#### MARTIN, TATE, MORROW & MARSTON, P.C.

ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS

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DAVID WADE

November 25, 2013

Via E-Mail and Hand Delivery

Danny Ward Project Manager U.S. Army Corps of Engineers CEMVM-PM-P 167 N. Main, Room B-202 Memphis, TN 38103-1894 daniel.d.ward@usace.army.mil

Re: St. John's Bayou Basin Board of Directors Comments on the St. John's Bayou Basin/St. John's Floodway Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement dated July, 2013

Dear Mr. Ward:

Enclosed for consideration of the US Corps of Engineers is this package that encompasses the Comments of the St. John's Bayou Basin Board of Directors addressed to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement dated July, 2013. This package consists of two volumes. Volume One comprises Part One containing the Comments on the Draft and Part Two consisting of notebook material containing additional information relative to the Project. Part Three is a separate volume containing petitions from the area residents that the Project be completed.

Please sign in the space below on the extra copy of this letter to acknowledge receipt of the Comment packages. As always the St. John's Bayou Basin Board of Directors appreciates your professional dedication to seeing this Project through to completion.

ery truly your Mhade ,

David Wade

Received: Enclosures cc: St. John's Bayou Drainage District Board

## COMMENTS ON JULY 2013 DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE ST. JOHN'S BAYOU/NEW MADRID FLOODWAY PROJECT

**SUBMITTED BY** 

THE ST. JOHN'S BAYOU BASIN DRAINAGE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**NOVEMBER 25, 2013** 

David Wade

Martin, Tate, Morrow & Marston, P.C. International Place, Tower II 6410 Poplar Avenue, Suite 1000 Memphis, Tennessee 38103 St. John's Bayou Basin Drainage District is governed by its Board of Directors (the "Bayou Basin Board") the members of which are duly elected for the purpose of oversight regarding management of the operations within the Drainage District. In keeping with these obligations, The Bayou Basin Board has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement dated and issued July, 2013 ("DEIS") for the St. Johns Bayou/New Madrid Floodway Project and is submitting its comments to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the Memphis District.

The presentation is divided into three sections: The first part contains specific comments addressed to the provisions of the DEIS. The second part consists of a notebook with an accompanying narrative describing its contents. The notebook contains significant information regarding the devastating effects of backwater flooding in the St. John's Bayou Basin Drainage District and the 481 square mile watershed of which it is a part. In terms of lives, employment, social disruption, business and agricultural economic impact, wildlife destruction, damage to wildlife habitat and future potential for its people. The third part contains a collection of signatures on petitions that were circulated throughout the residents within the Drainage District and watershed imploring that the Project be built as soon as possible.

#### PART ONE

#### COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The Bayou Basin Board fully supports the development of the Project for the benefit of the vastly important agricultural and agri-business geographical southeast of the State of Missouri. The Project will significantly diminish the devastating flooding impact on two separate but neighboring, adjacent areas within the state. The flooding in the two areas is caused by different sources of water and has different results. In the St. John's Bayou Basin Drainage District backwater flooding is caused by impounded rainwater that collects within the Basin with no escape route when flood gates at the southern termines of the Basin are closed to prevent the rising waters of the Mississippi River from entering the area. The flooding is not caused by river water. In the St. John's Levee District (the "Floodway") (separated from the Bayou Basin by a setback levee that runs between the two areas), there is no method to prevent the Mississippi River from backing into the Floodway's land mass as the river rises. Flooding there is caused by river water. The DEIS amply demonstrates the disastrous impact created by the frequent flooding from rainwater impounded within the Bayou Basin and from the rising Mississippi River that overruns the Floodway.

The Bayou Basin Board compliments the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ("USACE") on its thoughtful and in depth analysis in the DEIS of the alternatives that are available to address the impact of flooding on the lives of the people to whom the Board is directly responsible. The Bayou Basin Board fully supports USACE's determination that the only viable option is to build the Project. A failure to do so will amount to a failure of the federal government at a time of great need to an important demographic section of the State of Missouri and the United States.

While the Bayou Basin Board supports the work of the USACE it disagrees with certain conclusions and recommendations regarding three areas recorded in the DEIS. These comments relate to Wetlands Mitigation, the Benefit to Cost Ratio and the Long-Term Monitoring and Adaptive Management Program.

#### 1. WETLANDS MITIGATION

The vast amount of agricultural acreage within the Bayou Basin has been dedicated to scientific agricultural processes for over a century. Scattered throughout the agricultural acres are significant areas where wetlands have been established by the farmers who have inherited farming operations from prior generations. The DEIS would significantly decrease the amount of tillable soil and increase the number of wetland acres in the Bayou Basin. This significant taking of agricultural acres is not acceptable to the farmers in the area. The annual flooding within the Bayou Basin that the installation of the pumping system will minimize is caused by rainwater. The rainwater flooding occurs within an area contained by two levee systems: The Farrenberg Levee to the west and the Setback Levee to the east. The two Levees meet at the tip of the Basin. The impounding of water that drains south in the Bayou Basin Drainage District watershed through a system of ditches and canals causes significant impact to the area in two ways: First, the rising flood waters contained behind the two levees destroys crops that have been planted. Second, the retained surface water delays the drying of the acres and prevents planting until well into the growing season. The impounded surface water actually destroys wildlife and wildlife habitat. It is important to note that the rain water does not create habitat

but, in fact, decreases conditions that are conducive to propagation of wildlife species within the Bayou Basin. The search for mitigation acres within the Bayou Basin to offset lost acres outside the Bayou Basin where wildlife habitat is affected is not an appropriate option. The Bayou Basin Board opposes the conversion of long established farming acres within the Bayou Basin area in order to provide excess mitigation for other locations outside the Bayou Basin where wildlife habitat has been destroyed or otherwise depleted.

#### 2. <u>BENEFIT TO COST RATIO</u>

The Benefit to Cost Ratio of 2.4 that the DEIS attributes to installation of a pumping system within the Bayou Basin is significantly understated for at least two reasons. First, the assumption of a four percent discount rate and the determination of a 2.5 percent interest cost during the life of the Project are significantly elevated based on the economic realities of low interest rates in recent history. The Bayou Basin Board recommends that a much lower interest rate should be considered in the analytical model. Second, the assumption of the value of the per-acre yield is based on market prices for commodities that were significantly lower than the current market place is producing. The Bayou Basin Board recommends a reevaluation in the analytical model of the market prices for the per acre yield of crops typically produced in non-flood years within the Basin to bring them up to current prices. Doing so will increase the Benefit component of the BCR.

#### 3. <u>LONG-TERM MONITORING AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT</u> <u>PROGRAM</u>

The Bayou Basin Board is naturally concerned that long term monitoring in conjunction with an adaptive management program, of the type described in the DEIS, will result in the loss of self-determination and independence of the local citizenry over their means of livelihood and an associated loss of their civil liberties. Without going into detail, the relegation of important decision making to outside governmental rules, regulations, protocols and bureaucratic pronouncements is a matter of great concern and is resisted staunchly by the Board on behalf of the populace within the Bayou Basin. The Bayou Basin Board concurs that monitoring of the Project in an effort to evaluate its positive impact on the area is a useful and probably necessary tool. However, endowing governmental systems with the power to revamp the operational parameters of the Project without strict controls in the hands of the people who live and work in the Basin is not acceptable. As an example, a future governmental decision to strip agriculturally productive acres from the local farming community to convert them into untillable management areas without the permission of those persons impacted most should never be allowed. Just as important, if the quantity of water removed by the pumps proves inadequate to protect the people in the Bayou Basin, then the focus should be on increasing the capacity of the pumping system as a solution to the problem. Again, the people who live within the Bayou Basin should be in control of such decisions.

#### PART TWO

#### NOTEBOOK CONTAINING BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE NEED FOR THE PROJECT

This notebook has been prepared by the Board of Directors of the St. Johns Bayou Basin Drainage District. The pages of the notebook depict the residential, wildlife, business, cultural, agricultural and industrial components within St. Johns Bayou Basin which are in desperate need of the installation of drainage pumps to rapidly remove water from the Drainage District during times of high flooding. Rapid and efficient rain water removal will alleviate the threat persistent flooding causes to major and supporting infrastructure systems, including Interstate 55 (the primary north/south connector between St. Louis and Memphis), U.S. Highway 80, the feeder road systems and bridges, municipal water treatment plants, thousands of water wells, just to name a few. The continuous flooding destroys wildlife, wildlife habitat, families, farms and businesses. These pumps have been promised to the residents of the Drainage District for over 50 years. The rain water that inundates the area and continually causes backup in the drainage canals throughout the Drainage District can only be effectively removed with the pumping system. The following is a brief description of the contents of the notebook demonstrating this dire need.

| Tab 1. | Map showing the canal system in the 308,000 acre St. Johns Bayou Basin watershed as compared with 133,000 acres in the St. Johns Floodway.  |
|--------|---|
| Tab 2. | 2010 total annual estimated income of \$576,127,973.00 for the Basin prepared by the Center for Applied Research and Environmental Systems.   |
| Tab 3. | 2010 total population of 33,478 for the Basin prepared by CARES.  |
| Tab 4. | Number and location of 1046 drinking wells in the Bayou Basin Drainage District watershed.  |
| Tab 5. | Reports of professionals, demonstrating the impact of the prolonged flooding<br>caused by a lack of a pumping station to drain water from the St. Johns Bayou<br>Basin Drainage District.   |
| Tab 6. | Declarations of citizens demonstrating the disastrous effects of flooding in the Drainage District on wildlife, agriculture, residential, and business interests because there is no mechanism to remove floodwaters quickly.   |
| Tab 7. | The graphics behind Tab 7 were created by Dr. Gene Rench of the National<br>Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Memphis Tennessee. Dr. Rench<br>created two models showing the impact of flooding in the St. John's Bayou Basin<br>during the major flooding event of 2011. The US Army Corps of Engineers has<br>reported the high water level as reaching 299 feet above sea level in the Bayou<br>Basin during the 2011 flood event. The impact of that level is shown in the first<br>graphic. According to the reports of residents in East Prairie, MO, Sikeston, MO,<br>and others, the water reached the levels shown in the second and third graphics.<br>Dr. Rench has shown the high water mark based on the reports of persons living |

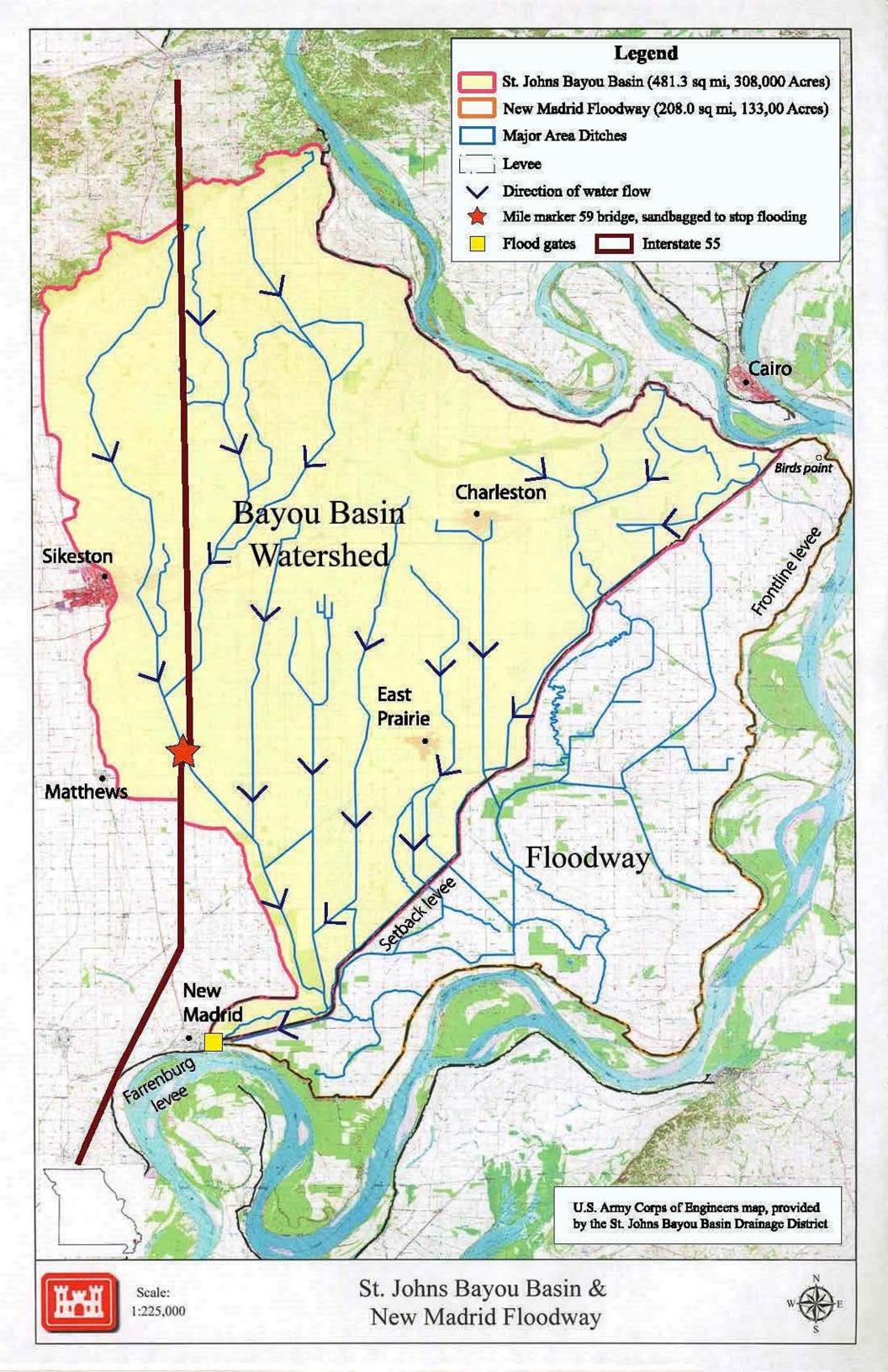
|         | in the flooded locations in the St. John's Bayou Bas<br>306 feet above sea level  | sin in 2011 to have reached      |
|---------|---|----------------------------------|
| Tab 8.  | Photograph of the Mini-Farms Subdivision in North<br>the extent of flooding during the 2011 event. This<br>of flooding reached the 306 foot level during that e           | photo establishes that the level |
| Tab 9.  | Labeled photographs of the St. Johns Bayou Basin Flooding of 2011.  | demonstrating the Backwater      |
| Tab 10. | Additional Photographs of the flooded areas of St<br>2011 flood. The first photograph shows farmers us<br>operate pumps to remove water threatening to inune<br>Missouri. | ing their own diesel tractors to |
| Tab 11. | Photographs of the St. Johns Bayou Basin showing Backwater Flooding of 2013.  | crop damage from the             |
| Tab 12. | Letters of Support from United States Government  | Officials:                       |
|         | a. Senator Roy Blount   | July 9, 2012                     |
|         | b. Senator Claire McCaskill   | December 14, 2012                |
|         | c. Senator Claire McCaskill   | October 12, 2012                 |
|         | d. Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson   | April 20, 2012                   |
|         | e. USDA Secretary Thomas J. Vilsack   | June 21, 2011                    |
|         | f. US Department of Transportation  | June 21, 2011                    |
| Tab 13. | Letters of Support from Missouri State Governmen  | t Officials:                     |
|         | a. Lieutenant Governor Peter D. Kinder  | June 10, 2013                    |
|         | b. Attorney General Chris Koster  | July 8, 2013                     |
|         | c. State Treasurer Clint Zweifel  | July 8, 2013                     |
|         | d. Secretary of State Jason Kander  | August 1, 2013                   |
|         | e. MoDOT Engineer Stan Johnson  | June 21, 2011                    |
|         | f. MoDOT Project Manager Eric Krapf   | March 26, 2012                   |

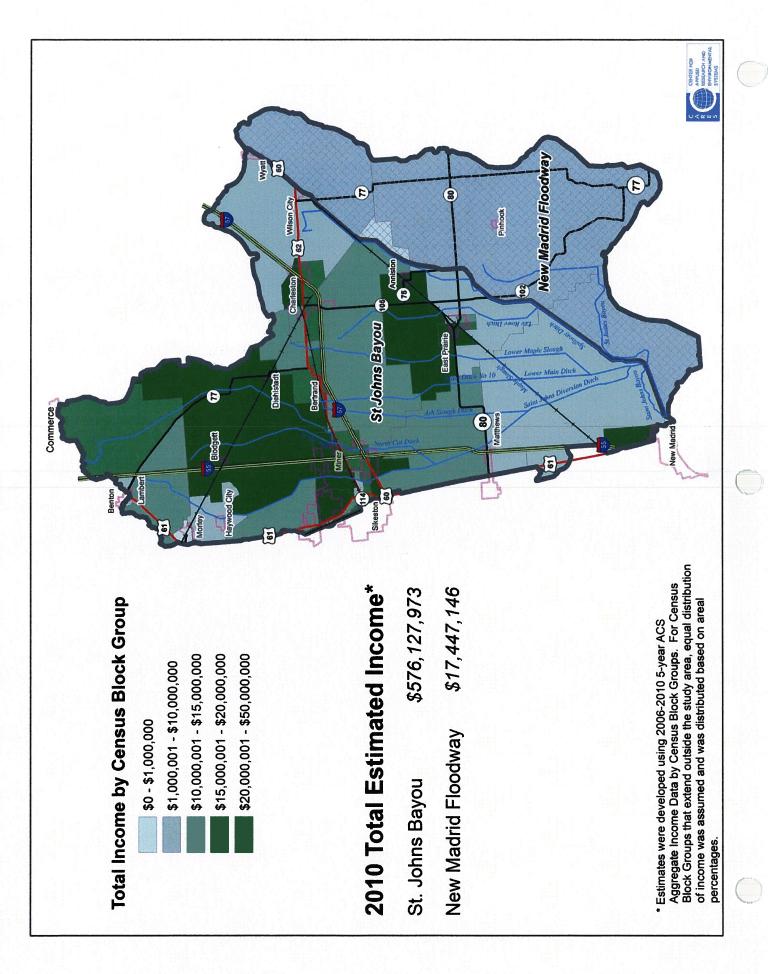
Tab 14.Letters of Support from Local Government Officials:

