









ROUND 1 MEETINGS OVERVIEW

The first round of LA SAFE meetings kicked off the planning process. At these meetings, the project team presented data focused on land loss, flood risk, population movements, and economic change (see appendix). This information provided the groundwork for the community conversations. During these conversations, the participants discussed the goals and values that LA SAFE should pursue going forward.

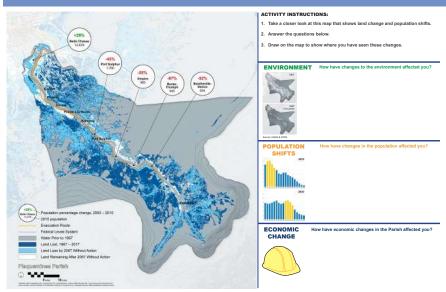
The majority of the meetings centered on two small-group activities, which focused on 3 general aspects of the project: Community & Culture, Environment & Sustainability, and Economy & Jobs. The first activity asked residents to describe the changes and challenges that they have seen over the last 50 years in their communities. This activity included a map that depicted current and future land loss and population shifts between 2000 and 2010.

The second activity asked what aspects of those three categories are important to protect and preserve, and how they can be strengthened, improved, or expanded. The project team organized the feedback from this meeting into 3 categories: Strengths, Opportunities, and Challenges.

At the meeting, the residents sat at round tables. Each table group had a table host and a table scribe. The table host facilitated the conversation and helped capture the residents' ideas. The table scribe documented the conversation.



WHAT DOES CHANGE MEAN TO YOU?



Activity 1 table sheet. See appendix for larger image. Below: Activity 2 table sheet and residents participating.



MEETING RESULTS

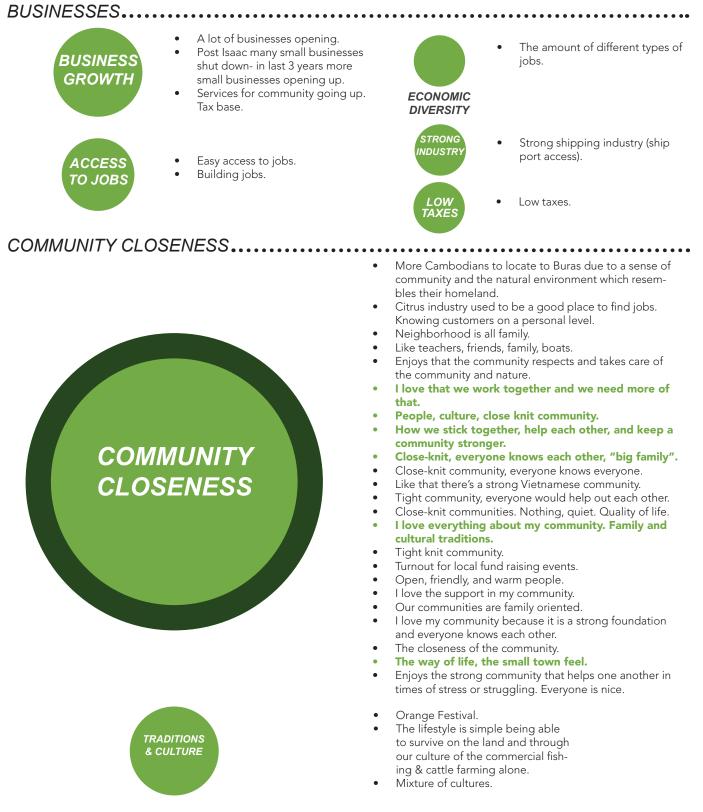
The following pages illustrate the full meeting results. The graphic on the right depicts all of the ideas grouped by similarity. The project team designed the groupings using an emergent thematic coding technique. The team grouped similar ideas into sub-groups, and then arranged the sub-groups into major categories.

The size of the circles in the graphic reflects the frequency of comments within that topic. The larger circles show the most commonly discussed topics, while the smaller circles show topics discussed less often.



STRENGTHS

The project team transcribed all of the comments below directly from the table sheet activities at Meeting 1. Comments in bold represent the ideas that community members prioritized using sticker dots during the activity. The sizes of the subcategory circles correspond to the number of ideas within the suggestion. The subcategories are then organized under major categories, separated by dotted lines. See the key on page 23 for more information.



PLAQUEMINES PARISH ROUND 1 MEETING SUMMARY

STRENGTHS



- Get to be your own business/boss.
- Self-employed.
- Everybody has their own business and likes to work with their families and for themselves.
- Enjoys their livelihood (shrimping, fishing, oyster) industries.
- Passing on family business.



- Our friends, family, way of life, our small town, was always a small family. The youth.
- Vietnamese community. Family.

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HUNTING & FISHING.....

