

HURRICANES GUSTAV AND IKE
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application
PROPOSAL FORM – AMENDMENT 1

For OCD DRU Use Only 09-	Disaster (Gustav, Ike, or both) Both	Submission Date
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APPLICANT

Parish St. Tammany	Parish President Patricia Brister	E-mail Address pnbrister@stpgov.org	
Street or P. O. Box 21450 Koop Dr.	City Mandeville	Parish STP	State ZIP Code LA 70471
Telephone Number 985-867-5095	Fax Number 985-898-5205	DUNS Number 929281053	

CONTACT PERSON

Name/ Title Gina P. Campo, Chief Administrative Officer	Telephone Number 985-867-5095	FAX Number 985-898-5205
Department/ Organization St. Tammany Parish, President's Office	E-mail Address gcampo@stpgov.org	
Street or P.O. Box 21490 Koop Dr.	City: Mandeville Parish: STP ZIP Code: 70471	

GUSTAV/IKE PROGRAM AREAS

Please identify the relevant programs and provide an estimated percentage breakdown of the first allocation amount of recovery funds that the parish anticipates using on the programs listed below. Program descriptions can be found in the Action Plan Amendment No. 1 on the LRA website (www.Ira.louisiana.gov). The total percentage should equal 100. Please select only those that apply in your parish. This summary information should relate directly to Section III.

HOUSING

Homeowner Rehabilitation <input type="checkbox"/> %	Homeowner Compensation/Incentive <input type="checkbox"/> %	Housing Relocation Program <input type="checkbox"/> %
Homeownership Financing <input type="checkbox"/>	Homelessness Prevention <input type="checkbox"/> %	Neighborhood Redevelopment <input type="checkbox"/> %
Rental Rehabilitation <input type="checkbox"/> %		

INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure Recovery Program	17%
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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic Recovery and Revitalization	13%
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ADMINISTRATION AND PLANNING

Community Resiliency Program <input type="checkbox"/> 0%	Public Services Program <input type="checkbox"/> 0%	Administration 5% <i>*Max of 5%</i>
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Does the parish anticipate applying for additional funds from the state-administered Affordable Rental Housing Program? (Y or **N**)

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SECTION I: BACKGROUND

A. Uniform Data

LRA/OCD-DRU will work with the parishes to facilitate that consistent data sets are compiled to ensure a data-driven planning and program development recovery process. *LRA/OCD-DRU staff will compile for each Parish a standard set of data from common sources on the three following areas by the March 26, 2009 workshop.*

1. Parish Demographics and Natural Features Brief
2. Storm Impact Brief
3. Economic Impact Brief

B. Public Service / Institutions

Were there specific public service/institutions impacted by the storm(s)? (Y or N)

Please check the type of services/institutions that were impacted:

Schools	X	First Responder	X	Hospitals	X
Public Buildings	X	Roads	X	Sewers/Drainage	X
Other	X				

If 'Other' was checked, please explain:

Also affected were utilities, including electricity, phone service and cable. 78,000 Cleco customers were without power following Gustav. Charter Communications was completely out and there were no means of communication in the City of Slidell.

Were there any unique/ unforeseen failures?

Yes, the ability of 911 to operate was interrupted due to cuts in the underground lines and other damage to phone lines and infrastructure. This seriously hindered the ability of emergency personnel to respond to the disaster.

In addition, the effects of Hurricanes Gustav and Ike resulted in a down turn in the local economy. This further exacerbated the negative economic effects from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita from which the Parish was still recovering. Negative economic effects experienced locally due to Gustav and Ike include housing slowdown, and decreased sales tax collections.

Has the Governor's Office for Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness via the FEMA Public Assistance program been made aware of these impacts? (Y or N)

C. Planning

Does the parish have an approved hazard mitigation plan on file with the Governor's Office of

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Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness? (Y or N) If no please explain.

Does your parish or any of its municipalities have a comprehensive/ master plan? (Y or N) If no please explain.

D. Receipt of CDBG Funds.

Provide the latest date when your parish has received CDBG funding.

Month_October_Year_2009__

SECTION II: COMMUNITY IMPACT

Please use the uniform data provided in Section I.A. and provide any additional qualitative and quantitative support to describe the impact of the storms on communities within the parish. If specific areas within the parish were more severely impacted, please provide boundaries of the area and any unique characteristics (demographics, characteristics of the natural or built environment).

