



The Flood Protection Authority-East

News of Your Flood Defense System

July 1, 2023



Caernarvon Sector Gate

Message from Commissioner and Board Secretary Clay Cosse

The Flood Protection Authority's Greatest Resource.... "Our Employees"



When I reflect on all of our resources – Infrastructure, funding, PCCP pumps, miles of levee protection and staffing, I know that our greatest resource is our employees. Our dedicated team not only includes the men and women who operate and maintain the system, but also the Police, Administrative, Finance and Human Resource staffs who support our engineering, operations and maintenance personnel.

Hurricane season is upon us and the Flood Protection Authority East's (FPA) past performance leaves no doubt that we will handle it... and handle it well! The citizens of the greater New Orleans metropolitan area depend on the FPA's team of professional, knowledgeable and trained employees to successfully fulfill our mission and keep the region safe from flood waters.

I would like to take this opportunity to express the Board's appreciation and gratitude to all of the Flood Protection Authority's employees for their dedication and contribution to our flood protection mission and for the work they do year round to keep our region safe.

Thank you for a job well done! May God bless and protect you and your families.

Clay Cosse
Commissioner and
FPA Board Secretary

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Recognition of the Service of Jason P. Latiolais



At its meeting held on June 15, 2023, the Board adopted a resolution recognizing Jason P. Latiolais for his dedication and contributions during his tenure as a member of the Board of Commissioners and for his service to the citizens of Southeast Louisiana.

Mr. Latiolais was appointed by Governor John Bel Edwards to serve as a member of the FPA-East Board effective September 28, 2015, and was reappointed to serve a second term ending on July 1, 2023.

Mr. Latiolais received his B.S. in Civil Engineering from Louisiana State University in 2006 and Masters of Business Administration from Southeastern Louisiana University in 2016. He has over 17 years of experience in engineering, project management, group management and business and currently serves as the President/CEO of Barriere Construction Company.

Mr. Latiolais served as Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023; as a member of the Operations Committee from July 1, 2019, and as Chair of the Operations Committee from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022; and as a member of the Coastal Committee from October 28, 2016 to June 30, 2017, and from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.

Appointment of Deborah M. Settoon to FPA Board



On November 28, 2022, Governor John Bel Edwards appointed Deborah M. “Debbie” Settoon to the FPA Board of Commissioners for a four-year term beginning on July 2, 2023. Ms. Settoon replaces Jason P. Latiolais whose term expired on July 1, 2023.

Ms. Settoon brings a tremendous amount of professional expertise and experience to the Board and to the management and operation of the critical \$14 billion Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System, which protects the lives and property of the citizens of the Greater New Orleans region.

Ms. Settoon received her B.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of New Orleans in 1979 and MBA from Tulane University Freeman School of Business in 1992. She is a registered Professional Civil Engineer and Environmental Engineer and has over thirty years’ experience in engineering and construction supervision, facilities management, quality assurance and financial planning. Ms. Settoon is retired, but remains active in leadership roles and is currently serving on the Jefferson Parish Board of Standards and Appeals and as a Board Member of Jefferson Beautification, Inc.

Ms. Settoon’s past service includes East Jefferson Levee District Commissioner (post-Katrina 2005-2006); Chair, Southeast Regional Airport Board; Member, GNO Airport Committee; Chair, Citizens for a Safer Jefferson (a flood protection coalition solving pump backflow issues); UNO Engineering Advisory Council; President, Civic League of Jefferson; Chair, Kenner Code Enforcement Advisory Committee; and St. Philip Neri Planning Committee. Ms. Settoon was honored in 2002 as the Alliance for Good Government’s Civic Leader of the Year.

The FPA-East Operates and Maintains

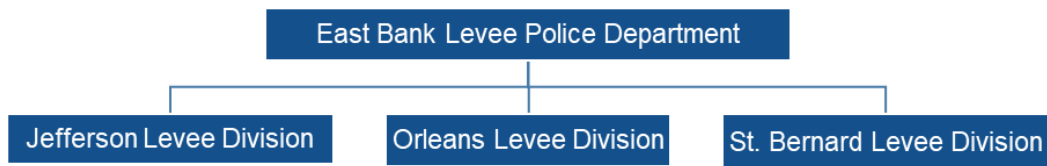
- 191 Miles of Federal & Non-Federal Levees and Floodwalls (Hurricane Flood Protection & Riverine)
- 246 Land Based Floodgates
- 102 Valves
- 5.4 Miles of Seawall
- 3 Permanent Canal Closures and Pumps (PCCP) Pump Stations
- 8 Navigation Flood Control Structures (IHNC Surge Barrier Sector & Barge Gates; Bayou Bienvenue Vertical Lift Gate & Sector Gate; Seabrook Complex; and Bayou Dupre, Bayou St. John and Caernarvon Sector Gates.)
- IHNC-Lake Borgne Surge Barrier located at the confluence of the MRGO and GIWW and stretching 1.8 miles across the Golden Triangle Marsh

What's In a Name

For strategic reasons, our Flood Protection Authority - East police department now has a name change along with a new look with its badge and logo decals on their vehicles.

So instead of Orleans Levee District Police Department, AKA OLDPD, and East Jefferson Levee District Police Department, AKA EJLDPD, we have a name that better defines our full jurisdiction, East Bank Levee Police Department.

It's important to understand the police departments have not been legally combined. They are still separate. However, the new name acts as an outward facing name for the entire police department and each territory is now a division. Each division continues to get paid by their designated territory as well as maintains their separate Workers Compensation Policy.



The goal is to unify the department and work together with a shared mission to ensure the physical and operational integrity of our flood defense system for our citizens and communities.

So, you might be wondering why do it? Why the name change? One outward facing name is a key step to help eliminate public confusion. We want the public to know that our police officers have authority across the three parishes of Jefferson, Orleans, and St. Bernard. This is why our new vehicle decals emphasis POLICE along with the name of the three parishes we serve and their parish flags to help clarify our jurisdiction.



When our officers need to work in other parishes on calls to assist local police such as NOPD, or help manage traffic and large crowds on Easter or Mother's Day along Lakeshore Drive, our new name gives automatic credibility to our team. This is especially critical during hurricane season. An officer from the East Jefferson Levee Division assigned to escort a floodgate crew convoy needs to have the visible recognition of authority when working in another parish.

In addition to helping to clarify and educate the public, the name change is a way to form more collaboration among the divisions. There's a natural power and synergy that can occur when teams work together toward a common mission.



As seen in the photos of the police vehicle, we show the flags of the parishes we serve: Jefferson, Orleans and St. Bernard.

FPA Stands Ready for Hurricane Season

We stand ready for hurricane season! The levees, floodwalls, floodgates, and complex structures have been inspected with the quarterly and annual inspections

The pumps at the Permanent Canal Closures and Pumps (PCCP) have been inspected and temporary repairs have been completed by The Army Corps of Engineers' contractors and they have been deemed ready for this hurricane season. In early December, The Army Corps of Engineers will begin work on the more in-depth inspection and work to bring the outfall canals to their 35-year design life.

We are thankful for the dedicated employees at the Flood Protection Authority-East. They work hard to operate and maintain the system all year long so we are ready for any storm.

However, we caution everyone about being complacent when a storm approaches. Every hurricane is different. Look at what type of storm is in the Gulf, the path, and the speed it's moving should determine if you stay or leave. Please listen when officials recommend to evacuate.

Remember These Tips for Hurricane Season:

- ◆ Have a plan and discuss it with others. Know the steps you need for you, your work, your family.
- ◆ Make sure you are properly insured.
- ◆ Get your medications filled, get your car ready for a road trip, if you have pets get their supplies in advance.
- ◆ Shop now and get your non-perishable supplies.
- ◆ If you have a generator, purchase a battery-operated carbon monoxide detector for every floor of your home.
- ◆ Even if you have a generator, please don't assume you'll be able to stay.
- ◆ As always please listen when officials recommend to evacuate.



IHNC-Lake Borgne Surge Barrier



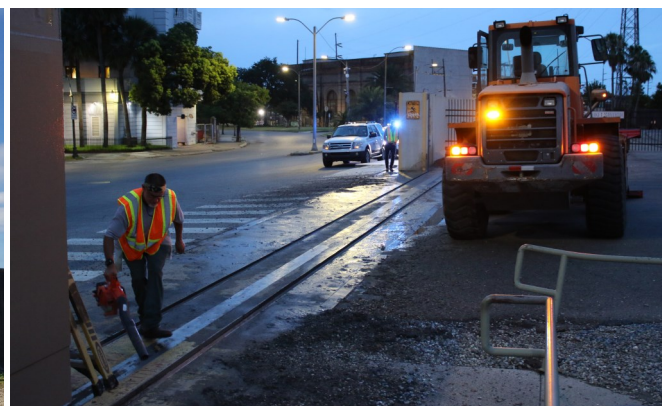
17th Street Outfall Canal PCCP



Seabrook Complex



Crew closing Overhead Floodgate along MRGO



Crew preparing for nighttime closure of Mississippi River Floodgate in the French Quarter

