

New Orleans City Council

Councilmember-At-Large
Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson

**Councilmember-at-Large Clarkson to Introduce Resolution
Thanking U.S. Senators Barbara Boxer and Mary Landrieu
For Pushing the Corps of Engineers to Provide Top-Level Overhaul
Of the City's Outfall Canals**

News Release

June 30, 2009

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New Orleans
City Council

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New Orleans, LA - June 30, 2009 -

Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson will introduce a resolution at Thursday's regular Council meeting, thanking U.S. Senators Barbara Boxer and Mary Landrieu for demanding the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers pursue the most effective means of storm surge protection for New Orleans' three outfall canals.

Corps representatives appeared last week before a meeting of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, which Senator

Boxer chairs. They made the now familiar argument that of three possible options for redeveloping the London Ave., Orleans Ave., and 17th St. canals, Congress has authorized them to pursue only the cheaper "Option 1," which involves retaining deficient canal walls, relying on existing Sewerage and Water Board pumps to handle falling water, and constructing new pumps at the mouth of each canal to handle rising water.

Senator Boxer, however, insisted that the Corps is authorized to proceed with the more expensive and more effective "Option 2," which would deepen and repave the canals and build new all-purpose pumps,

or "Option 2a," which includes these improvements and also allows for pumping excess water from the canals to the Mississippi River. Senator Boxer pledged to fast track legislation granting the Corps this express authorization, hopefully ending debate on the issue.

"This is a major component of hurricane protection for New Orleans," Clarkson said. "We owe Senator Boxer a sincere 'thank you' for taking up our cause and insisting the Corps give New Orleans real flood protection."

She continued, "We also owe as great a 'thank you' to Senator Landrieu, who has continued to powerfully advocate for this cause in Washington. Senator Landrieu invited the lead counsel of the Environment and Public Works Committee on her recent fact-finding mission to the Netherlands, where participants learned about the necessity for comprehensive flood protection in Louisiana. We can be sure her hard work is paying off for us now."

The New Orleans City Council has already passed a Resolution supporting Option 2 and/or 2a, joining the Jefferson Parish Council, the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board, and the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority.

"Even the Corps has acknowledged that Options 2 and/or 2a are superior to Option 1," Clarkson said. "We thank Senators Boxer and Landrieu for their efforts to ensure New Orleans receives this superior protection."

New Orleans City Council

The New Orleans City Council is the legislative branch of New Orleans city government. The Council considers and enacts all local laws that govern the City of New Orleans. The Council also approves the operating and capital budgets for the City, as recommended by the mayor, and continually monitors revenues and expenditures for local government operations. The City Council is also the regulatory body for public utilities. It also reviews and has final say on many land use and zoning matters, as well as considers major economic development projects for the City. As a Board of Review for Orleans Parish, the Council examines appeals of property tax assessments for real estate taxes, and certifies tax rolls to the Louisiana Tax Commission. Other responsibilities of the Council include overseeing the operation of the public access television in Orleans Parish.

The City Council is comprised of five districts and two councilmembers-at-large. Council President and Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow; Council Vice President and Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson; District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura; District "B" Councilmember Stacy S. Head; District "C" Councilmember James Carter; District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell; and District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis.