

On October 19, 2015, the St. Charles Parish Council adopted Ordinance No. 15-10-13, amending the St. Charles Parish Code by adding Chapter 26, the St. Charles Parish Local Coastal Program; as part of the adoption, Earl Matherne, CZM Administrator, was instructed to make “non-substantive” changes.

On December 22, 2015, Earl submitted a revised version of Ordinance No. 15-10-13 to substitute with the version that was approved by the Council.

On January 6, 2016, Dawn Higdon, Paralegal for the Department of Legals Services, forwarded an email stating “Per Mr. Sunny, the changes that have been made in the Ordinance are not substantial”. (Mr. Leon C. “Sunny” Vial, III, Legal Services Director at the time that Ordinance No. 15-10-13 was adopted by the St. Charles Parish Council).

On January 15, 2016, Earl inquired about the revised version he submitted on December 22nd whether or not it has been substituted with the original version. After discussing the situation with Dawn, she requested that Earl submit a marked up copy showing revisions; Earl forwarded the requested information. The Council Office received an email from Dawn stating “It’s my understanding that Earl has submitted a marked up copy showing revisions and a separate document to substitute in place of the original document as voted on by the Council allowing to make any non-substantial changes without further Council approval. Pursuant to Mr. Sunny’s opinion that none of those changes were substantial, please substitute the document”.

On January 16, 2016, based on the Department of Legal Services email, the original version of Ordinance No. 15-10-13 was substituted with the marked up version. The original version, on the last page, “15. SECTION 19-65 – USE OF FUNDS and 16. SECTION 19-66 – MITIGATION TRUST FUND” was marked through; however the votes, date adopted, and signature stamp remained, as these had been signed by Mr. Cochran as Council Chairman and Mr. St. Pierre as Parish President upon adoption of the Ordinance. On the substituted version, on the last page below “Section 26-16 – MITIGATION TRUST FUND”, the following was typed “Revised Version submitted by Earl Matherne, CZM Administrator on January 15, 2016” and the section for the votes, date adopted, and signature stamp were marked through, as these were previously executed on the original adopted Ordinance.

On February 2, 2016 per Earl, the State has seen all the revisions that have been made; however an official copy will be forwarded to them by the end of this week per Mr. Cullen Curole, Economic Development Administrator, South Central Planning & Development Commission; the State shouldn’t make any changes but there is no guarantee. If the State makes any changes Earl is aware that the changes will have to be brought back to the Parish Council for approval.