



Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority



CPRA Statement

On April 2, 2018, the USACE announced that it has updated the environmental and regulatory coordinated project plan (CPP) for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion to advance the anticipated permit decision date from October 2022 to November 2020.

The project permitting process is being overseen by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and other cooperating federal agencies and includes the development of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which under federal environmental laws, requires a full discussion of the significant environmental impacts resulting from the project and a reasonable range of alternatives which would avoid or minimize adverse impacts or enhance the quality of the human environment.

It is anticipated that the USACE will issue a draft EIS in 2019 which will include a full discussion of the potential impacts of the project according to more than 70 environmental laws. The EIS will address numerous impacts based on science, including but not limited to those related to navigation, flooding, cultural resources, commercial and recreational fisheries, including the basin's natural resources such as shrimp, oyster, crab, and fin fish fisheries, social economic impacts, and water quality. The public will have an opportunity to comment on the draft EIS, and CPRA will be required to address, monitor, and manage significant negative impacts of the project through avoidance, minimization, or mitigation, in accordance with existing environmental laws. If CPRA does not comply with these laws, the project permit won't be issued and will not advance to construction. More information about the EIS process can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/nepa/national-environmental-policy-act-review-process#EIS>

"This advancement, in no way, eliminates steps or jeopardizes the integrity of the permitting process; rather, it challenges us to streamline processes while ensuring compliance with all federal, state and local laws and conducting a thorough environmental review," states Johnny Bradberry, Governor's Executive Assistant for Coastal Activities.

The proposed Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion is one of the largest coastal restoration projects in the history of the country and contrary to criticisms from some in the state's seafood industry, it will provide much needed sediment, water, and nutrients to the Barataria basin in order to build, maintain, and sustain the wetlands, and restore valuable ecosystem services injured by the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill. Louisiana has lost nearly 2,000 square miles of land and we stand to lose double that over the next 50 years if bold action isn't taken. Louisiana is in a race against time and numerous scientific studies have concluded the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion gives us the best chance to succeed.

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.