



# State of Louisiana



July 9, 2015

Mark Wingate, Deputy for Programs and Project Management  
US Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District  
7400 Leake Avenue  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70118

Dear Mr. Wingate:

We are writing this letter in support of the request from the parishes of St. Charles, Lafourche, St. John the Baptist, St. James, Assumption and Ascension that the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to investigate alternative plans to reduce the risk of flood damages from storm surge and other sources of flooding in the Upper Barataria Basin area. As the parishes have pointed out, the inclusion of rainfall impacts and the costs associated with the delayed re-entry of their populations due to the inundation of major evacuation routes following a flood event constitute vital factors that warrant a Federal evaluation for potential Federal participation in this regional flood protection project. The locally supported plan, an alignment through St. Charles and Lafourche Parishes that protects U.S. Highway 90 and LA Highway 3127, critical evacuation routes, has recently been studied by the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority ("CPRA") and has found to be cost beneficial and preferred by the local sponsors.

The State of Louisiana and the parishes of St. Charles, Lafourche, St. John the Baptist, St. James, Assumption, and Ascension are familiar with Section 1002 of WRRDA 2014 which amends Section 905 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 1986 to establish a single phase cost-shared study process that would begin following the execution of a feasibility cost sharing agreement (FCSA) with the USACE. Additionally, the State and the parishes of St. Charles, Lafourche, St. John the Baptist, St. James, Assumption, and Ascension are aware of the transformation initiative of the USACE Civil Works Program and the new SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Risk Informed, Timely) Planning methodology and framework for conducting USACE civil works planning activities that will be completed in a target goal of no more than three years at a cost not greater than \$3M.

The State is also aware that, in accordance with the requirements of Section 221 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 as amended, the parishes of St. Charles, Lafourche, St. John the Baptist, St. James, Assumption, and Ascension have provided the USACE with letters expressing their intent to furnish the required cooperation. It is the State's understanding that St. Charles Parish, the local sponsor most directly impacted by storm surge, intends to provide the 50% cost share requirement associated with a USACE Flood Risk Management feasibility study which are anticipated to be \$300,000 for the first year of the study, \$700,000 for the second year and \$500,000 for the third year of the study and has provided the USACE with a resolution affirming its financial commitment.

This letter, while not legally binding on the State as an obligation of any future funds appropriated by the State Legislature, declares the State's full support of this arrangement.

The State also asks that the Corps respect the current progress being made by the levee district and parishes to construct flood protection during the study process and ask that permit applications move forward expeditiously in the meantime.

If you have any questions please contact me at [chip.kline@la.gov](mailto:chip.kline@la.gov) or at 225-342-7669.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chip Kline".

Kyle R. "Chip" Kline, Jr.

Chairman, Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Board