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ADDITIONAL CONTRACTS SIGNED FOR DRAINAGE WAY CLEANUP

Parish President Kevin Davis today amended St. Tammany Parish's contract with the Natural Resources Conservation Service to begin debris removal additional drainage ways. "Every waterway that we clear increases the safety of citizens' lives and property. I am thankful that we are getting this help," said Davis.

The Parish Government will pay one-fourth of the \$4.1 million contract amendment, or about \$1 million. NRCS will request bids for the efforts early next week, and work should begin in April. The contract was executed under the State of Emergency, which allows local governments rapid access to rights-of-way to reach clogged drainage ways.

The contract amendment covers the cleaning of portions of Bayou Liberty, Morgan Branch, Bayou Vincent, West Bayou Vincent, Tallow Creek, Little Bogue Falaya, Little Creek, Timber Branch, Bayou Lacombe, Soap and Tallow Creek, Melun Bayou, and the Bogue Falaya.

The initial contract covered the cleaning of portions of Ponchitalawa Creek, Black River, Fox Branch, Bayou Monga, Morgan Branch, Cypress Bayou, Bayou Lacombe, Bayou Chinchuba and the Abita River.

Additional contracts are being sought to clean more waterways.

Clean up of the following waterways, or waterway sections, is in process under the auspices of the United States Coast Guard: Salt Bayou, North Shore Canal, Geoghegan Canal, Tchefuncte River, Oyster Factory Canal, East Diversion Canal, the Rigolets, the Pearl River, Bayou Bonfouca, and Bayou Liberty.

In addition, the Federal Emergency Management Agency has issued Project Worksheets to remove construction debris and vessels from the following non-commercial waterways: Highway 433 Canal, Grand Lagoon, Eden Isles/Oak Harbor Canals, Coin du Lestin Canals, Highway 11 Canal & Islander Drive @ South Levee, Northshore Beach canals, Lake Shore Community Levee.

The Parish will seek reimbursement for its 25-percent match through Community Development Block Grants once that system is in place.

