
COASTAL PROTECTION AND RESTORATION AUTHORITY
2022 COASTAL ANNUAL PLAN
PUBLIC HEARING

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEARING
HELD BY ZOOM
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
FEBRUARY 24, 2021

Michelle S. Abadie, CCR
Certified Court Reporter

1 IN ATTENDANCE:

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14 SARAH MUNOZ

15 D. J. REE

16 GREG GANDY

17 JOHN LANE

18 KATHY FOS

19 WES LEBLANC

20 WILLIAM MAHLER

21

22 BRYAN WALLACE

23 Harahan, Louisiana

24

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1 OTHERS PRESENT:

2

3 BARBARA MCARTHUR

4 Destrehan, Louisiana

5

6 MARTIN LANDRIEU

7 New Orleans, Louisiana

8

9 GREG LINSCOMBE

10 Gueydan, Louisiana

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2022 COASTAL ANNUAL PLAN
PUBLIC HEARING

MR. HAASE:

Good evening, everyone. Welcome to the public hearing for the FY '22 Annual Plan for CPRA. We're just about to get started. I just wanted to let you know that we're here and standing by. We're going to give it another minute or two until we hit 6 o'clock before we begin the presentation. So thanks to y'all that have joined us so far, and we'll be back with you momentarily.

(BRIEF RECESS.)

MR. HAASE:

Okay, guys. Well, good afternoon, or good evening, I guess. This is Bren Haase with CPRA. We've got 6 o'clock on the clock, so we're going to go ahead and get started.

I am going to be going through a presentation that will outline some of the highlights and the salient points of the Draft Fiscal Year '22 Annual Plan for y'all. Before we do that, Rachel Haney with our office is going to mention the ways that are -- will be possible for y'all to -- to make public comment. So, I'm going to go ahead and turn it over

1 to her and let her do that, and then we will get into
2 the presentation portion this evening.

3 MS. HANEY:

4 All right. Good evening, everyone. Thanks for
5 joining us. I'm going to quickly go over some virtual
6 meeting guidelines before we get started with
7 tonight's presentation.

8 In accordance with State law and the Governor's
9 Emergency Proclamations related to COVID-19, we are
10 holding this meeting virtually this year, and, because
11 we're using Webex, we've got to accept public comments
12 a little bit differently, so there are several ways to
13 do that.

14 The easiest way is to just navigate to the bottom
15 right-hand corner of your screen and click the chat
16 icon. Enter your chat -- enter your name, your
17 address, and your message. The other way that you can
18 submit a comment is via email and submit it to
19 coastal@la.gov, same thing, your name, your email, and
20 your public comment. Both of those items if they are
21 received during the presentation will be read into the
22 record at the conclusion of the meeting.

23 You can also send us a written comment to CPRA
24 2022 Annual Plan, 150 Terrace Avenue, Baton Rouge,
25 Louisiana, 70802. And any public comments, whether

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1 they are emailed or written, need to be received no
2 later than March 27th.

3 And, with that, I'll go ahead and hand it back
4 over to Bren.

5 MR. HAASE:

6 Okay, Rachel, thank you very much for that. We
7 appreciate it.

8 I want to thank everybody for participating
9 today. I want to extend a special thanks to
10 Representative wheat. I see that he is on here. I
11 don't believe that we have any other elected officials
12 on at the moment. If we do, please -- please, let me
13 know, and we will -- oh, I see Representative Orgeron
14 has joined, as well, so we want to thank them for
15 joining us and being participants in today's -- this
16 evening's presentation.

17 So, with that, we'll jump right into things.

18 So, again, I'll be presenting this year's -- or
19 next year's -- next fiscal year's Draft Fiscal and
20 Expending Plan for CPRA.

21 So just some sort of basic background
22 information, well, what is it? So a lot of people
23 think this is a budget document, and it's really not.
24 It's a -- it's a projection of what we think the
25 revenues that CPRA will receive over the next fiscal

1 year and then a projection of how we plan to expend
2 those funds, if they become -- if they become
3 available to us.

