



ST. CHARLES PARISH COUNCIL

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December 7, 1989

COUNCIL

VICTOR E. BRADLEY, JR.
COUNCILMAN AT LARGE, DIVISION A

STEVE SIRMON
COUNCILMAN AT LARGE, DIVISION B

CHRIS A. TREGRE
DISTRICT I

JAY ROBERTS
DISTRICT II

STEVEN R. TALBOT
DISTRICT III

DANNY SOMME
DISTRICT IV

CURTIS T. JOHNSON, SR.
DISTRICT V

RICHARD DUHE
DISTRICT VI

W. PATRICK DANFORD
DISTRICT VII

Honorable J. Bennett Johnston
United States Senate
SH-136 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D. C. 20510

Re: Lake Pontchartrain
Hurricane Protection Levee
St. Charles Parish

Dear Senator Johnston:

On Monday, December 4, 1989, the Parish Council adopted Resolution No. 3405 demanding the United States Corps of Engineers take emergency action to initiate immediate construction of the Lake Pontchartrain Hurricane Protection Levee in St. Charles Parish to prevent flooding from hurricane surges as well as flooding from periodic heavy rainfall.

As you can see by a review of the attached copies of official documents, the Governing Authority of St. Charles has been supporting and pursuing construction of the Lake Pontchartrain Hurricane Protection Levee since 1947. Flood waters devastated hundreds of homes on the East Bank of St. Charles Parish in November of 1989 and because this area is still very vulnerable and subject to flooding from hurricane forces as well as high levels of rainfall, it is imperative that construction begin without further delay.

A copy of Resolution No. 3405 is enclosed for your review.

The Parish Council anxiously awaits your response and assistance in this regard.

Sincerely,

JOAN BECNEL
COUNCIL SECRETARY

JB/sbl

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Steve Sirmon

A motion was made by Mr. TALBOT seconded by Mr. BRADLEY to adopt the following:

INTRODUCED BY: STEVEN R. TALBOT
COUNCILMAN, DISTRICT III

RESOLUTION NO. 3405

A resolution demanding immediate construction of the Lake Pontchartrain Hurricane Protection Levee in St. Charles Parish.

WHEREAS, the Project for Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana, was originally authorized by the Flood Control Act approved July 24, 1946, as amended; and,

WHEREAS, since 1947, as documented by the attached records, the Governing Authority of the Parish of St. Charles has been supporting and pursuing construction of the Lake Pontchartrain Hurricane Protection Levee in St. Charles Parish; and,

WHEREAS, the U. S. Corps of Engineers has proposed to build a Hurricane Protection Levee in St. Charles Parish and has agreed to include structures which would allow for the construction of pump stations; and,

WHEREAS, on November 7, 1989, hundreds of homes located on the East Bank of St. Charles Parish were flooded; and,

WHEREAS, because this area is still very vulnerable and subject to flooding from hurricane forces as well as high levels of rainfall it is imperative that construction of the levee begin immediately and that all parties responsible for construction initiate emergency measures to start the project without further delay.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT WE, THE MEMBERS OF THE ST. CHARLES PARISH COUNCIL, do hereby demand the U. S. Corps of Engineers and other respective parties take emergency action to initiate immediate construction of the Lake Pontchartrain Hurricane Protection Levee in St. Charles Parish to prevent flooding from hurricane surges as well as flooding from periodic heavy rainfall; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to President George Bush, Governor Buddy Roemer, U. S. Representative Billy Tauzin, U. S. Senator John Breaux, and U. S. Senator J. Bennett Johnston.

The foregoing resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: BRADLEY, SIRMON, TREGRE, ROBERTS, TALBOT, SOMME', JOHNSON,
DUHE, DANFORD
NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

And the resolution was declared adopted this 4th day of December, 1989, to become effective five (5) days after publication in the Official Journal.

Hahnville, La., March 8, 1949

WHEREAS, A report has been made by the office of the Division Engineer, Lower Mississippi Valley Division, dated January 30, 1945 pursuant to the Flood Control Act, approved August 18, 1941, and

WHEREAS, conditions have changed considerably, as to flood conditions, drainage problems and Legislative action, we believe the following facts should be taken into consideration as herein set forth:

(1) The hurricane of September 1947, the storm of March 1948 and the hurricane of September 1948 have affected the drainage in St. Charles Parish, not only in the area North of the Air-line Highway "U.S. 51-61" but also in the area South of the Highway where the industrial and residential areas are located. The above mentioned hurricanes and the March 1948 storm caused the flood waters to back up in this area, which is normally high and dry, to a height which became a hazard and caused considerable alarm. If these waters had risen another six (6) inches it would have resulted in the complete shut down of the Pan American Oil Refinery at Destrehan; the Shell Petroleum at Norco; Cities Service Oil Company at St. Rose; The General American Tank Storage Terminal at Goodhope; General American Transportation Corporation, Inc. at Goodhope and Wesco Water Paints, Inc. at Norco, Louisiana, which closing would have disrupted their operations at great loss of production and loss to employees. The products and services obtained from these plants are urgently needed to our economic life, not only in St. Charles Parish, but to the State as a whole in time of peace, and also in time of war, to the Armed Forces of the United States. Approximately 4,000 persons would become immediately unemployed if the back waters were to flood the operating units as so nearly occurred in March 1948. Further, the road connecting the Airline Highway "U.S. 51-61" with the River Road, State Route No. La.#1, running parallel to the Mississippi River was inundated and impassable for a period of thirty (30) days after the storms.

(2) For the first time in the history of our Parish diversified truck crops were destroyed by flood waters covering the farm lands South of the Airline Highway "U.S. 51-61". Value of crop loss has not been estimated, but all early plants were a total loss. Crops consisted of cabbage, onions, corn, garlic, greens and others. During the last ten (10) years, much of the farm acreage has been abandoned to wild growth due to constant encroachment of back water.

(3) Population figures of the 1940 U.S. Census Bureau was shown as 5,280 and at the present the population is estimated as approximately 8,500. Constant increase in population is attributed to expansion of industrial plants.

(4) Areas subject to floods greatly affect health and sanitation and necessitate considerable expense on part of Health Authorities to provide facilities during flood to prevent disease epidemic caused by sewerage floated and scattered by flood waters.

(5) Since 1940 industrial and residential values have increased 35% to 40% all of which are subject to serious damage by floods from the unprotected lake shore. Assessed values in 1940 - \$6,981,887; assessed values in 1948 - \$9,209,249, an increase of \$2,227,362.

(6) We believe that actual values would total considerable more as tax exemptions to industries and others are not included in the above figures.

WHEREAS, in view of the above mentioned facts, and further since 1945, funds have been made available by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana, 1946 Session, authorizing the Pontchartrain Levee District to provide in St. Charles Parish, as well as in Jefferson Parish, funds for Lake Pontchartrain shoreline protection, and

WHEREAS, The hurricane of September 1947, the March 1948 storm and the hurricane of September 1948 have demonstrated very forcefully to the Police Jury, governing authority of the Parish of St. Charles, and to the other officials of the Parish of St. Charles, that immediate steps to inaugurate adequate drainage facilities to take off flood waters South of the Airline Highway as well as North of said Highway to provide proper protection to industrial, residential, and farm property, and

WHEREAS, a flood protection levee, presently under construction, between Jefferson Parish and St. Charles Parish, from Lake Pontchartrain to the Y. & M.V. Roadbed will prevent the natural flow of water and impound it in this area, and

WHEREAS, with such conditions confronting our body, we are required to provide ways and means for adequate protection from flood waters but are unable to do so without protection from the flood waters of Lake Ponchartrain, and

WHEREAS, since Lake Ponchartrain received the run off of flood waters from 6,000 square miles in Louisiana and Mississippi, and during high water levels from the Mississippi River through the Bonnet Carre Spillway, and

WHEREAS, our financial ability to provide such protection is inadequate to meet the costs of such protection as may be required, and

WHEREAS, due to the fact that Lake Ponchartrain is in most part a drainage basin to a large area of Louisiana and Mississippi it seems fair indeed for the Parish to receive Federal assistance for this protection,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Police Jury of the Parish of St. Charles, governing body of the Parish of St. Charles that Honorable T. Hale Boggs, Member of Congress, Second Louisiana District, be requested to secure from the Congressional Committee of Public Works authority for Corps of Engineers to make a Review Report of the Lake Pontchartrain Shoreline, outlining the protection required to keep flood waters of Lake Ponchartrain from flooding the east bank of the Parish, and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that upon completion of this Review Report, the governing authority of the Parish of St. Charles will be able to draw up drainage plans to coincide with the Corps of Engineer's Review Report on protection required to prevent flood waters from Lake Pontchartrain inundating our lands, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Governor of the State of Louisiana, U. S. Senator Allen J. Ellender, U. S. Senator Russel B. Long requesting their assistance with this problem.

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the St. Charles Parish Police Jury at a regular meeting held on March 8, 1949.

Secretary