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GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
OFFICE OF CONSERVATION

THOMAS F. HARRIS
SECRETARY

RICHARD P. IEYOUB
COMMISSIONER OF CONSERVATION

June 9, 2017

Barry Huggins, Chairman
Capital Area Ground Water Conservation Commission
3535 South Sherwood Forest Blvd., Suite 137
Baton Rouge, LA 70816-2255

Re: Office of Conservation Process for Meeting HB 689 Obligations

Dear Chairman Huggins:

As noted in my correspondence to you from May 18, 2017, I asked that my staff hold any response to your request for clarification as to reporting requirements under La. R.S. 38:3097.8 until such time as Representative Marcelle's HB 535 (substituted with HB 689) had resolved itself through the legislative process to prevent any direct or indirect unintentional influence on its outcome. Now that HB 689 has been passed through the Senate and House of Representatives, I want to provide an outline to you of the Office of Conservation's intended actions to meet the statutory obligations in this legislation, pending its approval by the Governor. In order to meet these obligations, the agency will:

1. Consult with legislative staff as appropriate to clarify our interpretation of the law in order to provide the best possible guidance to groundwater conservation districts.
2. Draft a guidance document form and reporting checklist.
3. Promulgate said form and checklist according to law.

I appreciate your patience as we work through due process to meet thoroughly these new obligations.

My staff is available to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Richard P. Ieyoub
Commissioner of Conservation

Cc: Anthony Duplechin

RPI/jmr