



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

PROCLAMATION NUMBER 12 CLS 2023

*EXTENSION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY - MISSISSIPPI RIVER  
SALTWATER INTRUSION*

**WHEREAS,** the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, La. R.S. 29:721 *et seq.*, confers upon the President of the Parish of Jefferson 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 the preparations of this parish will be adequate to respond to such emergencies or disasters and to preserve the lives and property of the people of the Parish of Jefferson; and

**WHEREAS,** La. R.S. 29:727(D)(1) empowers the President of the Parish of Jefferson to declare a local disaster or emergency, which shall continue until the President finds that the threat of danger has been dealt with to the extent that emergency conditions no longer exist, but no state of emergency may continue for longer than thirty days unless extended by the Parish President and no continuous state of emergency may continue beyond ninety days unless approved by the parish governing authority; and

**WHEREAS,** the Mississippi River serves as the source of water for Jefferson Parish Water Department's East Bank and West Bank water treatment facilities; and

**WHEREAS,** extraordinarily low river levels and the resulting slower flow rates have allowed for saltwater to intrude upstream, which has reached the water intakes of neighboring Plaquemines Parish; and

**WHEREAS,** the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has constructed a saltwater barrier sill in effort to combat the saltwater intrusion and the resulting negative impacts to drinking water supplies; and

**WHEREAS,** despite these efforts, persistent unfavorable river conditions are expected to allow the saltwater intrusion to continue to advance upstream and to begin negatively impacting Jefferson Parish's water supply; and

**WHEREAS,** on September 19, 2023, Proclamation No. 10 CLS 2023 was issued, which declared a state of emergency within and throughout the Parish of Jefferson as a result of Mississippi River saltwater intrusion; and

**WHEREAS,** on October 17, 2023, Proclamation No. 11 CLS 2023 was issued, which extended the state of emergency for an additional thirty days; and

**WHEREAS,** it is necessary to again extend this state of emergency for an additional thirty (30) days due to the continued threat of emergency conditions.

**NOW THEREFORE, I, CYNTHIA LEE SHENG,** President of the Parish of Jefferson, by virtue of the authority vested by the laws of the State of Louisiana, do hereby order and direct as follows:

**SECTION 1:** Pursuant to the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, La. R.S. 29:721 *et seq.*, a state of emergency is hereby declared to continue to exist within and throughout the Parish of Jefferson

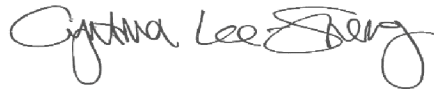


as a result of Mississippi River saltwater intrusion, which has created an imminent threat of emergency conditions that threaten the lives and property of the citizens of this Parish.

**SECTION 2:** That the provisions of Division 2 and Division 3.1 of Article VII of Chapter 2 of the Code of Ordinances of Jefferson Parish, Louisiana are hereby suspended with respect to the procurement of labor, materials, supplies, equipment, services, and public works necessary to respond to this emergency.

**SECTION 3:** This proclamation shall be effective upon signature and shall remain in effect from November 18, 2023 to December 17, 2023, unless terminated sooner.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** I have set my hand officially on this 16<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2023.



**PRESIDENT, PARISH OF JEFFERSON**

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