

State of Louisiana



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER JBE 2020 – 19

COASTAL RESILIENCE

- WHEREAS,** Louisiana and its citizens have suffered catastrophic losses and human, economic, and social harm as a result of increased flood risk due to coastal land, and the continued threat of further land loss to Louisiana’s working coast threatens the viability of residential, agricultural, energy, and industry development as well as valuable fish and wildlife production in coastal Louisiana;
- WHEREAS,** Louisiana continues to experience one of the fastest rates of land loss in the world, and parts of our state remain unprotected from or vulnerable to future hurricane and flood event impacts;
- WHEREAS,** our working coast is a national treasure which provides protection for infrastructure that supplies 90% of the nation’s outer continental oil and gas, 20% of the nation’s annual waterborne commerce, 26% (by weight) of the continental U.S. commercial fishing lands, and winter habitat for five million migratory waterfowl;
- WHEREAS,** coastal Louisiana is also a vital regional asset which serves as residence to 2.5 million people and as a historical foundation to our unique cultural heritage;
- WHEREAS,** Louisiana’s first coastal master plan, *Integrated Ecosystem Restoration and Hurricane Protection: Louisiana’s Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast* (“master plan”) was approved by the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (“CPRA”) Board at its April 12, 2007, meeting and unanimously approved by the Louisiana Legislature through Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 11 during the 2007 Regular Session;
- WHEREAS,** Louisiana’s second master plan was approved by the CPRA Board at its March 21, 2012, meeting, and the revised master plan was unanimously approved by the Louisiana Legislature through Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 46 during the 2012 Regular Session;
- WHEREAS,** Louisiana’s third master plan was approved by the CPRA Board at its April 20, 2017, meeting, and the revised master plan was unanimously approved by the Louisiana Legislature through Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1 during the 2017 Regular Session;
- WHEREAS,** Act 244 of the 2018 Regular Session requires the CPRA Board to develop a Coastal Master Plan, at a minimum every six years;
- WHEREAS,** the master plan integrates coastal protection strategies and coastal restoration strategies to provide increased flood protection for communities and to maximize the amount of land maintained or restored in coastal Louisiana;
- WHEREAS,** billions of dollars have been invested in the implementation of projects included in the master plan and tremendous progress has been made since the 2007 master plan, including building or improving approximately 297 miles of levees, constructing 60 miles of barrier islands and berms, and benefiting over 41,305 acres of coastal habitat;
- WHEREAS,** the Coastal Master Plan is a \$50 billion, 50-year plan and is a funding-constrained plan that will require new investments beyond what has currently been identified to fully implement the plan;
- WHEREAS,** even if the CPRA funded and completed all projects in the 2017 Coastal Master Plan, future, escalating environmental challenges and risks such as climate change driven sea level rise are such that the entire coast of Louisiana cannot be preserved as it presently exists;

- WHEREAS,** as the coastal crisis continues to unfold in the decades to come the State must not only continue to prepare for singular natural disasters like hurricanes and floods, but also slow-moving, longer-term changes that will encompass more than flood risk and land loss but also include implications for the economy, transportation systems, culture, health, workforce development, and fish and wildlife;
- WHEREAS,** these challenges will require a coordinated, intentional, collaborative state effort to build resilience;
- WHEREAS,** when it created the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Board, the legislature acknowledged the need for coordination among government agencies, as well as our local and federal partners, in order to ensure consistency with the master plan and to achieve the master plan’s missions and objectives;
- WHEREAS,** state agencies must work in a cooperative manner and ensure activities subject to its jurisdictional authority are performed in a manner that expedites and promotes integrated coastal protection projects;
- WHEREAS,** Louisiana Revised Statute 49:214.3.1 directs the Governor, through his Executive Assistant for Coastal Activities, to “coordinate the powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities of any state agency relative to integrated coastal protection”;
- WHEREAS,** the master plan is the State’s plan for a sustainable coast and not just the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority’s implementation plan;
- WHEREAS,** the full breadth of tools, expertise, and missions of Louisiana’s various state agencies must be brought to bear to more fully and more directly address the economic and social implications of Louisiana’s degrading coast; and
- WHEREAS,** this multi-agency approach will ensure the best outcomes for the people of Louisiana and better position the state to partner with the parishes and municipalities most at risk from coastal change.

