



2023 Coastal Master Plan

New Project Development Guidelines and Criteria

Introduction

Louisiana is in the midst of a land loss crisis that has claimed approximately 2,000 square miles of land since the 1930s. To address this crisis, the Louisiana Legislature passed Act 8 in 2005, which created the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) and required it to develop a coastal master plan and update it on a regular basis (every six years).

The 2023 Coastal Master Plan will build upon previous master plan efforts and strive to ensure the collective effects of project investments, such as reducing storm surge-based flood risk to communities, providing habitats to support an array of commercial and recreational activities, and supporting infrastructure critical to the working coast. Harnessing natural processes, focusing protection on key assets, and adapting to changing coastal conditions, will achieve this.

The 2017 Coastal Master Plan predictions of future coastal land loss and storm surge-based flood risk, even with plan implementation, demonstrated that isolated project investments often provide minimal benefits beyond their immediate footprint or local area. Synergistic interactions among projects of different types affecting the same region have been shown to produce greater and more sustainable benefits. Moreover, future predictions show the scale of the challenge facing coastal Louisiana and reinforce the need for the master plan process to focus on investments with beneficial effects at the sub-basin to regional scale. CPRA will accept proposals for new projects or project concepts to be included in the 2023 Coastal Master Plan that meet this challenge.

New projects can be proposed by any source, including academia, parishes, elected officials, agencies, NGOs, landowners, business/industry, and the public. Emphasis should be on projects that:

1. Build and/or sustain land in the face of uncertain future conditions, such as sea level rise and subsidence;
2. Provide significant storm surge-based flood risk reduction at the community or regional scale; and/or
3. Contribute to maintaining estuarine gradients in future decades.

CPRA is especially interested in Integrated Projects that incorporate multiple approaches and that function synergistically with newly proposed or 2017 Coastal Master Plan projects.

This solicitation will not consider proposals for barrier island restoration, shoreline protection, and oyster reef restoration. These project types will be considered programmatically rather than evaluated individually through the master plan process.

Screening Criteria

Similar to the process used for the 2017 plan, a screening process will be used to determine whether a newly proposed project will be included in the 2023 analysis:

1. **Consistency with Master Plan Objectives and Principles:** Project concepts need to clearly contribute and be consistent with the principles and objectives of the master plan ([2017 Coastal Master Plan](#); pp. 47-49) to be considered for inclusion.
2. **Magnitude of Expected Effects:** For a restoration or structural protection concept to be considered for inclusion in the 2023 Coastal Master Plan analysis, it must be expected to produce benefits at a sub-basin to regional scale (for example, at the scale of USGS HUC-12 to HUC-10 hydrologic units or greater - learn more at <https://water.usgs.gov/GIS/huc.html>). Proposals for nonstructural protection must be for community-level projects (i.e., not only for single structures).
3. **Geographic Area:** CPRA is seeking project concepts that will address areas of greatest projected storm surge-based flood risk and land loss in later decades of the 50-year planning horizon, in addition to providing near-term benefits. Projects must focus on areas of future risk or land loss not addressed by the 2017 plan.
4. **Duplicative Effects:** New projects must be significantly different from any project analyzed through the 2012 and 2017 master plan processes, including those that were proposed though not selected in the final plans. Previously proposed projects may be considered as a part of an Integrated Project, as long as they are expected to provide sub-basin to regional benefits. Previously proposed concepts may also be re-considered in the case of dramatic landscape changes due to hurricanes or other disasters. Similarly, nonstructural projects must represent new locations or attributes (amounts or types of structures) in order to be considered. See the following documents for maps and lists of projects analyzed through the 2012 and 2017 master plan processes: [2012 Coastal Master Plan](#) (pp 68-69), [2012 Appendix A. Project Definitions](#), [2012 Appendix A1 – Projects Screened out of Consideration](#), [2017 Coastal Master Plan](#) (pp 68-69), and [2017 Appendix A: Project Definition](#).

5. **Adequate Information:** Project concepts need to be described in sufficient detail so that they can be evaluated using the master plan models. Note that detailed cost and land area estimates are not necessary. See “Submittal Details” below for minimum attributes required for each project type.

Submittal Details

All proposals must be delivered electronically, in .pdf format, to MasterPlan@la.gov or mailed to the 2023 Coastal Master Plan Project Development Program at P.O. Box 44027, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70804 and received **by February 14, 2020**. Questions may be directed to MasterPlan@la.gov as well. CPRA staff may be available to help develop and refine project details and attributes. Please include “2023 Coastal Master Plan Project Development” in the subject line of the email. Proposals should be no more than seven pages (1 page for the Cover Sheet and Contact Information, three pages for Project Description, 1 page for the Map, and one to two pages for Project Attributes). After the close of the solicitation period, projects that meet screening criteria will be considered in the evaluation process for the 2023 Master Plan.

All proposals should include the following:

1. **Cover Sheet:**
 - a. Project Title
 - b. Full Contact information (name, address, email, phone number)
2. **Project Description:**
 - a. Project Summary: Brief description of project goals and objectives, features, and intent (including a description of how the project concept meets Screening Criteria 1-3), not to exceed three pages, including all figures, tables, links to additional information and references. Please include Project Type, Planning Unit or Region, and Parish(es) in which the project will be located and a description of where the benefits are expected to be delivered.
 - b. Map: details of the project location, geographic coordinates for each project feature (marsh creation area, structure location, etc.), and overall influence area regardless of project type.
 - c. Shapefile (or kmz file), if available: project area and/or location(s) of project features.

3. **Project Attributes:** Project attribute details and definitions are located in [Appendix A](http://coastal.la.gov/our-plan/2017-coastal-master-plan/) of the 2017 Coastal Master Plan (<http://coastal.la.gov/our-plan/2017-coastal-master-plan/>)

Attribute requirements for specific project types are listed below:

- A. **Diversion:** Location, Diversion Structure Type, Operational Regime, Maximum Discharge (cfs)
- B. **Hydrologic Restoration:** Location, Structure Type, Structure Location, Operational Regime
- C. **Marsh Creation:** Location, Created Acres
- D. **Ridge Restoration:** Location, Length (ft), Ridge Elevation (ft)
- E. **Integrated Projects:** Location and details of relevant features as noted under A-D
- F. **Structural Protection:** Location, Alignment, Levee features, if available: Length (ft), Top Height (ft NAVD 88), Design Elevation (ft NAVD 88), Number of Concrete T-Walls or Floodgates (if necessary)
- G. **Nonstructural Protection:**
 - Floodproofing: Location, number of structures by property type (Nonresidential: Commercial, Industrial, or Institutional), Sizes (square feet), Footprints (square footage of bottom floor)
 - Elevation: Location, number of structures by property type (Residential: Single Family, Small multi-family, Large multi-family, or Manufactured), First floor and ground elevations (if available)
 - Acquisition: Location, number of structures by property type (Residential: Single Family, Small multi-family, Large multi-family, or Manufactured; Vacant Lot)