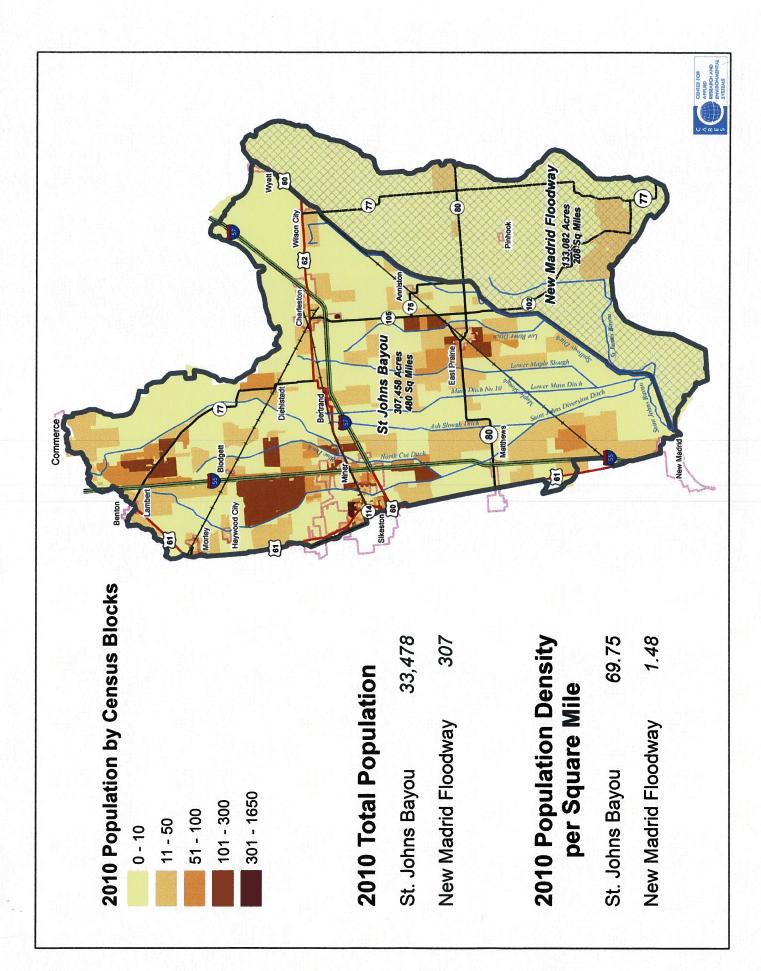
| a. | New Madrid County Commission                | March 15, 2010    |
|----|---|-------------------|
| b. | New Madrid Mayor Donnie Brown               | February 27, 2012 |
| c. | Scott County Commission                     | November 10, 2011 |
| d. | Lake County, Tennessee Mayor Macie Roberson | November 21, 2013 |

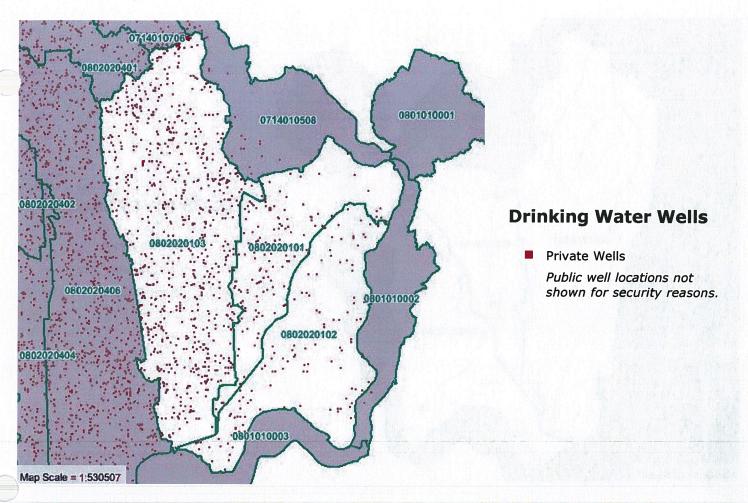
All of these materials demonstrate the dire necessity for the installation of the pumping station at the base of the St. Johns Bayou Basin Drainage District. More than any other section of this notebook, attention should be given to Tab 6. The declarations of these ordinary citizens who live, work, and worship in St. Johns Bayou Basin Drainage District demonstrate their concern for their homes and livelihoods, the threat to wildlife habitat throughout the Basin, and their hopes for the future once flooding in the Basin is controlled. Many thousands of additional citizens stand ready to provide testimony about the crippling impact flooding has on them. Their needs in this important economic, agricultural and residential sector of our country demand the construction of the pumping stations now.

The Members of the Board of Directors of St. Johns Bayou Basin Drainage District will be pleased to meet at any time about this important issue.









#### New Madrid Floodway (0802020102)

|                 | Total | Private | Public<br>(Active) | Community | Transient<br>Noncommunity | Non-transient<br>Noncommunity |
|-----------------|-------|---------|--------------------|-----------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Number of Wells | 132   | 132     | 0                  | 0         | 0                         | 0                             |

#### Spillway Ditch (0802020101)

|                 | Total | Private | Public<br>(Active) | Community | Transient<br>Noncommunity | Non-transient<br>Noncommunity |
|-----------------|-------|---------|--------------------|-----------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Number of Wells | 169   | 155     | 14                 | 14        | 0                         | 0                             |

#### St. Johns Bayou (0802020103)

|                 | Total | Private | Public<br>(Active) | Community | Transient<br>Noncommunity | Non-transient<br>Noncommunity |
|-----------------|-------|---------|--------------------|-----------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Number of Wells | 877   | 857     | 20                 | 17        | 1                         | 2                             |

#### Summary

|                 | Total | Private | Public<br>(Active) | Community | Transient<br>Noncommunity | Non-transient<br>Noncommunity |
|-----------------|-------|---------|--------------------|-----------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Number of Wells | 1,178 | 1,144   | 34                 | 31        | 1                         | 2                             |

## Waters Engineering, Inc.

Civil Engineering & Land Surveying

Post Office Box 567 908 S. Kingshighway Sikeston, Missouri 63801 E-mail: main@waterseng.com 573/471-5680 Fax: 573/471-5689

June 17, 2011

Mr. Ted Medlin President St. John's Bayou Basin Drainage District 501 Virginia Avenue New Madrid, MO 638698

Re: St. John's Bayou Basin

Dear Mr. Medlin:

This letter is offered in response to your request for an opinion from our firm regarding the effects on public infrastructure resulting from the absence of a pumping system for the St. John's Bayou Basin.

Our firm has a 90-year history of providing engineering services in Southeast Missouri, and we have been involved in the development of the roads, drainage, bridges, water and sewer system of every public body in the St. John's Bayou Basin.

Based upon our first-hand knowledge of these systems we offer the following observations on the impacts of prolonged flooding caused by the lack of a St. John's Bayou pumping station:

#### 1. Roadways.

Extended submergence of road beds is detrimental to the integrity of both the surfacing and structural bases of roadways. Repair of these types of failures cannot be properly made with a simple surface topping, but rather requires restoration of the entire support base.

Most often the local governments do not have adequate funds or staff to make proper repairs, and the results are a long-term degradation of the quality of the roadway system and continued high maintenance expenses.

#### 2. Drainage Ditches.

As flow backs-up in the Bayou, the drainage ditch side slopes become saturated, then lose strength and become prone to subsidence failures. The velocities induced along these saturated ditch bank slopes when the outlet at New Madrid re-opens compounds the failure problem.

Mr. Ted Medlin June 17, 2011 Page 2

Once slope failures occur they are difficult to repair and each failure point becomes an on-going liability for the drainage authorities, and again more increases in the costs for maintenance are generated.

#### 3. Bridges.

Innundation of bridges promotes both structural damage and approaching roadway failures.

There are still a significant number of bridges with timber decks and structural members, and these bridges do not fare well with submergence, and some substantial repair or replacement generally results.

Bridge and approaching roadway failures present safety issues that often result in the need for bridge closures. These closures can be for extended periods that can have serious impacts on the ability to access homes, farm operations and farmland around those failures.

One of the main drains on the budget for County governments is the up-keep of their bridges, and the effects of the lack of a pumping station is to add further needs to an already challenging list for needed bridge improvements.

#### 4. Rural Water & Sewer Systems.

Much of the St. John's Bayou Basin is still not served by a Public Water Supply District, and the residences in such areas rely upon individual shallow wells, 15 to 30 feet in depth, for drinking water.

These wells are generally located near on-site sewage disposal systems. During flooding periods the areas where drinking water is obtained and the areas used for on-site sewage disposal become directly linked through the common high ground water.

Wastewater treatment in the rural areas is provided by individual septic tanks with tile fields. During periods of flooding in the St. John's Basin these tile fields do not work which results in surfacing of wastewater.

The surfacing of waste water and the contamination of the drinking water supplies represent very serious public health issues that can be directly attributed to high ground water conditions enhanced by the prolonged innundation in the St. John's Bayou Basin. Mr. Ted Medlin June 17, 2011 Page 3

#### 5. Public Sewer Systems.

High water tables are the enemies of public sewer systems. The prolonged innundation from the backwater in the St. John's Bayou Basin results in such high water tables.

The infiltration of groundwater through pipe joints and leaking manholes cause excessive flows at wastewater treatment plants. These flows can result in the need for substantial sewer system rehabilitation programs and for the upgrading of treatment plants to handle the added flow.

With high water tables the soil around the underground sewer system migrates through leaks and enters the sewer system. The results are that the sewer collection system and treatment works become engorged with sand which must be removed to restore the system to proper service.

The migration of soil also causes holes to develop over sewer mains, which causes the functional failure of the collection system. These problems are expensive to repair, cause disruption of the land use above and around the sewer failures and also bring untreated wastewater within the proximity of people.

#### 6. <u>Economic Impact on Public Bodies</u>.

The total economic impact of the extended high water levels in the St. John's Bayou Basin are difficult to determine because expenses are required to cope with both short and long-term costs.

The short-term costs to correct the immediately noticeable damage to public infrastructure are normally readily identified and quantified. Unfortunately it is our opinion that the long-term costs for operation, maintenance and replacement of public works facilities due to the effects of the long-term flooding may be just as high.

#### 7 Combined Economic Effects.

It is generally accepted that the economy of Southeast Missouri is rooted in agriculture, and that the fate of the balance of the economy in the region follows that of agriculture.

There should be little argument that the ability of the agricultural industry to thrive is threatened by the lack of a pumping station outlet for the St. John's Bayou Basin.

Mr. Ted Medlin June 17, 2011 Page 4

> The ability of public bodies to generate the income needed to operate is tied to their tax income or the ability of their customers to pay for services. Both of these income sources depend on a flourishing economy.

> The adverse economic impacts of long-term flooding increase operational costs while diminishing the capabilities to generate revenue for public bodies. This combination of factors has placed many of the public bodies in difficult financial situations.

#### 8. <u>Recommendation Solution</u>.

To significantly reduce the adverse impacts from the long-term flooding in the St. John's Bayou Basin would require the construction of a pumping system. The system should be designed to flow to New Madrid and should have adequate pumping capacity to prevent objectionable long-term ponding of water.

We would suggest that the flow rainfall and flow data from the 2011 flooding event be considered as the design event for the pump station design.

We hope you will find this information to be helpful. The lack of pumps in the St. John's Bayou Basin generates a multitude of problems for our public sector clients, and life would certainly be better for all if they could be constructed.

Sincerely,

WATERS ENGINEERING, INC.

- Cliffed

John Chittenden, PE President

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|             |          |         |          |          |         |          | 3        |
|-------------|----------|---------|----------|----------|---------|----------|----------|
| County      | Corn     | Soybean | Cotton   | Rice     | Sorghum | wheat    | total    |
| Now         |          |         |          |          |         |          |          |
| Madrid      | -\$29.01 | \$45.12 | -\$37.24 | -\$14.79 | \$0.00  | -\$3.97  | -\$39.89 |
| Mississippi | -\$22.01 | \$0.00  | \$0.00   | \$0.00   | \$0.00  | -\$14.52 | -\$36.53 |
| Scott       | -\$16.13 | \$1.53  | -\$2.20  | \$0.00   | \$0.00  | -\$8.72  | -\$25.52 |
|             | 1        | 5       |          |          |         |          |          |
| 10101       | -11.10   | 40.00   | -39.44   | -14./9   | a       | -27.21   | -101.94  |

#### **United States Department of Agriculture**

A NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service 480 West Jackson Trails Jackson, Missouri 63755-2665

June 8, 2012

Mr. Ted Medlin, 501 Virginia Avenue New Madrid, MO 63869

Dear Mr. Medlin,

I understand you are gathering information to support the installation of pumps at the St. John's Ditch outlet works. It's my pleasure to provide any information I have regarding flood damages.

On March 18 2008 the bootheel suffered a catastrophic single day rainfall event of 8" to 14", falling on already saturated soils. NRCS and your district, St. John's Bayou Basin, partnered in the completion of eight projects through USDA's Emergency Watershed Program (EWP) to restore district drainage ditches. Your district completed work totaling \$3,131,143 in total project cost. The project was very well managed by your drainage district. I was honored to accompany you as we hosted US Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack in 2009. Secretary Vilsack commended the projects for their efficiency and timeliness.

In 2011 the Mississippi Valley suffered another record flood. I've attached my daily flood report from 5/11/2011 where I estimated that 85,000 acres were flooded within the St. John's Bayou Basin area. I was on the helicopter flight referenced in the report and assure you that the 85,000 acre figure is an accurate estimate. I estimate that flooded cropland acreage totaled about 76,000 acres. All of these acres suffered from delayed planting. There were significant acreages of wheat destroyed by flooding, but I don't have a figure for those losses. I heard estimates of average cropland economic losses of \$100 to \$150/acre. The midpoint of these values would yield an estimated crop loss of \$9,500,000 based upon field estimates.

This spring USDA and St. John's Bayou Basin entered into a EWP project agreement to repair some of the damages caused to district ditches by the 2011 flood. The \$517,061 project is only for the smaller ditches. We did not inventory the damage to St. John's Ditch, but based on damage to other ditches in the region, I would not be surprised if at least 50% of the 2008 improvements were destroyed, or \$1,550,000 in damages.

Summary of Estimated Damages due to 2011 St. John's Bayou Basin flooding (Agricultural damages, not counting agricultural structures)

| \$9,500,000 | Cropland damages                           |
|-------------|--|
| \$1,550,000 | St. John's Ditch estimated damage          |
| \$517,061   | Damages to other district drainage ditches |

You asked for my thoughts as to whether the installation and operation of a pumping station at the St. John's Bayou Basin outlet would have reduced flooding. In my opinion the presence and operation of suitably sized, permanent pumps would have substantially reduced flooding in the basin in 2008 and 2011. Interstate 55 would not have been threatened with closure, significantly fewer homes and businesses would have been flooded, and agricultural damages would have been measurably reduced. I believe that the 2011 mobilization of temporary pumps by the US Army Corps of Engineers, executed at considerable cost and effort by the Corps, illustrates that pumps are the only viable means to address the flooding problem. The St. John's Bayou Basin has suffered two severe floods in the past five years. The installation and operation of suitably sized, permanent pumps would serve to prevent a re-occurrence of large scale flooding in the future.

Thank you, Mark E. Nussbaum, P.E. Area Engineer, USDA-NRCS, Jackson, MO

cc. Nancy Walker, District Conservationist, New Madrid, MO



ONE UNIVERSITY PLAZA · CAPE GIRARDEAU, MISSOURI 63701-4799 · (573) 651-2000 · www.semo.edu

June 21, 2012

Mr. David Wade Martin, Tate, Morrow & Marston P.C. International Place, Tower II 6410 Poplar Avenue, Suite 1000 Memphis, TN 38119-4839

Dear Mr. Wade,

The following data is generated using a simulation program developed for the St. John's watershed. The intent of the simulation is to determine the crop production in the St. John's watershed based on a normal cropping year and compares that data with the actual production patterns of 2011. Table 1 represents the estimated crop values of the St. John's watershed partitioned by the acreages of the counties within the watershed. The percent of non-cropland in those land parcels were subtracted from the county-watershed acreages. Table 2 represents crop production values for the actual St. John's watershed 2011 cropping year.

The crops selected were corn, soybeans, wheat, rice, cotton, and grain sorghum. These six crops represent more than 90% of the crops cultured in the watershed. Crop prices were established for May 5, 2011. First planting dates were optimum for the normal year simulation and for the actual 2011 planting year were established at July 1, 2011 for the southern portion of the watershed and June 1 for the northern portions of the watershed. These dates correspond to discussions with large-sale growers in the watershed. The delay in planting in 2011 was attributed to water saturated soil conditions as a result of backwater flooding.

The wheat crop in the watershed was an extremely poor yielding crop in 2011 because of cool temperatures during tillering, water saturation during grain fill, inability to apply fungicides and Septoria (*Mycosphaerella graminicola – a wheat disease promoted by wetness*).

Crop yields were affected by two conditions present in 2011. Cotton, rice and corn production was not advised because of the late planting date, particularly in the southern portion of the watershed. Acres not planted to corn, rice and cotton were allocated to soybeans. This switch is collaborated with discussions with CCA advisors and land owners. The corn, soybeans and other crops that were planted manifested yield reductions because of post-ideal planting dates. The algorithms employed to predict post ideal planting date yields were adapted from publications arising from the University Missouri and Ohio State University. The acreage devoted to soybeans increased proportionally to the transition away from cotton, rice and corn. The production reductions were greatest in the southern portion of the St. John's watershed because of water transport from the northern portion of the watershed. Additionally the soils of the northern portion of the watershed have better drainage, higher elevation and a course texture (sandy loam to loam), whereas the soils of the southern portion of the St. John's watershed are poorly-drained, heavy-textured Vertisols (silty clay loam, silty clay, clay). If a system to vacate impounded backwater flooding in the St. John's Basin watershed has been in place and timely activated, the damages sustained in 2011 from delayed planting, low yields and loss of profits would have been minimized.

Very truly yours,

Michael Hick

Michael Aide Ph.D, CPSS Chairperson, Department of Agriculture Southeast Missouri State University

Sparks Bureau of Business and Economic Research Center for Manpower Studies 330 Innovation Drive FEC 221 Memphis, TN 38152

> 901-678-2281 901-678-4086 (Fax)

# THE UNIVERSITY OF

8-21-13

Maj. General John W. Peabody U.S.A.C.E. Mississippi Valley Division Commander and Mississippi River Commission President 1400 Walnut Street Vicksburg, MS 39180

Letter of Support for the St. John's Bayou/New Madrid Floodway Project

Dear Maj. Peabody,

This letter is in support the St. John's Bayou-New Madrid Floodway Project. The benefits that will be generated from the completion of the St. John's Bayou and New Madrid Floodway Project will support the economic viability of the region. The project generates large and substantially positive agricultural and non-agricultural benefits for the area. The St. John's Bayou area generates most of the non-agricultural benefits because most of the people live and economic activity occurs in St. John's Bayou. The agricultural benefits of the project occur in both the St. John's Bayou and the New Madrid Floodway areas.

The data in tables 2.6 and 2.7 of the July 2013 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) provide support for the pump station, channel modifications and NMF closure planned for both areas. The benefit/cost ratios were 2.4 for the St. John's Bayou and 1.5 for the New Madrid Floodway. The economic justifications for the projects are conservative and reflect current estimates of potential losses and costs. The higher benefit/cost ratios for the St. John's Bayou area reflect the larger impact of the interstate disruption and repairs as well as the disruption of economic activity associated with the periodic flooding and the poor drainage that exists for the St. John's Bayou Basin area. The allocation of additional resources in the form of a more powerful pump could also be justified by the 2.4 benefit/cost ratio for St. John's Bayou Basin.

The population data cited on page 68 of the EIS clearly distinguishes between the New Madrid Floodway area and the St. John's Bayou Basin area. St. John's Bayou Basin was home to 33,478 residents in 2010 while the New Madrid Floodway area was home to 307. The year-to-year economic damage estimates depend on the elevation, frequency and duration of the flooding. The inability to predict or protect the area from flooding causes untold economic and human damage. Uncertainty and economic losses can be reduced by the development of improved drainage networks, improved levees and pumping stations capable of moving water rapidly out of the area.

The crop loss estimates and the non-agricultural losses both generate a solid reason to support protection from backwater flooding in the St. John's Bayou Basin. Reducing the fears and uncertainty involved with living and working in areas associated with regular but unpredictable flooding will certainly generate large positive economic benefits for the people who live and work there

The costs of this project are modest and the benefits are large and positive. As a result, I believe this project should be built as quickly as possible.

John Gnuschke, Ph.D. Director, Sparks Bureau of Business and Economic Research 330 Innovation Drive, FEC 221 The University of Memphis Memphis, TN 38152 901-678-4149 or 901-678-2281 jgnuschk@memphis.edu

### **Mini Farm Homeowners' Association**

P.O Box 1522 Sikeston, Missouri 63601

Major General John W. Peabody, USACE Mississippi Valley Division Commander and Mississippi River Commission President 1400 Walnut Street Vicksburg, MS 39180

Dear Major General Peabody,

4

Please allow us to introduce our community and our flooding predicament. The Mini Farm Subdivision is an unincorporated community in Scott County, Missouri situated 25 miles north of the levee and floodgate in New Madrid, Missouri. Our community consists of 200 homes, is home to approximately 700 persons, and covers one square mile of land. Homes in our community vary in estimated value from \$110,000 to \$250,000. The St. John's drainage ditch borders our community on its east side, which is where our floodwaters originate.

Within the past 41 years of our community's existence, we have seen floodwaters come and go several times, each time with seemingly increasing severity. Most of the floods have occurred within the past 16 years, sometimes twice in the same year and seem to be recurring in a 3 to 4 year cycle. Listed below are some of the effects from the flooding:

- When our community floods, many residents are forced to sandbag their homes and tend to pumps 24 hours a day for as long as 3 weeks.
- Residents affected by the floodwaters usually cannot reside in their homes because their septic system is rendered unusable. In some cases, residents have had to cap their toilets off to stop the sewage from backing up into their home.
- All of our streets are impassible, as well as area highways leading to our community. This is a major problem for emergency vehicles and those residents who are able to stay in their homes during a flood.
- The standing floodwaters are dangerous to the homeowners and their children as it contains raw sewage from area livestock and private septic systems, and chemicals from farm runoff. This is not to mention the stagnancy.
- Some of the less fortunate homeowner's have incurred total losses on their homes in the past, while many others have been able to repair the damages to their homes each time. Estimated cost of the damages from each flood ranges into the hundreds of thousands.
- While much of our community is in a designated flood zone, the floods have historically affected homes that are not in flood zones as well.

Each time our community floods, it's a direct result of backwater from the St. John's Basin Bayou. When the Mississippi River rises to the point requiring closure of

the floodgate in New Madrid, the drainage water in St. John's ditch quickly begins to backup and eventually forces the water to spill over the banks and into our community. A pumping station is greatly needed in the Basin Bayou and we believe it will alleviate the problems our community experiences. PLEASE HELP US WITH THIS ENDEAVOR.

4

Sincerely,

Mart BB

Martin B. Boner

Karen Jones Karen Jones Donna Morris

#### DECLARATION OF JERRY EDDY

#### STATE OF MISSOURI COUNTY OF NEW MADRID

Declarant, Jerry Eddy, states under penalty of perjury that the following facts are true and correct to the best of declarant's knowledge, information and belief.

- 1. I am 61 years old and am competent to make this declaration. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated herein.
- 2. I live at 16041 County Road 470, Dexter Missouri 63841.
- 3. I spent 29 in service with the Missouri Department of Conservation in a variety of capacities, including as conservation agent, game warden law enforcement assigned to Mississippi County, Missouri, and assistant regional supervisor in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, covering the St. John's Bayou Basin Area.
- 4. I grew up in the St. John's Bayou Basin Area, on a farm in New Madrid County and have many friends there.
- 5. I have witnessed the devastating impact that the periodic flooding in the area has on wildlife and wildlife habitat. Flooding is not a predictable event. In some years it is worse than in others.
- 6. Whenever there is flooding, it impacts wildlife.
- 7. The St. John's Bayou Basin Area contains many hundreds of acres of exceptional wildlife habitat.
- 8. Major floods can eradicate habitat areas. The deer population in the St. John's Bayou Basin has been increasing since the mid-1970's. During flooding, the wildlife, especially deer, quail, turkey and rabbits move to the high spots or levees. Those are the areas most likely to be accessible to humans. When wildlife encounter the humans they become frightened and move back to the flooded areas where they have no place to survive.
- 9. During high flood times, poaching of cottontail and swamp rabbits and deer increases dramatically because the animals are forced out of their habitat onto open high ground.
- 10. It is pitiful to see the effects of poaching on wildlife that must get to exposed high ground to survive flood waters, only to be slaughtered on the tops of levees and roadways by illegal hunting.

- 11. Virtually all of the residents of St. John's Bayou Basin want to help the turkey, quail, rabbits and deer.
- 12. After my retirement from the Missouri Department of Conservation, I have entered the seed business selling soy beans and corn primarily.
- 13. I now interface on a daily basis with the farmers who work the land in the St. John's Bayou Basin and I have seen first-hand the disastrous impact the flooding has on the farms and farmers. Flooding increases the high cost of farms and kills the economic incentive for farmers. Whenever the gates at New Madrid are closed, the flooding pools backward up the ditches in the St. John's Bayou Basin and spills out onto the farmland with no outlets. The flooding causes the internal roadways to shut down and blocks travel for the farmers.
- 14. Pumps at New Madrid to drain water out of the impounded St. John's Bayou Basin will immensely aid the water removal and drying out of the land. This will significantly alleviate the horrible impact that flooding has on our wildlife and our farmers.
- 15. Further, Declarant sayeth not.

Date:

#### DECLARATION OF HERSCHEL LOTT

State of Missouri

County of New Madrid

Declarant, Herschel Lott, declares under penalty of perjury, on personal knowledge as follows:

- 1. I am over 21 years of age and am competent to declare to the facts contained in this Declaration.
- 2. I live at 319 Powell St., New Madrid, Mo. 63869. I was born in New Madrid Missouri and have lived here all of my life.
- 3. I own and operate a welding and machine shop in New Madrid. My occupation has made me familiar with the equipment needs and repair needs of farmers and people who work and live in New Madrid.
- In my lifetime, I have witnessed many times the devastation caused by flooding in Saint John's Bayou and particularly, the impact on the City of New Madrid and the farmers who live within Saint John's Bayou.
- 5. During periods of heavy rain fall, particularly in the spring and early summer, the ditches within the SJB area funnel the water into the bottle neck at the flood gates just out side of New Madrid.
- 6. When the water reaches flood levels within SJB, it is typical that the City of New Madrid is threatened by flooding as well. I have experienced flood waters so high that Main Street New Madrid could only be reached by motor boat.
- 7. During those times, the only way to save the city has been to force pump water across the levee into SJB. I have seen farmers working around the clock with their tractors running non-stop to operate pumps pulling water out of the city into SJB. Were it not for their work, the city would many times have been inundated with the rising waters causing significant destruction to the populace, infrastructure and business. In 2011, farmers from SJB brought in 8 to 10 tractors to operate pumps to save the city. Without that work round the clock work, the city would have been devastated. If it had not been for the farmers, there would have been 3 or 4 feet of water in New Madrid. Even
- 8. If the Mississippi River is rising at the same time that flooding is occurring within SJB, which often happens during high water in the spring and early summer when there are heavy rains all the way up to Benton, Missouri, the floodgates at the base of SJB are closed, causing the SJB flood waters to rise with no escape into the river. When the flood waters from the city are forced into the SJB at the same time the flood gates are closed, the resultant flooding inside SJB is increased causing substantial additional devastation to the towns and farms within SJB.
- 9. If there were pumps at the base of SJB, the flood devastation within SJB would be substantially decreased.
- 10. We have experienced problems throughout the years by not having the key to access the flood gate controls. I am personally aware of times when the Mississippi River fell below the elevation

that had required the gates to be closed and it took several hours and, in some circumstances, days before the gates could be opened to release flood waters from SJB into the river.

11. Also, when there have been mechanical problems with the gates or damage to them, the SJB Levee Board has taken charge to fix the problems and repair the gates. We have had difficulty in getting the

Floodway Levee Board to the gates quickly to open the gates or to repair them when needed. For many years the Floodway Levee Board operated the gates with an old transmission off a Model A Ford automobile. The mechanism was completely inadequate.

- 12. In 1993, the gates were jammed by a log and could not be closed. Members of the SJB Levee Board had to break into the gate to pry the cover off the control box to reach a damaged screw. Farmers from farms in SJB assisted in straightening a screw that had been bent. The gates then had to be closed by hand because the mechanism was inoperable. However, there was backflooding into SJB for many days when the gates could not be closed. The backflooding occurred at the same time water was being pumped from the west levee out of the city into SJB. The results caused significant damage to the farmers and cities within the SJB. Thousands of acres were flooded far longer than should have happened.
- 13. I believe that if control of the gates had been in the hands of the SJB Board, the time delays and maintenance problems associated with operating the gates would have been significantly less. Even though the Floodway Levee Board ultimately paid the costs of the repair, I did not see anyone from the Board working on and repairing the damage. The keys to the gates are controlled by the Floodway Levee Board and when needed can only get them from the superintendent of the Board. This is a very inefficient process. In my opinion there is no reason not to allow the SJB Board, which is directly impacted by the timing of opening and closing the gates, to have a set of the keys.
- 14. In my line of work in the equipment repair business, I suffer great losses during the times of heavy uncontrolled flooding in SJB. When farmers are not working they do not use their machinery and I do not repair equipment. My business falls to a standstill until the flooding recedes. The installation of pumps would greatly improve my economic performance.
- 15. Further, declarant sayeth not. This Declaration is made by me under penalty of perjury.

Herschel E. Lott

Herschel Lott

Dated: 3-22-12

#### DECLARATION OF DAVID O. EDDY

State of Missouri

County of New Madrid

Declarant, David O. Eddy, on personal knowledge states the following to be true and correct under penalty of perjury:

- 1. I am 62 years old and am competent to make this declaration.
- 2. I have been farming inside of St. John's Bayou Basin for 38 years. I am a third generation farmer and farm in LaForge.
- 3. Water has been so high in SJB that people have had to go by boat or by mule to get to the grocery stores.
- 4. Dry Run Ditch cannot hold the water. With the huge storms in 2011, we had to pump water constantly to save the town of New Madrid. The pumping put the water into SJB and further raised the water level there.
- 5. We need to have pumps at the south end of St. John's Bayou to lower the water level during the high water years.
- 6. In 2011, I lost 200 acres of wheat and could not plant corn. Because I could not plant until July, I could only put in Soy Beans. Our revenues were down a lot because of the flooding.
- 7. My son, Daniel, is starting to farm in the SJB. He is concerned that the huge cost of investment in technology and equipment could wipe him out if he cannot get productive crops planted in time in SJB. The flooding puts his life investment in peril. An event like 2011 can wipe out a man like Daniel who is just starting a family.
- 8. In the high water years, the St. John's Floodway can get planted faster than the St. John's Bayou Basin. The water drains faster from the Floodway. In the Basin it does not run through the gates fast enough and flooding lasts much longer. It causes later planting. The rice land does not dry out fast and makes it impossible to plant rice.
- 9. If we could start pumping water out of the SJB as soon as the river level starts to recede, the time for putting in crops would be longer. We could put in many varieties of crops if the land were to dry out sooner.
- 10. It is necessary to starting getting the water out of the SJB as soon as the rain stops. If not, then when the next rain comes, it will be too late, you cannot keep up with the flooding.
- 11. It is necessary for us to be able to have direct access to the flood gates to control water and to have pumps installed at the south end of SJB to get water removed.
- 12. Otherwise, we will continue to be devastated by the floods. Our families and our communities need the pumps in place to protect our homes and our livelihood.

13. Further Declarant sayeth not. This Declaration is given under penalty of perjury.

David O. Eddy Dated: 3/22/12

Declaration of Sean Rutledge

State of Missouri

County of New Madrid

Declarant, Sean Rutledge, states that he has personal knowledge of the contents of this Declaration and he declares his statements to be true under penalty of perjury:

- 1. I am 36 years old and am competent to declare to the facts contained in this Declaration.
- 2. J. M. Rutledge is my father and I live in a house next to his.
- 3. He and I farm together. I have been farming with him since 1995. Farming is all we know and all we do for a living.
- 4. I have read my father's Declaration and am familiar with the information he has said. It is all true.
- 5. I also attend Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church like many of my neighbors and my family. The floods prevent us from attending services.
- 6. When our cotton crop last year could not be put in, I had to share with my father, the cost of the payments made to Allenburg Cotton Company.
- 7. Getting flooded out year after year in the St. John's Bayou has been hard on me and other members of the community. I believe that putting in the pumps would stop the devastation to our community and our livelihoods. We were told they would be put in and we need them to be.
- 8. Declarant, Sean Rutledge, declares under penalty of perjury that the facts stated in this affidavit are true and correct.

Further, Declarant sayeth not.

Sean Rutledge Dated: 3-22-12

#### DECLARATION OF J. M. RUTLEDGE

State of Missouri

County of New Madrid

Declarant, J. M. Rutledge, declares, on personal knowledge, under the penalty of perjury, as follows:

- 1. I am 64 years of age and am competent to state the facts contained in this declaration.
- 2. I live at 23241 County Rd. 772, in the Parma Area of southern Missouri, at zip code 63070.
- 3. I own and farm approximately 220 acres in the St. John's Bayou. Part of the farm land I bought and part of it is the Bell Farm, with 66 acres in SJB. My wife is a Bell and the Bell Farm property has passed down through her family.
- 4. I have been farming in SJB since 1975. The Bells, and members of the African American community, have farmed in St. John's Bayou for many years.
- 5. I also started farming the Glass farm in 1982. I rented that farm. In about 1995, the part of the Glass farm east of the Farrenburg Levee in the St. John's Bayou area was put in conservation reserve. I still farm part of the Glass farm west of the Levee. During bad flood years, I could not get my crop in on time at the Glass farm in SJB. That caused me to lose substantial revenues in those years.
- 6. Almost every year, flooding has prevented me from getting my crop into the ground on time. Because of the flooding, in many years I have late crops and it is hard to get the crop in and hard to get it out. Many years, I have not been able to plant until around the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. That prevents me from planting double crop acres. In those bad flood years, I can only plant late soy beans.
- 7. Other farmers I know in the St. John's Bayou cannot get their crops in because of the floods. We are always running behind.
- 8. My son, Sean, and I farm land together in the SJB. Last year we had a contract with Allenburg Cotton Company in Memphis, Tennessee, to sell cotton. Because of the floods, we could not make the crop. My son and I had to pay \$35,000.00 on the contract to Allenburg. This was a total loss to us and a big percentage of our total net profit off of our farming operation. That was a very difficult economic result for us.
- 9. I am a member and Deacon of Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church, an active church with African American members located about a quarter of mile off of Dry Run Ditch in SJB. Many of church members live in the area. Some of the members travel from outside the SJB area to attend Church services.
- 10. During the bad flood years inside SJB, water has risen around the Church and has even gotten inside the Church building.
- 11. Many times during the bad flood years, Church members have been blocked from going to Church. Last year, for example, people could not attend services for over a month. The floods ran over the area roads and washed them out. The road that runs by the Church is Highway 720 that was under water for weeks last year. During high flood years, the road is frequently impassable.

- 12. Mr. William Bell is my brother in law. He lives on the Bells Farm on Highway 726, east of the Church. He does not farm, but is retired from the highway department. The floods occur all around the area where his house is located. Almost every road around his house has been flooded out in the bad flood years. He and his wife, Vera, had to leave home and live in a Sikeston Motel this past year. They both also attend the Mount Olive Church.
- 13. The flooding, year after year, causes me and my family members severe personal and economic hardships.
- 14. Putting a pumping station at the base of St. John's Bayou to get the flood waters out and into the river would protect our farms, our livelihoods, our homes, our church and our community from this terrible destruction.
- 15. Further declarant sayeth not. The facts set out in this in this declaration are true and correct and are stated as true under the penalty of perjury.

tage 3-22-201: J. M. Rutledge

#### DECLARATION OF LOUIS JOSEPH BROUGHTON

State of Missouri

County of New Madrid

Declarant, Louis Joseph Broughton, on personal knowledge states the following to be true and correct under penalty of perjury:

- 1. I am 67 years old and am competent to make this declaration.
- 2. I live at 735 Mitchell Avenue, New Madrid, Missouri 63869.
- 3. I have been a farmer all my life and grew up working on my father's farm. I have experienced the terrible flooding year after year in St. John's Bayou Basin.
- 4. In the high water flood years, I have seen where people who live in St. John's Bayou Basin have had to come to New Madrid to get their groceries by boat, because the roads are flooded over. I have had to go through Mr. J.W. Rice's yard by boat. His carpets and furniture have had to be taken up in his house to keep them from being ruined because of the high water.
- 5. I have been involved in pumping water from New Madrid over the Farrenburg Levee to save the town. I have seen sixteen pumps set up and running for three to four weeks at a time.
- 6. In 2011, we farmers put over 800 hours on our tractors pumping water 24 hours a day to save the town.
- 7. All of the water that was pumped into the SJB from New Madrid was concentrated in the south end of SJB and could not get out because the gates were closed and there were no pumps to get the water out.
- 8. This past year, I spent \$10,000.00 on diesel fuel that has not been reimbursed. I hope FEMA will pay that. I know other farmers who spent \$20,000.00 on fuel to run the pumps.
- 9. We lost our corn crop. Some farmers lost their wheat crop. We could not plant rice because of the flooding.
- 10. Planting was delayed until July. We lost substantial revenue because of the bad crop years during high floods.
- 11. I have watched the water levels for 20 years to read the gauges at the SJB flood gates for the Corps of Engineers. When the gates have to be opened or closed, the Floodway Levee Board has to be contacted to bring the key for access to the gate area. Many times there are delays waiting for the Levee Board to respond. Sunday is always a bad day for getting a rapid response. Sometimes the Levee Board has to go find someone to open the gates.
- 12. I live about two minutes from the gates and could operate them almost immediately if I had the key to get to them.

