

# THE RESETTLEMENT OF ISLE DE JEAN CHARLES

Report on Data Gathering and Engagement Phase

November 2016

Updated May 2017













# ISLE DE JEAN CHARLES REPORT ON DATA GATHERING AND ENGAGEMENT PHASE

# November, 28th 2016

Prepared by Concordia with Chicago Bridge & Iron Company (CB&I), directed by Pan American Engineers (PAE), for the State of Louisiana Division of Administration, Office of Community Development, Disaster Recovery Unit (OCD-DRU).

# **U.S.** Department of Housing and Urban Development

The resettlement of Isle de Jean Charles will be funded by a \$48.3 million grant awarded by HUD through their National Disaster Resilience Competition.



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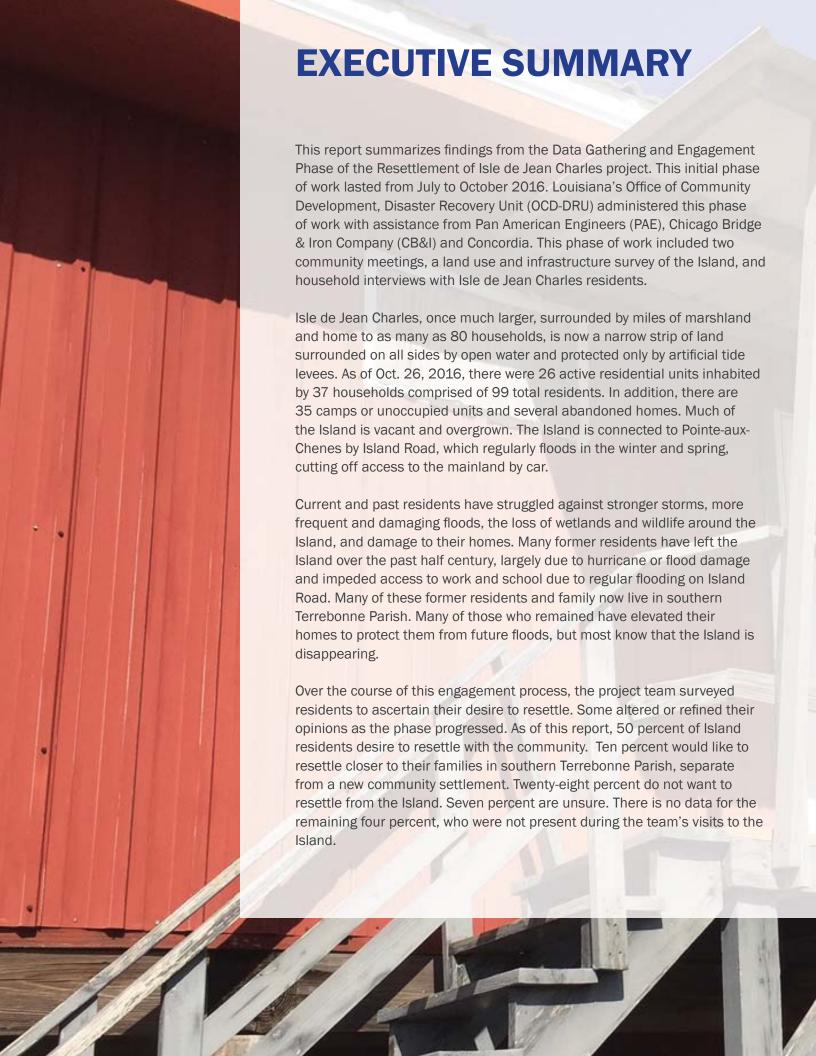
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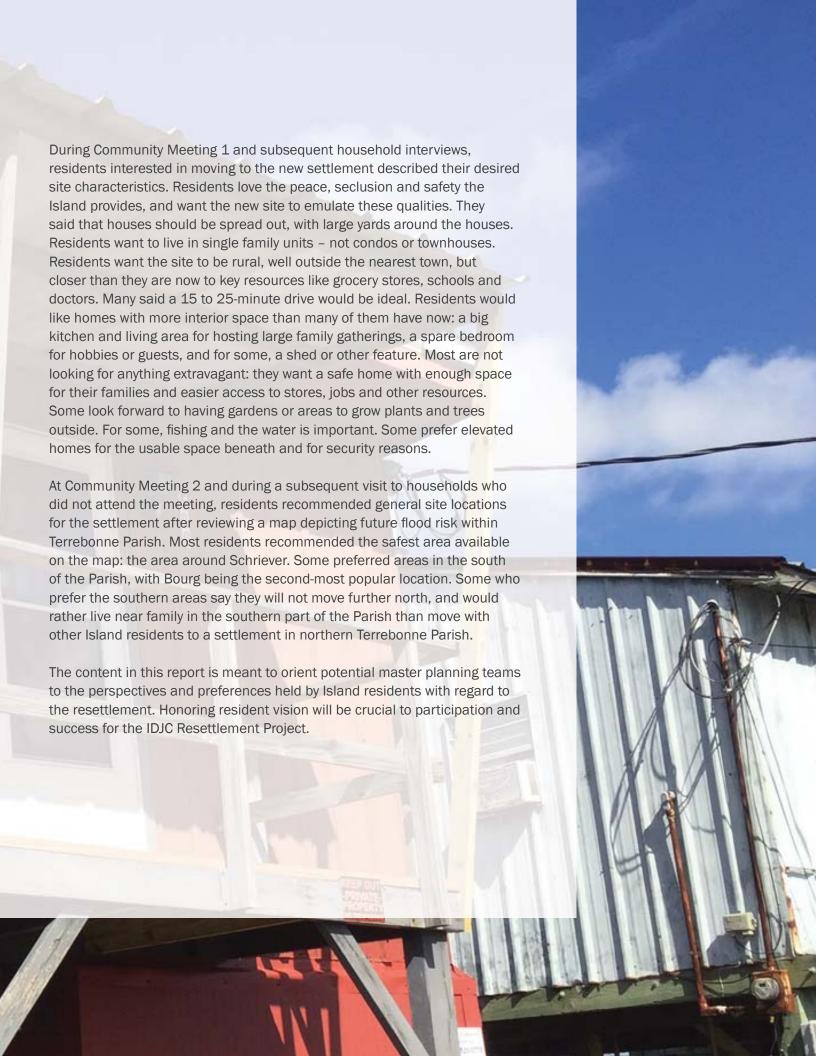




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# **INTRODUCTION & CONTEXT**

On Jan. 25, 2016, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development awarded the State of Louisiana \$92.6 million to implement two coastal resilience-building projects. One of those projects, awarded \$48.3 million, is the resettlement of Isle de Jean Charles. The grant will be administered by the Louisiana Division of Administration's Office of Community Development, Disaster Recovery Unit.

Isle de Jean Charles is a small Island in the southernmost fringe of southern Terrebonne Parish. It has lost the majority of its land mass over the past century due to coastal land loss in southeastern Louisiana. Older Island residents remember marshlands as far as they could see, full of animals and wildlife. Water now surrounds the small strip of land, which is buffered by small levees to keep homes from flooding at high tide. Most residents have elevated their homes, but some have not. Over the past half-century, many people have left the Island. By some accounts, the Island once had between 60 and 80 primary residences. Today, that number is 26.

Recently, the Isle de Jean Charles Band of Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw (BCC) leadership worked with the Lowlander Center, a nonprofit based in Terrebonne Parish, to develop a vision for a resettled Isle de Jean Charles community. OCD-DRU partnered with these two entities in its application for the HUD grant. After being awarded the grant, OCD-DRU brought on PAE, CB&I, and Concordia to help plan and coordinate an initial information-gathering and engagement phase of the project, intended to precede the project's second phase – Master Planning. This project team has held weekly calls and several meetings with the BCC tribe's leadership.

Over the course of four months, OCD-DRU worked with PAE, CB&I, and Concordia to gather information and engage with Island residents to understand their opinions and desires moving forward. This phase of work included two community meetings, household interviews, a land use survey, and multiple visits to Isle de Jean Charles to speak with residents, answer questions and invite residents to participate at the community meetings. During this phase, the project team confirmed land use information on the Island, residential patterns, and gathered resident information and preferences.

All of this work was carried out to build upon the state's understanding of the project's beneficiaries and to ensure that the needs of the Island's residents are addressed throughout the resettlement project. Engagement is also crucial to building trust with Island residents, as the state will lean heavily on Islanders to define many of the attributes of the future resettled community. Residents have heard rumors about resettlement for years, and many have differing and often inaccurate impressions of what this process will entail. As this phase of work proceeded, several residents became more open to the idea of resettlement, and more trusting of the project team and process. Because there have been failed attempts at resettlement in the past, some residents are still skeptical that the project will happen as planned. Continued communication and trust-building throughout the process will be necessary to ensure continued participation and buy-in from Island residents.

# METHODOLOGY & PROCESS

This section outlines the data collection and engagement process carried out between July and October 2016.



Community Meeting 1.

# ONGOING ENGAGEMENT WITH BCC TRIBAL COUNCIL

The project team has held weekly calls with BCC leadership since early summer and several in-person meetings over the course of the data gathering phase. BCC leadership provided the project team with preliminary data and information that helped to kick off the data gathering and engagement process. The project team and BCC collaborated on the content and planning for Community Meeting 1 and the resident interview questions.

## **COMMUNITY MEETING 1**

On Aug. 6, the project team hosted a community meeting to introduce the project. Residents reviewed, evaluated and added to the visioning work done prior to the HUD award.

Forty-six Isle de Jean Charles residents and stakeholders attended the meeting. Twenty-one of these attendees were full-time Island residents representing 11 households. Nine other owners of Island property attended, as well as BCC tribal leadership, the United Houma Nation (UHN), and former residents.

Community members participated in two table activities. The first activity asked a series of open-ended questions to promote discussion about life on the Island and general reactions to the prospect of resettlement. For the second activity, residents discussed and evaluated aspects of a resettlement vision developed by the BCC tribe and the Lowlander Center. These activity results gave the project team a sense of what residents were looking for in a new community settlement. At this meeting, Island residents signed up for resident interviews to be conducted on Aug. 16 and Aug. 17 at their homes. A full summary of Community Meeting 1 can be found in Appendix A.

# LAND USE AND INFRASTRUCTURE SURVEY

On Aug. 16, Aug. 17, Aug. 18, Aug. 24 and Sept. 21, PAE and CB&I conducted land use surveys and a physical assessment of the Island. All data and bits of information were collected in a mobile device application that CB&I developed to organize survey data. Data was entered from drop-down menus in the web application of the assessment tool from previously identified questions. At every point of interest, the structures and conditions were evaluated based on observation and a site photo was captured. CB&I also confirmed the electrical status of each address through on-site observations and the local energy provider's records. One of the most

important metrics determined through the Land Use Survey was the occupancy status. This was determined for each address through previous documents provided by the tribe, as well as by observations and resident-interview comparisons. To ensure complete transparency, the data collected is available to the public at the following secure website:

http://cbigim.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=8d4fc58039e04ead95bcc8e0b7cd6731

The content of this data includes structure count, use analysis, utilities observations, and other aspects of physical qualities and quantities on the Island.

## RESIDENT INTERVIEWS

On Aug. 16, Aug. 17, Aug. 18, and Aug. 24, Concordia conducted interviews with Isle de Jean Charles residents. The team returned on Sept. 21 to confirm and refine data previously collected.

At the end of Community Meeting 1, Island residents signed up for one-on-one interviews to take place on Aug. 16 and Aug. 17. Concordia led the interview process structured around a series of prepared interview questions. After interviewing residents who signed up, the team visited all other residential households on Aug. 18 and Aug. 24. Residents from 25 of 26 housing units spoke with the team; one household was never present when the team visited.

Residents from 10 of 26 housing units signed up for the Aug. 16 and Aug. 17 interviews. These interviews included the full set of interview questions and lasted between 60-90 minutes. Over the course of the interviews, some questions were consolidated to avoid redundancy. In many cases, residents provided valuable information outside the bounds of the prescribed questions; these responses were captured as additional notes and contribute to the content of this report. All of those interviewed on Aug. 16 and Aug. 17 are in favor of resettling with the community.

Interviews held on Aug. 18 and Aug. 24 were conducted more informally. Because these residents did not plan

on having visitors, many only wanted to speak for a short time or sometimes not at all. A larger proportion of these residents didn't know about the project or had only heard rumors. In these interviews, the project team prioritized understanding what these residents knew about the project, how many people live in the home and whether they want to resettle with the community. We answered any questions and informed them there would be another community meeting for all Island residents to learn more and participate in the planning process. Several of these residents were unsure about whether they wanted to resettle and some were staunchly opposed.

Additionally, the team spoke with several camp owners, as well as the only business owner on the Island – the marina. Conversations with the camp-owners and the business owner are not represented in the data of this report. However, there is a paragraph at the end of the report that summarizes what the project team heard from them. On each visit, Concordia answered any questions residents had, or documented those questions so that OCD-DRU could address them at the second community meeting.

A key goal of this interview process was to make contact with residents and begin to build trust and relationships with those on the Island. Because some conversations were shorter than others, the team was not able to ask every resident all of the survey questions. We did not press residents to speak with us longer than they wanted to speak. Consequently, for many survey questions and the corresponding data presented in the Interviews Summary section of this document, there is a "no data" category. In general, those interviewed on Aug. 18 and Aug. 24 responded to the fewest questions.

#### **COMMUNITY MEETING 2**

On Oct. 8, the project team held Community Meeting 2 on the Island, under a resident's home. At this meeting, the project team shared summaries of the land use and interview data collected, and answered questions residents asked the project team during the interviews. Residents nominated an Island representative to be on

the Selection Committee for the IDJC Master Planning Group, which will evaluate and select the master planning team that will carry out the project.

Thirty-one members of the general Isle de Jean Charles community attended the meeting. Nineteen of these attendees were full-time Island residents, representing 12 housing units. Two other attendees owned camps on the Island. Others include former residents and guests.

The meeting activity focused on site selection and preferences, a topic residents were very interested in during the interview process. In table groups, community members identified potential sites on a map for the new settlement. The map presented important flood risk information that the project team asked residents to consider before recommending their preferred site location. Most residents recommended the safest area on the map, which is near Schriever. A graphic that summarizes site suggestions from the meeting, as well as suggestions we heard in a follow-up visit to the Island, is included on page 15.

A full summary of Community Meeting 2 can be found in Appendix B.

## FINAL VISIT & DATA CONFIRMATION

On Oct. 20, the project team visited households who did not attend the meeting to get their input on site selection, and to share the meeting content and results. During this final visit, the project team also clarified resident data and household desire to resettle with those residents who were previously unsure or needed more information. In some cases, residents who previously did not want to speak to the project team shared more information about their household and their opinions about resettling.

The data in this report related to population and desire to resettle has been updated to reflect the information gathered on this final visit to the Island.







Community members discussed potential site location in table groups at Community Meeting 2.

# LAND USES & ISLAND INFRASTRUCTURE

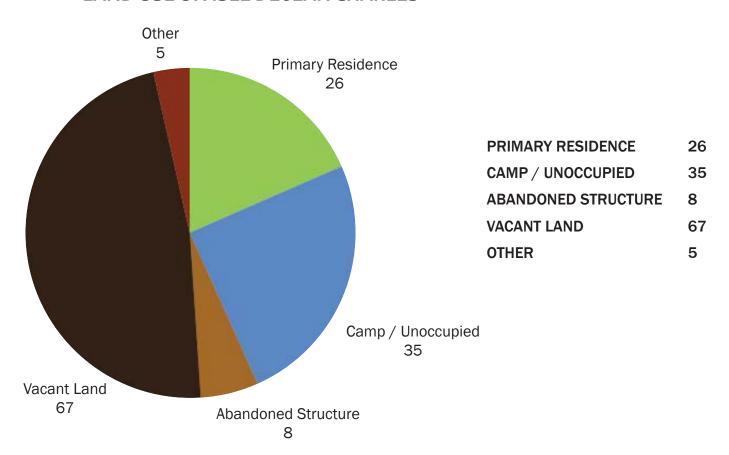
# **OCCUPANCY**

The project team surveyed 141 addresses, or points of interest, on the Island. Of those, 67 are vacant land and eight contain clearly abandoned or unmaintained structures.

We identified 35 housing units as camps, although it is possible that some of these are also unoccupied. Housing units classified as camps/unoccupied do not serve as primary residences. The majority of houses we identified as camps were empty on all days that the project team was on the Island; the project team verified the status of these houses with neighbors and other residents on the Island. If a house appeared to be in serviceable condition and there were no overt signs of abandonment, we classified it as a camp.

We identified 26 housing units as active, primary residences. "Other" addresses include the marina, the fire station, the levee pump station, a parcel with an orange floatation pod on it, and the home of an Island resident who recently passed away.

# LAND USE ON ISLE DE JEAN CHARLES



# STRUCTURE TYPE

The vast majority of structures on the Island are non-movable. We found only one occasion where households were actively inhabiting movable trailers (there were two trailers on the single property). There is also one active camp in a movable trailer. There is one other trailer on the side of the road, but it appears to be abandoned.

The information above is documented by each address within the web application.

## **DISTRIBUTION ON ISLAND**

All Island addresses are along the single road that stretches 1.6 miles from 300 Island Road to 600 Island Rd. Land use on the Island is not uniformly arranged among Island addresses. There are clusters of residences interspersed with clusters of vacant land. However, there are some general land use patterns. Almost all of the camps are on the southern third of the Island while most residents are on northern half. The west side of the road has more vacant land than the east side.

The map to the right shows the general land use patterns on the Island. The boundaries shown are not exact property lines; this is for general diagrammatic purposes only.

The information above is documented by each address within the web application.



# **ELECTRICITY ON THE ISLAND**

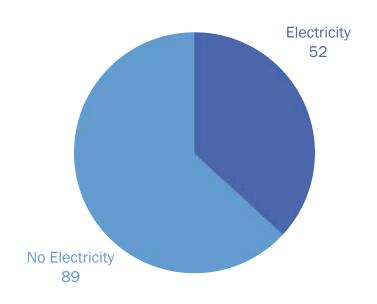
Of the 141 points of interest on the Island, the project team identified 52 with electricity and 89 without.

Of the 52 with electricity, 20 are residences, 24 are camps, four are abandoned structures, and four are other property types.

