



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Mississippi Valley Division

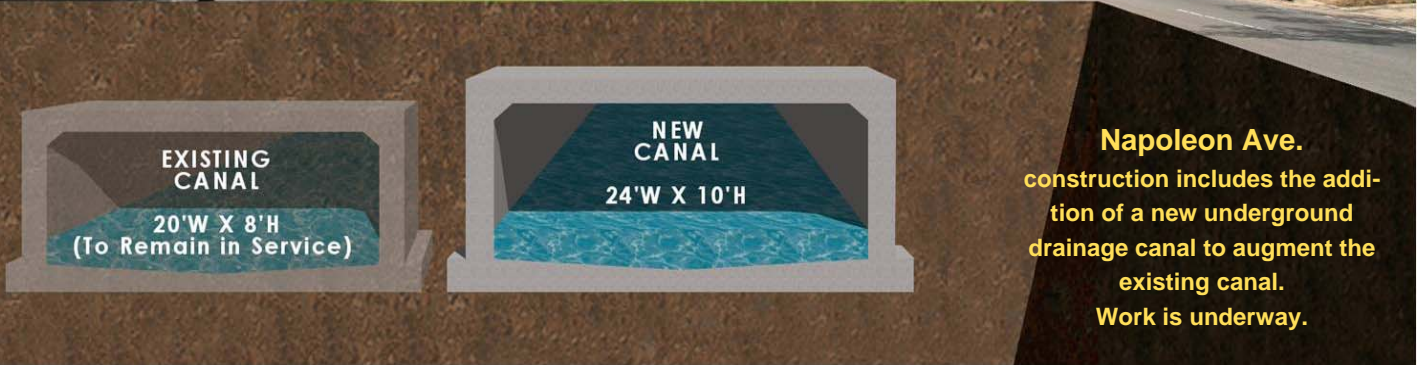


Corps Hurricane Response

Task Force Hope Status Report Newsletter

August 9, 2013

SELA projects approaching peak of construction



72 of 79 SELA contracts for authorized and funded work have been awarded to date



4 more contracts to be awarded by end of 2013

Last 3 contracts to be awarded in 2014

All contracts expected to be completed in 2018 - 2019

by Susan Spaht

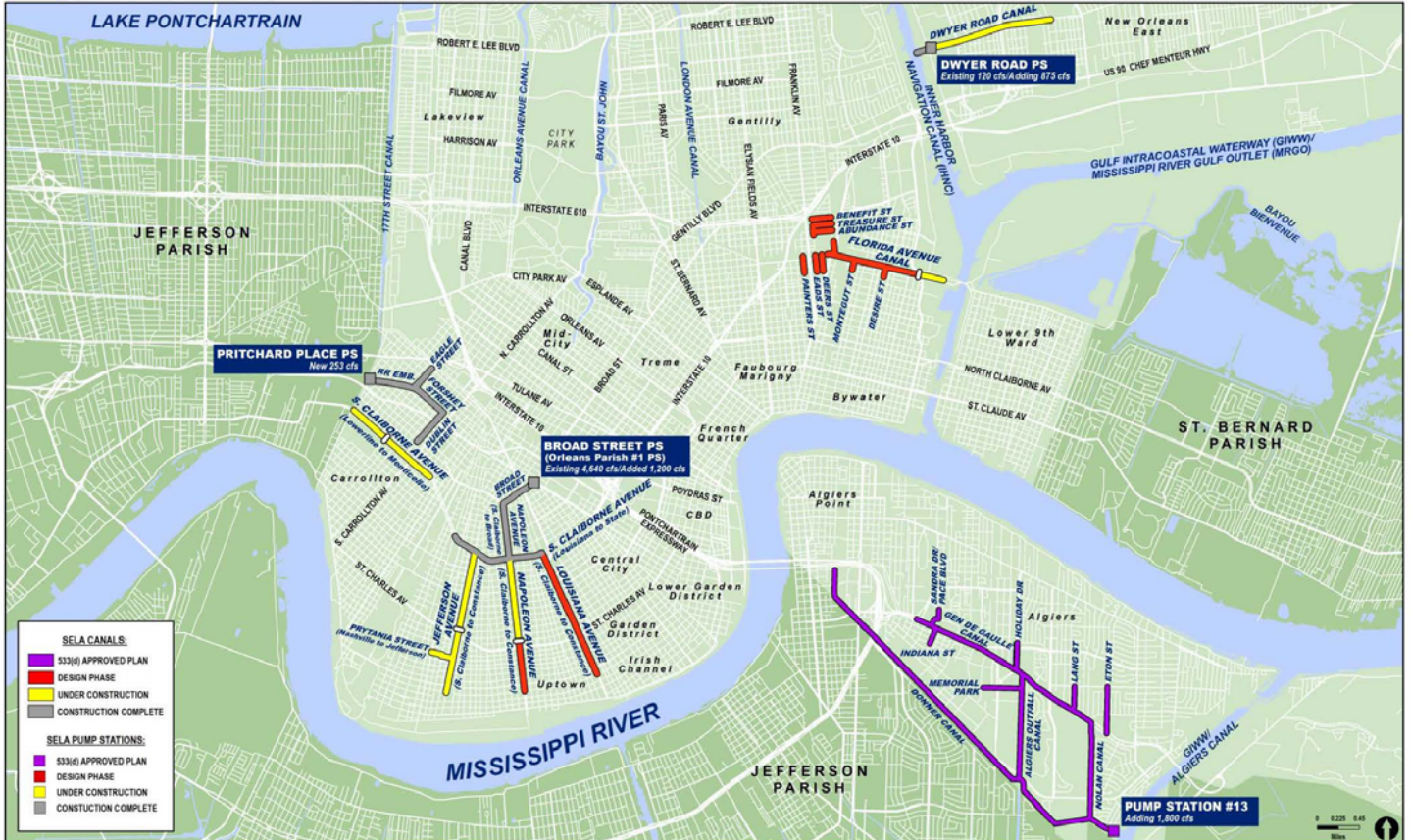
The Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System was designed and constructed as an *external*, or perimeter, surge defense system while the Southeast Louisiana Urban Flood Risk Reduction Project, known as SELA, is generally dedicated to reducing *internal* rainfall flooding by improving drainage. These two Corps of Engineers efforts are working in tandem to reduce the risk of flood damage in Orleans and Jeffer-