HUNTING & FISHING

Catch on the fishing- Mississippi River.

- Availability of seafood. Being able to live off the land.
- Likes that fishing is accessible right outside their doors.
- Fresh and salt water fishing.
- What I love about the community is you can kill the wild animals and eat them. We live off the land.
- Hunting, fishing, living off the land.
- Most of my life I love hunting, fishing, mostly duck hunting.
- Going trowling, fishing, camping, peaceful.
- Wildlife environment (marsh, hunting, fishing, Mississippi river, etc) are vital to Plaq Parish.
- Wildlife, shrimp, oysters, fishing.
- Fishing and hunting.
- Our land, our life here, hunting and fishing.



GOOD SCHOOLS ..

I like to live near the coast. My job is here and it is what I know. The schools in which kids attend are comfortable.

- The school is new, my child loves it.
- Schools.

- Good schools.
 - Good schools, small communities, safe.
 - Education, maintaining "A" schools.
 - Good schools.

SEAFOOD INDUSTRY.....



- We enjoy our fresh caught seafood from our business
- I like my job as a fisherman.
- We enjoy our fresh caught seafood from our business.
- I'm a fisherman, the cost of living is cheaper than the city.
- Commercial fishing.
- Seafood industry.

STRENGTHS

NATURAL RESOURCES



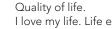
- The land is what makes us. Whether it be economic, population, or environment.
- Taking the kids out to enjoy wildlife/fishing.
- Bond, because I work with my husband and we get to really get hands on experience of good days and bad.
- Homes near work. Working and living by the water.
- Being able to live & survive off land.
- Family business- chicken, eggs, jelly, satsuma oranges, veg. gardening.
- Enjoys that their livelihood is here near their homes.
- Best creole tomatoes & citrus in the world. Histories of the communities.
- Rural atmosphere 20 minutes from city and all it can offer.
- Living on the land.
- Agriculture- oranges, citrus.
- Gardening.
- Wildlife
- I like raising my chickens, ducks and geese.
- The wild life coming in the yard.
- I like the weather here.
- The weather is nice.
- We have a lot of land and we're spread out.
- Fresh air.
- Quiet life.
- Garden/open space for agriculture. Scenery.
- Protection for the land.
- QUALITY OF LIFE

PEACEFULNESS

- It is quiet and peaceful living here. Living in Buras for 15 years, I feel at peace, it is quiet here. I don't have to worry about anything especially crime rate is lower.
- It is quiet and peaceful.
- Peaceful •
- My family and fairness, peace.
- Peace, tranquility & low crime rate.
- SENSE OF COMMUNITY
- Friends, closeness, welcoming.
 - Culture, security/safety, lifestyle.



- Helpful government- good assistance
- Parish transportation van.



I love my life. Life expectancy has increased. I love to be a fisherman. The convenience of my job is easy for me. Want to be closer to the supermarket.

SAFETY.....



- Always felt protected from floods.
- Safe.
- Safety.
- Low crime. Safe community.
- Low crime.
- Very safe area.
- Low crime.

DIVERSIFY & DEVELOP ECONOMY.....

GROW BUSINESSES & JOBS

- Bring oil field back.
- Increased business development.
- More retail in lover Plaq., more small businesses.
- Grocery stores.
- More plants and terminals north of Plaquemines.
- Economy & jobs schools, hospitals, needs assistance with necessities.
- Jobs are the future of Plaq. parish.
- Need more jobs, schools, open workshops/factories/ companies.
- Help support new economies and new jobs.
- More commercial businesses for our community.
- Build more businesses, retails, services.
- Need clothing stores, more affordable supermarkets.
- Options for retail stores.
- My future goal is to get more jobs and to get more things for the kids.
- Want a Chucky Cheese Pizza.
- Grocery stores on the East bank.
- We need more marine and supply stores in the area.
- Needs more jobs, hospital, schools, improvement in drainage system.

DEVELOP ON THE RIVER



- Develop the river.
- Develop port to maximum potential.
- Make a port down in Venice like they have in Fourchon, LA.
- Need a port at the mouth of the river.
- The river corridor is underdeveloped.
- Businesses along river.
- To come back in 30 years and there is a better us. What can be better is money being brought into our community.
- More business- hire young people so they don't move away.
- Stores- accessible, affordable in parish.
- INCREASE FOOD ACCESS
- More accessible, less expensive food.



- Ferry service needs to improve at Belle Chase.
- More water based transportation= Nav. lock in proposal.



Perpetuate agriculture economy.



