

EDEN ISLES HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.
Special Projects Committee - Flood

June 12, 2011 – (updated May 2012)

SUBJECT: North Shore flood protection & Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation environmental report

Gentlemen:

There has been a massive population shift since Hurricane Katrina. The north shore of Lake Pontchartrain now comprises a substantial portion of the Greater New Orleans area; however, the north shore has been overlooked when it comes to hurricane protection.

Throughout time civilization has gathered around water as a way of life for both economic and spiritual reasons. However, residents have indicated that if they loose their homes again they will permanently leave the area. This mass exodus would be an unnecessary human environmental disaster along with the collapse of economic support for area governments and business. The resulting loss of talent, trades and financial resources would have far reaching implications for the region. The census data at <http://projects.nytimes.com/census/2010/map?hp> reveals the real story in a convenient and animated way. For traffic counts on the north / south connecting corridors, see <http://www.dotd.la.gov/highways/tatv/default.asp> .

Although there is often massive loss of non-human life associated with hurricanes, nature has an incredible ability to recover from most anything that happens. People on the other hand are affected differently than the rest of nature because our current level of societal development mandates that everything we do be regulated by others.

Hurricane Katrina has changed the view on environmental concerns as it relates to the survival of people. I believe that for any environmental group to remain viable in current times they must make every effort to harmonize their response with engineering based solutions. I think the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation recognizes this in their comprehensive report, "Framework for Environmental Assessment of Alternative Flood Control Structures" as applied to Lake Pontchartrain.

Following hurricane Katrina, we found ourselves in a "Catch 22" scenario in that the Corps cannot accomplish anything without first being directed by congress, while at the same time no such action would ever materialize without a credentialed authority first documenting there is a problem and a solution. Fortunately, with the release of the 2012 Louisiana Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast published by the "LCPRA", we now have this documentation.

My focus on the flood protection issue was to find and bring together talents that combine the best ideas into something that is workable. To my surprise the talent that could make flood protection possible for the north shore exists right in our neighborhoods.

I was pleased to learn of Mr. Strecker's work. He has taken a little different approach to control structures applicable to the passes of Lake Pontchartrain. I think the LPBF report recognizes this but also has some concerns which can be addressed.

The LPBF's report lays out the various plans & concerns that the corps has been unwilling to discuss with the public and is aptly presented as a framework for going forward. I think flood control proposals should include consultation with both *Lopez & *Strecker in order to arrive at the best workable solution all parties are willing to accept if not all-out endorse. Only by collectively endorsing a workable solution will we be able to get something done.

Sincerely,

Lee Longstreet,
Eden Isles Homeowner's Association –
Special projects committee, in lieu of attachments see www.eihoa.org ...publications ...flood

* Dennis Strecker, PE – retired USACE, does contract work for GEC - a Baton Rouge engineering firm

* John Lopez, Ph.D. – acting director of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation