



2023 Atchafalaya Basin Program Annual Plan

New Project Development Guidelines and Criteria

Introduction

The Atchafalaya Basin is a natural resource of national significance encompassing 838,000 acres of forests, bayous, swamp, and lakes. It extends south from the Old River Control Structure approximately 140 miles to Morgan City. Many of the actions taken to modify the basin into a floodway by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) have adversely impacted the natural hydrology and habitat of the Atchafalaya Basin.

The Atchafalaya Basin Program (ABP) was put in place to develop, implement, and manage a comprehensive state master plan for the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System, Louisiana Project. This master plan directs the efforts of the state as local sponsor for the USACE Floodway project and provides the mechanisms to match federal dollars used in the mitigation of that system. Although the Program has focused on the components of the Atchafalaya State Master Plan approved in 1999, activities have also expanded to address the needs of both the resources and resource users of the Atchafalaya Basin.

Through the Act 570 of the 2018 Regular Session, the Program and associated authorities were transferred to Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA). With that transfer, the Program will be made a part of the overall CPRA Annual Plan. Currently, the 2017 Coastal Master Plan (CMP) continues to ensure the collective effects of project investments, such as reducing storm surge-based flood risk to communities, providing habitats to support an array of commercial and recreational activities, and supporting infrastructure critical to the working coast. This will be achieved by harnessing natural processes, focusing protection on key assets, and adapting to changing coastal conditions.

New projects can be proposed by any source, including academia, parishes, elected officials, agencies, NGOs, landowners, business/industry, and the general public. Emphasis should be on projects that continue to provide benefit in the face of sea level rise and subsidence without continued maintenance, those that make a contribution to maintaining estuarine gradients in future decades (e.g., hydrological restoration), and those that provide risk reduction at the community or regional scale.

New projects can be proposed that:

1. Water Management
 - a. Hydrologic Restoration; address problems with water quality and sedimentation.
 - b. Public Access
 - c. Beneficial use of dredge material (BUDMAT)
 - d. Integrated Projects, which are projects that incorporate multiple approaches (consistent with the types mentioned above) and that function synergistically with newly proposed or 2017 Coastal Master Plan and previous ABP Annual Plan projects.
2. Respond to dramatic changes in the coastal landscape (e.g., resulting from hurricanes or other disasters that have occurred since the 2017 Coastal Master Plan was approved).
3. Address future uncertainty challenges, such as climate change, or directly support future transitions in the ecosystem.

Screening Criteria

A screening process will be used to determine whether a newly proposed project has the potential to be included in the 2021 ABP Annual Plan:

1. **Consistency with the 2017 Louisiana's Comprehensive Master Plan Objectives and Principles:** Project concepts need to clearly contribute and be consistent with the principles and objectives of the master plan ([2017 Coastal Master Plan](#); pp. 47-49) to be considered for inclusion.
2. **Geographic Area:** CPRA is seeking project concepts that will address areas of greatest water quality, sedimentation, and public access issues.
3. **Duplicative Effects:** Many concepts considered in previous plans had overlapping scopes, goals, and physical locations. New projects must be significantly different than any project analyzed through the 2012 and 2017 CMP and 2019 and 2020 ARB Annual Plan processes, including those that were proposed though not selected in the final plan. Previously proposed projects may be considered as a part of an Integrated Project, as long as they are expected to provide sub-basin benefits. See the following documents for maps and lists of projects analyzed through the 2012 and 2017 CMP processes: [2012 Coastal Master Plan](#) (pp 68-69), [2012 Appendix A-Project Definitions](#), [2012 Appendix A1 – Projects Screened out of Consideration](#), [2017 Coastal Master Plan](#) (pp 68-69), and [2017 Appendix A: Project Definition](#).

4. **Adequate Information:** Project concepts need to be described in sufficient detail so that they can be evaluated using the various models/techniques given the location. Note that detailed cost and land area estimates are not necessary. See “Submittal Details” below for minimum attributes required for each project type.

Submittal Details

All proposals must be delivered electronically, in .pdf format, to Coastal@la.gov or mailed to the 2022 Atchafalaya Basin Program Annual Plan at P.O. Box 44027, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70804 and received **by November 15, 2021**. Questions may be directed to Alicia.McAlhaney@la.gov as well. CPRA staff may be available to help develop and refine project details and attributes. Please include “2023 Atchafalaya Basin Program Annual Plan” in the subject line of the email. Proposals should be no more than 7 pages (1 page for the Cover Sheet and Contact Information, 3 pages for Project Description, 1 page for the Map, and 1-2 pages for Project Attributes). After the close of the solicitation period, projects that meet screening criteria will be considered in the evaluation process for the 2022 Annual Plan.

All proposals must include the following:

1. **Cover Sheet:**
 - a. Project Title
 - b. Full Contact information (name, address, email, phone number)
2. **Project Description:**
 - a. Project Summary: Brief description of project goals and objectives, features, and intent (including a description of how the project concept meets Screening Criteria 1-3), not to exceed 3 pages, including all figures, tables, links and references. Please include Project Type, Planning Unit, and Parish(es) in which the project will be located and where the benefits are expected to be delivered. Only project types listed below (A-G) will be considered.
 - b. Map: Please provide a map with details of the project location, geographic coordinates for each project feature (marsh creation area, structure location, etc.), and overall influence area regardless of project type.
 - c. Shapefile (if available): Please provide a shapefile (or kmz file) of the project area and/or location(s) of project features if one is available.
3. **Project Attributes:** Project attribute details and definitions are located in [Appendix A](#) of the 2017 Coastal Master Plan (<http://coastal.la.gov/our-plan/2017-coastal-master-plan/>)

- A. **Hydrologic Restoration:** Location, Structure Type, Structure Location, Operational Regime, Structure Length (ft), Structure Width (ft), Structure Opening Area (ft²).
- B. **BUDMAT:** Location, Created Acres, Length (ft), Width (ft), Borrow Source.
- C. **Integrated Projects:** Location and details of relevant features as noted under A and B.