



## The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans

625 St. Joseph Street  
New Orleans, LA 70165

November 8, 2024

The Honorable Garret Graves  
2402 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Graves:

As you know, we were recently alerted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that it is prepared to forgive up to \$68 million in construction interest owed by Orleans and Jefferson Parishes in connection with the Southeast Louisiana (SELA) flood control project. This great result would not have been possible without the persistent efforts of both you and your staff and we want to extend our deepest appreciation to you.

Because large swaths of our region are below sea level, it is imperative for us to develop modern infrastructure that can drain large volumes of water out of our urban areas. The SELA program has allowed us to do just that over many decades. And, now, with the interest savings that you helped generate for us, we can plow those funds into creating more resiliency and flood protection throughout Orleans Parish.

We thank you for your tireless work on our behalf. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about our operations or if you would like to visit any of our facilities.

Sincerely,

Ghassan Korban  
Executive Director  
Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans

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