

LOUISIANA RECOVERY AUTHORITY

Louisiana Marine Debris Removal Funding Approval

July 30, 2007

OVERVIEW: A Resolution by the Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA) Board to request the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) continue to work in an expedited manner to completely fund Louisiana's Marine Debris Removal program.

Whereas, the LRA Board requests that FEMA continue to work with GOHSEP in an expedited manner, to completely fund Louisiana's Marine Debris Removal Program, paying for the identification and removal of storm related debris in the state's inland shores, waterways, bayous, and coastal waters to a distance of four(4) miles in state waters;

Whereas, the LRA Board requests that FEMA recognize the work and mission assignment model that has been in place in Mississippi and Alabama, the amount of time it has taken in those state's to complete marine debris removal, immediately and grant a one year extension for all marine related debris work in Louisiana for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita;

Whereas, the LRA Board requests that FEMA use the same definitions and standards that have been used in Mississippi and Alabama for marine debris clean-up;

Whereas, the LRA Board requests that, as was done in Mississippi and Alabama, FEMA "task" or mission assign this work OR extend and modify the scope of existing mission assignment contracts in either Louisiana or Mississippi for federal disaster numbers 1602, 1603, 1604, and 1607;

Whereas, the LRA Board believes this approach would take advantage of efficiencies in the paperwork and payment systems, save time and Federal taxpayer dollars, allow the federal government to utilize contractors used in Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana;

Whereas, the LRA Board requests that FEMA re-examine and reimburse costs borne to date by state agencies and parish and municipal governments to identify and remove storm related debris from the state's waterways and marine environments, as the state's waters are already under 100% cost reimbursement for debris removal in Category A and in Mississippi this was in place until May 2007;

Whereas, the LRA Board requests that FEMA work with the State, LRA and Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) to ensure that National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) funds administered by the LDWF earmarked in Supplemental I for habitat restoration and debris removal, be used solely for habitat restoration with FEMA funds being used for costs to clean up marine related debris in

oyster beds and shrimping areas in the state, and that FEMA “honor”, existing LDWF contracts with FEMA approved debris removal contractors in other state’s;

Whereas, the LRA Board requests that FEMA work with the state, LRA and LDWF to ensure that \$24 million in NOAA funds administered by the LDWF in Supplemental II to survey the state’s marine waters be used solely for the surveying and that any marine related debris found from this survey be covered by mission assigned FEMA funds;

Whereas, the LRA Board requests that FEMA also examine whether costs for the NOAA survey which will identify storm related debris should be covered by FEMA MA funds, as these funds should be allowable expenses under the FEMA PA program, and the additional dollars could provide additional long term safeguards to the state;

Whereas, the LRA Board requests that Office of Gulf Coast Coordinator examine options to address coastal community issues in Louisiana identified in NOAA’s Assessment of the Impacts of Hurricane Katrina on Gulf of Mexico Coastal Fishing Communities, and funding options via the working waterfronts programs and the President’s Clean Ocean Priorities Program administered by the Department of Commerce, and others; and

Whereas, the Environmental Task Force approved a resolution on July 19, 2007 requesting that FEMA and GOHSEP continue to work in an expedited manner to completely fund Louisiana’s Marine Debris Removal Program.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board does hereby request the Federal Emergency Management Agency to continue to work with the Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness in an expedited manner and completely fund the Louisiana Marine Debris Removal Program through a 100% mission assignment similar to Mississippi.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the LRA Board does hereby request the Federal Office of the Gulf Coast Coordinator, the Louisiana Recovery Authority, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness meet prior to August 28, 2007 to discuss the marine debris issue and long term policy and funding options to mitigate against future storms in Coastal Louisiana, with funds not only from the Department of Homeland Security, but also the Department of Commerce.