Introduced December 14, 1993, by Councilman Van Sandt, seconded by Councilwoman Williams

RESOLUTION R93-54

A resolution opposing the West Pearl River Navigation Project under consideration by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.

WHEREAS, the West Pearl River Navigation Project was authorized by the River and Harbor act of 1935; and

WHEREAS, said project provided navigation from the river's mouth to the vicinity of Bogalusa, Louisiana, a distance of about fifty-eight (58) miles; and

WHEREAS, prior to 1950 less emphasis was placed on scenic rivers, ecosystems and the preservation of natural environment; and

WHEREAS, the West Pearl River is of vital importance to thousands of Slidell residents because of its unique ecological and recreational value; and

WHEREAS, the past for future economic viability of Slidell is based heavily on an outdoor quality of life including hunting, fishing, canoeing, camping, birding and many other outdoor activities along the West Pearl River; and

WHEREAS, if this project proceeds forward, heavy barge traffic will occur on the river which will create a real potential for spills of hazardous cargo, collisions with small boaters and significant environmental damage to the river; and

WHEREAS, heavy barge traffic on this small, fast river is a totally noncompatible use in direct conflict with the needed protection of this unique area; and

WHEREAS, we feel that millions of dollars of public tax payers funds should not be spent to promote the special interest of a small group of private individuals.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Slidell City Council that it does hereby notify the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers of its opposition to resuming the West Pearl River Navigational Project identified in the River and Harbor Act of 1935, and encourages the Corps to de-authorize the project.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that there are new highways and other means of helping the economical conditions in the Bogalusa area and the transporting of materials thereto.

Adopted this 14th day of Dedember, 1993.

Councilman, District F President of the Council

Davis Dautreuil

Council Administrator/Clerk of the Council