4 And so it's a three-year outlook. It's not just
5 a look at Fiscal Year '22. It's looking out at Fiscal
6 Year 2022 and 2024, as well, again, projecting those
7 revenues and expenditures. It includes project
8 activities, schedules of those project activities, and
9 the overall plan for how we intend to implement the
10 restoration program -- or protection program with --
11 the upcoming fiscal year and an additional two years
12 beyond that.

13 why we do it, simply to comply with the law, Act
14 523 of the 2009 Regular Session, that was amended by
15 604, and then to comply with Act 570 of the 2018
16 Regular Session, as well.

17 So, in terms of our timeline, the -- the Draft
18 Plan was released last week. It was presented to our
19 board last Friday morning, on February 19th. We are
20 now open for public comment. We are accepting comment
21 both tonight and through March 27th, via the written
22 forms that Ms. Haney mentioned before I began
23 speaking. Again, that -- that date is March 27th.

24 Those public comments will be reviewed and
25 incorporated into the Final Plan that will then be

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1 presented to our board on April 21st. And then after
2 that presentation to the board, we'll present the
3 final document to be reviewed by the State legislature
4 in their Regular Session that will begin in April of
5 this year.

6 So the schedule, this is the last of three public
7 hearings that we intend to hold for the -- for the
8 Annual Plan. We had on Monday night that we
9 concentrated on southwest Louisiana. We had the one
10 last night concentrating on southcentral Louisiana.
11 We'll be concentrating on southeast Louisiana this
12 evening. That's a little bit of a misnomer, I should
13 say. We actually will include the information from
14 Monday and Tuesday night from the southwestern portion
15 of the coast, the southcentral portion of the coast,
16 in addition to the southeastern portion of the coast.
17 They'll be some -- some project highlights from those
18 regions that I will go over tonight, in addition to
19 having gone over them on the 22nd and 23rd
20 respectively.

21 So just a highlight of our funding sources,
22 there's sort of four main categories of funds or
23 revenues that the State receives. The first two of
24 those are really the only recurring funding sources
25 that CPRA receives. It's important to note at this

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1 point in time that the State (sic) doesn't receive any
2 State general fund dollars. However, we do receive a
3 portion of the State Mineral Revenues that come to the
4 State from energy production off state lines and off
5 our coastline, for example.

6 In addition to that, there are a couple of
7 categories of federal recurring funds that come to the
8 State. The first of those most of you are very
9 familiar with, the Coastal Wetlands Planning,
10 Protection, and Restoration Act. That's a federal
11 reimbursement program that provides funding to restore
12 our coastal wetlands each year. We partner with
13 federal agencies each year to build projects along our
14 coast as part of that program, and then the GOMESA,
15 the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act program is
16 another -- it's a federal mineral revenue sharing
17 program that provides some recurring funds to the
18 State each year, as well.

19 The Deepwater Horizon oil spill, of course, the
20 settlement payments are a significant portion of our
21 funding these days, and there are three -- three
22 portions of that, there's the Natural Resources Damage
23 Assessment funding, the National Fish and wildlife
24 Foundation funding, and then funding that comes to the
25 State through the RESTORE Act. And the vast majority

1 of those funds are required to be spent on restoration
2 along our coast, and that is -- you'll note that
3 that's where those dollars are intended to go in FY
4 '22.

5 There are also some one-time funding programs
6 that we participate in. The Community Development
7 Block Grant Programs, we do receive some funds through
8 that, and then coastal restoration and protection is
9 one of the eligible expenditures for State surplus
10 dollars when the State is fortunate to -- to run a
11 surplus in terms of the budget each year. Some of
12 those dollars can be expended on coastal restoration
13 and protection projects, and we've been fortunate in
14 the past to receive some funds through a State
15 surplus, and you'll note that listed in the Draft
16 presentation (phonetic) for FY '22.

17 So these are the programs and the amounts of both
18 revenue and projection -- or excuse me -- expenditures
19 that we are projecting for FY '22. So I -- I will
20 take a beat here so you can take a look at these
21 GOMESA, NRDA, NFWF, RESTORE, CWPPRA, some other
22 programs, and then the State non-surplus dollars, as
23 well, is listed here.

