



**STATE OF EMERGENCY
PLAQUEMINES PARISH
FRESH WATER INUNDATION**

WHEREAS, Plaquemines Parish and its citizens have suffered tremendously as a result of catastrophic coastal land loss and environmental degradation over the past century, and is currently being threatened with the exacerbation of coastal land loss and environmental degradation resulting from the ongoing and unprecedented influx of freshwater into Plaquemines Parish's waterways and estuaries, which will adversely impact the viability of the Parish's economically and culturally significant commercial and recreational industries as well as the health, safety, welfare, and resilience of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Plaquemines Parish has already observed significant damage to its valuable fish, oyster, shellfish, aquaculture crops and wildlife production, including unexplained death and disease among the local dolphin population and undetermined damage to other species since the Bonnet Carre Spillway was initially opened months ago; and

WHEREAS, Plaquemines Parish now faces the active operation of the Bonnet Carre Spillway opened for an unprecedented second time in a matter of months, likely causing a drastic increase in the ongoing influx of freshwater into the Parish's estuaries and waterways; and

WHEREAS, Plaquemines Parish recognizes the importance of flood control measures, including the opening of the Bonnet Carre Spillway, taken as a result of the present state of the Mississippi River; and

WHEREAS, the very definite threats of irreparable environmental harm and loss of property, and related threats to the health, safety, welfare, and resilience of the citizens of Plaquemines Parish are now imminent and emergency action must be taken now;

NOW THEREFORE: I, Kirk Lepine, in my capacity as duly elected President of Plaquemines Parish Government, pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Charter for Local Self-Government for Plaquemines Parish, LA and by the Louisiana Disaster Act of 1993, LA-R.S. 29:721 et seq. do hereby find and declare that a state of emergency exists within Plaquemines Parish and all the Emergency Preparedness Plans and all Emergency Operations Plans be activated and that all provisions of the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act of 1993 as Amended by Acts 2003 are hereby invoked, effective immediately.

ISSUED ON THIS 20th DAY OF MAY, 2019, AT 4:00 P.M.

KIRK LEPINE, PRESIDENT
PLAQUEMINES PARISH

I, Kim Turlich Vaughn, do hereby certify that I have filed this State of Emergency Declaration in the Conveyance and Mortgage Records of Plaquemines Parish, LA on the 21st day of May, 2019, at 10:30 a.m./p.m.

KIM TURLICH VAUGHN
CLERK OF COURT
25TH JDC
PLAQUEMINES PARISH, LA