son parishes and, eventually, in St. Tammany Parish.

“Our community is greatly impacted from flooding caused by both storm surge and heavy rainfall events,” said Mike Voich, Senior Project Manager for SELA. “The SELA improvements to the existing drainage systems are making a huge contribution to reducing the risk of flooding, and have provided a tremendous benefit to the businesses and residents of this area.”

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SELA Projects and Status in Orleans Parish



Continued from page 1

Background

The SELA project was initially authorized in 1996 and incrementally funded by Congress. In the years prior to Hurricane Katrina, Congressional appropriations were inadequate to permit awarding of new contracts and, in some cases, were not sufficient to continue ongoing work.

Since Hurricane Katrina, Congress appropriated more than \$1.5 billion – primarily on a 65/35 cost share arrangement – to complete the authorized and approved SELA projects in Orleans and Jefferson parishes. In addition to providing full funding for the approved SELA projects, Congress also appropriated the non-Federal sponsor’s cash contribution, included in their 35% cost share,



Florida Ave. Phase 1 construction nearing completion

subject to a 30-year payback, just like the HSDRRS arrangement.

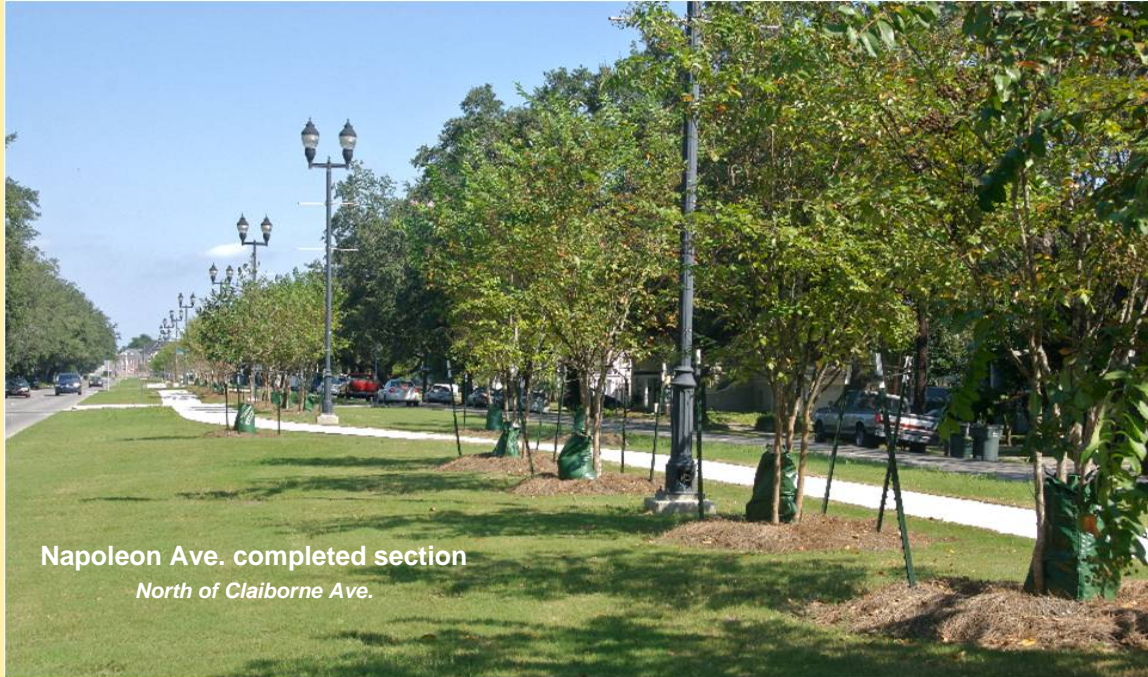
The Plans

The Orleans Parish SELA plans involve improving several major drain-

age lines, adding pumping capacity to an existing pump station, and constructing new pump stations for a total cost of over \$1 billion.

