



2023 COASTAL MASTER PLAN

PUBLIC HEARING TRANSCRIPTS

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL A.1

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PREPARED BY: CPRA



COASTAL PROTECTION AND
RESTORATION AUTHORITY
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CITATION

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OVERVIEW

In an effort to engage citizens and stakeholders across coastal Louisiana, open public hearings were held to provide overviews of the draft versions of both the 2023 Coastal Master Plan and the FY24 Annual Plan. During the hearings, CPRA solicited feedback and comments to be considered in the implementation of the final plans.

The following Public Hearing Transcripts include a full transcription of spoken word from the four public hearing meetings conducted by CPRA staff during the public comment period.



Transcript of the Testimony of
**CPRA 2023 Meeting for Master Plan and
Annual Plan - Baton Rouge,**

Date: January 31, 2023

Case: CPRA 2023 Meeting for Master Plan and Annual Plan -
Baton Rouge

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IN THE MATTER OF:

STATE OF LOUISIANA COASTAL PROTECTION & RESTORATION
AUTHORITY

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BATON ROUGE MEETING FOR MASTER PLAN & ANNUAL PLAN

JANUARY 31, 2023

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The CPRA Meeting for MASTER PLAN & ANNUAL
PLAN, taken in connection with the above captioned
matter at East Baton Rouge Parish Library - Bluebonnet
Regional Branch, 9200 Bluebonnet Boulevard, Baton
Rouge, Louisiana 70810, on Tuesday, January 31, 2023 at
5:30 p.m.

Reported by:

Jenna Limjuco, BA-CCR
Certified Court Reporter
#2018004

APPEARANCES:

Therese Walker

Chip Kline

Stuart Brown

Bren Haase

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1 **THERESE WALKER:**

2 My name is Therese Walker. I am the
3 outreach and engagement team for CPRA, so I'm
4 going to talk you through just a little bit
5 of housekeeping here, go through the agenda,
6 and then we'll get started.

7 So as some of you may know, we're taking
8 kind of both Master Plan and Annual Plan --
9 we'll walk you through both of those in this
10 meeting, so the way that tonight's going to
11 work, we will have an Annual Plan
12 presentation -- I mean -- sorry -- a Master
13 Plan presentation shortly after this. After
14 that presentation concludes, we will begin
15 public comment period on the Master Plan. So
16 anyone who wants to do -- speak verbal
17 comments will have an opportunity to do so
18 then on the Master Plan.

19 Once we've gone through all of those
20 comments, we'll then transition over to talk
21 about the Annual Plan, in which case, we'll
22 do the same -- short presentation followed by
23 the public comment period -- and then we'll
24 wrap up.

25 So ways to comment during this meeting:

1 there are comment cards and statement cards
2 spread throughout the room, so if you would
3 like to comment on the Master Plan, which is
4 the first portion of tonight, there's a
5 written comment card that you can submit and
6 you can just write it out and put it down,
7 you don't have to speak; or if you'd like to
8 speak, you'll fill out a green statement card
9 and just give it to either someone on the
10 sides, one of our CPRA team, and we'll go
11 ahead, and then you'll speak after the
12 presentation.

13 Same thing with the Annual Plan. If you
14 would just like to write a comment, there's
15 white comment cards throughout the room, and
16 blue statement cards if you'd like to give a
17 verbal statement on the Annual Plan. We'll
18 go through that all again. I know it's a lot
19 of information. There's also information
20 from each speaker on how to submit comments
21 outside of tonight's meeting.

22 So with that, I will hand it over to Chip
23 Kline.

24 CHIP KLINE:

25 Good evening, everybody. I want to first

1 just thank everybody for being here tonight.
2 As Therese said, my name is Chip Kline. I
3 serve as Executive Assistant to the Governor
4 for Coastal Activities and CPRA Board
5 Chairman, and this has been a long time
6 coming. Many of you here tonight are very
7 involved in the Coastal Program. You stay up
8 to date on our progress, and so many of you
9 know that the Master Plan really is the
10 vision -- the State's vision -- for the long-
11 term sustainability of Louisiana's coast and
12 the 20 coastal parishes that are in the
13 coastal zone.

14 So if you were to pick up a copy of the
15 draft Master Plan, number one, it would tell
16 you about the risk that you face where you
17 live and work. It would tell you about the
18 risk to South Louisiana if we do nothing, if
19 we do not implement a single coastal
20 restoration or hurricane protection project
21 over the next several years. But perhaps
22 most importantly for tonight, it lists the
23 projects. It spells out the priorities for
24 the state's Coastal Program over the next
25 several years to restore and protect Coastal

1 Louisiana.

2 And so I would just encourage all of you
3 -- the phrase I like to use is "productive
4 participation." Obviously, you're here
5 tonight to make comments, but we're here
6 tonight to hear from you. And so I would
7 just encourage you to visit with staff, the
8 CPRA staff members we have here. We have our
9 Executive Director, Bren Haase; Deputy
10 Executive Director, Greg Grandy; Stu Brown,
11 who heads up our Master Plan Team. If you
12 have a question that cannot be answered
13 tonight by the staff that we have here, then
14 we're in trouble; okay? So, hopefully, you
15 all participated in the open house, had some
16 informal conversations.

17 I do want to remind you that going back
18 to the 2012 Plan -- when that plan was in
19 draft format and we went through the public
20 comment period, both in 2012 and in 2017,
21 there were changes to the plan based upon
22 what we heard from all of you. And so I
23 don't want you to think that you're just
24 going to come up here and make a comment
25 that's going to fall on deaf ears. We do

1 take these comments seriously. We do take
2 them into consideration, and probably more
3 often than not, there are changes to the plan
4 based upon the feedback that we receive.

5 And so Therese talked a little bit about
6 the Master Plan, so that is the long-term --
7 the 50-year vision of the State for the
8 sustainability of South Louisiana, just as
9 important as the Annual Plan, which is our
10 kind of funding authorization for the next
11 fiscal year.

12 In Fiscal Year '23, we have had a record-
13 breaking year of \$1.3 billion dollars, the
14 most revenue that we've had come into the
15 Coastal Program since it was created back in
16 2005, 2006. In Fiscal Year '24, we are going
17 to exceed that \$1.3 billion dollar mark, and
18 looking at an annual expenditure somewhere in
19 the neighborhood of about \$1.7 billion.

20 So Master Plan, again, long-term vision;
21 Annual Plan is going to be the immediate
22 priorities and the implementation sequencing
23 of projects over the next three years. It
24 provides a three year outlook on our revenues
25 and expenditures, so that's just as important

1 for you to comment. So you'll have the
2 opportunity to comment on both of those.

3 One of the things that I'm hoping is not
4 lost on the public is we spend a lot of time
5 in these meetings talking about the plan, the
6 vision, the opportunity that is in front of
7 the Coastal Program, but I hope you recognize
8 the progress that the Coastal Program has
9 made over the last several years.

10 Since 2007, we've secured close to \$30
11 billion dollars. We've restored over 70
12 miles of barrier islands; restored close to
13 60,000 acres of new land; and constructed
14 over 300 miles of levees. To put that into
15 perspective, 300 miles of levees is
16 approximately the distance of getting in your
17 car and driving from Baton Rouge to
18 Birmingham, Alabama.

19 And so there's been incredible progress
20 made. I think that there's a lot to be proud
21 of, but as we say in the Coastal Program, the
22 opportunity that is in front of the Coastal
23 Program because of the vision outline in the
24 Master Plan, because of the political will
25 and the necessary funding, we have an

1 opportunity in front of us that we will take
2 full advantage of.

3 And so before I turn it back over to Stu,
4 I do want to just thank the CPRA staff. I
5 know people start to roll their eyes when I
6 start thanking people who work in state
7 government, but sometimes I don't think I
8 even fully appreciate the amount of work that
9 it takes us to get to this point.

10 As I said earlier, as soon as the '17
11 Master Plan was approved by the legislature
12 -- by the way, unanimously approved. We've
13 never had a Master Plan with a "no" vote in
14 the legislature, which is unheard of in
15 Louisiana politics when you're talking about
16 prioritizing \$50 billion dollars.

17 But as soon as that plan was approved,
18 Stu and his team went to work on this plan,
19 and so there's just been an incredible amount
20 of work, and as I often say, I feel like the
21 CPRA staff represents the best of state
22 government, and I'm just really proud of the
23 team and the work that you all have done to
24 get us to this point.

25 And with that, I am going to turn over to

1 Stu, who's going to run through some slides
2 on the Master Plan, Annual Plan, and thank
3 you very much for being here.

4 STUART BROWN:

5 Alright. Thank you, Chip. I am Stuart
6 Brown. I manage the strategic planning
7 branch of CPRA, and we're responsible for the
8 development of the Coastal Master Plan.

9 Before we get started, just to add to
10 what Therese mentioned earlier, we are
11 accepting public comments through March 25.
12 There are four ways you can submit your
13 public comments: here in person -- Therese
14 outlined the comment cards to make a comment
15 into the microphone after this presentation.
16 You can also send public comments to
17 masterplan@la.gov. We ask that you post
18 "Public Comment" in the subject line to help
19 us sort through the emails.

20 We also, if you have questions for us,
21 you can also contact us there. We have a
22 form online that you can submit comments
23 through. You can access it through that QR
24 code, or you can access it through our
25 website. And lastly, again, mail comments to

1 the address here on the screen, and we'll
2 come back to this slide at the end of the
3 presentation.

4 So many of you all, I suspect, are
5 familiar with this, but just to set the stage
6 for kind of why you are here and why we have
7 a Master Plan, Coastal Louisiana has been
8 experiencing a land loss crisis for nearly a
9 century. We've lost almost 2,000 square
10 miles of coastal wetlands since 1932. There
11 are many causes for this land loss. Some of
12 these are natural processes you would expect
13 to see in the systems that we're living in,
14 but a lot of it is exacerbated by or caused
15 by human activity.

16 Land loss is, of course, significant from
17 a landscape and habitat perspective -- it
18 directly impacts the fisheries and wildlife
19 resources that depend on these wetlands. It,
20 of course, then impacts the jobs and
21 livelihoods that rely on these resources.
22 Land change also impacts industries like
23 agriculture, navigation, oil and gas -- the
24 industries that help make up a lot of the
25 economy of South Louisiana. And of course,

1 land loss also increases the flooding impacts
2 of hurricanes and tropical storms that affect
3 nearly all coastal communities. The Master
4 Plan is the guiding document to how we meet
5 these challenges.

6 So what is the Master Plan? At its core,
7 the Master Plan is a prioritization outline.
8 How can the State spend its money most cost-
9 effectively over the next 50 years to reduce
10 storm surge based flood risk, and build and
11 maintain coastal wetlands? Importantly, it
12 is not a program or a funding source. We'll
13 talk about some of those with the Annual Plan
14 in a little bit. Again, it is a
15 prioritization effort.

16 As money becomes available through these
17 different funding sources, these are the
18 projects that we want to pursue. As money
19 becomes available, these projects move into
20 feasibility studies, engineering and design,
21 and ultimately, construction.

22 Additionally, the Master Plan is
23 developed through a process that ensures
24 adaptive management. We're required to
25 update this plan every six years. This

1 process allows us to re-evaluate the tools
2 that we're using, allows us to incorporate
3 the best available science, and it allows us
4 to re-evaluate the process that we're using
5 to develop this plan. A lot of the changes
6 that we've made from 2017 now has been based
7 on feedback we got through the 2017 process,
8 and shortly after, that plan was completed.

9 It is built on world-class science and
10 engineering. It advances a comprehensive and
11 integrated approach to restoration and risk
12 reduction. It incorporates extensive public
13 input and review. And this last bullet point
14 is something that we are trying to emphasize
15 with this Master Plan, is that it illustrates
16 how people and communities will experience a
17 changing coast, and allow for preparation and
18 adaptation.

19 So we know that the coast 20 to 50 years
20 from now is going to look very different than
21 the coast we have today, whether we're a
22 hundred percent successful at implementing
23 these projects that we've identified, or not.
24 We also know that the project of having a
25 resilient coast is much bigger than the

1 restoration and risk reduction projects that
2 CPRA implements, though that is a big piece
3 of it.

4 The project of having a resilient coast
5 will be the result of countless decisions
6 made by individuals, communities, businesses,
7 local governments, all levels of government,
8 and we want to make sure that the information
9 that we produce as part of this plan is there
10 to help inform those individuals and entities
11 as they make those decisions about their
12 future in Coastal Louisiana.

13 So what's at stake? Our homes, our jobs,
14 and our culture. The goal is to have a
15 resilient coast in which people can continue
16 to live and work and take advantage of all
17 the things that make Coastal Louisiana so
18 economically, ecologically, and culturally
19 valuable.

20 So looking forward to this process, the
21 Plan was released on January 6. We will have
22 public comments open through March 25. We
23 are here at the first of four public hearings
24 we'll be having across the coast. Based on
25 that feedback we get through this process,

1 we'll be revising the draft plan and
2 submitting a revised plan to the CPRA Board
3 for approval on April 19, and the final plan
4 will be submitted to the legislature
5 following that approval.

6 So here, we get a general overview of the
7 process by which we identify and select
8 projects to be included in the Master Plan.
9 I know this is a busy figure. I think it's
10 on page five of the Plan if you want to dive
11 into it in any more detail, but the key for
12 right now is those titles at the top:
13 Projects, Modeling, and Prioritization. We
14 start with a suite of candidate projects, we
15 model those projects to try to understand how
16 it'll perform over time, and then we
17 prioritize the suite of projects that is most
18 beneficial in terms of reducing storm surge,
19 base flood risk, and building and maintaining
20 coastal wetlands.

21 So again, we start with a suite of
22 candidate projects. These come from past
23 plans; they come from public solicitations.
24 And for this Master Plan, we developed
25 regional work groups to spend time developing

1 new project concepts and also re-evaluate
2 some of the concepts that have been floating
3 around for years that perhaps had areas where
4 we could improve the project concept.

5 We then take those projects and we model
6 them. So we use an amalgam of models to
7 understand how the landscape is going to
8 change, how that changing landscape impacts
9 storm surge, and how future -- and the future
10 damages that storm surge based flooding will
11 cause.

12 So we model these projects to understand
13 how they'll perform over time under a range
14 of future environmental conditions, and we
15 compare those to a baseline in which we don't
16 implement the projects that we call "Our
17 Future without Action." So we're comparing
18 the impacts of our projects versus a future
19 in which we don't implement those projects,
20 and that's how we evaluate the benefits. And
21 then the final step is prioritization.

22 So the planning tool is really an
23 optimization equation, so the models give us
24 the benefits a project may have, or the
25 impacts a project may have, and the planning

1 tool is where we select the suite of projects
2 that give us the greatest impact in terms of,
3 again, building and maintaining coastal
4 wetlands and reducing storm surge based flood
5 risk. We also develop metrics based on model
6 outputs and community characteristics to
7 better understand how the changing coast and
8 the projects we're evaluating impact
9 different communities and different
10 resources.

11 In this section, I'll talk about some of
12 the improvements since the 2017 Plan. So
13 back to our diagram for a moment, this is
14 just to point out that the starting point for
15 this Master Plan is the previous Master Plan
16 -- master plans. We are building off of the
17 tools and processes used in previous plans,
18 but we're updating those based on advances in
19 the underlying science, as well as based on
20 feedback we received through the 2017 process
21 and through the development of this plan.

22 So we're going to step through some of
23 the examples of areas where we were able to
24 incorporate new or newly available data.
25 This is not an exhaustive list. There are

1 quite a few thousand pages of documentation
2 on our website to help talk about all of the
3 model improvements that we've been able to
4 incorporate, but here are a few examples.
5 One of those areas is in our storm suite.

6 So this is a synthetic -- a suite of
7 synthetic storms that we use to project
8 current and future exposure to flooding.
9 This was developed by the Army Corps. The
10 storm suite that we now have available to us
11 is a tremendous improvement over the previous
12 storm suite. In short, it has given us a
13 greater ability to project existing and
14 future storm surge.

15 Another area of improvement is in our
16 asset development. So the storm surge
17 modeling tells us what flood depths we may
18 see in the future. The asset database helps
19 tell us what will be damaged by that
20 flooding; what sort of risk we experience due
21 to flooding. And so there have been huge
22 advances in the availability and quality of
23 asset databases. Additionally, working with
24 one of our partners from Purdue University,
25 David Johnson, who put together a machine

1 learning algorithm to estimate the first
2 floor elevations of homes based on Google
3 Streetview imagery, so this represents a huge
4 improvement.

5 We previously had to make assumptions
6 about first floor elevations based on a
7 fairly limited number of surveys. Now, we
8 have much more precise information or
9 specific information on first floor
10 elevations, and of course, this makes a big
11 difference when we're trying to defend what
12 sort of damage a certain level of flooding
13 would cause.

14 This is another area that is very well
15 document elsewhere, and I'll have to get at a
16 really high level, but in addition to the new
17 data that's available, we also have been able
18 to reassess some of the assumptions we have
19 about the systems that we're modeling. And
20 so the Coastwide Reference Monitoring System
21 is a monitoring system that looks at
22 vegetation, hydrology, soils, and a number of
23 other variables. We now have 12, 15 years of
24 data in this data set that's allowed us to
25 reassess some of the fundamental assumptions

1 we had made about how wetlands respond to
2 certain stresses and how they potentially
3 recover from certain stresses, and this has
4 been able to be incorporated into our
5 modeling, and represents a really significant
6 improvement.

7 Another set of significant advances has
8 been in our understanding of environmental
9 drivers. When we're talking about
10 environmental drivers, some of these include
11 climate related drivers like temperature and
12 sea level rise, as well as things like
13 subsidence, which, of course, are not tied to
14 climate.

15 Despite these advancements, there remains
16 a fair amount of uncertainty because --
17 because of this amount of uncertainty, we
18 take a scenario approach to better understand
19 our range of possible future outcomes. So
20 you'll see in the Plan and in this
21 presentation, we'll talk about a lower
22 environment scenario and a higher
23 environmental scenario.

24 These are not meant to be precise
25 predictions of future conditions. They're

1 meant to help us understand a range of
2 possible futures and to test the projects
3 that we're evaluating against these future
4 conditions, and our goal is to select a suite
5 of projects that is robust, that will perform
6 well whether we realize a more severe future
7 condition -- future environmental condition,
8 or a more moderate future environmental
9 condition.

10 In addition to the data and incorporating
11 the best available science, we also have
12 improvements in our process. And as I
13 mentioned, a lot of this is based on feedback
14 from the 2017 process, and so one of the
15 things we have heard is that we needed to
16 take a more localized approach, a regional
17 approach. The problems at the Chenier Plain
18 are not the problems of Terrebonne, are not
19 the problems of the Northshore, and the
20 solutions for those areas are different as
21 well.

22 And so one of the steps was to develop
23 regional work groups. We have five regional
24 work groups across the coast. These serve,
25 as I mentioned earlier, to help develop new

1 project ideas. They also serve as a venue to
2 continue to communicate progress throughout
3 the plan, and they also serve as a venue
4 where we can hear and learn about region-
5 specific issues. And if you open the Plan,
6 you'll see about a full third of the Plan is
7 dedicated to these regional sections with
8 their own storylines about what is important
9 and what is at risk in these different areas
10 of the coast, and a lot of that came out of
11 these regional work groups.

12 Another process improvement is that we
13 developed a new risk metric -- the way that
14 we measure risk -- to try to better
15 understand and better address questions of
16 equity in our project selection process, and
17 this is called "Expected Annual Structure
18 Damage." You may have seen it in the
19 document or in the data viewer, and through
20 this presentation, we'll talk about both
21 expected annual structure damage and expected
22 annual damage in dollars, which is a more
23 traditional dollar value of future damages.

24 Another process improvement we touched on
25 briefly is that we are selecting projects

1 across a range of potential future outcomes
2 for this plan. So rather than pinning our
3 plan to a single projection of future
4 conditions, we're trying to select projects
5 that will effective, again, whether we
6 realize more severe future environmental
7 conditions, or more moderate future
8 environmental conditions.

9 And lastly, the previous improvements
10 we've been talking about have largely been
11 focused around the process we use to select
12 projects. We also have what we're calling
13 exploratory analysis, which are kind of one-
14 off modeling efforts. They're not related to
15 the project selection process, but are really
16 there to help illustrate how the coast is
17 going to change, perhaps in ways that folks
18 may understand better than when we talk about
19 the somewhat abstract metrics changing by a
20 percentage.

21 And so there are a number of examples of
22 this that are written up in the Plan in those
23 regional sections, but one example is the
24 high tide flooding analysis that we did for a
25 handful of communities. So high tide

1 flooding, we're talking about flooding that
2 you may see from kind of normal weather
3 events -- not tropical storms, not hurricanes
4 -- and there are areas of our coast that are
5 currently at risk of high tide flooding.

6 There are areas of our coast that are
7 likely to be at risk of high tide flooding in
8 the future, and so we've identified a handful
9 of communities. We've identified key places
10 in those communities to try to understand,
11 one, how -- what exposure do they have to
12 high tide flooding now; what exposure will
13 they have to high tide flooding 25 years from
14 now; and what exposure to high tide flooding
15 might they have 50 years from now.

16 So the 2023 Master Plan, like the 2017
17 Plan, this is a 50-year, \$50 billion dollar
18 plan. We've identified 61 restoration
19 projects, 12 structural risk reduction
20 projects, and \$11 billion dollars as
21 identified for non-structural risk reduction
22 projects -- and by non-structural, we're
23 talking about elevating homes, flood proofing
24 businesses, and the voluntary acquisition in
25 areas that are exposed to really high levels

1 of flooding.

2 So a few highlights from the restoration
3 projects. We've identified \$2.7 billion
4 dollars in new diversions. We say "new
5 diversions" because, importantly, some of the
6 diversions that, perhaps, you've seen in the
7 news recently -- the Mid-Barataria Sediment
8 Diversion, the Mid-Breton Sediment Diversion,
9 and the river reintroduction into Maurepas
10 Swamp are considered in our baseline in our
11 future without action.

12 These projects have identified funding
13 sources. They're far enough along in the
14 process that we are going to assume that they
15 will be in the landscape because we want to
16 select additional projects that will work
17 synergistically with those projects, that
18 won't have negative interactions with those
19 projects.

20 Another highlight, we are identifying
21 over \$19 billion dollars in dredging projects
22 -- dedicated dredging, marsh creation,
23 barrier islands remains a huge part of our
24 restoration program. In this case, nearly
25 four-fifths of the total budget is allocated

1 to dredging projects.

2 And in the last bullet point, we've also
3 identified a handful of project types that,
4 for various reasons, don't really fit into
5 our prioritization framework, and these are
6 projects that are best evaluated on a case by
7 case basis, but we want to set aside funding
8 to illustrate the importance of them and the
9 continued investment that we intend to have
10 in those projects. And so barrier islands
11 are a type of project that CPRA has a Barrier
12 Island Sediment Management Program that is
13 set up to prioritize on a different time
14 scale and spatial scale than the Master Plan
15 operates.

16 Similarly, the small scale hydrologic
17 restoration, oyster reef restoration,
18 shoreline and protection projects -- these
19 are effective projects, typically on a
20 smaller scale than the types of projects that
21 we evaluate through the Master Plan, and
22 these are projects that are best evaluated
23 and prioritized through programs that exist,
24 like the Restoration Partnership Fund, like
25 CWPPRA, like the Parish Matching Program.

1 And so what the Master Plan, the
2 restoration projects deliver: 314 square
3 miles of land is built or maintained that
4 otherwise would be lost in year 50 under our
5 lower scenario. Under our higher scenario,
6 that's 233 square miles, though we do see
7 greater benefit in year 40. Though some of
8 the projects that are identified and put on
9 the landscape early in the process are unable
10 to keep up with sea level rise and higher
11 rates of subsidence in that higher scenario,
12 and that's why you see that dip between year
13 40 and year 50.

14 So this is our lower scenario at year 10,
15 20, 30, 40, and 50, and now we're going to
16 switch to the higher scenario at year 10, 20,
17 30, 40, and 50. I should have mentioned this
18 before, but the blues are our land change --
19 the land that is lost to divergence to open
20 water; the greens are land that is built to
21 maintain.

22 With risk reduction, we've identified 12
23 structural risk reduction projects for a cost
24 of about \$14 billion dollars. We've also
25 identified \$11.2 billion dollars of the

1 Master Plan budget that is best allocated
2 towards non-structural risk reduction. So
3 that's to say of the \$25 billion dollars, our
4 analysis suggests that \$11.2 billion of that
5 is best invested in non-structural risk
6 reduction.

7 In this Master Plan, we are not
8 identifying specific communities as being in
9 the Master Plan or not in the Master Plan for
10 non-structural risk reduction. This is
11 largely due to the scale in which we're
12 evaluating these projects -- which is a
13 community scale -- and the scale in which we
14 typically implement it, which is usually a
15 case by -- a structure by structure basis, or
16 sometimes a street.

17 But within the scale that we're
18 evaluating a community like maybe, say,
19 Mandeville, there may be really good
20 investments for non-structural; there may be
21 not so good investments for non-structural.
22 And by potentially selecting or not selecting
23 the project, we may include certain areas
24 from having access to non-structural funding.
25 We don't want to do that, so we have not

1 identified specific projects as in or out.

2 But what we do have is a lot of
3 information on the amount of risk in these
4 communities, the amount of risk that could be
5 brought down through different non-structural
6 interventions, as well as information on the
7 residual risk if you were to include them
8 under the current structural measures, and
9 that can serve as a starting point for people
10 who are interested in potentially evaluating
11 these alternatives, or people who are
12 interested in trying to solicit funding for
13 non-structural projects.

14 So these are future with action flood
15 depths, one of the maps on the side there.
16 These are one percent annual exceedance
17 probability flood depths. With the plan, you
18 see that fairly sharp change in colors where
19 you have the projects -- the structural
20 projects with much lower flood depths behind
21 the structural protection projects. And this
22 is the difference between the future with and
23 future without, and so you see decreased
24 flood depths behind those structures; you see
25 increased flood depths in front of those

1 structures. That is the water tends to stack
2 up against those structures when you put them
3 in.

4 You also see some reduction in flood
5 depths in the Chenier Plain. That's not tied
6 to structural protection. That is the result
7 of restoration projects that we put in, so
8 that illustrates that these restoration
9 projects do have an impact on storm surge.
10 And this is what it looks like in terms of
11 the change in risk, and so the blues and
12 greens are reductions in risk. We see that
13 signature behind the structural projects, and
14 we also see that signature out in the Lake
15 Charles -- barrier Lake Charles area where
16 those restoration projects do have an impact
17 on reducing storm surge and risk compared to
18 a future without action.

19 And so to summarize the risk reduction,
20 compared to a future without action, fully
21 implementing the plan could result in a 70
22 percent reduction of risk under our lowest
23 scenario, and a 60 percent reduction in risk
24 under the higher environmental scenario, as
25 measured in expected annual damage in

1 dollars. If we're measuring that in the
2 expected annual structure damage, it shows a
3 similar effect, reducing coast-wide risk by
4 around 78 percent under the lower scenario
5 and 65 percent under the higher scenario.

6 So this is an annual reduction in
7 expected annual damage in dollars in year 50
8 of \$10.8 billion dollars under the lower
9 scenario, and \$14.6 billion dollars under the
10 higher scenario. So this level of investment
11 could mean that in 50 years, under our lower
12 environmental scenario, Louisiana has less
13 flood risk from hurricanes and tropical
14 storms than we do today.

15 So to come full circle, where we are
16 today, we are asking for public comments on
17 this draft plan. We will incorporate those
18 comments into our final plan, which we will
19 seek board -- the CPRA Board to approve on
20 April 19, and then submit the final plan to
21 the legislature shortly after. And these,
22 again, are the four ways that you can help
23 with public comment and submit it to the
24 record. And with that, I'm going to turn it
25 over to Therese.

1 **THERESE WALKER:**

2 Very good. Thanks, Stu. So we'll now
3 move into the public comment portion, and I
4 went through this earlier, but we'll go
5 through it again. If you would like to speak
6 a comment, you have a green card that says
7 "statement card" at the top. Go fill that
8 out with just your name, address, city, ZIP,
9 and turn that in to a CPRA staff member.
10 There's a bunch of us around the room, so go
11 ahead and turn that in.

12 We'll take them here for the next two
13 minutes, and then we'll go through those in
14 the order we receive them. You'll speak your
15 comment here into the microphone over to my
16 left, and a court reporter will just note and
17 document the comment for you. That will be
18 entered into the official record.

19 To be clear, too, this is just for the
20 Master Plan. We will -- after we finish up
21 here, we'll move into the Annual Plan and
22 take comments there. So this is just Master
23 Plan public comments. Go ahead and fill out
24 the statement cards, and you can hand those
25 in to any CPRA person around the room.

1 If you would like to submit a written
2 comment and not speak at the microphone, you
3 can do that anytime between now and when you
4 leave. There are comment cards that you can
5 see there's space to write in. Write those
6 and drop them off at the door when you leave.
7 So we'll take a couple minutes here to give
8 everybody a chance to turn in statement
9 cards.

10 And while we're doing that, if you decide
11 you don't want to provide comment today, we
12 are taking them until the 25th. I know Stu
13 said this a couple times, but just to go
14 through it again, there's plenty other ways
15 to submit a comment other than today.

16 BREN HAASE:

17 The 25th of March.

18 THERESE WALKER:

19 The 25th of March, sorry. We'll give
20 everybody one more minute here, and then
21 we'll get rolling, so make sure you turn in a
22 statement card if you'd like to speak a
23 comment. Any statement cards? If you want
24 to speak, fill out a statement card and you
25 can turn it in now.

1 Okay, looks like we just have one.

2 KEESLER MORRISON:

3 Last call. You can grab one here and
4 fill it out.

5 THERESE WALKER:

6 Okay. Mr. Doug Daigle, if you can come
7 to the front microphone here on my left.
8 You'll just have to speak your name into the
9 microphone, and then you can leave your
10 statement.

