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April 19, 1976

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Early J. Rush, III, Colonel
District Engineer
New Orleans, District, Corps of Engineers
P. O. Box 60267
New Orleans, Louisiana 70160

RE: Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity Hurricane Protection Plan

Dear Colonel Rush:

As you are aware the city is interested in the implementation of the proposed control structures at Seabrook, Chef Menteur Pass and The Rigolets and the relationship between the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity Hurricane Protection Plan and the City Planning Commission's proposed Coastal Zone Management Plan.

The present threat of hurricane induced flooding of heavily populated areas is of serious concern to the city. Thus, the city fully supports the expeditious completion of the Hurricane Protection System devised by the Corps of Engineers.

At the same time the city also recognizes the validity of many of the environmental concerns associated with a project of this magnitude as pointed out in the City Planning Commission's proposed Coastal Zone Management Plan. One of the most ambitious proposals of that plan, aimed at the conservation of lands vital to the Maurepas-Pontchartrain-Borgne Estuary System, is the possible governmental acquisition of some of the remaining unleveed wetlands in Orleans Parish. Preliminary estimates for accomplishing this land acquisition appear to be only a very small fraction of the total estimated cost of the Hurricane Protection Project.

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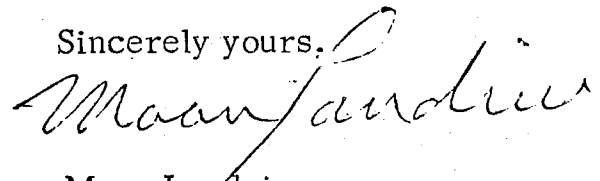
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I fully recognize that this acquisition proposal along with many other measures suggested by the Coastal Zone Plan require the attention and support of the general public, governmental agencies and the local governing body for it to become a component of the city's official plan. That process of public input is just now starting with the first information hearing scheduled on April 21, 1976. However, it is not too soon to begin exploring some of the practical aspects of achieving implementation of the Plan assuming its eventual adoption. It is in this spirit that I believe it appropriate to contact you now regarding the possibility of the Corps of Engineers assisting in the acquisition of these wetlands in the event the city elects to pursue such a course of action.

The Corps' sincere concern and demonstrated interest in assuring environmental quality targets your agency as a likely source of assistance to the city should these plans receive the widespread support they seem to deserve. I would therefore be most appreciative of any information or assistance you could offer in this regard. In the event you or any member of your staff wish to discuss this in detail please contact Mr. Harold R. Katner Director-Secretary, City Planning Commission.

With warmest personal regards I am,

Sincerely yours,



Moon Landrieu
Mayor

ML/amg

cc: Guy Le Mieux
Harold R. Katner