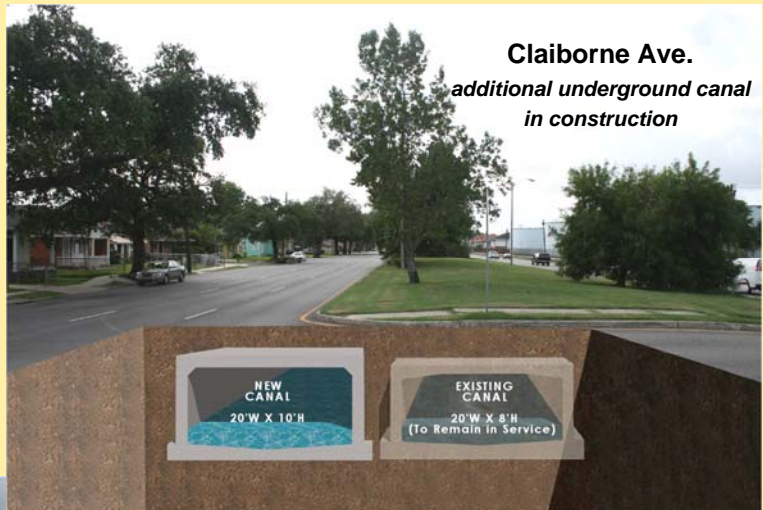
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SELA Projects in Uptown New Orleans



Napoleon Ave. completed section
North of Claiborne Ave.

The Corps of Engineers' SELA team will hold public meetings to hear suggestions from neighborhood residents on how they would like the neutral grounds restored. "We are excited to work with the community at completion of these construction projects to develop the green space restoration plans," said Mike Voich.



Claiborne Ave.
additional underground canal in construction



Jefferson Ave.
underground canal in construction



Louisiana Ave.
underground canal in construction

USACE Renderings

SELA Projects and Status on East Bank of Jefferson Parish



Continued from page 2

In Jefferson Parish, plans include improvements to various major drainage canals, additional pumping capacity at several existing pump stations, and the construction of two new pump stations for a total cost of approximately \$1 billion.

Under the SELA program, the drainage system improvements in Orleans and Jefferson parishes support the parishes' master drainage plans and are generally designed to provide flood damage risk reduction up to a level associated with a 10-year rainfall event. A 10-year event is basically a rain storm that has a 10% annual probability of occurrence and equates to approximately nine inches of rain over a 24-hour period for our area.



Harahan, Pump to the River under construction

“New Orleans faces a three-fold flood threat,” said Mike Park, Chief of Task Force Hope, “from the Mississippi River, storm surge and heavy rainfall.



Mike Park

Drainage and pumping improvements provided by SELA complement perimeter defenses that we have constructed to provide a comprehensive approach to flood risk management for the Greater New Orleans area.”

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SELA Projects and Status on West Bank of Jefferson Parish



Mike Voich, left, outgoing Senior Project Manager for SELA, discusses construction plans with Joey Wagner, incoming Senior Project Manager for the SELA project.



Mike Voich, who has been working on the SELA effort for the past four and a half years, has accepted a position at the Corps of Engineers' Headquarters in Washington, D.C. He is being replaced as SELA Senior Project Manager by Joey Wagner, a 20-year veteran engineer with the

New Orleans District. "I look forward to leading this excellent SELA team," said Wagner, "and to completing the \$1.5 billion construction effort to reduce the risk of flooding in the urban areas of Southeast Louisiana – and to making life a lot better for the citizens of this great area."





Sewerage & Water Board
drainage canal excavation, c.1960

Pictures from the Past

“Since the early 1900’s, the Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans has been working to improve the drainage system for our community,” explained Mike Voich. “The SELA partnership with the S&WB allows the Corps to work hand-in-hand with them to design and construct these massive improvements.”

Compare these archived photos with recent SELA drainage construction photos found at: www.flickr.com/teamneworleans



Sewerage & Water Board
drainage canal excavation,
c.1900's

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and its stakeholders.

It also serves as the
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transmitting the Corps'
hurricane risk reduction efforts
to stakeholders.

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Comments and questions

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