St. Tammany Parish Government ("STPG") encompasses 854 square miles of land. Although the coastal areas are developed, the vast majority of St. Tammany's land is sparsely populated due to the high density of pine forests. In fact, St. Tammany Parish's largest industry is timber. Presently, the 14 fire protection districts, Sheriffs' Offices, 7 municipal Police Departments, 2 EMS (ambulance services) and STPG Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness are unable to communicate with each other to assist in parish-wide emergency and recovery efforts. See attached map showing locations of all first responder locations in St. Tammany Parish. Many of the small, rural, volunteer fire departments and police departments have small antennas affixed to their fire stations and police stations. Because the antennas are at minimal elevation, only small service areas are covered. In fact, some rural areas of St. Tammany Parish are not covered at all. Rural first responders experience significant transmission difficulties because the dense forests obstruct radio frequencies. The solution to providing interoperability among first responders is to construct a centrally located communications tower above the forests.

Experiences during Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Gustav confirmed that commercial cell phone tower owners neither preserved vehicle access to the towers nor maintained generators for operating the lights and cables on the towers, as they were obligated to do under their contracts. The cell towers lost power during Hurricane Katrina. During Gustav, cuts in cables caused 911 services to be interrupted for an extended period of time. Thus, during Katrina and Gustav, communications among first responders were inoperable. Search and rescue efforts were limited to daylight hours. Roads were covered with fallen trees and debris, making it difficult for first responders to check on residents. The vast use of generators by unskilled residents created home fires and sickness from inhaled fumes. The abundant use of chain saws, illegal burning, and lack of water pressure, placed additional burdens on first responders. If communications had been interoperable during these emergencies, a parish-wide response plan could have been implemented.

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The U.S. Census Bureau reported St. Tammany Parish's population in 2000 as 191,268. The U.S. Census Bureau's 2005 American Community Survey reported St. Tammany Parish's population in 2005 to be 217,999, a 14% increase in five (5) years. Using the same methodology that the U. S. Census Bureau used for its 2005 estimate, St. Tammany Parish Government computed the 2007 population estimate as 270,000. This is a 24% increase in the two years since Hurricane Katrina. The population has shifted from St. Bernard, Orleans and Jefferson to St. Tammany. The population in-migration has burdened first responders, traffic, health care services, and businesses. The cost of labor and materials has increased about 30% due to the demand created by debris removal, repairs, renovations, construction, and development to meet the needs of the residents whose property was ravaged by Hurricane Katrina as well as the additional 52,000 residents. Attached are the U. S. Census statistics, two newspaper articles, and a press release describing St. Tammany's population growth.

A communications tower owned by St. Tammany Parish Government for use by first responders in servicing the public is planned and will be secured and maintained by the Parish and its stakeholders. See attached map showing proposed tower location. St. Tammany Parish's Offices of Emergency Operations, Fire Services, Facilities Management, and Public Works anticipate weather problems and make necessary preparations in advance of storms. The communications tower will address increased burden of first responders as a result of recent storms and increased population. It will also assist first responders in servicing rural communities. Much of St. Tammany Parish is rural. With **14** fire districts and various law enforcement entities spread throughout the Parish, a central communications system is necessary to insure continuity of communication. The proposed communications tower will provide this to all areas.

In addition, the areas most affected by these storms (i.e., the southeastern portion of the Parish) will be revitalized by a proposed economic development project in the form of an Entertainment District. The District will include various parks, shopping, dining, marina and a proposed fishing pier and recreational area in Slidell. The District will create jobs and spur economic activity in the eastern part of St. Tammany Parish.

As an alternate project, St. Tammany Parish has identified an area within the City of Covington which sustained substantial road flooding in Hurricane Gustav. The River Forest subdivision experienced flooding in numerous areas as a consequence of Hurricane Gustav which impeded ingress and egress to residents. This area contains a substantial number of low to moderate income households. The Parish proposes to remediate the flooding issue in this subdivision in phases based on the availability of funding in addition to the Parish's base allotment.

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SECTION III: PROGRAM AREA DEVELOPMENT

Provide a brief description of specific project activities you propose in each program area, as reflected by those areas identified on the cover sheet, and the recovery needs that they will address.

