



FLOODWATCH

Educating, Planning, Protecting

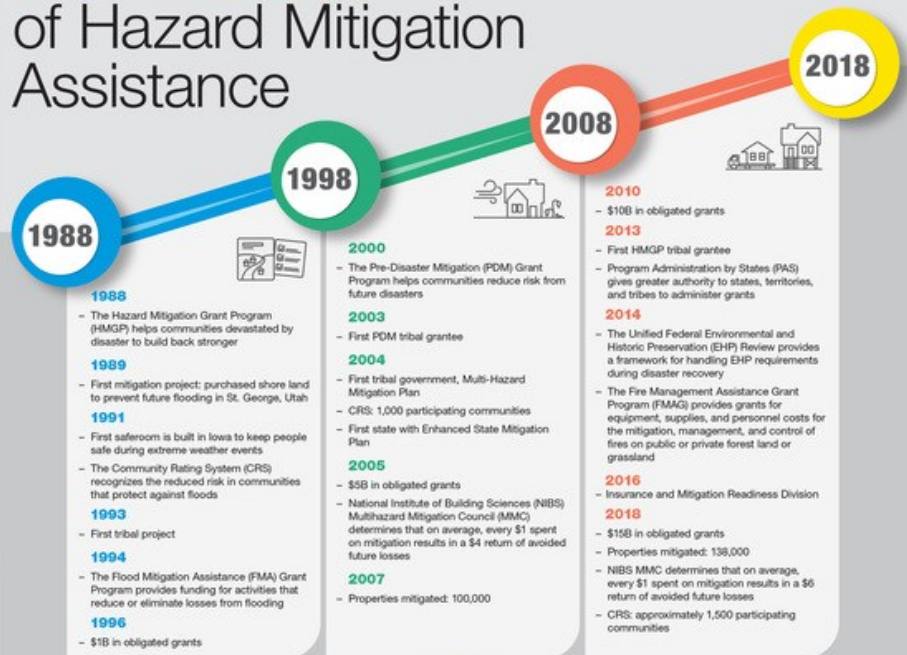
March 2018 The Official Newsletter of the Louisiana Floodplain Management Association

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30 Years of Hazard Mitigation Assistance



LEGISLATIVE MILESTONES

1988 Robert T. Stafford Disaster and Emergency Assistance Act	2000 Disaster Mitigation Act	2012 Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act
1993 Hazard Mitigation and Relocation Assistance Act	2006 Post Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act	2013 Sandy Recovery Improvement Act
1994 National Flood Insurance Reform Act		2014 Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act



See details inside!

The New LFMA Portal is HERE!



You've probably already received your introductory letter to the new LFMA Portal. If you haven't already checked it out, please do so soon! This website will help with the work of keeping our membership connected. With social networking support, simple tools for staying in touch, space for sharing documents and photos and resources to support committees, we can use it to help market our association and highlight great work being done.

In addition, the [LFMA Member Portal](#) is going to be the workhorse that will collect member dues and support event registration and payment.

So pardon our dust, we're still under construction. But we invite you to come see what we've started.

ASFPM develops fact sheet for FHA 203(k)

ASFPM develops fact sheet for FHA 203(k), a finance option to reduce flood losses for homeowners

In an attempt to revitalize neighborhoods that were run down, the Federal Housing Administration created the 203(k) Rehabilitation Program, which has been around since the 1970s. It was originally designed to encourage families in the low- to moderate-income bracket to purchase homes that are in dire need of repairs, especially homes in older communities. However, it can also be used to finance flood mitigation projects even without a presidential disaster declaration.

