

MEMORANDUM

To: All Councilmembers

From: CURO By: Jared Reese

CC: Justyn Hawkins and Anita Curran

Date: June 17, 2026

RE: The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans Meeting June 17, 2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans Board of Directors met on 06/17/2025. The complete packet for the meeting can be found [here](#).

A. Pumping and Power

- 93 MW of 25-Hz power
- Turbine 4 retired from service
- Turbine 5 out of service
- Turbine 6 available; operational within 20–30 minutes
- EMD generators 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 in service
- 3 static frequency changers available
- Dedicated energy substation operational
- 87 of 93 major drainage pumps available
- 3 of 3 regular pumps out of service Temporary pump deployed at old Carrollton underpass station.

B. Hurricane and Storm Preparedness

SWBNO hosted a tabletop exercise and coordination meeting with both internal and external participation, working through real-world scenarios to test readiness. SWBNO scheduled a neighborhood-led “Catch Basin Party” for June 27th to engage community members in cleanup efforts.

C. Drainage System and Catch Basin Cleaning

The SWBNO maintained three internal crews available during storm events and 10 contractor crews on standby for post-storm response. Operations teams began lowering canal levels ahead of anticipated rainfall to increase stormwater storage capacity. The crews worked throughout the year to clean catch basins and drain lines ahead of storm season. To date, the crews cleaned 6.5 miles of drain lines and over 1,500 catch basins, removing over 1.4 million pounds of debris.

SWBNO coordinated with City Department of Public Works (DPW), which maintained a contract covering approximately 10% of total catch basins; and Department of Transportation and Development (DoTD), which increased cleaning efforts on arterial and connecting highways, ahead of the hurricane season.

In preparation for incoming weather, SWBNO deployed additional staff across pump stations citywide and continued catch basin cleaning operations through the event. The organization noted that the temporary pump deployed at Carrollton Station provides capacity roughly equivalent to the three regular pumps it replaces.

D. Community Engagement

SWBNO held four of seven planned community engagement meetings, with three remaining to be rescheduled after cancellations due to rain. Attendance at meetings increased over time, with recent sessions drawing 20 to 30 residents. Community members actively engaged with staff during and after meetings. SWBNO planned to distribute the annual Water System Consumer Confidence Report to customers this month.

E. French Quarter Infrastructure Project

SWBNO provided a block-by-block update on the French Quarter infrastructure project, a generational replacement of more than a century-old water, sewer, and drainage infrastructure. The project included replacement of 1,600 feet of 24-inch cast iron transmission lines, installation of 2,000 feet of new drainage lines, repair or lining of 1,500 feet of sewer, and new water and sewer service connections across four blocks.

The project impacted the following areas. On the 600 block of St. Peter Street, SWBNO completed all water, sewer, and drainage work. The crews scheduled sidewalk restoration and electrical work to begin imminently and fencing removal by June 30th. On the 1100 block of Decatur, SWBNO completed all underground work and anticipated sidewalk restoration within four weeks. On the 1000 block of Decatur, street paving restoration reached approximately 50% completion. On the 900 block of Decatur, drain work continued on the lakeside line with approximately two months of construction remaining. SWBNO acknowledged business impact concerns and committed to

improved communications, one-on-one business outreach, and evaluation of extended work hours to accelerate project completion.

F. Power Complex Status

SWBNO reported a significantly improved power reliability position compared to prior decades. SWBNO confirmed 93 megawatts of 25-hertz power available against a peak system demand of 24 megawatts, providing more than double required capacity. The power complex's dedicated energy substation and three new static frequency changers remained available for use.