

IDENTIFYING INNOVATIVE PROJECT CONCEPTS AND A BIGGER BOLDER EFFORT TO RESTORE OUR COAST

The restoration and risk reduction projects evaluated for the master plan are either those that have been proposed through existing plans and programs such as CWPPRA or those that were submitted directly to CPRA as part of the 2017 Coastal Master Plan project development process. We realize that new information may become available that alters the effectiveness of some of those projects and that there are potentially other innovative project concepts that have not yet been considered. Identifying these projects and concepts is an important next step in the master planning process. To that end, those concepts and certain elements of this plan need to be further refined to assist areas of the coast with recognized critical needs. One example is in upper Plaquemines Parish where some information suggests the Oakville to La Reussite (Jesuit Bend) project may be less costly than originally thought. There is not universal agreement on this, but the concept warrants further evaluation. Another involves the Biloxi Marsh Complex for which recently evaluated specific information suggests local factors (e.g., subsidence, accretion) may result in the area performing better and lasting longer than current estimates suggest. As such, CPRA will continue the Project Development and Implementation Program coordinated with our adaptive management program through which projects like this can be further developed using refined and improved information. This was done for the Lake Pontchartrain Barrier and Upper Barataria Risk Reduction projects, which were developed for consideration in the 2017 Coastal Master Plan. A radical shift in the coastal landscape resulting from a major hurricane, for example, may also require changes to the master plan. Any such projects, whether dictated by new information, technical innovation, or natural disaster, will be thoroughly and adequately analyzed, closely adhere to the guidelines presented in this plan, and be subject to approval by the CPRA Board.

To date, the way we think about projects and solutions has been contingent upon our understanding of

past and present conditions. Each new study on global sea level rise projections seems to report a more dire future than the previous study. We acknowledge we need to adapt the ways we frame our thinking on projects and their attributes to address what are anticipated to be drastically changing future conditions. We will continue work with our partners to identify innovative project concepts that have not yet been considered. In analyzing past trends of land loss, subsidence, and sea level rise, and in looking at future predictions, we must look at bigger and bolder projects to effect meaningful change on our coast. We must use all available tools to improve the sustainability of our coast while maximizing the use of our major river sediment resources.

PLANNING AHEAD FOR CHANGING RISK

CPRA's Flood Risk and Resilience Program developed a risk reduction strategy that coordinates state resources and prioritizes areas of high risk, while allowing parishes to play a lead role in implementing projects and selecting specific structures to be mitigated. The program is intended to take advantage of nonstructural project funding outside federal grant programs in order to maximize flexibility and speed the implementation of shovel-ready projects that further comprehensive coastal risk reduction goals. The program considers future estimates of sea level rise and increases in flood depths in its design of nonstructural projects. Nonstructural projects recommended for the initial implementation period (years 1 to 30) are designed to mitigate the impacts of flood depths occurring 10 years into the future, while nonstructural projects selected in the last implementation period (years 31 to 50) are designed to mitigate the impacts of flood depths occurring 25 years into the future. Thus, nonstructural projects are designed to consider future flood depths and environmental conditions so that our communities are planning ahead and mitigating their homes to the highest standards.

In some cases, communities may want to consider retreating from flood prone areas, and analysis from the master plan can greatly assist those communities in planning for near-term and long-term decisions on how best to adapt. Planning