



State of Louisiana

BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

December 19, 2013

Mr. Keith Turner
Rankin Hinds Pearl River Flood Control
and Drainage Control District
P.O. Box 154
Jackson, MS 39205

Dear Mr. Turner:

The Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) has been informed that the Rankin Hinds Pearl River Flood Drainage Control District (District) is evaluating potential flood control alternatives for Jackson, Mississippi through the Pearl River Watershed, Section 211 Watershed Project for the Pearl River in Mississippi. Through recent scoping meetings, we understand that among the alternatives being considered is a 1,500 acre lake to be constructed on the Pearl River. We respectfully submit the following comments and issues to be addressed in the project's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) regarding this and other alternatives being considered that may affect downstream freshwater flows in the Pearl River and its distributaries.

- CPRA has conferred with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries regarding the impacts of this proposed project on the Pearl River Watershed and we re-iterate the concerns and issues identified in their comment letter dated November 27, 2013.
- In the 2012 *Louisiana's Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast*, a detailed analysis was conducted by national and international science and engineering experts to determine the best way to address the catastrophic land loss and flood risk problem that affects Louisiana's coastal communities. As part of that analysis, projects were identified in and around the Pearl River Watershed to restore deteriorating marshes and provide structural protection (e.g., levees) from storm surges. Those projects involve creating wetlands that would be sustained by freshwater from the Pearl River and building levees that would be buffered by those created and existing wetlands. Alternatives that alter the hydrology of the lower Pearl River may adversely impact these projects and existing wetlands, undermining Louisiana's ability to achieve a sustainable coast and protect our citizens from storm surges in this region. Accordingly, the DEIS should include detailed ecological and storm surge modeling to assess the potential impacts of the proposed alternatives in and around the Pontchartrain Basin in southeast Louisiana.

The CPRA keenly understands the need for flood control to protect our communities, citizens and businesses and supports the District in achieving this important goal in a manner that does not compromise our ability to do so in southeast Louisiana.

Executive Division

We look forward to working with you in a cooperative manner to ensure the best path forward is achieved. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Bren Haase, Assistant Administrator, Planning and Research Division, at 225-342-1475.

Sincerely,



Jerome Leringue
Executive Director

cc: Colonel Richard L. Hansen, USACE, New Orleans, LA
Colonel John W. Cross, USACE, Vicksburg, MS
Matthew S. Mallard, USACE, Vicksburg, MS
Garret Graves, Chair, CPRA, Baton Rouge, LA
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