

# Smart Rivers

PIANC Conference  
/ LYON 2019 /

/ September 30 - October 3, 2019  
Cité Internationale / Centre de Congrès  
Lyon FRANCE /

Incorporating Ecological and Social Benefits into Land Planning and Development through Integration of Engineering With Nature® (EWN®) and Landscape Architectural Practices

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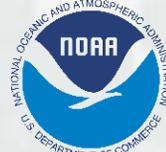
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# Engineering With Nature®

*...the intentional alignment of natural and engineering processes to efficiently and sustainably deliver economic, environmental and social benefits through collaborative processes.*

## Key Elements:

- Science and engineering that produces operational efficiencies
- Using natural process to maximum benefit
- Broaden and extend the benefits provided by projects
- Science-based collaborative processes to organize and focus interests, stakeholders, and partners



And Many More!



[www.engineeringwithnature.org](http://www.engineeringwithnature.org)

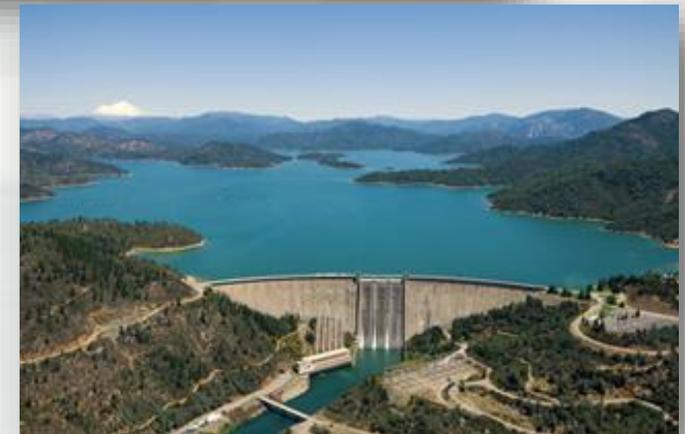
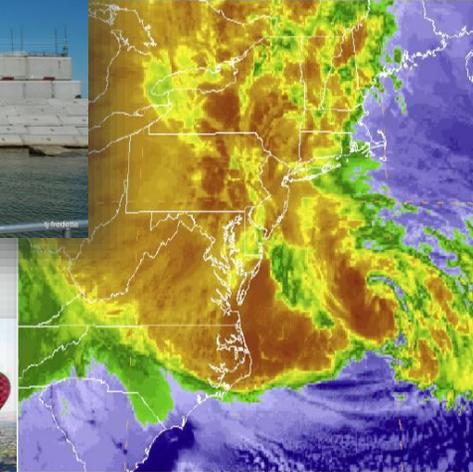


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# EWN<sup>®</sup> Across USACE Mission Space



- Navigation
  - ▶ Strategic placement of dredged material supporting habitat development
  - ▶ Habitat integrated into structures
  - ▶ Enhanced Natural Recovery
- Flood Risk Management
  - ▶ Natural and Nature-Based Features to support FRM
  - ▶ Levee setbacks
- Ecosystem Restoration
  - ▶ Ecosystem services supporting engineering function
  - ▶ “Natural” development of designed features
- Water Operations
  - ▶ Shoreline stabilization using native plants
  - ▶ Environmental flows and connectivity





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# USACE Existing Infrastructure



*'The Corps **maintains and periodically rehabilitates** the key features of its water resources infrastructure so as to manage and reduce risks associated with this infrastructure'* – USACE Civil Works Strategic Plan 2014 - 2018

- 12,000 miles of commercial inland waterways
- 13,000 miles of coastal channels
- 197 lock sites / 241 associated chambers
- 929 navigation structures



- 707 dams (minimize flooding & provide water supply storage)
- 14,500 miles of levee systems (flood risk reduction)
- 75 hydroelectric power facilities - 353 generating units
- 54,879 miles of lake shoreline and recreation areas supporting 370 million annual visitors





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# Incorporating EWN into USACE Infrastructure



## Strategic Approach

- Establish R&D Task that Supports USACE Districts
- Leverage Ongoing/Proposed USACE O&M Activities
- Develop EWN Products that Expand Understanding
  - ✓ Identify new methods for conveying information
  - ✓ Spend time with staff in USACE Districts
  - ✓ Collaboratively pursue project development
  - ✓ Deliver products for USACE Districts that inform sponsors and stakeholders
- Leverage Success of this R&D Work Unit\*