11 DOUG DAIGLE:

12 Thank you. Doug Daigle. I'm the
13 coordinator of the Louisiana Hypoxia Working
14 Group. So I had a question, having just kind
15 of skimmed through it quickly. The 2012 and
16 2017 versions of the Master Plan both
17 included the Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan in
18 their future, you know, and this one doesn't
19 seem to, so just had a question about that.

20 You know, it has something that didn't
21 exist in the previous plan, which is the
22 Louisiana Watershed Initiative, but the
23 Hypoxia Action Plan is still going on and the
24 state's still part of it, so anyway. Just
25 posing a question about that.

1 **THERESE WALKER:**

2 Alright, thank you.

3 **BREN HAASE:**

4 I'm going to comment. We don't typically
5 respond to public comment, but Doug, that's a
6 good comment, and I think you will see
7 reference to that in the Beyond the Master
8 Plan portion of the draft that you see now,
9 in a file. Appreciate the comment.

10 **THERESE WALKER:**

11 Okay. That's all we got, so we'll roll
12 in now to the Annual Plan presentation. Bren
13 Haase, the executive director, is going to
14 walk you through the Fiscal Year 2024 Annual
15 Plan, so this one outlines our spending plan
16 for the next fiscal year. Same process here:
17 we'll go through a presentation, and then do
18 a public comment period. So if you want to
19 submit a -- speak a written -- I mean, I'm
20 sorry -- a spoken comment, you'll fill out a
21 blue statement card, so those are around the
22 room as well.

23 **BREN HAASE:**

24 Alright, Therese. Thank you. I
25 appreciate that, and thanks to all of you for

1 being here this evening. We've had a number
2 of these meetings across the coast already,
3 and one of the things I've been able to say
4 is that I didn't see a lot of familiar faces
5 at those meetings, and that's really a good
6 thing. It means some new people are coming
7 into the Coastal Program and getting
8 involved, and I can say that here this
9 evening.

10 I see a lot of new faces. I see some
11 young faces in particular. I want to thank
12 you for being here and being involved in
13 Louisiana's Coastal Program. I'd be remiss,
14 though, if I didn't say there are a lot of --
15 and I'm going to go ahead and say it -- old
16 faces in the room as well. Folks like me
17 that have been around for a little while;
18 folks that have been involved in the Master
19 Planning process from the get-go, and have
20 laid the foundation for Louisiana's Coastal
21 Program through the Master Plan and the
22 Annual Plan that I'm going to talk with you
23 about here in a bit. And so to those folks,
24 I want to say thank you as well.

25 Chip, you know, mentioned that we're

1 going to talk Master Plan and Annual Plan,
2 and that can be a little confusing at times.
3 I just want to kind of reiterate: the Master
4 Plan really is kind of a high level, longer
5 term, "Let's set the vision for our coast and
6 the things that we think are the priorities
7 for the coast."

8 The Annual Plan that I'm going to talk
9 with you about really takes it down a little
10 bit into another level, and really gets into
11 the details of, "Okay. Out of that Master
12 Plan, what are the things that we're really
13 going to do? What are the things that we're
14 going to do in the next fiscal year; what are
15 the things that we plan to do in the next
16 three fiscal years?" And so that's what I'm
17 going to talk to y'all about here today --
18 our Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Plan.

19 As it's been mentioned before -- you've
20 heard this a lot already, but public comment
21 cards are the blue cards in the back. If
22 you'd like to make comments today, please
23 fill one of those out just so we can identify
24 you, but we'll take your comments through
25 March 25 as well, both written comments and

1 verbal comments at the three subsequent
2 meetings that we'll have in addition to this
3 one as well. So you can see the information
4 there related to making those comments.

5 The time line -- we already talked a
6 little bit about that, but we're essentially
7 on the same time line as the Master Plan.
8 We'll be presenting a final Annual Plan to
9 the board on April 19, and then ultimately
10 submit that to the legislature in April of
11 this year for consideration and approval.

12 So when we're talking about what we want
13 to do in a given fiscal year, we want to talk
14 about what we think our revenues are going to
15 be and what our expenditures are going to be,
16 and so you see here a list of what we think
17 the money coming to the Coastal Program might
18 be in the upcoming fiscal year, and we're
19 asking -- essentially asking the legislature
20 for the authorization to expend those funds
21 on the projects that you'll see listed in our
22 Annual Plan.

23 The first three -- or first really --
24 well, let me back up. The first category of
25 funding you see there is related to royalty

1 sharing of offshore oil and gas production.
2 The next three categories you see are the
3 NRDA, the NFWF, and Restore are related to BP
4 Oil Spill funding that are part of the
5 settlement associated with that -- not
6 natural disaster; that manmade disaster. You
7 see a CWPPRA funding category there that is
8 related to a federal program where federal
9 funds come into the state that are matched by
10 the state for restoration, and you see some
11 other state funds there as well.

12 So we anticipate expending all the
13 revenues that'll be coming to the state in
14 this upcoming fiscal year, and that totals to
15 about \$1.7 billion dollars, so another
16 record-breaking year if all those funds come
17 to the state and we get to expend all of
18 those this upcoming year.

19 One of the things we're proud of is that
20 about 85 percent of those funds are
21 anticipated to be spent on construction, so
22 building projects and getting those projects
23 on the ground, and you can see some of the
24 other categories there. They're relatively
25 minor in comparison, of course, but we

1 operate and maintain our projects and monitor
2 those projects. We don't just build them and
3 walk away from them; right? There are
4 ongoing programs and initiatives. Some of
5 the things that Stu mentioned earlier -- our
6 comprehensive monitoring program, some of our
7 adaptive measure programs, and things --
8 obviously have operating costs, and then we
9 also plan, of course, engineering and design
10 projects to get those into the construction
11 pipeline.

12 So I mentioned this isn't just a forecast
13 of the next fiscal year. It also looks two
14 additional years into the future, so if you
15 look out at FY25 and FY26, respectively, you
16 see that while we don't -- we're not
17 expecting to hit that \$1.7 billion dollar
18 range. We still are over the \$1 billion
19 dollar range, which is kind of where we need
20 to be with the 50 year, \$50 billion dollar
21 plan; right?

22 And so again, you notice that the dollars
23 that are being expended on construction are
24 increasing for the next year, and then in
25 that sort of high 80s range for FY26 as well,

1 so that's good news for getting projects on
2 the ground.

3 So the Annual Plan by the numbers, just
4 to -- you'll see some of these here. I
5 mentioned \$1.5 billion dollars allocated for
6 construction. That includes 20 dredging
7 projects, a large portion of what we intend
8 to do in the future. We talk a lot about our
9 diversions -- river diversions. Those are
10 very, very important to the Coastal Program.
11 Obviously, dredging is a huge component to
12 the Coastal Program as well.

13 20 of the projects in the upcoming fiscal
14 year, we anticipate will be dredging
15 projects. We'll dredge about 73.5 million
16 cubic yards of material. That's close to 30
17 Superdomes worth of material. That's a lot
18 of dirt, if you will, being moved around the
19 coast. Those will benefit about 14.5
20 thousand acres of our coastal wetlands.

21 We'll have about 118 projects active in
22 the upcoming fiscal year, and if you think
23 about the level of investment that we're
24 talking about -- \$1.7 billion dollars over a
25 year -- that will result in a little over

1 10,000 direct jobs, so a significant driver
2 in the economy across our coast is, indeed,
3 in the state.

4 So getting into some of the specifics and
5 what we plan to do where, we're going to
6 start in the southwestern portion of the
7 state in the southwest region. We'll have 15
8 active projects -- 9 projects of
9 construction, and 6 of those projects in
10 engineering and design. And so you see
11 projects like the Cameron Gulf Shoreline
12 Project that would be extending the Southwest
13 Coastal Louisiana Project, the federal
14 project that we'll cost share with the Corps
15 of Engineers on to implement some significant
16 non-structural features in that area, and the
17 Long Point Bayou Marsh Creation Project in
18 this portion of the state.

19 Moving further to the east to the south
20 central region of the state, we anticipate 41
21 projects being active in this fiscal year --
22 26 of those in construction, 14 in
23 engineering and design, and a project in
24 planning, and those include projects like the
25 West Fourchon Marsh Creation Project,

1 Morganza to the Gulf, Larose to Golden Meadow
2 Project. Those are risk reduction projects,
3 levee projects in the central portion of our
4 state that we saw perform quite well during
5 Hurricane Ida two years ago. The Houma
6 Navigation Canal Lock Complex Project and the
7 Grand Bayou Pump Station Project, just to
8 name a few.

9 Moving again further to the east to the
10 southeast region of the state, we anticipate
11 62 active projects. 45 of those will be in
12 construction in this upcoming fiscal year, 16
13 in engineering and design, and another
14 project in planning in this region as well.
15 So projects in the Lafitte area, like the
16 Paillet Basin Tidal Protection Project, the
17 West Shore Lake Pontchartrain Project that
18 some of you may have heard of that is under
19 construction now, and the large-scale
20 Barataria Marsh Creation Project that's being
21 lead by our friends and partners at NOAA.

22 Some other projects in the region that
23 I'll mention are the Lake Borgne Marsh
24 Creation Project, one of the largest -- not
25 one of, the largest marsh creation project

1 that has ever been built by CPRA --
2 reintroduction of Maurepas Swamp, and the
3 Ludvine Pump Station, just to name a few of
4 those.

5 So as part of our Annual Plan, we also
6 develop an Annual Plan for the Atchafalaya
7 Basin Program. So the Atchafalaya Basin
8 Program was moved under CPRA's purview by the
9 legislature in 2018. There will be two
10 Atchafalaya Basin Program specific public
11 meetings similar to this, and so more to come
12 on those. They will be in the upcoming weeks
13 and will be specific, again, to the
14 Atchafalaya Basin Program, but I certainly
15 wanted to touch on it as an important part of
16 -- becoming a more important part certainly
17 of our program.

18 The Atchafalaya Basin is connected to our
19 coast. The knee bone is connected to the leg
20 bone, if you will, so all these things are
21 interconnected. But some of the projects
22 that are anticipated this year for the
23 Atchafalaya Basin Program include proposed
24 dredging in Big Bayou Pigeon near its
25 intersection with Little Pigeon and on down

1 Big Pigeon a ways; the Grimmer Canal
2 Improvements Project; Point Coupee Water Flow
3 and Water Quality Improvements Project. The
4 Henderson Lake Water Management Project is
5 nearly going to bid. It's been designed and
6 we're getting ready to start construction on
7 that project. Happy to announce that. The
8 Murphy Lake Depth Restoration Project is also
9 underway. There's some geo-technical
10 engineering, preliminary engineering that's
11 being done on that project, and the East
12 Grand Lake Upper Region Project is in
13 permitting at the moment.

14 Some other projects include the BSA Swamp
15 Base Camp Project, Sand Cover Boat Launch
16 Project, Cajun Coast Welcome Center Trail
17 Project, improvements to the boat launch in
18 Bayou Pigeon, and then something that hasn't
19 been done for some time is an update. We're
20 talking about Annual Plan, right, and the
21 coastal Master Plan. Well, the Atchafalaya
22 Basin Program has a master plan as well and
23 we anticipate redoing that. It hasn't been
24 done in nearly 30 years? 20 years? 20, 25
25 years -- something along those lines -- and

1 so we anticipate updating that master plan in
2 this coming fiscal year as well.

3 So much like the Master Plan, we have a
4 viewer available to folks. You can access
5 that viewer at AP24.coastal.la.gov. You can
6 get -- there's some nice resources there
7 related to some projects that have been built
8 or being planned in the future: videos, press
9 clippings, news articles, and project
10 information associated with that -- those
11 projects as well. So I encourage you to go
12 there and take a look and a little bit of a
13 deeper dive into the Annual Plan. Of course,
14 the document is there as well for your review
15 and to view as well.

16 So we will move on. I'm going to turn it
17 back over to T. We'll move back in to our
18 public comment period. I did want to say
19 that anybody that you see around the room
20 that's got a nametag like this is associated
21 -- either works for CPRA, or is working with
22 us on this. And so we understand a lot of
23 times, maybe folks don't want to get up or
24 ask a question, you know, in public, but
25 we'll be here as long as we need to be here

1 tonight to talk with you about either the
2 Annual Plan, the Atchafalaya Basin Program
3 Annual Plan, or the Master Plan.

4 So we'll sort of move into kind of the
5 formal public comment period, but I just
6 wanted to let folks know that we're around.
7 If you have a question or a comment, we're
8 happy to have a one-on-one conversation with
9 you as well. So I want to thank everybody
10 again for coming out tonight, and I'll turn
11 it back over to Therese.

12 THERESE WALKER:

13 Alright. So same thing as last time: if
14 you would like to submit a formal written
15 comment on the Annual Plan, you'll turn in a
16 blue statement card. The team around the
17 room has those cards as well. We'll take
18 those for a couple of minutes here, and then
19 anyone who's submitted one can go ahead and
20 come up to the mic. Otherwise, we've got
21 comment cards for the Annual Plan separate
22 from the Master Plan that you can write and
23 submit as well. I'll give everybody a minute
24 or two.

25 Okay, one more minute here. If anybody

1 else has a statement card, go ahead and hold
2 it up. If you need one, we can get you one.
3 Okay, we'll go ahead and start with Mr. Dean
4 Wilson. You want to go up to the microphone
5 there, state your name for the Record, and
6 then you can go ahead and leave your
7 statement.

8 DEAN WILSON:

9 My name is Dean Wilson. I work for
10 Atchafalaya Basin Keeper. I'm the executive
11 director. I want to make a couple of
12 comments about the Atchafalaya Annual Plan
13 for 2024. One is the dredge Bayou Pigeon
14 Project. I didn't have time because I just
15 found out about this meeting yesterday to
16 really review it. It's my understanding that
17 you want to dredge Bayou Pigeon, Big Bayou
18 Pigeon, and deposit the dredge material on
19 the side that would create these poor banks.

20 If that's the case, that would be
21 catastrophic for the area. There's an EPA
22 report that, you know, it was built in 1979
23 in response to federal mandates that talks
24 about detriment or dredging, and disposing of
25 the dredge material on the sides of bayous

1 that would limit people's access and the fish
2 access to the wetlands. Also, it will cause
3 river backflowing, and it will be very
4 devastating for the area. So part of our
5 comment will be -- that will be to either put
6 that dredge material in a hill, or remove it
7 from the Atchafalaya Basin altogether.

8 The other one is the East Grand Bay
9 Project, which is, as you know, a new river
10 diversion to create wetlands and to create
11 land. That's what it is -- it's a sediment
12 diversion project. It's a total of 12 cuts
13 to use river water through the sand and silt
14 directing to the swamps. That will fill up
15 those areas. You know, that happened in
16 Buffalo Cove. We lost too, too much wetlands
17 on another so-called wetlands project. It
18 happened in Cow Bayou.

19 And you're going to fill those wetlands
20 up and the Atchafalaya Basin full capacity is
21 very important not only as a natural habitat
22 for birds and other animals, but also you're
23 destroying the flood capacity that we need to
24 protect all the way Baton Rouge to New
25 Orleans with your plans. You know, floods

1 can go all the way to Lafayette. That means
2 humans cannot safely survive in South Central
3 Louisiana if you don't have a deep
4 Atchafalaya Basin to contain a major flood if
5 you have diverted from -- there are 140 miles
6 from the Basin all the way to the Gulf.

7 That's the reason you put the levees back
8 in to much support leverage is because you
9 need flood capacity, and you're destroying
10 the flood capacity from the Atchafalaya
11 Basin. So we and other groups call the
12 Atchafalaya Basin Coalition have a very
13 strong opposition to that project. Thank
14 you.

15 THERESE WALKER:

16 Thank you for your comment. We've got
17 one more from Mr. Dan --

18 BREN HAASE:

19 Kroes.

20 THERESE WALKER:

21 Kroes, there you go.

22 DAN KROES:

23 Hello. I'm Dan Kroes from the US
24 Geological Survey. I just wanted to say
25 thank y'all for all the hard work you guys

1 have done, and I'm looking forward to seeing
2 these projects get started and be completed.

3 Thank you.

4 BREN HAASE:

5 Thanks.

6 THERESE WALKER:

7 Thank you for your comment. I'll put it
8 back on this slide just so everybody can see
9 the other options to submit comments tonight.
10 You're free to fill out a comment card before
11 you leave, or you can submit those via email,
12 mail, online. We've got some computers in
13 the back of the room if you'd rather type it,
14 so if you want to make a comment before you
15 leave, grab anybody from CPRA and they'll
16 help you with that, or if you have questions,
17 we'll be around here for a little while
18 after.

19 That concludes all of our presentations
20 for tonight, so thank y'all for coming.

21 (The Public Hearing concluded at 6:22 p.m.)
22
23
24
25

REPORTER'S PAGE

I, Jenna Limjuco, Certified Court
Reporter in and for the State of Louisiana,
before whom this sworn testimony was taken,
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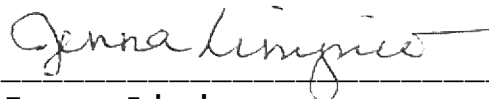
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11 IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have affixed my official
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13 Louisiana.

14
15 

16 Jenna Limjuco
17 Louisiana Certificate No. 2018004





Transcript of the Testimony of
CPRA Public Meeting - Houma,

Date: February 2, 2023

Case: CPRA Public Meeting - Houma

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IN THE MATTER OF:

STATE OF LOUISIANA COASTAL PROTECTION & RESTORATION
AUTHORITY

* * * * *

BATON ROUGE MEETING FOR MASTER PLAN & ANNUAL PLAN

JANUARY 31, 2023

* * * * *

The CPRA Meeting for MASTER PLAN & ANNUAL
PLAN, taken in connection with the above captioned
matter at Houma Municipal Auditorium, 880 Verret
Street, Houma, Louisiana 70360, on Thursday, February
2, 2023 at 5:34 p.m.

Reported by:

Jenna Limjuco, BA-CCR
Certified Court Reporter
#2018004

APPEARANCES:

Therese Walker

Stuart Brown

Bren Haase

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1 **THERESE WALKER:**

2 Thank y'all for coming out tonight. My
3 name is Therese Walker. I am with the
4 outreach team at CPRA, so we'll do a couple
5 of brief intros here, and then we'll go on
6 and get started.

7 So first, we're going to hear from
8 President Gordon Dove.

9 **GORDON DOVE:**

10 On behalf of Terrebonne Parish, I'd like
11 to welcome the CPRA here. I've worked with
12 the CPRA from their inception, and Terrebonne
13 Parish is really moving forward. The State
14 of Louisiana is moving forward, and I want to
15 thank Bren Haase and his group, and Chip
16 Kline -- who's not here -- and his group, and
17 everyone. You know, when it was created back
18 in about '07 or '08, who'd ever thought it'd
19 be so successful?

20 I mean, you know, we're winning the fight
21 on coastal loss and hurricane protection,
22 which was -- Terrebonne Parish, as we know,
23 went from 11,000 homes flooded for Rita in
24 '05 to 9 in 2019 with Barry, thanks to the
25 CPRA, thanks to the people of Terrebonne

1 Parish who put up a three-quarter percent
2 sales tax to build levees here. Of course,
3 the State of Louisiana lent plenty of money.

4 You know, it's so important to keep the
5 drive going, and the Annual Plan -- I've been
6 a part of it for the last -- since its
7 inception, I believe, in '08 when they
8 started CPRA, and it's come a long way from
9 Garrett Graves to Jerome Zeringue to Chip
10 Kline, Bren Haase, and the whole group.

11 You know, we saw -- we saw Ida come in
12 with a reverse hit, and so we learned a whole
13 new field of knowledge on what exactly a
14 reverse hit would be in Terrebonne Parish, so
15 we're trying to everything that happened with
16 that, but you know, with 98 miles of levee,
17 Morganza to the Gulf at a plus-12 to 15 feet,
18 with 13 floodgates at a plus-18, Terrebonne
19 Parish itself has built 30 pump stations in
20 the last seven years, two lock systems -- we
21 have a lock system on the -- a \$360 million
22 dollar lock system that's under construction.

23 Reggie Dupre, Tony Alford, and the Levee
24 Board has done a wonderful job, but the
25 people of Terrebonne Parish thank y'all for

1 coming. It's so important that we keep up
2 this fight and, you know, that we make
3 Terrebonne and Lafourche -- which works in
4 conjunction -- and I see Representative
5 Orgeron, who just came in. We welcome him,
6 and he's doing a great job in Baton Rouge for
7 Lafourche and Terrebonne, because Morganza is
8 part of both parishes.

9 But we still have a long way to go. You
10 know, there's a lot of money spent on barrier
11 islands, which they're going to show you
12 tonight. I mean, it's hundreds of millions
13 dollars spent on barrier island and we still
14 have a long way to go with barrier islands,
15 but thank y'all for coming.

16 The weather -- bad weather, but y'all
17 came in and I see a lot of regular faces that
18 make all these meetings. It is so important
19 because Terrebonne Parish is committed, the
20 State of Louisiana is committed, and now we
21 have about \$400 million dollars from the
22 Corps of Engineers.

23 We finally got the Corps of Engineers --
24 after about 20 years, they finally committed,
25 and you know, I want to thank Nick Dauzat in

1 the back, who is the project engineer for
2 Morganza. He's done a great job, and the
3 Morganza Coalition -- Jay Walker and Henri
4 Boulet.

5 I see Reggie Dupre back here, and then I
6 just mentioned Tony Alford, so thank y'all.
7 Thank y'all for coming, and I thank the CPRA
8 because we'll still be asking for a lot more
9 money, Bren. Believe it or not, they very
10 seldom say no, but they do say no every now
11 and then, though. So thank you, Bren, and
12 thanks everyone for coming.

13 And also, Mart Black with Terrebonne
14 Parish, and Alvin Tillman with the council.
15 I want to thank them for coming, and everyone
16 for -- I don't know if I missed any of the
17 elected officials. If I did, I apologize.
18 Thank y'all, and God bless the State of
19 Louisiana, Terrebonne Parish, and God bless
20 our veterans. Thank you.

21 BREN HAASE:

22 Thank you for that, President Dove. I
23 really appreciate the introduction, and I
24 will second my welcome to all of you.
25 Special thanks to those elected officials

1 that are here with us. I can assure you all
2 that live in the Bayou Region, you are well
3 represented. This is an engaged group of
4 representatives for you.

5 So this is a big night. This is a big
6 night. I know this was maybe, you know, a
7 public meeting. We're from the government;
8 we're here to talk to you. Might not sound
9 exciting, but I think we've got some really
10 good news to share with y'all tonight. A lot
11 of good projects, a lot of successes to be
12 shared as well within this region, but we're
13 here to talk to you about, really, three
14 things.

15 First is our coastal Master Plan. This
16 is a plan that's been a long time in the
17 making -- six years, to be exact. We had a
18 master plan released in 2017. We have been
19 working on this draft basically since the ink
20 was dry on the other plan, to get ready for
21 this moment right here at the beginning of
22 this year, so I want to thank you all who
23 have been involved in developing this.

24 There are lots and lots and lots of
25 fingerprints on this document, on this

1 process. People have volunteered their time,
2 made requests and suggestions related to
3 projects, given us input, challenged us when
4 we need to be challenged. There's been a
5 lot, a lot of input, so I want to thank you
6 all for that.

7 I want to -- I want to also take just a
8 minute to thank the CPRA staff. Anybody that
9 you see here today that has a nametag on like
10 this works for CPRA, and they've put blood,
11 sweat, and tears into what we're about to
12 present with you here today. So I want to
13 thank Stu Brown. I want to thank all of the
14 staff that -- on his team that have helped to
15 develop the plan that we'll present to you
16 today.

17 Also, we're going to talk with you about
18 an Annual Plan. So Master Plan's kind of a
19 high level, longer term look, and I can tell
20 you that the Master Plan we'll present to you
21 today will result in hundreds of acres of
22 coastal marsh, coastal wetlands being present
23 over a 50-year period that otherwise wouldn't
24 be here -- land we would have lost. We know
25 how that affects us. It also has the ability

1 to significantly reduce risk to all of our
2 coastal communities, which we've experienced
3 tremendously over the last several years, as
4 you all are more well aware, certainly, than
5 I am.

6 But we'll be talking with you also about
7 our Annual Plan, which veers off of the
8 Master Plan. It really is the expectation
9 for those projects that we think we're going
10 to advance and build in the next fiscal year,
11 and about a three-year outlook. So it veers
12 off and takes projects, essentially, from the
13 Master Plan and explains to the public, and
14 it's a plan for us on how we're going to
15 commit those projects.

16 Again, I want to thank you all for being
17 here. I want to thank you for your input.
18 We are here to hear from you. I know we're
19 going to be presenting a lot, but the reason
20 the Coastal Program has really been as
21 successful as it has been -- and I think it
22 has been.

23 I'm a little biased, but I think it's
24 been successful over the last 15 years or so
25 because of people like you who come to

1 meetings like this and provide feedback to
2 us. You challenge us when we need to be
3 challenged, and you give us "atta boys" when
4 we do well, and those things have made us
5 better and mad this program better, not just
6 for CPRA, but for all the citizens of Coastal
7 Louisiana.

8 And lastly, I just want to mention, you
9 know, we're going to talk a lot about plans
10 and things that we intend to do in the
11 future, but I hope you all recognize that
12 these presentations that we're doing, the
13 plans that we develop have resulted in real
14 progress along our coast.

15 Because we have had a master plan in
16 place for the last 15 years or so, and
17 because we plan annually for implementing
18 projects, we've been able to secure over \$20
19 billion dollars for Coastal Louisiana. A
20 good portion of that money has been expended
21 right here in the Bayou Region for some of
22 the projects that the president mentioned
23 earlier.

24 About 60 miles of our barrier islands
25 have been restored. Many of those have been

1 in Terrebonne and Lafourche Parishes here in
2 the Bayou Region. About 300 miles of levees
3 have either been approved or have been built.
4 We all know, certainly, the importance of
5 levees. We're behind levees here this
6 evening. Y'all don't need to be reminded of
7 that. And over 16,000 -- excuse me, 60,000
8 acres of our coastal wetlands have been
9 restored.

10 So I know sometimes we talk about
11 planning -- nobody wants to hear about
12 studying and planning and so forth, but I
13 want you to know that these efforts and these
14 plans result in real, on the ground results,
15 so that's something that we can all be proud
16 of.

17 So I'm going to turn it over to Therese.
18 She is going to talk about a few ground
19 rules. You'll hear from Stuart Brown on our
20 Master Plan, we'll move into public comment,
21 and then I'll talk a little bit about or
22 Annual Plan following that. So thank y'all
23 again for being here. Therese, I'll turn it
24 over to you.

25 THERESE WALKER:

1 Alright. So real quick, as Bren
2 mentioned, we are actually doing a public
3 meeting tonight for two documents, so we're
4 talking through the Master Plan and the
5 Annual Plan. So just the way we kind of run
6 the show here, we will do Master Plan
7 presentation here in a minute, followed by
8 the Master Plan comment period.

9 Once we conclude and get through all the
10 statements and public comments, we'll then
11 transition to the Annual Plan presentation.
12 After that, same process -- we'll then take
13 comments on the Annual Plan.

14 So you hopefully saw all the cards when
15 you walked in and around the room. Just to
16 make sure everyone's on the same page here,
17 if you would like to write a comment about
18 the Master Plan or the Annual Plan, feel free
19 to do that at any time. Drop those off
20 before you leave.

21 For the public comment portion, you're
22 going to have to write and fill in a
23 statement card. It says at the top -- the
24 Master Plan statement cards are green; the
25 Annual Plan statement cards are blue. Just

1 write your name and basic information there.
2 There's some boxes over here to your right
3 where you can drop them in, or you know,
4 raise your hand and someone from the CPRA
5 staff will come and get that from you. We
6 prefer you to write that out if you decide
7 you want to give a statement during the
8 presentation. Just have that ready to go.

9 Once the speaker finishes presenting,
10 we'll go ahead and pick those up, and then
11 you will be called to the mic in the order in
12 which we pick those up. Give your statement,
13 the court reporter will take it, and it will
14 be entered into the Record.

15 The point there is we're not taking
16 questions. The CPRA team is here to listen,
17 so those are really just public comments and
18 statements. From there, if you do have
19 questions about the presentations, the
20 speakers will all be around here after and
21 happy to answer those questions in a sidebar.

22 I think that covers it all, so now I'll
23 hand it over to Stu Brown, who is leading the
24 Master Plan team, and we will go through that
25 presentation first.

1 STUART BROWN:

2 Thank you. Alright, well, I'm Stuart
3 Brown. I manage the Strategic Planning
4 Branch at CPRA. We are responsible for the
5 development of the Coastal Master Plan. So
6 to follow up on what Therese mentioned about
7 submitting comments with the comment cards,
8 you can, of course, submit comments here at
9 this meeting orally, or a written comment.

10 You can also submit public comments via
11 email to masterplan@la.gov. You can submit
12 them online. There's a sheet -- a Google
13 sheet that you can submit them in, and that
14 QR code there will take you to that portal.
15 You can also, if you want to, mail them to
16 the address here on the screen, and we'll
17 come back to this slide when we get to the
18 end of the presentation.

19 So this is not new information to you
20 all, certainly, in Houma, less so than any of
21 the other public meetings that we do around
22 the coast, but Louisiana has been
23 experiencing a land loss crisis for nearly a
24 century. We've lost almost 2,000 square
25 miles of coastal wetlands since 1932. There

1 are many causes for this land loss. Some of
2 these are natural processes we would expect
3 to see in these sort of systems, but much of
4 this loss is the result of, or at least
5 exacerbated by human activity.

