



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

Sewerage & Water Board of NEW ORLEANS

C. RAY NAGIN, President
TOMMIE A. VASSEL, President Pro-Tem

625 ST. JOSEPH STREET
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70165 • 504-529-2837 OR 52W-ATER
www.swbnola.org

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Contact: Robert Jackson, 269-7978, or Brenda Thornton, 269-7819
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Congressional Delegation Will Visit S&WB for Briefing on Damages, Needs and Progress of Systems

A group of 14 U.S. Representatives will tour the Sewerage & Water Board's East Bank Water Treatment Plant on Tuesday and be briefed on the devastation, restoration and plans for full recovery of Board facilities damaged by Katrina.

While a presentation will focus on the water system's treatment and distribution needs, information will also be provided on the sewerage and drainage systems and the Board's own power plant.

It is estimated that Board plants, equipment, infrastructure and facilities suffered billions in damages. S&WB Executive Director Marcia St. Martin said, "This visit gives us the opportunity to provide Congress with a full view of how Federal funds have been responsibly spent and to show that a great need for additional funds is still needed if the City is to fully recover."

She added, "We will also emphasize that without reliable water, sewer, drainage and power for all of those systems, the City just can't exist."

Leading the delegation is Speaker of the U. S. House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) Congressman William Jefferson (D-LA) worked closely with the Sewerage & Water Board and the leadership in arranging the tour.

Tommie Vassel, S&WB president pro tem, said, "We are pleased that Rep. Pelosi and the leadership will visit with us. It is a clear and strong demonstration, I believe, of Congress' commitment to work with us and provide the eligible funds needed to completely restore all of our damaged facilities."

Vassel added, "We know that this concerned Congressional delegation will leave our City fully aware that any funding they approve for S&WB projects will be responsibly and quickly used to provide our citizens with the highest quality sewer, water and drainage services."

Mayor and S&WB President C. Ray Nagin said, "What this esteemed delegation heard and saw about the Board's aggressive efforts in restoring our systems to date should convince them that all Federal funds are being used wisely. We also demonstrated the great need for more funds to continue the restoration of our three vital systems."

"We thank each member of the delegation for their great interest in the health, well-being and protection of the citizens of New Orleans."