



State of Louisiana

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

12/7/2017

Contact: Chuck Perrodin

(o) 225-342-7615

CPRA advances five components into design for Calcasieu Ship Channel Salinity Control Measures

BATON ROUGE, LA – Dec. 7, 2017 – The Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) reported today that it is advancing five project components into design for Calcasieu Ship Channel Salinity Control Measures in southern Cameron Parish.

“We modeled the originally proposed 14 components in various combinations and were pleased to find that the degree of salinity reduction we’re trying to achieve for Calcasieu Lake and its environment can be accomplished with just five structures,” said CPRA Project Manager Jason Curole. “This is good news as we can now concentrate our energies on these specific structures and locations, and move the process forward with greater specificity.”

In a November 6, 2017 press release issued by CPRA, CPRA Board Chairman Johnny Bradberry announced receipt of an additional \$9.6 million funding from the U.S. Department of Treasury for the engineering and design phase of the Calcasieu Ship Channel Salinity Control Measures project under the Direct Component of the RESTORE Act. CPRA previously received \$16 million in RESTORE Act funding for computational modeling, data collection, and engineering and design of the project (\$25.6 million total). “Careful planning and scientific modeling pays off in the long run,” said CPRA Chairman Johnny Bradberry. “I want us to be as efficient as possible, and work as smart as possible. Scientifically demonstrating we can achieve our objective without building all 14 components justifies all the work we’ve put into this so far.”

The purpose of the Calcasieu Ship Channel Salinity Control Measures project is to manage salt water that has been infiltrating the lake and causing habitat loss in the surrounding wetlands. Rock and sheet-pile structures along the lower ship channel will reduce the saltwater intrusion, but will allow for people and wildlife to move through boat bays and fish gaps. "CPRA is eager to restore this coastal ecosystem which will improve the long-term economic health of the region," said CPRA Executive Director Michael Ellis. CPRA expects to complete 15% design by March 2018.

The Calcasieu Lake area has undergone substantial land loss since 1932. The present day Calcasieu Ship Channel cross section is more than 40 times larger than when it was first dredged for navigation in the late 1800s. This change has affected hydrology by: channeling saltwater inland into a historically low-salinity estuary; reducing freshwater residence time when the tide ebbs; and, increasing tidal amplitude through the broader waterway.

###

Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority is the single state entity with authority to develop, articulate, implement, and enforce a comprehensive coastal Master Plan of unified vision, to reduce tropical 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.