- 13. We need to have the pumps put in place inside SJB to remove the high flood waters and we should have the ability to access the flood gates to open or close them on a minutes notice.
- 14. Further Declarant sayeth not. This Declaration is given and er penalty of perjury.

Louis Joseph Broughton

Dated: 3-22-2012

### DECLARATION OF J. W. RICE

State of Missouri

County of New Madrid

Declarant, J. W. Rice, makes this declaration under penalty of perjury on personal knowledge as follows:

- 1. I am over 21 years of age and am competent to swear to the facts set out in this declaration.
- 2. I live at 77 County Highway 727, New Madrid, Missouri 63869. I have lived in New Madrid all of my life except for the time I served in the Army in the Pacific during World War II.
- 3. My family first began farming in 1866, when my grandfather bought land in what is now St. John's Bayou.
- 4. I remember when the front line levee was first built and when additional levees were constructed. I remember the 1927 flood, the 1937 flood, the 1953 flood, the 1958 flood, the 1973 flood, 1993 flood, 2011 flood. I remember how flooding in those years and other years destroyed our crops, our roads and our community.
- 5. My father told me that when the Farrenburg Levee was put in by the Corps of Engineers, pumps were supposed to be built to get the confined water out of the SJB area as soon as possible. When the flood gates were built in 1953 we were promised that pumps would be put in. They never have been. Because there are no pumps, the back-up of flood waters in the SJB has disrupted our farming operations and caused us substantial losses over the years.
- 6. Until the land dries after flood waters go down, we are not able to plant. In 2011, there was no planting in SJB until beginning in July. I could not raise corn or wheat. I did not get beans planted until the third week in July. In 2010, I got paid \$60.00 a bushel for beans. In 2011, I got paid \$10.00 a bushel for beans. If I could have planted earlier in 2011, I would have put in other crops and would have made a lot more money on my land.
- There have been many times when flood waters have backed up into my yard. In 1937, water was 3 feet in my house. In 1973, the flood got to within 6 inches of my floor. In 2011, the water backed into my yard.
- 8. We pay for protection and do not get it. The flood gates at the base of the St. John's Bayou need to be properly maintained and operated. In my opinion the Floodway Levee Board does not respond fast enough when we need help. The Levee Board does not take care of the farmers in SJB.
- 9. If the pumps were installed at the base of the St. John's Bayou, in my opinion, all of the destruction to our homes, farms and communities in St. John's Bayou Basin would be stopped to a large degree.

Further, Declarant sayeth not. This Declaration is given under the penalty of perjury.

A.W. Hice

J. W. Rice

Dated: <u>9-2(-12</u>

### DECLARATION OF DAVID WADE

Declarant, David Wade, declares under penalty of perjury, on personal knowledge, as follows:

- 1. I am over 21 years of age and am competent to declare to the facts contained in this Declaration.
- 2. On February 24, 2012, I interviewed Mr. Louis Wilburn, Jr., who lives at 3830 Highway 80, Matthews, Missouri 63867. The facts set out herein were stated to me by Mr. Wilburn.
- 3. Mr. Matthews reported to me that he is 88 years old and a lifelong resident in the St. John's Bayou Basin. His father lived in the Basin since 1880 and his grandfather moved to the Basin right after the end of the American Civil War.
- 4. He remembers his mother talking about the flood of 1913. He personally remembers the flood of 1927. It was cold in the winter with sleet and frozen rain. People had to drive their livestock north to get to high ground. Pigs had iceballs as big as a baseball frozen to their tails. There was a second rise of the flood waters in June and the farmers could not get feed for their livestock.
- 5. During the flood of 1937, his father had planted a winter supply of feed corn. When the water began to rise, his father had to get wagons and teams of horses to haul the corn out to gravel roads. Mr. Wilburn was a young boy at the time and had to stay all night at the corn crib to load up the wagons as they came in. His father was able to get the corn out before the flood waters got too high.
- 6. In 1937 the family was forced to move to a high ridge and took up residence in Dogwood Church.
- 7. After he married, he and his wife moved south of 80 highway in St. John's Bayou Basin. During the flood in 1950, he was forced to leave his home and his family moved into his sister's house. Every day he had to get to his farm by boat to feed chickens in the barn. He and his wife checked on their parents by boats. He remembers the waves in the field whitecapping and water freezing on him. His family was in the upstairs part of their house with a stove pipe running out of the upper window. Hogs were swimming in the waters and they could not pick them up.
- In 2011, Mr. Wilburn stated that the flood waters in St. John's Bayou Basin topped over Highway 80. He had to sandbag around his house to keep water out. After the gates at the south of the St. John's Bayou Basin were closed, the water backed up in the Basin due to heavy rains. He could not get to Highway 80.
- 9. He has experienced problems because the flood gates have not been operated in a timely manner.
- 10. In the high flood years, his farming operations have been seriously affected by the flood waters. In 2011, Mr. Wilburn said he had 150 acres of corn planted and fertilized and all was lost. He lost \$20,000.00 in fertilizer costs alone. He lost half his revenue production on his corn crop. Because of the flooding, he had to plant soy beans.
- 11. The towns of East Prairie and Matthews were seriously impacted by the flood waters.
- 12. Further Declarant sayeth not.

David Wade

David Wade

### **DECLARATION OF WILLIAM J. CAVINS**

#### State of Kentucky

County of Lyon

Declarant William J. Cavins makes this declaration under penalty of perjury and states as follows:

- 1. I am over 21 years of age and am competent to set forth this declaration of facts based on my own personal knowledge.
- 2. I live in Eddyville, Kentucky.
- 3. In 2003, I purchased over 2000 acres of land within the St. John's Bayou Basin Drainage District (the "Basin"). After some sales of the land, I now own approximately 1600 acres in the Basin.
- 4. I granted a permanent easement to the United States Government under the federal Wetlands Reserve Program ("WRP"). All of the acres owned by me in the Basin were put under the WRP.
- 5. The acres are set aside to create environmentally sensitive wetland areas for preservation of wildlife habitat. They have been permanently removed from crop production under WRP.
- The federal government allocated approximately \$2 million for the cost of the original restoration project that included planting native trees and grasses, placement of levees to retain water, and basic habitat recreation.
- 7. After the purchase of the WRP site, we acquired a lodge and installed a levee around the lodge to protect it from flooding. After the flood of 2008, I increased the height of the levee to make it at least a foot higher than the 2008 flood stage. In spite of that additional construction, the flood of 2011 topped the levee by over one and a half feet. Over 5 feet of water standing flooded into the lodge, causing extensive damage.
- 8. The 2011 flooding ruined many of the habitat structures that had been developed under the program to protect wildlife. Natural grasses and nesting areas were washed away. Native bird populations, including wild quail and turkey, lost their natural nesting grounds and were displaced. The deer population was forced out of its nesting grounds into higher ground to escape the flood waters. Many deer sought high ground on the levees and became stranded due to the high water. The levees did not contain enough food to sustain them. Many deer starved as a result.
- 9. The destruction to wildlife was devastating.
- 10. This kind of destruction should never have happened. When the levees were originally built, all of the drainage waters were directed to a narrow point into the southern part of the Basin. During heavy rains that frequent the area, the run-off waters course south through the drainage district and back up into the Basin, where the water is retained because it has no escape route when the Mississippi also is at high

levels. An important part of the plans for creating the Basin included a pumping system to remove the backed up water as quickly as possible. As currently operated without a pumping system the engineering design for the correct operation of the Basin flood controls is thwarted.

- 11. It is absolutely essential to the natural fauna and flora in the Basin that the pumps be installed to remove the flood waters out of the Basin as soon as possible. Installation of the pumps will minimize the negative impact on wildlife that make home in the forests and fields of the St. John's Bayou Basin Drainage District. Getting water out of the Basin as soon as possible is imperative to save the wildlife and their habitats.
- 12. I am also a farmer and I have witnessed the terrible destruction on the lives of those who farm in the Basin due to the retention of water in it for much longer than should be necessary. The installation of pumps will greatly reduce the amount of time water stands in this vital agricultural district and will significantly reduce the suffering of those living and working there.
- 13. On May 12, 2009, Mr. Medlin, a large land owner who has purposely set aside habitat areas on his farms, and I, together with other area farmers and members of the NRCS staff, met with U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack in the NRCS office in New Madrid. We discussed with Secretary Vilsack the recurring problem of habitat destruction and damage to the agriculture complex in St. John's Bayou Basin Drainage District. Secretary Vilsack could not personally tour the area because of road closures and flooding but, after reviewing satellite pictures of the area provided by the Corps of Engineers, he quickly affirmed the need of a pumping station in the Bayou Basin and offered his support.

14. Further, Declarant sayeth not.

<u>William I. Caver</u> William J. Cavins

### State of Missouri

### County of New Madrid

Declarant, Richard Phillips, Jr., declares under penalty of perjury, on personal knowledge as follows:

- 1. I am 86 years of age and am competent to declare to the facts contained in this Declaration.
- 2. I live at 401 Kings Highway, New Madrid, Missouri. I have lived all of my life here except when I was at school and in the Navy (Pearl Harbor from 1944 to 1946). My father was in the oil business furnishing farmers with fuel, lubricants and the like and he had a grocery store operation. I was the Mayor of New Madrid for 10 years. I was on the board of the town of New Madrid when the industrial park was built and when the town assembled the bond financing to enable Noranda Primary Aluminum Smelter and Associated Electric's Power Plant to locate in the town. I and my extended family are substantial owners of farm land in Bayou Basin. I own over 160 acres.
- 3. I am keenly aware of the impact of the flooding on the commercial, industrial and agricultural base in New Madrid and the St. John's Bayou Basin.
- 4. Plainly, when the river is up, the gates at New Madrid at the south end of the Bayou Basin are closed. Many times the gates are closed when there is substantial rain fall in the Basin causing acres and acres to flood. Because there is no natural way for the water to escape, it stands in place, creating a huge lake that saturates the ground. When the water finally recedes, Bayou Basin is the last to get . relief.
- 5. During excessive rainfall water threatens the town of New Madrid and Farmers have to pump water away from the town over the levee. This necessary action causes additional flooding build up in the Bayou Basin causing a much longer delay before the water can recede. It is a recurring problem and pumps have been needed for years. There have been times that if the farming community had not pumped water over the levee, the town would have been subject to homes being flooded.
- 6. Although I am retired now, I was in the fertilizer and chemical business for about 25 years and was the only person in the business for many years. I sold fertilizer to many farmers in the Bayou Basin. Flooding in the Basin was a constant economic threat to my business and to farmers because it would cause farmers to delay purchasing my products or in some cases not to purchase at all. Many times the flood waters would wash away fertilizer that had been spread over the farm land.
- I estimate that over the time I operated my business the economic losses were approximately \$250,000. I sold the business in 1998, but I kept the office and I see farmers every day.
- 8. My family and I were big rice growers. The backwater flooding causes it to be too late to plant rice and rice is a good cash crop.
- 9. If pumps were installed at the gravity gates, it would significantly alleviate the damage. If water were released from pumps instead of being pumped into the area, the water's rapid out-flow would reduce

saturation and cause much quicker drying of the land. For years, we have been in dire need of the pumps to go straight into the river. When they close the gates, the water backs up in a hurry when it rains.

- 10. I know that the pooling in the Basin during times of high rainfall causes problems for the wildlife in the area. When the water gets up and remains high, the wildlife take to the high ground to save their lives. The flooding destroys their natural habitat and nesting grounds in the spring time and the levees where the wildlife retreat provide little shelter or forage.
- 11. Further, declarant sayeth not. This Declaration is made by me under penalty of perjury.

Richard Phillips, Jr.

Dated: 06-27-2012

### DECLARATION OF ROBERT HENRY

### State of Missouri

### County of New Madrid

Declarant, Robert Henry, declares under penalty of perjury, on personal knowledge as follows:

- 1. I am 67 years of age and am competent to make this declaration.
- 2. I was born east of New Madrid, Missouri and I live in the City of New Madrid. I am a life-long resident and went to school here. My office is located in New Madrid.
- 3. I am one of the largest independent seed dealers in the United States. Annually my sales approach 6,000 tons of bean, corn, and wheat seed in the United States. As a seed dealer, I sell certified seed to over 600 farmers from Berryville, Missouri to below Memphis, Tennessee and as far west as West Point, Iowa. My seed sales approach 15 million annually.
- 4. Close to 40% of my total seed sales are made to over 100 farmers in the St. John's Bayou Basin Drainage District.
- 5. I have been a farmer all my life. My father farmed and cut timber. I currently have a small farm in the Bayou Basin.
- 6. Ever since I have been old enough to remember flooding has been bad in the Basin. The flooding caused substantial damages to row crop production in our farming operation.
- 7. I recall one year the damage was so bad because we could not get the crops in the ground, my father had to sell every hog he owned to pay off his loan. He sold 600 hogs. He kept 40 shoats to rebuild his stock.
- 8. In 2011, in the Basin, many people had corn, wheat and beans planted before the rains and the bad flooding came. The wheat was all but made and not too far from being harvested. The loss of those crops was devastating to the farmers. Because the land was not able to dry out, it was too late to replant the wheat and corn crops. Farmers had to plant beans. I observed crop losses all the way north from New Madrid to Commerce in Benton Hills.
- 9. The roads were cut off by the water and people were pumping water to keep it out of their homes.
- 10. If there were pumps in the basin to get the water out quicker, it would help significantly. Pumping would prevent the water build up and wide-spread saturation of the area.
- 11. We had a tractor pumping for several days to keep the water from flooding into the town of New Madrid. Other farmers were assisting in the effort to divert the gathering rain water away from the town. If there had been one more rain during this time, we could not have held it back.
- 12. My office is in the town of New Madrid and our staff had packed all of our files in a dry box ready to leave if we had to go.

- 13. The flooding of 2011 almost shut down Interstate 55 and the Town of Sikeston. If the water had closed the interstate, then the lifeline to the whole central portion of the nation would have been affected. I also have an office at East Prairie and, during the high water, I was unable to get there except by routing through Sikeston and Charleston. This route added significant extra distances to my office.
- 14. The flooding is devastating to wildlife. Within the Basin, the deer, turkey, rabbits, and quail have no place to go when the floods destroy their habitat. Many farmers have gone to significant expense to create wildlife habitat reservation areas and the destruction of habitat causes substantial hardship on the animals and also the human population in the attempt to preserve it.
- 15. The placement of the flood water removal pumps that were planned for the south end of the Bayou Basin is necessary to prevent the backup of drainage water and the consequent flooding caused by the blockage.
- 16. Further, declarant sayeth not. This Declaration is made by me under penalty of perjury.

Dated: 6-25- 2:012

### DECLARATION OF BRYAN PALMER

State of Missouri County

## of <u>SCOTT</u>

Declarant, Bryan Palmer, declares the following statements of fact to be true to the best of his knowledge, information and belief, under the penalty of perjury.

- 1. I am over 21 years of age, have personal knowledge of the facts state herein and am competent to give this Declaration.
- 2. I live in Sikeston, Missouri, and have been a resident in the St. John's Bayou Basin Drainage District area all of my life.
- 3. My father and I were partners with other investors in a 1,000 acre Dairy Farming business located one mile east of 1-55, along Mo. Highway SO, and all within the St. John's Bayou Basin Drainage District. ("St. John's"),
- 4. Together with international investors, we developed the concept for our Dairy Farm of having free ranging dairy cattle with specially prepared and grown pastureland in order to produce high quality milk for consumers. The economic power of the plan was driven on the concept that the cattle would free graze and would not require an expensive special feeding regimen.
- 5. The preparation of the pastureland, acquisition of dairy cattle, and construction of dairy farming facilities and infrastructure involved millions of dollars of initial capitalization.
- 6. In 200S, the record flooding within St. John's devastated the project. Over SO of the farmland was underwater. The water backed up into the ditches (Ash Slough and St. John's Ditch), overflowing the banks and supersaturating the pasturelands. At one time the fence posts on our land were totally under water.
- 7. The operation had a little island of higher ground and our 1100 head of dairy cattle all herded into that spot. We had to find ways to transport the cattle off the Ranch to another Ranch that had not been flooded out.
- S. The flooding ruined the pastureland for the free ranging cattle. We were forced into purchasing expensive prepared cattle feed. The cost was so exorbitant that we ended up loosing the entire business.
- In the process the partners put in an additional 2 to 3 million in capital to try to save the business.
   We tried to reseed the pastureland, but could not get it back to its prior state of providing an ample home grown food supply for the cattle.
- We ended up selling most of the cattle because the loss of the pastureland destroyed the business. Ultimately the Dairy Farm was sold at auction.
- 11. My father personally lost over a half-million dollars in this innovative investment.

- The flooding destroyed the business. Had there been pumps in the lower end of St. John's to remove the water that backed up in the ditches, the flooding would not have ruined our pastureland and the plan to provide healthy milk from free range cattle would not have failed.
- 13. In my opinion the loss of this farm had a huge negative economic impact for the local and statewide business, industrial and agricultural community and the flooding caused the end of an innovative idea to provide healthier milk products for the county. In addition to our own loss, the 480 acre Medlin farm, just a mile north of our dairy operation, and a highly-improved, graded and irrigated rice farm, was also completely under water and unable to plant rice in the 20c 8 and 2011 crop years.
- 14. Further, Declarant sayeth not.

Bryan Palmer

Dated: 06/25/2012

### DECLARATION OF KAREN JONES

State of Missouri

County of .SCOTT

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Karen Jones, declares on personal knowledge, that the facts set forth in this Declaration are true to the best of her knowledge, information and belief, under the penalty of perjury.

I am over 21 years of age and am competent to declare of the truth the facts set out herein.

My home is in the Mini Farms Subdivision outside of Sikeston, Missouri. The Subdivision contains approximately 200 hundred homes and each home is on an acre sized lot in the St. John's Bayou Basin Drainage District ("St. John's"). The St. John's Ditch runs to the east side of the subdivision.

I have lived through four floods that have impacted my home and the homes of my neighbors. Every year the floods come, the high water gets worse.

In May 2011, the entire subdivision was under water. My neighbor's home 3 doors down from me had two feet of water standing in her home. She had to tear her house down and rebuild.

My neighbor two houses down from me, Mrs. Alcorn, is 90 years old. The flooding buckled her floor and she had to move out while the work was being done to replace the bad flooring.

Flooding routinely comes into my yard when the St. John's Ditch backs up. In 2011 there was two feet of standing water under my house. The water pressure cracked and buckled my garage pad.

My neighbor to the north had to have the toilets removed from the house because the septic tank filed with water and raw sewage backed up into the house. Throughout the subdivision, the septic tanks quit functioning.

The subdivision has four north-south roads and 2 east-west roads servicing the neighborhood. This past year three north-south roads and the northern most east-west road were impassible due to the flooding. The roads were out for one and a half to two weeks. People either had to move out or live with relatives. Grocery shopping was all but impossible.

The problem is caused because water is not allowed to drain out of St. John's at the south end. The drainage ditches fill and back up to the north. If pumps were installed in the south end of St. John's the relief would enable us to stay in our homes and would prevent the devastating flooding back-up into our subdivision.

