

Comprehensive Hurricane Protection

The southeast part of Louisiana has become much more susceptible to hurricanes. Although powerful category 3, 4 and 5 hurricanes are extremely destructive, experiencing the most powerful part of such a storm is a rare occurrence.

Tropical storms, category 1 and 2 hurricanes, and persistent southeast winds are common events and years ago were not a severe problem. With large subsidence rates on our developed lands, wetland loss, reduced barrier islands, and sea level rise, weak weather systems now cause costly life-threatening flooding. These events now cause problems as much as 60 miles inland.

Tropical Storm Isidore and Hurricane Lilli demonstrated that very weak parts of these storms can cause flooding 30 miles inland, with water levels near 7 ft. These water levels overtopped levees including those in the Lake Ponchartrain area. Our barrier islands experienced a great deal of damage, with Grand Isle left defenseless due to storm erosion. Continued delays on projects to build and restore flood protection for South Louisiana will lead to degradation of an important part of Louisiana and the United States.

Therefore, it is urged and requested that a program to provide a consistent flow of Federal, State, and local funds be instituted to construct a comprehensive hurricane system to include the construction and restoration of levees, wetlands, and barrier islands.

And let it further be urged that support of the presently authorized projects be completed, studies be completed and construction begun, and that all other projects which complete the comprehensive hurricane system be identified and targeted to begin as soon as possible.

Windell A. Curole
Chairman – CHP

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