT. Other representatives of these
15 agencies also participate as advisory members
16 providing technical guidance to the ICT. We have
17 just extended an invitation to county and parish
18 governments in the project area, specifically
19 Jefferson and Orange Counties in Texas and Cameron
20 and Calcasieu Parishes in Louisiana to join the
21 team as advisory members. The ICT's decision
22 making process is based on reaching a consensus
23 through open discussion.

24 The ICT establishes subcommittees or work
25 groups to address technical issues and make

1 recommendations. Two work groups have been
2 established to date; the Modeling Work Group and
3 the Restoration/Beneficial Uses Work Group. The
4 Restoration Work Group has just been finished a
5 series of public workshops where ideas for
6 ecosystem restoration and the beneficial uses of
7 dredge material were submitted by user and
8 environmental groups.

9 Because this project crosses state
10 boundaries, representatives from both Texas and
11 Louisiana are members of the team. They are the
12 U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine
13 Fisheries Service, National Resources Conservation
14 Service, Environmental Protection Agency, the
15 Texas General Land Office, Texas Natural Resource
16 Conservation Commission, Texas Parks and Wildlife
17 Department, Texas Water Development Board,
18 Louisiana Department of Natural Resources,
19 Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality,
20 Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries,
21 the Jefferson County Waterway and Navigation
22 District, and the Galveston District Corps.

23 Environmental impacts will be avoided and
24 minimized to the maximum extent possible when
25 selecting a recommended plan. If unavoidable

1 habitat losses remain, they will be quantified and
2 mitigation plans will be developed by the ICT. An
3 ICT work group will be formed to advise on the
4 types, quantity and location of mitigation
5 measures.

6 Public input is important in the ICT
7 process. That's why we're here tonight. We're
8 here to listen and learn from you. The public is
9 invited to attend scoping meetings such as this
10 one and provide comments which become part of the
11 official record. If you prefer to provide written
12 comments, copies of a form with the name and
13 address of Colonel Waterworth, the Galveston
14 District Commander, are available.

15 A public meeting will be held next year
16 to obtain comments on the recommended plan.
17 Comments can be presented at the meeting or
18 provided in writing. The draft EIS will be
19 circulated for written comments during the spring
20 of 2004.

21 And that's all I have. Now I'd like to
22 turn it back to Mr. Saunders.

23 MR. SAUNDERS:

24 Thank you, Jan. At this time I'd like to
25 recognize Lynn Jones representing Congressman

1 Chris John. Welcome.

2 Are there any other elected federal
3 officials here? Are there any elected state
4 officials? Any representatives of federal
5 resource agencies here who wish to make a comment?

6 I have a card from Gregory DuCote',
7 Louisiana Department of Natural Resources. If
8 I've butchered your name I apologize.

9 MR. DUCOTE':

10 That's okay. Most people do.

11 MR. SAUNDERS:

12 I can assure you yours won't be the only
13 one tonight.

14 MR. DUCOTE':

15 It's Greg DuCote'.

16 MR. SAUNDERS:

17 Okay.

18 MR. DUCOTE':

19 I work for the Louisiana Department of
20 Natural Resources Coastal Management Division, and
21 I just wanted to state, I guess, for the record
22 that the proposed project is subject to federal
23 consistency review by the Louisiana Department of
24 Natural Resources Coastal Management Division as
25 it does have a federally approved coastal

1 resources program. I also would like to note that
2 the Corps should submit that consistency
3 determination to us and have fully analyzed all of
4 the available alternatives to the proposed action,
5 including such things as other alternative methods
6 for the movement of petroleum product as that
7 seems to be the major impetus for the channel
8 improvement and the major beneficiary of those
9 improvements. Thank you very much.

10 MR. SAUNDERS:

11 Thank you, sir. May I call on those who
12 wish to make a statement from the general public.
13 I ask that you limit your oral statements to not
14 more than three minutes. That will give other
15 individuals an opportunity to speak. To assist
16 speakers in keeping track of time, I've asked Ms.
17 Wise at the end of the table down here to hold up
18 a card when you have thirty seconds left to speak,
19 and a time card when your time has expired.
20 Please be courteous. Please allow everyone who
21 wants to speak an opportunity to speak. When you
22 are called, please come forward and speak into the
23 center aisle microphone right here. Please
24 identify yourself by stating your full name.

25 I'd like to remind you that the purpose

1 of this meeting is to provide you with an
2 opportunity to present your views, opinions and
3 recommendations concerning the Sabine- Neches
4 Waterway Feasibility Study. If you desire to
5 submit a written statement for inclusion in the
6 record but do not want to make an oral statement,
7 you may bring your statement to this table and
8 we'll accept it. Let's see. Mr. David Richard.

9 MR. RICHARD:

10 David Richard representing Stream
11 Property Management, and the way this process has
12 started off with you having three years and giving
13 the public three minutes is about typical of the
14 way this process has worked. So we'll make that
15 clear to begin with. It is very evident to me
16 when you come here, there are an awful lot of
17 people on the Texas side of this project. There
18 aren't an awful lot of people to speak on the
19 Louisiana side. It affects a huge area of marsh
20 that doesn't have a lot of people on it that can
21 come in here and talk to. And we understand that
22 very clearly, but the wetland resources that are
23 being impacted by this are huge, and Louisiana has
24 made a huge commitment since 1988 to restore,
25 protect and enhance its marshes. I do not see the

1 coordination with this group in regard to our
2 coastal restoration plans.

3 You have an Interagency Coordination
4 Team, but it does not include any private
5 individuals, has not included the parish until
6 lately and I want to commend Ms. Stokes for giving
7 those parishes or inviting them to have a
8 representative at these ICT meetings. Your ICT
9 criteria allows the public a very brief time to
10 speak before a meeting, not after a meeting, and
11 for those of you, especially Mr. Saunders when you
12 said have equal right to be heard, that's a
13 fallacy in your system.

14 We spent millions for coastal restoration
15 here in Louisiana. There's a huge problem. We
16 need to have those problems addressed. The
17 problems of the past have been digging these giant
18 channels and putting them across ecosystems have
19 caused huge marsh deterioration. We've lost a
20 million acres of land in Louisiana through
21 channels just as you're proposing to enlarge and
22 expand. And we do understand, but it's for the
23 economic benefit, but we think that the ecological
24 impacts of this channel far outweigh that.

25 The impact on communities is going to be

1 huge in our marsh community, in our wetland
2 community. There are no communities or very few
3 communities of people in that area as I said at
4 the beginning. Mr. Jackson talked about the
5 deposition of spoil in the areas the deposition is
6 needed. There are huge areas of both Texas and
7 Louisiana that need the spoil that has actually
8 been transported out of these areas because of the
9 channel historically. You're now depositing spoil
10 in public waters in Sabine Lake.

11 I appreciate your having this scoping
12 meeting here. My time is almost up, but I would
13 expect and hope that the suggestions we gave Mr.
14 Bagur would be added to this public meeting, would
15 be added to this time as far as suggestions. I
16 think you called it a certain process, Janelle,
17 but we've given hundreds of suggestions in ways to
18 mitigate. Thank you.

19 MR. SAUNDERS:

20 Thank you. Rusty Vincent.

21 MR. VINCENT:

22 I'm here at this meeting as a landowner
23 in Cameron Parish and Calcasieu Parish, basically
24 at the intersection of the Intracoastal Waterway
25 and Sabine River. Also I represent Coastal

1 Conservation here tonight. I do have a question.
2 Just being able to get up here and give a
3 statement is kind of hard to do, because we still
4 have not been able to ask a lot of questions of
5 all the people that are here present. And I was
6 wanting to know tonight can we ask them questions
7 other than just give you a statement.

8 MR. SAUNDERS:

9 Tonight we're here to listen to you.
10 We'll answer your questions, but your questions
11 would necessarily have to be staffed. I might not
12 have the right person here tonight to answer your
13 question. If you'll write me your question, we'll
14 provide you an answer.

15 MR. VINCENT:

16 Okay. Let me ask one question then.
17 Will there be another time at some point in time
18 to where we could actually sit there and have I
19 guess a round table or open discussion to be able
20 to talk about the merits of this, because the
21 first meetings that we had basically talked about
22 mitigation. Here tonight we had to come with a
23 written statement, but if we don't know enough
24 about this problem, it's hard to ask those
25 questions. And I would like for this Board to be

1 able to offer and let some of the people like Mr.
2 Richard and myself sit down with part of the Task
3 Force and ask those questions to where we could
4 generate those.

5 MR. JACKSON:

6 Rusty, as the local sponsor, you're
7 welcome to come by my office at anytime, or you
8 give me a holler and I'll come meet you some place
9 as long as, you know, we can work this out as to
10 when and where and it fits your schedule and it
11 fits mine.

12 MR. VINCENT:

13 Sure. And it's real important.--

14 MR. JACKSON:

15 I understand.

16 MR. VINCENT:

17 -- because one of the things is that we
18 want to know more about with the Navigation Board,
19 because we have issues here with our own ship
20 channel already, and we'd like to go on record as
21 saying that we have a concern involving the
22 citizens in southwest Louisiana about us having to
23 dig our channel deeper and wider to compete solely
24 with you. If we're looking at it as a regional
25 economic development area there, why are we

1 sitting here spending tons of dollars on one
2 project when two to three years from now we'll be
3 back here in this room with some of the different
4 players here wanting to do the same thing to
5 counter what you guys have done to be more
6 competitive.

7 MR. JACKSON:

8 Let me say this also, Rusty, that part --
9 well, let me -- it's bigger than part. A hundred
10 percent of this study that we're undertaking with
11 the Corps of Engineers will probably answer many
12 of the questions you have concerning this project.
13 So I'm kind of at a disadvantage since we're
14 certainly looking for the answers so to give -- to
15 present to the public as to what are some very
16 legitimate questions you have. So until, you
17 know, this project, until we get the answers, then
18 a lot of the questions, I don't know. And we're
19 spending -- our local community is going to spend
20 Three and A Half Million (\$3,500,000.00) Dollars,
21 the federal government the three and a half
22 million, a total of about seven plus more funding
23 in order for us to get some answers. And we may
24 find, and let me make this very clear to you all,
25 we may find that at the end of the day that this

1 project is too big, it is too complicated for us
2 to continue. Thus there is nothing set in stone
3 for this project. And at some point we're going
4 to have to make a decision whether to proceed or
5 to stop, and I've been as legitimate with you all
6 to tell you the open truth that there is nothing
7 set in stone for this project. Otherwise if it
8 was we'd stop the study and we would proceed one
9 way or the other immediately. So anyway, we're
10 trying to go on in order to get the answers, and I
11 can't answer your question without the answers.

12 MR. VINCENT:

13 Thank you for the invitation. We'll
14 probably take you up on that.

15 MR. JACKSON:

16 Yes, sir. I'd be happy to see you.

17 MR. SAUNDERS:

18 Thank you. Mr. Lynn Jones representing
19 Congressman Chris John.

20 MR. JONES:

21 Thank you very much. I also want to
22 thank you all for the three minute time limit as
23 I've got to be in Alexandria at five o'clock in
24 the morning, so maybe that'll shorten the meeting.
25 But I appreciate your statements there, Tom, as

1 far as the open invitation for Rusty to come and
2 ask the questions.