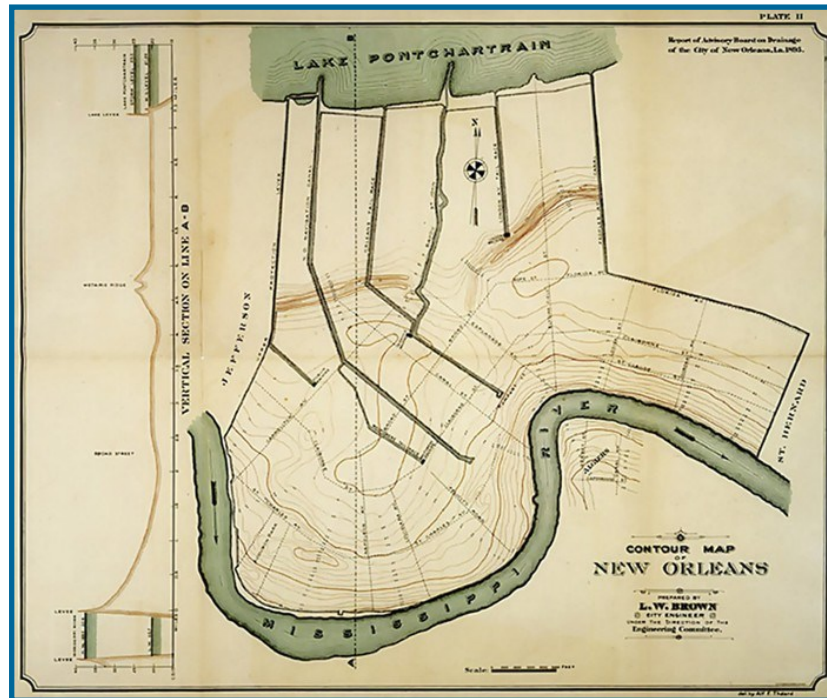
These loans can be used by:

- Homeowners who want to protect their homes from floods by elevating or other flood protection activities, or
- People wanting to purchase a flood-prone home, but rehabilitate it to make it more resilient to future floods.

Because so few were aware of FHA 203(k) program, ASFPM wanted to develop [this two-page fact sheet](#) so flood-risk professionals and the media could help spread the word.

Read the full article [here](#).

How Humans Sank New Orleans



Below sea level. It's a universally known topographical factoid about the otherwise flat city of New Orleans, and one that got invoked ad nauseam during worldwide media coverage of Hurricane Katrina and its catastrophic aftermath in 2005. Locally, the phrase is intoned with a mix of civic rue and dark humor.

It's also off by half. Depending on where exactly one frames the area measured, roughly 50 percent of greater New Orleans lies above sea level. That's the good news. The bad news: It used to be 100 percent, before engineers accidentally sank half the city below the level of the sea. Their intentions were good, and they thought they were solving an old problem. Instead, they created a new and bigger one.

Three hundred years ago this spring, French colonials first began clearing vegetation to establish *La Nouvelle-Orléans* on the meager natural levee of the Mississippi River. At most 10 to 15 feet above sea level, this feature accounts for nearly all the region's upraised terrain; the rest is swamp or marsh. One Frenchman called it "Nothing more than two narrow strips of land, about a musket shot in width," surrounded by "canebrake [and] impenetrable marsh."

Read the rest of the story [here](#).

Contributed by Darla Duet.

NFIP/CRS UPDATE Dec. 2017/Jan. 2018

Dollar Benefits of Mitigation Recalculated

The rule of thumb for justifying the expense of undertaking natural hazard mitigation actions has for the past decade been a one-to-four ratio, that is, one dollar invested in mitigation avoids four dollars in damage. This was based on a 2005 study by the National Institute of Building Sciences' Multi-hazard Mitigation Council (MMC). This month, the MMC issued an interim report that updates that figure based on new information. The study described in [Natural Hazard Mitigation Strategies: 2017 Interim Report](#) examined 23 years of data to quantify the benefits derived from avoiding damage from natural hazards through activities funded by federal grants, and also for applying building standards that exceed codes. The study covered flooding, hurricane surge, wind, earthquake, and wildland/urban fires.

