

Press Release



Money for Louisiana Waterways

For Immediate Release – December 16, 2009

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA) recently announced more than \$7.3 million in public assistance grants to fund work necessary to help restore three Katrina-damaged harbors, ports and locks throughout southeast Louisiana.

“This funding supports various types of permanent work necessary to restore crucial structures that support Louisiana’s waterways,” said FEMA’s Louisiana Transitional Recovery Office Acting Director Tony Russell. “Navigational channels and their subsequent facilities are essential aspects of this area’s way of life – economically, industrially and recreationally speaking.”

“Providing access to Louisiana’s bountiful rivers and lakes, while protecting structures from future storm damage, is vital to our citizens’ way of life and long-term recovery,” said Paul Rainwater, executive director of the Louisiana Recovery Authority. “These investments will have a positive economic and cultural impact for many years to come.”

Of the recent \$7.3 million in funding, more than \$3.7 million was awarded to the City of New Orleans for storm-related repairs to the Municipal Yacht Harbor.

More than \$1.1 million was provided to the Greater Lafourche Port Commission for Port Fourchon’s flotation canal.

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development also received nearly \$2.5 million in an additional funding to assess storm-related damages and place rip rap (rock infill) to repair the undermining at the Ostrica Locks located on the Mississippi River’s east bank, upriver from Buras, La., in order for permanent repairs of the locks to proceed. Pre-Katrina, the Ostrica Locks channel was a safe nautical passage, serving as a direct gateway for oyster fishers and other boaters to arrive at approximately 1,500 square miles of public reefs.