3 Let me just say this on behalf of the
4 Congressman: I know this is the beginning stages
5 of this particular project. Most definitely we
6 are concerned and especially because of our very,
7 very vulnerable wetlands. As David Richard said,
8 there's not a lot of people as far as population
9 down there that have property along there, but
10 that's a little misconceiving as far as the impact
11 here. And that is not just Louisiana, it's Texas,
12 too, because this is an estuary other than none
13 other in the world. Our fisheries are unsurpassed
14 and it's based on our estuaries. And so that
15 really needs to be taken into account. It's not
16 population.

17 It impacts millions and millions of
18 people there, so I understand economic
19 development. Like David said, you know, we're all
20 for economic development, but we want to do it
21 very smartly and not cause the problems that we've
22 had here in Louisiana. We've lost millions of
23 acreage. Congressman John has spent many hours
24 trying to come up with some types of solutions to
25 reverse that. So we appreciate the opportunity to

1 be heard and I would appreciate that if you all
2 could put us on your mailing list.

3 For the Record it's 1011 Lakeshore Drive,
4 Suite 306, Lake Charles, Louisiana 70601, and you
5 can send it to Lynn Jones. I'm his executive
6 assistant. I run his office here in Lake Charles.
7 Thank you all very much.

8 MR. SAUNDERS:

9 Thank you. Mr. Jim Robinson. Now, I
10 have two Jim Robinsons. Do we need to flip a
11 coin? Go ahead. One of you go first and the next
12 one will go next.

13 MR. ROBINSON:

14 And I don't like speaking. Can we pull
15 up the, let's see, what did you call it, EIS
16 program?

17 I was at the Beaumont meeting in the year
18 of 2000 at which you presided, and someone had a
19 real intelligent question, it seemed like. Said
20 why not have a safe harbor out and pipeline the
21 chemicals in and out of your plant. The answer's
22 a lot cheaper for a pipeline than it is to build
23 something to take a big vessel in and out. That's
24 just logic. And also in Louisiana there's half of
25 Sabine Lake and you all fill in more, does that

1 move our boundary over? Because that's going to
2 erode with the Saltwater coming in. You're going
3 to have Saltwater that you got to go forty miles
4 out to get. You all are bringing it in as quick
5 as you can. I'd like for you to consider, really
6 consider a pipeline going in there, and if you
7 have to do this program, we want some rocks on our
8 side or some buoy to hold them back by. That's it.
9 You don't have to throw up the flag.

10 MR. SAUNDERS:

11 Okay. While that's warming up, could we
12 have the next Mr. Robinson?

13 MR. ROBINSON:

14 Good evening. I'll be James L. Robinson
15 --

16 MR. SAUNDERS:

17 Okay.

18 MR. ROBINSON:

19 -- Director of Navigation for the Lake
20 Charles Urban and Terminal District. And Rusty
21 seemed to know this was coming, but not this
22 quick. Given the similar and proximate
23 configuration of the Sabine- Neches and Calcasieu
24 River Waterways, a systemic approach to improving
25 both essential waterways would seem to be

1 warranted. The draft Environment Impact Statement
2 should at a minimum address the subject in the
3 impact of improving only one channel. So we
4 invite the ICT's attention to these matters and
5 how both potential projects might benefit from the
6 draft EIS work or other work on this project might
7 be addressed simultaneously. At the risk of
8 getting shot by Randy and some others, we don't
9 want to be here two years later. We want to be
10 here now.

11 MR. SAUNDERS:

12 Yes, sir.

13 MR. ROBINSON:

14 Thank you.

15 MR. SAUNDERS:

16 I'll really mess this one up. Rodney
17 Guilbeaux.

18 MR. GUILBEAUX:

19 I don't care what you call me or how you
20 pronounce it. Just call me. Rodney Guilbeaux. I
21 have seven different hats here tonight, and I do
22 not know what a three minute time limit is. Right
23 now I've got a hat "Coalition to Restore Coastal
24 Louisiana." I have a letter written to Ms.
25 Richardson. I'm on the Executive Board, the

1 director faxed it to me and I shall read it.

2 "On behalf of the Coalition to Restore
3 Coastal Louisiana we would like to express our
4 grave concern about the potential negative impact
5 on Louisiana's coastal wetlands should the
6 proposed widening and/or deepening of the Sabine-
7 Neches Waterway channel takes place. The proposed
8 channel changes to the Sabine- Neches Waterway
9 channel will increase shoreline erosion and
10 Saltwater intrusion to the Calcasieu- Sabine
11 Basin.

12 Saltwater intrusion has contributed
13 greatly to the loss of wetlands in the Calcasieu-
14 Sabine Basin over the past fifty years. This
15 project would accelerate the loss of additional
16 wetlands and vital estuarine habitats. Due to the
17 potential salinity and shoreline erosion this
18 proposed project appears to conflict with the
19 restoration strategies outlined in Louisiana's
20 Coast 2050," which I've attended every meeting
21 they've had for the last eight years. "Coast 2050
22 is a comprehensive strategic plans for restoring
23 Louisiana's coastal wetlands and stabilizing the
24 coastal zones to prevent further wetland loss.
25 The plan has been approved by all twenty coastal

1 Louisiana parishes as well as the State of
2 Louisiana and federal government agencies,
3 including the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers in New
4 Orleans.

5 The Sabine- Neches project as proposed
6 could potentially thwart the implementation of
7 Coast 2050 and threaten Louisiana's ability to
8 gain national support to restore our coastal
9 wetland systems.

10 Also, the Coastal Wetlands Planning,
11 Protection and Restoration Act, better known as
12 CWPPRA, requires that all U. S. Army Corps of
13 Engineers navigation and flood projects be
14 consistent with coastal restoration plans
15 developed under the CWPPRA statute. We have seen
16 no evidence to date that this has been done with
17 respect to this project.

18 Irrespective of this legal requirement
19 for consistency, any proposed project that will
20 contribute to the destruction of wetlands while
21 state and federal government funded programs are
22 spending millions to restore these same wetlands
23 is inconceivably wasteful and ill-planned. We
24 will submit another letter concerning our outlines
25 in greater detail by June the 28th. Sincerely,

1 Mark Davis, Executive Director," you can put that
2 down, honey, "Executive Director of the Coalition
3 to Restore Coastal Louisiana." And I'll leave you
4 that right there.

5 I'm Rodney Guilbeaux. I'm with the
6 Cameron Parish Gravity Drainage District. We
7 cover from the Sabine River to the Calcasieu
8 River, from the Intracoastal Canal to the Gulf of
9 Mexico. Everything that you're talking about is
10 our territory except for the Calcasieu area. We
11 cover it all. We have a larger area than most
12 counties or parishes in some states. I know of
13 the ICT members. I see three Louisiana mentions
14 in there: DNR, DEQ and Department of Wildlife and
15 Fisheries. I'm proud that you are now asking and
16 inviting Cameron and Calcasieu folk to
17 participate, because I didn't see anyone there. I
18 made all the meetings. I apologize for not having
19 all this together, but for three weeks I've been
20 out of pocket. I buried my wife Friday, but this
21 is important to us and I got to have my say. We
22 have nothing against the navigation industry
23 building, widening, deepening the channel. When
24 you turn into Texas and go up through that we have
25 no problem with that. We have no problems with

1 any of it if you put a lock at the base -- at the
2 entrance of the Sabine River where it comes into
3 Texas and Louisiana. Then there will be no
4 saltwater intrusion. We'll save millions of
5 dollars and millions of acres, or hundreds of
6 thousands of acres of wetlands and keep our stuff
7 going.

8 This Drainage Board has addressed you in
9 Port Arthur and other areas. They stand behind
10 one hundred percent that they want to be sure that
11 the Louisiana portion is taken care of. We do not
12 like the idea that land is being expropriated or
13 trying to be expropriated on the Louisiana side.
14 We do not like the idea that no dredge spoils are
15 put on the Texas side. We do not like the idea
16 that land -- dredge spoils are being put on areas
17 which we are trying to protect which we're trying
18 to utilize for economic development. We are one
19 hundred percent against it.

20 Rodney Guilbeaux speaking for the Sabine
21 Parish Lighthouse. This historic monument as far
22 as I'm concerned, its history 1856 it was built.
23 It's going on two centuries. I'm only seventy-
24 five, so I wasn't here when it was built. But I'm
25 here while we're trying to restore it. With the

1 help of good Texas people and from all over, we
2 are restoring this lighthouse. Unfortunately we
3 have been told that the road that we have built
4 with our own funds would not be available for us
5 to use to restore the lighthouse or to go to the
6 lighthouse. The Sabine Lighthouse Association,
7 under the auspices of the Cameron Preservation
8 Alliance, has worked hard and diligently. Here in
9 Port Arthur we had a tribute to Bobby Charles. We
10 raised Seventeen Thousand Nine Hundred
11 (\$17,900.00) Dollars, mostly through Texas
12 efforts, and we're proud of that. We want to
13 restore this lighthouse and make it one of the
14 most scenic things in the entire area. We also
15 received a lighthouse that was out in the Gulf.
16 We donated it to Texas through the Sabine Parish
17 Lions Club or whoever wants it to use for their
18 own purpose. We want to work together. We are
19 neighbors. We want to be your neighbor. But I
20 want my children and grandchildren to be able to
21 see that, to be able to drive up to it, to be able
22 to touch it, and to be able to drive on it.

23 I only found out about this this
24 afternoon at 4:30. With all going on, I'm just
25 now reading my mail. So I wasn't able to get all

1 the caps and I wasn't able to get anything into
2 perspective. But I'm speaking from the heart and
3 I appreciate your listening to me.

4 That's the Cameron Parish Chamber of
5 Commerce which I helped found. I'm on the Board.
6 I'm a past president. The Cameron Parish Chamber
7 of Commerce is one hundred percent behind any
8 economic development, anything that we can do to
9 help and save our wetlands, to restore what we
10 have. They have met and unanimously given
11 testimonials and letters to you. So has the
12 Drainage Board and so has the Coalition to Restore
13 Coastal Louisiana. If you need more, we can get
14 you more. If you want some phone calls, you want
15 some letters, we can get them. That's the easiest
16 thing to do.

17 I didn't bring my cap from the Lions
18 Club, but I'm a member of the Cameron Lions Club.
19 I've been a member of the Cameron Lions Club and
20 other clubs since 1950. That's before some of you
21 were born. Anyhow, I know I'm an old coot, and I
22 speak my piece. I'm still Rodney Guilbeaux. I'm
23 a past District Governor. I have made friends in
24 Texas and Louisiana and everywhere else. The
25 Cameron Lions Club is the only civic organization

1 in Cameron Parish. Any everybody who is anybody
2 and nobody is in the Cameron Lions Club. They
3 stand one hundred percent against this particular
4 widening and deepening unless the Louisiana side
5 is taken care of. That's how they feel.

