State of Louisiana

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION NO. 15 JBE 2016

STATE OF EMERGENCY – IMMINENT THREAT OF FLOODING ALONG RED RIVER AND OTHER STATE BODIES OF WATER

WHEREAS, Proclamation No. 85 BJ 2015, issued on May 29, 2015, declared a state of emergency for the State of Louisiana due to the imminent threat of flooding along the Red River and other state bodies of water as a result of heavy amounts of precipitation in and outside the region creating saturated ground conditions as well as high water levels in tributaries, bayous, rivers and area lakes, which have the potential for additional flooding; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, La. R.S. 29:721 *et seq.*, confers upon the Governor of the State of Louisiana emergency 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 preparations of this State will be adequate to deal with such emergencies or disasters and to preserve the lives and property of the people of the State of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, when the Governor determines that a disaster or emergency has occurred, or the threat thereof is imminent, La. R.S. 29:724(B)(1) empowers the Governor to declare a state of emergency by executive order or proclamation, or both; and

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reported that the Red River at Shreveport exceeded its flood stage of 30 feet and reached a crest of 37.14 feet on June 9, 2015, causing flooding in this state along the Red River and other bodies of water in northwest Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the effects of past amounts of precipitation in and outside the region also created saturated ground conditions as well as high water levels in tributaries, bayous, rivers and area lakes, which provided for additional flooding; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has issued a Major Disaster Declaration pursuant to the Stafford Act due to the widespread damage resulting from severe storms and flooding during the period of May 18, 2015 through June 20, 2015 for the parishes of Bossier, Caddo, Grant, Natchitoches, Red River and Rapides; and

WHEREAS, the State anticipates that further assistance may be needed for parishes within the threatened emergency area in their response to this continuing threat.

NOW THEREFORE, I, JOHN BEL EDWARDS, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Louisiana, does 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 exist statewide as a result of the flooding caused by this event, extending along the length of the Red River and in other bodies of water throughout the State, and the effects of which continue to threaten the lives and property of the citizens of the State.

SECTION 2: The Director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) is hereby authorized to undertake any activity authorized by law which he deems appropriate in response to this declaration.

SECTION 3: All departments, commissions, boards, agencies and officers of the State, or any political subdivision thereof, including all levee boards, authorities, and districts in the designated emergency area, are authorized and directed to coordinate their actions through GOHSEP in response to this threat of flooding.

SECTION 4: This state of emergency extends from Tuesday, February 23, 2016 to Wednesday, March 23, 2016, unless terminated sooner.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 22nd day of February, 2016.

GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

ATTEST BY
THE GOVERNOR

SECRETARY OF STATE