

ST. TAMMANY PARISH COUNCIL

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION COUNCIL SERIES NO: C-6505

COUNCIL SPONSOR: DAVIS/CAZAUBON

PROVIDED BY: COUNCIL OFFICE

A RESOLUTION URGING THE LOUISIANA COASTAL PROTECTION AND RESTORATION AUTHORITY TO MITIGATE, TO THE FULLEST EXTENT POSSIBLE, THE IMPACTS OF CONSTRUCTING AND OPERATING THE MID-BARATARIA SEDIMENT DIVERSION.

WHEREAS, the St. Tammany Parish Council recognizes the value and urgent need of coastal protection restoration in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain and the Pontchartrain Basin, similar to almost all basins in Louisiana, experiences land loss, erosion, and sea level rise; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) is the single state entity responsible for planning the protection and restoration efforts of Louisiana's coast for its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the CPRA's Coastal Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast (Coastal Master Plan) is the blueprint for implementing projects to protect and restore our coast; and

WHEREAS, the Coastal Master Plan prioritizes two mid-basin sediment diversions to restore the natural functions of the Mississippi River's land building capability, in addition to restoring the respective Basins' estuaries which have been in decline since the Mississippi River was leveed; and

WHEREAS, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the first mid-basin sediment diversion, the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion, was released on March 5, 2021 and identifies the benefits and impacts of the project on the Barataria Basin in Plaquemines and Jefferson parishes; and

WHEREAS, the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion project was found to have both positive and negative impacts to the residents, fish and wildlife of the Barataria basin; and

WHEREAS, the St. Tammany Parish Council recognizes the importance of coastal restoration for the state of Louisiana and the urgent need to implement restoration projects that will protect our coast and citizens from natural disasters and sea level rise, while sustaining our coast and habitats into the future; and

WHEREAS, the St. Tammany Parish Council requests CPRA remain engaged and committed to working with the leaders, residents and industries most impacted by the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion; and

WHEREAS, the St. Tammany Parish Council also requests CPRA remain engaged and committed to working with the leaders, residents and industries of St. Tammany Parish on protection and restoration issues in the Pontchartrain Basin.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the St. Tammany Parish Council urges and requests the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority to define and implement mitigation measures that minimize negative impacts and maximize the positive impacts to the Barataria Basin, its residents and businesses for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion project; and to continue its protection and restoration efforts in the Pontchartrain Basin.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, adoption of this resolution represents a change in part in the position of the St. Tammany Parish Council from that expressed in Resolution C.S. No. C-6458 as passed at the May 6, 2021 meeting of the St. Tammany Parish Council as Off-The-Floor Item No. 3, it is intended to place further emphasis of the need for an increase of mitigation effort.

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 29 DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2021, AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL, A QUORUM OF THE MEMBERS BEING PRESENT AND VOTING.

MICHAEL R. LORINO, JR. , COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

KATRINA L. BUCKLEY, COUNCIL CLERK