

PARISH OF  CALCASIEU
State of Louisiana
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Calcasieu Parish and Southwest Louisiana were severely impacted by Hurricane Laura, which struck the area on August 27, 2020, as a significant Category 4 Hurricane, causing extensive and widespread destruction to residential, commercial and public assets of the communities;

WHEREAS, a mere six weeks later, on October 9, 2020, Calcasieu Parish and Southwest Louisiana were again targeted by Hurricane Delta, making landfall as a Category 2 storm and bringing devastating winds and rainfall to the already distressed region;

WHEREAS, these two hurricanes caused extensive personal, emotional, and financial impacts across the region to the citizens that call Southwest Louisiana home, severely affecting thousands of homes, businesses, our workforce, both public and private infrastructure systems, the region's agricultural assets, and the area's numerous natural and cultural resources;

WHEREAS, at the time when both storms struck the region, Southwest Louisiana and its citizens - much like the rest of our nation and world - were already responding to the global COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, these unprecedented and unique circumstances of two severe hurricane events just six weeks apart, on top of an already devastating global pandemic, were followed by a winter storm and a spring flooding event, requiring federal support for Southwest Louisiana;

WHEREAS, in spite of all of these compounded challenges, the people of Calcasieu Parish and Southwest Louisiana rose to meet every adversity, preparing themselves and their families for all of the natural disasters and the pandemic, quickly assessing damages following their impacts, lending helping hands to friends, families, neighbors, and strangers during this time of need, and focusing in the immediate aftermath of the storms on the rebuilding task at hand for our community;

WHEREAS, The Honorable John Bel Edwards, Governor of the State of Louisiana, has communicated the unmet needs of Calcasieu Parish, Southwest Louisiana, and Louisiana to both the previous Presidential Administration, as well as the current Presidential Administration, respectfully requesting support for a disaster appropriations package to address the overwhelming recovery needs faced by so many thousands of citizens and families in Southwest Louisiana and across our state;

WHEREAS, the request from Governor Edwards to President Joseph Biden took into account the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Individual Assistance and Public Assistance being made available to our community following the devastating storms, and showed that, while critical and very much appreciated, this assistance will simply not be sufficient to allow the citizens of Southwest Louisiana to rebuild their homes and communities, nor will our local governments be able to sufficiently rebuild and harden damaged infrastructure in order to protect our community from future storms and natural disasters;

WHEREAS, the request from Governor Edwards for a supplemental appropriation from Congress to aid our region and state was for \$3 billion in Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds to address the unmet needs of our communities, and was based on data available following the storms;

WHEREAS, in addition to the CDBG-DR funds, Governor Edwards also requested that a disaster supplemental appropriation from Congress also consider Social Services Block Grant funding, Emergency Solutions Grant Program funding, FEMA Cost Share Reduction (granted through FEMA), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers funding, and Natural Resource Conservation Service funding; and

WHEREAS, Title VIII of P.L. 117-43 requires HUD to allocate \$1.6 billion for major disasters that occurred in 2020 by October 30, 2021, with \$3.4 billion remaining available, through the "Community Development Fund" for major declared disasters in 2020 and 2021.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE POLICE JURY OF CALCASIEU PARISH, LOUISIANA, convened in Regular Session on the 21st day of October, 2021, as follows:

1. We, the members of the Police Jury, on behalf of all citizens of Calcasieu Parish, provide our full support for the recently passed disaster supplemental funding.
2. We call upon our entire Louisiana Legislative Delegation and Congressional Delegation to fully support and lend the full effort and influence of their offices to work with President Biden, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and fellow members of Congress toward an increased disaster appropriations package for our region that gives every consideration to (i) the request of Governor Edwards in January of 2021 and (ii) the two federally declared disasters following that request, to address the significant unmet needs of our region and state.
3. We request that HUD take into consideration the data provided by Governor Edwards, which identifies more than \$1.6 billion in unmet needs, therefore justifying the allocation of the full \$5 billion currently authorized by Title VIII of P.L. 117-43 for use by states having disasters declared in 2020.
4. We ask that HUD consider the *Calcasieu Parish Hurricanes Laura and Delta Long-Term Community Recovery Plan*, formally adopted by the Police Jury in August of 2021, identifying specific priorities and initiatives for long-term disaster recovery, further supporting the need to make the full \$5 billion currently authorized by Title VIII of P.L. 117-43 available for use by states with disasters declared in 2020.
5. In order to quickly address unmet needs and prevent further delays in long-term disaster recovery, we request that HUD extend trust to local government entities, allowing flexibility in utilization of CDBG-DR funding, including the ability to use this funding as part of the local cost share for disaster response funding/grants administered by other Federal entities.

6. In order to further expedite local recovery efforts, we request that HUD consider providing up-front disbursement of a portion of funding for projects clearly meeting the criteria for inclusion under the State's Action Plan.

BE IT FURTHER AND FINALLY RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to The Honorable Joseph Biden, President of the United States; The Honorable John Bel Edwards, Governor of the State of Louisiana; Secretary Marcia L. Fudge, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; The Honorable Cedric Richmond, Senior Advisor to the President; and to all members of the Louisiana Legislative and Congressional Delegations.

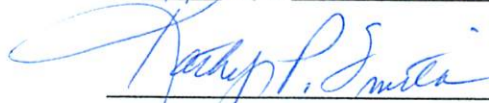
THUS DONE AND PASSED on the date above inscribed.

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STATE OF LOUISIANA
PARISH OF CALCASIEU

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original resolution as adopted by the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury in Regular Session convened on the 21st day of October, 2021.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, witness my official signature and the seal of the Parish of Calcasieu, Louisiana, on this the 22nd day of October, 2021.



Kathy P. Smith, Parish Secretary