



SOUTH LAFOURCHE LEVEE DISTRICT

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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January 27, 2000

GOVERNOR MURPHY J. "Mike" FOSTER
P O BOX 94004
BATON ROUGE, LA 70804

Dear Governor Foster:

Hurricane Georges and the other tidal flooding threats from September 1998 point to the increased need for comprehensive flood protection with its added protection for evacuation routes. But the need to manage water in Louisiana is always with us with more than 60" of rainfall a year, Mississippi River flooding, hurricane floodings, and having the worst erosion and subsidence problem in the world. When we stop to realize all of these issues, we should question not why we flood, but why we don't flood more often.

Once we take into account all of these threats, we can begin to deal with a comprehensive plan which would include levees, pumps, roads and diversions. Individual political entities can begin to make their part of the puzzle fit the comprehensive plan. We have plans and construction for flood protection today which could be more cost effective if done with the idea that it will be part of something larger. This approach will not solve the political, environmental or monetary problems, but will shorten the time needed to solve the problems and reach a better solution at a lower cost.

At the same time, we should inform people that they are responsible for knowing and responding to the flood threat to their property. If God wants to put his water where people put their houses, they should be responsible for their choices and build intelligently for the next threat. We should reduce both government regulations and government bail out. This concept of self reliance that my family and, in the past my community lived by, will help us back to taking care of ourselves. This also needs to be part of a comprehensive flood protection plan.

I have talked with officials from DOTD, Coastal Restoration, Emergency Preparedness and the Corps of Engineers. They all speak of comprehensive planning, but I don't think they are working on the same comprehensive plan. I must applaud the efforts of the Office of Coastal Activities in bringing onboard a representative of FEMA. Rod Emmer, who is under contract with FEMA, has the ability and connections to work with the full spectrum of interest

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groups necessary to compile a single comprehensive hurricane and flood protection program that includes roads, levees, emergency and wetland considerations.

Please consider moving a single comprehensive effort into the limelight by mentioning it at your opening address to the Legislature. Combine this directive with clear instructions to your staff and department heads to work together, and not independently, to develop a true comprehensive plan. I suggest to you that local input is key and whoever chairs this effort both respects local input and knows whom on the local level has usable information.

Very truly yours,



Windell A. Curole, Chairman
Comprehensive Hurricane Protection Committee
Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana

WAC/jr