

# 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 Three Bayou Bay Marsh Creation for the CWPPRA Priority Project List 29*

Dear Mr. Inman and CWPPRA Task Force Members:

As organizations with long-standing support of the CWPPRA program and an interest in the Louisiana CWPPRA coastal projects, we are writing to express our support for the Three Bayou Bay Marsh Creation (BA-02) for Priority Project List 29 (PPL 29). We believe this project has the potential to build off of previous CWPPRA-funded projects, as well as other restoration projects in the area, to provide widespread benefits to Louisiana's coast. We hope that this project is given further consideration for evaluation as the CWPPRA process advances throughout the year.

The 2017 Coastal Master Plan selected the Large-Scale Barataria Marsh Creation (002.MC.05e and 002.MC.04a) to restore marsh habitat and renourish degraded marsh in the Barataria Basin. These two Master Plan project would restore the Barataria landbridge, a critical landscape feature that separates the saltier lower reaches of the Barataria Basin from the freshwater wetlands in the upper part of the basin. Restoration of the landbridge would help restore historic salinity distribution, protecting freshwater wetlands from saltwater intrusion and help protect the nearby community of Lafitte from storm surge and tidal flooding. The proposed CWPPRA PPL 29 Three Bayou Bay Marsh Creation project is located in the footprint of Large-Scale Barataria Marsh Creation – Component A.

The Three Bayou Bay Marsh Creation Project would create and nourish 638 acre of marsh and would work in concert with CWPPRA projects in the area that have been completed (BA-0027, BA-0039, BA-0164, BA-0048, BA-0036), are in construction (BA-00125) and are in engineering and design (BA-206). In addition, this proposed project is located near two large-scale projects that are currently being considered for funding through the Deepwater Horizon's Natural Resource Damage Program, Large-Scale Barataria Marsh Creation (BA-0207) and the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion (BA-0153). Both of these project are currently in engineering and design and would likely provide far-reaching benefits to the Barataria Basin. The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion would provide a consistent source of sediment to the area that would likely extend the lifespan of the nearby CWPPRA projects, including the proposed Three Bayou Bay Marsh Creation. The close proximity of all these projects allow them to work together, providing widespread benefits that are far greater than the sum of their individual project benefits.



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We believe that the Three Bayou Bay Marsh Creation project should be a priority for the CWPPRA program and encourage the Technical Committee to advance it to the next phase for PPL 29. While we see all restoration projects as important and valuable in their own right in the fight against land loss in coastal Louisiana, we think that this project creates benefits that are needed now and can help bolster benefits of other nearby projects to help sustain habitats, communities, and infrastructure. To create a better more sustainable future for Louisiana, restoration projects must work together to restore the coast and reduce future impacts. It is important that we, along with the government and concerned stakeholders, do everything we can to implement projects that leverage limited funds that will protect the habitat, wildlife, and people that call this region home.

We are pleased to see CWPPRA continuing their efforts to provide funding for components of Coastal Master Plan project. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Natalie Peyronnin 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

