



DRAINAGE AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

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We have feared that sooner or later another historic flooding event will strike again within the Amite River and Comite River Basins. It happened sooner.

Had the Comite River Diversion Canal been completed by now, a substantial amount of water would have been diverted into the Mississippi River resulting in lowering flood stages along the Comite and Amite Rivers and much of the damage to homes and business would have been averted.

The US Army Corps of Engineers is charged with the construction of the Diversion Canal that includes the channel, bridges, diversion structures and other related features'. Prior to this year the US Army Corps of Engineers has done no construction for the last 10 years.

The Amite River Basin Commission and DOTD is charged with the responsibility to provide necessary lands for the channel and mitigation, utility relocations and other pre-construction activities. We have fulfilled all of our obligations as of today and waiting for the US Army Corps of Engineers to allow us to purchase additional lands once federal funds become available to start construction of bridges and a section of channel in Phase 1, in the western end of the project. The significance to completing Phase 1, is that the completion of this phase will make this portion of the canal functional. We have done our job and waiting.

We hope that the federal government will finally get serious about this project.