

## “One Lake’s” Impacts to Louisiana

- **2018 opposition from the Louisiana and Mississippi State Legislatures:**
    - The State of Louisiana unanimously passed SCR5 opposing the project.
      - ◆ [It cites concerns over threats to oyster production, water quality, and reduced freshwater flows.](#)
    - Mississippi lawmakers rejected a \$95 million bond proposal to cover the local cost share (HB 1631).
  - **5 downstream Louisiana communities have passed resolutions against the project:**
    - St. Tammany and Washington Parishes
    - City of Slidell
    - City of Bogalusa
    - Town of Pearl River
  - **Jeopardizes coastal restoration efforts:**
    - This project risks billions of dollars in coastal restoration projects now underway or being planned to restore the Mississippi River Delta.
    - The Pearl River is the fourth largest source of freshwater into the Gulf, east of the mouth of the Mississippi River. A dam is expected to reduce the amount of freshwater flow and alter downstream hydrology.
    - Louisiana's *Comprehensive Master Plan* “identified [projects] in and around the Pearl River Watershed to restore deteriorating marshes and provide structural protection against storm surges. Those projects involve creating wetlands that would be sustained by freshwater from the Pearl River.... Alternatives that alter the hydrology of the Pearl River may adversely impact these projects and existing wetlands, undermining Louisiana's ability to achieve a sustainable coast and protect our citizen's from storm surges in this region.” *Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority 2013 comment letter to Draft EIS*
    - A 2013 engineering study by St. Tammany Parish found that the West Pearl River was already suffering environmental consequences from an existing upriver dam.
  - **Threatens the oyster industry:**
    - The Louisiana Oyster Task Force and the Mississippi Governor's Oyster Council have identified insufficient freshwater flows from the Pearl River to coastal waters as a threat to oyster production in both states.
    - "The proposed dam could change the amount and timing of freshwater discharge into the Mississippi Sound and Lake Borgne areas. Both Mississippi and Louisiana have considerable oyster resources in this region. Studies have shown that the discharge of the Pearl River controls the salinity in these areas. If this project changes that hydrology, we could see a drastic decline in oyster production, and associated reef-species production, in this section of the Gulf Coast. We have invested heavily in the Mississippi Sound area in terms of reef habilitation with projects located based on current hydrologic conditions. Changes to such conditions could render those investments useless." *State of Louisiana, Department of Wildlife & Fisheries, Office of Wildlife, 2013 comment letter to Draft EIS*
  - **Costly for downstream industry:**
    - The project would increase costs to nearly 100 downstream Pearl River industrial users and municipalities – like Bogalusa's International Paper mill and the towns of Bogalusa and Pearl River - that rely on stable freshwater flow and adequate dilution of their discharges.
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## **One Lake Project – Talking Points**

**Public Meeting, August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

### **Slidell Municipal Auditorium**

- As a Louisiana resident, I have serious concerns about the advancement of the One Lake Project.
- This project is likely to result in significant harmful effects not only to the project area, but also to downstream resources.
- A new dam on the river would change the hydrology of the whole system. This could result in an alteration of the freshwater and sediment flows to resources downstream, endangering fisheries, threatening oyster production, potentially jeopardizing the success of millions of dollars of coastal restoration efforts that are underway or planned in the area, and endangering thousands of acres of important bottomland hardwood and swamp forests.
- It is unacceptable that the draft Environmental Impact Statement for the project fails to account for these potential downstream project impacts, or impacts to resources in the neighboring state of Louisiana.
- The study area outlined in the document ends just south of the project site. This represents an enormous omission of the project's true potential influence area. The project area must be revised to consider the entire watershed, including the surrounding floodplains and out into Mississippi sound, since the project impacts are likely to affect these systems.
- Overall, this Draft Environmental Impact Statement is sloppy and rushed. The document is missing key analyses, and the project area studied is inappropriately small given the likely impacts of the project.
- I encourage the Army Corps not to approve this project.