Mermentau Basin Inundation Relief

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
In 2020, the Louisiana Watershed Initiative’s five coordinating state agencies selected 15 projects to receive $163 million in federal funding. The projects were selected because they align with the missions of these agencies and the long-term resilience objectives of LWI. Specifically, the projects will reduce flood risk in communities throughout the state, store floodwaters in ways that enhance natural habitats and move people in flood-prone areas out of harm’s way. As the granting agency of these funds, the Louisiana Office of Community Development reviewed the projects to ensure they meet HUD requirements and align with the state’s $1.2 billion CDBG-MIT Action Plan.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
Parishes located within the Mermentau Basin are continually threatened with flooding during significant rainfall events. The Mermentau Basin Inundation Relief project will link existing drainage laterals along La. Hwy. 82 to convey stormwater north of the highway, widen downstream channels, install new gates at the East End Locks and include other drainage features. The project will divert water into surrounding marshes, improve water quality, sustain fish and wildlife habitat and reduce area flood risk.

COST ESTIMATE
$ 25 million
The proposed project is located in Provisional Watershed Regions 4 and 5. Region 4 is located in western Louisiana and is organized around two main watersheds, or drainage basins: the Sabine and Calcasieu watersheds. Region 5 includes 16 parishes and stretches from Rapides Parish near the center of the state to St. Mary Parish along the southeastern edge. The region is organized around the Calcasieu-Mermentau and the Atchafalaya-Vermilion watersheds.