

by Marcelle  
introduced 10-12-11  
P.H. 10-26-11

ADOPTED  
METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

OCT 26 2011

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RESOLUTION

48944

*Brian Maynard*  
COUNCIL ADMINISTRATOR TREASURER

URGING AND REQUESTING THE LOUISIANA COMMISSIONER OF CONSERVATION TO CALL A HEARING REGARDING THE LOWERING OF THE WATER TABLE UNDER THE PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE DUE TO EXCESSIVE PUMPING OF GROUNDWATER AND THE ACCELERATION OF THE INTRUSION OF SALT WATER INTO EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH'S DRINKING WATER.

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council is seriously concerned about the acceleration of salt water intrusion into the aquifer under East Baton Rouge Parish and the subsequent loss of natural fresh drinking water that East Baton Rouge residents have long enjoyed;

WHEREAS, because of large withdrawals from the aquifer system in the capital area, historical patterns of groundwater flow have been altered over the years; and

WHEREAS, the drinking water in the parish is nationally known to be among the best natural drinking water available in the United States and the loss of this natural fresh ground water would cause our citizens to pay increased costs of purifying and transporting treated less desirable Mississippi River water; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council requests that the Commissioner of Conservation, Mr. James Welch, call a hearing to determine whether saltwater intrusion is being exacerbated by industries which pull excessive amounts of groundwater from the aquifer system in the capital area.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Metropolitan Council of the Parish of East Baton Rouge and City of Baton Rouge that the Metropolitan Council hereby urges and requests that Mr. James Welch, the Louisiana Commissioner of Conservation, call a hearing in order to take testimony to determine if the water table under the parish is being lowered because of excessive pumping of groundwater, and whether the lowering of the water table is causing the acceleration of the intrusion of salt water from south of the

Baton Rouge Fault into the fresh water north of the Baton Rouge Fault, thereby rapidly moving toward the fresh water wells supplying the people of East Baton Rouge with drinking water.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if it is determined that the above is the case, that the Metropolitan Council requests that the Commissioner of Conservation declare East Baton Rouge Parish an area of concern and proceed with the necessary gathering of facts to undertake necessary actions to reduce this acceleration of infiltration of salt water in order to prolong the life of the aquifer to a sustainable state.

CERTIFIED  
A TRUE COPY

OCT 31 2011

  
COUNCIL ADMINISTRATOR