

Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion

PROJECT UPDATE

BREN HAASE, BRAD BARTH, BRIAN LEZINA



Project Update

90% DESIGN UPDATE

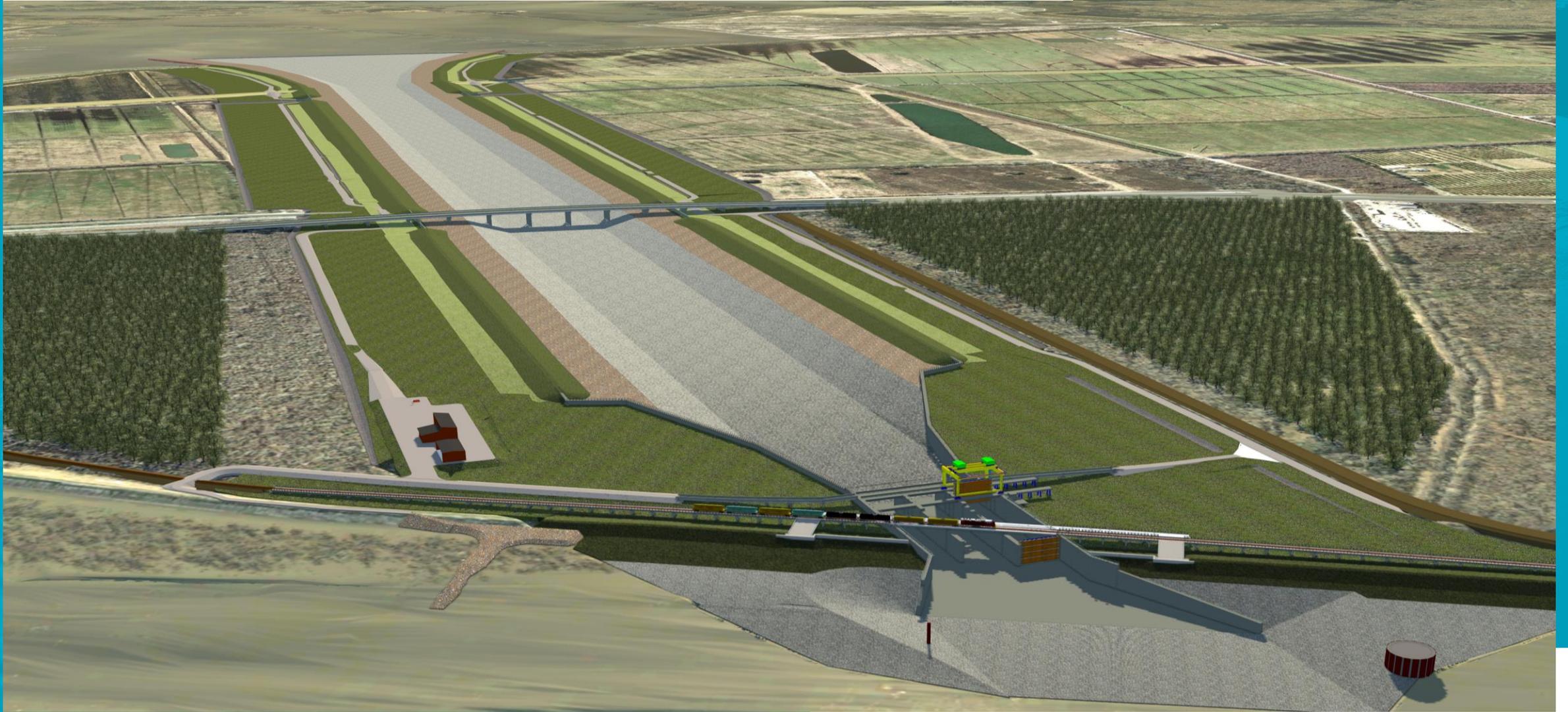
PROJECT TIMELINE

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
STATEMENT

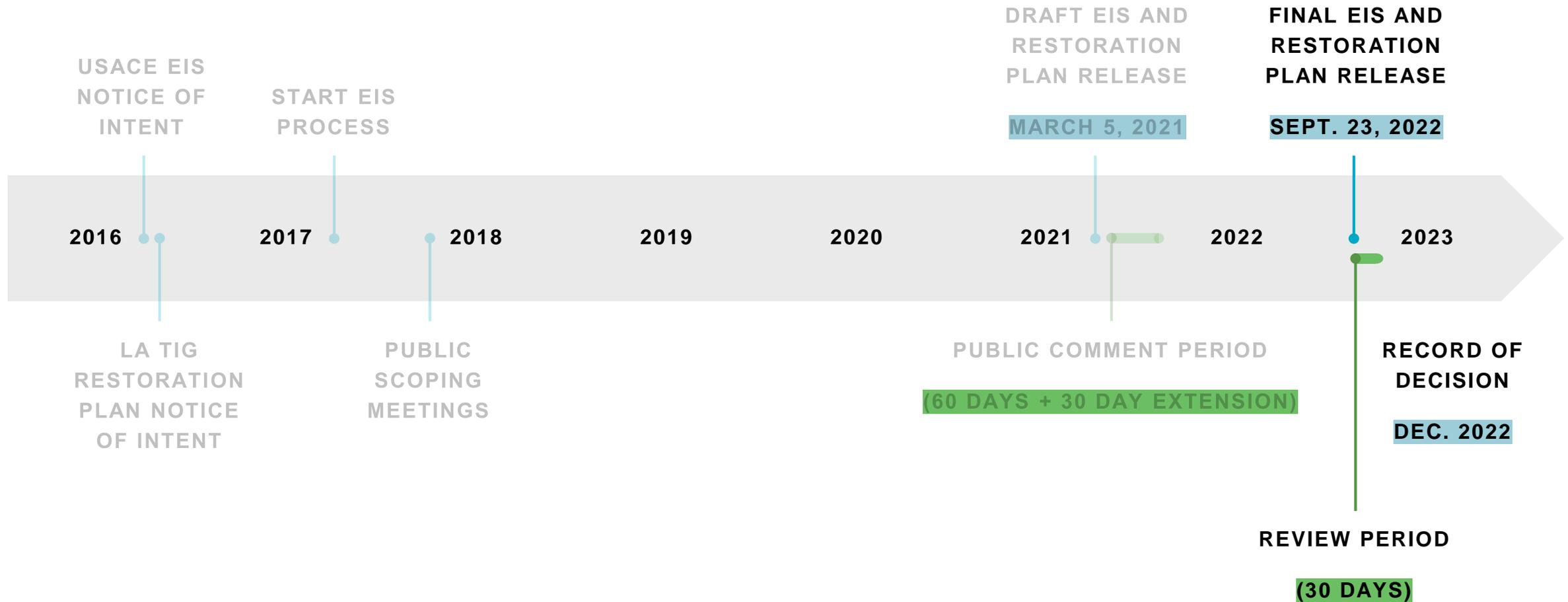
- Mitigation & Stewardship Plan Updates
- Outreach & Engagement

NEXT STEPS

90% Design Update



Timeline



Environmental Impact Statement

RESOURCES ANALYZED:

- Noise
- Oil and gas resources
- Prime Farmland
- Public Safety (Flood Risk Reduction)
- Recreation (including fishing)
- Soils/Sediment (River and Basin)
- Socioeconomic (population, tax revenue, housing, etc.)
- Storm Surge/Flooding
- Threatened and Endangered Species (T&E)
- Water Quality (salinity/nutrients)
- Wetlands and Waters of the U.S.
- Aesthetic and Visual Resources
- Air Quality
- Aquatic Resources
- Terrestrial Resources
- Commercial Fisheries (industry impacts)
- Cultural Resources
- Environmental Justice (EJ)
- Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)