TOURISM/

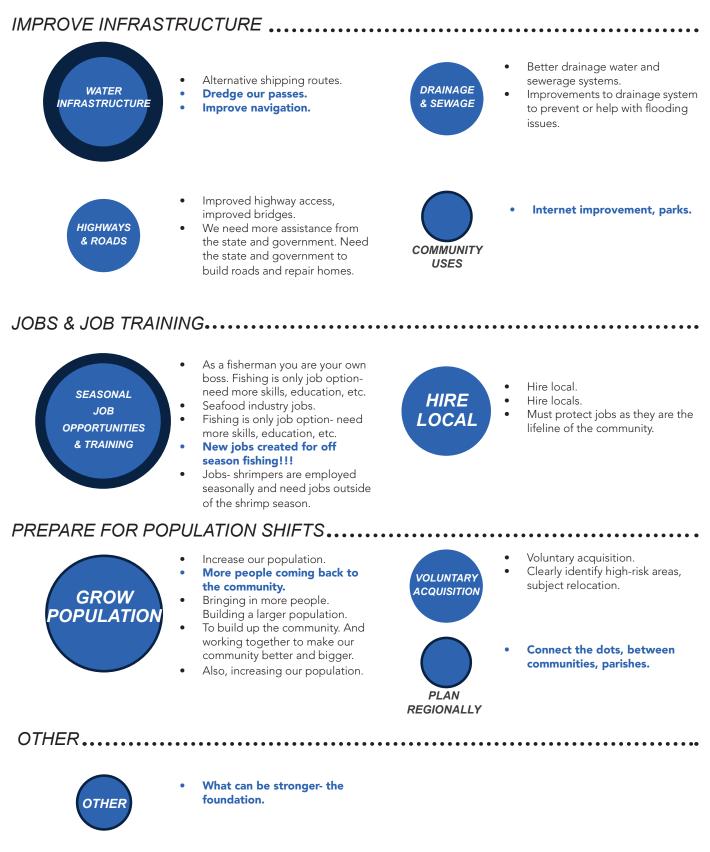
ECO-

TOURISM

Tours for people. Promote tourism.

HEALTHCARE

BUILD FOR WATER Raising houses, levees. Have homes here that are only accessible by Lift all homes on East bank. water-water taxis. Elevate homes. Our homes need to be elevated or the Everyone elevate, level off land land needs to be elevated. Homes need with levees then build all land up to be elevated. We need our homes to be ELEVAT to levee level, then elevate. elevated. Erosions of land is affecting us. Help with the rebuilding of our we need more assistance with our homes. homes and elevation of homes so more elevation of land & homes need to be HOMES we can endure hurricanes. Build elevated. tall houses (elevation of homes). We will not leave our home- I would like my When it storms/floods, we have to house to be raised like others who left. evacuate our homes. **Floating School INNOVATE FOR** WATER IMPROVE EDUCATION English as second language in More Schools. ESL schools. SCHOOL Teaching our children to care GED programs on the East bank. for the environment EASTBANK ENVIRONMENTAL GED PROGRAMS PROGRAM Educate our kids on what's Build community knowledge & going on with the coastal capacity. erosion and teach them what their role could be in improving COMMUNITY COASTAL it and helping not to cause CAPACITY **EDUCATION** further harm. BUILDING PROGRAM IMPROVE HEALTHCARE Hospital on the East bank. HEALTH Correction to rampant drug use. We need clinic on East Bank. SERVICES ON EASTBANK **ADDRESS** DRUG USE/ ABUSE More doctors, more experienced/ expertise in health care. **IMPROVE**



PRESERVE COMMUNITY STABILITY & QUALITY OF LIFE



PROTECTION & RESTORATION ..



- Protect the fish habitat.
- More marshes and trees.
- Instead of dumping sand in the Gulf, put it back in the marshes in the freshwater developments.

- More fresh water, cypress trees.
- More use of natural processes to rebuild land.
- All the mountains in the Appalachians, knock one down, build up the land then maybe we'll be sea level.
- House jobs, preserving wetlands, marsh, recreational, better drainage. Land lost.
- Restore barrier islands
- Rebuild robust wetland buffer.
- Responsible parties to contribute to restoration & adaptation. Lack of communication/cable.
- Fill the holes from all the pits.



• Improved storm protection.

- My future goal is to see a decrease in our flood risk by building levees much longer that they are now.
- Better levees.
- What can be better about the community our levees.
- One way we decrease our flood risk is by building more flood gates or add sand in the area where there is a high flood depth.
- My future goal is to decrease our flood risk.
- More protection on the water (portals).
- Protect levees, job growth, tax base.

RECREATION & YOUTH PROGRAMS.....



- Create new things for young • people.
- Recreation for kids.
- Youth activities (2 hrs to prom).
- More adult recreational opportunities.
- More things for kids to do. There's not much for them to do besides go to the community center. •
 - Fishing piers for our kids.

REGULATION & POLICY



We need a more friendly • business environment to attract business.



Tax sportsman, not just locals.



