

Appendix E:
Solicitation of Views Coordination and Correspondence



October 8, 2024

SOLICITATION OF VIEWS

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6 is preparing NEPA documentation for the proposed project, "Port Fourchon Marsh Creation Project," (TE-0171) under the authority of the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA). By this Solicitation of Views (SOV) notice, EPA is requesting your views and comments on any potential economic, social, or environmental adverse or beneficial impacts in the area of this project.

The TE-0171 project is located in the Terrebonne Basin, west of Belle Pass and Port Fourchon in Lafourche Parish, Louisiana. The Port Fourchon Marsh Creation project area is within the Timbalier Bay along the southeastern edge, bounded on the south by a barrier shoreline of beach, dune and marsh habitat, previously restored by a CWPPRA-funded project, and bounded on the west and north by Timbalier Bay and on the east by wetlands from another CWPPRA-funded project. Marsh creation and nourishment in this area will contribute to coastal wetland buffers protecting Port Fourchon from storm surge and will regenerate habitat for fish and wildlife. The project originally included a larger marsh creation and nourishment acreage (see attached factsheet) which was recently decreased after the 30% design by approximately ten percent (10%) to reduce project costs. As currently designed, the project will create and nourish approximately five hundred and forty-three (543) acres of coastal estuarine marsh by hydraulically dredging sediment from the Belle Pass federal navigation channel (see attached map). The project's design was funded by the CWPPRA Task Force. The project team plans to request construction funding from the CWPPRA Task Force in January 2025. If approved, construction is estimated to start late 2026 or early 2027.

Please provide EPA with your views and comments by November 5, 2024. Comments can be sent by mail to Dr. Patricia Taylor, EPA Region 6, 6WD-AM, 1201 Elm St., Suite 500, Dallas, TX 75270 or by e-mail to Shalyn Bauschlicher, bauschlicher.shalyn@epa.gov. If you have questions or require further information, please contact Ms. Bauschlicher at (214) 665-7592.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. McCormick", is placed over the typed name.

Karen McCormick, Supervisor
Marine, Coastal, and Nonpoint Source Section
6WD-AM

Attachments

1. TE-0171 Project Fact Sheet
2. TE-0171 Marsh Creation Area Map
3. TE-0171 Project Features Map

Bauschlicher, Shalyn

From: Mart Black <mblack@tpcg.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 9, 2024 7:29 AM
To: Bauschlicher, Shalyn
Cc: Taylor, Patricia-A; Kaspar, Paul; McCormick, Karen; Jason Bergeron; Noah Lirette; Vicki Summers
Subject: Re: Solicitation of views for TE0171 Marsh Creation CWPPRA project

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Dear Ms. Bauschlicher: Although the referenced project is not in Terrebonne Parish, it is in the Terrebonne Basin and, under the circumstances, is extremely beneficial to Terrebonne Parish. The importance of this project to Terrebonne Parish is that we have five CWPPRA marsh creation/ridge restoration projects that were about to go to bid or were close to that point which have been seriously delayed due to the inability to acquire land rights. As a result, CWPPRA has placed three of these on its Critical Watch List. I expect the other two will be added to that list soon. Terrebonne needs marsh creation projects under construction and TE-0171 will certainly help our situation. I followed Dr. Taylor's presentation and spoke in favor of this project at the CWPPRA Task Force meeting on October 3, 2024, at USACE/NOD. Again, we are strongly in favor of this project going forward. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Mart J. Black, FAICP, Director
TPCG Department of Coastal Restoration & Preservation

From: Bauschlicher, Shalyn <Bauschlicher.Shalyn@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 8, 2024 4:47 PM
To: Bauschlicher, Shalyn <Bauschlicher.Shalyn@epa.gov>
Cc: Taylor, Patricia-A <Taylor.Patricia-A@epa.gov>; Kaspar, Paul <kaspar.paul@epa.gov>; McCormick, Karen <McCormick.Karen@epa.gov>
Subject: Solicitation of views for TE0171 Marsh Creation CWPPRA project

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Dear Stakeholder,

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the federal sponsor for the TE-0171 Port Fourchon Marsh Creation project. The project is funded through the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) and is currently in Phase I Engineering and Design. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, EPA is requesting comments at this stage of project.

