NEW PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FOR LOUISIANA'S 2029 COASTAL MASTER PLAN: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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SUBMITTING A PROJECT

WHEN CAN NEW PROJECT IDEAS BE SUBMITTED?

New project ideas are currently being accepted through **January 31, 2027**. If the deadline is extended, it will be announced by email, on social media, and on the MP29 website. Coastal challenges and project ideas should be submitted via the online MP29 Coastal Challenge and Project Submission Form. If you are unable to use this online form, please contact CPRA at MasterPlan@LA.GOV to make alternative arrangements.

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WHO CAN SUBMIT PROJECT IDEAS?

New projects can be proposed by any source, including academia, parishes, elected officials, state agencies, NGOs, landowners, business/industry, and the general public.

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WHY IS SOME INFORMATION IN THE SUBMISSION FORM OPTIONAL?

CPRA invites anyone to submit a project, not just people with advanced technical expertise, so the form is designed to flexibly accommodate a variety of users. Please note that the more information you provide, the better the master plan development team can stay true to your vision as we evaluate your idea.

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IF I START WORKING ON A SUBMISSION, WILL I BE ABLE TO SAVE MY PROGRESS AND RETURN TO IT LATER?

No, the submission webpage does not have the capability to save progress on unsubmitted projects. If you close the page, you will lose all progress and you will have to start over.

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CAN I SUBMIT MORE THAN ONE PROJECT IDEA?

Yes. Each individual project idea must be its own submission through the MP29 Coastal Challenge and Project Submission Form.

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WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I NEED HELP SUBMITTING A PROJECT IDEA?

The purpose of this solicitation is to hear new ideas for protection and restoration projects from anyone, regardless of their expertise. Project descriptions, maps, and other details will help inform our understanding of the project and ensure that it is captured accurately if it is selected for further evaluation. Please email our team with any questions about submitting a project at MasterPlan@LA.GOV.

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CAN I RESUBMIT A PROJECT IDEA THAT DID NOT MOVE FORWARD DURING PUBLIC SOLICITATION #1 (PS#1)?

Yes, you can resubmit a project idea from PS#1 with edits based on the feedback received from the Master Plan Team. Select "Yes, I'd like to submit a revision to a Project Idea that was submitted during the first public solicitation (PS#1)" when prompted in the Coastal Challenge and Project Idea Submission form.

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WHAT IF I HAVE COMMENTS ON AN MP29 CANDIDATE PROJECT?

Comments on MP29 Candidate Projects can be directed to the Master Plan Team via email (MasterPlan@LA.GOV). Please include the MP29 Candidate Project number and name when providing comments.

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IF A PROJECT IS IN THE 2023 COASTAL MASTER PLAN, DOES IT NEED TO BE RESUBMITTED?

No. CPRA has considered all 2023 Coastal Master Plan projects in the 2029 Coastal Master Plan process, so these do not need to be resubmitted. This solicitation is for new project ideas.

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WHAT ARE THE COST LIMITS FOR PROJECT SUBMISSIONS?

There is no cost limit specified for individual project ideas, but cost effectiveness will be considered in the selection of projects for the final plan.

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DOES CPRA ONLY REQUEST SUBMISSIONS FOR PROJECTS THAT ARE READY FOR CONSTRUCTION?

No. CPRA will consider projects at various stages of planning and development.

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WILL PROJECTS REVIEWED THROUGH ANOTHER PLANNING PROCESS BE GIVEN SPECIAL CONSIDERATION?

No. CPRA will not give projects that have been reviewed through other planning processes special consideration. However, any details developed for a project through another process can be submitted along with the submission.

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WHAT CHANGED FROM THE MP23 PROJECT SOLICITATION?

- CPRA is providing an online project submission form instead of receiving submissions by email/mail.
- CPRA is accepting project ideas in a range of development stages, instead of requiring proposers to specify engineering and design details that some people with good ideas may not have the technical expertise to develop.
- CPRA is requiring more description of the coastal challenge the project idea is intended to address and how the project is expected to support the master plan goals of reducing land loss and storm surge-based flood risk.
- CPRA is encouraging submitters to review the Future Without Action projections in the Master Plan Data Viewer to assist them in developing ideas that will serve our coast for decades to come.
- CPRA has added two new programmatically consistent project types: earthen terraces and forested wetland restoration.
- CPRA is providing additional guidance regarding Ridge Restoration projects. In practice, most ridge restoration features are constructed to complement and protect marsh creation areas. Those proposing a standalone ridge restoration project for MP29 should try to achieve benefits beyond the project footprint by strategically positioning the ridge to cut across a salinity gradient in a meaningful way. Beyond-footprint benefits tend to be especially promising where there is a source of freshwater whose influence can be modulated. Desktop screening will look for opportunities for these conditions when considering standalone ridge restoration features.
- CPRA is piloting a screening for constructability concerns along with the traditional screening categories. Our goal with the desktop constructability screening is to eliminate any projects that are obviously infeasible before we get to the modeling phase. The constructability screening considers potential obstacles to project implementation at the proposed project site including, but not limited to, proximity to a source of borrow material, oil and gas infrastructure risks, geotechnical limitations, insurmountable oyster habitat