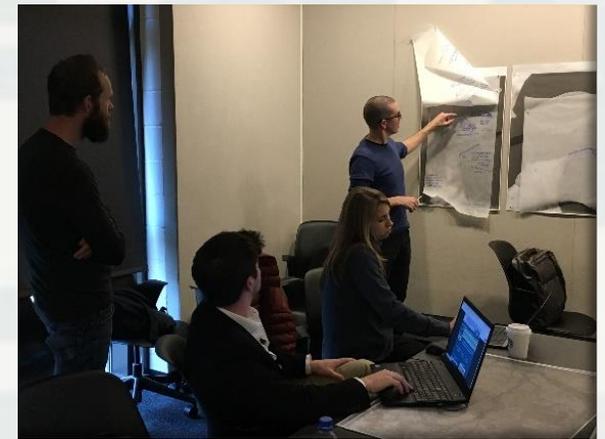


\* USACE Supplemental Funding for Investigations and Construction of Water Resources Infrastructure

Examples: 2018 Supplemental Appropriations for Disasters – Sabine to Galveston Project ~ \$3.9B  
2019 Work Plan Investigations – New Jersey Back Bays Project ~ \$1.3M

# Collaboration and Projects

- EWN Scientists and Engineers Partnered with Landscape Architects Affiliated with Dredge Research Collaborative (DRC)
- Extended Invitation to USACE Districts
- Initial Projects Included:
  - Moses Lake Tide Gate Area (SWG)
  - **Comite Canal Project (MVN)**
  - Franklin Lock/Dam Recreation Area (SAJ)
  - Morehaven West Campground Site (SAJ)
  - Back Creek and Fishing Creek Jetties (NAB)
  - **Sabine to Galveston CSRM Project (SWG)**
  - New Jersey Back Bay Study (NAP)
- Team Visits Project Sites and Collects Data
- EWN/LA Team Collaboratively Work on Initial Renderings
- Final Report/Renderings Delivered to Districts





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# Comite Canal Project



- Construct 12-mile long diversion canal
- Diversion channel must convey 30,000 cfs (100-yr event)
- As proposed, 20' base width / 4:1 side slopes
- 15' of permanent pool and additional 25'+ of freeboard
- Excavation of 5 million cubic yards
- Project authorized/funded at \$259M
- EWN/LA team initiated effort
  - January 2019
- Report provided to USACE District
  - August 2019