6 And so land loss is, of course,
7 significant from a landscape and a habitat
8 perspective. It directly impacts the
9 fisheries and wildlife resources. It affects
10 the folks who make their livings off of those
11 resources, but land change also impacts
12 industries like agriculture, navigation, and
13 oil and gas that rely on the coast for many
14 of their operations. As a result, it affects
15 folks who make their living in those
16 industries, which represents a huge part of
17 the population in Coastal Louisiana.

18 And of course, the way that many of our
19 citizens experience this land loss crisis is
20 that land loss also increases the flooding
21 impacts of hurricanes and tropical storms
22 that affect nearly all of our citizens. The
23 Master Plan is the guiding document for how
24 we can meet these challenges.

25 So what is the Master Plan? At its core,

1 it is a prioritization effort. How can the
2 State spend its money most cost-effectively
3 over the next 50 years to reduce storm surge
4 based flood risk and build and maintain
5 coastal wetlands? Importantly, it is not a
6 program or a funding source. These are the
7 projects that we want to pursue as funding
8 becomes available through a wide range of
9 programs and funding sources -- the things
10 that Bren will talk about a little bit in the
11 Annual Plan report.

12 So as money becomes available, projects
13 move into feasibility studies, engineering
14 and design, and ultimately, again, funding --
15 depending on funding -- to construction, and
16 then we operate and maintain and monitor
17 those projects. And the things that we learn
18 through that process feed back into how we
19 evaluate project ideas for this plan, as well
20 as how we end up designing and implementing
21 these projects.

22 The Plan is developed through a process
23 that ensures adaptive management. We're
24 required by law to update this plan every six
25 years. This gives us an opportunity to

1 reevaluate some of the tools and processes
2 that we use in developing the plan. It also
3 allows us to incorporate the best available
4 data -- best available science, and we'll
5 touch on a few examples of that in a few
6 slides.

7 The Plan advances a comprehensive and
8 integrated approach to restoration and risk
9 reduction. It incorporates extensive public
10 input and review. And this last bullet point
11 is one that we really want to stress with
12 this master plan, which is that it
13 illustrates how the coast is going to change.
14 It illustrates how people and communities may
15 experience that changing coast, and allow for
16 preparation and adaptation into the future.

17 So we know that the coast of 30 or 50
18 years from now is not going to look the same
19 as the coast we have today, whether we're a
20 hundred percent successful at implementing
21 the projects that we identify in this plan or
22 not. And being able to share that
23 information about how the coast is going to
24 change, how people may experience that
25 change, is a huge part of what we are trying

1 to do with the Master Plan because we know
2 that the project of having a resilient coast
3 is not just about the restoration and risk
4 reduction projects that we build, though we
5 think that's an important part of it.

6 It's about many, many decisions being
7 made by individuals, communities, local
8 governments -- all levels of government --
9 and if we can inform those individuals and
10 entities on what the future coast may look
11 like, we can help them make the best
12 decisions for themselves or the groups that
13 they represent as well.

14 So what does it save? Our homes, our
15 jobs, and our culture. The goal is to have a
16 resilient coast in which people can continue
17 to live and work and take advantage of all
18 the things that make Coastal Louisiana so
19 economically, ecologically, and culturally
20 valuable.

21 So where we are today, the plan was
22 released on January 6. The public comment
23 period is open through March 25. As we
24 mentioned before, you can make comments here
25 at the public hearing, but all the comments

1 we receive here or by whatever avenue first
2 will be reviewed, and we will be revising the
3 plan based on many of these comments, and
4 presenting a revised plan to the CPRA Board
5 for approval on April 19. And then following
6 board approval, we will submit the plan to
7 the legislature for their approval.

8 So here, we have a general overview of
9 the process by which we identify and select
10 projects to be included in the Master Plan.
11 This figure is very busy -- lots of small
12 print and arrows. This is, I think, on page
13 five of the plan. I think it's a great
14 figure, but it's probably best seen on your
15 own time. But the important part is the
16 labels at the top: projects, modeling, and
17 prioritization.

18 We start with a suite of candidate
19 projects, we model those projects to try to
20 understand how they will perform, and then we
21 prioritize the most effective suite of
22 projects. So candidate projects, they come
23 from a wide range of sources. We model past
24 plans for projects. We had multiple public
25 solicitations -- anybody can submit a project

1 -- and for this plan, we developed regional
2 work groups that helped develop new project
3 ideas, and also refined some of the project
4 ideas that we've been kicking around for
5 years.

6 And so we take those projects and we
7 model those projects. We use numerical
8 models to understand how the landscape is
9 going to change, how the changing landscape
10 impacts storm surge, and how that change --
11 those changes in storm surge impact future
12 damages. We then model these projects to
13 understand how they perform over time, under
14 a range of future environmental conditions,
15 and we compare these to a baseline in which
16 we don't implement the projects, and we call
17 that "Our Future Without Action." So we're
18 comparing a future with a project to a future
19 in which we don't do anything.

20 And the last step is prioritization, and
21 we call our prioritization tool the planning
22 tool. It's really an optimization equation.
23 The models give us the project benefits; the
24 planning tool helps us select a suite of
25 projects that gives us the greatest impact in

1 terms of building and maintaining coastal
2 wetlands, and reducing storm surge based
3 flood risk.

4 We also develop metrics based on model
5 outputs and community characteristics such as
6 demographic information and major industries
7 to give us a better understanding of how the
8 changing coast and the projects being
9 evaluated impact different communities and
10 resources.

11 In this section, I'm going to talk about
12 some of the improvements for the 2017 Plan --
13 from the 2017 Plan. So back to our diagram
14 for a second, just to note that the starting
15 point for this plan is previous master plans.
16 So we are building off of the tools and data
17 that were developed for the previous plans.
18 We are also building off of a lot of the
19 feedback we received through the 2017 process
20 early in the development of this master plan,
21 but we're able to incorporate new
22 understandings, better science, better data
23 to make sure that we have as up to date of a
24 plan as possible.

25 So here, we can step through some

1 examples of areas where we were able to
2 incorporate new or newly available data.
3 This is not at all exhaustive. This slide
4 here represents many, many thousands of man
5 hours of work, so I'll try to hit it as
6 quickly as possible, but there's a lot more
7 information on our website.

8 One of the areas that we have a fairly
9 significant improvement is in our storm
10 suite. So this is a suite of synthetic
11 tropical storms and hurricanes that we use to
12 project current and future exposure to
13 flooding. This is developed by the Army
14 Corps, and it's a significant improvement
15 over the previous storm suite that we and
16 they have used in the past. In short, it
17 just gives us a greater ability to project
18 existing and future storm surge.

19 We also have improvements in the asset
20 database that we use to estimate damage. So
21 the storm surge models tell us how much
22 flooding there will be; the risk models tell
23 us what sort of damage that flooding will
24 cause. And so there's just been significant
25 advances in the availability of this sort of

1 data over the last five or so years. We know
2 a lot more about where structures are,
3 certain characteristics about the structures.
4 One of those things is that we worked with a
5 partner at Purdue University, David Johnson,
6 who developed an algorithm to estimate first
7 floor elevations based on Google Street View
8 imagery. And so this makes a big difference
9 to have more refined estimates of first floor
10 elevations when we're trying to estimate the
11 amount of damage that a certain level of
12 flooding will cause.

13 Another set of improvements is our models
14 not just having new data, but having better
15 understandings of the systems that we're
16 modeling is we can credit to the Coastwide
17 Reference Modeling System that we have in
18 Louisiana. We have nearly 400 stations
19 across the coast where we're measuring all
20 sorts of information about water levels,
21 salinity, vegetation, the soil
22 characteristics. And with this data, we can
23 reassess, reevaluate some of the assumptions
24 that we've made in the past, see whether the
25 assumptions we've made in the past are really

1 bearing out in this data set, and it's
2 allowed us to refine our modeling in really
3 important ways.

4 Another set of significant advances has
5 been in our understanding of environmental
6 drivers. So when we're talking about
7 environmental drivers, some of these are --
8 some of these include climate related drivers
9 like temperature and sea level rise, as well
10 as things like subsidence, which, of course,
11 is not tied to climate change. Despite these
12 advancements, there remains a fair amount of
13 uncertainty. Because of this known
14 uncertainty, we take a scenario approach to
15 better understand our range of potential
16 future outcomes.

17 So you'll see in the document -- you'll
18 see on some of the maps over here, we talk
19 about a lower and a higher scenario. These
20 are not meant to be precise predictions of
21 what the future will look like. They're
22 meant to help us understand a range of
23 possible outcomes and test the projects that
24 we're evaluating against that range of
25 outcomes, and our goal is to select projects

1 that are robust, that will be effective
2 whether we realize a more severe future
3 environmental condition, or a more moderate
4 future environmental condition.

5 In addition to these improvements in
6 incorporating the best available science, we
7 also made a lot of improvements to our
8 process, and a lot of this is based on
9 feedback we got from 2017. One large piece
10 of that feedback was we heard from a lot of
11 folks that we needed to take a more local or
12 more regional approach; that the problems of
13 the Chenier Plain are not the same as the
14 problems of Terrebonne, the problems -- and
15 the solutions in the Chenier Plain are not
16 those of Terrebonne and not those of the
17 Northshore.

18 And so one of the steps is developing
19 regional work groups. As mentioned before,
20 these regional work groups help with the
21 development and refining project ideas to be
22 considered for the Master Plan. These groups
23 also serve as a venue to talk about regional
24 issues, and if you open the Master Plan,
25 you'll see about a third of the Master Plan

1 is devoted to these regional sections, and a
2 lot of the storylines, what is important to
3 these areas, what is unique about these
4 areas, we tried to capture in those sections
5 of the Plan.

6 Another process improvement is that we
7 developed new risk metrics. So the way that
8 we understand risk, we are defining by
9 different metrics of risk. We typically use
10 a dollar-based estimate of economic damages
11 caused by storms. For this Master Plan, in
12 addition to that type of metric, we developed
13 a metric that is meant to better address
14 questions of equity in our project selection
15 process. This is called the "Expected Annual
16 Structure Damage Metric," and you may have
17 seen it if you've looked through the Plan, or
18 on the data viewer, we talk about this metric
19 as well.

20 I mentioned this one a little bit
21 earlier, but in this, another process
22 improvement is that we are trying to select
23 projects across a range of potential future
24 outcomes. So rather than pinning our plan to
25 a single projection of what the future may

1 look like, we're trying to select projects
2 that will be effective across a wide range of
3 potential future outcomes.

4 And this last bullet point sits a little
5 bit apart. We call it "exploratory
6 analysis." The previous improvements we
7 talked about were about the project selection
8 process, and as I mentioned at the top, in
9 addition to selecting a suite of projects, we
10 really want to help illustrate what the
11 changing coast may look like and how people
12 may experience that changing coast, so we
13 designed a number of analyses that kind of
14 sit apart from that process that we have kind
15 of put little vignettes throughout the plan.
16 We also have a lot more information that's
17 available in appendices where we try to,
18 again, illustrate how the coast is going to
19 change and how folks might experience this.

20 One of the examples here is about high
21 tide flooding. This is an example for Dulac,
22 and so we selected communities that either
23 currently experience high tide flooding --
24 and by high tide flooding, we're talking
25 about flooding that's not associated with

1 tropical storms or a hurricane. This was
2 with regular weather events combined with
3 astronomical tides that can cause flooding.

4 And so we looked at key locations that
5 either do currently experience high tide
6 flooding, or we expect will experience high
7 tide flooding in the future. We look at how
8 frequently they currently experience it, how
9 frequently they may experience it 25 years or
10 50 years from now with continued sea level
11 rise, with continued subsidence, with
12 continued land loss, as a way to hopefully
13 ground some of these projections we make that
14 sometimes we talk about in these abstract
15 ways. So this is another part of the plan
16 that is, I think, a significant improvement
17 from where we were in 2017.

18 So the 2023 Master Plan, the plan is,
19 again, a 50 year, \$50 billion dollar plan.
20 We've allocated \$25 billion dollars for
21 restoration projects and \$25 billion dollars
22 for risk reduction projects. We selected 61
23 restoration projects, 12 structural risk
24 reduction projects, and identified \$11
25 billion dollars for non-structural risk

1 reduction.

2 On the restoration side, we identified
3 \$2.7 billion dollars in new diversions. We
4 say "new" because in our process, in our
5 modeling, we are making the assumption that
6 the Mid-Barataria, the Mid-Breton Diversions,
7 as well as the River Reintroduction into
8 Maurepas Swamp are on the landscape. We have
9 identified funding, we expect these projects
10 to be constructed, and we want to select
11 future projects that will work
12 synergistically with those that will not have
13 negative impacts to or in combination with
14 those projects.

15 We also identified over \$19 billion
16 dollars -- \$19 billion dollars into projects
17 we identified are dredging projects, so
18 dedicated dredging remains a huge part of our
19 Coastal Program. It is currently -- as Bren
20 will talk about in the Annual Plan, we expect
21 it will continue to be into the future.

22 And lastly, we identified \$2.5 billion
23 dollars to set aside for what we call
24 programmatic projects, and so these are
25 projects that for one reason or another,

1 don't make sense to evaluate through our
2 project selection process. Barrier islands,
3 for example, are -- the need on barrier
4 islands is very much dependent on the most
5 recent tropical storm. If we put a plan
6 together today, a storm could come tomorrow
7 and -- well, not likely tomorrow -- later
8 this year, and we could end up having a plan
9 that no longer addresses the need, and there
10 are programs. The State has developed a
11 barrier island program that can address
12 barrier islands on a more responsive -- in a
13 more responsive way.

14 Similarly, some of these smaller scale
15 projects like small scale hydrologic
16 restoration, oyster reefs, shoreline
17 protection are projects that are better
18 evaluated through programs that can evaluate
19 them on a case by case basis, like the
20 Coastal Wetlands Plan and Protection and
21 Restoration Act Program, the RESTORE Parish
22 Matching Program, the partnership fund.
23 They, again, have the ability to evaluate
24 these on a case by case basis.

25 So the Master Plan, under our lower

1 scenario, 314 square miles of land is built
2 or maintained that otherwise would have been
3 lost in year 50. Under the higher scenario,
4 that's 233 square miles, though we actually
5 see a greater benefit at year 40, but that
6 drops off as we got in the later decades, and
7 some of the projects to be identified early
8 on in the process and implement early on in
9 our modeling are no longer able to keep up
10 with sea level rise and subsidence in our
11 high level -- our higher scenario.

12 So this is our projected landscape under
13 the lower scenario in year 10, 20, 30, 40,
14 and 50. The blue is, of course, our land
15 loss, and the greens are areas that are built
16 and maintained. Under the higher scenario,
17 we see at year 10, 20, 30, 40, and then at
18 year 50, a lot of those projects are, again,
19 no longer able to keep up, and that's why we
20 see that dip in that curve right there.

21 On the risk reduction side, we've
22 identified 12 structural risk reduction
23 projects for a cost of around \$14 billion
24 dollars. We also identified \$11.2 billion
25 dollars to be allocated towards non-

1 structural risk reduction, that being
2 elevating homes, flood proofing businesses,
3 and voluntary acquisition in areas that are
4 exposed to very high levels of flooding.
5 \$11.2 billion dollars -- that is to say of
6 the \$25 billion dollars that we allocated
7 towards risk reduction, \$11.2 billion of that
8 is best spent on non-structural risk
9 reduction in our analysis.

10 And so with the structural projects and
11 the restoration projects in the landscape,
12 these are the one percent exceedance
13 probability flood depths, and so you see that
14 sharp difference on either side of some of
15 the major levee features, with the reds and
16 the oranges on the outside and the greens and
17 blues on the inside. And this is the
18 difference of with and without the Master
19 Plan, so with these projects on the
20 landscape, we, of course, see significantly
21 reduced flooding on the inside. We also do
22 see reduced flooding on the outside, as some
23 of that storm surge will stack up against
24 those features.

25 And this is the difference in risk. And

1 so this, of course, correlates to the
2 reduction in flood depths. We see the
3 reduction of risk behind these levee
4 features, and an interesting note is we also
5 see reduction in risk around Lake Charles,
6 compared to a future without action, and this
7 is the result of the restoration projects.
8 There are not structural projects on that
9 part of the coast in our plan, but we do see
10 the impact of restoration projects, which is
11 a good thing to see. It's something we
12 expect to happen, but here, we can show you
13 that.

14 So compared to a future without action,
15 fully implementing the plan could result in a
16 70 percent reduction in risk coast-wide under
17 the lower scenario, and a 60 percent
18 reduction under the higher environmental
19 scenario, as measured in expected annual
20 damage values. The risk reduction that's
21 measured in expected annual structure damage
22 is similar: it's 78 percent under the lower
23 scenario, 65 percent under the higher
24 scenario.

25 So this an annual reduction in year 50 of

1 \$10.8 billion dollars in the lower scenario
2 and \$14.6 billion dollars under the higher
3 scenario, compared to a future without
4 action, and this level of investment could
5 mean that in 50 years, under the lower
6 environmental scenario, Louisiana has less
7 flood risk from hurricanes and tropical
8 storms than it does today.

9 So that is the end of my presentation. A
10 reminder of the ways in which you can submit
11 public comments, and I'm going to hand it
12 over to Therese to moderate public comments.

13 THERESE WALKER:

14 Alright. So we'll give everybody just a
15 minute here. If anybody wants to submit a
16 statement card, I'll go over all the
17 instructions here. So if you want to speak a
18 public comment -- have that spoken into the
19 Record -- you need to fill out a green
20 statement card. And this is just for the
21 Master Plan.

22 So if you haven't done so, go ahead and
23 do that now and someone from the CPRA team
24 will come and grab it for you. We'll then go
25 in the order in which we receive cards. When

1 we call your name, you'll come up, state your
2 name, and go on and give your comment.

3 You've got three minutes to do that.

4 And as a reminder, we're not taking
5 questions. This is just comments. So we'll
6 give everybody one more minute to get a
7 statement card if you want one, and then
8 we'll get started. We've got plenty in the
9 back if you need one.

10 Okay. Looks like we have them all, so
11 we'll go ahead and get started. First one is
12 Reggie Dupre.

13 REGGIE DUPRE:

14 Thank y'all. I'm here not to make a
15 statement about any specific project; just to
16 thank you guys, the CPRA, for two directions.
17 First of all, Reggie Dupre, executive
18 director of Terrebonne Levee District, former
19 state legislator.

20 So I never dreamed in my wildest dreams
21 that 16 and a half or so years ago, when
22 Governor Blanco approached me with the
23 concept of consolidation of the restoration
24 and hurricane protection under one agency
25 under the governor's office that it would

1 turn out this successful.

2 Now that I'm approaching close to
3 retirement age, you know, this -- this legacy
4 began in the wake of Katrina continues on,
5 and y'all have done a great job. I also want
6 to thank you guys for being our partners. On
7 behalf of the citizens of Terrebonne and
8 Lafourche Parishes -- you know, Morganza to
9 the Gulf is in every Master Plan. This is
10 the -- this is the fourth Master Plan since
11 2007, and the 16th Annual Plan, and I think
12 you can go back in the last 15 years and how
13 many no votes from the legislature, you can
14 count on one hand. Maybe two or three. No
15 other agency, no other issue in this state
16 has that level of support.

17 So thank y'all so much for your -- for
18 what y'all are doing. Thank y'all for being
19 our partners in Morganza to the Gulf. Like I
20 told Bren earlier this morning, now that we
21 have the foundation built, now that the Corps
22 of Engineers has finally shown up after 30
23 years to start building component parts of
24 this, we can think out the box and even start
25 thinking about other restoration components,

1 you know, that facilitate this Morganza
2 system. So Bren says, "Am I speaking to
3 Reggie Dupre?" I said, "Yes, sir, you are."
4 So thank y'all so much.

5 BREN HAASE:

6 Thank you, Reggie.

7 THERESE WALKER:

8 Next, we have David Chauvin.

9 DAVID CHAUVIN:

10 Good evening. My name is David Chauvin.
11 I own several businesses in Terrebonne
12 Parish, four of which purchase and supply
13 oilfield, commercial, and recreational
14 vessels. One of my businesses is located
15 outside the Morganza Levee System, and three
16 are located in Dulac inside the levee system.

17 The majority of my business is processing
18 and supplying commercial fishing vessels. On
19 an average year, we see in excess of about a
20 hundred vessels using the existing floodgates
21 to access my businesses. Most of these
22 vessels are -- use a waterway called Bayou
23 Grand Caillou, and a smaller percentage of
24 the vessels use the Houma Navigational Canal.

25 The vessels that use Bayou Grand Caillou

1 enter through the Bayou Grand Caillou
2 floodgate. My concern is that once the \$400
3 million dollar project lock system is
4 completed and in full use, the Bayou Grand
5 Caillou floodgate will close and cut off safe
6 passage to vessels during a storm. This
7 would be an extremely dangerous situation for
8 vessels that normally use the Bayou Grand
9 Caillou gate.

10 To reroute a vessel to the new lock
11 system located in the Houma Navigational
12 Canal would require a vessel to navigate
13 outside of Last Island. Most of the vessels
14 have an average speed between six to ten
15 knots. We have a vessel that took that route
16 recently and it took him nine and a half
17 hours to complete -- to complete that route.
18 The smaller vessels are not seaworthy enough
19 to fight the heavy seas during a storm
20 condition outside of Last Island.

21 A solution to this problem: there is a
22 short one mile waterway that if dredged and
23 maintained, could provide safe passage and
24 faster access to vessels searching -- seeking
25 safe harbor. The waterway is Bay Felix. It

1 connects Bayou Grand Caillou to the Houma
2 Navigational Canal. I'm asking CPRA to
3 please add into their Master Plan the
4 dredging and maintenance of Bay Felix. It is
5 a matter of safety, and will ensure that
6 during a storm, a commercial or recreational
7 vessel would not have to put themselves in
8 harm's way. Thank you for your consideration
9 in this.

10 BREN HAASE:

11 Thank you.

12 THERESE WALKER:

13 Thank you for your comment. Next, we
14 have Mark Black.

15 BREN HAASE:

16 Mart.

17 THERESE WALKER:

18 Mart. Sorry.

19 MART BLACK:

20 Thank you. I'm Mart Black of the Coastal
21 Restoration Board for Terrebonne Parish. I
22 want to thank CPRA for coming here and giving
23 us this presentation. I want to thank you
24 for the hard work that you've put in over the
25 last five and a half, almost six years on

1 this new Master Plan.

2 One of the components of that Master Plan
3 is extremely important to us here in
4 Terrebonne Parish, and that is the land
5 bridge in Eastern Terrebonne. It's in the
6 Plan. We're very happy to see it there. We
7 believe that it hits the three Rs that you're
8 aiming for: restoration, risk reduction, and
9 resiliency.

10 The only problem that I have that I see
11 with that is that you've got it in a -- not
12 even in the near-term time frame. It is a
13 critical component for us. We'd like to see
14 it started a little sooner than 21 years from
15 now. Thank you very much for being here.
16 Appreciate it.

17 THERESE WALKER:

18 Thank you. Next, we have Jesse Billiot.
19 JESSE BILLIOT:

20 Alright. Good evening. First, I want to
21 thank y'all for helping us to build the land.
22 As we know, you know, we've been told that,
23 you know, it's all climate change, but in
24 actuality, a lot of it has to do with how man
25 changed the land -- you know, how we dealt

1 with the Mississippi River and how we dug up
2 these canals and never closed them back up.
3 Those are actually called spoilings, and
4 there are 27,000 of them in the state of
5 Louisiana that are abandoned.

6 I think that would be a worthwhile
7 project to consider, as it -- the land -- the
8 banks may not be enough to cover up those
9 canals, but at least slow down the water.
10 Another thing would be to maybe look at, or
11 helping slowly prevent the silt from the
12 Mississippi River. We are a river delta and
13 that's how we get our land. I know a lot of
14 it is dredged and brought over -- brought out
15 offshore and just dumped, so we need to come
16 up with a way to think about that.

17 The land that we do have -- so a long
18 time ago, Grand Isle and Chenier, the land --
19 you could jump across from one island to the
20 next, but tearing down all the trees and
21 everything helped to wash that land away, so
22 we need to think about the land that we do
23 get to grow things on it.

24 We just need to remember that, you know,
25 levees and pump systems are great, but you

1 can only put water in so many places, and the
2 levees don't make sense if there's nothing in
3 front of it to help slow down that water.

4 You have to treat it like a castle like you
5 had in the Dark Ages, or the Middle Ages.
6 You have to put things in front of it to help
7 prevent damages. So thank you, thank y'all
8 for y'all help.

9 BREN HAASE:

10 Thanks.

11 THERESE WALKER:

12 Thank you. Next, we have Henri Boulet.

13 HENRI BOULET:

14 Good afternoon. My name is Henri Boulet.
15 I'm the director of the Morganza Action
16 Coalition, and I would like to thank the CPRA
17 for -- for pairing with our community
18 specifically on Morganza to the Gulf, and the
19 tremendous investment that the state
20 continues to make in this area. You have an
21 impressive \$22 million in the Annual Plan for
22 Morganza to the Gulf next year, and we thank
23 you for that, but as well, the investments
24 that you're making with the North Lafourche
25 Levee District.

1 And also, Wendell's not here today, but
2 please continue to support the efforts of the
3 South Lafourche Levee District. You know,
4 President Dove said Lafourche and Terrebonne
5 is really a whole community together and we
6 work together, and thank you for your support
7 on that. So again, thank you for being here
8 today. We look forward to working with you
9 into the future.

10 THERESE WALKER:

11 Thank you. And last, we have Dwayne
12 Bourgeois.

13 DWAYNE BOURGEOIS:

14 Hello, my friends. Dwayne Bourgeois,
15 Executive Director for the North Lafourche
16 Levee District, and I have the privilege of
17 working with a fantastic team on the
18 development of this plan, and actually, the
19 previous plan and the one before that. Maybe
20 dating my age.

21 I was on the Coastal Advisory Team for
22 this one, the regional work group for
23 Terrebonne, the regional work group for
24 Lafourche, and the Barataria Basin, I should
25 say, and I just wanted to commend you guys.

1 I want to show my support for the Master
2 Plan. I think I was talking to Denise back
3 there -- and I'm not going to try to name
4 everybody because there's just too many
5 people that were very important and did a
6 fantastic job with this plan.

7 My thoughts to tell this crowd is that
8 it's -- that every time you question
9 something, there was this sense that
10 everything that was done, they struggled with
11 and really thought about it, and decided what
12 they should do, what they shouldn't do; to
13 include what they could and include what they
14 should, as compared to just throwing all kind
15 of things at the plan.

16 The results, to me, are a very
17 extraordinary plan that's unequal to anywhere
18 in the United States, so I just wanted to add
19 that comment to it. I have to go, so I just
20 want to add a comment in favor of the Annual
21 Plan as well. I think that is also very well
22 thought out, and a great execution on a year
23 to year basis. So with that, thank you for
24 all your hard work, and appreciate you coming
25 out tonight so local folks can hear this as

1 well. Thank y'all.

2 BREN HAASE:

3 Thanks, Dwayne.

4 THERESE WALKER:

5 Thanks, Dwayne. So we are going to kick
6 it over to the Annual Plan presentation. And
7 real quick -- if you did not speak your
8 comment and would rather write it, there are
9 comment cards to the right. You can drop
10 that off before you leave.

11 There's also some cards at the door with
12 a QR code, so if you'd rather make a comment
13 later, you can take that, take a picture of
14 it with your phone, and it will show you all
15 the ways you can comment online now, and all
16 the information's there. So make sure you've
17 got one of those.

18 And with that, we will begin the Annual
19 Plan presentation. So same thing: we'll do
20 the presentation, then the comment period
21 there.

22 BREN HAASE:

23 Alright, guys, you've got me again. But
24 again, thanks to everybody for being here.
25 Thank you to T for that. I appreciate the

1 comments and attention on the Master Plan
2 portion of this evening. So as I mentioned
3 before the Master Plan -- high level, kind of
4 long-term look.

5 Annual Plan really digs down into details
6 and contemplates the revenues that we
7 anticipate receiving over the next fiscal
8 year, and really the next three fiscal years
9 and those projects that we believe we will
10 put on the ground in the next fiscal year,
11 and again, out into the next two fiscal years
12 beyond that. So it's really a three-year
13 outlook of what we intend to do.

14 So we've gone over this before, but
15 again, you can scan this QR code and make
16 comments tonight in person, email, online,
17 and the mail. I'll go ahead and skip over
18 that. We talked a little bit about the
19 timeline already, but again, for the Annual
20 Plan, the public comment period will end on
21 March 25.

22 I don't remember if Stu mentioned this or
23 not, but I will say that the earlier your
24 comments make it in to us, the better off
25 we'll all be. So if you have an idea, if you

1 want to make some comments, obviously, you
2 have until the 25th, and we'll accept
3 comments through then. But for us to really
4 be able to dig into it if you have a question
5 or anything like that about them, the
6 earlier, the better, so I'll just point that
7 out.

8 And then that plan -- this plan, just
9 like our Master Plan, will be presented to
10 our board on the 19th, and ultimately to the
11 legislature possibly on the 19th, or shortly
12 thereafter. We hope for their favorable
13 approval.

14 So in terms of the revenues we anticipate
15 receiving in the next year and how we intend
16 to expend those, you see those listed here
17 and there's some large numbers here. I won't
18 go through each of those individually, but
19 just know that most of these categories
20 really are associated with the Deepwater
21 Horizon Oil Spill. So the NRDA, NFWF, and
22 RESTORE that you see listed there, and the
23 GOMESA pot of funding that you see there is
24 associated with offshore oil revenue sharing
25 with the State of Louisiana, so that comes

1 directly to the parish as well.

2 CWPPRA -- many of you, hopefully, are
3 familiar with that as a federal program,
4 again, that the State matches at a 15 percent
5 rate. That's 85 federal, 15 percent state.
6 And then you see some of the other state
7 funds that we do receive, and some of these
8 other funds listed here really relate to
9 surplus dollars that have been made available
10 to the Coastal Program over the years. So
11 all of these are allocated to parish
12 projects, again, that we anticipate
13 implementing over the next year.