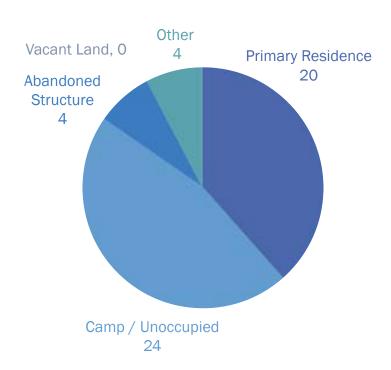
Of the 89 points of interest without electricity, six are residences, 11 are camps, four are abandoned structures, 67 are vacant land, and one is an 'other' property type.

The information above is documented by each address within the web application.

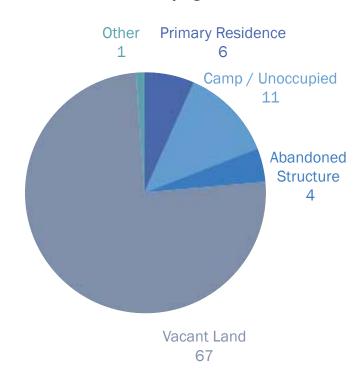
# TOTAL POINTS OF INTEREST 141 TOTAL



# POINTS OF INTEREST WITH ELECTRICITY, 52 TOTAL



# POINTS OF INTEREST WITH NO ELECTRICITY, 89 TOTAL



# RESIDENT DESIRE TO RESETTLE

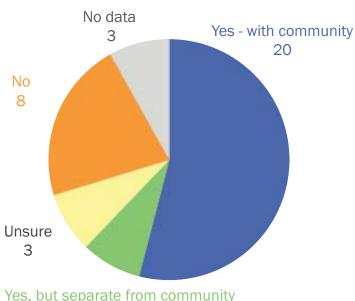
# **SURVEY SAMPLE**

The project team identified 26 housing units that are occupied as primary residences. On the Island, many housing units house multiple households, often several generations of a family or multiple nuclear families. In this report, a household is defined as a family unit that would live in a separate house in the new settlement if they were to move. Based on our interviews with residents over the course of this phase of work, we count 37 households and 99 individual residents sharing these 26 units.

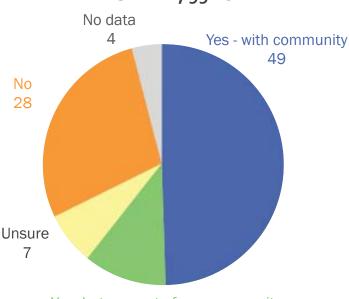
Households and residents are organized into four categories with regard to desire to resettle: 'Yes - with community', 'Yes but separate from community (South Terrebonne Parish)', 'Unsure', and 'No.' In two cases, households within the same unit had different opinions about resettlement - shown in this chart as "Mixed." We were not able to speak with all households; these are classified as "No Data". Because this project will be primarily concerned with households moving forward, the text and graphics within this section emphasize households rather than housing units.

Desire to relocate	# Housing Units	# Households	# Residents
Yes - with community	13	20	49
Yes, but separate from community	1	3	11
Unsure	3	3	7
No	6	8	28
Mixed	2		
No data	1	3	4
Total	26	37	99

# **DESIRE TO RESETTLE** BY HOUSEHOLD, 37 TOTAL



# **DESIRE TO RESETTLE** BY RESIDENT, 99 TOTAL



Yes, but separate from community

11

# **DESCRIPTION OF RESETTLEMENT PREFERENCES**

Yes – With Community: Of the 26 housing units, 13 desire to resettle with the community. These 13 homes include 20 households and 49 residents (50 percent of Island population). Generally, those in favor of resettling are the most well-informed about the project. All of these residences were represented at the community meetings. Residents we interviewed in this group want to resettle as a community for similar reasons: safety, more space (or multiple houses for extended families), easier access to town, work and school, preservation of relationships with neighbors and, in some cases, the opportunity to reunite with former neighbors and extended family who moved off the Island years ago.

Many residents in this category also attended Community Meeting 2. At the meeting, residents indicated their preferred site location after taking into account expected future flood risk throughout the Parish. The majority of residents selected the area around Schriever, the northernmost area of Terrebonne Parish.

Yes, but separate from community (south Terrebonne Parish): Residents from 3 households, including 11 people (11 percent of Island population), said they want to resettle but will only go as far as a few places in southern Terrebonne Parish. One resident in this group attended Community Meeting 2 and, after seeing that most of her neighbors suggested Schriever, told the project team that she would rather move separately from the community to the south of the Parish, where she has family. Likewise, residents that we visited after the meeting said something similar. They would move to Bourg, Houma, or Chauvin, but not Schriever. They said they would rather move separately from the community if the settlement would be any further north than Houma.

**Unsure:** Residents from 3 housing units, including 3 households and 7 residents (7 percent of Island population) are still unsure whether they will resettle or not. One household is unsure whether they will leave the Island, but if they do, would most likely move separately from the rest of the community. At another 'unsure' household, the head of house has been struggling with medical issues; we spoke to his son, whose most important factor in moving is taking care of his father. He didn't know what his father would want to do. In the third household, the residents are not capable of confirming what they will do. Further engagement with their children who visit them, or other caretakers will be necessary.

**No:** Eight households, including 28 residents (28 percent of Island population), do not want to resettle. Some of these homes are geographically clustered on the Island and include residents who are close relatives or friends to others in the "No" category. Some of these expressed a lack of connection to the community outside their small cluster of homes. Two do not believe the Island is in significant danger of eroding, although that is not their main reason for wanting to stay. Another said they would move in with family if a storm were to come. One resident said he wants to die on the Island.

**No Data:** The project team was unable to interview residents from one housing unit during the interview process. Prior to the first community meeting, however, we did speak to them briefly. They said that they have a second residence further inland, but their Island residence is their primary residence. They didn't think the resettlement project was for them and didn't indicate whether they would go if they had the option. Another house is shared by three adult siblings who were not present during our visits. One sibling, with his partner and children, is out of state at the moment for work, but he told the New York Times in an interview that yes, they would resettle. We have not made any contact with the other two siblings; we classified each as a household and placed them in the 'No data' category. We gathered what information we could about this housing unit from their fourth sibling who lives in another house on the Island.

## COMMENTS ON SITE CHARACTERISTICS

Site Characteristics were a central topic of Community Meeting 1 and resident interviews. At the meeting, many residents broadly agreed with the basic concept of previous visioning efforts: a secluded community with plenty of natural resources and open space. Residents requested that the plan include plenty of open space, many trees and areas for gardens. It should be secure and safe, while having better access to healthcare, stores, gas stations and church. The residents desire spaces for gathering; many said they wanted this gathering space under elevated homes. Homes should be affordable, durable and low maintenance. When asked what the most important environmental elements of the plan were, they said community, sustainability, security and water. Some desire water on-site or close by for fishing, while others would rather be far from water if it means higher risk. Access to work and the economy is important; residents would like better transportation access to job opportunities. Many would like to capitalize on on-site resources by growing or catching food to sell.

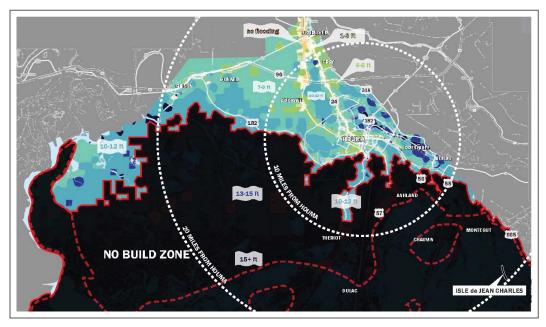
During the interview process, which included only current Island residents, residents unanimously wanted the site to emulate the land use pattern on Isle de Jean Charles in terms of house spacing and yard size. Many residents mentioned having grass to cut or space for planting gardens. When house typology came up, residents generally liked the idea of elevated homes for the view, the sense of safety and the opportunity to use

the space underneath for group gatherings. However, many residents would need elevators or ramps to access an elevated house. Residents cherish their seclusion from the outside world. They also enjoy the familiarity of those on the Island. Residents in favor of resettlement generally did not prioritize access to water as a site characteristic, although several residents unsure about moving cited their existing access to water as a reason they want to stay.

See Appendix A and the Resident Interviews section for more details related to site characteristics.

# SITE LOCATION PREFERENCES

During the interview process prior to Meeting 2, many residents said they wanted to be a little closer to town, but still in a secluded, spacious area similar to the Island. Many residents mentioned Houma, Bourg, Pointeaux-Chenes and Bayou Blue Road as ideal locations for the resettlement. Some residents, especially those who are unsure whether they want to resettle with the community, do not want to move far from where they are now. Families with children and residents who work are connected to schools and jobs in the area and are more sensitive to the location decision. For those who work, most seem to work in Houma - a 40 minute drive. Many residents also have family in Houma.



A cropped view of the Community Meeting 2 site preferences activity. See Appendix B for full sheet.

However, general preference for a southern location was not more powerful than the desire to settle in a safe and sustainable location. At Meeting 2, the project team provided a map of the Parish with projected future flood depths and asked residents to consider this risk before suggesting possible site locations by placing dots on the map. Some areas of the map were blacked out because they are in zones too unsafe to build, or because the funds for the project are not legally allowed to be expended there. The majority of residents placed their dots in the northernmost area around Schriever, which was the safest area available on the map. Some dissented and placed their vote further south, in areas like Bourg.

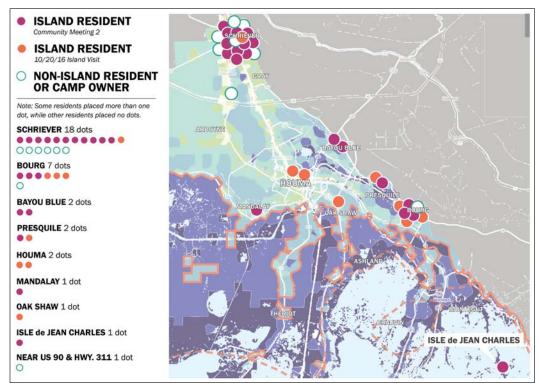
The graphic below shows the results of the site preferences activity. Meeting attendees placed dots on the map to indicate their site preferences.

There were 14 housing units not represented at the community meeting. Subsequent to the meeting, the project team visited these residents to get their perspective on site preferences. The team showed them the site selection preferences that their neighbors indicated at the meeting and asked them to contribute their thoughts.

Preferences of Island residents at the meeting are shown in purple. The resident responses from the subsequent visit to the island are shown in orange. The site preferences for meeting attendees who are not current Island residents are shown in white.

Residents from several of the 14 housing units do not want to resettle, so they did not participate. Residents who did participate often gave multiple options, most commonly in southern Terrebonne Parish. This visit was when some residents said they would rather move separately from the community and stay close to family or other connections in the southern area of the Parish. At least three households say they would rather resettle separately from the community if the community site is further north, and one additional household that is unsure about resettling says they would resettle separately if they do decide to move.

Overall, 18 resident dots were placed on the Schriever area and seven on Bourg, followed by other locations in the southern area of the Parish. This indicates that the majority of residents desire to live in the safest area possible. Those residents with strong ties to relatives off the island and relatively weak ties to other Island residents would prefer to resettle separately from the community in a southern location.



A summary map of sites suggested by community members at the second community meeting. Additional site suggestions were recorded on Concordia's final visit to Isle de Jean Charles on 10/20/16.

# RESIDENT INTERVIEWS SUMMARY

This section is based on information gathered through resident interviews between Aug. 16-24 on the Island. Not all residents responded to all questions. Where data is shown, the denominator is always 26 housing units unless otherwise noted. When we were not able to ask a question, or if residents did not answer it, that non-response is shown as "no data." All responses are summarized and organized into general response categories. All personally identifiable information about the residents has been removed. Raw data and documentation are in the appendix.

# **KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM INTERVIEWS**

- Residents want the new settlement to maintain the qualities of peace, quiet, seclusion, and safety that they associate with Isle de Jean Charles.
- Residents would like to be closer to work, school, and a grocery store, while still outside of town.
- Many residents want to use their current homes on Isle de Jean Charles as camps after the relocation.
- Most residents are **aware of the increasing risk** of flooding on the Island, but a small minority are not.
- Many residents would like **elevated homes**, for safety and other reasons.
- Most residents did not directly participate in or provide significant input toward the visioning efforts conducted prior to the awarding of the HUD grant.
- The majority of residents have positive impressions of their current quality of life on the Island; several residents are nostalgic for a time when there was more community interaction on the Island.
- For those unsure whether they will resettle with the community, staying close to their jobs, schools, and families in south Terrebonne Parish is a top priority.

## RESIDENTS' HISTORICAL CONNECTIONS TO THE ISLAND

## Q: How long have you lived on the Island?

Almost every resident we spoke with has either lived on the Island their whole life or has returned to the Island after living and working elsewhere for some period of time. There are two exceptions. One exception is a man who bought a house seven years ago on land that he leases.

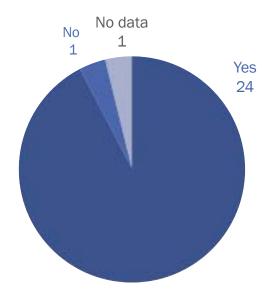
He had visited the Island regularly for nearly 40 years before purchasing the home. Residents from one other home, who we did not interview, sometimes live at a camp house owned by the grandmother of one of the residents.

### Q: Historical connection to Island:

Because the vast majority of permanent residents have a multi-generational family connection to the Island, land and property is often owned jointly by siblings, or nieces, nephews and cousins. Many homeowners we spoke to had five or more siblings who shared land, a house, or multiple houses on a single parcel. It was common that

Note: Some residents gave multiple responses, which is why there are more than 26 responses shown. Residents from eight housing units did not answer this question because they were either not present for an interview or only wanted to speak for a short time. This condition is typical for all following graphics with a "no data" category.

# HISTORICAL CONNECTION TO ISLAND (Y/N)



# **LIFE AND COMMUNITY**

# Q: What do you like most about where you live?

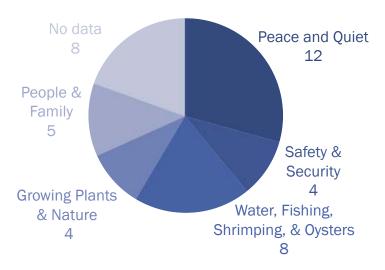
Residents who responded to this question frequently mentioned the Island's peace and quiet. Related to that is the sense of safety and security that comes from being separate from towns and busy streets.

Many on the Island fish regularly and share the surplus from their catch with neighbors. Some who are unsure about moving or who don't want to move mentioned the ability to catch fish, shrimp and oysters in their backyards. For some residents, fishing is both a pastime and a way to subsist. Others said fishing and the water is something they will miss, but could live without. And some were clear that they do not want to live near water anymore – they want to be high, dry and safe. Along with site selection, access and proximity to water could be influential for residents who are on the fence about the resettlement.

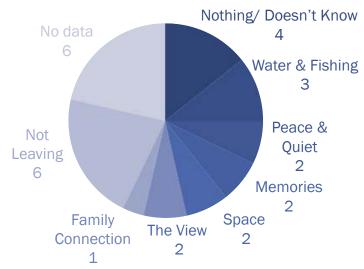
# Q: If you decide to leave the Island, what will you miss the most?

Residents gave mixed responses to this question. Out of 14 respondents, four did not indicate what they would miss - saying they do not know, nothing, or saying that they will enjoy a shorter trip to work. Of the others, peace and quiet, water and fishing, and their memories are what they said they would miss most.

# WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT WHERE YOU LIVE?



# WHAT WILL YOU MISS THE MOST?



## Q: What is important about quality of life for you and your family?

Residents' quality of life on the Island is associated with family wellbeing, peace and quiet, amenities for daily life, and access to work and school. Residents have positive associations with the environment of the Island – the space, privacy and quiet. Flood risk, water encroachment and past floods have diminished the quality of life for residents, in part because of damage to their property, and in part because numerous family members and neighbors have left the Island in response. Residents want a new settlement with similar density characteristics to Isle de Jean Charles, but with the community back together in a dryer, safer place.

## Q: How would you like to celebrate your culture when the Island is no longer accessible by land?

Some residents look forward to rekindling the stronger sense of community at the new settlement that they once enjoyed on Isle de Jean Charles. Of the six residents who talked about celebrating culture, two spoke about enjoying tribal meetings and pow-wows, which have become infrequent. They hope to participate in more events of that nature. Two residents talked about remembrance, honoring ancestors and creating a celebration that commemorates the Island. One resident spoke of Christmas celebrations and gardening. Another said she did not care about celebrating with others.

# Q: How would you describe the best possible new home for you and your family?

Residents generally wanted more space for their families, including a separate home for each family currently sharing space. Residents want homes to be spaced similarly to how they are now - meaning large yards. One resident specifically said townhouses or multifamily units are a bad idea for this community. When asked about height, they said they wanted their new homes elevated for the view, the safety and the useful space underneath. Although many residents raised their homes strictly for flood protection, the raised homes have since taken on cultural significance and other positive associations. If elevated, many residents will need ramps or elevators to access their homes. Cooking for big families is a part of life here; several residents said they would love a big kitchen and a large living room for family gatherings. Many residents also requested a spare bedroom. One resident said the most important thing is reuniting the community, many of whom have moved to Houma and Thibodaux.



"Quality of life" word cloud (larger words were mentioned

"Best possible new home" word cloud (larger words were mentioned most often by residents).

able access bathroom bedrooms bourg chenes community cut elevator everyone family feels fishing flood furthest garden grandkids homes houma house importantly kids kitchen level likes living material moved nice outdoor peace prayer privacy quiet ramp **room** safe school sewing shorter Space together view visit wants washer water whole windows work

#### Q: What services will you need in your new location?

Residents most commonly mentioned being closer to a grocery store, work and school. Some residents also mentioned closer access to a hospital or medical clinic.

#### Q: How would you define your community?

Five residents defined their community as their close family, which included others in their housing unit or family members who live close by. Several residents mentioned immediate family who live further inland, typically in the Houma area. Another five residents said their community consisted of both family and neighbors. Some residents described the sense of familiarity on the Island, saying "everyone knows each other" and "we're all related." Several residents spend time outside under their houses or cutting the grass, where they wave to one another and chat.

