

# Existing Challenges & Opportunities for Better Neighborhood Flood Protection in New Orleans

New Orleans Citizen Sewer, Water & Drainage System Reform Task Force

#### The Case for Improving Local Stormwater Protection in Our Subsiding Bowl...



<u>A Third Line of Flood Defense</u>: In the nation's third rainiest city, coastal restoration and levees must be complimented by a system that detains and removes rain water to slow subsidence and ease the burden on fractured drainage pipes.

## Inside enhanced city levees, flooding continues...from rain.



ROAD

WORK

AHEAD

### Magazine St. & St. Mary St.

Sycamore St. & Carrollton Ave. (April 24, 2013) Oak Park Subdivision, Filmore Neighborhood (August 29, 2012)

Canal St. (May 16, 2010)

#### One System with Two Owners: The City's rainwater flood protection infrastructure is managed by two separate government entities using separate funding sources



<u>SWBNO</u>: 235 Miles of Pipe, Canals & Culverts; 23 Pump Stations

FY 2013 O&M Budget: \$36,628,814

Pipe-Only Solution Cost for 10-Yr Storm Protection: \$1.6 Billion



<u>City-DPW</u>: 1,288 Miles of Drainage Pipe, 46,350 Manholes, and 19,460 inlets & catch basins FY 2013 O&M Budget: \$1,855,549 Pipe Only Solution Cost for 10-Yr Storm Protection: \$3.14 Billion



# Citizen Task Force Recommendations for Improving Neighborhood Flood Protection...

- <u>Consolidate governance</u> of all stormwater assets with Sewerage & Water Board
- Ensure that any <u>drainage fee services all City/SWBNO assets</u> and maintenance for any surface rainwater retention features on public property
- <u>Design new neutral grounds</u> through ongoing SELA projects to retain and absorb more rainwater
- <u>Dedicate an effective portion of the City's \$247 million in federal hazard mitigation</u> <u>funding</u> to construct public stormwater retention features
- By Ordinance and/or Executive Order, <u>develop design standards for public rights-of-</u> way and public spaces that ensure an acceptable minimum % of stormwater retention (e.g. *An even more Complete Street*)
- <u>Strategically connect NORA-held vacant lots to the City's stormwater protection</u> <u>system</u> by designing lots to safely and aesthetically detain stormwater
- Incorporate <u>runoff reduction mandates and incentives into existing zoning codes and</u> <u>economic development, housing, and blight reuse programs</u>



#### <u>Opportunities to Improve</u>: Capitalize on Existing SELA Projects to Enlist our Neutral Grounds into Flood Protection Efforts...



#### **Transform this...**



...into this.



In replacing dug-up neutral ground, don't recreate the dome. Create a basin to safely capture and absorb excess rain water.

#### <u>Opportunities to Improve</u>: Capitalize on Planned Roadway Repairs to Create Streets that Absorb More Rain Water...

#### Transform this...

...into this.



By Ordinance or Executive Order, require that design/engineering for all public projects assess potential stormwater retention opportunities



<u>Opportunities to Improve</u>: Design Planned Park & Vacant Lot Programs to Create Safe Basins for Rainwater to Reduce Flooding of Adjacent Homes & Businesses...

#### Transform this...





#### ...into this.



<u>Opportunities to Improve</u>: Harness City Zoning, Economic Develop, Blight & Housing Assistance Programs to Incentive Safe Rainwater Detention/Reuse on Private Properties...

### Transform this...



Score flood protection designs when awarding financial & other incentives for commercial development

#### ...into this.





Costco Parking Lot, Truckee Meadows, NV: Designed to meet local stormwater retention safeguards Learning How Other American Cities are Achieving More Sustainable & Innovative Flood Protection...



GREATER NEW ORLEANS FOUNDATION

For a vibrant region.



Please attend upcoming dialogues with leaders from other American communities:

June 5: Creating Public-Private Partnerships to Construct & Manage Better Stormwater Protection (Houston & Philadelphia)

June 19: Designing Streets, Parks & Other Public Spaces to Reduce Stormwater Flooding and Pollution (Milwaukee & Portland, Oregon)

June 26: Innovative Financing Options for Green Stormwater Infrastructure (District of Columbia, Philadelphia, etc.)

<u>To register, please visit: http://www.gnof.org/urbanwaterseries/</u>

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