

1 the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness; and two
2 ex-officio members designated by the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House
3 of Representatives; and

4 WHEREAS, the powers and duties of the board require working in conjunction with
5 state agencies, political subdivisions, including flood protection authorities, levee districts
6 and federal agencies, as well as representatives from the Louisiana Legislature, to develop
7 a state comprehensive master plan for integrated coastal protection (coastal master plan) to
8 address integrated coastal protection efforts from both short-term and long-range
9 perspectives, and to incorporate the structural, management, and institutional components
10 of both efforts; and

11 WHEREAS, the board has engaged a state steering committee to assist with the
12 development of the coastal master plan as directed by Governor John Bel Edwards'
13 Executive Order No. JBE 2016-09, which requires all state agencies, departments, and
14 offices to administer their regulatory practices and programs in a manner consistent with the
15 coastal master plan; and

16 WHEREAS, in development of the coastal master plan, the board has also engaged
17 a diverse group of key stakeholders to serve as the framework development team (FDT)
18 which began meeting in July 2014, with meetings occurring every three to four months
19 thereafter, to establish a clear vision for the 2017 coastal master plan consisting of members
20 from the following twenty-eight groups: Barataria -Terrebonne National Estuary Program,
21 building industry, chemical industry, oil and gas, ports and navigation, community
22 representative, land conservation, recreational fishing, commercial fisheries, Governor's
23 Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, Lake Pontchartrain Basin
24 Foundation, landowner representatives, local flood control, Louisiana Department of Natural
25 Resources - office of coastal management, Louisiana Department of Economic Development
26 - small business development, Louisiana Sea Grant, Mississippi Department of Marine
27 Resources - marine fisheries office, Mississippi River Delta Coalition, national advocacy
28 group, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration - national marine fisheries
29 services, parish representatives from the eastern, central, and western areas of coastal
30 Louisiana, university/academic representative, United States Army Corps of Engineers,

1 United States Department of Agriculture - natural resources conservation service, and the
2 United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and

3 WHEREAS, in addition to the FDT, the board also engaged a series of advisory
4 groups to establish the 2017 coastal master plan, including a science and engineering board
5 including scientists and engineers with national or international experience who cover a
6 range of disciplines relevant to the 2017 coastal master plan to provide independent technical
7 review of plan elements, technical advisory committees consisting of nationally known
8 academics and practitioners who offer insight into specific elements of the coastal master
9 plan process, and focus groups to integrate the perspectives of community, fisheries,
10 landowners, energy, industry, and navigation; and

11 WHEREAS, the coastal master plan shall include a list of projects and programs
12 required for the protection, conservation, enhancement and restoration of the coastal area,
13 the action required of each agency to implement said project or program, and a schedule and
14 estimated cost for the implementation of each project or program included in the plan; and

15 WHEREAS, R.S. 49:214.5.3 requires that, as part of the development of the coastal
16 master plan, the board shall conduct not less than three public hearings in separate locations
17 in the western, central, and eastern areas of the coastal area for the purpose of receiving
18 comments and recommendations from the public and elected officials; and

19 WHEREAS, R.S. 49:214.5.3 also requires that at least two weeks prior to each public
20 hearing, the board must contact the parish governing authorities, regional flood protection
21 authorities, levee districts, and the state legislators of the parishes in the coastal areas for the
22 purpose of soliciting their comments and recommendations and notifying them of the public
23 hearing to be held in their area; and

24 WHEREAS, R.S. 49:214.5.3 requires the board to receive written comments and
25 recommendations until thirty days prior to the submission of the coastal master plan to the
26 legislative committees; and

27 WHEREAS, the board has gone well above and beyond the public outreach required
28 by law and in addition to meeting its obligations as set forth in R.S. 49:214.5.3, the board
29 has: (1) hosted an additional public hearing for a total of four public hearings during January
30 2017, in the cities of Houma, Lake Charles, Mandeville, and New Orleans, with a total of

