

Dear Mr. Downer:

Thank you for your presentation before the Mississippi River Commission during the public meeting held in Morgan City, Louisiana, on August 22, 2003. In your statement you expressed support for hurricane protection and ecosystem restoration efforts in south Louisiana. Specifically, you expressed support for the Coast 2050 or Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) initiative. You also noted the high degree of community support, and you requested the Commission's continued support for these projects.

The Commission appreciates your support for the LCA and other large-scale restoration projects. The New Orleans District continues to work closely with the State of Louisiana to develop comprehensive solutions to restore and protect the natural and human environment and create a sustainable ecosystem for coastal Louisiana. The purpose of the LCA Comprehensive Coastwide Ecosystem Restoration Study is to identify and explore long-range, large-scale ecosystem restoration plans to restore and protect coastal Louisiana. The LCA study is scheduled for completion in June 2004, which would make it eligible for inclusion in the 2004 Water Resources Development Act. The Commission will continue to support these projects as directed by Congress.

The Commission appreciates receiving your comments and looks forward to hearing from you at our future public meetings.

Sincerely,

Don T. Riley
Brigadier General, U.S. Army
President Designee, Mississippi
River Commission