



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT
7400 LEAKE AVENUE
NEW ORLEANS LA 70118-3651

25 Apr 2025

CEMVN-Z

Mr. Gordon E. Dove
Chairman
Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
150 Terrace Avenue
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Dear Mr. Dove,

We have received your recent correspondence and information regarding your Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion (MBSD) project, to include our meeting on February 26, 2025, and your March 6, 2025, March 7, 2025, March 24, 2025, and April 10, 2025 letters. We thank you and Mr. Glen Ledet for coming to the New Orleans District (MVN) on April 8, 2025, to continue discussion regarding the State of Louisiana's (State) concerns over its ability to comply with the conditions of the MBSD Department of Army (DA) permit (MVN-2012-02806-EOO) and its ability to perform maintenance on the project after it is operating.

As noted in our March 31, 2025 letter to you, we previously concluded through a technical review that the materials you provided in and prior to our meeting on February 26, 2025 and in your letters dated March 7, 2025 and March 24, 2025 would not affect the DA permit for the MBSD project. However, based on our further discussions and consideration of the letters, information and materials you have provided and public announcements, we preliminarily find that:

a. During the DA permit evaluation process, the State deliberately withheld information from MVN that the State knew it should provide to MVN for MVN's consideration whether to include that information in the MBSD Environmental Impact Statement;

b. The State has not obtained or reached resolution with Plaquemines Parish Government (PPG) regarding required PPG permit(s) and PPG's concerns regarding compliance with National Flood Insurance Program requirements in light of the increased water levels to be caused by operation of MBSD;

c. The State has suspended construction activities for the MBSD project and has expressed to MVN its interest in studying a smaller diversion in the same location;

d. The State asserts it may not be able to afford the maintenance dredging required to achieve MBSD's land-building objective; and

e. MVN's original decision on the DA permit concluded that the projected benefits of the project slightly outweighed its projected harms:

Overall, CEMVN anticipates that the potential benefits of the project (including but not limited to: land building, creation of new wetland habitat, increased bed elevations, sediment transport, abundance of SAV, enhanced EFH) slightly outweigh the anticipated potential negative impacts (such as, increased water levels and tidal flooding in communities within 10 miles to the north and 20 miles to the south of the diversion outfall, increased storm surge impacts, particularly on communities not protected by levees, greatly reduced abundance of brown shrimp and eastern oyster and the cultural and economic losses that could cause, altered larval transport and recruitment patterns of some aquatic species, and functional extinction of three of the four subpopulations of BBES bottlenose dolphins and severe reduction of the fourth subpopulation of BBES dolphin stock, an overall 97 percent reduction compared to No Action).

...
While sediment diversions are a novel coastal restoration technique, the analysis conducted using best science and modeling available to CEMVN indicate that the significant project benefits slightly outweigh the significant project detriments, provided that the Project is operated as proposed.

Memorandum for Record on Pending Permit Decisions (ROD), pp. 234-235, 237.

f. That balance of benefits versus harms may be implicated by the State's current positions and new information.

In light of the foregoing, I find it in the public interest to suspend DA permit MVN-2012-02806-EOO immediately in accordance with Code of Federal Regulations Title 33, Section 325.7(c) in order to reevaluate the circumstances and conditions of the MBSD permit.

This letter serves as your notification of the suspension. If any work authorized by the DA permit is ongoing, it must stop. Within 10 days of receipt of this notice, you may request a meeting with the District Engineer and/or a public hearing to present information regarding the above preliminary findings or other information you believe may be relevant. If you disagree with or dispute any of the above preliminary findings, MVN strongly suggests that you submit such disagreement or dispute in writing with supporting information. After such meeting or hearing, if requested, or after a reasonable period of time if no meeting or hearing is requested, a decision will be made to reinstate, modify or revoke the DA permit.

MVN asks the State to furnish the (previously withheld) June 3, 2022 FTN modeling report you provided to MVN in February 2025 to the Louisiana Departments of Environmental Quality and Energy and Natural Resources, as those agencies may wish to reconsider their respective decisions on the MBSD Water Quality Certification and MBSD Coastal Use Permit in light of that new information. MVN will post the June 3, 2022 unredacted FTN modeling report to our website:

<https://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Permits/Mid-Barataria-Sediment-Diversion-EIS/>.

This suspension is based on the State's actions (including failures to act or to obtain compromise), its public statements and positions, the new information and potentially changed circumstances since permit issuance. The suspension does not reflect on the efforts MVN undertook over multiple years with federal, state, and local partners to inform MVN's December 2022 MBSD DA permit decision.

At your earliest convenience, please inform this office as to how you wish to proceed so that we may take appropriate steps. Should you have additional questions, please reach out to Mr. Durund F. Elzey, Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management Division, at Durund.Elzey@usace.army.mil, or (504) 862-2204.



CULLEN A. JONES, P.E., PMP
COL, EN
Commanding



March 1, 2026

Honorable Jeff Landry, Governor
P.O. Box 94004
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Honorable J. Cameron Henry, Jr., Senate President
P.O. Box 94183
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Honorable Phillip R. Devillier, Speaker of the House
P.O. Box 94062
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Dear Governor Landry, President Henry, and Speaker Devillier:

In accordance with the Governor's Advisory Commission on Coastal Protection, Restoration, and Conservation's obligation to provide reports on the progress, challenges, and recommendations, pursuant to La. R.S. 49:214.4.1 (E) (7), I am providing an update to you and the Legislature relative to the integrated coastal protection program for the years 2024 and 2025, through December 31, 2025 as follows:

I. The 2025 Annual Report of the Governor's Advisory Commission on Coastal Protection, Restoration, and Conservation ("GAC")

A. June 4, 2024 Agenda and Meeting - GAC

I. Welcome and Call to Order—*Chair Anthony "Tony" Alford*

II. Roll Call

III. Approval of Agenda

IV. Approval of Minutes

V. Old Business/Announcements—*Office of the Governor*

VI. Recent Progress and A Look Ahead—*Glenn Ledet, Jr., Bren Haase, CPRA*

VII. Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan Update—*Doug Daigle, Louisiana Hypoxia Working Group*

VIII. CPRA Dredging Update—*Rudy Simoneaux, CPRA*

IX. Houma Navigation Canal Complex Update—*Reggie Dupre, Terrebonne Levee and Conservation District*

X. Port Fourchon Partner Update—*Chett Chiasson, Executive Director, Greater Lafourche Port Commission*

XI. Public Comment

XII. Adjourn

B. March 26, 2025 Agenda and Meeting – GAC

I. Welcome and Call to Order — *Chair Anthony “Tony” Alford*

II. Roll Call

III. Approval of Agenda

IV. Approval of Minutes

V. Old Business/Announcements

VI. 2024 Year in Review, FY 2026 Draft Annual Plan & CPRA Look Ahead — *Glenn Ledet, Jr., CPRA*

VII. Resilience Task Force Update — *Stephen Swiber, Louisiana Chief Resilience Officer*

VIII. Partner Update on Coastal Restoration and Fisheries — *Tommy Tuma, Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries (LDWF)*

IX. Coastal Industry and Coastal Jobs Update — *Scott Kirkpatrick, Coast Builders Coalition and Peter Waggoner, Greater New Orleans (GNO), Inc.*

X. Public Comment

XI. Adjourn

II. GAC 2024 Members (from meeting minutes)

Tony Alford (Chair)

Angela Hidalgo

Alfred Sunseri (absent)