24 So if you total all that up from that previous
25 table, the total projected revenues and expenditures

1 for FY '22 are \$887 million. Those are broken down in
2 the pie chart that you see in the middle of the slide
3 here. Seventy-one percent of those dollars are going
4 directly to construction. Going around the wheel
5 there, seven percent for operations and maintenance,
6 seven percent for ongoing programs and initiatives,
7 three percent for operating costs, one percent is
8 going towards planning, and 11 percent to engineering
9 and design.

10 So, if you look at these sort of four categories
11 that are what we would consider to be project related
12 or project associated with expenditures, it's about 90
13 percent of our \$887 million that we just talked about.

14 So if you break those down into planning,
15 construction, engineering, design, and operation,
16 maintenance and monitoring categories, there are seven
17 projects projected to be in planning in FY '22, 66
18 projects in construction. Those projects will benefit
19 almost 60,000 acres of our coastal wetlands and 122
20 miles of levees along our coast. About 37 projects in
21 engineering and design, those will benefit a little
22 over 60,000 acres of our coastal wetlands and about
23 161 projects in operations, maintenance, and
24 monitoring.

25 So we'll take a closer look at the regions of our

1 state. I mentioned southwest, southcentral, and
2 southeast was part -- in the southwest region, there
3 are 11 active projects -- or will be in FY '22, in the
4 southwestern portion of our coast, six construction
5 projects, and five engineering and design projects.

6 So these are just a few highlights of the
7 projects that will -- will be in FY '22 in the
8 southwestern portion of the state. The first one you
9 see there is Cameron Meadows Marsh Creation and
10 Terracing Project. This is a project that's being
11 implemented through the CWPPRA program that I
12 mentioned earlier. It will create about 319 acres of
13 coastal wetlands and terraces in Cameron Parish, a few
14 hundred acres of marsh, 11 acres of terraces, if you
15 want to break them down. This is a project that we
16 are partnering with NOAA Fisheries on. They're the
17 federal partner that's sponsored this project. It's
18 about a \$32 million project. It's going to borrow
19 material from the Gulf of Mexico and bring it onshore
20 to help build those coastal wetlands in Cameron Parish
21 that I mentioned.

22 I'll skip to the far right side of the slide here
23 and talk about the Calcasieu Ship Channel Salinity
24 Control Measures. If you were listening to the board
25 meeting on Friday, you'll note that the -- that the

1 title of this project will change slightly and the
2 focus of it has changed a bit, as well. So it will be
3 referred to as the Calcasieu-Sabine Large Scale Marsh
4 Creation and Hydrologic Restoration Project. And so
5 the -- the focus of this project at this point of time
6 will be restoring the hydrology along the lake rim,
7 part of that eastern-southern portion of Big Lake or
8 Calcasieu Lake that you see in that purple outline
9 there, and then some large-scale marsh creation in
10 that same region. This is a RESTORE project. It's
11 been funded through RESTORE. It will create roughly
12 2,000 to 3,000 acres of coastal wetlands in that
13 project area.

14 And then what you see in the middle of the slide
15 there is the Rock -- well, it's one of the Rockefeller
16 Shoreline projects. It's not actually the Rockefeller
17 Shoreline Protection RESTORE Parish Matching Project,
18 but that's what it will look like. And so the good
19 news about this RESTORE Parish Matching Project is
20 that it will extend two projects that have previously
21 been constructed with some surplus dollars that I've
22 mentioned earlier and also through the CWRPPA Program,
23 as well. That was a project that was also sponsored
24 by NOAA Fisheries, in addition to CPRA. So the new
25 project, this project that is listed in FY '22 Annual

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1 Plan, will extend that rock breakwaters about -- a
2 little over a mile to the west and continue to protect
3 that shoreline in Cameron Parish in the southwestern
4 portion of our coast.