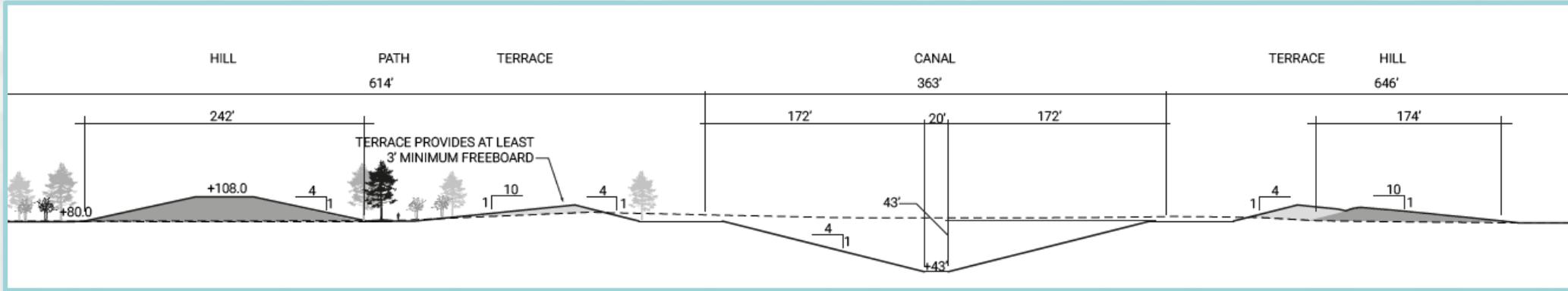
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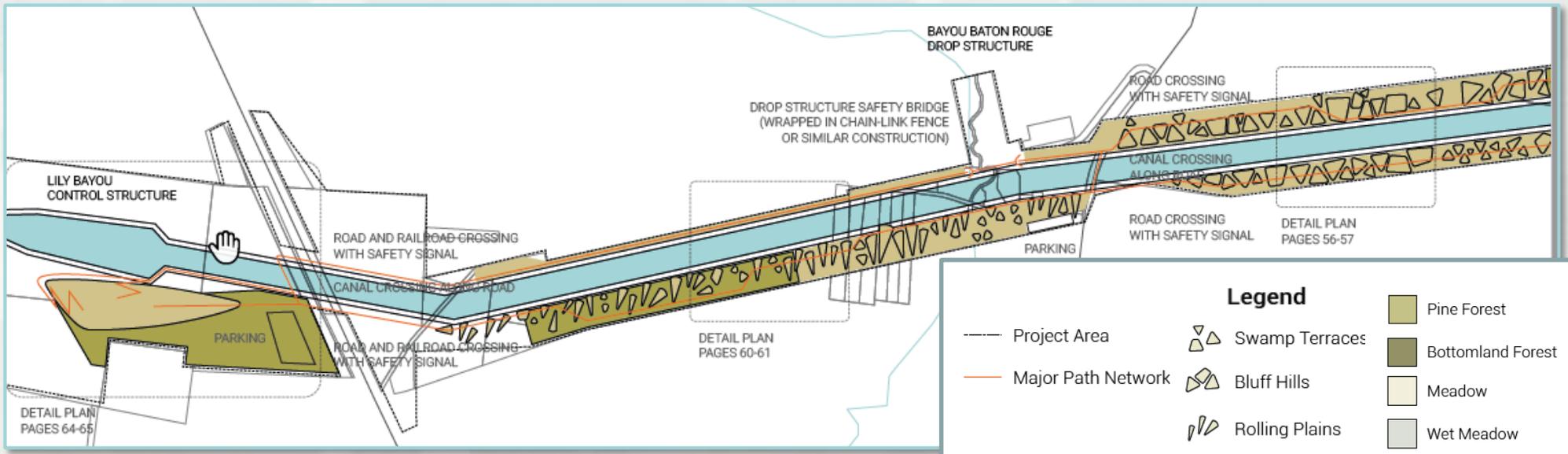
# Comite Canal Project



- Site characterization and alignment
- Side cast variations, recommended habitats/features

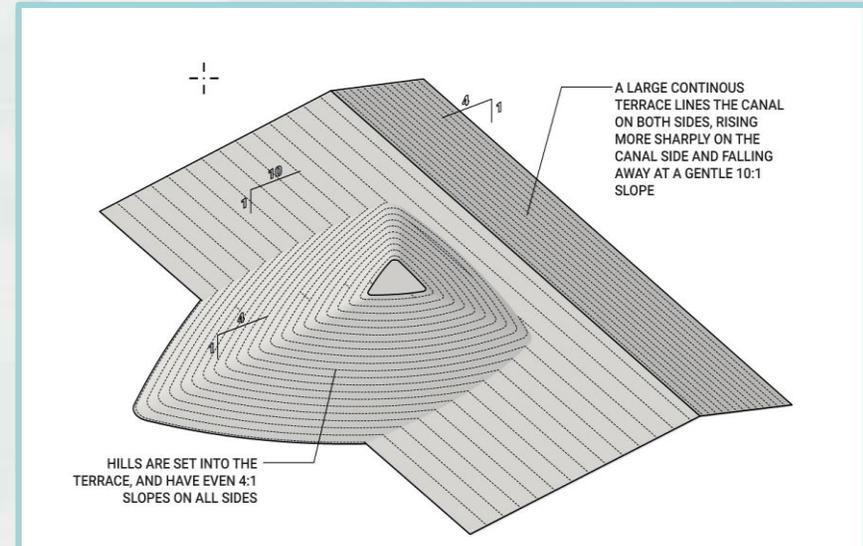


- Limited long-term maintenance
- Ensure public can interact with feature and experience nature



