



Coalition To Restore Coastal Louisiana

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CRCL Supports State's Effort to Force Plaquemines to Move Forward with Permitting *Plaquemines Parish should not be allowed to slow progress on saving our coast*

Baton Rouge, LA (June 20, 2018) Earlier today, Louisiana's Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) Board voted to move forward with legal action against Plaquemines Parish government if an agreement cannot be reached to allow the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion permitting process to proceed.

The Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana (CRCL) has been calling for sediment diversions for three decades. The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion is currently in Engineering & Design and undergoing robust reviews by the Army Corps of Engineers and other parties through the National Environmental Policy Act. The project will reconnect the Mississippi River with nearby wetlands to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres of land over time.

Plaquemines Parish President Amos Cormier is blocking progress on the project, denying permits needed by CPRA to conduct soil borings as part of the Engineering & Design process.

In response to today's vote by the CPRA Board, CRCL Executive Director Kimberly Davis Reyher released the following statement.

"CRCL is disappointed to see the threat of legal action against Plaquemines Parish may be necessary to force these permits to move forward. We believe these borings are both necessary to engineer the structure and to answer important questions that will help to fully inform the public of the risks and benefits of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. These are common permits and the fact that Plaquemines Parish government is unwilling to issue them is simply unreasonable.

"There really isn't any choice here. To safely live, work and play in coastal Louisiana into the future we need to build sediment diversions. The land is sinking, the water is rising, and we can't dredge our way out of this. We're fortunate to have the Mississippi River and the sand, silt and clay it carries to help us. We know the river can build land. Now we need to focus on how to get diversions built, how best to operate them and how to grapple with any resulting challenges to fisheries."

About CRCL:

CRCL is a non-partisan, non-profit organization driving bold, science-based action to restore Coastal Louisiana through outreach, restoration and advocacy. CRCL was founded in 1988 and is the state's oldest and most comprehensive coastal restoration organization. Visit crcl.org.

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Our Coast, Our Future

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