

# Response to Public Feedback

TO: LOUISIANA CLIMATE INITIATIVES TASK FORCE

FROM: THE LOUISIANA OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR - COASTAL ACTIVITIES

JANUARY 26, 2023

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## Overarching Considerations and Approach

The development of this Annual Report began with a survey to all Climate Initiatives Task Force (CITF) members, Advisory Group and Sector Committee members, and members of the public. This survey was sent to gather information about all actions undertaken in 2022 to implement the Louisiana Climate Action Plan (CAP) throughout the state. Survey responses informed the draft Annual Report narrative, which was published for public comment on December 1, 2022. The Task Force Workshops held in March and November of 2022 also provided enhanced narratives and details on draft elements of the Annual Report. Public comments were received until December 31, 2022, and were fully considered in the revisions to the Annual Report. Takeaways are summarized below.

# Key Takeaways from Comments on the Draft Annual Report

## TOPIC: BROAD AGREEMENT

### **Summary of Comment(s):**

Comments expressed broad agreement with the work described in the draft Annual Report, including the Louisiana Outdoors Forever program, the 2023 Coastal Master Plan, job training, and industrial electrification studies. Comments also supported the coordination between the state and federal government and the draft report's breakdown of IJA and IRA funding opportunities.

### **Response:**

We appreciate the support and ambition of these comments in continued implementation of the Climate Action Plan. We share a desire for continued advancement of orphan well remediation, natural land conservation, assessment of carbon capture and storage techniques, and nutrient abatement in waterways. We look forward to continued partnership with these organizations.

## TOPIC: CONSERVATION AND COMPACT DEVELOPMENT

### **Summary of Comment(s):**

One comment supported preserving additional land from development. Another comment described the need for better coordinated land use policies to reduce sprawl, including a state framework for compact development, and highlighted the need for deployment of mass transit and Complete Streets across all Louisiana communities. An additional comment noted that Louisiana should discourage building in areas vulnerable to flooding.

### **Response:**

Land conservation is threaded throughout actions of the Natural and Working Lands and Wetlands section of the CAP, and this goal is shared across the Task Force. With the appointment of a State Planning Manager, Louisiana hopes to better coordinate land use planning and leverage federal infrastructure dollars for compact development, electric vehicles, and reconnecting communities.

## TOPIC: HYPOXIA

### **Summary of Comment(s):**

One comment suggested that a full list of conservation activities and subsequent monitoring can advance both the CAP goals and the goals of the Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan. Another comment noted that hypoxia work needs careful monitoring and interstate coordination to reduce agricultural runoff.

### **Response:**

Thank you for highlighting the co-benefits of smart agriculture and monitoring for both nutrient abatement and climate mitigation. Your insights on federal funding for ecosystem restoration activities brings even greater opportunity for near-term action in the Natural and Working Lands section of the Climate Action Plan. We will continue to report on activities to implement the CAP and to monitor activities to implement the Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan.

## TOPIC: FUTURE PRIORITIES

### **Summary of Comment(s):**

One comment requested that the next focus of implementation include a stronger emphasis on meeting the 2025 and 2030 targets. Another comment asked for stronger regulation of industrial emissions to meet those goals. An additional comment called for careful evaluation of future carbon capture and storage projects and for the placement of such projects in existing industrial corridors, outside of fragile ecosystems and protected areas.

### **Response:**

We appreciate the commitment of our residents and community-based organizations to Louisiana's emissions reduction goals. We continue to work with stakeholders to prioritize near-term actions that abate emissions quickly, while planning for longer-term decarbonization of hardest-to-abate emissions. The Annual Reports sets forth next steps to address methane from orphaned wells and venting and flaring, to accelerate deployment of solar resources, and to implement stricter energy codes and efficiency measures across Louisiana. Long-term planning for industrial decarbonization will set vision and parameters for effective siting and permitting of industrial projects.

## TOPIC: METHANE AND ORPHANED WELLS

### **Summary of Comment(s):**

Comments on this topic included: a suggestion to reserve natural gas for fertilizer production; a note that orphaned well cleanup has broad benefits beyond just methane abatement; support for prioritizing low-income communities for both well abatement and jobs in this sector; and encouragement for bans on venting and flaring.

### **Response:**

Improving the health and quality of life for residents and communities is a fundamental object of the Climate Action Plan, and reducing pollution is a means of achieving that objective. To strengthen the economy and workforce and in accordance with federal funding announcements and the Climate Action Plan, we intend to develop programs at community and technical colleges that support engagement with low-income communities in the orphaned well workforce. As recommended, we continue to build partnerships with the federal agencies to advance climate actions and collectively meet emission reduction goals, building constant communication with the Biden Administration.

## TOPIC: ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

### **Summary of Comment(s):**

Additional comments called for the use of green hydrogen only, a limit to taxpayer subsidies of industrial decarbonization, increased attention to grid resilience in addition to microgrids, questions about the viability of Beneficial Use of Dredged Material as well as potential carbon market participation, and the limits of state agencies to move towards efficient but equitable siting and permitting.

### **Response:**

We appreciate how these comments anchor and hold us accountable to goals and actions set forth in the CAP. However, implementation will take time and upfront investment and flexibility to ensure solutions are malleable to continued changes of the energy transition, whether through markets, technology, or policy. In early stages of deployment, an all-of-the-above approach is necessary to pilot and demonstrate the effectiveness and potential of various approaches to achieve net zero across the entire economy and all of society by 2050.