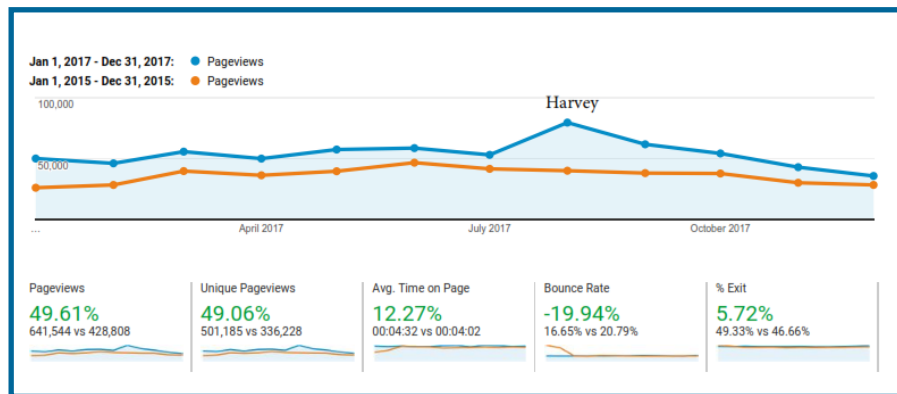
The new report uses two high-level benefit-cost ratios to represent the benefits of mitigation. First, mitigation grants funded through select federal government agencies, on average, can save the nation \$6 in future disaster costs for every \$1 spent on hazard mitigation. Second, the report demonstrates, investments in hazard mitigation measures that exceed provisions of the 2015 International Building Code Series can save the nation, on average, \$4 for every \$1 spent.

Also In This Issue

- Benefits of Mitigation
- The CRS at ASFPM
- The 4-1-1 on 310
- Success with CRS
- Debbie's Dish
- Training Opportunities

This update is available [here](#).

FloodMaps Usage Jumps 50% from 2015 to 2017



First, let us acknowledge that a year like 2016 has to be thrown out when you're trying to measure trends in use of FloodMaps. Activity during three days in August 2016 exceeded what we'd expect for a full year. The graphic shows how visits rose with the water in the Baton Rouge / Livingston / Ascension area, prompted somewhat by a local TV tutorial (Thank you, Jay).

To get a reasonable measure of growth, not influenced by the August 2016 blow-out, Andrew pulled statistics for Jan-Dec 2017 and Jan-Dec 2015. The comparison indicates that usage is up 50% from 2015 to 2017 (641,544 page views in 2017 vs 428,808 page views in 2015). [Analytics - Graphic provided]

Two unique features of the AgCenter flood maps site ("Community Info" and "What does this mean?") are also up significantly, about three times as much as overall growth. This disproportionate increase in use of these two features suggests that people, more and more, are going beyond looking at the map, and seeking greater understanding of what the map is telling them.

When a point has been identified by the user, the point-data box includes a link to "Community Info". Community info gives the user names and contact information for the Floodplain Administrator and other officials in the authority having jurisdiction. This information is read real-time from DOTDs "Community Information" database. Views of "Community info" are up 141% (from 10,254 in 2015 to 24,698 in 2017).

The point-data box also includes a link labeled "What does this mean?" The destination page places the point data in a narrative, provides implications for flood insurance and building requirements, and includes a "Scenario" application that creates a drawing of the 100-year flood at the location, based on Base Flood Elevation, ground elevation, and style of foundation. Views of "What Does this Mean" are up 130% (from 23,427 in 2015 to 31,482 in 2017).

Continued next page...

FloodMaps Usage Jumps 50% from 2015 to 2017, cont.