CITRUS

FARMING

- Make citrus industry regulations • easier to adapt to for the time we have left.
- Parish needs to do their part for oil and gas and seafood in parish name, somehow someway.



Oil industry going through backways, channels need to be properly marked better.

STABILIZE & SUPPORT FISHING INDUSTRY



- Better price for fish. .
- Farmers markets, fish markets.
- Invest more in commercial • fisherman- shrimp industry.



- State get more involved in the commercial fishing industry to improve it.
- Get oyster fishermen to work with us. Work with oyster fishermen.



Borrow pits as a resources (harbors).



Balance out the harm that fresh water has done (killed off the oysters).

COMPENSATE FOR COMMUNITY COST OF RESTORATION

CHALLENGES CONTINUED LAND LOSS ...



- Sinking land. Talk of land rebuilding redevelopment has no more marsh land to protect people and homes. Sand deposit needed from river-gulf.
- Losing land- fresh water is coming in, which is making us lose seafood.
- Less land- more water.
- Land loss.
- Cannot build basin with new flood zone and requirements.
- Salt water intrusion, where populations shift.
- Changes in waterway & prop washing off.
- Restoration due to population loss.
- Mailboxes went down, we had 2 now only 1.
- No land for dock.
- Tremendous loss of land. Storm surges, no buffer zone.
- Sinking, no buffer to levee, orange trees.
- Bugs are also eating away land, this is occurring where we have restoration projects.

FLOODING



- Quicker changes of tides (water). When wind blows from the south have 2-3 miles of water on road coming from marsh. Wall/levee between SBP and PPG caused major flooding. New flood maps because flood events have significantly changed way of life. Drawing on map on East Bank across from Belle Chasse closed during Isaac caused 21' of water.
- The homes that aren't elevated will suffer from the floods.
- Foundations change in that their homes easily flood. Floods more easily, roads are more uneven and have split. Changes in vegetation in that there's less fruit since flooding. Waterway floods easily.
- When it floods/storms, we have to evacuate our homes.

• Sea level rising. More risk of flooding.

- Braithwaite Park to White Ditch on the East Bank was left out of a Federal Wall. I feel all the homes on the east bank of the parish and all the lower part of the parish should be raised. Belle Chasse on the West bank, the Mississippi river levee is being raised and the east bank levee still has holes. Why are West bank levees higher than East bank. Grants were given to some homeowners and others were left out.
- Foundation changes in that their home easily floods.
- Flooding hazard everywhere since Katrina.
- Lost everything and having to start over was tough.
- Have restoration projects.

WILDLIFE MOVEMENT/ DEATH



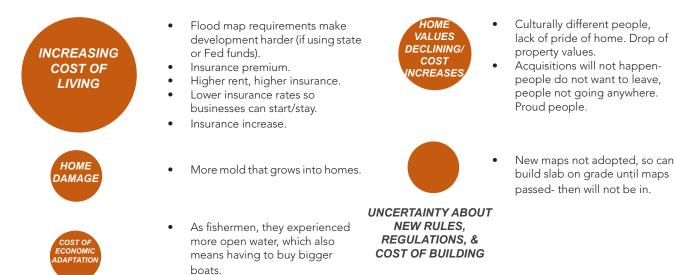
- No vegetation growth/harder.
- No vegetation.
- All wildlife has decreased.
- More nuisance animals causing problems- bugs, mosquitos all blown into our environment. Loss of wetlands, loss of wildlife nursery, loss of oysters.
- Cattle can no longer graze where they once have 70+ years.



• Pipeline right of ways, bulkheads of water.

CHALLENGES

INCREASING COSTS & PROPERTY LOSS ..



JOB LOSS/ INCOME INSECURITY



 Affects my job security- no work. Needs assistance. If we don't get assistance now, our future is unknown. Please assist.

- Job adjustments for mainly single women, mothers and families.
- Jobs have relocated.
- Less job desire.
- Less jobs.
- Job security.
- Seasonal Workers.
- It creates job losses.
- My life and work will be more difficult. I am affected by the changes. Hopes the government assists with job securities so we can have a better life. My livelihood. When we do not have enough to make ends meet, we need assistance. Lost the way of living and work.
- No more jobs.
- Hard to make money for living.
- Less jobs.
- No one hiring locals.
- Majority of jobs are from out of town and state people. Labor shortage.
- My job. It affects me in my job security- no work. It makes my life and jobs more difficult. It affects me in that I lose my job security- no work.
- No money coming in, workers are being affected and even our schools.
- Not enough jobs for our community. Jobs that are available are filled by people outside the parish.
- Job loss, changing to different careers.

