BEHRHORST RAPS
ANTI-LCC MOVE

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Coastal Parishes Urged to
Oppose Bill

(Special to The Times-Picayune)

LAFAYETTE, La.
The director of the Louisiana Coastal Commission has begun a tour of coastal parishes asking police
juries to help head off a move which, he says, would weaken or limit his commission's authority to implement a pro-
gram of coastal zone resource management.

Vernon Behrhorst told the La-
fayette Parish Police Jury legis-
lative session will be introduced in the
coming legislative session to ap-
propriate $80,000 to the Office of
State Planning for use in operating
advisory coastal planning.

The bill would provide for the
continuation of the Louisi-
ana Advisory Commission on
Coastal and Marine Resources
by having the Office of State
Planning assume the admin-
istration of the commission, he said.

Behrhorst did not say who
would introduce the bill, but he
made clear he is opposed to it.

Enactment of the bill into law
would water down the Coastal
Commission's authority, and
abrogate the job which the Legis-
lature has directed it to do,
he indicated.

Behrhorst said state Sen.
Robert Jones, president of the Louisi-
aiana Intracoastal Seaway Assoc.
ation, recently said that the Coastal
Commission is the appropriate agency to administer coastal zone
management programs.

"Any coastal zone management program must be adminis-
tered by the people living in the
(coastal) area and not by some state agency domiciled in Baton
Rouge," Jones said in a May 10 letter to the Lafayette jury.
The state should, however, be rep-
resented on the commission,
Jones noted.

The majority of the members of
the Coastal Commission are drawn from coastal Louisiana
parishes.

The Lafayette jury, like the Acadia Parish Jury earlier this month,
gave its approval to a resolution suggested by Jones which urges the Advisory
Commission on Coastal and Marine Resources to consider recom-
mending to the legislature that the
Coastal Commission be desig-
ated as the state agency to adminis-
ter the coastal zone management program should the legislature adopt one.