14 So if you roll all those numbers up, the
15 total is about \$1.74 million dollars, so we
16 had a record year last year anticipating
17 receiving and spending about \$1.3 billion
18 dollars. We're breaking that record this
19 year. That's something that we're proud of.
20 We need to be implementing projects at this
21 clip. We've got a 50 year, \$50 billion
22 dollar plan. We want to be exceeding that
23 billion dollar expenditure annually to sort
24 of keep pace with the scale of our problem.

25 One of the things we're most proud about

1 this, of course, is you can see the vast
2 majority of these funds are going towards
3 putting projects on the ground, construction
4 projects, so about 85 percent of those
5 dollars will go to build projects.

6 And if you look at -- again, I mentioned
7 the next two fiscal years, Fiscal Year '25
8 and '26, you see another -- again, anticipate
9 a significant investment in our coast: \$1.6
10 billion and \$1.27 billion, respectively, and
11 you see those dollars going toward
12 construction, staying in the high 80s and
13 even 90 percent in the next fiscal year. So
14 again, good news for the state, good news for
15 the coast.

16 So I mentioned the total there already.
17 I won't mention that again, but as Stu
18 mentioned earlier, about 20 of the projects
19 that we expect to be active in the upcoming
20 fiscal year are dredging projects. We think
21 we'll have 118 projects being underway in
22 this next fiscal year, so a good portion of
23 those, of course, are those dredging projects
24 that I mentioned.

25 Those projects will dredge almost 74

1 million cubic yards of sediment -- a
2 tremendous amount of sediment to do things
3 like build our barrier islands, build ridges,
4 build marshes, and build habitats across
5 Coastal Louisiana. Those projects will
6 benefit almost 15,000 acres of our coastal
7 wetlands, so again, a significant number
8 there.

9 If you think about an investment on the
10 order of almost \$2 million dollars, you might
11 imagine what impact that has on our economy.
12 Well, we estimate -- our friends at GNO,
13 Inc., in fact, estimate that an investment at
14 that level will support over 10,000 jobs on
15 our coast. So we're making investments in
16 our coast that are not only impacting, you
17 know, our communities and our ecosystem, but
18 they're also helping to shape our economy in
19 developing a real coastal economy in
20 Louisiana.

21 So we'll talk about a few of the regions
22 of the state, as we did a little while ago,
23 and some of the key projects in those
24 regions. We'll start out in the Southwest
25 region of the state. There'll be 15 active

1 projects in the coming fiscal year. 9 of
2 those will be in construction, 6 of those in
3 engineering and design. So just some
4 examples of projects in this region include
5 the Cameron Gulf Shoreline Protection
6 Projects. President Dove will like to hear
7 this: that's rock project on the Gulf
8 shoreline.

9 There's a Southwest Coastal Louisiana
10 Project, which is a project we're partnering
11 with the federal government on that
12 primarily, at this point, involves non-
13 structural risk reduction, or elevating
14 homes, flood proofing businesses and so
15 forth, and the Long Point Bayou Marsh
16 Creation Project in this region.

17 So we'll move into where we are today,
18 the South Central Region. There'll be 41
19 active projects. Over half of those -- 26
20 will be in construction, so again, something
21 we're proud of and that's good news. 14 of
22 those projects will be in engineering and
23 design, and one project in planning.

24 So some of the key projects in this
25 region -- and they're all important, of

1 course, but just a few to highlight include
2 the West Fourchon Marsh Creation Project, the
3 Henderson Lake Water Management Unit Spoil
4 Bank Gapping Project -- that's a project in
5 the Atchafalaya Basin.

6 I'll talk a little about the Atchafalaya
7 Basin Plan at the end of the presentation as
8 well, but just note that some of these are in
9 the Atchafalaya Basin. Of course, Morganza
10 to the Gulf -- we've already heard from folks
11 talking about that. Larose to Golden Meadow,
12 the North Lafourche Levee System we well.
13 HNC Lock Complex and the Grand Bayou Pump
14 Station as well.

15 So moving into the Southeast Region of
16 the state, there'll be 62 active projects in
17 FY '24. 45 of those projects will be in
18 construction, 15 in engineering and design,
19 and one project in planning. So some of
20 those projects include the Pailet Basin Tidal
21 Protection Project, the West Shore Lake
22 Pontchartrain Hurricane Risk Reduction
23 Project -- you may have heard of that. It's
24 a project that just got under construction.
25 Another federally sponsored project that

1 we're partnering with the Corps of Engineers
2 on. Large Scale Barataria Marsh Creation
3 Project as well in the Upper Barataria Basin,
4 and a few others we mentioned: the River
5 Reintroduction into Maurepas Swamp. That's a
6 project that's actually closely associated
7 with the West Shore of Lake Pontchartrain
8 Project and the Ludvine Pump Station Project
9 as well.

10 So I did mention the Atchafalaya Basin
11 Program a moment ago. So we are -- as part
12 of our Annual Plan, we update the Atchafalaya
13 Basin Annual Plan. I will note there will be
14 some public meetings specific to the
15 Atchafalaya Basin Program. Those will be
16 Monday and Wednesday. One will be in
17 Plaquemine and the other one will be -- help
18 me out, Greg. Do you recall where it is?
19 One's on the west side -- Lafayette -- one's
20 on the west -- or Henderson.

21 One's on the west side of the Basin,
22 one's on the east side of the Basin.
23 Information's available on our website, so if
24 you have a question about that, find me after
25 the meeting, please, and I'll be glad to give

1 you the right information.

2 But a number of projects associated with
3 this plan that you can find in the draft
4 Annual Plan that was made available to y'all
5 starting back in early January are projects
6 to dredge Bayou Big Pigeon, the River Canal
7 Improvements, Point Coupee Water Flow and
8 Water Quality Improvements Project, Henderson
9 Lake Water Management Project. I just
10 mentioned earlier the Murphy Lake Depth
11 Restoration Project is undergoing a few
12 technical analyses right now. The East Grand
13 Lake Project is in permitting. I should
14 mention the Henderson Lake Project should go
15 into construction really any minute now, any
16 day now.

17 And then some other projects include the
18 Boy Scouts of America Swamp Base Camp, Bayou
19 Pigeon Boat Launch, for example, and then
20 this upcoming fiscal year, just as we master
21 plan for our coast, there's a master plan for
22 the Atchafalaya Basin. It hasn't been
23 updated in close to 20 or almost 30 years, I
24 believe, and so it's time to do that again,
25 and we anticipate tackling that in the

1 upcoming fiscal year as well.

2 So any of this information can be found
3 at this website here: ap24.coastal.la.gov.
4 It's a really good resource to kind of dig
5 into the Annual Plan a little more. There's
6 some good video and pictures of some of our
7 projects, a lot of information about some the
8 projects that have been built or we
9 anticipate being built in the future, and of
10 course, you can find a copy of the documents
11 and so forth, appendices and all of that
12 stuff, at this location as well.

13 So if you're interested in learning more
14 about our Annual Plan, I certainly encourage
15 you to check out this website. And I think
16 that's my last slide, so I know we ran
17 through that relatively quickly. Greg?

18 GREG GRANDY:

19 Plaquemine on Monday, Morgan City on
20 Wednesday.

21 BREN HAASE:

22 Thank you. Plaquemine on Monday, Morgan
23 City on Wednesday. I had forgotten about
24 that. I talked to Mac about that earlier
25 tonight, but I forgot. Those are the

1 Atchafalaya Basin Plan public meetings.
2 Thanks for that Greg. So I think we're
3 moving into our public comment period. I'm
4 going to turn this back over to Therese, and
5 we're happy to hear any remarks you might
6 have for us this evening. Thank you.

7 THERESE WALKER:

8 Alright, so same process as last time: if
9 anyone would like to get up and speak their
10 comment, you can fill out a blue statement
11 card. We have some that we can pass around.
12 I'll give everybody a minute there. If not,
13 you can fill out the comment cards as well
14 and just write them down and drop them off.

15 BREN HAASE:

16 I forgot to mention that we'll be for a
17 while afterwards if anybody has any questions
18 or anything.

19 THERESE WALKER:

20 Okay. So I don't think we have any right
21 now. Just making sure that nobody else wants
22 to submit orally. I'll go back and talk
23 through the other ways that you can comment,
24 and this is just for the Annual Plan. You
25 can write your comment on a comment card.

1 There's a form in the back on that computer
2 that you're welcome to type it into. If you
3 want to, you know, go home, you can access
4 the information online as well and submit it
5 that way, or you can mail a written comment
6 to the address on the screen.

7 We still don't have any public comments
8 or statement cards, so with that, we'll go
9 ahead and conclude, but our team will be
10 around here for a while after. So if you do
11 have questions about Annual Plan or Master
12 Plan, y'all feel free to grab somebody and
13 you can ask them. Alright, well, that's all
14 we've got. Thank y'all so much for coming.

15
16 (The Public Hearing Concluded at 6:34 p.m.)
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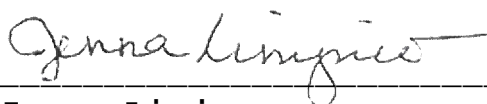
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11 IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have affixed my official
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13 Louisiana.

14
15 

16 Jenna Limjuco
17 Louisiana Certificate No. 2018004





Transcript of the Testimony of
CPRA New Orleans Public Meeting,

Date: February 7, 2023

Case: CPRA New Orleans Public Meeting

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IN THE MATTER OF:

STATE OF LOUISIANA COASTAL PROTECTION & RESTORATION
AUTHORITY

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NEW ORLEANS MEETING FOR MASTER PLAN & ANNUAL PLAN

February 7, 2023

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The CPRA Meeting for MASTER PLAN & ANNUAL
PLAN, taken in connection with the above captioned
matter at the University of New Orleans University
Center Auditorium, 2000 Lakeshore Drive, New Orleans,
Louisiana 70148, on Tuesday, February 7, 2023 at 5:30
p.m.

Reported by:

Jenna Limjuco, BA-CCR
Certified Court Reporter
#2018004

APPEARANCES:

Therese Walker

Stuart Brown

Bren Haase

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1 BREN HAASE:

2 Good evening. Welcome, everybody, to the
3 2023 Draft Master Plan Public Meeting. We
4 appreciate you all being here, we really do.
5 I want to thank each and every one of you for
6 being here in this stage of the process.
7 We're here to talk with you about a couple of
8 things this evening. One will be the Master
9 Plan, as I just mentioned. We have released
10 the fourth iteration of the Louisiana Coastal
11 Master Plan, and we're going to talk with you
12 also about Louisiana's Annual Plan -- Fiscal
13 Year 2024 Annual Plan.

14 So we go through this process with the
15 Annual Plan, as I mentioned, as you might
16 have noticed -- or I think -- every year, of
17 course. The Master Plan process is a longer
18 term process. It's something that we update
19 now every six years. The last iteration was
20 in 2017, and I think most of you out here,
21 hopefully, are aware of kind of what the
22 Master Plan is. It is a -- that's kind of
23 the long term, large scale restoration and
24 risk reduction plan developed to restore
25 Louisiana's ecosystem and protect our

1 citizens from storm surges.

2 You'll notice some differences from 2017
3 to the Draft 2024 -- 2023 Plan, excuse me.
4 Stuart Brown, who will get up here in just a
5 moment, he's going to go over those with you,
6 so I'm not going to delve into those in great
7 detail or in too much depth, but I will tell
8 you that what this draft plan delivers is
9 literally hundreds of square miles of coastal
10 wetlands that would not otherwise be here but
11 for the projects that are contemplated in
12 this plan.

13 I think most importantly, or as
14 importantly, it has the potential to
15 significantly reduce risk to our communities
16 -- hurricane storm risk, which you've all
17 experienced, certainly, in this region over
18 the last several years. So under -- Stu is
19 going to talk a little more about this, but
20 under a lower scenario, what we see in this
21 area in the future with the projects in the
22 draft plan, they actually reduce risk for our
23 communities -- less than we actually
24 experience today. That's pretty significant
25 when you consider the changes that we think

1 we'll face across our coast.

2 Also, we're going to talk with you today
3 about our Annual Plan, as I mentioned. The
4 Annual Plan really veers off of the Master
5 Plan. So we go through some kind of higher
6 up, longer term processes that sets the
7 vision for our coast, and makes a prediction
8 of what the future of our coast may look
9 like, to essentially what we're going to be
10 doing here now -- what are the projects that
11 we're going to build that we've identified in
12 the Master Plan, and we'll implement and
13 build within the next year.

14 It's actually a three-year outlook that
15 sort of concentrates on the upcoming fiscal
16 year of FY '24, but it's also some
17 projections about where we'll be on those
18 projects for Fiscal Year '25 and '26 as well.
19 So before I move on, I want to make sure that
20 I'm not remiss and I thank the team that has
21 been working on all this for the last six
22 years or so.

23 I mentioned Stuart Brown. If you see a
24 person in the audience -- hopefully, you've
25 had a chance to talk to us -- with a name tag

1 like this -- there's some others who actually
2 don't have name tags with us -- those are
3 CPRA staff, or folks that are working with us
4 to get to the point where we are today. I've
5 said this before and I'll say it again this
6 evening: I believe over the four iterations
7 of the Master Plan that I've seen and been
8 involved in, I think we're in the best shape
9 with this one than we ever have been on the
10 previous three. It's the most complete and
11 most well put together, so it's in the best
12 shape.

13 We are here, however, to hear from you
14 all, and we always say we can always do
15 better. One of the reasons the Coastal
16 Program is as strong as it is and our
17 planning process is as strong as it is is
18 because folks like you participate in this
19 process. You're here to ask questions, to
20 challenge us when we need to be challenged,
21 and we certainly appreciate that and accept
22 that, and we hope to hear from y'all this
23 evening as it relates to the plans that we're
24 preparing.

25 And then lastly, I really just want to

1 say that I think the -- we're talking about
2 plans tonight; right? We all talk about
3 plans. Plans are great, but we also want to
4 talk about action. I hope you all realize
5 that there's been a tremendous amount of
6 action that has occurred within the Coastal
7 Program over the last 15 years or so. So
8 these plans put into motion projects to be
9 built; right? Projects like the district
10 system that you see here in the New Orleans
11 area. Projects like some marsh creation
12 projects in this area -- the Orleans Land
13 Bridge, Lake Borgne Marsh Creation, Spanish
14 Pass Ridge and Marsh Creation, and even more
15 that we're going to go through. We've got
16 some maps up that show some of those.

17 Because we go through this process and
18 because it has been, in the past -- and I
19 believe it will be in this iteration -- so
20 well vetted and so well scrutinized, we're
21 going to delve into the projects in our
22 future that will make differences for our
23 communities and make differences for our fish
24 and for our wildlife in the future.

25 Today, it's resulted in the securement of

1 about \$20 billion dollars -- or over \$20
2 billion dollars for doing projects across our
3 coast. That's benefitting over 60,000 acres
4 of our coastal wetlands. We've been able to
5 build or restore about 60 miles of our
6 barrier islands, and we've been able to
7 rebuild or improve about 300 miles of our
8 levee structures. All of that is the result
9 of all of those projects in a process like
10 this. So just take heart in knowing that
11 this is not just a feeble planning exercise;
12 it results in on-the-ground effort and on-
13 the-ground results.

14 So with that, again, I want to thank you
15 all for being here. We've got a couple of
16 presentations that we're going to go through
17 with you here this evening, and I will turn
18 it over to Stu -- oh, or not to Stu. I'll
19 turn it over to Therese, who's going to go
20 through a few ground rules and kind of run
21 the show. Thank you.

22 THERESE WALKER:

23 Alright, thanks everybody. Like Bren
24 said, my name is Therese Walker, and I'm with
25 the comms team of CPRA. So I'm just going to

1 go over housekeeping real quick and kind of
2 walk you through how tonight's going to go.

3 So we will be here momentarily with
4 the Master Plan presentation. After that,
5 we'll take the Master Plan public comment
6 period, and then once we receive all of those
7 spoken public comments, we'll then move into
8 the Annual Plan. There will be a short
9 presentation, and then there's an Annual Plan
10 public comment period.

11 So as you walked in and hopefully walked
12 around the room, you've gotten the
13 opportunity to see the different statement
14 cards and comment cards. So the ways that
15 you can provide a comment tonight are either
16 written on a comment card -- so for the
17 Annual Plan, that is the white card, and for
18 the Master Plan, that will be a green card.
19 You're welcome to turn those in at any point
20 in time tonight.

21 If you'd like to speak and give a public
22 comment on the Record, we've got a court
23 reporter here, and so during each comment
24 period, you'll have to fill out a statement
25 card. So the Master Plan -- we'll do Master

1 Plan presentation, and throughout that time
2 and maybe a couple minutes after, we'll take
3 all the statement cards. So if you've not
4 yet filled one out and you want to write a
5 statement, you have basically until the end
6 of the presentation to do so. We'll take
7 them for a couple minutes after that until we
8 formally begin or announce we're starting the
9 comment period.

10 At that point in time, we'll read them in
11 the order that we receive them. State your
12 name -- come up to this microphone here on
13 the left when we call you, state your name
14 again, and speak your comment. You have
15 three minutes to do so, and this will be
16 recorded by the reporter and put into the
17 official record.

18 One quick note there -- we are not taking
19 questions. This is simply a comment period.
20 You're welcome to come and give a statement,
21 but the CPRA team is not going to respond to
22 questions during the comment period. Once we
23 go through all the comment cards we've
24 received, we'll then switch over to Annual
25 Plan, and same process there.

1 So if you need a card, Annual Plan cards
2 are here, Master Plan cards are here, or
3 raise your hand and find somebody and we'll
4 be happy to hand one to you. So with that,
5 we'll hand it over to Stu.

6 STUART BROWN:

7 Alright. I'm Stuart Brown. I oversee
8 the development of the Coastal Master Plan at
9 CPRA. Just to follow up on what Therese
10 presented, there are four ways to submit
11 comments: in person, as Therese just
12 described; you can send them as an email to
13 masterplan@la.gov -- please put public
14 comment in the subject line.

15 You can submit them online. We have an
16 online form. You can get it through the QR
17 code there on the right, or you can navigate
18 to it from our website, or you can send it in
19 the mail to the address there. We'll end on
20 this slide as well, so if you want to take
21 down the address, those will be available to
22 you.

23 So to start off, many of y'all are aware
24 of this, but Louisiana has lost an enormous
25 amount of coastal wetlands over the last

1 century or so. We've lost nearly 2,000
2 square miles of coastal wetlands since 1932.
3 There are many causes to this land loss.
4 Some of these are natural processes we expect
5 to see in these sort of systems, but a lot of
6 it has been the result of, or at least
7 exacerbated by, human activity.

8 Land loss is, of course, significant from
9 a landscape and habitat perspective. It
10 directly impacts fisheries and wildlife
11 resources and the jobs that those resources
12 support. Land change also impacts industries
13 like agriculture and navigation, and oil and
14 gas who have operations in the coastal zone,
15 and of course, land loss also increases the
16 flooding impacts from hurricanes and tropical
17 storms that affect nearly all coastal
18 communities.

19 And so the Master Plan is the guiding
20 document on how do we meet these challenges.
21 So what is the Master Plan? At its core, the
22 Master Plan is a prioritization effort: how
23 can the state spend its money most cost
24 effectively over the next 50 years to reduce
25 storm surge based flood risk and build and

1 maintain coastal wetlands?

2 Importantly, this is not a program or a
3 funding source. We'll be talking about more
4 of those with the Annual Plan presentation in
5 a bit. This is a prioritization effort. It
6 identifies where the state should invest, as
7 money becomes available through a wide range
8 of funding sources. As the money becomes
9 available, these projects and concepts move
10 into feasibility, then into design, and
11 ultimately, construction. We then operate,
12 maintain, and monitor those projects, and
13 what we learn feeds back into how we evaluate
14 and design and build these projects.

15 The plan is developed through a process
16 that ensures adaptive management. We're
17 required to update this plan every six years.
18 This gives us an opportunity to incorporate
19 the best available science, newly available
20 data, and it also allows us an opportunity to
21 reevaluate the process by which we are
22 selecting these projects. And a lot of the
23 feedback that we got through the public
24 comment period for the 2017 Plan has been
25 really instrumental in how we've moved

1 forward with the 2023 Plan.

2 The Plan is built on world-class science
3 and engineering. It advances a popular and
4 significant approach to restoration and risk
5 reduction. It incorporates extensive public
6 input and review, and this last bullet point
7 is one that we're really trying to stress
8 with this Master Plan, is that it illustrates
9 how the coast is going to change. It
10 illustrates how communities may experience
11 that change.

12 So we know that the coast is going to
13 look different 30, 50 years from now, whether
14 we're a hundred percent successful in
15 implementing the projects we're identifying
16 now. We also know that larger project of
17 having a resilient coast is much bigger than
18 the restoration and risk reduction projects
19 that CPRA implements, but that is, we
20 believe, a big piece of it.

21 Having a resilient coast is going to be
22 the result of the decisions of individuals
23 and communities, local governments,
24 businesses -- all levels of government -- and
25 we want to make sure that the information

1 about how the coast is going to change, how
2 different areas may experience that change
3 differently, is accessible and usable to help
4 inform those individuals or entities making
5 those decisions about their future in Coastal
6 Louisiana.

7 So what's at stake? Our homes, our jobs,
8 and our culture. The goal, again, is to have
9 a resilient coast -- a coast where people can
10 continue to live and to work and take
11 advantage of all the things that make Coastal
12 Louisiana so economically, ecologically, and
13 culturally valuable.

14 So we're here today at one of the four
15 public hearings we are holding. The public
16 comment period is open through March 25. We
17 mentioned the ways that you can submit a
18 public comment on the first slide. Following
19 that public comment, we will be incorporating
20 those comments and presenting the final plan
21 to the CPRA Board for their approval on April
22 19. We will then submit a final draft to the
23 legislature following the CPRA Board's
24 approval.

25 Alright. So here, I have a general

1 overview of the process by which we identify
2 and select projects to be included in the
3 Master Plan. So this slide here, I know is
4 very busy -- a lot of arrows and small type.
5 This is, I believe, on page five of the plan.
6 I think it is a good distillation of the
7 process, but probably better to explore on
8 your own time than in the middle of a
9 presentation on a projector.

10 But the important part for this
11 presentation is those -- are those labels on
12 the top: projects, modeling, and
13 prioritization. We start with a suite of
14 candidate projects, we model those projects
15 to try to understand how they will perform,
16 and then we select the projects that give us
17 the greatest benefit in terms of reducing
18 storm surge based flood risk, and building
19 and maintaining coastal wetlands.

20 As I mentioned, we start with a suite of
21 candidate projects. These candidate projects
22 come from a wide range of sources. We mine
23 past Master Plans, we mine past Corps
24 studies. We mine parish master plans and
25 other parish plans. We also have a public

1 solicitation period. We actually had two
2 separate public solicitations for this plan,
3 and we provided feedback in between the two
4 periods for those who presented, or those who
5 provided proposals in the first solicitation
6 period.

7 And as for this plan, we also developed
8 regional work groups to help develop new
9 project ideas, and also to refine some of the
10 project concepts that have been kind of
11 bouncing around for, in many cases, decades
12 to see if there's things that we can learn
13 from how we're projecting the coast will
14 change and help us choose more effective
15 projects.

16 We then model those projects. We are
17 modeling these projects to try to understand
18 how it will perform over time, across a range
19 of potential future environmental scenarios,
20 and we're comparing that to a future without
21 action. So we're interested in what the
22 future looks like if we implement those
23 projects versus what the future looks like if
24 we do not implement those projects, and we
25 call that our future without action. So if

1 you've looked at the Plan, then you're likely
2 familiar with that term: "Future Without
3 Action."

4 And then the last step is prioritization.
5 So the models tell us how a project performs.
6 The planning tool helps us select the suite
7 of projects that gives us the greatest
8 benefit in terms of reducing flood risk --
9 coastal flood risk, and building and
10 maintaining coastal wetlands, again, given
11 our concerns, which are funding, and in some
12 cases, sediment availability.

13 We also develop -- we also develop
14 metrics to help us understand how the
15 changing coast and the projects we're trying
16 to implement will affect different resources
17 and different communities, and we take that
18 into consideration when we're selecting
19 projects as well.

20 Now we'll talk about what is new in the
21 2023 Master Plan. So back to our diagram for
22 a moment, just to note the starting point for
23 this plan is previous master plans. We are
24 building off of the tools and processes that
25 we've developed in the past, but given the

1 opportunity to reevaluate those and
2 incorporate new and newly available data to
3 make sure that we're capturing the best
4 available science as we move forward with the
5 2023 Plan.

6 We're going to step through some examples
7 of improvements. This list is not at all
8 exhaustive. If you are interested in talking
9 about model improvements, we have a lot of
10 people here who are really interested in
11 talking to you about model improvements.
12 This has taken a huge amount of work over the
13 last six years, leading up to this Master
14 Plan.

15 So one of the areas where we have
16 improvement is in our storm suite. So we
17 have a new storm suite that was developed by
18 the Army Corps. We have a greater number of
19 storms, we have storms that have different
20 sizes and intensities, and storms at
21 different angles. And in short, this does
22 give us a much better ability to project
23 current and future storm surge flooding.

24 Another advancement is in our asset
25 database. So the storm surge modeling tells

1 us what flood levels we'll see; the risk
2 model tells us what sort of damage that will
3 cause, and so knowing where different assets
4 are and the characteristics of those assets
5 is really important to that process. There
6 are newly available data sets.

7 One significant advancement is working
8 with one of our partners at Purdue who
9 developed a machine learning algorithm to
10 estimate first floor elevations of structures
11 using Google Street View imagery, so this
12 just gives us a much better understanding of
13 the type of damage that would be caused by
14 different flood depths.

15 Another set of improvements are not just
16 about having new data available to us, but
17 about kind of reevaluating some of our
18 understanding of the processes and the
19 systems that we're modeling. Again, this is
20 one of those things that we can talk about
21 for quite a long time, but I will use this as
22 an opportunity to talk about the pertinent
23 data sets.

24 The Coastwide Reference Monitoring System
25 is an awesome resource that we have in

1 Louisiana. Now that we've had continuous
2 monitoring across the coast for 12 plus
3 years, in most cases, we're able to
4 reevaluate some of the assumptions we made in
5 our modeling based previously on best
6 professional judgement, on literature, and
7 see where that shows up in the data and
8 reevaluate those assumptions we made based on
9 this enormous data set.

10 Another area where we've seen significant
11 improvements is in environmental drivers and
12 our understanding of the environmental
13 drivers. So when we're talking about
14 environmental drivers, we're talking about
15 climate related drivers like sea level rise
16 and temperature; we're also talking about
17 things like subsidence, which, of course, is
18 not tied to climate change. There's been --
19 there have been very significant advances in
20 our understanding of these drivers, but there
21 still is uncertainty, and because of this
22 uncertainty, we take a scenario approach.

23 So if you're looking at the figures that
24 we have on the poster boards over there, if
25 you're familiar with the plan, we talk about

1 a higher environmental scenario and a lower
2 environmental scenario, and so our goal --
3 neither of these scenarios is meant to be a
4 precise prediction of what we expect to
5 happen. These are meant to help us
6 understand how these projects will perform
7 across of range of potential future
8 conditions, so that we can select projects
9 that will be effective whether we realize a
10 more severe future environmental condition,
11 or a more moderate future environmental
12 condition.

13 So in addition to those sort of modeling
14 and technical improvements, we also had
15 improvements to our process. And as I
16 mentioned at the top, a lot of this is based
17 on feedback we got through the 2017 process,
18 and shortly thereafter. One of the things we
19 heard in 2017 is that we needed to take a
20 more regionally focused approach. The
21 problems of the Chenier Plain are not the
22 problems of the Northshore are not the
23 problems of Terrebonne, and the solutions to
24 the Chenier Plain and Terrebonne and the
25 Northshore are different as well.

1 And so as part of this, we developed the
2 regional work groups that I mentioned earlier
3 to help support the development of new
4 project ideas. It also serves as a venue to
5 communicate progress throughout the plan on
6 our part, and sometimes it can communicate
7 some of the kind of region specific issues
8 that they face and what they see as some of
9 the major issues that they will face in the
10 future with the changing coast.

11 So if you open the Master Plan, there's a
12 whole -- about a quarter or a third of the
13 document is dedicated to these regional write
14 ups, and a lot of the storylines that are
15 illustrated in those sections came from these
16 regional work groups.

17 Another area that we improved for this
18 plan is we introduced a new risk metric. So
19 previously, we had worked with a risk metric
20 that was an annualized estimate of dollar
21 damages. There are criticisms of this sort
22 of analysis. It's an important metric, and
23 it helps us understand if we invest this many
24 dollars, how much -- how many dollars of risk
25 can we reduce, but it doesn't always tell the

1 whole story, so we developed a new metric
2 which is an attempt to address issues of
3 equity that -- or more directly, to address
4 issues of equity that are lost in using a
5 dollar value analysis. So this is looking at
6 a proportional impact of structures that is
7 agnostic to how valuable those structures
8 are. We use both of these metrics in our
9 analysis. They are both important, but they
10 tell us different things about the type of
11 risk that communities experience.

12 I mentioned this a little bit earlier,
13 but we also -- rather than pinning our plan
14 to a single projection of future
15 environmental conditions, we are, in this
16 Master Plan, developing a plan that is
17 selecting a suite of robust projects,
18 projects that will be effective whether we
19 realize a more severe environmental scenario,
20 or a more moderate environmental scenario.

21 And then lastly, this is a big
22 difference: what I've talked to you about up
23 to this point has been about the project
24 selection process. As I mentioned on that
25 first slide, one of the goals is to help

1 illustrate how the coast is going to change
2 and how folks will experience that. And so
3 beyond the improvements to the technical
4 tools and to the process to prioritize
5 projects, we took on a number of kind of one-
6 off modeling efforts to really help
7 understand, and then show folks how they may
8 experience change.