Governor’s Office of Coastal Activities

Arthur Johnson
Sen. Bob Hengens (absent)
Rep. Brett Geymann (absent)
Capt. Michael Bopp Chad Courville
Chett Chiasson
Chris Macaluso
Cynthia Duet
David Cresson
H. Dale Hall
Jeannette Dubinin (absent)
Jessica Dandridge
Joni Tuck
Rep. Joe Orgeron
Karen Gautreaux
Katie Armentor
Kelli Chandler
Kristi Trail
Sen. Mike Fesi
Rep. Patrick Connick (absent)
Paul Matthews (absent)
Ralph Babin (resigned)
Rep. Ryan Bourriague (absent)
Simone Maloz (absent)
Stephanie Ferry (absent)
Stephen Cochran
William O'Neal (absent)

III. GAC 2025 Members (This does not mean attendance, as meeting minutes are not approved at this time)

Tony Alford, Chairman
Katie Armentor
Capt. Michael Bopp
Representative Ryan Bourriague
Tom W. Broom
Chett C. Chiasson
Charlie Caplinger
Roy Carruba

Stephen Cochran
Senator Patrick Connick
Jessica Dandridge
Jeannette Dubinin
Cynthia Duet
Stephanie Ferry
Senator Mike Fesi
Representative Brett Geymann
Karen Gautreaux
Dale Hall
Senator Bob Hensgens
Angela Hidalgo
Arthur Johnson
Christopher Macaluso
Simone Maloz
Paul Matthews
William O’Neal
Representative Joseph Orgeron
Kristi Trail
Joni Tuck

IV. Introduction:

Each year the Governor’s Advisory Commission on Coastal Protection, Restoration, and Conservation (“Commission”) is required to update the Legislature on its activities and provide recommendations. In 2024-2025, the Commission heard updates on project implementation, strategic partnerships, resilience efforts, and some of the complexities involved with the design, construction, and long-term maintenance of coastal protection and restoration projects. It also ventured outside the realm of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (“CPRA”) to consider how the coastal crisis was impacting community resilience and community insurability. These updates reflected a coordinated, multi-agency approach to integrated coastal protection and restoration. The following summaries contain a review of these key topics and suggestions for further work in these areas. For the year 2025, the presenters were Glenn Ledet (CPRA), Steven Swiber (Governor’s Chief Resilience Officer), Tommy Tuma (Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries), and Scott Kirkpatrick (Greater New Orleans, Inc). For the year 2024, the presenters were Glenn Ledet (CPRA), Bren Haase (CPRA), Doug Daigle (Gulf Hypoxia), Rudy Simoneaux (CPRA), Reggie Dupre (TLCD), and Chett Chiasson (Port Fourchon). Commission members asked the

presenters numerous questions, and answers were provided. The meeting was open to public comments.

V. 2024 Summary

In 2024, the Governor's Advisory Commission on Coastal Protection, Restoration, and Conservation was presented with a wide array of updates from state agencies and regional partners. CPRA highlighted major accomplishments in dredging and sediment pipeline projects, reporting the creation of nearly 30,000 acres of marsh, beach, dune, and ridge habitat. Notable initiatives included projects in Cameron Parish and the Bayou DeCade Ridge, forming part of a broader investment strategy under the FY2025 Annual Plan. This plan committed \$1.71 billion to coastal protection, encompassing over 25 active dredging projects across Louisiana's coastal regions.

The Commission also received a comprehensive update from Doug Daigle on the Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan, which emphasized a need to revise Louisiana's nutrient reduction strategies. The goal of the Action Plan is to reduce the Gulf of America hypoxic zone to less than 5,000 square kilometers by 2035, with a 2025 interim milestone of 20 percent reduction. The advisory presentation noted that Louisiana must improve its leadership and implementation strategy in collaboration with upriver states.

Local and regional partners, including Reggie Dupre with the Terrebonne Levee and Conservation District, provided an overview of the Morganza to the Gulf system. This included the Houma Navigation Canal Lock Complex, which completed Phase 1 and initiated Phase 2 construction. With a total investment surpassing \$1.76 billion, the project is central to storm surge protection, marsh creation, and ecological restoration in the region.

