LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (LDEQ) OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WATER PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT DIVISION

2024 INTEGRATED REPORT ON WATER QUALITY IN LOUISIANA

In accordance with the Louisiana Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP), 30-day notice is hereby given for solicitation of comments for the update of Volume 5: Water Quality Inventory. Updates to Volume 5 of the WQMP have been made through development of the 2024 Water Quality Integrated Report (Excel/PDF table of assessment results for Louisiana) and the associated Integrated Report Rationale. The Integrated Report Rationale provides a description of the processes used in making water quality assessment and Integrated Report category determinations.

The 2024 Integrated Report is a two-part report conducted every even-numbered year to meet requirements of the Clean Water Act, §305(b) and §303(d). The first, "§305(b) Report," is an assessment of all waters in the State and the second part, "§303(d) List," identifies, lists, and ranks impaired water bodies that require a more in-depth technical analysis to determine the maximum loading of a pollutant a water body can receive and how much reduction in loading is needed to maintain water quality standards. This technical analysis is known as a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). These two reports are combined, "integrated," as one table of assessment results, along with the Integrated Report Rationale.

The 2024 Integrated Report has been prepared using existing and readily available water quality data and information in order to comply with rules and regulations under §303(d) and §305(b) of the Clean Water Act.

The report and associated documents may be viewed on the LDEQ Website under Current Events at: <u>http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/water-quality</u>. All interested persons are invited to submit written comments for the record on the 2024 Integrated Report and Rationale. **Comments must be received no later than 4:30 p.m., Monday, February 5, 2024.** All comments should be addressed to Ms. Rachael Mathews, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Assessment, P.O. Box 4314, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70821-4314, or e-mail to Rachael.Mathews@la.gov.

Amanda Vincent, PhD, PMP - Administrator Water Planning and Assessment Division Office of Environmental Assessment

All correspondence should specify: AI Number 169294.

Scheduled for publication: Thursday, January 4, 2024 - Advertiser, Advocate, American Press, Courier, News Star, New Orleans Advocate, Times and Town Talk; and the LDEQ Website