



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

Sewerage & Water Board OF NEW ORLEANS

C. RAY NAGIN, President

**625 ST. JOSEPH STREET
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70165 • 504-529-2837 OR 52W-ATER
www.swbnola.org**

January 27, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact Robert Jackson 504-269-7978 or
Brenda Thornton 504-269-7819

SEWERAGE AND WATER BOARD ENTERS INTO MODIFIED CONSENT DECREE

The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans announced today that it had entered into a Modified Consent Decree with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the U. S. Department of Justice and other parties updating the existing Decree which has been in force since 1998. The Decree extends the time for remedial action of the Board's collection and treatment system until July 31, 2015. It requires the Board to carry out additional actions including construction of a protective wall around the East Bank Sewage Treatment Plant, an improved electrical system, and the study of other remedial measures. The Board will monitor capacity needs of the East Bank Plant in light of population growth and report on such monitoring to the parties to the Decree.

Marcia St. Martin, Executive Director of the Board, said, "This Decree commits the Board to an extensive, expensive and complex program, but we believe that over the long term it will provide an important road map to protect the waters of our community for the benefit of our citizens."

Ms. St. Martin added, "These commitments come at a time of ongoing challenges the Board faces in rebuilding from the devastating impact of Hurricane Katrina. However, the board of directors, staff and employees are completely committed to carrying them out. We greatly appreciate the assistance EPA has extended in aiding the Board to recover and rebuild from the Katrina disaster. The professionals of Region 6 have been of immense help. We look forward to a continuing productive relationship."

The Modified Decree agreed upon today reflects extensive negotiations with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the other interested parties including the State of Louisiana, and the Environmental Law Clinic of Tulane University representing four environmental groups the League of Women Voters of New Orleans, the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, the Orleans Audubon Society and the Louisiana Environmental Action Network, who intervened.

Members of the Board: ALAN ARNOLD • JACQUELYN B. CLARKSON • ARNIE FIELKOW • C. RAY NAGIN • GLEN PILIE • KAREN HENLEY-RAYMOND • FLORENCE W. SCHORNSTEIN • CYNTHIA WILLARD-LEWIS • TOMMIE A. VASSEL • DR. GERALD WILLIAMS • LOYCE P. WRIGHT. •
"An Equal Opportunity Employer"

Although the Board was relieved of the legal requirements of the original consent Decree because of the Katrina disaster, it has continued work on the remedial program under the Decree. Storm damage to the four basins completed before Katrina is being carried out. Those basins are Lakeview, Central Business District, Gentilly and Uptown. The work has begun on the remaining basins: Ninth Ward, New Orleans East, Carrollton, South Shore and Mid City. This work will conclude by July 2015. The preventive maintenance and overflow reaction program required by the Decree have been and will continue to be rigorously followed.