impacts, water depth limitations, and minimum project size. Passing constructability screening does not necessarily mean that a project can be constructed, but it does mean that high-level review at the master planning phase did not definitively conclude that the project is infeasible.

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PROJECT TYPES

WHAT TYPES OF PROJECTS IS CPRA SEEKING?

CPRA is seeking projects that will build and/or maintain land at a sub-basin to regional scale (i.e., Diversions, Hydrologic Restoration, Marsh Creation, Landbridges, and Ridge Restoration) and structural projects that will reduce storm surge-based flooding to communities (i.e., Structural Risk Reduction features, such as levees, floodwalls, and floodgates) into the future.

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WHICH PROJECT TYPES WILL CPRA CONSIDER PROGRAMMATICALLY CONSISTENT WITH THE COASTAL MASTER PLAN?

Project types that CPRA will consider programmatically consistent for the 2029 Coastal Master Plan include Nonstructural Risk Reduction, Barrier Island Maintenance, Shoreline Protection, Bank Stabilization, Oyster Reef Restoration, Earthen Terraces, small-scale Forested Wetland Restoration, and small-scale Hydrologic Restoration. Barrier Island Maintenance will be addressed through CPRA's "Barrier Island System Management Program," which will help inform how barrier islands are modeled for the master plan.

These projects may be pursued through programs that allow them to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, such as the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act (CWPPRA). The 2023 Coastal Master Plan allocated $2.5 billion to programmatic restoration efforts without identifying specific projects or project locations. Project types that CPRA considers programmatically consistent do not

need to be submitted for 2029 Coastal Master Plan screening and evaluation; they are already considered consistent with the plan.

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WILL CPRA ACCEPT SUBMISSIONS FOR NONSTRUCTURAL RISK REDUCTION PROJECTS?

No. Submissions will not be considered for Nonstructural Risk Reduction projects because they are considered programmatically consistent with the master plan. This includes elevation or voluntary acquisition of residential structures and/or floodproofing of non-residential structures.

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I HAVE A PROJECT IDEA THAT IS NORTH OF THE COASTAL ZONE AND SOUTH OF THE DOTD CURRENT AUTHORITY JURISDICTION. CAN I SUBMIT IT FOR MP29 CONSIDERATION?

Historically, the Coastal Master Plan has not evaluated projects north of the Coastal Zone. However, because the CURRENT Authority jurisdiction does not include areas in 23 parishes that are north of the Coastal Zone and identified as within the CPRA Coastal Area, CPRA is working to determine the extent to which flood risk reduction projects in the Coastal Area will be considered for the Coastal Master Plan. While land loss may not represent the largest issue in the CPRA Coastal Area north of the Coastal Zone, questions do need to be answered about which types of flooding in the CPRA Coastal Area may fall within the scope of the Coastal Master Plan. These areas may not be directly affected by storm surge, but local river and rainfall flooding durations and extents could be influenced by coastal hydrology, such as tides, storm surges, and water levels in water bodies that CPRA Coastal Areas drain into. For now, CPRA is accepting ideas for a project to reduce flooding within the CPRA Coastal Area and/or the Coastal Zone if that flooding is affected by coastal hydrology either directly or indirectly. How those project ideas will be considered for MP29 inclusion is yet to be determined.

WHAT IS AN INTEGRATED PROJECT?

“Integrated Projects” incorporate components corresponding to multiple project types to achieve benefits for coastal restoration. Components of Integrated Projects

must function synergistically to provide benefits to very large areas. The dominant feature of an Integrated Project must be a project type that CPRA evaluates and selects individually for the master plan (i.e., Diversions, Hydrologic Restoration, Marsh Creation, Landbridge, Ridge Restoration, or Structural Risk Reduction). Integrated Projects can also include programmatically consistent project features, but those cannot be the dominant feature type.

