

# 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 St. Catherine's Pass Marsh Creation and Shoreline Protection - CWPPRA Priority Project List 29*

Dear Mr. Inman and CWPPRA Task Force Members:

We are writing to express our support for the St. Catherine's Pass Marsh Creation and Shoreline Protection project proposed for PPL 29. The St. Catherine's Pass project will restore 283 acres of marsh on the imperiled New Orleans East Landbridge, consistent with the 2017 Coastal Master Plan.

The New Orleans East Landbridge is a critical buffer between Lake Pontchartrain and the Gulf of Mexico. However, without action, it will essentially disappear in the next 50 years due to storms, subsidence, and wave energy. This will leave many communities, including the City of New Orleans, at severe risk for storm surge flooding. The landbridge is also important habitat to fish and wildlife, including sturgeon and migratory birds. The St. Catherine's Pass project goals are to restore eroding and degraded marsh on the landbridge, improving wildlife habitat and increasing protection from flooding.

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.

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. We hope that you take this project into consideration for further evaluation as the CWPPRA process advances throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Natalie Snider,  
Science Policy Director  
Environmental Defense Fund

John Lopez, Ph.D.,  
Director, Coastal Sustainability Program  
Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation



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