- Groundwater
- Land Use
- Marine Mammals
- Navigation (deep draft and tows)

FINAL
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
FOR THE
PROPOSED MID-BARATARIA SEDIMENT DIVERSION PROJECT
PLAQUEMINES PARISH, LOUISIANA

US Army Corps of Engineers New Orleans District Website

Mid-Barataria S

SUMMARY

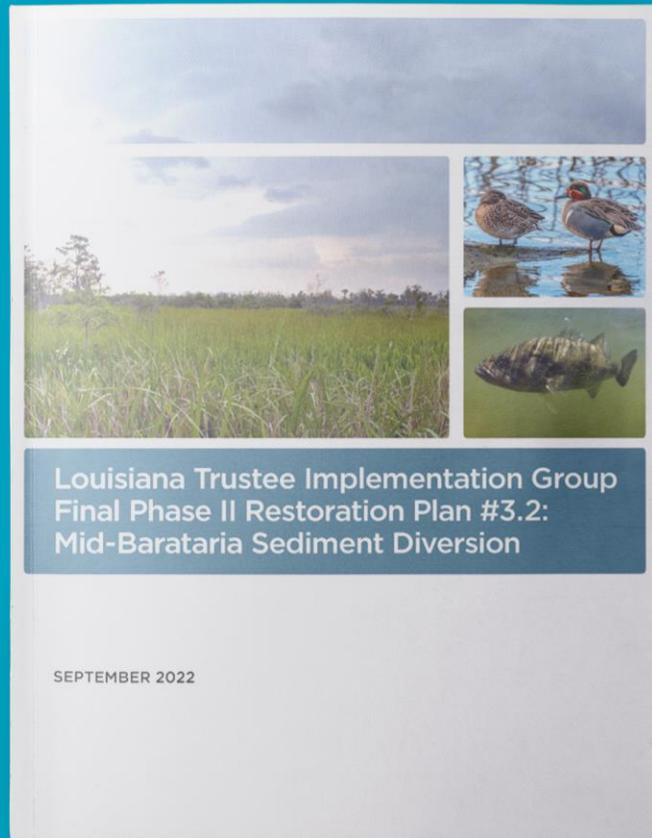
The Coastal Protection and Restoration Department of the Army (USACE) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Proposed Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Project (the Project) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations found in 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508. This EIS provides the information needed for the Public Interest Review requirements of 33 CFR Parts 320-332 including 33 CFR Part 325, Appendix B, 33 U.S.C. 408 and 40 CFR Part 230 (Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines). The Final EIS will provide information required for an informed decision on the Project.

US Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District

SEPTEMBER 2022

Chapte
Chapte

Restoration Plan



The Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group (LA TIG) is the group of federal and state agencies responsible for overseeing implementation of the restoration approaches called for in the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill settlement documents.

The Restoration Plan for the project explains those agencies' recommendation to use oil spill funding for the project.

LA TIG MEMBERS:



What's changed?

DRAFT EIS TO FINAL EIS

Mitigation Plan funding increased from **\$300 million to \$378 million**

Updates

- Received over 40,000 public comments on DEIS; USACE and LA TIG reviewed and coordinated responses to all comments
 - Resulted in some content changes, primarily adding analyses or expanding on explanations and content
 - There are no significant changes to the environmental impact determinations.
 - Decrease in anticipated navigation impacts from moderate to minor for vessels in the Mississippi River during construction
-

Updated Mitigation and Stewardship Plan

- Measures expanded and further defined for implementation, based on feedback from stakeholders

Mitigation & Stewardship Plan

Communities

MITIGATION PLAN UPDATES

Updated measures and preliminary implementation plans

COMMUNITY MITIGATION OBJECTIVES

- Implement mitigation measures that address potential impacts before the project is operational, in addition to alleviating some existing flooding issues
- Support community members who wish to continue living in their community and retain overall community identity
- Improve overall community resilience

Outreach & Engagement

Distributed surveys on implementation methods (online, in-person, mailed)

Hosted 20 community meetings

Held 129 one-on-one appointments with residents

Community Mitigation

GRAND BAYOU



Raise Roads & Access



Voluntary Buyout



Raise Docks & Piers



Sewer & Septic Improvements



Project Servitude



Floating Garden



Community Boardwalks



Ridge Restoration & Canal Closure Project

MYRTLE GROVE



New Community Bulkhead



Voluntary Buyout



Raise Docks & Piers

HAPPY JACK, LAKE HERMITAGE, SUZIE BAYOU, & WOODPARK



Raise Roads & Access



Voluntary Buyout



Raise Docks & Piers



Sewer & Septic Improvements



Raise Homes



Project Servitude

Fisheries

MITIGATION PLAN UPDATES

Funding increase from \$33M to \$54M

Increased existing and expanded measures across all fisheries

Expanded eligibility for assistance to shoreside facilities/docks

Added crab and finfish mitigation measures and funding

Partnerships with LCTCS, LDWF, LED, and others

Outreach & Engagement

Distributing survey to fisheries (in coordination with LDWF) to inform implementation methods

Engaged local partners and NGOs for research, needs analysis, and to inform implementation

Fisheries Mitigation



BLUE CRAB

- Gear Improvements
 - Marketing Support
-



BROWN SHRIMP

- Vessel & Facility Improvements
 - Marketing Support
-



FINFISH

- Marketing Support



OYSTER

- Establish New Public Seed Grounds
 - Enhance Public and Private Oyster Grounds
 - Provision of Broodstock Reefs to Provide Larval Supply, as needed
 - Alternative Oyster Culture (AOC) Support
 - Marketing Support
-

OTHER

- Increased Subsistence Fishing Access
- Workforce & Business Training for Commercial Fishers

Workforce Development

- Efforts to support the fishing industry in training, small business operations, and/or learning a new skillset
- Partnership with LCTCS for training and certification programs
- Engagement with NGO partners to conduct research on needs of local labor markets and opportunities for local workers
- Coordination with CMAR contractor for industry days and identifying local labor force