5 So moving to the east looking at the southcentral
6 region of our coast, there will be 33 active projects
7 in FY '22, 22 of those are --will be in construction,
8 nine in engineering and design, and two of those
9 projects will be in planning. So just to highlight a
10 few of those, I have them listed on this slide, the
11 first one of those is the Cypremort Point State Park
12 Improvements Project. So this is a project that's
13 being funded through some of those oil spill
14 settlement dollars that I mentioned earlier, the
15 Natural Resources Damage Assessment Recreational Use
16 funds. This will be about a \$4.5 million project that
17 will be able to help rehabilitate portions of the
18 Park, reestablish the beach there. There'll be some
19 rocks to help protect the shoreline, rehabilitating
20 some fishing piers that are there, and -- and more, a
21 marsh boardwalk, and so forth behind the campground if
22 you're familiar with that area. So we're excited to
23 get that project underway.

24 The next one that you see moving from left to
25 right across the slide is the Houma Navigation Canal

1 Lock Complex. This is another project that will be
2 paid for through the RESTORE Act funds. These are,
3 again, oil spill settlement dollars, but this is
4 really a keystone project in the Morganza to the Gulf
5 Hurricane Risk Reduction System. It will close a gap
6 that currently exists in the HNC, or Houma Navigation
7 Canal, in that -- in that hurricane risk reduction
8 system. It also serves a dual benefit though of --
9 and has some ecological benefits in terms of
10 distributing freshwater both to the east and to the
11 west of the -- of the HNC. So a number of -- a good
12 amount of freshwater travels from the Atchafalaya
13 River to the -- to the HNC and down the HNC, and this
14 will help distribute that water both east and west.

15 The next project is a project being funded
16 through the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act. It's
17 the Bayou Chene Floodgate Project. It will install a
18 permanent floodgate in Bayou Chene that will help
19 protect six parishes from backwater and hurricane
20 storm surge flooding.

21 And then, lastly, but certainly not least, is the
22 Grand Bayou Floodgate in Lafourche Parish. This is
23 about a 147-foot floodgate that will be constructed in
24 Grand Bayou with associated structures on each side of
25 it to help protect that region and that area from

1 storm surges, as well.

2 So moving again farther to the east, we'll look
3 at the southeast region, and this really is -- is very
4 large region and probably has more -- usually broken
5 up into two regions, kind of the area to the east of
6 the river and the area to the west of the river, but
7 we've lumped them together for the purposes of our
8 presentation tonight and the Annual Plan. So there's
9 66 active projects in this region, 38 of those in
10 construction, 23 of those will be in engineering and
11 design, and five of those will be in planning.

12 So, again, just some highlights of the projects
13 in the southeastern portion of the state, starting on
14 the left-hand portion of the slide, the west Grand
15 Terre Beach Nourishment Project will be underway. The
16 picture you see there, actually, it's the old wildlife
17 and Fisheries facilities that were there. There was a
18 lab and some dorms and so forth there. At one point
19 in time, those structures were not in the water, as
20 you see they are when this picture was taken. So this
21 project will restore about two-and-a-half miles of the
22 Gulf shoreline and extend that back into the Gulf. It
23 will create about 300 acres of beach and back marsh
24 and will create rock abutments around some of those
25 restored marsh to help it, as well. This is another

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1 project that is being funded through the RESTORE Act
2 funds.

3 The next slide -- the next project that you see
4 that's there is the Biloxi Marsh Living Shoreline
5 Project. This is in southeast St. Bernard Parish
6 along the shoreline of Bayou La Loutre. It will be
7 about nine miles of artificial reef that will be
8 installed there, and it will help provide oyster
9 habitat and reduce wave erosion on the wetlands that
10 are there and prevent further degradation of those
11 wetlands as a result. This project is being funded
12 through the Natural Resource Damage Assessment funds.

13 The next slide -- or next, again, project on this
14 slide is the West Shore- Lake Ponchartrain Hurricane
15 Storm Damage Risk Reduction Project. This is a
16 project in the River Parishes region. It's about 18.5
17 miles of levee floodwalls. It includes four pump
18 stations and a couple of drainage structures and I
19 think four floodgates, as well, in St. Charles, St.
20 James, and St. John the Baptist Parish. There's also
21 a non-structural component to this project to help
22 elevate homes that otherwise might flood. This is a
23 project that's being funded in a number of ways.
24 There's a lot of federal funds associated with this
25 project and also various funds, including GOMESA and

1 some surplus dollars that will go towards this project
2 from the State's side.

