

# Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans

## Drainage Millage Renewal



CITY OF NEW ORLEANS



# Accomplishments

- Legislative, Board Management Changes
  - New board with requisite qualifications
  - Implemented reorganization plan at senior management level
  - Pursued legislative changes for adjustments water loss
- Economic Opportunity
  - SWBNO HR staff linked to Economic Opportunity Program
  - Partnership with Delgado Community College for technical training the new generation of technical staff
  - Implementation of the Leadership Academy for SWBNO Management



# Accomplishments

- Infrastructure
  - Negotiated the largest FEMA settlement for DPW/SWBNO - \$2 B
  - Implemented City/SWBNO CEA for coordinated management
  - Continued integration of DPW/SWBNO staff to deliver the \$2.4 B Capital Improvement Program
  - Working to implement coordinated maintenance
  - NORA- SWBNO collaboration on green infrastructure
  - Leading Urban Water Strategies across all sectors



# Accomplishments

- Business Process
  - Fully implement Executive Order – MJL-10-05 for consultant selection
  - New customer billing system coming online this month to help improve customer experience
  - Electronic meter reading pilot completed – implementing plan for 2018
  - New work order system coming online 2017
  - Providing funding for Water Help program -\$240 K
  - Established new revenue stream for handling waste water for mobile containers such as portable toilets and shipping containers



# The Major Drainage System

- New Orleans utilizes an integrated system composed of catch basins, street drainage, pumps, and canals to remove stormwater from the City.
- We have the second largest drainage system in the world.
- New Orleans is the third wettest city in America.
- We average 63 inches of rain a year.
- Our drainage system is the backbone of our City and without it, we would be prone to flooding, putting life and property at risk.



# The Major Drainage System

- Over 100 miles of covered canals and 100 miles of open canals (8-ft to 28-ft wide)
- Temporary pump stations on Lake Pontchartrain



# S&WB – 2<sup>nd</sup> Largest Drainage Pumping System in the World

- 24-drainage pumping stations
- 120-pumps
- 50,800 cubic feet per second
- 380,000 gallons per second
- Can fill an Olympic pool in 1.5 seconds



# Drainage Millage Renewal

- Renewal of property tax on December 10 ballot. Not a new tax.
- Dedicated to drainage pumping stations and canals
- Provides nearly 30% of revenue necessary to operate and maintain the drainage system



# Drainage Millage Renewal

- For a home valued at \$100,000 with the \$75,000 homestead exemption, the millage on an annual tax bill is currently **\$11.65 (3.2 cents per day)** and would remain the same.
- Without the homestead exemption, this millage would be \$46.60 (12.8 cents per day) and would remain the same.





## Continued Lower Flood Insurance Premiums

- 97% of New Orleans residents will see a reduction in flood insurance rates.
- Due to significant improvements in drainage and flood risk reduction measures – 53% of all properties have been removed from the Special Flood Hazard Areas (“A” Zone) designation.



# Job Creation

- Part of the financing Program is to create new construction jobs
- Canals and pumping stations require experienced technical operators, skilled labor - 300 jobs
- The maintenance of canals, grass cutting operations – 250 jobs



# We Are Your Neighbors

- Our SWBNO personnel are your neighbors and friends.
- Much of the progress made is because of our employees' determination and deep commitment.
- We work together to enhance the quality-of-life services of water, sewerage and drainage to our city.



# We Are Hiring!

- Delgado Community College is training the next generation of certified water infrastructure personnel to work at SWBNO.



- A \$1.5M grant by the GE Foundation is helping to fund the program.



# Summary

- Continuing the drainage millage **will not** raise your taxes.
- Renewing the millage is critical for upkeep and operations of the internal drainage system that removes storm water from city streets.
- Pays for personnel who run and maintain the system.
- Provides flood protection, hurricane protections and continued job creation.



# Drainage Millage Renewal

**Please help us spread the word...**

