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GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
OFFICE OF CONSERVATION

SCOTT A. ANGELLE
SECRETARY

JAMES H. WELSH
COMMISSIONER OF CONSERVATION

November 8, 2011

Capital Area Ground Water Conservation Commission
c/o Mr. Jonathan Causey
3535 South Sherwood Forest Blvd.
Suite 129
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70816-2255

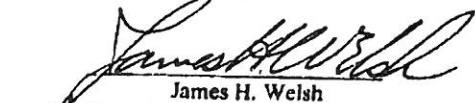
Dear Commission members:

The Metropolitan Council of East Baton Rouge Parish and Baton Rouge City recently adopted Resolution 48944 ("Resolution"), which is attached for your reference. The Resolution requests that I as Commissioner of Conservation call a hearing to accept testimony and other evidence regarding "the lowering of the water table under East Baton Rouge Parish due to excessive pumping of groundwater." In addition, the hearing is to determine whether such lowering "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 and moving toward the fresh water wells supplying the people of East Baton Rouge with drinking water." Finally, the Resolution requests that if the above is found to exist, I "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."

La. R.S. 38:3076 requires our agencies to work together to do all things necessary to prevent waste of groundwater resources and to prevent intrusion of salt water into any aquifer or aquifers within your jurisdiction, including those aquifers underlying East Baton Rouge Parish. For this reason, I am requesting your assistance. Please provide my office with a summary of current and future plans approved or under consideration to address the saltwater encroachment over the Baton Rouge Fault and towards the location of public supply wells used to provide drinking water to residents of East Baton Rouge. I am requesting this information as soon as possible but preferably within thirty days of this request.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter in greater detail, please do not hesitate to contact me at 225-342-5500.

Yours very truly,


James H. Welsh
Commissioner of Conservation

JHW:jbc
Attachment

cc: Mary Roper, Esq., Metropolitan Council Attorney
Brian Mayers, Metropolitan Council Administrator
Megan Terrell, Louisiana Dept. of Justice