



"RE-BUILDING THE CITY'S WATER SYSTEMS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY"

Sewerage & Water Board OF NEW ORLEANS

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Sewerage and Water Board of N.O. and St. Bernard Parish Awarded \$400,000 For Unique Wetland Restoration Project

Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans, in partnership with St. Bernard Parish Government, has received \$400,000 from the Delta Regional Authority (DRA) for a unique wetlands restoration project.

Gov. Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, the State co-chairman of DRA, this week announced this and 13 other DRA projects for Louisiana that will receive funding awards. This is the fifth consecutive year the federal commission has issued grant awards.

The S&WB/St. Bernard project deals with hazard mitigation and infrastructure design. The funds will be issued to assist with the design of a wastewater treatment plant that will restore approximately 10,000 acres of wetlands that is vital to the storm protection for Orleans and St. Bernard Parishes.

The project will develop the largest form of sustainable infrastructure in the world—storm protection for Orleans and St. Bernard Parishes and restoration 10,000 acres of critical cypress wetlands.

"Louisiana aggressively seeks federal funds that strengthen the state investment in our communities," Gov. Blanco said. "These DRA projects are improving the quality of life in Louisiana by providing much needed services to our people."

Mayor C. Ray Nagin, S&WB president said, "this forward-thinking project is a great example of our agency's ingenuity and dedication to making our City safer. Hurricane protection and costal restoration are regional challenges and this award from the DRA demonstrates how neighboring parishes can work together to strengthen hurricane protection for the entire Metropolitan area."

The DRA, a federal agency established by Congress in 2000, is designed to channel resources, aid and guidance for economic development to the Mississippi Delta region.

Of the eight member states covered by the DRA, Louisiana's FY 2006 share is the highest, with \$1,436,126 allocated for 14 projects.

The Louisiana projects were pre-approved by the DRA and recognized by Gov. Blanco for advancing her plan to create jobs and strengthen local communities. The DRA funds will match more than \$25 million local state and other federal dollars.