

Orleans. The estimated Federal cost of the project is \$1,300,000 and the benefit cost ratio is 7.1 to 1.0.

RECOMMENDATIONS

On behalf of the Governor of Louisiana, Honorable John J. McKeithen, I recommend authorization of the project, *Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet, Michoud Canal, Louisiana*, as contained in the report by the Chief of Engineers, Department of the Army. Assurances for local cooperation on the project have been furnished by the Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans, an agency of the State of Louisiana. The State Department of Public Works has endorsed the assurances of the Port of New Orleans.

STATEMENT OF WILLIAM H. LEWIS, ACTING DIRECTOR, BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE PORT OF NEW ORLEANS

The following statement is submitted in behalf of the Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans, an agency of the State of Louisiana, in support of the proposed project for enlargement of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway east of the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet and the Michoud Canal to provide ship channels in these waterways.

The Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans created by the Constitution and statutory laws of the State of Louisiana is empowered and charged with the responsibility of constructing and maintaining wharves and other port facilities, of regulating the commerce and traffic of the port and harbor of New Orleans and of administering the affairs thereof in such a manner as may, in the Board's judgment, be best for the maintenance and development of the port. The Board is composed of five members prominently identified with the commerce and business interests of the port. The members of the Board are appointed by the Governor of the State of Louisiana, each to serve a term of five years.

The jurisdiction of the Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans embraces the Parishes (Counties) of Orleans, Jefferson and St. Bernard in Louisiana. The Gulf Intracoastal Waterway from Lake Borgne to the Inner Harbor-Navigation Canal and the Michoud Canal, as well as the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet, are within the limits of the Port of New Orleans.

In addition to its other duties, the Board was designated by the then Governor Earl K. Long on December 10, 1956, as the assuring agency for the State of Louisiana, to obtain and convey to the United States of America the rights-of-way and spoil disposal areas and to satisfy other provisions of local cooperation required of the State in connection with the construction, operation and maintenance of the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet, in accordance with Public Law 455, 84th Congress, approved March 29, 1956.

The Chief of Engineers of the Department of the Army has recommended the modification of existing project for the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet to provide a deep-draft navigation channel in the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway and Michoud Canal by enlargement to a depth of 36 feet over a bottom width of 250 feet from the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet channel to and including a turning basin 800 feet square at the north end of the Michoud Canal. The report of the Chief of Engineers reflects a benefit-cost ratio of 7.1 to 1.

The recommendations of the Chief of Engineers concerning this project include the requirements that prior to construction local interests shall agree to:

(a) Provide without cost to the United States all lands, easements, and rights-of-way required for construction and subsequent maintenance of the project and for aids to navigation upon the request of the Chief of Engineers, including suitable areas determined by the Chief of Engineers, to be required in the general public interest for initial and subsequent disposal of spoil, and also retaining dikes for disposal of spoil from maintenance dredging, if required;

(b) Accomplish without cost to the United States such utility or other relocations or alterations as necessary for project purposes;

(c) Hold and save the United States free from damages due to the construction and subsequent maintenance of the project, including any erosion beyond the rights-of-way furnished; and

(d) Provide, maintain and operate without cost to the United States adequate public wharf facilities on the Michoud Canal open to all on equal terms.