10.

11.

Further, declarant sayeth not.

Our homeowners association has written many letters over the years begging for the pumps to be installed.

Karim games

Karen Jones Date:

06/26/2012

Declaration of John Byrd

### State of Missouri

County of Shott

John Byrd declares on personal knowledge under penalty of perjury that the facts set out in this Declaration are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

- 1. i am over 21 years of age and am competent to declare the truth of the facts set out herein
- I live just northeast of Sikeston, Missouri and farm 3 miles north of Highway 60. I grow row on farms throughout the area primarily north of Highway 60 and North of Highway 62. My farms approximately 3,600 acres in St. John's Bayou Basin Drainage District. ("St. John's").
- 3. Our family moved into the area from Alabama in 1925 to the same farm 1 live on now.
- 4. We now plant corn and soy beans mainly. We had to quit growing cotton because of wetne from saturated flooded fields. We don't grow wheat anymore because the flooding makes i doubtful whether it can make a wheat crop.
- 5. There has been flooding in St. John's for as long as I can remember. I think the flooding is getting worse, primarily because the ditches in St. John's fill up when we have heavy rains. is caused by a number of factors. The river is staying up longer and the gates at New Madric closed longer leaving no escape for the waters from heavy rains in St. John's. Also, there is a sphalt with more homes, driveways, parking areas and streets causing more water to run o faster into the ditches and sloughs in St. John's.
- 6. Basically, we get the flooding from the bottom of St. John's with the rains. The St. John's dit get full and the water backs up from New Madrid to Sikeston.
- 7. There has been flooding during heavy rains as long as I can remember, but it is getting worse have seen water between my house and highway 62 over 22 inches deep in the middle of throad. In 2011, the water was standing 12 inches deep in the road.
- 8. I could not get my crops in in 2011 on time. We were 45 to 60 days late getting the crop plan
- 9. Often, if we get a crop in the ground, flooding will take it out and we have to replant. When river is up, it pushes the water table up and there is no place for the water to go.
- 10. 2012 is the first year in a long time that we have not had to replant our corn crop.
- 11. I also own a business on Highway 61, south of Sikeston called Irrigation Central. I bought this business over 10 years ago. I help farmers build wells, install pivots and put in pumps.

- The flooding causes farmers to suffer significant damage because of needed repairs to pivo control boxes and motors. I have replaced a lot of electrical equipment, motor starts and r that were damaged because of the floods. These costs to farmers have easily exceeded a r million dollars.
- The proper solution to alleviate this economic disaster to the region is the installation of th 13. pumps at the south end of St. John's. The water must be removed and the ditches must be drained as quickly as possible in the flood years. We need the pumps badly.
- Further, Declarant sayeth not. 14.

John By :)7. " Date:

12.

### DECLARATION OF THEODORE W. MEDLIN

### STATE OF TENNESSEE

#### COUNTY OF SHELBY

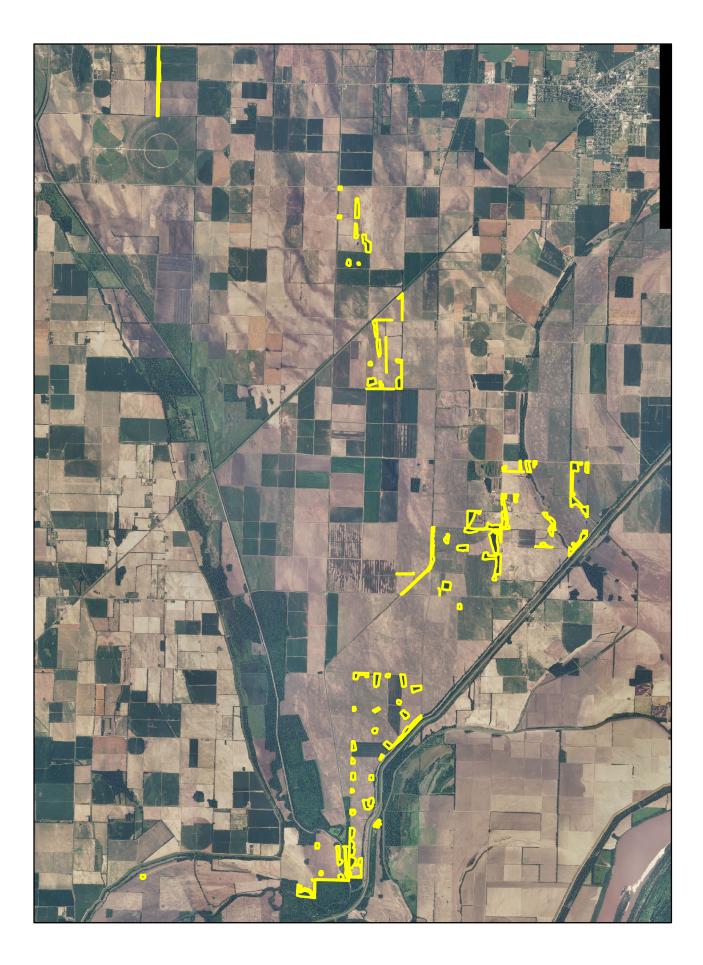
Declarant, Theodore W. Medlin, declares under penalty of perjury that the facts set out in this Declaration are true and correct to the best of his knowledge, information and belief.

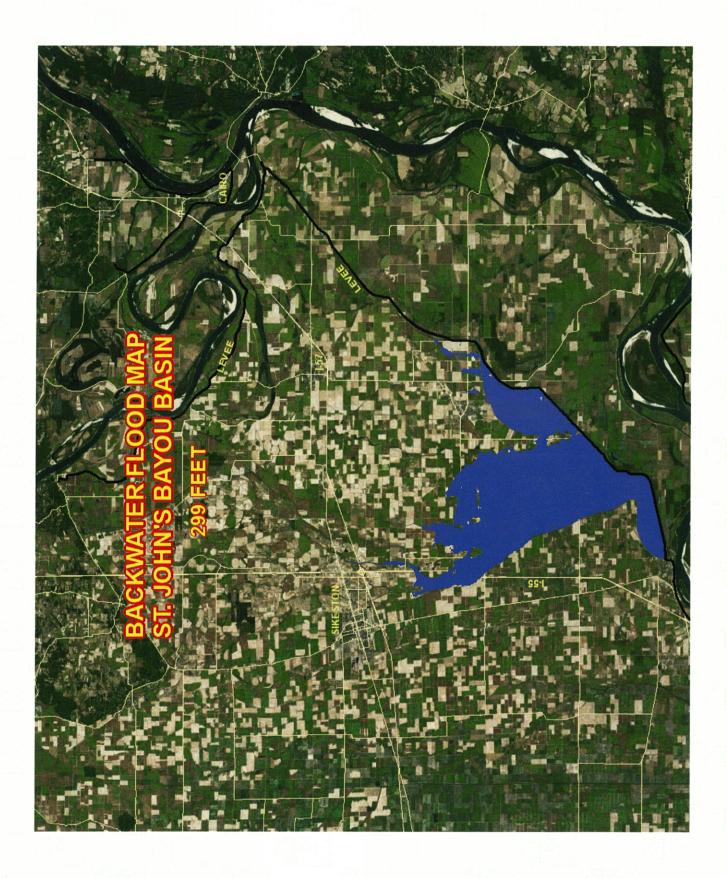
- 1. I am over 21 years of age, have personal knowledge of the facts stated herein and am competent to give this Declaration.
- 2. I reside at 720 Scott Street, New Madrid, MO. 63869. I also have a residence in Memphis, Tennessee. My family owns 3,903.74 acres of land in St. John's Bayou Basin Drainage District as calculated by the NRCS, New Madrid, MO. 3,303.78 acres are leased by my family to farmers for farming operations. 599.96 acres have been voluntarily and purposely set aside for wildlife habitat as the land was being developed for agricultural purposes. This set aside is voluntary and was dedicated by my family before the creation of any local, state or federal governmental programs for the preservation of wildlife habitat.
- 3. As fifth generation land-owners and farmers in the Bayou Basin, it has always been my family's intention to be good stewards of the land. In addition to our farming operations, we are committed to ensuring the preservation of a significant portion of the land for the protection and conservation of the native fauna and flora. Fully 15% of our land in the Bayou Basin is exclusively dedicated to that purpose. In addition, the remaining acreage is operated so as to be conducive to wildlife preservation. In addition to the set aside acreage, our family participates in the NRCS-CSP program creating significant additional acreage planted specifically for wildlife habitat.
- 4. I have attached to this Declaration an aerial photograph of Medlin Family wooded areas that comprise the 600 acres of the set aside. The protected land is shown as the white plots on the map. This photographic map was prepared by NRCS.
- 5. During the times of high flooding backwaters as the ST. John's Ditch rises, the deer population is forced out of natural habitat to escape the rising waters in a northward migration. It is quite common during backwater flooding to see herds of deer forced out of their habitat onto the levees where there is no natural food source. Seeing 200 to 300 deer stranded by the rising water is not unusual. These conditions diminish the food supply for the animal population. I have observed trapped and drowned deer floating in the flood waters.
- 6. The high waters also force native turkeys, foxes, rabbits and raccoons out of the protected habitat. The displacement of these species destroys their natural nesting grounds and the rising waters in the spring time cause the young of these species to be drowned.
- 7. I have had first-hand experience of the devastating flooding going back to 1957. It is impossible to understand any justification for allowing these conditions to exist for over sixty years.

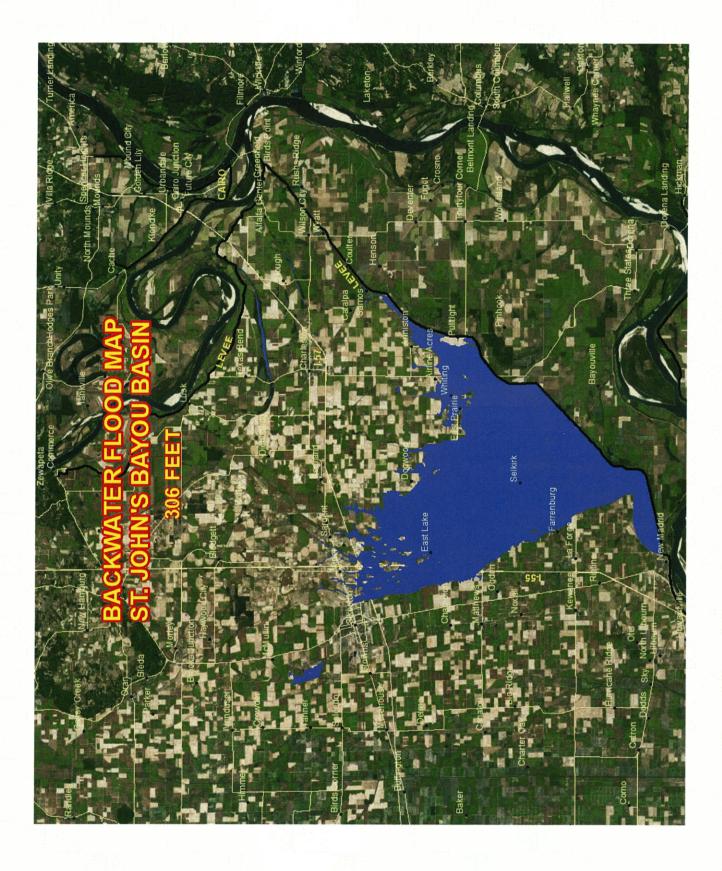
- 8. The depletion of human capital due to flooding is as dramatic as the impact on wildlife. Young farmers trying to develop their chosen profession are often forced out of farming because of the destructive power of the flooding in the St. John's Bayou Basis Drainage District. The flooding in the Basin is one of the critical factors leading to the depopulation of this rural area. Young people and more experienced farmers cannot stand the economic impact year after year.
- 9. The failure of the farming operations also has a drastic negative impact on small businesses and business owners trying to support farmers in the Basin. This is the result of the repeated and unnatural back-water flooding that disrupts normal farming operations.
- 10. As a landlord devoted to protecting the families that lease farming operations from us and to protecting wildlife in its natural habitat, I am committed to rectifying the conditions that cause the devastating floods. Without a consistent method to remove the flooding backwaters, then the Bayou Basin area cannot be protected nor can it realize its greatest environmental potential.
- 11. It is essential that the pumping station be installed at the south end of the Basin to get the impounded rainwater out, to enable the land to dry out in time for proper planting and to return the wildlife habitat as soon as possible to its natural state to protect our animals.
- 12. The landowners in the St. John's Bayou Basin Drainage District have seen fit to elect me to be president of their board of supervisors. We are committed to taking all steps to have the pumps installed for the protection of our land, our families, our children and their children, the extended communities in the St. John's Bayou Basin watershed to the north and the wildlife and natural flora we hold so dear.
- 13. Further declarant sayeth not.

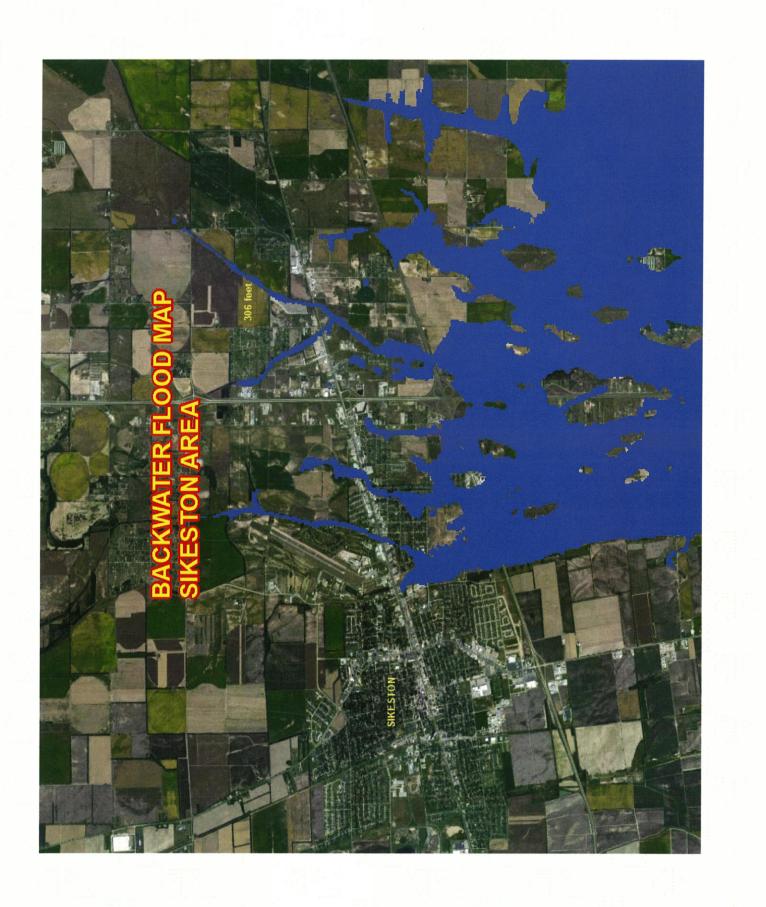
Theodore W. Medlin Dated: June 28, 2012

2











Miner, MO – 2011 Flood



Miner, MO – 2011 Flood



New Madrid West – 2011 Flood



Scott County, MO – 2011 Flood



Miner, MO – 2011 Flood



# Miner, MO – 2011 Flood





I-55 at MO-80 Near the Boy Scout Farm – 2011 Flood

I-55 at STJBBDD



# I-55 North Sandbags – 2011 Flood



I-55 North Sandbags – 2011 Flood



I-55 Sandbags -2011 Flood



Matthews – 2011 Flood



## Miner, MO at I-55 – 2011 Flood



Miner, MO at I-55 – 2011 Flood



Miner, MO East – 2011 Flood



Miner, MO Central Business District – 2011 Flood



Mini Farms Subdivision – 2011 Flood



Mini Farms Subdivision – 2011 Flood





MoDOT Pumping Tractor – 2011 Flood



Pumping at the Basin – 2011 Flood



Pumps – 2011 Flood



Route P – 2011 Flood



New Madrid East – 2011 Flood



New Madrid Levee – 2011 Flood





Sikeston Airport – Mini Farms – 2011 Flood

















East Sikeston, MO, looking south; sewer treatment plan in right center of photo, where Scott Co. consolidated Ditch #1 flows into the SJBBDD – 2011 Flood



I-55/I-57 Interchange looking East – 2011 Flood





St. John's ditch overflow, north of New Madrid, MO - 2011 Flood

Bayou Basin Flooding, looking North – 2011 Flood





Bayou Basin Flooding, looking NW – 2011 Flood

Inside St. John's Floodway, looking NE – 2011 Flood





Bayou Basin Flooding, looking North – 2011 Flood

St. John's Floodway, looking North – 2011 Flood





Bayou Basin Flooding South of Sikeston, looking North – 2011 Flood

Bayou Basin and St. John's Ditch Flooding – 2011 Flood





Mississippi County flooding, looking West – 2011 Flood

Bayou Basin flooding, looking West – 2011 Flood





Bayou Basin flooding at New Madrid, looking north across setback levee - 2011 Flood

Mississippi County flooding south of East Prairie, MO – 2011 Flood







Mississippi County Flooding – 2011 Flood



St. John's Ditch looking North – 2011 Flood



Lower Bayou Basin flooding at New Madrid, looking West – 2011 Flood



Mississippi River backwater at New Madrid, looking West (gates in right of picture) 2011 Flood



Setback Levee at gates, looking West - 2011 Flood



Bayou Basin flooding at gates, looking North – 2011 Flood





New Madrid grain elevators, looking NW – 2011 Flood

Bayou Basin Flooding at New Madrid, looking East – 2011 Flood





St. John's ditch, north of New Madrid, looking North – 2011 Flood



St. John's ditch at New Madrid, MO – 2011 Flood



St. John's Ditch at Farrenberg – 2011 Flood

St. John's Ditch flooding, looking NE – 2011 Flood





St. John's Ditch North of Highway 80, looking NE – 2011 Flood

Sikeston Ridge, east of Matthews, looking West – 2011 Flood





Sikeston Ridge, east of Matthews, looking West – 2011 Flood

St. John's Ditch north of Hwy 80, looking NE - 2011 Flood





St. John's Ditch at Sikeston, looking West – 2011 Flood

St. John's Ditch at Sikeston, looking NW – 2011 Flood





Mississippi County flooding, looking North – 2011 Flood

Mississippi County flooding, looking North – 2011 Flood





Scott Co. flooding at I-55/Benton, MO, looking East – 2011 Flood

Scott Co. Consolidated Ditch #1 north of Sikeston, looking East – 2011 Flood





Scott Co. Consolidated Ditch #1 north of Sikeston, looking SE – 2011 Flood

Scott Co. Consolidated Ditch #1 north of Sikeston, looking South - 2011 Flood



## Sikeston flooding St. John's Ditch overflow (Sikeston Airport in center of picture) 2011 Flood







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MACIA COLLEGE COLLEGE











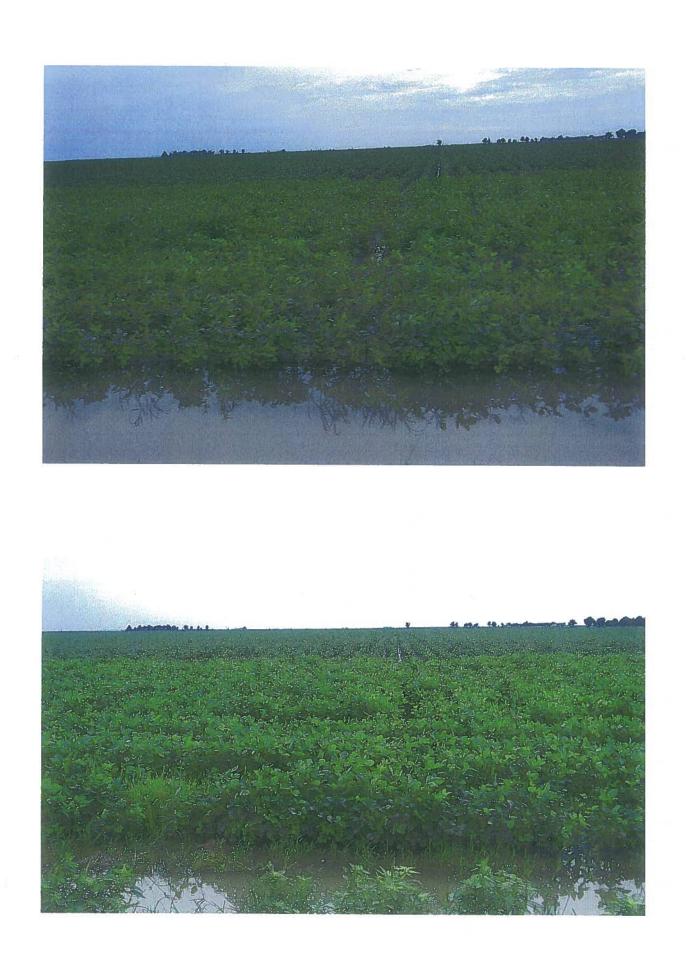




















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SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

July 9, 2012

Colonel Vernie Reichling Commander, Memphis District Corps of Engineers, Memphis 167 North Main, B202 Memphis, Tennessee 38103-1894

Dear Colonel Reichling,

As Memphis District work towards the completion of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation on the long-awaited St. Johns Bayou and New Madrid Floodway Project, I ask that the Corps give due consideration to prioritizing the much needed St. Johns Bayou Basin pumping station.

As you know, the St. Johns Bayou Basin pumping station is a key component of the overall project and impacts surrounding communities as well as key infrastructure in the region during flood events.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Sincere regards,

CLAIRE McCASKILL MISSOURI

COMMITTEES. ARMED SERVICES

COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND TRANSPORTATION

HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE **ON CONTRACTING OVERSIGHT** CHAIRMAN

United States Senate WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 12, 2012

Colonel Vernie L. Reichling, Jr. Commander, Memphis District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 167 North Main, B202 Memphis, Tennessee 38103-1894

Dear Colonel Reichling,

I would like to commend the Army Corps of Engineers for the hard work that has been done by the Memphis District in completing the latest Environmental Impact Statement for the much needed and long overdue St. Johns Bayou Basin and New Madrid Floodway Project. Once this project is ready to be executed I respectfully request that the Corps give consideration to prioritizing the much needed St. Johns Bayou Basin pumping station as an early component of the comprehensive project.

This pumping station, which will be installed in the St. Johns Bayou Basin at the New Madrid, Missouri floodgates, will protect the cities of New Madrid, East Prairie and Sikeston as well as 450 square miles of farmland in the watershed during flood events.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to this project, and for your consideration on this specific matter.

Sincerely,

Claire McCaskill United States Senator

cc: Lt. General Thomas P. Bostick, Commanding General, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

(573) 442 7130 FAX (573) 442 7140 4141 PENNEYI VANIA AVENIB S J/T 10

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324 PAHK CENTRAL WEST SUJ11 101 Seminarica D, MO 85806 (417) 868-8745 FAX (417) 831-1349

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IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO

- ' CAPE GRAADEAU, MO 63703 (573) 651 0864

FAX (573) 334-4278

915 EAST ASH STREET COLUMBIA, MO 65201 506 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON, DC 20510 (202) 224–6154 FAX: (202) 228–6326 http://mccaskill.senate.gov



WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 14, 2012

COMMITTEES: ARMED SERVICES

COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND TRANSPORTATION

HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONTRACTING OVERSIGHT CHAIRMAN

Ms. Lisa Jackson Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency Ariel Rios Building 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, DC 20460

Mr. Daniel M. Ashe Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, MS 330 Arlington, VA 22203

Dear Administrator Jackson and Director Ashe,

For decades, the Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS), United States Department of Agriculture, and Environmental Protection Agency have been working on issues related to the management of the St. Johns Bayou and New Madrid Floodway in the Bootheel of Missouri. As you know, there is a 1,500 foot gap in the levee protecting this region that results in frequent flooding of surrounding farmland by the Mississippi River. In addition, rainwater also regularly floods the towns of Charleston, East Prairie and parts of Sikeston, Missouri due to inadequate drainage.

The residents of this area deserve the same level of flood control provided all others along the Mississippi River. As you can imagine, the stops and starts in Federal efforts to improve flood control in this region over the last few decades have been frustrating for my constituents, who remain anxious for the multiple federal agencies involved to better coordinate their efforts, reach final agreement on a solution and take definitive action to resolve the matter. While a major flood control project to close the gap was once approved, funded and under construction, the permit was challenged, and in 2007 a federal judge ruled that the project couldn't move forward due to technical concerns within the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that authorized the permitting.

Following the ruling, the Corps tore down what had been built, and since 2007 the Corps has been dealing with inter-agency regulatory matters in order to complete a supplemental EIS that will address the concerns contained in the court ruling. An EIS, as well as four additional Supplemental EIS, have been conducted on this project since the 1990s. However, presentation to the public of the most recently completed Supplemental EIS, scheduled for September 14, 2012, was delayed when your agencies failed to reach consensus on the final report.

555 INDEPENDENCE ROOM 1600 CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO 63703 (573) 651–0964 Fax: (573) 334–4278

915 East Ash Street Columbia, MO 65201 (573) 442–7130 Fax: (573) 442–7140 4141 Pennsylvania Avenue Suite 101 Kansas City, MO 64111 (816) 421–1639 Fax: (816) 421–2562 5850 DELMAR BOULEVARD SUITE A ST. LOUIS, MO 63112 (314) 367–1364 FAX: (314) 361–8649 324 Park Central West Suite 101 Springfield, MO 65806 (417) 868–8745 Fax: (417) 831–1349 My constituents deserve to have a final answer regarding this project. The ongoing uncertainty and delays in reaching a final resolution to improving flood control along the St. Johns Bayou and in the New Madrid Floodway are unacceptable. I urge your agencies to reach resolution with the Corps within the next 30 days and for the newest Supplemental EIS to be presented to the public within the next 60 days. If this is not possible, please send me a written response explaining in detail the cause for the delay and the plan for reaching a timely resolution, including a clear timeline and a detailed description of the responsibilities for each agency involved in reaching a decision.

Sincerely,

United States Senator

Cc: Assistant Secretary Jo-Ellen Darcy

**JO ANN EMERSON** MEMBER OF CONGRESS BTH DISTHICT, MISSOURI

COMMETTEL APPROPRIATIONS

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> > 1301 KINGSHIGHWAY HOLLA. MO 85401 (573):164-2455

22 EAST COLUMBIA FARMINGTON, MO 83840 15731 758-9755

35 COURT SQUARE SUITE 300 WEST PLAINS, MO 157/4 (417) 254-1515

April 20, 2012

Colonel Vernie L. Reichling Commander, Memphis District Corp of Engineers, Memphis 167 N. Main, B202 Memphis, TN 38103-1894

Dear Colonel Reichling.

As we look forward to the initiation, construction, and eventual completion of the much-needed St. Johns/New Madrid Floodway Project, I respectfully request that you please consider giving priority to the St. Johns Bayou Basin pumping station, as an early component of the comprehensive project. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely. in Coursen

Jø Ann Emerson Member of Congress



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary Washington, D.C. 20250

JUN 2 1 2011

Mr. T.W. Medlin President St. John's Bayou Basin Drainage District Post Office Box 95, 501 Virginia New Madrid, Missouri 63869

Dear Mr. Medlin:

Thank you for your letter of May 11, 2011, concerning the need for a pumping station at the New Madrid floodgates on the Mississippi River. I apologize for the delayed response.

I recognize the devastating effect the recent flooding has had on property and lives, and understand the recovery effort will take time and resources.

Also, I appreciate your many efforts to secure flood protection for your community through proactive inquiries of available funds and resources. Implementing and constructing any structural feature, such as this proposed pumping station, requires careful planning and coordination with all Federal, State, and local agencies.

Although the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) does not have financial resources to provide immediate, direct relief, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service is working with the Memphis District U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency to develop a long-range solution to this problem.

I share your concern and interest in the availability of assistance to construct a pumping station. I urge you to use all authority available as a legal entity in Missouri and continue your pursuit of a pumping station for the St. John's Bayou Basin Drainage District.

Again, thank you for writing. I appreciate that you took the time to contact me about this very important issue.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Vilsack Secretary



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US Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration

3220 W. Edgewood, Suite H Jefferson City, Missouri 66109 (573) 836-7104 Fax (573) 638-9283 Missouri FHWAGetwa.doLgov

June 21. 2011

T.W. Medlin T.W. Medlin Farms, Inc. P.O. Box 95 New Madrid, MO 63869

Dear Mr. T.W. Medlin:

Thank you for your letter of June 17, 2011, inviting us to a meeting between the St. John's Bayou Basin Drainage District and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on June 22, 2011. Unfortunately were unable to meet with you on this short notice due to other commitments. We could meet with you at a future date and time to discuss the flooding issues with I-55, and offer the following comments concerning this flooding.

Missouri Division

The Federal Highway Administration is concerned with the flooding of I-55 near mile marker 59 due to backwater trapped within the St. John's Bayou Basin Drainage District. This flooding creates disruptions to traffic on the interstate system, forcing interstate traffic to utilize detours on routes with less raffic capacity and fewer lanes. The flooding also creates a situation where the decision is required as to when to continue pumping and when to abandon pumping for safety, and succumbing to the flooding. During the flooding event in the past months the work to keep the interstate open to traffic required substantial resources in sandbagging and pumping operations. Luckily, this time, the efforts and the backwater elevation allowed I-55 to remain open. In 1972-73, this section of interstate was closed due to backwater flooding.

FHWA would be in support of solutions to eliminate or reduce the likelihood of flooding on I-55 at this location.

If you desire additional information please contact me by mail or by telephone.

Sincerely yours.

Edgardo Cordero Assistant Division Administrator





OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

State of Missouri Jefferson City 65101 www.ltgov.mo.gov

PETER D. KINDER LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR STATE CAPITOL ROOM 224 (573) 751-4727

June 10, 2013

Major General John W. Peabody US Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi Valley Division 1400 Walnut Street Vicksburg, MS 39180

Dear Major General Peabody,

I urge you to give priority status to the St. Johns Bayou Basin pumping station that is in the overall plan of the New Madrid Floodway Project. After historic flooding in 2011, more than \$11.5 million in cropland and drainage-ditch damage was sustained in the St. Johns Bayou Basin, according to Natural Resources Conservation Service estimates. Priority status on this project will reduce the chance of having this damage occur in the future.

I thank you for your leadership and attention to this project, and again ask you that you make it a priority of the Corps to finish the pumping station project.

Sincerely,

< meler

Peter D. Kinder Lieutenant Governor



#### Attorney General of Missouri

Jefferson City

CHRIS KOSTER ATTORNEY GENERAL

65102

P.O. Box 899 (573) 751-3321

July 8, 2013

Major General John W. Peabody Commander of the Mississippi Valley Division President of the Mississippi River Commission United States Army Corps of Engineers P.O. Box 80 Vicksburg, MS 39181

Dear General Peabody,

Currently, the Army Corps of Engineers is analyzing the effects of the proposed St. Johns Bayou Basin – New Madrid Floodway Project. While the project has many facets to consider, I write to emphasize the great value that elements of the project will have on the people who live in the St. Johns Bayou Basin and the State of Missouri in general.

The St. Johns Bayou Basin is home to more than thirty-thousand Missourians. It is also an important part of Missouri's economy, accounting for an annual estimated economic activity in excess of half a billion dollars. Additionally, significant transportation resources lie within the Basin, including one of the most critical north-south thoroughfares in the region, Interstate 55.

The project under consideration includes elements that will safeguard the communities in the St. Johns Bayou Basin from the constant threat of floods. For example, the installation of a permanent, adequate pumping station would help to protect the many Missourians who live in the Basin as well as the economic resources located there. As the Corps considers its options regarding this project, I urge you to recognize the vital importance the project holds to the people of the St. Johns Bayou Basin and take the action necessary to keep them safe.

Thank you for your attention and efforts on this important matter.

espectfully

CHRIS KOSTER Attorney General



**CLINT ZWEIFEL** MISSOURI STATE TREASURER

July 8, 2013

2/15/2013 Major General Joh V. Peabody

PO Box 80 Vicksburg, MS 39181

Dear Maj. General Peabody,

I am writing to you in my official role as State Treasurer of Missouri and my role as the state's chief financial officer to respectfully request that the Army Corps of Engineers give consideration to prioritizing the St. Johns Bayou Basin pumping station as an early component of the New Madrid Floodway Project.

This pumping station, which will be installed in the St. Johns Bayou Basin at the New Madrid, Missouri floodgates, will protect the cities of New Madrid, East Prairie and Sikeston, as well as 450 square miles of farmland in the watershed during flood events. This farm land is essential to the economy of the region, one of the poorest in our state. The 35,000 residents of the Bayou Basin also deserve to be protected from the constant threat that flooding poses to their homes and businesses.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to this project, and for your consideration on this specific matter.

Sincere Clint Zweifel

STATE CAPITOL - JEFFERSON CITY P.O. Box 210 JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65102 (573) 751-2411 Fax: (573) 751-9443 RELAY MO/DEAF TTY (800) 735-2966 WWW.TREASUREE.MO.GOV





JASON KANDER SECRETARY OF STATE STATE OF MISSOURI

James C. Kirkpatrick State Information Center (573) 751-4936

CAPITOL OFFICE ROOM 208 (573) 751-2379

August 1, 2013

Major General John W. Peabody P.O. Box 80 Vicksburg, MS 39181

Dear Maj. General Peabody,

I am writing to respectfully request that the Army Corps of Engineers prioritize the St. Johns Bayou Basin pumping station as an early component of the New Madrid Floodway Project.

This pumping station, which would be installed in the St. Johns Bayou Basin at the New Madrid, Mo., floodgates, would protect the cities of New Madrid, East Prairie and Sikeston. The station would also help safeguard 450 square miles of farmland in the watershed during flood events. Missouri depends on this farmland as an essential part of the economy of the region, so it is vitally important that we do whatever we can to protect it. There are also 35,000 residents of the Bayou Basin that currently worry about the constant threat that flooding poses to their homes and businesses – and this project would help ease their concerns.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to this project. Please let me know if I can be of assistance in any way.

Sincerely,

Jason Kander Missouri Secretary of State

Missouri Department of Transportation



Stan Johnson, Area Engineer

18894 State Highway 25 Chaffee, MO 83740 (573) 794-2986

www.modot.state.mo.ue

June 21, 2011

Mr. Scott Matthews St. John's Drainage District 717 Tanner St. Sikeston, MO 63801

Dear Mr. Matthews:

As you know, MoDOT has exerted quite an effort to keep Interstate 55 safe and passable during the recent flooding.

The existing system of levees and pump protecting I-55 was designed after the historic 1973 floods when the interstate almost closed. We have activated it a few times since then when St. John's ditch is high because the gates are closed and there is significant rainfall in the St. John's basin. We activated the system again this spring.

The difference this year was the continued rise of the water. Thus year, we had to raise the levees approximately two feet and add additional sandbags along the interstate to keep it passable. There were locations where the water was almost a foot higher than the high side of the curve. If these levees had failed, we would not have been able to keep the interstate open and would have had to detour traffic up US 61, a two lane roadway. The cost so far for these flood relief efforts is approximately \$163,000.

Any efforts that the Drainage District could make to alleviate the potential for flooding at I-55 would go far to enhance motorist safety.

If you have any questions or need further information, please feel free to call me at (573) 225-3401.

Sincerely bhnson

cc: File



**Missouri Department of Transportation** 

Southeast District Mark Shelton, District Engineer

2675 North Main Street P.O. Box 160 Sikeston, Missouri 63801 573.472.5333 Fax: 573.472.5351 1.888.ASK MODOT (275.6636)

March 26, 2012

Colonel Vernie Reichling District Commander U.S.A.C.E., Memphis District 167 N. Main B-202, Ste. 590 Memphis, Tn. 38103-1894

RE: St. John's Bayou Drainage Issues

**Colonel Reichling:** 

In reference to your ongoing EIS for proposed improvements to St. John's Bayou and the New Madrid Floodway, I want to reiterate that MoDOT supports the development of a solution to reduce or eliminate the potential of flooding on Interstate 55 near the 58 mile marker at St. John's Bayou.

MoDOT has expended many resources to combat flooding on this stretch of interstate over the years, most recently in 2008 and 2011. Should Interstate 55 be closed due to flooding, the availability of reasonable alternate routes for the large volume of traffic on the interstate is extremely limited in this area.

If I can be of any further assistance as you develop your EIS, please contact me at 573/472-5261 or by email at eric.krapf@modot.mo.gov.

Sincerely

Eric Krapí, PE Transportation Project Manager

ek



Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri. www.modot.org CLERK OF THE COUNTY COMMISSION COUNTY CLERK CLEMENT CRAVENS NEW MADRID COUNTY, MISSOURI

DEPUTY CLERKS ELLEN BALDWIN DANA FISHER CLYDE M. HAWES, PRESIDING COMMISSIONER MARK BAKER, DIST. 1 COMMISSIONER DON DAY, DIST. 2 COMMISSIONER

P.O. BOX 68 NEW MADRID, MO 63869 (573) 748-2524 FAX (573) 748-9269

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March 15, 2010

Col. Thomas P. Smith U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Memphis District 167 N. Main Street, Room 535 Memphis, TN 38103-1894

Dear Col. Smith,

The New Madrid County Commission respectfully requests that the Corps proceed with the installation of pumps at New Madrid for the St. John's Bayou Basin. The risk of severe flooding on the lower end of the basin has increased considerably due to ditch cleaning done in the past year.