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WHY DOES THE MASTER PLAN DATA VIEWER SHOW AREAS I KNOW WERE DEVASTATED BY HURRICANES IN THE LAST FEW YEARS AS STARTING OUT OK?

The Master Plan Data Viewer shows information from the 2023 Coastal Master Plan. This information is based on model runs that started with a 2018 landscape. This means that dramatic changes to the coast that have occurred since 2018 are not reflected here. For example, the land and property losses that resulted from Hurricanes Laura, Delta, and Ida are not reflected in the data viewer.

While the information about current and future conditions in the 2023 Master Plan Data Viewer can still be useful, the baseline landscape conditions data has been updated for the 2029 Coastal Master Plan modeling effort using satellite and survey data available through the end of 2024. CPRA will publicly share this updated landscape data, along with the latest modeling of how Louisiana's coast could change over the next 50 years if no additional action is taken to reduce land loss, as soon as possible. CPRA's goal is to make these results available in time to help inform new project ideas because there has been important landscape and scientific updates. CPRA's goal is to make these results available in time to help inform new project ideas because there has been important landscape and scientific updates.

As of October 2026, the Master Plan Development Team is optimistic these results will be available by the end of 2026. You can sign up for our mailing list to be notified when this information is released.

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WHERE CAN I FIND A LIST OF PROJECTS PREVIOUSLY EVALUATED?

For information on projects previously evaluated through the master plan process, please see the following documents: 2012 Coastal Master Plan (pp 68-69), 2012

Appendix A. Project Definitions, 2012 Appendix A1 – Projects Screened out of Consideration, 2017 Coastal Master Plan (pp 68-69), and 2017 Appendix A: Project Definition, 2023 Coastal Master Plan (pp 52-65), and 2023 Appendix F: Project Concepts, 2012 Supplemental Material F1.4 2023 Candidate Projects.

To see projects submitted and submitted for MP29 PS#1 , please see the New Project Development Map Viewer in the PS#1 Summary section of the MP29 New Project Development resources website.

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WILL CPRA ACCEPT SUBMISSIONS THAT SEEK TO IMPROVE HOW CPRA MANAGES PROJECTS OR PROGRAMS?

Changes in programs or project management by CPRA (e.g., sediment budget, programmatic permitting, and adaptive management) will not be evaluated through this process. However, suggestions are always welcome and can be shared by email (MasterPlan@LA.GOV) or through comments at public meetings - see CPRA's calendar for upcoming meetings.

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WILL CPRA ACCEPT ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO SUPPORT PROJECT SUBMISSIONS?

Yes. CPRA appreciates submitters sharing additional resources as supplementary information to support submitted project ideas. There is an opportunity to upload supplemental information within the electronic MP29 Coastal Challenge and Project Submission Form.

Some file types can be uploaded individually within the form. These include PDFs and ZIP files. You can upload unlimited files, but each file must be no larger than **100MB**. If you need to share a file exceeding this size, please email us at MasterPlan@LA.GOV to make arrangements, and include your project name.

However, if you are uploading multiple files together or KMZs, KMLs, or shapefiles, you must first compress them into a single 7z, ZIP, or similar format and then upload that compressed file.

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DO SEDIMENT BORROW SOURCES FOR MARSH CREATION PROJECTS NEED TO BE IDENTIFIED IN SUBMISSIONS?

No. CPRA will identify the appropriate sediment source during project evaluation. However, if a potential borrow source is preferred, there is a place to note that within the MP29 Coastal Challenge and Project Submission Form.

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WHAT TYPES OF PROJECT SUBMISSIONS FROM PS#1 WERE ASSIGNED TO TARGETED INVESTIGATIONS?

There are four targeted investigations that were inspired by common challenges/themes that could not solely be addressed by the current Master Plan modeling framework:

- Mississippi River Connections—Examine the strengths, limitations, dependencies, and tradeoffs among different Mississippi River connection locations, sizes and operations, and among different combinations of projects (i.e., sediment diversions, siphons, freshwater reintroductions, etc.)
- Sediment Trapping and Delivery—Identify novel methods for sediment transport and trapping that, if deemed feasible, can be used to inform project cost estimating and potential implementation of MP29 project concepts
- Compound Flooding—Examine projects that address the compounding effects that occur when storm surge and/or tidal processes exacerbate the depths, extents, and/or durations of riverine and/or rainfall flooding
- Sabine Restoration—Submitted projects that benefit this area will be evaluated for MP29 once the results of a two-year, localized study on Sabine Basin hydrology and appropriate restoration strategies are available

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AFTER NEW PROJECT SOLICITATION CLOSES

WHAT TYPE OF FEEDBACK SHOULD I EXPECT?

