



**Joseph I. Giarrusso III**  
New Orleans City Council  
District A



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## City Council Funds \$17 Million Needed for Full Automation of West Power Complex, Enhancing Infrastructure and Flood Prevention

**NEW ORLEANS** - The Sewerage and Water Board West Power complex needs \$34 million to fully automate the substation when it becomes operational in June 2025. The New Orleans City Council, in collaboration with the New Orleans legislative delegation, has worked to fund the City's match of \$17 million as the final portion of funds needed to fully automate the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans's West Power Complex. Louisiana Governor Jeff Landry's office is also working on a \$17 million match. Mayor Cantrell and her Administration have now agreed to the funding, realizing the importance of this project notwithstanding other City concerns.

"This power complex is one of the most important infrastructure projects in our lifetime," said **District A Councilmember Joe Giarrusso, Budget Committee Chair**. "The substation will come online in June 2025. This new funding will ensure the substation is not relying on people to manage the power and is instead completely automated. Delay is not an option. I want to thank my Council colleagues for their urgent attention, my legislative colleagues for their continued support, the Governor's office for the state match and to Mayor Cantrell for getting behind these efforts for all New Orleanians."

"It is not realistic to sit around and wait for funding to magically appear, which is why this Council must act now," said **Council Vice-President JP Morrell**. "I want to thank the Governor's Office for working with City Council and the New Orleans Delegation on this project. This funding cannot wait, and we cannot waste time posturing to make a political point."

"I'm thrilled to see the New Orleans City Council, Governor Landry, and my colleagues in the Louisiana Legislature come together to secure the \$17 million local match for the federal grant needed to complete this critical Sewerage and Water Board power plant project," said **Representative Stephanie Hilferty, District 94**. "This collaborative effort showcases what we can achieve when we work as a team for the betterment of our community. While this funding is a significant milestone in modernizing the Sewerage and Water Board's operations, it's important to recognize that our work is far from over. This power plant is just the first step in a larger journey to upgrade Sewerage and Water Board's operations and infrastructure to ensure reliable services for all our residents. We must maintain this momentum and continue to invest in the systems that are vital to our city's future."

"From day one, Governor Landry and I have been lock-stepped on making this happen," said **State Senator Jimmy Harris, District 4**. "I am pleased and relieved to know that the New Orleans City Council is also in step on behalf of the citizens of New Orleans. All of us, including the citizens of New Orleans, want and deserve the same thing. This is simply to have electricity for the pumping systems to ensure available power for pump operation that prevents flooding in our neighborhoods and on our streets."

The allocation from the City Council will be \$14 million from General Obligation bonds from bonds the City recently sold. The remaining \$3 million will come from Fair Share dollars appropriated to Sewerage and Water Board.

In 2021, the power complex received \$22 million in city funding. In 2022, Council funded \$30 million for the substation itself. In 2023, state legislators negotiated for an additional \$10 million in state capital outlay, plus \$5 million in Fair Share dollars, totaling \$55 million in state funds to date. And this year, the Council allocated an additional \$20 million to this project when the phase one construction bids came in over budget.

The funding ordinances will be filed at the September 19 City Council meeting and considered for final approval at the October 10 meeting.

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**Contact:**  
Claire Byun  
Office of City Council District A Joseph I. Giarrusso, III  
[claire.byun@nola.gov](mailto:claire.byun@nola.gov)  
504.883.1724

### New Orleans City Council

The New Orleans City Council is the legislative branch of the New Orleans city government. The Council considers and enacts all local laws that govern the City of New Orleans. The Council also approves the operating and capital budgets for the City, as recommended by the mayor, and continually monitors revenues and expenditures for local government operations. The City Council is also the regulatory body for public utilities. It also reviews and has the final say on many land use and zoning matters, as well as considers major economic development projects for the City. As a Board of Review for Orleans Parish, the Council examines appeals of property tax assessments for real estate taxes and certifies tax rolls to the Louisiana Tax Commission. Other responsibilities of the Council include overseeing the operation of the public access television in Orleans Parish. Streaming video and video archives of the City Council's Regular and Committee meetings can be found on the City Council [website](#).

The City Council is comprised of five districts and Councilmembers-at-large: Council President and Councilmember-at-Large Helena Moreno; Council Vice President and Councilmember-At-Large JP Morrell; District "A" Councilmember Joseph I. Giarrusso, III; District "B" Councilmember Lesli D. Harris; District "C" Councilmember Freddie King III; District "D" Councilmember Eugene J. Green, Jr.; and District "E" Councilmember Oliver M. Thomas, Jr.

