

# Long Tenn Community Recovery Program

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Parish: Tangipahoa

Name of Submitting Official: Gordon Burgess, President

*Louisiana Recovery Authority*

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Date:

1. Please provide details on the following elements of your recovery plan.

a) How does this plan address long term community recovery and rebuilding in the aftermath of the 2005 hurricanes?

The Plan takes into account the many public meetings and public input, as well as emergency response staff input, which accumulated after Hurricane Katrina. This plan summarizes the information put together for the State and FEMA in the ESF-14 process for Tangipahoa Parish, priorities that were part of the Louisiana Speaks program, and the Hazard Mitigation Plan prepared for the La. Office of Homeland Security in November, 2005 (this plan is in the process of being updated). Together, this information and the previous studies address long term recovery by summarizing projects that need to be repaired or upgraded after Katrina, as well as reviewing the needs for preparing for future storms or natural disasters. In addition, this long term recovery program summarizes many of the capacity building needs brought about by new population influx. Local municipalities in Tangipahoa Parish were also able to provide input into the entire planning process and their stated needs are also included herein.

b) If all essential services are not restored, what measures does the recovery plan outline to restore essential services and associated infrastructure damaged by the storms?

All essential services that were damaged or temporarily shut down after the 2005 hurricane season have been restored. Tangipahoa Parish is primarily dealing with growth and capacity building issues that were further strained after 2005. This includes upgrading buildings for storm shelters.

Part of the recovery effort also includes the formation of a Hazard Mitigation Steering Committee which works together to coordinate all emergency needs with Parish Homeland Security staff and municipalities in Tangipahoa Parish.

c) How are future economic development and post-storm population changes addressed in this plan?

Our best estimates of population increases after Hurricane Katrina were provided by Dr. Wade Ragas, PhD in Real Estate Services, who estimated that Tangipahoa Parish gained about 13,000 persons from September, 2005 until October 1 S\ 2007. This plan, and Tangipahoa Parish, is addressing this issue and future economic development through four primary initiatives.

1) Engaging in a Comprehensive Planning process, along with a consultant partner, and Center for Planning Excellence (from Baton Rouge). This plan is engaging the public in a future growth and goal-setting process, and trying to plan for the future of Tangipahoa Parish.

This process also involves the upgrading of the Parish subdivision regulations.

2) Working with our parish economic development boards (3 of them), adjacent parish business and industry groups, the State Dept. of Economic Development, and an economic development consultant on an Interstate 12 development study (which will also deal with "image making"). This study should be completed in December, 2007 or January, 2008. A Hammond Business and Industry park is being developed at this time by the Hammond and Parish industry boards.

3) The Parish government is working together with local towns and cities in ranking and inventorying capital project/infrastructure needs as they impact upon growth and development. This includes road, water, sewer, building, bridge, and drainage needs

4) The formation of a parish-wide Unmet Needs Committee, which is composed of social service agencies, the United Way, and other providers, who together help to identify social service needs in the parish which are not being met or only partially met.

d) What measures does this plan outline to increase emergency preparedness and responsiveness for future disasters?

This Recovery Plan fits together with several emergency response and recovery plans already prepared for Tangipahoa Parish. The first is the Hazard Mitigation Plan, which was adopted in 2005 but which is being updated at this time by the Hazard Mitigation Committee. There is also an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), which was prepared by the Parish Office of Homeland Security, working together with emergency response providers. This Recovery Plan documents several of the emergency response needs that could help make the existing emergency response efforts more effective, including the purchase of new radios for emergency communication.

e) Describe the risk mitigating aspects of this plan.

The Plan includes risk mitigation features such as an early warning system for helping get evacuation started, upgrading of emergency shelters, and upgrading emergency communications, and construction of a building for storage of emergency supplies and equipment.

t) Describe how this plan addresses the following five principles for recovery and rebuilding adopted by the LRA:

i) Create infrastructure that supports recovery by restoring confidence, enhancing quality of life, and withstanding future disasters. The Plan proposes a series of projects and processes that are designed to more effectively manage disasters while also restoring confidence by the public. The public will be informed of these processes and projects through a series of educational/awareness outreaches.

ii) Promotes economic growth that benefits everyone. The Plan promotes economic growth through capacity building of essential services, coordination of economic development groups, provision of a workforce housing task force, and through new training and education opportunities offered by the La. Technical School system and its partners.