6 I'm speaking for the West Cameron Port
7 Commission. We have a president and a charter
8 Board member and myself to the present. I've got
9 the big mouth and I like to hear myself talk so
10 they defer to me. I'm still Rodney Guilbeaux.
11 Our meeting was tonight, but we cancelled that
12 meeting because this is more important and it's
13 part of us. The Cameron Port Commission, West
14 Cameron Port Commission, covers Sabine Lake and
15 Sabine Pass and Sabine River and Calcasieu River.
16 And we're concerned about them, and we want to do
17 what's right, but we want to save our wetland. We
18 don't want saltwater all the way up the country.
19 We don't need it. We don't need saltwater on the
20 Intracoastal. We don't need saltwater in the
21 lake. We don't need saltwater in the marshes
22 because they are very, very fragile. Now, we're
23 doing our best to save ours. And if I was a
24 Texan, I'd be one hundred percent for this
25 project, because you need it and that's fine. I'm

1 for it. And I'm with you as long as you don't
2 hurt the Louisiana side. There is no dredge spoil
3 being put on the Texas side. They're being put on
4 the Louisiana side, and we cannot economically
5 develop what we need to do there.

6 I'm not going to use the word
7 discrimination, because it probably would not be
8 appropro. But I do feel like we need more
9 consideration, and I'm proud to see the Louisiana
10 folks that are here. The Jury couldn't make it
11 because they're in session right now. Yesterday
12 was a holiday. The Cameron Parish Police Jury
13 would have been here including the president, his
14 Board members and Tina Horne, the administrator.
15 She could not make it because right now they are
16 in session. I'm begging you to proceed, but
17 please think about Louisiana. One, two, three
18 people talked, never mentioned Cameron Parish.
19 Each of you mentioned Louisiana once. You said
20 Cameron Parish once and you said Cameron Parish
21 once. We have no people in Cameron Parish in this
22 area. We don't even have a thousand people in the
23 area that's being affected, but we've got hundreds
24 of thousands of acres of the most pristine marshes
25 that you're going to find. We want to save it.

1 We want you to do what you need to do, but I like
2 that idea of a pipeline, having a station. Put
3 the pipeline on the Louisiana side. Let your
4 ships dock there. Do go underneath the channel
5 and run it up to your plants like you want to.
6 This West Cameron Port, we had to -- we dredged
7 the loop. The Corps didn't dredge it for us. We
8 had to dredge it. We had to pay for it. The
9 taxpayers had to foot a bond issue for it. We
10 could not put our spoils anywheres else but on the
11 Gulf of Mexico's shoreline. We had to submarine
12 underneath the river to do it after we had already
13 built levees, the cost of levees where we couldn't
14 put our spoils. So if it can work for the Corps
15 there and New Orleans and for us, it can work for
16 you all. Thank you, ma'am. I'll concede. I
17 appreciate it. And I appreciate you all giving me
18 and allowing me to speak for more than one
19 subject. I've got five more groups that I need to
20 talk for, but I think I got my point across.

21 MR. SAUNDERS:

22 I think so.

23 MR. GUILBEAUX:

24 I'm not against it. I'm for it. I just
25 don't know the word no. I'm a millionaire. I

1 don't have A Million Dollars. I've got a million
2 friends, and I appreciate all of them and I want
3 to consider you all friends. But I do want you to
4 please take us into consideration and do a study.
5 When you talked about the study, I didn't see
6 anything said about Cameron Parish. I heard about
7 Golden Cove. I heard about some other issues, but
8 I didn't see anywhere in the study where it said
9 Cameron Parish. So please. I'll leave you a copy
10 of that letter from the Coalition. Any questions,
11 I'll be glad to try to answer them.

12 MR. SAUNDERS:

13 Thank you. Next speaker would be Harold
14 Schoeffler. Did I destroy that one, too?

15 MR. SCHOEFFLER:

16 Thank you all for holding the hearing in
17 Louisiana. That way we may have a little say so in
18 this thing. I'm Harold Schoeffler. I'm from
19 Lafayette, Louisiana. I'm representing the Sierra
20 Club, the Delta Chapter. I'm the Conservation
21 Chairman of the State. We have several concerns.
22 Texas is facing a great freshwater deficit across
23 the state. It appears that if you build a much
24 deeper channel on the Sabine, you're going to be
25 losing a lot of freshwater during high water

1 periods, and of course during low water periods
2 salinity comes running up that river towards the
3 Sabine System and all the wetlands that could be
4 affected and lost from this.

5 If you put a lock system in which
6 certainly should be a consideration, then the
7 whole issue of estuarine species going into that
8 whole river system to try this material from the
9 wetlands all the way from Toledo Bend on down into
10 the Gulf of Mexico, all of that becomes a real
11 problem. But a lock should be a consideration.
12 Any time a canal is dredged deeper or a new canal
13 is dredged, one of the most ignored environmental
14 issues, and I hope it's not ignored in this
15 particular EIS, is the fact that you may be, with
16 a deeper channel dredging into water bearing,
17 sands allowing surface pollution to go right into
18 those water bearing sands. It may have occurred
19 already, but it's not one of those things we
20 should be maybeing about. We should be conducting
21 a geological survey to make sure that communities
22 dependent upon ground water are not subject to
23 high levels of contamination because we've dredged
24 right into water bearing sands.

25 A complete listing of endangered species,

1 the impact on the bird life that comes from South
2 America, Central America during the March- April
3 period, and where they come to shore in the Gulf
4 of Mexico, how that whole list of birds impacted
5 by this project. On the Reach in the Gulf of
6 Mexico I noted several dump sites on the Gulf
7 Reach, wondering if you all have an ocean dumping
8 permit for that process of dumping in the Gulf of
9 Mexico.

10 I see from your slides that this is a
11 narrow corridor that you haul water petroleum
12 products. The immediate thing that comes to mind
13 is collision. Murphy's law is always at work. I
14 know in our own Morgan City area we have a Coast
15 Guard control mechanism that minimizes the
16 possibility. Of course there's always a
17 possibility of collision, but it minimizes,
18 because it puts a control corridor, and that
19 certainly may be something beyond the pilot's
20 control. We'd like to think radios always work,
21 that fogs never come, and cross winds never blow,
22 but all those things do occur and perhaps the
23 control system run by the Coast Guard should be a
24 consideration.

25 One of the concerns we have, why sixty

1 million cubic yards of dirt and eight to eight and
2 a half million cubic yards more of spoil disposal
3 per year, what happens to water quality through
4 this continuous dredging. Will that affect the
5 sports and commercial fisheries in the Gulf as the
6 waters leaves it subject to, I'm sure, hydraulic
7 dredging really has an impact on turbidity and
8 that brings us to the whole issue of toxicity of
9 spoil. Spoil that you are picking up and you're
10 disposing of in wetland areas, in the lake, in the
11 Gulf, are those spoils toxic? And when you dredge
12 them up you may have toxins that have taken thirty
13 or forty years to accumulate down on the bottom of
14 that channel, and then in a day or two you're
15 going to all reintroduce it, so the possibility of
16 whole lists of organic chemicals, lead, cadmium, a
17 whole list, mercury, being reintroduced very
18 quickly into the whole system, the fish kills that
19 may occur with it, all of that should be looked
20 at.

21 I can see from your dumping areas that
22 some of it would be in Sabine Lake and some would
23 be in the wetlands areas, and some of it would be
24 in Louisiana, and some of it will certainly be in
25 the Gulf, but in all that process, you know, to be

1 losing valuable, valuable productive water
2 bottoms. The bottom of a bay or lake is just like
3 the topsoil of cane field or a sugar cane -- or a
4 corn field. If you cover up that with clay and so
5 forth, you no longer have a method to produce
6 mills of clams, oysters. You have pretty much a
7 dead zone, and so I'd like to know how many acres
8 you're going to impact and how you intend to
9 mitigate that.

10 Coastal wetlands law has always, you
11 know, been an important issue any time you make a
12 channel larger. What impact? Will it impact at
13 all? Will it decrease, increase, what? We should
14 know that. We're fighting a value, as Rodney
15 pointed out, a hell of a struggle in Louisiana.
16 We are losing thirty, forty thousand acres of land
17 per year, and some of the most valuable land on
18 earth. Those coastal marshes produce something
19 like eight to ten tons of nutritious material a
20 year that feeds the oysters and the crabs and the
21 redfish, the shrimp and everything that lives out
22 there. So to lose an acre of marsh is a travesty,
23 because that's some of the most productive lands
24 on the face of this earth.

25 Why not a pipeline? If a pipeline would

1 avoid all these impacts with a facility like we
2 have in Louisiana, a LOOP facility, all that
3 product is piped to the fifty or the seventy foot
4 offshore, you eliminate all these risks.

5 Another concern is all this maintenance
6 dredging. Who's going to pay for that? The
7 taxpayers are going to pay for that? Probably.
8 Okay. We know the answer.

9 One issue I think is important and, you
10 know, in Texas, probably Galveston suffered one of
11 the worst hurricane disasters in the nation. By
12 deepening this channel, especially if you don't
13 have a lock system where you can have a raised
14 storm surge toward the Beaumont, whole Louisiana
15 area by making the channel much larger. A
16 hurricane storm surge comes in. Are you going to
17 raise the water level two or three feet in the
18 communities of Port Arthur or wherever, and that
19 certainly should be a consideration, because lives
20 are at risk in this whole issue.

21 With that, I thank you all for hosting
22 this and having this in Louisiana. We appreciate
23 it and hope to participate in this whole process.

24 MR. SAUNDERS:

25 Thank you very much. That concludes the

1 number of folks that have identified that they
2 would like to speak on the cards. Is there anyone
3 else who would like to make a statement? Could I
4 get you to fill out a card, please?

5 MR. O'CONNOR:

6 I already filled a card out. My name is
7 Terry O'Connor. I represent the Louisiana Organic
8 Farmers Association. One of the things we're
9 always concerned about is dirt and pipelines.
10 This seems to concern both. One of the things
11 that was mentioned tonight was the moving of
12 seventy pipelines. Where's he going to move these
13 things to? Also another thing which Mr.
14 Schoeffler brought up, dirt. The minute you start
15 dredging you start reintroducing all kinds of
16 chemicals into this system. And as a farmer, I'm
17 past president of Louisiana Small Farmers
18 Association and past president of the Louisiana
19 Organic Association, we're always concerned about
20 these issues we'd really like you to look into.

21 One of the things is -- I really didn't
22 come here very prepared. Okay. One of the things
23 is, is any time you have two systems merging into
24 one in some of the most fertile areas on earth,
25 and you have mountains coming into valleys, right

1 along that edge is extremely fertile. Any
2 interruption to that system and you destroy both.
3 And you're looking at our wetlands, you're talking
4 about saltwater intrusion. You're talking about
5 terrible destruction. I really want you to give
6 it some thought. Thank you.

7 MR. SAUNDERS:

8 Thank you, sir. Anyone else? Okay. In
9 conclusion, let me remind you that the official
10 record will be open for thirty calendar days.
11 Written statements received on or before June 29,
12 2002 will be included in the meeting record. I'd
13 like to thank the Jefferson County Waterway and
14 Navigation District for their efforts and
15 assistance in this meeting. I thank you for your
16 attendance and your attention, and with that the
17 meeting is adjourned.

18 (WHEREUPON THIS MEETING CONCLUDED AT 8:05 P.M.)

