Priority & Commitment To Plan Evaluation

Bucket 2 – Council Selected Restoration Component

PROPOSAL TITLE

West Grand Terre Beach Nourishment and Stabilization

PROPORAL NUMBER

LA-1

LOCATION

Jefferson Parish, Southeastern Louisiana

SPONSOR(S)

Louisiana

TYPE OF FUNDING REQUESTED (Planning, Technical Assistance, Implementation)

Planning

REVIEWED BY:

Alyssa Dausman

DATE:

02/14/2015

A. Comprehensive Plan Goals

Of the goals addressed by the proposal, which is the single primary goal?
Proposals should discuss how the proposed activity is designed to address the primary goal.
Check one:

- (●) Restore and Conserve Habitat – Restore and conserve the health, diversity and resilience of key coastal, estuarine and marine habitats.
- ( ) Restore Water Quality – Restore and protect water quality of the Gulf Coast region's fresh, estuarine and marine waters.
- ( ) Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources – Restore and protect healthy, diverse and sustainable living coastal and marine resources.
- ( ) Enhance Community Resilience – Build upon and sustain communities with capacity to adapt to short- and long-term changes.
- ( ) Restore and Revitalize the Gulf Economy – Enhance the sustainability and resiliency of the Gulf economy.

Notes:

As identified in the the proposal, the objectives of the proposed West Grand Terre Beach Nourishment and Stabilization project are to restore and enhance dune and back barrier marsh habitat to provide storm surge and wave attenuation, thereby addressing the issues of gulf shoreline erosion, diminished storm surge protection, and subsidence of back barrier marshes. This project is estimated to build 12,700 feet of beach and dune with an area of 235 acres. In addition, up to 66 acres of back barrier marsh would be restored and a rock revetment would be constructed to protect the restored marsh. The project would increase the width of the island and maintain shoreline integrity through the introduction of

B. Comprehensive Plan Objectives

Proposals must clearly identify which objectives the proposal will address

1. Restore, Enhance, and Protect Habitats

(●) YES ( ) NO ( ) Not articulated ( ) N/A

2. Restore, Improve, and Protect Water Resources

(●) YES ( ) NO ( ) Not articulated ( ) N/A

3. Protect and Restore Living Coastal and Marine Resources

(●) YES ( ) NO ( ) Not articulated ( ) N/A

4. Restore and Enhance Natural Processes and Shorelines

(●) YES ( ) NO ( ) Not articulated ( ) N/A

Notes:

As noted on page 16 and 17 of the the proposal, the West Grand Terre Beach Nourishment and Stabilization project would result in improvements to conserving and replenishing existing and created marsh and beach/dune habitat. The project would build an estimated 12,700 feet of beach and dune with an area of 235 acres, 66 acres of back-barrier marsh, and a rock revetment would be constructed to protect the restored marsh. This project would restore and enhance interior wetlands which would benefit Gulf estuarine dependent marine species. This project would also protect, restore, and maintain ecologically important breeding and nesting habitat for Gulf species such as colonial nesting waterbirds, including the Louisiana state bird, the brown pelican (Pelecanus occidentalis), and migratory shorebirds, including the

8. Of these objectives which is the single primary objective the proposal addresses?

Check one:

- (●) Restore, Enhance, and Protect Habitats
- ( ) Restore, Improve, and Protect Water Resources
- ( ) Protect and Restore Living Coastal and Marine Resources
- ( ) Restore and Enhance Natural Processes and Shorelines
- ( ) Promote Community Resilience
- ( ) Promote Natural Resource Stewardship and Environmental Education
- ( ) Improve Science-Based Decision-Making Processes

C. RESTORE Act and Comprehensive Plan Priority Criteria

All proposals must explain if the proposal addresses one or more of the priority criteria as established by the RESTORE Act and Initial Comprehensive Plan and, if so, how.

1. This project is projected to make the greatest contribution to restoring and protecting the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast region, without regard to geographic location within the Gulf Coast region.