Chett Chiasson with Port Fourchon outlined the Port's restoration and resilience efforts, including a \$17 million Fourchon Beach repair, strategic use of dredged sediment, and the development of restored wetlands. Port Fourchon, vital to serving offshore energy, is expanding, using dredged sediment in its projects. These projects are industrial development, South Lafourche Airport, building wind turbine test sites, maritime forest ridge, coastal wetlands park, Ducks Unlimited and Conoco Terracing Project, Fourchon Beach Repair Project, and Fourchon Island and Natural Habitat. Port Fourchon uses a holistic resiliency approach in its project implementation. Since 2000, Port Fourchon has created over 12,200 acres of marshland. This is all consistent with the Master Plan.

A comprehensive explanation was provided to the Commission concerning the beneficial historical use of pipeline sediment dredging to build land and create marsh. Rudy Simoneaux, an engineer with CPRA, explained that CPRA has become an expert in the use of hydraulic pipeline sediment dredging. Over the last 20 years, he advised CPRA has gained extensive expertise in pipeline dredging. Since 2007, CPRA has created 67,200 acres, or 105 square miles of land and marsh

using sediment dredging. 18 barrier islands, 38 marsh creation projects, headlands, and other environmental projects have been constructed, at a cost of \$2.6 billion. He stated that they use a vessel barge and a pipeline to carry out the project. He explained that dredging is used everywhere from the Mississippi River to Cameron Parish. For example, the Mississippi River has extremely good nutrients to grow vegetation, and within one year, the marsh creation projects are growing vegetation. He stated that the ability to grow vegetation occurs very quickly because once the dredge turns off, the water will leave, which leaves the marsh creation sedimentation project. He said two very large projects created by this method are the Spanish Pass and the Lake Borne Marsh Creation projects. Simoneaux explained that for the year 2022, CPRA's cost of construction rose because project escalation costs have increased. He stated that there were 20 projects that CPRA bid on, which came in at \$319 million. CPRA saw an escalation in project costs of 19 percent. This was comparable to DOTD's findings of 20%. However, with regards to dredging projects in 2022, there were six projects bid, and all were awarded. The dredge projects were awarded at \$188 million, and the escalation cost was only 12%.

Over the next decade, there will be billions of dollars spread across the coast of Louisiana. The following is a summary of ongoing workings, projects, and issues for the year 2024 that were presented and discussed at the commission:

1. The projects are listed as follows:
 - A. **Southwest coastal Louisiana** – non-structural housing project with FEMA and CPRA that is currently in operation, and a structural echo system project that is under design and consideration with USACE.
 - B. **Long Point Bayou Marsh Creation** – This project is being built with dredged materials.
 - C. **Morganza to the Gulf** – The Humble Canal floodgate was completed by USACE, and reach A levee, known as tier 8, is beginning construction.
 - D. **HNC locks complex** – The HNC locks complex started construction in summer 2024 and continues.
 - E. **West Belle Headland** – This is currently under repair for damage with FEMA money for Port Fourchon.
 - F. **Upper Barataria Risk Reduction** – This project is an extension of the Morganza to the Gulf levee to the West Bank, which will protect multiple parishes. This extension is currently under design.
 - G. **Westshore Lake Pontchartrain Levee System** – CPRA has been awarded \$450 million dollars from Congress for this project.
 - H. **Maurepas Swamp Project** – This is a river re-introduction and a mitigation project to restore marshland.
 - I. **Greater New Orleans Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System** – This project currently produced \$110 million in credits from USACE.

