



PARISH OF ST. CHARLES

OFFICE OF THE COUNCIL

August 4, 2004

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Mr. James Barlow, Project Manager
U. S. Corps of Engineers
Operations Division
Regulatory Functions Branch
P. O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

Re: CHEVRONTEXACO
MVN 2004-2143-WAA

Dear Mr. Barlow:

The St. Charles Parish Council officially offers a **STRONG OBJECTION** to the application of ChevronTexaco, COE #MVN-2004-2143-WAA for a permit for site restoration which will consist of planting areas with one-year old seedlings representative of a species assemblage historically common to the hardwood forests and cypress-tupelo swamps of the Mississippi River deltaic plain. It is anticipated that cypress-tupelo swamps will be established on the lower elevations with bottomland hardwoods planted upon the ridges of Sharkey and Commerce soils. Existing forested areas within the project area will be planted with seedlings of those overstory species absent or poorly represented in the canopy. Once seedlings have become established, competition from standing trees will be reduced by thinning to release saplings. Water manipulation devised (e.g., flash board risers) could be installed in the numerous ancillary lateral ditches off the 23 major canals that presently drain the area. Existing drainage structures, i.e. those associated with extant crawfish ponds, could be fitted with risers and water, if needed, could be pumped from the adjacent canal system. In lower elevation areas, portable pumps could dewater the location prior to planting cypress and adjacent canals could be used to return water to the location, if necessary, in St. Charles Parish, near the communities of Paradis and Des Allemands, Louisiana.

The Parish Council offers this **STRONG OBJECTION** in accordance with the reasons outlined in Exhibit A attached to Resolution No. 5216. A copy of the resolution authorizing this objection along is enclosed for your records.

Sincerely,

BARBARA JACOB-TUCKER
COUNCIL SECRETARY

BJT/sm

enclosure

cc: Parish Council
Mr. Earl Matherne, CZM Administrator w/enclosure
Coastal Zone Advisory Committee w/enclosure
ChevronTexaco w/enclosure