PROCLAMATION NUMBER 42 JBE 2019

STATE OF EMERGENCY – IMMINENT THREAT OF FLOODING ALONG THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND OTHER STATE BODIES OF WATER

WHEREAS, Proclamation Number 33 JBE 2019, issued on February 27, 2019, declared a state of emergency for the State of Louisiana as a result of river crests and the threat of imminent additional flooding causing emergency conditions that continue to threaten the lives and property of the citizens of Louisiana;

WHEREAS, during this emergency, severe weather conditions across the middle of the nation, caused heavy rainfall throughout the lower Mississippi Valley and flooding along the length of the Mississippi River and other bodies of water throughout the State;

WHEREAS, the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers are currently at crest stages and slow fall, several parishes are continuing to deal with backwater flooding in impacted areas, which combined with forecasted weather conditions create the potential for another rise in the Mississippi River in the coming weeks;

WHEREAS, the rising waters on the Mississippi River and forecasts for additional rainfall necessitated the US Army Corp of Engineers’ decision to open the Bonne Carre Spillway with plans to continue flood flight operations until the end of the spring flood season;

WHEREAS, the State anticipates that parishes will continue to seek support from state agencies and that assistance may be needed to aid the parishes in their response to the rising river levels throughout Louisiana;

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, La. R.S. 29:721, et seq., confers upon the Governor of the State of Louisiana emergency powers to deal with emergencies and disasters, including those caused by fire, flood, earthquake or other natural or manmade causes, in order to ensure that preparations of this State will be adequate to deal with such emergencies or disasters and to preserve the lives and property of the people of the State of Louisiana;

WHEREAS, when the Governor determines that a disaster or emergency has occurred, or the threat thereof is imminent, La. R.S. 29:724(B)(1) empowers him to declare a state of emergency by executive order or proclamation, or both; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to renew 33 JBE 2019 to extend the state of emergency due to the continuation of emergency conditions.

NOW THEREFORE, I, JOHN BEL EDWARDS, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Louisiana, does hereby order and direct as follows:
SECTION 1: Pursuant to the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, R.S. 29:721, et seq., a state of emergency is hereby declared to exist in the State of Louisiana as a result of river and threat of imminent additional flooding which has emergency conditions that threaten the lives and property of the citizens of the State.

SECTION 2: The Director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) is hereby authorized to undertake any activity authorized by law which he deems appropriate in response to this declaration.

SECTION 3: All departments, commissions, boards, agencies and officers of the State, or any political subdivision thereof, are authorized and directed to cooperate in actions the State may take in response to the effects of this imminent threat of flooding.

SECTION 4: This state of emergency extends from Thursday, March 28, 2019 to Friday, April 26, 2019, unless terminated sooner.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Louisiana in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 27th day of March, 2019.

[Signature]

GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

ATTEST BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE

[Signature]

SECRETARY OF STATE