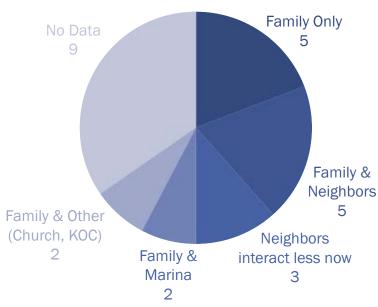
Three additional residents mentioned that the sense of community has diminished over time. They remember a time when there were fewer camps. Some residents maintain a sense of community at the Marina, where they sit on the deck and chat. Two residents identified multiple communities or groups they are a part of, including church and the Knights of Columbus.

In more general terms, residents in 10 houses indicated that they enjoyed positive relationships with neighbors and other residents, and cared about being near them. This group included mostly residents in favor of moving together, but also those unsure about resettling and one who is against resettlement. The enthusiasm in this group ranges from a strong desire to reunite the entire community to a desire only to preserve ties with a few close friends and relatives from the Island. Two older residents spoke fondly of past times with the community, but said that they now keep mostly to themselves. Two other residents expressed mixed feelings, saying they spent most of their time with family, but still interacted regularly with some other residents on the Island. Only four residents we spoke with said that they keep completely to themselves and care little about the Island community as a whole.

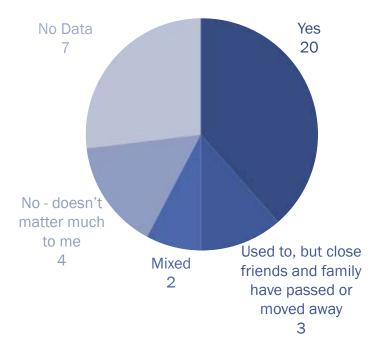
It is important to emphasize that many residents cherish the peace, quiet and privacy the Island affords them. Although residents did not address this directly through the survey, most seem to appreciate how other Island residents respect each other's privacy. "Community" on the Island may be as rooted in a shared sense of privacy as it is in regular interaction.

According to one account, Island residents had become members of the UHN for years before ancestral research corroborated verbal history indicating that their lineage was actually Biloxi, Chitimacha and Choctaw. As a result of this discovery, many of the Island's residents broke off from the UHN and formed the Isle de Jean Charles Band of Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw (BCC). However, some residents maintain UHN membership. At least two residents are unsure about which organization they belong to. During our interviews, residents did not bring up tribal distinctions and more often noted that everyone on the Island is related. Historical data can provide supplemental information about Island ancestry.

# DEFINING COMMUNITY



## **ENJOY COMMUNITY ON THE ISLAND**

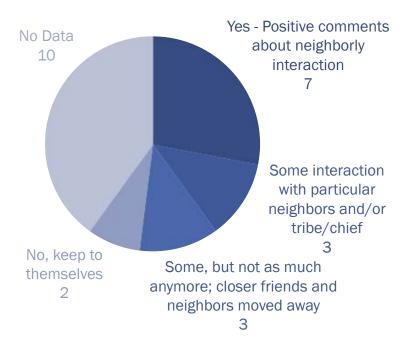


### Q: How do you interact with your neighbors?

Fifteen residents responded to this question. Seven described different positive ways they interact with their neighbors. Three gave mixed responses or indicated that they interact regularly with only a select group of neighbors. Three said their interaction with the community has diminished since their immediate neighbors left the Island. Two residents said they keep to themselves completely. Of the seven residents who indicated positive interactions, most said they talk to each other outside, several described helping one another and two mentioned sharing food with each other. Several residents also mentioned holidays on the Island - one resident described walking up the road and singing on Christmas.

# Q: Do you see this interaction changing in any way in a new home? How would it change?

### INTERACTION WITH NEIGHBORS



Five residents do not anticipate a change in their interaction with the community after resettlement. One of these five said as long as the community remains together, it will not change. Another one of these five advocated for single family homes, saying that condos and increased density would not be good for families and children. The one resident who expected community interaction to change said that it would change for the better, as more people in the community will be together again.

# RISK, FLOODING, AND SERVICES

# Q: Do you understand the risk of continuing to live on the Island long-term in light of current and future flooding/ disaster risks?

Most residents understand the risk of remaining on the Island. All of the residents who are in favor of resettlement are aware that the Island is disappearing. Out of 12 who responded, only one denied that the Island was in danger of disappearing. Another said they were not afraid of storms.

## Q: What services have you lost and what impact has it had on you? How has the flooding road impacted you?

Over the years, residents have lost several services and assets that have contributed to people leaving. In addition to natural gas connections, residents talked about water on the road preventing them from getting to work or school. This is a regular source of stress for some residents. Older residents talked about the store and dance hall that used to be on the Island. That was where monthly church services were held, in addition to dances and other community functions. Flooding has impacted nearly every resident over the years - one resident lost a truck, others lost their homes. Several residents elevated their homes after being flooded multiple times. Some residents occupy damaged or leaky homes and others live in trailers where their homes once stood. Residents who remember the grocery store on the Island described how when they lost the grocery, they also lost their bartering system, which many of them used to trade what they grew, trapped and fished in exchange for other goods and necessities.

# **FUTURE OF COMMUNITY AND ISLAND**

# Q: As resettlement takes place, how do you see your life changing?

Residents in favor of resettling all said they expected the change to be for the better. Some cited being closer to school and work as an improvement. Two mentioned being safe and dry. One resident is looking forward to being surrounded by relatives – some of whom have left the Island.

Residents who do not want to resettle, camp-owners, and the Island's business owner are uncertain about what will happen to them when other residents resettle. Some are worried about losing utilities, garbage collection and road access. Others are frustrated that the Island won't be preserved, or are wary about what this means for their property value and their business. A small minority of residents indicated that their life wouldn't change, saying they don't care about the other Island residents.

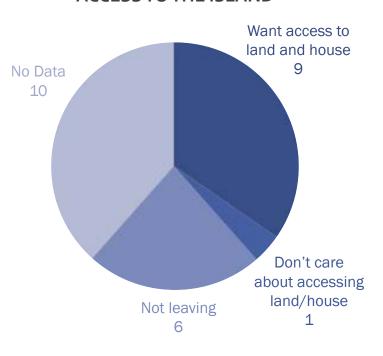
# Q: What resources on the Island would you like to continue to have access to?

Many residents in favor of resettlement want to continue to have access to the Island so they can use their homes as camps. Of the 10 respondents who want to relocate, only one said she did not care about maintaining access to her current home. For many, this option affects their willingness to move. They understand that it is likely the Island will disappear or be cut off in their lifetime, but they want to maintain access to it for as long as possible.

# Q: Are there physical things you would want to take with you from the Island? What would they be?

Five residents said there is nothing special they would like to take with them. Five said they want to take their household belongings, essential necessities and pets with them. Some residents said they would like to bring some plants with them as well, or to plant similar plants and trees at the new settlement, including pine trees, oak trees and palmettos.

# **ACCESS TO THE ISLAND**



## Q: What is your vision for the future of the Island?

Residents had questions about what would happen to the Island with regards to land ownership when the resettlement takes place. Some expected that at some point the road will become impassable and the Island will only be accessible by boat. Several gave the impression that they think the Island is one bad storm away from being destroyed. One resident thought a memorial would be nice. One resident, who is not resettling, said he only cares about his own house and the marina.

## **OWNERSHIP**

# Q: Do you currently own or rent your home?

Most residents we spoke with said they own their home. In some cases, residents' homes are owned by other close relatives who also live on the Island. We did not ask this question to five residents who only wanted to speak briefly.

More investigation is necessary to verify land ownership. We have reports that in many cases, land is leased from the Apache Corporation or other entities, while the homes belong to residents.

# No data 5 Said they Own 18 Said Family Member **Owns** 3

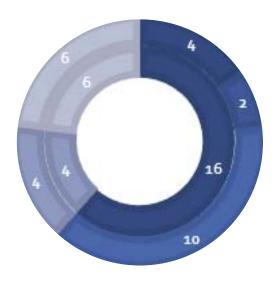
**HOME OWNERSHIP** 

# PARTICIPATION IN PREVIOUS **VISIONING EFFORTS**

# Q: Are you aware of previous visioning efforts for relocating the IDJC community? Were you involved in any of the previous visioning efforts?

Of the 20 residents who responded, 16 had heard about the previous visioning efforts. Of the 16 who heard about it, four said they attended a community meeting. Of these four, two indicated that they were observers and not participants in the work (the other two did not indicate one way or the other). Of the 12 who heard about previous visioning efforts but did not participate, 10 heard about it from other community members and two heard about it from Chief Albert. Those four residents that attended the meetings said they liked what they saw. No one said they disagreed with the previous vision, although some residents said they didn't care about having a community center and were more concerned about what their own land and house would be like and where the site would be.

# PARTICIPATION IN PREVIOUS VISIONING EFFORTS



# **Inner ring:**

Aware of previous visioning

Unaware of previous visioning		
No data		
Outer ring:		
Attended meetings		
Heard about it from Chief Albert		
Heard about it from other neighbors		
Unaware of previous visioning	4	
No data	6	

16

Although no question prompted direct discussion about tribal affiliation, this question did touch on the previous visioning work done with BCC leadership. In our conversations, few residents mentioned tribal affiliation. Six residents mentioned Chief Albert. Island residents indicated that everyone on the Island is related, and one resident described how tribal membership is based on choices residents made with regards to staying with UHN or separating to form the BCC. Two residents said they didn't know which tribe they were supposed to be in. In general, residents did not seem to distinguish between those associated with UHN and those associated with BCC. It is possible that residents did not want to talk about tribal issues with outsiders and it is also likely that references to tribe, family, and community all identify the same group of people, making references to any of them somewhat interchangeable. In our presence, though, residents spoke first and foremost about each other as family and neighbors. Although a few residents expressed frustration with tribal leadership, these frustrations did not seem to extend to their neighbors on the Island.

# Q: Can you describe how you feel about what you've seen up to this point?

Residents generally feel good about what they've seen. Of the eight residents who answered this question directly, six said they are feeling good about the resettlement project. Two expressed skepticism or distrust about the project.



# RESIDENT CONCERNS

During the interview process, residents had many questions about how the project would work moving forward. Questions touched on project logistics, timeline, funding, and many issues related to their own possible benefit and costs associated with the project. Many Island residents are on a fixed income and they expressed concerns about the potential financial burdens that resettlement might incur. These ranged from material things, like having to purchase new appliances, to more complicated issues of property ownership and mortgages. Any additional or unanticipated expense, even a small one, would be a burden on many residents. Questions that the project team could not answer on the Island were forwarded to OCD-DRU to address. Resident questions and OCD-DRU's responses are shown below. These answers were shared with residents during Community Meeting 2 and during the Oct. 20 visit to households who did not attend the meeting.

## **OWNERSHIP**

# Q1. How will house assignments be determined in the new community?

A1. As with all aspects of design and planning in the new community, YOU - the Islanders - will play an essential role in determining how the new community looks, feels and functions in a manner consistent with your values. Therefore, as the community is designed, the State and its partners will rely on you to tell us what makes the most sense in determining housing assignments.

# Q2. Will the State limit new-unit eligibility to one per residence? What about residences on the Island who currently house multiple households under one roof?

A2. Each household, or family unit, will be placed in one newly-developed housing unit in the new community. For those residences currently housing more than one household under one roof, each household will be eligible to be placed in a new housing unit.

Questions 3-6 are answered as a group

Q3. Will current homeowners own their own individual parcels in the new community?

Q4. If a new household moves to the community at a later date, will they own their own parcel, too, or will there be some other arrangement?

Q5. Will households in the new community be able to sell their properties in the new community?

# Q6. Will households in the new community be expected to take on a mortgage?

A3-6. Determining an appropriate ownership structure for the new community will be an essential component of the second phase of the resettlement project, master planning. The State and its consultant partners will develop a set of viable ownership structures, from which you, the Islanders, will determine the best models and structures for your future community.

# Q7. What about property owned/inherited by multiple siblings? How will ownership be determined in the new community?

A7. Through the resettlement project, the State will prioritize placement of two groups of households into new housing units within the new community: (1) current Island residents: (2) residents displaced from the Island after Hurricane Isaac (8/29/12).

## PROPERTY TAXES

**Q8.** Homestead Exemptions – Will they have to pay higher taxes on their IDJC property once they move their homestead exemption to the new community, or will there be some special exemption because the land is being resettled?

A8. This will depend on the ownership model ultimately selected by you for the new community. It is possible households who move to the new community - while also retaining ownership of an Island parcel - will incur an increased tax liability.

# Q9. Is there any way to subsidize or assist with property taxes that will likely increase after the move?

A9. Such a subsidy is not anticipated at this time, but it is a topic that can be discussed further once potential ownership models are developed and presented during the upcoming master planning phase.

## **ADDITIONAL EXPENSES**

# Q10. Will residents be responsible for moving (or paying to move) their belongings to the new place?

A10. Relocation expenses are an eligible use for these funds, should you indicate this is a priority.

# **Q11.** Will homes come furnished with appliances? A11. Yes.

# Q12. ADA requirements - will those who require ramps or elevators or ADA bathrooms have to forgo other household amenities (as though there is a budget per house)?

A12. No. There is no fixed per-unit budget. All aspects of the new development will be ADA-compliant.

## OTHER CONCERNS

# Q13. Will there be transitional/temporary housing for families with more immediate needs to move?

A13. At this time, transitional/temporary rental housing assistance is not contemplated as part of the resettlement's activities, but if there is a clear need for such activities now or in the course of the project's development, this can be a possibility. As of now, the State has not been approached by any specific Island resident with such a request.

# Q14. Can the next meeting be held on the Island to ensure everyone on the Island can easily attend?

A14. If possible, the State would like to hold all future public meetings on the Island.

# Q15. What is the window for residents to decide whether they want to move or not?

A15. The State will not impose a specific deadline for Island residents to make this very difficult decision. However, during the second phase of the project, master planning, the State will have to determine how many housing units it intends to develop in the new community. If residents decide not to move into the new community during this portion of the new community's development, keeping in mind further development may occur with other resources after the State expends its \$48.3M award, the State cannot guarantee any units developed at a later date will be subsidized.

# Q16. Will there be assistance available for current Island residents who wish to leave the Island, but who do not want to be a part of the new community?

A16. Yes. The State has made it a priority of the project to ensure all Island residents have the option to move to higher ground, regardless of whether they want to be a part of the new community.

# **NON-RESIDENT CONCERNS**

We spoke with five non-residents who have camps on the Island and an Island business owner who does not live on the Island. These stakeholders have different concerns than many residents. They wanted to know what the resettlement would mean for their property, utilities, trash collection and future access via Island Road. No one that we spoke to expressed interest in benefitting directly from the resettlement, but some were concerned that the resettlement might negatively impact their ability to enjoy their camp and decrease property value if the Island ceases to be serviced or maintained.

Likewise, the business owner we spoke with wants to know what the resettlement will mean for him and his business. He and family members own land that they lease to campers. Although he no longer lives on the Island, he and his family also go back generations on the Island, and he is related to other Island residents. If and when other residents leave the Island, he will likely experience a decline in sales at his store. If the

resettlement results in decreased maintenance to the road and utilities, he may lose income from campers and others who use his boat launch. He wants to know how, if at all, he will be compensated for economic losses due to the resettlement of Island residents.

## ADDITIONAL TEAM OBSERVATIONS

During the data gathering and engagement process, the project team identified possible challenges to be solved moving forward.

Some island residents may need case managers to assist with the transition. Although we do not have a complete data set on the ages of residents, many residents are older and some rely on assistance from family and/or public support services. Households have unique characteristics and conditions that will be sensitive to different aspects of the resettlement plan, be it site selection, home design, employment opportunities, health care, or planning for a successful transition.

The primary beneficiaries of this project are island residents. For some residents, a goal of this project is to reunite current residents with those friends and family members who have left the island over the last half century and to rekindle some cultural traditions that they enjoyed more often in previous decades. A continued effort should be made to accommodate the needs of island residents and the goal of maintaining and fostering community growth and reunification. Specific efforts to strengthen community could be explored, developed and implemented by those who desire to rebuild a thriving and sustainable community.





Photos of Isle de Jean Charles.



# **APPENDIX A**

**COMMUNITY MEETING 1 SUMMARY** 

# Isle de Jean Charles Resettlement Engagement



- Community Meeting 1 -

August 6th, 2016



## BACKGROUND

In early 2016, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded Louisiana's Office of Community Development (OCD) \$92.6 million as part of the National Disaster Resilience Competition. \$48.3 million of this grant is for resettlement of Isle de Jean Charles to a resilient and historically-contextual new community.

# WHAT HAPPENED AT MEETING 1?

On August 6th 2016, OCD, with help from Concordia, LLC, Pan American Engineers (PAE), and Chicago Bridge & Iron Company (CB&I), hosted a community meeting at the Montegut Recreation Center. The purpose of this meeting was to meet and engage with current and historical Island residents to understand their wants, needs, and perspectives.

The meeting was attended by chiefs and members of the Isle de Jean Charles Band of Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw (BCC), the United Houma Nation (UHN), and current Island residents not associated with either tribe. In all, 46 participants attended and contributed. Of those, 30 currently live on the island; many others are former residents, and a few are business owners or other interested parties.

Pat Forbes, Executive Director of the state's Office of Community Development, spoke at the meeting, giving an overview of the project and its status. Currently, the project is in its first phase,

Community Outreach and an Assessment of Needs. Master Planning and Development/Construction phases will follow.

Participants sat at 9 tables, each hosted by a table host and a scribe who recorded their conversations and responses to two activities. Participants described their lifestyles and needs, and they expanded on previous visioning work, making recommendations for the new community.

This document presents their responses in a summarized form followed by complete verbatim responses recorded on table sheets and individual meeting evaluations.







Photos from the Meeting



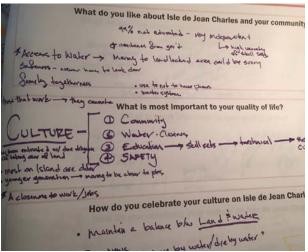
# **ACTIVITY 1: Small Group Conversations**

The first activity was a general discussion about life on the island and general reactions to the prospect of resettlement. Each table had a large sheet with five question prompts. At each table there was a "table host," who helped to facilitate the conversation, and a "scribe," who recorded what people said on the table sheets.