# Comite Canal Project

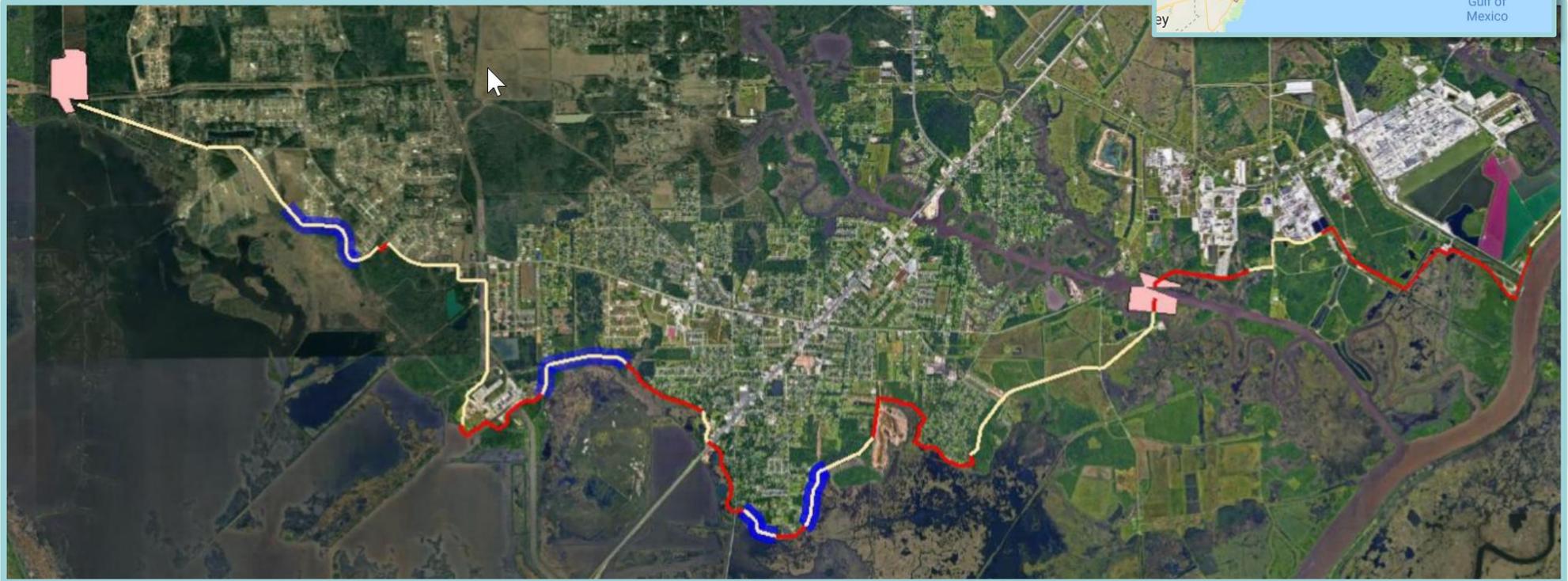
- EWN ideas well received by the District
- Report will be used to inform local sponsors and other stakeholders
- EWN/LA team positioned to support District with implementation
- Work has started on Comite Canal Project
  - Projected completion in 2021



# Sabine to Galveston (S2G) CSRM Study

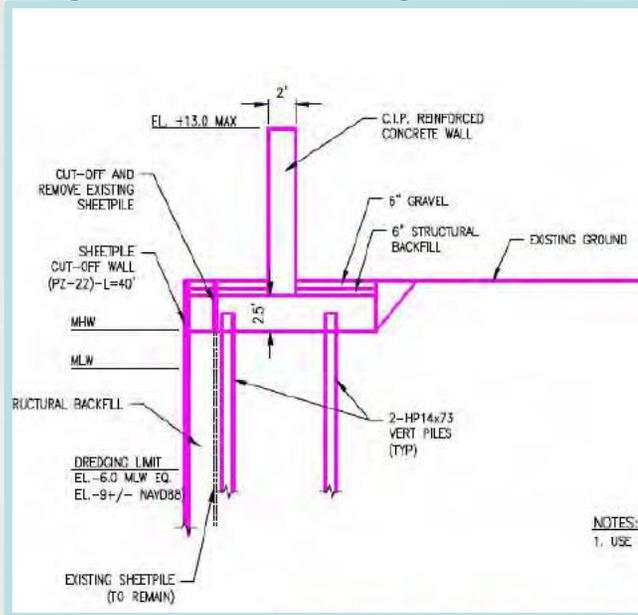
## Orange County

- 15.6 miles of levees
- 10.7 miles of flood wall
- 2 navigation gate structures
- 7 pump station structures

