

## LOUISIANA RECOVERY AUTHORITY

### HURRICANES GUSTAV AND IKE DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAMS

October 15, 2008

**OVERVIEW:** A resolution to request the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board to authorize the staff of the Louisiana Recovery Authority and the Office of Community Development to develop an Action Plan to create disaster recovery programs designed to assist the state in recovering from damages and losses caused by Hurricanes Gustav and Ike and to allocate funds provided by Congress in Fiscal Year 2009 Continuing Resolution HR2638.

Whereas, Hurricane Gustav made landfall in Louisiana on September 1, 2008, and caused major wind and flood damage in most of the state, from the southern coastal parishes to central and north Louisiana;

Whereas, Hurricane Gustav's path encompassed 43 of Louisiana's 64 parishes and forced more than one million Louisiana residents to evacuate and leave their homes to secure their safety and that of their families;

Whereas, Hurricane Ike made landfall in Louisiana just two weeks after Hurricane Gustav further impacting 14 parishes already damaged by Hurricane Gustav;

Whereas, Hurricanes Gustav and Ike inflicted additional damage in Louisiana as many homeowners and businesses worked to repair damages and recover losses caused by the 2005 hurricanes;

Whereas, both storms resulted in major power outages, flooding, interruption of businesses, and structural damage to homes, K-12 schools, colleges and universities;

Whereas, according to preliminary estimates:

Approximately 12,000 homes flooded,  
Agricultural losses total approximately \$750 million,  
Infrastructure damages total more than \$1 billion,  
Homes suffering some level of damage total 150,000 to 300,000,  
K-12 and secondary educational facilities received \$100-\$150 million in damages, and  
Business losses total approximately \$2.5-\$5 billion;

Whereas, Congress recently allocated \$6.5 billion to states for disaster recovery related to disasters occurring in 2008;

Whereas, Congress designated the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as the administering agency for the disaster recovery funds;

Whereas, HUD must announce how one-third of the \$6.5 billion will be allocated amongst the states eligible for funds by November 30, 2008;

Whereas, the state must develop programs and outline such programs in an Action Plan to be submitted to HUD for approval prior to the expenditure of the disaster recovery dollars;

Whereas, Louisiana must work in an expeditious manner to ensure that its disaster recovery programs are available for HUD review and approval once allocation decisions are made;

Whereas, disaster recovery funds received by the state will be allocated directly to parishes impacted by the 2008 hurricanes;

Whereas, allowing the staff of the Louisiana Recovery Authority and the Office of Community Development to develop programs for the expenditure of the disaster recovery funds prior to the receiving notice of final allocations from HUD will enable staff to gain insight and feedback from officials in impacted parishes, business owners, farmers and residents before finalizing program details;

Whereas, the staff will focus on developing recovery programs in several broad categories including but not limited to housing, infrastructure, hurricane protection, economic recovery and revitalization, and agriculture, and will provide for technical and planning assistance for impacted parishes;

Whereas, the disaster recovery programs developed by the staff of the Louisiana Recovery Authority and the Office of Community Development and included in the Action Plan will provide much needed assistance to Louisiana residents and businesses located in parishes impacted by Hurricanes Gustav and Ike; and

Whereas, development of these programs in an expeditious manner will ensure the full recovery of storm damaged Louisiana communities.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board of Directors does hereby authorize the staff of the Louisiana Recovery Authority and the Office of Community Development to develop an Action Plan to create disaster recovery programs designed to assist the state in recovering from damages and losses caused by Hurricanes Gustav and Ike and to allocate funds provided by Congress in Fiscal Year 2009 Continuing Resolution HR2638.

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board of Directors does hereby direct the staff of the Louisiana Recovery Authority and the Office of Community Development to submit the Action Plan to the Board at the November 2008 Board Meeting.