



From the OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

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## **ICYMI Gov. Edwards Commits More Than \$350 Million to Louisiana's Coastal Program, Appoints CPRA Chair**

**BATON ROUGE** - Today, Gov. John Bel Edwards announced his plans to designate more than \$350 million in coastal dollars, including \$55 million from FY18 surplus dollars to Louisiana's coastal trust fund. Within those surplus dollars, \$15 million will be allocated to effectively restore the funds previously swept by the previous Administration. Gov. Edwards also committed \$30 million in surplus to be used to meet the state's lands-related obligation, allowing the \$760 million West Shore Lake Pontchartrain hurricane protection project to move forward. The remaining \$10 million will go to increase the footprint of restoration projects already underway.

"I made a commitment, that under my watch, coastal dollars would be used for coastal projects. Given the opportunity to return funding that never should have been taken is one wrong I am happy to right," Gov. Edwards said. "The Coastal Trust Fund is one of the few allowable recipients of surplus dollars- and for good reason. The trust fund allows us to leverage the additional \$30 million in surplus funds we're investing today to unlock \$760 million in federal funding to provide flood protection benefits for tens of thousands of our people."

"The West Shore Lake Pontchartrain project study was first authorized in 1971, and the hard working people of this region have been waiting to see progress ever since. When the federal government recently made the full cost to construct the project available to the Corps, we were determined to meet the State's obligations on the lands side as quickly as possible in order to keep this project on schedule, so we can help better protect the people of this region,"

said Chip Kline, the governor's executive assistant for coastal activities.

Gov. Edwards also highlighted nearly \$300 million allocated to hurricane protection projects across the next three fiscal years that utilize enhanced Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) revenues coming to the state.

"In the next 12 months alone, over \$120 million in GOMESA revenues will be expended to help protect over 2 million Louisianians who live and work along our coast. These investments represent a proactive mindset by the State of Louisiana and CPRA, allowing us to better defend against a hurricane or natural disaster and showing the citizens of our state we cannot and will not wait on someone else to provide us the protection we deserve," stated Gov. Edwards.

Discussing other priorities of the state's coastal program, the Governor also stated, "CPRA continues to mobilize *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill funding for large scale ecosystem restoration projects."

Also today, Gov. Edwards announced Chip Kline as the new executive assistant for coastal activities and board chair of the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA).

"We have reached a critical moment to address coastal restoration and hurricane protection in our state in a way in which we have never done before," said Edwards. "In order to take full advantage of this opportunity, the CPRA must have a leader who recognizes the severity of the crisis we face, has a deep knowledge and understanding of the many complex issues that must be worked daily, and has a vision for our state. For the last 10 years, Chip has worked tirelessly on behalf of our working coast, and I have full confidence he is committed to accomplishing our goals vital for us to have a coast that we can continue to be proud of."

“I recognize and appreciate the opportunity the governor has given me, and I also recognize the incredible responsibility that comes with this job. The protection and restoration of Louisiana’s coast is an effort for the ages, and its undertaking is bigger than all of us, yet it affects each and every person living in this state. I look forward to continuing my work on behalf of and with the people of Louisiana, and I remain committed to leaving a coast that our children and grandchildren can cherish as much as we all do,” said Kline.

***GOMESA projects FY20, FY21, FY22:***

- \$22 million in GOMESA revenues will be used to build or improve levees and critical components of the Morganza to the Gulf Hurricane Protection System in Terrebonne and Lafourche Parishes through the North Lafourche, South Lafourche, and Terrebonne Levee Districts.
- \$11 million to build levees and provide critical flood protection to Jean Lafitte in the Rosethorne basin area.
- \$10 million for levee repair work in Grand Isle
- \$35 million for a critical pump station in Bayou Lafourche that will provide freshwater to the marshes in Lafourche Parish
- \$75 million to complete the design and fully construct the Bayou Chene flood control/storm surge flood gate located in St. Mary Parish, and while located in St. Mary Parish, this structure will help protect St. Mary, Terrebonne, Iberville, Lafourche and Iberia parishes.
- \$7.5 million drainage canal relocation as part of the New Orleans to Venice hurricane protection system in Plaquemines Parish.
- \$9 million to design the Slidell ring levee in St. Tammany Parish
- \$12.5 million for the Sunset, Magnolia Ridge, and Davis pond levees as part of the Upper Barataria Risk Reduction System in St. Charles, Assumption and St. James Parishes
- \$11.7 million for Goose Bayou (Penn Levee) in Jefferson Parish
- \$1.5 million on 100-year Levee Lift: NOV-NF-W-4, Oakville to LaReusitte and MRL 179 (ED) in Plaquemines Parish over three years

- \$2.5 million for Kellogg Pump Station T-Wall in St. Charles Parish over three years
- \$57.4 million for the Houma Navigation Canal Lock Complex in Terrebonne Parish over three years

[Click here for additional project information.](#)

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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.*

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