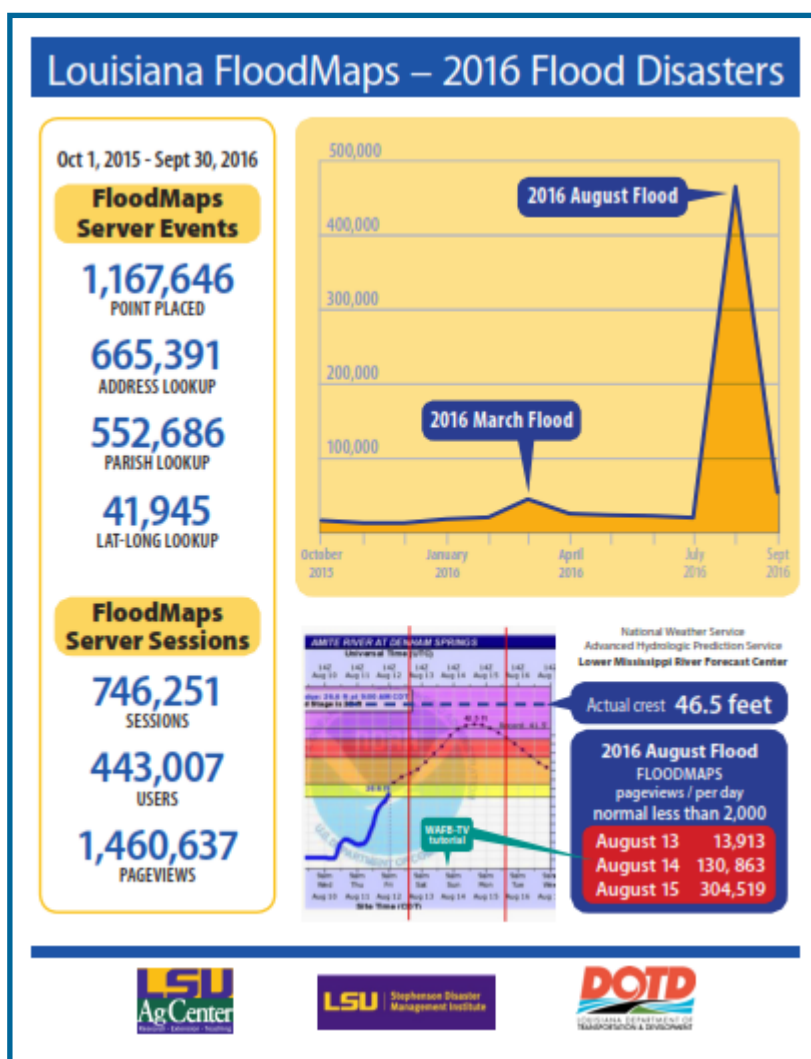
These statistics reflect healthy growth of site usage which may be attributed in part to the series in-your-office demos done for realtors in summer 2016, discovery of the site during 2016 and 2017 flood events, and reference to maps during flood recovery.

Parishes with the most activity in 2017 were - greatest to least - St. Tammany, East Baton Rouge, Livingston, Jefferson, Lafayette, Tangipahoa and Orleans.

The FloodMaps portal services were built and maintained on 2008 servers which started failing in 2017. All active map services have now been moved onto the AgCenter's modern servers, where they are faster and more reliable. On occasion, as happened in early March, the maps and servers are fine but access is lost due to connectivity problems originating off campus – like somebody cutting the fiber optic cable.

As always, if you don't see something (like a FIRM, or a road map) on our site, please email us at floodmaps@agcenter.lsu.edu.

Contributed by Pat Skinner.



Region I News

St. Bernard Parish Government awarded over \$3.8 Million in RESTORE Act grants



The St. Bernard Parish Government Coastal Division submitted the project proposal, which includes the restoration and nourishment of approximately 40 acres of marsh near Delacroix, to the CPRA for consideration in 2017. "I'm proud of our Coastal Department and I'm looking forward to seeing the projects through completion that will enhance the quality of life and sustainability for St. Bernard Parish," said Parish President Guy McInnis.

The US Treasury also recently approved two additional RESTORE Act Direct Component awards for St. Bernard Parish Government, including the Paris Road Corridor Streetscape Enhancement project (\$824,000) and the Nunez Community College Fisheries Workforce Development program (\$231,750). The streetscape enhancement project includes the design and installation of a number of improvements along Paris Road from the parish line to Nunez Community College. The fisheries workforce development program includes the establishment of a new fisheries degree program and scholarship fund that will be administered by Nunez Community College in conjunction with St. Bernard Parish Government. Both activities are scheduled to begin within the next two months.

The two RESTORE Act Direct Component grant awards represent the first for the St. Bernard Parish Government Coastal Division since the Clean Water Act (BP Oil Spill) consent decree was signed in April 2016. Additionally, the combined total of the awards represent the largest obligation of RESTORE Act funding made in any coastal Louisiana parish to date.

Contributed by Darla Duet.

Region I News, cont.

The City of Mandeville has recently been re-evaluated by FEMA through the Community Rating System. The result of this evaluation has been an improved score from a Class 7 to a Class 6. This designation provides an additional 5% discount to all National Flood Insurance Program policies in the community. The total discount is 20% for special flood hazard properties (Zone AE, VE) and 10% for non special flood hazard properties (Zone X). These changes will go into effect on all policies renewed after October 1, 2018.

Contributed by Nic LeBlanc.

CONGRATULATIONS CITY OF MANDEVILLE!



