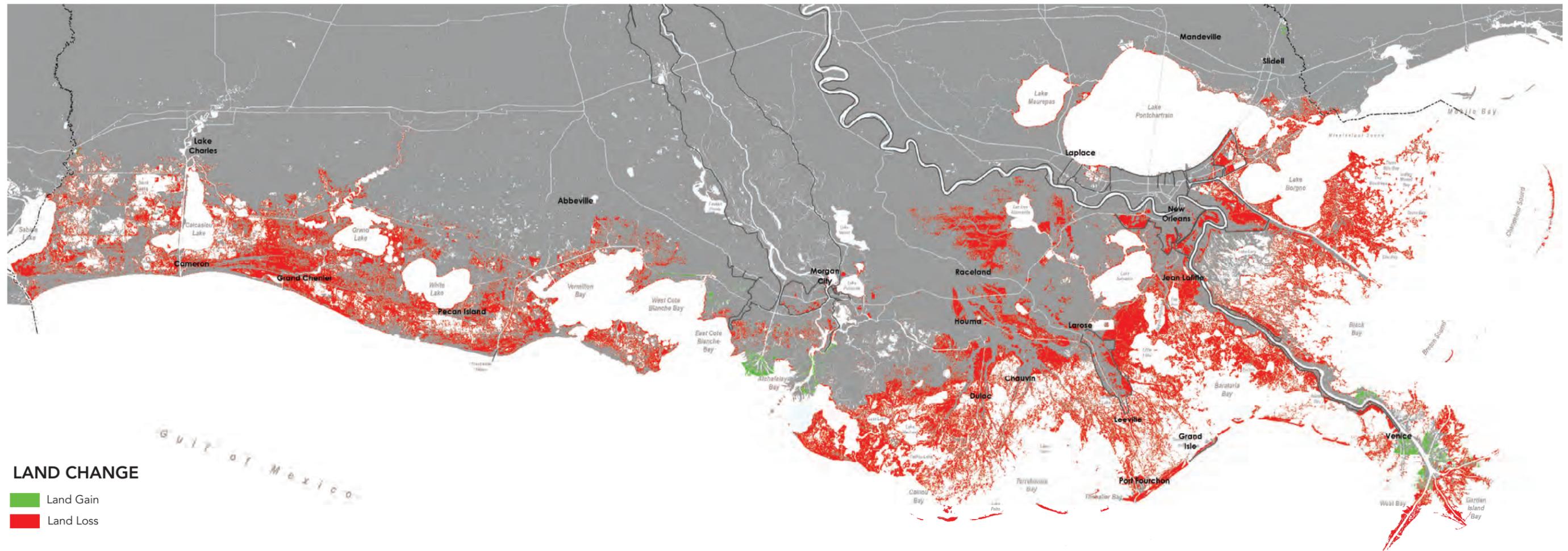


A CHANGING LANDSCAPE

PREDICTED LAND CHANGE OVER THE NEXT 50 YEARS WITH NO ADDITIONAL ACTION



LOUISIANA'S COAST CONTINUES TO CHANGE

Louisiana continues to experience coastal land loss, triggered by both human and natural forces. Levees and flood control structures on the Mississippi River have successfully provided flood control and tremendous benefits to the nation. This approach to river management, however, has also fixed the channel of the Mississippi River and tributaries within its banks, depriving the broader coastal ecosystem of the freshwater, sediment, and nutrients it needs to survive and thrive. Dredging canals for energy exploration and pipelines provided our nation with critical energy supplies, but these activities also took a toll on the landscape, altering wetland

hydrology and leading to land loss. Navigation canals provided our nation with critical infrastructure but also allowed salt water to invade deeper into coastal basins.

Land loss reduces shorelines, marshes, and swamps that are a vital barrier and our first line of defense against storm surge and flooding. Coastal flooding has become an all too common occurrence due to powerful storm surges associated with tropical events made worse over the years by subsidence, sea level rise, and coastal land loss.

▲ FIGURE ES.2

Predicted land change along the Louisiana coast over the next 50 years under the Medium Environmental Scenario if we take no additional action. Red indicates areas predicted to be lost, and green indicates areas where land would be created.

2,250 SQUARE MILES COULD BE LOST IF WE TAKE NO ADDITIONAL ACTION OVER THE NEXT 50 YEARS.