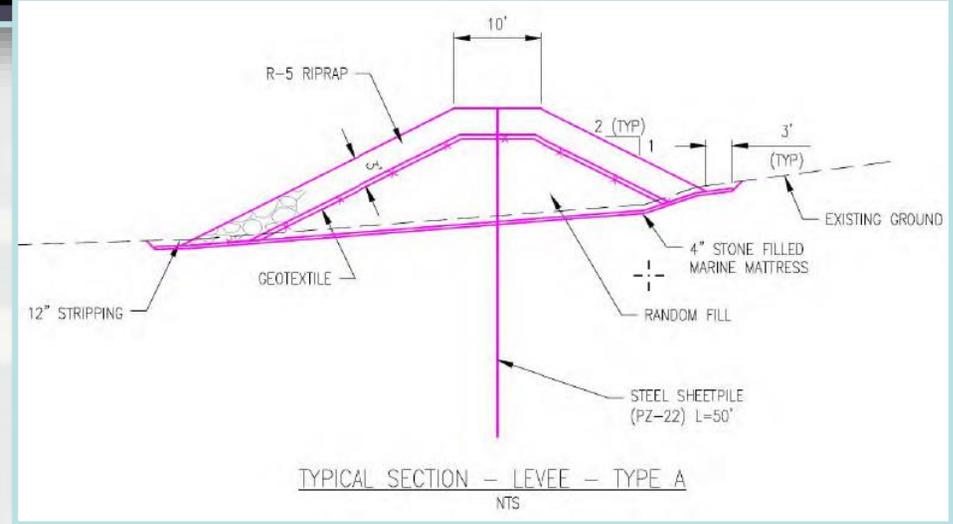


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- Originally designed only with traditional levees and floodwalls
- June 2019 – EWN/LA Team toured project area and participated in weeklong EWN workshop
- Identify innovative EWN strategies that will integrate into design