Many table groups gave similar feedback. Residents highly value their sense of community, the ability to live off the land and water, particularly crabbing, fishing, and shrimping, and relative seclusion and sense of safety from the outside world. Most residents understand that water is coming and are looking forward to relocating to safety and rekindling a stronger sense of community that has been gradually eroded as residents have left the island.

The next page shows common themes that came up from each of the 5 prompts. Full responses are in the appendix.





# IdJC RESIDENT LIFE & NEEDS What do you like about Isle de Jean Charles and your community?

What is most important to your quality of life?

How do you celebrate your culture on Isle de Jean Charles?

If and when you decide to leave the island, what will you miss the most?

What do you see for the future of the island?

Activity 1 table sheet

# What do you like about Isle de Jean Charles and your community?

- Close family and community
- Crabbing, fishing, shrimping
- The peace and quiet
- The land and landscape
- Safety and seclusion
- Walkability

# Several residents described how life was before island land loss. Some things that have been lost:

- Hunting, trapping
- · Dances & cultural activities
- Stronger sense of community

## What is most important to your quality of life?

## Top listed priorities:

- Sense of community
- Culture
- Family
- Jobs & Work
- Safety
- Seafood: shrimp, crab, fishing

#### Other common themes:

- Gardening
- Education
- Easy access to amenities, services, jobs

# How do you celebrate your culture on Isle de Jean Charles?

# In order of how commonly mentioned:

- Family/community get-togethers & gatherings
- Pow-wows
- Holiday events Christmas & Mardi Gras
- Tribal meetings
- · Living with water
- · Afternoon coffee
- Gardening, basket-weaving

# If and when you decide to leave the island, what will you miss the most?

- Historical significance and connection to the island
- · Friends, family, neighbors
- · Homes and boats
- Walking up road to cast fishing with family
- Peacefulness and seclusion
- Accessibility to water
- Memories
- \*one group's response says they're not leaving

## What do you see for the future of the island?

# Some residents see the island inevitably going away:

- · Water. All water.
- Services leaving 1 by 1
- Really no future preserve culture and community in a new place
- "It'll be sunk, it'll be gone"

# 3 of the 9 tables gave feedback that resists the notion that the island is going away:

- Elevate homes, build levee to stop erosion future same as past
- We still have time -"Getting pushed out is hard"
- · Feeling "pushed out" Island is home

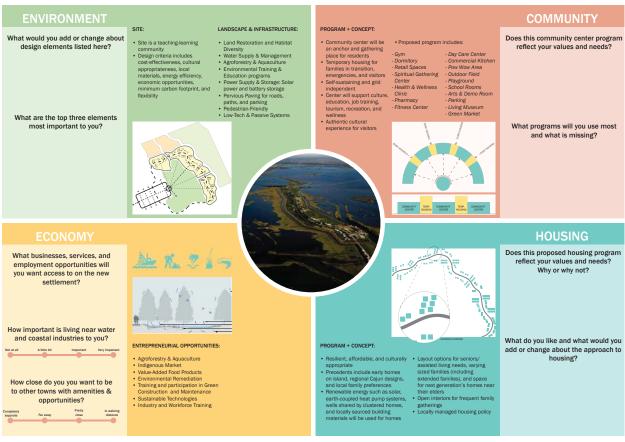


## **ACTIVITY 2: Resettlement Vision**

Prior to the state's resilience activities, the BCC worked with the Lowlander Center to craft a vision for a future resettled community. This vision formed the basis for Activity 2 at the August 6th meeting. Aspects of the vision were organized into four categories: Environment, Community, Economy, and Housing. Residents reviewed bulleted lists of programs, services, and design concepts related to each of these four aspects, and then they responded to questions about them. For this activity, the project team wanted to find out if the resettlement vision is shared by the whole community and how it can be improved. Understanding the desires in each of these areas will inform site selection and design moving forward.

The next page provides a summary of participant feedback in each of these four areas. Full comments are in the appendix.

# **BUILDING ON PREVIOUS VISIONING WORK**



Activity 2 table sheet

Participants generally agreed with the vision on the sheet. In each of the categories they elaborated on particular points. This page summarizes the most common feedback across all table sheets. Words used most frequently are in bold.

#### ENVIRONMENT

- All groups want plenty of water on site for fishing, crabbing, and aquaculture. One group thought that a bayou should run behind the houses but not in front or in between them.
   Another advocated water recycling. One group wanted water to be able to access the coast.
- Groups emphasized security, advocating for dense tree planting around the residential area to seclude the community.
- Groups envisioned using land for food growing like they used to on the island, including, farming, gardening, hunting, trapping, and growing fruit orchards.
- Grounds should be walkable.
- Everything should be **durable** and low maintenance.
- When asked what the most important elements of the plan were, participants most commonly said: community, sustainability, security, and water.

## COMMUNITY

Table groups said they want:

- Access to health and wellness spaces/ services, including traditional medicine.
- **Community** gathering **spaces** for meals, **grills**, and large events.
- Education access to nearby schools and on-site including a library.
- Spaces and programs for continuing culture, traditions, and arts.
- Playground and sports fields for kids and active living.
- Spaces and activities for the elderly.
- Nearby access to stores, gas, and church.
- Smaller community use rooms available for low or no cost.

#### **FCONOMY**

- Many residents want to be self-sufficient as possible, catching seafood and growing food on site, and selling it at a farmers market.
- Job training opportunities should include technical training to maintain things on site.
- It is important to residents to be near water, although they clarified that they don't want to be near the sea or sea level, but a safe water body big enough to **fish** in.
- Residents want to be pretty close to another town for jobs and work. They would like access to public transportation.

#### HOUSING

- Residents overwhelmingly want detached single **family homes** not clustered too closely together. One group suggested that the younger generation may want townhouse duplexes.
- Many want elevated homes, with space underneath for gathering.
- Homes should be handicap accessible, including ADA **ramps** or **elevators**.
- Residents want to live next door to immediate family members - parents, grandparents.
- Homes should be durable and affordable.
- Some residents asked for extra space for family to come during a storm, either in their home or at the community center.
- Some mentioned the need for backup power generation on site.

## **MEETING EVALUATIONS**

After the activities, participants filled out meeting evaluations. Below are the most common themes from those evaluations. Full verbatim responses are in the appendix.

- Most participants gave positive feedback and expressed agreement and excitement for the plan. Some expressed distrust towards the State or frustration at the pace of resettlement.
- Some residents of the Island expressed frustration that former Island residents who have left were at the meeting. Conversely, some tribal members expressed anger that non-members, other tribes, and/or newcomers to the Island were included.

 Many expressed excitement and hope that the process will get moving, and look forward to a new, safe home for their community.

Common questions include the following:

- How long will it take?
- What happens to the island when people move?
- What is the ownership plan for residents who move - for their new house and old?
- Who qualifies for resettlement? Current residents, former residents, other tribe members?

#### **NEXT STEPS**

After this meeting summary is shared with participants and other community members, the project team will conduct one-on-one interviews with Island residents. At the end of the meeting, many signed up for these interviews in their homes on the week of August 16th. These in depth interviews will help the project team better understand the needs of each Island resident.

After those interviews are conducted, the site selection process will begin. The project team will identify areas consistent with the feedback from this meeting, with regard to safety, closeness to other towns, and environmental elements conducive to the desired program. Site options will be brought back to the community at a future meeting for final selection and approval.

From there, master planning and the design process will begin. That process will involve continued engagement with the community.

If you have any questions about this process, you may contact Mathew Sanders, the state's resettlement project lead:

Mathew Sanders, AICP Policy Advisor, OCD-DRU 504.556.9787 Mathew.Sanders@LA.GOV

#### APPENDIX: COMPLETE MEETING FEEDBACK

The following pages include all feedback and discussion topics recorded on the table sheets. Each paragraph includes all the comments from a single table. Although meeting feedback is organized by activities and specific questions that were on the table sheet, resident comments and discussion covered many other topics.

## **ACTIVITY 1 - DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

# 1. What do you like about Isle de Jean Charles and your community?

99% not educated - very independent --> high variety of skill sets. O assistance from government. Access to water --> moving to landlocked area could be scary. Safeness - never have to lock door. Family togetherness. Use to not to have phones. Barter system

Closeness to people. Quietness\*\* (but can be loud). Fishing in back yard & crabs. Shooting wherever. Water. Closeness. Deep water access. Feeling of HOME. Spending time there in city and going home. Friendliness of neighbors. Community safety. Looking out for each other (neighbors). Beauty/landscape. Not a thoroughfare. "up the bayou/ down the bayou" Peacefulness. Relaxed feeling.

Trapping, crabbing, cows, pigs, chickens, duck, geese, places to hang out in the woods, gardens to plant vegetables (high ground), families living close together within walking distance. A place where you can live off the land. Boucheries. 100 acre crawfish farm -> jobs, food. Trout farm. Buffalo, 9500 acres. Hunting

Nice & quiet. Born/raised/family history. Grocery store that used to be there = meeting place. Trees that used to be there - land. Peaceful

Isolation, peace and quiet. Shrimp/fish fresh outside the door. Water access. Fish, birds (flamingos), shrimp, oysters. Not really dances and community activities like there used to be but there's still a sense of community.

Water -> shrimping; crabbing. Hunting & fishing & crabbing --> convenience (it's right there)--> no drive. The people, freedom, community. Oystering, --> We're used to water going up & down. Water that is alive. Low/no crime. It doesn't have multimillion dollar condos/vacation spots.

No cops. They can never give us what we have there. Don't need car/ walk everywhere. How fishing used to be - enough food. Everyone knows everyone. Paid for land. Bike around safely. Crabbing. Family freedom. Shrimping. Fishing.

Rita would be willing to relocate. Démé has already relocated - stays close. People make the community - working together, helping art, knowing each other (young people not so much). Oak trees were destroyed - part of an enjoyable and historic landscape. More trees, land, landscape that used to be here. Dense canopy, draw bridges. Rita was born and raised on the island - left then came back. Island is totally different now - too much water. Not many people from their generation are left - middle age/retirement age. Démé was raised on the island, but no longer lives there.

Memories of how it used to be. Sense of history. Removed from traffic and visitors - "hustle bustle." People know each other names and stories. People are close, share each others problems. Peaceful and harmonious. Easy to pass by and say hello. Community that's together. Walkable.

### 2. What is most important to your quality of life?

CULTURE: 1) Community, 2) Water, closeness, 3) Education -> skill sets -> technical-> roots can trace to culture, island, 4) Safety. Culture has been entrusted with due diligence of taking care of land. Most on island are older. Younger generation moving to be closer to jobs. \*A closeness to work/jobs. Those that work --> they commute.

Safety. Steady supply of sea food. Oysters, shrimp, crab, fish. "out the back or the front". Never go hungry. Not 1 thing. Generations. Its who we are, close even the way I think family walking distance. Family=community. Space for self-sufficient eating.

Having a garden, having chickens. Watching their children play, not having to worry about it. We want to be close so we can see our kids grow up. Easy transportation during the floods. Speed up the process. Listen to the peoples opinions. Electricians, plumbers, craftsmen in the community who are part of the community.

Sense of community - place to meet/gather. Being able to go crabbing/ fishing, throwing cast nets, shrimping. Very important. (don't hunt much) because of regulations. Levee changed system so touchy subject. Safety/no strangers. Preserve culture. Place where people can come. Replant similar plants.

Family - being in close proximity. Access to services/goods. When you can get to work - when water isn't on the road. Being able to walk to family. Utilities (loss of natural gas)

Access to fresh seafood. There is no way to replace it. The levees were negative. Community-> the launch is the community center. Drinks/food. The island is better than paradise.

Convenience of hunting & fishing. Basketball court + playground. Knowing everyone. Neighborliness. Being by myself - not next to people - Space. Safety, quiet. Peace.

Flooding road. Kids couldn't go to school, no garbage pickup, no work for 3 days. Road caused dependency on going out of town, which created a fragile connection to sustaining life/activity. Have to be able to get to their job. - Démé moved because he couldn't reach his job. Everything you need should be close by/ self - sustaining. People like to pay bills in person, grocery shop, run events close to home. Easy access. Got around/travelled by pirogue or boat. Swimming in the bayou as young people. Everybody is family. Staying in our spot -> not traveling long distances.

Don't need a whole lot of \$ to live there. General education. A chance to share culture with visitors. Not being disturbed by outside. Livelihood, ability to earn a living. Gardening & agriculture. Live off the land, catching seafood.

## 3. How do you celebrate culture on Isle de Jean Charles?

Maintain a balance between land and water. Pow-wows "live by water/die by water" Very happy with funding. Indian center—> festival. Lost a lease where they did pow-wows.

Gumbo, shrimp, crab, crawfish boil, Sunday dinners. Get togethers at parents houses. Every day - younger generations. Christmas parade. Coffee, after church gatherings. Family reunions. Tribal meetings since mid-90s. Cast net. Crafts - pass on crafts to younger ones.

It's hard to now because people have left. We want to reunite our community. So we can celebrate holidays together. Singing on Christmas, walking down the road on Mardi Gras.

All meet together to celebrate. Stick to themselves more without meeting place.

Family remouils (sp?), x-mas parade. Conserve/memorialize, acknowledge, cemeteries.

The launch. Intercamp rodeo. Get away for the guys. Outside -> celebrate every day. Hunting, fishing, shrimping, oysters.

Get together daily. Family love & get togethers. Honor resilience.

Gatherings, get togethers, community Gardening (doing your part). Basket weaving. Pow-wows, yearly events. Meetings on holidays to walk up and down the road. Go visit everyone on holidays. (would like a) A cultural center to bring visitors to.

## 4. If and when do you decide to leave the island, what will you miss the most?

Everything. Historical significance of island. Can trace many roots back to island (cultural center).

Closeness, island itself. Water, quiet. Island itself. Whole road. "My whole life" Safety, neighbors, being close to everybody, "perfect spot", the road attaches to the modern world but still secluded. "so reachable" "self-sufficiency". Self-sufficient w/ food gardens, chickens.

Friends, family, relatives. My house, my boat.

The island itself. Fishing, not going to just leave the island. For moving to a dry place and closer to some children.

Desire for levee barrier. Preserve cemetery (memorial). (in reference to drawing): for access to remain via boat.

Not leaving. Everyone temporarily leaves down here, but we don't leave. Build up instead.

Walking up road to cast. Fishing with family. Missing people that left. You can't replace the island. Owning land.

Peaceful. Community likes to stay to themselves - some new neighbors are not part of community - makes it feel less safe. Peaceful, family + close relatives, neighbors. Security is important - new people have caused theft & safety issues because they aren't part of the community.

The memories, the history of the water. Sense of 'is this home?' Fishing. Accessibility to water.

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### 5. What do you see for the future of the island?

Be protected - very important. What community is next? (That is forgotten)

New economy. "looking for a good change..build a future". More life, more population. More saltwater "carry on the legacy." Lack of services. Fear for water supply. State "blackmail" to move, feeling "pushed out", disappointed that it may never be "home." Island is home.

Water. All water. Services leaving 1 by 1. Step by step. Gas gone 3 years ago.

Right now really no future. So many have left. Preserve culture and sense of community. Need a place

Relocate around water. Spend rest of life on island. Elevate homes, build levee to stop coastal erosion. Flood gates. Future same as past. Don't want some politician to buy a piece of land and make a buck—> Island gets decision making authority.

Build houses up. Totally destroyed. We still have time, hasn't been destroyed yet. What are houses going to be built with? There isn't a future if no ones there. Getting pushed out is hard.

Everyone knows what's happening - water everywhere. COASTAL EROSION.

It'll be sunk, it'll be gone. You'll have to make it.

#### **ACTIVITY 2 - RESETTLEMENT VISION**

Activity 2 presented the key components of the resettlement vision laid out prior to the grant award. During this activity, residents reviewed aspects of the vision and elaborated. The table sheet was divided into 4 categories: environment, housing, community, and economy. Each of these categories had 2 or 3 questions to answer, but residents also contributed other information, which are recorded below as "general comments."

## What would you add or change about the design elements listed here?

Water recycling. Field for gardening and farming. Démé and Rita think everything they worked on previously is present here.

Solar. Durable. Minimum carbon footprint, pervious pavement.

Oak trees. Use limestone or dirt, gravel-pervious pavement. More land - everyone wants extra land, so we can have more business - cows, pigs, buffalo. Enclose by trees. Not gated, treed.

Gated community. Likes design. Only water in back of houses, not in between or in front. Road in between where water line is now. Water on each side but not in between.

Maintaining roads for travel in and out. (Circled) cost effectiveness .-- > low cost. Water supply and management. Solar--> not of interest/skeptical. Paths, pedestrian friendly. Weather concerns - tech that is durable.

Lots of trees. Fruit orchards. Make your own garden like you used to do. Security planning Fishing/ crabbing suitable. Soy viable. Aquaculture. Walkways to cross side to side. Gathering center. Coastal access, eater elements.

## What are the top three elements most important to you?

1 Sustainability. 2 Self-sufficiency. 3 Gardening/ farming. 4 Health/hospital/wellness center. Sustainability resources - less travel, on site.

Single dwellings. Drainage.

Most important thing is bringing people back together. A loving community. Very important that we are secluded.

Water. Community center and all encompasses separate housing.

Build resiliency. Safe way to have this discussion how do you mourn, grieve, cant push them in the process. Community engagement is vital. State will see very many angry people. Need therapy. Social workers.

No one can try to break in. A pond or water for fishing. Safety. Security, surveillance concerns. Security systems for each home.

### Other comments

How will the folks not here get this information? Just want best and safest community for the tribe. Biggest concern is where will this be located?

Cant make a crabber a farmer and vice-versa. Used to be fresh water. Levee and build up land like Galveston. Hurricanes didn't take the island oil pipes did.

No more \$ in road. When we grew up, it was just the island community. Now, people have campers etc. People have been coming.

### **COMMUNITY**

## Does this community center program reflect your values and needs?

Natural and community medicine was important growing up. Cultural access and keeping culture going for younger people. Medical herbs/roots were used to treat.

Wifi. Family is most important. Community= family. Churches. Medical services - urgent care - pharmacy. Library. Sidewalks.