3 And then, lastly in this region, I'll talk a
4 little bit about the River Reintroduction Into
5 Maurepas Swamp. This is exactly what it sounds like.
6 It's reconnecting the Mississippi River with this
7 bottomland hardwood area and large -- large, important
8 swamp area in the southeastern portion of our state.
9 It's about -- it will construct about a five-mile
10 channel from an area near Garyville from the
11 Mississippi River into the swamp to help reduce
12 salinities, add some nutriments and some sediment and
13 some additional biomass production in soil, bulk
14 production, if you will. It will benefit more than 70
15 square miles of our coastal wetlands and coastal
16 marshes in this portion of the state. And this
17 project is being funded primarily through the RESTORE
18 Act.

19 So part of our annual planning process includes
20 the Atchafalaya Basin Program and developing the
21 Annual Plan for that, and so there will be specific
22 meetings associated with the Atchafalaya Basin Program
23 and its Annual Plan. But I did want to mention it and
24 at least mention some of the projects that are part of
25 that plan tonight. So those meetings on the -- will

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1 meet tomorrow evening, same time. They will be held
2 virtually. Much like these, you can access the links
3 to access the meetings via our -- via our calendar,
4 similar to what you've -- what you did to access the
5 meeting tonight. There will be social media posts and
6 so forth, so, hopefully, there will be no issues
7 there. But the first meeting for that program will be
8 tomorrow evening at this time, and then Monday evening
9 will be the second one.

10 But the projects that you see listed here are
11 those that are being considered in the FY '22 Annual
12 Plan for the Atchafalaya Basin, the Henderson Lake
13 WMU, Water Management Unit, Spoil Bank Gapping
14 Project, and this -- that's maybe not as -- a little
15 jargony, so let me say that the intention there is to
16 gap the spoil banks along the Dixie Pipeline, that's
17 in the Henderson -- Henderson Lake area, north of
18 Henderson Lake in the Atchafalaya Basin.

19 There's the East Grand Lake Project that will
20 help reconnect the swamp with some of the waters
21 associated with the East Grand Lake area.

22 Flat Lake Study which is looking at the sediment
23 composition in Flat Lake and how that might be used in
24 coastal restoration projects.

25 And you see the other projects listed there on

1 that map for each of those.

2 So in terms of total expenditures in those
3 upcoming years, I mentioned this is a -- not just a
4 look at FY '22, but look at FY '23. You can see that
5 we're looking to expend about \$930 million in FY '23
6 and about a billion dollars in FY '24. And kind of an
7 important thing to note here is that sort of increase
8 in the, you know, piece of the pie or percentages of
9 dollars that will be going to constructing projects,
10 getting projects on the ground for the benefit of our
11 coast and the citizens that (unintelligible).

12 So this will be the last slide that I'll prepare
13 for you tonight, so if you're interested in making a
14 comment, please, start with the -- in the chat box
15 will be our email address that Rachel mentioned
16 earlier. But I did want to mention that we will be
17 accepting public comments through March 27th. Again,
18 and to access the materials that I've discussed with
19 you for this evening for the Draft '22 Annual Plan,
20 you can access the information at
21 coastal.la.gov/OurPlan/AnnualPlan. You can access the
22 Atchafalaya Basin Annual Plan materials at
23 coastal.la.gov/OurPlan/AtchafalayaBasinProgram.

24 So, we'll take a -- take a beat here, and -- and
25 wait for some comments to come in. It looks like

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1 maybe we've already received one or two, so we'll take
2 a moment, and then we will read those comments into
3 the record. So I'm going to go on mute for just a few
4 minutes, and then bear with us and type the comments
5 in or email them to us if you have those, and we will
6 be back with you to read those into the record.

7 Thank you.

8 (BRIEF RECESS.)

9 MR. HAASE:

10 All right, guys. We've gotten a few comments in,
11 and so I want to go ahead and read those into the
12 record.

13 Before I do that though, I do want to mention
14 that we've had it looks like a few other elected
15 officials join us tonight. Both Representative Kerner
16 and Mayor Kerner appears to have joined us, so we
17 thank y'all for that, also Representative Nicky
18 Muscarello has joined us, so we want to thank you for
19 that.