Concrete Wall



Traditional Levee

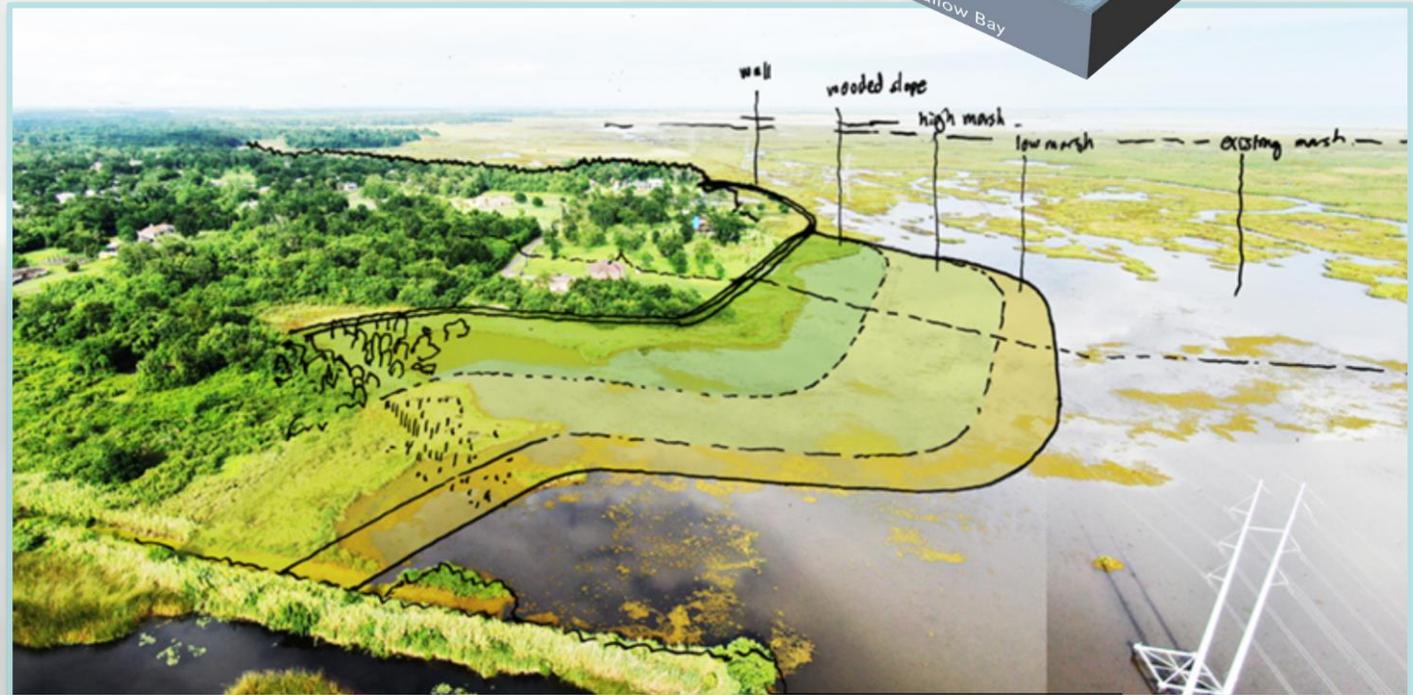


# Integration of Horizontal Levees into S2G



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- Propose horizontal levees that abut traditional levee
- Consider possible designs (30:1; 50:1 or 200:1 slopes)
- Characterize environmental and social benefits
- Other benefits?





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# Sediment Source(s) Proximity to Project Site

## Turning Basins 4 & 8

- Unknown available volume
- Unknown material type (new work)

