



State of Louisiana
Coastal Protection and Restoration
Authority

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Deepwater Horizon, 7 Years later: CPRA Accelerating the largest ecosystem restoration in the world

BATON ROUGE - Seven years ago today, the *Deepwater Horizon* mobile drilling unit exploded, tragically killing 11 workers and injuring many others. For 87 days after the explosion, the well released oil and natural gas continuously and uncontrollably into the northern Gulf of Mexico and more than three million barrels of oil were released into the Gulf. Recorded as the worst environmental disaster in the history of our country, the short- and long-term effects to Louisiana's coast will require ongoing restoration for years to come. "Louisiana is working every day to restore our coast for the people who live, work, and recreate here, as well as for those who depend on us. Our resilience is steadfast. We will continue to adapt and restore the impacts to our communities, our coast, and our economy," said Governor Edwards.

In April, 2016, the Court entered a Consent Decree among BP and the Gulf States and federal government resolving the civil claims related to the oil spill. Pursuant to the settlement, Louisiana has received the first of fifteen annual installments of settlement dollars which are to be paid out from 2017 to 2031.

"In the last twelve months, we've switched gears from assessing and understanding the damages to restoring for the injuries to our natural resources," states Johnny Bradberry, Executive Assistant to the Governor for Coastal Activities, and Board Chairman to Louisiana's Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority. "Knowing the dollars are coming allows us to accelerate significant restoration projects forward."

This year, Louisiana's Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) will invest nearly \$100 million to advance additional coastal restoration projects into engineering and design. "These additional projects are among the first post-settlement restoration projects to see funding, from 15 annual installments of settlement dollars dedicated to projects that will create, restore, and benefit marsh ridge and bird habitat, in addition to adding protection to thousands of acres of living shoreline, reports Michael Ellis, Executive Director, CPRA." Louisiana currently has approximately \$260 million in *Deepwater Horizon* Natural Resource Damages restoration projects on the ground



Deepwater Horizon settlement dollars to fund specific Louisiana E & D projects in the upcoming fiscal year include:

- Terrebonne Basin Ridge and Marsh Creation Project: Bayou Terrebonne Increment,
- Barataria Basin Ridge and Marsh Creation Project: Spanish Pass Increment,
- Lake Borgne Marsh Creation Project: Increment One,
- Queen Bess Island Restoration Project,
- Rabbit Island Restoration Project,
- Shoreline Protection at Jean Lafitte Historical Park and Preserve,
- West Grand Terre Beach Nourishment and Stabilization,
- Golden Triangle Marsh Creation,
- Biloxi Marsh Living Shoreline,
- Calcasieu Ship Channel Salinity Control Measures,
- Houma Navigation Canal Lock Complex,
- Mississippi River Reintroduction into Maurepas Swamp,
- Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion,
- Mid-Breton Sediment Diversion,
- Increase Atchafalaya Flow to Eastern Terrebonne, and
- East Timbalier Island.

Over the next 15 years, Louisiana will receive a minimum of \$8.7 billion for claims related to Natural Resource Damages under the Oil Pollution Act, civil penalties pursuant to the Clean Water Act civil penalties, criminal penalties, economic claims and prior *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill related settlements and recoveries. Of this total, CPRA will receive a minimum of \$5 billion for natural resource damages (including \$368 million previously allocated for Early Restoration projects); a minimum of approximately \$876.8 million for Clean Water Act civil penalties (subject to the RESTORE Act); and \$1.272 billion through National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF): for criminal penalties associated with the spill.

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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.