



Image: Keri Turner

State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR



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Andrew Wheeler
Acting Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
401 M Street ,SW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Acting Administrator Wheeler:

Please receive for your consideration the newly revised Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) developed and submitted by the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP) Management Conference. This revision meets an EPA update requirement. Since its creation in 1990, the Management Conference has represented a diverse set of stakeholders ranging from business and industry to fisheries and agriculture, from oil and gas to environmentalists, hunters, local and state government agencies. These parties have all agreed that in order to address the fundamental problems facing this nationally significant estuary at the mouth of the largest drainage basin in the nation, both collaboration and commitment are necessary.

The new CCMP plan is the product of nine different committees made up of 117 individuals from 47 different agencies, volunteering hundreds of hours to consolidate what were previously 51 action plans to 36 action plans. Twenty-eight years have passed since the creation of BTNEP, and 22 years have passed since the release of the last CCMP. Five new action plans were added to reflect a new understanding of landscape changes. These are: Emergency Response, Recovery, and Resilience, Flood Risk Reduction and Coastal Resilience, Urban Green Spaces, Improvement of Water Quality through the Reduction of Inshore and Marine Debris, and protection of Drinking Water Sources.

The newly revised CCMP will guide the conservation, restoration, enhancement, and protection of the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary System and its communities over the next 25 years. Since the hurricane season of 2005, Louisiana has had a coastal master plan to align efforts across the coast. The revision to the CCMP reflects this alignment and incorporates feedback from the staff at the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority to ensure consistency.

I look forward to receiving notification of your concurrence with this plan. My staff, members of the BTNEP staff and Management Conference, and I are available to you for further information,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Bel Edwards".

John Bel Edwards
Governor