



State of Louisiana  
Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **CPRA Announces \$28.6 Million Awarded for Four Coastal Restoration and Protection Projects**

**BATON ROUGE, LA.—Sept. 5, 2017—** The Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) announces the awarding of four construction contracts totaling \$28.6 million for projects that will restore marshland, revive an ecosystem with fresh water and vegetative plantings, strengthen an existing levee system, and use rocks to stabilize a portion of coastal shoreline. The projects extend across Cameron, Lafourche and St. James Parishes.

### **Rockefeller Refuge Gulf Shoreline Stabilization**

A 2.8 mile rock breakwater will be constructed along the gulf shoreline of the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge in Cameron Parish. The \$18.9 million project will address the erosion of the shoreline which has been retreating at an average rate of 46 feet per year, causing the loss of the emergent saline marsh buffer that helps reduce storm surge impact on the inland habitats of wildlife such as the refuge's endangered Whooping Cranes.

The project is being funded by CPRA and NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service through the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA). Also partnering in the project are the La. Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries and the Rockefeller Refuge.

LeBlanc Marine of New Iberia, La., is the construction contractor.

### **Cameron-Creole Watershed Grand Bayou Marsh Creation**

An \$8.2 million project will restore more than 600 acres of marsh on the east side of Calcasieu Lake in Cameron Parish. The project will address two separate areas north of Grand Bayou: a



southern marsh creation area of 386 acres encompassing part of the Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge, and a northern marsh creation area of 219 acres on private property. Funded by a partnership of CPRA and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) through CWPPRA, material will be dredged from Calcasieu Lake to restore a degraded part of the ecosystem to benefit fish and wildlife resources in the brackish marsh system.

Accomplishing this restoration furthers the overall goals of the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Cameron-Creole Watershed Project, first constructed in the 1970s to reduce saltwater intrusion and stimulate re-vegetation of the marsh within the watershed. Subsidence and saltwater intruding through the Calcasieu Ship Channel have been causing traditional marshlands to turn into open water.

Apollo Environmental Strategies of Beaumont, Texas, is the contract awardee.

#### **Kraemer-Bayou Boeuf Levee Lift**

The North Lafourche Conservation, Levee and Drainage District is using \$1 million of CPRA funding to enhance the 33,000 foot ring levee surrounding the community south of Lac des Allemands by clearing woody vegetation encroaching on the levee in preparation for a future levee lift. The project will also improve drainage by cleaning out the canal adjacent to the levee, place excavated material on the levee itself, and replace two culverts to further improve drainage.

Also known as the Zeller/Larousse levee and forced drainage area of Lafourche Parish, the Kraemer-Bayou Boeuf system's main component is a ring levee surrounding the Kraemer community. The levee proved insufficient in height and profile during Hurricane Isaac in 2012 when it was overtopped in multiple locations and had other areas in danger of breaching. The earthen levee was further damaged by the encroachment of trees and root systems.

Sealevel Construction, a locally owned heavy civil construction company headquartered in Thibodaux, La., has been awarded the contract.

#### **Hydrologic Restoration & Vegetative Planting in Des Allemands Swamp**

In order to increase the health of the Lac des Allemands Swamp ecosystem, a contract of \$519,562 has been awarded to minimize the loss of both marsh and a declining cypress forest, as well as reduce swamp submergence, increase regrowth of young trees, increase swamp productivity, improve drainage and increase water quality. Through the CWPPRA program, the CPRA and the federal sponsor, EPA, are taking action to restore 2,400 acres of wetlands within St. James Parish. Once constructed, the project will increase water flow into the swamp by



cutting gaps in the spoil bank, breaching internal impediments, and reestablishing natural channels. Native vegetation will also be planted at the site.

The project area is located west of Lac des Allemands, east of LA Highway 20, and south of the town of South Vacherie. According to LSU researchers, the swamp has been deteriorating because it has been impounded and isolated by roads, canals, and spoil banks, and no longer receives replenishing Bayou Chevreuil water.

Magnolia Dredge and Dock of Mandeville, La., has been awarded the contract.

### **CPRA: COMMITTED TO OUR COAST**

CPRA is the single state entity with the authority to articulate a clear statement of priorities and to focus development and implementation efforts to achieve comprehensive coastal protection for Louisiana. CPRA integrates coastal restoration and hurricane protection by marshaling the expertise of federal, state, and local political subdivisions, including levee districts.

Louisiana has lost approximately 1,900 square miles of land and marsh over the last 90 years due to a number of factors, including subsidence, a lack of sediment delivery, rising sea levels and saltwater intrusion expedited by manmade canals.

To combat this, CPRA develops and implements the Louisiana Coastal Master Plan, a suite of strategic projects which aim to provide multiple lines of defense, including green infrastructure such as outer barrier island restoration, marsh and ridge restoration, levees, levee walls and floodgates.

Since 2007 CPRA has improved more than 282 miles of levees for communities in the coastal zone, and dredged more than 120 million cubic yards of sediment to restore and benefit more than 36,000 acres of coastal land, including more than 60 miles of barrier islands and berms constructed or now under construction.

To learn more about the CPRA and *Louisiana's Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast*, go to <http://coastal.la.gov>.

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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.*