- J. **Lake Borne Marsh Creation Project** – This is the largest marsh creation project that is under construction and should be completed within the next 18 months.
- K. **St. Tammany Parish Feasibility Study** – USACE commissioned a study to build a 19-mile levee system and additional non-structural measures. This project is seeking WRDA dollars.
- L. **Funding – WRDA 2024** – CPRA is seeking \$600 million for projects.
- M. **Legislation Passed** – Legislation was passed to place on the ballot to allow the use of funds from offshore for any form of energy project, including wind.
- N. **State-of-the-art Survey Standards** – Legislation was introduced so that levees could have state-of-the-art markups for accurate survey data.
- O. **Conflict resolution** – A House resolution was passed to encourage agencies to resolve conflicts on projects.
- P. **Atchafalaya Basin** – The Atchafalaya Basin has its own master plan and is currently being worked in with CPRA’s master plan. Currently, Bayou Pigeon boat launch is under construction, and other work was being done on East Grand Lake project, Murphy Lake, and Big Bayou Pigeon dredging and pipeline. Big Bayou Pigeon dredging and pipeline projects have been completed because the pipeline was impeding water flow.
- Q. **Dredge projects** – Currently, there are 19 dredging projects, as follows:
 - 1. **Southwest Region – Project Names**
 - a) No Named Bayou Marsh Creation
 - b) Calcasieu Sabine Large Scale Marsh and Hydro Restoration
 - 2. **South Central Region – Project Names**
 - a) Island Road Marsh Creation
 - b) West Fourchon Marsh Creation
 - c) West Belle Headland Repairs
 - d) Terrebonne Basin Ridge and Marsh Creation
 - e) Terrebonne HNC Island Restoration
 - f) Bayou Dularge Marsh Creation
 - 3. **Southwest Region – Project Names**
 - a) Grand Bayou Marsh Creation
 - b) Mid-Breton Marsh Creation
 - c) East Delacroix Marsh Creation
 - d) Breton Landbridge and Marsh Creation
 - e) Reggie Marsh Creation
 - f) La Branche Marsh Creation
 - g) St. Catherine Island Marsh Creation
 - h) Bayou Cane Marsh Creation
 - i) New Orleans to Venice Mitigation
 - 4. **Mississippi River Dredging – Projects**

- a) CPRA has planned for sites for perpetual sediment sources and has permitted properties in the Alliance/Myrtle Grove area for pipeline use. In the Alliance area, there are six loaded sediment point bars in the Mississippi River that are loaded with sediment that can be used for dredging. They will refill within 3-5 years. There are approximately 50 to 60 million cubic yards of sedimentation on these point bars, and numerous projects have been built with this sediment, including 3,000 acres at a \$300 million dollar cost between Alliance and Pointe-a-la-Hache. This is a plausible area to operate because there is not much commercial activity.
- b) Pointe-a-la-Hache Marsh Creation – There are seven projects underway that will create 2,100 acres at a cost of \$245 million.

Together, these 2024 presentations reflected a shared commitment to restoration, risk reduction, and innovation across Louisiana’s coastal communities, emphasizing the need for sustained funding, interagency coordination, and continued scientific guidance.

VI. 2025 Summary

In 2025, the Commission was briefed on a series of high-impact developments that advanced Louisiana’s coastal protection agenda. CPRA Executive Director Glenn Ledet provided a year-in-review that celebrated key milestones, such as groundbreaking ceremonies for projects like River Reintroduction into Maurepas Swamp and West Shore Lake Pontchartrain. These projects were supported by \$293 million in new federal grants and significant legislative backing, evidenced in the unanimous passage of the 2025 Annual Plan. Recent federal developments, including the opening of comments for the 2024 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) and various executive orders, were presented. CPRA also provided a look forward to the FY 2026 Annual Plan, which provides a \$1.8 billion investment into the state’s coastal regions, 80 percent of which is allocated for construction.

In addition to state-led restoration work, the Commission heard from Scott Kirkpatrick with Greater New Orleans Inc. Coalition for Coastal Resilience and Economy (CCRE) and Coast Builders Coalition (CBC), who jointly projected that full implementation of the FY2026 Annual Plan would support nearly 20,000 jobs (direct and indirect) and generate over \$3.2 billion in economic activity. This reinforces the vital role that Louisiana’s coastal industry plays in workforce development, engineering, and long-term resilience. This needs to be reduced by 1/3 because the diversions are ceasing. Restoration work will account annually for over \$1 billion between CPRA and USACE projects.

