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CPRA Board Approves \$20M RESTORE Act CPRA-Parish Matching Program Amendment to the State's First Amended RESTORE Plan for Submission to the RESTORE Council

BATON ROUGE, LA — This morning, the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) Board approved an amendment to the State's First Amended RESTORE Plan which contains project selections for the first \$20 million installment of its 15-year, \$100 million Parish Matching Opportunities Program ([the RESTORE Parish Matching Amendment](#)) under the Spill Impact Component of 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 were subject to a 45-day public comment period. In finalizing the amendment, CPRA considered all meaningful input from the public, including broad-based participation from individuals, businesses, Indian tribes, and non-profit organizations. Additional rounds of funding will be announced in the future.

To participate in this program, an eligible parish had to dedicate some of its Direct Component RESTORE funds towards a project proposed for the matching program and agree to include the project in its parish RESTORE Act Direct Component Multiyear Implementation Plan. "We are always considering synergies – with our projects and with funding. This program serves as an excellent model for how to partner at the state and local level to leverage funding in order to get projects on the ground," said Johnny Bradberry, Chairman of the CPRA Board. "This is a great funding incentive program, because parish priority projects that are consistent with Louisiana's Master Plan are able to advance sooner with this funding," said Michael Ellis, Executive Director of the CPRA.

The RESTORE Parish Matching Amendment updates and amends the [State's First Amended RESTORE Plan](#) to describe the projects CPRA has selected for funding under the first \$20 million installment of the CPRA-Parish Matching Opportunities Program. As provided in the State's First Amended RESTORE Plan, CPRA has elected to allocate up to \$100 million of its Spill Impact Component funds to the Parish Matching Program over a 15 year period. This program will nearly double the amount of funds the parishes receive over that same time period under the RESTORE Act Direct Component. 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:

- 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).

Projects were selected based on selection criteria listed in the First Amended RESTORE Plan that took into account various factors including: 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.

Under the RESTORE Act, the RESTORE Council has 60 days to approve or disapprove the RESTORE Parish Matching Amendment. Once the RESTORE Council has approved the RESTORE Parish Matching Amendment, CPRA will be eligible to apply for grants to fund these projects under the Spill Impact Component.

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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 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.