



Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority

Working to establish a safe and sustainable coast that will protect our communities, the nation's critical energy infrastructure and our bountiful natural resources for generations to come

The mandate of the CPRA is to develop, implement and enforce a comprehensive coastal protection and restoration Master Plan. The CPRA integrates coastal restoration and hurricane protection by marshaling the expertise and resources of federal, state and local political subdivisions, including levee districts.

The CPRA handles coastal protection and restoration monetary decisions from state's perspective, directs funding, and oversees projects to ensure they are built correctly. CPRA is now established as the single state entity with authority to articulate a clear statement of priorities and to focus development and implementation efforts to achieve comprehensive coastal protection for Louisiana. CPRA works closely with other entities on coastal issues, including the state legislature; the Governor's Advisory Commission on Coastal Protection, Restoration and Conservation, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Transportation and Development and other state agencies, to speak with one clear voice for the future of Louisiana's coast.

The Governor's executive assistant for coastal activities chairs the CPRA. Agencies in the CPRA include the following: secretaries of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR); Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD); Department of Environmental Quality; Department of Wildlife and Fisheries; Department of Economic Development; commissioners of the Department of Agriculture and Forestry; Department of Insurance; and the Division of Administration; director of the State Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness; and the chair of the Governor's Advisory Commission on Coastal Protection, Restoration, and Conservation. Additionally, the CPRA membership includes two executive board members of the Police Jury Association and three levee district presidents from coastal Louisiana.

The CPRA came into existence after the devastation of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. In December 2005 the Louisiana Legislature restructured the State's Wetland Conservation and Restoration Authority to form the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA). Act 8 of the First Extraordinary Session of 2005 expanded the membership, duties and responsibilities of the CPRA and charged the new Authority to develop and implement a comprehensive coastal protection plan, including both the Master Plan (revised every 5 years) and annual plans.

Prior to the hurricanes, safeguarding Louisiana's coast meant separate planning for hurricane protection and coastal restoration. Act 8 directed CPRA to consider both "hurricane protection and the protection, conservation, restoration and enhancement of coastal wetlands and barrier shorelines or reefs" and further defined the "coastal area" as the Louisiana Coastal Zone and contiguous areas that are subject to storm or tidal surge.

In May 2006 CPRA completed its first assigned task and submitted it to the legislature—the first annual coastal protection plan for the state that integrates both hurricane protection and coastal restoration projects. CPRA is mandated by the legislature to prepare and implement Louisiana's Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast. CPRA is responsible for integrating hurricane protection, storm damage reduction, flood control, coastal protection and restoration efforts, along with associated infrastructure construction and maintenance in the State of Louisiana.