

THE TIMES

Final phase of Little Cal flood protection now in design stage

Garcia Engineering gets nod to design Gary North project

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MUNSTER | The Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission recently gave the green light to the largest deferred maintenance flood protection project along the river.

The Gary North portion of the levee system was built during the 1990s.

This 7.5 mile section runs from Cline Avenue east past Martin Luther King Drive, primarily in Gary.

It includes two pump stations, flood gates, levee walls and flood closure structures that will have to be reconstructed to meet federal flood protection guidelines,

said Dan Repay, the commission's executive director.

This portion of the levee system was decertified by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers prior to the devastating flood of September 2008 because it wasn't functioning properly, said Bill Rochford, levee safety program manager with the Army Corps.

The commission decided to have Garcia Consulting Engineering, of Hammond, complete the design work for the Gary North project over the winter. Commission attorney David Wickland will review the contract with Garcia. Cost is not to exceed \$160,000.

"We need to have the construction documents ready by spring to be able to bid the construction phase," Repay said about the design work.

As with all segments of the levee's reconstruction, the design specifications coincide with the inspection reports by the U.S. Army Corps, he said.

"We have been very successful with that approach," Repay said.