



# FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY

## Your Flood Defense System

# PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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## Public Statement on Bayou St. John Water Levels

New Orleans, LA – New Orleans, LA – The Flood Protection Authority-East offers the following statement addressing community concerns regarding water levels in Bayou St. John:

“The Flood Protection Authority-East (FPA) has, in recent months, received inquiries regarding fluctuating water levels in Bayou St. John. We want to ensure citizens that we are monitoring the situation closely. While the FPA has adjusted water levels in the Bayou via the opening of the floodgate and valve system near the lake, historically, Bayou St. John only receives water via rainfall and runoff, resulting in a natural variability in the water levels. City Park’s lagoons also receive water from the Bayou, further contributing to the water levels.

The FPA coordinates the management of water levels in Bayou St. John with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board, as well as seeking recommendations from the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation (LPBF) on when to allow more lake water into the Bayou to best mitigate negative impacts from invasive species such as Giant Salvinia. We also consult with LPBF on situations that can cause changes in water quality to the Bayou such as the historic and extended openings of the Bonne Carre Spillway earlier this year.

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The potential impact of these types of circumstances means the FPA is sometimes unable to allow water from the lake into the Bayou, or is afforded only very short and infrequent opportunities in which to do so.

While we are sensitive to the aesthetic and recreational interests of the community, it is the FPA's primary mission to ensure the floodgate system is operated and maintained at full function, an absolute imperative during hurricane season, in order to protect against storm surge while remaining in compliance with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers operational mandates. The FPA will continue to work diligently to balance the flood protection imperatives by which we must abide and the interests of citizens who enjoy recreating in Bayou St. John."