Sincerely,

Clyde M. Hawes Presiding Commissioner



#### CITY OF NEW MADRID MUNICIPAL LIGHT & POWER 560 Mott Street, New Madrid, MO 63869-0096 Phone: 573-748-2866 Fax: 573-748-5402

February 27, 2012

Colonel Vernie L. Reichling, Jr. Commander, Memphis District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 167 N. Main St., B-202 Memphis, TN 38103-1894

Dear Colonel:

On behalf of the City of New Madrid, we would like to go on record to highly support the construction of a pumping station at the dam located at the end of St. John's Bayou.

The flood of 2011 maxed out the flood control efforts of the City of New Madrid. The levees held, and our recently installed back-up generators and pumps were successful in helping keep storm water out of our City. However, the most pressing issue threatening our City was the water from the north feeding into St. John's Bayou. We operated seven tractors and pumps, 24 hours per day, seven days per week to keep New Madrid from flooding. This was a monumental task on our staff and equipment. The Corps placed six large pumps at the dam but more water was feeding into St. John's than the pumps could remove. Bottom line, the pumps were just not big enough and the time to transport them. put them in place, and build a road over the discharge pipes was too late to be truly effective.

We understand the purpose of the floodway and it appears to have been successful and the Corps is to be commended on their actions. However, there is absolutely no reason to not build a pumping station at the end of St. John's Bayou to prevent flooding that our northerly neighbors incurred or to burden the City of New Madrid with the manpower and cost associated with moving all this water over the dam to prevent it from flooding our City.

We feel it is imperative that pumps at the dam be installed and that it be a stand-alone project with construction to begin as soon as possible. We understand that the Corps cannot fix every problem out there but this one is feasible and will save millions of dollars in federal assistance form FEMA, lost crop production, and losses to homeowners and lives.

Your consideration is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely

Donnie Brown Mayor

Scott Matthews Ted Medlin

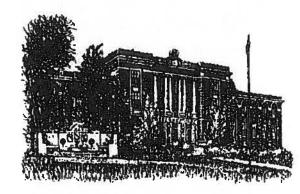
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#### MEMBERS COUNTY COMMISSION

JAMIE BURGER PRESIDING COMMISSIONER

DENNIS ZIEGENHORN FIRST DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

DONNIE KIEFER SECOND DISTRICT COMMISSIONER



Rita Milam Clerk of Commission

PHONE: 573-545-3549 PHONE: 573-471-9447 FAX: 573-545-3540

## SCOTT COUNTY COMMISSION

P.O. Box 188 Benton, Missouri 63736

November 10, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

Drainage for eastern half of Scott County is overseen by Consolidated Drainage District #2. They have been very aggressive in excavating main ditches with the tax benefit money collected along with (EWP) funds that have been available.

We feel the Drainage District drainage is as good as has been for several years. There are still secondary ditches and high spots in main ditches that need to be addressed and are ongoing problems. (WIP)

Our main concern is to get our water moving through New Madrid County as efficiently as possible so our ditches can stay purged out and not backup which will result in sediment backfill.

We are in support of St. John's Bayou Basin controlling the opening and closing of flood relief gates. Scott County's entire eastern half of water ends up there. We have no water that ends up in St. John's Levee and Drainage District who now controls flood relief gates. The gates need to be controlled by who is directly affected.

Jamie Burger

Jamie Burger Presiding Commissioner

| Nenniz innha      | Jamie Kufe    |
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| Dennis Ziegenhorn | Donnie Kiefer |

1<sup>st</sup> District Commissioner

Donnie Kiefer 2<sup>nd</sup> District Commissioner



www.scottcountymo.com

NOV-22-2013 FRI 10:05 PM Lake County Mayor

FAX NO. 17312539815

P. 31/01

MACIE M. ROBERSON

TELEPHONE 731/253-7382 County Mayor, Lake County Box 1 • Court House 229 Church Street Tiptonville, Tennessee 38079



November 21, 2013 Brigadier General Peter A. DeLuca Commanding General U.S. Army Engineer Division Mississippi Valley P.O. Box 80 Vicksburg, MS 39181

Dear General DeLuca,

This might seem ironic that you would be getting a letter of support and request since I live on the opposite side of the Mississippi River. The project I am writing about the St. Johns Bayou Pumping Station. It would help and benefit a great number of people in that basin.

You know I always try to make conditions better for everyone in the Mississippi River Basin and just not the things that affect us. I feel that would not be an adverse effect on this side of the river.

Thanks for all your help Macic Koberson Lake County Mayor

# COMMENTS ON JULY 2013 DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE ST. JOHN'S BAYOU NEW MADRID FLOODWAY PROJECT

SUBMITTED BY

THE ST. JOHN'S BAYOU BASIN DRAINAGE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**NOVEMBER 25, 2013** 

# PART 3

The undersigned are citizens of New Madrid, Missouri, or owners of property and farms, or renters of lands, that lie within the area drained by the ditches of the St. John's Bayou Basin Drainage District system, or have governmental authority over such lands. In the backwater flood of 2011, and prior years, flood waters had no outlet, and extensively flooded farms and homes and threatened to inundate the town of New Madrid. In some cases, the flood waters were on farm fields for weeks. This delayed or, in some cases prevented, planting of crops, with devastating impact on the livelihood of farmers, landowners and businesses, both inside and outside of the District. The flooding closed a number of roads in the area, even reducing to one lane Interstate 55, the main north-south artery, for a period of time. Similar problems occur in recurring periods of backwater flooding.

We implore the Corps of Engineers, and all other entities with jurisdiction or authority, to immediately authorize and install pumping facilities at the southern end of the St. John's Bayou Basin Drainage District, at the site of the current gravity flow gates in the setback levee at New

Madrid, to lessen the impact of flood waters in the St. John's Bayou Basin Drainage District watershed and on our lands, and help prevent these deplorable conditions in the future. Installation of the pumps, to drain the ditches that overflow during flooding, will help prevent the disastrous effects of flooding to the hundreds of farmers, landowners and businesses. We request

that the operation of these pumps be vested in the St. John's Bayou Basin Drainage District to ensure efficient and timely operation of the pumping station. Please help us.

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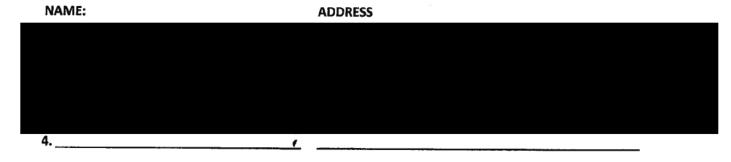
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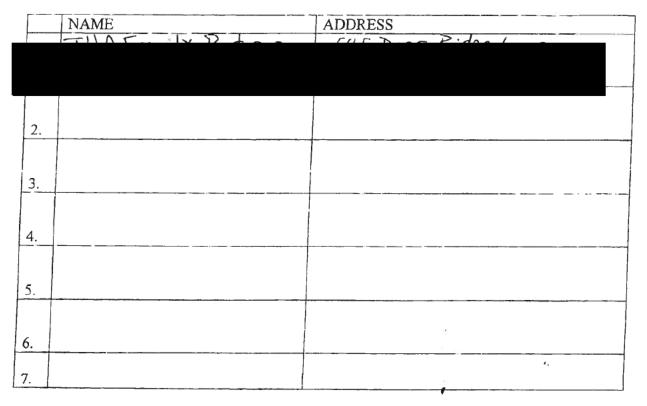
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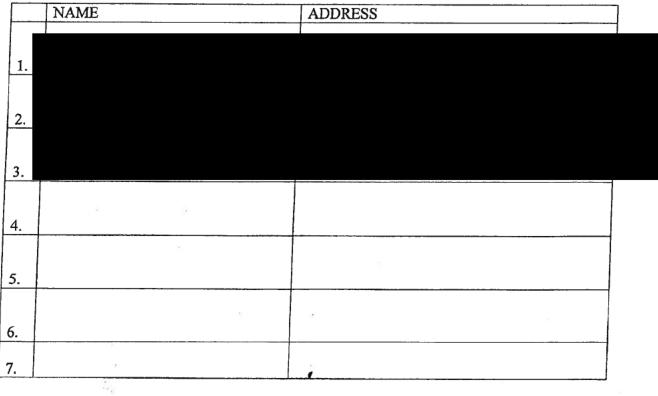
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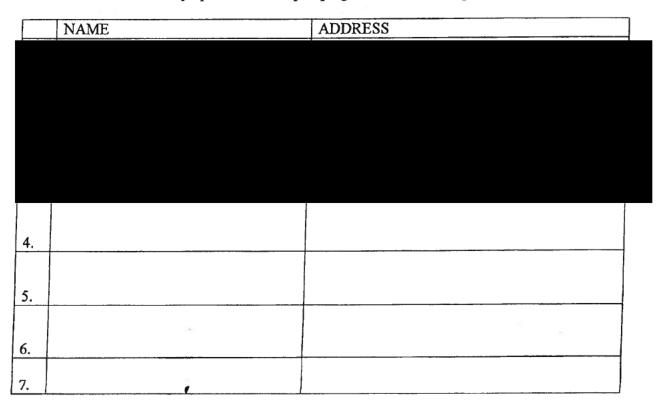
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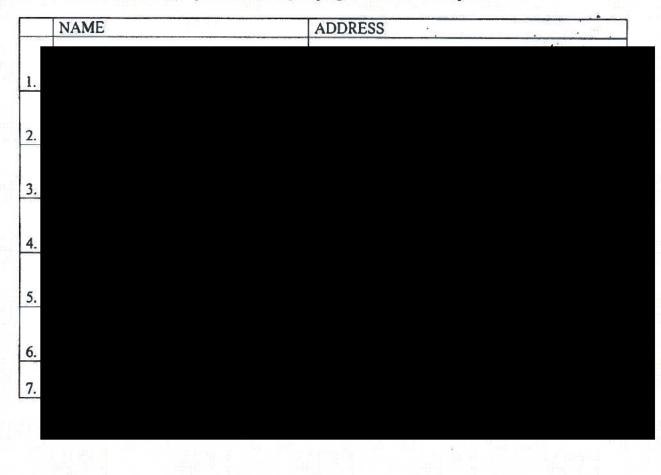
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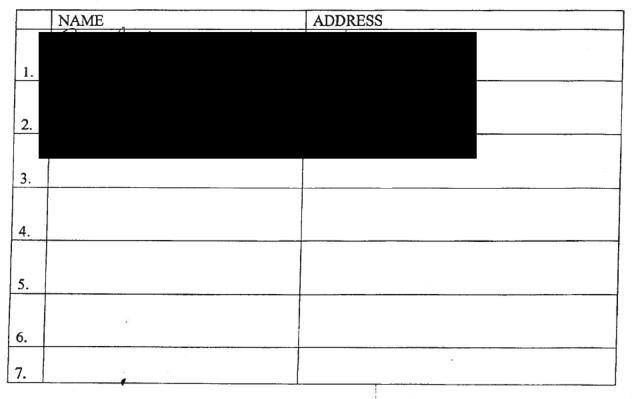
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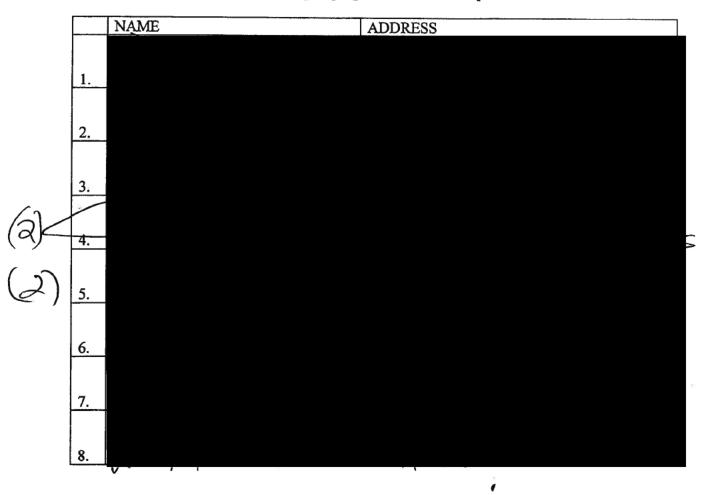
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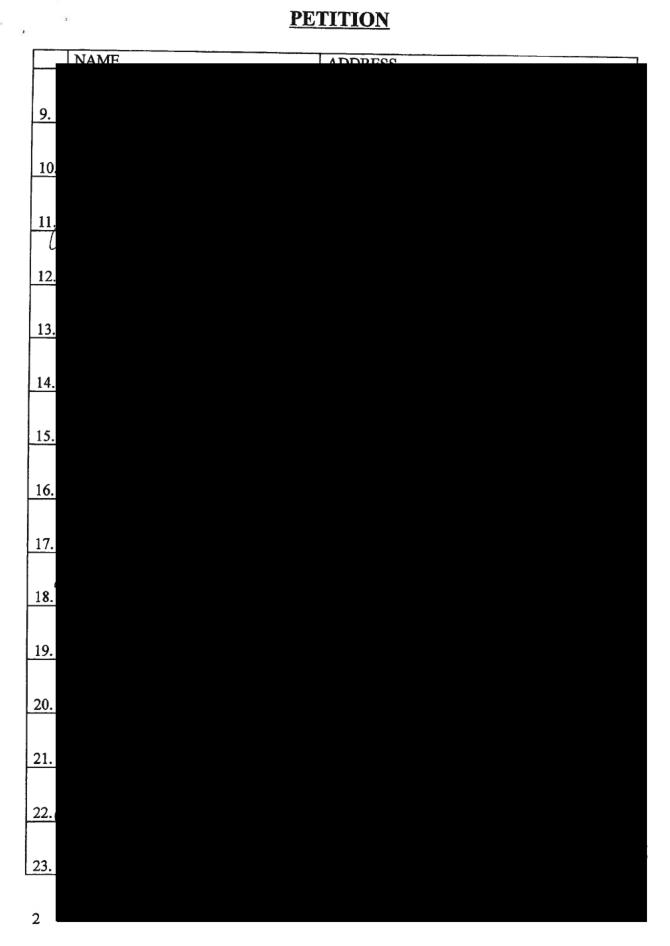
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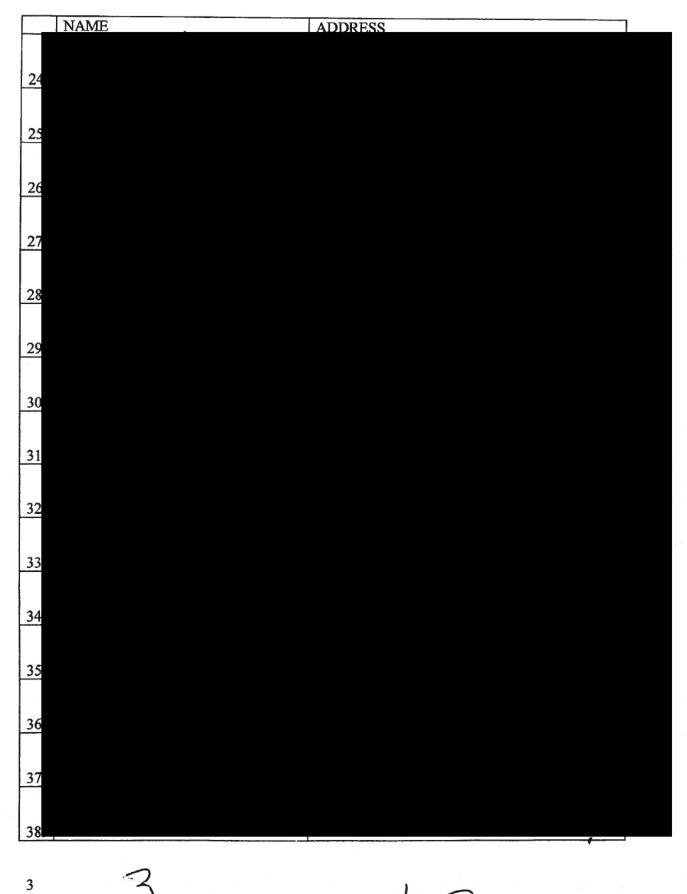
The undersigned are owners of properties in the Mini Farms Subdivision, outside of Sikeston, Missouri, comprised of approximately 200 one acre lots adjacent to the St. John's Ditch, part of the St. John's Bayou Basin Drainage District system. In the flood of 2011, flood waters from the St. John's Ditch flooded our subdivision, closing three of four north-south and one of two eastwest roads in the subdivision for weeks. Most of the residents were unable to receive basic needs, such as medical, sanitation and food. Many homes were flooded, and septic systems throughout the subdivision backed up and overflowed. Backwater flooding has occurred in the Bayou Basin Watershed beginning with the installation of the gravity flow gates in 1953, 1955 and continues today, a period of sixty (60) years as of now and continuing with no resolution.

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The undersigned are owners of properties in the Mini Farms Subdivision, outside of Sikeston, Missouri, comprised of approximately 200 one acre lots adjacent to the St. John's Ditch, part of the St. John's Bayou Basin Drainage District system. In the flood of 2011, flood waters from the St. John's Ditch flooded our subdivision, closing three of four north-south and one of two eastwest roads in the subdivision for weeks. Most of the residents were unable to receive basic needs, such as medical, sanitation and food. Many homes were flooded, and septic systems throughout the subdivision backed up and overflowed. Backwater flooding has occurred in the Bayou Basin Watershed beginning with the installation of the gravity flow gates in 1953, 1955 and continues today, a period of sixty (60) years as of now and continuing with no resolution.

We implore the Corps of Engineers, and all other entities with jurisdiction or authority, to immediately authorize and install pumping facilities at the southern end of the St. John's Bayou Basin Drainage District, at the site of the current gravity flow gates in the setback levee at New Madrid, to lessen the impact of flood waters in the St. John's Bayou Basin Drainage District watershed and our neighborhood, and help prevent these deplorable conditions in the future. Installation of the pumps, to drain the ditches that overflow during flooding, will help prevent the disastrous effects of flooding to the hundreds of residents in our neighborhood. We request that the operation of these pumps be vested in the St. John's Bayou Basin Drainage District to insure efficient and timely operation of the pumping station. Please help us.

