



"RE-BUILDING THE CITY'S WATER SYSTEMS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY"

Sewerage & Water Board of NEW ORLEANS

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S&WB and Corps Meeting Will Focus On The Importance of Preservation During Major Drainage Improvement Projects

The Sewerage & Board of New Orleans, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, and the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority will host a public meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 26, to discuss maintaining the historic preservation of Uptown neighborhoods in conjunction with the upcoming Southeast Louisiana Urban Flood Control (SELA) drainage improvement projects in the uptown area.

The meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. at Loyola University in the Communications/Music Complex on the Second Floor of Roussel Hall. Loyola is located at 6363 St. Charles Ave.

Residents are encouraged to attend to learn about expected drainage improvements, the type of construction to expect in area neighborhoods and plans to comply with an historic preservation agreement.

Marcia St. Martin, executive director of the Sewerage and Water Board said, "Drainage improvements are absolutely needed in all parts of the City, but at the Oct. 26th meeting we will be concentrating on those projects in areas of Uptown New Orleans." This meeting will cover projects on Claiborne Avenue from the Monticello Canal to Lowerline Street and on Jefferson, Napoleon and Louisiana Avenues.

The SELA improvements in Orleans Parish support the Sewerage and Water Board's master drainage plan and generally provide flood protection on a level associated with a ten-year rainfall event, while also reducing damages from larger rainfall events.

Mrs. St. Martin stated, "Prompted by the severity of rainfall flooding in southeast Louisiana and urging from citizens and local officials, the Board requested Federal assistance to develop and implement solutions to the flooding problem."

In 1996, Congress authorized the design and construction of the Southeast Louisiana Urban Flood Control Project (SELA), in a partnership with the U.S Army Corps of Engineers. Most of the SELA projects were large and expensive construction or improvements to canals, pumping stations and power facilities.

The Project Cooperation Agreement executed by the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans (S&WB) in January 1997 required that the Federal government provide 75% of the total cost of the SELA projects in Orleans Parish, and that the S&WB provide 25%.

Since then the city's drainage capacity has increased, but more funds are needed so that more crucial improvements can become a reality, Board officials said.

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