



# The Flood Protection Authority-East

News of Your Flood Defense System

October 1, 2019



**Seabrook Complex Structure**

## *Message from Quentin Dastugue, Chair of the Flood Protection Authority Finance Committee*

As we approach the homestretch of hurricane season (November 30), it is my goal as the Chair of the Finance Committee to continuously strive to ensure that the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (FPA) is running efficiently and effectively – reassuring that our community can weather any storm.

Throughout the year, we provide constant staff training and maintenance of vital flood control systems, necessary floodgates, and other structures and procedures in order to further advance the safety of our team and community. We have also managed to consolidate the three levee districts, Orleans, St. Bernard, and the East Bank of Jefferson – creating substantial savings.

On Thursday, October 10, at 10 a.m., the FPA will host a Special Finance Committee meeting that is open to the public. We will be discussing my proposal to increase savings through millage rollback and decrease property taxes for the organization.

I would like to thank you all for your continued faith in the FPA and we look forward to meeting you and receiving your feedback.

Quentin Dastugue  
Flood Protection Authority Treasurer  
and Chair of the Finance Committee

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**Flood Protection Authority**

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## *Congressman Steve Scalise Holds Press Conference at Lakefront Airport*

U.S. Congressman Steve Scalise held a press conference on August 26th in the New Orleans Lakefront Airport Terminal after completing a one hour aerial tour along with other levee officials of Southeast Louisiana's massive flood protection system. Gaps in the Morganza levee system, as well as local flood protection issues, coastal restoration and navigation were of particular focus.

Congressman Scalise is making it clear that levees are a good investment ultimately saving taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars. Reporters were advised by Congressman Scalise that more work needs to be done and that he wants to help finish critical projects.



**Congressman Steve Scalise addresses media**



**Col. Stephen Murphy, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, at microphone. Dwayne Bougeois, North Lafourche Levee District, Congressman Scalise, Rear Admiral John Nadeau, U.S. Coast Guard, Herbert Miller, FPA President, and Reggie Dupre, North Lafourche Levee District (L-R).**



**Congressman Scalise, Kyle Ruckert and FPA President Herbert Miller.**



**FPA President Herbert Miller, Police Chief Kerry Najolia, CAO Derek Boese and Congressman Scalise.**

## *Introducing New FPA Board Member Randy Noel*



The Board's newest Member, K. Randall "Randy" Noel, was sworn into office by President Herbert Miller at the Board's August 15th meeting.

Randy began his home building career at age 12 when his father placed a broom in his hand to clean a new home. After that he was a trim carpenter's helper, plumber's helper, marbella installer, and complaints manager. Soon he was Vice President in charge of operations for his father's company. In 1985 he began Reve, Inc., which builds custom homes. He was president of the Home Builders Association of Greater New Orleans and the State of LA. In 2008 he was inducted into the Louisiana Builders Hall of Fame.

Mr. Noel is currently serving on the LHBA General Liability Indemnity Trust Board. He has served on the National Association Board of Directors for 23 years and is a Senior Life Member. He is the past chairman of the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Council. He was the second Member of the Institute of Residential Marketing in the State of Louisiana and the 2018 Chairman of the National Association of Home Builders, the first Louisiana Home Builder to serve as a National Chairman. Randy has spoken at numerous functions on building codes, marketing, and insurance.

Mr. Noel has participated in drafting FEMA's "Local Officials Coastal Construction Reference Manual", HUD's "Fact Sheets on storm mitigation construction", Louisiana GOHSEP Disaster Report for FEMA, writing and overseeing grants for Code offices while on LSUCCC, and soliciting IBTS to make code inspections after storms in 2006.

Mr. Noel expressed his eagerness at the August 15th meeting to serve on the FPA Board. He commented that clearly one of the most important things in this region is flood protection and stressed the importance of flood protection remaining at the highest level possible so that the communities in this region can thrive and grow.

