HLS 19RS-699 ORIGINAL

2019 Regular Session

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 90

BY REPRESENTATIVE HODGES

TRANSPORTATION: Expands the Comite River Diversion Canal Project Task Force

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To expand the Comite River Diversion Canal Project Task Force to include the Amite River
3	Basin District and to study and make recommendations on actions necessary to
4	complete construction of the Comite River Diversion Project and mitigate flooding
5	caused by the Comite and Amite Rivers.
6	WHEREAS, the Amite River and its tributary, the Comite River, are major causes
7	of catastrophic flooding in the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Area, particularly in the
8	northeastern part of East Baton Rouge Parish; and
9	WHEREAS, during the flood of 1983, substantial portions of the parishes of East
10	Baton Rouge, Livingston, and Ascension were inundated with flood waters; and
11	WHEREAS, the purpose of the Comite River Diversion Canal Project is to divert
12	flood waters from the upper Comite River to the Mississippi River; at its maximum capacity,
13	the project will divert twenty thousand cubic feet per second by gravity flow; and
14	WHEREAS, once completed, the Comite River Diversion Canal could divert fifty
15	percent of the flood waters from the upper Comite River, which would substantially reduce
16	flood stages along the lower Comite and Amite Rivers; and
17	WHEREAS, following the displacement of thousands of residents from the New
18	Orleans area after Hurricane Katrina, East Baton Rouge Parish has experienced an explosive
19	population growth and is now the most populous parish in the state, making the Comite
20	River Diversion Canal Project all the more important and urgently significant.

1	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
2	expand the Comite River Diversion Canal Project Task Force to include the Amite River
3	Basin District and to meet and make recommendations to the legislature and the appropriate
4	state and federal agencies on actions necessary to complete the construction and maintenance
5	of the Comite River Diversion Canal Project, including strategies to comply with mitigation
6	requirements and right-of-way acquisitions, and mitigate flooding caused by the Comite and
7	Amite Rivers.
8	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be comprised of the
9	following members:
10	(1) One member shall be the member of the House of Representatives appointed
11	by the speaker of the House whose district is directly impacted by the Comite River
12	Diversion Canal Project and who shall be the chairman of the task force.
13	(2) One member shall be the member of the House of Representatives appointed
14	by the speaker of the House whose district is directly impacted by the Amite River Basin.
15	(3) One member shall be the member of the Senate appointed by the president
16	of the Senate whose district is directly impacted by the Comite River Diversion Canal
17	Project and who shall be the vice chairman of the task force.
18	(4) One member shall be the member of the Senate appointed by the president
19	of the Senate whose district is directly impacted by the Amite River Basin.
20	(5) One member shall be appointed by the members of the Louisiana
21	congressional delegation representing the district in which the Amite River Basin is located.
22	(6) One member shall be the district engineer of the U.S. Army Corps of
23	Engineers, New Orleans District, or his designee.
24	(7) One member shall be the secretary of the Department of Transportation and
25	Development, or his designee.
26	(8) One member shall be the executive director of the Coastal Protection and
27	Restoration Authority, or his designee.
28	(9) One member shall be a former member of the Amite River Basin Drainage
29	and Water Conservation District board of commissioners appointed by the chairman of the
30	task force.

1 One member shall be a current member of the Amite River Basin Drainage 2 and Water Conservation District board of commissioners appointed by the chairman of the 3 task force. 4 One member shall be the director of the Department of Public Works of East (11)5 Baton Rouge Parish, or his designee. 6 (12)One member shall be a home builder within the area impacted by the Amite River Basin District appointed by the president of the Louisiana Home Builders Association. 7 8 One member shall be a realtor in the area impacted by the Amite River Basin (13)9 District appointed by the Louisiana Realtors Association. 10 One member shall be a representative of the Federal Emergency Management 11 Agency (FEMA) appointed by the director of FEMA's Louisiana Recovery Office. 12 One member shall be a landowner in the area impacted by the Comite River (15)13 Diversion Canal Project appointed by the Louisiana Landowners Association. 14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall submit recommendations to 15 the Joint Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works no later than December 16 31, 2019. 17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this task force will be staffed by the House 18 Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works staff for all meetings of the task 19 force.

## DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HCR 90 Original

2019 Regular Session

Hodges

Expands the Comite River Diversion Canal Project Task Force to include the Amite River Basin District and to study and make recommendations to the legislature on actions necessary to complete the construction of the Comite River Diversion Canal Project and mitigate flooding caused by the Comite and Amite Rivers.

Provides that the task force submit recommendations to the joint transportation committees by Dec. 31, 2019. Provides that the task force will be staffed by the staff of the House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works. Provides that the task force be composed of the following members:

(1) One member shall be the member of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of the House whose district is directly impacted by the Comite River Diversion Canal Project and who shall be the chairman of the task force.

- One member shall be the member of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of the House whose district is directly impacted by the Amite River Basin.
- One member shall be the member of the Senate appointed by the president of the Senate whose district is directly impacted by the Comite River Diversion Canal Project and who shall be the vice chairman of the task force.
- (4) One member shall be the member of the Senate appointed by the president of the Senate whose district is directly impacted by the Amite River Basin.
- One member shall be appointed by the members of the La. congressional delegation representing the district in which the Amite River Basin is located.
- (6) One member shall be the district engineer of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, or his designee.
- (7) One member shall be the secretary of the Dept. of Transportation and Development, or his designee.
- (8) One member shall be the executive director of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, or his designee.
- (9) One member shall be a former member of the Amite River Basin Drainage and Water Conservation District board of commissioners appointed by the chairman of the task force.
- (10) One member shall be a current member of the Amite River Basin Drainage and Water Conservation District board of commissioners appointed by the chairman of the task force.
- (11) One member shall be the director of the Dept. of Public Works of East Baton Rouge Parish, or his designee.
- One member shall be a home builder within the area impacted by the Amite River Basin District appointed by the president of the La. Home Builders Assoc.
- (13) One member shall be a realtor in the area impacted by the Amite River Basin District appointed by the La. Realtors Assoc.
- One member shall be a representative of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) appointed by the director of FEMA's La. Recovery Office.
- One member shall be a landowner in the area impacted by the Comite River Diversion Canal Project appointed by the La. Landowners Assoc.