



State of Louisiana

BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

December 10, 2009

Lieutenant General Robert L. Van Antwerp
Commanding General
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G. Street, NW
Washington, DC 20314-1000

Dear General Van Antwerp:

The Morganza to the Gulf project has a storied history. Unfortunately, the hurricane protection project represents a number of the challenges associated with the federal water resources project development and implementation process.

Below is a brief history of the project:

- 1992: Water Resources Development Act authorized the evaluation of hurricane and flood protection for Terrebonne and a portion of Lafourche Parishes under the Mississippi River and Tributaries program.
- 1996: Water Resources Development Act directed the Corps to develop an expedited plan for the construction of the Houma Lock feature of the Morganza to the Gulf project.
- 2000: Water Resources Development Act authorized the entire Morganza to the Gulf project for construction under the Mississippi River and Tributaries program.
- 2003: Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act authorized Segment 1 of Reach J for construction under the Mississippi River and Tributaries program.
- 2007: Water Resources Development Act re-authorized the entire project for construction under the Mississippi River and Tributaries program.

The concept behind this effort was established in the 1980s, yet 20 years later no federal construction investment has been made.

Congress has repeatedly authorized the entire or a portion of the project for construction and directed a path forward to expedite completion of the Houma Lock feature of the Morganza project. Since this project evaluation began in 1992, the Federal Emergency Management

Agency (FEMA) has expended hundreds of millions of dollars responding to disasters. Further, the lack of resiliency of this area has a significant influence on volatile energy prices following hurricane and storm events. Gasoline prices spiked over 75 cents a gallon nationwide in 2005 after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and consumers paid an average of nearly \$1.40 a gallon more for gasoline after Hurricanes Gustav and Ike in 2008.

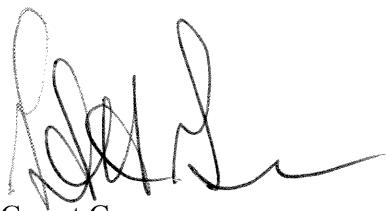
The 3rd Emergency Supplemental appropriations act (P.L. 109-148) and the 4th Emergency Supplemental appropriations act included over \$153 million and “*directed the Corps to expedite and accelerate completion of any study or any unconstructed portion of the Mississippi River and Tributaries project for the flood and storm damage reduction projects in the south Louisiana area*”. The Morganza to the Gulf project is an eligible and wise use of these funds.

The state, parishes and levee district have committed over \$250 million to improve protection for this project area. It is the largest non-federal hurricane protection project in our state’s history. While we will continue to make this hurricane protection a top priority, we respectfully request that the Corps partner with us on a critical feature of the Morganza to the Gulf – the Houma Lock.

A lock on a Houma Navigation Canal is authorized for construction under the Morganza project and was identified by Congress as a priority. Further, this feature serves two important purposes: First, it will prevent the Houma Navigation Canal from serving as a conduit for storm surge which causes flooding. Second, it will stop the further intrusion of saltwater into the freshwater marshes in Terrebonne Parish.

The Houma Navigation Canal lock serves as an anchor in the protection and restoration of this area.

With hundreds of millions of dollars in FEMA claims that could have been prevented by this project and a project history that extends 20 years without any federal construction, your leadership to break the logjam is needed.



Garret Graves
Chair