



PRESS RELEASE

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JOINT DRAINAGE EXERCISE PROVES SUCCESSFUL

Coordination Among Agencies Enhances Storm Protection

New Orleans, LA – “I am more confident in our flood protection system than ever before,” said Derek Boese, Chief Administrative Officer of the Flood Protection Authority East (FPA). “Our pump station performed to the gold standard it was designed for and we are very pleased with the results.”

On Thursday, October 25, 2018 the FPA and the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board (SWBNO) conducted a joint test of the Orleans Pump Station (FPA) at Lake Pontchartrain and SWBNO Drainage Pumping Station 7 on the Orleans Canal. The effort successfully discharged storm water from SWBNO’s drainage system through the pumps associated with the permanent lakeside floodgates installed to protect New Orleans from storm surge during tropical events.

This effort also was done in coordination with the Army Corps of Engineers and the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority. Both stations were operated simultaneously under harsh rain and water level conditions.

At the beginning of the testing, a storm system over our area produced heavy amounts of rain. “What’s significant is we have not had weather and circumstances like this to truly test both pumps and communication between both sites,” said Boese. “The NOSWB did a great job at keeping us informed on water levels and pumping capacity, as well as water levels on their end.”

“This test provided us with that extra layer of confidence that asking the Flood Protection Authority to manage the pumping stations at the Lake was the right thing to do,” said SWBNO Executive Director Ghassan Korban. “Our two teams were in constant communication and coordination throughout the event, and that partnership will only improve going forward.”

The testing lasted from 8:00 am to 11:30 am as the weather system moved out of our area.

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