CHALLENGES SEAFOOD INDUSTRY INSTABILITY



- Fishing on East bank is in dire straights. Mardi Gras pass is blocked- fresh water is pouring into the saltwater.
- Decades ago, shrimping was good. Oyster fields are less so, not as prosperous as before. Oysters dying from floods. Commercial fishers supplement income with living off the land, growing vegis, raising beef, chickens etc. More people need to do this.
- Losing land- fresh water is coming in, which is making us lose seafood.
- Boat, bread winner- blood, sweat, tears, MONEY INTO BOAT.
- Oysters dying from floods.
- Fishery has been affected. Wildlife decrease.
- Fresh water diversion impacts where you can fish and what you can catch. Before fresh water diversion on the East bank it was more white shrimp than Brazilian, and also made a huge impact on oysters.
- Fishery has been affected. Wildlife decrease.
- They have to go further out to shrimp. They have learned to adapt by locating the shrimp even though they have to go further out.
- Economic changes in the shrimping industries.
- Prices for shrimping & oysters has dropped. No profits in 6 months of working.
- Price of seafood.
- As a commercial fisherman, have to go further out in rougher areas.
- They have to go further out to shrimp. They have learned to adapt by locating the shrimp even though they have to go further out.

DECLINING ASSETS & TAX BASE



- DECLINING DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE
- We lost commercial development.
- Lack of road system- hard on business development- only have ferry.

DECLINING TAX BASE

People move, causes less money.



• GAP/TAX/SCHOOLS

DISCONNECTS ACROSS PARISH



- Language and cultural barriers make it difficult for the Cambodian community to fully participate.
- New cultures have made residents make new adjustments.
- Mardi Gras Pass is a failed diversion process that needs to be closed.





We the people won't be heard. We're tired of being looked over. Without people, our government

.

- Without people, our governmen will fail. Our biggest problem is our government not hearing our voice. They are looking over us. They only worry about themselves.
- This is hard because of the 2 sides of long parish.

CHALLENGES

..... LACK OF EDUCATION & INFO.....



- Lack of financial, retail, stores, options.
- Driving into NOLA for supplies and servicing.
- Travel further for supplies/gear.
- Travel further for groceries.
- Shop in New Orleans for car
- services, groceries, supplies.
 Yes, restaurants are further. Supplies are further.

LACK OF SOCIAL RESOURCES.....

LOSS OF BUSINESSES



- Less doctors.
- Lack of medical.
- Reduction of society health at YMCA.
- Remove resources. Parish doesn't have the money.
- Losing out on resources- parish doesn't have enough money to spend on the resources we are losing out on.



- LACK OF RECREATION OPTIONS
- No recreations in Plaquemines. No recreation opportunities except fishing.

East Bank communities are not

Less options for education.

No knowledge of economic

around the coast.

No newspaper.

changes.

educated about what is going on



- Lack of utilities.
- No internet on East bank. No cable down East bank, only dish stuff. Digging lines now.

- LOSS OF BUSINESSES
- Loss of business (less people coming to my business) had a business in Venice, Hurricane Camille drove me out.
- Yes population has shifted businesses. Business and livelihood is most important.
- A lot of businesses closed.
- Lots of restaurants have closed. Stores closed here- have to travel farther.
- Since Katrina, groceries, restaurants closed. Some new businesses.
- More businesses are closing. No new businesses are opening.
- Lack of businesses all around.
- We are losing our economic engine.
- Lack of retail options.
- No money coming in workers are being affected and even our schools.



 Downturn in oil and gas affecting parishes, but we need O&G industry here.



CHALLENGES

POPULATION LOSS/MOVEMENT

POPULATION LOSS/ MOVEMENT

YOUTH

MOVING

AWAY



- Population decrease.
- Population shift from lower PPG to Belle Chasse. Large population that will not leave- adamant about staying 23000 Plaq. 17000 in Belle Chasse w/in flood gates. More people coming back to East bank in last years, large parcels of land.
- Less population.
- Family says they'll move away if there are more environmental changes.
- People moving out so our communities getting smaller.
- No returns to make residence of Port Sulphur on down due to scare of reliving a Katrina.
- Only 1/3 left in area.
- Our community feels empty.
- Families are separated from each other.
- No longer lives in the same house due to floods.
- People left after Katrina.
- People are moving and they are not coming back.
- Population percentage has decreased.
- People are moving out.
- No single women down here.
- I would like to have my future family live on my land. We are losing our young people.
- A major problem for our children are they're taught to graduate- succeed, college degree, yet taught to settle away from the parish due to jobs, hurricanes, etc. Yet how are we to thrive with nothing to thrive upon?
- I will not leave. Children have moved.
- Less youth population.
- Less younger population than older.
- Our children would come home if they could.

