



State of Louisiana
Coastal Protection and Restoration
Authority

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**CPRA ANNOUNCES \$16M GRANT FOR THE CALCASIEU SALINITY CONTROL
MEASURES PROJECT UNDER THE RESTORE ACT**

The Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority will receive a \$16 million grant from the U.S. Dept. of the Treasury for engineering and design of the state's Calcasieu Salinity Control Measures project under the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012 (RESTORE Act). The funds will be transferred on Aug. 1, 2016. CPRA is the state agency tasked with implementing restoration and protection projects outlined in the state coastal master plan.

"These funds will be put to immediate use to engineer and design this important project in a greatly endangered area," said CPRA Chairman Johnny Bradberry. "This project is one of the highest priorities within our Master Plan, and its complete implementation is of utmost importance to this area. The urgency of our situation requires that we move forward without any needless delay, and we continually work to find additional sources of revenue. It is critical that the dollars coming to the state as a result of the BP Oil Spill go to their intended purpose—restoring and protecting our coast."

The RESTORE Act allocates 80 percent of all Clean Water Act penalties paid by those responsible for the 2010 Deepwater Horizon Gulf oil spill disaster to Gulf Coast restoration activities. The RESTORE Act contains five different funding components, one of which directs 35 percent of the funds deposited into the Trust Fund to each of the five Gulf Coast States in equal shares for expenditure for ecological and economic restoration of the Gulf Coast region (the "Direct Component"). In order for a Gulf Coast State to receive funding under the Direct Component of the RESTORE Act, the States must first submit a plan to the U.S. Dept. of the Treasury for the expenditure of Trust Fund monies through those funding components. The State of Louisiana was the first state to have a Direct Component plan accepted by the Treasury, a plan which will be guided by the state's Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast and is the first state to receive a project grant under the Direct Component.

The Calcasieu Salinity Control Measures Project is a key restoration project in the state's Coastal Master Plan and is needed to address modifications to hydrology that have caused an increase in salinity levels within the project area, resulting in degradation of the integrity of the surrounding marsh area and increased rates of wetland loss. This project will also mitigate damage to fish, wildlife and natural resources which rely on freshwater inputs and will limit the intrusion of salt water into freshwater marsh systems, thereby allowing for the maintenance of thousands of acres of wetlands which serve as critical wildlife habitat and nurseries for fisheries.

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