FPA Board Receives Update on St. Bernard Pumping and Drainage



Louis Pomes, Road Yard Chief of Operations, St. Bernard Parish, addresses FPA Board

Louis Pomes, Road Yard Chief of Operations for St. Bernard Parish, provided an update to the FPA Board at its April 20, 2023, meeting on the operational readiness of St. Bernard Parish's pumping and drainage system, as well as information on the improvements made to the eight pump stations and 60 miles of drainage canals since their turnover from the Lake Borgne Basin Levee District to St. Bernard Parish Government (SBPG) on July 1, 2021.



Kelli Chandler, FPA Regional Director, Louis Pomes, SBPG Road Yard Chief of Operations, Monty Montelongo, GBPS Pump and Drainage System Manager, and Clay Cosse, FPA Board Member representing St. Bernard Parish

National Weather Service Hurricane Awareness Tour



The National Weather Service (NWS) held its Hurricane Awareness Tour at the New Orleans Lakefront Airport on May 2, 2023. The morning was filled with numerous buses of school children who were able to tour the Hurricane Hunter aircraft, meet the pilots and flight crew, speak with hurricane forecasters and local NWS meteorologists, and learn about weather safety and preparedness. After the student tours, which took place from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, the event was open to general public.

NWS partners included the U.S. Coast Guard, American Red Cross, NOLA Ready, FPA-East, Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority, NOAA Office of Response and Recovery, and NASA Stennis Space Center. The event was a tremendous success and provided an important learning experience for our youth and the community.



**WP-3D - "Orion" (pictured above)
WC-130J - "Hercules" (pictured right)**



Dedication of the Hibernian Memorial Park

On May 12, 2023, the community came together to celebrate the dedication and blessing of the Hibernian Memorial Park, a lasting gift to the community that honors all of the sons and daughters of Ireland who came to New Orleans seeking a better life. The event was hosted by the Louisiana Hibernian Charity, the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians. Program participants included Ireland's Ambassador to the United States Geraldine Byrne Nason and Counsel General Robbie Hull, retired Judge James McKay, III, Ireland's honorary counsel in New Orleans, and State Senator James "Jimmy" L. Harris, representing Governor John Bel Edwards. Music was provided by the Marine Forces Reserve Band. The focal point of the park is the Celtic cross.



Ambassador Geraldine Byrne Nason cuts a bright green ribbon to open the Hibernian Memorial Park



The park brings awareness to the enormous contribution by countless Irish immigrants during the 1830's to the development and expansion of New Orleans made possible by the construction of the New Basin Canal, which began at the turning basin on South Rampart Street and joined with Lake Pontchartrain. The dangerous work of digging the canal with pickaxes and shovels through alligator, snake and mosquito invested swampland cost the lives of thousands of immigrants from cholera, malaria, yellow fever and construction accidents. Many workers died while digging the canal and were buried in shallow graves along the canal levee and roadway fill without grave markers.

The shipping conduit provided essential access from the lake to the growing upper faubourgs until advances in railroad and road transportation and the construction of the Industrial Canal in 1923 decreased the canal's economic viability.

Hibernian Memorial Park is a 4-acre site occupying the 6800 block of the neutral ground between West End and Pontchartrain Boulevards and is situated within the larger 46-acre New Basin Canal Park managed by the Lakefront Management Authority. Additional beautification elements for the Hibernian Memorial Park are planned. The park will be a focal point for Celtic culture and a perpetual symbol of the legacy of the Irish in New Orleans.



Marine Forces Reserve Band



The Celtic Cross is located in the middle of a semicircular path with pavement featuring six Celtic knots.



LMA Commissioner Adonis Expose, Ambassador Geraldine Byrne Nason and FPA Commissioner Debbie Settoon



City of New Orleans Press Conference - 2023 Hurricane Season Preparation



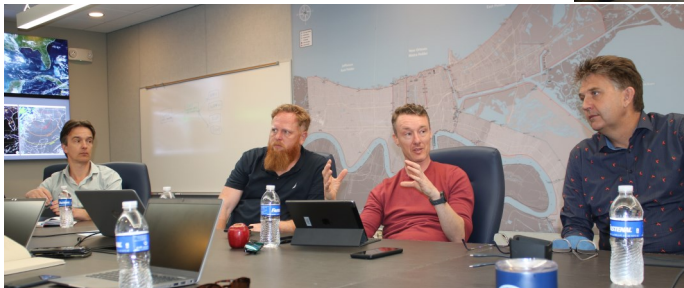
A Citywide Hurricane Preparedness Press Conference was held on May 31, 2023. Mayor LaToya Cantrell pointed out that being a low lying city on the front lines of climate change, no city knows the importance of hurricane preparedness more than the City of New Orleans. She cautioned, “A key lesson learned in Hurricane Katrina is that risks are inherent and cannot be eliminated.” Lessons learned from Hurricane Ida have been embedded in emergency plans for the 2023 Hurricane Season. Mayor Cantrell advised that she listened to over 55 departments as well as partners and that they are prepared.

