



**"RE-BUILDING THE CITY'S WATER SYSTEMS FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY"**

# **Sewerage & Water Board OF NEW ORLEANS**

**MITCHELL J. LANDRIEU, President**  
**WM. RAYMOND MANNING, President Pro-Tem**

**625 ST. JOSEPH STREET**  
**NEW ORLEANS, LA 70165 • 504-529-2837 OR 52W-ATER**  
**[www.swbno.org](http://www.swbno.org)**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 16, 2014

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Robert Jackson (504) 269-7978

Brenda Thornton (504) 269-7819

## **CEDRIC GRANT NAMED SEWERAGE & WATER BOARD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**NEW ORLEANS** – Today, the Board of Directors of the Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans (S&WB) selected Cedric Grant as its new Executive Director by a unanimous vote at its July 16, 2014 board meeting. Mr. Grant has served as Deputy Mayor of Facilities, Infrastructure, and Community Development for the City of New Orleans since 2010. He succeeds Marcia St. Martin who retired earlier this year after serving nine years in the position and Deputy Director Robert Miller who served as Interim Executive Director since her retirement. Mr. Grant will assume his duties on Monday, July 28, 2014 as the S&WB begins a \$3.3 billion capital improvement program comprised of over 600 projects that will create over 20,000 construction jobs.

"Throughout his distinguished 40 year career, Cedric Grant has demonstrated exceptional leadership and integrity as a public servant and he is supremely qualified to lead the Sewerage and Water Board," Mayor Mitch Landrieu said. "As the new Executive Director of the Sewerage and Water Board, he will continue his efforts to rebuild and strengthen the infrastructure that is so critical to our city's growth and future. There is no person better prepared to take on the task of modernizing this critical public utility."

For the last four years, Deputy Mayor Grant has overseen the City's infrastructure and jumpstarted Hurricane Katrina recovery projects in nearly every neighborhood in the city. In this capacity, he has overseen the City's capital development, infrastructure projects, and community development initiatives. Under his direction in negotiations, the City has secured over \$828 million in new FEMA recovery funds to repair important facilities and interior neighborhood streets. He has also improved coordination between S&WB and the City's Department of Public Works (DPW) on the \$280 million FEMA-funded Recovery Roads Program that is repairing Hurricane Katrina-related damages on and beneath City-managed streets throughout New Orleans. A new joint S&WB-DPW project management unit was created to better facilitate design review designs and coordinate on joint capital improvement projects. Now, engineers from both the S&WB and DPW are sitting in the same room, reviewing the same plans.

Mr. Grant came to City Hall after serving as Chief Administrative Officer of Ascension Parish, Louisiana, where he was responsible for management and oversight of all governmental operations. In 2004, Governor Blanco appointed Mr. Grant as Deputy Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, where he served until 2008. Prior to his appointment at the State, Mr. Grant held numerous managerial and administrative positions in government, including service as Chief Administrative Officer for the City of New Orleans. Mr. Grant has also served as Planning Manager for the Port of New Orleans and Director of Capital Projects for the New Orleans Downtown Development District. Mr. Grant served his country in the U.S. Army and completed 23 years of active and reserve service, retiring in 1995 with the rank of major. He earned a Master's of Public Administration from the University of New Orleans in 1981 and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Xavier University of Louisiana in 1974.

The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans solicited proposals from qualified Executive Search Consultants/Firms to advise the Board with regard to filling the Executive Director position. In August 2013, the Board contracted with the firm of Colin Baenziger & Associates, a national executive search firm, to help the Board's Search Committee seek applicants for the position. Following a nationwide search and reviewing 60 applicants, Mr. Grant was unanimously selected in December 2013 as the strongest and most qualified candidate for Executive Director by the SW&B Board of Directors.

Cedric Grant said, "The Sewerage and Water Board is at a crossroads of change, and its mission of providing sewerage, water, and drainage to the City of New Orleans is the bedrock on which New Orleans' survival and development rests. Everything I have accomplished before has prepared me for this challenge. As the Sewerage and Water Board begins a \$3.3 billion capital improvement program, I am committed to integrating its work with the City to become the economic, civic, and cultural engine of growth needed to secure New Orleans' future."

As Executive Director, Mr. Grant has committed to reforming and improving the S&WB by implementing the following strategies:

- **Infrastructure Management Integration:** Implement a comprehensive and integrated maintenance plan so all infrastructure repairs are coordinated with the City and New Orleans utilities and performed properly and in a timely manner to ensure the reliability and survivability of the City's infrastructure while providing quality service to the citizens of New Orleans.
- **Training, Job Opportunities, and Organizational Change:** Upgrade training and development of staff and focus on providing job opportunities to youth and citizens of New Orleans. Implement a strong retention and succession planning strategy.
- **Financial Integration:** Implement the approved operating and capital plan and develop innovative public-private partnerships to fund capital and operation programs.
- **Business Process Integration:** Improve customer service, outreach, billing operations, and enhancements to the S&WB's community assistance programs.
- **Environmental Integration:** Implement green infrastructure to combine with the City's storm water management strategies.
- **Intergovernmental Integration:** Serve as the city's point person on issues of infrastructure and water management as well as continuing to serve as a member of the C40 Global

Initiative on Climate Change and the Delta Cities Initiative, the Clinton Global Initiative, and Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities Initiative.

A chronological history and information on the search process is attached, as is the new Executive Director's resume.

# # #