9 And so one example of this is high tide
10 flooding. There are a lot of communities
11 across Louisiana that are currently exposed
12 to high tide flooding, and this is flooding
13 we associate with normal weather patterns,
14 not related to tropical storms or hurricanes.
15 And we looked at key places in those
16 communities and how frequently they're
17 currently exposed to high tide flooding, how
18 frequently they may be in 25 years or 50
19 years with continued sea level rise, with
20 continued subsidence.

21 We wrote about three of these communities
22 in the Master Plan, but we're going to have
23 an appendix coming out shortly where we
24 looked at eight different communities -- I
25 think Mandeville and Delacroix, and a number

1 of other communities in this part of the
2 state are included in that analysis.

3 So for the 2023 Master Plan, ultimately,
4 we selected 61 restoration projections, 12
5 structural risk reduction projects, and
6 identified \$11 billion dollars for non-
7 structural risk reduction. Again, this is a
8 50 year, \$50 billion dollar plan, with \$25
9 billion dollars being allocated for
10 restoration and \$25 billion dollars being
11 allocated for risk reduction.

12 So starting with the restoration, a few
13 of the high points: the plan identifies \$2.7
14 billion dollars in new diversions. We
15 highlight "new" because in our modeling, we
16 made the assumption that the Mid-Barataria
17 and Mid-Breton Diversions, as well as the
18 River Reintroduction into Maurepas Swamp, are
19 already on the landscape. And the reason for
20 this is that we expect they will be
21 constructed, and we want to select projects
22 -- additional projects that won't have
23 negative interactions with those projects,
24 that won't -- and hopefully select projects
25 that have synergy with those projects.

1 The next bullet point: over \$19 billion
2 dollars of the Master Plan is for dredging
3 projects. So as Bren will talk about with
4 projects that are moving forward in the
5 Annual Plan, marsh creation, barrier island
6 restoration remains a huge part of our
7 restoration program, and will, in the future,
8 continue to be a huge part of our restoration
9 program. It's a very effective way to
10 restore our coastal wetlands.

11 And then the last point is that we've
12 identified \$2.5 billion dollars for
13 programmatic projects. So these are projects
14 that sort of, for one reason or another,
15 don't fit particularly well into our
16 analytical framework. They are projects that
17 are best treated programmatically, or
18 addressed by programs that exist. So we have
19 at CPRA a Barrier Island Program that is more
20 capable and kind of has the agility to
21 address barrier islands and sediment needs of
22 barrier islands, which are highly dependent
23 on recent storms, and priorities can change
24 quickly -- more quickly than a Master Plan
25 analysis.

1 And then, also, the kind of smaller scale
2 projects, like small scale hydrologic
3 restoration, oyster reef restoration, and
4 shoreline protection. Those are the things
5 that are best addressed through programs like
6 CWPBRA, the Restoration Partnership Fund, the
7 RESTORE Matching Program -- programs that
8 have the ability to look at those projects on
9 a case by case basis.

10 So with the Master Plan implemented under
11 a lower scenario, 314 square miles of land is
12 built or maintained that otherwise would have
13 been lost at year 50. Under the higher
14 scenario, at year 50, that's 233 square
15 miles, and you see there's a greater benefit
16 in year 40, and we'll look at some time
17 period maps in a second.

18 But that's more because a lot of the
19 large scale marsh creation projects that are
20 selected early on in the process, which are
21 really effective projects, are really
22 effective for 30, 35 years, but in the out
23 years of that higher scenario, they're no
24 longer able to keep pace with accelerated
25 rates of sea level rise and continued

1 subsidence.

2 So this is our lower scenario at year 10,
3 year 20, year 30, year 40, and year 50. The
4 blues, of course, are land loss, and greens
5 are land gain and land maintained. And this
6 is the higher scenario at year 10, 20, 30,
7 40, and then you'll see a lot of these colors
8 have marsh creation projects if you look in
9 the Port Fourchon area, Marsh Island that are
10 no longer able to keep pace in the final
11 decade.

12 So on the risk reduction side, we
13 identified 12 structural risk reduction
14 projects for a total of \$14 billion dollars.
15 We also identified \$11.2 billion dollars of
16 that \$25 billion dollar budget that is best
17 allocated towards non-structural risk
18 reduction measures, such as elevated homes,
19 flood proofing business, and voluntary
20 acquisition in areas that are exposed to very
21 high levels of flooding.

22 So this is our projection of flood depths
23 at year 50 under our lower scenario with the
24 restoration projects and the structural risk
25 reduction projects on the landscape. You can

1 see those lower flood depths behind some of
2 the structural features, and those oranges
3 and reds outside of the structural features,
4 and this is the difference of with and
5 without action. And so we do see with some
6 of these structural features, they increase
7 flood depths in certain areas by kind of
8 stacking up that surge as it approaches the
9 structure, but we see significant reduction
10 in flooding behind those structures.

11 We also see in the Chenier Plain, there
12 are non-structural protection projects and we
13 see the impact of restoration projects. So
14 that reduction in flood depths is the result
15 of those restoration projects that have been
16 implemented in this Master Plan. And this is
17 the reduction compared to a future without
18 action; not necessarily reduction compared to
19 what they are exposed to today.

20 And this is what it looks like in terms
21 of risk, and so the blues and greens are
22 reductions in flood risk, and as we would
23 expect, the reduction in flood depth or in
24 flood risk are seen behind those structural
25 protection projects, but we also do see that

1 impact in the Greater Lake Charles area with
2 reduced flood risk in those areas as a result
3 of the restoration projects.

4 And so the result of this is at year 50,
5 compared to a future without action, as
6 measured in our expected annual damage in
7 dollars figure or metric, we see about 70
8 percent reduction under a low scenario, and
9 60 percent reduction under our higher
10 scenario. If we measure that in expected
11 annual structure damage, we see a similar but
12 slightly greater reduction -- a 78 percent
13 reduction under the lower scenario, and 65
14 percent reduction in the higher scenario.

15 And so Bren lead with this and I will
16 close with this statement, but this level of
17 investment could mean that in 50 years, under
18 a lower environmental scenario, Louisiana
19 could have less risk from hurricanes and
20 tropical storms than we do today. Under the
21 lower scenario, it's a reduction of around
22 \$10.8 billion dollars annually in year 50,
23 and \$14.6 billion dollars under the higher
24 scenario. So I will leave these directions
25 on how to submit comments and hand it back

1 over to Therese.

2 THERESE WALKER:

3 Okay. Thanks, Stu. So we'll now begin
4 the public comment portion here in just a
5 second. So this is just public comments on
6 the Master Plan. So anyone who would like to
7 speak a comment into the record needs to take
8 a statement card -- the green Master Plan
9 card -- wave your hand and we'll get you one.
10 Make sure you turn that in. I'll give
11 everyone here a minute or two to, you know,
12 make a decision to make one. Once we
13 actually start the comment period portion,
14 we'll take more cards.

15 A couple of reminders on this: once we
16 call you up to the front, make sure you state
17 your name so that it can be spoken and
18 written down into the record. You have three
19 minutes to give a comment. We'll time you
20 and give you some cues there if you're
21 running close to time. We're not taking any
22 questions -- it's simply a comment period to
23 state your statement. We're not going to
24 respond to those. So I'll give everybody
25 another minute or so.

1 And so there are other ways to give a
2 comment. If you would like to write
3 something down instead of speaking it,
4 there's comment cards that you can fill out
5 later on and drop them off before you leave
6 tonight. Stu went through a bunch of other
7 ways you can submit comments here. I'll
8 leave it up for a second so you can snap a
9 picture if you need it.

10 If you have specific questions that you
11 kind of want to talk about -- you've heard
12 all this information -- the CPRA team will be
13 around a little while after this. We're
14 happy to sit and kind of talk with you one on
15 one if you have any comments or concerns
16 about the projects -- I'm sorry -- if you
17 have any questions about them.

18 Last call -- does anybody else have one,
19 or wants to fill one out? Wave them around
20 and we'll grab it from you.

21 Okay. With that, we'll officially go
22 ahead and get started. When I call your name
23 out, you'll come to this microphone over here
24 to my left, state your name one time for the
25 record, and then you've got three minutes

1 starting there to give your comment. So
2 first, we'll have Captain George Ricks,
3 followed by George Cavnag and James Karst.

4 CAPTAIN GEORGE RICKS:

5 Thank you. My name is Captain George
6 Ricks --

7 BREN HAASE:

8 I don't think it's on.

9 CAPTAIN GEORGE RICKS:

10 My name's Captain George Ricks. I'm
11 President of the Save Louisiana Coalition.
12 First off, I'd like to thank CPRA for their
13 hard work on the Master Plan. There's some
14 great projects in the Master Plan.

15 In his presentation, Mr. Brown spoke
16 about priorities, cost effectiveness, storm
17 surge reduction, culture, jobs; however, in
18 March of last year, an environmental impact
19 statement was done for the Mid-Barataria
20 Sediment Diversion, and it showed that these
21 types of projects -- diversion projects --
22 did none of those Mr. Brown talked about.

23 I'd like to point out that as far as cost
24 effectiveness, your presentation has sediment
25 diversion in it right now at \$2.4 billion

1 dollars. I'd like to point out the cost
2 effectiveness. Right now, the largest marsh
3 creation project in the history of Louisiana
4 is being built as we speak in St. Bernard
5 Parish. 2770 acres which will be built in
6 three years. That's 25 percent of what the
7 Mid-Barataria Diversion is proposed to build
8 in 50 years, and it's going to be built in a
9 fourth of the time and a fourth of the cost.

10 So these are the type of projects you
11 need. Diversion projects have actually shown
12 in environmental impact statements to
13 actually cause more flood risk and do nothing
14 to provide storm surge protection. Because
15 of these facts and other environmental
16 problems with the diversions, the Save
17 Louisiana Coalition stands opposed to any and
18 all new diversions in the Master Plan,
19 especially the second water diversion in St.
20 Bernard Parish. Thank you.

21 THERESE WALKER:

22 Next, we have George Cavignac.

23 GEORGE CAVIGNAC:

24 Thank you. I'm George Cavignac, CEO of
25 the Gulf Coast Resource Coalition. I too

1 would like -- our organization as well
2 commends CPRA. Massive work on the plan, as
3 always. The iterations of them over the
4 years have been a lot of hard work, we
5 understand, but we too -- echoing some of the
6 last speaker's terms -- for nearly a decade,
7 our organization and others of our
8 stakeholder partners have passed by the board
9 and legislature, as well as many of these
10 public meetings, and criticism of the large
11 scale Mississippi River Diversion Project as
12 in the Master Plan has always been deflected
13 in the mantra by the CPRA and other
14 mouthpiece environmental groups that the
15 projects are going to go through a rigorous
16 scientific process.

17 Well, here we are today. The science has
18 been confirmed in the environmental impact
19 statement. So because the science in the
20 environmental impact statement clearly states
21 that the Mid-Barataria Diversion will cause
22 permanent major destruction to the shrimp
23 industry, permanent major destruction for the
24 oyster industry; because of the fact that the
25 State's own Louisiana Oyster and Shrimp

1 Taskforce, under the Wildlife and Fisheries
2 Department, has sent official resolutions to
3 the legislature, to CPRA opposing these
4 projects, and informing you because of the
5 economics, once these projects start, that
6 the shrimp and oyster industries will not
7 recover;

8 Because local governments of Louisiana,
9 including St. Bernard, Plaquemines, City of
10 Grand Isle, and other stakeholder groups have
11 sent official objections, resolutions,
12 begging that these projects not forge
13 forward; because the project will destroy and
14 drive into functional extinction one of the
15 largest dolphin populations in the
16 continental U.S., and a waiver was placed
17 into a large budget amendment in 2018 to
18 waive protection under the environmental
19 process to the Marine Animal Protection Act,
20 which many experts feel that the project
21 wouldn't have got permit approval on December
22 20 of last year;

23 Because of all those facts, and in
24 addition, the environmental impact statement
25 and your own graph that was just displayed up

1 on the screen for everyone, demonstrates that
2 the project will only create a paltry two
3 percent additional wetlands, which will not
4 stand up to storm surge in the Barataria
5 Basin.

6 Because of all these facts, but also
7 because we have to officially object to these
8 projects yet again -- all new diversion
9 projects in the Master Plan -- speaking as
10 the Gulf Coast Resource Coalition for the
11 official public record, official objections
12 from also our partners governmentally --
13 Cameron County, Texas for the Mid-Barataria
14 Sediment Diversion, for the public record,
15 and our partners in government, Hancock
16 County, Mississippi and the City of Bay St.
17 Louis also officially object along with us to
18 the Mid-Breton Diversion. We also have the
19 Central Wetlands, and just to close, because
20 of future litigation, we'll limit our
21 comments for now because the time's up, but I
22 appreciate you. Thank you.

23 THERESE WALKER:

24 James Karst.

25 JAMES KARST:

1 Hi, my name is James Karst. I am the
2 communications director at the Coalition to
3 Restore Coastal Louisiana, and I am
4 delivering my public comments on behalf of
5 that organization tonight. Thank you to CPRA
6 for hosting tonight's public hearing, and for
7 all the hard work on this plan.

8 CRCL's mission is to unite people in
9 action to achieve a thriving, sustainable
10 Louisiana Coast for all. We are proud of our
11 35 year history of advocating for the
12 restoration of our coast. We are also one of
13 the members of the Restore the Mississippi
14 River Delta campaign, a coalition of
15 environmental groups working to advance an
16 integrally safer and flourishing coast for
17 Louisiana's communities, ecosystem, and
18 economy.

19 Coastal land loss is one of the most
20 significant and urgent issues facing our
21 state. As such, we believe that restoration
22 projects must be implemented as soon as
23 possible. Because they will have the most
24 impact over time and support other
25 investments in the restoration and risk

1 reduction projects, we believe the state
2 should focus funding on these large scale
3 projects first.

4 We strongly support the proposed Coastal
5 Master Plan. We are encouraged to see that
6 it includes implementation periods that
7 prioritize how projects should be advanced
8 over time. We also support the Master Plan
9 process, as it is publicly informed and
10 grounded in the best available science. It
11 also balances coastal restoration and
12 protection, and is realistic about the
13 challenges we face along our coast.

14 We're encouraged to see you to continue
15 to find opportunities to reach wider
16 audiences because we know that when everyone
17 takes part in the process, it is fairer and
18 more effective. We also encourage CPRA to
19 continue to find new ways -- new and
20 accessible ways to include all stakeholders
21 in the process.

22 The Master Plan brings a welcome tool for
23 communicating to people about projects in
24 their own backyards. We plan to submit a
25 more detailed comment from CRCL in writing.

1 Thank you.

2 THERESE WALKER:

3 Next up is Scott Eustis, followed by Kyle
4 Galloway.

5 SCOTT EUSTIS:

6 Hello. My name is Scott Eustis. I'm
7 with Healthy Gulf and Gulf Restoration
8 Network out of New Orleans. We're a 28-year-
9 old environmental group from Texas. We're
10 commenting on the Master Plan again for 2023.
11 You've come so far. It's been so amazing to
12 see the massive amount of restoration
13 implementation that Louisiana has
14 accomplished because of CPRA.

15 There's an awful lot of conflict you have
16 in the state. In 2005, we were given
17 authority to name CPRA as authority over the
18 levee districts, over DOT to resolve
19 conflicts, and that means that Louisiana is
20 restoring wetlands at a better pace than
21 Florida has been meaning to; right? And yet,
22 we -- you know what I'm going to say: we need
23 you to do so much more with that.

24 We've commented on non-structural. We
25 have authority over OCD. You -- there's a

1 lot you could do on coastal management.
2 PetroGlobal is ripping up a lot of the
3 wetlands in your project areas. We've been
4 mitigating Pointe Coupee Parish. There's a
5 lot more that CPRA could be doing on coastal
6 resiliency and keep those wetlands in the
7 nice green color lines you have on those
8 maps.

9 I guess tonight, I'd just like to talk
10 about -- there's another agency that is
11 affecting the projects, and that's LDEQ. We
12 have a climate taskforce that's outlined very
13 well how much new petrochemical air permits
14 are affecting the future of Louisiana.
15 That's a taskforce; you're an authority. You
16 really need to get CPRA to take the science
17 of the taskforce seriously and develop
18 metrics on consistency with LDEQ's air
19 permits on how it affects the quality of
20 colors on the map.

21 You know, if a -- Formosa Plastics in St.
22 James and PetroGlobal, they're on the EPA's
23 White Paper List. They're one percent of
24 Louisiana's carbon emissions. That facility
25 is flooding the wetlands around the globe in

1 2067, so it's also affecting the projects.
2 So we do need CPRA to staff up if you have to
3 to do consistency reviews of air permits
4 because we know the climate is really going
5 to be the future of our wetlands.

6 We sued BP to get all those colors on the
7 map. Currently, the state is suing Chevron
8 for its deep oilfield to get our wetlands
9 back. We know that CPRA has the authority
10 and the will and the science to take on
11 Formosa, Venture Global LNG -- the two
12 climate emitters -- and do consistency
13 reviews for some of these massive climate
14 destroyers that are happening in our state.
15 Thank you.

16 THERESE WALKER:

17 Next, we have Kyle Galloway.

18 KYLE GALLOWAY:

19 Good evening. My name is Kyle Galloway
20 with GIS Engineering, and I'm here to speak
21 on behalf of Lafourche Basin Levee District.
22 First of all, congratulations to CPRA and
23 your staff and all of your partners on a
24 great milestone. I know this is a continuous
25 effort, and I'm sure it feels really good to

1 get to this point after years of work, and
2 before you get started on the next one.

3 Also, I was telling Mr. Haase before the
4 presentation what a beautiful document this
5 is. I really appreciate all the graphics. I
6 think you did a great job and it's really
7 nice to look at, so kudos to y'all on
8 continuing to kind of improve yourself both
9 technically and presentation-wise.

10 So I wanted to bring up some concerns
11 about the Upper Barataria Risk Reduction
12 Projects. Basically, we expected from 2017
13 to the 2023 Plan to see changes to that
14 project that would bring it into alignment
15 with the federal projects that was authorized
16 in the Water Resources Development Act of
17 2022. It actually appears to kind of go in
18 the opposite direction, so we just want to
19 make sure that we're all aligned between the
20 local levee district, the state, and federal
21 government.

22 So we're just requesting some discussion
23 and clarification on that before finalizing
24 the Master Plan, so we'll submit the details
25 in writing and reach out to Mr. Haase and

1 some of his staff. I'm sure we'll work
2 through all of that. We just wanted to bring
3 that up and make sure we talk about it before
4 finalizing the plan. Thank you.

5 THERESE WALKER:

6 Next, we have Joshua Benitez.

7 JOSHUA BENITEZ:

8 Hey, how's it going, everybody? Yeah, so
9 my name is Joshua Benitez. Do you mind if I
10 hold this mic? Is that okay?

11 BREN HAASE:

12 Yeah.

13 JOSHUA BENITEZ:

14 It's a little low. Thank you. I'm a
15 singer, so. My name is Joshua Benitez. I'm
16 the co-director of Common Ground Relief. I'm
17 here specifically to speak, though, as an
18 individual born and raised here in New
19 Orleans, Louisiana.

20 So I would like to start this off by
21 saying that I would like CPRA to dream at the
22 scale of our crisis that we're currently
23 facing. I would like to acknowledge the
24 shifts in how you quantify or qualify
25 projects towards being more equitable.

1 I would also like to specifically name
2 that those shifts are insufficient. You
3 know, at the end of the day, there are a lot
4 of communities that don't have this time.
5 There are people who do not have 50 years, or
6 30 years, or even 10, and that the primary
7 drivers are -- one of the largest drivers of
8 coastal wetland loss is the petrochemical
9 industry with the 15,000 miles of canals that
10 are cutting across our wetlands.

11 And no amount of work can really undo
12 that if we continue to allow that to happen,
13 and if we continually allow those industries
14 to build without -- what's the word I'm
15 thinking of? Someone help me.

16 BREN HAASE:

17 Mitigation?

18 JOSHUA BENITEZ:

19 Mitigation, that's the word. Yeah. If
20 you guys just let the industries do whatever
21 they want without accountability -- that's
22 the word -- accountability. We love it. We
23 love that word. S

24 o yeah, if you could hold industries
25 accountable for the 15,000 miles of canals

1 that were cut through the wetlands and for
2 the hundreds of oil spills that happen after
3 hurricanes, I think that would complement
4 CPRA's mission and benefit every single
5 person in Louisiana, not to mention that
6 Louisiana guides the nation and the world in
7 how we are going to tackle climate change.
8 So I would like to end by saying dream at the
9 scale of the crisis. I know that we can do
10 it, and so thank you.

11 THERESE WALKER:

12 Alright, I apologize -- the next card is
13 first name Justin, last name K. I'm having
14 trouble reading it.

15 JUSTIN KRAY:

16 That's me. Good evening. My name is
17 Justin Kray, and I'm a cartographer here on
18 behalf of the Louisiana Bucket Brigade. I
19 would like to speak specifically to -- it's a
20 beautiful program, I agree. The modeling
21 shows great technical competency. I guess
22 that is more to do with how is CWPPRA
23 holistically going to work in concert with
24 other state agencies.

25 It seems like CWPPRA is the supreme

1 environmental authority in the states in
2 terms of governing the future of the health
3 of our wetlands and environment, and I'm
4 concerned about several aspects of the plan,
5 which don't seem to include large mechanical
6 fill outs currently underway in Southwestern
7 Louisiana and the Chenier Plain, Port
8 Fourchon, and Plaquemines Parish.

9 As you're probably familiar with,
10 Louisiana's natural gas boom is underway, and
11 there's over a dozen plants currently in
12 permittance -- they're either permitted, or
13 about to be permitted, and being reviewed by
14 DEQ. I don't see any mention of those plants
15 in the CWPPRA or the plan. Some of those
16 well-known schemes are actually going to
17 occur in areas where CWPPRA's earmarked
18 locations for wetland restoration.

19 For instance, Commonwealth LNG Plant in
20 Cameron Parish is -- coincides with one of
21 the wetlands restoration projects you guys
22 have in mind. It doesn't seem like that's
23 necessarily compatible, and so I'd like to
24 feel like I understand more from the plan
25 what kinds of guidance are you offering? How

1 are you reporting to those state agencies?

2 Are you reporting to those state agencies?

3 It seems like your work is -- has to be
4 considered holistically with the permitting
5 authorities and other state agencies.

6 I'd like to see more written in the plan
7 about what you're doing in terms of zeroing
8 in on state authority to kind of bring to
9 heel or coordinate with the other agencies in
10 the state that are determining the future and
11 the health of our environment.

12 Another thing that kind of crossed my
13 mind is I know there's a lot of sedimentary
14 diversion planned, you know, through the
15 various sediment base, and I'm not an expert
16 on hydrology or hydrological modeling, but
17 from what I understand, a lot of these
18 diversions are relying on sediment from the
19 Mississippi River, and my concern has to do
20 with the -- I know you're familiar with
21 pluton.

22 Well, that's in the Mississippi River and
23 all petrochemical plants are currently
24 emitting un-permitted or not well known
25 amount of toxic agents into the Mississippi

1 River, and churning it in the deep depths. A
2 lot of those are not well known, and I'm
3 concerned that that will get introduced into
4 the fragile wetland ecosystems, or
5 potentially further diminish the health of
6 fragile environments. Thank you.

7 THERESE WALKER:

8 Alright. Our last one is Reverend
9 Edwards. Anybody else who wanted to submit a
10 comment, you're welcome to do so. Just write
11 it down on a comment card and drop it off to
12 someone. If you need one, wave us down and
13 someone will get you one.

14 REVEREND EDWARDS:

15 I'm Tyronne Edwards from Plaquemines
16 Parish East Bank. I'm here because I'm
17 afraid of what's happening to young people.
18 We talk about the democratic process. This
19 whole process -- all these pretty posters is
20 a bunch of lies. I heard someone from CPRA
21 on the news this morning, and the news man
22 saying that -- asked a question, "Will
23 anything change as a result of what you do
24 here?" Nothing's going to change. The
25 petroleum companies control this whole

1 process.

2 This is a crime against nature.

3 Fishermen in Plaquemines Parish is dying a
4 slow death. That's whose white glove you are
5 under. I want to know how the CPRA or the
6 government is going to let everybody stand by
7 and continue -- how do you go to sleep at
8 night knowing that what you're doing -- I
9 mean, talk about the devil in the details.
10 This is the devil. This is evil that you are
11 putting people out and you're calling it
12 science. It's fake. It's pseudoscience from
13 the petroleum company.

14 And not only is it pseudoscience, but
15 you're bringing that pseudoscience into
16 universities like LSU and the University of
17 New Orleans, putting it in the young people's
18 minds and saying this is progress and that
19 somebody will have to make sacrifices.
20 You're sacrificing people's livelihood. Not
21 only are you taking food from people, you're
22 killing people. So I just wanted to know
23 when are y'all going to stop being murderers
24 and stop the lying?

25 THERESE WALKER:

1 Alright. With that, we'll conclude the
2 public comment period for the Master Plan.
3 Like I said, there's a couple of other ways
4 if you'd like to submit comments. You're
5 welcome to write them out before we're done.

6 The public comment period is open until
7 March 25, so there are plenty of other ways
8 for you to submit comments outside of this
9 meeting. We'll be around after if anyone
10 wants to ask questions. The CPRA team will
11 be happy to stick around to answer those for
12 you.

13 So with that, we'll move into the Annual
14 Plan presentation. Same thing, though just a
15 little shorter. After that, we'll take
16 public comments on Annual Plan. If you'd
17 like to speak on the Annual Plan, you'll need
18 a blue statement card which someone on our
19 team can give you, or they're on the table.
20 You have until the end of that presentation
21 and a couple of minutes after to submit
22 those, and it'll be the same process.

23 BREN HAASE:

24 Alright. Thank you, Therese. Thanks
25 everybody for providing those comments, and

1 again, for participating in this process. So
2 we're going to switch gears, as Stu
3 mentioned, and go from that higher level kind
4 of long return kind of outlook to the things
5 that we hope to implement, and veer off of
6 the Master Plan. As we sit here today, this
7 is what we'll implement over the next year,
8 and then, you know, over the next three
9 years.

10 So you've all seen all this ad nauseam by
11 now, but again, we'll take public comments
12 this evening. Public comments can be sent to
13 the email address here. Online comments will
14 be accepted as well if you scan the QR code
15 to access the ability to make comments there,
16 and also, we'll accept written comments via
17 the mail -- the old fashioned way.

18 So in terms of our timeline, the same
19 timeline, basically, as the Master Plan. We
20 presented this to our Board on January 18th.
21 That opened the public comment period. That
22 public comment period runs through March
23 25th. The final plan will be presented to
24 the Board on the 19th, incorporating the
25 public comments that we received.

1 And while we don't officially respond to
2 public comments, I can tell you that every
3 Master Plan to date has been changed from the
4 draft to final version as a result of public
5 comment. And ultimately, the final plan will
6 be presented to the legislature shortly after
7 our board meeting.

8 So in terms of the revenue that we
9 anticipate receiving from the state this
10 year, you can see those listed here. I won't
11 go through each of those. Just know that the
12 majority of these funding sources are related
13 to either federal funding sources like GOMESA
14 or CWPPRA, or related to the BP Oil Spill.
15 That will be the NRDA, the NFWF, and RESTORE
16 categories that you see there. There are
17 some other categories there as well. We've
18 been fortunate enough to have a budget
19 surplus in the state of Louisiana over the
20 last few years. Coastal restoration is one
21 of the eligible expenditures of those
22 dollars, so you see some of that listed there
23 as well.

24 In terms of how those dollars will be
25 spent, you see that broken down here. So if

1 you add up that list of funds that I showed
2 you a moment ago, the total is \$1.74 billion
3 dollars. That's a record for the state of
4 Louisiana.

5 Last year, we broke a record with a
6 figure of about \$1.3 billion dollars, and we
7 anticipate that increasing significantly in
8 the upcoming fiscal year, should those
9 revenues become available to us. One of the
10 things that we're certainly proud about as
11 well, associated with this, is that 85
12 percent of those funds will be expended on
13 project construction.

14 So looking ahead, I'll mention the next
15 two fiscal years following Fiscal Year '24.
16 Those numbers will be about \$1.6 billion and
17 about \$1.27 billion dollars, respectively.
18 If you look at the number or percent of those
19 dollars being spent on construction, it goes
20 to 90 and about 88 percent over the next
21 couple of fiscal years. So just a few of the
22 numbers that I want to run by you. I
23 mentioned that 80 percent or so is being
24 spent on construction, so that's about \$1.5
25 billion dollars that will be on the ground in

1 the upcoming fiscal year.

2 Stu talked a little bit about the amount
3 of dredging that has occurred and will occur
4 as envisioned by this Master Plan. This
5 Annual Plan envisions about 20 projects being
6 built that will involve dredging of the
7 Mississippi River, from some more shallow
8 lakes and bays, or from offshore as well.
9 These projects will all benefit close to
10 15,000 acres of our coastal wetlands.

11 In total, we'll have 118 active projects,
12 again, many of those in construction in the
13 next fiscal year. If you think about the
14 total investment in our coast over the next
15 year, we believe -- our friends at GNO, Inc.
16 estimate that will support about 10,000
17 direct jobs, and generally, \$640 million in
18 labor income, so a significant driver for
19 some of our economies in different parts of
20 the state, and certainly along our coast.

21 So I'll focus in a little bit on some of
22 the regions of the coast. We're going to
23 start with the Southwest region, where we
24 anticipate having 15 projects active -- nine
25 of those in construction, and six in

1 engineering and design -- and those projects
2 include the Cameron Gulf Shoreline Protection
3 Projects, the Southwest Coastal Louisiana
4 Project, the Long Point Bayou Marsh Creation
5 Project -- all of which will be in
6 construction this upcoming fiscal year.

