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June 12, 2018

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**CPRA to Discuss Coastal Master Plan
Cornerstone Project in Southwest Louisiana**

BATON ROUGE, LA - On Thursday, June 21, 2018 the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority will participate in an informational meeting in Cameron Parish to overview the Calcasieu Salinity Control Measures Project, a Master Plan cornerstone project in the southwest coastal region. An open house is scheduled 5-5:30 p.m. followed by a presentation 5:30-6:30 p.m., with thirty minutes scheduled for questions and answers, 6:30-7:00 p.m. The free event is at the invitation of the Cameron Parish Police Jury and will be located at The Fire Station, 184 East Creole Highway, Creole, LA 70632.

The purpose of the Calcasieu Salinity Control Measures project is to manage saltwater introduction into adjacent water bodies and wetlands through the Calcasieu Ship Channel (CSC), thereby reducing the rate of interior wetland loss. This project aims to implement structural modifications to the CSC to maintain salinities in Calcasieu Lake and adjacent marshes at a level necessary to rebuild and maintain marsh productivity, and to prevent collapse and conversion to open water.

Funding for the project comes from the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies (RESTORE) Act, which directs civil penalties levied as the result of violations of the Clean Water Act after the *Deepwater* Horizon disaster.

To date, CPRA has received \$25.6 million in RESTORE Act funding for the project. In November, 2017, U.S. Treasury awarded CPRA \$9.6 million to begin the final phase of Design: to support land rights research, regulatory compliance work, and project management work. CPRA previously received \$16 million for computational modeling, data collection, and engineering and design of the project.

CPRA has moved forward with design of channelization features, which will limit intrusion of saltwater from the Calcasieu Ship Channel into adjacent water bodies and wetlands. This project will support other Louisiana Coastal Master Plan projects in the region including 62,600 acres planned for marsh creation, non-structural programs for both Calcasieu and Cameron parishes, as well as existing projects already on the ground.

The Calcasieu Lake area has undergone substantial land loss since 1932. The present day Calcasieu Ship Channel cross section is more than 40 times larger than when first dredged for

navigation in the late 1800's. This change has affected hydrology by channeling saltwater inland into a historically low-salinity estuary; reducing freshwater residence time when the tide ebbs; and, increasing tidal amplitude through the broader waterway.

Restoring this coastal ecosystem will also improve the long-term economic health of the region. Project specific modeling shows that this project could maintain over of 15,000 acres over a 50-year period.

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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.