

Why the Delta needs the Big Sunflower River Maintenance Project

A lot of misinformation is being reported about flood prevention projects for the Mississippi Delta...

We believe that the truth must be heard concerning the safety of Delta lives and property. That's why the Mississippi Levee Board has spent its 137-year history protecting our region from the ravages of flooding, looking for new, cost effective and environmentally safe ways to do so. One such way is the current Big Sunflower River Maintenance Project.

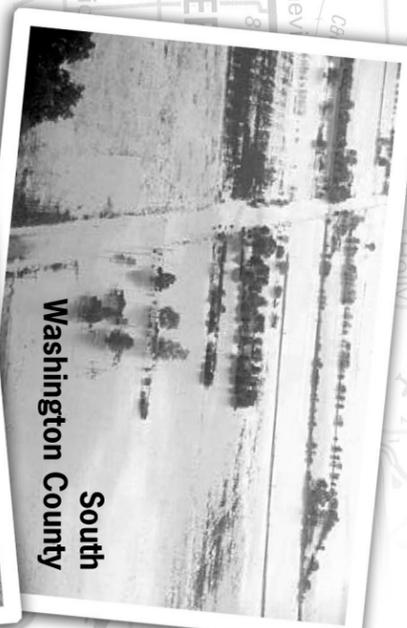
The Big Sunflower River Maintenance Project is a MAINTENANCE project. The original Big Sunflower River & Tributaries Project was completed in the 1960's. The Maintenance Project will restore 1960's flood protection by removing sediment only.

Flooding is bad for people, the environment and the economy.

Critics from the environmentalist extreme—many of whom have never set foot in the Mississippi Delta—are making numerous unsubstantiated claims against the Big Sunflower River Maintenance Project. The FACTS are as follows:

- The Environmental Protection Agency recently approved dredging for the Hudson River in New York. The dredging that will take place on the Big Sunflower River is essentially the same. The same independent environmental consultants (Menzie, Cura & Associates) that studied the Hudson River Project has studied the Big Sunflower Project as well and concluded that **"the proposed dredging project (Big Sunflower) neither exacerbates nor ameliorates these (human health) risks."**
- The Big Sunflower River Maintenance Project will reduce DDT levels by removing sediments that contain the highest levels of contaminants and place them in confined disposal areas where they will be isolated from the aquatic environment. In areas where sediment has been removed, DDT in fish tissue has decreased by 85%.
- The Big Sunflower River Maintenance Project will help to protect homes and businesses from frequent flooding. This flood reduction will enhance the quality of life for area residents and protect existing development while providing the secure environment necessary for economic development to occur.
- 1,912 acres will be reforested with bottomland hardwood.
- Mussel populations will be ENHANCED by the Project because they thrive on hard river bottoms instead of soft sediment.
- **"The (U.S. Fish and Wildlife) Service concurs in the (U.S. Army) Corps' (of Engineers) mitigation proposals for losses to wetlands, aquatic (fisheries and mussels), terrestrial, and waterfowl habitat on the Big Sunflower River Maintenance Project."**—U.S. Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report, June, 1996.

These are just a few of the benefits of the Big Sunflower River Maintenance Project to the Delta. We at the Mississippi Levee Board believe that a political agenda is not a substitute for flood relief. Our citizens deserve the best in protection from flooding as does our bountiful environment and wildlife resources. We've done the research: the Big Sunflower River Maintenance Project WILL provide both of these benefits.



South
Washington County



Darlove, MS



2001 Flood
Highway 12



Where people come first.

For more information on the Big Sunflower River Maintenance Project, or on any of the other work we do, please call the

Mississippi Levee Board at

662-334-4813

or visit us at our website at: www.msleveeboard.com