Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority

NEWS RELEASE

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CMAR Contractor Selected for Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion

BATON ROUGE, LA — The Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) has selected the Archer Western-Alberici Joint Venture to provide Construction Management At-Risk (CMAR) services for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Project. The CMAR model integrates the construction contractor during the early design phase of the project to obtain input on cost, scheduling and constructability, which is anticipated to lead to lower costs and faster construction.

"Today's announcement marks another important milestone for this transformational project. This CMAR team will help our state implement this complex structure in an effective and efficient manner," said Governor John Bel Edwards.

In December 2017, CPRA issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for eligible firms interested in providing CMAR services for the project. Proposals were evaluated by a selection review committee on criteria such as company structure, qualifications of key personnel, relevant project experience and approach to construction. The CMAR model in Louisiana involves two contracts: a Pre-Construction Phase contract and Construction Phase contract. With this selection, CPRA recommends the award of the Pre-Construction Phase contract to Archer Western-Alberici, which is valued at $13.8 million. The scope of this contract includes participation in the design process of the project. Once the design is complete, CPRA will negotiate a Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) of construction with the Archer Western-Alberici. If negotiations are successful, the Construction Phase contract will then be awarded for the agreed upon GMP.

The selection committee received four proposals from prominent national firms that all have a strong Louisiana presence. "All four firms were well qualified, but what set apart Archer Western-Alberici is their depth of personnel expertise and experience as a CMAR contractor, said CPRA Executive Director Michael Ellis. "The state is confident that the Archer Western-Alberici team will provide the experience and skills necessary to

construct this historically significant coastal restoration project, one of the largest CMAR projects ever implemented in the Gulf Coast region."

The Archer Western-Alberici team has a history of executing large, complex projects around the world. They are currently constructing the Olmsted Dam, a $1.7 billion project that involves the installation of a large gated structure across one of the busiest parts of the Ohio River. This team also recently completed several New Orleans hurricane protection projects for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, including the Seabrook Gate Complex and the LPV-111 East Bank Levee project. They are a proven industry leader using the CMAR model, having delivered nearly $10 billion in CMAR projects over the past ten years.

"Using the CMAR method of project delivery brings the construction contractor to the table during the design phase of the project. This early collaboration between the contractor and the designer provides a unique opportunity to reduce project time, costs, and risks," said Mid-Basin Sediment Diversion Program Manager Brad Barth.

"The Archer Western-Alberici team has a combination of nationwide expertise and strong, local sub-contractors. Historically, they have done a phenomenal job at utilizing local workforce which was evident on the Seabrook and LPV-111 projects in New Orleans," said Chairman Johnny Bradberry.

The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion will provide sediment, water, and nutrients from the Mississippi River to the Barataria Basin in order to build, maintain, and sustain wetlands. This complements the billions of dollars that have been and will be invested in coastal protection and restoration projects, such as marsh creation, ridge restoration, and barrier island restoration projects, along with shoreline and other structural protection projects. The project will be located in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, 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.

Louisiana's Coastal Master Plan identifies sediment diversions as necessary projects to create a more sustainable coastal Louisiana landscape. The Barataria and Breton Basins are two areas that have experienced significant land loss due to sediment deprivation, hydrologic alteration, subsidence, sea level rise, and salt water intrusion. Since the Mississippi River was leveed in the 1930s, the Barataria and Breton Basins and Mississippi River Delta have lost approximately 700 square miles (or 447 thousand acres) of land, representing one of the highest land loss rates in the world.

Louisiana's continued land loss largely impacts our citizens, economy, commerce, infrastructure, and culture. Furthermore, the collapse of coastal Louisiana would negatively impact the entire country: Louisiana's coast provides protection for infrastructure that supplies 90 percent of the nation's outer continental oil and gas, 20 percent of the nation's annual waterborne commerce, 26 percent (by weight) of the continental U.S. commercial fisheries landings, and winter habitat for five million migratory waterfowl. Sediment diversions will boost the local economy creating jobs for Louisiana citizens, reduce risk from hurricane storm surge, and preserve Louisiana's infrastructure and culture.

To learn more about the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion, visit the program's webpage - http://coastal.la.gov/our-work/key-initiatives/diversion-program/.

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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.