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For Immediate Release

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Youngsville submits application for regional detention ponds as part of FEMA's \$30 Million Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP).

Mayor Ken Ritter announced today that the City of Youngsville submitted an extensive application to the Acadiana Planning Organization, (APO), in an effort to secure federal mitigation dollars being administered by the Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and emergency preparedness (GOHSEP). The proposed projects consist of constructing a series of detention ponds to serve as a reservoir for Bayou Parc Perdu and Coulee Lasalle during high intensity storms to relieve the surrounding areas of flooding.

The proposed projects have regional benefits for lower Lafayette Parish and portions of Vermilion and Iberia Parishes. These regional detention ponds were initially part of the city's 10-year Master Plan adopted in January 2016. In addition, the same projects were identified in the US Army Corp of Engineers Lafayette Parish Area-Wide Drainage Plan in May 2017. Within the funding application submitted today was a letter of support from Iberia Parish President Larry Richard, the Youngsville City Council, and the property owner of the proposed storm water ponds.

Youngsville City Engineer Pamela Granger of McBade Engineers & Consultants indicated that, "Managing our storm water in an effort to provide flood risk reduction for large events requires regional leadership participation and coordination, large scale detention, and funding for implementation. The City of Youngsville identified all of these elements well before the August 2016 Flood and has been a leader in implementing higher storm water management standards and using proven best practices from other states. We have been working hard to identify and secure funding for these much needed projects and we hope the region recognizes the same and selects these projects for funding".

"Securing federal mitigation dollars to construct these projects is critical. The City of Youngsville has invested heavily in the planning, modeling, location, and property owner discussions over the past three years. These ponds would provide the most cost effective and beneficial solutions for drainage and flood risk reduction." -Mayor Ken Ritter

In the flood of 2016 within the City of Youngsville 217 homes were flooded that drain into Bayou Parc Perdu as well as 358 homes that drain into Coulee Lasalle.

Project selection by the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and emergency preparedness (GOHSEP) is scheduled for Spring 2018.

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