Attached to this email is a Solicitation of Views (SOV) letter, fact sheet, and project area maps. Please provide any comments by November 5, 2024. If you have further questions or concerns, my contact information appears below – please don't hesitate to contact me.

Best,

Shalyn Bauschlicher
Marine, Coastal and Nonpoint Source
US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6
Bauschlicher.Shalyn@epa.gov
(214) 665-7592

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EDWARD WISNER TRUST MANAGEMENT BOARD

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Wisner

REPRESENTING

CHARITY HOSPITAL / LSU
CITY OF NEW ORLEANS
THE SALVATION ARMY
TULANE UNIVERSITY
THE WISNER FAMILY

27 October 2024

Environmental Protection Agency
Region 6
6WD-AM
1201 Elm Street, Suite 500
Dallas, TX 75270
ATTN: Dr. Patricia Taylor

bauschlicher.shalyn@epa.gov
ATTN: Ms. Shalyn Bauschlicher

RE: PORT FOURCHON MARSH CREATION PROJECT (TE-0171) SOLICITATION OF VIEWS RESPONSE

Dear Dr. Taylor:

The Edward Wisner Trust Management Board (Wisner) owns property adjacent to the proposed project and supports construction of the Port Fourchon Marsh Creation project. Wisner leases much of the area adjacent to the project to the Greater Lafourche Port Commission for Port Fourchon.

If this project is not constructed and the area continues to erode, Bayou Lafourche will become a part of Terrebonne Bay and then the Gulf of Mexico. Each strong weather event – it no longer needs to be a hurricane – removes more of this barrier headland, and further endangers Wisner's revenues.

Any incursion will place billions of dollars of energy infrastructure at risk. Between 18-20% of the nation's oil and gas supply comes through this area. As Port Fourchon begins to develop the Fourchon Island to enlarge its capacity to service energy production in the Gulf of Mexico, it will have to incorporate more costly mitigation efforts to harden its facilities. Those costs will be passed along to consumers, further burdening individuals' pockets already battered by higher inflation rates and higher energy prices over the past few years.

This remnant headland is important, not just for protecting Lafourche Parish's economic engine, but also for protecting the cultural heritage of its residents. Seafood and its capture are tightly woven into the culture of south Louisiana. The mangroves that populate the marshes provide homes for species of concern and nurseries for shrimp, crabs, and fish. The bounty that makes Louisiana the Sportsman's Paradise is born in areas such as this. There will be substantial losses incurred in both the recreational and commercial fishing industries statewide and in the culture of Terrebonne and Lafourche Parishes if this area is not restored.

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Dr. Patricia Taylor
17 October 2024

The Caminada Headland Beach and Dune Restoration Project, Increments I and II (BA-45 & BA-143), and the Caminada Headland Back Barrier Marsh Creation Project (BA-171) have shored up the eastern side of Bayou Lafourche. The West Belle Pass Headland Restoration Project (TE-52) has rebuilt the shoreline. The West Fourchon Marsh Creation Project (TE-134) restored the marsh behind the western bank of Bayou Lafourche and added storm protection. The Port Fourchon Marsh Creation Project (TE-0171) extends the lives of both TE-52 and TE-134. Also, TE-0171 will give TE-52 a marsh platform onto which it can roll – keeping the valuable sand in the system – and it will reinforce TE-134.

Wisner embraces using dredge material from Belle Pass to construct this project. The beneficial use allows the State, which has a multitude of restoration demands, to conserve other valuable sediment sources so that more of those needs can be met.

