



George County Board of Supervisors
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GC Board ask opposition to truly consider Lake George Application

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George County Supervisor Larry McDonald, 2016 Board President, issued this statement:

“Today's announcement by American Rivers is unjustified, unfair, and is honestly environmental fear mongering. The Lake George Project does not “endanger” or pose an “urgent” threat to the Pascagoula River.

American Rivers should recall that in 2009 they listed the Pascagoula River as the 9th most endangered river because global warming was predicted to alter river flows and lower flows could have disastrous effects on the River's fragile ecosystem.

The Lake George Project's main purpose is to provide enough water storage capacity to keep the Pascagoula River's flows above the drought levels which will directly benefit endangered species, the environment, and economic activities.

The American Rivers organization never contacted a single representative from the Pat Harrison Waterway District or George County about a single item from the Lake George-Drought Resiliency application (20 page application, 115 page Environmental Assessment, 71 page Geo-Hydrologic Analysis, and 11 appendixes.)

It is clear a deliberate misinformation campaign by local members of the Gulf Restoration Network and the Sierra Club were the major instigators behind this action.

It is telling that today's media event was held more than 20 miles away from the nearest proposed Lake George dam/spillway and on the wrong body of water.

Our Board has only asked opposition groups to truly consider the real-world science behind this application, to be open minded towards the data collected, and actively participate in the permitting process.

Instead, opposition groups seem much more comfortable intimidating individuals, spreading rumors and issuing false statements. For example, there have never been dams proposed for the Pascagoula River or its major tributaries.

We strongly encourage American Rivers and all other interested organizations and individuals to participate in the process, review the documentation, and offer alternatives to truly protect the Pascagoula River from the projected impacts of climate change.”