Access to education -> we have not been allowed.

Boat landing, fishing pier, docks all over.

Power generators. A room that the community has access to at little to no cost.

(all programs circled except gym, dormitory, arts and demo room)

Culture. Traditional healing - herbal gardens for medicine. Plants grow wild in swamps. Feels very good and confident in these points.

## What programs will you use most and what is missing?

Access to other towns - for health, culture, hospitals, center for elderly folks. Self-sustainability, very little maintenance cost - doesn't burden people on the island. Community center. Low cost/self.

Sewered community center with kitchen/grills, propane, park, library, shooting range, things for kids, wifi.

Exchange program for students, can be housed in the community. Every day at 3pm is coffee and beignet time. Space for elderly. Shuffleboard.

Grocery, gas. Place for visitors. Store, church (or very near catholic church), gas station. Playgrounds near community center. More individual things (store, gas station, etc). Main concern: Respect for the island people.

Track, walking, tire swing, basketball court, volleyball, pool, skateboarding/ripstick, tables outside, gardens, pond, outdoor field, playground, grilling, gathering spaces/ tables. Music venue. Greenhouse!

That can accommodate 20-40 people. Can bring your own food. Room that's free too. A director or over-seer for the whole property. Tenants only. Retail spaces. A little store. Pow-wow areas, school rooms, arts ad demo room.

Noon meals, meeting areas, exercise inside, indoor. Museum. Rename "temp housing" to "temporary rentals"

### **Other Comments**

Talk to all the people. Go to the people on the island to ask.

Hold next meeting at Fire Station on island.

#### HOUSING

## Does this proposed housing program reflect your values and needs? Why or why not?

Extra space for family to come during a storm on community center or housing. Multi-generations.

Close but not too close, yards, single dwelling, handicapped accessible. Raised houses for gathering underneath.

Generational housing --> pass from one to the next. Do the camp people have more rights than residents. Ask those people in Rio and Russia-> same thing you bin (sp?) here (Olympics).

Yes - like clusters.

Family around you. Family close y if you gotta check up on them.

Concept seems reasonable. Ramps elevators.

## What do you like and what would you add or change about the approach to housing?

Affordable, self-sufficient. Some people will want to live next to their parents/grandparents.

Handicap bathrooms. Connected walkways and good elevation. Ramps to living floor. Single family dwellings. Yards - not townhomes. Affordable. Backup power/ removable. ADA compliant. (elevator and ramp) Our home -pass down to children.

Current residents don't want to move. The people own their homes. Renovation of housing camps, wharf.

Log home community. I don't want outsiders. This is for Isle de Jean Charles BCC.

Felt good about housing.

Anti-rust/rustproof material. Not necessarily next to each other, but nearby. Built to last. T-Barn style. 2 story. Elevated houses - family gatherings under house. Jack -n - Jill bathroom. Two entrances. Log cabins - house bigger than present camper. Master bedroom with bathroom. Big windows - open house. House not in area that will flood.

Separate homes- elevate. Townhouse duplexes - younger generation. Possible modular in law suites. Multi family members staying together.--> no title. Who will own these, who will own the land? Island has some houses that have withstood many hurricanes. Quality of construction.

Family close by, no rentals. Ramps would the house be on the ground or in the air? Families get things from each other that they can't get somewhere else. Ability to choose specific location.

Who will own the house? Consideration of rental units. Apartment - No! (pointing to a drawing of apartments, indicating no multi-unit apartments)

### **ECONOMY**

## What businesses, services, and employment opportunities will you want access to on the new settlement?

Teaching about environment. Training in many fields, A/C, maintenance, how everything works together to upkeep. Coastal industries and water -> may be important to people. Rice, crawfish, catfish.

Farmers market, community garden, library.

Safe location without flood concern.

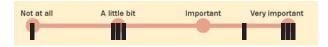
Access to public transportation! Having jobs close - walk to economic opportunities. Green house for growing veggies. Marketplace where residents can work.

Services for elders, green market.

Store, some food to be there like there was before. Transportation. A shuttle bus that allows them to leave homes and go to a Parish bar. Where's the fishing pond?

Boats storage. Shrimp, fish, crab. Farmers market. PHI supermarket. 30 miles, 15 miles.

## How important is living near water and coastal industries to you?



- 1 Not at all. We love it. But it got us to where we are now. As long as we have ponds and water access, its ok.
- 2 A little bit.

- 4 Very important.
- 4 Very important.
- 2 A little bit.
- 3.5 Important/Very important.
- 2 A little bit Access to water features/ not necessarily coast.
- 4 Very important.

Cant make a crabber a farmer and vice versa. If you move people to town, they lose their livelihood. Marina.

## How close do you want to be to other towns with amenities and opportunities?



- 3 Pretty close short drive.
- 2.3. 25-30 minute drive to big store, but small, affordable grocery sore 8-10 miles-ish.
- 3 Pretty close, but separate.
- 3 Pretty close.
- 2 Far away 15 minute commute max (near enough for part-time job).
- 3.3 Pretty close/in walking distance.
- 6 to 10 miles. 1) Pointe au Chenes, 2 Boorg, 3) Houma, 4) Thibodeaux.

#### **Other Comments**

Implementation of this is very important --> could effect the world. Model for world - core values are all the same or similar.

### **MEETING EVALUATIONS**

At the end of the meeting, participants filled out meeting evaluations. Below are the verbatim responses from all evaluations.

## In two sentences, what do you think we accomplished at this meeting?

Listening to ideas.

That one day it will happen.

Learned abut the new houses.

Talking about what would happen to the island Insightful ideas.

Documented the desires and needs of the IDJC community.

I do not know.

Great work - well organized. Moved well - served purpose! Thanks!

The planning is a very good plan. We need to move forward.

The learning together needed for community the sharing views on the needs.

Things that we will remember the most.

I hope we can be listened to and things are done as we would like.

Pretty good to hear the plan because soon we have to leave. Every year the marsh goes at the back of my house, every year it gets worse.

A better future.

Thoroughness of existing plan.

Good way to begin discussion. Good beginning for discussion.

Hopefully they understand that we really want this to happen.

We realize that we need to move because of the road. Because of raising water.

Bringing people together and talk. Many great ideas of a new community.

That we talk to the island people about what they need. Finding out what the people really want.

Pat Forbes does one thing, says another. We do need to get our tribe together.

More distrust.

## What are your concerns about this process?

What happens to the land once people move away? Can we go back to the house? Are we able to move back? Weekend house/camp.

No planning or talk about property that is OWNED.

How long will it take? Will the houses be raised?

Is it really going to happen?

Reviewing and acknowledging the work previously done.

Do all residents qualify?

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I stood up to speak and I was rejected. I am disappointed that I am not counted as a resident even though I have lived their part time for 20 years with a camp. I pay taxes - land leas. I support local fisheries.

That needs of each resident of Island gets what he needs and wants in new site!

To continue with the project.

Will it continue?

The planning.

The actual moving.

What are people from other Parishes doing at our meeting? We are a community, we stick together. Other tribes.

Staying in the process.

Trust (but we are working on it).

Vast majority of folks attending are not Isle de Jean Charles residents. Consider a way to weight their input.

My only concern is the time that it will take to happen.

There is way too much talk and not enough action working.

Is it going to be fast enough? Seeing the vulnerability when we think of hurricanes!

Moving the people out.

Why are there so many people here that do not live on the Isle? We can and don't have to stay in the State of Louisiana.

The State will do what they want. We've been told one thing now want to do something else.

## What are you most excited about?

New community for our future. Cheaper light beer.

Getting away from the water rising.

New house.

Bigger house.

That its not going to get done.

Having a community culture center/ market to go to and purchase goods & food.

As a retired teacher and current owner of a hospitality entity--> Needs for new location: American Indian Cultural Center (Receive tourists + bus groups (payment will provide "generating funds" for Crafts - etc), French classes+ GED classes, Chapel - interdenominational. Fishing pond. Small Gym and playground. Occupational opportunities. Train guides and charter boat captains to take people out on fishing trips.

Getting a new location. Getting away from high waters and erosion.

The process is moving.

Moving to higher grounds.

Being close to a lot of family members. having a safe place to go.

Have my family close to me. They got moved out. I miss my family. Help us.

The open meeting.

Getting moving!

Discussion is beginning.

Moving away from the flooding and a dry place to live.

The completion of project.

The future of the island.

Knowing it's moving on.

That we have other options? We could go to Mississippi.

Hope we could achieve what we originally started.

#### **Additional Comments:**

Durable housing. Exposed to storms but still standing. Douglas fir, red cedar, cypress, concrete, vinyl decking. Don't design houses too close - separated by a yard not a wall. Elevators for the elderly. Community center. Rentals "something to think about" maybe lodging/motel. High ground - can't take me out of water to put me back in water. Raised houses with spaces under for gathering. Close but not too close. Privacy, but still able to walk to neighbors.

Opposed to the idea of bulldozing homes.

Getting people off island to safe place

I would like to be informed of future meetings. Thanks, Audrey George.

Meet people where they are.

The grant was written for the BCC Tribe. Now Pat and Mathew want to include everybody. They read the Grant. Now they're changing. LIED.

Make it about the people. Not tribes. People make up tribes. Not the other way around. Make them strong and our tribes will be strong.

## **APPENDIX B**

**COMMUNITY MEETING 2 SUMMARY** 

# Isle de Jean Charles Resettlement Engagement



# - Community Meeting 2 - October 8th, 2016









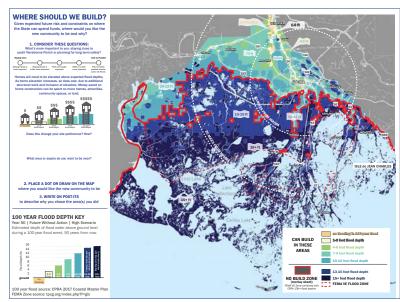
### **WHAT HAPPENED AT MEETING 2?**

On October 8th, OCD, with help from Concordia, PAE, CB&I, and Father Roch Naquin, hosted the 2nd community meeting for the Isle de Jean Charles Resettlement Project, on the island, under Father Roch's house. The purpose of this meeting was threefold: to **report back** to the community the work that has been done since the August meeting, to **answer questions** that residents asked during the team's visits to the island, and to **begin the process of site selection** through a table activity and a nomination process for resident participation on the IDJC Master Planning Group selection committee. Island resident Mildred Naquin accepted her nomination to participate on this committee, which will evaluate and select the

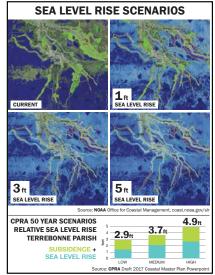
master planning team.

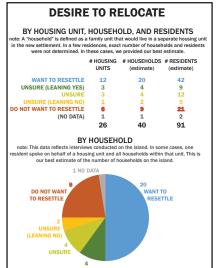
The meeting was attended by 19 island residents from 12 housing units on the island, as well as 20 former residents and other guests.

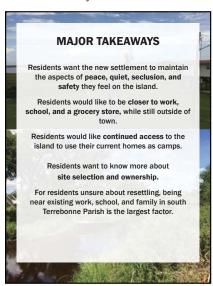
This document presents the results of the table activity and other meeting feedback, in summary and verbatim form. Following a question and answer session and brief discussion, the meeting's participants worked on a table activity where they discussed and mapped potential locations for the new settlement.



Activity sheet at each table







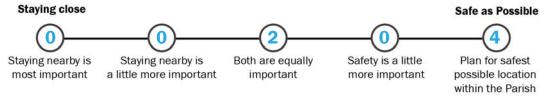
Three of the nine informational boards presented at the meeting

ISLE DE JEAN CHARLES RESETTLEMENT PLANNING

**COMMUNITY MEETING 2 SUMMARY** 

### **PROXIMITY VS SAFETY**

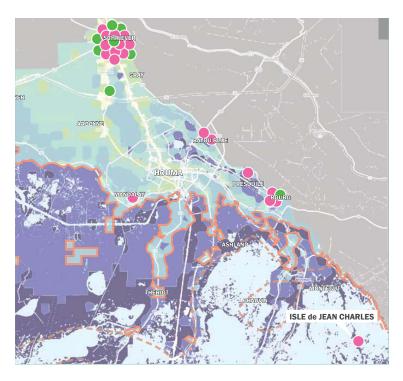
Prior to marking a specific site location on a map, community members were asked what was more important to them, staying in south Terrebonne Parish or planning for the safest possible location within the parish. Participants placed dots on the continuum reproduced below. The numbers tally how many dots were placed at each node. Each dot represents one table group. One table group did not place a dot. Four out of six groups agreed with the statement "plan for safest possible location within the Parish." Two groups said staying close and safety are both equally important.



## **SITE LOCATION RECOMMENDATIONS**

Community members discussed potential sites for the new settlement in table groups. Participants placed stickers on a large map indicating locations where they'd like the settlement to be. The map portrayed two layers of data: CPRA projections of 100-year flood depths 50 years from now, and a FEMA flood zone map. The map presented important flood risk information that the project team asked residents to consider before recommending their preferred site location. Residents and non-residents alike overwhelmingly placed dots on the Schriever area; the northernmost and safest area in the Parish.





ISLE DE JEAN CHARLES RESETTLEMENT PLANNING

**COMMUNITY MEETING 2 SUMMARY** 

### **SITE LOCATION SUMMARY**

When suggesting a site for the resettlement, residents tended to favor safety from flooding over proximity to Isle de Jean Charles. Schriever was far and away the most popular site suggestion. Seventeen community members (11 permanent island residents and 6 others) placed dots in the immediate area around Schriever. Some residents said they did not want to move to Schriever, citing its higher crime rate and its distance from Isle de Jean Charles. Two residents remarked that if they were to move as far as Schriever, they might as well move anywhere.

Bourg, with 4 dots (3 permanent island residents and 1 other), was the second most popular choice. Bourg is near Isle de Jean Charles, maintains similar rural and coastal qualities, and is home to an elementary school which at least one island resident attends. While it is more resilient to flooding than Isle de Jean Charles, Bourg does not offer the same security as more northern sites like Schriever.

Bayou Blue, Mandalay/Bayou Black, Presquile, and a site just north of U.S. 90 were also suggested, though none of these sites had consensus like Schriever or Bourg.

For full verbatim comments and notes, see page 6.

## **MEETING EVALUATION SUMMARY**

After the table activity, participants were asked to fill out a three question evaluation of the meeting. Listed below are common themes from the evaluations. See page 7 and 8 for full verbatim responses.

- Many residents said the meeting was helpful and informative, and that it cleared up confusion among community members.
- Many participants said they are concerned that the project is taking too long or moving too slowly.
- Participants are most **excited about** moving to a new home in a safer place on **higher ground.**
- Some participants expressed gratitude for the meeting process.
- Some participants expressed **frustration or anger** that the project is not oriented around the tribe or the original proposal to HUD.

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## **NEXT STEPS**

OCD will issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a Master Planning team. A 4-person committee, including 2 representatives of OCD, an island resident (Mildred Naquin), and a representative from the BCC tribe, will evaluate, score, and select a Master Planning team from a pool of respondents to the RFP. Once the Master Planning team is selected, the Master Planning process, including site procurement, will begin. Team members will continue to visit and engage with island residents, including sharing these meeting results and gathering input from residents who were not able to attend the meeting.

Meeting Photos



















ISLE DE JEAN CHARLES RESETTLEMENT PLANNING

**COMMUNITY MEETING 2 SUMMARY** 

### **ALL VERBATIM ACTIVITY COMMENTS**

In response to questions on the left side of the activity sheet, participants said the following:

Homes will need to be elevated above expected flood depths. As home elevation increases, so does cost, due to additional structural work and inclusion of elevators. Money saved on home construction can be spent on more homes, amenities, community spaces, or land.



### Does this change your site preference? How?

- Save more \$
- Safer/dryer most important when older, won't want to climb up stairs.
- No (all dots on Schriever)

### What area or assets do you want to be near?

- Close to town conveniences (stores, work, school)
- Work Joann works in Thibodeaux and Laura works in Houma –> Schriever is close.
- Doctor, grocery, schools, (Country life)
- Grocery Store, easy access to pay bills, Walmart, Kmart, auto store
- I don't want to move all the way up to Schriever and then get screwed by the drainage system!
- Water and fishing access, near stores and medical facilities
- My school (MMS)

Residents also left comments and post-its describing their site selection decisions, organized here by theme:

### **Emphasis on Safety / Schriever**

- Schriever: High and dry
- Schriever: High & dry, closer to town but still secluded, away from the noise.
- Higher ground, no flooding.

 If there will be a relocation, it needs to be in the best and safest location from harm's way, flooding. The goal should be to get the project underway as soon as possible.

#### **Not Schriever**

- Too much crime in Schriever.
- Bayou Blue is beautiful.
- Bayou Black/Mandalay: Intercoastal, lots of oaks, some patches of high ground.
- Bourg: Intercoastal, high ground, country, peace & quiet.
- · Want to be near school in Bourg.

### **Assets & Qualities**

- Staying close to our home and also our safety.
- Proximity to stores, easy access to pay bills.
- Site preferences: Save money, close to town and conveniences like school and work.
- Residents like to use the space underneath their houses
- 4 foot high house is as high as I would want.
- If we're moving past 90, we might as well go way further.

### **Other Comments**

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- Sheena and other tribe members not living on the island also live in a flood zone.
- Will we be able to keep land? What happened to the plan HUD approved?
- Every year the road gets flooded multiple times and it is very scary every time—want to get off island ASAP.
- 4 years is too long. Tired of meetings-should happen faster.

ISLE DE JEAN CHARLES RESETTLEMENT PLANNING

**COMMUNITY MEETING 2 SUMMARY** 

## **ALL VERBATIM MEETING EVALUATION RESPONSES**

## IN TWO SENTENCES, WHAT DO YOU THINK WE ACCOMPLISHED TODAY?

Started viable conversation face to face with community.

Nothing. Heard a lot of good things about the new community.

Good things about the new community.

We as a tribe have to decide on one location.

There's a lot of work still to be done in getting the community to understand what we're trying to accomplish.

I believe you accomplished the same as Christopher Columbus. You succeeded in taking the Native American culture out of a project.

We cleared the air on some things. We planned where we wanted to go.

Additional information for planning was discussed and very informative.