iii) Provides public services that enhance quality of life for everyone. The primary public services that have been mentioned during the public review process include the creation of a housing resource center or workforce housing plan, an improved public transit system, and more vocational job training. This plan adopts all three of these objectives

iv) Pursues policies that promote a healthy environment and healthy people. A healthy Tangipahoa Parish environment has been mentioned in the public input process primarily through use of planning tools such as preservation of green space, conservation easements, and zoning for industrial projects. The creation of a Healthcare Training Center for Excellence has been requested for the La. Technical School for its Allied Health training programs. Several communities would like to have their sewerage treatment systems upgraded for public health reasons. All of these items are addressed in the Long Range Plan.

v) Planning and design of communities that advances livability. This plan advocates better planning and smart growth for the entire parish

and coordinates its goals with those being developed by the Comprehensive Land Use Plan Committee and the parish planning committees. However, the Parish Comprehensive Plan is not yet completed so the final aspects of that plan will not be known until completion date in March of 2008. However, we do know that it advocates smart growth and coordinated planning, along with affordable housing and available public services to all citizens.

2. From the issues addressed in your plan, please provide a ranked list of top priority projects for your Parish recovery. Include a description of each project (attach additional sheets if necessary). If your parish has familiarity with the traditional CDBG program administered by the Office of Community Development, please highlight the projects in the plan that you believe to be CDBG eligible.

The Plan describes the 13 priority projects in Section 4 of the Plan, some of which have been completed already. The first priority is for the construction of a building for storage of emergency relief supplies. The second priority is the upgrading of emergency communications equipment and third, for upgrading of community water systems. Of these projects, only the drinking water system projects could be eligible for LCDBG funding under the regular program. The other two projects would need special consideration for use of CDBG funds.

3. Are any of the projects contained in this plan currently on the State of Louisiana capital outlay list or in line for funding from other local, state, federal, or private sources?

There are no projects in this plan that are now on the State Capital Outlay list or in line for funding from other sources.

4. Describe the process(es) that parish government utilized to garner community input and support in the creation of this plan. Please provide at a minimum 2-3 examples of community directed ideas and input that became part of the plan as submitted to the LRA. (Note: local governments must confirm to the Office of Community Development's "Citizen Participation Requirements for Local Governments" for CDBG funding approval.)

This recovery plan was discussed at open public forums at the November 13th and November 26th, 2007 meetings of the Tangipahoa Parish Council. A public notice of both November meetings was advertised in local newspapers and a public notice advertisement was mailed to local Mayors 10 days before the meeting. The Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan, which is part of this recovery plan, was presented to each city

governing body in the Parish and a council resolution was passed by each in support of the Plan. Parish residents were also able to provide input through the several parish scoping meetings held during the ESF-14 process and the Louisiana Speaks notices provided through newspaper and radio ads. The comments that were summarized in these plans were incorporated into this Long Term Recovery Plan.

5. Describe the official process(es) that Parish government used to approve the plan as submitted (attach copy of Parish Councilor Policy Jury ordinance or resolution).

The Parish Council adopted the Long Term Recovery Plan by resolution in a public meeting on November 26th, 2007. This meeting and the information inviting public input were advertised in public media before the parish meeting.

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# **Tangipahoa Parish Long Term Recovery Plan**

## TANGIPAHOA PARISH LONG TERM RECOVERY PLAN RECEIVED

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

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Tangipahoa Parish has prepared this Long Term Recovery Plan in order to recover from the 2005 Hurricane Katrina disaster, to be better equipped for future disasters, while also meeting the State requirements for qualifying for special CDBG funding. It is our hope that, with proper planning, our public bodies and citizens can be more knowledgeable of things they can do to protect their property and their lives from the devastation caused by hazards like floods and hurricanes. In addition, it is our desire to objectively evaluate storm recovery projects and the hazards that occur in our Parish and, as government officials, prioritize the projects and actions needed to provide a safe place to live. In working with this plan, the Parish used information previously gathered from the Parish's Hazard Mitigation Plan and the FEMA ESF-14 process, and Louisiana Speaks Program for this parish.

The Tangipahoa Parish Council and Administration, municipal and citizen representatives are also as this time updating the parish Hazard Mitigation Plan, and working through a Comprehensive Master Plan process, which should be complete in 2008. Citizen involvement has been very active and meaningful in the planning process. The Long Range Community Recovery Plan includes portions of other related planning efforts and has been passed by resolution of the Parish Council.

Much of the effort being expended for this planning process is the result of Hurricane Katrina passing just east of Tangipahoa on August 29th, 2005. Electrical power in the parish was knocked out for several weeks or months in some sectors and there were thousands of downed trees. At least 89 homes were destroyed and several hundred incurred severe damage. The Parish estimate of storm damage to critical infrastructure was almost \$9,000,000, not including damage in the incorporated areas. After the storm, Tangipahoa Parish's population surged with temporary residents and workers, as well as permanent residents moving in from hard-hit areas of the State. It is estimated that the parish population increased 11-13% since that time (within 2 years)

This plan also includes a list of adopted projects which the Parish Council has accepted as being important when considering the use of the special CDBG allocation of approximately \$625,000, along with possible future funds.

#### 1.1 Scope of the Plan

The Tangipahoa Parish Long Range Recovery Plan is a concerted effort on the part of the Parish to develop a Parish-wide approach to disaster damage reduction and preparation.. In order to focus on a process needed to attain a sustainable future for the community, Tangipahoa Parish utilized a FEMA approved process and HUD CDBG standards to identify and assess recovery needs and potential natural hazards. This plan will be utilized to better articulate needs for the community based on a process that

involves all stakeholders including the general public, government, business and industry.

## 1.2 Plan Preparation and Organization

To begin the planning process, the Parish invited members of the community with a variety of backgrounds (Le. business, law enforcement, schools, utilities, and emergency response) to attend meetings in November of 2005 sponsored by a FEMA task force. The Louisiana Speaks public engagement process began in late 2006 and ended in April of 2007. From these many meetings, an early Parish-wide Steering Committee was selected to work on the planning process.

The Steering Committee followed the planning process outlined by FEMA as detailed in the "State and Local Mitigation Planning How-To Guides":

- . Getting Started - Building Support for Mitigation Planning
- . Understanding Your Risks - Identifying Hazards and Estimating Losses
- . Developing a Mitigation Plan - Identifying Mitigation Measures and Implementation Strategies
- . Bringing the Plan to Life - Assuring the Success of the Hazard Mitigation Plan

Integrated into this was the Louisiana Speaks public engagement process which also brought forward many active ideas and projects for the parish to consider. From these earlier efforts and from information provided at new public meetings (in November, 2007), the parish was able to prepare the Plan herein.

## 1.3 Multi - Jurisdictional Planning Participation

Tangipahoa Parish includes eight incorporated municipalities: Amite, Independence, Hammond, Kentwood, Ponchatoula, Roseland, Tangipahoa, and Tickfaw. Community representatives were invited to the meetings, supplying critical infrastructure data, and reviewing the Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan, incorporated in part here. The HMP was also available at the local public libraries for review and public comment. The public was made aware the planning input opportunity via press releases in the local papers.

Therefore, a final meeting of the Steering Committee was held, with mayors or their representatives and the public in attendance. Topics covered at this meeting included plan development (the steps involved in the entire planning process), an explanation of the documentation, and the jurisdiction's unique or varied risks. In conclusion, a final review of the HMP was conducted in 2006 but a renewed updating process was begun this year with a new committee (some of the same persons serve on both committees).

Table 1 shows the designated primary representative from each jurisdiction and who served as their backup in the event they could not participate. It is important to note that the Hazard Mitigation portion of this plan is now being updated. In addition to this table, there were an untold number of general citizens providing input and ideas to the Parish task forces and Louisiana Speaks Plan for the parish.

Table 1

Jurisdiction	Jurisdiction Representatives	
	Name of Primary Representative	Name of Secondary Representative
<u>Tangipahoa Parish</u>	<u>Alyson Lapuma</u>	<u>Toni Jo Simon</u>
<u>Town of Amite City</u>	<u>Mayor Reggie Goldsby</u>	<u>Pris Galager</u>
<u>of Hammond</u>	<u>Mayor Mayson Foster</u>	Don Holtaren
<u>Town of Independence Town</u>	<u>Mayor Phillip Domiano</u>	
<u>of Kentwood City of</u>	<u>Mayor Harold Smith</u>	
<u>Ponchatoula Village</u>	<u>Mayor Robert Zabbia</u>	
<u>of Roseland Village</u>	<u>Mayor Charles Brace</u>	
<u>of Tangipahoa</u>	<u>Mayor James Fultz</u>	
<u>Villaae of Tickfaw</u>	<u>Mayor Anthony Lamonte</u>	