Infrastructure

COMMUNICATIONS TOWER

STPG proposes to construct a 450 foot interoperable communications tower on Parish-owned land on LA Highway 36 between the intersections of LA Highways 434 and I088. See attached proposed tower site map. This location is north of 1-12 between Abita Springs and Pearl River, in the heart of rural St. Tammany. Our engineering consultant performed a propagation study that determined this location offers the greatest potential for coverage in St. Tammany Parish. It is a remote location, however, and there are no elevated structures that would support communications equipment. The tower will be constructed on the site of St. Tammany Parish's new Animal Services Campus that is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The tower will enable the 14 fire districts, Sheriffs' Offices, 7 municipal Police Departments, 2 EMS (ambulance services) and STPG Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness to be immediately alerted to dangerous situations. See attached map of all first responder locations. STPG anticipates response time will decrease because the first responders to the scene will be those who are physically closest, not necessarily those assigned to that particular district area. When response time decreases, lives are saved. Fire districts having interoperable communications save more lives. The tower will specifically provide much needed communication with rural areas of the Parish which are predominantly populated with low to moderate income households. See attached map.

Regional Communication will also be made possible with the tower. This project will do the following:

1. Establish connectivity to the Southshore Parishes (Orleans, Jefferson, Plaquemines and St. Bernard Parishes);
2. Establish connectivity to Tangipahoa Parish;
3. Establish connectivity to Washington Parish;
4. Establish connectivity to the State of Mississippi (Pearl River, Harrison, Hancock and Jackson Counties); and
5. Establish connectivity to the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness.

The 450 foot communications tower will be constructed of hot-dipped galvanized solid steel rods to eliminate internal corrosion. Any evidence of corrosion can be easily identified and corrected during

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routine inspections, without the use of specialized metallurgy equipment. The radio tower is designed to support a minimum of four 8-ft microwave antennas, to be located between the levels of 300 and 350 feet. Three microwave antennas, repeaters and supporting equipment are needed at this time to support the 14 fire protection districts, Sheriff's Offices, 7 municipal Police Departments, 2 EMS (ambulance services) and STPG Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. The planned space allocation of one more microwave antenna will support long-term network expansion.

The tower will incorporate state-of-the-art lightning surge and electrical grounding protection systems designed to protect sensitive communications equipment for transient damage.

An essential component to reliable infrastructure operations is efficient cooling. Radio transmitters generate large heat loads. Failure of the shelter's 1-IVAC system can result in rapid temperature 'spikes' that undermine radio network reliability and damage heat-sensitive electronic components. The radio equipment facility will include fully redundant HVAC systems as well as a fail-safe outdoor air ventilation system. The 20' by 50' shelter will be constructed of pre-fabricated concrete.

The shelter will be fully supported by a generator standby power system. These generators will operate on diesel fuel. They will incorporate fully automatic transfer switches designed for unattended operations. The generator will be at least 100KW.

The communications tower will include a state-of-the-art card access alarm system to prevent tower site access from unauthorized persons. In the event of a tower site access alarm, the St. Tammany Parish 91 I Communications Center will be electronically notified of the intrusion and will dispatch necessary personnel to investigate the intrusion incident.

Exterior lighting systems will be installed and the immediate tower, shelter, and generator space will be protected by security fencing. The radio equipment shelter will be equipped with automatic fire suppression and alarm systems. These will be designed to initiate a suppression response and notify the nearest fire district of a potential fire incident within the equipment shelter.

SEWAGE COLLECTION INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

STPG proposes to utilize \$1.8 million of CDBG-DR funds to install sewage collection infrastructure improvements in the Ben Thomas and Alton neighborhoods in Slidell, LA. The proposed improvements include but are not limited to the following: installation of sewer lift stations, residential connections, and sanitary sewer force main lines. The proposed projects will serve predominantly LMI areas that suffered significant damage during Hurricanes Gustav and Ike.

Economic Development

ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT

A. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

St. Tammany Parish is currently in the process of developing plans for an Entertainment District in Slidell Louisiana on the shore of Lake Pontchartrain. The District incorporates numerous sites which will be connected by recreational bike paths and a park and ride facility. The District has already

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existing components including golf courses, parks, marina and the Harbor Center. Additional components will be added in phases. There is a proposed tennis complex, entertainment complex with shopping, dining, moving theater, and a fishing pier. See attached site map. This district would include a variety of facilities and amenities designed to spur economic development through tourism, shopping, and entertainment venues.