On where some of residents would like to live and good insight of what's going on.

Accomplished that the people want to move to security and a safe place.

Hopefully they understand that they need to move us in a no flood area.

It helped clarify some questions people had. The sharing of information from the visits & previous meeting.

Answered a few questions but need more time.

We agreed on one spot, Schriever.

More questions answered.

More feedback was shared on both sides.

## WHAT ARE YOUR CONCERNS ABOUT THIS PROCESS?

Nice but slow.

I believe the process will/has transformed from a tribally driven process to an individual process. Thus jeopardizing our federal recognition availability.

No concerns.

Speed up.

Where it be at. And is it a location away from flood way.

I have no concerns. It is a necessary process.

What speed is expected to satisfy this plan.

Period of time to get started.

Be responsive to the tribe.

That all the people that have moved away from the island before Isaac have no place to move to.

My only concern is that it seems the process is taking too long.

That it could turn into more and more surveys and not start the project.

Losing where we live and lying to us on anything.

It's taking too long.

ISLE DE JEAN CHARLES RESETTLEMENT PLANNING

**COMMUNITY MEETING 2 SUMMARY** 

Length of time it will take.

That this process remains open.

That it takes too long.

Will everyone agree on everything before funding is taken back by the state?

### WHAT ARE YOU MOST EXCITED ABOUT?

New homes.

Nothing. I wish the grant was not awarded.

Not a bad idea to build houses for other people.

I would like to see it come forward.

Not much at the present time.

Getting things started.

Seeing movement!

Getting help for residents.

Meeting the needs of the tribe.

Was excited to move as a tribe but that's NOT going to happen!

I am very excited about being able to move to higher ground.

To have the people be a part of the planning process.

Getting a new house.

There's nothing to be excited about, nothing happened.

That almost everyone agreed to the same place.

Not excited, just have to make decisions.

Moving off the island.

Moving to a safer place, also having my kids in a safe place.

### **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:**

More meeting & planning to complete the project.

3 or 4 bedroom homes, 2 bath, utility room.

If I had to move at one time: 3 bedrooms, in my name, and \$300,000.

Read decolonization books. For Indigenous Eyes Only. You have taken our dream and the dream of our Chief and Great Grandpa and smashed them. Sincerely, Chantel.

Thank you all. And I hope we can make it work.

Tribal members need to understand that it's important to try to move as a tribe or we will be scattered all over the parish.

I wonder how the state can come in and take away from the tribe!!

I really hope that we will not be disappointed with this project. We have gone through this process before and were only given false hope.

Thanks and keep working hard on the project. Keep up the good work.

The meeting was very good, thank you.

Can we design it ourselves and have a big yard?

I wish it would start on the building, this should have been done.

How long will it take to move?

ISLE DE JEAN CHARLES RESETTLEMENT PLANNING

**COMMUNITY MEETING 2 SUMMARY** 

## COMMUNITY MEETING 2 AGENDA, INFORMATIONAL BOARDS, AND ACTIVITY SHEETS



## **AGENDA**

October 8th, 2016

## Isle de Jean Charles Community Meeting CDBG-NDR Resettlement Project

Meeting called by State of Louisiana Office of Community Development (OCD) 10:00 **Opening Prayer** (10 min) 10:10 Introductions (10 Min) 10:20 **Draft Findings from Initial Outreach & Surveys** (20 Min) 10:40 Path Forward & Next Steps (20 Min.) - RFP, Selection Committee, Master Planning Team - Site Selection Parameters 11:00 **Activity - Framing Site Selection Around Future Risk** See reverse side of agenda for instructions. (25 Min.) 11:25 Q & A (25 Min.) 11:50 **Any Other Business** (5 Min.) 11:55 **Next Steps** This box contained information for (5 Min.) stakeholders to access land use data and weekly phone calls. 12:00 Adjourn

This was an informational board presented at Community Meeting 2 and is reflective of the team's understanding prior to that meeting. The most updated information regarding desire to resettle can be found on page 11 of this document.

## **DESIRE TO RELOCATE**

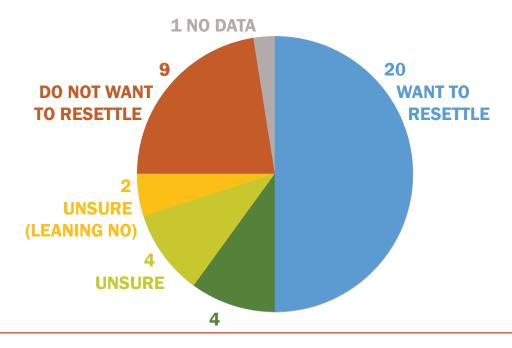
## BY HOUSING UNIT, HOUSEHOLD, AND RESIDENTS

note: A "household" is defined as a family unit that would live in a separate housing unit in the new settlement. In a few residences, exact number of households and residents were not determined. In these cases, we provided our best estimate.

	# HOUSING UNITS	# HOUSEHOLDS (estimate)	# RESIDENTS (estimate)
WANT TO RESETTLE	12	20	42
<b>UNSURE (LEANING YES)</b>	3	4	9
UNSURE	3	4	12
<b>UNSURE (LEANING NO)</b>	1	2	5
<b>DO NOT WANT TO RESETTLE</b>	6	9	21
(NO DATA)	1	1	2
	26	40	91

## BY HOUSEHOLD

note: This data reflects interviews conducted on the island. In some cases, one resident spoke on behalf of a housing unit and all households within that unit. This is our best estimate of the number of households on the island.

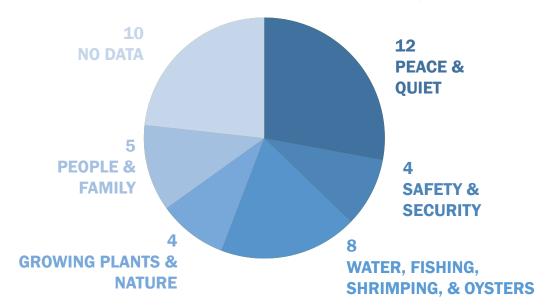


This was an informational board presented at Community Meeting 2 and is reflective of the team's understanding prior to that meeting. The most updated information regarding quality of life on the island can be found on page 16 of this document.

## **QUALITY OF LIFE ON THE ISLAND**

## WHAT RESIDENTS LOVE ABOUT THE ISLAND

by housing unit | note: data reflects frequency of mentions in these categories; many residents mentioned more than one category



## WHAT RESIDENTS WANT IN THE NEW SETTLEMENT

closer-to-town dry-safe family fishing garden kitchen peace peopletogether room seclusion southterrebonne SPace

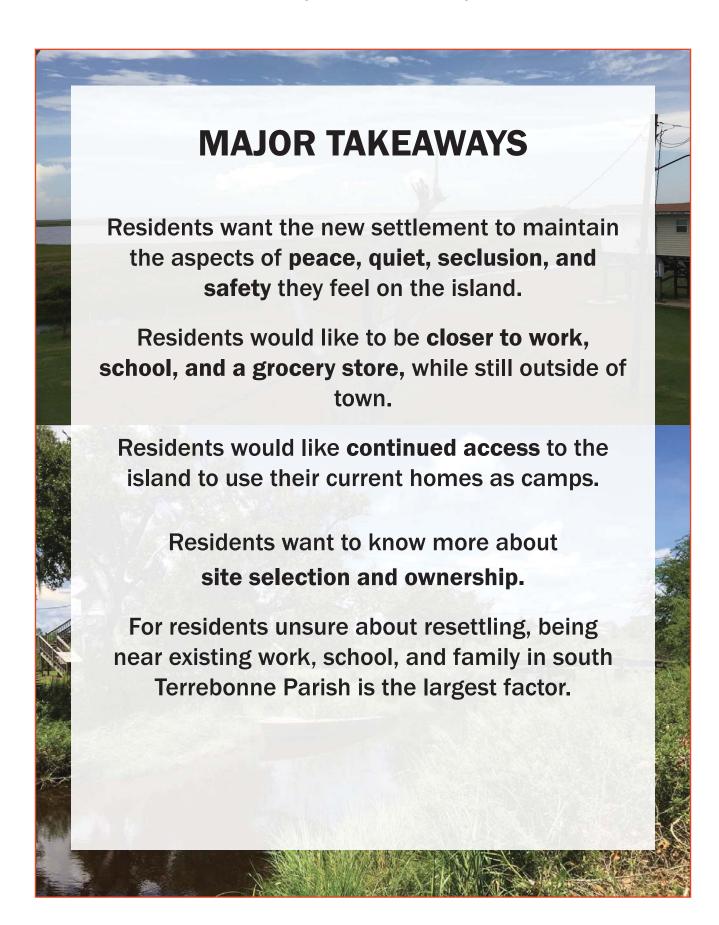
## **Most Agree:**

Keep plenty of space around houses Site should be closer to town Being safe from flooding

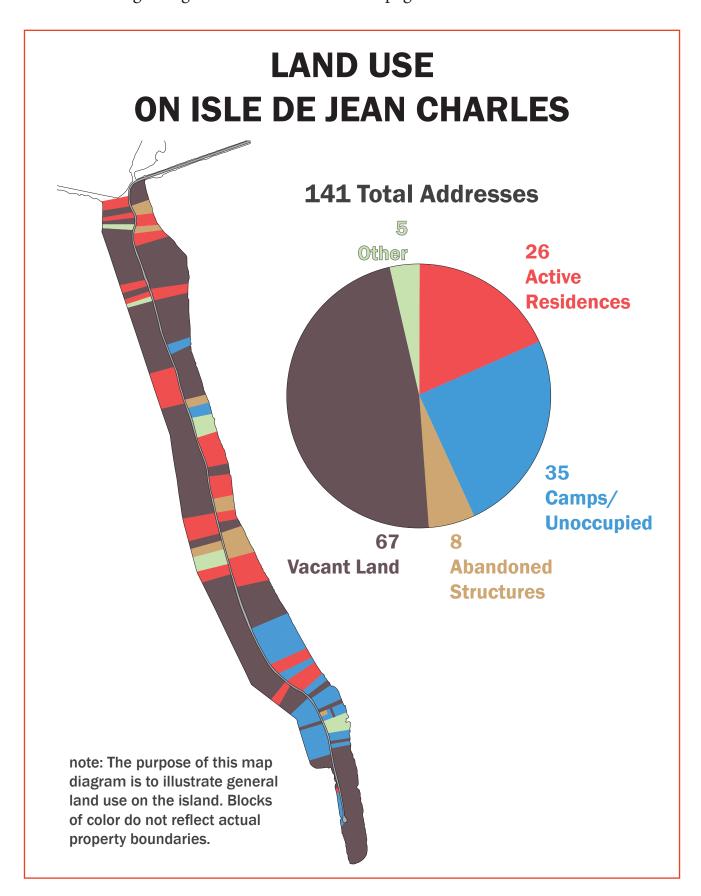
## **Areas of Possible Disagreement:**

Staying in south Terrebonne Parish and/or staying near fishing vs. settling on safe and dry land

This was an informational board presented at Community Meeting 2 and is reflective of the team's understanding prior to that meeting.



This was an informational board presented at Community Meeting 2 and is reflective of the team's understanding prior to that meeting.. The most updated information regarding land use can be found on pages 8-10 of this document.



This was an informational board presented at Community Meeting 2 and is reflective of the team's understanding prior to that meeting.

## **RESIDENT Q+A**

## **OWNERSHIP**

- Q1. How will house assignments be determined in the new community?
- A1. As with all aspects of design and planning in the new community, YOU the Islanders will play an essential role in determining how the new community looks, feels and functions in a manner consistent with your values. Therefore, as the community is designed, the State and its partners will rely on you to tell us what makes the most sense in determining housing assignments.
- Q2. Will the State limit new-unit eligibility to one per residence? What about residences on the Island who currently house multiple households under one roof?
- A2. Each household, or family unit, will be placed in one newly-developed housing unit in the new community. For those residences currently housing more than one household under one roof, each household will be eligible to be placed in a new housing unit.

Questions 3-6 are answered as a group

Q3. Will current homeowners own their own individual parcels in the new community?

- Q4. If a new household moves to the community at a later date, will they own their own parcel, too, or will there be some other arrangement?
- Q5. Will households in the new community be able to sell their properties in the new community?
- Q6. Will households in the new community be expected to take on a mortgage?
- A3-6. Determining an appropriate ownership structure for the new community will be an essential component of the second phase of the resettlement project, master planning. The State and its consultant partners will develop a set of viable ownership structures, from which you, the Islanders, will determine the best models and structures for your future community.
- Q7. What about property owned/inherited by multiple siblings? How will ownership be determined in the new community?
- A7. Through the resettlement project, the State will prioritize placement of two groups of households into new housing units within the new community: (1) current Island residents; (2) residents displaced from the Island after Hurricane Isaac (8/29/12).

### **PROPERTY TAXES**

- Q8. Homestead Exemptions Will they have to pay higher taxes on their IDJC property once they move their homestead exemption to the new community, or will there be some special exemption because the land is being resettled?
- A8. This will depend on the ownership model ultimately selected by you for the new community. It is possible households who move to the new community while also retaining ownership of an Island parcel will incur an increased tax liability.
- Q9. Is there any way to subsidize or assist with property taxes that will likely increase after the move?
- A9. Such a subsidy is not anticipated at this time, but it is a topic that can be discussed further once potential ownership models are developed and presented during the upcoming master planning phase.

This was an informational board presented at Community Meeting 2 and is reflective of the team's understanding prior to that meeting.

## **RESIDENT Q+A continued...**

## **ADDITIONAL EXPENSES**

Q10. Will residents be responsible for moving (or paying to move) their belongings to the new place?

A10. Relocation expenses are an eligible use for these funds, should you indicate this is a priority.

Q11. Will homes come furnished with appliances?

A11. Yes.

Q12. ADA requirements - will those who require ramps or elevators or ADA bathrooms have to forgo other household amenities (as though there is a budget per house)?

A. Houses that need ADA bathrooms, ramps, or other accomodation will not forgo other amenities. There is not a fixed budget on a perhouse basis.

## OTHER CONCERNS

Q13. Will there be transitional/temporary housing for families with more immediate needs to move?

A13. At this time, transitional/temporary rental housing assistance is not contemplated as part of the resettlement's activities, but if there is a clear need for such activities now or in the course of the project's development, this can be a possibility. As of now, the State has not been approached by any specific Island resident with such a request.

Q14. Can the next meeting be held on the island to ensure everyone on the island can easily attend?

A14. If possible, the State would like to hold all future public meetings on the Island.

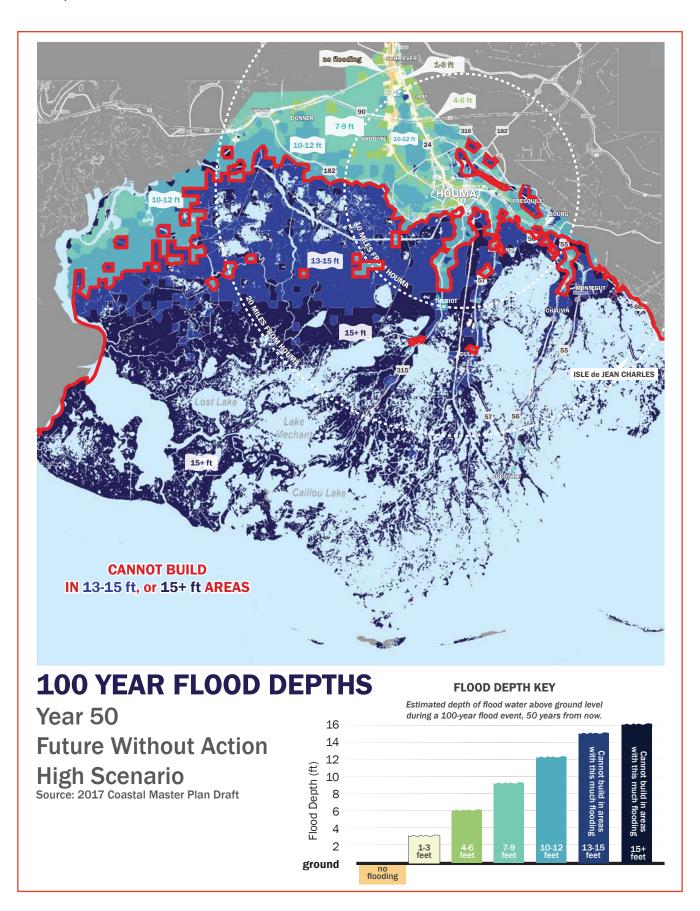
015. What is the window for residents to decide whether they want to move or not?

A15. The State will not impose a specific deadline for Island residents to make this very difficult decision. However, during the second phase of the project, master planning, the State will have to determine how many housing units it intends to develop in the new community. If residents decide not to move into the new community during this portion of the new community's development, keeping in mind further development may occur with other resources after the State expends its \$48.3M award, the State cannot guarantee any units developed at a later date will be subsidized.

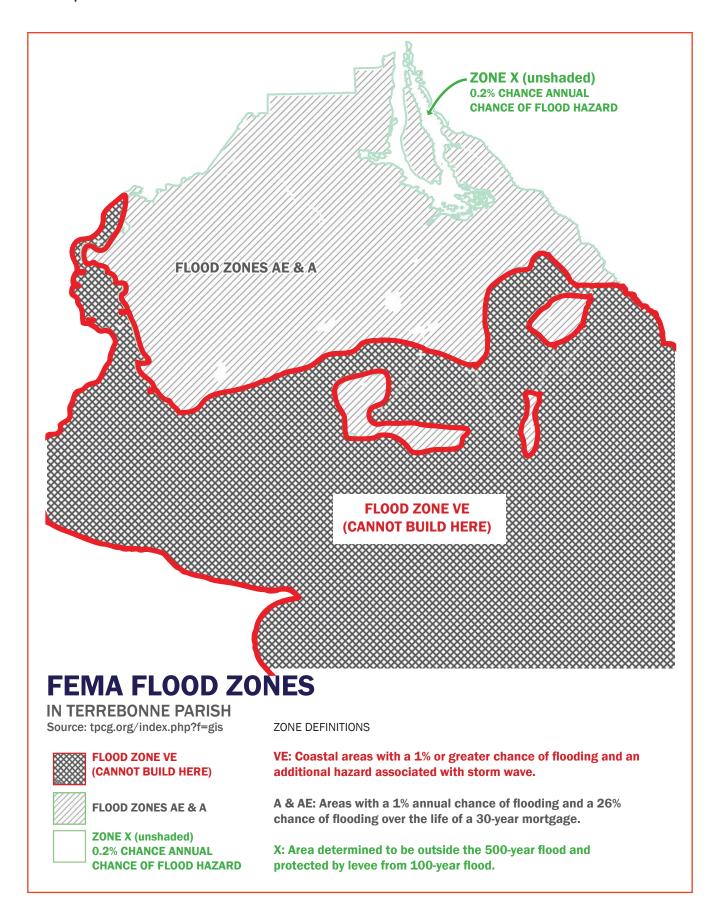
Q16. Will there be assistance available for current Island residents who wish to leave the Island, but who do not want to be a part of the new community?