Marine Mammals

DEIS: \$20M Mitigation + 20M Monitoring

Update: \$20M Mitigation + \$20M Monitoring + \$20M Intervention = \$60M

<p>STATEWIDE STRANDING PROGRAM</p>	<p>CPRA will enable a more rapid response to a live stranded cetacean will increase that animal’s chance of survival by reducing the time spent on the beach, reducing stress on the animal, providing rapid treatment and, if appropriate, transport to an authorized rehabilitation facility for additional treatment and care.</p>
<p>HUMAN INTERACTION/ ANTHROPOGENIC STRESSOR REDUCTION</p>	<p>CPRA will reduce existing and future stressors to bottlenose dolphins statewide, including within Barataria Bay by reducing human-caused stressors.</p>
<p>CONTINGENCY FUND FOR STRANDING SURGE, UNUSUAL MORTALITY EVENTS (UME), OR EPISODIC MORTALITY EVENT RESPONSE</p>	<p>CPRA will establish funds for stranding surge capacity in Barataria Basin. The national UME Contingency Fund is extremely limited and is used to respond and investigate UMEs nationally. Additional funds for a Barataria Basin Stranding Surge, UME, or Episodic Mortality Event Response will be made available upon onset of operation.</p>
<p>CREATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A DOLPHIN INTERVENTION PLAN</p>	<p>In coordination with NOAA (not included in stewardship/mitigation plan).</p>

WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE PROJECTS



Stay Engaged

MIDBASIN.COASTAL.LA.GOV

Mid-Basin Sediment Diversion Program

MID-BARATARIA MID-BRETON PERMITTING & TIMELINE RESOURCES EVENTS & NEWS MITIGATION

RESOURCES

Stay Engaged. Learn More.

RESOURCES

Mid-Barataria

Mid-Barataria Project Summary	Mid-Barataria Fact Sheet	The Economic Impact Of Constructing The Mid-Barataria And Mid-Breton Sediment Diversion Projects, Loren C. Scott & Associates, Inc.
NFWF Project Summary	Mid-Barataria Brief	Webinar Presentation
Mid-Barataria DEIS Media Kit	Webinar Recording	Mid-Barataria Permitting Dashboard
Public Participation In The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion: NEPA And NRDA, Environmental Law Institute	USACE Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Regulatory Page	

Mid-Basin Sediment Diversion Program

MID-BARATARIA MID-BRETON PERMITTING & TIMELINE RESOURCES EVENTS & NEWS MITIGATION

BETWEEN 1932 AND 2016 LOUISIANA'S COAST LOST 2,006 SQUARE MILES OF LAND.

WE NEED AN INNOVATIVE, SCIENCE-BASED SOLUTION.

ADDRESSING LOUISIANA'S LAND LOSS CRISIS

WHAT HAPPENED?

Between 1932 and 2016, coastal Louisiana's lost over 2,000 square miles of land. Between 2004 and 2008 alone, more than 300 square miles of marshland were lost to Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav, and Ike.

But why? There are several factors contributing to our severe and detrimental land loss crisis, including sea level rise, subsidence, saltwater intrusion, manmade contributions, the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill and subsequent response activities, and side effects of our current levee system. While our levees provide critically important flood protection to our coastal communities, they have also cut off the Mississippi River from Barataria Basin and Breton Sound Basin, restricting it from depositing sediment and nutrients into those basins. Without this natural process, our coast is starved of the nutrients and sediment needed to sustain healthy wetlands.

Louisiana's coastal wetlands are some of the **fastest disappearing land masses on earth.**

WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT IT?

RECONNECT THE RIVER

To address the root cause of our rapid coastal land loss, we have to restore the natural processes that originally built our state by "reconnecting the river." Sediment diversions are controlled structures that use "engineering with nature" to mimic the natural land building processes. These projects offer a unique solution to strategically re-establish hydrologic flows, carry land-building sediment, nourish marshes, and sustain land.

When implemented with the full suite of projects outlined in the Coastal Master Plan, including marsh creation and dredging, sediment diversions contribute to an integrated systems approach at restoring and protecting coastal Louisiana. Utilizing every "tool in our toolbox" is our best chance to combat our land loss crisis.

Louisiana's coast in 1920 vs. today.

MID-BARATARIA SEDIMENT DIVERSION

PLAQUEMINES PARISH

The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion, located on the west bank of the Mississippi River, is a first-of-its-kind coastal restoration project that, if permitted, could become one of the largest environmental infrastructure projects in the history of the United States.

Mid-Basin Sediment Diversion Program

MID-BARATARIA MID-BRETON PERMITTING & TIMELINE

MID-BARATARIA SEDIMENT DIVERSION: M

In March 2021, the United States Army Corps of Engineers released a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion, which detailed the benefits and impacts the project may have on its surroundings. The solutions and information detailed below are **not final** but will be included in CPRA's project's Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS).

COMMUNITY MITIGATION

Your valuable feedback has been used to inform updated mitigation measures that better align with your needs. The solutions and information detailed below are **not final** but will be included in CPRA's project's Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS).

I LIVE IN A COMMUNITY NEAR THE PROJECT SITE, HOW CAN I PROVIDE

1. Review the information below specific to your community.
2. Watch the Community Webinar for your community.

SEPTEMBER 21, 2022

Thank You

BREN HAASE, BRAD BARTH, BRIAN LEZINA

