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) 2017 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 2017 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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State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR

March 18, 2016

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to submit to you the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority's *Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Plan, Integrated Ecosystem Restoration and Hurricane Protection in Coastal Louisiana.*

The Annual Plan includes three-year revenue and expenditure projections, project implementation schedules and a program progress assessment. It identifies the immediate actions we will take to continue implementation of the Coastal Master Plan. Included in this year's plan are funds to construct some of the largest barrier island and marsh creation projects in the history of our program and funds that will advance sediment diversion projects which are critical to the long-term sustainability of coastal Louisiana.

As we move forward with the implementation of more complex projects be assured that we are sensitive to the concerns of our stakeholders, and that we will work together to address those challenges. This includes making sure that our contracting processes are fair, and that we are placing more emphasis on small businesses, disadvantaged businesses and Louisiana companies.

We are firmly committed to getting results, as this Annual Plan demonstrates. Continuous improvement is important to this agency and is the key to our success. While acting with the utmost sense of urgency, we are also dedicated to safeguarding and wisely managing our coastal funds in a manner that will withstand intense scrutiny, continuously engaging our stakeholders, and teaming with our partner federal, state and local agencies in this important work.

We have a finite window of opportunity to address our coastal crisis. If we do not act now, we will lose that opportunity. I am honored that Governor John Bel Edwards has entrusted me with the responsibility for leading the fight to save our state's coast. I have faith that the CPRA Implementation Agency and the CPRA Board, led by this governor and this legislature, are up to the task.

I look forward to working with you on this great endeavor. I encourage you to join us as we carry out this Annual Plan and continue our important work of developing the 2017 Coastal Master Plan.

Sincerely,

Johnny Bradberry
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 2017 Annual Plan fulfills the legislative mandate of Act 8 by presenting the CPRA's three-year program for funding and implementing projects during FY 2017–FY 2019.

Additionally, the FY 2017 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 FY2016; Section 3 outlines an implementation plan for FY 2017; Section 4 gives fiscal projections for FY 2017 to 2019; 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."