



State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR

July 1, 2016

The Honorable Taylor F. Barras, Speaker
House of Representatives
Post Office Box 94062
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

RE: HCR 25 - 2016 Regular Session

Dear Speaker Barras:

In accordance with the provisions in HCR 25 of the 2016 Regular Session, I am writing to provide a report of the initiatives the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) will undertake to ensure a more efficient operation for fiscal year 2017 and beyond. CPRA leadership has a sense of urgency and continuously evaluates opportunities for efficiency as we address our coastal challenges. CPRA will receive a significant amount of funding from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill settlement over the next several years, and it is critical that we optimize the use of the funding, our workforce, technologies, and seek innovative ways to do business. In the attached report we identify several areas that CPRA will initiate efforts to increase efficiency in the organization.

We look forward to working with you and your staff to answer any questions or provide additional information. You may contact me at 342-4698 or Michael Ellis, Executive Director, at 342-7308.

Sincerely,

Janice A. Lansing
Chief Financial Officer

Attachment

c: Michael R. Ellis, Executive Director

Executive Division



**Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
HCR 25 – 2016 Regular Session
Report on FY 17 Proposed Efficiency Efforts**

- **Organizational Efficiencies**
 - ✓ Evaluate and optimize all functions of the agency, across all divisions - Executive Division, Project Management, Planning and Research, Operations, Engineering, Legal, Land Rights, and Outreach and Engagement.

- **Financial**
 - ✓ Shift provision of accounting /budget services from Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to CPRA in-house resulting in significant process efficiency, assurance of accounting, and cost savings.
 - ✓ Establish Internal Auditor - CPRA will implement a solid audit program to respond to the increased audit requirements related to the oil spill funding.

- **Engineering and Operations**
 - ✓ Investigate new tools, technologies, innovations and collaborative construction methods to increase efficiency in project delivery.
 - ✓ Evaluate the option of electronic bidding for construction projects which will potentially save time and result in cost savings.
 - ✓ Seek software development/improvements to provide consistent levee inspections.
 - ✓ Utilize drone technology to collect field survey data, where appropriate, to save time and money. We plan to test/demonstrate this technology on one of our in-house marsh creation design projects.
 - ✓ Implement more efficient methods to collect geotechnical data that will result in time and money savings during the project design phase as well as the potential of reduction of constructability risks.
 - ✓ Establish partnership with LSU Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering to utilize existing project geotechnical data within the Barataria Basin to develop design correlations from soil testing consolidation and index properties. These correlations will reduce the amount of consolidation testing required, save laboratory testing time, and reduce the costs of subsurface investigations in this region. These parameters can be utilized to plan and design upcoming large-scale marsh creation projects
 - ✓ Finalize GIS Mapping capabilities that allow for a more efficient evaluation of the coastal zone flood protection systems.
 - ✓ Explore the use of Collaborative Project Delivery Methods, such as Design/Build or Construction Management at Risk (CMAR) for large complex projects to reduce construction risks and provide potential cost and time savings. These alternative delivery methods will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

➤ **Project Management**

- ✓ Increase efforts for Project Manager training, implementation, and active usage of the LaGov system to accurately manage projects and funding sources on a real-time basis.
- ✓ Leverage skill sets for continued staff development and more efficient project delivery.
- ✓ Examine current processes and procedures to streamline and minimize turnaround time.
- ✓ Promote professional certification of Project Management principles and practices to more effectively manage large-scale infrastructure projects of a complex nature.
- ✓ Increase emphasis and focus on project delivery schedules and detailed metrics by which to assess improvement and progress.
- ✓ Evaluate functions of Project Management and Project Support to avoid duplication of efforts on annual plan budgeting.

➤ **Other**

- ✓ Finalize efforts to optimize our contracting process to find ways to reduce the length of time it takes to execute and manage contracts.