7 Oh, go back. Wrong button. So we'll
8 move a little bit further to the east and
9 we'll look at the South Central portion of
10 our state. 41 active projects in this region
11 -- 26 of those in construction, 14 in
12 engineering and design, and one of those
13 projects will be in planning. These include
14 the West Fourchon Marsh Creation Project, the
15 Henderson Lake Water Management Project, the
16 Morganza to the Gulf Project, the Larose to
17 Golden Meadow Project, South Lafourche Reach
18 2 Levee Project, and the Grand Bayou Pump
19 Station Project, again, just to name a few of
20 those.

21 We'll continue that list here. We've got
22 a number of projects active in the
23 Southeastern region of the state, moving into
24 our neighborhood, of course, where we are
25 here this evening. We anticipate 62 projects

1 active in FY '24 -- 45 of those in
2 construction -- some of those have already
3 started construction -- 16 in engineering and
4 design, and one of those projects in
5 planning. These projects include the Paillet
6 Basin Tidal Protection Project, the West
7 Shore Lake Pontchartrain Hurricane Protection
8 Project, Large-Scale Barataria Marsh Creation
9 Project -- which is actually under
10 construction as we speak.

11 Some other projects in this portion
12 include the portion of Lake Borgne Marsh
13 Creation Project in Increment 2 and the River
14 Reintroduction Project into Maurepas Swamp,
15 which you may have heard some news about
16 recently.

17 As part of our Annual Plan, we also
18 include an Atchafalaya Basin Annual Plan.
19 There will be separate public meetings
20 specifically for the Atchafalaya Basin Plan.
21 The next meeting will be in Morgan City --
22 I'm looking for Brian. I believe it will be
23 on Wednesday of this week. Is that right?
24 Wednesday of this week, so -- but
25 nonetheless, I wanted to mention it here as

1 we talk about the larger Annual Plan.

2 So you see a number of projects that we
3 anticipate to be active in FY '24, including
4 the dredging of Big Bayou Pigeon, Grimmer
5 Canal Improvements, Pointe Coupee Water Flow
6 and Quality Improvement Project. We
7 mentioned Henderson Lake already, Murphy Lake
8 Depth Restoration Project is underway. We're
9 waiting for some technical information on
10 that project. Now, the East Grand Lake Upper
11 Region Project is in permitting and will be,
12 at this rate, we anticipate that project
13 sometime in the near future.

14 Some other projects you see up here are
15 recreational and access. These other type of
16 projects include the boat launch at Bayou
17 Pigeon, and probably more important than any
18 of the projects on here is an update to the
19 Atchafalaya Basin Master Plan. You know, we
20 talked about a lot of plans tonight, and
21 we've got another one coming in this upcoming
22 year, which will be an update to the
23 Atchafalaya Basin Master Plan, which has not
24 been updated in close to 30 years, I believe.

25 So just like the Master Plan, we're

1 hoping that some of you got the chance to
2 take a look at that this evening. We've got
3 one associated with the Annual Plan. You can
4 see the address here -- it's
5 AP24.coastal.la.gov. It's just a good source
6 of information.

7 If you have any questions about our
8 Annual Plan, we will take this time out -- if
9 you want more information about the projects
10 in the Annual Plan, you can go here. There
11 are videos, there are news articles, there
12 are project fact sheets and so forth. Of
13 course, you can access the Annual Plan
14 document itself here as well.

15 And that concludes the presentation on
16 the Annual Plan. We'll move back into public
17 comment period, like we just did with the
18 Master Plan. I did want to reiterate -- I
19 believe Therese mentioned this earlier: while
20 we're not answering questions as part of
21 formal comment period, all of us will be here
22 as long as you need us to be.

23 If you guys have questions, someone will
24 be able to answer them if you grab one of the
25 staff. We'll be around to sit here as long

1 as we need to. Again, appreciate your
2 attention, and we'll move on to the public
3 comment period.

4 THERESE WALKER:

5 Okay. So similar process to last time:
6 if you would like to speak your comment into
7 the record, there are blue statement cards
8 for the Annual Plan. Make sure you fill one
9 of those out and hand it in to CPRA staff
10 member. If you need one, flag us down and we
11 will grab it from you.

12 You've got about four minutes here just
13 to write down your basic information. I'll
14 let you know when we're done taking those
15 cards and actually start the comment period.
16 At that point in time, we'll run through the
17 cards that we've received.

18 If you would like to not speak, but write
19 down a comment, there are white comment cards
20 that you are welcome to write on and drop
21 those off before you leave. When everybody
22 who wants to speak turns their statement
23 cards in, I'll run through all the options to
24 submit comments on the Annual Plan outside of
25 this meeting.

1 So you're welcome to email them in to
2 coastal@la.gov to submit them online. You
3 can take a picture or hold your phone up to
4 this QR code here and it'll pull up the form
5 for you, or you can mail it in as well. So
6 we'll give everybody one more minute who
7 would like to speak your comment on the
8 Annual Plan to write a statement card for it.
9 If anybody else needs a card, just flag us
10 down and we'll get you one.

11 Okay, we're going to go ahead and get
12 started, then. So the first statement card
13 that I have is from Zach Lea.

14 ZACH LEA:

15 I've already given my comment, but -- I'm
16 Zach Lea. I'm involved in the oyster
17 industry. I invest in what we call
18 alternative oyster culture, and I just want
19 to express my frustration at the state's what
20 I consider mismanagement of our enormous
21 oyster resources in the coastal zone.

22 I have two concerns here. Number one, I
23 feel like the Mid-Barataria Sediment
24 Diversion should be scrapped, and those funds
25 be diverted into more efficient marsh

1 building, land building projects such as --
2 on a real similar cost basis, CPRA's Lake
3 Borgne Project is a much better use of public
4 funds for protecting and restoring our
5 coastal zone.

6 The sediment diversion plan costs
7 \$156,000 dollars per acre to build marsh.
8 The Lake Borgne Project cost about \$42,000
9 dollars per acre. So the Lake Borgne Project
10 is approximately four times more cost
11 effective than the Mid-Barataria Sediment
12 Diversion, and the marsh building project out
13 in St. Bernard Parish provides better storm
14 protection in a smaller amount of time.

15 Number two, the Barataria Sediment
16 Diversion is not essential for the protection
17 or restoration of our coastal zone. This
18 diversion will provide 25 square miles of
19 unprotected -- that is, no levees --
20 freshwater marsh over its 50 year life
21 project -- project life. I am relying on
22 information that I get from CPRA's reports
23 for these comments. 25 miles of freshwater
24 marsh will be destroyed by a single hurricane
25 on a single path -- like for example,

1 Hurricane Katrina really destroyed 200 square
2 miles. Ida destroyed 100 square miles.

3 This 25 percent that I mentioned earlier
4 is only 1.25 percent of the 2,000 acres that
5 we've lost. It's not hardly around the
6 amount of land we're trying to put back. The
7 Barataria Sediment Diversion is inconsistent
8 with CPRA's mission to protect and restore the
9 coastal communities and the local natural
10 resources.

11 It will flood the Barataria Basin with
12 pollution carrying fresh Mississippi River
13 water. Because oysters cannot survive in
14 freshwater, the Barataria Diversion Project
15 will destroy the oyster fishing in the
16 Barataria Basin. Approximately 50 percent of
17 our state's --

18 THERESE WALKER:

19 That's time.

20 ZACH LEA:

21 -- oyster production --

22 THERESE WALKER:

23 Thank you for your comment.

24 ZACH LEA:

25 Okay. Most importantly, it will cut off

1 the future development of the oyster
2 industry. With proper management of the
3 salinity, oyster production in Barataria can
4 be 10 to 15 times more than it is today. I
5 apologize for talking too much.

6 THERESE WALKER:

7 Next, we have Mr. Brendan Mott.

8 BRENDAN MOTT:

9 Thank you. My name is Brendan Mott. I
10 work at the University of New Orleans. So I
11 just wanted to mention something really
12 quickly about the levee projects in general,
13 but more specifically, just in the River
14 Parishes, we know that project is ongoing.

15 As you said before, this might not be --
16 funnily enough, this may the improper use of
17 this forum. I just want to be assured that
18 when y'all are making these levee projects,
19 y'all are aware of the stress that will put
20 on other levees already in existence when a
21 hurricane comes, and that's all I want to
22 say.

23 THERESE WALKER:

24 Thank you for your comment. And the last
25 card I have is from Mr. Joshua Benitez.

1 JOSHUA BENITEZ:

2 Thank you, again. Joshua Benitez from
3 Common Ground Relief. My first comment is to
4 say that there are no sacrifice zones when it
5 comes to re-vegetation, and I would like the
6 CPRA to prioritize habitat restoration
7 programs that specifically utilize native and
8 indigenous re-vegetation. Specifically, we
9 are very aware that after some projects,
10 those areas re-vegetate quickly with
11 establishing species, but in order to restore
12 the habitat to pre-industrial conditions, we
13 need to get a jumpstart on old growth
14 vegetation.

15 The other thing that I would like to
16 emphasize is that with the incredible amount
17 of money that you are wielding, I would like
18 to encourage you and ask that you use that
19 money equitably. The distribution of wealth
20 and labor opportunities should be prioritized
21 such that communities of color are
22 prioritized; such that indigenous communities
23 are prioritized; such that workers will have
24 job opportunities in their areas.

25 As we talk about the job opportunities

1 that these projects will create, I would like
2 to ensure that it is local folks who are
3 getting their fair share of the millions of
4 billions of dollars that are going to be used
5 in these projects. And I think that's it,
6 but again, dream at the scale of the solution
7 and the crisis, and thank you.

8 THERESE WALKER:

9 Alright. Thanks, everybody, who gave us
10 comments tonight. So a quick -- just to
11 summarize, there are a couple other ways that
12 you can submit a comment if you didn't speak
13 it tonight. As I said several times, you can
14 fill out a statement card on the Master Plan
15 or the Annual Plan and we'll take those for
16 as long as we're here.

17 If you'd rather, you know, go home and
18 fill out -- submit your comment another way,
19 you can email it to us, or complete it online
20 and submit it through a form, or mail it to
21 -- either Annual Plan comment or Master Plan
22 comment, you can mail it just the old
23 fashioned way.

24 So I'll leave this up. There's also some
25 cards on your way out to grab that have a QR

1 code with all this information as well for
2 the Master Plan. So with that, we'll be
3 around a little while if anyone has questions
4 or wants to talk through anything, and thank
5 you all for coming.

6
7 (The Public Hearing concluded at 6:44 p.m.)
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REPORTER'S PAGE

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Reporter in and for the State of Louisiana,
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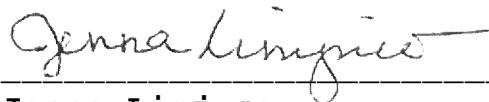
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Transcript of the Testimony of
CPRA Public Meeting Lake Charles,

Date: February 16, 2023

Case: CPRA Public Meeting Lake Charles

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IN THE MATTER OF:

STATE OF LOUISIANA COASTAL PROTECTION & RESTORATION
AUTHORITY

* * * * *

LAKE CHARLES MEETING FOR MASTER PLAN & ANNUAL PLAN

February 16, 2023

* * * * *

The CPRA Meeting for MASTER PLAN & ANNUAL
PLAN, taken in connection with the above captioned
matter at Burton Coliseum Complex, 7001 Gulf Highway,
Lake Charles, Louisiana 70607, on Thursday, February
16, 2023 at 5:31 p.m.

Reported by:

Jenna Limjuco, BA-CCR
Certified Court Reporter
#2018004

APPEARANCES:

Therese Walker

Stuart Brown

Bren Haase

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1 BREN HAASE:

2 Alright. Good evening, everybody. My
3 name is Bren Haase. I'm the executive
4 director of the Coastal Protection and
5 Restoration Authority. Hi, Clair. I didn't
6 get to say hi to everybody, so hi.

7 So I appreciate everybody being here, and
8 I hate to get started on a sad note, but I
9 think all of our hearts in this room tonight
10 are a little heavy. We were expecting to see
11 one of our friends, our co-worker, our
12 colleagues in the audience here tonight, Mr.
13 Ralph Libersat, who passed away unexpectedly
14 on Sunday. So that came as quite a shock to
15 me. I did consider Ralph a personal friend,
16 but we were colleagues and co-workers as
17 well, and again, we expected to see him here
18 this evening, and in fact, I had dinner plans
19 with him after this meeting.

20 So it's with a heavy heart that we're
21 here to talk to y'all about our Coastal
22 Program, and I know, knowing Ralph -- and
23 those of you who knew Ralph -- he would have
24 wanted us to carry on and talk about these
25 issues that were so near and dear to his

1 heart, and so we're going to do just that.
2 So again, I want to thank you all very much
3 for being here. I know we have some elected
4 officials in the audience. I want to thank
5 them. A couple of police jurors here --
6 Police Juror Guidry and McGee, thank you for
7 being with us, and Tax Assessor Lavergne as
8 well.

9 So we're here to talk to you tonight
10 about Louisiana's 2023 Coastal Master Plan.
11 We're also here to talk with you about our
12 fiscal year Annual Plan, so we're here to
13 talk about two plans. So our Master Plan is
14 kind of our high level, long term, big
15 picture look at our coast and what it is that
16 we think are our best priorities, the way to
17 best spend our funds to get the most bang for
18 those dollars in restoring our coast and
19 reducing risk to our coastal citizens.

20 So we're going to start off talking with
21 you a little bit about that, then we're going
22 to get into the Annual Plan, which really is
23 kind of a -- it tiers off of the Master Plan
24 and gets into those projects we think we're
25 going to implement in the next year, so which

1 of those Master Plan projects we've
2 identified in that kind of bigger scale,
3 higher level plan we're going to get on the
4 ground and start construction, planning, or
5 designing over the next year.

6 So I can tell you a couple things about
7 each plan, and then I'll sit down and be
8 quiet. But the Master Plan that we have put
9 forth -- we released a draft last month, at
10 the beginning of January -- it's the fourth
11 iteration of that plan. It's an improvement
12 over the previous plans, I can tell you that.

13 Stu Brown is going to get up here and
14 talk with you a little about some of that in
15 just a moment, but it delivers a lot for our
16 coast. It results in a coast that has
17 literally hundreds of square miles at the end
18 of our 50 year plan that we wouldn't have
19 otherwise. It's a plan that can reduce our
20 risk to that -- lessen that, I should say.
21 It reduces our risk in 50 years to lessen
22 what we're experiencing today, potentially.

23 So think about that for a minute: the
24 risk we're experiencing today across our
25 coast today could be less 50 years from now,

1 even with the dynamic changing coast we're
2 experiencing and all the land loss that we've
3 experienced, and will be experiencing in the
4 next 50 years. So all of this is to say that
5 it's something that we can all be proud of,
6 and it probably most importantly -- and we've
7 been here in the course of our open house,
8 having conversations. We've got a lot of
9 CPRA staff here. If you see somebody with a
10 nametag like this on them, we are -- they're
11 CPRA. We're here to answer your questions
12 and talk to you about the Plan.

13 We're here to hear from you. We don't
14 know Southwestern Coastal Louisiana as well
15 as you all do. We know that. Sometimes the
16 tools that we use to evaluate our projects
17 might not result in things that you think
18 make sense, right, and that's certainly valid
19 and apt. So we need your questions, we need
20 your input. We need your statements.

21 We need you to challenge us on some of
22 the things that we'll be presenting to you
23 this evening, and that will make us all
24 better off in the long run. So we certainly
25 don't shy away from that. We want to have

1 some real honest and real good conversations
2 with you about what it is we're presenting,
3 what our plans are, and what we plan to do in
4 Southwest Louisiana.

5 So with that, I'm going to stop. We're
6 going to give you a couple of brief
7 presentations, and then we're going to take
8 some public comment. I want to introduce
9 Stuart Brown -- I'm going to introduce
10 Therese, not Stuart Brown, who's going to go
11 over, I guess, some of the ground rules on
12 how we'll run the show, how we're going to
13 handle things this evening, and then Stu will
14 be next to talk about our Master Plan. Thank
15 y'all.

16 THERESE WALKER:

17 Thank y'all. I'll be real quick here so
18 we can get to it. I just wanted to talk
19 through some of the process we're going to go
20 through tonight. So as Bren mentioned,
21 you've got the Master Plan and the Annual
22 Plan. So the way that this will work, we'll
23 run the Master Plan presentation which Stu
24 will give here in a moment, then we'll
25 officially move into the public comment

1 period for the Master Plan.

2 Once we get through all those Master Plan
3 comments, we'll start Annual Plan. That
4 presentation's a little shorter, and then
5 we'll do the same process there for the
6 Annual Plan comment period.

7 So there's two ways that you can submit
8 comments here tonight -- there's a couple
9 ways, but really, the two that I'll cover
10 here is you can submit a statement card if
11 you wanted to get up and speak your comment.
12 So we've got a court reporter here; you'll be
13 able to speak that into the Record.

14 If you prefer to just write a comment and
15 leave that with us as well, you're happy --
16 we're happy to take those. You can use this
17 statement -- I'm sorry -- the comment card
18 here at the bottom. So they're spread out
19 throughout the room.

20 I'll give you a couple of reminders. A
21 couple of important things to note here is
22 that we'll give the Master Plan presentation.
23 Once that's over, I'll give everybody a
24 couple minutes to decide, "Yes, I will give a
25 spoken statement," or "I prefer not to." If

1 you want to give a statement in the Record,
2 spoken, you have about a minute there to give
3 us that card back, so make sure that -- you
4 can fill it out now and we can take it
5 whenever, but once we actually start with the
6 comments, we won't be taking new speakers as
7 we try to get through the rest of the
8 presentations.

9 So we'll complete the Master Plan comment
10 period, and then move straight into Annual
11 Plan. Same process: the blue statement card
12 will be a written -- I mean, a spoken
13 statement, and then a white card here if
14 you'd rather leave a written statement. With
15 that, I'll hand it over to Stu to go over the
16 Master Plan.

17 STUART BROWN:

18 We're going to try this microphone
19 situation. I've been told I have terrible
20 mic etiquette. I'm not allowed to hold it
21 because I talk with my hands. So I'm Stu
22 Brown. I manage the strategic planning
23 branch at CPRA. And just to follow up on
24 Therese's piece, there are four ways to
25 submit comments: in person through the

1 process that she said with the card; via
2 email -- you can send comments to
3 masterplan@la.gov.

4 You can submit them online through a form
5 that we set up and you can access through
6 that QR code, or through our website; and you
7 can also mail them to the address here. We
8 will close on this slide as well, so we'll
9 have it up if folks want to write down this
10 information. It's also available on our
11 website and on some of the handouts around
12 the room.

13 So to start off, many of y'all are aware
14 of this: Coastal Louisiana has been
15 experiencing a land loss crisis for nearly a
16 century. We've lost almost 2,000 square
17 miles of coastal wetlands since 1932. There
18 are many causes for this land loss. Some of
19 these are natural processes we would expect
20 to see in systems like these, but much of it
21 is the result of, or at least exacerbated, by
22 human activity.

23 And land loss is, of course, significant
24 from a landscape and habitat perspective. It
25 directly impacts fisheries and wildlife

1 resources, and the jobs that those resources
2 help support, but it also affects industries
3 like agriculture and navigation and the oil
4 and gas activities in the coastal zone, and
5 as a result, it affects all folks who make
6 their living in those coastal -- in those
7 industries around the coast.

8 And of course, land loss also increases
9 flooding impacts of hurricanes and tropical
10 storms, so these are affects that nearly all
11 coastal communities and citizens have
12 experience or are exposed to, and the Master
13 Plan is the guiding document for how we can
14 meet these challenges.

15 So what is the Master Plan? At its
16 highest level and at its core, the Master
17 Plan is a prioritization effort. How can the
18 state spend its money most cost-effectively
19 over the next 50 years to reduce storm surge
20 based flood risk and build and maintain
21 coastal wetlands. Importantly, it's not a
22 program or a funding source. It identifies
23 where the state should invest as money
24 becomes available through a wide range of
25 funding sources. A lot of those, Bren will

1 talk about with the Annual Plan.

2 As money becomes available, these project
3 concepts that we're evaluating in the Master
4 Plan move into feasibility and engineering
5 and design, and then ultimately construction.
6 We then operate, maintain, and moderate those
7 projects, and what we learn feeds back into
8 how we evaluate these projects and how we
9 ultimately design and build these projects.

10 The plan is developed through a process
11 that ensures proper management. It is
12 required by law to be updated every six
13 years. That gives us an opportunity to
14 incorporate the best available science and to
15 revisit the tools and processes we're using
16 to develop this plan.

17 It is built on world class science and
18 engineering. It advances a comprehensive and
19 innovative approach to restoration and risk
20 reduction. It incorporates extensive public
21 input and review, and this last bullet point
22 is one that we're really trying to stress
23 with this Master Plan is that it illustrates
24 how the coast is going to change.

25 We know that the coast 50 years from now

1 is going to look very different from the
2 coast we have today, whether we're 100
3 percent successful in implementing all the
4 projects we identify, or not. And we also
5 know that the project of having a resilient
6 coast is much bigger than the restoration and
7 risk reduction projects that CPRA implements.
8 It's going to be the result of countless
9 decisions by individuals, communities,
10 businesses, local governments -- all level of
11 government.

12 One of the goals of the Master Plan is
13 producing information on how the coast is
14 going to change and make that accessible; try
15 to present it in ways that people can
16 understand so that they can make the best
17 decisions for their future, either as
18 individuals or as communities, or other
19 entities -- for their future in Coastal
20 Louisiana.

21 So what is at stake? Our homes, our
22 jobs, and our culture. The goal is to have a
23 resilient coast in which people can continue
24 to live and work and take advantage of all
25 the things that make Coastal Louisiana so

1 environmentally, economically, and culturally
2 valuable.

3 So where we are right now, the draft plan
4 was released on January 6. The public
5 comment period will be open through March 25.
6 There are -- this is the last of four public
7 hearings, but as we mentioned earlier, there
8 are other ways to submit your comments
9 through that March 25 deadline. We then go
10 -- based on these comments, we revise the
11 plan and submit a revised plan to the CPRA
12 board on April 19, and then following the
13 board approval, we will present that plan to
14 the legislature.

15 Alright. So here, we will give a general
16 overview of the process by which we identify
17 and select projects to be included in the
18 Master Plan. So this is Figure 1.1 in the
19 Plan. It's a lot for a PowerPoint slide
20 right now, but I do think it's a helpful
21 presentation of the process, but probably
22 something you'd want to look at on your own
23 time in the plan. But the key here is the
24 three headings at the top: projects,
25 modeling, and prioritization.

1 We start with a suite of candidate
2 projects, we model those projects to try to
3 understand their effects -- how beneficial
4 they will be -- and then we prioritize the
5 suite of projects that gives us the greatest
6 benefit in terms of reducing storm surge
7 based flood risk and building and maintaining
8 coastal wetlands.

9 So we begin with a set of candidate
10 projects, and these come from a wide range of
11 sources. They come from past plans, they
12 come from local plans. This region has
13 different parish plans, engineering plans,
14 Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority
15 plan -- these are areas that we look to for
16 some of these project concepts. We also have
17 a public solicitation period. Anyone can
18 propose a project.

19 And then for this Master Plan, we
20 developed regional work groups, and this is
21 an area -- we'll talk a little bit more about
22 this a little later in the presentation, but
23 one of the goals of these regional work
24 groups was to really think critically about,
25 one, new project ideas, but also some of the

1 project ideas that we have been kicking
2 around, in some cases, for decades. Are
3 there ways that we can improve these
4 concepts? Are there ways that we can learn
5 from other projects and apply that to new
6 ideas, to try to come up with the best kind
7 of starting set of projects to evaluate so
8 that we end up with the best projects that we
9 select at the end of the process.

10 So then we take those projects and we
11 model them. So we use numerical models to
12 understand how the landscape is going to
13 change, how that changing landscape affects
14 storm surge, and how that future storm surge
15 affects the damage that we cause to
16 communities and assets across the coast.

17 And so we model these projects to
18 understand how they'll perform over time
19 under a range of future environmental
20 conditions, and we compare those to a
21 baseline in which we don't have any of these
22 projects that we call our "Future Without
23 Action." So if you look at the Plan or the
24 data viewer, or any of the posters around the
25 wall, you'll see that we also talk about a

1 "Future Without Action" and a "Future With
2 Action."

3 The final step of the process is the
4 planning tool, and the planning tool is
5 really an optimization algorithm. The models
6 give us the project benefits and impacts, and
7 the planning tool is where we select a suite
8 of projects that gives us the greatest
9 impact, the greatest benefits in terms of
10 building and maintaining coastal wetlands and
11 reducing storm surge based flooding.

12 We also developed metrics based on model
13 outputs, and use community characteristics
14 such as demographics and major industries to
15 better understand how the changing coast and
16 the projects we're evaluating affect
17 different communities and different
18 resources.

19 Alright. So in this section, I already
20 talked about -- a little about what is new,
21 what have been some of the improvements since
22 the 2017 Master Plan. So we're back to our
23 busy diagram, just to point out that the
24 starting point for this Master Plan is past
25 Coastal Master Plans. We're building off of

1 the tools, the processes that we've used in
2 previous plans, but we're updating those
3 based on advances in technology and science,
4 as well as based on feedback we received from
5 the 2017 process, through the development of
6 this plan.

7 So we're going to step through some of
8 these examples where we've been able to
9 incorporate new or newly available data.
10 This is not an exhaustive list. If you want
11 an exhaustive list, we have tens of thousands
12 of pages of documentation on our website that
13 we can point you to, but -- so one of these
14 areas that are representative of a really
15 significant improvement is in the storm suite
16 that we use.

17 So this is a suite of synthetic storms --
18 hurricanes and tropical storms -- that we use
19 to project current and future exposure to
20 flooding. This was developed by the Army
21 Corps, and the suite that we have now
22 represents a significant improvement over the
23 previous suite that we had available. In
24 short, it gives us a greater ability to
25 project existing and future storm surge.

1 Another improvement is in the asset data.
2 So the storm surge causes what sort of flood
3 exposure, what flood depths we'll see in the
4 future? That's -- the risk model tells us
5 what sort of damage that would cause, and so
6 an important component of that is
7 understanding what assets are where;
8 understanding different characteristics of
9 those assets. And there's been a huge leap
10 over the last six years in the availability
11 of quality data sets on assets.

12 An additional improvement that we've been
13 able to make with one of our partners at
14 Purdue University, who developed a machine
15 learning algorithm to estimate first floor
16 elevations using Google Street View imagery,
17 is that we now have a much better
18 understanding of first floor elevation of
19 homes, which of course, makes a huge
20 difference when we're trying to understand
21 what sort of damage will be done by, say,
22 four feet of flooding. It makes a big
23 difference whether that house is on pilings
24 or on slab, or anywhere in between.

25 Another set of improvements is in our

1 models and the assumptions that we make in
2 our models, and there are many of these that
3 would take a very long time to go through,
4 but one I wanted to point out is that a lot
5 of this is created by the maturation of the
6 CRMS data set.

7 So if you're not familiar, in Louisiana,
8 we have a Coastwide Reference Monitoring
9 System. We are taking continuous readings on
10 hydrology and annual or bi-annual readings on
11 vegetation and soil characteristics, among
12 other variables, at 397 sites across the
13 coast. This data set has allowed us to
14 reevaluate some of the assumptions that we've
15 made in the past based on best professional
16 judgement, based on literature.

17 So an example here is the response of
18 vegetative wetlands to salinity and
19 inundation, and we've been able to now see
20 that in the data set and make sure the
21 assumptions we were making in our models
22 reflect what's actually happening on the
23 coast. And so this is a huge improvement
24 that I'm unable to do justice in this one
25 slide.

1 So another improvement is in our
2 understanding of environmental drivers. So
3 when we're talking about environmental
4 drivers, we're talking about climate related
5 drivers like temperature and sea level rise,
6 changes in precipitation, but also drivers
7 like subsidence, which of course, are not
8 related to climate change. And so while
9 there has been quite a bit of improvement in
10 our understanding of these environmental
11 drivers, there does remain uncertainty, and
12 because of this uncertainty, we take a
13 scenario approach.

14 And so you'll see in the Master Plan, we
15 talk about the lower scenario and the higher
16 scenario. These are not meant to be precise
17 predictions of future conditions, but they
18 are meant to help us understand the range of
19 possible outcomes, and they're meant to help
20 us test and evaluate these projects so that
21 we can select the best ones. And we are
22 trying to select projects for this Master
23 Plan that perform well whether we realize a
24 more severe future environmental scenario, or
25 a more moderate future environmental

1 scenario.

2 In addition to those kind of data and
3 science based improvements of the plan, we
4 also have process improvements to the plan,
5 and a lot of this, as mentioned, is based on
6 feedback we received following the 2017 Plan,
7 and really, during this stage of the 2017
8 Plan. And one of the things we heard was
9 that we needed to take a more regional
10 approach. That really actually largely came
11 from this part of the coast. The problems of
12 the Chenier Plain are not the problems of
13 Terrebonne, are not the problems of the
14 Southeast, and the solutions of the Chenier
15 Plain are not those of Terrebonne or the
16 Southeast.

17 So we decided to create regional groups.
18 These served, as I mentioned earlier, as a
19 source of project ideas and venues to refine
20 some of these project ideas that we've talked
21 about for a long time; but also served as a
22 venue to better understand the issues in the
23 different regions of the coast, and you'll
24 see those reflected in the plan.

25 About a third of the plan is dedicated to

1 these regional write ups. We were trying to
2 capture a lot of the themes that we heard in
3 those meetings, and in a lot of cases, we've
4 used our models and data to help support the
5 things that we've been hearing from these
6 communities and these regions for years.