## Franklin Avenue Complex Renovations Completed



The project to build out additional office space and renovate the existing offices in Franklin Avenue Complex Facilities has been completed. The project provided for a total of approximately 24,000 square feet of renovated office space: 10,344 square feet in the Administration Building for Administration, Finance and Human Resources staff, and 14,000 square feet in the Warehouse for Engineering, Operations and Maintenance staff. The project completely revamped the look and feel of the facility and provides fresh new modern offices with collaborative spaces, break areas and specialized storage.



The renovations took place in two separate phases. Phase one consisted of building out an additional section of the warehouse to create office space for the Engineering, Operations and Maintenance functions. The first phase also included increasing the HVAC capacity by adding a new chiller and cooling tower, and two new generators. Phase Two consisted of gutting the Administration Building. Both phases included the installation of a new modular wall system and all new furnishings. The project also included upgrades to the electrical infrastructure and fiber optics and data cabling, as well as new security with card access at key entry points.



The Architect for the project is RCL Architecture, LLC. The project was constructed by CM Combs Construction, LLC. AOS Interior Environments supplied the modular wall/partitioning system and furnishings for the project.



## Hurricane Barry Response — A Team Effort



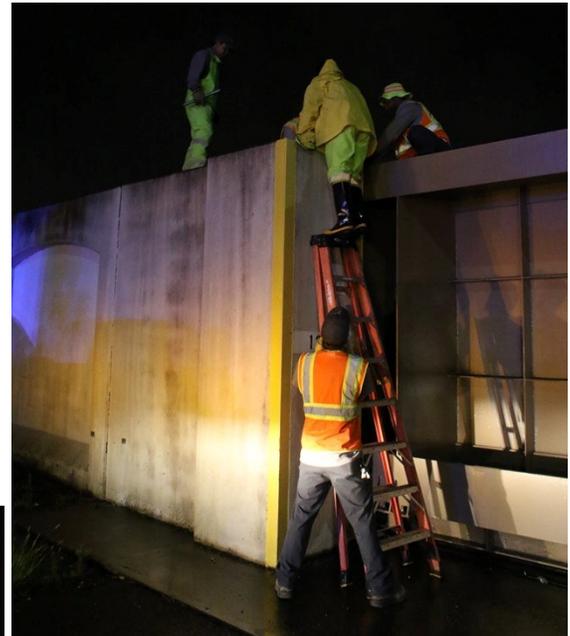
Hurricane Barry was the first hurricane/tropical storm to make landfall while the Mississippi River was at flood stage potentially sending storm surge upriver. Barry evolved from a disturbance over the Midwestern United States that emerged into the Gulf and morphed into Tropical Storm and later Hurricane Barry, making landfall on the Louisiana coast on July 13th.



Due to the uncertainty of Barry's path and the potential impacts, along with the unprecedented high river level, and after consultation with the Governor's Office and Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, the decision was made to close all of the floodgates and gated structures in the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) for the first time since the system's completion, as well as all of the floodgates along the Mississippi River Levee.

Barry was also the first storm during which the Flood Protection Authority (FPA) operated the Permanent Canal Closures and Pumps (PCCP) at the 17<sup>th</sup> Street, London Avenue and Orleans Avenue Outfall Canals, coordinating flows with the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans.

The FPA responded as a team of highly trained professionals committed to the mission of flood defense and public service. Coordination with partner agencies began on Monday, July 8th. The FPA activated its Emergency Operations Center at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, starting 24 hour/day operations. The massive job of closing all MRL and HSDRRS floodgates and gated structures required teamwork, coordination and tremendous effort. Maintenance crews worked throughout Wednesday night closing MRL floodgates (pictured this page). Crews closed HSDRRS floodgates and gated structures throughout Thursday and Friday.



## *Hurricane Barry Response — A Team Effort*

The FPA operates and maintains a total of 251 land based floodgates crossing highways and railroads, located along floodwalls, and across roadways. Crews also operate 106 valves for gravity drainage structures.