VULNERABILITY



- Parish- lower portion is unprepared more for, say, a Hurricane Camille than ever before.
- If the water won't get you, the wind will, you cannot fight mother nature.
- Stress/uncertainty.
- Whatever I lost, I can't replace.
- Living situation within 20 yrs.
 - uncertainty.



APPENDIX

The appendix follows this page. It includes maps and graphs shown during the first Plaquemines Parish LA SAFE meeting. The appendix illustrates land loss, flood risk, population shifts, and economic activity in the parish. Larger examples of the table sheets used at the meeting follow the maps and graphs.



STAY CONNECTED!

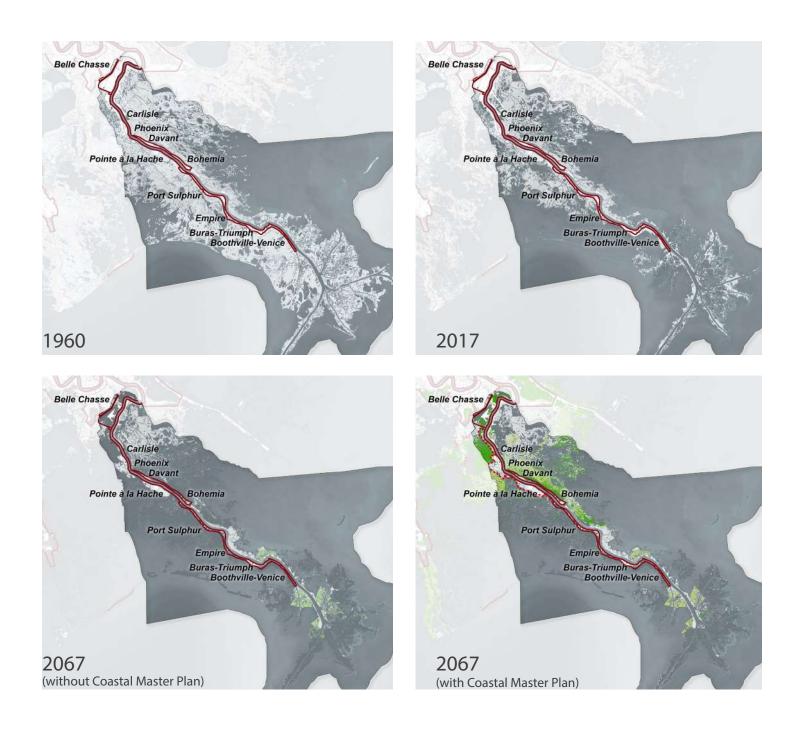
Website: lasafe.la.gov Facebook.com/livelasafe Twitter: @livelasafe Instragram: @livelasafe Email: info@livelasafe.org

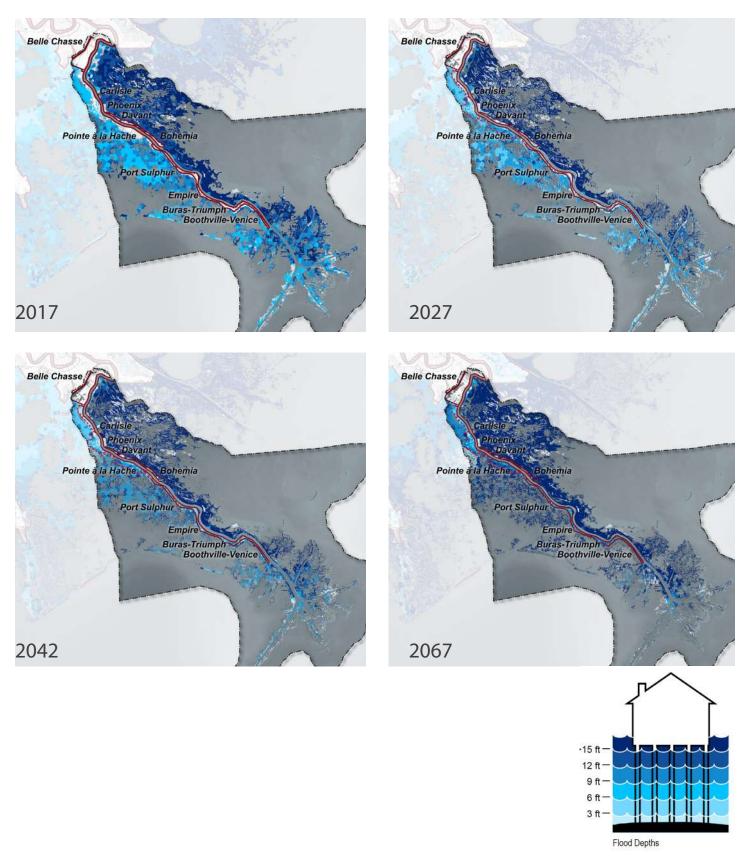
LA SAFE point of contact: Plaquemines Parish Kia Bickham kia.bickham@aptim.com

