



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 60267
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70160

IN REPLY REFER TO -

LINED-PP

19 September 1969

Honorable Allen J. Ellender
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Ellender:

This is in reply to your letter of 10 September 1969 inclosing resolutions Nos. 15046 and 15047 adopted by the Jefferson Parish Council on 4 September 1969.

The following information is offered in response to resolution No. 15046:

Public Law 298, 89th Congress, 1st Session, approved 27 October 1965, authorized the Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana and Vicinity project. The features of the project are shown on inclosure 1.

The project is comprised of two independent units--the Lake Pontchartrain Barrier Plan and the Chalmette Area Plan. The former unit has as its most salient feature, the Lake Pontchartrain Barrier--a system of embankments; a control structure, navigation lock, and closure dam at the Rigolets; a control structure, floodgate, and closure dam at the Chef Menteur Pass; and a lock and gated flow structure at the lakeward terminus of the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal in the vicinity of Seabrook. The rationale of the barrier plan is to prevent uncontrolled entry of hurricane tides into Lake Pontchartrain, thus reducing stages in the lake. At the same time navigational access is preserved.

Since the Lake Pontchartrain project is so complex, it is subdivided into smaller independent project features for design purposes. Available design capability has been concentrated on project features that have the most urgent need for early construction. The barrier features of the project have been assigned a high priority status and design of these features is progressing as rapidly as possible. In an effort to expedite the completion of our design studies, we have contracted the services of another District of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and several Architect-Engineer firms.

LMVED-PP

19 September 1969

Honorable Allen J. Ellender

Hurricane Camille has made all of us aware of the possibility of an extremely intense hurricane striking the Greater New Orleans Area. We are currently studying the effects of such a hurricane on the Lake Pontchartrain hurricane protection project. All possible measures are being taken to insure the safety of Greater New Orleans citizenry, and our knowledge and capability will always be directed toward achieving this end.

The following information is offered in response to resolution No. 15047:

This District is making a study of improvements for hurricane protection, flood control, and related purposes in the area on the west bank of the Mississippi River at and in the vicinity of New Orleans. This study is authorized by resolutions adopted 10 November 1965 and 6 May 1966 by the Committee on Public Works of the United States Senate and resolutions adopted 5 May 1966 and 5 October 1966 by the Committee on Public Works of the House of Representatives. These resolutions specifically include that part of Jefferson Parish between the Mississippi River and Bayou Barataria and Lake Salvador.

The study was initiated by holding a public hearing in the Gretna Courthouse on 21 December 1966. Attendance at the hearing was low because of an intense rainfall the morning of the hearing. The improvements now under study as a result of the public hearing are shown on inclosure 2. This plan of improvement is being coordinated with the Louisiana Department of Public Works, Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Jefferson Parish drainage department.

Only \$39,000 has been appropriated to date for this study. An additional \$25,000 is included in the President's budget for fiscal year 1970. At the anticipated rate of funding, the study will probably be completed about the end of calendar year 1972.

The interest expressed by you and the Jefferson Parish Council relative to the need for construction of the aforementioned projects is greatly appreciated. Please be assured that we share your concern for providing early and adequate protection. If we can be of any further assistance, do not hesitate to call on us.

Sincerely yours,

- 2 Incl
1. Map file H-2-23693
2. General map

HERBERT R. HAAR, JR.
Colonel, CE
District Engineer

CF: w/basic & incls
OCE, ATTN: ENG CW-V
LMVD, ATTN: LMVED-TD

Engineering
WB

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

COTYS M. MOUSER, CHIEF CLERK

September 10, 1969

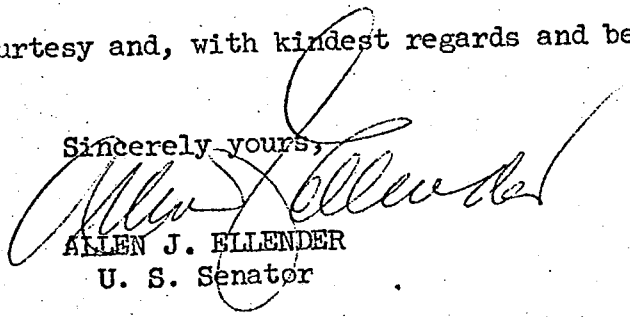
Colonel Herbert R. Haar, Jr.
District Engineer
Corps of Engineers
Department of the Army
P. O. Box 60267
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Colonel Haar:

I am enclosing copy of Resolutions Nos. 15046 and 15047 of the Jefferson Parish Council sent to me by Mr. Frank J. Deemer, Parish Clerk.

These Resolutions request that the criteria of the Corps of Engineers for hurricane protection on critical paths into the Greater New Orleans Metropolitan area be immediately updated and that the financing of floodgates in the Rigolets be implemented and placed on a priority and emergency basis; that a feasibility study of the possibility of constructing floodgates similar to those in the Rigolets for the protection of the West Bank of the Mississippi River. I will appreciate your consideration of these requests and your advising me relative thereto.

Thanking you for this courtesy and, with kindest regards and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

ALLEN J. ELLENDER
U. S. Senator

AJE:n
Encl.

HAND CARRY AS NECESSARY
TO SECURE REPLY IN 36 HOURS

the following resolution was offered:

RESOLUTION NO. 15046

WHEREAS, although the recent hurricane veered from a direct course into the Greater New Orleans Metropolitan area, we have nevertheless been once again made acutely aware of the devastation of floor waters; and

WHEREAS, certain sums of money have been appropriated by the Congress for construction of floodgates in the Rigolets; and

WHEREAS, the accomplishment of this engineering feat is understandably complex and the importance of getting the project completed becomes increasingly more apparent; and

WHEREAS, the temporary measures being taken along the Lake Pontchartrain levees can be considered no more than stopgap, for all reports indicate that the tides engendered by Hurricane Camille would hardly have been slowed down by the levee system we now have even with the proposed heightening;

THE JEFFERSON PARISH COUNCIL HEREBY RESOLVES:

SECTION 1. That an immediate appeal be made to our Congressional Delegation and the Corps of Engineers and the Pontchartrain Levee Board requesting that the criteria of the Corps for hurricane protection on critical paths into this area be immediately updated.

SECTION 2. That the financing of floodgates in the Rigolets be implemented and caused to be placed on a priority and emergency basis so that the citizens of this area and particularly those of Jefferson Parish whom this Council represents can be assured of adequate protection in the face of increasing danger.

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

YEAS: 7

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

The above resolution was declared adopted this the 4th day of September, 1969.

On motion of Mr. C. H. Miller, seconded by Mr. Melanson, the following resolution was offered:

RESOLUTION NO. 15047

WHEREAS, although the recent Hurricane Camille veered from a direct course into the Greater New Orleans Metropolitan Area, we have nevertheless been once again made acutely aware of the devastation that can come from flood waters in such a hurricane, and

WHEREAS, Certain sums of money have been appropriated by the Congress for construction of floodgates in the Rigolets to protect the East Bank from flood waters.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Jefferson Parish Council of Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, acting as governing authority of said Parish:

SECTION 1. That the United States Corps of Engineers, be and are hereby requested to make a feasibility study of the possibility of constructing similar flood gates for protection of the West Bank of the Mississippi River.

SECTION 2. That our Congressional Delegation be and are hereby requested to seek appropriations for said study, and the necessary funds for construction of such facilities for flood protection for the West Bank of the Mississippi River as well as the East Bank.

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

YEAS: 7

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

The resolution was declared to be adopted this the 4th day of September, 1969.