In addition, the FPA operates and maintains the following navigation structure gates: IHNC Barge and Sector Gates, Bayou Bienvenue Vertical Lift Gate, Seabrook Complex, and the Bayou St. John, Bayou Bienvenue and Caernarvon Sector Gates.



**Delivering over 11,000 40-lb. sandbags to Lafitte**

Levee District Police Officers worked extensive hours alongside maintenance crews providing escorts and traffic control for floodgate and structure gate closures and performing around the clock patrols of the flood defense system. Police Reserve Officers provided invaluable assistance with escorts and providing a police presence at different pumping stations throughout Orleans Parish.

The FPA was able to assist neighboring communities in the storm's path by providing and delivering over 11,000 40-lb. sandbags by 6 a.m. on Saturday to Lafitte and providing 186 3,000-lb. sandbags on Monday for St. Mary Parish. The 3,000-lb. sandbags were transported by trucks supplied by the LA Department of Transportation and Development, Louisiana National Guard and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

FPA Maintenance crews began reopening gates on Saturday (July 13th) in three phases that continued into Monday. Engineering staff began inspecting the flood defense system on Sunday (July 14th).



**Above: FPA Maintenance crews close roadway gates.**



**Above: 3,000-lb. sandbags being loaded on LA National Guard trucks for delivery to St. Mary Parish**

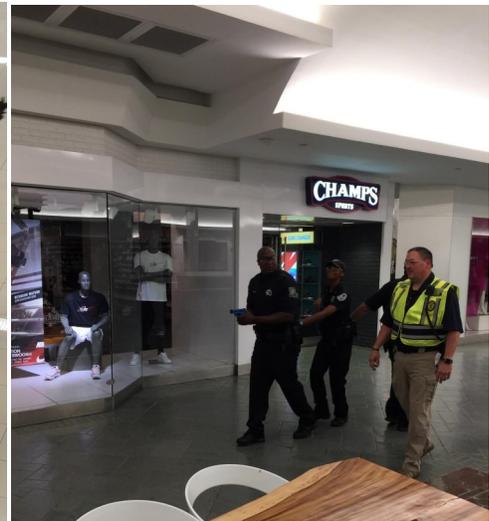
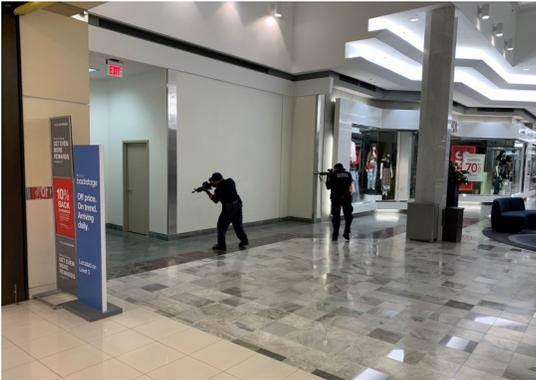
## *Levee District Police Participate in Active Shooter Drill*



At least 20 East Jefferson Levee District and Orleans Levee Districts Police Officers and Reserve Officers participated in the active shooter exercise with the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office, Causeway Police, Jefferson Parish Fire Department, EMS and other agencies from across the metropolitan area in a simulated active shooter drill at Lakeside Mall in Metairie.

In addition to the participating levee district officers and reserves, Police Superintendent Kerry Najolia helped oversee aspects of the drill. Captain Michael Brenckle, Sergeant Kenneth Pinkston and Officer Richard Robinson served as monitors in the exercise.

The drill began at about 10 pm (an hour after closing time at the mall) and included multiple and single shooter scenarios and casualties and placed approximate 200 law enforcement, EMS and fire department personnel in high stress situations in order to proactively prepare for the worse case scenario. The drill allowed first responders from different jurisdictions an opportunity to learn how to work together quickly and effectively in case of an emergency.



