For Release: December 11, 2017
Contact: Ronnie Simpson, 985-898-5243

Construction set to Begin in Early 2018 on 54-Acre French Branch Detention Pond in Slidell

Pat Brister, St. Tammany Parish President, announced today that construction on the French Branch Pond in Slidell, a 54-acre detention pond which is part of the Lower W-15 Area/Lower French Branch Basin Drainage Improvement Project, is slated to begin in early January 2018. The pond will create approximately 324 acre-feet of storage, which means it can hold up to 90.7 million gallons of water at capacity.

In January of this year, Parish officials announced the $7.9 million dollar grant award through the federal Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, to fund this project. As part of ongoing flooding mitigation efforts Parish-wide, this grant will fund not only the French Branch Pond, but also the widening of the W-15 Canal. This project will reduce the flooding impact to homes and businesses throughout the W-15 Basin as it will reduce peak runoff to the W-15 Canal downstream of the French Branch Pond, and increase the conveyance capacity of the W-15 Canal.

"We are excited to begin the first phase of this project which will increase the storage capacity of stormwater through the creation of this pond," said Pat Brister, St. Tammany Parish President. "This grant award moves this multi-layered project forward, and as a result, we will see increased movement of water away from homes during a flooding event."

This award, ties back to Hurricane Ike which impacted the coast of Louisiana in September of 2008, is a matching grant, which means St. Tammany Parish Government will absorb 25 % of the cost of the $10.6 million project. Construction of the pond portion of the project is estimated to cost $4,115,000. Construction is expected to be complete in early 2019 barring any delays.

Stay up-to-date on what's happening in Parish Government when you sign up for email updates at www.stpgov.org. Follow us on social media on Facebook and Twitter.