



With the passage of Act 8 of the First Extraordinary Session of 2005 (Act 8), the Louisiana Legislature mandated the integration of hurricane protection activities (e.g., levee construction) and coastal restoration activities (e.g., river diversions or marsh creation). Act 8 also created the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) and tasked it with oversight of these activities. The Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration (OCPR) was designated as the implementation arm of the CPRA. To avoid confusion, the 2012 Louisiana Legislature changed the name of the state agency from OCPR to CPRA.

The CPRA is required by Act 523 of the 2009 Regular Legislative Session, to produce an Annual Plan that inventories projects, presents implementation schedules for these projects, and identifies funding schedules and budgets. This Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 Annual Plan provides an update on the state's efforts to protect and restore its coast and describes the short-term and long-term results that citizens can expect to see as the state progresses toward a sustainable coast.

Fiscal Year 2016 Annual Plan: Integrated Ecosystem Restoration  
and Hurricane Protection in Coastal Louisiana  
Submitted to the  
Senate Natural Resources Committee  
House Natural Resources and Environment Committee  
Senate Transportation, Highways and Public Works Committee  
House Transportation, Highways and Public Works Committee by  
The Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana  
In accordance with R.S. 49:214.5.3 and R.S. 49:214.6.1

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The background of the page features a large, light gray watermark of the Seal of the State of Louisiana. The seal is circular, with the words "SEAL OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA" around the top and "CONFIDE" at the bottom. In the center is a pelican feeding its young in a nest.

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This public document was published at a total cost of \$7,020.

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Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, 2015. Fiscal Year 2016 Annual Plan: Integrated Ecosystem Restoration and Hurricane Protection in Coastal Louisiana. Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana. Baton Rouge, LA.





# State of Louisiana

BOBBY JINDAL  
GOVERNOR

April 6, 2015

Dear Friends,

The Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority is pleased to present our *Integrated Ecosystem Restoration and Hurricane Protection in Coastal Louisiana: Fiscal Year 2016 Annual Plan*. Each year our plan is submitted to the Louisiana Legislature as we seek to continue the projects and programs outlined in *Louisiana's Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast*.

The work ahead of us will be built upon a solid foundation of recent accomplishments. Since the creation of the CPRA—and mostly over the last seven years—we've secured more than \$18 billion for protection and restoration projects in 20 parishes, used more than 95-million cubic yards of dredged sediment, benefitted more than 26,000 acres of land, improved 256 miles of levees, and constructed 45 miles of barrier islands and berms.

While much has been done, there is much more to do. This Annual Plan outlines our immediate next steps towards implementing the Coastal Master Plan and continuing the momentum of our coastal program.

Some concerns have been raised over fiscal challenges on both the state and federal levels. We are pleased to say that the anticipated state budget reduction will not significantly impact any projects in this plan. We appreciate the fact that it is the will of the governor, the legislature, and the people of Louisiana that our efforts not be curtailed; they are indispensable to the future and well-being of our state and our people.

More seriously impactful would be a redirection of funds promised through GOMESA, the 2006 Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act. While the president proposes using the offshore oil royalties for general fund purposes across the nation instead of following through on the promised dedication to Gulf states—especially Louisiana—we take solace in the knowledge that the president cannot act unilaterally, and that the majority of both houses of Congress would be needed to make any change. We pledge to be vigilant in working with our delegation in Washington and in engaging other states to insure the integrity of the GOMESA promise. We are prepared to meet this challenge with the same fervor and dedication we bring to all of our efforts on behalf of Louisiana and the people and places we hold dear.

With the full knowledge of the challenges and potential successes that lie before us, we proudly submit this plan of action to the people of Louisiana and their representatives.

Sincerely,

Chip Kline

Chair, Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority

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## Purpose of the Annual Plan

This plan is the annual report card used to track the progress of projects outlined in *Louisiana's Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast*. Additional information and projections are included to foster a better understanding of what is being done and why and how it is being done.

## Origin of the Annual Plan

In 2007, in response to Act 8's directive, the State released *Integrated Ecosystem Restoration and Hurricane Protection: Louisiana's Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast* (2007 Coastal Master Plan). The 2007 Coastal Master Plan established four planning objectives as benchmarks for implementing coastal protection and restoration projects and identified large-scale measures needed to achieve a sustainable coast. The 2007 Coastal Master Plan was passed unanimously in the Louisiana Legislature and its primacy was subsequently reaffirmed by Gov. Bobby Jindal in Executive Order BJ2008-7, which directed all state agencies to administer their activities, to the maximum extent possible, in accordance with the 2007 Coastal Master Plan's recommendations.

To accommodate the dynamic nature of coastal processes, Act 8 specifies that the Coastal Master Plan is a living document that will be updated approximately every five years. These updates incorporate new data and planning tools as they become available. To comply with the mandate set forth in Act 8, the first update of the Coastal Master Plan was submitted to the Louisiana Legislature in March 2012. It was unanimously adopted. The next update will be due in 2017.

Act 523 of the 2009 Regular Legislative Session directed the CPRA to produce an Annual Plan each year that inventories integrated coastal protection projects, presents implementation schedules for these projects, and identifies funding schedules and budgets.\*

## Evolution of the Annual Plan

Historically, the state's Annual Plans for coastal projects provided: 1) an inventory of projects for which the state planned to expend money and resources for a given fiscal year, and 2) recommendations for allocating Coastal Protection and Restoration Funds to those projects. The FY 2010 Annual Plan was the first plan to address the new integrated planning and prioritization directives specified in Act 8. The FY 2016 Annual Plan fulfills the legislative mandate of Act 8 by presenting the CPRA's three-year program for funding and implementing projects during FY 2016–FY 2018.

Additionally, the FY 2016 Annual Plan builds on the process first begun in the FY 2010 plan and provides an expanded discussion of the CPRA's progress in protecting and restoring the coast. Section 2 provides a summary of some of the progress and accomplishments achieved through FY2015; Section 3 outlines an implementation plan for FY 2016; Section 4 gives fiscal projections for FY 2016 to 2018; and the Appendices provide detailed information on CPRA projects, programs and initiatives.

\*La R.S. 49:214.29(4) defines "integrated coastal protection" as "plans, projects, policies, and programs intended to provide hurricane protection or coastal conservation or restoration, and shall include but not be limited to coastal restoration; coastal protection; infrastructure; storm damage reduction; flood control; water resources development; erosion control measures; marsh management; diversions; saltwater intrusion prevention; wetlands and central wetlands conservation, enhancement, and restoration; barrier island and shoreline stabilization and preservation; coastal passes stabilization and restoration; mitigation; storm surge reduction; or beneficial use projects."