20 We've got a couple of questions, and we typically
21 wouldn't respond to questions, but I'll do my best to
22 -- to do so here. We would appreciate it if you could
23 provide a comment in the form of a statement or again
24 a -- more of a comment relating to the materials that
25 we've presented here tonight.

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QUESTION BY WILLIAM MAHLER

READ BY MR. HAASE

But the first one is:

Can CPRA -- or can a CPRA project start without all of landowners affected by the project signing an agreement with CPRA.

And that question comes to us from William Mahler, it looks like, if I'm pronouncing that correctly.

MR. HAAS:

So, the answer, there's not a very straightforward answer to that, Mr. Mahler. The answer is, really it depends, and, certainly, if you'd like to continue that discussion or get into that discussion in more depth, please, email us. You can email me or email us at coastal.la.gov, and we'd be happy to do that.

We've got another comment. This one is from Daniel (sic) Bourg from the Ponchartrain Conservancy.

WRITTEN STATEMENT/COMMENT BY DANIELLE BOURG

READ BY MR. HAASE

We support this plan. Investments in coastal protection and restoration will significantly reduce the cost of future disasters and help create jobs and economic opportunities within Louisiana at a time when

1 these are desperately needed. And he (sic) has his
2 address there. I'll not read that into the record.

3 MR. HAASE:

4 But we appreciate that comment Mr. (sic) Bourg.
5 Thank you very much.

6 The next one, again, is a question. It comes to
7 us from Mr. Tommy Thompson.

8 QUESTION BY WILLIAM MAHLER

9 READ BY MR. HAASE

10 what plans does CPRA have to provide storm surge
11 protection for Eden Isle?

12 MR. HAASE:

13 Mr. Thompson, I think that you're aware, we're
14 working with your Levee District and your parish and
15 the Corps of Engineers on a -- on an effort right now
16 to determine just that, so, in fact, we met with the
17 Levee District this morning, representatives of your
18 Congressman, and the -- those plans are in
19 development. So, again, I'm happy to have a more in-
20 depth discussion with you offline if you would care to
21 do so, but just know that -- that we are working on
22 that issue as we speak.

23 Let's see. The next comments comes to us from
24 Kyle Galloway.

25 WRITTEN STATEMENT/COMMENT KYLE GALLOWAY

1 READ BY MR. HAASE:

2 I would like to thank CPRA for including the
3 Sunset Levee Lift in FY '22. CPRA is currently
4 reviewing final designs. Lafourche Basin Levee
5 District and its team of consultants will work with
6 CPRA to have the project shovel ready by the start of
7 the fiscal year. We look forward to helping CPRA
8 complete this project.

9 MR. HAASE:

10 Thank you for that comment, Mr. Galloway. We
11 appreciate it.

12 Another one from William Mahler.

13 QUESTION BY WILLIAM MAHLER

14 READ BY MR. HAASE

15 Do carbon credits traded as a result of CPRA
16 marsh creation projects used to offset the costs of
17 the projects? What is the cost basis of carbon
18 credits per acre for marsh created by CPRA projects,
19 example CPRA Project 169?

20 Again, that's William Mahler.

21 MR. HAASE:

22 So, again, that's not a very straight -- not very
23 straightforward answers to those questions, Mr.
24 Mahler. I think those are issues that we're working
25 with. You may have seen a recent article relating to

1 some work that we're doing with the Water Institute of
2 the Gulf to -- to do exactly what you're talking
3 about, try to quantify those benefits to get at the
4 answers to some of those questions.

5 So, again, if you'd like to get into that
6 discussion in more detail, please, email us at
7 coastal.la.gov, and we will be happy to do that.

8 So any comments via email? I'm not seeing any
9 comments via email, so I'm going to go back on mute
10 for a moment and give folks time and the opportunity
11 to make additional comments if they'd like. Again, we
12 appreciate your participation and the comments that
13 were made so far.

14 And we'll go on standby here for probably about
15 five minutes and see what else comes through and then
16 be back with you to either read those in or -- or ask
17 for other comments.

18 Thank you.

19 (BRIEF RECESS.)