Tommy Tuma, from the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), presented an extensive review of its restoration partnerships. Major priorities included shoreline and marsh

protection, oyster reef restoration, levee repairs at White Lake, stabilization work at Marsh Island, and habitat improvements at Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge. LDWF emphasized the importance of cooperative planning and triage funding to sustain vulnerable coastal ecosystems, and the need for the legislature’s financial assistance. They are also working on other refuges with CPRA, NGOs, LATIG, and DWH restoration efforts.

Finally, the Commission received a policy update from the Chief Resilience Officer, Stephen Swiber, highlighting the State’s cross-agency resilience framework. This includes initiatives like the DRIVE flood control strategy, HERO energy hubs, and the Interagency Resilience Coordination Team. For 2025, the Resilience Task Force plans to focus on insurance affordability and integrating nature-based risk reduction into insurance models. These efforts aim to bridge ecological restoration with economic security and community resilience. He explained that GOHSEP and National Guard have merged for emergency purposes.

Overall, the 2025 presentations underscored the interconnected nature of coastal restoration, infrastructure investment, economic growth, and public policy.

The following is a summary of ongoing workings, projects, and issues for the year 2025:

- A. 2029 Coastal Master Plan – CPRA has begun working on the 2029 Master Plan, including advisory engagement, modeling updates, and upcoming project development workshops.
- B. Future funding alternatives – CPRA is considering and exploring carbon crediting as an alternative funding source for restoration benefits.
- C. Projects for the year 2025 are currently in progress or have been completed.
 1. **Lake Borne Marsh Creation Project** – This is the largest in the State’s history, which created approximately 3,100 acres of new marsh.
 2. **Chandeleur Islands Restoration** – This is in engineering design, with construction to follow soon, and funding through NFWF and NRDA. This is the largest barrier island project in agency history. The project will restore 13 miles of the barrier island chain. Once complete, the restoration will increase the overall, long-term resiliency and sustainability of these landmasses. Project is expected to begin construction in 2026.
 3. **Grand Isle Beach and Dune Restoration** – This is beach restoration and includes new breakwater rocks with USACE leadership. This project totals more than \$162 million.
 4. **Nicholls Coastal Center** – Nicholls Coastal Center is now open and provides a regional coastal restoration center, with CPRA and GOCA having offices located within the agency. Multiple agencies are relocating to Nicholls.
 5. **HNC Lock Complex** – Groundbreaking took place on the HNC Lock Complex Phase 2 in 2024, along with the federal reach A levee, and the project is currently under construction.
 6. **Maurepas Swamp** – The river reintroduction project currently is underway.

