



2006 Quarterly Report February – May

ABOUT THE LRA

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated South Louisiana, displacing more than 780,000 residents, destroying more than 200,000 homes, and damaging more than 18,000 businesses. In the aftermath of these storms, Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco established the Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA) to serve as the planning and coordinating body for Louisiana’s recovery. This 33-member body is coordinating across jurisdictions, supporting community recovery and resurgence, ensuring integrity and effectiveness, and planning for one of the most extensive rebuilding efforts in the world.

The LRA was created by Executive Order of the Governor on October 17, 2005 and established into law by Act Five of the Louisiana Legislature in the First Extraordinary Session of 2006. The mission of the LRA is to help ensure that Louisiana rebuilds in a way that makes the state **safer, stronger, and smarter** than ever before. The LRA will carry out this mission by focusing on four areas of work: securing funding and other resources needed for recovery, establishing principles and policies for redevelopment, leading long-term community and regional planning efforts, and ensuring transparency and accountability in the accountability of recovery funds.

PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

This report is required under Act Five of the First Extraordinary Session of 2006 to provide an update on LRA activities and recovery efforts to the Governor, the Legislature and the public. This report outlines the focus and accomplishments of the LRA through the second quarter of 2006, which includes February through May, and discusses the future direction of Louisiana’s recovery efforts.

Additional copies of this document are available online at <http://lra.louisiana.gov>.

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LETTER FROM THE GOVERNOR

As we prepare for the upcoming hurricane season, we continue making progress from the devastation of last year's events. In the last three months I have worked closely with the Louisiana Recovery Authority here at home and in Washington, DC to achieve major accomplishments for Louisiana's recovery.



After months of making our case in Washington, we learned that the first round of funding for Louisiana's recovery is finally coming our way. With the federal government's approval of the \$368.4 million request we submitted in April, we can now move forward with key steps in our recovery plan. This crucial funding has been devoted to supporting Louisiana's Bridge Loan Program; local government emergency infrastructure, such as fire houses, police stations and sewer systems; state building infrastructure, such as roads, schools, universities and ports; and start-up costs for *The Road Home* housing plan. The benefits from these investments will go a long way toward rebuilding Louisiana.

A short time later, our rebuilding efforts accelerated with the Legislature's unanimous approval of *The Road Home* housing plan. Our plan allows homeowners to secure up to \$150,000 to cover uninsured damages, provides powerful incentives to encourage the development of affordable rental housing, and offers mitigation grants.

As a result of our hard work to incorporate thousands of suggestions offered by citizens and legislators, *The Road Home* received overwhelming bipartisan support from the Legislature.

As soon as the Legislature acted, we sent our action plan to Washington for final approval. Now after months of working with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, we've received final approval to begin our work. We are one step closer to helping homeowners rebuild their lives as we await final Congressional approval of the additional \$4.2 billion we need to fully fund *The Road Home*.

These are just a few highlights from the last few months. As you will see in this report, the Louisiana Recovery Authority has demonstrated another quarter of solid results. In the context of the largest rebuilding effort in American history, we've made significant progress. We know our work is far from done. In the coming months and years ahead, we will continue working hard to address Louisiana's recovery needs. I am confident that together we will rebuild a safer, stronger, and smarter Louisiana.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Babineaux Blanco". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathleen Babineaux Blanco
Governor



LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

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Kathleen Babineaux Blanco

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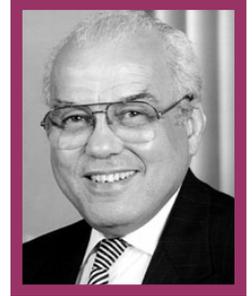
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Andrew D. Kopplin

Governor Blanco's mandate in creating the Louisiana Recovery Authority carries as much resonance today as it did more than nine months ago. It was then that our state and nation first realized the unprecedented scale of reconstruction that would be required to recover from the combination of man-made and natural disasters that devastated the Gulf Coast. While Louisiana bore the brunt of Mother Nature's fury from Katrina and Rita and the subsequent failure of our federal levee systems, our recovery has been remarkable.



Phones, water and lights are back on. Roads, bridges and highways have reopened. Buses, ferries and street cars are running again. Postal service has been restored and the pace of business activity has rallied.

Over the last quarter, our recovery efforts have focused on continuing to clean up our environment, reopening devastated schools and helping our residents rebuild their homes. Thus far we've removed more than 25 times more debris from Louisiana than was removed from the World Trade Center site, reopened dozens of public schools – 21 in Orleans Parish alone – and established a housing program, known as *The Road Home*, which has received widespread support from residents, the Louisiana Legislature and our partners in Washington.

As Louisiana and the Gulf Coast prepare for another year of unprecedented hurricane activity, these milestones serve as a small reminder of just how far we've come.

In the months ahead, our progress will continue. Louisiana will become a flurry of activity as our construction economy begins to thrive and devastated neighborhoods are rebuilt. Businesses large and small will start to take advantage of the tax incentives, loans and grants available and begin to reinvest. And as these initiatives take root, we'll turn our focus to Louisiana's long-term future, and begin developing a vision for what South Louisiana could look like in 25 years.

While this portends an exciting time for Louisiana, we realize there is much more work to be done. As Winston Churchill once said after a day of victorious battle in 1942, "Now this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning."

Sincerely,

Norman C. Francis
Chairman

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

The pace of recovery planning has quickened in Louisiana. As the anniversaries of hurricanes Katrina and Rita and the subsequent failure of the New Orleans levee system approach, the Louisiana Recovery Authority's (LRA) vision of a safer, stronger, smarter Louisiana is coming into sharper focus. While much more remains to be done to get hundreds of thousands of displaced Louisiana residents on the road home, the building blocks for their return are now in place. Thanks to the most extensive recovery planning effort in American history and an unprecedented level of cooperation among local, state and federal governments and private citizens, there is evidence of rebirth and recovery in Louisiana.

In the last quarter, the LRA successfully lobbied for the passage of \$29 billion in Gulf Coast aid, including \$6.2 billion in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) for Louisiana, and the Gulf Opportunity Zone Act of 2005, which aims to boost the business sector and spur private investment and development along the Gulf Coast.

This quarter, the LRA focused on working with President George W. Bush, Federal Gulf Coast Recovery Coordinator Donald Powell, the Louisiana Congressional Delegation and the United States Congress to clearly demonstrate the need for additional funding, including:

- \$4.2 billion to fully fund *The Road Home* plan, which encourages all residents to return, rebuild and reinvest in Louisiana and
- \$3.7 billion necessary to fortify levees in the New Orleans area against the 100-year storm.

This funding is included in President Bush's Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Bill, which is currently pending final approval in Congress.

In addition to working in Washington to secure funds, the LRA is also working to secure other investments in Louisiana. The LRA Support Foundation, a private, nonprofit organization that raises funds to provide external resources and support for the LRA's efforts, has raised \$7.9 million in contributions and pledges.

“ The \$4.2 billion request was done in a coordinated effort with state and local authorities ... The housing plan has been coordinated by the state authorities with local authorities, as well as with HUD authorities. In other words, we've all been working together to figure out how to come up with a housing plan that will restore the confidence of the people of this important part of our country. ”

George W. Bush

President of the United States
March 8, 2006

Securing Recovery Funding



Establishing Principles and Policies for Redevelopment



LEVEES & INFRASTRUCTURE

The infrastructure of South Louisiana was battered by hurricanes Katrina and Rita and the failure of the New Orleans levee system. The LRA is working to secure full funding for comprehensive levee protection and coastal restoration and will continue to press the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for accountability and reconstruction of a strong, durable protection system for all our citizens. While this work can't happen soon enough for Louisianians and those around the country who depend on the goods and materials shipped through our waterways and ports, progress is being made.

- As previously mentioned, The LRA is working with the Louisiana Congressional delegation and others, to secure the \$3.7 billion necessary to fortify levees in the New Orleans area against the 100-year storm. This funding is included in the emergency supplemental appropriations bill, which is pending final approval in Congress.
- The Army Corps of Engineers recently announced that the levees damaged by Katrina and Rita are 100 percent repaired and exceed pre-Katrina strength.
- The Corps is also restoring undamaged areas of the levees to design heights and completing authorized projects, which were previously scheduled for completion in September 2007.

The LRA has also committed to investing \$2.5 billion in CDBG funds to repair, replace and rebuild other critical infrastructure in Southeast and Southwest Louisiana. From this allocation, the LRA has proposed:

- \$150 million to be used as FEMA matching funds for the repair and reconstruction of damaged or destroyed state buildings.
- \$100 million for use as FEMA matching funds for local governments who have adopted the latest base flood elevations of the FEMA Flood Recovery Guidance to carry out emergency infrastructure projects.
- The use of CDBG funds as FEMA match dollars to help local communities rebuild as much as \$10 billion in public infrastructure, such as critical sewer systems, schools and universities, that was destroyed by hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

ECONOMY AND WORKFORCE

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and the failure of the New Orleans levee system damaged more than 18,000 businesses and impacted commerce in Louisiana and around the country. Last quarter the LRA committed to investing \$350 million in CDBG funds to support the renewal of Louisiana's economy. From this allocation, the LRA immediately proposed and received legislative approval to invest \$100 million for the continuation and expansion of the Louisiana Bridge Loan Program, which offers up to \$100,000 in working capital to businesses in 37 parishes.

