



St. Bernard Parish Council

8201 West Judge Perez Drive Chalmette, Louisiana, 70043
(504) 278-4228 Fax (504) 278-4209
www.sbpq.net

#31

Kerri Callais
*Councilmember
at Large*

Richard "Richie" Lewis
*Councilmember
at Large*

Gillis McCloskey
*Councilmember
District A*

Nathan Gorbaty
*Councilmember
District B*

Howard Luna
*Councilmember
District C*

Wanda Alcon
*Councilmember
District D*

**Manuel "Monty"
Montelongo III**
*Councilmember
District E*

Roxanne Adams
Clerk of Council

EXTRACT OF THE OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. BERNARD, STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE ST. BERNARD PARISH GOVERNMENT COMPLEX, 8201 WEST JUDGE PEREZ DRIVE, CHALMETTE, LOUISIANA ON TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 2017 AT THREE O'CLOCK P.M.

On motion of Ms. Callais, seconded by Mr. Gorbaty, it was moved to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION SBPC #1703-03-17

A RESOLUTION ENDORSING A LETTER TO GOVERNOR JOHN BEL EDWARDS AND LEGISLATORS OPPOSING SEDIMENT DIVERSION PROJECTS AFFECTING ST. BERNARD PARISH.

WHEREAS, on March 8, 2017, Governor Edwards submitted a letter to President Trump requesting that the Mid-Barataria and Mid-Breton sediment diversions be selected as high priority status project in the nation's infrastructure program, and

WHEREAS, it is the belief of the St. Bernard Parish Council and Parish President, Guy McInnis, that these projects will be detrimental to St. Bernard Parish and that our limited coastal funds should be spent on projects that will properly reflect the urgent situation that coastal Louisiana is facing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the St. Bernard Parish Council along with St. Bernard Parish President, Guy McInnis, does hereby endorse the attached letter (Exhibit "A") to Governor John Bel Edwards and Legislators opposing sediment diversion projects affecting St. Bernard Parish.

The above and foregoing having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereupon resulted as follows:

YEAS: McCloskey, Gorbaty, Luna, Alcon, Montelongo, Callais

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

The Council Chair, Mr. Lewis, cast his vote as YEA.

And the motion was declared adopted on the 21st day of March, 2017.



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Extract #31 continued
March 21, 2017

Richard "Richie" Lewis
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Clerk of Council

CERTIFICATE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of a motion adopted at a Regular Meeting of the Council of the Parish of St. Bernard, held at Chalmette, Louisiana, on Tuesday, March 21, 2017.

Witness my hand and the seal
of the Parish of St. Bernard on
this 21st day of March, 2017.

ROXANNE ADAMS
CLERK OF COUNCIL



St. Bernard Parish Government

*3201 West Judge Perez Drive
Chalmette, La. 70043*

504-278-4228

504-278-4209(Fax)

March 20, 2017

Governor John Bel Edwards
900 North Third Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Dear Governor Edwards:

Thank you for recognizing the urgency of the situation coastal Louisiana is currently facing. We agree that restoring our coast is vital to the infrastructure of our nation. As elected officials and organizational leaders who represent the people who live and work on our coast, we see the importance of immediate action to preserve not only our economies but also the culture and way of life that makes us unique. In your recent letter to President Trump, you requested that five coastal projects be given high priority status in our federal infrastructure plan. Louisiana has lost 1.2 million acres of land (equal to the State of Delaware) over the last 90 years, and the CPRA says that we could lose 1.4 million acres more over the next fifty years. There is no doubt that this should be considered a federal crisis. However, it is hard to understand why when asking for assistance in this crisis from the President of the United States; we would request the prioritization of the Mid Barataria and Mid-Breton diversions.

We are stressing the sense of urgency needed to address coastal land loss, and yet we ask for the prioritization of five projects with an initial cost projection of \$3.3 billion that our most optimistic estimates predict will create 11,742 acres of land twenty years from now. Three of those projects will be at a net zero or negative land building at the twenty-year mark. This letter names these five projects as the highest priorities in coastal protection in Louisiana. Except for the Houma Navigation Canal Lock Complex, none of these projects offer any additional protection to our communities over the next twenty years than what we have right now. The letter goes on to cite the economic impact of our commercial and recreational fishing industries along with our maritime industry as the impetus for these projects when there are valid concerns that the proposed diversions could cause hardship in those very industries.

If protecting and restoring Louisiana's coast is a top priority and is a situation that requires the utmost sense of urgency, then we should be spending our limited funds on projects that can give us protection now and improve our efficiency in the future. Our Natural Resource Damage Assessment funds should be used to rebuild our barrier islands, our front line in protection against storm surge. Our additional priorities should include placement of long distance sediment pipelines to reduce the cost of transporting sediment to marsh creation projects. Furthermore, we should be investing in the advancement of our dredging technology. Around the world countries are accomplishing amazing feats due to the breakthroughs in this field. We live in the greatest country in the world; there is no reason why we can't attain the same results here. The furtherance of this technology would result in more efficient and cost effective land building, with the added cost benefit of not having to wait 20 years before any results are realized.

Just as you ask for the President to hear the input offered by the governors of our nation, we ask that you listen to the pleas of the parishes along the coast. We know better than anyone what is best for our communities. While we appreciate the many opportunities given to voice our thoughts and concerns, this letter to the President is proof that our empirical knowledge is not being considered. We respectfully request that these priorities be reconsidered for projects that better reflect the critical situation that is facing coastal Louisiana.

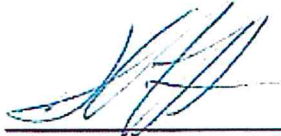
Sincerely,



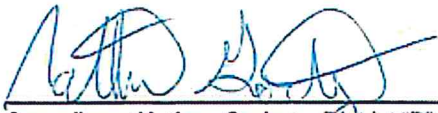
Councilman at Large East, Kerri Callais



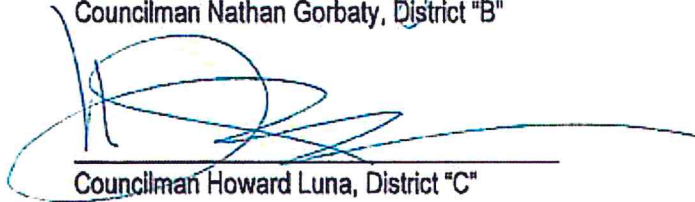
Councilman at Large West, Richard "Richie" Lewis



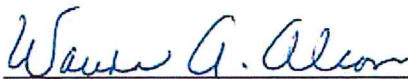
Councilman Gillis McCloskey, District "A"



Councilman Nathan Gorbaty, District "B"



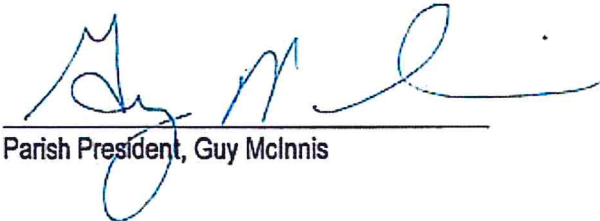
Councilman Howard Luna, District "C"



Councilman Wanda Alcon, District "D"



Councilman Manuel Montelongo, District "E"



Parish President, Guy McInnis