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Draft Coastal Plan includes \$14 Million for North Lafourche Levee Projects

The North Lafourche Levee District (NLLD) is slated to receive just over \$14 million in state design and construction funding for several levee projects totaling over \$18 million over the next three years as part of the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority's (CPRA) Draft Annual Plan for Fiscal Year 2020 released today.

The funding is provided to Louisiana by the revenue sharing provisions of the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA), which allocates a portion of federal lease sale revenue to Gulf oil and gas producing states for coastal conservation, restoration and hurricane protection.

NLLD projects identified for construction funding in the FY 2020 Draft Annual Plan include:

- **Lockport to Mathews Levee Improvement Project** – \$1 million in FY 2020 will bring total state investment in the project this year to \$6.4 million of the \$8.6 million total project cost.
- **Bayou Blue-Hollywood Backwater Flood Protection Project** - \$1.43 million in FY 2021 and an additional \$5.1 million in FY 2022 for the Hollywood Canal Closure.
- **Jesse Dufrene Phase 1 Levee Project** - \$1 million in FY 2020. The NLLD had already allocated local funding to this \$1.63 million project, so the state funds will allow the District to reallocate the local funds to construct another District project.

“With this \$14 million in construction funding proposed in the FY 2020 Draft Annual Plan, the North Lafourche Levee District will move three significant levee projects through construction to completion, strengthening flood protection for residents and businesses throughout North Lafourche,” says NLLD Executive Director Dwayne Bourgeois.

In addition to these NLLD projects, two regional levee projects directly benefitting communities in North Lafourche are on the FY 2020 Draft Annual Plan funding list. The western side of Reach L of the Morganza to the Gulf Hurricane Protection System, which ties into the South Lafourche Levee System, will receive \$7.3 million this year and the Upper Barataria Risk Reduction Project will receive \$13 million.

“The NLLD has been have working diligently to invest local funds in projects that increase flood protection and improve drainage in our communities, and then to use this local effort to attract state funds that will expand our work even further. This significant funding proposed for our projects in the Draft Annual Plan demonstrates that the investment our community is making in levee protection is not only critical to North Lafourche but to the State of Louisiana as well,” Bourgeois says. “Our community is worth protecting.

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