

ST. TAMMANY PARISH COUNCIL

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION COUNCIL SERIES NO. C-2400

COUNCIL SPONSOR: BELLISARIO / HOWELL / ARTIGUE PROVIDED BY: COUNCIL OFFICE

RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED MISSISSIPPI
PROJECT KNOWN AS "THE TWO LAKES PLAN."

WHEREAS, the project proposed by John McGowan of McGowan Working Partners in Jackson, Mississippi to dam the Pearl River and create lakes over 4,900 acres would adversely affect down river communities; and

WHEREAS, the construction of those dams would significantly reduce the rate of flow and the amount of water coming downstream in the Pearl River; and

WHEREAS, the reduced flow of water would be responsible for lowering the water oxygen content thereby starving both the Pearl River and the Honey Island Swamp estuaries; and

WHEREAS, the reduced flow of water would lower the water table of the Honey Island Swamp which would have a negative impact on water plants; and

WHEREAS, the reduced flow of water and lowering of the oxygen content would jeopardize three threatened species of wildlife, the ringed saw-back turtle, the Gulf sturgeon and the inflated heel splitter mussel; and

WHEREAS, the reduced flow of water and lowering of the oxygen content would jeopardize the efforts to preserve the natural beauty of the entire Pearl River Basin, the Pearl River Wildlife Management Area and the Honey Island Swamp; and

WHEREAS, the reduction in flow of the Pearl River would adversely affect the Swamp Tour industry in the State of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the Two Lakes Plan would erase 4,900 acres of wetlands that provide natural flood control and more than 3,400 acres of forest; and

WHEREAS, critics of the plan say that there is no agreement among experts on how it will affect Jackson, Mississippi residents and downstream communities; and

WHEREAS, the additional reductions in the flow of the Pearl River during the summer months may further impact the river's larger ecosystem.

THE PARISH OF ST. TAMMANY HEREBY RESOLVES to oppose the proposed Two Lakes Plan to dam the Pearl River at Jackson, Mississippi because of the detrimental effects it will have to down river local ecology and economic development.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be provided to the following officials and authorities as evidence of this Parish's opposition to the proposed plan:

Governor of the State of Louisiana
Governor of the State of Mississippi
Army Corps of Engineers - Vicksburg District
U. S. Department of Fish and Wildlife
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Rankin - Hinds Pearl River Flood and Drainage Control District
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Federal and State Legislators

THIS RESOLUTION HAVING BEEN SUBMITTED TO A VOTE, THE VOTE THEREON WAS AS FOLLOWS:

MOVED FOR ADOPTION BY _____, SECONDED BY _____

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

THIS RESOLUTION WAS DECLARED ADOPTED ON THE 5TH DAY OF JUNE, 2008 AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL, A QUORUM OF THE MEMBERS BEING PRESENT AND VOTING.

JERRY BINDER, COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

THERESA FORD, COUNCIL CLERK