

NOV 06 2007



**Office of the Federal Coordinator  
for Gulf Coast Rebuilding**

Ms. Marcia St. Martin  
Executive Director  
Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans  
625 Saint Joseph Street, Room 237  
New Orleans, LA 70165

Dear Ms. St. Martin:

I write to you as a continuation of our past conversations and shared concern for ensuring that critical sewerage and water projects are able to move forward and achieve completion— recognizing the key role of these projects as a foundation for the city's long-term recovery.

As you know, I am committed to ensuring that the Federal Government provides coordinated, effective and appropriate support to you and other local leaders that must drive the rebuilding effort. I strive constantly to improve the performance of all Federal efforts and to ensure that Federal dollars translate into tangible and valuable results.

Understanding the significant role that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) program plays in helping to rebuild public infrastructure, I have recently asked a handful of local leaders to identify their top-five highest priority PA projects. While rebuilding damaged infrastructure is a shared partnership between Federal, State and local governments, I and my partners at FEMA are committed to ensuring that the Federal Government meets its responsibilities in our ongoing effort to drive PA projects to completion.

Mayor Nagin has identified sewerage and water projects among his highest priorities for the City. In turn, I would like to ask you to outline your specific top-five PA projects of highest priority. I will work closely with you, FEMA, and other State or local agencies to seek resolution on these projects in an expeditious manner. Within thirty days of receiving your request, my goal is to identify the barriers that prevent reaching a decision and/or action on these projects. Please also identify the member of your staff that is the most appropriate contact going forward.

Thank you for your cooperation and I look forward to continuing our work together on behalf of the residents of New Orleans.

Sincerely,

  
Donald E. Powell  
Federal Coordinator for Gulf Coast Rebuilding

cc: Mayor C. Ray Nagin, City of New Orleans