A16. Yes. The State has made it a priority of the project to ensure all Island residents have the option to move to higher ground, regardless of whether they want to be a part of the new community.

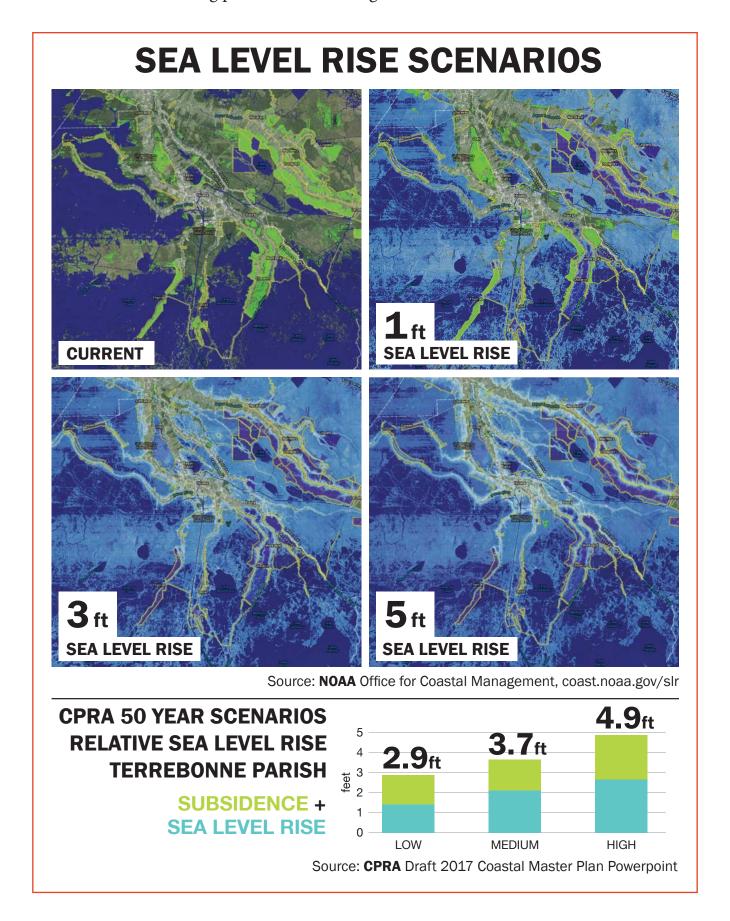
This was an informational board used at Community Meeting 2 to introduce the meeting activity.



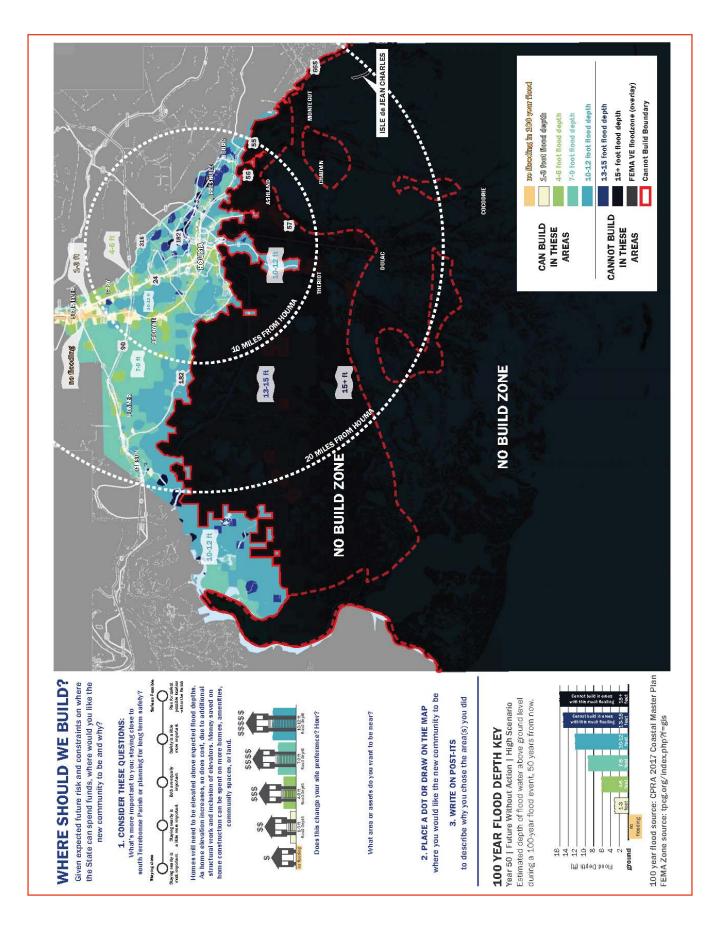
This was an informational board used at Community Meeting 2 to introduce the meeting activity.



This was an informational board presented at Community Meeting 2 and is reflective of the team's understanding prior to that meeting.



This was the table sheet used by participants at Community Meeting 2 to discuss potential locations for the new settlement.



## **APPENDIX C**

## **RESIDENT SURVEY RESPONSES**

These are the verbatim notes taken during resident interviews recording responses to survey questions. References to personal connections have been redacted.

### What do you like most about where you live?

- Shrimping, oysters -- don't do it anymore but used to.
- Family connection
- Water, peace, space
- Safety and security. Sleeping with the windows open.
   Everyone on the Island gets along.
- Peace we all get along. Being around the waterfishes and shrimps for a living.
- Peace and quiet. It's safe. Can take off in the back yard and catch a fish.
- Along time ago it was safety.
- Quiet, very safe, fishing. No complaints.
- · Childhood memories.
- · Quiet, peace
- Quiet
- Quiet. Use to grow vegetables. Seclusion.
- Nice and guiet. Nature.
- I used to say the people, but my brother next door passed...the house I'm in now was my other brothers'...so I used to like the people - now with all the water...not so much.
- Everything; fishing (for own food and to share)
- It's home. There's no place like home. The peace, freedom. Commonality of people. People help each other. You don't need much to live here. There used to be more -trapping, farming, growing plants and animals, bartering, and less fishing regulations
- It's home. Take a moment and look around.
   Peaceful.

### **Describe historical connections:**

- Lived there their whole lives for many generations.
- Born and raised on Island
- His parents and grandparents were born and raised on the Island and are buried in the Island cemetery.
- Born on the Island.
- Born and raised on Island with his sister. Girlfriend just moved in with them recently. He says 'I am probably part Indian but I'm unsure what tribe.'
- · Born and raised. Family on Island
- Lived in Island whole life. Family here.
- Has lived here all her life.

- Born and raised.
- Born and raised. Lived here all my life. This house was his grandparents' house. They built this when I was eight years old. Wife also born and raised.
- Her and her parents were born on the Island.
- All family from here
- Born on the Island. Lives in parent's old home.
- Has lived on the Island whole life. Husband has lived here for 40 years. Daughter in law grew up on Island. She co-owns property with six other siblings. One of her brothers lives there.
- Born on the Island.
- Born on the Island
- Born here. Mother was born on the Island too.
- Father was born and raised on the Island, He was also raised on the Island and lived here his whole life. Father passed away in 2009, mother in 2003.
- Born on the Island
- Born here. Family all from here.
- Born on the Island. Living in parents' house

## If you decide to leave the Island what will you miss the most?

- The family connection. The community seems important.
- Space between the houses, the water (fishing daily in the backyard/bayou)
- Water and fishing
- They love it here and have so many memories. Want to come back every weekend.
- Windows with views outside.
- They will not miss traveling.
- Peace and quiet. Montegut middle school if no longer in the district.
- Doesn't know.
- Quiet and visiting neighbors.
- Family memories
- Nothing
- It won't be the same, so it's hard to miss anything.

## What is important about quality of life for you and your family?

- Likes to punch bags
- Close to town, around South Terrebonne would be perfect for me. Bourg. Somewhere where it won't flood
- Having a garden. Don't want houses closer than they are now. She doesn't care about having a community center, or having cows or chickens etc.
- Peace, quiet, access to work and the store.
- She enjoys sewing. She likes being high up. The
  windows are high so no one can get in, and the view
  is nice. She is close with her son and daughter in
  law.
- Nothin fancy basic needs. Big Kitchen, big living room. Have neighbors but enough space between homes to have privacy. They don't understand wanting to be near water - they want to be high and dry.
- Quiet. Going to school the daughter goes to middle school in Montegut. They would like that to continue.
   Furthest [person] wanted to go was Bourg. They don't need to be close to water. Space between houses. "Not on top of each other". Nice yard for kids and someone to cut it for him.
- Everyone together! Being together everything else is material. - Wants a gated community. Community gym for the kids.
- Having a good kitchen and space for grandkids.
- Fishing. Feels like he has more family down here than he ever did.
- Chapel bring people together for prayer service.
   House As long as it has a bedroom, prayer room, kitchen, office, and utility room, it's good.
- Kids being able to go fishing whenever they want.
   Nearby. Space. Peace.

## How would you like to celebrate your culture when the Island is no longer accessible by land?

- Having a garden, holidays. Visiting for Christmas.
- Doing pow-wows again would be fun. They used to do them a lot more. We don't see people except at the (tribal) meetings).
- Honor the ancestors. Don't want to forget about people from the past.
- One resident doesn't care about getting together w/anyone.

- Hang palmetto leave on the porch.
- Tribal meetings and pow-wows. In the past family and community would come together and help in whatever way they could, everyone would dance and drum and learn about culture.
- It will be work rebuilding it. It would be good if those that left could come back. It would be good to mark the anniversary of when we moved. To come back and celebrate a festival of the past and our present life.

## How would you describe the best possible new home for you and your family?

- Doesn't have a preference for height of house but asked about it.
- Being close to the water, plenty of space between houses; not necessarily with the whole community but with his family in Bourg or Pointe-aux-Chenes.
- Real Kitchen. Be able to invite people over for football. Washer and dryer. Located in a safe place. House above the flood levels. Around South Terrebonne. Bourg. Just bigger than this camper. Make sure they're elevated houses.
- Include a big kitchen. Cory liked to cook.
- High above the flood level. Big sewing room.
   Somewhere with grass to cut.
- ADA accessible, wood floors, big kitchen, big living room. Spread out with privacy. A house with three bedrooms and two bathrooms. A shed in the backyard. Don't want to worry about the road anymore.
- Big kitchen, big living room for family. Spare bedrooms. Ramp or elevator for Elsie and older folks. Three houses for the three families who live there. Currently Kirby has a 35-40-minute drive to work - he would like it to be shorter. Something like Bourg.
- I'm feeling good about moving.
- Want to choose how many bedrooms. Elevated home. Sewing room. Garden, big living room for visiting grandkids, big kitchen, Windows with views, handicap bathroom and a house with ramps.
- Most importantly the whole community being back together again. All of his family (kids and wife) have moved to Houma and Thibodaux area for work. He hopes everyone can reunite in the new community. Likes the idea of being 25 min outside of town.

- Kitchen for baking. Safe place for grand-kids to visit.
   Living room and dining room.
- Safe. Raised with an outdoor space underneath.
   Strong building materials.

## What services will you need in your new location?

- Other
- Other
- Health Clinic & Grocery
- Grocery
- Health Clinic & Grocery
- Grocery
- Grocery
- Grocery & Gathering/Meeting Space
- Other
- Grocery

# What are the most important resources (plants wildlife animals etc.) on the Island that you think should be preserved?

- Oak and pine trees.
- Pine trees, garden and palmettos

### How would you define your community?

- Family doesn't get together with neighbors too much. Likes to stay at home.
- Family
- Family
- Everybody. Friends—friendly. We all get along.
- Other
- Other
- Family
- Family
- Family
- Church
- Family
- Family
- Family but they are mostly gone.
- Other
- Other
- Family

### **Community Comments:**

- Said "We all related"
- Knows everyone on the Island would want to stay with the community

- Says they like to stop and chat and wave
- Says there is a love/hate relationship with the Island residents, but family is the most important.
- Connected with Knights of Columbus, involved with Church, and neighbors are all family.
- Being close to family
- Has family in Houma and Thibodaux—the Island community is not important
- Marina folks are part of this person's community.
- Just the household—they don't chitchat with the neighbors.
- It's not like it used to be. There's a lot more water.
- Family and neighbors.
- One good friend. Others have passed away or moved.
- Folks at the marina
- Neighbors interact less now than they did before.
   People used to walk the road and visit.
- Everybody knows each other.

## How do you interact with your neighbors?

- Doesn't really get together with neighbors much.
   Keep to themselves—hang out on porch. Seems like family visit them (had two family member's drop by during our interview).
- Knows and talks to everyone.
- Always outside saying hey to people as they pass by.
- Used to interact with neighbors. Not as much now.
- Not as much anymore. Know the regulars, get together with family, but most of their friends moved away. When Chief calls a meeting, we meet.
- Talk to them outside.
- No interaction, only interacts with the people in the house
- Grass cutting and sharing shrimp.
- They don't really, they stay to themselves (within the household).
- Doesn't really interact, but Chief Albert stops by every now and then.
- Everyone helps each other. Informal house visits.
- Talks to [one specific neighbor, name withheld].
- Shares catch, hangs out at marina, fishes, helps, spends holidays with Isle community
- Used to interact more in the past by visiting on the road.
- Talks to them as they pass by.

## Do you see this interaction changing in any way in a new home?

- No
- No
- No
- Yes
- No
- No

## Describe how interaction would change.

- As long as the people move to the new place it won't change.
- Change for the better. Live close to people again.
- If homes are arranged in a way that is conducive to that communication again. Someone mentioned condos—that is not the answer. We like our open space. Condos are not good for families, children and all.
- · Wouldn't change if we all move together.

## Do you understand the risk of continuing to live on the Island?

- No
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- No
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- YesYes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes

## What services have you lost and what impact has it had on you?

- Gas line for home needs. Transportation to public schools.
- Lost a truck to a storm
- Natural Gas. Insurance paid for the house to be

- raised. Been safe ever since. Never liked the taste of city water drinks from bottles. He uses propane since the natural gas is gone. The tank needs to be refilled every two months in the winter if it's cold.
- Natural gas. Had to get an electric water heater and dryer.
- Natural gas for cooking.
- All the people used to be like medicine doctors. If you
  were sick, people knew what kind of roots and bark
  to use to prepare medicine. The trees are gone the
  art, the knowledge is gone now. The store and dance
  hall dance hall served as a church.
- Natural gas and it has changed the way I cook.

## Has the flooding of the road impacted your ability to remain on the Island?

- No
- Work
- Work
- Other
- No
- School & Work
- School & Work
- No
- School
- Work
- No
- No

### Other ways the flooding has impacted you:

 Lost a truck in a hurricane. Past floods in the house (before it was raised)

### Do you want to resettle?

- Unsure
- Unsure- leaning yes
- Unsure
- Yes
- Unsure
- No
- Unsure- leaning no
- No
- Unsure- leaning yes
- Unsure- leaning yes
- Yes
- Yes

- No
- No
- No
- Yes
- No
- Yes
- Yes

### **Resettlement comments:**

- Maybe not sure. Wants to know where it would be.
   Says he knows everyone wants to stick together.
   Doesn't know what father will do.
- Husband said they will move if they need to.
- Doesn't want to be far away. Bourg or Pointe aux Chenes is furthest she'll go.

## If you decide to leave the Island how many people in your household will move with you?

- 2
- 3
- 4
- 4
- 6
- 1
- 5
- 1
- 42
- 2
- 2
- 9
- 4
- 7
- 1
- 6
- 9
- 13
- \_
- 3

- 1
- 2
- 1
- 1
- 3

## If you decide to leave the Island do you want to relocate with the existing IDJC community?

- Yes
- Yes
- No
- Yes
- Yes ("I guess")
- (Doesn't want to leave)
- Yes
- Probably yes
- Yes
- Yes
- (Doesn't want to leave)
- (Doesn't want to leave)
- (Doesn't want to leave, according to father)
- Yes
- (Doesn't want to leave)
- Yes
- Yes
- •

## As resettlement takes place how do you see your life changing?

- Better life for her kids. Closer to job opportunities.
  Safe from flooding. "I love it here, don't get me wrong, but I want things for my kids to do." Son plays all the sports. Needs to be closer to work, need to be able to work doesn't have a car.
- For the better. The store is 45 minutes away—it'd be nice being closer.
- "Just want to be some place that's high and dry."
- "I feel good about it."
- For the better, with family all around.
- For the better.

 It will take a while to use to the bayou not being in my backyard. And the kids being able to go fishing whenever they want.

## What resources on the Island would you like to continue to have access to?

- Will probably want access to their house.
- Access to the house as a camp.
- Still wants to access the land and his house for as long as he can.
- Access to the house as a camp.
- Access to the home "and respect the heritage and family."
- Use the house as a camp occasionally.
- Access to the house as a camp.
- Access to the house as a camp.
- House memories and fun. Old Mardi Gras memories on the Island.
- Does not care to come back to the Island after resettlement.
- Definitely would want access to the house.
- The land.