(●) YES ( ) NO ( ) Not articulated ( ) N/A

2. This is a large-scale project/program that is projected to substantially contribute to restoring and protecting the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast ecosystem.

(●) YES ( ) NO ( ) Not articulated ( ) N/A

3. This project is contained in existing Gulf Coast State comprehensive plans for the restoration and protection of natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast region.

(●) YES ( ) NO

4. This project will restore long-term resiliency of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands most impacted by the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill.

(●) YES ( ) NO

5. Promote Community Resilience

(●) YES ( ) NO ( ) Not articulated ( ) N/A

6. Promote Natural Resource Stewardship and Environmental Education

(●) YES ( ) NO ( ) Not articulated ( ) N/A

Notes:

As discussed on pages 16 and 17 of the proposal, the West Grand Terre Beach Nourishment and Stabilization project would result in significant improvements to conserving and replenishing existing and created marsh and beach/dune habitat. The project would build an estimated 12,700 feet of beach and dune with an area of 235 acres, 66 acres of back-barrier marsh, and a rock revetment would be constructed to protect the restored marsh. This project would restore and enhance interior wetlands which would benefit Gulf estuarine dependent marine species. This project would also protect, restore, and maintain ecologically important breeding and nesting habitat for Gulf species such as colonial nesting waterbirds, including the Louisiana state bird, the brown pelican (Pelecanus occidentalis), and migratory

D. Comprehensive Plan Commitments

All proposals must demonstrate how the proposal will achieve any or all of the commitments in the Comprehensive Plan. The commitments in the Comprehensive Plan are as follows:

Does the proposal articulate how it will achieve the following commitments in the comprehensive plan?

1. Science-based Decision-Making

(●) YES ( ) NO ( ) Not articulated

Notes:

As discussed on pages 4 through 8 of the submission, CPRA is committed to science-based decision making. The details on the science-based decision making process that CPRA used to develop the 2012 Coastal Master Plan, which includes the West Grande Terre Beach Nourishment and Stabilization project, can be found in the published LA Master Plan.

CPRA developed a robust decision-making process to ensure that formulation of the 2012 Coastal Master Plan (Master Plan) relied on the best science and technical information available, while still incorporating an extensive public outreach campaign. The process was guided by clearly articulated objectives developed for the 2007 Master Plan and by planning

2. Regional Ecosystem-based Approach to Restoration

(●) YES ( ) NO ( ) Not articulated

Notes:

As indicated in the proposal, the Barataria/Plaquemines region is one of the most rapidly disappearing areas in Louisiana. The barrier islands that have not yet been restored have been so severely eroded that they are approaching a point of complete breakdown and have been reduced to fragmented relics. The state's Master Plan identified restoration of the Barataria Basin's barrier shoreline as an urgent action that would help to stabilize critical landforms, improve the structure and integrity of the landscape, restore the hydraulic regime in an area with a high projected future land loss, restore and maintain ecologically important habitat for migratory birds and threatened and endangered species, and provide hurricane

3. Engagement, Inclusion, and Transparency

(●) YES ( ) NO ( ) Not articulated

Notes:

As discussed on pages 14 and 15 of the proposal submission, CPRA established a strategic outreach and engagement framework for the Coastal Master Plan, which includes the West Grand Terre Beach Nourishment and Stabilization project that helped to guide communications and interactions with diverse audiences throughout the planning process.

The sponsors notes that CPRA's outreach and engagement framework provides a variety of ways for stakeholders and citizens to learn about and participate in the master planning process, including small group gatherings, web offerings,

4. Leveraging Resources and Partnerships

◉ YES ◯ NO ◯ Not articulated

Notes:

As discussed on pages 15 and 16 of the proposal submission, CPRA has a variety of resources and partnerships with which it is able to leverage for the benefit of this project. The System-Wide Assessment and Monitoring Program (SWAMP) would bring the previously described CRMS, BICM, and LASARD monitoring and assessment programs together into one framework in an effort to avoid duplication, improve efficiency, and provide the data needed to perform programmatic performance assessments.

