

Louisiana Water Resources Commission
June 5, 2013

On motion of Mr. Pratt and second by Mr. Spicer, with unanimous approval,

A RESOLUTION

of the Louisiana Water Resources Commission

WHEREAS, Louisiana has been privileged over its existence to enjoy an abundance of ground and surface water resources; and

WHEREAS, our state Constitution mandates that, "The natural resources of the state, including air and water, and the healthful, scenic, historic, and esthetic quality of the environment shall be protected, conserved, and replenished insofar as possible and consistent with the health, safety, and welfare of the people"; and

WHEREAS, an array of laws, rules, regulations, and regulatory authorities have evolved to address the complexities of managing these resources, including to protect water quality and regulate groundwater aquifers and surface water bodies like streams, rivers, lakes and bayous; and

WHEREAS, population growth, economic expansion, drought, and other developments in recent years have made the value of our water resources abundantly clear; and

WHEREAS, the national and international understanding of the value of water for a healthy and economically viable society have increased greatly over the past decade; and

WHEREAS, state leaders over the past decades have wisely invested in critical infrastructure and planning designed to manage floodwaters and fight coastal erosion; and

WHEREAS, the state Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast acknowledges the importance of "fresh water and sediment to help rebuild the coast, combat salinity, and enhance habitats," and to "maintain resources for homes, businesses, large industries such as navigation, and the daily needs of our landscape"; and

WHEREAS, the same Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast concludes that because of the critical importance of fresh water for such purposes that a "surface and groundwater management plan should be developed to ensure that the state secures the sustainable use of these valuable resources into the future"; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Water Resources Commission (formerly the Ground Water Resources Commission) has studied the major issues of water resource management in the state and worked diligently to improve current management practices with existing regulatory bodies and agencies; and

WHEREAS, this experience has given the Water Resources Commission particular insight into Louisiana's water resource management needs; and

WHEREAS, in *Managing Louisiana's Groundwater Resources: An Interim Report to the Louisiana Legislature* (March 2012), the Water Resources Commission articulated its ultimate goal of seeing the development of a "comprehensive water resources management plan."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Water Resources Commission does hereby urge and request funding from the RESTORE Act or other sources for the development of a comprehensive statewide water resources management plan that will provide a sound basis for supplying Louisiana's future water needs for public consumption, agriculture, industry, power generation, navigation, and recreation, and that will conserve our natural resources, protect the environment, and rebuild our coastal ecosystems in the most efficient manner possible.

On behalf of the Members of the Louisiana Water Resources Commission



Scott A. Angelle
Chairman