NOW THEREFORE, I, JOHN BEL EDWARDS, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested in the Constitution and laws of the State of Louisiana do hereby order and direct as follows:

SECTION 1: In order to effectively and efficiently pursue the State’s integrated coastal protection goals, all state agencies, departments, and offices shall administer their regulatory practices, programs, projects, contracts, grants, and all other functions vested in them in a manner consistent with the Coastal Master Plan and public interest to the maximum extent possible.

To enhance and further the State’s interest in developing a more comprehensive and coordinated response to the coastal crisis and to meeting the goals and objectives of the Coastal Master Plan, the position of Chief Resilience Officer is hereby created within the Office of the Governor under the direction of the Governor’s Executive Assistant for Coastal Activities to further coordinate a cross-agency effort to build coastal resilience.

- A. The Chief Resilience Officer will lead efforts to collaborate across agencies to assess the vulnerability to assets and mission areas posed by coastal change.
- B. The Chief Resilience Officer will provide support to agencies as they identify and incorporate projections related to coastal change provided by the Coastal Master Plan into their strategic plans.
- C. The Chief Resilience Officer will work in cooperation with individual agencies and in small groups of related agencies to discuss the impacts of coastal change and proposed adaptation actions thematically and to collaborate on new projects or initiatives to better serve the residents and businesses of Louisiana’s coast.

State agencies shall appoint a “resilience coordinator” to be the agency’s point person for adaptation and resilience efforts; and to coordinate with the Chief Resilience Officer and CPRA Board as requested. The resilience coordinator should be an undersecretary or comparable in rank and knowledge; able to bring an awareness of the full breadth of an agency’s programs and mission.

SECTION 2: State agencies will further contribute to Louisiana’s improved coastal resilience through the incorporation of current and future coastal change considerations as expressed in *Louisiana’s Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast* into agency plans and investments. This

effort will begin with an assessment of agency vulnerabilities to extreme weather events and persistent coastal change and the identification of adaptation options for agency assets and the agency's ability to carry out its mission.

SECTION 3: Each agency will incorporate the results from the vulnerability assessment into existing policies and strategic plans.

Each agency will publish within two years of the issuance of this Executive Order an update to its strategic plan that shall:

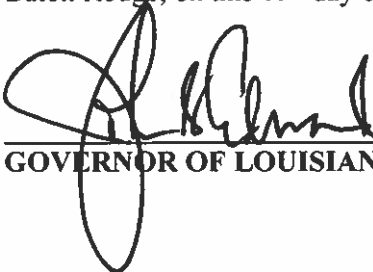
- A. Consider and integrate coastal change information from the master plan into all planning and investments, including accounting for current and future conditions in infrastructure investment.
- B. Describe agency-specific resilience strategies that align with the goals and objectives of the master plan.
- C. Prioritize resilience-building actions and investments with a timeline for achieving those actions and investments.
- D. Identify funding sources and financing strategies and key partners applicable to the implementation of the actions and investments proposed.
- E. Identify and seek to remove or reform barriers that discourage investments or other actions to increase the state's resilience.
- F. Recognize that coastal change will disproportionately affect some of the state's most vulnerable people and consider how adaptation and resilience activities can address that inequity through the vision, goals, and actions undertaken in the agency's strategic plan.

SECTION 4: Agencies shall report to the Governor the results of their vulnerability assessments and how their strategic resilience plans, once completed, compliment and align with the goals and objectives of the coastal master plan.

After the completion of the initial strategic plan update, agencies will again update strategic plans within one year of the adoption of each new master plan.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Louisiana in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 19th day of August, 2020.


GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

ATTEST BY THE
SECRETARY OF STATE

SECRETARY OF STATE