

PASCAGOULA CITY COUNCIL

SPECIAL CALL MEETING – FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2017 @ 4:00 P.M.

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

INVOCATION: Councilman Hill

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Councilman Pickett

DISCUSSION:

1. Resolution in opposition to the Pascagoula River Drought Resiliency Project (Lake George)
Recommended Action: adopt Resolution

ADJOURN

**RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE
PASCAGOULA RIVER DROUGHT RESILIENCY PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the Pat Harrison Waterway District and George County Board of Supervisors have applied for a Department of the Army Corps of Engineers' permit for a proposed drought resiliency project to be located in George and Jackson Counties, Mississippi; and,

WHEREAS, the permit request, if approved, would result in the creation of reservoirs that would trap and hold water that would normally flow, unimpeded, downstream; and,

WHEREAS, it is believed that the reasoning behind the creation of these reservoirs for the purpose of increasing flows downstream during droughts is ill-advised based on the belief that drought impacts reduce the amount of available water in manmade lakes and, the likely percolation of water into the shallow groundwater system based on soil systems in the area, will further exacerbate the situation; and,

WHEREAS, the creation of the proposed artificial bodies of water may alter salinity patterns downstream since the flow of fresh water will be impeded; and,

WHEREAS, nutrients flowing into the reservoirs will likely accumulate and result in a potential threat if the dams are breached during a storm event and greater concentrations will flow to ecosystems and communities downstream; and,

WHEREAS, it appears the proposed project will eliminate a considerable amount of wetlands and the habitat of several wildlife species; and,

WHEREAS, designation of the Pascagoula River as the longest "free-flowing" river in the lower forty-eight States is utilized as a major tourism asset in marketing efforts and a reduction in the area that is considered "free-flowing" may jeopardize economic development efforts; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Pascagoula is located downstream from the proposed project and may suffer environmental and economic harm from the project due to the aforementioned:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASCAGOULA that the Council hereby opposes the proposed "Pascagoula River Drought Resiliency Project" and requests that the US Army Corps of Engineers deny the permit application.