

**Jefferson Parish, Louisiana
Gulizo Canal Improvements
Belle Terre Rd. to Lapalco Blvd.**

**Project Description for Final Notice and Public Review of a Proposed
Activity in a 100-year Floodplain**

The project is located in Marrero, LA, at the Gulizo Canal, from Belle Terre Rd. to Lapalco Blvd., in Jefferson Parish. See attached maps for project limits and service area. The project is located in a 100-year floodplain in a primarily residential area.

The Gulizo Canal is a main drainage ditch that collects storm water from the area and discharges it by gravity into the Jefferson Parish downstream drainage system for further conveyance.

The project proposes to convert the existing open ditch Gulizo Canal to a closed culvert using 96" equivalent diameter Reinforced Concrete Pipe-Arched Pipe (RCPA), between Belle Terre Rd. and Lapalco Blvd., to increase flow. A total of approximately 1,233 linear feet of pipe will be installed. Existing outfall and new outfall piping will tie into the new culvert along the length of the project. Construction work to convert the existing open drainage system to a closed culvert system will include but not be limited to excavation, installation of pipe bedding, piping, drop inlets, drainage structures, backfill, adjustments/offsets/replacements of existing utilities where there may be a conflict with the new drainage work, general site work and related appurtenances and work.

The construction will require excavation which will result in ground disturbance. Once installation is completed, trenches and excavated areas will be backfilled in accordance with Parish design standards.

The improvements will increase the drainage design capacity but will not change the service area. All work will be done on property owned and maintained by the Parish. Property acquisition is not required.

During construction, the contractor will be required to maintain temporary erosion control. The contractor will also be required to develop and implement a storm water pollution prevention plan.

During Hurricane Isaac, there was a high rain intensity event, that produced storm water runoff that exceeded the capacity of the Gulizo Canal and resulted in flooding issues. The purpose and need of the project is to improve existing drainage infrastructure to increase the storm water runoff drainage capacity for the area, which will help to reduce flooding during future storm events like Hurricane Isaac. Flooding results in property damage, displacement, and has an impact on public safety and the environment.

The improvements are expected to have a positive impact on the floodplain due to the increased storm water runoff drainage capacity for the service area. Approximately 246 acres of the project's service area are in the 100-year floodplain. The construction area of the improvements is approximately .88 acres, all of which are in the 100-year floodplain. (See maps) The project is

not located in a wetland. The nearest wetland is approximately 4,000 feet from the location of work and no impacts on wetlands are anticipated.

Jefferson Parish has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to be taken to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial values:

Alternative 1: Locate the Project Outside of the Floodplain: The purpose of the project is to address flooding in the area that occurred during Hurricane Isaac and to prevent similar negative impacts from occurring in future storms. The Gulizo Canal ditch is located in a 100-year floodplain, as are large portions of Marrero. The improvements being made are expected to have a positive impact on the floodplain due to the increased storm water runoff drainage capacity. Locating the project outside of the floodplain is not feasible.

Alternative 2: Alternative method to serve the project objective: An alternative method to serve the project objective was also considered. The objective of the project is to reduce flooding in the project area for future storm events like Hurricane Isaac. An alternative explored consisted of a complete re-design and reconstruction of the drainage system where drainage lines are re-routed so that flow is re-directed to other areas and discharge points. It would also require reworking topography and elevations in the area and will likely require drainage pump stations. This would impact more of the floodplain than the proposed project and would not be cost effective.

Alternative 3: No Action: If no action is taken, then flooding for future events like Hurricane Isaac will not be addressed and reduced. Therefore, the decision to take no action has been deemed as an unacceptable alternative.

Jefferson Parish has reevaluated the alternatives to building in the floodplain and has determined that it has no practicable alternative. Environmental files that document compliance with steps 3 through 6 of Executive Order 11988, are available for public inspection, review and copying upon request at the times and location delineated in the last paragraph of this notice for receipt of comments.

The estimated total project cost is \$2,563,399.50. It is estimated that \$1,652,013.99 will be funded by the HUD Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Hurricane Isaac Program and \$911,385.51 will be non-HUD funds.

Google Maps Vicinity Map
 Gulizo Canal Improvements
 Belle Terre Rd. to Lapalco Blvd.



Map data ©2022 Google 2000 ft

Google Maps
 Gulizo Canal Improvements
 Belle Terre Rd. to Lapalco Blvd.

Red hatched box represents approximate location of construction area.

