

# RESTORE

## THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER DELTA



MississippiRiverDelta.org

 /MississippiRiverDelta



@RestoreDelta

November 21, 2019

Colonel Stephen Murphy  
District Engineer, New Orleans District  
c/o: Brad Inman  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
7400 Leake Avenue  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70118

***RE: Letter of Support for Northeast Turtle Bay Extension Marsh Creation for the CWPPRA Priority Project List 29***

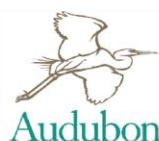
Dear Colonel Murphy, Mr. Inman, and CWPPRA Task Force Members:

As organizations with long-standing interest in the Louisiana CWPPRA coastal projects and funding designations, we are writing to express our support for the Northeast Turtle Bay Marsh Creation Extension project that is currently being proposed for Priority Project List 29 (PPL 29) Phase I funding. The goal of this project is to create 541 acres of brackish marsh and nourish an additional 68 acres. We believe that this project will work in concert with other nearby restoration projects to provide multiple benefits to Louisiana and the Mississippi River Delta ecosystem as a whole.

The 2017 Coastal Master Plan selected two projects needed to maintain the Barataria Landbridge, Large-Scale Barataria Marsh Creation Components A and E (002.MC.04a and 002.MC.05e). The Barataria Landbridge is a vital landscape feature in the Barataria Basin, separating the freshwater wetlands in the upper part of the basin from the brackish and saltwater wetlands in the lower part of the basin. The long-term health and resiliency of the freshwater wetlands and the communities in the upper Barataria Basin rely heavily on the continued existence of this landbridge. These wetlands not only provide important habitat for the fish and wildlife of the Barataria Basin, but these wetlands also provide protection against storm surge and tidal flooding for the nearby community of Lafitte. The Northeast Turtle Bay Extension Marsh Creation project proposed for Phase I funding is within 2017 Coastal master Plan's Large-Scale Barataria Marsh Creation –Component A.

The proposed Northeast Turtle Bay Extension Marsh Creation project would benefit 609 acres and would work in concert with nearby CWPPRA projects that have been constructed (BA-27, BA-36, BA-48, BA-43, BA-39, BA-164), are in construction (BA-125) and are in engineering and design (BA-206). In addition, this proposed project is near two projects that are currently in engineering and design and are being considered for funding via the Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Damage Program, the Large-Scale Barataria Marsh Creation (BA-207) and the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion (BA-0153). The benefits of the Northeast Turtle Bay Extension Marsh Creation project combined with these other restoration projects would go a long way to restoring and maintaining the Barataria Landbridge into the future.

We support this project for phase I funding. This project will work synergistically with already established projects and future projects to provide immense benefits to the coastal environment. Projects must work with



# RESTORE

## THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER DELTA



MississippiRiverDelta.org

 /MississippiRiverDelta



@RestoreDelta

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.

We are pleased to see CWPPRA continuing their efforts to provide funding for much needed projects. This process has already advanced coastal restoration and continues to push forward projects consistent with the Coastal Master Plan. We hope these comments underscore both the importance of the proposed project, the urgency of project implementation and continuing fiscal responsibility as we work together toward a sustainable coast.

Sincerely,

Brian Moore  
Vice President, Gulf of Mexico Policy  
National Audubon Society

Kim Reyher,  
Executive Director  
Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana

Natalie Snider,  
Senior Director, Coastal Resilience  
Environmental Defense Fund

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

David Muth  
Director, Gulf Restoration Program,  
National Wildlife Federation

