



State of Louisiana
Coastal Protection and Restoration
Authority

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**MAJOR HURDLE CLEARED TO BRING RESTORATION AND PROTECTION
TO SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA COMMUNITIES; ONLY CONGRESSIONAL ACTION REMAINS**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has issued the final report necessary to send a funding request to Congress for billions of dollars to be used for ecosystem restoration, hurricane protection and home elevations in Southwest Louisiana.

The Chief of Engineers Report comes on the heels of a feasibility study submitted by the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) and the Corps of Engineers and approved by the Corps' Civil Works Review Board in April.

"This is the culmination of a complex study that took years of people working together at the local, state and federal levels to cut through the red tape and get things moving," said Johnny Bradberry, chairman of the CPRA Board. "This critically important effort will now be in the hands of Congress, and we must work just as hard as a team to see this get congressional authorization and become fully funded."

Ecosystem projects, including marsh creation, chenier reforestation and shoreline protection, would help restore and protect nearly 15,000 acres of wetlands in the parishes of Vermilion, Cameron and Calcasieu. In addition to other risk reduction measures, approximately 4,000 homes and businesses could become eligible for a voluntary program to reduce the risk of flooding through home elevation or other flood-proofing measures.

The breakthrough concurrence in April on the feasibility study came after years of work by the Corps, CPRA, the Chenier Plain Authority, officials representing Calcasieu, Cameron and Vermilion Parishes and citizens of Southwest Louisiana.

"Yes, to have come this far makes it a truly exciting day for us," said Chenier Plain Authority Executive Director Nedra Davis. "But it is not enough just to reach the goal line. We have to push the ball into the end zone, and that means getting funding approval from Congress; that is our immediate goal. But we won't rest even then, because that is when the real work of constructing these projects will begin."

"Southwest Louisiana is a critically important part of our state, and becoming more so each day," said Bradberry. "Time is of the essence, and we must continue to work with the Corps, our local partners and our Congressional delegation to bring increased flood-risk reduction and large-scale coastal restoration to our Southwest area. We must build on the momentum we have achieved."