



NEWS RELEASE

LOUISIANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Representative Valarie Hodges Secures Vote for Comite River Diversion Canal
CRDC voted #1 priority by Capital Region Legislative Delegation for 2018 Legislative Session

"I am extremely pleased that the capital region legislators finally recognize the magnitude of the Comite River Diversion Canal," said State Representative Valarie Hodges, R-Denham Springs. The Capital Region Legislative Delegation (CRLD) has voted the Comite River Diversion Canal Project (CRDC) their number one priority for the 2018-2019 Legislative Session for the Capital Region.

On Wednesday, Rep. Hodges along with CRLD members, met with Chief of Staff Mark Cooper and Commissioner Jay Dardenne, Division of Administration, from the Office of Governor John Bel Edwards, to discuss the CRLD's statewide priorities and priorities in their districts and parishes. The Governor, his staff, and the CRLD are all in agreement on the importance of CRDC to the capital region and are committed to working together to move this project forward.

Rep. Hodges, who chairs the CRDC Task Force, has worked for the past four years to remove the impediments to this project. "Funding was a major impediment. Fortunately, we have seen tremendous advancement in funding over the past year and a path forward is emerging. We finally have money to fund Phase One of the CRDC," said Rep. Hodges. Phase one of the CRDC is the largest and most expensive component of the project. It involves the relocation of utilities and pipelines as well as constructing a bridge over Highway 61.

At the last CRDC task force meeting on February 1, 2018, the CORPS stated construction would begin early fall 2018. "With the CRLD making the CRDC its number one project, the Governor and his staff commitment to the project, and CORPS' construction timeline for the project, there will be no logical reason not to see dirt moving by this fall," said Rep. Hodges.

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