TO:       PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS
FROM:    Jimmy Guidry, M.D., State Health Officer (“SHO”)
SUBJECT: EMERGENCY ORDER – PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS

PURPOSE/APPLICABILITY: Emergency Order to require that Public Water Systems, as defined in La. R.S. 40:5.8, in parishes listed in the federal major disaster declaration for the State of Louisiana (FEMA-4559-DR) issued in response to Hurricane Laura (2020), as amended, accept and utilize equipment, supplies, and resources provided at no cost by federal, state, or local agencies, including, but not limited to, generators or other sources of backup power.

EFFECTIVE DATES: This Emergency Order shall be effective as of 12:01 a.m. on September 3, 2020, and unless rescinded earlier shall remain in effect until 11:59 p.m. on September 30, 2020, subject to further extension by subsequent order of the State Health Officer.

RATIONALE AND LEGAL AUTHORITY:

WHEREAS, on August 21, 2020, by Proclamation Number 108 JBE 2020, Governor John Bel Edwards declared a state of emergency to exist statewide as a result of the then impending impact of Hurricane Laura;

WHEREAS, Hurricane Laura made landfall in the area of Cameron Parish on August 26, 2020, and thereafter proceeded in a north/northeast direction, causing large-scale destruction of property in its path;

WHEREAS, on August 28, 2020, President Donald J. Trump approved a major disaster declaration for the State of Louisiana (FEMA-4559-DR), concerning the parishes listed therein, which was subsequently amended by DR-4559-LA Amendment 001 (August 30, 2020), DR-4559-LA Amendment 002 (September 1, 2020) and DR-4559-LA Amendment 003 (September 2, 2020);

WHEREAS, Hurricane Laura caused widespread and extensive damage to electrical utility infrastructure, leaving many Public Water Systems without the electrical power needed to operate...
pumps, treatment plants, and other necessary equipment and facilities. For some Public Water Systems without a backup source of power, such loss of power has led to a complete cessation of water being supplied to customers;

**WHEREAS**, a continuous supply of safe potable drinking water is essential to residences and businesses, such that the cessation of water service constitutes a serious and imminent threat to public health;

**WHEREAS**, some Public Water Systems that have sustained losses of electrical power and resulting cessation of water flow to customers have inexplicably refused to accept and utilize generators offered by state or federal agencies;

**WHEREAS**, residential customers without drinking water may be forced to leave their home and share residences with other, which could result in additional spread of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Health Officer expressly finds that the measures ordered herein are necessary to prevent and/or mitigate a serious and imminent threat to the public health.

**NOW THEREFORE**, pursuant to the powers vested in me by La. R.S. 40:1 *et seq.*, particularly La. R.S. 40:5(A)(2) and 40:5.9(A), I, Jimmy Guidry, M.D., State Health Officer, do hereby issue the following emergency order:

The owners/operators of all *Public Water Systems*, as defined in La. R.S. 40:5.8, located in parishes listed in the federal major disaster declaration for the State of Louisiana (FEMA-4559-DR) issued in response to Hurricane Laura (2020), as amended, shall accept and utilize as needed to maintain water flow and/or comply with the requirements of the Sanitary Code (LAC Title 51), any equipment, supplies, and physical resources provided thereto at no cost by federal, state, or local agencies, including, but not limited to, generators or other sources of backup power.

So ordered this 2nd day of September, 2020.

______________________________  9.2.2020  
Dr. Jimmy Guidry, M.D.  
State Health Officer  

______________________________  Date  
Dr. Courtney N. Phillips  
Secretary of LDH  

9.2.2020