

Legal deal allows for La. levee repairs

by UPI

NEW ORLEANS - A legal agreement with Louisiana officials means contractors have the green light to begin improving regional levees and floodwalls.

With local governments throughout southern Louisiana receiving additional benefits through the new deal, the stalled construction work on levees and floodwalls may now continue as hurricane season rapidly approaches, the New Orleans Times-Picayune reported Saturday.

By renegotiating the construction deal with clearly defined wording on Thursday, state officials got legal permission for construction of the \$14 million in temporary measures to begin in May.

Yet concerns are high as the planned construction on area floodwalls and levees is not expected to be sufficiently completed by June 1, the official start of hurricane season in the region.

The new construction effort will be oriented around removing vulnerable I-walls in the weather barriers or replacing them with stronger walls.

The newspaper said that decision comes after the I-walls were found to have failed repeatedly during Hurricane Katrina.

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