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**Charlotte A. Randolph**, *Parish President*

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **State Plans Appeal to Provide More Time to Study Flood Maps**

State officials committed Friday to a two-step plan to assist coastal parishes with new flood map issues. Leaders of the Coastal Restoration Protection Authority and the Louisiana Recovery Authority pledged to appeal to the Federal Emergency Management Agency to allow parishes additional time to study the newly introduced maps before adoption.

“This is the first step in their plan to assist us,” said Lafourche Parish President Charlotte Randolph. “If this effort is unsuccessful, then the CPRA and LRA will use their combined resources to scrutinize the technical data used to determine the storm surge of the 100-year storm.”

Randolph appeared before the LRA at its November meeting to appeal to the authority for funding to conduct an independent study of the data used to determine the new flood maps. Many of the coastal parishes - Cameron, Vermillion, Iberia, Terrebonne, Lafourche, Plaquemines and St. Tammany and others - are struggling with the new elevation requirements.

Randolph’s appeal was on behalf of Parishes Against Coastal Erosion, a group of 19 coastal parishes in Louisiana.

“When FEMA and the Corps produced the Lafourche maps earlier this year, we were shocked that the South Lafourche Levee system wasn’t even included on the map,” Randolph said. “They are saying that it doesn’t exist insofar as protection is concerned.

“As I began to discuss this issue with other parish leaders, I realized that this situation is not unique to us; others were experiencing the same problems,” she said. “We went to the state for help for all of us.”

In the Friday conference call, the leaders agreed that some data included in the FIRMs - flood insurance rating maps - was flawed and could be disputed based on research already conducted for some of the parishes. Instead of each parish conducting individual studies, one comprehensive study could reveal additional information or dispute the findings of the Corps, which conducted the elevation study.

“It’s essential for the future of the coastal parishes to determine the best protection for the people who live here,” Randolph said. “But the level of protection must be based on the best, truest science available. We cannot continue to grow and prosper with the maps presented to us.”  
FEMA works with the National Flood Insurance Program to determine flood zones and bases flood insurance ratings on the elevations in the zones.

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