## Are there physical things you would want to take with you from the Island?

- No
- No
- Yes
- Yes
- No
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- No
- Essential things, necessities, books, bed, etc. "I haven't though much about it."
- No

## List the physical items that you would like to take with you.

- Punching bag
- Everything in the house, especially her sewing machine.
- · All of her plants growing outside.
- · The dog.
- "Myself"
- · Plants and belongings

## What is your vision for the future of the Island?

- A place where the kids can play outdoors and be safe. Job opportunities.
- Yes they agree with the idea of being closer to goods and services, and work. But not too close - still rural.
   "Dream come true"
- If people want to leave they can go. He only visits
  with the people in his house, daughter next door,
  and his cousin at the marina. He doesn't care about
  anyone else on the Island or about anyone who
  leaves.
- Would like to have a memorial or something to remember the ancestors.
- Once the road is gone people will have to come here by boat.
- Understands he will probably have to access the Island by boat in the future once the road goes. He doesn't see a future on the Island being so cut off from everything.
- "Well there's a lot of people who think that a big real estate company or oil company is gonna come take the land. This is a barrier Island - it stops surge from the east. It should be preserved as a barrier Island. I want to come and access my home."
- To be able to come back if we want.

### Do you currently own or rent your home?

- Own
- Own- inherited
- Own
- Own
- · Own- inherited
- Owned by father
- Owned by brother
- Own
- Own
- · Own- inherited
- Own- or owned by son
- Own
- No interview- probably owns
- Own- inherited
- Own- inherited
- No interview- probably owns
- Own- inherited
- Own
- · Own- inherited

- Own- inherited
- · Own- leases the land
- Own- inherited
- · Own- inherited

## Are you aware of previous visioning efforts for relocating the IDJC community?

- Yes
- No
- Yes
- Yes
- No
- . . . .
- Yes

Yes

- No
- ...
- YesYes
- Yes
- 100
- YesNo
- Yes

## Were you involved in any of the previous visioning efforts?

- No
- No
- No
- No
- No
- Yes
- No
- NoYes
- No
- Yes
- No
- No
- No
- No
- No

## Describe your involvement in previous visioning efforts.

- Was told about it by other community members.
- Heard rumors for years. Thinks they are being forced off.
- Was told about it by other community members.
- · Was told about it by other community members.
- Was told about it by other community members.
- · Attended community meetings.
- Was told about it by other community members.
- · Heard rumors but doesn't believe it.
- Attended community meetings.
- Was told about it by other community members.
- Attended community meetings
- Chief told him, has attended meetings, but not Lowlander ones.
- Was told about it by other community members.
- Was told about it by other community members.
- Was told about it by other community members.
- Was told about it by other community members.

## Describe other involvement in previous visioning efforts.

- Was told about it by Chief Albert but didn't attend the meetings.
- · Heard some rumors about it, but that's all.
- The proposals they had were really nice. The way they were talking, we thought they were starting in February.
- Attended two Lowlander meetings.
- Attended but only observed what was presented.
- He's seen the Lowlander work and likes it.
- Attended a community meeting.

## Can you describe how you feel about what you've seen up to this point?

- Will stay as long as she can but leave if she needs to.
- Spoke to someone from Baton Rouge and a woman 4 years ago who said "the Island won't be here in 2 years" but wouldn't tell us who or as part of what planning. Very skeptical of the process and thinks it's dishonest and potentially a buyout.
- Pretty good. It would be a dream come true.
- Sounds pretty good.
- Has heard about resettlement plans for years and doesn't believe it's going to happen. Heard there would be 52 million dollars and now it's 47 million dollars because they've taken away from it. If it happens, it happens and he will go if it does.
- Felt good about the ideas in the vision plan. This will be like a second chance.
- Good
- I feel good about it.
- Good. Sad to move.
- Seen the land go away—the marshes. The economy of bartering has gone away with the land.

## **APPENDIX D**

## LAND USE SURVEY TABLE

ESU	JR	VE	Y	TA	BI	LE																										
323 ISLAND RD		322 ISLAND RD	321 ISLAND RD		320 ISLAND RD		318 ISLAND RD	310 35410 10		315 ISLAND RD	314 ISLAND RD				313 ISLAND RD		312 ISLAND RD		310 ISLAND RD		309 ISLAND RD	308 ISLAND RD		306 ISLAND RD	303 ISLAND RD		302 ISLAND RD		300 ISLAND RD		Street Address	
Vacant Land	-	Vacant Land	vacant Land		Vacant Land		Vacant Land	א מכמוור במווט		Movable	Vacant Land				Non-Movable		Vacant Land		Vacant Land		Non-Movable	Other		Non-Movable	Non-Movable		Vacant Land		Non-Movable		Structure Type	
										Movable Residence	Vacant Lot				Abandoned	Non-movable					Non-movable	Other		Non-movable	Abandoned	Non-movable			Residence	Non-movable	Structure Description	
No	:	No	NO	•	No		No	V		e Yes	No				No		No		No		Yes	No		No	Yes		N <sub>o</sub>		Yes		Status of Electrical Utility	
account.	9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy does not have an active account but has had an	account.	not had an active account.  9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy does not have an active account and has not had an	Green space. 9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy does not have an active account and has	account.	9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy does not have an active account and has had an	3/27/2010 - COMMINICA WITH LINEIBY ACES HOLHAVE AN ACTIVE ACCOUNT AIM HAS HEVEL HAM AN ACCOUNT.	0/77/2016 - Confirmed with Entermy does not have account and mas not have an active account.	Electric crosses the bayou and appears to terminate at a service pole. 9/27/2016 -	Abandoned vehicles. 9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy has an active account	does not have an active account and has not had an active account.	anything. Suspect they are terminated at a service pole. 9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy	be run across the bayou, but it is not visible whether or not they are commented to	The estructure on the improper is not visible if it is propert. Electric and commilling apparato	account.	9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy does not currently have active account but has had an	account.	9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy does not have an active account but has had an active	Entergy does not current have an active account but has had an active account.	Church. after last hurricane all houses across the bayou moved. 9/27/2016 - Confirmed with	9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy active service.	account and has never had an active account.	This lot has the signs on it. 9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy does not have an active	9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy no active or past utility account.	address does not have utility service anymore. Business utiltity account is still active.	Abandoned frame that held elevated trailer. 9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy residential	account for this address.	Land bridge connects property. 9/27/2016 Confirmed with Entergy no service or past	running and Parish has elevation certificate dated 10/1/2012.	Boat, utility trailer, driveway raised and house elevated. 9/27/2016 - Confirmed utility is	l Additional Land Use Survey Notes	

409 ISLAND RD Non-Movable	408 ISLAND RD Vacant Land	407 ISLAND RD Non-Movable	404 ISLAND RD Vacant Land	402 ISLAND RD Vacant Land	401 ISLAND RD Non-Movable	400 ISLAND RD Vacant Land		397 ISLAND RD Non-Movable	396 ISLAND RD Vacant Land	394 ISLAND RD Non-Movable		393 ISLAND RD Vacant Land	391 ISLAND RD Vacant Land		383 ISLAND RD Vacant Land	3/3 ISTAND RD NOII-WIOVADIE		371 ISLAND RD Vacant Land		270 KI AND RD (/2525+ 12)	363 ISLAND RD Vacant Land		362 ISLAND RD Vacant Land	361 ISLAND RD Vacant Land		360 ISLAND RD Vacant Land		359 ISLAND RD Vacant Land	358 ISLAND RD Vacant Land	
able Other	nd	able Fire Station	nd	nd	able Non-movable Camp	nd	-	able Non-movable	Ind	able Residence	Non-movable	nd	nd		nd	able Noll-Illovable callib		nd	Š		nd	Š	nd	ind Abandoned	Movable	ind		ınd	ind	:- L
Yes	N <sub>o</sub>	Yes	N <sub>o</sub>	No	Yes	N <sub>O</sub>	•	Yes	No	Yes		No	N <sub>o</sub>		No	Tes	< 0.	No	d	2	No	Č	Z o	No		N <sub>o</sub>		No	Z O	-
9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy has an active account	account	9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy has an active account 9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy does not have an active account and has not had an	3/2//2010 - Confirmed with Entergy does not have an active account and has not had an	account	appears to be a camp elevated. 9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy has an active account. 9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy does not have an active account and has not had an	account	9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy does not have an active account and has not had an	confirmed with Entergy 10/4/2016 service is connected.	account	9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy has an active account. 9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy does not have an active account and has not had an		account.	account 9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy does not have an active account and has not had an	9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy does not have an active account but has had an	account.	9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy does not have an active account but has had an	0/27/2016 Confirmed with Entermy has an active account	account	9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy does not have an active account and has not had an	9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy does not have an active account and has not had an	account	9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy does not have an active account and has not had an	9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy does not have an active account and has not had an account	account	9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy does not have an active account but has had an	account	9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy does not have an active account and has not had an	account.	account. 9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy does not have an active account and has not had an	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy does not have an active account and has not had an account.	account.	9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy does not have an active account and has not had an	account.	9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy has an active account.		Zelma Naquin 2 people poverty	9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy has an active account.	old house green space. 9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy does not have an active account	but has had an account. 0/27/2016 - Confirmed with Enterny does not have an active account and has not had an	2/21/2010 - Committed with Effect By does not have an active account and has not had an	9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy has an active account.	9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy has an active account	9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy does not have an active account and has not had an	account.	9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy does not have an active account and has not had an	account.	9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy does not have an active account and has had an	account	9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy has an active account.		9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy has an active account.	9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy has an active account.		9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy does not have an active account and has not had an	account.	Possible former structure site. Vacant land. 9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy does not	nave an active account but has had an account.  Travel trailer, 9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy does not have an active account and has		No house at all. Electric pole. Looks destroyed. Overgrown. 9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy does not have an active account and has not had an account.	9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy has an active account.	Visited on 081816. Completely overgrown. Abandoned. Shares mailbox with 475. 9/27/2016 · Confirmed with Entergy does not have an active account but has had an account
o N	No		No	Yes		Yes	Yes	-	0	S	Yes	Yes		No		No		No	Yes		Yes	Yes	N N		No	<u>(</u>	0	No	o Z	Yes	O N
				Non-movable	Non-movable	Residence	Non-movable				Non-movable	Non-movable					Non-movable	Abandoned	Non-movable	Non-movable	Residence	Non-movable				+0 - +0 00 0/	Movable	Abandoned	Vacant Lot	Other	Non-movable Abandoned
Vacant Land	Vacant Land		Vacant Land	Non-Movable		Non-Movable	Non-Movable	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	vacant Land	Vacant Land	Non-Movable	Non-Movable		Vacant Land		Vacant Land		Non-Movable	Non-Movable		Non-Movable	Non-Movable	Vacant Land		Vacant Land	+ 2000	Vacalit Laliu	Movable	Vacant Land	Non-Movable	Non-Movable
410 ISLAND RD	412 ISLAND RD		414 ISLAND RD	415 ISLAND RD		421 ISLAND RD	427 ISLAND RD		429 ISLAIND RD	436 ISI AND RD	437 ISLAND RD	439 ISLAND RD		444 ISLAND RD		452 ISLAND RD		453 ISLAND RD	456 ISLAND RD		457 ISLAND RD	460 ISLAND RD	461 ISLAND RD		466 ISLAND RD	GG GIAA 131 536	407 ISLAIND ND	468 ISLAND RD	469 ISLAND RD	472 ISLAND RD	473 ISLAND RD

green space	No	Vacant Land	550 ISLAND RD
9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy has an active account.	Non-movable Camp Yes	Non-Movable	549 ISLAND RD
green space	No	Vacant Land	546 ISLAND RD
9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy has an active account.	Non-movable Yes	Non-Movable	545 ISLAND RD
green space	No	Vacant Land	542 ISLAND RD
9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy has an active account	Non-movable Yes	Non-Movable	539 ISLAND RD
had an account.	Residence No	Non-Movable	538 ISLAND RD
9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy has an active account. Elevated 4'ish. 9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy does not have an active account but has	Non-movable Camp Yes Non-movable	Non-Movable	537 ISLAND RD
light pole #10	No	Vacant Land	534 ISLAND RD
9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy has an active account	Residence Yes	Non-Movable	533 ISLAND RD
green space	Vacant Lot No Non-movable	Vacant Land	530 ISLAND RD
	-		
Appears to be camp. 9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy has an active account. Parish has elevation certificate on file for 5/11/2016	Non-movable Camp Yes	Non-Movable	521 ISI AND RD
Appears to be elevated camp or residence. May have a boat house located near water edge. 9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy has an active account.	Non-movable Camp Yes	Non-Movable	519 ISLAND RD
Entergy has an active account.	Non-movable Camp Yes	Non-Movable	515 ISLAND RD
Appears to be elevated and used as a camp or residence. 9/27/2016 - Confirmed with			
Appears to have been a renovated and elevated camo or residence. 9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy has an active account	Non-movable Camp   Yes	Non-Movable	513 ISI AND RD
	Non-movable Camp Yes	Non-Movable	511 ISLAND RD
Appears to be elevated camp or residence. 9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy has an	NOII-IIIOVADIE CAIIID TES	NOII-IVIOVADIE	SOU ISLAND AD
Appears to be elevated camp or residence. 9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy has an			
	No	Vacant Land	492 ISLAND RD
9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy does not have an active account and has not had an			
9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy does not have an active account but has had an	20	Vacant Land	489 ISI AND RD
account.	Residence Yes	Non-Movable	483 ISLAND RD
Two vehicles less seen at property. 9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy has an active	Non-movable		
	No	Vacant Land	478 ISLAND RD
9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy does not have an active account and has not had an			
9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy has an active account	Non-movable Residence Yes	Non-Movable	477 ISLAND RD
9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy has an active account.	Non-movable Residence Yes	Non-Movable	476 ISLAND RD
Overgrowth in front of stairs. 9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy has an active account.	Abandoned Yes	Non-Movable	475 ISLAND RD
	Non-movable		

551 ISLAND RD 552 ISLAND RD 553 ISLAND RD	Vacant Land Non-Movable Non-Movable	Non-movable Camp Non-movable Camp	No Yes Yes	green space and access to the levee. 9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy has an active account 9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy has an active account
554 ISLAND RD	Non-Movable	Non-movable Camp	Yes	9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy has an active account
555 ISLAND RD	Non-Movable	Non-movable Camp	Yes	9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy has an active account
556 ISLAND RD	Non-Movable	Non-movable Camp	° N	9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy does not have an active account and has not had an account
557 ISLAND RD	Vacant Land		No	green space
558 ISLAND RD	Non-Movable	Non-movable Camp Non-movable	Yes	9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy has an active account
559 ISLAND RD	Non-Movable	Abandoned	Yes	9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy has an active account
560 ISLAND RD	Vacant Land		No N	greenspace Garbage service exist but not active. 9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy has an active
561 ISLAND RD	Non-Movable	Non-movable Camp	Yes	account.
JOS ISLAINU KU	vacalit Laliu	Vacalit LUL	02	Contains and the contains of t
565 ISLAND RD	Movable	Movable Camp	No	Double check the address. Last house near the water has 565 posted on the structure. confirmed with Entergy 10/4/2016 no service at location.
567 ISLAND RD	Non-Movable	Non-movable Camp	Yes	Garbage cans not issued by the local government are present on the property.
568 ISLAND RD	Non-Movable	Non-movable Camp	ON.	Appears to be a camp. 9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy does not have an active account and has not had an account. Garbage can with this address is located on island road. confirmed with Entergy 10/4/2016
569 ISLAND RD	Non-Movable	Non-movable Camp	No	no service. 9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy does not have an active account but has had an
570 ISLAND RD	Non-Movable	Non-movable Camp	No	account.
571 ISLAND RD	Other Structure Type	Marina	Yes	Land was parish property. Marina built within the last few years. 9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy has an active account.
				9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy does not have an active account and has not had an
572 ISLAND RD	Non-Movable	Non-movable Camp	No	account.
573 ISLAND RD	Non-Movable	Movable Camp	Yes	9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy has an active account.
574 ISLAND RD	Non-Movable	Non-movable Camp	Yes	9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy has an active account.
575 ISLAND RD	Non-Movable	Non-movable Camp	0 2	account.

abandoned lot grass cut. young citrus tree Boat launch cannot throw cast nets at night time Cemetery is maintained by next door neighbor at the cost of the tribe	Other No Vacant Lot No No Cemetery No	Vacant Land Vacant Land Other Structure Type Other Other Structure Type	Abandoned utility Between 306 and 308 Boat Launch Casting Area Cemetery
light pole is #17. two entrances to structure. unsure if structure is a duplex. no visible address. locked fence. 9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy has an active account.	Non-movable Camp Yes	Non-Movable	600 ISLAND RD
appears to be a small camp. There is a pad lock present. There is a camera installed. Building is on piers but only about 1-2 foot high. 9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy has an active account.	Non-movable Camp Yes	Non-Movable	598 ISLAND RD
Both 596s are just one building, maybe the northern one was removed. 9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy does not have an active account but has had an account.	Non-movable Camp No	Non-Movable	596 ISLAND RD
Bulk head and boardwalk. 9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy does not have an active account and has not had an account.  green space 9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy does not have an active account but has had an account.  deck/dock. 9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy has an active account.  deck/dock. 9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy has an active account.  green space. Drive way	Non-movable Camp No Non-movable Residence No Non-movable Camp Yes Non-movable Camp Yes	Non-Movable Vacant Land Non-Movable Non-Movable Non-Movable Non-Movable	580 ISLAND RD 581 ISLAND RD 588 ISLAND RD 590 ISLAND RD 592 ISLAND RD 594 Island Road
Footbridge being rebuilt. 9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy has an active account. Abandoned trailer. 9/27/2016 - Confirmed with Entergy does not have an active account and has not had an account.	Non-movable Camp Yes Non-movable Camp No	Non-Movable Non-Movable	578 ISLAND RD 579 ISLAND RD
green space Confirmed with Entergy 10/4/2016.	Yes	Vacant Land	577 ISLAND RD

fire hydrant and small shed.	fire hydrant.	gas platform		levee was later built. area used to be open.	first fire station	old store and gas station Naquin owned		green space		levee		(Confirm. There is no house on this side of street)		
No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No		No		No	Yes	No
					Other		Other				Non-movable	Abandoned		
Other Structure Type	Other Structure Type	Other Structure Type	Other Structure Type	Other Structure Type	Other Structure Type	Other Structure Type	Other	t Vacant Land		Other Structure Type		Other	Other Structure Type	Other Structure Type
Fire Hydrant	Fire Hydrant	Gas platform	Gas Platform	Northern Levee West	Old Fire Station	Old Store & Dance Hall	Refuge	Southern Levee Gate East Vacant Land	Southern Levee Gate	West		Unknown Structure	Weather station	Wildlife Management