Region II News

“And remember..... Baton Rouge needs a zoo.....”. If you are old enough to have grown up in Baton Rouge during the early 1960’s you probably remember Buckskin Bill Black ending every television show with those words. On Easter Sunday 1970, the zoo became a reality and opened its doors for visitors to enjoy. Now here we are almost 50 years later and there is talk of a new home for East Baton Rouge Parish’s zoo. A site in the southeastern part of the Parish has been identified and it will be no surprise the Louisiana Floodplain Management Association members that flooding issues are the hot topic of discussion. A March 7, 2018 article in the Baton Rouge newspaper headlined the following text: “Inside look: How engineers hope to prevent floods if Baton Rouge Zoo moves to Airline”.

BREC (The Recreation and Parks Commission of East Baton Rouge Parish) and zoo leaders identified the Airline Highway Park / State Fairgrounds property as the site suitable for the location of the new Baton Rouge zoo. A March meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held to decide if the site is approved. The concern of many is the potential for flooding at this site and the severity of those future flood events. Most of the site appears to be located inside an AE flood zone. City-Parish data shows that many of the low lying areas of the property experienced inundation during the 2016 flood event. Some spots receiving more than 10 feet of flooding from Bayou Manchac/Wards Creek water! Engineers planning for the new zoo have indicated that a little more than half of the 130 acres at the site would be used for the design of zoo exhibits. With only 39 acres of the site being higher than the base flood elevation of 17 feet, there will be substantial modifications to the site to make it functional. Part of the engineering plan involves moving dirt from the lower elevations to form the platform for the zoo construction. This would create the usable land needed by the zoo (the target area is in the 70 to 100 acre range). The lower areas would then mostly become detention ponds to hold the stormwater runoff in a manner exhibiting a natural look. The combination of excavating in the lower parts of the site and filling in the area of the structures should show a beneficial result of a 10% increase in stormwater runoff storage for the 100 year storm event. The Airline Highway site is a desirable option for the zoo leaders, with floodplain management issues at the forefront of the conversation.

In other Region 2 news, the East Baton Rouge Planning Commission is working on changes to the floodplain ordinance. Planning Director Frank Duke says that he’s ready for people to be disappointed with the revised building rules he is set to propose in the wake of the flood disaster of 2016. The Planning Commission indicated that they lack the data to make sweeping changes in the City’s ordinances. At this time, the focus is to clean up garbled language and updating formatting in the rules. Future action will be to create a storm water master plan which will serve as a guide for floodplain ordinance revisions. The entire plan is estimated to be complete in mid-to-late 2019. Officials know that citizens are worried about their flood exposure, but don’t want to over-correct, since the 2016 flood event was such a statistical anomaly.

Contributed by Bruce Dyson.

Region III News

LOST LAKE MARSH CREATION AND HYDROLOGIC RESTORATION

Location

The Lost Lake Marsh Creation and Hydrologic Restoration (TE-0072) project is located in Terrebonne Basin, between Four League Bay and Lake Mechant, about 25 miles southwest of Houma, LA.



Project Information



Project Type(s):

MARSH CREATION

Base Project:

TE-0072

Coastal Program:

CWPPRA

Project Phase:

Construction

Parish:

Terrebonne

Estimated Cost:

\$ 35.9 million



Issue Addressed

Significant marsh loss has occurred between Lake Pagie and Bayou DeCade to the point that little structural framework remains separating those two waterbodies. Northeast of Lost Lake, interior marsh breakup has resulted in large, interior ponds where wind/wave energy continues to result in marsh loss. West of Lost Lake, interior breakup has occurred as a result of ponding and the periodic entrapment of higher salinity waters during storm events.

Get more information [here](#).

Contributed by Darla Duet.

HMA Celebrates 30 Years!



During the month of March the Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) division is commemorating its 30-year anniversary.

Over the past three decades, HMA has obligated more than \$15 billion in funding from Congress. HMA has used these funds to provide communities assistance mitigating the effects of natural hazards.

Mitigation projects include home elevations to prevent flooding, safe rooms to decrease tornado-related injuries, structural reinforcements to brace buildings in the event of earthquakes, and more.

To learn more about the projects and other HMA milestones from the past 30 years visit [the Hazard Mitigation Assistance 30 Year Anniversary webpage](#). View a [detailed timeline](#) showcasing some defining events and advancements in the history of FEMA's mitigation assistance program and [read the press release](#).

