



Parish of Ascension

Office of the President

TOMMY MARTINEZ
ASCENSION PARISH PRESIDENT

July 8, 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:

The parishes of St. Charles, Lafourche, St. John the Baptist, St. James, Assumption, and Ascension request assistance from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to investigate alternative plans, several of which have never been studied by the USACE in previous efforts, to reduce the risk of flood damages from storm surge and other sources of flooding in the Upper Barataria Basin area. In addition, the inclusion of rainfall impacts and the costs associated with the delayed re-entry of our populations due to the inundation of major evacuation routes following a flood event are 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, found to be cost beneficial and preferred by the local sponsors.

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.

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.

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 are providing this letter as an expression of intent to furnish the required

P. O. Box 1659, 208 East Railroad Street, Gonzales, Louisiana 70707-1659
Telephone 225-621-5709 - Telefax 225-621-5704

cooperation. 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.

The parishes of St. Charles, Lafourche, St. John the Baptist, St. James, Assumption, and Ascension are also aware that this letter constitutes an expression of intent and not a contractual obligation and, consistent with the FCSA, either party may discontinue the study at any point. It is our intention that CPRA will serve as the lead party during this effort.

I also ask that the Corps respect the current progress being made by the Lafourche Basin Levee District and parishes to construct flood protection during the study process and request that permit applications move forward expeditiously in the meantime.

If you have any questions please contact **Chip Kline**, CPRA Executive Director at chip.kline@la.gov.

Sincerely,



Tommy Martinez
Ascension Parish Government