### HLS 23RS-4237

### 2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 293

### BY REPRESENTATIVE WHITE

# WATERWAYS/RIVERS: Requests the United States Army Corps of Engineers to make determinations related to the One Lake project on the Pearl River

1	A RESOLUTION
2	To urge and request the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to consider all available data and
3	alternatives to make a determination of the One Lake project's technical feasibility,
4	economic justification, environmental acceptability, and potential downstream
5	impacts to the Pearl River Basin.
6	WHEREAS, the Pearl River Flood Risk Management Project, known as the "One
7	Lake" project, is the nonfederal sponsor's Locally Preferred Plan (LPP) that includes a
8	proposal to dredge and dam the Pearl River to create a one thousand five hundred acre lake
9	near Jackson, Mississippi; and
10	WHEREAS, the construction of One Lake is likely to alter the seasonal flow and
11	temperature of the Pearl River waters; and
12	WHEREAS, fundamental changes to water flows and temperatures could precipitate
13	severe downstream environmental and economic impacts, including saltwater intrusion,
14	destruction of plant and animal life and habitat, loss of sensitive cultural sites and artifacts,
15	increased pollution, sedimentation, river flooding, storm surge, and adverse effects to
16	navigation, land values, and recreation; and
17	WHEREAS, in 2018, the St. Tammany Parish Department of Engineering examined
18	evaporation predictions for the proposed One Lake project and found that evaporative losses
19	subtracted from either the minimum daily mean discharges by month or the tenth percentile
20	of mean daily discharges, indicate the flow of the already impacted Pearl River will be
21	further compromised; and

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WHEREAS, the Louisiana Oyster Task Force and the Mississippi Governor's Oyster 2 Council have identified insufficient freshwater quantity flowing down the Pearl River to 3 coastal waters as a threat to oyster production in both states; and

4 WHEREAS, stable water flows on the Pearl River and its tributaries are necessary 5 for adequate dilution of effluents discharged from dozens of National Pollutant Discharge 6 Elimination System (NPDES) permit holders in the counties and parishes south of the 7 proposed project site; and

8 WHEREAS, the Pearl River is on the Mississippi Department of Environmental 9 Quality's Impaired Waters List due to wastewater runoff originating from parking lots, 10 farms, and septic tanks, which results in unacceptable levels of nitrogen and phosphorus 11 reaching the river, increasing health hazards to humans and the ecosystem, and necessitating 12 limitation of these pollutants in existing permits held by business, industry, and 13 municipalities; and

14 WHEREAS, the proposed One Lake project requires close scrutiny from all interests 15 that rely on the Pearl River to safely and legally discharge regulated wastewater; and

16 WHEREAS, pursuant to 15 CFR 930.33, federal agencies shall submit consistency 17 determinations to relevant state agencies for activities having coastal effects, regardless of 18 location; and

19 WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 1176 of the Water Resources Development Act of 20 2018, the secretary of the Army shall review and determine whether the project is technically 21 feasible, economically justified, environmentally acceptable, and will be consistent with 22 applicable policies, regulations, and federal laws, and such determination shall assess 23 potential downstream impacts to the Pearl River Basin resulting from the project; and

24 WHEREAS, the project shall be designed in a manner that addresses any potential 25 adverse impacts or that provides mitigation in accordance with Section 906 of the Water 26 Resources Development Act of 1986.

27 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the 28 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 29 to provide a consistency determination to all relevant state agencies, including the 30 Department of Natural Resources, office of coastal management, which will evaluate the foreseeable direct and indirect effects of the One Lake project on Louisiana coastal
resources.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature 4 of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to review all 5 available data, assess all potential downstream impacts to the Pearl River Basin that could 6 result from the project, and consider all available alternatives, A, A1, C, and a combination 7 of these, as well as new alternatives as described in the Notice of Intent to Prepare a Draft 8 Environmental Impact Statement for the Pearl River Federal Flood Risk Management 9 Project, Pearl River Watershed, published May 18, 2023, in the Federal Register; to further 10 demonstrate that it has conducted economic and environmental impact analyses that include 11 every river-dependent industry and municipality on the Pearl River and every Clean Water 12 Act NPDES permit holder and water withdrawal permit holder in the Pearl River Basin, in 13 all counties and parishes on the Pearl River downstream of Rankin and Hinds Counties; and 14 to provide a mass-balance water budget for all uses on the Pearl River in determining 15 whether the One Lake project is technically feasible, economically justified, and 16 environmentally acceptable. 17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the

- 18 United States Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District.
- 19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to each
- 20 member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.

## DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Requests the Corps of Engineers to consider alternatives and determine the technical feasibility, economic justification, environmental acceptability, and potential adverse downstream effects on the Pearl River Basin of the proposed One Lake project.