7. **Southwest Coastal** – This is a non-structural home elevation project located in southwest Louisiana that is under CPRA direction.
8. **St. Tammany** – CPRA is assisting St. Tammany with its marsh creation project.
9. **White Lake and Marsh Island** – Developing the Master Plan was completed, and the contract awarded to RO Engineers. This is 72,000 acres donated to the State by Exxon. This is an infrastructure project in Vermillion Parish that needs levees, and CPRA is providing \$29 million for shoreline protection. Marsh Island needs habitat and water control structures. The White Lake Wetlands Conservation Area (WLWCA), a vital 72,000-acre freshwater marsh ecosystem in Vermillion Parish, provides critical habitat for wildlife and invaluable recreational opportunities. Managed by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), the area is one of the leading models of wetlands conservation in the state, prioritizing habitat for waterfowl, wading birds, and the state's whooping crane reintroduction program. The project will provide critical shoreline protection along the GIWW as well as provide restoration benefits within the conservation area. Similarly, the Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge (71,000 acres of brackish/intermediate marsh) is managed by LDWF, and the project will provide a critical storm surge buffer for Vermilion, Iberia, and St. Mary parishes. These are ongoing projects.
10. **Port and Waterways Investment Commission** – This is resiliency protection for Port Fourchon through restoration of headland and repairs to the breakwater system at the port.
11. **Beneficial Use Dredge Materials** – CPRA is working on using Navigation dredged sediment for different projects.
12. **Presidential Executive Orders** – In 2025, there were numerous federal executive orders that were issued by President Donald J. Trump that should assist in producing more energy production, and ultimately, more revenue for integrated coastal restoration projects.
13. **Federal Project Labor Agreement** – There was an issue with a federal project labor agreement that would have cost more per hour for labor. In 2025, the Department of Defense removed this as a federal requirement, which will save CPRA from having to fund extra costs of labor on projects.
14. **WRDA 2024 – Federal funding** – CPRA continues to work with its legislative delegation concerning needed federal funding for Louisiana's coastal integrated projects. Funding is available for studies for the Lake Pontchartrain Storm Surge Project and \$50 million was allocated for the West Bank Pump Station and the Alexandria to Gulf Expansion. St. Tammany flood risk management project – In 2024, WRDA authorized \$5.9 billion for the St. Tammany flood risk project and for Morganza to the Gulf. LA-1 to the Gulf got the USACE to place this back into the Rehabilitation Inspection Program.

15. **Lower Mississippi Management Study – USACE and CPRA** – This is a five-year study. The Mississippi River continues to provide challenges in the lower Mississippi River. The lower Mississippi is currently being studied for current issues, such as river flow issues, sedimentation, saltwater intrusion, and other issues. This was originally authorized by Congress, and recently, Congress (USACE) has funded its portion of the study. CPRA is jointly participating in this study and will be responsible for one half of the payment.
16. **2026 Annual Plan** – Approximately \$1.8 billion is designated for spending on integrated coastal projects.
17. **Morganza to the Gulf** – CPRA, in conjunction with the Terrebonne Levee and Conservation District, is attempting to work with USACE to allow the funding for Morganza to the Gulf that Congress has authorized to USACE be transferred to the Terrebonne Levee and Conservation District for continued implementation of the Morganza to the Gulf program. Work continues on expansive levee protection in multiple parishes. Morganza will be connected to upper Barataria, providing protection from Gibson, Louisiana to St. Charles and St. John Parishes, and eventually St. Tammany Parish.
18. **Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and Mid-Breton Sediment Diversion** - Both the Mid-Barataria and Mid-Breton large, controlled sediment diversions have ceased. These diversions were planned to be controlled man-made constructed diversions, not natural diversions. After this meeting, additional events took place. The LA DENR has terminated its permit, and the USACE has suspended its permit for various reasons. Questions were posed by Chairman Gordon Dove to USACE, and responses were provided by USACE. We attach the April 25, 2025 USACE report and findings. Correspondence between CPRA and USACE and the AECOM/FTN 90% Numerical Modeling Report (unredacted) are posted at <https://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Permits/Mid-Barataria-Sediment-Diversion-EIS/> .

The State lawsuit involving Plaquemines Parish and Intervenors has been dismissed with prejudice. Plaquemines Parish has dismissed its claims against CPRA with prejudice, and the Intervenors have dismissed their claims against Plaquemines Parish and CPRA without prejudice.

There is a federal lawsuit that is challenging the biological opinion that USACE relied upon in issuing the permit. CPRA is not a party to this lawsuit.

The Mid-Barataria Diversion's contract was de-scoped to render the project to its completion. The funding for Mid-Barataria will be adjusted accordingly. LATIG

was advised, and they issued a Termination Resolution for the Mid-Barataria Diversion Project.