7 Another improvement is that we
8 incorporated a new metric in our process of
9 identifying risk reduction projects, so you
10 will see this in the plan. It's called
11 "Expected Annual Structure Damage," and this
12 is a metric to try to better address
13 questions of equity in our project selection
14 process. And so the impetus for this is that
15 one of the methodologies that we've used in
16 the past -- the economy methodology -- uses
17 damages measured in dollar value as a driver
18 of how you select projects.

19 That sort of approach could potentially
20 bias your results towards communities that
21 have more valuable assets or, in many cases,
22 more affluent, wealthier neighborhoods, and
23 so we've developed a different metric that we
24 use in addition to dollar-based metrics to
25 try to test that -- whether we really were

1 seeing results that looked skewed towards
2 certain types of communities. And so you'll
3 see throughout the Master Plan, we talk about
4 both Expected Annual Damage in dollars, and
5 Expected Annual Structure Damage, which is a
6 metric that is agnostic to that value part of
7 the equation.

8 I mentioned this briefly earlier, but
9 another improvement of this Master Plan is
10 that we are now prioritizing projects across
11 a range of environmental scenarios. So
12 instead of pinning our plan to a single
13 prediction of future conditions, we know that
14 there's uncertainty around a lot of the
15 drivers. We want to select projects that
16 will be effective whether we realize, again,
17 that more severe future condition, or a more
18 moderate future condition.

19 And the improvements that I've talked
20 about to this point have been about the
21 project selection process. Another
22 improvement that we're proud of in this
23 Master Plan is more about that last bullet
24 point that I highlighted earlier about
25 illustrating how the coast is going to

1 change.

2 So we did a number of exploratory
3 analyses to try to -- to try to really help
4 illustrate how people may experience a
5 changing coast. One of the examples of this,
6 you'll see in the document itself is we did a
7 high tide flooding analysis of a number of
8 communities across Louisiana. One example is
9 Dulac, but we did them for Cameron and
10 Delcambre, and a number of other communities.
11 A handful of them are written out in the
12 beginning of the plan, but we'll also have
13 additional information in a companion
14 document that should be out shortly.

15 And this is looking at high tide flooding
16 -- I should have started with this. High
17 tide flooding being that sort of regular
18 flooding events not tied to tropical storms
19 or hurricanes. Just kind of normal weather
20 patterns, frontal passages that can cause
21 flooding in low lying communities. We
22 identify key locations in those communities,
23 whether they're kind of community centers, or
24 whether they happen to be low lying areas and
25 roads, areas that we expect will be exposed

1 to this sort of flooding, or is already
2 exposed to this flooding, and try to
3 illustrate how frequently it's currently
4 exposed, how frequently it may be exposed in
5 25 years, and how frequently it may be
6 exposed in 50 years, and this is under a
7 future without action. There are, of course,
8 actions that can be taken to mitigate some of
9 this, but really, to, again, try to help
10 illustrate how individuals may experience
11 coastal change.

12 Alright. So the 2023 Master Plan, this
13 is, as our previous two plans were, this is a
14 50 year, \$50 billion dollar plan. For this
15 plan, we identified 61 restoration projects,
16 12 structural risk prevention projects, and
17 we identified \$11 billion dollars for non-
18 structural risk reduction. So that is -- of
19 the \$25 billion dollars that we allocated for
20 risk reduction, we found that \$11 billion
21 dollars of that \$25 is most cost effectively
22 invested in non-structural risk reduction.

23 So on the restoration, some of the high
24 points: we're looking at \$2.7 billion dollars
25 in new diversions. We highlight new to

1 differentiate it from the Mid-Barataria and
2 Mid-Breton diversions that you may have seen
3 quite a bit on recently. Those are projects
4 that are moved along to a point where they
5 have funding. We anticipate that they will
6 be on the landscape, and so we want to select
7 future projects that will work
8 synergistically with those projects, and
9 certainly won't have negative interactions
10 with those projects.

11 Over \$19 billion dollars of the \$25
12 billion dollar restoration pot of money is
13 for dedicated dredging projects, like marsh
14 creation, barrier island restoration, land
15 bridge projects. And then this last point, I
16 think, may be particularly of interest to
17 folks here in the Southwest is we have \$2.5
18 billion dollars set aside for programmatic
19 projects, and these are projects that we
20 believe are best evaluated on a case by case
21 basis through programs that have the ability
22 to evaluate them on their individual merits,
23 and this includes hydrologic projects --
24 small scale hydrologic restoration, oyster
25 reefs, and shoreline protection.

1 And that's also based on feedback from
2 folks like you all, and so this gives folks
3 who are interested in pursuing those sort of
4 projects the flexibility to not be bound by
5 particular orientations the Master Plan has
6 come up with, and work through programs like
7 CWPPRA, like the Parish Matching Program,
8 like the Restoration Partnership Fund to try
9 to implement those.

10 So over 50 years, under our lower
11 scenario, 314 square miles of land is built
12 or maintained that otherwise would have been
13 lost at year 50. Under the higher scenario,
14 that's 233 square miles of land. We usually
15 see a greater benefit at year 40, but we see
16 a fall off in the last decade, and that kind
17 of signature there is because a lot of the
18 projects that we identify early in the
19 planning process and implement in our models
20 -- these large scale marsh creations --
21 they're really effective for 30, 35, 40
22 years, but are no longer able to keep pace
23 with subsidence and accelerate rates of sea
24 level rise in the higher scenario. And we'll
25 see that geographically in the next few

1 slides.

2 This is our lower scenario. This is land
3 change at year 10. The blues are land loss
4 and the greens are land gained or maintained.
5 Year 20, year 30, year 40, and year 50 --
6 that's our lower scenario, and then this is
7 our higher scenario. Year 10 looks very
8 similar, year 20, year 30, year 40, and then
9 in year 50, we see some of these large scale
10 marsh creation projects no longer on the
11 landscape.

12 On the risk reduction side, we identified
13 12 structural risk reduction projects for a
14 cost of around \$14 billion dollars, and as I
15 mentioned earlier, we identified 11 -- a
16 little over \$11 billion dollars of Master
17 Plan budget that is allocated towards non-
18 structural risk reduction.

19 In this Master Plan, we do not identify
20 particular communities as in or out of the
21 Master Plan. This is -- it's kind of based
22 on feedback and lived experience on the last
23 Master Plan, which is that we could do that.
24 We could look at all 300-some communities
25 that we've identified across the coast and

1 prioritize them based on the value of non-
2 structural risk reduction in their community,
3 but the scale at which those projects are
4 actually implemented is much smaller than a
5 community that maybe -- you know, all of Lake
6 Charles is one community.

7 And so within that community, there are
8 likely very good areas for non-structural
9 mitigations, and likely some not so good
10 areas for non-structural mitigation. And so
11 saying that a project is not in based on the
12 aggregate of the entire community may
13 preclude some really good projects from going
14 forward, or preclude those communities from
15 having assets to certain funding sources.

16 And so we do not have specific
17 communities identified as in or out of the
18 Master Plan, but what we do have is an awful
19 lot of information at a community level of
20 what non-structural intervention might look
21 like in terms of elevating homes, in terms of
22 flood proofing businesses, in terms of
23 voluntary acquisition in areas that are
24 exposed to really extreme levels of flooding,
25 and we have a lot of information on the

1 amount of risk that will reduce, what that
2 will cost, and the amount of residual risk
3 that that community may experience.

4 So that information serves as a starting
5 point for communities that are interested in
6 exploring non-structural alternatives. It
7 can also serve as a starting point for
8 communities that are trying to solicit
9 funding through different funding sources
10 that are available for that sort of risk
11 mitigation.

12 So with the Master Plan -- in this case,
13 we're talking about the structural projects
14 and the restoration projects -- this is our
15 future flood risk. You can see the
16 signatures behind those structural projects
17 in the South Central coast and further to the
18 east, and this is the difference in flood
19 depths. And so -- and then behind the
20 structures, you see that reduction in flood
21 depths and you also saw -- sorry, last slide
22 -- you see some reduction in flood depths in
23 the Chenier Plain, Greater Lake Charles, and
24 Cameron area, and that is the result of the
25 restoration projects.

1 So we don't have structural projects in
2 this analysis and we do see both a surge
3 reduction and a risk reduction associated
4 with the restoration projects compared to a
5 future without action. This is good to see,
6 but this certainly is not the solution to
7 reducing risk in the Chenier Plain, and
8 certainly many of the non-structural programs
9 that are available are kind of the most near
10 term solution, and we understand through
11 communication with folks out here in the
12 Southwest that there's renewed interest in
13 looking at structural protection, and we'll
14 try to capture that in the final draft and
15 work with you all to help understand and
16 define that project, and evaluate
17 alternatives associated with that.

18 So in the plan, at year 50, risk is
19 reduced, compared to a future without action,
20 by 70 percent under the lower scenario and 60
21 percent under the higher scenario, as
22 measured in the expected annual damage in
23 dollars. If we're looking at the other
24 metric I talked about -- expected annual
25 structure damage -- we actually see a

1 slightly greater proportional reduction: 78
2 percent with a lower scenario and 65 percent
3 with the higher scenario. And so this annual
4 reduction at year 50, this is an annual
5 reduction at year 50 of \$10.8 billion dollars
6 under the lower scenario, and \$14.6 billion
7 dollars under the higher scenario compared to
8 a future without action.

9 And so Bren lead with this message and
10 I'll close with it, which is that this level
11 of investment could mean that in 50 years,
12 under the lower environmental scenario,
13 Louisiana, coast-wide, has less flood risk
14 from hurricanes and tropical storms than we
15 do today. So these, again, are the ways to
16 submit comments, and with that, I will turn
17 it over to Therese.

18 THERESE WALKER:

19 So we're going to go through -- we're
20 going to start the comment period here in a
21 minute, so I'll go over instructions again.
22 If you would like to speak a comment, to
23 officially submit that on the Master Plan,
24 again, I'll give everybody a couple of
25 minutes. You need to fill out a green

1 statement card. There's some CPRA team
2 around the room -- just flag one of them down
3 and they'll get one for you. I'll give
4 everybody a couple minutes there, and then
5 we'll actually start the comment period
6 process. So once we start, we're not going
7 to take more statement cards. If you want to
8 speak, go ahead and get that in right now.

9 A couple of notes on this: you've got
10 three minutes to speak your comment. Once we
11 get all the cards, we will read your name in
12 the order we receive them. You can come to
13 the microphone here -- over there to the
14 right, state your name, and you've got three
15 minutes to state your comment.

16 CPRA team is here. We'll be taking --
17 we're here to listen, take your comments, but
18 we're not taking any questions. This is just
19 a comment period, so state your comment and
20 we'll move on to the next person. I'll give
21 everybody a couple minutes. If you would
22 like to speak your comment, go ahead and fill
23 out a statement card.

24 BREN HAASE:

25 Let folks know we'll be here this

1 evening.

2 THERESE WALKER:

3 Yes. And while we can't take comments
4 during this portion, if you do have comments
5 or -- I mean, if you have questions about
6 stuff that Stu just covered, we'll be around
7 after this. You're welcome to, you know,
8 grab one of us after this and we can discuss
9 your questions.

10 And I know I went through this earlier:
11 if you don't want to speak, but you do want
12 to give a comment, there are written comment
13 cards you can just write on and leave that
14 with us before you leave. I know Stu went
15 through a couple of ways that you can submit
16 comments otherwise. So we've cards that'll
17 give you access to our website.

18 There's a couple options there: you can
19 email it in, there's a form you can fill out
20 if you so wish. All that information's
21 online if you'd rather submit a comment later
22 tonight. You can write one. We can type one
23 for you if that's easier, or you're welcome
24 to give us a statement card and we'll go
25 through those here in just a minute.

1 Okay. I'll give everybody here just one
2 more minute. Flag somebody down if you want
3 to do a statement, and we'll get started in
4 just a second. Okay, we'll go ahead and get
5 started. I will call the names in the order
6 we received them, and you'll come to the
7 microphone here on your right -- your left,
8 sorry. You've got three minutes to state
9 your comment, and then from there, we'll go
10 through all of these and move on to the
11 Annual Plan. So first, we've got Sara
12 Judson.

13 SARA JUDSON:

14 Hello. I'm Sara Judson with the
15 Community Foundation, and also a member of
16 the Chenier Plain, and I am here to tell you
17 all how much we appreciate getting to be a
18 part of the process. We at the Community
19 Foundation had the chance to work with
20 community members from across Calcasieu and
21 Cameron on the Just Imagine Southwest
22 Louisiana 50 Year Resilience Plan, so very
23 excited to see that you all are looking at 50
24 years as well.

25 And we know from what's been happening in

1 some projects in Rockefeller Refuge, and so
2 what's in the plan is doing the rock barriers
3 and the berms are particularly important to
4 coastal risk reduction, and so we are happy
5 to be able to share that you with you that we
6 really believe those are places where the
7 plan should be focused. Thank you.

8 BREN HAASE:

9 Thanks.

10 THERESE WALKER:

11 Next, we've got James Hiatt.

12 JAMES HIATT:

13 I'm James Hiatt. Thank y'all so much for
14 this. There's one thing that -- on most of
15 these maps, you can see the flood risk do not
16 include some of these industries that have
17 been built right here on the coast. We know
18 previously, that the flood risk right at
19 Calcasieu Pass was some of the highest on
20 these maps, and none of that has accounted
21 for now that these facilities are here, and
22 now there's more plans for more facilities.

23 So the thought that, you know, I also
24 noticed that in Southeast Louisiana, there's
25 plenty of hard barriers. It's almost as if

1 Southwest Louisiana, we're just going to put
2 some marsh, we're not going to put anything
3 hard. We're just going to sacrifice, you
4 know, Cameron Parish, basically, is the way
5 it feels. Anyway, I mean, I understand
6 putting more sediment -- allowing these
7 plants to take dredge material and place them
8 in the same place as the CPRA is trying to
9 place dredge material. It's counterintuitive
10 to try to protect the coast while we're
11 allowing facilities to be built directly on
12 the coast.

13 I know that's probably out of your scope,
14 but it seems like you might want to consider
15 not letting industry build right on the
16 fragile coast, especially industry that will
17 exacerbate the exact same things that we are
18 suffering from climate change with more sea
19 level rise, subsidence.

20 The other part that I was going to say is
21 that when we -- when you speak about oyster
22 reefs, I know that Cameron Parish is one of
23 the only places where you can have public
24 oystering. The rest of the state is not like
25 that. We were almost the entire -- the

1 entire season, from October to March, and so
2 to do some more, to put more limestone out,
3 that would be great. To rock it all up is to
4 provide places for the oysters to grow, is
5 important. To dump mud directly into the
6 places where the oysters are growing, that's
7 a problem. So I thank you for your time.

8 BREN HAASE:

9 Thank you.

10 THERESE WALKER:

11 Gabby Marceaux.

12 GABBY MARCEAUX:

13 My name is Gabby Marceaux, and I support
14 and commend y'all on the projects -- the
15 storm surge protection projects as a priority
16 for the future of the state in the Master
17 Plan in Southwest Louisiana. More projects
18 like you said there are, it's less likely my
19 school will be destroyed again, and our
20 homes. Thank you.

21 BREN HAASE:

22 Thank you.

23 THERESE WALKER:

24 Leslie Griffith. Leslie Griffith.

25 LESLIE GRIFFITH:

1 Hello. Can you hear me? I can talk
2 louder without it. I'm Leslie Griffith. I
3 live down in Grand Chenier. I appreciate
4 everything y'all are doing from '17 to the
5 '25 Master Plan and everything. We did a lot
6 of talking in 2017 fixing all this stuff and
7 everything, and I talked to some of these
8 boys today about some of these projects here.

9 I can't speak for the New Orleans area
10 or Terrebonne, or anything. I can speak for
11 Cameron Parish and lower between -- well,
12 between the Calcasieu River and the Mermentau
13 Rivers is where all of our profits and stuff,
14 people that I kind of represent on the
15 drainage board down there. We've got a lot
16 of issues going on and everything.

17 A good friend of mine at one of our
18 meetings a few years ago, the first thing he
19 said was, "All this doesn't mean nothing
20 until you can save that coast. You need to
21 rock the coast." Rock the coast. I looked
22 through the Master Plan, I didn't see a lot
23 of areas where y'all are going to be putting
24 rock. Scooter has been doing a good job at
25 rocking over there and getting rocks over

1 there and everything, but we've got to get
2 some rocks on the coast.

3 There's a couple of areas there in my
4 area that's in the flood lines and all this
5 stuff, but I talked to the guys who did that
6 and I still think there's some issues in
7 there. I think they need to come to the
8 landowners in that area or the drainage
9 boards in that area and talk to us about
10 stuff we've been doing for 40 years down
11 there.

12 All this is well and good. Come talk to
13 us over here. I think y'all need -- all the
14 money y'all putting up north of Cameron
15 Parish in Calcasieu or whatever to fill in or
16 help all these marsh creation projects. If
17 you don't stop that water from where we live
18 on Oak Grove there, that marsh ain't going to
19 do you any good. You're throwing away
20 billions of dollars in creating little levees
21 and dykes and stuff, because Cameron Parish
22 will be from the Intercoastal Canal north.
23 That's what you need to work on, is the
24 coast.

25 I've got a minute? Okay. Listen, I've

1 got some cards here. If anybody in the CPRA
2 wants to talk to me, I'll give you a couple
3 of cards with my personal phone number. I
4 think I've got a lot that I can contribute.
5 I'm not with the police jury. I'm with the
6 drainage board, but I represent, I don't
7 know, 15, 20, 30,000 acres there in that
8 little bit of area.

9 All my neighbors, my cousins, and my kin
10 folks in this area, we've been suffering for
11 years. We've been fighting, but hey --
12 losing battle. 30 seconds? Anyway, y'all
13 know who I am. The people on the police jury
14 know me. If you need to find who I am, call
15 them and they'll give you my phone number.
16 I'd love to talk to ya'll. Thank you.

17 BREN HAASE:

18 Thanks.

19 THERESE WALKER:

20 Kara Bonsall.

21 KARA BONSTALL:

22 Hi. Kara Bonsall -- I'm used to a mic,
23 but I'm used to it louder than this. So Kara
24 Bonsall with the Cameron Parish Police Jury.
25 I'm the Director of Coastal Affairs, and also

1 the Parish Coastal Zone Administrator.

2 First, I want to say that CPRA, thank you for
3 all that you do for us in Cameron and the
4 Southwest Region. We really appreciate it.
5 Any time we ask for CPRA to come to the
6 table, they're there, so thank you for
7 listening to our concerns and challenges.

8 So the two priorities for Cameron Parish
9 is pretty simple. It's common sense:
10 protection before restoration. So we want to
11 protect the coastline, as you heard many
12 people say tonight. We've been trying
13 protection. We have started that. We need
14 to continue to finish to shoreline up the
15 entire Gulf Coast of our parish. That is our
16 short term goal. We have started.

17 The successes of these breakwaters have
18 proven that they work against hurricanes and
19 they are resilient. They not only protect
20 just the coast, but all points north of
21 Calcasieu Parish, all the federal and state
22 funding projects that were implemented behind
23 these breakwaters, and also, they protect
24 critical infrastructure such as highways,
25 schools, all your public and private

1 residential properties.

2 Our second long term goal is storm surge
3 protection. After Hurricane Laura in 2020,
4 we all came together as a group -- Calcasieu
5 Cameron stakeholders, landowners -- how can
6 we do better? How can we do better? How can
7 we be more resilient? How can we continue to
8 fight for the people, to protect the people
9 -- not only us, but our future generations?
10 That is storm surge protection.

11 As you see in the Southeast, it has
12 proven and it works. These homes behind
13 these systems, the flood insurance has
14 decreased, they have zero flood claims, and
15 they work, and that's what we need to do here
16 in our Southwest Region. It will not only
17 just help Cameron, but Calcasieu as well. So
18 that's what we need to continue to work at,
19 and I know the efforts are moving, and the
20 planning of that is going to continue.

21 So I just want to say that I think people
22 of the Southwest Region see the importance of
23 coastal protection projects, so we're ready
24 to see the benefits just like our friends in
25 the Southeast. So thank you very much.

1 **THERESE WALKER:**

2 Clair Hebert Marceaux.

3 **CLAIR HEBERT MARCEAUX:**

4 Just like Kara said, thank you, thank
5 you, thank you, thank you. You know, Bren,
6 I've been really critical in the past, very
7 frustrated. I finally feel maybe more
8 hopeful than I have in a very long time.
9 Stu, thank you so much. Thank you, Chris, so
10 very much.

11 So I serve on CPRA's Community Engagement
12 Work Group. I'm very grateful for that
13 opportunity to have a voice coming from
14 Southwest Louisiana. I also serve on the
15 Community Foundation of Southwestern
16 Louisiana Board.

17 As Sara Judson mentioned, we have gone
18 through this planning process -- another 50
19 year time frame as well -- and this has to be
20 a champion for the flood risk reduction
21 project that was one of ten catalytic
22 projects identified through our master
23 planning process for the Community
24 Foundation.

25 I was so excited, because as a girl who

1 graduated from South Cameron High School,
2 where my daughter will graduate this year,
3 we're oftentimes overlooked. We're
4 underestimated as well, and to be able to see
5 more than 4,000 people participate in our
6 Just Imagine SWLA planning process at the
7 Community Foundation, we saw 92 percent of
8 those 4,000-plus people who participated rank
9 coastal flood risk reduction as the number
10 one project blew my mind.

11 The frustration so many times has been
12 that communicating our story in Cameron
13 Parish gets lost the farther away you go from
14 the coast. I live so close, I can hear the
15 waves from my house, so for me, it's every
16 day. But for lots of people, it's something
17 they don't understand.

18 So what I appreciate most, I think, about
19 your activity, the number of projects --
20 which we always need more projects in the
21 Southwest. I'm never going to give that up,
22 but we've seen more projects, we've seen more
23 money being spent, we've seen more active
24 engagement from you all, from your entire
25 team, and I genuinely appreciate that.

1 You know, one of the things that I hope
2 that people who haven't heard this before
3 will leave here chanting it: rock it, rock
4 it, rock it, as our friend Lauren Deformier
5 (sp) says. We need t-shirts with that on it
6 so that people begin to understand what we
7 mean by rock it, rock it, rock it. That
8 means shoreline protection from the Texas
9 border to the end of Cameron Parish.

10 That will protect us in so many ways --
11 nevermind that one of our two national
12 strategic petroleum reserves is in Cameron
13 Parish. More than \$50 billion dollars of
14 capital expenditure has now been built in
15 Cameron Parish. Regardless of how you feel
16 about that industry, it's there now. There
17 are mechanisms that have been utilized that
18 we might like to see along the coast of
19 Cameron that are on those projects.

20 I leave you again with very sincere
21 gratitude. Thank you for always listening to
22 my frustrations and for being willing to help
23 me understand how I can use my voice in a
24 more productive way, so that more people
25 understand what our plight is and the

1 opportunities that are associated with them.

2 THERESE WALKER:

3 Kim Montie.

4 KIM MONTIE:

5 Kim Montie, Cameron Parish Port. I'll
6 reiterate what Sara said, what Kara said,
7 what Clair said: shoreline protection and
8 storm surge reduction, storm surge reduction
9 projects are of the highest priority for most
10 of us in Cameron Parish.

11 And we do thank you for -- y'all came to
12 the table and sat with us and listened to us
13 back in January, before the draft came out,
14 and that gives us hope that these types of
15 projects will be included in the final draft,
16 and just keep working and add storm surge
17 protection. Rock it, rock it, rock it, and
18 that's -- thank you.

19 THERESE WALKER:

20 Naomi Yoder.

21 NAOMI YODER:

22 My name is Naomi Yoder. I want to thank
23 you all for being here, for holding hearings,
24 and allowing us the chance to state our
25 preferences. So first, I wanted to ask CPRA

1 and science folks why you're leaving oil and
2 gas out of the drivers of land loss? That's
3 a significant driver of land loss in our
4 state.

5 Second, with all of the millions and
6 billions of dollars that are fueling
7 restoration construction across the state
8 here, why doesn't CPRA also use another
9 method that's in the toolbox but not in the
10 plan, and that's preservation. So I agree,
11 protection before restoration, and one of
12 those tools is preservation of the land, and
13 that has never happened from CPRA.

14 CPRA could, instead of engineering flood
15 control, could use its determinations of
16 consistency or inconsistency to block
17 wetlands destruction. Projects like the
18 Commonwealth LNG Terminal will take up 139 --
19 over 139 acres of wetlands. CP2 LNG and its
20 pipeline will take up 1400 acres of wetlands.
21 That is unacceptable when we're trying to
22 build land. When we're trying to restore
23 land, why wouldn't we also prioritize
24 protecting land?

25 One other thing is beneficial use of

1 dredge material. Dredging out of Calcasieu
2 ship channel, those sediments should be very,
3 very well tested. It's not going to do the
4 ecosystem or the communities any good to go
5 resuspend all of those pollutants that are at
6 the bottom of the ship channel, or to deposit
7 them into another ecosystem in Calcasieu
8 Lake, on the shores of Calcasieu Lake, so
9 please don't do that. Please don't assume
10 that dredge materials are going to be good,
11 beneficial use.

12 I guess I also wanted to say thank you
13 for taking equity into consideration. I
14 hadn't seen that in the plan, and I'm really
15 glad to see that. I would like to see more
16 of that. There's not enough in this plan
17 right now that talks about equity and
18 equitable -- especially recovery from
19 disaster. Thank you.

20 BREN HAASE:

21 Thanks.

22 THERESE WALKER:

23 Scooter Trosclair.

24 SCOOTER TROSCLAIR:

25 Thank you. I guess the first thing that

1 comes to mind after reviewing the plan is
2 what if there is no CPRA? If you look back
3 at everything you've been able to accomplish,
4 and then also working together as partners, I
5 hope in the future, we can maintain and
6 protect what we have. I think we're on that
7 path.

8 Compared to ten years ago, or at least
9 the last Master Plan meeting, to where we are
10 now with especially shoreline protection,
11 where it wasn't even part of the plan, but we
12 got it back again by developing and educating
13 each other at a local level. It was a huge
14 milestone which is now showcased within the
15 CPRA Program and so many other organizations.

16 So with that said, I truly support
17 shoreline protection as one of my highest
18 priorities because I've seen it firsthand,
19 and the life that comes with it and how it
20 creates a whole new environment of what we
21 lost at some point in time. We're restoring
22 now, and plus, we're getting the protection,
23 which is our first line of defense.

24 Second, I really appreciate you guys
25 listening to us and considering the

1 structural risk reduction project that we're
2 calling for storm surge protection. It's not
3 just for one parish; this is a regional --
4 this is a regional project that's going to
5 benefit so many communities.

6 Hurricane Laura, I want to say, at the
7 beginning of the predictions, storm surge at
8 I-10 -- I can't tell you how many times I saw
9 that on The Weather Channel -- storm surge at
10 I-10. Y'all, we can't let this happen.

11 We're fortunate we have existing
12 infrastructure that we can enhance that has
13 drainage components -- drainage components
14 and everything that's included, but we can
15 enhance this and we can make it better.

16 Also, as we look at the Mermentau Basin,
17 it's great to see one of those projects
18 consisted -- or within the plans for south of
19 the Chenier Plain. We're working on that
20 now. We'd like to supply this information
21 with y'all as we're getting done this first
22 process, to help benefit future projects.
23 Dredging the Mermentau River is another great
24 source of sediment for marsh creation, and
25 then lastly is the inundation projects that

1 we have in the plan.

2 No doubt they're greatly needed because
3 of the development that is occurring in the
4 I-10 Corridor. The water has to go somewhere
5 and it goes south, and so we've got to create
6 those outlets and get this water out
7 efficiently without holding and destroying
8 the marsh. The inundation process is ponding
9 within or in between those communities that
10 are to the north and to the south. Thank
11 you.

12 THERESE WALKER:

13 Tim Wild.

14 TIM WILD:

15 I'm Tim Wild with Jeff Davis -- from Jeff
16 Davis Parish, Jeff Davis Soil and Water
17 Conservation District. I also serve on farm
18 bureau boards and coastal resources
19 committees, and different boards. I just
20 want to thank y'all for coming and doing
21 this, taking public comments and seeing what
22 local people have -- what their ideas are and
23 what they see.

24 Models -- models are good. Models can be
25 -- but models are not what people actually

1 see. There are things that may not be what
2 is actually happening, but models are a great
3 start. You've done a great job through --
4 like I said, I'm from Jeff Davis Parish. I'm
5 not on the coast, but I'm at the bottom of
6 the Mermentau River Basin.

7 We've got to figure out how to get the
8 water out, and you know, we've got water --
9 floodwater that backs up and we're losing
10 crops, whether it be cattle, hay, crawfish,
11 rice. It's a big industry. We don't have
12 the population that we've got in the
13 Southeastern part of the state, but we've got
14 the same economic value, so we've got to look
15 at that.

16 We're currently working on a project with
17 -- the Soil and Water Conservation District's
18 currently working on a project, PL-566
19 Program for the Lower Lacassine. I know -- I
20 don't know if anybody from Calcasieu, from
21 Cal-Cam Soil and Water District is here, but
22 Cal-Cam Soil and Water District is working on
23 the same PL-566 Program to pick up from where
24 we leave off to do dredge work, to clean the
25 Mermentau River.

1 So that information can be provided to
2 you guys if y'all would like that. Those
3 engineering maps and stuff -- if we work
4 together, do all this together to, you know,
5 do work for marsh creation -- you know, to
6 have a place to put that spoil and that
7 sediment to restore those marshes, you know,
8 for hurricanes and relief -- for prevention,
9 you know, to slow the storms down, to slow
10 the storm surge down. That all needs to be
11 done; right? But I just wanted to bring that
12 up. I appreciate what y'all are doing.