20 MR. HAASE:

21 All right, folks. We have not received anything
22 additional via the chat box or -- or anything, via
23 email at this point in time. So, certainly, if you
24 have some comments this evening, please, provide
25 those. We understand if you want to take some time

1 and -- and think about things and have a little more
2 time to review the materials and provide those via
3 mail or via email, as well.

4 But we'll be here. Again, I'm going to go back
5 on mute. I just wanted to encourage folks to provide
6 any comments that they may have. At this point in
7 time, we'll go back on mute for another five minutes
8 or so, see where we stand, and then I'll come back and
9 we'll either address those comments, read those into
10 the record, or we will likely sign off at that time if
11 we haven't received anything else. So bear with us.
12 we'll be with you here for at least another five
13 minutes or so, and then we'll -- we'll make a decision
14 on how to proceed. So thank you.

15 (BRIEF RECESS.)

16 MR. HAASE:

17 All right. We've got another comment in the
18 chat, as you all can see. It's a question, actually,
19 in the chat, and I'll read it in. It's from Ms.
20 Barbara McArthur.

21 QUESTION BY BARBARA MCARTHUR

22 READ BY MR. HAASE

23 Can a project go out to bid if all owners have
24 not given approval?

25 MR. HAASE:

1 And she has her name and address there. So, Ms.
2 McArthur, just to answer this question really similar
3 to the -- the one I gave for the first question
4 earlier, it really is project dependent. It depends
5 on the project, the location, and the project
6 specifics. Again, if you'd like to discuss this
7 further, please, email us at coastal.la.gov, and we'll
8 be happy to get back with you and discuss it.

9 I would point out that email address is active
10 all year, and so, for any point in time during the
11 year, if someone has a question about anything related
12 to CPRA, one of our projects, or anything else, for
13 that matter, feel free to -- to send your questions to
14 that address, and someone will get back with you to --
15 to answer those.

16 We've had another comment and question. This one
17 is from Tim Kerner, and I'm not sure if this is Mayor
18 Kerner or Representative Kerner, but it says:

19 WRITTEN COMMENT/QUESTION BY MR. KERNER

20 READ BY MR. HAASE

21 Thank you, Bren and everyone at CPRA, for making
22 great strides in the fight to preserve and restore
23 coastal -- excuse me -- Louisiana's coast. There
24 isn't a more important job in the state of Louisiana.

25 Could you provide a status update for South

1 Jefferson/Lafitte tidal area -- or tidal surge
2 protection?

3 MR. HAASE:

4 So, sure, I'm happy to do that. We -- as,
5 hopefully, you've seen in the Draft '22 Annual Plan,
6 there's funding for the South Jefferson/Lafitte Tidal
7 Area for Goose Bayou, for Rosethorn, and then there's
8 some additional funds identified in the Annual Plan
9 for -- for either of those two projects or perhaps an
10 additional project in the area, as well.

11 As you know -- and I'm going to address you as
12 Mayor Kerner, because I think this is probably coming
13 from you, but, Representative Kerner, as well, but,
14 you know, we've been working pretty closely with y'all
15 here just recently to get a better idea of schedules
16 and priorities and so forth, not just working with
17 you, but with your consultants, as well, and -- and
18 that will continue into the future. So we'll be back
19 in touch, I know, in short order to discuss that in
20 much more detail.

21 So thank you for that comment and for the
22 question.

23 We -- it looks like that's all we've got for the
24 moment, but since we've gotten a couple of additional
25 comments, I'm going to hang on, go back on mute, but

1 know that we'll be here monitoring the email and chat
2 box, and we'll give it another few minutes and see if
3 we get any additional comments. So thanks again for
4 everybody's participation and for patience with this
5 -- this venue, if you will, for having this meeting.
6 I know it's not ideal.

7 (BRIEF RECESS.)

8 MR. HAASE:

9 All right, everybody. Just while we're waiting
10 to see if we get any additional comments, I did want
11 to mention some -- some next steps and what you would
12 expect in terms of this process moving forward.

13 So I did -- I did talk about the presentation to
14 the board -- or, you know, receiving public comment,
15 modifying the draft to the final, presenting that to
16 the board, and then, ultimately, that will be
17 submitted to the legislature.