## *FPA Employees Attend Levee Inspection Training*



Seventy-one Flood Protection Authority employees attended the Levee Inspection Certification course conducted by the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority in August at the Franklin Avenue Complex.

Training consists of three parts: "Levee & Flood Control Works", "Floodwalls", and "Drainage Structures and Pump Stations". After participating in the training, each employee must pass a test to receive the Levee Inspector Certification.

**Flood Protection Authority Monthly Board Meetings can be viewed via livestream by visiting the FPA website [www.floodauthority.org/](http://www.floodauthority.org/) and clicking on the Facebook icon located at the top right corner of the page or going to: [www.facebook.com/FloodProtectionAuthority/](https://www.facebook.com/FloodProtectionAuthority/).**

## Update on USACE Levee Lift/Armoring Projects in New Orleans East



**LPV-ARM 04 Irrigation System**



**LPV-ARM 05 Installing HPTRM**



The Flood Protection Authority requested the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to include the lifting of levees in New Orleans East that would otherwise fall below the authorized level of protection before 2023 in conjunction with its armoring projects. The Orleans Levee District is responsible for the cost of the levee lift portion of the projects. Following is the current status of the projects:

**LPV-ARM-04** - Project includes approximately six miles of Lakefront Levee from Paris Road to South Point (LPV 108). Work included raising the levee and flattening the side slopes, construction of an Articulated Concrete Block (ACB), access road on the crown of the levee, armoring the protected side of the levee with High Performance Turf Reinforcement Mat (HPTRM) and reestablishing turf. The project is substantially complete and waiting for turf establishment and final inspection. Notice of Construction Completion and turn over to the FPA is expected around March 2020.

**LPV-ARM-05** - Project extends approximately six miles beginning at I-10 southward past US 90 to the CSX Railroad (LPV 109). Contractor has completed the levee lift portion of project for the FPA. The armoring phase is 80% complete and the sod phase is more than 75% complete. There is one outstanding deficiency on the project which the USACE has directed the contractor to repair. The repair will be completed after all initial work is complete. The project is scheduled for completion in May 2020.



**LPV - ARM-09 Constructing Levee Lift**

**LPV-ARM-09** - Project extends approximately five miles from the CSX Railroad to the IHNC Surge Barrier (LPV 111) and is still in the levee lift phase of work. The side slope flattening is complete, but the lifting of the levee is only about 30% complete. The contractor is planning to mobilize an Armoring Crew to the site within the next 10 days. The project is expected to be completed in June 2020.

## *Tour Two of the FPA's World Class Flood Defense Facilities*



The Flood Protection Authority's public outreach program is an important part of our mission by providing news and information to the public about their flood defense system. Tours are offered of the IHNC Lake Borgne Surge Barrier and the Permanent Canal Closures and Pumps (PCCP) pump station located at the mouth of the 17th Street Canal (the largest of the three PCCP outfall canal facilities). The IHNC Surge Barrier is located at the confluence of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet (MRGO) and the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) and is the largest continuous surge barrier in the world, stretching 1.8 miles across the MRGO and the Golden Triangle Marsh. The Surge Barrier includes three navigation gates (Sector Gate and Barge Gate and Bayou Bienvenue Lift Gate).

Pictured left are representatives from Louisiana Sea Grant touring the 17th Street PCCP .



Pictured (right) are attendees of the Mississippi River Delta Institute, and (bottom) members of the Mekong delegation, who toured the IHNC Surge Barrier.



The Flood Protection Authority urges everyone to become informed about their flood defense system and encourages organizations and business and community groups to schedule a tour of the IHNC-Lake Borgne Surge Barrier and Permanent Canal Closure and Pumps (PCCP) Stations.

To schedule a tour of the IHNC Surge Barrier and/or PCCP, visit our website at [floodauthority.org](http://floodauthority.org) and click on "Schedule Facility Tours" at the bottom of our home page. Fill out the Tour Information Sheet and click on "submit" at the bottom of the sheet.

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