

State of Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

3/27/2017

Contact: Chuck Perrodin, Public Information

Director

(o) 225-342-7615

Louisiana's First Amended RESTORE Act Plan Approved for \$811.9M

Louisiana's Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) announces that the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (RESTORE Council) and the U.S. Department of Treasury (Treasury) have both accepted the CPRA's First Amended Multiyear Implementation and State Expenditure Plan (RESTORE Plan) under the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012 (RESTORE Act). This plan describes how the state intends to spend its total allocation of \$811.9 million over 15 years from both the Spill Impact Component and the Direct Component of the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund (RESTORE Trust Fund). With the plan officially accepted by both agencies, CPRA can now apply for grants to begin implementing the important projects and programs described in the plan.

In September 2015, Louisiana was the first state to have a plan for the expenditure of then-available Direct Component funds from the Transocean Deepwater Inc. (Transocean) settlement (\$39 million) accepted by Treasury. Louisiana is now the first state to have a plan accepted by both Treasury and the RESTORE Council for the expenditure of all of its Direct Component and Spill Impact Component funds from the Transocean, Anadarko Petroleum Corporation and BP Exploration & Production Inc. settlements over a 15 year period.



"This plan advances an ambitious implementation timeline for two of CPRA's highest priority large scale integrated coastal protection projects and contains two programs which are foundational to the success of our coastal program. We are excited that our plan has been accepted by the RESTORE Council and Treasury and we are ready to move our projects forward quickly under this plan", said Johnny Bradberry, Chairman of the CPRA Board.

The activities identified in the State's First Amended RESTORE Plan for funding over the next 15 years include: the Calcasieu Salinity Control Measures project (\$260.4 million) under the Direct Component; and the Houma Navigation Canal (HNC) Lock Complex (\$366 million), Adaptive Management (\$60.9 million), the CPRA-Parish Matching Opportunities Program (up to \$100 million), and contingency funds (approximately \$24.6 million) under the Spill Impact Component.

"The activities identified in this plan represent critical priorities of the coastal program. The Calcasieu Salinity Control Measures project is southwest Louisiana's largest ecosystem restoration project to date and the HNC Lock Complex project is a key project for southeast Louisiana that will maintain thousands of acres of wetland in an area that is experiencing one of the highest rates of land loss in coastal Louisiana. Additionally, the Adaptive Management program will allow us to identify sustainable implementation solutions in a dynamic ecosystem while the Parish Matching program will enable us to partner with coastal parishes to advance comprehensive integrated coastal protection projects of particular local concern", said Michael Ellis, Executive Director of the CPRA.

The RESTORE Act allocates 80 percent of all Clean Water Act penalties paid by those responsible for the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill disaster to the RESTORE Trust Fund for the restoration and protection of the Gulf Coast region. The RESTORE Act contains five different funding components, one of which directs 35% of the funds deposited into the Trust Fund to each of the five Gulf Coast States in equal shares for



ecological and economic restoration (the "Direct Component"), and one of which directs 30% of the funds deposited in the Trust Fund to each of the five Gulf Coast States to address the ecological and economic impacts from the oil spill based on a formula established by the Council by regulation (the "Spill Impact Component"). In order for a Gulf Coast State to receive funding under the Direct Component or the Spill Impact Component of the RESTORE Act, the states must first submit a plan for the expenditure of Trust Fund monies under those funding components. The State's First Amended draft plan was made available for public review and comment in November 2016. The expenditure of funds under the Spill Impact Component is subject to review by the RESTORE Council while the expenditure of funds under the Direct Component is subject to review by Treasury.

Now that the plan has been approved by the RESTORE Council for expenditure of Spill Impact Component funds and accepted by Treasury for expenditure of Direct Component funds, the state will submit grant applications to the RESTORE Council and Treasury, respectively, to support activities included in the accepted plan with funds as they become available in the RESTORE Trust Fund over a 15 year period. Click here to view the "State of Louisiana's First Amended RESTORE Plan."

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Louisiana's Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority is the single state entity with authority to develop, articulate, implement, and enforce a comprehensive coastal restoration and protection Master Plan of unified vision to reduce hurricane storm surge flood impact, to restore our bountiful natural resources, to build land to protect our nation's critical energy infrastructure, and to secure Louisiana's coast now and for future generations.