ACECL Water Resources Committee
June 2019 Report

1. Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA)
   - Pursuant to Water Resources Committee meeting with CPRA on April 26, 2019:
     - ACECL to provide an outline for a process improvement joint effort patterned off the ACECL/DOTD process improvement effort. John Basilica offered to develop this outline and is in the process of completing for submittal to CPRA.
     - ACECL and member firms need to help promote/publicly support CPRA and its initiatives.
       - Promote CPRA-related posts on social media. ACECL is doing this and member firms should also help.
       - Promote CPRA-related matters with legislators and congressional delegation. Eg, ACECL met with Congressman Scalise to support HUD funding for the Louisiana Watershed Initiative. Although action on this matter has been deferred, member firms can support by also contacting their congressional delegation to show support.

2. Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans (SWBNO)
   - “Steering Committee” (LACG, ACECL & SWBNO) meeting of May 22, 2019 was cancelled (water main break/emergency) and is to be rescheduled.
   - Next meeting will focus on details relative to the proposed joint training session on FEMA rules/expectations for Joint Infrastructure Recovery Response (JIRR) project documentation, particularly invoices and change orders. Session topics will be developed with GOHSEP along with A/E/C contractors (ACECL/LAGC), SWBNO, and the City of New Orleans Department of Public Works (CNO DPW). Send any questions to be posed/addressed at the session to Doreen.
   - Also to be proposed at the next meeting will be the creation of an Infrastructure Steering Committee including SWBNO and CNO DPW for the purpose of reviewing and developing recommendations for contract/procurement process improvement.
   - Three legislative bills passed and enacted providing recurring funding source for City infrastructure projects (including SWBNO projects):
     - Act No 169 (HB 43, Harris) – authorizes levy of occupancy tax of 6.75% on short-term rentals (eg, AirBNBs) and dedicates 75% of proceeds to the City’s infrastructure fund. Total revenue to City estimated at $10.5M/year.
     - Act No. 170 (HB 522, Abramson) – allows city to resume levy of 1% sales tax on hotel rooms effective July 1, 2019, dedicated to the City’s infrastructure fund. Total revenue to City estimated at $12M/year.
     - Act No. 172 (HB 617, Leger) – authorizes construction of a hotel at the Ernest M. Morial Convention Center, with payments to the City. Hotel expected to open in 2023 with total revenue to City estimated at up to $2.4M/year (by fourth year).

3. Committee meetings to be scheduled (June, August, October, December).