



State of Louisiana
Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1/26/2018

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CPRA Executes MOU that Implements 2-Yr Expedited Permitting for Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion

BATON ROUGE, LA — January 26 2018 — CPRA Board Chairman, Johnny Bradberry, along with several federal partners signed a landmark MOU this morning in Washington, D.C. which commits to a 2-year federal permitting timeline for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Project. The MOU builds on the Trump Administration's Executive Order 13807 and Governor Edwards' request to the White House Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council. In addition to the two-year timetable, the MOU also establishes a framework for Establishing Discipline and Accountability in the Environmental Review and Authorization Process in accordance with the guidance from the Trump.

"This is the first MOU of this nature for the Trump administration. Louisiana CPRA has been the driving force of this initiative to streamline environmental and permitting processes to speed up project implementation of Coastal Master Plan projects," Bradberry states. "Large-scale ecosystem restoration is essential to Louisiana's future and with today's MOU we will be able to successfully work through the permitting process to resolve that issue and move forward."

In January 2017, The White House Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council rendered approval to include Louisiana's Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion project on the Federal Permitting Dashboard, a government-wide effort to streamline the federal permitting and review process while increasing transparency. The dashboard

mechanism was expected to greatly reduce the lengthy federal environmental review and permitting process, but CPRA later learned that the best-estimate schedule projected the Mid-Barataria project permitting would be five years. This disappointing pronouncement delayed implementation until 2022. “CPRA has been pushing for an expedited permitting timeframe since day one of this administration,” said CPRA Board Chairman Bradberry. “CPRA knows that we have to do big things to change the trajectory of our coast and permitting and constructing Mid-Barataria has long been seen as the first big test of that agenda. Today, this MOU signals that the federal regulatory agencies are going to be working with us to implement this project on an expedited timeline. We couldn’t be happier,” said Chairman Bradberry.

The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion is a project that will harness the power of the Mississippi River for long-term, sustainable sediment, water, and nutrient delivery to the surrounding wetlands. The structure will be located in Plaquemines Parish, LA, along the west bank of the Mississippi River, just north of Ironton and south of the Phillips 66 Alliance Refinery, near Mississippi River Mile 61. The main elements of the diversion complex are the diversion structure and the conveyance channel. The diversion intake structure, located on the banks of the Mississippi River, replaces a section of the earthen levee system with gated structures to transport sediment. The conveyance channel is used for transporting the sediment from the river to the Barataria Basin. Sediment diversions will

UPDATED: [Click here for MOU document](#), signatures in progress.

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Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority is the single state entity with authority to develop, articulate, implement, and enforce a comprehensive coastal protection and restoration 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.