

# RESTORE

## THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER DELTA



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November X, 2018

Colonel Michael N. Clancy  
District Commander, New Orleans  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Executive Office  
7400 Leake Ave., New Orleans, LA 70118

Dear Mr. Clancy and CWPPRA Taskforce:

The Restore the Mississippi River Delta Coalition is dedicated to large-scale, ecosystem restoration in the Mississippi River Delta and the Bayou Terre aux Boeufs Ridge Restoration and Marsh Creation is priority project for all of our organizations. This project is an excellent example of a CWPPRA project that can help achieve the vision of the Louisiana Coastal Master Plan and sustain our coast for a more resilient future. We believe that this project should be a priority for the CWPPRA program and Technical Committee to advance for Phase 1 funding.

As organizations with long-standing interest in CWPPRA coastal projects, we are writing to show our support for the Natural Resources Conservation Services proposed PPL28 project, Bayou Terre aux Boeufs Ridge Restoration and Marsh Creation. This project will restore critical habitat and estuarine functions in the Breton Basin, which will help maintain the marsh and provide storm protection to Plaquemines and St. Bernard parishes, and the greater New Orleans area.

The historical ridge of Bayou Terre aux Boeufs, which stretches from Delacroix to Black Bay, has provided coastal upland habitat, a hydrologic barrier between brackish and intermediate marsh in the Breton Basin, and wave and storm surge attenuation. This region also serves as critical migratory bird habitat, providing vital stopover for millions of birds crossing back and forth over the Gulf of Mexico each year, and is proposed as an Important Bird Area because of the diverse conservation priority species the area supports. Unfortunately, erosion in the region has led to a much narrower ridge than was historically present, and subsidence and saltwater intrusion has killed off most of the trees.

The Bayou Terre aux Boeufs Ridge Restoration and Marsh Creation project will create almost 30,000 acres of forested, coastal ridge habitat, and create and nourish over 500 acres of marsh habitat along the ridge. This proposed CWPPRA project would provide significant progress toward the 2017 Coastal Master Plan Bayou Terre aux Boeufs Ridge Restoration (001.RC.100) project. This project will result in increased protection from storm surge and waves, improved fish and wildlife habitat, and increased resiliency of coastal wetlands to erosion, subsidence, and sea level rise.

We greatly appreciate the considerations of such a worthwhile restoration effort and are pleased to see CWPPRA continuing their efforts to provide funding for much needed projects. This process has already provided immense support for coastal restoration and continues to push forward projects consistent with the



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Coastal Master Plan. We hope these comments underscore both the urgency of project implementation and continuing fiscal responsibility as we work together toward a sustainable coast.

Sincerely,

Natalie Snider  
Science Policy Director  
Environmental Defense Fund

John Lopez, Ph.D.  
Director, Coast and Community Program  
Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation

Kim Reyher  
Executive Director,  
Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana

Cynthia Duet  
Deputy Director,  
Audubon Louisiana

David Muth  
Director, Gulf Restoration Program  
National Wildlife Federation

cc: Brad Inman, CWPPRA Program Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District  
Johnny Bradberry, Executive Assistant to the Governor for Coastal Activities, Governor's Office  
Charles W. Maguire, Director of Water Division, U.S. EPA Region 6 Water Division  
Jeff Weller, Program Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Kevin Norton, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Christopher Doley, Director NOAA Restoration Center, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration  
Micaela Conor, Project Manager, CPRA Project Management Division  
Ron Boustany, Natural Resources Specialist, Natural Resources Conservation Service Louisiana