Steps to Elevation — Things to Consider When Elevating Your Home

Flood Hazard Mitigation-Elevation

The International Association of Structural Movers – IASM is the 501c-4 professional organization whose members are involved with the flood hazard mitigation elevation of buildings.

Flooding is increasing across the US, requiring communities to examine alternatives to the cycle of repetitive flooding. The cost of the flood recovery cycle is very expensive, not only monetarily but everyone involved has lifetime challenges as they navigate flood recovery. This is now compounded by rapidly rising flood insurance policy rates on all older buildings built before the first flood insurance rate map for the community. These buildings are known as pre-FIRM.

The flood hazard mitigation-elevation of pre-FIRM buildings has many benefits. The benefits of elevation include:

1. Significantly reduces the risk of flooding.
2. Significantly reduces flood insurance policy rates.
3. Reduced expenditures on recovery – Every dollar invested in elevation saves \$4 dollars of recovery expenditures.
4. Reverses the cycle of flooding.
5. Engages multiple construction trades and labor.
6. Stabilizes the real estate market and values of the property in a community.
7. Preserves property tax revenues which support schools and government operations, infrastructure and public safety as well as bonding for public projects.
8. Increases community resiliency.
9. Preserves the historic buildings which provide the sense of place of a community.
10. Environmentally responsible. The recycling and re-use of existing buildings results in a reduction of tons of solid waste to the landfill.
11. Natural resource savings. Every 1,000 sq ft of wood frame building uses ~ 250 trees.

Building elevation for flood mitigation works.

Contributed by Roderick Scott

Get more information [here](#).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Stormwater Detention Systems Design

URBAN WATERSHEDS
RESEARCH INSTITUTE



When:

Thursday and Friday, April 26 & 27; 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Where:

Leonard Rice Engineers, Inc. training room.
1221 Auraria Parkway
Denver, Colorado 80204

Cost:

Cost for this two-day class is \$790.00.

Early registration fee of **\$725 until March 30th.**

CASFM and RM-APWA Member fee is \$740.00.

Early registration fee of **\$690 until March 30th.**

These discount are possible because this class is, in-part, sponsored by Urban Drainage & Flood Control District

CEU's:

You will be eligible to receive 1.5 CEU's or 15 PDH's for this course.

This course is also eligible for 12 CECs towards ASFPM CFM Certification.

What Will You Learn?

Since 1970, stormwater detention has been identified to be the most effective means to control the flow releases from an urbanized watershed. Stormwater detention facilities help mitigate the potential hazards caused by the increased runoff flow rates. You will learn to calculate required storm water detention volumes, estimate basin geometry using simple shapes, developing the final stage-storage-outflow relationships, and conducting reservoir routing through the design basin. Basin outlets can be complex and can consist of multiple orifices, weirs, perforated plates, and culverts.

For more information and to register online click [here](#).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

LFMA 35th Annual Technical and Business Conference



“Keeping Our Heads Above Water for 35 Years”

Natchitoches Events Center

April 25-27, 2018

750 2nd St.

Natchitoches, LA 71457

	Before March 15		After March 15	
	Member	Non-member	Member	Non-member
Full Conference (Wed, Thurs, Fri)	\$175	\$225	\$185	\$235
One Day (Thursday)	\$115	\$165	\$125	\$175
Spouse/Guest	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
Tech Tour	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
Walking Tour	\$20	\$20	\$20	\$20

Check the [LFMA website](#) for more information!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 17-22, 2018

ASFPM's 42nd annual national conference in Phoenix

"Managing Floods Where the Mountains Meet the Desert"



Click [here](#) for details!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

LFMA Summer Workshop

July 27, 2018

Rosa Parks Center

Lafayette, LA



LFMA Fall Workshop

October 5, 2018

St. Charles Parish, in conjunction with “Battle
for the Paddle”

More details coming soon!

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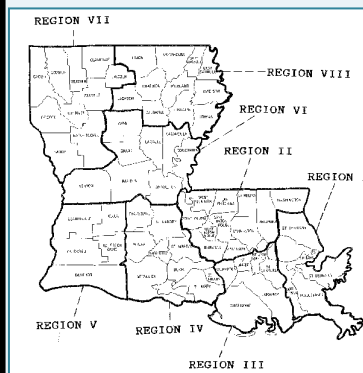
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