



Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority



Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Overview

Project Overview

- The proposed Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion is one of the largest coastal restoration projects in the history of the country and 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.
- The Mid-Barataria and Mid-Breton Sediment Diversions represent a \$2 Billion investment in Plaquemines Parish, fully funded by oil spill settlement dollars, not tax dollars. These projects will boost the local economy by creating jobs and utilizing the goods and services from local businesses. Additionally, these projects will reduce hurricane storm surge and protect billions of dollars worth of existing and future infrastructure.

Federal Permitting

- The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion must undergo a robust federal permitting process that 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, fin fish fisheries, and protected resources (such as marine mammals and sea turtles), social and 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 any 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 on the [EPA's website](#)
- This project is also being considered for funding by the Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group (LA TIG). As part of this effort, the LA TIG issued a Strategic Restoration Plan/Environmental Assessment #3 wherein they determined that large-scale sediment diversions can provide long-term ecosystem-level benefits and restoration of resources injured by the DWH oil spill. As such, the LA TIG chose to advance the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion for further analysis, and the Phase II restoration plan will examine potential impacts to public health and safety, physical, biological, and socioeconomic resources in the Barataria Basin. More information about the restoration planning process can be found at www.la-dwh.com. That Plan will evaluate, among other things, the degree to which the Project may create or avoid collateral injuries to other natural resources in Barataria Basin while seeking to partially restore the injuries caused by the *DWH* oil spill.
- 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. 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 in conducting a thorough environmental review.

Outreach and Engagement

- Outside of the EIS Process, CPRA has implemented an ongoing outreach and engagement strategy to educate and solicit feedback from the general public, Parish Administration and Council members, advisory and industry groups, and other key stakeholders. **Since September 2016, CPRA's Diversion Program Team has held 76 meetings reaching over 5,600 people.** CPRA's outreach and engagement efforts have heavily focused on Plaquemines Parish. CPRA's Diversion Program Team regularly meets with Plaquemines Parish Council Members and Administration and regularly holds public meetings, known as Coastal Connections, within the parish at venues from the PPG Offices to bait shops and community churches. In all, CPRA has held 41 meetings in Plaquemines Parish since kicking off this project:
 - 20 of those were with advisory groups or parish officials
 - 21 of those were public meetings – coastal connections, scoping meetings, etc.
- Specifically, CPRA has made an effort to proactively engage the seafood industry throughout this project outside of the formal permitting process by giving presentations at monthly seafood task force (shrimp and oyster) meetings and holding Coastal Connections events at bait shops and other locations convenient to fishermen.
- Additionally, ahead of the release of the draft EIS, CPRA, in coordination with Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and Sea Grant, is holding meetings with leaders from the seafood industry to share information about potential impacts from sediment diversions and to discuss potential adaptation strategies as a result of this project and the rapidly changing coastal landscape.
- CPRA is committed to continuing this outreach throughout the life of the project and will be hosting Coastal Connections monthly and meeting with advisory and industry groups on a regular basis, both proactively and in response to presentation/meeting requests.

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.