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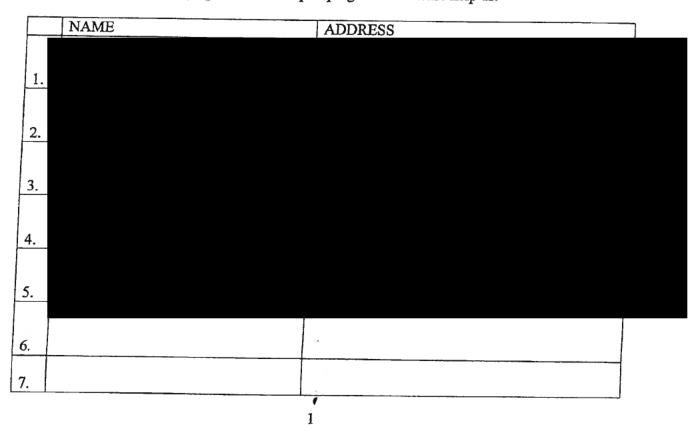
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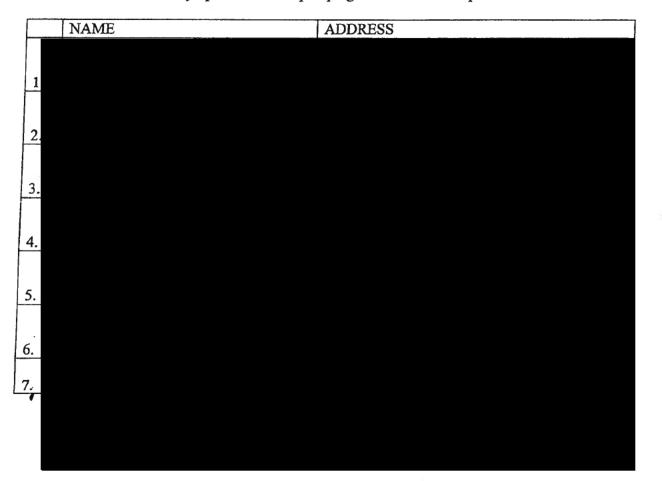
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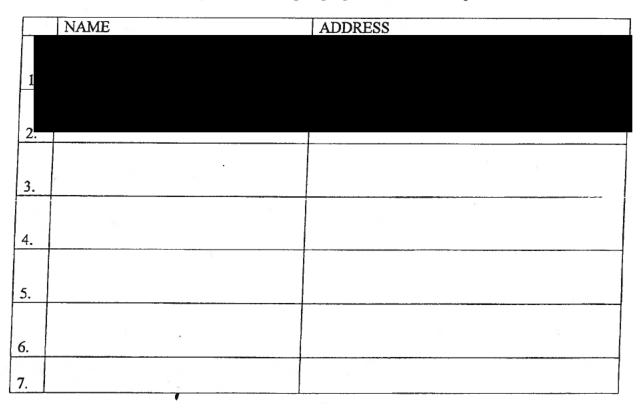
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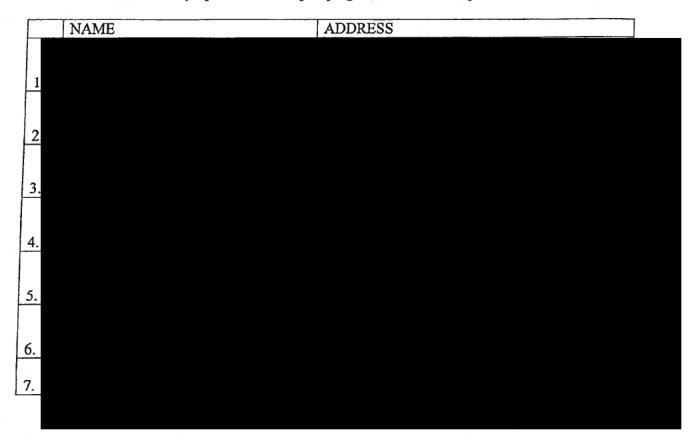
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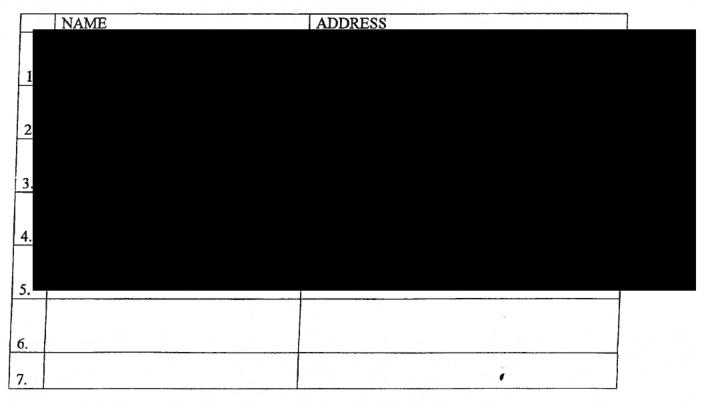
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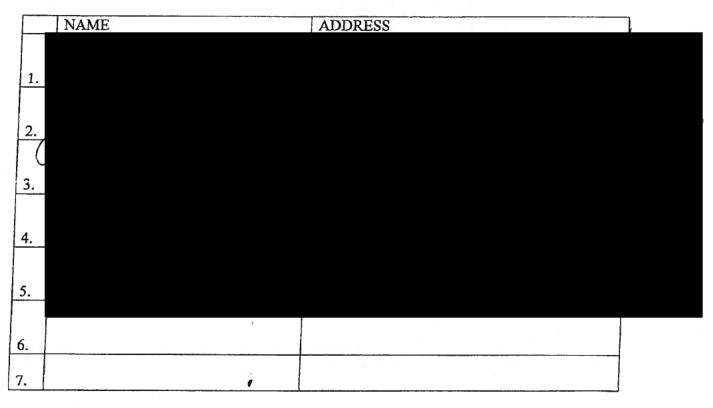
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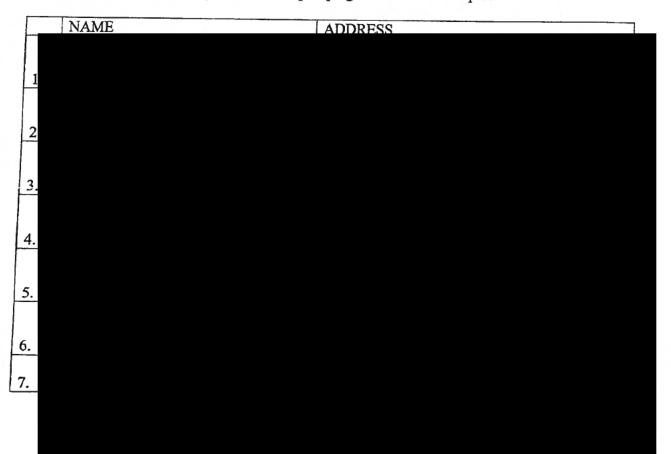
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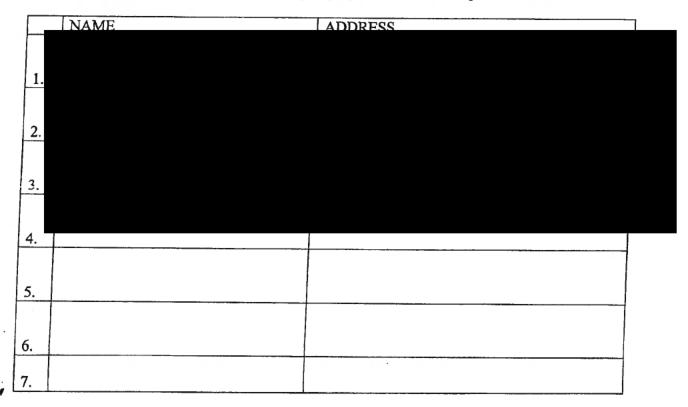
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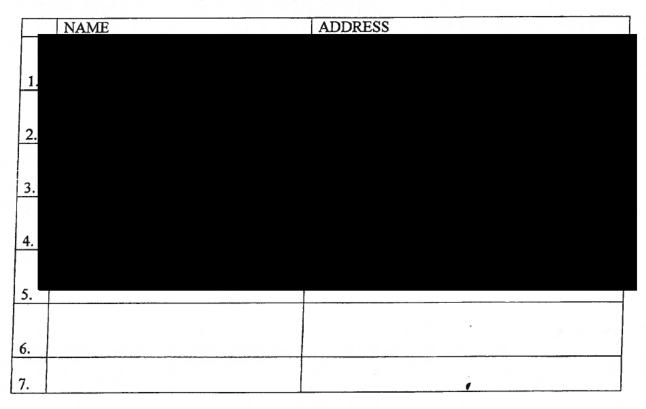
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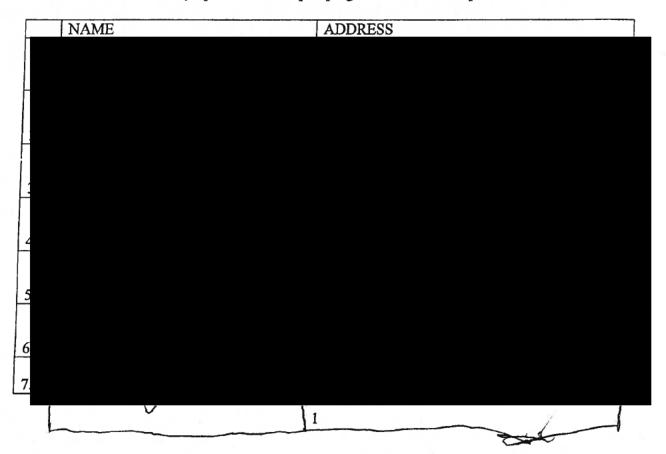
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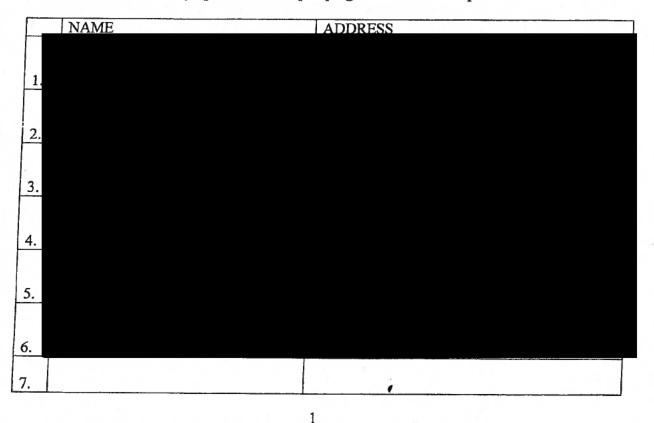
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Please help us.

PLEASE SIGN THIS PETITON/ ASK A NEIGHBOR TO ALSO SIGN AND THEN DROP IT OFF AT

# THE WEEKLY RECORD OFFICE LOCATED AT 218 MAIN STREET, NEW MADRID BY NOON NEXT TUESDAY AUGUST 27<sup>TH</sup>

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE VOICES OF NEW MADRID CITIZENS BE HEARD BY THE CORP OF ENGINEERS

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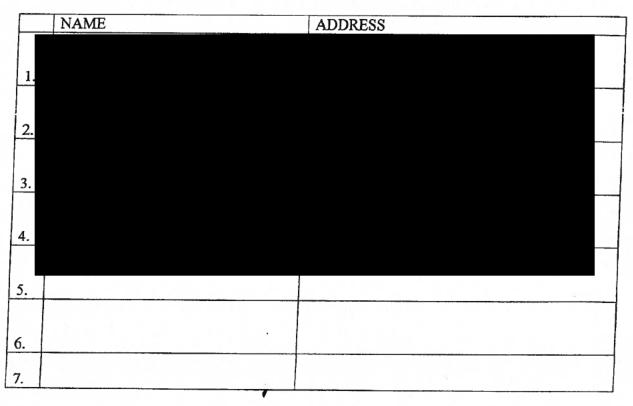
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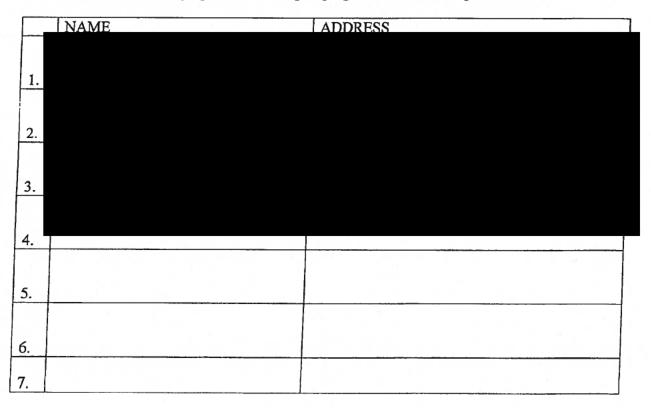


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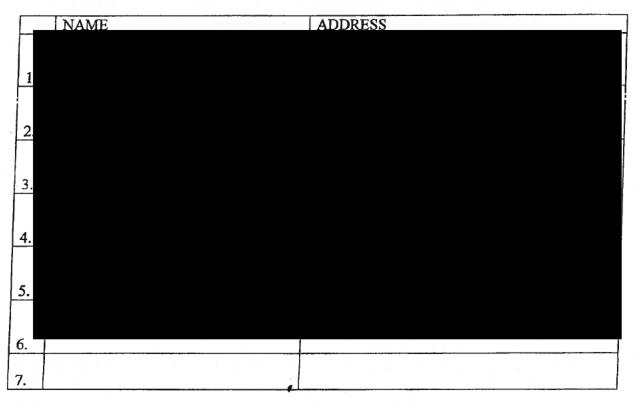
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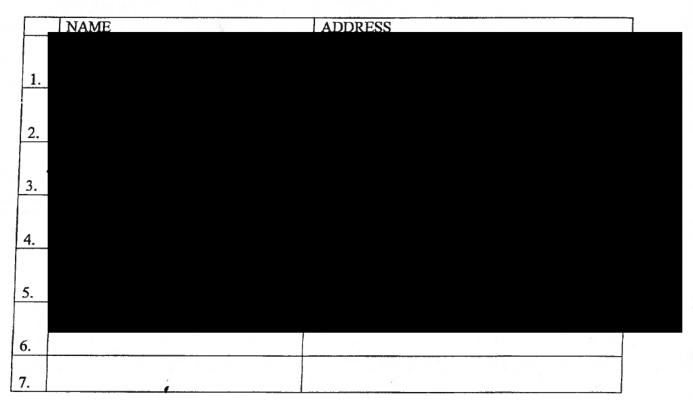
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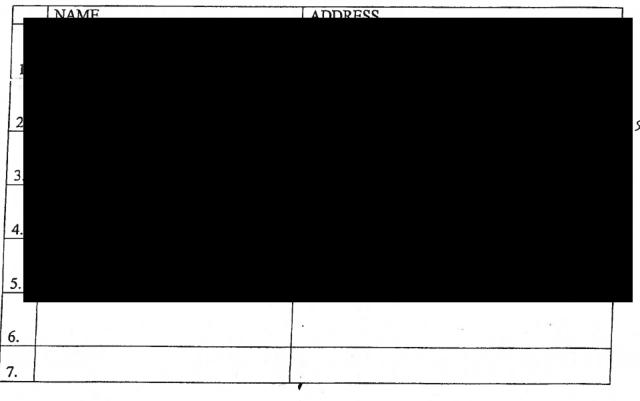
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Please help us.

PLEASE SIGN THIS PETITON/ ASK A NEIGHBOR TO ALSO SIGN AND THEN DROP IT OFF AT

### THE WEEKLY RECORD OFFICE LOCATED AT 218 MAIN STREET, NEW MADRID BY NOON NEXT TUESDAY AUGUST 27<sup>TH</sup>

NAME: ADDRESS

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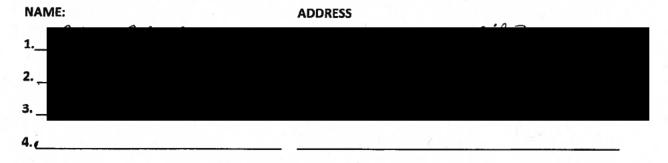
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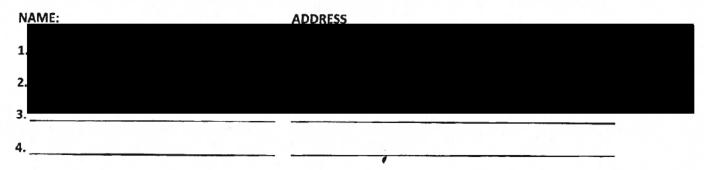
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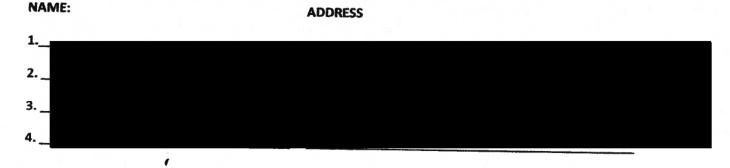
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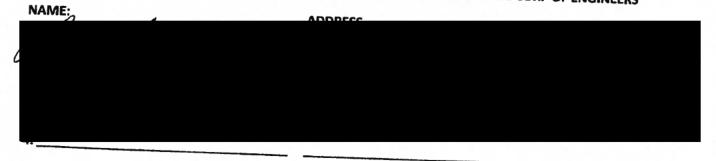
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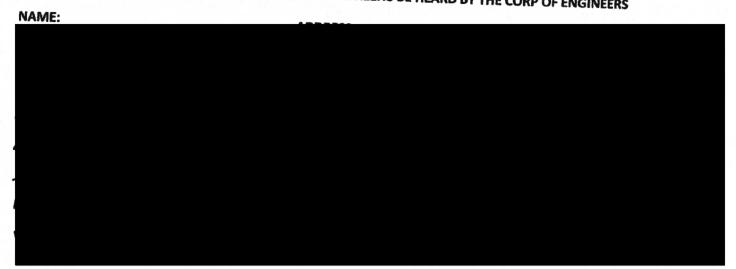
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NAME:

ADDRESS

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In some cases, the flood waters were on farm fields for weeks. This delayed or, in some cases prevented, planting of crops, with devastating impact on the livelihood of farmers, landowners and businesses, both inside and outside of the District. The flooding closed a number of roads in the area, even reducing to one lane of Interstate 55, the main north-south artery, for a period of time. Similar problems occur in recurring periods of backwater flooding.

We implore the Corps of Engineers, and all other entities with jurisdiction or authority, to immediately authorize and install pumping facilities at the southern end of the St. John's Bayou Basin Drainage District, at the site of the current gravity flow gates in the setback levee at New Madrid, to lessen the impact of flood waters in the St. John's Bayou Basin Drainage District watershed and on our lands, and help prevent these deplorable conditions in the future. Installation of the pumps, to drain the ditches that overflow during flooding, will help prevent the disastrous effects of flooding to the hundreds of farmers, landowners and businesses. We request that the operation of these pumps be vested in the St. John's Bayou Basin Drainage District to ensure efficient and timely operation of the pumping station.

Please help us.

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### THE WEEKLY RECORD OFFICE LOCATED AT 218 MAIN STREET, NEW MADRID BY NOON NEXT TUESDAY AUGUST 27<sup>TH</sup>

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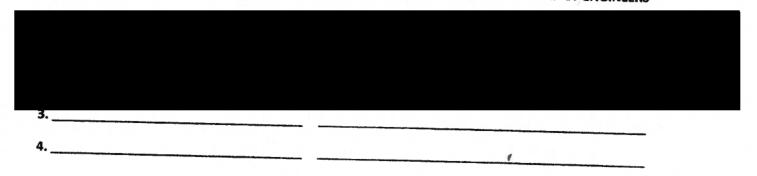
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