This quarter, the LRA authorized program development and recommended to the Legislature an additional:

- \$100 million for a Long Term Recovery Loan Program to leverage nearly \$550 million in funding for fixed assets, equipment, and working capital
- \$40 million for a Small Firm Recovery Loan and Grant Program targeting firms that do not qualify for conventional financing and/or loans from the Small Business Administration
- \$30 million for a Louisiana Tourism Recovery Program to revive the second largest industry in the state
- \$10 million to provide technical assistance to small firms seeking to start new businesses in the impacted communities

HOUSING

To assist displaced residents after more than 200,000 homes were damaged or destroyed, Governor Blanco and the LRA developed *The Road Home* housing program. When fully funded, *The Road Home* will represent by far the largest single housing reconstruction program in U.S. history. This groundbreaking program will stimulate reinvestment in Louisiana by:

- Providing displaced homeowners with a maximum of up to \$150,000 for uninsured, uncompensated damages, to repair, rebuild, relocate, or sell their homes.
- Funding rental development incentives and other developer incentives designed to replace the tens of thousands of rental properties damaged or destroyed by the storms.
- Providing funds to increase shelter capacity for the homeless and funds for local governments to meet newly adopted building codes.

HEALTH CARE

Healthcare reform is an integral step in Louisiana's long-term recovery. The LRA is guiding and overseeing several efforts to improve the quality of health care in the communities impacted by the storms and strengthen the safety net system of care for the poor and uninsured. This quarter, through its Support Foundation, the LRA also retained national consultants PricewaterhouseCoopers to report on the status of Louisiana's health care system in the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Upon receipt of this report, the LRA immediately endorsed several recovery-related recommendations and submitted the entire report to Governor Blanco, the Legislature, and others "to guide their planning for and implementation of long-term redesign of a statewide health care system of high quality and sustainability." As these efforts move forward, the LRA will continue to support recovery and redesign health care initiatives in Southwest and Southeast Louisiana.

HUMAN SERVICES

Providing for the human and social service needs of our vulnerable populations and those who now need assistance due to the storms is a key focus of the LRA.

- In consultation with the Division of Administration, the Department of Social Services, and the Department of Health and Hospitals, the LRA recommended and received Legislative approval to invest \$220 million in Social Services Block Grants to provide case management services through the Louisiana Family Recovery Corps for child welfare, child care, and behavioral health services, preventive and primary care services and restoration of the public health safety net.
- The LRA also collaborated with the Department of Social Services to develop a homelessness plan to repair and restore shelter and housing capacity, acquire new permanent supportive housing, and provide prevention services.

EDUCATION

The educational infrastructure in Louisiana was hit hard by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and the failure of the New Orleans levee system, and the LRA is committed to recommending that a portion of CDBG dollars dedicated to infrastructure improvements are used to help build a public education system that is not only safer and stronger, but also provides students with a first-class education. Significant milestones in the recovery of Louisiana's education system were achieved this quarter, including: the Louisiana Department of Education hosting the first meeting of the Recovery School District Advisory Committee in March and the reopening of 25 public schools in Orleans Parish this spring.

ENVIRONMENT

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have worked diligently to ensure that residents and communities are environmentally safe by conducting extensive soil sampling. In addition, debris removal is moving at a fast pace. In the first six months of recovery, workers removed more than 25 times more debris from Louisiana than was removed from the World Trade Center site. Finally, much work is being done to encourage qualified wastewater treatment facilities to utilize wetlands assimilation techniques and other technologies to help build protective areas.



HOUSING FACT:

To date, more than 80,000 people have registered for *The Road Home*, but there are still a lot of homeowners who have not contacted us.

Are you registered for *The Road Home*?

**To sign up, call
1-888-ROAD-2-LA
or visit**

www.louisianarebuilds.info



In an effort to lead a successful long-term community planning process, the LRA has initiated the Louisiana Speaks planning effort. Louisiana Speaks is a multifaceted planning process to develop a sustainable, long-term vision for South Louisiana in the wake of the destruction caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. While long-term planning efforts are ongoing, key accomplishments achieved this quarter include:

- Working with world-renowned planner Andres Duany of Duany Plater-Zyberk & Company, the LRA hosted neighborhood planning workshops or “charrettes” in three diverse communities that were impacted by the storms. The plans developed for downtown Lake Charles, South Acadiana, Arabi and other parts of St. Bernard Parish will serve as models for other neighborhoods that will be rebuilt.

- Working with PolicyLink and others, the LRA launched the recovery Web portal, www.louisianarebuilds.info, which provides a single point of contact for both online and offline communication efforts.

- Working with Urban Design Associates, the LRA hosted numerous rebuilding workshops with stakeholders to support the development of a Pattern Book, which will serve as a valuable tool in the rebuilding efforts of residents and businesses. Pattern Books will be widely distributed to the public in July.

- Working with Calthorpe Associates and others, the LRA is building a network of more than 1,000 stakeholders who will come together in July at a series of large workshops hosted across the state. The goal of these workshops is to begin creating the rebuilding scenarios that will guide the development of South Louisiana's 25-year plan.

- Working with FEMA’s Long Term Community Recovery Division ESF-14, the LRA developed a new web-based Parish Recovery Planning Tool, available through www.louisianaspeaks.org, to help facilitate planning efforts at the parish level.

Leading Long Term Community and Regional Planning Efforts



The Louisiana Speaks recovery planning process will:

- Support a deliberate and democratic process that relies on active participation;
- Empower local communities to develop plans that meet individual needs;
- Establish priorities at the local level to guide decisions;
- Support communities with the best national planning experts working in partnership with local architects, planners, and engineers; and
- Provide user-friendly opportunities to enable development of individual plans.



Ensuring Transparency & Accountability

As Louisiana moves to recover and rebuild, there will be millions of dollars of contracts for cleanup, demolition and construction awarded in Louisiana.

To ensure the highest standards of integrity for all activities associated with recovery and rebuilding efforts, the LRA has strengthened the state's fiscal accountability procedures by:

- Creating an interagency working group, the Fraud Prevention and Investigations Task Force, which has been charged with creating a coordinated plan to identify potential areas of fraud, create a mechanism to prevent fraud and investigate individual cases of fraud, determine the method to prosecute those who are suspects of fraud and propose penalties for those individuals or corporations who are convicted of fraud.
- Establishing an Audit Committee to ensure best practices and procedures in the management of any funds received, expended, or disbursed by the LRA.
- Performing extensive public outreach for *The Road Home* housing plan and ensuring transparency of the plan's development by making all relevant documents available online and via printed versions where appropriate, and incorporating and responding to over 1,000 public comments.

Moving Forward

While significant progress has been made in recovery planning, the months ahead will continue to be challenging as we focus on activities underway in Louisiana – from the reconstruction of housing and infrastructure, to improving our schools and hospitals, and rebuilding and re-securing our levees. Our role will be to continue to ensure every dollar is spent wisely and accounted for honestly and that the citizens of Louisiana see meaningful progress being made every day in the towns and cities where they live and work and where they hope to return and raise their families. The overwhelming size of the catastrophes has made planning a challenging and demanding task. But we are clearly on The Road Home.

BUILDING THE FOUNDATION

WORK DURING THE INITIAL QUARTER

Less than one year ago, hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated Louisiana and the Gulf Coast, causing the largest disaster in American history. During this time of great need, Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco established the Louisiana Recovery Authority to serve as the planning and coordinating body for Louisiana's recovery and rebirth.

Securing Funding & Other Resources

The LRA worked during the first quarter to realize Governor Blanco's charge of "speaking with one voice for Louisiana." The LRA crafted a list of federal priorities that were endorsed by the full board at its initial meeting. These priorities established a singular focus for Louisiana's recovery efforts. This direction allowed the LRA to be successful in working with Louisiana's Congressional delegation and others to successfully lobby for the passage of the \$29 billion Gulf Coast Aid Package, which included \$6.2 billion in CDBG funds for Louisiana, and the \$8.7 billion Gulf Opportunity Zone Act of 2005, which aims to boost private investments and development along the Gulf Coast.

In an effort to secure funds from private investors for Louisiana's recovery, the LRA also endorsed the creation of the LRA Support Organization. This is a private, nonprofit organization that raises funds to provide external resources and support for the Louisiana Recovery Authority's efforts to implement its vision and mandate. Through its support organization, the LRA has been able to access the best consultants in the country in the areas of planning, health care and public affairs.

Establishing Principles & Policies for Redevelopment

During the first quarter of activity, the LRA adopted the philosophy of rebuilding Louisiana safer, stronger and smarter. This philosophy continues to guide the principles and policies for redevelopment.

In partnership with the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and the American Planning Association (APA), the LRA also hosted the Louisiana Recovery and Rebuilding Conference. Hundreds of citizens, community leaders, architects and planners worked together to develop five specific principles for rebuilding which underscored Louisiana's commitment to a recovery and rebuilding process that is fair and equitable to everyone. These principles were also adopted by the LRA.

Also in keeping with the safer, stronger, smarter philosophy, LRA task forces began examining recovery-related

HURRICANE IMPACT

Hurricane Katrina: August 29, 2005

Hurricane Rita: September 24, 2005

IMPACT

More than 1,500 lives lost

More than 780,000 residents displaced

More than 200,000 housing units damaged or destroyed

More than 850 schools damaged or destroyed

More than 18,700 businesses damaged or destroyed

More than 220,000 jobs lost

More than 100 square miles coastline lost

policies in issue areas such as economic and workforce development, education, environment, levees and coastal protection, housing, health care, human services, long-term planning, and infrastructure.

Leading Long-term Community & Regional Planning

In an effort to support long-term community and regional planning for South Louisiana, the LRA initiated Louisiana Speaks: Our voice. Our Plan. Our Future. This process addresses planning at every level of recovery: buildings, neighborhoods, parishes and the whole South Louisiana region.

During the first quarter of this year, Governor Blanco and the LRA selected a team of world-renowned planners to lead the Louisiana Speaks planning effort. This team of planning experts from Louisiana and around the world includes Calthorpe Associates, Duany, Plater-Zyberk, & Co. and Urban Design Associates.

The LRA also began working with FEMA's long-term community recovery division, ESF-14, to support planning at the parish level and collect input from citizens and stakeholders on Louisiana Recovery Planning Day.

Ensuring Transparency and Accountability

As Louisiana moves to recover and rebuild, there will be millions of dollars of contracts for cleanup, demolition, and construction awarded in Louisiana. This is why ensuring transparency and accountability is critical to a successful recovery. During its first quarter, the LRA established an Audit Committee to ensure best practices and procedures in the management of any funds received, expended, or disbursed by the LRA. The membership of the Audit Committee includes

members from the LRA Board of Directors and representatives from the Public Affairs Research Council and the Council for a Better Louisiana.

In an effort to eliminate fraud and abuse, the LRA has also urged that the state implement a strategy for the use of Independent Private Sector Inspectors General for certain construction contracts with the state.

Additionally, Deloitte & Touche, LLP, one of the big four accounting firms, was selected by the State of Louisiana, Division of Administration, to provide accounting and forensic services in Louisiana's receipt and disbursement of FEMA recovery funds. The firm of UHY, LLP, a nationally licensed accounting firm, was selected to perform an independent examination level assessment of the State's internal controls, processes and procedures over the receipt and disbursement of FEMA Disaster Recovery funds, as well as additional assistance in the area of fraud detection, investigation, and mitigation. Contracts setting out the specific services to be provided by each are being developed.

Ensuring transparency and openly communicating with the citizens of Louisiana about the status of the recovery is central to LRA operations. The LRA has worked to ensure complete transparency by fully complying with the Open Meetings Law for all board and task force meetings and by posting all relevant information on its Web site. Citizens can also sign up for the LRA listserv to get e-mail updates on recovery activities by visiting www.lra.louisiana.gov.

REACHING OUT

In an effort to engage key stakeholder groups and ensure equity in the recovery, a team led by the LRA, the Louisiana Family Recovery Corps, Greater New Orleans Knowledge Works and PolicyLink are working to improve online and offline communications with residents at home and those who are displaced.



Now Available on the Web

www.louisianarebuilds.info is a state-of-the-art Web portal which serves as a single point of contact for recovery information.

Coming Soon

We are teaming up again to establish a toll-free number for residents that do not have access to the Web. Stay tuned: This free service will be available soon.

SAFER, STRONGER, SMARTER

When developing the guiding principles that would drive Louisiana's recovery, the LRA reached out to many citizens, experts and community leaders in Louisiana and throughout the country.

While these stakeholders expressed many different ideas and views throughout this process, three common themes emerged as the most critical pieces of Louisiana's long-term recovery strategy: we must rebuild safer, stronger and smarter. This philosophy continues to guide the work of the LRA.

Rebuilding safer. The LRA is committed to developing policies and programs that will help make Louisiana less vulnerable in future disasters. This includes strengthening our levees and hurricane protection system, restoring our coastline, developing hazard mitigation plans that reduce risk and ensuring that buildings and homes are built or re-built to the highest standards. Louisiana must

be safe. Our citizens deserve it, our communities require it, and our commitment to put our rebuilding dollars to the best use possible demands it.

Rebuilding stronger. The LRA is committed to creating jobs and greater opportunities for Louisiana. This includes investing dollars in the economy in ways that will lead to economic growth, job creation, wealth creation and an improved quality of life for all people. This also means leveraging private and public dollars to generate a positive return on investments, encouraging programs that raise the level of home ownership throughout the state and supporting the development of mixed income communities, with easily-accessed public services aimed at breaking the cycle of poverty.

Rebuilding smarter. The LRA is committed to creating a system of

neighborhoods and communities that better supports our citizens and allows them to thrive. This means delivering services to citizens more efficiently and effectively and developing smarter communities. It's about creating a state-of-the-art public infrastructure system of roads, bridges, hospitals and schools that provide the best services at the lowest costs.

In order to build a smarter Louisiana, the LRA is committed to requiring that rebuilt community assets reflect the best thinking in community design and service delivery models; a reorganized system of levee boards that remove politics and include people of all parishes in the region; and ensuring that infrastructure is built to support future, not past, community needs – based on latest demographic trends and projections.

TAKING LOUISIANA'S RECOVERY TO THE NEXT LEVEL

While the first quarter of LRA activity was focused on laying the foundation for the recovery, the second quarter focused on rebuilding the housing, infrastructure and businesses that form the backbone of every community, as well as securing the funding necessary to make this rebuilding a reality. This quarter was also marked by community-wide planning exercises designed to help residents in devastated areas envision how their communities can be rebuilt in ways that are safer, stronger and smarter than before.

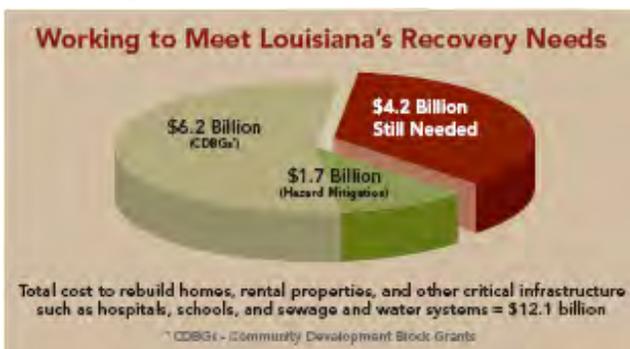
Securing Funding & Other Resources

Securing the funds necessary to implement recovery programs has been a major focus of Governor Blanco and the LRA.

In December, as part of the Gulf Coast Aid Package, Congress appropriated \$11.5 billion for states suffering from hurricanes. The LRA has used this funding in part to create incentives and funding opportunities for businesses that suffered from the storms. It also targeted funding to help local and municipal governments rebuild critical infrastructure.

But realizing that no recovery would be possible without the return of residents, Governor Blanco and the LRA went back to Washington, D.C. to make the case for additional recovery funding for housing and levees.

In December Louisiana had only received 54 percent, or \$6.2 billion of the CDBG funds available, despite having suffered more than 75 percent of the Gulf Coast housing damages. Louisiana lost more than 200,000 homes to hurricanes Katrina and Rita. However, it only received a fraction of the funding necessary to rebuild.



Using hard facts and data to demonstrate Louisiana's critical recovery needs, the LRA convinced President Bush to request additional hurricane relief funds for Louisiana. Emergency Supplemental Appropriation bills have been approved by both the U.S. House and Senate. While these bills are different, both versions include the funding President Bush has requested for Louisiana's recovery efforts. Governor Blanco and the LRA are working with Louisiana's Congressional delegation and others to ensure that Congress honors President Bush's request and acts soon to provide the much-needed funding to fortify our levees and address critical housing needs.

Support Foundation

Some LRA board members are also working to secure private investments through the LRA Support Foundation. Since its creation, the LRA Support Foundation has raised \$7.9 million in private contributions and pledges. These funds have been used to hire some of the best minds in the country to advise the LRA, local governments and residents on key policy and planning issues. The firms hired by the LRA Support Organization include: Calthorpe Associates, Duany Plater-Zyberk & Company, Urban Design Associates, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Collective Strength, Center for Planning Excellence.

For more information about the LRA Support Foundation, visit www.lrasupportfoundation.org.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

The purpose of the HMGP is to reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and to rebuild in ways that prevent damage from similar storms.

To accomplish this, the LRA authorized the release of \$250 million that had been approved by the Legislature to help parishes prevent damage from future disasters. It also directed the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOSHEP) to distribute to local governments the first hazard mitigation funding available. Full applications for both disasters are due August 29. Funding calculations are currently being calculated, based on modifications required by parishes.

The remainder of Louisiana's HMGP allocation (approximately \$1.4 billion) will be used to fund mitigation efforts as part of *The Road Home* housing plan.

Community Development Block Grant Funding

The LRA has developed plans for the use of a total CDBG allocation of \$10.4 billion. This includes the \$6.2 billion that was allocated to Louisiana in December and the \$4.2 billion that is currently pending final approval in Congress. If the additional \$4.2 billion is not part of the final Emergency Supplemental Appropriation bill, these plans will be withdrawn and modified.

Governor Blanco and the LRA have committed to use CDBG dollars to:

- repair and rebuild the state's permanent housing stock;
- urge reinvestment in multi-family rental units;
- rebuild infrastructure, and provide short-term capital assistance and investment for the long-term recovery and growth of Louisiana's economy.

Establishing Principles & Policies for Redevelopment

HOUSING: *The Road Home*

The recovery of South Louisiana relies on the return of its people. To assist more than 200,000 residents whose homes were damaged or destroyed by the disasters, Governor Blanco and the LRA, working in partnership with the Office of Community Development (OCD) and national housing experts, designed a housing program, known as *The Road Home*.

Restoring Louisiana's Housing Stock

The Road Home housing plan provides grants to eligible homeowners for uninsured, uncompensated damages to their homes. The grants would have a cap of \$150,000 for homeowners to repair, rebuild, relocate in Louisiana or sell their homes and leave the state.

The Road Home also includes incentives for rental property owners and developers to replace the tens of thousands of

STATUS OF RECOVERY PROGRAMS & FUNDING APPROVALS

As of June 1, 2006

Housing

The Road Home is a \$9.5 billion program to stimulate the restoration of South Louisiana's decimated housing stock. When fully funded, this groundbreaking program will represent the single largest, reconstruction program in U.S. history.

Startup Costs for *The Road Home* housing plan (\$17.1 million CDBG)

Implementation of *The Road Home* (\$9.25 billion using both CDBG & HMGP) *

* Congress is currently considering final approval of the \$4.2 billion necessary to fully fund the program.

Infrastructure

The LRA committed to invest \$2.5 billion in CDBG funds to repair, replace and rebuild other critical infrastructure in Southeast and Southwest Louisiana.

Local Government Emergency Infrastructure Program (\$100 million)

State Building Infrastructure Program (\$150 million)

* *The LRA has approved expansion of this program.*

Economic and Workforce Development

The LRA committed to invest \$350 million in CDBG funds to support the renewal of Louisiana's economy.

Louisiana Bridge Loan Program (\$100 million)

Long-Term Recovery Loan Program (\$100 million) PC

Small Firm Recovery Loan & Grant Program (\$40 million) PC

Technical Assistance to Small Firms (\$10 million) PC

Louisiana Tourism Program (\$30 million) PC

Hazard Mitigation

The LRA committed to invest \$250 million in CDBG funds to support the renewal of Louisiana's economy.

Parish Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (\$250 million)

Programs are born out of Action Plans, which must go through several steps before the LRA can use the money set aside for a particular purpose.

KEY:

PC = Published for public comment

= Received final approval

rental properties damaged or destroyed by the storms. The rental component prioritizes the development of deeply affordable rental units within mixed income communities in an effort to support the return of the workforce in South Louisiana and to discourage blight and deterioration in neighborhoods. *The Road Home* also contains funding for homeless supports and local government code enforcements. When fully funded, *The Road Home* program will provide more than \$9 billion to improve housing options for Louisianans. For more specific details about The Road Home housing plan, visit www.lra.louisiana.gov/road_home.html.

Building Widespread Support for *The Road Home*

In February, Governor Blanco and the LRA outlined a preliminary housing plan that became known as *The Road Home*. Over the next few months, the LRA developed *The Road Home* with valuable input from residents, community leaders and national housing experts.

After months of collecting preliminary feedback, the action plan for *The Road Home* was published in April for an official 10-day public comment period. Governor Blanco and the LRA performed extensive public outreach to collect feedback on *The Road Home*. The plan was made available online at www.LouisianaRebuilds.info in English, Spanish and Vietnamese. Printed copies were also made available to individuals upon request. The state placed public notices in newspapers and libraries throughout Louisiana and in major cities out-of-state where the majority of displaced residents were residing. Governor Blanco, the LRA and OCD also hosted open houses in New Orleans and Lake Charles. During this time, citizens and stakeholders provided more than 1,000 comments on the proposed program. As a result of the feedback received, the program was revised to address many of the concerns, suggestions and ideas expressed. A summary of the comments and responses is available online at http://lra.louisiana.gov/road_home.html.

“ Gov. Kathleen Babineaux Blanco and chief aide Andy Kopplin deserve credit for drawing together a diverse group of leaders and assembling a sturdy recovery plan that appears capable of judiciously and speedily dispensing up to \$150,000 in recovery funding to homeowners determined to rebuild their home state.

New Orleans CityBusiness

May 26, 2006

Don Powell, the President’s coordinator for Gulf Coast recovery, Louisiana’s Congressional delegation, the Louisiana Legislature and the White House. On May 30, 2006, U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Alphonso Jackson announced his approval of the program and expressed President Bush’s desire to see it receive full funding from Congress. As previously noted, President Bush has requested Congress to approve an additional \$4.2 billion in CDBG funds for Louisiana. This money is necessary to fully fund *The Road Home*.

Implementing *The Road Home*

To speed up the delivery of assistance to homeowners, the state launched a housing registry. As of June 1, about 80,000 families had registered for the program. Through the Division of Administration (DOA), the state has also issued a Solicitation for Offers (SFO) to hire a private firm to implement the program. This firm will provide one-on-one assistance to residents and put the power, speed, and efficiency of the private sector to work in getting residents back into their homes.

LEVEES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Shortly thereafter, the LRA and Louisiana Public Broadcasting (LPB) collaborated to produce a one-hour television program which featured a community discussion on *The Road Home*. In May, the program, "Louisiana Public Square," was broadcast in markets throughout the state in an effort to inform citizens on the key principles of the housing program.

As a result of this work, *The Road Home* has gained widespread support from

Don Powell, the President’s coordinator for Gulf Coast recovery, Louisiana’s Congressional delegation, the Louisiana Legislature and the White House. On May 30, 2006, U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Alphonso Jackson announced his approval of the program and expressed President Bush’s desire to see it receive full funding from Congress. As previously noted, President Bush has requested Congress to approve an additional \$4.2 billion in CDBG funds for Louisiana. This money is necessary to fully fund *The Road Home*.

Residents cannot rebuild and businesses cannot return without strong levees and operable and safe roads, schools, sewer systems, ports and other forms of infrastructure.

Progress of the Corps of Engineers

Securing full funding for comprehensive levee protection and coastal restoration

DID YOU KNOW?
When fully-funded, *The Road Home* will represent – by far – the largest single housing reconstruction program in U.S. History.



remains a top priority of the LRA. While this work can't happen soon enough for residents of Louisiana and for those around the country who depend on the goods and materials shipped through waterways and ports, much progress is being made. The Army Corps of Engineers recently announced that the levees damaged by Katrina and Rita are 100 percent repaired and exceed pre-Katrina strength. In addition to the repairs, the Corps is restoring undamaged areas to design heights and expediting work on previously authorized projects, which were scheduled for completion in September 2007.

The LRA is working with our Congressional delegation and others to ensure that the Emergency Supplemental Appropriation bill, which is awaiting final Congressional approval, includes President Bush's \$3.7 billion request for our levees. This funding will support a number of improvements to the flood protection system and allow the Corps to bring levees in the New Orleans area up to elevations necessary for FEMA certification against the 100-year storm. This is critical for the protection of the citizens and commerce of Southeast Louisiana. If this money is appropriated, construction of the certified levees and enhancements could be complete by 2010. It should be noted that this proposed appropriation does not include money to certify the levees of lower Plaquemines Parish, although the Corps is currently refining its cost estimates for protection of this area.

In addition to these projects, the Army Corps of Engineers has been directed by Congress to complete the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Study (LaCPR) by December 2007. The result of this \$20 million study will be a comprehensive technical report that analyzes higher levels of protection for Louisiana's entire coast, including structural features and coastal restoration. An interim report is due in June 2006, and this report may include immediate requests for authorization of actionable parts of the plan.

Helping Local Governments Rebuild

The infrastructure of communities throughout South Louisiana was battered by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and the failure of the New Orleans levee system, but Louisiana has committed to investing \$2.5 billion in CDBG funds to leverage even more dollars to repair, replace and rebuild our roads,

“ If the city cannot provide hurricane protection through their levee systems, the people of New Orleans – their families, homes, schools, healthcare facilities and businesses – will not be able to rebuild.” ”

Federal Coordinator Don Powell

In a letter to Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Thad Cochran, May 15, 2006

schools, hospitals, ports, and other public service infrastructure. This rebuilding is critically important as we work to put our communities back together.

The LRA recommended the use of \$100 million to provide funding for emergency infrastructure projects of local governments who have adopted the latest base flood elevations of the FEMA Flood Recovery Guidance.

The LRA also proposed \$150 million of CDBG dollars to be used as a FEMA match for the repair and reconstruction

of damaged or destroyed state buildings according to the prioritization of the Office of Facility Planning. Both of these plans were approved by the Louisiana Legislature and received HUD approval on May 9, 2006.

The LRA is currently developing programmatic guidance to cover all other federal match costs for local infrastructure projects meeting LRA standards. These CDBG funds can be used for the non-federal match to repair or rebuild schools, roads, airports, transit systems, ports, wastewater treatment systems, and public water systems. These dollars can also be used to provide funds for infrastructure repairs that are not eligible for FEMA public assistance programs, including bringing structures up to code and rebuilding underinsured facilities.

The LRA is committed to leveraging these dollars to achieve the greatest investment possible in the public infrastructure of our communities to make them safer, stronger and smarter.

ECONOMY AND WORKFORCE

The loss of about 18,000 businesses to hurricanes Katrina and Rita impacted the livelihoods of residents and the local revenues that are the lifeblood of communities throughout the hurricane-impacted region.

Reviving Louisiana's Economy

The LRA is committed to supporting the renewal of the economy in Louisiana, particularly in those industries, small businesses and cultural destinations that make Louisiana such a wonderful place to live, work, visit and do business. The LRA has committed significant resources through the development of program recommendations for

approximately \$350 million in CDBG dollars aimed at reviving Louisiana's economy.

The first of these programs, the **Louisiana Bridge Loan Program**, received final approval from HUD on May 9. In January, the LRA approved the use of \$100 million in CDBG dollars for this program. Loans provided through this program will offer up to \$100,000 in temporary working capital to businesses located in 37 affected parishes. By guaranteeing loan funds provided by participating banks, this bridge loan program will offer six-month, interest-free financing to qualifying small business owners who choose to remain in their affected areas.

The LRA has authorized program development for an additional \$100 million in CDBG funds for a **Long Term Recovery Loan Program**, which would leverage approximately \$550 million to provide companies funding for fixed assets (real estate, buildings), equipment, and working capital. The LRA has also approved \$40 million for program development of a **Small Firm Recovery Loan and Grant Program** for firms that do not qualify for bank and/or SBA loans. The program will support low-cost working capital loans on flexible terms, small grants to reimburse for tangible losses and technical assistance.

The LRA further approved program development for \$10 million in CDBG funds to provide **Technical Assistance to Small Firms**. The program would contract with intermediaries to provide assistance to small business owners, nonprofits and entrepreneurs or individuals seeking to start a new business in the impacted area.

Finally, the LRA approved program development for the use of \$30 million for a **Louisiana Tourism Recovery Program**. The program would help revive the second largest industry in the state in

“ I am terribly impressed with the deliberations of the LRA. Your deliberation, your thoughtfulness, your bias for action ... I think that's terribly important. You're a model for young people and for other Americans to watch democracy in action. ”

Don Powell
LRA Board Meeting

terms of employment in an effort to stem the loss of millions of dollars per day in visitor spending.

Proposals are currently being developed to allocate additional CDBG dollars to support the recovery of workforce training programs and a program to assist in rebuilding the research capacity in higher education institutions in the impacted areas.

Proactive Policy Development for the Future

While the LRA has focused much of its work this quarter on rebuilding housing, infrastructure and the economy in devastated areas, LRA task forces continued to lay the groundwork for significant gains in other critical aspects of the recovery.

HEALTH CARE

Louisiana State University and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs signed a memorandum of understanding to collaborate on rebuilding their badly damaged health care facilities in New Orleans. To address the loss of the VA hospital and both the LSU Charity and University hospitals in New Orleans, LSU and the VA are studying the feasibility of jointly building a teaching hospital and level one

trauma center in downtown New Orleans. Through a combination of independent and shared facilities and services, the long-term vision is for the new facilities to be part of a medical complex that includes teaching, research and high-end health care services for a broad spectrum of patients and providing for more efficient delivery of medical care.

Local Health Care Rebuilding Plans

Initial local health care recovery plans for Cameron Parish, Orleans/Jefferson Parishes, Plaquemines Parish, St. Bernard and the

SIGNS OF PROGRESS



Nineteen African black-footed penguins and two sea otters were recently brought back to New Orleans, after being rescued from the Aquarium of the Americas in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. After nearly nine months away from home, the city's beloved sea animals were sent back to the Big Easy just in time for their big debut. The aquarium re-opened its doors on May 26, 2006 to more than 3,000 visitors.

Baton Rouge area have been completed. These recovery plans are a product of a three-month planning process facilitated by the Department of Health and Hospitals' Bureau of Primary Care and Rural Health, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Louisiana Public Health Institute, each involving hundreds of local community health care stakeholders.

The plans are based on a coordinated, strategic approach to achieve comprehensive and unduplicated health care service delivery and optimize available funding in the areas devastated by the hurricanes. The plans also include a statewide plan for health care workforce recruitment and retention. While these plans will continue to develop over time, they can now serve as a template for grant funding applications to federal, state and private sources and have positioned the communities for implementation. The plans for each area are online at www.pcrh.dhh.louisiana.gov.

PricewaterhouseCoopers Report

The LRA Support Foundation, on behalf of the LRA, hired PricewaterhouseCoopers to develop a plan for redesigning the health care system of South Louisiana in the wake of hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

The report addresses three critical areas: emergency preparedness and disaster recovery; health care workforce and medical education needs (especially in areas of highest devastation); and design of a health system that will ensure equal access to quality care for all Louisianans. Upon receipt of this report, the LRA immediately endorsed several recovery-related recommendations and submitted the entire report to Governor Blanco, the Legislature, and others "to guide their planning for and implementation of long-term redesign of a statewide health care system of high quality and sustainability."

As these efforts move forward, the LRA will continue to sup-

port recovery and redesign health care initiatives in Southwest and Southeast Louisiana. Elements of this report directly related to health care recovery in the hurricane-impacted areas and will be considered in the planning for long-term recovery for these areas. The full report is posted online at www.lra.louisiana.gov.

HUMAN SERVICES

Providing for the human and social service needs of our vulnerable populations as well as those who may need assistance for the first time due to the storms is a key focus of the LRA.

Social Services Block Grants

The LRA, in consultation with the Division of Administration (DOA), the Department of Social Services (DSS) and the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH), recommended and received legislative approval for using the \$220 million in Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) dollars awarded to the state. The funds would provide case management services through the Louisiana Family Recovery Corps for child welfare services, childcare services, behavioral health services, and preventive and primary care. They would also help restore the public health care safety net as well as health and human service care infrastructure.

The LRA also collaborated with DSS to develop a homelessness plan as part of *The Road Home* housing plan, to be funded with CDBG dollars. This plan will address the increased homeless needs in impacted areas by increasing beds, facility capacity, and supportive services for the homeless through repairing and restoring shelter and housing capacity as well as acquiring new permanent supportive housing and services, and providing prevention assistance to those persons who are at risk of becoming homeless.

SSBG FUNDING

In March, the LRA approved the use of \$220 million in supplemental Social Services Block Grants awarded to Louisiana in response to the hurricanes.

The funding was allocated as follows:

Department of Social Services: \$34.2 million
 \$17.6 million for child welfare services
 \$14.4 million for child care services
 \$2.2 million for the monitoring and oversight of the SSGB allocation

Department of Health and Hospitals: \$101.7 million
 \$80 million for behavioral health services
 \$21.7 million for preventive and primary care

LSU Health Sciences Center: \$70 million
 \$50 million for the Health Sciences Center
 \$20 million for the health care services division

Louisiana Family Recovery Corps: \$15 million

EDUCATION

The educational infrastructure in Louisiana was heavily impacted by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The LRA is recommending the dedication of a portion of CDBG dollars for use in building a public educational system that is not only safer and stronger, but also provides students with a first-class education.

Recovery School District

The State Department of Education hosted the first meeting of the Recovery School District Advisory

Committee on March 21 in New Orleans. The committee, comprised of 23 state-level and local community leaders who serve in an advisory capacity to State Education Superintendent Cecil Picard, is focused on developing short- and long-term plans for the rebuilding of public schools in Orleans Parish.

School Openings

Currently, all hurricane-affected districts in Southeast and Southwest Louisiana have resumed classes in either partial or full capacity to accommodate returning populations. In Orleans Parish, three additional schools reopened in April, bringing the total number of schools open to 25. There are now more than 11,000 students enrolled in Orleans Parish schools. This is about 20 percent of the students that were enrolled prior to the hurricanes.

Between June 2006 and the beginning of the school year in August 2006, an additional 25 K-12 public schools are scheduled to open in New Orleans. These newly opened schools will demand the hiring of approximately 800 additional teachers in an area that has limited housing stock. In cooperation with the Recovery School District and the non-profit organization New Schools for New Orleans, the LRA is devising innovative policies that will provide Orleans Parish teachers and other necessary staff with low-cost, high-quality housing in the Greater New Orleans area.

SIGNS OF PROGRESS



The Louisiana Department of Education opened its first three schools through the Recovery School District on April 18, 2006. The opening of A. Craig Elementary, Benjamin Banneker Elementary, and Joseph S. Clark Senior High School provided space for 1,300 additional students in Orleans Parish.

ENVIRONMENT

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have worked diligently to ensure that Louisiana residents and their communities are environmentally safe.

Soil Sampling

Soil sampling maps were made available on the DEQ Web site at the end of February to allow citizens to examine findings of an extensive environmental sampling

effort by the EPA and DEQ. During this sampling, approximately 5 percent of samples (~40 out of 800) had readings that warranted further evaluation. The areas identified for further evaluation were localized and did not indicate widespread environmental contamination due to the storm, although DEQ officials are continuing to evaluate the sites. Overall, none of the sediment data showed any short-term health risks.

Debris Removal

There was enough construction and demolition debris to fill the Empire State Building 40 times or to fill the Louisiana Superdome more than 13 times, but debris removal is moving along at a rapid pace. In the first six months of recovery, workers removed more than 25 times the amount of debris from Louisiana than was removed from the World Trade Center site. Nearly 15 million pounds of hazardous waste has been collected and properly disposed of, and nearly 3.4 million orphan containers (drums, canisters, tanks, etc.) have been collected.

Wastewater Treatment

Finally, much work is being done to encourage qualified wastewater treatment facilities to utilize wetlands assimilation techniques and other innovative technologies, which will help build protective areas for future storms. DEQ and EPA are working with wastewater treatment facilities to increase awareness of options and assistance. They also conducted a Wastewater Wetlands Assimilation workshop

to educate facilities on the viability of this technique for wastewater treatment.

Leading Long-Term Community & Regional Planning Efforts

In the aftermath of Katrina and Rita, Louisiana has embarked upon the most ambitious recovery planning effort the country has seen. The long-term planning initiative of the LRA, dubbed Louisiana Speaks, is designed to support development of a sustainable, long-term vision for South Louisiana. In keeping with the LRA's philosophy of rebuilding safer, stronger and smarter, the principles that drive this initiative will ensure that the recovery and rebuilding process is fair and equitable to everyone.

Louisiana Speaks is supported by the LRA Support Foundation— a private, nonprofit organization— which raised private funds to secure a world-renowned team of planners, designers and architects that will help develop Louisiana's long-term rebuilding plan.

Louisiana Speaks With One Voice

A successful long-term recovery effort will require more than just programs and funding, it will require comprehensive planning. Louisiana Speaks will support the coordinated planning effort that is necessary for us to recover and grow. This initiative addresses planning at every level of recovery: buildings, neighborhoods, parishes and the South Louisiana region.

Building Planning

Over the coming years, thousands of houses and businesses will be rebuilt in South Louisiana. To ensure that the structures built today will be the foundation for tomorrow, they must be built safer, stronger, and smarter. To support the development of tools that will help in the rebuilding effort of residents and businesses, the LRA worked with Urban Design Associates to develop Pattern Books and Tool Boxes that include storm-safe techniques, sustainable design, "green" building design, and other planning principles. All this information, plus best practices for community planning will be included in the "tool box" booklets, which will be widely distributed in July.

“The selection of a planning team itself signals a major change here — an embrace of rational, long-range, comprehensive planning as a legitimate mode of dealing with growth and change.”

Baton Rouge Real Estate Weekly
January 2006

SIGNS OF PROGRESS



St. Bernard Parish residents take part in planning the future of their communities.

Neighborhood Planning

Working with world-renowned planner Andres Duany of Duany, Plater-Zyberk & Company, the LRA hosted neighborhood planning workshops or "charrettes" in which architects and planners worked with residents in downtown Lake Charles, South Acadiana, Arabi and other parts of St. Bernard Parish to develop neighborhood rebuilding and improvement plans. Two of these innovative plans have already been adopted by local governments and are moving forward. As more and more neighborhoods rebuild, they will serve as "building blocks" for parish and regional plans.

Parish Planning

Since October, planning teams have been working with local officials, community leaders and residents in impacted parishes to develop parish-specific recovery plans. Through this process, each parish crafted its own vision, identified goals and priorities, conducted needs assessments, developed a community baseline and identified priority projects. Working with FEMA's Long Term Community Recovery Division, ESF-14, the LRA developed a new web-based Parish Recovery Planning Tool, available through, www.louisianaspeaks.org where these parish plans are now available online.

These parish plans include project details for road repairs, water and sewer repair and support for housing programs. These are projects that will benefit all the neighborhoods in

PARTNERS IN REBUILDING

Louisiana Speaks will combine the wealth of knowledge of residents, community leaders, and local architects with the expertise of world-class planners, including: Calthorpe Associates, Duany Plater-Zyberk & Company, and Urban Design Associates.

Other distinguished partners in planning include:

ABMB Engineers, Inc.
The Brookings Institution
Brown+Danos landdesign, Inc.
Collective Strength
Enterprise Community Partners
Fregonese Calthorpe Associates
Jonathan Rose Companies LLC
Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.
PolicyLink
Coastal Louisiana Ecosystem Assessment and Restoration (CLEAR)

For full biographies, visit www.louisianaspeaks.org.

each parish. Many priority projects identified through this process will be incorporated into the scenarios which are being developed in the long-range regional planning process.

Regional Planning

In the wake of Katrina and Rita, new plans are in order for many Louisiana communities. Planning that identifies and prioritizes recovery projects has already taken place in affected parishes. Community planning for neighborhoods and cities is also underway. New and reconstructed buildings, roads, and parks will help bring back what was lost.

But South Louisiana is more than just a collection of towns. In very real ways, we're all connected, and our futures are intertwined. Many natural and man-made systems, such as wetlands, highways and regional economies, spill across city and parish lines. These features affect the daily lives of people in many different towns, parishes, and metro areas. Regional planning allows us to go beyond governmental boundaries.

The regional planning process will support the development of a vision for South Louisiana that respects the history of each community and creates a healthier, stronger future for everyone. That means a plan that brings together wetlands restoration, storm protection, stronger economies, better schools, improved access to jobs and housing, and new growth protected from natural disasters.

Working with Calthorpe Associates and others, the LRA is working to build a network of more than 1,000 stakeholders who will come together in July at a series of large

workshops hosted across the state. The goal of these workshops is to begin creating a series of "pictures" of what South Louisiana might look like in the future, depending on the choices and trade-offs we make along the way.

From this initial feedback, Louisiana Speaks will begin a broad public discussion about Louisiana's future and work to engage thousands of residents at home and those who are displaced. This community-driven process will result in the development of a 25-year plan for the recovery and rebirth of South Louisiana.

Ensuring transparency and accountability

Fraud Prevention and Investigations Task Force

This quarter, the LRA Audit Committee worked closely with federal and state partners to examine ways to ensure the responsible use of CDBG dollars. Upon receiving a recommendation from the Audit Committee at the May 17 meeting, the LRA created an interagency working group, the Fraud Prevention and Investigations Task Force, which has been charged with creating a coordinated plan to identify potential areas of fraud, create a mechanism to prevent fraud and investigate individual cases of fraud, determine the method to prosecute those who are suspects of fraud and propose penalties for those individuals or corporations who are convicted of fraud.

The task force will be led and staffed by the Office of the Attorney General and shall be comprised of representatives of the LRA Audit Committee, the State Inspector General's Office, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of the Inspector General, the U. S. Attorney's Office, the Division of Administration's Office of Community Development, and the Office of the Legislative Auditor.

Conclusion

Over the past eight months, the LRA has worked diligently with Governor Blanco to set the priorities, develop the policies and secure the funding required to breathe new life into Louisiana's devastated coastal parishes.

The past four months have produced sweeping programs for rehabilitating Louisiana's housing, infrastructure and economy and for laying the groundwork for the most significant rebuilding effort in American history.

The next few months will see Louisianans making some of the biggest decisions any group of people will ever make – decisions about rebuilding their lives and reshaping their communities and futures. The LRA will continue to work on behalf of these courageous people to preserve their rich heritage while building what must become a more vital, prosperous and proud Louisiana.



LOUISIANA RECOVERY AUTHORITY: Moving Toward a Safer, Stronger, Smarter Louisiana

- Encourage US Congress to Pass Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Bill for Hurricane Recovery**
Make the case for \$4.2 billion in additional aid for housing and \$3.7 billion for levees so residents can begin rebuilding their lives at home in Louisiana
- Submitted “The Road Home” Housing Plan to HUD – Groundbreaking Program to Stimulate Reinvestment, Not Reimbursement**
Plan provides displaced homeowners with a maximum of \$150,000, minus insurance payments and FEMA assistance, to repair, rebuild, take a buyout and relocate, or sell their homes; includes numerous public comments to ensure plan treats all homeowners fairly
- Managed Daily Oversight of the Most Ambitious Recovery Planning Effort in American History**
Making certain that every recovery dollar is spent wisely and accounted for honestly
- Worked with Governor and Louisiana Legislature to Implement a Strict New Statewide Building Code**
Ensures any new construction will be built safely and wisely
- Established Tough New Standards to Prevent Unsafe Rebuilding in Flood Zones**
Funds will only be provided to communities and parishes abiding by FEMA flood map requirements for the construction and reconstruction of all homes, businesses and other structures
- Received HUD Approval for \$368.4 Million in CDBG for Small Business Recovery and Infrastructure**
Grants vital to small businesses and critical to rebuilding local government emergency infrastructure
- Established LRA Support Foundation to Attract Private Donors to Recovery Effort**
Provides funding for team of world-renowned planners to lead the largest rebuilding effort in American history, including \$3.5 million newly pledged by the Rockefeller Foundation
- Received Comprehensive Report on Louisiana's Healthcare System, Commissioned by the LRA Support Foundation**
Includes recommendations for improving the quality of healthcare for all Louisianans and strengthening the safety net system of care for the poor and uninsured

LOUISIANA'S RECOVERY TIMELINE

August 26, 2005

Hurricane Katrina enters the Gulf of Mexico.

Governor Blanco declares a State of Emergency for Louisiana and urges citizens of South Louisiana to evacuate. Over the next 48 hours more than 1.2 million residents were evacuated from the Greater New Orleans area before Katrina made landfall.

August 29, 2005

Hurricane Katrina makes landfall.

August 30, 2005

Federal levee and hurricane protection system in New Orleans fails.

Multiple levees surrounding the City of New Orleans failed. Within hours, 80% of the city was submerged underwater.

September 15, 2005

President Bush addresses the nation from Jackson Square regarding federal hurricane relief efforts.

September 24, 2005

Hurricane Rita impacts Southwest Louisiana.

Less than one month after Hurricane Katrina and the failure of the federal levee protection system, Hurricane Rita makes landfall along the Texas-Louisiana border as a Category 3 storm.

October 17, 2005

Governor Blanco establishes the Louisiana Recovery Authority to lead the state's recovery and rebuilding efforts.

October 19, 2005

World famous Café Du Monde reopens in New Orleans.

The world famous Café Du Monde, which has served beignets and coffee to New Orleanians for more than 144 years, reopens in New Orleans.

October 28, 2005

LRA members tour devastated areas firsthand and then take their agenda to Washington.

After touring the unprecedented devastation in Southeast and Southwest Louisiana, key leaders from the LRA met with White House officials and high ranking members of Congress to discuss Louisiana's recovery needs.

October 31, 2005

Students in Cameron Parish go back to school.

Only 24 school days after Hurricane Rita destroyed 62% of their school system's facilities, school board officials reopened all six schools in Cameron Parish.

November 1, 2005

President Bush appoints FDIC Chairman Donald E. Powell as Coordinator of Federal Support for the Gulf Coast's recovery effort.

November 17, 2005

Governor Blanco launches the Louisiana Family Recovery Corps to coordinate relief services for Louisiana families.

Governor Blanco launches the Louisiana Family Recovery Corps (LFRC), an independent, non-profit organization tasked with mobilizing and coordinating the fragmented network of over 150 governmental and non-profit relief agencies providing services and resources to more than 350,000 displaced Louisiana families.

November 22, 2005

State takes over failing schools and establishes the Recovery School District.

With the Louisiana Legislature's approval of HB121, the Recovery School District was created allowing the Louisiana Department of Education to take over 102 public schools in academic crisis. Governor Blanco, who personally testified on behalf of the bill, called this a milestone in Louisiana's recovery and "an important first step in turning around the Orleans Parish School System."

November 25, 2005

New Orleans Audubon Zoo reopens.

The New Orleans Audubon Zoo reopened its doors to the general public after being closed for more than 3 months. More than 1,000 people lined up to visit the 120-year-old landmark attraction, which is one of the oldest and best known zoos in North America.

November 29, 2006

First public school in New Orleans reopens since Katrina.

Ben Franklin Elementary opens its doors to students and teachers, making it the first public school to reopen since the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. The reopening marks the first progressive step towards reviving education in the city of New Orleans.

December 1, 2005

Louisiana launches free bus service to connect displaced workers with jobs.

Using climate controlled coaches, Louisiana began transporting commuters between Baton Rouge and New Orleans to help reconnect workers with available jobs. After one month of service, roughly three out of four LA Swift commuters credited the free bus service with helping them return to work in the Greater New Orleans area.

December 15, 2005

New Orleans street cars get back on track.

The historical New Orleans “streetcars” that have served New Orleanians for decades are back on track. The streetcars, which have been a tourist attraction for many years, are expected to run 7 days a week.

December 21, 2005

GO Zone created to stimulate economic development and reinvestment along the Gulf Coast.

President Bush signed legislation passed by Congress creating the Gulf Opportunity Zone Act of 2005, which aims to boost the business sector and spur private investment along the Gulf Coast.

January 6, 2006

Twin Span Bridge reopens 8 days ahead of schedule.

Governor Blanco and the Department of Transportation and Development reopen the two west-bound lanes of the I-10 Twin Span Bridge. The two-lane bridge, which was reopened eight days ahead of schedule, served an average of 55,000 commuters a day prior to Hurricane Katrina.

January 21, 2006

Louisiana hosts Recovery Planning Day.

In partnership with FEMA’s Long Term Community Planning Division, the LRA hosted more than two dozen open houses in Louisiana, Texas, Geor-

gia, and Tennessee. Several thousand Louisiana residents— at home and displaced— took time out of their own personal recoveries to help define key priorities and principles for Louisiana’s recovery.

January 30, 2006

New Orleans’ historically black colleges and universities back in session.

Thousands of New Orleans students and faculty head back to the city’s HBCUs after many schools in the Gulf Coast region were damaged during Hurricane Katrina. Dillard and Xavier universities re-opened their doors and were expected to welcome 73% of their students back.

February 6, 2006

LRA hosts Southwest Louisiana’s first rebuilding workshop with world-renowned planner Andres Duany.

As part of Louisiana’s long-term planning initiative, the LRA hosted a 6-day workshop in Downtown Lake Charles which included a packed week of research, public input and around-the-clock design work. Throughout the charrette Andres Duany, of Duany Plater-Zyberk (DPZ) Architects and Town Planners, gathered input from citizens and local leaders that was incorporated into a long-term building plan for the area. Five days later, the Lake Charles City council unanimously endorsed key components of the master plan which envisioned, among other things, a bold reworking of the city’s underutilized waterfront and encouraged an innovative public-private corporation to accelerate downtown redevelopment.

February 14, 2006

Tulane University Hospital reopens.

After being closed for nearly 6 months, Tulane University Hospital and Clinic re-opened their doors in February with a full service emergency room and 63 inpatient beds. This marked the first step in restoring medical services to the downtown medical district of New Orleans.

February 15, 2006

President Bush requests additional \$4.2 billion from Congress for Louisiana’s housing needs.

After months of using hard facts and data to justify the need for additional funding, LRA and other state leaders caused a breakthrough in negotiations with the White House and moved Louisi-

ana one step closer to securing the funding necessary to rebuild more than 200,000 homes that were devastated by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Governor Blanco, New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin, LRA Executive Director Andy Kopplin and other Louisiana officials flew to Washington to join Chairman Powell, President Bush's hurricane recovery coordinator, to announce that the White House is asking Congress to approve \$4.2 billion more to address Louisiana's significant housing needs.

February 19, 2006

LRA and Andres Duany wrap up neighborhood planning workshop in South Acadiana.

More than 200 residents attend the conclusion of the seven-day planning session.

February 20, 2006

Governor Blanco and the LRA outline proposal for *The Road Home* housing program.

Governor Blanco and the Louisiana Recovery Authority outlined a proposal in Lake Charles for repairing, rebuilding, and relocating homes in Louisiana that were impacted by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The proposal would give residents the funding they need to get back into their homes and to help re-establish their lives in Louisiana. Governor Blanco stressed that the rebuilding plan is preliminary and invited public input on the proposal.

March 8, 2006

Governor Blanco and LRA launch www.louisianarebuilds.info.

In partnership with PolicyLink, Governor Blanco and the LRA launched the high-tech, state-of-the-art web portal which serves as the "first stop on the way home" for displaced Louisiana residents and businesses. The web portal also serves as the starting point for residents — at home and displaced — to register for the state's housing program, known as *The Road Home*. More than 2.5 million people visited the site in its first week of operations.

March 15, 2006

St. Bernard Parish residents take part in planning the future of their communities.

More than 1,000 St. Bernard Parish residents attended a standing room only meeting at the St.

Bernard Parish Courthouse to hear the details of redesign neighborhood plans to rebuild St. Bernard Parish. During the 10-day workshop or "charrette," planners and architects worked with citizens and local leaders to develop long-term rebuilding plans for the area. As part of the LRA's long-term planning initiative, charrettes were hosted in three diverse communities that were impacted by the storms. The plans developed for downtown Lake Charles, South Acadiana, Arabi and other parts of St. Bernard Parish will serve as models for other neighborhoods that will be rebuilt.

March 16, 2006

U.S. House votes to pass emergency supplemental appropriations bill, which includes funding for Louisiana's housing needs and levee improvements.

March 20, 2006

LRA launches web-based planning tool to support recovery planning in impacted parishes.

In partnership with FEMA's Long term Community Recovery team, the LRA launched a Parish Recovery Planning Tool through www.louisianaspeaks.org. This dynamic and interactive new tool supports ongoing recovery efforts and helps facilitate continued planning at the parish level. By providing access to large amounts of community-specific planning information, the tool adds simplicity to what is otherwise a complex process.

March 22, 2006

LRA and town planners unveil Katrina Cottage II.

In an effort to bring forth concepts and opportunities where Louisiana can learn from the devastation caused by hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the LRA and Andres Duany, of Duany Plater-Zyberk unveiled Katrina Cottage II, which can be used as a permanent solution to housing in hurricane-affected areas. Katrina Cottage II is a 770-square-foot, two bedroom model which was designed in the architectural traditions of South Louisiana. The cottage is constructed using foam-insulated panels and concrete Hardie Board which can withstand up to 145 mph winds. The structure can be constructed and delivered within three weeks for approximately \$70,000.

April 3, 2006

New Orleans postmark returns.

Residents began receiving letters canceled with a New Orleans postmark for the first time since Katrina hit Aug. 29.

April 10, 2006

The Division of Administration issues a Solicitation for Offers (SFO) for a private firm to manage Louisiana's *Road Home* housing program.

April 12, 2006

Governor Blanco and the LRA collect thousands of public comments and feedback on *The Road Home* housing plan.

The LRA and Governor Blanco hosted community meetings in Southeast and Southwest Louisiana to get feedback from residents and community leaders about the proposed Road Home housing plan. Thousands of comments and questions were received and responded to since the program was unveiled in February.

April 14, 2006

First Community Development Block Grant application submitted to HUD.

After receiving final approval today from the Louisiana Legislature, the plan for spending part of Louisiana's initial allotment of federal hurricane recovery dollars has been delivered to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington. As submitted, Louisiana's "action plan" requests \$368.4 million in supplemental Community Development Block Grants for Louisiana's Small Business Bridge Loan Program, local government emergency infrastructure, state building infrastructure, start-up costs for *The Road Home* housing program and administrative and technical assistance. The funding is part of \$6.2 billion appropriated by Congress in December for Louisiana's hurricane recovery. Another \$4.2 billion is currently under consideration in Congress.

April 18, 2006

Recovery School District opens first three schools.

Joseph A. Craig Elementary, Benjamin Banneker Elementary, and Joseph S. Clark Senior High School became the first three schools operational by the Louisiana Department of Education through the Recovery School District providing space for another 1,300 students in Orleans Parish.

April 21, 2006

Entergy corporate headquarters return to New Orleans.

Entergy returns its corporate headquarters to New Orleans eight months after its displacement due to Hurricane Katrina. The company is committed to help New Orleans rebuild and bring jobs back to its residents. Entergy delivers electricity to 2.7 million utility customers in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas.

April 26, 2006

LRA approves *The Road Home*; and forwards it to the Louisiana Legislature.

After collecting and responding to thousands of comments from homeowners, community advocates, members of the Legislature and elected officials, the LRA revamped key parts of the housing program, known as *The Road Home*, and voted unanimously (17-0) in favor of the revised plan. With this action, the plan will be sent to the Louisiana Legislature, then onto the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for final approval.

April 28, 2006

Jazz & Heritage Festival brings music back to *The Big Easy*. New Orleans kicked off the 37th annual Jazz & Heritage Festival -- its first since Hurricane Katrina -- with the theme "Witness the Healing Power of Music." An estimated 300,000 people attended the six-day festival.

May 4, 2006

U.S. Senate votes to approve legislation which includes an additional \$4.2 billion in hurricane recovery assistance; the emergency supplemental appropriations bill now heads to a joint conference committee for reconciliation.

May 9, 2006

Airport officials report business is booming at Lake Charles Regional.

As Lake Charles Regional recovers from damages sustained during Hurricane Rita, passengers in Southwest Louisiana don't seem to mind flying from temporary buildings and smaller spaces. Airport officials reported this week that business is up by 20% for the month of April and up 15% from 2005.

May 9, 2006

HUD approves first part of Louisiana's recovery plan.

Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Alphonso Jackson announces his approval of Louisiana's first action plan to spend \$368.4 million in Community Development Block Grants (CDBGs) to support Louisiana's Bridge Loan Program; repairs to local government emergency infrastructure, such as fire houses, police stations and sewer systems; state building infrastructure, such as roads, schools, universities and ports; and start-up costs for *The Road Home* housing plan. This crucial funding is part of \$6.2 billion in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) assistance HUD has allocated to Louisiana. Governor Blanco submitted this phase of the action plan to HUD in April following legislative approval.

May 10, 2006

Louisiana Legislature unanimously votes to approve *The Road Home*.

After receiving final approval from the Louisiana Legislature, the plan for Louisiana's housing program, known as *The Road Home*, was delivered to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington for final approval.

May 17, 2006

Governor Blanco, LRA leaders participate in a televised discussion about *The Road Home*.

In an effort to inform citizens on the key principles of the housing program, the LRA partnered with Louisiana Public Broadcasting to produce a one-hour television program "Louisiana Public Square" which helped to clarify key parts of *The Road Home*. The program aired on LPB stations throughout Louisiana, and is now available online at www.lra.louisiana.gov.

May 22, 2006

Shell restores partial production at Mars platform.

Shell Exploration & Production Co. announces that partial oil and natural gas production has been resumed from its hurricane-damaged Mars production platform in the Gulf of Mexico, signaling an important step in the recovery of Louisiana's oil industry. Mars was the largest Gulf production platform damaged by Katrina, which, in combination with Hurricane Rita, heavily damaged production platforms and pipeline systems throughout the Gulf. The platform represents about 5 percent of the Gulf's daily oil and gas production.

May 24, 2006

New Orleans to host 2008 NBA All-Star game.

The National Basketball Association (NBA) announced this week that New Orleans will host the 2008 NBA All-Star Game. This four-day event is estimated to bring 50,000 visitors to the recovering city and have an economic impact between \$70 - \$100 million.

May 26, 2006

Rescued animals comeback to *The Big Easy*.

Nineteen African black-footed penguins and two sea otters were brought back to New Orleans earlier this week, after being rescued from the Aquarium of the Americas in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. After nearly nine months away from home, the city's beloved sea animals were sent back to The Big Easy on special flights, chartered by FedEx, just in time for the aquarium's reopening.

May 30

HUD approves *The Road Home* housing plan.

HUD Secretary Alphonso Jackson announced his department's approval of Louisiana's housing plan, known as *The Road Home* which will stimulate reinvestment in Louisiana by: providing displaced homeowners with a maximum of up to \$150,000 for uninsured, uncompensated damages to repair, rebuild, relocate, or sell their homes; funding rental development incentives and other developer incentives designed to replace the tens of thousands of rental properties damaged or destroyed by the storms; and providing funds to increase shelter capacity for the homeless and funds for local governments to meet newly adopted building codes. Secretary Jackson's approval of *The Road Home* housing plan marks the next leg of the race, according to Governor Blanco, who called on Congress to pass the President's Supplemental Appropriations Bill that includes an additional \$4.2 billion in housing funding. When fully funded, *The Road Home* will represent by far the largest single housing reconstruction program in U.S. history.

June 1, 2006

Criminal Court Reopens in Orleans Parish

The Orleans Parish Criminal District Court building in New Orleans officially reopens nine months after Katrina.