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CPRA creates 1200 acres of marsh in Cameron Parish

Potential to extend project by 50 or more acres

BATON ROUGE, La. – The [Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority](#) (CPRA) announced today that construction is complete on the Oyster Bayou Marsh Creation and Terracing project in Cameron Parish. Located west of the Calcasieu Ship Channel near the Gulf of Mexico, this project used dredged sediment from the Gulf of Mexico to create and nourish approximately 600 acres of salt marsh and more than 2.5 miles of earthen terraces. This was a CWPRRA project at a cost of \$31 million.

“The work that has been completed here will work hand in hand with other restoration projects we’ve done in the area and demonstrates our commitment to southwest Louisiana,” said CPRA Board Chair Chip Kline. “Improving and protecting the ecosystems along Louisiana’s coast is vitally important to our state’s future.”

Prior to restoration, the project area had experienced altered hydrology, drought stress, saltwater intrusion and hurricane-induced damage that caused it to lose much of its valuable wetlands. The newly created and nourished marsh will reduce the rate of wetland loss, and the earthen terraces will further reduce erosion north of the marsh area.

This project was designed to work synergistically with an earlier completed project, the Cameron Shoreline Restoration project. Completed in 2014, this project restored nine miles of shoreline from the Calcasieu Ship Channel’s entrance to beyond Holly Beach. The project was designed to protect the Oyster Bayou wetlands, as well as Highway 82, which were both threatened by the rapidly eroding shoreline.

“Any breach of the highway would have increased salinity and introduced rapid tidal exchange that would convert the marsh north of the road into open water,” said CPRA Executive Director Bren Haase. “If we were going to restore the Oyster Bayou marsh, we first needed to design and build a project to protect that investment.”

“When you put 600 acres of new marsh between citizens of southwest Louisiana and the Gulf of Mexico along with 2.5 miles of earthen terraces it employs our multiple lines of defense strategies in terms of protection and restoration,” said Laurie Cormier, Calcasieu Parish coastal zone administrator and CPRA Board Member. “It makes me so happy to see worthwhile projects protecting the citizens of Southwest Louisiana as well as restoring our beloved coastal Louisiana. This was an amazing project and it will provide benefits to both our citizens and the marsh for years to come. A job well done.”

Another project nearing completion in the region is the Cameron-Creole Watershed Grand Bayou Marsh Creation project, located about six miles northeast of the community of Cameron. This project benefits 534 acres of marsh. This was a CWPRRA funded project at a cost of \$24.7 million. In January 2019, an additional \$2.3 million was allocated from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) mitigation and beneficial use funds, which could expand the project to an additional 50 or more acres of marsh restoration and nourishment.

“It is great news that Southwest Louisiana is the beneficiary of an additional \$2.3 million from DNR to expand the project footprint at Grand Bayou,” said Haase. “This project expansion, combined with Oyster Bayou and the Shoreline Restoration projects, represent an enormous investment of more than \$100 million in southwest Louisiana.”

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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.