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CPRA's Mid-Breton Sediment Diversion Receives Federal Dashboard Approval

Environmental review will be coordinated among federal, state and local governments

BATON ROUGE, La. – The [Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority](#) (CPRA) announced today, receipt of approval from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to Louisiana's request to include the Mid-Breton Sediment Diversion project on the Federal Permitting Dashboard.

The official request was submitted on January 28, 2019 by Chip Kline, CPRA Board Chair and Governor Edwards' Executive Assistant for Coastal Activities on behalf of the State of Louisiana for the Mid-Breton Sediment Diversion project. The approval letter issued on February 11, 2019 states "Upon posting, the USACE New Orleans District will initiate requisite coordination with all identified federal, state, and local agencies and develop a coordinated project plan."

"Bringing state and local officials into this process will make sure that this project is as unique in its heritage as are our citizens who contributed to it," said Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards. "With this approach, we benefit from the experiences of those who live and work in Plaquemines and St. Bernard Parishes, and with their input we will make the best possible project for our citizens."

"This action increases transparency and coordination not only with our federal partners but also with the people who live and work in this region, so that everyone involved can participate in the environmental review, and also have timely access to information," said Kline. "It's an important and necessary step. Having everyone looped in will ensure interagency and intergovernmental

coordination and in the long run, that's what we need to ensure all partners have a voice, are involved and have the same visibility on project process and progress."

"Our parish appreciates the opportunity to have a seat at the table with the State on this important process" said St. Bernard Parish president Guy McInnis. "My team is excited to express its concerns as it relates to the impact to our community."

"Since taking office, I have had productive and frequent communication with CPRA," said Plaquemines Parish President Kirk Lepine. "With this announcement, we now welcome the opportunity to be involved in the environmental review process."

"I am excited to add the proposed Mid-Breton Sediment Diversion project to our FAST-41 portfolio," said Alex Herrgott, Executive Director of the Permitting Council (FPISC). "We look forward to continuing to work with our state, local, and federal partners to provide a truly coordinated permitting process that ensures informed decisions without unnecessary delays."

The Mid-Barataria and Mid-Breton sediment diversions represent an approximately \$2 billion total investment in the sustainability of southeast Louisiana, and if approved for construction, are anticipated to be fully funded by Deepwater Horizon 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 build marsh between our levees and barrier islands which should reduce storm surge and wave heights while protecting existing and future coastal infrastructure," states Bren Haase, CPRA Executive Director.

Over the next 15 years, CPRA plans to dredge as much as 55-65 million cubic yards in proximity of Mid-Barataria and Mid-Breton basins, and over 200 million cubic yards throughout the state at nearly \$2 billion dollars.

"Dredging projects create land immediately and provide critically needed short-term benefits. However, long-term sustainability is a major issue with dredging," said Brad Barth, Mississippi River Mid-Basin Sediment Diversion Program Manager. "Diverting sediment through engineered channels will use the power of the river to maximize the delivery of the sediment to these basins,

and once established, provide a constant sediment-delivery system which is what these basins need to build and sustain land for generations.”

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 447,000 acres) of land, representing one of the highest land loss rates in the world. Louisiana’s Coastal Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast has included sediment diversion projects in all three iterations of the plan 2007, 2012 and most recently 2017. Each edition of the Master Plan has been unanimously passed by Louisiana’s Legislature.

This is the second project to receive approval for inclusion on the Federal Dashboard. In January 2017, the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion was also posted on the Dashboard.

View the dashboard here: <https://www.permits.performance.gov/>

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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.