

Proclamation



March 9th, 2021

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

WHEREAS, prompted by the severity of damages associated with rainfall flooding in southeast Louisiana, local officials in the tri-parish area of Orleans, Jefferson, and St. Tammany requested Federal assistance in developing and implementing solutions to the flooding problem; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress authorized the design and construction of the Southeast Louisiana Urban Flood Damage Reduction Project (SELA) in Section 108 of the Fiscal year 1996 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, and Section 533 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1996; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of SELA is to reduce flood damages in the City of New Orleans and surrounding parishes; and

WHEREAS, in New Orleans, this is being accomplished by expanding the capacity of drainage pumping stations and drainage canals throughout our city; and

WHEREAS, this project is being funded with a combination of federal (75 percent) and local (25 percent) funds, meaning that the citizens of New Orleans are receiving a three to one return on their construction dollar for these important and expensive drainage projects; and

WHEREAS, with this three to one cost-benefit ratio, our residents are effectively getting the benefit of \$9 of flood protection for every local dollar spent; and

WHEREAS, to date, the federal government has committed over \$1 billion to reducing the possibility of flooding during ten-year design storms in Orleans Parish, and the work already accomplished in the East Bank drainage basins in Uptown and in the Florida Triangle area have significantly reduced the duration and frequency of local flooding during design storm events; and

WHEREAS, additional SELA projects to expand drainage capacities are being evaluated in the Lakeview and Gentilly areas; and

WHEREAS, the expansion of the General De Gaulle drainage canal is the first of the SELA projects to reach construction on the West Bank, with additional work planned along the length of Donner Canal and the expansion of Drainage Pumping Station 13, which drains Algiers; and

WHEREAS, it is critical to continue funding the local match requirement for these projects to enable completion of existing efforts and to ensure future projects, which will improve drainage in many areas of the city and bring both federal funding and local jobs to our region; NOW THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED, That the New Orleans City Council strongly supports the Sewerage and Water Board's efforts to fully fund the local match for the SELA program and continue this important work; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Sewerage and Water Board and local branch of the Army Corps of Engineers must continue planning and designing future projects to the furthest extent possible to ensure New Orleans is a strong candidate to receive additional federal funding as it becomes available; and be it

FURTHER RESOVLED, that a certified copy of this resolution be sent by the Clerk of Council to Ghassan Korban, Executive Director of the Sewerage and Water Board, and Colonel Stephen Murphy, Commander and District Engineer, New Orleans District, United States Army Corps of Engineers.