Several projects have already been constructed in the area around the proposed West Grand Terre Beach Nourishment and Stabilization project. Much of the success of the planning, design, and construction of these projects has been due to

5. Delivering Results and Measuring Impacts

◉ YES ◯ NO

Notes:

As discussed in page 15 and 16 of the the proposal, the System-Wide Assessment and Monitoring Program (SWAMP) will bring the previously described CRMS, BICM, and LASARD monitoring and assessment programs together into one framework in an effort to avoid duplication, improve efficiency, and provide the data needed to perform programmatic performance assessments. This data combined would provide the ability to deliver results and measure impacts of the project.

E. Meeting Commitments and Tracking and Measuring Progress

1. Does the proposal articulate how it will meet and achieve its commitments?

◉ YES ◯ NO ◯ Not articulated

2. Does the proposal have a plan for tracking and measuring progress?

◉ YES ◯ NO

Notes:

Please see notes in Section D.

F. Proposal Emphasis Areas

Does the submission describe how the proposed project or program addresses the following four considerations:

1. Is the proposed activity **foundational** in the sense that the project or program forms an initial core step (or steps) in addressing a significant ecosystem issue, and can future activities be tiered to substantially increase the benefits?

(●) YES ( ) NO ( ) Not articulated

Notes:

As indicated on page 2 of the Submission, the objectives of the proposed West Grand Terre Beach Nourishment and Stabilization project are to restore and enhance dune and back barrier marsh habitat to provide storm surge and wave attenuation, thereby addressing the issues of gulf shoreline erosion, diminished storm surge protection, and subsidence of back barrier marshes.

As referenced on page 9 of the Submission, the West Grand Terre Beach Nourishment and Stabilization Project would

2. Will the proposed activity be **sustainable** over time?

(●) YES ( ) NO ( ) Not articulated

Notes:

As referenced on page 17 of the Submission, the state's Master Plan identified restoration of the Barataria Basin's barrier shoreline as an urgent action that would help to stabilize critical landforms, improve the structure and integrity of the landscape, restore the hydraulic regime in an area with a high projected future land loss, restore and maintain ecologically important habitat for migratory birds and threatened and endangered species, and provide hurricane protection to coastal Louisiana. As discussed on page 3 of the Submission, barrier island systems are the most seaward bodies of land in the coastal zone and thus the most exposed to the destructive storm surge associated with tropical

3. Is the proposed activity **likely to succeed**?

(●) YES ( ) NO ( ) Not articulated

Notes:

As discussed on pages 12-13 of the Submission, measures of success for the West Grand Terre Beach Nourishment and Stabilization project include the restoration of beach, dune, and back-barrier marsh habitat for storm surge and wave attenuation. At the project-scale, performance measures will track the progress towards meeting management goals and objectives. When monitored over time, performance measures can help reduce uncertainty surrounding predictive models and inform whether intended results are being achieved or if additional actions are needed to fulfill program expectations. In addition, performance measures can also be used to inform the public of the system's response to management actions

4. Does the proposed activity **benefit** the human **community**?
(examples of benefits may include, but are not limited to: how a project will utilize local workers, how a project will benefit geographically or socially vulnerable communities, how a project will benefit the natural resources critical to natural-resource dependent industries such as fisheries, tourism, etc.)

- (●) YES
- ( ) NO
- ( ) Not articulated

Notes:

As discussed on pages 16-18 of the Submission, the West Grand Terre Beach Nourishment and Stabilization project would result in significant improvements to conserving and replenishing existing and created marsh and beach/dune habitat. In addition, the project will also promote community resilience and reduce risk to infrastructure by providing storm surge and wave attenuation. Grand Terre also has a natural sandy beach and is an excellent location for saltwater surf fishing and bird and wildlife watching, activities that are critically important to the region's economy.