

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 62

BY REPRESENTATIVE HARRISON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority to study the feasibility of a project to utilize the freshwater of Lake Verret as an alternative drinking water source for the residents along Bayou Lafourche.

WHEREAS, Bayou Lafourche serves as the primary water source for several drinking water systems that serve over three hundred thousand people throughout the parishes of Ascension, Assumption, Lafourche, and Terrebonne by freshwater conveyed from the Mississippi River into Bayou Lafourche through a pumping station in Donaldsonville; and

WHEREAS, those residents came to realize just how precious Bayou Lafourche is as a natural resource after Hurricane Gustav inundated the bayou with large volumes of debris, fallen trees, and other vegetation which substantially blocked the flow of water, and the decomposition of which resulted in the contamination of the water and impairment of the water's availability, treatability, color, odor, and taste, rendering the bayou useless as a drinking water source; and

WHEREAS, since then the state of Louisiana has dedicated over forty three million dollars to make this important resource more resilient, which has brought to light the need for an alternate freshwater source besides pumping from the Mississippi River; and

WHEREAS, in the event of a pump station failure, major spill in the river, train derailment, or some other catastrophic event, the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District has no other means to get fresh water into the bayou and to the residents who are dependent upon it; and

WHEREAS, one alternative to address this problem is to utilize the freshwater of Lake Verret by constructing a structure at Cancienne Canal to Bayou Lafourche, channel clearing and dredging within Cancienne Canal, and water quality analysis within Lake Verret.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority to study the feasibility of a project to utilize the freshwater of Lake Verret as an alternative drinking water source for the residents along Bayou Lafourche.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the executive director of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE