

LOUISIANA RECOVERY AUTHORITY
HURRICANES GUSTAV AND IKE ACTION PLAN

November 18, 2008

OVERVIEW: A resolution to request the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board of Directors to provide preliminary approval of an Action Plan to create disaster recovery programs designed to assist the state in recovering from damages and losses caused by Hurricanes Gustav and Ike and to authorize staff of the Louisiana Recovery Authority and the Office of Community Development to publish the Action Plan for public comment and to submit the Action Plan to the Board at the December 2008 Board Meeting for final approval.

Whereas, Hurricane Gustav made landfall in Louisiana on September 1, 2008, and caused major wind and flood damage in most of the state, from the southern coastal parishes to central and north Louisiana;

Whereas, Hurricane Gustav's path encompassed 43 of Louisiana's 64 parishes and forced more than one million Louisiana residents to evacuate and leave their homes to secure their safety and that of their families;

Whereas, Hurricane Ike made landfall in Louisiana just two weeks after Hurricane Gustav further impacting 14 parishes already damaged by Hurricane Gustav;

Whereas, Hurricanes Gustav and Ike inflicted additional damage in Louisiana as many homeowners and businesses worked to repair damages and recover losses caused by the 2005 hurricanes;

Whereas, both storms resulted in major power outages, flooding, interruption of businesses, and structural damage to homes, K-12 schools, colleges and universities;

Whereas, Congress recently allocated \$6.5 billion to states for disaster recovery related to disasters occurring in 2008;

Whereas, Congress designated the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as the administering agency for the disaster recovery funds;

Whereas, HUD reduced the allocation to the states to \$6.1 billion due to a budget rescission;

Whereas, HUD will announce how one-third of the \$6.1 billion will be allocated amongst the states eligible for funds by November 30, 2008;

Whereas, the state must develop programs and outline such programs in an Action Plan to be submitted to HUD for approval prior to the expenditure of the disaster recovery dollars;

Whereas, Louisiana must work in an expeditious manner to ensure that its disaster recovery programs are available for HUD review and approval once allocation decisions are made;

Whereas, the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board of Directors at its October 15, 2008, meeting authorized the staff of the Louisiana Recovery Authority and the Office of Community Development to develop an Action Plan to create disaster recovery programs designed to assist the state in recovering from damages and losses caused by Hurricanes Gustav and Ike and to allocate funds provided by Congress in Fiscal Year 2009 Continuing Resolution HR2638;

Whereas, during the last month, the staff of the Louisiana Recovery Authority and the Office of Community Development gained insight and feedback from officials in impacted parishes, business owners, farmers, and residents regarding the needs of the impacted parishes;

Whereas, staff incorporated that feedback into the programs designed for Louisiana's recovery from Hurricanes Gustav and Ike;

Whereas, the staff developed recovery programs in several broad categories including but not limited to housing, infrastructure, hurricane protection, economic recovery and revitalization, and agriculture, and also incorporated technical and planning assistance for impacted parishes;

Whereas, most of the disaster recovery funds received by the state will be allocated directly to parishes impacted by the 2008 hurricanes;

Whereas, the disaster recovery programs developed by the staff of the Louisiana Recovery Authority and the Office of Community Development and included in the Action Plan will provide much needed assistance to Louisiana residents and businesses located in parishes impacted by Hurricanes Gustav and Ike; and

Whereas, the approval of the Action Plan will assist storm damaged Louisiana communities in achieving full recovery from the damages and losses inflicted by Hurricanes Gustav and Ike.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board of Directors does hereby to provide preliminary approval of the Action Plan to create disaster recovery programs designed to assist the state in recovering from damages and losses caused by Hurricanes Gustav and Ike.

THEREFORE BE IT FURHTER RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board of Directors does hereby authorize staff of the Louisiana Recovery Authority and the Office of Community Development to publish the Action Plan for public comment and to submit the Action Plan to the Board at the December 2008 Board Meeting for final approval.