



Louisiana's 3rd Congressional District

CONGRESSMAN

CHARLIE
MELANCON



Securing Louisiana's Future

Hurricane Protection and Water Projects Update

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT



Congressman Charlie Melancon

Securing Louisiana's Future

“For seven years, South Louisiana has waited anxiously for federal authorization so we can get moving on vital hurricane protection and water projects that will defend our coastal communities from storms. This fall, our wait finally ended. A united Louisiana delegation successfully pressured Congress to override the President's veto and pass a new WRDA into law. This bill will bring immediate help to South Louisiana and is a critical step forward in the long-term recovery of our state.”

Rep. Melancon and visiting Congressman Bobby Scott discuss a New Orleans pump station improvement project with engineers from the Army Corps.



The Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)

H.R. 1495 authorizes water projects across the country, including important hurricane protection and infrastructure projects for South Louisiana. A new WRDA is supposed to be passed by Congress every two years, but the bill has been stalled in negotiations between the House and Senate for seven years, causing long delays in new projects for our state. Congressman Melancon was instrumental in securing passage for WRDA and helping South Louisiana move forward with over \$3 billion in federal funds for new hurricane protection and coastal restoration projects.

Authorizing Morganza to the Gulf of Mexico Hurricane and Storm Protection System

For years, citizens in Terrebonne and Lafourche Parishes have been taxing themselves to fund their own hurricane protection projects while the federal government has failed to do its part to protect the region. Congressman Melancon worked to change that in the new WRDA bill. WRDA provides critically-needed authorization for the Morganza to the Gulf system, authorizing \$887 million for levees, locks, and flood gates to protect 120,000 people and 1,700 square miles in South Louisiana. Included in the authorization are reimbursements to local governments for the money they have spent on building and maintaining existing protection systems.

Closing the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet

After passing legislation following Katrina to stop new dredging of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet (MRGO), Congressman Melancon secured full closure of the MRGO in the WRDA bill. The MRGO has caused tremendous environmental degradation to the southeast Louisiana wetlands that serve as our first line of defense against hurricanes and storms.

Category 5 Levee Protection

Congressman Melancon made sure that Corps of Engineers' projects in the Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) are completed to category 5 protection standards. This language is critical to providing the best possible protection for South Louisiana.

Coastal Restoration Projects

WRDA also authorizes \$1.9 billion for the Corps of Engineers to carry out coastal restoration projects that are part of the comprehensive program to restore the Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA). The LCA program will help restore coastal areas in Louisiana significantly impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The projects in the LCA will also help prevent future damage from hurricanes and storm surge by slowing land loss caused by coastal erosion and replenishing the coastal marshes and barrier islands that protect South Louisiana.

Other Projects authorized by WRDA:

- ✿ Port of Iberia channel deepening to allow for increased ship traffic at the port.
- ✿ Maintenance of the Port of Morgan City channel at 20 ft.
- ✿ Consolidate the scattered levees in lower Jefferson Parish into a comprehensive hurricane protection system for the town of Lafitte.
- ✿ Larose to Golden Meadow levee improvements- bring the federal levees in the South Lafourche Levee District up to 100-year protection.



Rep. Melancon discusses new hurricane protection and flood control projects for Louisiana with the Commander of the Army Corps, Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp, at the site of a new pump station project.



Securing Louisiana's Future

STAY IN TOUCH WITH
CONGRESSMAN MELANCON

Houma

423 Lafayette St., Ste. 107
Houma, LA 70360
Tel: 985.876.3033
Fax: 985.872.4449

Gonzales

828 South Irma Boulevard, Ste. 107
Gonzales, LA 70737
Tel: 225.621.8490
Fax: 225.621.8493

New Iberia

124 East Main St., Ste. 220-A
New Iberia, LA 70560
Tel: 337.367.8231
Fax: 337.369.7084

Chalmette

8201 W. Judge Perez Dr.
Chalmette, LA 70043
Tel: 504.271.1707
Fax: 504.271.1756

M.C.
PRSRT STD