



St. Bernard Parish Government

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Guy McInnis
Parish President

March 9, 2017

Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
P.O. Box 44027
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

Re: 2017 Coastal Master Plan Comments (AMENDED)

Dear Partners in Coastal Restoration:

St. Bernard Parish Government (SBPG) would like to reiterate its support for coastal restoration projects in the Biloxi Marsh Complex, which functions as a significant storm surge buffer for the entire region. The Complex also provides critical habitat (including over 42,000 acres of marsh that comprises the *Biloxi Wildlife Management Area*); provides an abundance of commercial and recreational fishing opportunities; supports a number of ancillary fisheries-related businesses; and serves as a hydrologic barrier between Lake Borgne and the Chandeleur Sound.

A number of proposed coastal restoration projects, including Bayou La Loutre Ridge Restoration, Lake Borgne Marsh Creation, and Golden Triangle Marsh Creation, are synergistic with the protection and restoration of the Biloxi Marsh Complex. The protection and restoration of the Biloxi Marsh Complex is not only a critical component of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet Ecosystem Restoration Plan, but is also a key piece of the larger *multiple lines of defense* strategy for the entire region. The *Point aux Marchettes Shoreline Protection and Terracing* project was included in the 2012 Coastal Master Plan but is currently excluded from the 2017 Coastal Master Plan. However, the project has garnered considerable support both in St. Bernard Parish and around the entire region. **The project was recently voted #1 overall in the Pontchartrain Basin during the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) nomination process** (please see below).

CWPPRA PPL 27 Nominee Voting Results

Region	Basin	Project Nominees
1	Pontchartrain	Point aux Marchettes Shoreline Protection and Terracing
1	Pontchartrain	Cane Bayou Marsh Creation
1	Pontchartrain	Bayou Bienvenue Marsh Creation Increment 1

(Source: www.lacoast.gov)

	CPRA	EPA	NMFS	NRCS	USACE	USFWS	Ascension	Jefferson	Livingston	Orleans	Plaquemine	St. Bernard	St. Charles	St. James	St. John	St. Tammar	Tangipahoa	Total
	2	2	2	5	3	5		3	5	4	5	5	4	2	5	3	5	60
	5	3	5	3	5	4		2	1	3	2	2	2	5	1	4	3	50
	3	5	1	1	1	1		5	4	5	4	4	3	1	2	2	4	46
	4	4	4	2	2	2		1	2	2	3	1	1	4	3	5	2	42
	1	1	3	4	4	3		4	3	1	1	3	5	3	4	1	1	42

The Point aux Marchettes project (top row) was voted #1 in the Pontchartrain Basin by a wide margin, and garnered strong support from a number of federal agencies (Source: www.lacoast.gov)

Due to the merits of the project and its potential to be federally-funded at 85% via CWPPRA, SBPG respectfully requests that the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority strongly consider including the referenced project in the 2017 Coastal Master Plan.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact myself (presidentmcinnis@sbpg.net) or Mr. John Lane (jlane@sbpg.net) if you have any questions regarding SBPG's comments.

Sincerely,



Guy McInnis
Parish President
St. Bernard Parish Government