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R E P O R T E R ' S P A G E

I, SANDRA L. SONNIER, Certified Shorthand Reporter in and for the State of Louisiana, before whom this sworn testimony was taken, do hereby state on the Record:

That due to the interaction in the spontaneous discourse of this proceeding, dashes (--) have been used to indicate pauses, changes in thought, and/or talkovers;

That same is the proper method for a Court Reporter's transcription of proceedings, and that the dashes (--) do not indicate that words or phrases have been left out of this transcript;

That any words and/or names which could not be verified through reference material have been denoted with the phrase "(spelled phonetically)."

SANDRA L. SONNIER

Certified Shorthand Reporter

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, SANDRA L. SONNIER, Certified Court Reporter in and for the State of Louisiana, as the officer before whom this hearing was taken, do hereby certify that the foregoing 53 pages was reported by me in machine shorthand and transcribed by me or under my personal direction and supervision, and is a true and correct record, to the best of my ability and understanding;

That I am not of counsel, not related to counsel or the parties herein, nor am I otherwise interested in the outcome of this matter.

SANDRA L. SONNIER
Certified Shorthand Reporter
Louisiana C.C.R. Number 75008

<p style="text-align: center;">A</p> <p>abbreviating 7:23 ability 38:7 55:9 able 8:4 29:2,4,19 30:1 41:20,21,21,22,25 42:1 accelerate 37:15 accept 8:1 15:1 26:8 account 33:15 accumulate 49:13 acre 50:22 acreage 33:23 acres 27:20 40:5,6 44:24 50:7,16 Act 7:7 18:21 19:17 38:11 action 25:4 actual 14:23 15:25 added 20:25 28:14,15 additional 6:10 7:11 37:15 address 7:9 14:16 15:12 15:14 21:7,25 23:13 36:2 addressed 17:14 27:16 36:7 40:8 adjourned 53:17 adjust 7:6 administrator 44:14 advise 23:3 advisory 21:15,21 affect 49:4 afternoon 41:24 agencies 8:4 16:22 17:17 21:9,15 24:5 38:2 agency 16:8 21:12 22:14 ahead 34:11 air 17:8 19:15,17 aisle 25:23 Alexandria 32:23 Alliance 41:8 allow 25:20 allowing 45:18 47:17 allows 27:9 alluded 13:4 alternative 19:9 25:5 alternatives 13:23 14:9 18:10,24 19:5,24 20:5,9 20:14,25 25:4 America 48:2,2 analyses 19:8 analysis 14:22 16:4 19:18 analyzed 25:3 and/or 6:21 37:6 54:9,14 announcement 6:9,12 answer 29:10,12,14 31:11 32:11 46:11 51:8 answers 31:14,17,23 32:10,11</p>	<p>answer's 34:21 anticipate 13:21 anybody 43:1 anytime 30:7 anyway 12:15 32:9 anywheres 45:10 apologize 24:8 39:18 appears 37:18 46:23 appreciate 12:19 28:11 32:25 33:25 34:1 42:3 45:17,17 46:2 51:22 approach 35:24 appropro 44:8 approved 24:25 37:25 approximately 11:2 April 48:2 April-May 14:20 aquifers 17:21 archeological 20:12,18 archival 20:10 area 10:9 12:21 15:7 16:23 19:7,19,20 20:2,8 20:24 21:18 26:19 28:3 30:25 39:10,11 41:14 44:22,23 48:14 51:15 areas 9:7,10,11 10:12 11:5,6 12:1 16:24 18:13 19:12 20:16,19,20 28:5 28:6,8 40:9,16 49:10,21 49:23 52:24 arena 15:4,19 Army 1:1 4:23 38:3,12 Arthur 9:19 19:19 40:9 41:9 51:18 asked 25:16 asking 39:15 assessed 19:16 assessment 18:20 19:12 assist 18:2 25:15 assistance 53:15 assistant 3:5 34:6 associated 5:18 18:11,12 19:4,21,24 20:4,24 21:5 Association 41:6 52:8,18 52:19 assure 24:12 attainment 19:20 attend 23:9 attendance 6:17,19,23 8:17 53:16 attended 37:20 attention 36:4 53:16 auspices 41:7 authorized 10:6 13:20 available 6:10 23:14 25:4 41:4 avoid 51:1</p>	<p>avoided 22:23 aware 11:3 awful 26:16,18</p> <p style="text-align: center;">B</p> <p>back 11:4,17 23:22 31:3 35:8 Bagur 28:14 base 40:1 based 21:22 33:14 basically 28:23 29:21 Basin 37:11,14 basis 20:2 bay 50:2 Bayou 17:1 Beard 2:4 4:1,2 bearing 47:16,18,24 Beaumont 10:6 11:9 12:21,22 34:17 51:14 Beaumont/Port 19:19 begging 44:16 beginning 28:4 33:4 behalf 5:2 33:3 37:2 Bend 47:9 beneficial 4:18 5:21 22:6 beneficially 11:11 beneficiary 25:8 benefit 13:24 27:23 36:5 benefits 14:12 15:20,22 15:23,25 best 1:21 5:7 43:23 55:9 better 4:9 38:11 beyond 48:19 big 11:17 32:1 34:23 43:9 bigger 31:9 biological 17:6 18:10,20 bird 48:1 birds 48:4 bit 9:15 blow 48:21 Board 18:4 22:17 29:25 30:18 36:25 40:8 42:5 42:12 43:8 44:14 Bobby 41:9 bond 45:9 born 42:21 bottom 11:23 49:13 50:2 bottoms 50:2 boundaries 16:21 22:10 boundary 35:1 brackish 18:14 brief 27:9 briefing 14:5 bring 6:18 9:2 26:7 42:17 bringing 35:4 brings 49:8 brought 52:14</p>	<p>brown 9:7 buffs 9:24 build 9:16 34:22 46:23 building 39:23 built 40:22,24 41:3 45:13 buoy 35:8 buried 39:20 butchered 24:8</p> <p style="text-align: center;">C</p> <p>C 2:1 55:1,1 cadmium 49:16 Calcasieu 21:20 28:23 35:23 37:10,13 39:7,10 39:16 43:15 calendar 53:10 call 8:14 9:7 25:11 34:15 36:19,20 called 25:22 28:16 calls 42:14 Cameron 3:14,16,17,17 21:19 28:23 39:6,16 41:7 42:4,6,18,19,25 43:1,2,6,13,14 44:12,18 44:20,20,21 45:6 46:6,9 canal 9:19 39:8 47:12,12 cancelled 43:11 cane 50:3,3 cap 42:17 capacity 11:9 caps 42:1 card 6:17,19,19,23 8:10 24:6 25:18,19 52:4,6 cards 8:6 52:2 care 36:19 40:11 43:5 Carolyn 6:1 carry 10:17 case 13:6 cause 33:21 caused 27:19 center 25:23 Central 48:2 centuries 40:23 certain 28:16 certainly 31:14 47:6 48:19 49:24 51:19 Certified 54:2,24 55:2,20 certify 55:5 Chairman 4:3 46:21 Chamber 3:16 42:4,6 changes 5:16,17 16:25 17:4,16,22,23 19:4,16 19:24 20:24 37:8 54:8 channel 9:18,22,23 10:5,5 10:14,21,22 11:1,6,22 14:16 18:6,12 25:7 27:24 28:9 30:20,23</p>	<p>36:3 37:7,8,9 39:23 45:4 46:24 47:16 49:14 50:12 51:12,15 channels 5:19 17:23 18:1 27:18,21 Chapter 46:20 Charles 1:23 3:10 5:8 10:9,15 11:7 34:4,6 35:20 41:9 charter 43:7 cheaper 34:22 chemical 19:8 chemicals 34:21 49:16 52:16 Chief 4:21 6:1,2 children 41:20 Chris 3:5 24:1 32:19 circulated 23:19 circulation 5:17 16:25 17:5,13 18:19 circumvent 11:12 citizens 4:19 30:22 City 48:14 civic 42:25 Civil 13:5 clams 50:6 clay 50:4 Clean 19:17 clear 26:15 31:24 clearly 26:22 Club 3:17,20 41:17 42:18 42:18,19,25 43:2 46:20 clubs 42:20 Coalition 3:14 36:23 37:2 39:2 42:12 46:10 Coast 37:20,21 38:7 48:14 48:23 coastal 2:20 3:14 17:24 24:20,24,25 27:2,14 28:25 36:23 37:3,5,23 37:24,25 38:8,10,14 39:3 42:13 50:10,18 coin 34:11 collected 18:3,6 collision 48:13,17 Colonel 5:2 23:13 come 10:11,25 12:13 14:25 15:24 25:22 26:16 26:21 29:22 30:7,8 33:1 33:24 48:3,21 52:22 comes 40:2 47:2 48:1,12 51:16 coming 35:2,21 52:25 Commander 23:14 commencing 1:23 commend 27:6 comment 8:8 24:5</p>
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<p>comments 8:1,12 23:10 23:12,16,17,19 Commerce 3:16 42:5,7 commercial 19:1 49:5 Commission 3:17 22:16 43:7,13,14 commitment 26:24 communities 8:20 27:25 28:2,3 47:21 51:18 community 12:20 28:1,2 31:19 compete 30:23 competitive 31:6 compiled 19:23 complete 47:25 completed 6:16 9:20 completion 21:9 complex 4:8 complicated 12:2,4 32:1 comprehensive 37:22 concede 45:16 concern 19:13 30:21 37:4 51:5 52:10 concerned 33:6 40:22 43:16 52:9,19 concerning 5:15 7:3 12:25 26:3 31:12 38:24 concerns 7:6,10 10:24 15:8,13,14 17:11 21:5,7 46:21 48:25 CONCLUDED 53:18 concludes 16:12 51:25 CONCLUDING 3:24 conclusion 53:9 conditions 18:3,8 conducted 15:23 16:3 19:12 20:11,16,19 conducting 5:12 16:18 47:20 configuration 35:23 conflict 37:18 conformity 19:17 Congressman 3:5 23:25 32:19 33:4,23 consensus 21:22 Conservation 22:13,16 29:1 46:20 consider 35:5,6 46:3 consideration 44:9 46:4 47:6,11 48:24 51:19 considered 8:21 consistency 24:23 25:2 38:19 consistent 13:25 38:14 construction 13:10,21 consultation 16:22 contamination 47:23</p>	<p>continue 32:2 continuing 10:13 continuous 49:4 contribute 21:9 38:20 contributed 37:12 control 48:15,18,20,23 convened 5:6 convey 12:18 Coordinating 7:22,25 coordination 14:7 16:9 21:3 27:1,3 coot 42:21 copies 23:12 copy 46:9 corn 50:4 Corps 1:1,12 4:6,8,23 5:10,25 7:18,20 13:5 16:17 18:4 21:13 22:22 25:2 31:11 38:3,12 45:7 45:14 correct 55:8 corridor 48:11,18 cost 14:1,2 45:13 costs 15:20,22,25 counsel 55:11,12 counter 31:5 counties 21:19 39:12 country 43:18 county 1:3 4:3,5 5:11 7:15 8:21,22,23 10:1 13:7 14:1 16:17 21:17 22:21 53:13 couple 8:19 course 11:1,9,14 47:1 48:16 Court 54:11 55:2 courteous 25:20 courtesy 8:11 Cove 17:2 46:7 cover 39:7,11 50:4 covers 43:14 crabs 50:20 