Kelli Chandler, Regional Director of the Flood Protection Authority-East, provided a briefing on the readiness of the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System in Jefferson (East Bank), Orleans (East Bank) and St. Bernard Parishes for the 2023 Hurricane Season. She thanked the hundreds of men and women that on a day-to-day basis operate and maintain the system in the New Orleans region. She pointed out that it is a risk reduction system and that risks cannot be completely eliminated. Therefore, everyone needs to do their part. Have an evacuation plan, review their insurance, stock up on supplies, and listen to local and state officials to stay weather aware.

Ms. Chandler provided a similar briefing at the 2023 Jefferson Parish Hurricane Season Press Conference on June 1, 2023.

I-STORM Visits the FPA

Members from the International Network of Storm Surge Barriers (I-STORM) visited the Flood Protection Authority-East in late April. I-STORM's philosophy is that different countries have different history and policies, which logically leads to different priorities and solutions whether an existing operation or just in design, and everyone has something to contribute.

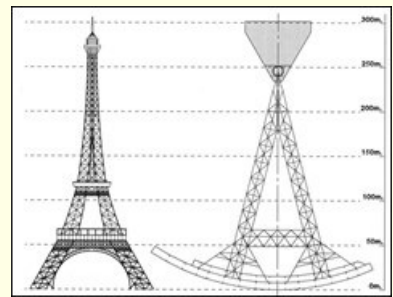


Members of I-STORM share knowledge and experiences to learn from each other today and in the future. During their visit the FPA hosted meetings with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and showed the members some of the FPA's structures including the operation of the barge gate at the Surge Barrier, and two of the Permanent Canal Closures & Pumps (PCCPs).



Completed in 1997, the Maeslant Barrier, is equal in size to two Eiffel Towers on their sides.

No other flood barrier in the world has larger moveable parts than the Maeslant Barrier located in The Netherlands.



FPA Public Information Alerts

sign-up



If we can't **REACH** you
we can't **ALERT** you

The Flood Protection Authority-East (FPA) strives to provide timely information to the public regarding public safety issues, closures and events that impact people, businesses and communities in order to minimize disruptions and keep the public safe and informed. The FPA implemented the Everbridge Management Platform for providing alerts to the public.

Everbridge is the industry standard using the most up-to-date communication technology and is widely used throughout federal, state and local government agencies, organizations, commerce and industry.

The FPA offers subscriptions to the following Keywords:

Floodgate (Information on floodgate opening, closing or maintenance)

FPAEast (General news about the Flood Protection Authority-East)

River (Information about the High River or the Mississippi River)

HighTide (Information regarding gate openings and closures as they relate to high tide situations)

It's a simple process to register for these Emergency Alerts. Text the appropriate Keyword listed above to "333111" for the alerts you would like to receive. In order to receive alerts offered under more than one Keyword, each Keyword must be texted to "333111".

FPA-East Website

The Flood Protection Authority-East website contains a wealth of information about our flood defense system (Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System and Mississippi River Levee), the FPA's mission and the team of professionals that govern, manage, maintain and operate the critical flood defense system, as well as services offered by the FPA.

The website also includes Teacher Resources and the middle School Lesson Plans developed by the FPA for Science and Social Studies: "Keeping Your Head Above Water—Know Your Flood Protection System" and "Flood Fight Along the Mississippi River—Mississippi River Lesson Plan."

Visit our website today - www.floodauthority.org

Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East Board and Committee Meetings can be viewed via livestream by visiting the FPA website www.floodauthority.org and selecting Business - Board Meeting Videos. Click on live stream.

Flood Protection Authority-East (FPA) Tours Offered to the Public:

- Virtual tour of the \$4 Billion Hurricane Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) spanning East Jefferson, Orleans and St. Bernard Parishes.
- In-person group tours of the Lake Borgne-IHNC Surge Barrier.

For additional information on both virtual and in-person tours go to the FPA's website www.floodauthority.org and select "Facility Tours".

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