

RESILIENT ST. TAMMANY



Exhibit A: Executive Summary

ExhibitA_ExSum_StTam_LA.pdf

St. Tammany Parish

National Disaster Resilience Competition

Phase II

October 27, 2015

St. Tammany Parish, a receiver community included in the Greater New Orleans Region MSA, is located on the northshore of Lake Pontchartrain. ([See Attachment E- Context Map](#)) St. Tammany Parish (the Parish) is separated from the major population centers of Orleans Parish and Jefferson Parish by a six-mile bridge on the eastern edge of the lake, and the 24-mile Lake Pontchartrain Causeway (Causeway) at the lake's center. Construction of the Causeway, some 50 years ago, transformed St. Tammany Parish from a low-density, rural community into the fastest growing parish in the State of Louisiana (State), with the fifth largest population in the State. The Parish continues to experience both the sustained and sudden influx of residents and businesses from coastal and flood-prone areas of Southeast Louisiana, intensifying the strain of recovery. The effects of sustained and sudden population growth, continued infrastructure stressors and impacts to vulnerable population, is most evident in the City of Slidell (Slidell). ([See Attachment E- St. Tammany Dashboard](#)) Slidell is the largest urban area in St. Tammany Parish, with the majority of low-to-moderate income (LMI) households, the highest number of repetitively flooded structures, and has experienced a significant decrease in property values. These effects to the Parish, specifically in Slidell, are most relevant to the objectives of the application and are the basis for the proposed activities for National Disaster Resilience Competition (NDRC).

St. Tammany Parish is a regional partner in the State of Louisiana's proposed LA SAFE (Louisiana's Strategic Adaptations for Future Environments) framework, which aims to fill a resilience gap by articulating a development strategy that combines world class science through the State's Coastal Master Plan with community planning and policy techniques the State has honed over its decade-long post-Katrina recovery effort. In coordination with the State and Orleans and Jefferson Parishes, the Parish has proposed activities that address regional challenges and opportunities, including workforce creation, population migration, coastal land loss, behavioral

health and wellness, flood protection, and planning for future development. St. Tammany Parish embraces its role as a receiver community – a location primed for future growth as residents retreat from low-lying, vulnerable areas in the State’s coastal zone – and is committed to ongoing collaboration to ensure the creation of an environment responsive to anticipated future conditions.

As a direct support and local administrator of LA SAFE, the Parish is proposing **Resilient St. Tammany**, a multi-layered approach to resilience.

Strengthen Vulnerable Areas: **Layer Strengthen** focuses inland, provides direct protection to 70% of the population living in the Coastal Zone, and proposes six resilience corridors that will increase conveyance, improve water quality, and regenerate the nutrients within the coastal marsh through innovative retrofitted infrastructure projects. **Layer Strengthen** implements retrofit infrastructure projects combined with an innovative and cost-effective program of dedicated delivery to utilize soil dredged in the creation of stormwater detention ponds to build marsh along the 57-mile northern coast of Lake Pontchartrain. The first of the resilience corridors begins on the eastern side of St. Tammany Parish focusing on two drainage canals and six detention ponds; all pertaining to reducing flood risk and moving water through Slidell. As a component of **Layer Strengthen**, these proposed improvements incorporate water quality benefits, marsh restoration and preservation and an opportunity to utilize available greenspace for community enhancements providing synergy between needed infrastructure upgrades. ([See Attachment E- Strengthen Vulnerable Areas](#))

Embrace Community Health and Wellness: Disasters, such as Hurricane Isaac, have a significant impact on a community’s social resilience. Statistics indicate that these impacts peak as late as two years after a significant community shock or stressor. Hurricane Isaac was a slow-moving storm that entered St. Tammany Parish two days after reaching land and remained for

several days thereafter, resulting in extended power outages and significant flooding. The physical impacts were most prevalent along the Parish's coastal communities; however, prolonged power outages and isolation from the community created lasting social impacts parish-wide. **Layer Embrace** includes the first phase of Safe Haven, a 100-acre behavioral health and wellness campus. The campus will provide a recovery-oriented system of care (ROSC) with flexible, collaborative continuum of care services, diverting traditionally underserved populations from emergency rooms and the prison system. **Layer Embrace** will also add nine miles to the 28-mile Tammany Trace (the Trace), Louisiana's first rails-to-trails project located on some of the highest elevations in the coastal zone. Following Hurricane Isaac, the fifth named storm to impact the Parish in the last 10 years, the Trace provided alternate transportation the ability to physically reconnect and relief from extended power outages. The extension will run through Slidell's urban center and provide access to the highest concentrations of LMI populations in the Parish. ([See Attachment E- Embrace Community Health and Wellness](#))

Transform Government: With St. Tammany Parish's projected growth, **Layer Transform** proposes a revision to the Parish development standards that will redefine the Parish's Economic Development Districts, and establish a new Unified Development Code (UDC). **Layer Transform** will regulate science-based building methods and the concepts from **Strengthen** and **Embrace** to ensure that the Parish continues to create and restore marsh, preserve and conserve non-impacted areas, and require community health and wellness as a component of development. ([See Attachment E- Transform Government](#)).