If someone submitted a project idea by **October 17, 2025,** and CPRA's screening process determined it was not suitable for further master plan consideration, the master plan development team emailed the submitter to explain why we reached that decision. If applicable, we provided constructive feedback in case they wanted to revise their project idea and resubmit it during the second public solicitation period.

There will not be time for the same feedback-revise-resubmit process after the second solicitation period closes. If you have questions regarding your project idea, you can contact the Master Plan team at MasterPlan@LA.GOV or sign up for Virtual Office Hours.

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HOW WILL PROJECTS CURRENTLY MOVING TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION BE CONSIDERED?

CPRA developed an Initial Conditions Landscape to reflect progress made since the last landscape update in 2024. The Initial Conditions Landscape ensures implemented projects are accounted for in the baseline landscape for our master plan models. To develop the initial conditions landscape, our model "implements" additional projects and conditions over a spin-up period that represents the years 2025 through 2029. To be included in initial conditions, projects had to have completed construction, be fully funded for construction, or be included in an initiated NRDA Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment for implementation before we began the spin-up simulations in January 2026. Projects that are constructed or funded for construction between January 2026 and the time FWA model runs are performed will be incorporated into the landscape at the year of anticipated completion.

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HOW AND WHEN WILL CPRA DETERMINE WHETHER A PROJECT WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE 2029 COASTAL MASTER PLAN?

Similar to the process used for the 2023 plan, proposed projects will first be screened based on criteria to determine their potential for further analysis. Candidate projects and then groups of projects (i.e., alternatives) will be modeled and evaluated to select projects for the draft plan. Advisory groups representing a diverse range of public interests will participate in this process. The draft master plan document will be released in early 2029, followed by a series of public meetings and potential revisions based on that feedback. The final plan will be presented to the State Legislature for approval in May or June of 2029.

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HOW WILL THE RESULT OF THE TARGETED INVESTIGATIONS BE INCORPORATED INTO THE 2029 COASTAL MASTER PLAN?

These investigations will evaluate the suitability and performance of projects on metrics not evaluated in the Master Plan modeling framework. However, the approach for each investigation will vary in scope, timeline, and how it can be applied to and accounted for in the final plan. Additional details on each will be provided as each investigation is further developed.

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HOW CAN THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATE IN THE PLANNING PROCESS?

The following are different engagement processes and events that relate to specific parts of the 2029 Coastal Master Plan process, such as when the master plan team is asking for project ideas.

1. Community Meetings: events held across the coast to talk to residents about the master plan, hear concerns, workshop project ideas, and get feedback at key points in the planning process.
2. New Project Development Public Solicitation Periods: the periods of time when the master plan team asks the public to provide project ideas to address key coastal concerns. The master plan team provides members

of the public guidance and support at workshops, online webinars, and feedback on project ideas during the solicitation periods. These efforts are designed to lower barriers for non-technical Louisianans to submit their ideas for consideration into the plan.

3. Draft Plan Feedback & Public Hearings: this provides interested and affected parties an opportunity to provide formal comments on the draft master plan before it is finalized. These public meetings are intended to identify any major concerns and explain what is included and why. It also provides an opportunity to discuss ways to improve how the plan is presented and communicated.

Also, advisory groups representing a wide range of coastal perspectives are a form of in-depth engagement across a variety of topics and issues related to the 2029 Coastal Master Plan. They provide insight and guidance to the master plan team on various aspects of the 2029 plan. There are four types of advisory groups: Coastal Advisory Team (CAT), Community Engagement Workgroup (CEW), Predictive Models & Decision Support Technical Advisory Committee (PM-TAC), and the four Regional Workgroups (RWs). Each advisory group has a different composition and suite of responsibilities and focus and are comprised of coastal practitioners, scientists, community leaders, and more.

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IF MY PROJECT IS SELECTED FOR INCLUSION IN THE COASTAL MASTER PLAN, DOES THAT MEAN IT WILL DEFINITELY BE BUILT?

No. Once a project is included in an approved master plan, it is then eligible to be picked up by CPRA or a partner and moved forward by a program with funding for engineering, design, permitting, and construction. However, funding for any specific project is not guaranteed at the master plan stage.

CPRA intentionally includes more projects in the master plan than we currently have identified funding to implement in any given year so that we are ready to begin work on them 1) when funds from steady sources become available over time and 2) when unexpected funding becomes available, such as following the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, and to highlight the overall need of the coastal program.

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