February 2008 (rev)
Cost figures as of: March 2013

Cheniere Au Tigre Sediment Trapping Demonstration (TV-16)

Project Status

Approved Date: 1997 **Project Area:** N/A
Approved Funds: $0.62 M **Total Est. Cost:** $0.62 M
Net Benefit After 20 Years: N/A
Status: Completed Oct. 2001
Project Type: Demonstration: Sediment and Nutrient Trapping
PPL #: 6

Location

The project is located east of Cheniere Au Tigre along the Gulf of Mexico shoreline in southern Vermilion Parish, Louisiana.

Problems

The beach along the chenier plain protects thousands of acres of wetlands and is critical to diverse communities of fish and wildlife populations. This project area includes portions of a wildlife sanctuary and a state refuge. The wetlands north of the demonstration project contain several oilfields and navigation channels, one of which terminates only a few hundred feet from the existing shoreline. If the beach breaches into the nearby navigation channel, full strength Gulf of Mexico seawater will intrude into intermediate and brackish marshes and increase tidal action that will negatively impact 68,000 acres of marsh located north of the project area.

Restoration Strategy

This demonstration project will field test the effectiveness of segmented rock breakwaters to trap and retain sediment from gulf tides in this part of the gulf shoreline, potentially stabilizing the existing shoreline on Cheniere Au Tigre. Increased sediment accretion on the Gulf of Mexico side of the chenier is expected to act as an area of defense between the higher salinity seawater and the brackish marsh that lies immediately behind the chenier.

Progress to Date

The Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation Restoration Task Force approved this project on April 24, 1997. Construction of six segmented breakwaters was completed in October 2001. A large amount of sediment has accreted behind the structures.

The 2005 AM&M Report concluded that initially, this demonstration project intended to use new innovative designs for shoreline protection. Feasible, cost-effective designs could not be developed by construction contractors, therefore rock was eventually incorporated into the design. This project has been so successful that LDNR/Coastal Engineering Division had funded a continuation of the existing project. This project is on Priority Project List 6.

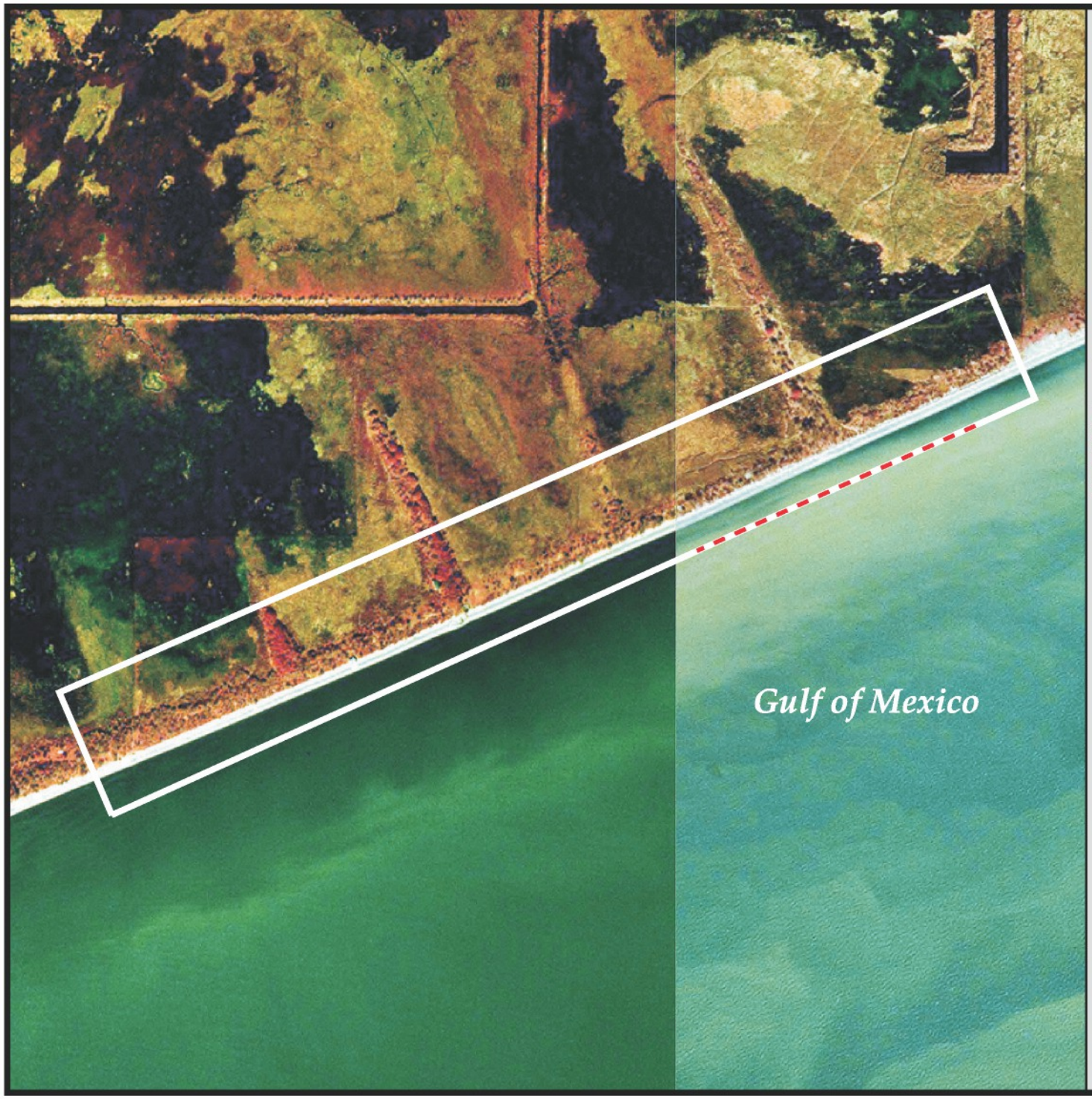
The project is helping to preserve a local cultural resource. The now abandoned Sagrera Health Resort was a popular area during the early 1940's that offered a relaxing atmosphere on Cheniere Au Tigre. Many generations of families called this area home. This small cemetery on the chenier is the final resting place for many of the former inhabitants.

Segmented rock dikes were constructed approximately 200 feet off the shoreline to intercept wave energy before it impacted the beach and caused erosion.

For more project information, please contact:

Federal Sponsor:
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Alexandria, LA
(318) 473-7756

Local Sponsor:
Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
Baton Rouge, LA
(225) 342-4736



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Shoreline Protection

Project Boundary

700 0 700 Feet

200 0 200 Meters

Map Produced By:
U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey
National Wetlands Research Center
Coastal Restoration Field Station

Background Imagery:
1998 Digital Orthophoto Quarter Quadrangle

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