



Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CPCPRA Board approves Coastal Program Annual Plan with
Authorization to spend \$566 Million in FY2019:
*Next stop, 2018 Regular Legislative Session***

BATON ROUGE, LA – February 21, 2018 – Today, the Coastal Protection and Restoration Board (CPRA) convened in Baton Rouge to approve the Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Plan, a 3-year outlook of projected revenues and expenditures, project activity and implementation schedules. In a presentation to the board, CPRA Executive Director Michael Ellis reported that CPRA facilitated three public hearings: January 8th, Belle Chasse, January 9th in Houma and January 10th in Lake Charles, to present and invite public comment on the FY 2019 Draft Annual Plan. Through a public comment period, 12/13/2017 through 2/12/2018, thirty comments were received on the Draft FY2019 Annual Plan: In response to public comment, additional text is now added to Section 2: Nonstructural Mitigation and Outreach & Engagement; also included are the newly approved CWPPRA PPL 27 projects, and minor adjustments to project schedules and expenditures in response to on-the-ground conditions.

Following the Board's approval today, the FY 2019 Annual Plan will be submitted to the legislature, March, 2018 regular session. The plan projects revenues of \$653 million and expenditures of \$566 million in FY2019, with two projects in planning, 42 projects in design and 21 projects that will begin or continue construction. Project-associated expenses of \$485.4 million in FY19 account for 86% of expenditures, of which 51% or \$289 million will go toward the construction of projects. FY20 projection for total expenditures is \$914 million, of which 90% are project-associated expenditures, and FY21 projection for total expenditures is \$826 million, with 89% identified as project-associated expenditures. "FY19 project-associated expenditures for engineering and design will pave the way for \$4.9 billion anticipated total project investment; for Construction an estimated 8,800+ acres of wetland will benefit and 97.5 miles of levee will be improved. Also included is the cost of operations and maintenance for 136 projects, and monitoring of an additional 105 projects," Ellis explained. To view the FY2019 Annual Plan, [Click Here](#).

Implementation Update

CPRA Deputy Executive Director Jason Lanclos highlighted 2017 Coastal Program Accomplishments, such as the 2017 Master Plan and its unanimous adoption by Louisiana's legislature: 124 projects that build or maintain more than 800 square miles of land, reduce expected annual damages by \$150 Billion at Year 50. Lanclos noted unprecedented Outreach and Engagement for the 2017 Master Plan which included 16 community conversations with 900 attendees, 85 general presentations/briefings, 55 meetings with advisory groups, 3,500 Facebook views of Master Plan Data Viewer, 11,000 Facebook views of Master Plan, four public hearings with 800 attendees and receipt of over 1,300 comments.

Lanclos recapped *Deepwater Horizon* funding for 2017, which marks the first of fifteen annual payments to Louisiana up to ~\$8.7 billion. "Of the \$267 million DWH funds procured for projects in 2017, \$245 million from NFWF was allocated to E & D, Program Management, Permitting, and Land Acquisition for Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion; Mid-Breton Sediment Diversion; and Increase Atchafalaya Flow to Terrebonne; and \$22 million from NRDA was allocated for E & D and Permitting for Terrebonne Basin Ridge and Marsh Creation – Bayou Terrebonne Increment; Lake Borgne Marsh Creation Project: Increment One, Barataria Basin Ridge and Marsh Restoration- Spanish Pass Increment; Rabbit Island Restoration; Queen Bess Island Restoration, Shoreline Protection at Jean Lafitte National Historic Park and Preserve -Implemented by Department of the Interior, Adaptive Management Program; and Mississippi River Sediment Diversion Program Management.

In closing, Lanclos reported that CPRA currently has 71 active projects which account for \$796 million of work in progress. "This includes 24 projects in construction, eight in planning and 39 in engineering and design. Implementation of these projects will benefit more than 138,000 acres of coastal habitat and improve more than 186 miles of levee," Lanclos stated. [Click here to view CPRA's January 2018 Quarterly Progress Report](#) .

Lanclos also reported two projects totaling \$39.4 million currently headed to construction: \$35.4M Rockefeller Refuge Gulf Shoreline Stabilization, to benefit 198 acres of shoreline; and \$4M Violet Canal North Levee Alignment to benefit 2.1 miles of levee; and three projects valued at \$49.6M to be bid in the next six months: \$24.9M Cole's Bayou Marsh Restoration, Vermillion Parish will benefit 398 acres; \$819K Lafitte Area Levee Repair Jefferson Parish will improve .1 mile of levee; and \$23.9M South Grand Chenier Marsh Creation Cameron Parish will benefit 414 acres.

In closing, statistics were provided highlighting CPRA's Progress on the Ground 2007-2017: CPRA has secured \$20 billion for protection and restoration projects in 20 parishes, 130 million cubic yards of fill have been utilized, 41,305 acres of land have benefited, 297 miles of levee improvement (this statistic includes HSDRRS), and 60 miles of barrier islands & berms have been constructed or are currently under construction."

CPRA Chief Financial Officer Janice Lansing presented an overview of CPRA business operations highlighting the conversion from the state's legacy accounting system to the new LaGov system. "This one system is key for CPRA implementation of continual process improvement of business operations: for

contracts, procurement and human resources it improves accountability for project expenditures – not previously available in the legacy system; for improved cash flow, it facilitates faster reimbursement from federal grants and other funding sources; and it gives project managers essential tools to manage projects, while affording CPRA the increased capacity for transparency,” Lansing stated.