225.413.1582

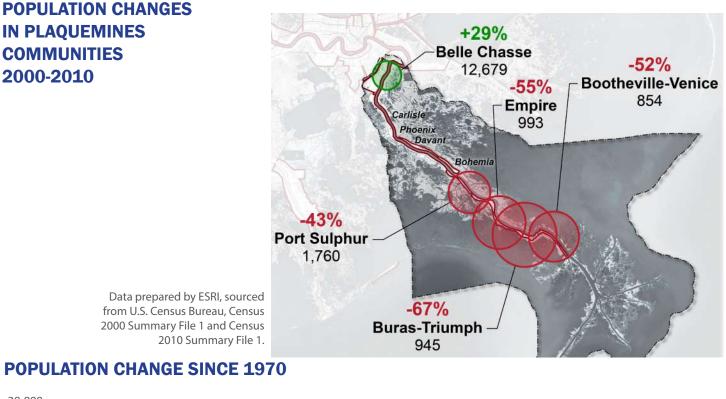
GET IN TOUCH!

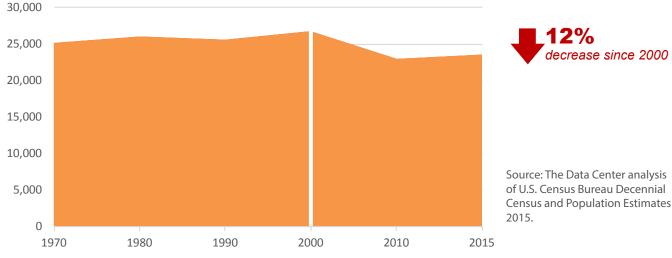
LAND LOSS OVER TIME



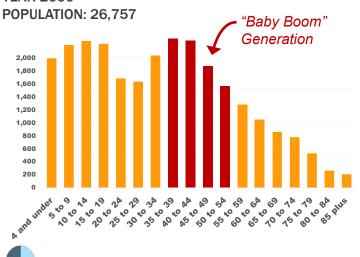


This data was provided by CPRA and were originally produced to inform the development of the 2017 Coastal Master Plan.

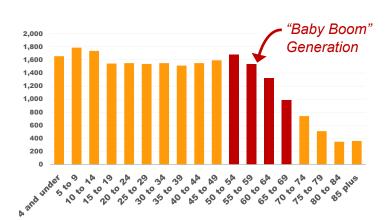




POPULATION BY AGE, 2000 - 2015 YEAR 2000

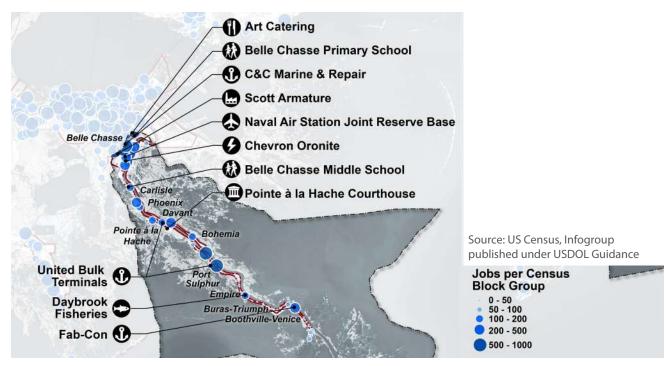


YEAR 2015 POPULATION: 23,495



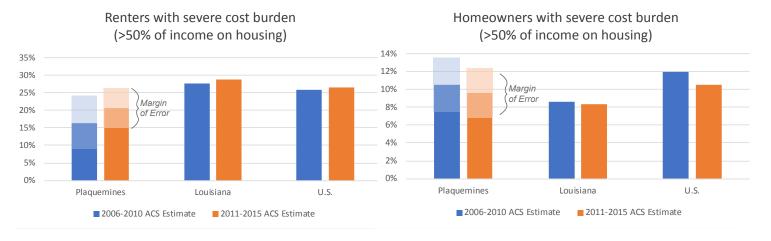
Source: The Data Center analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from the decennial census.

MAJOR EMPLOYMENT CENTERS

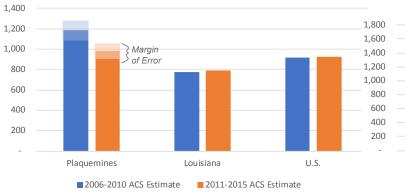


HOUSING TRENDS IN PLAQUEMINES PARISH

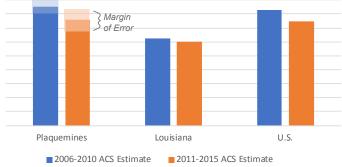
Source: The Data Center Analysis of U.S. Census Data; Notes: Estimates of % Owner Occupied Housing for Plaquemines and St. John the Baptist are from 2015 ACS Supplemental Estimates. Estimates from a range of years (2006-2010 or 2011-2015) represent an average across the listed years.



Median Gross Monthly Rent (2015)



Median Monthly Housing costs for Homeowners with Mortgages (2015)

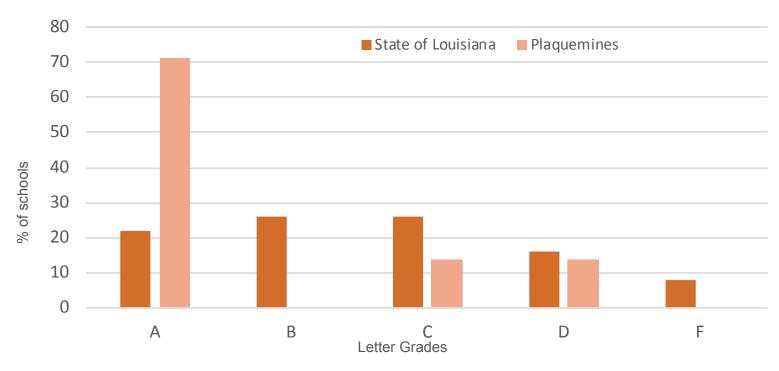


Source: The Data Center analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from the decennial census.

PARISH SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

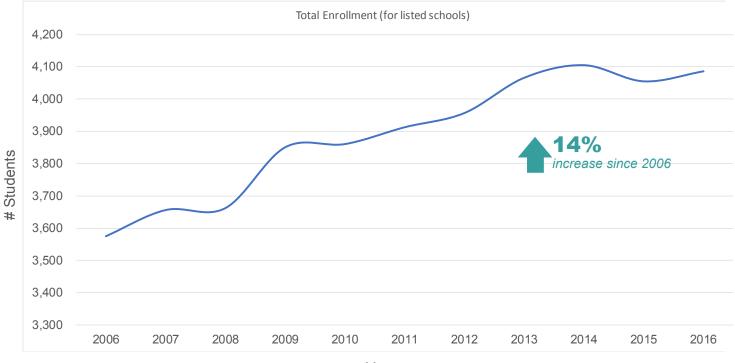
2015-2016 District Report Card

Source: Concordia analysis of ^{"2015-2016} School District Report Cards," Accessed April 2017, http://www.louisianabelieves.com/data/reportcards/2016/



PARISH SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

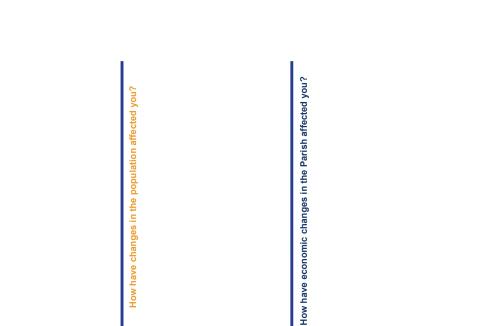
Source: Data Center analysis of "Multiple Statistics By Site For Total Reported Students" Tables from the Louisiana Department of Education, Accessed April 2017, http://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/library/enrollment-counts

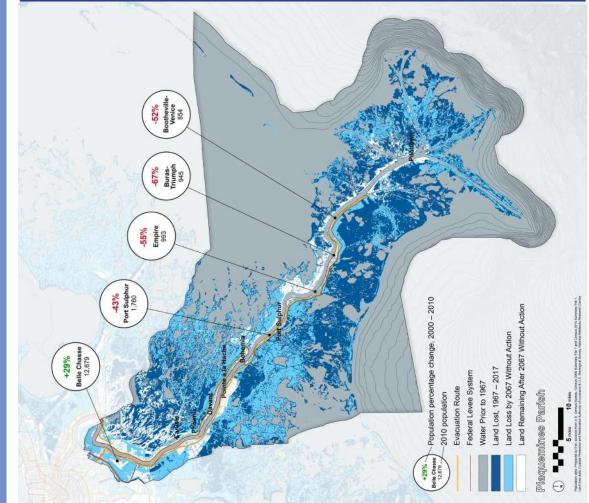


Year

ACTIVITY 1 TABLE SHEET

(originally 36"x48")





1970

POPULATION

SHIFTS

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

WHAT DOES CHANGE MEAN TO YOU?

- 1. Take a closer look at this map that shows land change and population shifts.
- 2. Answer the questions below.
- 3. Draw on the map to show where you have seen these changes

How have changes to the environment affected you?

ENVIRONMENT

ECONOMIC CHANGE ACTIVITY 2 TABLE SHEET (originally 36"x48")

ADAPTATION GOALS