18 Just to give you a little more granularity on
19 that, so we will be before four committees, the
20 legislature. I don't know of any other agency that
21 has a spending (unintelligible) that goes before four
22 committees, so we do have a lot of legislative
23 oversight. But we go before both the Transportation
24 and Natural Resources Committees of the House and the
25 Senate. If the Annual Plan is approved by those

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Certified Court Reporter

1 committees, it's sent to the -- the full House and the
2 floor of the Senate, as well, for approval at that
3 time. So that's -- that's kind of the rest of the
4 process getting through the legislative process that I
5 just wanted to mention to you in case you were
6 interested.

7 So we have not received any other emails, and I
8 don't see anything else in the chat box at this time.
9 We're going to give it another few minutes just to
10 make sure we're giving folks plenty of time to compile
11 and present -- prepare and offer their comments to us.
12 So, again, I'll go back on mute and off of video here
13 for a minute, but know that, again, we're monitoring
14 both of those -- those forms of media, and we'll
15 certainly respond should we receive any additional
16 comments. So we'll give it another three -- three to
17 five minutes, see if we get anything else, and then
18 we'll be back with you. Thank you.

19 (BRIEF RECESS.)

20 MR. HAASE:

21 All right. We've got an additional comment, this
22 one from Sandy Rosenthal.

23 COMMENT BY SANDY ROSENTHAL

24 READ BY MR. HAASE

25 I am 100 percent behind the CPRA Draft Plan.

1 This is Sandy Rosenthal.

2 MR. HAASE:

3 And she gives her address, 114 Soniat Street in
4 New Orleans.

5 Thank you for that comment, Ms. Rosenthal. We
6 appreciate it.

7 And we'll go back on standby for another few
8 minutes.

9 (BRIEF RECESS.)

10 MR. HAASE:

11 Okay, everybody. We're not seeing anything
12 coming through email, and we haven't seen anything new
13 in several minutes in the chat box, so I think we're
14 -- we're approaching time to -- to sign off.

15 I did want to mention a couple of things. One,
16 to Mr. Thompson, it doesn't look like he's with --
17 he's signed on anymore, but I will, Mr. Thompson,
18 reach back out to you at some time in the next day or
19 two to discuss the question that you -- you had
20 earlier.

21 To Mayor Kerner and to Representative Kerner,
22 also, I'd like to just let you know that someone from
23 our Project Management section will be reaching out to
24 you to -- to provide that status update that you had
25 asked about.

1 And to Mr. Mahler and Ms. McArthur, in the next
2 few days, someone from CPRA will be reaching out to
3 you to discussion your -- your questions specifically,
4 as well.

5 We want to be responsive, but some of these are
6 -- are difficult to handle via -- via chat box and --
7 and over Zoom, but know that we will be reaching back
8 to y'all to follow up on those questions.

9 The last thing I just want to say is, we
10 appreciate everybody's participation. There's a -- a
11 great interest and a lot of passion around our coast.
12 We are happy that you all are involved and asking
13 questions, challenging us, and supporting us where you
14 -- where you feel the need to do that. So we thank
15 you very much for that.

16 One last check, I don't see anything via email or
17 chat. So, with that, we will sign off tonight, and,
18 again, thanks everybody for your participation. We're
19 looking forward to discussing the Draft and Final
20 Annual Plans with you more in the near future.

21 So thanks everybody and have a good evening.

22

23 THE PUBLIC HEARING WAS ADJOURNED.

24

25

Michelle S. Abadie, CCR
Certified Court Reporter

CERTIFICATE

I, MICHELLE S. ABADIE, Certified Court Reporter in and for the State of Louisiana, do hereby certify that on February 23, 2021, conducted by Zoom videoconference at the offices of CPRA, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, that the matter of the 2022 Coastal Master Plan public hearing was reported by me in the stenomask reporting method, was prepared and transcribed by me or under my personal direction and supervision; that the foregoing pages, numbered 1 through 37, inclusive, is a true and correct transcript to the best of my ability and understanding; that I am not related any parties herein, nor am I otherwise interested in the outcome of this proceeding.

MICHELLE S. ABADIE, CCR #24032
CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER

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