From: Gloria Van Zandt
To: Sttammanyfs
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Proposed I Levee construction
Date: Monday, August 21, 2023 1:33:44 PM

To whom it may concern:

It is with great concern that I am writing to voice my opposition to the most recent plans for levee construction.

The areas east of Military Road and south of I-12 are left outside the levee and will be subjected to increased flooding due to levee construction . Waters will pile up against levee in this large area especially with storms that come out of the south. Areas never flooded or only experienced minor flooding will be subjected to greater danger of flooding as a result Ironically, the areas outside of the aforementioned area contain some of the larger, newer and more expensive homes and subdivisions in southeastern St Tammany Parish and the Slidell area specifically.

In the 33 years that we lived in our home in the Old River Road subdivisions, we experienced only minor interior flooding (1") with the major inundation of Hurricane Katrina's waters in 2005. Wind damage was a different situation in our heavily-wooded subdivision. Even through later hurricanes and Pearl River flooding, we remained dry and flood free. I have no doubt that the proposed exclusion of our area outside the levee will result in dangerous flooding. The dispersal of rising water will be stopped by the levee and potentially cause extreme flooding experienced by thousands of inhabitants in the New Orleans & Metairie areas.

I am furthered concerned that there may not be sufficient funding available for homeowners who will need to raise their homes due to increased danger of flooding. Thousands of homes, businesses, and apartments will be in endangered areas outside the proposed levee.

My final worry lies with home and flood protection insurance. Currently fewer companies offer insurance coverage in the state; remaining companies have prohibitively high rates. Will any insurance actually be available for property outside the levee? Home values will potentially drop considerably.

These considerations that I've covered are a definite concern for us, but we are only one family out of the thousands who will be left unprotected and more endangered by this proposed levee construction.

Sincerely,
The Van Zandt Family
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