19. **GOMESA Revenues** - These are expected to hit the cap at a little over \$125 million.
20. **DRIVE** - DRIVE is new legislation for non-coastal parishes. CPRA will continue to remain autonomous under DRIVE and will support DNR on Hermas and flood risks outside the coastal zone with legislation likely led by DNR. Legislation was drafted, passed, and signed to create the CURRENT Authority, which is housed within DOTD. CURRENT will operate similar to CPRA outside of the coastal zone, complete with a board of directors, and will coordinate with CPRA where the coastal area and non-coastal area intersect. Legislation can be found here: <https://legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1425984>
21. **Alternative Land Building and Hurricane and Flood Protection Projects – Large Scale Marsh Creation** – CPRA initiated the process of developing an alternative project with USACE by indicating to USACE their intention to enact an alternative project of a long-distance sediment pipeline and lower Barataria land bridge efforts from Plaquemines and from Jefferson through Lafourche. CPRA has confirmed that it will initiate long-distance sediment pipelines and lower Barataria land bridge efforts from Plaquemines to Lafourche Parishes. The USACE was notified and asked questions on Louisiana Coastal Area Program under WRDA. (See USACE Mid-Barataria website: <https://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Permits/Mid-Barataria-Sediment-Diversion-EIS/>)
22. **Scope of Integrated Coastal Projects** – GOCA and CPRA, in accordance with Governor Landry’s request, are implementing coastal projects in Southwest, South Central, and Southeast Louisiana, with projects occurring in all coastal parishes and areas.
23. **Atchafalaya Basin** – This is currently under study, and funding is under exploration, including capital outlay funds.

VII. Governor’s Advisory Commission on Coastal Protection, Restoration, and Conservation Website

The Governor’s Advisory Commission on Coastal Protection, Restoration, and Conservation posts minutes for past meetings on their website. Please visit <https://wwwcfprd.doa.louisiana.gov/boardsandcommissions/viewMeetingMinutes.cfm?board=465> to view these minutes. A video recording of the June 4, 2024 meeting can be found on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/live/P5XX42w3z4w?si=-8PL3rSf-nILGvJZ>. A video recording of the March 26, 2025, meeting can be found at <https://vimeo.com/event/5016004>.

VIII. Acknowledgements

The Governor's Advisory Commission on Coastal Protection, Restoration, and Conservation thanks the many individuals who provided information for the preparation of this document. Thanks also to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the State's other partners in the coastal restoration effort.

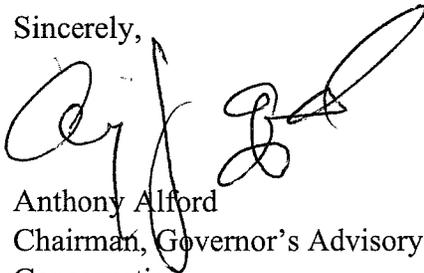
IX. Caveat

This report is a summary of meeting presentations and discussions only. The contents of this document do not necessarily represent the views of the Governor's Office or those who provided information. This report provides the status and makes recommendations for implementing an expanded coastal restoration program. The mention of trade names or commercial products does not in any way constitute an endorsement or recommendation for use.

X. Conclusion:

Both 2024 and 2025 saw updates on all fronts of the State's coastal restoration and protection program. Much of the work centered around the CPRA's update to the Coastal Master Plan but also included other state agencies like the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, local efforts such as those of levee districts and ports, as well as industry which may have considerable influence in the ultimate success of the State's efforts. It is the recommendation of the Commission that the State continue its outreach beyond CPRA so that more entities can appreciate the implications of the land loss crisis and contribute their expertise in devising workable solutions.

Sincerely,



Anthony Alford

Chairman, Governor's Advisory Commission on Coastal Protection, Restoration, and Conservation

cc: Gordon Dove, Executive Director, Governor's Office of Coastal Activities
Michael Hare, Executive Director, CPRA
enclosure: USACE April 25, 2025 Letter – MBD Permit Suspension and Reasons