

# RESTORE

## THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER DELTA



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April 11, 2019

CWPPRA Tech Committee Meeting  
LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (Louisiana Room)  
2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA

*RE: Letter of Support for Miller Bayou Marsh Creation - CWPPRA Priority Project List 29*

Dear Mr. Inman and CWPPRA Task Force Members:

As organizations with long-standing interest in the Louisiana CWPPRA coastal projects and funding designations, we are writing to express our support for a number of projects currently being proposed for Priority Project List 29 (PPL 29). We believe that Miller Bayou Marsh Creation has the potential to provide multiple benefits to Louisiana and the Mississippi River Delta ecosystem as a whole. We hope that you take this project into consideration for further evaluation as the CWPPRA process advances throughout the year.

Restoration of the 2017 Coastal Master Plan's New Orleans East Landbridge is a vital series of projects that work synergistically to protect the city of New Orleans from storm surges and erosion. The Army Corps of Engineers sees this piece of land as a critical line of defense for the region and its inhabitants and provides a separation between Lake Pontchartrain and Lake Borgne. The proposed CWPPRA PPL 29 project of Miller Bayou Marsh Creation lies within the project boundary of the NOLA East Landbridge project. It is adjacent to Lake Catherine which has experienced impacts from hurricanes and other storm events. The Miller Bayou Marsh Creation can support projects already in engineering and design in the Master Plan project and will increase the benefits in the form of protection of the landbridge region to adjacent communities.

In addition, this project will repair a portion of the damage caused by the MRGO, which is a high priority for the State of Louisiana, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the communities and conservation organizations that have advocated for restoration in this area. As part of the MRGO Ecosystem Area, this project area has enjoyed strong public support over the last several years and continues to be a prominent area visited on boat tours and flyover along the coast. Tens of thousands of people have commented in support of a suite of restoration projects along the MRGO, which include restoration of the New Orleans East Landbridge.

We believe that this project should be a priority for the CWPPRA program and Technical Committee to advance to the next phase for PPL 29. This projects will work synergistically with already established projects and provide immense benefits to the coastal environment. We see all projects as important in their own right for coastal Louisiana, but we find that this project creates benefits needed now and will help sustain those already in place. Projects must work with one another to effectively restore the coast and reduce future impacts predicted to occur, such as sea level rise and increased storm intensity. It is important that we, along with the government and concerned stakeholders, do everything we can to implement projects that will protect the habitat, wildlife, and people that call this region home.



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We 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 Coastal Master Plan.

In summary, thank you for your consideration of these comments, offered in the light of our mutual goal to continually seek improvements to the great work underway. Again, 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, Coastal Sustainability Program  
Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation

Kim Reyher,  
Executive Director,  
Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana

Cynthia Duet  
Deputy Director,  
Audubon Louisiana

David Muth  
Director, Mississippi River Delta Restoration Program  
National Wildlife Federation

