Southwest Coastal Louisiana Integrated Final Feasibility Report and EIS

Johnny Bradberry, Chair
Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
Civil Works Review Board
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Project Sponsors

CPRA

US Army Corps Of Engineers®
Land Loss

- It is estimated that without action the Calcasieu/Sabine, Mermentau, and Vermilion/Teche basins will lose over 100,000 acres collectively over the next 50 years. (Couvillion, et al 2013)

- Erosion rates along the Louisiana coast are some of the highest in the nation; shoreline recession rates at Rockefeller Refuge are estimated to be as high as 52 feet per year on average. (Kindinger, et al 2013)

- Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005 and Hurricanes Gustav and Ike in 2008 accounted for approximately 154 mi$^2$ of land loss in the Chenier Plain. (Barras 2009)
Floodwaters engulf the shorefront as the closed bridge of Interstate 10 is seen in the background.

Lake Charles
Calcasieu Parish
President George W. Bush flies over what was once a beach community in Cameron, La., on Sept. 27, 2005 during an aerial tour of the Louisiana and Texas areas affected by Hurricane Rita.
Widespread water damage is evident in Cameron, La., from Hurricane Ike's storm surge, which stretched far into the state although the storm made landfall in Texas.
Hurricane Ike - September 13, 2008

Elevated home in Forked Island, Vermilion Parish, Louisiana.
Importance of SW Louisiana

- Home to some of the largest petrochemical and manufacturing complexes in the country
- Supports commerce and trade
- Provides valuable habitat for and supports a diverse community of wildlife and marine life
- Home to a population of over 250,000 citizens
Southwest Coastal Plan Features

- Encompasses over 4,700 square miles and three parishes
- Will provide nonstructural flood risk reduction for almost 4,000 structures
- Allows for voluntary participation
- Restores and protects nearly 15,000 acres of wetlands
- Includes marsh creation, chenier reforestation and shoreline protection
Southwest Coastal Plan Challenges

- Funding Issues
- Policy Changes
- Significant Revisions
- Schedule Delays
- Increased Costs
Use the challenges as lessons learned moving forward in this and other projects

SWC study is consistent with Louisiana’s Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast and CPRA fully supports the plan.

CPRA is already moving forward on the Calcasieu Salinity Control measure as recommended by the study;

We are moving forward on other projects in the study area

Local stakeholders support this important plan

Residents of Louisiana hope for the continued commitment of both the state and federal resources to implement this plan.

We would request a similar level of commitment and urgency from our federal partners to move the entire plan forward.

-Johnny Bradberry, Chair
Chenier Plain Authority

- Congratulates all on the open dialog, participation and cooperation in numerous meetings, and the investment in Southwest Louisiana by the numerous agencies on the Southwest Coastal Feasibility Study
- Appreciates the change to 100% voluntary program for the NED and inclusion of the Parish Master Plans
- Cooperative nature of these meetings is a model of how government is supposed to work. All should be commended for their efforts
- The Chenier Plain Authority encourages the USACE to move this study forward to a Final Draft and potential funding

- Nedra Davis, Executive Director
Calcasieu Parish

- Appreciates all of the hard work invested by the numerous agencies toward the Southwest Coastal Louisiana (SWC) project
- Worked tirelessly with the state and federal project delivery team to resolve eminent domain issues and voluntary participation.
- The cooperation between the parishes, CPRA, the Chenier Plain Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority and the USACE has set an example of how government should work.
- Calcasieu Parish encourages the USACE to move this study forward to a Final Draft and potential funding.

- Laurie Cormier, Calcasieu Parish Police Jury
The efforts of the USACE, the CPRA, the Chenier Plain Coastal Restoration & Protection Authority, and last but not least the coastal Parishes of Calcasieu, Cameron, & Vermilion, led to clear and concise discussions regarding this report.

This study can provide the mechanism for resiliency and growth for these three Parishes as originally intended. The Parish is proud of the role it played in this exercise.

Maintains that the NED program should be a voluntary program. The Parish also appreciates the inclusion of facets of the Cameron Coastal Master Plan in the report.

All should be commended for their efforts.

- Ryan Bourriaque, Cameron Parish Administrator
Vermilion Parish

- Applauds the efforts of CPRA, the Chenier Plain Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, and the USACE along with Cameron and Calcasieu Parishes
- Shows how Federal, State and Local governing bodies can come together and resolve issues.
- Moving the study forward to a Final Draft and potential funding
- The natural resources of Southwest Coastal Louisiana and its citizens are the true winners.

-Linda Duhon, Vermilion Parish Administrator