





DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 60267
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70160

IN REPLY REFER TO
LESEB-DD

30 January 1976

Honorable J. Bennett Johnston
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Johnston:

This is in response to your referral of 19 January 1976 requesting information regarding a drainage problem in the fifth ward of St. Bernard Parish and a local interests request for construction of a pumping station.

The drainage problem to which Messrs. Weber and Gore refer in their letter of 16 December 1975 is not uncommon to many coastal parishes. Marshland flooding has been unduly frequent in recent years, not just in St. Bernard Parish but in Plaquemines, Jefferson, St. Charles, Lafourche, Terrebonne, and St. Mary Parishes as well. Flooding in the area in question should not be attributed to channels and canals, particularly the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet (MRGO) for reasons stated below, but rather to the unusually high tides with long durations which drive the waters inland from the Gulf of Mexico and impede natural drainage.

The area in question can be seen on the inclosed map. It is bounded on the north by Louisiana Highway 46 between Poydras and Verret and on the south by the hurricane protection levee which is highlighted in red. The Bayou Terre Aux Boeufs alluvial banks are highlighted in yellow. The MRGO is located north and east of the area in question, and a spoil bank located on its southwest bank effectively serves as a levee for the MRGO. The Bayou Terre Aux Boeufs alluvial banks combined with the spoil bank serve as an effective barrier against tidal encroachment from the east, be it from the MRGO or natural causes. Consequently, the leveed area between Poydras and Verret is susceptible only to those tides which come up from the south-southeast from Breton Sound.

LMVED-DD

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Honorable J. Bennett Johnston

The protection levee south of Louisiana Highway 46 to which Messrs. Weber and Gore refer in the third paragraph of their letter, is a part of the Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana and Vicinity hurricane protection project. The project calls for the construction of a hurricane protection levee from Verret to Caernarvon (located south of La. Hwy. 46) on essentially the same alignment as an existing local interests levee, and the construction of a drainage structure on the Creedmore Canal to replace the existing drainage structure located near Caernarvon. Since the area inclosed by the project levee is identical to the drainage area served by the existing drainage structure, the Creedmore structure will have the same capacity as the existing structure.

We agree with the contention of Messrs. Weber and Gore that a pumping station would provide better drainage than the proposed gravity drainage structure because it would make drainage essentially independent of tidal effects. However, since the tidal effects are not unusual and have neither been created nor worsened by the US Army Corps of Engineers projects, a pumping station would constitute a betterment.

We have no objection to a pumping station; however, since it is a betterment, local interests would be responsible for the design and construction of the facility. That portion of the construction cost up to but not exceeding the estimated construction cost of a drainage structure would be creditable toward local interests required 30 percent contribution for the Lake Pontchartrain hurricane protection project. The design cost would not be creditable since the design of the drainage structure is essentially complete and has already been charged against the project.

The inclosures to your referral are returned herewith in accordance with your request. If you need any additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

- 2 Incl
1. Map of area (dupe)
2. Basic inclosures

EARLY J. RUSH III
Colonel, CE
District Engineer

Copies furnished: w basic *4 incl*
HQDA (DAEN-CWZ-F)
✓ LMVEX, LMVED-C