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CPRA Announces Public Comment Period for Draft Second Amended RESTORE Act Multiyear Implementation Plan

BATON ROUGE, LA – Louisiana’s Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) has released for public feedback a [Draft Second Amendment](#) to its Direct Component Multiyear Implementation Plan under the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012 (RESTORE Act). This plan describes how the state intends to spend its total allocation of \$260.97 million over 15 years from the Direct Component of the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund under the RESTORE Act. In order to meet the Federal requirements for this funding, this plan is subject to a 45-day public comment period and will be incorporated as an amendment to the [State’s First Amended RESTORE Plan](#).

The Draft Second Amended Multiyear Implementation Plan remains dedicated to funding large-scale hydrologic restoration in the Calcasieu-Sabine Basin and proposes to refine the State’s approach to this restoration effort by focusing on activities to reduce flood stress, including drainage improvements, and marsh creation and nourishment consistent with recent analysis of ecological stressors in that region.

“This amendment updating the scope of the Calcasieu project is a perfect example of how we use the best available science to drive our decision-making in order to advance critical projects,” said CPRA Chairman Chip Kline. “We are excited to move forward with the large-scale ecosystem restoration that the Calcasieu-Sabine Basin so critically needs and we look forward to incorporating more public feedback throughout the process.”

The RESTORE Act allocates eighty percent of all Clean Water Act penalties paid by those responsible for the 2010 Deepwater Horizon Gulf oil spill disaster to Gulf Coast restoration activities. The RESTORE Act contains five different funding components, one of which directs 35% of the funds deposited into the RESTORE Trust Fund to each of the five Gulf Coast States in equal shares for ecological and economic restoration of the Gulf Coast region (the “Direct Component”). In order for a Gulf Coast State to receive funding under the Direct Component of the RESTORE Act, the States

must first submit a plan to the U.S. Department of Treasury for the expenditure of Trust Fund monies under those funding components.

The Draft Second Amended Multiyear Implementation Plan is available for review and download [here](#) for a minimum of forty five (45) days. The projects shall be adopted as an amendment to the State's First Amended RESTORE Plan only after consideration of all meaningful input from the public, including broad-based participation from individuals, businesses, Indian tribes, and non-profit organizations.

CPRA will consider public comments received in writing on or before 11:59 pm on **January 25, 2021**. Comments may be submitted via email to coastal@la.gov or via US Mail to: CPRA, ATTN: Public Comments, 150 Terrace Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70802.

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