

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1

BY SENATORS MORRISH AND ALARIO AND REPRESENTATIVES ABRAHAM, AMEDEE, ANDERS, BAGNERIS, BARRAS, BERTHELOT, BILLIOT, BISHOP, BOUIE, BROADWATER, GARY CARTER, CONNICK, COUSSAN, DWIGHT, GAINES, GISCLAIR, HALL, HILFERTY, HOWARD, JACKSON, JEFFERSON, JENKINS, TERRY LANDRY, LEGER, LEOPOLD, MAGEE, MIGUEZ, NORTON, PYLANT, REYNOLDS, RICHARD, SCHEXNAYDER, STAGNI AND THOMAS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To approve the comprehensive master plan for integrated coastal protection projects, as adopted by the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Board.

WHEREAS, R.S. 49:214.5.1 et seq. provides for the creation, duties, and responsibilities of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Board (board); and

WHEREAS, under R.S. 49:214.5.2, the board represents the state's position in policy relative to the protection, conservation, enhancement, and restoration of the coastal area of the state through oversight of integrated coastal protection projects; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the responsibility of the board to represent the state's position in policy relative to integrated coastal protection, membership on the board includes the following: the governor's executive assistant for coastal activities; the secretaries of the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the Department of Environmental Quality, the Department of Transportation and Development, the Department of Economic Development, and the commissioners of the division of administration, the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, and the Department of Insurance; seven members who are selected in consultation with the Police Jury Association of Louisiana and the Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana; the chair of the Governor's Advisory Commission on Coastal Protection, Restoration and Conservation; the director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness; and two ex-officio members designated by the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, the powers and duties of the board require working in conjunction with state agencies, political subdivisions, including flood protection authorities, levee districts

and federal agencies, as well as representatives from the Louisiana Legislature, to develop a state comprehensive master plan for integrated coastal protection (coastal master plan) to address integrated coastal protection efforts from both short-term and long-range perspectives, and to incorporate the structural, management, and institutional components of both efforts; and

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

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

WHEREAS, in addition to the FDT, the board also engaged a series of advisory groups to establish the 2017 coastal master plan, including a science and engineering board including scientists and engineers with national or international experience who cover a

range of disciplines relevant to the 2017 coastal master plan to provide independent technical review of plan elements, technical advisory committees consisting of nationally known academics and practitioners who offer insight into specific elements of the coastal master plan process, and focus groups to integrate the perspectives of community, fisheries, landowners, energy, industry, and navigation; and

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the board has gone well above and beyond the public outreach required by law and in addition to meeting its obligations as set forth in R.S. 49:214.5.3, the board has: (1) hosted an additional public hearing for a total of four public hearings during January 2017, in the cities of Houma, Lake Charles, Mandeville, and New Orleans, with a total of eight hundred attendees, (2) participated in four public hearings sponsored by a coastal Louisiana nongovernmental organization in the city of Abbeville, and the census-designated places of Lafitte, Cameron, and Lacombe in February and March 2017, (3) opened the plan for public comment for eighty-two days of public comment ending on March 26, 2017, (4) hosted twenty community conversations with one thousand two hundred attendees across

the coast, (5) given one hundred fifteen general presentation briefings, (6) conducted fifty-five meetings with advisory groups, (7) received six hundred views on the master plan data viewer, and (8) has had eleven thousand Facebook views; and

WHEREAS, as required under the provisions of R.S. 49:214.5.3, the coastal master plan adopted by the board must be submitted to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works and the Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works; and

WHEREAS, the legislature may approve or disapprove of the coastal master plan by resolution adopted by a majority vote of the members of each house of the legislature; and

WHEREAS, the board shall provide for implementation of the coastal master plan if the legislature approves such plan or if the legislature fails to take action on such plan within sixty days after the plan is submitted.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby approve the comprehensive master plan for integrated coastal protection as adopted by the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Board.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the chairman of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Board.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES