

APPENDIX F:

Public Comments on the 2024 Integrated Report Rationale and Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality's Response to Comments

The following is a compilation of all comments received regarding the 2024 Integrated Report (IR) Rationale, along with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) responses to those comments. During the public notice phase of the 2024 IR development, LDEQ conducted a thorough review of the Louisiana Administrative Code (LAC) Title 33:IX.1123, the statistical programming used for assessment, and the assessment output. This required subsequent corrections to the 2024 IR §305(b)/§303(d) List and are included below as Comment #1.

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
WATER PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT DIVISION

PUBLIC COMMENTS RESPONSE SUMMARY

2024 INTEGRATED REPORT ON WATER QUALITY IN LOUISIANA:
SECTION 305(b)/303(d) LIST

AGENCY INTEREST (AI) NO. 169294

The LDEQ published a public notice of the Rationale for the *2024 Integrated Report on Water Quality in Louisiana: Section 305(b)/303(d) List* on January 4, 2024 in the *Advertiser, Advocate, American Press, Courier, News Star, New Orleans Advocate, Times, Town Talk*, and on the LDEQ Public Participation Group, Public Notice webpage. The public notice comment period ended on February 5, 2024.

The 2024 IR Rationale and draft §305(b)/§303(d) List was available for review on the LDEQ Website and in LDEQ's Electronic Data Management System (EDMS). The LDEQ received written comments on the draft IR Rationale and §305(b)/§303(d) List by email. All documents related to the public notice are available through LDEQ's EDMS at: <https://www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/edms> with document IDs 14162302, 14104096, and 14162305.

COMMENT #1

During the public notice phase of the 2024 IR development LDEQ conducted a thorough review of LAC 33:IX.1123, the statistical programming used for assessment, as well as the assessment output with the Assessment, Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Tracking and Implementation System (ATTAINS) database. Results of that review are as follows:

- The regulatory endnotes indicate that the scenic designation in two subsegments are within a specific area of the water bodies, and no monitoring stations are located in those areas. Therefore, there is no data available to determine Outstanding Natural Resource Water (ONRW) use assessment, which then required an update to the associated turbidity parameter status.
- A technical mistake was found during the review of the statistical programming where '≥' was used instead of '>' and as a result updates were made in 28 subsegments.

- During the review of the assessment output and ATTAINS database it was found that one subsegment was mistakenly listed with a sulfate impairment and five subsegment impairments were missing from the list. These six errors were a result of assessment results being overlooked during the initial phase of data entry into ATTAINS.

All items found during this review have been updated in the ATTAINS database and subsequent final IR assessment spreadsheet (Appendix A). Water bodies and impairments affected are identified in Table 1. (LDEQ)

Table 1.

Subsegments that were updated in the final 2024 IR section §305(b)/§303(d) List.

Subsegment Number	Subsegment Description	Action
LA010601_00	Crow Bayou, Bayou Blue and Tributaries	SCR ¹ use assessment corrected from Not Supporting to Fully Supporting; Fecal Coliform impairment removed
LA030201_00	Calcasieu River-From Marsh Bayou to saltwater barrier (Scenic)	ONRW use assessment corrected from Not Supporting to Insufficient Data; Turbidity impairment removed
LA030303_00	Prien Lake	Dissolved Oxygen impairment removed
LA031201_00	Calcasieu River Basin-Coastal Bays and Gulf Waters to State three- mile limit	OYS ² use assessment corrected from Not Supporting to Fully Supporting; Fecal Coliform impairment removed
LA040304_00	Grays Creek-From headwaters to Amite River	Chlorine impairment added
LA040804_00	Bogue Falaya River-From headwaters to Tchefuncte River (Scenic)	ONRW use assessment corrected from Not Supporting to Insufficient Data; Turbidity impairment removed
LA040305_00	Colyell Bay; includes Colyell Creek and Middle Colyell Creek-From Hood Road to Amite River	Total Dissolved Solids impairment removed
LA040508_00	Ponchatoula Creek-From La. Highway 22 to Natalbany River	SCR use assessment corrected from Not Supporting to Fully Supporting; Fecal Coliform impairment removed
LA040801_00	Tchefuncte River-From headwaters to US Highway 190; includes tributaries (Scenic)	ONRW use assessment corrected from Not Supporting to Fully Supporting; Turbidity impairment removed
LA040802_00	Tchefuncte River-From US Highway 190 to Bogue Falaya River; includes tributaries (Scenic)	ONRW use assessment corrected from Not Supporting to Fully Supporting; Turbidity impairment removed
LA041401_00	New Orleans East Leveed Water Bodies (Estuarine)	FWP ³ use assessment corrected from Not Supporting to Fully Supporting; Dissolved Oxygen impairment removed
LA050301_00	Bayou Nezpique-From headwaters to Mermentau River; includes intermittent portion of Beaver Creek [2]	SCR use assessment corrected from Not Supporting to Fully Supporting; Fecal Coliform impairment removed
LA060102_00	Cocodrie Lake	pH, Low impairment added

LA060201_00	Bayou Cocodrie-From US-167 to Bayou Boeuf-Cocodrie Diversion Canal (Scenic)	SCR use assessment corrected from Not Supporting to Fully Supporting; Fecal Coliform impairment removed
LA060202_00	Bayou Cocodrie-From Cocodrie Diversion Canal to Bayou Boeuf	SCR use assessment corrected from Not Supporting to Fully Supporting; Fecal Coliform impairment removed
LA060209_00	Irish Ditch and Big Bayou-From unnamed ditch to Irish Ditch No. 1 to Big Bayou to Irish Ditch No. 2 to Bayou Rapides	SCR use assessment corrected from Not Supporting to Fully Supporting; Fecal Coliform impairment removed
LA060212_00	Chatlin Lake Canal and Bayou DuLac-From Alexandria to Bayou des Glaises Diversion Canal; includes a portion of Bayou des Glaises	Sulfate impairment removed
LA070502_00	Thompson Creek-From Mississippi state line to Mississippi River	PCR ⁴ use assessment corrected from Not Supporting to Fully Supporting; Fecal Coliform impairment removed
LA070504_00	Monte Sano Bayou-From US-61 to Mississippi River	SCR use assessment corrected from Not Supporting to Fully Supporting; Fecal Coliform impairment removed
LA080301_00	Black River-From Jonesville to Corps of Engineers (USACE) Control Structure at Mile 25	Dissolved Oxygen impairment added
LA080606_00	Cypress Creek-From headwaters to Bayou D'Arbonne; includes Colvin Creek	Sulfate impairment added; FWP use assessment corrected from Fully Supporting to Not Supporting
LA080905_00	Turkey Creek-From headwaters to Turkey Creek Cutoff; includes Turkey Creek Cutoff, Big Creek, and Glade Slough	SCR use assessment corrected from Not Supporting to Fully Supporting; Fecal Coliform impairment removed
LA081601_00	Little River-From Castor Creek-Dugdemona River confluence to Bear Creek (Scenic)	Dissolved Oxygen impairment removed
LA081604_00	Catahoula Lake Diversion Canal-From Catahoula Lake to Black River	Dissolved Oxygen impairment removed
LA081611_00	Bayou Funny Louis-From headwaters to Little River	Dissolved Oxygen impairment removed
LA090103_00	East Pearl River-From I-10 to Lake Borgne (Estuarine)	Dissolved Oxygen impairment removed
LA090204_00	Pearl River Navigation Canal- From below Lock No. 3	Dissolved Oxygen impairment removed
LA100304_00	Twelve Mile Bayou-From headwaters to Red River	FWP use assessment corrected from Not Supporting to Fully Supporting; Dissolved Oxygen impairment removed
LA100307_00	Caddo Lake-From Texas state line to spillway; includes James Bayou	pH, Low impairment added
LA100308_00	Paw Paw Bayou-From Texas state line to Cross Lake; includes tributaries	Sulfate impairment removed
LA100309_00	Cross Bayou-From Texas state line to Cross Lake; includes tributaries	Dissolved Oxygen impairment removed

LA100406_00	Flat River-From headwaters to Loggy Bayou	SCR use assessment corrected from Not Supporting to Fully Supporting; Fecal Coliform impairment removed
LA100602_00	Boggy Bayou-From headwaters to Wallace Lake	FWP use assessment corrected from Not Supporting to Fully Supporting; Dissolved Oxygen impairment removed
LA101301_00	Rigolette Bayou-From headwaters to Red River	Total Dissolved Solids impairment removed
LA110501_00	West Anacoco Creek-From headwaters to Vernon Lake	SCR use assessment corrected from Not Supporting to Fully Supporting; Fecal Coliform impairment removed
LA120204_00	Lake Verret and Grassy Lake	FWP use assessment corrected from Not Supporting to Fully Supporting; Turbidity impairment removed

¹ Secondary Contact Recreation (SCR) designated use

² Oyster Propagation (OYS) designated use

³ Fish and Wildlife Propagation (FWP) designated use

⁴ Primary Contact Recreation (PCR) designated use

COMMENT #2

Comments note which Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) permits the organization has submitted comments on since the previous Integrated Report (2022), many in collaboration with the partner group, Lower Mississippi Riverkeeper; as well as the receiving water impairments in the Draft 2024 IR as related to those permits. However, there were no direct questions or requests made by the commenter. **(Ouachita Riverkeeper (ORK))**

LDEQ RESPONSE TO COMMENT #2

LDEQ acknowledges the discussion of the impairments in the watersheds described by Ouachita Riverkeeper.

COMMENT #3

Comment notes that while several of the Subsegments have shown improvement in the removal of a specific impairment, there are long-standing impairments that reflect the need for ongoing and expanded work to improve the water quality in the Ouachita River Basin. **(ORK)**

LDEQ RESPONSE TO COMMENT #3

It is not within the scope of the IR process to provide restoration work to improve water quality in impaired subsegments. General and specific measures for water quality improvements are determined by a variety of activities within LDEQ and other agencies. These include TMDL development, water discharge permitting actions, compliance and enforcement activities, and Nonpoint Source (NPS) Program projects.

COMMENT #4

Comments describe the subsegment impairments along the lower Mississippi River (070101, 070201, 070301, 070401, and 070601) in IR cycles 2016 through 2024. However, there were no direct questions or requests made by the commenter. **(Lower Mississippi Riverkeeper (LMRK))**

LDEQ RESPONSE TO COMMENT #4

LDEQ acknowledges the discussion of the impairment trends in the watersheds described by the Lower Mississippi Riverkeeper.

COMMENT #5

Commenter describes the New River water body (040404) as a small waterway that receives discharges from a number of permitted facilities and is also included in the “New Vision” alternative to a TMDL Plan. It would be helpful if LPDES permits for such water bodies included a description of current activities and plans under the New Vision Program to address the level of discharge they receive. (LMRK)

LDEQ RESPONSE TO COMMENT #5

It is not within the scope of the IR process to provide supportive documentation for LPDES permits.