

ST. TAMMANY PARISH COUNCIL

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION COUNCIL SERIES NO. C-2074

COUNCIL SPONSOR BAGERT/DAVIS

PROVIDED BY PARISH PRESIDENT

RESOLUTION TO FULLY SUPPORT THE CALL FOR AN INDEPENDENT BIPARTISAN COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE THE FAILURE OF THE FEDERAL LEVEE SYSTEM ON AUGUST 29, 2005 THAT FLOODED ST. TAMMANY, ST. BERNARD, PLAQUEMINES, ORLEANS AND ST. CHARLES PARISHES.

WHEREAS, the United States Congress gave the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) sole authority for the design and construction of the flood protection in Greater New Orleans in the Pontchartrain Hurricane Protection Project in 1965; and

WHEREAS, when authorized, this Congressional mandate was projected to take 13 years to complete, yet when Katrina struck in 2005, the project was between 60-90% complete and the projected date of completion was estimated to be 2015, nearly 50 years after it first gained authorization from Congress; and

WHEREAS, following the catastrophic flood events of 2005, a federally led investigation was established to examine the failure of Greater New Orleans' flood protection system; and

WHEREAS, that investigation, conducted by the Interagency Performance Evaluation Task Force (IPET) was established by Lt Gen Carl Strock, chief of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE); and

WHEREAS, since the USACE is the sole agency responsible for the design and construction of Greater New Orleans' levee system, such an investigation is a conflict of interest; and

WHEREAS, every chapter of the IPET report is either chaired or co-chaired by a US Army Corps of Engineers employee; and

WHEREAS, since the release of the USACE's final report on June 1, 2006, two independent levee investigation teams (National Science Foundation/U.C. Berkeley and Team Louisiana ) have criticized the USACE's report as incomplete and technically incorrect; and

WHEREAS, in virtually all cases, the IPET report reaches conclusions that tend to shift responsibility away from the USACE's engineering practices, and the IPET report remains incomplete in areas that would address potentially dysfunctional processes and decision making at and by the USACE; and

WHEREAS, there is reason to doubt the reliability of the flood protection system currently being built that protects the lives and property of 1.5 million Americans; and

WHEREAS, a truly objective analysis is needed to assure that critical vulnerabilities in the levee system are addressed and all possible opportunities for improvement are considered so that taxpayers receive a full return on the investment dollars that Congress authorizes and the citizens of south Louisiana receive the best protection possible.

THE PARISH OF ST. TAMMANY HEREBY RESOLVES to hereby fully support the call for an independent bipartisan Commission to investigate the failure of the federal levee system on August 29, 2005 that flooded St. Tammany, St. Bernard, Plaquemines, Orleans and St. Charles Parishes.