

Information Management and Access Plan

For

Louisiana Coastal Protection and
Restoration
(LACPR)

April 2006

LACPR BACKGROUND

Congress has directed the Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, in partnership with the State of Louisiana, to initiate a 24-month endeavor, the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration (LACPR) Project. The project will identify, describe and propose a full range of flood control, coastal restoration, and hurricane protection measures for South Louisiana. The products of this project include a Preliminary Technical Report (PTR) and Final Technical Report (FTR) to be completed in six and twenty-four months, respectively. These reports will describe the findings of analysis and design for several alternatives of increased, comprehensive hurricane protection across South Louisiana, integrating the water resources objectives of hurricane protection, flood control, interior drainage, navigation, and coastal restoration.

OBJECTIVES

The plan herein describes a comprehensive data and information management, access, and integration capability to store, organize, manage, and deliver the heterogeneous data and information required for the LACPR project.

The Information Management and Access (IMA) capabilities will be consistent with USACE Enterprise Architecture requirements, based on existing corporate frameworks and standards and will leverage the hardware, software and data framework developed for the Interagency Performance Evaluation Taskforce (IPET).

This information framework, depicted in Figure 1, features a data management environment based on the Bentley ProjectWise software, which provides controlled access to all data. All study members will access data via a thin-client (web) interface and/or thick-client (desktop) application. Both allow users to browse an organized directory of documents, search for documents based on keywords, title, etc., and search for documents associated with a specific map location.

All data will be geo-located and will reside in a common repository in a format suitable for archival and active use. A quality control process will be established to authorize and review each final data set before it is stored in the repository. A draft taxonomy that best categorizes data for the project will be developed in coordination with the other MVD teams.

A draft communications/distribution plan will be developed specifying data access controls and data distribution protocols. Data that is released for public access is being provided on an Internet-accessible server and a separate website has been created to allow the public to view/download this data.

Data/information in various common formats will be accommodated in the framework. These include but are not limited to CADD files (.dgn, .dwg), GIS files (.shp, SDE geodatabase), scanned documents (.pdf), Word documents (.doc), Videos (.avi), photographs (.jpg, .png), tables (.xls, .mdb), ASCII text files, Image files (.jpg, .tif), and 2D/3D surfaces (grids, meshes, tins).

IMA Framework

The LACPR Information Management and Access framework is comprised of 3 primary components:

1. The content management component, based on the Bentley ProjectWise software, will store, manage, and deliver the authoritative information for LACPR. ProjectWise has been approved by the USACE National Management Board as the preferred tool for virtual engineering. ProjectWise provides an out-of-the-box capability to easily store and manage multiple types of documents/datasets and the metadata associated with that data. It also provides a delivery and access control mechanism such that users can easily access the data in a variety of ways. The CADD/GIS Technology Center is spearheading a project to define a standard ProjectWise implementation for USACE. The standard will be leveraged for this study. The LACPR implementation of ProjectWise will also include a workspace area for teams to collaborate. The IMA team will serve as the ProjectWise administrator for LACPR and all final datasets plus Metadata shall be approved before addition to the repository. The ProjectWise software is available from the CADD/GIS Technology Center and the CADD administrator at each District at no cost. The CADD/GIS Technology Center has developed an installation program for the desktop client – contact Denise Martin or Milton Richardson to request a copy. Login usernames and passwords for external users will be managed and provided by the IMA Team.

Geographic Information System (GIS) data will be stored as layers in a multi-user geodatabase. GIS users will be provided read-only access to the geodatabase. GIS layers will also be stored as shape files and geopdf files in the LACPR ProjectWise Data Source. Non-GIS users will be able to view the geopdf files via Adobe Acrobat Reader.

The LACPR ProjectWise Data Source will be linked to the IPET ProjectWise Data Source in order to leverage the large amount of data compiled by the IPET team.

2. The review component will be based on the DrChecks software, developed at the Construction Engineering Research Lab (CERL). DrChecks is defined in EC 1105-2-408 as the USACE standard tool for independent technical review (ITR) of all decision documents that require authorization by the U.S. Congress. DrChecks documents all ITR comments, responses and associated resolution accomplished throughout the study. Although DrChecks was originally developed to support review of engineering drawings/designs, it has been

modified to support review of planning study documents as well. Final resolutions to all comments will be stored in the ProjectWise repository and may be distributed to the public through the LACPR web site. A member of the IMA team will serve as the DrChecks administrator. Passwords will be managed and controlled by the DrChecks support group at (web site/phone number)

3. The public website, <http://lacpr.usace.army.mil>, provides public access to LACPR information. An approval process has been established to determine when specific information is approved for public release. The IMA Team will add data content and make modifications to the LACPR web site as they are required. The web site will be managed, maintained, and supported by the IMA team. GIS data layers will be accessible from the public website in the form of geopdf files and/or shape files.

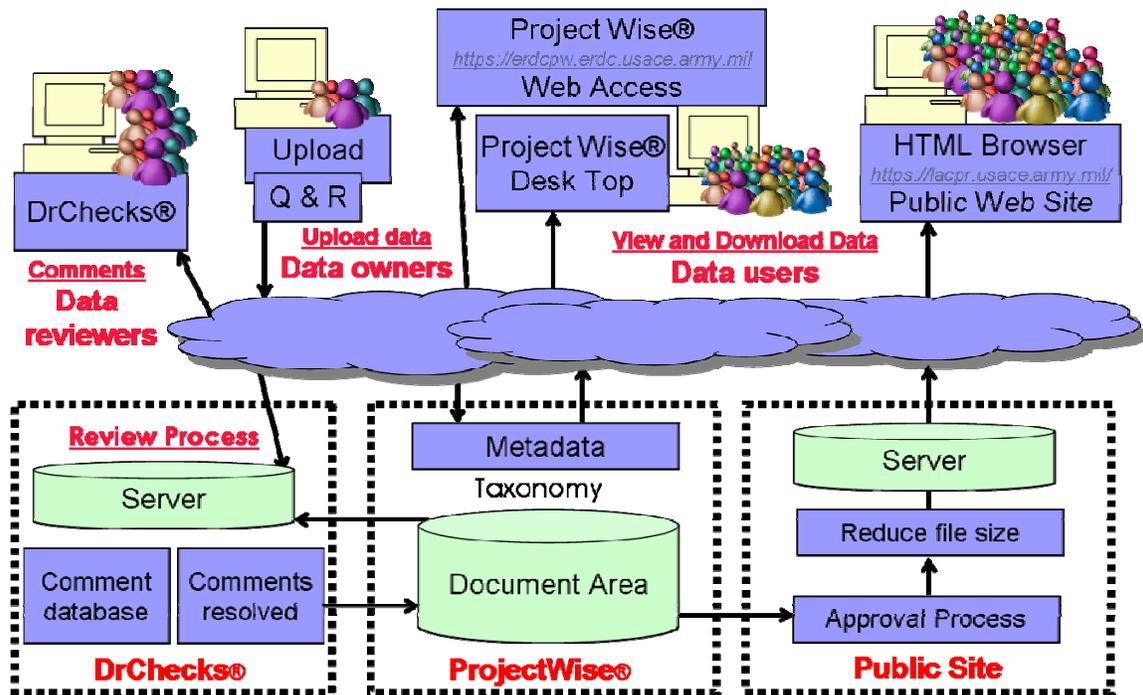


Figure 1. LACPR Data Management architecture

Training

The IMA Team will provide training and support for the DrChecks and ProjectWise users on an as requested basis