



Everything New Orleans

SEARCH:



Guidance when you need it most

NEWS SPORTS FORUMS BLOGS CAMS ENTERTAINMENT MORE TOPICS JOBS AUTOS REAL ESTATE CLASSIFIEDS

NOLA.com - News



Latest Metro New Orleans News

Updated 24 hours, every day

BREAKING NEWS UPDATES

- [Sports News](#)
- [Business News](#)
- [Crime News](#)
- [Living News](#)
- [Entertainment News](#)
- [North Shore News](#)

Browse Metro news updates by day posted:

Select a date



Browse Metro news updates by week posted:

Select a date



GET NEWS YOUR WAY

Receive news updates to your inbox or mobile device

- [Sign up for breaking newsletters](#)



- [Follow NOLA.com on Twitter](#)
- [What's Twitter?](#)

TIMES-PICAYUNE PHOTOS

- [New turf at Hahnville High](#)
- [Truck slides into canal](#)
- [Howard Dean comes to New Orleans](#)
- [Coast Guard performs change of command](#)
- [Looking for manatees in Lake Pontchartrain](#)

ALL TIMES-PICAYUNE PHOTOS >>

TIMES-PICAYUNE VIDEO



New Orleans' Joker

[Extruded Video](#)

Jindal presses Bush over levee costs

by Mark Schleifstein, The Times-Picayune

Friday July 18, 2008, 9:10 PM

Gov. Bobby Jindal on Friday continued to pressure the Bush administration to give the state 30 years to pay off its \$1.8 billion share of the cost of building levees in the New Orleans area to 100-year protection levels and to reduce that bill by \$200 million.

"We think it's wrong that the state of Louisiana should be required to pay \$200 million more in matching dollars than we would have paid (under rules in effect) before Katrina," Jindal said.

President Bush also could issue an executive order to trigger a provision included in the 1986 Water Resources Development Act, which would allow the state to pay back its share of construction costs over 30 years instead of three years, which presents a financial crisis for Louisiana.

Jindal said California and Nevada have been provided such 30-year payment provisions to repay the costs of similar projects.

Without the additional time, Jindal said, the state would be required to pay as much as \$1.2 billion in 2010, which would result in a reduction of as much of 40 percent for other discretionary spending that year. That would mean draconian cuts in education, health care and transportation.

Brig. Gen. Michael Walsh, commander of the Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi Valley Division, which oversees all levee work along the river, offered state officials no comfort. He said only, "Congress and the president set the budget and the funding requirements, and we follow their leads."

While Maj. Gen. Doug O'Dell, the federal Gulf Coast rebuilding coordinator representing the White House, accompanied the governor and corps officials on an aerial tour of coastal protection projects, O'Dell was conspicuously absent from the Jackson Barracks news conference that followed.

A spokeswoman for O'Dell, contacted after the news conference, said he was traveling and could not be reached for comment.

Stripped out of bill

The news conference comes only a day before House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., participates in a similar aerial tour of levee and restoration work. Jindal said he already lobbied Pelosi and other House leaders on easing the state's financial burden in advance of House and Senate votes on a supplemental Iraq war appropriation that included \$5.8 billion for the federal share of the levees, but he would do so again while she's here this weekend.

A Senate version of that bill included both the smaller state cost-share price tag and the 30-year repayment, but they were stripped out by the House. The provisions were not in the version signed into law last month by Bush.

Jindal said the state will pay its \$1.8 billion share of the levee work whether the federal government allows financing that debt or not. Ensuring the completion of substantial levee improvements planned by 2011 remains the top priority, he said. "We absolutely will make the 2011 deadline, period," Jindal said. "We owe that to our people."

EDITORS' PICKS OF TODAY'S

The Times-Picayune STORIES

- [FINE FIELDS](#)
- [N.O. officer to face sex count](#)
- [Second cop suspended in Treme incident](#)
- [Six off list of 'failing' schools](#)
- [MEDIA MAN](#)
- [TAKING ON THE WORLD](#)
- [WATER HAZARD](#)

MORE HEADLINES »

OTHER STORIES

- [New Orleans](#)
- [West Bank](#)
- [East Jefferson](#)
- [St. Tammany](#)
- [River Parishes](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Money](#)
- [Page One](#)
- [Baton Rouge](#)
- [Washington](#)
- [St. Bernard](#)
- [Metro](#)
- [Living](#)

Southern Homes
Design is the Difference.

HONORING HOMETOWN HEROES IN JULY!

Receive **\$5,000** off the purchase of a new Southern Home*

SouthernHomes.com

GET A QUOTE

www.bcbsla.com

LET THE TIMES-PICAYUNE KNOW!

Fix this, Please!

- What problems around the New Orleans area



[Home](#) | [News](#) | [Sports](#) | [Forums](#) | [Blogs](#) | [Multimedia](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Autos](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Classifieds](#)

[Complete Forecast](#) | [RSS Feeds](#) | [Site Index](#) | [About Us](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Help/Feedback](#)

 • [Subscribe to the Times-Picayune](#)

© 2008 New OrleansNet LLC. All Rights Reserved. Use of this site constitutes acceptance of our [User Agreement](#) , [Privacy Policy](#) and [Advertising Agreement](#).