

FACT SHEET

Levee Districts with tidal responsibility are the only organized groups which have consistently attempted to improve hurricane protection for South Louisiana.

1. The state has reduced its support for tidal flooding for the last 25 years by reducing the Department of Public Works to a small part of the Department of Transportation. DPW was the only statewide group to deal with flooding, but now has limited resources with highway employees as supervisors.
2. The Federal Government has been reducing its support for tidal flooding due to lack of funding. Most projects authorized in 1965 are not completed.
3. Decentralization of levee boards has occurred over the last 80 years because the large districts were non-responsive to tidal issues or were legally not able to address tidal problems. The politics of large boards often allowed funds collected in one parish to be expended for the benefit of another parish in unfair or inefficient manners. Consolidation can recreate these problems.
4. Levee District employees were the first governmental entity at the 17th Street Canal, and began the road which was the first important component on closing the gap. Orleans Levee Board employees were on the scene, as were outside levee district personnel from other levee districts. With Orleans equipment not accessible, personnel and equipment from West Jefferson Levee District, East Jefferson Levee District and Pontchartrain Levee District began work on dealing with the failure of the wall. The levee district personnel, DOTD employees and the Corps of Engineers were there to begin the work of closing the breach. Pontchartrain Levee District took responsibility to provide most of the temporary pumps used in New Orleans and other parts of Southeast Louisiana.
5. Levee Districts who have pumping responsibilities had their employees manning pump stations, floodgates and inspecting levees with the winds in excess of 65 miles per hour. The levee districts in South Louisiana had their critical employees in the parishes throughout the storm.
6. These people risked their own safety when many other public employees were with their families.

LEVEE DISTRICTS:

- Petition the Federal Government and the state to build, and assist in funding flood protection for the people in its district.**
- Assess a local property tax to build and maintain flood protection projects.**
- Negotiate with the Federal Government, predominately with the Corps of Engineers, to build and fund the flood protection, and negotiate exactly the location and form of protection for the local interest.**
- Acquire the necessary rights-of-way for construction, and assist the Corps with problems encountered during construction.**
- Maintain and operate the flood protection system for the benefit of the local population.**
- The Corps of Engineers represents Federal interests; the State represents State interests; only the Levee District has the responsibility to represent the local interest.**

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