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**JOHN F. YOUNG, JR.**  
**PARISH PRESIDENT**

May 4, 2011

Honorable Mary Landrieu  
United States Senator  
431 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: South East Louisiana Urban Flood Control Project (SELA);  
Funding for Lands, Easements, Rights-of-Way and Disposal Areas (LERRDs)

Dear Senator Landrieu:

I am writing to request your assistance in resolving serious legislative issues that have developed concerning the funding which has been appropriated for the completion of the currently authorized features of the SELA Project. These issues were beginning to emerge when I and members of the Sewerage and Water Board met with you on March 10<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Corps' mid-February announcement that the \$60 million cost of relocations had to be paid in cash by the non-Federal sponsors and was not a part of the 30-year payout of the non-Federal sponsors cost share. As we discussed, this is a totally unforeseen and un-budgeted cash requirement for Jefferson Parish and the Sewerage and Water Board.

Since then the Corps has made a written request to the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA), which is the non-Federal sponsor, for the payment of \$1,225,045 by April 29<sup>th</sup> for relocation work in Jefferson Parish. The Corps has informed the CPRA that further contracts would not be awarded without receipt of the funds. I have spoken to Garret Graves and he is seeking State funds with which to assist Jefferson Parish in the payment of relocations cost in Jefferson Parish; however, such assistance is not assured. This brings me to my request for your assistance in resolving this issue. Specifically:

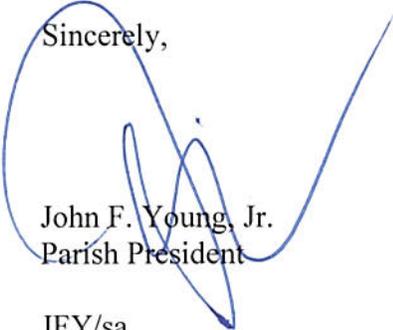
1. The Corps of Engineers is holding firm to their position that Section 103(k) of P.L. 99-662 (WRDA '86) does not permit the financing of Lands, Easements, Rights-of-Ways, Relocations and Disposal area (LERRDs) despite that the language states in part: "... The Secretary may permit the **full non-Federal contribution** to be made over a period of not more than 30 years from the completion of the project ...." [emphasis' added]. When questioned, the Corps states their interpretation of the intent of Congress is based on the Senate Report accompanying WRDA '86.

2. Unless there is further Congressional direction, the Corps will continue to request cash payments for those utility relocations which have been designed to be accomplished under the Corps construction contracts; despite the \$450 million appropriated under PL 110-329 for the initial payment of the 35% non-federal share to permit financing in accordance with the provisions of 103(k) of P.L. 99-662.

In summary, the Corps is planning on requesting the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA), as the non-Federal sponsor, and Jefferson Parish and the Sewerage and Water Board, as co-non Federal sponsors, commit to providing some \$60 million in cash contributions to pay for the relocation costs that we understood were included in the \$450 million provided to finance our 35% cost share of the SELA Project over a period of thirty (30) years. The Corps has already made the initial requests to the non-Federal sponsors for cash contributions which will eventually total \$60 million. I would like to emphasize that the non-Federal sponsors have not budgeted for the \$60M in cash contributions.

We desperately need your help in obtaining legislation which will modify the language contained in PL 110-329 to permit the full non-Federal contribution, which includes LERRDs, to be financed over 30 years.

Sincerely,



John F. Young, Jr.  
Parish President

JFY/sa

cc: Honorable Chris Roberts, Jefferson Parish Council Chairman  
Honorable Mike Thomas, Jefferson Parish Councilman at Large  
Honorable Louis Congemi, Jefferson Parish Councilman  
Honorable Elton Lagasse, Jefferson Parish Councilman  
Honorable Cynthia Lee-Sheng, Jefferson Parish Councilwoman  
Honorable Byron Lee, Jefferson Parish Councilman  
Honorable Bill Townsend, Jefferson Parish Councilman  
Mr. Chris Cox, Jefferson Parish COO  
Mr. Richard Hart, Jefferson Parish Deputy COO  
Mr. Kazem Alikhani, Director of Public Works, Jefferson Parish  
Mr. Reda Youssef, Director of Capital Projects, Jefferson Parish