NATIONAL FLOOD POLICY

National Waterways Conference
Washington, DC

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National Levee Issues Alliance
Overview

(1) National Levee Issues Alliance

(2) Corps of Engineers Policy

(3) WRDA Levee Safety
National Levee Issues Alliance

2009 Formation: Riverine and Coastal Locations in Texas, Mississippi, and Louisiana

Policy Objectives:

- Retain structural flood protection as an essential option
- Establish reasonable and appropriate deficiency correction periods
- Clarify proper roles and responsibilities
- Progress over process
National Levee Issues Alliance

2011-2014 Areas of Focus

- “Without Levees”
  - February 2011 Letters to FEMA: 27 Senators/49 House Members
  - March 2011 FEMA Pause
  - December 2011 FEMA LAMP Proposed -- July 2013 FEMA LAMP Finalized

- USACE System-Wide Improvement Frameworks (“SWIFs”)
  - February 2011 Corps HQ meeting
  - November 2011 Corps SWIF guidance

- BW12 Residual Risk Areas (see maps)
  - June 2012 Conference Report Drops Mandatory SFHA Insurance Purchase and Development Restrictions

- BW12 Flood Insurance Premiums
  - March 2014 Passage of HR3370 (PL113-89) Lessens Homeowner Rates

- WRDA Levee Safety
  - October 2013 House passage of HR3080 Technical Assistance Program
(Defeated) BW12 Mandatory Coverage Areas

Texas: est. 282 federal levee mi
Texas: 7310 dams
Corps of Engineers Policy

- Wake-up Call We Can’t Ignore
- Revised ICW protocols
- Terminated levee certification for Fed-built levees
- Modified USACE Levee Design Manual
- Reinvigorated application of 33 USC §408
- Established Levee Safety Action Classification System
- 2.5:1 Construction BCR
- Substantially Revised Policy (Interim) for PL84-99 Rehab Program… including decision to exclude vegetation management from eligibility determination
WRDA Levee Safety

S.601 Title VI

- Unprecedented Federal authority over Federal and non-Federal levees:
  - Inspection and inventory
  - Hazard Potential Classification Rating System
  - Levee Safety Standards
- New Army Corps HQ Program office, Administrator with “such staff as is necessary”
- Mandates Floodplain Management and Hazard Mitigation Plans accounting for “All Levee Risks”
- Forms New 14-member Levee Safety Advisory Board with 4 Standing Committees
- Authorizes $300M of an overall $900M over 10 years for Levee Improvements
- Non-Federal Levee Systems Made Eligible for Levee Improvement Fund
WRDA Levee Safety

Preferred Short-Term Outcome

- Sec.22 PAS Program
  - Development of Improved Local Flood Protection
    - BMPs for levee construction and maintenance (asset management, financial management)
    - Evacuation
    - Early Warning
    - Public Education and Training
    - Long-range Needs for New or Modified Infrastructure

Preferred Long-Range Outcome

- Clarification of Roles/Responsibilities
  - Fed: NED
  - NFS: “Operating Phase” focused on human Life and Safety

- Prioritized Levee Rehab and Improvement Funding
THANK YOU

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