Over 60% of Wisner's revenues are returned to the community. If the land goes, Wisner's revenue, and our beneficiaries' ability to help the community as they have since 1914, goes. Wisner is grateful for the attention to the Fourchon area and respectfully asks that this project be submitted to CWPPRA for Phase 2 construction funding consideration.

Sincerely and Appreciatively,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "L. Amanda Phillips", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

L. Amanda Phillips
Administrator and Land Manager

Bauschlicher, Shalyn

From: Breaux, Joey <joe_b@ldaf.state.la.us>
Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2024 5:33 PM
To: Bauschlicher, Shalyn
Cc: Phillips, Theron; Vizier, Macy; McCormick, Karen
Subject: Port Fourchon Marsh Creation Project – CWPPRA TE-0171
Attachments: TE-171 factsheet (2).pdf; TE-171 SOV Letter_signed (3).pdf; TE0171 Marsh Creation.pdf

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October 24, 2024

Shalyn Bauschlicher
Marine, Coastal and Nonpoint Source
US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6
Bauschlicher.Shalyn@epa.gov
(214) 665-7592

Ref: Port Fourchon Marsh Creation Project – CWPPRA TE-0171

Dear Ms. Bauschlicher,

The LA Department of Agriculture & Forestry/Office of Soil & Water Conservation has reviewed the attached Solicitation of Views regarding the Port Fourchon Marsh Creation Project as illustrated and has no objection. This project will greatly support previous CWPPRA efforts to restore the West Belle Pass Barrier island formations as well as to favorably accent the Caminada Headlands accomplishments to the east.

The LDAF/OSWC Revegetation Project Manager and Lafourche-Terrebonne SWCD will certainly take advantage of opportunities to vegetatively enhance any overwash, tidal accretion, dune or back-dune habitats generated by this beneficial project once complete.

If this office may be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Joey Breaux
Assistant Commissioner,
LDAF/Office of Soil & Water Conservation
225.922.1269

cc: Theron Phillips, LDAF/OSWC

Macy Vizier, LDAF/OSWC

Joey Breaux
Assistant Commissioner
LA Dept. of Agriculture & Forestry
Office of Soil & Water Conservation
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5825 Florida Blvd.
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Louisiana



Joseph A. Orgeron, Ph.D.

State Representative
District 54

House of Representatives

PO Box 1746
Larose, LA 70373

985-693-9000

Hse054@Legis.LA.gov

November 4, 2024

Dr. Patricia Taylor
EPA Region 6, 6WD-AM
1201 Elm St., Suite 500
Dallas, TX 75270

RE: Port Fourchon Marsh Creation Project, (TE-0171)

To Whom it May Concern:

Please accept this letter of full support from the constituency of Louisiana State House District 54 for the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) subject project.

In 2021, Hurricane Ida made landfall in Lafourche Parish and decimated portions of the parish including its protective wetlands. The proposed project would restore a portion of these damaged critical coastal wetlands and support overall ecosystem health and resilience by creating fish and wildlife habitat, sustaining productive fisheries, and improving water quality. Local and underserved communities in the region would benefit from the additional layer of storm protection, proximity to recreational fishery opportunities, and the restoration of a landscape with and regional cultural significance. The project is also consistent with the State's 2023 Coastal Master Plan in addition to adding dual-benefit from the dredging of Port Fourchon's waterway in Bayou Lafourche.

As the duly elected official for this area, I along with the vast majority of constituents realize that this targeted project area has great benefit to our port's economy as well as the wildlife and fishery resources for both commercial and recreational fishing. It is with joy to provide support such a transformational project to being the reversal of the effects of the recent tropical storms and rejuvenate a wetlands footprint that would once again provide additional storm surge protection as well as vast benefit to our local community and unique culture.

We appreciate the opportunity to express our unwavering support for the above referenced proposed project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joseph A. Orgeron". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Joseph A. Orgeron, Ph.D.
State Representative, District 54