crawfish 9:13 criteria 27:9 critical 18:11 cross 18:7 48:21 crosses 22:9 cubic 49:1,2 cumbersome 12:12 cumulative 17:10 21:1 current 9:9 currently 11:22 12:23 13:9 15:10,17 19:19,21 CWPPRA 38:12,15 C.C.R 55:20</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">D</p> <hr/>	<p>dashes 54:7,12 data 18:3,5 19:15,21 date 8:24 9:2 22:2 38:16 David 2:22 26:8,10 33:7 33:19 Davis 39:1 day 31:25 49:14 days 53:10 dead 50:7 December 18:5 decision 21:21 32:4 decrease 50:13 deepened 9:18 deepening 9:23 10:21 37:6 39:23 43:4 51:12 deeper 10:3 30:23 46:24 47:12,16 defer 43:10 deficit 46:22 definitely 33:5 delays 12:7 Delta 46:20 demonstrate 12:8 demonstration 11:14 denoted 54:16 Department 2:19 22:17 22:18,19,20 24:7,19,23 39:14 dependent 47:22 depositing 28:9 deposition 28:5,5 depths 9:23 14:14 DEQ 39:14 design 13:9 designated 19:19 21:13 desire 6:21 8:8 26:4 destroy 46:14 53:2 destruction 38:20 53:5 detail 14:8 38:25 deterioration 27:19 determination 25:3 determine 5:12 12:3 18:22 19:13 develop 21:6 44:5 developed 23:2 38:15 development 18:2,4 22:17 30:25 33:19,20 40:18 42:8 Diana 6:2 different 31:3 36:21 dig 30:23 digging 27:17 diligently 41:8 direction 55:7 director 3:10 35:19 37:1 39:1,2 dirt 49:1 52:9,14</p>	<p>disadvantage 31:13 disasters 51:11 discourse 54:7 discrimination 44:7 discuss 7:14 discussed 18:15 discussion 21:23 29:19 disposal 49:2 disposing 49:10 disproportionately 20:8 District 1:2,3,12 3:11,15 4:4,6,7 5:11 7:16 13:7 16:18 22:22,22 23:14 35:20 39:6 42:23 53:14 diversify 10:14 Division 2:20 4:22 24:20 24:24 DNR 39:14 dock 12:6 45:4 doing 43:23 dollars 4:15 31:1,20 40:5 41:11 46:1 donated 41:16 draft 10:3 23:18 36:1,6 Drainage 3:15 39:6 40:8 42:12 dredge 5:21 10:11 14:24 15:2 22:7 40:14,16 44:2 45:7,8 49:11 dredged 19:10 45:6 47:12 47:13,23 dredges 9:9 dredging 9:8 47:16 49:4,7 51:6 52:15 drive 34:3 41:21,22 DuCote 2:18 24:6,9,14,15 24:18 due 37:16 54:6 dump 48:6 dumping 48:7,8 49:21</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">E</p> <hr/> <p>E 2:1,1 54:1,1,1 55:1,1 earth 50:18,24 52:24 easiest 42:15 east 17:2 eastern 17:25 ecological 27:23 economic 5:12 13:24 14:12 16:4 20:4 27:23 30:25 33:18,20 40:18 42:8 economically 44:4 economics 15:19 ecosystem 5:22 22:6 ecosystems 27:18 edge 53:1</p>	<p>effective 21:8 effects 15:10 17:21 18:9 18:24 20:4 21:1 efficiency 10:23 efficient 4:16 10:19 12:12 effort 7:9 efforts 7:6 15:11 41:12 53:14 eight 14:14 37:21 49:1,1 50:19 EIS 1:5,19 2:15 17:4 18:9 19:3 20:22 21:10 23:18 34:15 36:6 47:15 elected 24:2,3 eliminate 51:4 encourage 6:11 16:6 endangered 5:20 18:21 18:23 47:25 engineering 5:13 14:10 14:13 Engineers 1:1,12 4:6,23 5:10,25 7:18,20 16:17 31:11 38:3,13 enhance 26:25 enlarge 27:21 entering 4:14 entire 13:18 16:11 41:14 entrance 6:11 40:2 environment 13:19,25 36:1 environmental 4:22 5:13 6:1,5 7:5,7,8,21 14:4,6 14:11 15:7,13 16:19 20:6,23 21:4 22:8,14,19 22:23 47:13 equal 8:13 27:12 erode 35:2 erosion 5:19 11:12 17:23 37:9,17 error 12:14 especially 5:15 18:16 27:11 33:6 51:12 essential 18:25 35:25 established 14:8 16:9,21 21:4 22:2 establishes 21:24 estate 15:4,4 estuaries 33:14 estuarine 17:14 21:2 37:16 47:7 estuary 33:12 evaluate 13:23 17:4,21 19:9 21:1 evaluated 18:15,25 evaluating 14:9 18:9 19:3 evaluation 19:5 evening 5:1,25 6:15 13:3</p>
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<p>16:16 35:14 everybody 43:1 everywheres 42:24 evidence 38:16 evident 26:15 executive 3:5 34:5 36:25 39:1,2 existing 9:9 11:4 18:3 19:3,15 expand 27:22 expect 28:13 Experiment 14:17 15:17 expired 25:19 explain 4:8 express 7:12 37:3 expressed 17:11 expropriated 40:12,13 extend 8:16 extended 9:21 21:17 extends 17:1 extent 22:24 extremely 53:1</p>	<p>filled 52:6 final 13:16 Finally 8:5 find 11:20 31:24,25 44:25 fine 43:25 finish 13:18 finished 22:4 first 7:15 8:2 29:21 34:11 fish 18:25 22:12 49:18 fisheries 19:2 22:13,20 33:13 39:15 49:5 fits 30:10,11 five 14:14 32:23 40:24 45:19 flag 35:9 flip 34:10 flood 38:13 fogs 48:21 folk 39:16 folks 5:24 44:10 52:1 following 7:25 15:7 foot 9:15 45:9 51:3 Force 30:3 foregoing 55:5 foreseeable 20:23 form 23:12 format 7:14 formed 23:3 formula 12:2,4 forth 50:5 forty 9:22 14:14,14 35:3 49:13 50:16 forward 25:22 found 41:23 42:5 four 11:5,22 fragile 43:22 frame 13:17 14:21 fresh 5:17 freshwater 18:14 46:22 46:25 Friday 39:20 friends 42:23 46:2,3 full 25:24 fully 25:3 funded 8:23 38:21 funding 31:22 funds 10:9 41:4 further 12:4 37:24 future 7:13 20:23</p>	<p>generated 19:25 gentlemen 5:2 geological 47:21 getting 36:8 giant 27:17 give 8:11 25:14 29:2,7 30:8 31:14 53:5 given 6:24 28:17 35:22 42:10 giving 26:12 27:6 45:17 glad 46:11 go 8:25 11:8,21 12:11 14:6 30:20 32:10 34:11,11,12 35:3 39:24 41:5 45:4 47:17 goes 10:14 going 8:25 9:3 12:18 14:10,13,22 15:19 27:25 31:19 32:3 35:1,2,6 40:7 40:23 41:24 44:6,25 46:24 47:7 49:15 50:8 51:6,7,16 52:12 Golden 46:7 good 5:1 13:1,3 16:16 35:14 41:1 gotten 10:2,3 government 10:4 31:21 38:2,21 governments 21:18 Governor 42:23 grandchildren 41:20 gratitude 8:17 grave 37:4 Gravity 39:6 great 46:22 greater 38:25 greatest 13:24 greatly 37:13 Greg 2:18 24:15 Gregory 24:6 ground 47:22 groundwater 17:21 group 22:2,3,4 23:3 27:1 groups 20:7 21:25 22:1,8 45:19 growing 11:18 growth 10:8 Guard 48:15,23 guess 24:21 29:19 guidance 16:10 21:16 guide 4:17 Guilbeaux 3:13 36:17,18 36:20 39:5 40:20 42:22 43:10 45:23 Gulf 39:8 41:15 45:11 47:10 48:3,5,6,8 49:5,11 49:25</p>	<p>Gum 17:2 guys 31:5</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">H</p> <hr/> <p>habitat 18:15,25 23:1 habitats 17:6 18:11 37:16 half 31:20,21 34:24 49:2 hand 6:18 happened 14:20 happens 49:3 happy 32:16 harbor 34:20 hard 29:3,24 41:8 Harold 3:19 46:13,18 hat 36:23 hats 36:21 haul 48:11 hazardous 17:7 19:11 hear 7:24 43:9 heard 8:13 27:12 34:1 46:6,7 hearing 46:16 55:4 heart 42:2 heartfelt 8:16 held 1:20 23:15 hell 50:15 help 4:17 11:12 41:1 42:9 helped 42:5 high 20:17,19 46:25 47:23 Highway 1:22 historic 17:9 20:12,13 40:21 Historical 20:10 historically 28:9 history 9:17,24 40:22 hold 25:17 35:8 holding 46:16 holiday 44:12 holler 30:8 honey 39:2 hope 4:16 6:8,16 28:13 47:14 51:23 hopefully 4:7 9:3 12:12 12:16 Horne 44:14 hosting 51:21 Hotel 1:21 5:8 hours 33:23 huge 9:14 26:19,23,24 27:15,19 28:1,6 hundred 11:23 31:9 40:10 40:19 41:10 42:7 43:3 43:24 hundreds 28:17 40:5 44:23 hurricane 51:11,16 hurt 44:2</p>	<p>hydraulic 49:6 hydrodynamic 15:16 hydrodynamic/salinity 17:15</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">I</p> <hr/> <p>ICT 2:15 7:24 21:3,14,16 21:24 23:2,3,6 27:8,8 39:13 ICT's 21:21 36:4 idea 40:12,14,15 45:2 ideas 22:5 identified 7:10 52:1 identify 7:5 19:12 20:11 20:22 21:4 25:24 identifying 20:7 ignored 47:13,14 ill-planned 38:23 immediate 48:12 immediately 32:9 impact 7:8,21 8:20 13:19 14:4,6 15:13 16:19 17:10 27:25 33:10 36:1 36:3 37:4 48:1 49:7 50:8 50:12,12 impacted 20:9 26:23 48:4 impacts 5:20 14:11 15:9 17:12 18:11,16,17,22 19:14 20:21,24 21:1 22:23 27:24 33:17 51:1 impetus 25:7 implementation 38:6 important 23:6 30:13 39:21 43:12 50:11 51:9 improvement 25:8 improvements 4:13 5:14 17:16 18:12 25:9 improving 35:24 36:3 include 19:5 27:4 included 27:5 53:12 includes 16:23 including 10:8 25:5 38:3 44:13 inclusion 26:5 inconceivably 38:23 increase 10:23 37:9 50:13 Increased 18:13 indicate 54:8,12 indicated 6:22 8:7,8 individual 8:6 individuals 8:13 25:15 27:5 industry 10:7 15:24 19:22 39:22 inform 6:20 information 7:4</p>
<hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">F</p> <hr/> <p>F 55:1 face 50:24 facility 51:1,2 facing 46:22 fact 6:10 47:15 fall 13:21 fallacy 27:13 familiar 9:12 far 27:24 28:15 33:1,8,10 40:21 farmer 52:16 Farmers 3:23 52:8,17 faxed 37:1 feasibility 1:7,20 2:12 5:5 5:13 6:4,6 7:4 13:8,11 13:14,17,18,22 14:3 16:11,20 21:6,10 26:4 federal 8:2,4 10:4,9 16:8 21:8,12 24:2,4,22 31:21 38:2,21 federally 18:22 24:25 feed 16:1 feeds 50:20 feel 43:5 44:8 feet 9:18,22 11:23 14:15 51:17 fertile 52:24 53:1 field 18:2 50:3,4 fifteen 9:18 fifty 14:2,2,15 15:2 37:14 51:3 fighting 50:14 fill 34:25 52:4</p>	<hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">G</p> <hr/> <p>G 54:1 gain 38:8 Galveston 1:2,12 4:7,23 12:24 22:22 23:13 51:10 general 22:15 25:12 generate 30:4</p>			

<p>initiated 13:5 inland 17:3 input 5:15 23:6 insure 15:1 intelligent 34:19 intend 50:8 interaction 54:6 Interagency 7:22,25 14:7 16:9 21:3 27:3 interested 21:11 55:13 interruption 53:2 intersection 28:24 Interstate 17:3 interviews 15:23 Intracoastal 28:24 39:8 43:20 introduce 4:20 5:24 INTRODUCTION 2:9 intrusion 15:9 18:14 37:10,12 40:4 53:4 investigated 20:7 invitation 21:17 32:13 33:1 invite 36:4 invited 23:9 inviting 27:7 39:16 involved 4:10 17:18 involvement 12:20 16:8 involving 4:10 30:21 Irrespective 38:18 issue 14:17 45:9 47:7 49:8 50:11 51:9,20 issues 4:9,10 5:16,18 7:10 11:3 14:11 20:6 21:25 30:19 46:7 47:14 52:20</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">J</p> <p>Jackson 2:10 7:15 8:14 8:15 28:4 30:5,14 31:7 32:15 James 3:9 35:14 Jan 14:5 16:13 23:24 Janelle 2:16 6:5 28:16 Jefferson 1:3 4:3,5 5:11 7:15 8:22,23 10:1 13:6 14:1 16:17 21:19 22:21 53:13 Jim 3:7 34:9,10 job 13:1 John 3:5 24:1 32:19 33:23 join 21:20 Jones 3:4 23:25 32:18,20 34:5 July 13:17 June 38:25 53:11 Jury 44:10,12</p>	<p>justice 20:6</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">K</p> <p>keep 8:17 12:18 40:6 keeping 25:16 kills 49:18 kind 9:12 29:3 31:13 kinds 52:15 know 5:10 11:19,19 12:17 29:6,23 30:9,18 31:17 31:18 33:4,19 35:21 36:22 39:12 42:21 45:25 48:14 49:25 50:7,11,14 51:8,10 known 20:11 38:11</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">L</p> <p>L 3:9 35:14 54:2,23 55:2 55:19 ladies 5:1 lady 12:24 Lafayette 46:19 Laird 6:2 lake 1:22 3:10 5:8 10:9,15 11:7 17:13,23,25 21:2 28:10 34:4,6,25 35:19 43:14,21 49:10,22 50:2 Lakeshore 34:3 Lamar 18:4 land 22:15 27:20 40:12,16 50:16,17 landowner 3:2 28:22 lands 50:23 large 10:17 larger 10:2 39:11 50:12 51:15 lately 27:6 law 48:13 50:10 lead 6:4,6 49:16 learn 23:8 leave 39:3 46:9 leaves 49:6 left 25:18 54:13 legal 38:18 legitimate 31:16 32:5 length 12:8 letter 36:24 38:24 46:10 letters 42:11,15 let's 26:8 34:15 levee 9:13 10:12 leveed 9:11 levees 45:13,13 level 51:17 levels 17:13 18:7 19:21 47:23 Liberty 11:17 life 15:3 48:1</p>	<p>lighthouse 3:16 40:21 41:2,5,6,6,13,15 limit 25:13 32:22 36:22 limited 11:9 line 13:15 Lions 3:17 41:17 42:17,18 42:19,25 43:2 list 6:12,12 34:2 48:4 49:17 listed 18:22 listen 23:8 29:9 listening 4:8 42:3 listing 47:25 lists 49:16 little 12:9 33:10 46:17 lives 50:21 51:19 Lizette 2:13 6:3 12:23 16:16 Lloyd 2:7 3:25 4:21 loading 12:6 local 16:8 30:6 31:19 locally 13:6 located 14:18 location 23:4 locations 9:7 19:10 lock 40:1 47:5,11 51:13 logic 34:24 long 16:3 30:9 44:1 longer 50:5 look 11:15 15:20 52:20 looked 16:1 49:19 looking 9:22 10:5 11:10 12:7 14:10,14,24 15:5 30:24 31:14 53:3 loop 45:7 51:2 lose 50:22 losing 46:25 50:1,16 loss 37:13,15,24 losses 18:15 19:1 23:1 lost 27:19 33:22 47:4 lot 12:14 26:16,18,20 29:4 31:18 33:8 34:22 46:25 Louisiana 1:23 2:19 3:14 3:23 5:9 8:21 16:23 17:2 17:17 21:20 22:11,18,19 22:20 24:7,19,23 26:19 26:23 27:15,20 28:7 30:22 33:11,22 34:4,24 36:24 37:3 38:1,2 39:3 39:13 40:3,11,13 42:13 42:24 43:4 44:2,4,9,17 44:19 45:3 46:17,19 49:24 50:15 51:2,14,22 52:7,17,18 54:3 55:3,20 Louisiana's 37:5,19,23 38:7 low 47:1</p>	<p>Lynn 3:4 23:25 32:18 34:5</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">M</p> <p>machine 55:6 mail 41:25 mailing 6:12 34:2 maintenance 9:8 15:2 51:5 maintenances 10:10 major 25:7,8 majority 12:1 making 4:15 8:12 21:22 51:15 man 11:24 management 2:20,23 14:25 24:20,24 26:11 Manager 6:3 March 13:14 48:2 Marine 22:12 Mark 39:1 marsh 11:13 26:19 27:19 28:1 50:22 marshes 5:18 26:25 43:21 44:24 50:18 material 5:22 9:10 11:11 14:25 15:2 19:10 22:7 47:8 50:19 54:15 matter 55:13 matters 36:4 maximum 22:24 maybeing 47:20 ma'am 45:16 means 11:10 measures 23:5 mechanism 48:15 meet 7:6 30:8 meeting 1:5,19 4:7,21 5:4 5:6 6:9,14,20 7:1,14 12:15 15:9,15 23:15,17 26:1 27:10,10 28:12,14 28:22 32:24 34:17 37:20 43:11,12 53:12,15,17,18 meetings 7:12 23:9 27:8 29:21 39:18 member 21:14 42:18,19 43:8 members 21:15,21 22:11 39:13 44:14 mention 7:24 mentioned 16:6 44:18,19 52:11 mentions 39:13 mercury 49:17 merging 52:23 merits 29:20 mess 36:16 met 42:10</p>	<p>method 50:5 54:10 methods 25:5 Mexico 39:9 47:10 48:4,6 48:9 Mexico's 45:11 microphone 25:23 midway 13:11 miles 35:3 mill 9:13 million 27:20 31:20,22 46:1,1 49:1,2 millionaire 45:25 millions 4:14 27:14 33:17 33:17,22 38:22 40:4,5 mills 50:6 mind 8:17 9:6 48:12 mine 30:11 minimized 22:24 minimizes 48:15,17 minimum 36:2 minute 32:22 36:22 52:14 minutes 25:14 26:13 misconceiving 33:10 Mississippi 14:18 mitigate 28:18 50:9 mitigation 23:2,4 29:22 model 15:16 17:15,19 18:2 modeling 15:11 22:2 models 17:20 18:19 Moeling 1:22 money 9:15 monument 40:21 Morgan 48:14 morning 32:24 mountains 52:25 mouth 43:9 move 9:6 35:1 52:12 movement 14:19 17:22 25:6 movements 15:10 moving 52:11 Murphy 6:1 Murphy's 48:13</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">N</p> <p>N 2:1 name 4:2 23:12 24:8 25:24 52:6 names 54:14 narrow 48:11 nation 51:11 national 7:7 22:12,13 38:8 nationwide 10:2 Natural 2:19 22:15,18 24:7,20,24</p>
---	--	--	--	--

<p>navigation 1:3 3:10 4:4,6 5:11,19 7:16 13:7 14:16 16:18 18:1 22:21 30:18 35:19 38:13 39:22 53:14 navigational 4:12 necessarily 29:11 necessary 19:18 Neches 1:6,20 4:13 5:4,14 6:6 7:3,17 9:19 11:24 13:12 15:21 19:22 21:5 26:3 35:23 37:7,8 38:5 need 11:19 27:16 28:7 34:10 42:13 43:19,19,20 43:21,25 44:5,8 45:1,19 needed 21:7 28:6 needs 8:10 33:15 negative 20:3 37:4 neighbor 41:19 neighbors 8:22 41:19 never 44:18 48:21,21 new 38:3 45:15 47:12 night 12:20 Nine 41:10 noise 17:8 19:21 non 19:20 north 17:3 note 25:1 noted 48:6 notice 9:24 November 13:19 number 52:1 55:20 numbers 12:13 nutritious 50:19</p>	<p>opinions 7:2 26:2 opportunities 5:21,22 7:11 14:11 opportunity 6:8,24 8:9 12:16 25:15,21 26:2 33:25 oral 6:21,24 25:13 26:6 Orange 8:21 21:19 order 31:23 32:10 organic 3:23 49:16 52:7 52:19 organization 42:25 Orleans 38:4 45:15 outcome 55:13 outlined 37:19 outlines 38:24 outweigh 27:24 overall 15:20 overview 7:17,19,21 oysters 50:6,20 o'clock 5:7 32:23 O'Connor 3:22 52:5,7</p>	<p>periods 47:1,1 permit 48:8 person 29:12 personal 55:7 perspective 42:2 petrochemical 10:7,15 petroleum 10:17,18 25:6 48:11 phase 13:22 14:3 16:11 phone 42:14 phonetically 54:17 phrase 54:16 phrases 54:13 physical 17:5 19:7 picking 49:9 picture 9:5 piece 42:22 pilots 11:23,24 14:23 15:24 pilot's 48:19 pipelined 51:3 pipeline 34:20,22 35:6 45:2,3 50:25,25 pipelines 15:6 52:9,12 place 11:20 30:8 37:7 placement 9:7 10:12 11:5 11:6 18:12 19:10 20:20 plan 15:1 22:25 23:16 37:25 Planning 4:22 6:2,4 38:10 plans 23:2 27:2 37:22 38:14 plant 34:21 plants 45:5 players 31:4 please 8:11 25:20,20,22 25:23 44:17 46:4,9 52:4 pleasure 4:4 plus 31:22 pocket 39:20 point 13:11 29:17 32:3 45:20 pointed 50:15 Police 44:12 Policy 7:7 pollution 19:6 47:17 pond 9:14 population 33:8,16 port 3:17 9:19 10:16 40:9 41:9 43:6,13,14 45:6 51:18 portion 16:12 40:11 positive 20:3 possibilities 4:15 possibility 48:16,17 49:15</p>	<p>possible 4:12 22:24 possibly 15:5 potential 14:15 17:4,12 19:13 20:11 36:5 37:4 37:17 potentially 16:24 38:6 practices 19:16 predict 17:15 predicted 18:18 predicting 20:3 prefer 23:11 prehistoric 20:12 prepared 18:20 20:2 52:22 preparing 7:8 present 6:13,14,22 7:5,16 19:6 20:22 21:1 26:2 29:5 31:15 43:8 presentation 8:12 presentations 8:1,5 presented 1:10 23:17 presenting 12:21 Preservation 41:7 presided 34:18 president 42:6 43:7 44:13 52:17,18 pretty 50:6 prevent 37:24 primarily 10:6,15 primary 19:6 prior 9:20 pristine 44:24 private 27:4 probability 20:17,19 probably 10:16 31:11 32:14 44:7 51:7,10 problem 27:15 29:24 39:25 47:11 problems 27:16,17 33:21 39:25 proceed 32:4,8 44:16 proceeding 54:7 proceedings 6:15 54:11 process 2:15 7:19,22 13:4 13:8,11 16:6 21:22 23:7 26:11,14 28:16 48:8 49:25 51:23 processes 17:5 produce 50:5,18 product 12:6 25:6 51:3 productive 50:1,23 products 48:12 profile 20:1 program 16:12 25:1 34:16 35:7 programs 38:21 project 2:9 6:3 8:18,24</p>	<p>9:4 12:10,25 13:5,16,20 14:2,12 15:3,20 16:1,11 18:10,17,22,24 19:5,7 19:13,24 20:1,4,14,21 20:24,25 21:18 22:9 24:22 26:17 31:2,12,17 32:1,3,7 33:5 36:6 37:15 37:18 38:5,17,19 43:25 48:5 projections 19:23 projects 36:5 38:13 project's 17:12 promote 21:8 pronounce 36:20 proper 54:10 properties 17:9 property 2:23 26:11 33:9 proposed 17:12,16 20:9 24:22 25:4 37:6,7,18 38:5,19 proposing 27:21 protect 26:25 40:17 protecting 13:25 Protection 22:14 38:11 proud 39:15 41:12 44:9 provide 7:19,20 16:10 20:2 23:10,11 26:1 29:14 provided 23:18 providing 21:16 proximate 35:22 public 5:3,6 6:9,20 7:12 8:1 15:9,15 22:5 23:6,8 23:15 25:12 26:13 27:9 28:10,14 31:15 pull 34:14 pulled 12:5 purpose 7:1 9:4 13:22 25:25 41:18 put 9:10 34:2 39:1 40:1,15 40:16 44:3,3 45:2,10,14 47:5 puts 48:18 putting 11:11 27:18 p.m 1:23 53:18</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">O</p> <p>O 54:1 obtain 23:16 occur 48:22 49:19 occurred 47:18 ocean 48:7 offer 30:1 office 22:15 30:7 34:6 officer 55:4 official 23:11 53:9 officials 8:2 24:3,4 offloading 12:6 offshore 11:5,7 51:4 okay 24:10,17 29:16 35:11,17 51:8 52:22 53:8 old 11:17 42:21 once 44:19,20,21 onshore 9:11 11:8 open 16:6 21:23 29:19 32:6 33:1 53:10 OPENING 2:3 operations 13:10</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">P</p> <p>P 2:1,1 54:1,1 pages 55:5 parish 3:15,15,16 21:17 27:5 28:23,23 39:6 40:21 41:16 42:4,6 43:1 44:12,18,20,20,21 46:6 46:9 parishes 21:20 27:7 38:1 39:12 Parks 22:16 part 6:13 14:3,9 16:3 23:10 30:2 31:8,9 43:13 participants 6:20 participate 21:15 39:17 51:23 participation 16:7 particular 33:5 43:3 47:15 parties 55:12 PAs 9:8 Pass 17:24 43:15 patterns 16:2,25 17:13 Paul 2:4 4:2 5:1 Paula 6:4 pauses 54:8 pay 10:9,10,11 45:8 51:6,7 people 7:24 24:10 26:17 26:18,20 28:3 29:5 30:1 33:8,18 41:1 44:18,21 44:22 percent 31:10 40:10,19 42:7 43:3,24 period 48:3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">P</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">P</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Q</p> <p>quality 5:19 17:7,8 19:4 19:15 22:19 49:3 quantified 23:1 quantities 14:25 quantity 23:4 question 29:1,13,13,16 32:11 34:19 questions 12:17,24 29:4,6 29:10,10,25 30:3 31:12 31:16,18 33:2 46:10</p>

<p>quick 9:1 35:4,22 quickly 49:18 quite 9:15 10:16 11:6</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">R</p> <hr/> <p>R 2:1 54:1,1,1 55:1 radioactive 17:8 19:11 radios 48:20 raise 6:18 51:17 raised 15:8,15 41:10 51:13 Randy 36:8 range 9:15 rates 17:24 Reach 48:5,7 reaching 21:22 read 6:9 37:1 reading 41:25 ready 11:19 real 9:1 12:25 15:3,4 30:13 34:19 47:10 really 11:15 33:15 35:5 36:16 49:7 52:20,21 53:5 reasonably 20:23 received 41:15 53:11 recognize 8:2,5 23:25 recommendations 7:3 22:1 26:3 recommended 22:25 23:16 reconnaissance 13:13 record 5:5 6:13,19 23:11 24:21 26:6 30:20 34:3 53:10,12 54:5 55:8 redfish 50:21 reducing 12:7 reference 54:15 regard 27:1 regarding 1:19 region 10:8 regional 19:15 30:24 registration 8:6 Regulatory 4:22 reintroduce 49:15 reintroduced 49:17 reintroducing 52:15 related 5:16 15:22 19:1 55:11 relocating 15:5 remain 23:1 remaining 11:1 REMARKS 2:3 3:24 remind 25:25 53:9 Remote 20:15 report 13:17 14:22 reported 55:6</p>	<p>reporter 6:14 54:3,24 55:3,20 Reporter's 54:11 represent 28:25 52:7 representative 21:11 27:8 representatives 21:14 22:10 24:4 representing 23:25 26:10 32:18 46:19 requested 8:3 required 18:21 requirement 38:18 requirements 7:7 17:18 requires 38:12 research 20:10 resource 8:4 16:22 17:17 21:12 22:15 24:5 resources 2:19 17:6,9 18:10 22:13,18 24:7,20 24:24 25:1 26:22 respect 38:17 restoration 5:23 11:13 22:4,6 27:2,14 37:19 38:11,14 Restoration/Beneficial 22:3 restore 3:14 26:24 36:23 37:2 38:8,22 39:3 40:25 41:5,13 42:9,12 restoring 37:22 41:2 restricts 11:25 resulting 17:16 results 4:17 14:23 19:7 reverse 33:25 review 24:23 rice 9:13 Richard 2:22 26:8,9,10 30:2 33:7 Richardson 2:13 6:3 7:18 12:23 13:2 36:25 Richmond 5:8 Ridge 17:2 right 8:13 11:16 14:22 15:12 25:23 27:12 29:12 36:22 39:4 43:17 44:11 44:15 47:17,24 52:25 risk 36:7 51:20 risks 51:4 river 17:22 28:25 35:24 39:7,8 40:2 43:15,15 45:12 47:2,8 road 41:3 Robinson 3:7,9 34:9,13 35:12,13,14,18 36:13 Robinsons 34:10 rocks 35:7</p>	<p>Rodney 3:13 36:16,20 39:5 40:20 42:22 43:10 50:14 room 31:3 round 29:19 run 34:6 45:5 48:23 running 47:2 runs 11:6 Rusty 3:1 28:20 30:6 31:8 33:1 35:20</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">S</p> <hr/> <p>S 1:1 2:1,16 4:23 22:12 38:3,12 54:1 Sabine 1:6,20 3:15 4:13 5:4,14 6:6 7:3,17 9:19 11:23,24 13:12 15:21 17:13,23,24,25 19:22 21:2,5 26:3 28:10,25 34:25 35:23 37:6,8,10 37:14 38:5 39:7 40:2,20 41:6,16 43:14,15,15 46:24 47:3 49:22 safe 34:20 safety 10:24 11:2 14:16 salinities 18:6 salinity 5:16 15:16 16:25 17:12 18:13,18 37:17 47:2 Salt 17:1 saltwater 5:17 15:9 35:2 35:3 37:10,12 40:4 43:18,19,20,21 53:4 SANDRA 54:2,23 55:2 55:19 sands 47:17,18,24 Saunders 2:7 3:25 4:21 4:24,25 23:22,23 24:11 24:16 25:10 27:11 28:19 29:8 32:17 34:8 35:10 35:16 36:11,15 45:21 46:12 51:24 53:7 save 12:13 40:4 42:9 43:17,23 44:25 saying 30:21 scenic 41:14 schedule 30:10 scheduled 13:16 Schoeffler 3:19 46:14,15 46:18 52:14 scopes 21:6 scoping 1:5,19 4:7 5:4,6 23:9 28:11 Second 11:16 seconds 25:18 secrets 12:19 Section 6:2,3</p>	<p>sections 18:7 sediment 5:18 17:7,22 18:19 19:4 sedimentation 17:6 sediments 19:8 see 9:21 26:8,25 32:16 34:15 39:13,17 41:21 44:9 46:5,8 48:10 49:21 seeking 5:15 seen 38:15 select 13:23 selecting 22:25 send 34:5 sensing 20:15 series 22:5 Service 22:12,13,14 session 44:11,16 set 32:2,7 setting 17:18 seven 5:7 31:22 36:21 Seventeen 41:10 seventy 15:6 40:23 51:3 52:12 shallow 17:21 share 14:2 sharing 14:1 sheet 6:10 she'll 14:5,6 ship 10:18 12:5,7 30:19 shipping 15:24 16:2 19:16 ships 10:2,17,19,24 11:15 11:15,17,17,24 12:3 45:4 shipwrecks 20:13,17 shore 17:25 48:3 shorebirds 18:17 shoreline 11:12 17:24 37:9,17 45:11 shores 11:12 shorten 32:24 shorthand 54:2,24 55:6 55:20 shot 36:8 shows 13:4,8 shrimp 50:21 side 26:17,19 35:8 40:13 40:15 43:4 44:2,3,4 45:3 Sierra 3:20 46:19 similar 35:22 simulated 14:19 simulations 14:21 simultaneously 36:7 Sincerely 38:25 sir 25:11 32:16 36:12 53:8 sit 29:18 30:2 sites 9:12 11:8,10 20:12</p>	<p>48:6 sitting 31:1 sixty 48:25 size 9:24 10:20 slide 13:4 15:8 slides 8:25 9:1 48:10 slow 12:11 Small 52:17 smartly 33:21 social 20:3,7 socioeconomic 17:9 20:1 solely 8:23 30:23 solicit 7:2 solutions 33:24 SONNIER 54:2,23 55:2 55:19 sources 19:6 South 48:1 southwest 30:22 speak 25:15,18,21,21,22 26:18 27:10 42:22 45:18 52:2 speaker 46:13 speakers 8:11 25:16 speaking 34:14 40:20 42:2 43:6 species 5:20 18:21,23 47:7,25 specific 11:25 13:15 specifically 21:18 spelled 54:16 spend 31:19 spending 31:1,19 38:22 spent 4:14 27:14 33:23 spoil 28:5,7,9 44:2 49:2,9 49:9 spoils 40:14,16 45:10,14 49:11 sponsor 14:1 21:13 30:6 sponsored 13:6 spontaneous 54:7 sports 19:1 49:5 spring 23:19 spurred 10:8 stabilizing 37:23 staffed 29:11 stage 13:8 stages 15:12 33:4 stakeholders 16:7 stand 40:9 43:3 start 9:5 52:14,15 started 9:17 10:5 13:12 26:12 state 5:5 8:2,4 16:5,8 21:8 21:12 22:9 24:3,21 38:1 38:21 46:21,23 54:3,5 55:3</p>
--	---	--	--	--

