Rep. Hodges calls on governor to allocate funds for the completion of the Comite River Diversion Canal

State Representative Valarie Hodges, R-Denham Springs, through a letter sent to Governor Edwards, has called for the allocation of $190 million for the completion of the Comite River Diversion Canal.   The $190 million could come from a combination of the $252 million that has been allotted to Louisiana through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) for flood recovery and the $1.2 billion in Congressional funds approved for flood recovery. The letter was signed by a bipartisan group from the capital region and received their support due to the fact that the floodwaters were non-discriminatory.

The HMGP provides funds from GOHSEP to implement hazard mitigation measures following a Presidentially declared disaster. A lack of funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been cited as the primary reason that the Comite River Diversion Canal Project has not been moved forward. Using funds from the HMGP would circumvent the Corps and allow LA DOTD to take over the project, and as stated complete the project in two to five years.

This letter includes appreciation to Governor Edwards from The Capital Region Legislative Delegation, along with their constituents for his support to get the Comite River Diversion Canal completed as soon as possible.

Rep. Hodges said, "We must act immediately on behalf of the Louisianans whose lives have been forever changed by the catastrophic flooding last August. We must implement long-term solutions to reduce the impact of future rain events which are inevitable in our region."

Rep. Hodges has previously advocated for flood control in Louisiana, specifically through such legislation as House Bill 605, that will require statewide flood and drainage plans to be implemented, and penalize municipalities and communities that do not comply.

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