State of Louisiana

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION NO. 5 JBE 2016

STATE OF EMERGENCY – SEVERE WEATHER AND FLOODING

WHEREAS, Proclamation No. 6 BJ 2013, issued on January 10, 2013, declared a state of emergency for the State of Louisiana due to severe weather and flooding and a prolonged series of strong thunderstorms that passed over the State depositing several inches of rain across widespread areas of the State and therefore threatened the lives and property of the citizens of the State;

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;

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;

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service issued alerts including special weather statements, tornado watches, flood warnings and flash flood warnings for much of the State, and flood stage conditions for rivers and bayous in southern Louisiana;

WHEREAS, the parishes of Acadia, Avoyelles, Concordia, East Carroll, Evangeline, Livingston and St. Landry, declared states of emergency in order to assist residents in areas that experienced flooding from this event and to implement necessary flood protection measures to protect their citizens, prepare for additional flooding, and respond to ongoing flooding;

WHEREAS, subsequent to the issuance of Proclamation No. 6 BJ 2013, the parishes of Catahoula, East Baton Rouge, Franklin, Iberville, Jefferson Davis, Madison, Rapides, St. Helena, St. Martin, Tensas, and Vermilion declared states of emergency in order to assist residents in areas that experienced flooding from this event and to implement necessary flood protection measures to protect their citizens, prepare for additional flooding, and respond to ongoing flooding;

WHEREAS, the federal government has issued an Emergency Declaration and Major Disaster Declaration pursuant to the Stafford Act due to the widespread damage resulting from severe storms and flooding during the period of January 8, 2013 through January 17, 2013;

WHEREAS, the State anticipates that further assistance may be needed to assist in response to this continuing threat;

WHEREAS, it is necessary to renew Proclamation No. 6 BJ 2013 to extend the state of emergency due to the continuation of disaster and emergency conditions as above indicated;

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, 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 exist statewide, as a result of the flooding caused by this event, 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 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, are authorized and directed to cooperate in actions the State may take in response to the effects of this severe weather event.

SECTION 4: This state of emergency extends from Monday, January 25, 2016 to Wednesday, February 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 24th day of January, 2016.

GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

ATTEST BY
THE GOVERNOR

SECRETARY OF STATE