<p>statement 6:21,22,24 7:8 8:3,7 13:19 14:4 16:20 25:12 26:5,6,7 29:3,7,23 36:1 52:3 statements 25:13 32:25 53:11 states 39:12 stating 25:24 station 14:17 15:18 45:2 statute 38:15 Stokes 2:16 6:5 7:20 16:13,15 27:6 stone 32:2,7 stop 11:18 32:5,8 storm 51:14,16 strategic 37:22 strategies 37:19 Stream 2:23 26:10 Street 1:22 structures 20:13 struggle 50:15 studied 18:13 19:17 studies 4:17 15:4 16:19 17:20 19:9 21:7 study 1:7,20 2:12,15 4:12 5:5,12 6:5,7 7:4,6,19,21 13:13,18 14:6 15:11,13 16:20,21,23 20:8 21:6 21:10 26:4 31:10 32:8 46:4,5,8 studying 4:15 Study's 21:12 stuff 40:6 subcommittees 21:24 subject 24:22 36:2 45:19 47:22 49:6 submarine 45:11 submit 25:2 26:5 38:24 submitted 22:7 suffered 51:10 sugar 50:3 suggestions 28:13,15,17 Suite 34:4 Suites 5:8 supervision 55:8 support 16:19 38:8 sure 30:13 40:10 47:21 49:6 surface 47:17 surge 51:14,16 survey 47:21 surveys 20:15,18 sworn 54:4 system 17:14 21:2 27:13 47:3,5,8 48:23 49:18 51:13 52:16 53:2 systemic 35:24</p>	<p>systems 38:9 52:23</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">T</p> <hr/> <p>T 54:1 55:1,1 table 25:17 26:7 29:19 take 6:11 9:10 32:14 34:23 46:4 taken 12:9 33:15 40:11 43:5 49:12 54:4 55:4 takes 37:7 talk 26:21 29:20 43:9 45:20 talked 28:4 29:21 44:18 46:5 talking 14:5 39:9 53:3,4 talkovers 54:9 Task 30:2 taxpayers 12:21 45:9 51:7 team 7:22,25 14:7 16:10 21:3,21 22:11 27:4 teamwork 21:8 technical 16:10 21:16,25 tell 32:6 ten 50:19 term 16:3 Terminal 3:11 35:20 terms 18:16 Terrestrial 20:18 terrible 7:23 53:5 territory 39:10 Terry 3:22 52:7 testimonials 42:11 testimony 54:4 Texan 43:24 Texas 16:23 17:1,17 18:4 21:19 22:10,15,16,17 26:17 28:6 33:11 39:24 40:3,15 41:1,11,16 42:24 44:3 46:22 51:10 thank 5:1 13:3 16:14,16 23:24 25:9,11 28:18,20 32:13,18,21,22 34:7,9 36:14 45:16 46:13,16 51:21,25 53:6,8,13,15 thing 31:4 42:16 46:18 48:12 52:13 things 7:23 25:5 30:17 41:14 47:19 48:22 52:8 52:10,13,21,22 think 27:23 28:16 44:17 45:20,22 48:20 51:9 third 4:14 thirty 9:15 25:18 49:12 50:16 53:10 Thomas 2:10 thought 53:6 54:9 thousand 41:10 44:22</p>	<p>50:16 thousands 40:6 44:24 threaten 38:7 threatened 5:20 18:23 three 25:14 26:12,13 31:2 31:20,21 32:22 36:22 39:13,19 44:17 51:17 throw 35:9 thwart 38:6 tidal 15:10 time 10:16 11:18 12:9 13:15,17 14:20 23:24 25:16,19,19 27:9 28:12 28:15 29:17,17 32:22 36:22 47:12 50:11 52:23 Tina 44:14 told 41:3 Toledo 47:9 Tom 7:15 8:14 13:3,4 16:5 32:25 Tomorrow 12:20 tonight 5:15 7:10 23:7 24:13 29:1,6,9,12,22 36:21 43:11 52:11 tonight's 5:3 tons 31:1 50:19 topsoil 50:3 total 31:22 touch 41:22 toxic 17:7 19:11 49:11 toxicity 49:8 toxins 49:12 track 25:16 traffic 10:22 11:25 19:22 transcribe 6:15 transcribed 55:7 transcript 54:13 transcription 54:11 transport 18:19 transportation 15:22,25 transported 28:8 travesty 50:22 tremendous 8:19 trends 16:3 trial 12:14 tribute 41:9 tried 10:13 true 55:8 truth 32:6 try 10:13 15:24 46:11 47:8 trying 32:10 33:24 40:13 40:17,17,25 Tuesday 1:21 turbidity 49:7 turn 4:20 8:10 16:13 23:22 39:24 twenty 37:25</p>	<p>two 10:22 12:9,10 22:1 31:2 34:10 36:9 40:23 44:17 49:14 51:17 52:23 types 16:2 23:4 33:24 typical 26:13</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">U</p> <hr/> <p>U 1:1 4:23 22:12 38:3,12 unanimously 42:10 unavoidable 22:25 underneath 45:4,12 understand 26:21 27:22 30:15 33:18 understanding 4:10 55:9 undertaken 4:9 undertaking 31:10 underwater 20:15 underway 15:11,17 Unfortunately 41:2 University 18:5 unsurpassed 33:13 UPDATE 2:12 upland 20:20 Urban 3:11 35:20 use 10:17 11:11 12:2 41:5 41:17 44:6 user 22:7 uses 5:21 22:3,6 utilize 9:10 40:18 utilizing 9:25</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">V</p> <hr/> <p>valleys 52:25 valuable 50:1,1,17 value 50:14 various 14:10 15:12 velocities 18:6 verified 54:15 vessel 15:10 34:23 vessels 9:25 10:20 14:19 16:2 Vicksburg 14:18 15:18 views 7:2,12 26:2 Vincent 3:1 28:20,21 29:15 30:12,16 32:12 vital 37:16 voting 21:13 vulnerable 33:7</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">W</p> <hr/> <p>want 6:23 8:16 10:20 26:6 27:6 30:18 32:21 33:20 35:7 36:9,9 40:10 41:12 41:18,19,20 42:14,14 43:16,17,18 44:25 45:1 45:5 46:2,3 53:5 wanted 24:21</p>	<p>wanting 29:6 31:4 wants 25:21 41:17 War 11:16 warming 35:11 warranted 36:1 warrants 10:21 wasn't 40:24 41:25 42:1 waste 17:8 19:11 wasteful 38:23 water 5:18 17:7 18:4,6,7 19:3,8 22:17 46:25 47:1 47:16,18,22,24 48:11 49:3 50:1 51:17 waterfowl 18:17 waters 28:10 49:6 waterway 1:3,6,20 4:3,5 4:13,16,18 5:4,11,14 6:6 7:4,16,17 9:6,9 10:24 11:25 12:1 13:7,12 14:20 15:21 16:18 19:23 22:21 26:4 28:24 37:7,8 53:13 waterways 4:11 10:1 14:17 15:17 35:24,25 Waterworth 5:2 23:13 way 10:22 11:8,25 12:1 26:11,14 32:9 43:18 46:17 47:9 ways 11:6 28:17 weather 18:7 weeks 39:19 welcome 2:6 4:4 5:3 24:1 30:7 went 9:22 13:13 west 3:17 17:1 43:6,13 45:6 Western 1:21 5:8 wetland 26:22 28:1 37:24 38:9 43:17 49:10 wetlands 18:14,18 33:7 37:5,13,16,23 38:10,20 38:22 40:6 42:9 47:3,9 49:23 50:10 53:3 we'll 4:9 12:20 13:18 14:3 14:4 26:8,14 29:10,13 31:2 32:13 40:4 we're 5:14 7:23 9:22 11:3 11:4 12:4,7,18 13:10,16 14:10,13 15:4,19 23:7,7 29:9 30:24 31:10,13,18 32:3,9 33:19 40:17,25 41:12 43:16,22 50:14 52:8,19 we've 4:14 8:18,20 10:23 12:10 16:1 27:19 28:17 33:21,22 44:23 47:23 widened 10:25</p>
---	--	---	---	---

<p>widening 10:21 37:6 39:23 43:4 widenings 14:15 wider 10:25 30:23 wife 39:20 wildlife 18:16 22:12,16,20 39:14 winds 48:21 Wise 6:4 25:17 wish 8:7 24:5 25:12 wondering 48:7 word 44:6 45:25 words 54:12,14 work 21:6,24 22:1,2,3,4 23:3 24:19 30:9 36:6,6 41:18 45:14,15 48:13,20 worked 26:14 41:8 working 8:18 Works 13:5 workshops 7:13 22:5 world 11:16 33:13 worst 51:11 write 29:13 writing 23:18 written 6:22 23:11,19 26:5 29:23 36:24 53:11</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Y</p> <hr/> <p>yards 49:1,2 year 4:14 15:2 23:15 34:17 49:3 50:17,20 years 8:19 12:9,11 26:12 31:2 36:9 37:14,21 49:13 Yesterday 44:11</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Z</p> <hr/> <p>zone 50:7 zones 37:24</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">\$</p> <hr/> <p>\$17,900.00 41:11 \$3,500,000.00 31:20</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">0</p> <hr/> <p>04 13:20</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <hr/> <p>10 1:22 17:3 1011 34:3 13 2:12 16 2:15 171 1:22 1856 40:22 1875 10:4 1912 9:17 10:6 1950 42:20</p>	<p>1962 9:21 1988 26:24 1997 13:13</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">2</p> <hr/> <p>2000 13:14 15:8 34:18 2001 18:5 2002 1:21 5:7 53:12 2004 13:17 23:20 2005 13:21 2050 37:20,21 38:7 24 2:18 26 2:22 2600 1:22 28 1:21 3:1 28th 5:7 38:25 29 53:11</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">3</p> <hr/> <p>306 34:4 32 3:4 34 3:7 35 3:9 36 3:13</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <hr/> <p>4 2:3,6 4:30 41:24 46 3:19</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <hr/> <p>52 3:22 53 3:24 55:5</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">7</p> <hr/> <p>7:00 1:23 70601 34:4 75008 55:20</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">8</p> <hr/> <p>8 2:9 8:05 53:18</p>			
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