B. PUBLIC ACCESS FISHING PIER

As part of this District, St. Tammany Parish Government has recently completed an agreement with the State of Louisiana to purchase a mile-long portion of the existing Twin Span Bridge to be converted into a state-of-the-art fishing pier. The portion being acquired by the Parish is located 800' off the shore of St. Tammany and will be connected to the shore by a wooden pedestrian bridge. It is anticipated that this project will be underway once construction of the new Twin Span bridges is completed in 2010. The fishing pier is strongly supported by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. See attached letter of support. The fishing pier will provide much needed public access to recreational fishing in St. Tammany Parish.

The ability to utilize a portion of this bridge for a fishing pier has led the Parish to expand its focus in terms of recreational development in this area. In addition to being a major component of the proposed Entertainment District, this facility would serve as a connection for a much needed bike path that would connect to the existing Oak Harbor Park and Ride and Oak Harbor Convention Center to the Hwy. 11 Enhancement Project, which is designed to incorporate Smart Growth concepts. This connection will allow residents and visitors an alternative mode of travel for accessing shopping, entertainment, and restaurants.

Finally, the Parish recognizes the opportunity to use a portion of the Fishing Pier to develop a museum that will commemorate the history of the Twin Span bridges and the devastation suffered by Hurricane Katrina. This area of Slidell, over which the eye of the hurricane passed, experienced severe damage. This proposed museum would concentrate on three key events: the history of the development of the Twin Span as an integral regional transportation element, the damage suffered by the bridge and surrounding area during Katrina and, finally, the design and construction of the new Twin Span bridge.

C. ECONOMIC TRENDS SURROUNDING HURRICANE GUSTAV

According to statistics provided by the St. Tammany Parish Economic Development Foundation, the quarter during which Hurricane Gustav (third quarter 2008) occurred shows that the month of September saw a decrease in parish employment, electric customers, commercial building permits and housing sales but an increase in retail sales, single-family building permits and hotel receipts. These statistics show strong indications of decreased business activity and increased unavailability and repairs of housing stock.

A quarterly report of economic indicators compiled by STEDF called the St. Tammany Economic Growth Index takes five indicators into consideration: employment, single family building permits, Parish total sales, electric customers, and commercial permits. During the months of August, September, October and November, the growth index graph illustrates that St. Tammany Parish experienced a notable plateau at low numbers in these five areas. While the economic climate over the past year or two has been a point of concern on a local and national level, this atypical stagnation at low- levels supports the EDF's

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interpretation that during the fourth quarter of 2008 "the St. Tammany economy struggles to maintain the high ground."

D. PROJECTED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFECTS

According to an economic impact analysis of the entertainment district completed by OCR, Inc., the mix of uses and venues proposed by the Entertainment District would generate approximately \$9.9m in sales tax revenue and \$2.5m in property tax revenue. The construction of the whole project would generate 893 temporary new jobs and 1,542 permanent jobs. The fishing pier itself would generate 30 new temporary jobs and about 8 new permanent jobs for on-going operations. The proposed transportation museum would generate an estimated 30 new temporary jobs and 5 new permanent jobs.

E. SOURCES OF FUNDING

In addition to CDBG funding from Gustav/Ike, St. Tammany Parish is seeking other sources of funding for the District. CDBG funding will be utilized for the fishing pier phase of the project. Other expected funding sources for completion of the District projects include Congressional appropriations, Louisiana State appropriations, Federal and State Transportation grants and private contributions.

Infrastructure-Alternate Project

RIVER FOREST SUBDIVISION DRAINAGE PROJECT

As an alternate project which will be undertaken only if funding in addition to the \$3.7 million allocation is made available, St. Tammany Parish has identified an area within the City of Covington which sustained substantial road flooding in Hurricane Gustav. The River Forest subdivision experienced flooding in numerous areas as a consequence of Hurricane Gustav which impeded ingress and egress to residents and caused damage to improved property. River Forest is a single family residential area of approximately 250 homes. See attached map. This area contains a substantial number of low to moderate income households. The Parish proposes to remediate the flooding issue in this subdivision in phases based on the availability of funding in addition to the Parish's base allotment of \$3.7 million.

The River Forest subdivision was originally designed with curb gutter streets to collect water during rain events. These streets convey and carry this water to storm drains. The lateral ditches flow to collector ditches and ultimately to the Tchefuncte River. Residents are experiencing frequent, chronic street flooding as a result of the limited capacity of the storm drain openings along the streets and the capacity of the lateral and collector ditches. As a result of Hurricane Gustav, estimated to be a 10 year storm event, the subdivision experienced severe flooding due to a water surface elevation of the river to 20.1 feet.

The proposed project includes the construction of three new trunk line drainage systems within the subdivision. These systems will augment the existing subsurface drainage systems and provide needed capacity to handle the periodic intense rainfalls which are common to this area. It is anticipated that the proposed improvements will greatly reduce the street flooding with the subdivision.

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The estimated total project cost is \$2.3 million. The project can be broken down and completed in three phases. The first phase is estimated to cost **\$1** million and includes improvements from Lurline to 215¹ to Kathleen streets. The second phase is approximately \$630 thousand and includes improvements to from I 5th to Patricia to Kathleen streets. The final phase would complete improvements in the area of Karen to Lurline to Kathleen streets.

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SECTION IV: MUNICIPAL AND CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

A. Municipal Participation

The LRA/ OCD-DRU strongly encourages participation of the leadership of municipalities in the identification of recovery priorities and the development of a recovery program.

Has the parish formally met with the leadership of all the municipalities within its jurisdiction?
(Yor N)

If yes, please provide an invite list, agenda and meeting summary/minutes for each meeting convened.

If no, please provide a proposed date/ time and agenda for the meeting. The Parish has informally met with municipalities to discuss these proposed projects and other recovery financing issues.

B. Citizen Participation

The LRA/ OCD-DRU strongly encourages citizen participation to help inform the identification of recovery priorities and the development of a recovery program. As a result, the requirement set forth is that three public meetings be held before the final plan/project list is submitted for approval. The public meetings must adhere to the requirements of 24 CFR Sec. 570.486 and other applicable regulations.

At least two public meetings must be held in the development of the Proposal form in order to solicit public input.

I. Notice of first public hearing (must be 5 to 21 days prior to the hearing).

Date of Advertisement	June 18, 2009
Date of Hearing	June 23, 2009
Date of Advertisement	October 25, 2017
Date of Hearing	November 1, 2017

2. Describe the methods used to solicit participation of low and moderate income persons.

Publication of the first public hearing was placed in local newspapers which are distributed Parish wide.

A second public hearing will be held on October 28, 2009. The second public hearing will also be published in a Parish wide publication. The Parish's proposed projects will be available for viewing at the time of the second hearing and prior to the hearing on the Parish website. Public comments will be accepted until the second public hearing date.

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3. Describe any adverse comments/complaints received and describe resolution.

N/A

5. Attach to the form:

- a) Tear sheet of all public notices
- b) Signed Minutes of the public hearings including lists of signatures from attendees
- c) Copy of response(s) to comments and/or complaint

SECTION V: REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

Parishes will apply for funds utilizing the process as directed by the State and defined in the Action Plan Amendment. For purposes of the proposal, the following documents must be attached. (Subsequent documents will be required according to HUD/CDBG requirements for implementation, approval of project applications, and the drawdown of funds).

- I. Proposal Form
- 2. A copy of the resolution authorizing the Proposal Form by the parish governing body.
- 3. Copy of all Citizen Participation documents as noted in Section IV of this Proposal Form.

Note - This report must be updated and submitted to OCD DRU if there are any substantial changes in the information contained in the report. Such changes may include revised funding uses, sources or amounts.

To the best of my knowledge and belief, information in the Proposal Form is true and correct. Applicant also agrees to comply with requirements of 24 CFR Part 58.

I am aware that the proposed project activity may be removed from further consideration should it be determined that there are significant discrepancies in the information provided, and/or false, inaccurate or incomplete information has been given.

_____ Signature, Chief Executive Officer	_____ Parish President
_____ Patricia P. Brister	_____ Title
_____ Typed Name	_____ Date

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*Items in red denote Amendment No. 1 changes.

SUBMIT AN ORIGINAL AND ONE COPY OF THE FORM TO:

Louisiana Recovery Authority
C/O Fay Ayers
150 Third Street, Suite 200
Baton Rouge, LA 70801