GOMESA Update

Chip Kline, Deputy Director of the Governor’s Office of Coastal Activities provided a GOMESA update to the board, “There is a continued lack of clarity on the exact amount of GOMESA revenues that the state will receive in 2018; however, I have good news to report: As a result of the two-year budget compromise, the practice of sequestration has ended within the federal government, which translates to an additional 5-7% of GOMESA revenues available to come to the state,”.

Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion MOU

Kline also highlighted the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) recently executed with federal agencies, that aims to achieve a two-year permitting timeline for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion project and sets a framework for establishing discipline and accountability in the environmental review and authorization process in accordance with the guidance from President Trump’s Executive Order 13807.

HSDRRS Legislative Tour Re-Cap

Kline also reported on a recent CPRA-hosted legislative tour to visit some components of the \$14 billion Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS), an upgrade on the perimeter of the Greater New Orleans metropolitan area accomplished since the storms of 2005. Louisiana legislators from the House and Senate Natural Resources committees and other public officials visited the world’s largest continuous Surge Barrier across Lake Borgne at the intersection of the intracoastal waterway and the now-closed Mississippi River Gulf Outlet. The structure is the largest design-build project in the history of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and includes three gates open to navigation that can be closed when storm surge is expected. The tour also included the West Closure Complex on the West Bank, which includes the largest pump station in the world.

Public Comment Period for Parish Matching Program Amendment to the State RESTORE Plan

CPRA released for public comment its project selections for the first \$20 million installment of its 15-year, \$100 million Parish Matching Opportunities Program under the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012 (RESTORE Act). In order to meet the Federal requirements for this funding, these projects are subject to a 45 day public comment period and will be incorporated as an amendment ([the RESTORE Parish Matching Amendment](#)) to the State’s First Amended RESTORE Plan. Additional rounds of funding will be announced in the future.

“We encourage comments and will give them very serious attention,” said Chris Barnes, an attorney with the governor’s office. “The projects selected will be adopted as an amendment to the State’s First

Amended RESTORE Plan, but only after consideration of all meaningful input from the public, including broad-based participation from individuals, businesses, Indian tribes, and non-profit organizations.”

Projects were selected based on scoring criteria listed in the [First Amended RESTORE Plan](#) that took into account various factors that include consistency with the Coastal Master Plan; the ability to restore and protect habitats or the ability to reduce economic losses from storm surge; the relative merits of the project including scope of project benefits; synergy with other integrated coastal protection and restoration efforts; feasibility and/or constructability; and, the funds made available by the parish for the proposed activity.

On December 13, 2017, the CPRA Board approved six projects for inclusion in the Parish Matching Amendment, representing a total parish investment of \$6.1 million. Barnes stated, “This program will nearly double the amount of funds the parishes receive over that same time period under the RESTORE Act Direct Component”. Projects listed below:

- Cameron Parish—Construction of the Rockefeller Shoreline Stabilization Project (\$6.67M);
- Lafourche Parish—Engineering and Design of the Grand Bayou Freshwater Reintroduction Project (\$412,722);
- St. Bernard Parish—Construction of the Lake Lery Marsh Creation Project (\$2.78M);
- St. Charles Parish—Construction of the Paradis Canal Gate (\$2.54M);
- Tangipahoa Parish—Engineering and Design and Construction of the Manchac Landbridge Shoreline Protection Project (\$3M); and
- Vermilion Parish—Engineering and Design and Construction of the Freshwater Bayou Canal Shoreline Protection Project (\$4.59M).

The RESTORE Parish Matching Amendment with the project selections can be reviewed and downloaded [here](#).

Public comments on these projects in the RESTORE Parish Matching Amendment will be accepted through Monday, April 9, 2018, and may be emailed to coastal@la.gov or submitted via regular mail addressed to: CPRA, Public Comments, 150 Terrace Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70802.

Atchafalaya Basin Program Annual Plan approved for FY2019

The CPRA Board unanimously passed a resolution approving the Atchafalaya Basin Program Annual Plan for Fiscal Year 2019 since none of its projects conflict with the State Coastal Master Plan. The five priority projects in the Atchafalaya Basin plan include Grand Lake Depth Restoration; East Grand Lake Upper Region; Flat Lake Study; Murphy Lake Depth Restoration; and the Buffalo Cove Water Management Project.

Coastal Louisiana Levee Consortium Annual Report

Funding for levee districts remains a concern and a top priority, reported Windell Curole, Executive Director of the Lafourche Levee District, speaking on behalf of the Coastal Louisiana Levee Consortium.

“From 1860 until 2006 a new levee district was permitted to levee a 5 mill or 10 mill tax, but that funding mechanism was revoked, and new levee districts are struggling,” Curole told the Board. “The legislature created levee districts in St. Tammany, St. Mary, and Iberia parishes, as well as the Chenier Plain authority without the 5 mill taxing ability, and it hurts their ability to succeed.” St. Mary Parish has been able to pass a property tax and is currently improving its flood protection, but St. Tammany and the Chenier Plain Authority have no property tax, and voters recently rejected for the second time a tax proposal to fund the Iberia Levee District, Curole said.

Curole said the La. Levee Consortium would like CPRA to develop a position on how and to what degree restoration projects can replace traditional flood control, and further requests that an engineering study be conducted to develop levee designs for hurricane protection systems. Curole says the possibility exists for reducing the width of the levee base substantially, reducing both construction and mitigation costs.

[Click Here to access presentations from today's board meeting.](#)

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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.