Lisa P. Molero
[redacted]

September 4, 2023

Re: Proposed Flood Wall behind French Branch

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you with concerns regarding the United States Army Corps of Engineering (USACE) St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana Feasibility Study: Alignment for East Slidell Opmizaon Plan. I have looked at the whole plan in its entity. It appears that our local government is very supportive of this levee. Over the past several years, these local governments have allowed people/contractors to build in areas that should have remained as wetlands, buffer regions, etc. Why don't we STOP allowing more homes to be built in newly developed subdivisions in St. Tammany Parish causing drainage issues!!!!! As a concerned citizen, I cannot and will not support the decisions the governments are making on my behalf.

Will the "inside the wall" protect me if we have another catastrophic rainfall as in 1995? Look at the amount of flooding that today's rains have caused in French Branch and other subdivisions outside of the proposed wall! I can only imagine the flooding if we received this amount of rain with a "wall"!!! Our houses will be floating off of their slabs! I would think that the homeowners in French Branch and surrounding area, pay several thousand dollars of yearly taxes. I know my 2023 Property Taxes are over $3,000.00. Will my tax dollars go to maintaining the levee/wall, pumps and flood gates? Will a mileage have to be placed on the ballet for approval by the Citizens of St. Tammany Parish? As of now, St. Tammany Parishioners pay the highest property taxes in the State of Louisiana. I can assure you, the majority of the residents here do not want this proposed levee. It will result in tax dollars to maintain a system that could diminish their homes, personal properties, cars, etc. which ultimately will increase both our homeowners' insurance, as well as flood!

The concerns of the community for building a levee and being left out of the governments Alignment for East Slidell Opmizaon Plan be DENIED!!! It is my understanding that the benefit to rebuild the wetlands have been destroyed by United States Army Corps of Engineering, hurricanes, coastal erosion, and other human involvement. The rebuilding of the wetlands is the only plan backed up by sound scientific research that our community can bear.

My home has been here for 26 plus years. The only time that my house at 244 Rue Jonathan has flooded was due to the Pearl River rising as the tidal surge pushed water into the river during Hurricane Katrina resulting in approximately 8 inches of water which came in and out within a few hours. The levee will do nothing for this act of nature, but improving our natural buffers will decrease the effects of these events. What the proposed levee does is allow insurance companies to further discriminate who they will cover thus making home values plummet due to lack of affordability of insurance companies astronomical Rates. If I knew that our local governments were going to propose a wall being built right outside of French Branch, I would have never moved here.

Re: Levee Wall

How will this levee wall effect our schools? There are several schools that will be outside of the protective wall. Where will these thousands of kids go to school if a major hurricane comes through causing massive flooding destroying their schools? Make the children priority!!!!!!

On a final note, can someone answer the following questions?

- Is the government trying to push us out of our homes?
- Is the government getting a kick back in their pockets as a result of this plan?
- Is anyone in our local government's houses in this proposed levee wall?
- Where will the children attended school should we receive massive flooding outside of the protective wall?
- If this proposal goes through, will my house value go from $550,000 to $200,000?
- If this proposal goes through, will my Property Taxes go down?
- If this proposal goes through, will the government pay for the increase of our homeowner's and flood insurance?
- If this proposal goes through, who will absorb the cost of raising our houses, as well as raising our driveways to protect our vehicles?
- If this proposal goes through, will my tax dollars go to maintaining the levee/wall, pumps and flood gates at the current mileage?
- If this proposal goes through, will a mileage have to be placed on the ballet for approval by the Citizens of St. Tammany Parish?

As a concerned citizen, I hereby respectfully request that the plan to build this levee wall be DENIED!!!!!!!!

Sincerely,

Lisa P. Molero