



State of Louisiana  
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Authority

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## **RESTORE Council awards grants for Gulf-wide Restoration to Louisiana for Marsh Creation and Living Shoreline Projects**

The Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) has been awarded two grants totaling approximately \$7.5 million from the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (RESTORE Council) for engineering and design of the Golden Triangle Marsh Creation (\$3.2M) project and the Biloxi Marsh Living Shoreline (\$4.3M) project under the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012 (RESTORE Act). These projects represent two out of seven total projects that were selected for funding by the RESTORE Council under its Initial Funded Priorities List that will directly benefit Louisiana. One additional grant in the amount of \$7.3 million was funded by the RESTORE Council in September for the engineering and design of the West Grand Terre Beach Nourishment and Stabilization Project.

“The Golden Triangle Marsh Creation and the Biloxi Marsh Living Shoreline projects represent key strategic large-scale points of restoration. When complete, these projects will generate 600 acres of marsh creation and living shoreline protecting 121,000 acres respectively. These restoration projects also work together with the \$15 billion structural hurricane storm damage risk reduction system (HSDRRS) around the Greater New Orleans area. We are eager to begin work on these projects to accomplish the multiple goals of ecosystem restoration, improved resilience for the HSDRRS, and improvements to fish and wildlife habitat and enhanced recreational opportunities”, said CPRA Board Chairman Johnny Bradberry.

The Golden Triangle lies at the confluence of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet (MRGO) and the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW), an area referred to as “the funnel” after Hurricane Katrina in reference to the effect of storm surge passing through both channels to become one traveling west towards New Orleans. The Biloxi Marsh Living Shoreline project area is located along the shoreline of Eloi Bay and Eloi Point, near the mouth of Bayou la Loutre adjacent to and directly east of the now-closed MRGO.

“These two projects are good examples of how the agency leverages projects to mutually enhance benefits and builds upon lessons learned. The Golden Triangle stands in front of the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal (IHNC) Surge Barrier, the largest design-build project in the history of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Biloxi Living Shoreline Project builds upon lessons learned from an adjacent living shoreline demonstration project, as well as another project in Terrebonne, in order to reduce shoreline recession and enhance oyster production. We are ready to move forward quickly on these projects and we are pleased that these funds allow us to do so,” said Michael Ellis, Executive Director of the CPRA.

“The RESTORE Council is thrilled to support the planning phase of these two critical Master Plan projects”, said Justin R. Ehrenwerth, Executive Director of the Council. “This investment will advance projects with the potential to provide important ecosystem benefits, including increased community resilience through the ‘multiple lines of defense’ strategy. The Council looks forward to continuing this important work in Louisiana.”

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. The Council-Selected Restoration Component directs 30 percent of the funds deposited into the Trust Fund to a Gulf-wide Comprehensive Ecosystem Restoration Plan (the “Comprehensive Plan”). The RESTORE Council’s Initial Comprehensive Plan was approved in August 2013. On December 9, 2015, the RESTORE Council approved an Initial Funded Priorities List which contained a list of the first projects and programs to be funded under the Council’s Initial Comprehensive Plan.