13 Thank you.

14 BREN HAASE:

15 Thank you.

16 THERESE WALKER:

17 Magnus McGee.

18 MAGNUS MCGEE:

19 My name's Magnus McGee, but nobody calls
20 me that. Everybody calls me Sonny. I want
21 to thank you guys for what you're doing. I
22 also want to thank the public for being here
23 tonight. It does my heart good, as an
24 elected official, to see people taking an
25 active part in everything you're doing. Many

1 times, we think that our voices aren't heard
2 and don't matter, that we can't make a
3 difference, but by being here tonight, I
4 think speaking your mind makes a difference.

5 And I want to thank you guys for the work
6 you do. I also want to support the coastal
7 restoration projects, each and every one of
8 them, because without those, none of this
9 matters. If you don't save the coast, the
10 coast is going to come and be at the north
11 end of Calcasieu Lake. All the other
12 projects are great, but coastal protection is
13 number one. Thank you.

14 BREN HAASE:

15 Thank you.

16 THERESE WALKER:

17 Cindy Robertson.

18 CINDY ROBERTSON:

19 My name is Cindy Robertson, and I hadn't
20 hear the "rock it, rock it, rock it," but it
21 is going to be part of my vocabulary now. I
22 go down to Holly Beach and those rock -- the
23 rocks there, I think the shelling's really
24 great, so that's -- I'm going to remember
25 that.

1 A couple of things. I was reading --
2 really, glancing through that book real
3 quick, and I saw that the marsh land at the
4 -- the restoration of the marsh land or
5 whatever that's called at Calcasieu Lake is
6 about stopping -- one of the things it does
7 is stop wave erosion? So I'm wondering,
8 where are all those waves coming from?
9 Certainly, it can't just be recreational
10 vehicles -- you know, I mean the boats and
11 stuff.

12 So if we're worried about wave erosion,
13 maybe that should be taken into account when
14 y'all consult on those coastal use permits,
15 which I didn't realize that you did -- now I
16 know -- and you know, prevention of wave
17 erosion would be preferable to replacing the
18 marsh land that is lost from wave erosion.

19 And as I was looking at the plans for
20 Cameron Parish, you know, we have a lot of
21 build out going on in our area, and some of
22 the places that are green on your map are
23 areas that are going to have build out in
24 them. And so if y'all are part of the
25 coastal use permitting and you didn't include

1 any coastal use things that are in process in
2 the plan, that's not real good foresight. So
3 it might be important to keep looking at the
4 things that are in the plan.

5 And the last thing I will say, since I
6 got my one minute warning, is we can only
7 half a pound of fish from the lakes -- Lake
8 Charles and Prien Lake, and the river area --
9 twice a month because of the toxins that are
10 in the mud and the sediment. If you're going
11 to dredge stuff from the Calcasieu River --
12 and I'm sure that they're going to tell me,
13 "Oh, no, it only stays up north."

14 Well, I'm not real sure because the water
15 runs south, so when you do that dredging,
16 please be extra careful to find out what
17 actually is in the sediment that you're going
18 to make those new marshes out of. Thank you.
19 THERESE WALKER:

20 Michael Tritico.

21 MICHAEL TRITICO:

22 I've been doing this for a while. I was
23 the first coastal zone management planner
24 when the Coastal Zone Management Act was
25 passed by Congress and signed by the

1 President back in 1974. I didn't last long
2 because there were people who thought that
3 the Coastal Zone Management Act was a
4 Communist takeover. Now, I am pleased that
5 things have changed and today, I'm happy to
6 be sending in comments for the last 40, 50
7 years since 1974. I'm glad to see a lot of
8 things that I said then have been taken into
9 account.

10 When I first started talking about Dr.
11 James Titus' papers on sea level rise, the
12 state officials laughed, but it's now a part
13 of what you're doing. It's a shame it takes
14 so long. There's a lag time between reality
15 that some people now, and it gets brought
16 into the planning process.

17 Even now, I talked to three of the guys
18 today -- three of your people. That has
19 given me a kind of a new hope that I didn't
20 have because, as I told one of them, if all
21 three of you had been here back years ago, we
22 wouldn't be in this mess. The three guys I
23 talked to today have the intellect and the
24 ability to understand concepts, that if they
25 were not hamstrung by politics and by

1 mandates that say you've got to spend all
2 this money, even though some of -- you know,
3 some of it's stupid, things would be okay.

4 One of the things that's sort of
5 hamstringing them is the Calcasieu Ship
6 Channel. As long as that's a presumed
7 definite thing that's going to exist forever,
8 you're going to be fighting a losing battle
9 trying to prevent Lake Charles from getting
10 storm surge inundation. So there are built
11 in things to keep common sense from working.
12 Until those things are discarded, it's still
13 going to be billions of dollars wasted.

14 And I was glad to see that some of the
15 things such as relocation of people,
16 elevation of homes still in the budget. I
17 was disappointed to see that still in the
18 budget now is a change in the \$300-something
19 million dollar project to address saltwater
20 intrusion. The devices that were planned and
21 engineered have been abandoned. The money's
22 still there, but it's being used to make sure
23 we can save salt marsh that is replacing the
24 fresh marsh.

25 So there are things that are just not

1 going to ever change until the politics
2 changes. I intend to submit written
3 comments. I was glad to see that the overlap
4 where the LNG plans, Commonwealth, and
5 Venture Oil are going to do a so-called
6 beneficial use of dredge material.

7 Well, you've got a multi-million dollar
8 project to do the same thing at the same
9 spot, so I was glad to see that if companies
10 do that project, that money that you have is
11 going to be reality. So you guys answered
12 some of my questions and I appreciate that
13 you're here, and I read the sign that says
14 stop.

15 BREN HAASE:

16 Thank you.

17 THERESE WALKER:

18 Clarence Vidrine.

19 CLARENCE VIDRINE:

20 My name's Clarence Vidrine. I'm from the
21 coast -- South Cameron coast. I was the
22 principal of Cameron Elementary, and I'd like
23 to -- like everybody -- most everyone else
24 would say, the storm surge is what changed
25 everyone's lives.

1 The problem originated right there in the
2 Gulf, and I would like to see you prioritize
3 and concentrate on applying energy and
4 resources to stop that water before it gets
5 on land. The projects that you have north of
6 the shoreline is all fine and good, but
7 they'll be destroyed if that storm surge
8 comes in and destroys everything. So I would
9 just appreciate you spending your money on
10 shoreline protection, and then that storm
11 surge. Thank you.

12 BREN HAASE:

13 Thanks.

14 THERESE WALKER:

15 McKinley Guidry.

16 MCKINLEY GUIDRY:

17 My name is McKinley Wayne Guidry, Police
18 Juror from District 7, Cameron Parish. I
19 strongly want to go on Record and support the
20 flood protection projects for Cameron Parish
21 and Southwest Louisiana. Also, we need
22 dredging done -- Mermentau River from Lake
23 Arthur all the way to Creole to the mouth of
24 the river, going into the Gulf. We need some
25 dredging on the Intercoastal Canal.

1 We need a massive levee system with
2 rocks, so the rocks can protect the levees
3 that will protect the people. We need
4 massive pumps and flood gates to let the
5 water out. Also, if we don't do something
6 about it -- we've already lost land, we've
7 lost people -- we're going to continue to
8 lose land, we're going to continue to lose
9 people. We're going to lose a culture that's
10 been hundreds of years in the making, and it
11 will be gone and we will never be able to
12 replace it.

13 I want to thank all of you for coming
14 here tonight. I want to thank all my Cameron
15 Parish people that are here tonight, who
16 supports me on everything I want to do for
17 these projects. Thank you.

18 THERESE WALKER:

19 Jade Miller.

20 JADE MILLER:

21 My name's Jade Miller, Calcasieu Parish
22 Police Jury. I'm an engineer for the Public
23 Works Department. Currently, I live in
24 Cameron Parish, born and raised. I work in
25 Calcasieu, so I have a place in my heart for

1 both of them. I wanted to come here to
2 represent Calcasieu and express our full
3 support to protect our shoreline.

4 You know, we definitely understand the
5 need to protect Cameron. Without Cameron
6 Parish, Calcasieu is sitting there on the
7 coast. A lot of these models show 30, 40
8 years in advance. We don't want to wait that
9 long. As you can see, a lot of those colors
10 go all the way up, flood depths throughout
11 Lake Charles and even further north.

12 We support protecting the shoreline and
13 the berm concept. I think it's a great time
14 for us in Cameron to work with you guys to
15 build on this concept and tie it all in, and
16 continue to protect Cameron and Calcasieu.
17 And like I said, we understand saving Cameron
18 also saves Calcasieu, and we appreciate y'all
19 coming here. Thank you.

20 BREN HAASE:

21 Thanks.

22 THERESE WALKER:

23 And Victoria Sagrera Bourque.

24 VICTORIA SAGRERA BOURQUE:

25 Good evening. I want to say thank y'all

1 so much for being here tonight and giving me
2 the opportunity, as well as the rest of the
3 public, to come and comment on the Master
4 Plan. I want to thank my friend here who's
5 doing such a great job with the time cards.

6 But really, I want to thank Bren too.
7 Thank you so much for the words that you
8 spoke at the beginning about Ralph. Ralph
9 represented Vermilion Parish and he would be
10 standing here where I am tonight, speaking on
11 behalf of Vermilion and the work that you
12 guys are doing for us, so I just wanted to
13 give some sentiments of thanks there.

14 We share a lot of sentiments with what
15 has been discussed tonight. Living in
16 Vermilion -- I was born and raised in
17 Vermilion Parish, and we feel very strongly
18 about protection and restoration, and we
19 thank y'all for the leadership that you have
20 exhibited with the plan and the willingness
21 to hear what the public has to say.

22 Things to note: I would love to see more
23 fortification of the North Vermilion Bay Rim.
24 Also, the structural risk reduction that
25 y'all have -- the levee got -- thank you.

1 The levee that is in the Abbeville vicinity,
2 I would love to see that situated a little
3 bit more south to include more of our
4 agricultural land. Agriculture is a huge
5 industry for our parish and our state, and I
6 think the inclusion of the protection of that
7 land is critical.

8 I do want to say that we appreciated
9 having you guys at the community
10 conversations event we had in Abbeville a few
11 months ago, and we would love to see an
12 inclusion of Abbeville as an additional stop
13 on the Master Plan tours. I know we won't
14 have them like this for another six years,
15 but the Annual Plan, we'd love to have you
16 guys in Abbeville, or in Vermilion Parish.
17 So that's all I have. I want to say thanks
18 again, and we appreciate y'all being here and
19 working with us. Thank you.

20 BREN HAASE:

21 Thank you.

22 THERESE WALKER:

23 Alright. Now we'll move on to the Annual
24 Plan presentation, so we'll go through the
25 same process as last time: make a short

1 presentation on the Annual Plan and start the
2 comment period there. So if anyone would
3 like to give a statement to speak your
4 comment for the Annual Plan, it's a blue
5 statement card. So throughout the
6 presentation or shortly thereafter, just grab
7 one from someone with CPRA and we'll get that
8 done.

9 BREN HAASE:

10 Alright. You've got me again. Listen --
11 thanks, everybody. We appreciate the
12 thoughtful comments that y'all provided. I
13 know the timing thing is a little awkward,
14 and not necessarily the most friendly of
15 approaches, but we do that just to kind of
16 keep the meeting rolling. If you have more
17 components, or if you have some questions, as
18 Therese mentioned earlier, we'll be here as
19 long as we need to tonight to take those and
20 talk with you, and answer your questions.

21 So we're going to transition now from
22 Master Plan into our Annual Plan. As I
23 mentioned earlier, I found the way to
24 probably -- the best way to think about it is
25 the Master Plan is a high level, long term

1 conceptual level; Annual Plan is we're kind
2 of getting down in the weeds. These are the
3 funds that we think we're going to get this
4 upcoming fiscal year, and this is how we
5 intend to expend those funds on projects
6 across our coast.

7 So you've seen this before -- the way to
8 comment on the Annual Plan is the same,
9 essentially, as it is to comment on the
10 Master Plan, so I'll not dwell on that.
11 Timeline, we already talked about that a bit
12 as well. I will just reiterate that the
13 comment period for the Annual Plan does end
14 at the same time as the comment period for
15 the Master Plan, on March 25.

16 I don't know if we've said this yet or
17 not, but I will say -- I think I said this in
18 one of our previous conversations -- but
19 comments early in the process are great. If
20 you can get your comments to us, the earlier
21 -- certainly, a comment received today is,
22 you know, counted, if you will, or considered
23 just as much as a comment received on the
24 25th. The earlier you can get it in, then if
25 we have questions about it or it's something

1 we might need to talk with you about, we've
2 got a little time to be able to do that. So
3 if you can get your comments in earlier than
4 the 25th, that would be great. And also,
5 just like the Master Plan, we'll present this
6 to our board in April, and ultimately to the
7 legislature for an up or down approval.

8 So this is the main categories of funding
9 that we receive at CPRA. You can see that we
10 intend to spend what we receive, actually, in
11 FY '24. So most of these funds are either
12 federal funds, or funds associated with the
13 BP Oil Spill. GOMESA funds are associated
14 with offshore oil and gas revenue sharing.
15 The next three categories that you see there
16 are related to the BP Oil Spill dollars that
17 have come to the state, and will continue to
18 come to the state through 2032.

19 Most of you here, hopefully, are familiar
20 with the CWPPRA Program. That's another
21 category listed there. The state surplus
22 funds are funds that come to us through
23 sustained revenue sharing, which is kind of
24 similar to GOMESA, and those other funds are
25 really mostly related to state surplus funds

1 that we are eligible to have expenditure for,
2 and that we are fortunate enough to receive
3 over the last couple of years.

4 So all that adds up to a big number.
5 It's a record-breaking number, in fact, for
6 CPRA. This current fiscal year that we're
7 in, we anticipate receiving and spending
8 about \$1.3 billion dollars. You can see for
9 next year, that jumps to just under \$2
10 billion dollars -- about \$1.74 billion
11 dollars. I'll reiterate again for folks,
12 we're not talking about tax money; we're not
13 talking about state general fund dollars.
14 These are all funds that are either provided
15 to us through the federal government and the
16 BP Oil Spill that are required to be spent on
17 coastal restoration, coastal protection.

18 So one of the things we are proud of and
19 you'll note on the slide here, about 85
20 percent of those funds will be spend on
21 construction. So they're spent on getting
22 projects on the ground, and note also the
23 operating costs for them are pretty low
24 there. They're actually under two percent of
25 the overall amount that you see listed there.

1 So looking ahead to the next couple of
2 fiscal years, down at FY '25 and '26, you can
3 see that that number stays pretty healthy.
4 We anticipate it to be over a million
5 dollars, which is where we want to be, as Stu
6 said, in that 50 year, 50 billion dollar
7 plan; right? So we want to be somewhere
8 north of 50 -- somewhere north of a billion
9 dollars annually to accomplish the goals we
10 aim to accomplish over the fiscal year
11 period. We anticipate for the next several
12 years, we will be there. And that
13 construction -- billions of dollars being
14 spent on construction goes on for the next
15 couple of years, too, about 80 or 90 percent.
16 So again, that's good news in terms of
17 getting projects on the ground for the state
18 of Louisiana and for our coast.

19 So some of the other numbers, I've
20 already mentioned the \$1.74 and the \$1.5.
21 We've talked a little bit about dredging
22 already. Heard some comments about dredging
23 in the audience -- from the audience here
24 tonight. About 20 of the projects that'll be
25 active in this year -- a total of 118

1 projects we anticipate working on in the
2 upcoming fiscal year -- are dredging
3 projects. That will dredge about 73.5
4 million cubic yards of sediment. That's
5 about 30 Superdomes, just to put that into
6 perspective. It's a lot.

7 Those projects benefit just over 15,000
8 acres of our coastal wetlands, and when you
9 think about an investment in the amount that
10 we're talking about, that generates many
11 kinds of things; right? That generates a
12 community of practice, it generates jobs. If
13 you think about those, our friends at GNO,
14 Inc. estimate about 10,000 direct jobs will
15 be created as a result of investments, that
16 will result in about \$640 million in labor
17 and economy.

18 So we have, over the years, as a coastal
19 program, made a concerted effort to get
20 Louisiana companies involved in the coastal
21 program, benefitting from the work that we're
22 doing here in Louisiana. We'd like to see
23 more Louisianans building Louisiana projects
24 for Louisianans, and you all certainly can
25 relate to that, and so we're making efforts

1 to try to do that.

2 In the Southwest Region, where we are
3 here, you'll see that in the upcoming fiscal
4 year, we've got 15 projects that will be
5 active. Nine of those will be in
6 construction, and six projects in engineering
7 and design. We did -- I will point out that
8 I expect this number to go up. We don't have
9 surplus -- potential surplus projects
10 included in the draft Annual Plan and we
11 don't have our final GOMESA allocation
12 either, so those are a couple of the
13 categories I mentioned to you a little while
14 ago.

15 We expect to get that GOMESA allocation
16 sometime in April. We're very hopeful that
17 it will be higher than we anticipated in this
18 draft plan, and we'll have another
19 opportunity to seek surplus dollars through
20 the state legislature as well. So we expect
21 that you see the final plan, that 15 number
22 will be something more than what's there.

23 So moving over to the South Central
24 portion of the state, we'll have 41 projects
25 active. 26 of those will in construction, 4

1 of those will be in engineering and design,
2 and 1 project in planning. And moving
3 further to the east in the Southeast Region
4 of the state, we'll have 62 active projects
5 -- 45 in construction, 16 in engineering and
6 design, and 1 project in planning there. And
7 there's additional projects just listed
8 there.

9 We also -- as we go over our Annual Plan
10 this year, part of the -- part of our plan is
11 developing another plan for the Atchafalaya
12 Basin. So the Atchafalaya Basin Program has
13 been moved from EMR into CPRA, and so you'll
14 also note that we'll have a draft Atchafalaya
15 Basin Program Plan out there. And projects
16 listed here included Maurepas Water
17 Management Projects, dredging in Big Bayou
18 Pigeon.

19 Further down the list, we have the
20 Henderson Lake Project that's either under
21 construction, or just about under
22 construction -- correct me if I'm wrong there
23 -- and a couple of others, like the Sandy
24 Cove boat launch, Bayou Pigeon boat launch,
25 and we need an update overall on the Master

1 Plan for the Atchafalaya Basin as well. That
2 hasn't been done in about 20 years or so, so
3 we anticipate doing that in the upcoming
4 fiscal year.

5 So if you want to learn more about the
6 Annual Plan, you can do that at
7 ap24.coastal.la.gov. This is a good
8 interactive site. Many of you had a chance
9 to look through the Master Plan viewer here
10 tonight. This is sort of similar to that.
11 You can look at individual projects that are
12 identified in the Annual Plan. You know,
13 there's -- offers some press clippings and
14 some videos, project specifics and so forth
15 associated with each of those projects here.
16 You can also, of course, find the document of
17 the draft outlined if you'd like to review
18 that in PowerPoint.

19 So again, I'll end here. I believe
20 that's my last slide. Just ways -- you know,
21 obviously more ways to make public comments.
22 You can make those comments in writing here
23 tonight. We're going to be here listening to
24 any of the comments you might have for us,
25 just as we did for the Master Plan as well.

1 So again, I just want to reiterate before we
2 move into that -- our team is handing out
3 some cards -- we really appreciate the
4 thoughtful discussions we had in the Master
5 Plan presentation and the thoughtful comments
6 that you all provided.

7 It is not always true that when you come
8 to meet with the public -- it can get less
9 constructive and, you know, sometimes the
10 comments are not as positive as they were
11 this evening, so I want you to know that we
12 appreciate that. We know we can always do
13 better, and we can do better, of course, with
14 your input and the constructive input you've
15 provided tonight.

16 So I just wanted to thank you for that
17 and I'll end it there and turn it back over
18 to T, and we will take and hear comments
19 related to the Annual Plan. Thank you.

20 THERESE WALKER:

21 Alright. So we'll go through a similar
22 -- same process that we did for the Master
23 Plan. So if you want to fill out a statement
24 card for a spoken comment, you need a blue
25 statement card. You can grab one from

1 anybody who's walking around with it. I'll
2 give everybody a couple minutes to do that.

3 If you do not want to give any statement
4 this evening, you're welcome to write it or
5 sit at the computer and someone can help you
6 type it. And, as Bren mentioned, there's
7 several other ways that you can submit
8 outside of the meeting here tonight. So I'll
9 give everybody a minute here to get a
10 statement card if you need one.

11 Alright, anybody else need a statement
12 card? Okay. We're going to go ahead and get
13 rolling. The first one is Clair Hebert
14 Marceaux.

15 CLAIR HEBERT MARCEAUX:

16 I won't take all three minutes. Here's
17 where the criticism comes in: a ratio of 4 to
18 1 from the Southwest corner to the Southeast
19 corner. I can't be the only one who
20 recognizes that. I certainly appreciate,
21 Bren, that you said you'd like to get north
22 of that number, but until we do, people like
23 me are going to keep saying we can all do
24 better.

25 It's a very sad state of affairs when

1 it's a 4 to 1 ratio. What was that? 15, and
2 then 60-what on the Southeast side? I know
3 you can't answer the question, but basically
4 --

5 BREN HAASE:

6 The total is 118.

7 CLAIR HEBERT MARCEAUX:

8 -- four times, everybody. Four times the
9 number of projects on the Southeastern side
10 of our state than are on the Southwestern
11 side of our state. I'd like to know why.
12 I'm not asking the question right now. I'd
13 like you to all be asking why. Thanks.

14 BREN HAASE:

15 Thank you.

16 THERESE WALKER:

17 Thank you. Michael Tritico.

18 MICHAEL TRITICO:

19 On the slide, you have the amount you're
20 going to be spending on dredging. The
21 beneficial use of dredge material is an
22 oxymoron. It's the dredging that's causing
23 many of the problems, and to say that
24 something beneficial's going to come from
25 spending billions of dollars to keep dredging

1 makes no sense to me. Much more bang for the
2 buck, as they call it, could happen if a
3 program that appears to be left out of this
4 fiscal year were to be resurrected, and that
5 is the relocation of the people to safety
6 higher inland, or if people who must live
7 down there and shrimp and fish, the elevation
8 of their homes for protection. That program
9 had millions of dollars in it, but it's not
10 -- you didn't show it. I hope it hasn't been
11 fully left out.

12 One of your men said there might be a new
13 version of it come out soon. Relocation and
14 elevation is far more efficient than pumping
15 mud into the marsh or into the dredge spoil
16 areas where it runs off and defiles the
17 oyster beds, defiles the new reefs that you
18 guys are trying to put in. There are many
19 things that don't make good common sense, but
20 to continue to be bound by inertia is wrong.

21 There aren't enough rocks in the world to
22 protect Cameron Parish from sea level rise.
23 You can rock it all you want; it's not
24 happening. It's going to under. Lake
25 Charles is going to go under, New Orleans is

1 going to go under. Millions of people around
2 the world are going to have to move to higher
3 ground. It's just the truth. I don't need
4 an extra minute.

5 BREN HAASE:

6 Thank you.

7 THERESE WALKER:

8 Thank you. Victoria Borque.

9 VICTORIA BOURQUE:

10 I just had a quite side note to add, and
11 I think this applies to both the Master Plan
12 and Annual Plan. I want to applaud y'all on
13 the technology advancements with the new
14 Master Plan data viewer. I think that's
15 fantastic that we have these innovative
16 access ways to get this information, but I
17 did want to make sure that there is still --
18 you guys are still being mindful of people
19 that may not have access to the technology
20 that a majority of us do.

21 So I want to make sure -- I know in the
22 past, with the Master Plan, y'all made a
23 conscious effort to put those in all the
24 public libraries across the state -- that
25 y'all are planning to do that with this one

1 as well, and look into also including them in
2 public school libraries to get that
3 generation involved as well, and looking at
4 maybe some curriculums to engage them. And I
5 do want to state that I do share Clair's
6 sentiment of the 4 to 1 ratio. Thank you.

7 THERESE WALKER:

8 Kay Barnett.

9 KAY BARNETT:

10 I'm Kay Barnett, and by default, I'm the
11 current chair for the Chenier Plain Coastal
12 Restoration Protection Authority. I did not
13 miss the meeting, but I did not sign up to be
14 the current chair, so thank you again for
15 what you're doing. I want to mention on a
16 really positive note, we have some very good
17 projects that are in engineering and design.

18 One of them is the Calcasieu-Sabine
19 Large-scale Marsh and Hydrolic Restoration
20 Project. That's what you were talking about,
21 Mike. That's only \$300 million dollars and
22 will be up the Calcasieu River, and it will
23 help with saltwater intrusion, marsh
24 creation. We're kind of pitching for a new
25 project with GIWW, which we're working with

1 CPRA on as well, which will help reinforce
2 what we do on the Calcasieu River and the
3 western side of the wetlands with GIWW and
4 the Calcasieu River.

5 And then the other project is the
6 Southwest Coastal Project that was funded by
7 the Corps of Engineers. Nearly \$300 billion
8 dollars will also be invested in this area,
9 and that will go towards its non-structural
10 part, which is elevation of homes.

11 2900 or so of these homes are in
12 Calcasieu Parish and 1200 or so are in
13 Cameron Parish, and we want to see that
14 project come to fruition because more people
15 will be able to keep their livelihood and
16 live here. We love this culture and we want
17 to be able to continue to grow what's going
18 on in our area.

19 And the Chenier Plain represents
20 Calcasieu, Cameron, and Vermilion parishes.
21 We're a little over ten years into authority,
22 and look what we're seeing happen. So there
23 are a lot of positive things going on. And
24 again, I have to reiterate to you: rock it,
25 rock it, rock it. I do think we need to do

1 the t-shirts. Thanks.

2 THERESE WALKER:

3 The last comment is Leslie Griffith.

4 LESLIE GRIFFITH:

5 I'm happy to reintroduce myself, but
6 Clair had a good point. I noticed that they
7 showed on the map the projects in Southeast
8 Louisiana and the little few over here in
9 Southwest Louisiana, but this is strictly a
10 question. There's no answer coming back to
11 me, but I'm just still going to back to what
12 y'all -- what you showed on the screen there
13 about the projects in Southwest Louisiana and
14 Cameron Parish.

15 Two of them in there are ones that
16 affects me personally, my drainage board and
17 all of the above, and I was just curious.
18 Whenever this stuff -- something happens with
19 flooding -- are they going to start working
20 on that this year? Because I'm saying what I
21 read through in the book about those two
22 projects, it doesn't make any sense to me
23 because that's -- some of that stuff's
24 already done. I don't know where it came
25 about.

1 We do have some more stuff that needs to
2 be done in that area, but I don't know.

3 Where do I get the answer to this? Is that
4 the police jury level? I got to get them?
5 I've got to get to Kara over there and find
6 out what's going on? Where do I go for it?

7 BREN HAASE:

8 Yeah. You come to us and we'll talk with
9 you after the meeting and --

10 LESLIE GRIFFITH:

11 Oh, okay.

12 BREN HAASE:

13 -- get you some answers. Yes, sir,
14 absolutely.

15 LESLIE GRIFFITH:

16 That's my -- one of my answers.

17 KEESLER MORRISON:

18 You've got two minutes left -- almost two
19 minutes left.

20 LESLIE GRIFFITH:

21 Two minutes left? Goddamn, I'm good.
22 Anyway, that's all I -- that's really all I
23 got to say. Thank y'all for coming and doing
24 all this. I know it's taken a lot of work to
25 do it, but when you say in 2024 -- now,

1 that's not in the book. The book only went
2 to '23. Y'all taking some stuff out of the
3 Master Plan for 2023 and spending it in 2024?
4 Is that what's going on there? I don't know.
5 It didn't make sense there.

6 BREN HAASE:

7 I'm going to break our rule, and my guys
8 always cringe when I do this, but I'm doing
9 it anyway. We're operating under an existing
10 -- we have a Master Plan that's in place
11 right now. It was developed in 2017, and so
12 we tier off of that existing Master Plan to
13 develop our Annual Plan.

14 What we presented to you tonight was the
15 future Master Plan, in addition to a future
16 Annual Plan. So I know it gets confusing,
17 but basically, we have a high level concept
18 -- that's our Master Plan; Annual Plan tiers
19 off of that. We're not talking about
20 building projects this year, or today or
21 tomorrow in what we presented --

22 LESLIE GRIFFITH:

23 Sounds like in 2024, you showed those
24 that were going to get started and stuff, you
25 know?

1 BREN HAASE:

2 Right.

3 LESLIE GRIFFITH:

4 I think, wait a minute -- y'all got so
5 much --

6 BREN HAASE:

7 Those, by and large, were different from
8 what was presented in tonight's Master Plan
9 presentation, so we can talk more in more
10 detail about that.

11 LESLIE GRIFFITH:

12 You're not taking a dart and throwing it
13 at a dart board and coming up with more here,
14 or more there or whatever? I know there's
15 more people over there and probably more
16 projects --

17 BREN HAASE:

18 Yep.

19 LESLIE GRIFFTH:

20 We've been stuck behind whatever they
21 call it, you know, for a long time over here.

22 BREN HAASE:

23 Understood.

24 LESLIE GRIFFITH:

25 I appreciate that.

1 BREN HAASE:

2 We can talk some more afterwards.

3 LESLIE GRIFFITH:

4 Alright.

5 BREN HAASE:

6 Thank you.

7 THERESE WALKER:

8 Okay. That's all we've got, so if you
9 want to submit comments -- either a written
10 or typed in before you leave, there will be
11 someone to help you do that. We'll be around
12 a little while if you have questions, or if
13 you need to have a side bar, we're happy to
14 do that. So thank y'all for coming.

15
16 (The Public Hearing concluded at 7:09 p.m.)
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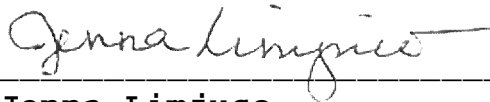
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