## Lower Neches River

- 1.5 MCYD every 3 years

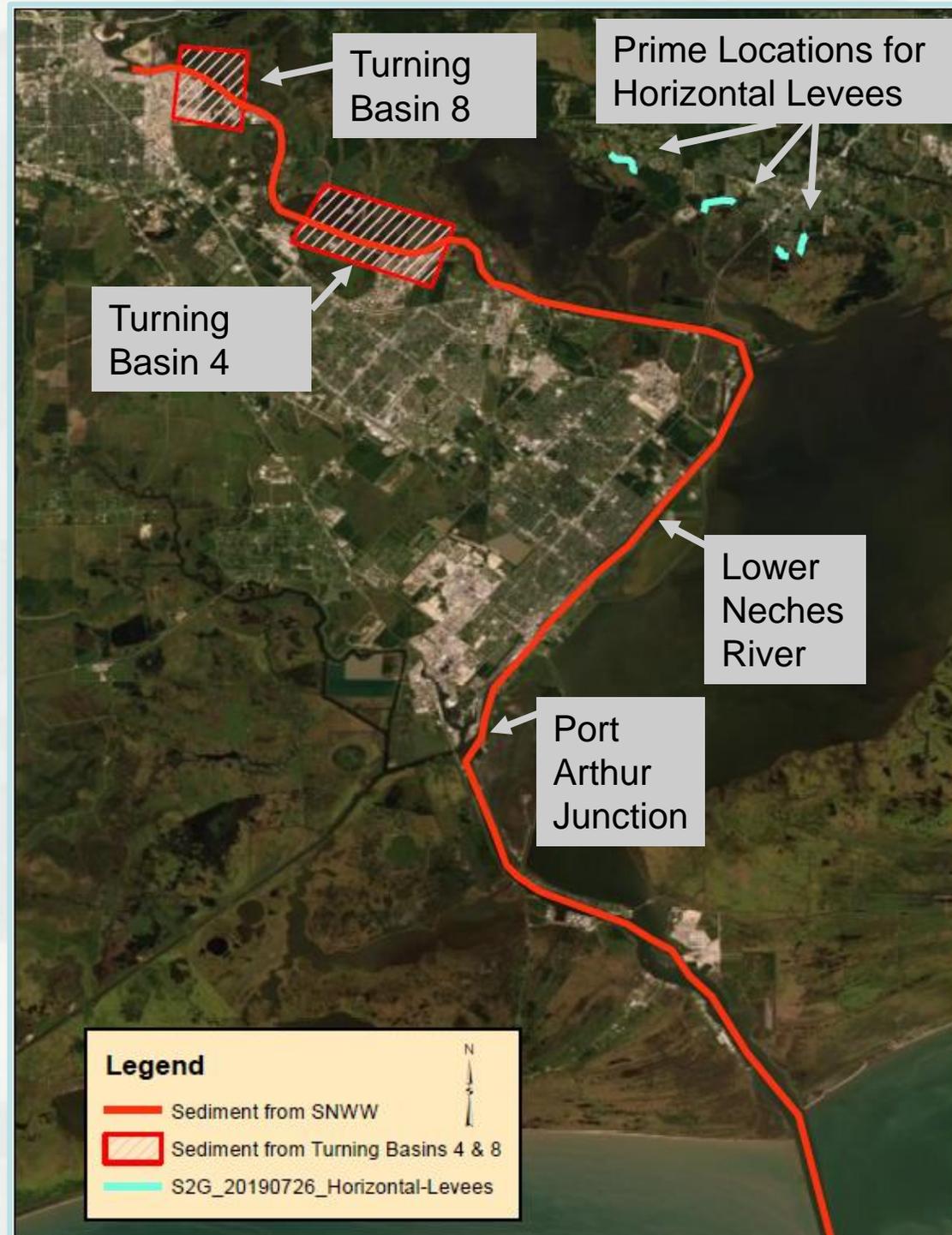
## Port Arthur Junction

- 2.5 MCYD every 18 months

## Widening/Deepening of SNWW

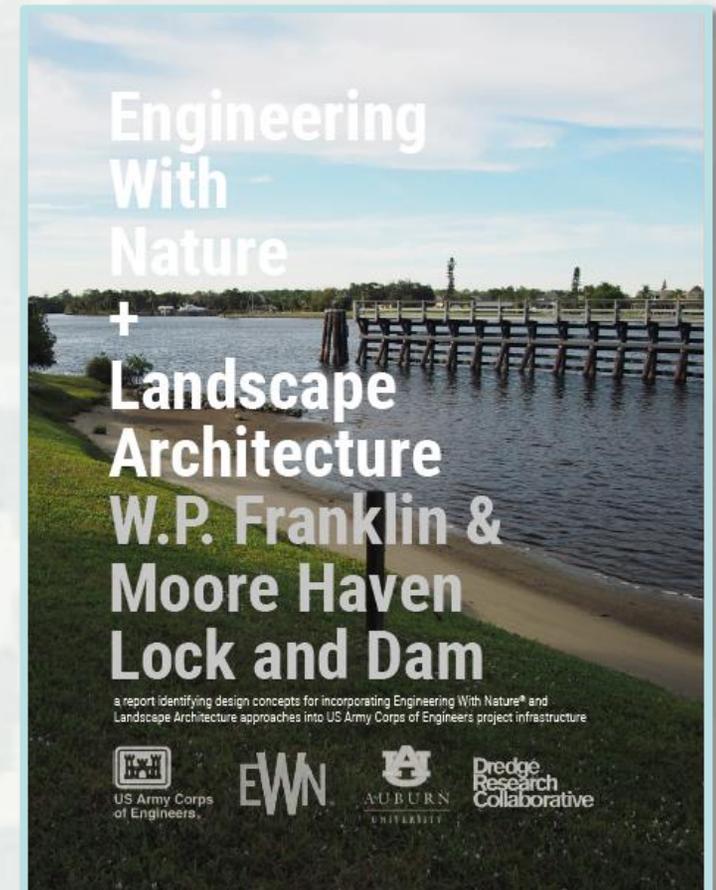
- Unknown available volume
- Unknown material type (new work)

\*(Updated Shapefiles Pending)



# Conclusions and Next Steps

- Integration of EWN science/engineering with LA has increased visibility and understanding
- EWN/LA reports have helped to convey complex information
- Completion of reports for Tide Gate (SWG) and Jetties (NAB) anticipated by OCT 2019
- Update EWN Website to Include EWN/LA pages
- Timing is critical to integrating EWN/LA approach
- Preliminary EWN/LA results are promising for New Jersey Back Bay Study
- EWN/LA R&D work unit funded in FY20 to support additional Corps Districts.
  - Increase Project Diversity





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# THANK YOU



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