



V.J. ST. PIERRE, JR.
PARISH PRESIDENT

ST. CHARLES PARISH

OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT

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7/8/2015

Chip Kline, Executive Director
Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority

Dear Mr. Kline:

The parishes of St. Charles, Lafourche, St. John the Baptist, St. James, Assumption, and Ascension request assistance from the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) to coordinate our efforts with 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 interest in having the CPRA furnish

the required cooperation and coordination associated with a multi-parish USACE Flood Risk Management feasibility study. 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.

It is our intention and hope that CPRA will agree to serve as the lead party during this effort. Attached you will find the letter of intention from the parishes of St. Charles, Lafourche, St. John the Baptist, St. James, Assumption, and Ascension requesting assistance from the USACE. We understand the magnitude of need across the state and the limited funds available to the CPRA to accomplish the vision contained inside of the Master Plan for the State of Louisiana and view potential federal participation as key to the completion of this region's flood protection project.

I also implore you to support the ongoing efforts being made by the Lafourche Basin Levee District and parishes to construct flood protection during the study process and ask that permitting and additional funding requests move forward in the meantime.

If you have any questions please contact Buddy Boe, CAO - St. Charles Parish at bboe@stcharlesgov.net.

Sincerely,



V.J. St. Pierre, Jr.
St. Charles Parish

cc: St. Charles Parish Council
Randy Trosclair, Lafourche Basin Levee District
Steve Wilson, CPRA
Charlotte Randolph, Lafourche Parish
Timmy Roussel, St. James Parish
Martin Triche, Assumption Parish
Tommy Martinez, Ascension Parish
Natalie Robottom, St. John the Baptist Parish