

Notice of Availability of Draft Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment and Public Meeting on Thursday, June 5, 2025 for the Lower Vermillion River Watershed Project

The United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announces the availability of a Draft Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment (Draft Plan-EA) for the Lower Vermillion River Watershed Project. Vermilion River Soil and Water Conservation District (VSWCD) proposes to install water control structures at the Hebert Canal intersection with the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW), and other local canals, to reduce and mitigate flooding from tidal inundation and storm surge. A bulkhead levee is also proposed along the GIWW and Hwy 333. The Vermilion River Soil and Water Conservation District (VSWCD) is the project sponsor, and the Vermilion Parish Police Jury is the co-sponsor, with assistance from Gravity Drainage District 7. The proposed improvements may be partially funded through the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954 (PL 83-566).

The proposed project is located in south Vermilion Parish, LA. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations at 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508 require evaluations of the potential effects of federally funded projects on human and natural resources. These evaluations include input from the public. NRCS has reviewed the potential impacts of the project and released a Draft Plan-EA for public and agency review.

You are invited to attend a public meeting to provide input on this project. At the meeting, project partners will present the range of resource issues associated with the project and alternatives to addressing system improvements in Central Oregon Irrigation District. Public comments and questions will be accepted during a breakout session.

Date: June 5, 2025

Time: 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM

Location: USDA Abbeville Service Center, 3221 Veterans Memorial Drive Suite H, Abbeville LA 70510

The meeting location is accessible to people with disabilities. Please make a request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities at least 48 hours before the meeting to Mitzi at 337-893-5664 or mitzi.dohrman@la.nacdnet.net. Media inquiries should be sent to Mitzi at 337-893-5664 or mitzi.dohrman@la.nacdnet.net.

Comments on the Draft Plan-EA may be submitted during a public comment period starting **May 15, 2025 and ending on June 15, 2025**. You can view the complete Draft Plan-EA and other project information online at <https://lvrwp.com/>. Printed copies of the Draft Plan-EA are also available at the USDA Abbeville Service Center (3221 Veterans Memorial Drive Suite H, Abbeville LA 70510).

Comments may be emailed to kelli.mcclelland@usda.gov, or mailed to:

NRCS Louisiana State Office
Attention: Kelli McClelland
3737 Government Street
Alexandria, LA 71302