



LOUISIANA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

The voice of Louisiana's wildlife and natural resources since 1940.

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September 24, 2020

Secretary Chuck Carr Brown
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
Office of the Secretary
P.O. Box 4301
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4303
Via email to: officesec@la.gov

Dear Secretary Brown:

On behalf of Louisiana Wildlife Federation, I am attaching our comments to the South Slough Wetland Evaluation Report prepared by Naturally Wallace Consulting, LLC and the Department's report on the Wetland Assimilation Program that was in response to House Concurrent Resolution 42 of 2019. We appreciate the agency's attention to these comments and look forward to a response.

Thank you for engaging additional external review of the most highly criticized wetland assimilation project, the City of Hammond/South Slough Wetland Wastewater Assimilation Project. We ask for independent review of other projects across the state so the public can get a fuller view of the long-term impacts of these projects and whether they have met the expected benefits for maintaining healthy wetland habitat, along with meeting the state's Coastal Master Plan's goals of reducing coastal flood risk, promoting sustainable ecosystems, providing habitats for a variety of commercial and recreational activities coast wide, and strengthening communities.

LWF continues to support a moratorium on new permits for additional wastewater wetland assimilation projects due to our concerns outlined in the attached document. The Naturally Wallace Consulting report makes it clear there are still several issues to be addressed in wetland assimilation projects across the state.

LWF is keenly interested in the state agencies involved in conserving, protecting, or restoring Louisiana's coastal wetlands coming together for discussion about the program's successes and challenges. We look forward to assisting that discussion in any way we can be of service.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Triche
Executive Director

cc: Bren Haase, CPRA; Secretary Tom Harris, LDNR; Secretary Jack Montoucet, LDWF; Representative Jerome Zeringue; Members of the House Natural Resources and Environment Committee; Members of the Senate Natural Resources Committee; Members of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee.