



# Parish of Ascension

*OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT*

**Clint Cointment**  
Parish President

October 12, 2020

Senator Bill Cassidy  
5555 Hilton Avenue, Ste. 100  
Baton Rouge, LA 70808  
Senator John Kennedy  
383 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Garrett Graves  
2351 Energy Dr., Suite 1200  
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

Dear Honorable Senators Cassidy & Kennedy and Congressman Graves:

Those representing various governing bodies in Ascension Parish, Louisiana in both state and local government are coming to you with a united front in purpose and resolve to address current drainage issues now facing our beloved Ascension Parish.

At this time, we have identified two projects that are a top priority for our region; the completion of the Laurel Ridge Levee connected to the Amite River Basin in the east and a levee and pumping system in the Sorrento area near Hwy. 70 for the site of a mega project. This is critical to address backwater flooding and move water south out of the cities of Gonzales and Sorrento through the Conway Bayou Basin. The area is now gravity fed and this project with an additional pumping station would move flood waters into the swamp where few structures are affected. The first project is well underway with funding now in the East Ascension Drainage Board budget, but we need to see movement to complete the project. Any assistance you can offer is greatly appreciated.

The second project, though more conceptual, has four million in the East Ascension Drainage Board 2021 budget to be approved. In the first round of projects submitted for the Louisiana Watershed Initiative (LWI) Ascension Parish named both the "Diversion Canal Outlet to Bayou Maurepas (McElroy Swamp)" and "Bayou Conway- Clouatre Ditch" that are part of this mega project.

The Pontchartrain Levee District also listed two projects in the first round of LWI, the "Laurel Ridge Levee Extension" and "La22 Gapping" related to the Sorrento area.



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Additionally, Senators Lambert, Price, and Representative Brass are working through the State Capital Outlay to secure dollars. The deadline to submit these projects is November 1, 2020. Without any clear engineering studies, the final cost is not known, but can be estimated to be in the thirty-million-dollar price tag for both levee and pumping station near Hwy. 70.

While we are working together to move these two priority projects forward, it is very necessary that the current channels and waterways in these basins be maintained so that when these projects are complete, the water has a clear passage to its intended outflow. This will also mitigate any future flooding or rain events.

Your immediate assistance is of the utmost importance with the Corps of Engineers to expedite the cleaning and maintenance of these laterals and passages through both basins including Bayou Boyle/Panama Canal/ Conway Basin.

We have benefited in the past from your continued communication and commitment to the people of Louisiana and specifically Ascension Parish. We look forward to working with you to bring these two projects to completion.

Best regards,

Parish President Clint Cointment, Ascension

Senator Ed Price, District, District 2

Senator Eddie Lambert, District 18

Representative Clay Schexnayder, Speaker of the House, District 81



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Representative Tony Bacala, District 59

Representative Ken Brass, District 58

Representative Kathy Edmonston, District 88

Chairman Dempsey Lambert, East Ascension Gravity Drainage Board

Mayor Barney Arceneaux, Gonzales

Mayor Mike Lambert, Sorrento

cc: Dwight Porrier, Pontchartrain Levee District